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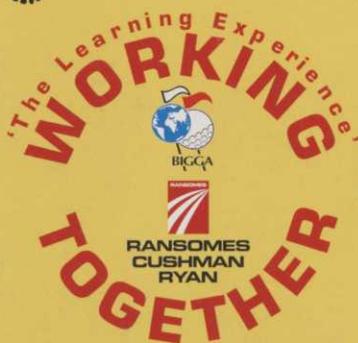
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■ The next edition of
Greenkeeper International
should be with you by
January 6



DECEMBER 1996

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Rabbits used to be the erratic and unreliable means of keeping turf short enough on which to play golf... until along came the mower. Roland Taylor charts its history **Pages 18-19**

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There's only a month or so to go until all eyes focus on Harrogate for yet another record-breaking BTME. We look ahead to what's in store..... **Pages 21-30**

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Education A year which began with the Learning Experience in Harrogate is about to end with that same prospect in sight. Ken Richardson reflects on the achievements of 1996 and looks ahead to new challenges in 1997..... **Page 10**

Cover

Fintan Brennan, this year's Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year
Picture by Frank Gavin

GREENKEEPER
International

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GREENKEEPER
International

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The second decade begins...

As the bells chime to welcome in the New Year, BIGGA will be ten years old. Formally constituted on 1 January 1987 it hardly seems credible that the years have flown past so rapidly and the Association is now celebrating its tenth anniversary. A time then to reflect and to look forward.

Reflecting over the past decade there have been some heady times and also some low ones. Yet it has been a story of steady advance from small beginnings. An initial 1,200 members from the three former associations has grown to 6,200 and BIGGA now offers its members comprehensive services and benefits. Our education and training programmes are the envy of other professional bodies and we communicate and inform through our award winning magazine *Greenkeeper International*. The annual BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition is the highlight of the year for the Greenkeeping profession and acknowledged by the industry as the leading indoor exhibition of its kind in Europe. I am sure that this all sounds self-congratulatory but rest assured that a high degree of realism permeates the corridors of BIGGA's headquarters. If BIGGA now enjoys some relatively prosperous times it was not always so and much was learnt from some salutary experiences which is reflected today in the way the organisation is run and how we conduct our business. I use the word business advisedly for, although a professional association, the hardest lesson of all that was learnt in the formative years of BIGGA was that we were subject to commercial realities and of necessity had to be run on business lines. Today the systems are in place to ensure our competitiveness and to avoid those early pitfalls which threatened to undermine our development.

Much time could be spent on reflection but essentially it is a time to look forward. The greenkeeping profession has taken giant steps forward in the past ten years particularly in terms of its professionalism and its status within the game of golf. Yet much remains to be done. The signs are encouraging for the future as



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

indicated by two events I recently attended. The Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award has been running since 1989 and is now well established in the greenkeeping calendar. It was rewarding therefore to experience the ever-increasing calibre of the student greenkeepers within the profession. An excellent winner this year will uphold the best traditions of the award while it is pertinent to point out that the two runners up are only 20 years of age. The greenkeeping world lies before all three and, in talking at length with them, one is left with the impression that the future of the profession is in safe hands if we continue to produce the young, articulated and well trained greenkeepers who are now perceiving greenkeeping to be an attractive career option.

The second event was a meeting of the South Coast Section to which I was invited last month. This was a well-attended meeting and many were the informed questions in relation to the run-

ning of the Association and our future direction. The meeting demonstrated the commitment of so many members to BIGGA and this can only hold us in good stead for the future. Here is a well-organised section and BIGGA continues to depend on its sections and regions to provide the organisational structure at "grass roots" level to support our large and growing membership. One pointer for the future is the need for more members to be active within their local sections. Too much work and responsibility placed on too few is not the way forward, while the sharing of tasks generally contributes to a section's vitality and development.

On a personal note it was a pleasure to meet up again with Eric James one of the profession's longest serving members and a member of BIGGA's first Board of Management back in 1987. He seemed in fine fettle and it was reassuring to note his continued enthusiasm and to be reminded of the continuity Eric and others have provided in the development and progress of the profession over many years.

A few final thoughts on the future. Perhaps first and foremost is the issue of job security for our members. In recent years golf has offered more employment opportunities as a fast-growing sport. Yet, conversely, greenkeeper jobs seem to have become less secure. There are huge pressures and demands these days from golf club members but often the termination of employment is the result of ill-informed judgments and failure to understand the technicalities and complexities of

today's greenkeeping world. Whether it be the implementation of legislation or the effects of prevailing weather conditions, there is a need to communicate and inform and BIGGA will need to work with golf clubs and their green committees in the days ahead.

Environmental matters are well to the forefront in our planning with a new video to be launched at the BTME and BIGGA will continue to pursue a leading role in the debate on environmental and ecological management of the golf course.

The education and training of greenkeepers will continue as the Association's flagship and it will be incumbent on the ambitious greenkeeper to be trained in management and supervisory as well as greenkeeping skills if career progress is to be successfully pursued. Some of BIGGA's members are now competing for top jobs at golf courses such as General or Estate Managers and this is a trend I see continuing and being accentuated in the future. Look, too, for opportunities in Europe as the newly-formed Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations (FEGGA) brings greenkeeping and greenkeepers throughout Europe closer together.

Lastly, and in the immediate future, BIGGA will be looking to build a new headquarter's office – a prestige building to take the Association into the 21st Century and to serve its members in future generations. So as its second decade begins, BIGGA can indeed hold its head up high and look forward to exciting times and challenges ahead.

New irrigation system for Stoke Poges

Stoke Poges Golf Club has signed a £500,000 contract with Turf Irrigation Services for a comprehensive new golf course irrigation system using Toro equipment. The existing 26 year old system which waters greens and tees will be replaced with irrigation to all fairways, greens, greens approaches and the driving range.

The system will use a combination of Toro sprinklers which have been chosen to meet the particular irriga-

tion requirements of the course. The use of Toro PC based control and pop-up sprinklers which can be operated individually, will ensure accurate and effective placement of water, thereby proving the most efficient and cost effective irrigation.

Stoke Poges Golf Club has received planning permission for the construction and restoration of an additional nine holes. This will recreate the historic Harry Shapland Colt

layout which dates from 1908. The club changed hands in 1993 and since that time £5 million has been spent on restoring the Grade I listed clubhouse, the surrounding gardens, which include a Repton Bridge (1799) and "Capability" Brown Cascades (1750), and the golf course to their former glory.

The extra nine holes and additional facilities will cost a further £4 million over the next 12 months.

As I see it...

BY DEAN CLEAVER
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

This has been a busy month for me involving trips to Switzerland, Scotland and France. It just hasn't slowed down since my year began and I've enjoyed so much wonderful hospitality I've put on half a stone since January!

My trip to Switzerland was to represent FEGGA at the International Greenkeepers Association Conference in Interlachen. The IGA consists of German, Swiss and Austrian greenkeepers and it is possible that the Association will be wound up with the members putting their support behind FEGGA.

It was a wonderful trip and I was able to visit Gstaad, the exclusive ski resort, and also went up in the cable car which featured in the fight seen in the James Bond film *On her Majesty's Secret Service*. Some of the views were just unbelievable.

The downside of being in Switzerland was that I missed the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year final and I must thank Pat Murphy for standing in for me. Congratulations to all the finalists and, in particular, Fintan Brennan who won the title. One of my assistants, Noel Greene was runner-up along with John Bachelor from Mendip Spring GC. I am really proud of Noel and he's quite a celebrity at the golf club at the moment.

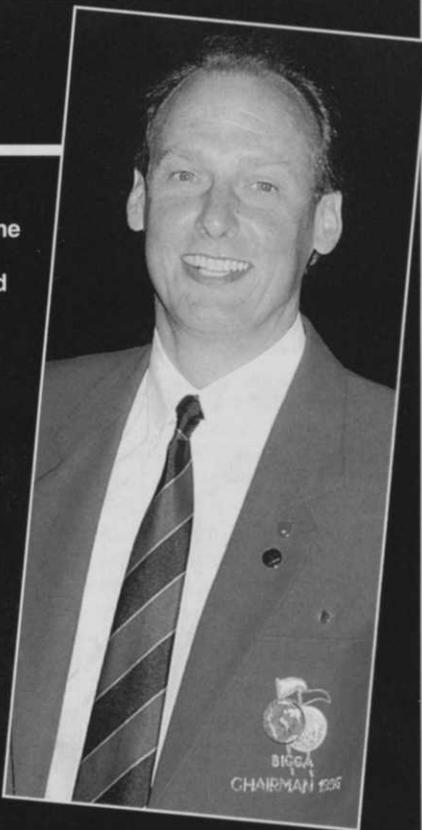
Returning from Switzerland it was straight on to the Midland Seminar where it was nice to take my staff along with me. It would have been good to have seen more people there but those who did attend got quite a bit out of the day.

I also had the chance to attend Scotsturf for a day. It was an excellent exhibition and with spending some time on the BIGGA stand it was a good opportunity to see a lot of old friends again.

The latest FEGGA meeting was held in Bordeaux and although a French air strike caused a few travel problems for some of those attending it was an extremely successful meeting. Everything is moving a lot faster than anyone thought it would and there will be much to report at the Federation's AGM during Harrogate.

I also attended the 10th anniversary dinner of the French Greenkeepers Association held in the function room of the wine Mecca Chateau Lafitte, which was quite an experience... Particularly as everyone complained about the wine! It was red but served chilled and there were even mentions about it in the speeches.

It just remains for me to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a wonderfully prosperous New Year.



NEWS



The St Catherine's Hospice in Crawley West Sussex benefited to the tune of £1,342.50 thanks to the efforts of the Sussex and Surrey Section members and patrons at the BIGGA Charity Day at Birch Grove.

The companies involved in the day were White Horse Contractors, Watermation, Banks Horticultural Products, Donald Steel and Co Ltd, Colas and CJ Collins

Construction Ltd and the cheque was presented to St Catherine's by Raymond Day, Chairman of Sussex Section. It is hoped that the event will be repeated next year. For the record Surrey won the Inter County Charity Cup.

● Picture shows Ray Day presenting the cheque to Jane Howard, Community Fund Raiser and Susan Town, Fund Raising and Communications Manager.

SISIS stalwart set to retire after 36 years



The retirement of Arthur Harrison, Sales Director, this month will indeed be the "end of an era" as he is the last person still with SISIS who worked at the original factory in Cheadle, Cheshire.

Arthur joined the company in March 1960 at the start of an important decade for SISIS, seeing the first forays into export. By 1974 SISIS were well established in Europe and Scandinavia and it was time to look further afield. Arthur Harrison elected to go to Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore on a trade mission sponsored by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Since that time he has taken a special interest in the company's dealings in the Far East

and Japan is still one of SISIS' major markets.

In his 36 years at SISIS, Arthur has seen many changes, including three factory moves and led the sales team at literally hundreds of exhibitions all over the world.

Even in retirement Arthur has no plans to settle into his armchair. He and his wife Marie have organised the garden to withstand long periods of absence for the various overseas trips they are planning and caravan jaunts in the UK. They will also be able to see more of their three grandchildren.

At the 1996 SALTEX exhibition, a "farewell" dinner party was attended by SISIS export distributors from Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, Sweden, Eire, Northern Ireland, Netherlands, Germany, and USA.

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The East Midlands Section has donated £500 towards the BIGGA Building Fund out of Section Funds. It is the second consecutive year that the Section has made a donation to the Fund. Last year it was £300. The picture shows Tim Allard (right), Chairman of the Section, presenting John Pemberton, BIGGA's Administration Manager, with the cheque.

It's 25 not out for loyal golf course personnel

In modern times 25 years in the same job is quite a rarity and it says much for the loyalty of both employer and employee that it happens at all.

However two golf clubs not too many miles apart have recently celebrated such an anniversary. Lyndon Upham, Course Manager at Gog Magog, just south of Cambridge, and Roy Alderton, Head Greenkeeper at Flempton, just outside Bury St Edmunds, have an unblemished combined 50 years service.

For Lyndon it was a double celebration with he and his wife Denise enjoying their silver wedding anniversary also in 1996.

"There have been many highlights during the 25 years. The most memorable was being introduced to Prince Edward on his visit to the club to present Duke of Edinburgh Awards."

He was presented with a watch by the Club Captain and a Ship's



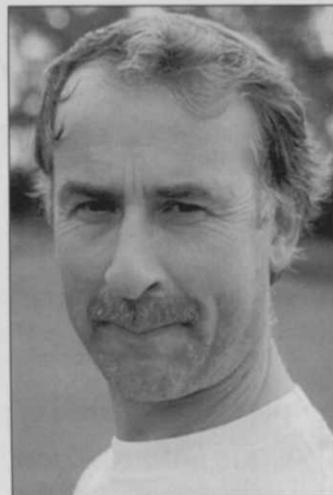
Decanter, on behalf of the staff, by the Chairman of Greens.

Roy arrived at Flempton as First Assistant at the age of 20 and has never regretted moving to the course, which has been described as one of the finest nine hole courses in the country – it boasts 80 pot bunkers.

"The committee will tell me what they want and then let me get on with it in my own time and in the way I wish to do it," he explained.

The Club presented Roy with an inscribed gold watch and a wall clock.

● Pictured above, centre, Lyndon Upham with colleagues of Gog Magog Golf Club



Roy Alderton of Flempton Golf Club

JUST A THOUGHT

If you work for an organisation that makes its decisions by committee, make sure that you are on the committee.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Taken from Life's Little Instruction Volume II compiled by H. Jackson Brown, Jr. published by Harper Collins

BIGGA RECOMMENDED MINIMUM SALARY SCALE 1997

The Association has updated its recommended minimum salary scale in line with the latest Retail Prices Index Figure available which is 2.1% for 1996. The quoted rates apply from 1 January 1997 but any variance from the above RPI figure at the time of implementation should be taken into account. Figures in brackets are 1996 rates.

	18 Holes	27 Holes	36 Holes
Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£20,300 (£19,850)	£22,100 (£21,600)	£24,750 (£24,200)
Deputy Course Manager/ Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£14,600 (£14,300)	£15,950 (£15,600)	£17,850 (£17,450)
First Assistant	£12,650 (£12,376)	£12,650 (£12,376)	£12,650 (£12,376)
Assistant Greenkeeper: aged 21 and over	£11,900 (£11,648)	£11,900 (£11,648)	£11,900 (£11,648)
Assistant Greenkeeper: aged 20	£10,413 (£10,192)	£10,413 (£10,192)	£10,413 (£10,192)
Assistant Greenkeeper: aged 19	£8,925 (£8,736)	£8,925 (£8,736)	£8,925 (£8,736)
Assistant Greenkeeper: aged 18	£7,438 (£7,280)	£7,438 (£7,280)	£7,438 (£7,280)
Assistant Greenkeeper: aged 16/17	£5,950 (£5,824)	£5,950 (£5,824)	£5,950 (£5,824)

The First Assistant post is a post designed to recognise a third-in-charge where relevant to the size of the Club. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised Deputy, the Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper salary scale should apply.

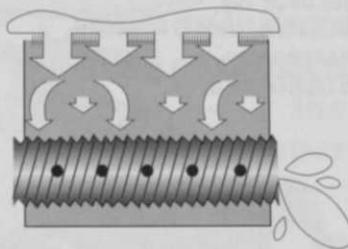
Basic conditions of employment should include:

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It has been agreed that the Association will form a working party to review the salary scale in general for 1998.

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Chris calls for support

The following appeared in the **Surrey Herald** and also the **PGA European Tour weekly mailout** which goes to all media and golf associations around the world.

Wentworth Course Superintendent Chris Kennedy has issued a heartfelt plea for Europe's beleaguered greenkeepers to be allowed "more tolerance and understanding".

Kennedy, one of the most respected figures in golf, was

speaking as his hard working team, led by Graham Matheson, made their final preparations on the eve of the Toyota World Match Play Championship.

Wentworth is the only club in Britain who stage two major international events in the same year, and Kennedy knows all too well the fierce media spotlight focused on the famous West Course.

"For us, a major tournament is like facing a very public examination paper and we have to sit it

twice a year," he explained. "I can understand that these days the players are competing for a vast amount of money and prestige and they want everything to be right for them to play. By the same token, however, they must realise that there is no one more upset than the greenkeeper if the course is not in perfect order.

"No-one needs to tell us if our greens aren't right - we live with it 24 hours a day and we eat drink and sleep the job."

Kennedy was reacting to criticisms of European courses that came to a head in the row over conditions for the Volvo German Open at Stuttgart and the One 2 One British Masters at Collingtree Park, in August

"My heart bled for the lads at Collingtree and it was certainly a case of 'there but for the grace of God go we'," he declared.

"Alistair Connall, my opposite number there, had to make a professional decision, and he was just unlucky that all the elements conspired against him. They had staged a successful Seniors event just three weeks before and they wanted to cut the greens down to get the right speed for a European Tour event.

"The minute you cut down to an eighth of an inch or less you are putting the grass plant under great stress, especially when the greens are pure sand based. They were then hit by extreme temperatures in the high 80s and low 90s and the grass just could not recover quickly enough. No one

wants these things to happen, but people have to understand that in this country especially we are at the mercy of the weather.

"Some of the players cite America as having much better and more standardised playing conditions. But they forget how big America is and how they can arrange their calendar to always play where the best conditions are. Even then, with all their sophisticated preparation, things can go wrong as we saw when last year's Ryder Cup was almost wrecked by rain at Rochester.

"The weather in Britain has been much more extreme in recent years. We hardly seem to have a gradual spring or autumn any more. This year we went straight out of a very tough cold winter into almost drought conditions and we had to use three times the normal amount of top dressing to make sure the putting surfaces were right for the Volvo PGA Championship at the end of May.

"At Loch Lomond a few weeks ago one player shot a 66 in the morning but then a fierce wind blew up the loch and the players who went out in the afternoon faced a terrible task. It was no one's fault. It just proved how much nature can affect our sport. In an ideal world we would always like to prepare our courses at the right time of the year and always in benign conditions, but we know real life is not like that."

● Re-printed with kind permission from John Whitbread of the Surrey Herald.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The winner of the recent **Jacobsen Flash Attach Challenge** is **Rob Weaver** who is pictured receiving his prizes from **Peter Bell**, General Manager, Jacobsen E-Z-GO UK.

The Flash Attach Challenge was held to highlight the new quick release, no tools system fitted to the GreensKing V, which allows a cutting unit to be changed in seconds. Rob Weaver who works for Brophy, one of the largest grounds maintenance contractors in the UK, managed a startling time of 15 seconds. He was rewarded with vouchers, a Jacobsen jacket and a commemorative 75 year anniversary baseball cap.



Peter Bell commented "I was very pleased to present Rob Weaver with his prizes and feel that this record breaking time highlights the ease of maintenance on the GreensKing V."

Ronan Rafferty has teamed up with Martin Gillett, an Associate of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects to form Rafferty Gillett a practice which will offer golf course design and architecture, project management and consultancy services as previously provided by Martin Gillett but with the opportunity to commission Ronan Rafferty as a design consultant.

Andy Toomey and John Cook, of Crondon Park, experienced Ryder Cup style pressure when they represented their club in the final stages of the *Mail on Sunday* Golf Club Classic in France.

The two had played excellent golf to help Crondon into the final four at the final played at Champ de Bataille in Normandy and although they lost in the semi final to Hill Valley they were part of the team which clinched third place against Llantrisant & Ponyclun.

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(if in receipt of magazine otherwise FOC)		
Retired after 31.3.96 No magazine or benefits	FOC	FOC
Life	FOC	FOC
International	£55.00	£54.00
Associate/Company with magazine	£55.00	£54.00
Associate/Company without magazine	£29.00	£28.00
Unemployed	£20.00	N/A

It has been agreed that the Association will form a working party to review the subscription rates for 1998.

(mis)adventures of Gordon the Greenkeeper

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BIGGA membership

A very busy 1996: and another full year ahead

This month's article looks back at Education and Training related activities during 1996 and looks forward to 1997.

It does not seem possible that the year has almost come to an end and Harrogate is only seven weeks away. This year started with the Learning Experience, with the week starting with the National Education Conference and the welcome return of two workshops. Workshop 1 on Golf Course Design, Construction and Maintenance was extremely popular, so much so that we had to stop taking applications in early December. We therefore decided to run this workshop again in 1997. Unfortunately, for those slow to apply, this workshop is again full and we are not accepting any more applications. The National Education Conference was a great success with speakers from around the world, entertaining over one hundred and fifty delegates. The last three days saw the seminar programme run for the last time in the Royal Hall. We have had problems with heating such a large theatre and 1997 will see in a new venue.

February and March saw the continuation of the very successful Regional Supervisory Management Courses run for us by Brin Bendon and Frank Newberry. The autumn/winter/spring period sessions allowed more than 180 greenkeepers to gain knowledge and practise the skills of supervisory management and, thanks to the contributors to the Education and Development Fund, at a very, very low price. Sami Collins joined me as Education Assistant in March and was soon involved in administrating training courses.

April and May saw the entries rushing in for the TORO/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year Competition. This competition has got better each year and the overall standard of this years regional finalists made it very difficult for the Regional Judges to select the eight National Finalists. This competition always gives me a boost as I get to see the people



Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

who represent the future of greenkeeping and from what I have seen over three years, there are exciting times ahead. Congratulations to Fintan Brennan, John Bachelor and Noel Green on their success this year. Watch out at BTME for details of the 1997 Competition.

June, July and August, the so called quiet months saw us beginning the filming for BIGGA's next training video, preparing for the next round of Supervisory Management Course, arranging course visits for the Miracle Greenkeeper of the Year Competition and administering the Master Greenkeeper scheme.

Thanks to the contributors to the Education and Development Fund, BIGGA will be launching three more training aids. Its new training video, designed to complement the very successful book, *A Practical Guide to Ecological Management on the Golf Course*, which will look at the process of conducting an ecological survey, production of a management plan and the methods of ecological management, the latest *On Course Field Guide*, which looks at grass identification and the relaunch of the pests and diseases guide which has proven to be very popular.

That brought us to September when I travelled around the Regions, judging the Regional Finalists for the Student of the Year, continued filming for the new video and began the production of a grass identification guide.

October and November started with the first three of this autumn's supervisory management courses, in Scotland, quickly followed by two weeks of residential courses here at Aldwark Manor, then more regional supervisory management courses.

That brings us back to Decem-

ber, where I started this article, and the start of a look to the future. Unfortunately, my crystal ball in broken and Mystic Meg is fully committed to the National Lottery but I will do my best.

The Learning Experience at Harrogate has been expanded yet again with four workshops and the National Education Conference taking place over the first two days ie 20 and 21 January. As I have mentioned before, Workshop 1 (Golf Course Design Construction and Maintenance) is now full but we still have places on Workshop 2 (Levelling and Surveying), Workshop 3 (Effective Communication-Presenting to Green Committees) and Workshop 4, a one day workshop, (The Magic of Greenkeeping). All four workshops and the National Education Conference take place in the Majestic Hotel, which will be BIGGA's Headquarters for the full week. We are again presenting a Chairmen of Green/Secretaries Course, on Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 January, in cooperation with the STRI. This course has been modified this year following comments from last year's delegates, and will include an input from Billy McMillan. This year sees the move of the Seminar programme from the Royal Hall to the Kings Suite, which is under Hall D. All four workshops, the National Education Conference and Seminars will, once again, attract Master Greenkeeper credits and BASIS Continuing Professional Development points. Full details of the Education Programme and Social activities is elsewhere in this magazine.

When we get back from Harrogate, the process will start all over again so that we will continue to provide quality education and training opportunities for greenkeepers.

Those attending a two day workshop will receive four credits, two for a one day workshop while each half day seminar session in the Education Conference will be worth two credits and the BTME Seminar programme worth five credits.

Irish

The Celtic connection shone through at the Toro/PGA European Tour Student of the Year Final with an Irishman from a Scottish college claiming the top prize.

Well that's it. The cat's out of the bag and the formula to success in the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year is now available to everyone. Postcards to a Mr Fintan Brennan, Dublin, Ireland.

So what is this big secret which can turn a man into a winner and give him a reference on his CV which only very few can boast?

Here it is:- Take a pinch of ambition, add a dash of application and a dose of determination, add two tablespoonfuls of talent to taste... oh yes, and be prepared to make sacrifices.

It was a recipe which all eight of the 1996 finalists had used "exceedingly" well to present the judges with the most difficult task of identifying a winner they have had to face.

However, the man whose particular combination of ingredients proved a winner was the aforementioned Fintan Brennan, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links.

Fintan proved his ambition at his interview for his job at Portmarnock when he looked Head Greenkeeper Peter Casbolt straight in the eye and in answer to the question what do you see yourself doing in future said, "Your job." That convinced Peter that Fintan was the man for the job and nothing has changed his mind from that initial impression.

His application and determination were also proved when his dedication to his studies won him awards at college and his talent shone through in his second year when he won the Barenbrug Student of the Year Award and was promoted to Deputy Head Greenkeeper after less than two years in greenkeeping.

Sacrifices? Fintan is married with two children, Mike, six, and Joe, two and a half, yet his college courses took place on block release over the Irish Sea, far removed from his home comforts at Elmwood, in Cupar, Fife.

"I was away from home for a total of 19 weeks over the last two

eyes are smiling



Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Fintan Brennan, centre, flanked by, from left, Mark Hunter, Graham Dale, John Bachelor, Pat Murphy, Noel Greene and Neil Thomas

years," explained Fintan. "Peter Casbolt has sent a number of students to Elmwood and it is reckoned to be the top college in Europe so I was delighted to go there."

Peter Casbolt confirmed his admiration for Elmwood and explained that of the 10 students he had sent there six were now Head Greenkeepers.

"I only send my best students there because it is expensive but they seem to do better because I believe the standard of teaching is so good."

There is no doubt that Fintan qualifies as one of his best students and Peter is quite comfortable that his latest protege is "after his job".

"I teach Fintan how to do a job and then he teaches the next person down. That's how we work here," explained Peter, who will meet up with his Deputy at the GCSAA show in Las Vegas in February which Fintan will attend as part of the 10 week State-side trip which constitutes his prize.

Fintan, who plays golf to a mean handicap of 6, only began greenkeeping at the age of 29, having spent the first 14 years of his working life as a metal fabricator. Even then his work ethic and desire to improve himself shone through.

"I went back to night school to

do the equivalent of British "A" Levels and did all the qualifications which were available to me as a metal fabricator," explained Fintan.

This had been ingrained in him by his late father, Michael, who died last November.

"He was a big influence on me and told me that even if I was sweeping the floor I should do it to the best of my ability. I've always remembered that advice."

His involvement with the Bernhard Langer-designed PGA European Tour/IMG course at Portmarnock came when he was working as a site foreman with the company which got the contract to put a fence around the course site. That gave him the urge to get into greenkeeping and he took a job as a dumper driver with the constructors with the single aim of becoming a greenkeeper and, hopefully, going to college from that.

Being based in Scotland for the block release course gave him the opportunity to sample some of Scotland's finest golf courses and among those he played were Carnoustie and Turnberry where he spent a day during the '94 Open with George Brown.

"I've been back to Turnberry three or four times and played the course with George and he has been a big

help to me," he explained.

He is looking forward to his time in the States – if not the added time away from his wife Bernie and the two boys – where he will undertake a turf management course at the renowned Massachusetts University and visit the Toro Company's Headquarters in California and Minneapolis and the GCSAA Show in Las Vegas.

"The Americans are very well up in turf grass science and although the nutrients, the diseases and the climate are different the basic rules are the same and to study in America, where much of the forward movements are coming in greenkeeping and new grass species are being developed is wonderful."

Coming from a course with such a famous name as Portmarnock will also assist Fintan in integrating with the locals in America but although Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links and its more illustrious namesake are only 100 yards apart they are in all other respects completely different.

"We're a pay and play course, our greens are fescue bent, while they are poa annua at Portmarnock and we are 100 years younger than Portmarnock which is 102 years old."

Fintan has been given great

support on his way to the Toro/PGA European Tour Student of the Year title and not just by Peter Casbolt.

"The Chairman of our company Colin Maclaine was delighted that I'd reached the final and wished me the best of luck.

"Now having won I'm absolutely delighted and I just hope I can do the other seven finalists proud when I go to the States.

"To try and pick three of us out of the eight was a hard decision as each of the finalists had their own special qualities. The whole occasion has been really super and it was great to meet the other students and those on the interview panel as well."

The other two winners two whom Fintan referred were John Bachelor of Mendip Spring Golf Club and Cannington College and Noel Greene of Gay Hill Golf Club and the Warwickshire College who were runners-up winning a trip to the PGA European Tour Conference in Penina in December and the opportunity to work at two PGA European Tour venues on the 1997 Tour Schedule.

Both have strong BIGGA connections as John's boss at Mendip is Ian Harrison a former Premier Greenkeeper of the Year while Noel's Course Manager is Dean Cleaver, the current BIGGA National Chairman.

Each was thrilled by their achievement and at age 20 each is looking forward to an exciting year ahead

The judges Mark Gunter of Toro, Graham Dale of Lely UK, Richard Stillwell of the PGA European Tour, Pat Murphy Chairman of BIGGA's Education Sub Committee and Neil Thomas, BIGGA's Executive Director were impressed by the general standard of finalist in '96 and a case could have been made for each winning the main prize.

"It is a credit to the colleges and the golf clubs where the students work that the standards are now so high and the judges were given such a difficult task," said Pat Murphy.

The other finalists were Alasdair McLean, Karl Weston, John Donnelly, Stephen Privett and Michael Hartney.

Courses keep us all up to date

After attending your Management Course between 14-18 October, I felt I must put pen to paper and personally congratulate BIGGA on the way the course was organised. I would especially like to thank Brin Bendon on the way he presented the course.

My only disappointment was the fact that there were not more people attending.

I am a Course Manager and have been greenkeeping for 20 years and always willing to learn something new, and I certainly learnt something new on this recent course.

I think that if more people in my position attended these type of courses it would benefit them, and their golf club a great deal.

The golf industry is changing fast and we all have to change with it in order to become more professional in our trade. I feel that people who do not move with the times will be left behind, which is a shame as there are a lot of good managers in the industry who could lose out if they are not careful.

Mick Reece, Course Manager
Kings Norton GC

All this and Kenny Rogers too...

Through your magazine I wish to thank Ransomes UK for my recent trip to Georgia, USA which I won in a free prize draw, for having a demonstration of the E-plex greens machine. I was accompanied by Area Sales Manager, Paul Harling from Burrows, Leyland dealers for Ransomes. The trip involved attending a product training session organised by Ransomes America, similar to the training sessions recently held in Ipswich. I thought your readers would be interested to read how the American sessions compared.

The training sessions were held in the magnificent setting of Kenny Rogers' Beaver Dam Farm (yes Kenny Rogers the country and western singer). At Beaver Dam Farm, Kenny has his own 18 hole championship style golf course in his back garden, which must be one of the most picturesque courses I have ever seen, and with

so few rounds played it must be any superintendent's dream.

The session was held over three days, its content was amazing, classroom sessions were held in Kenny's barn where each machine was described in detail, questions were received and a short test handed out just to make sure all candidates were paying attention. After each machine had been described we were then taken out onto the golf course where we had the opportunity to operate each piece of equipment. The thing I liked about the training session was the chance to operate all of the competitors' machines which were also there for comparisons.

A personal thanks goes to Dave Ferguson, the training coordinator, and all the territory managers particularly Dave Robson.

Paul McGrail, Course Manager
Standish Court GC
Wigan

■ I would like to thank BIGGA, Toro/Lely and the European Tour for their involvement in the Student greenkeeping award held at Aldwark Manor in October.

I hope that I can speak for all the

candidates when I say what a wonderful time we had over the two days. The hospitality was fantastic and the weekend was a tremendous learning experience. Without sponsorship these awards would never be able to

take place, so a big thanks to them.

From a personal point of view I am absolutely thrilled to finish runner-up in this award against such a high level of candidates. Without a push from my Course Manager, Ian Harrison, and my tutor, Huw Parry I would not have made it this far.

John Bachelor
Mendip Spring GC

A great show

I would like to thank BIGGA staff for the great presentation of the BIGGA Roadshow at Sketchley Grange for the Midland Seminar. I am sure greenkeepers who attended are a lot more aware of the benefits available to them and how the Association is run.

I'm sure all those members who attended this day must realise all the hard work that goes into the Association to run all of the events and tournaments that we as BIGGA have to offer the membership – not forgetting the everyday running of the Association. I feel myself that I have had many excellent days involved with BIGGA either educationally, socially or playing golf and the cost of membership really is worth every penny. At the end of the day the saying is the more you put in the more you get out.

Antony Bindley
Midland Regional Chairman



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A building that really is fit for its purpose

Although keen not to hold up work on the new Eden Greenkeeping Centre, the two Head Greenkeepers responsible for the Eden, Balgove and Strathtyrum courses at St Andrews were delighted to be asked for their comments on the internal design of the new facility long before its completion in February 1996.

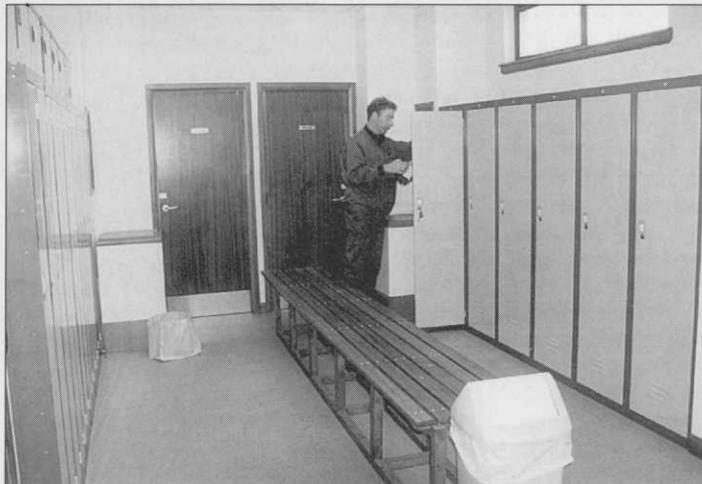
"One thing we noticed immediately on the plans was a shortage of power points," commented Gordon Moir, who has day to day responsibility for the complex in addition to his duties as Head Greenkeeper on the Eden and Balgove courses. Sharing the Head Greenkeepers' office is Roddy Barron, who looks after the Strathtyrum course, the golf practice centre and the turf nursery.

"One can never have too many electrical sockets," pointed out Gordon. "The architect took our advice and virtually doubled the number throughout the building, with particular emphasis on the machinery and handtools store."

Another aspect examined closely was the internal layout of the building, specifically the separation between the three different elements which would be using the facility. In addition to providing suitable areas for staff changing, washing and messing, and the storage and daily servicing of course equipment, the Eden Greenkeeping Centre facility also houses buggies used by the Course Rangers and orderlies and by golfers.

"The original layout had been altered early in the design stage to provide the optimum flow of machinery into and out of the building," commented Gordon. "With that done, the principal concern was that the facility should be big enough to accommodate present needs and future expansion. This involved sitting down and working out how much room was needed for all the machines while still allowing space to walk about and for additions to the equipment fleet."

With a total floor area of 1,000 sq metres (10,760 sq ft), Gordon Moir says that the building has more than sufficient room for today's and tomorrow's needs. "This has to be a plus point," he commented. "Furthermore, we



The staff changing room has individual secure lockers with adjacent toilet and shower areas

also have completely separate covered areas for the storage and preparation of top dressings and for fuel, oil and chemicals, as well as a dedicated wash bay. I believe this is essential in any new greenkeeping facility."

Good lighting was also considered most important. "We start work in complete or semi-darkness throughout the year," pointed out Gordon. "The interior of the building has excellent lights and there are also plenty of high output floodlights outside which come on automatically

when it gets dark. This is also helpful for security."

With up to 30 different people using the centre during the day, building security was a point of particular concern. This has been answered by the use of electronic key cards with coded entry for the main personnel door into the building and the two internal doors leading into the principal equipment storage areas. The three powered roller-shutter doorways used by tractors, mowers and buggies can only be opened from the inside.

PLANNING A NEW GREENKEEPING FACILITY?

Ten important features recommended for any new greenkeeping facility by the greenkeeping staff at St Andrews:

- Ensure that the building is big enough for present and future staff and machinery requirements.
- Provide good vehicle movement to and from the facility as well into and out of the building itself.
- Ensure that there is plenty of lighting inside the building and around its perimeter.
- Provide good ventilation through roof and wall vents, supported by extractor fans if machinery will be run inside for extended periods.
- Install a suitably-sized wash-down area for course machinery, ensuring that water can drain away quickly and all

drains have suitable oil/fuel traps and grass/sediment filters.

- Provide proper changing rooms, wash and toilet facilities for staff, supported by a good-sized canteen area.
- Ensure that the facility can be well secured at night or whenever it is unattended. Fire/smoke and intruder alarms are recommended.
- Provide sufficient space for staff cars as well as for visitors. Room for turning will also be required by lorries and trailers.
- A good electricity supply is essential. Insist on three phase if it is available and plenty of wall sockets.
- Provide separate lockable areas for fuel, chemicals, handtools and other items which require checking in and out for safety, security or record-keeping purposes.

In addition to coded access, the complete building is secured by individual door and room sensors. There are also smoke alarms linked to the local fire station. The whole system is monitored by one security company which additionally responds to the opening of any alarmed door outside pre-agreed hours. "The alarm has been set off by someone working late, but this is most unusual," commented Gordon.

Fire drills are carried out regularly as are health and safety updates for all the staff. The latter cover every aspect of operations on the Links and are provided by Elmwood College lecturer and consultant to St Andrews Links Trust, Douglas Shearer.

Of the 15 greenstaff working out of the Eden complex, around half are qualified first aiders although just one person is responsible for maintaining the first aid kit.

Within the building, the superb facilities have produced greater motivation and responsibility among the staff, "without any prompting from ourselves or the management," stressed Gordon Moir.

"There has been a certain amount of envy from the greenkeepers looking after the Old, New and Jubilee courses, but they will have a first-class new building from next spring."

In addition to a well-equipped canteen with microwave, the greenkeepers have separate clothes drying and changing rooms, the latter with individual lockers and adjacent toilets and showers. Although no female greenkeepers are employed yet at St Andrews, future provision has been made with a separate changing room, toilet and shower area.

After discussions with staff, a no smoking policy has been put in place throughout the building. "This helps to maintain cleanliness and tidiness which are most important in a close working environment," said Gordon. "In the mess room, dishes and cutlery are washed and put away immediately by the person who has used them, a policy which extends right through to the course machinery and the wash-down area."

Record keeping has always



A check list is maintained for every machine. Note the security cage for storage of hand tools

been an important element of the management of St Andrews Links and this has been carried through to the new building and its daily operation.

Although required principally by the course rangers and orderlies for the buggies, petrol usage is logged by every person refuelling a vehicle or piece of equipment. Keys for the fuel store are held only by the two head greenkeepers and must be returned to them immediately for their safe-keeping.

A log sheet is also kept for every machine used on the

course, with each operator responsible for daily maintenance checks and noting service requirements and any problems. Regular services are carried out within the Eden Greenkeeping Centre by one of the mechanics based at the Jubilee Sheds. If there is a major service need or breakdown, the machine will be taken across to the main Jubilee workshop for attention.

"The new centre has instilled a strong feeling of pride among the staff and this is evident in their work output," pointed out Gordon Moir. "It is also pleasing to note that the greenkeepers genuinely want to keep the place clean and tidy. Little prompting is needed if mud or grass need sweeping up and the wash bay is always cleaned and the filters checked after use.

"As a place of work and rest for greenkeepers, there can be very few equals to the new Eden Centre anywhere in the world. We are all delighted with the facility - it's a credit to St Andrews."

Electronic key entry cards are used for the main personnel door into the building



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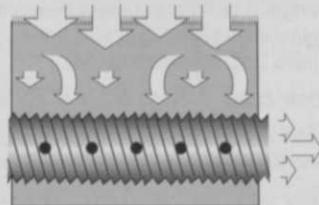
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The run-up to Christmas

This is the first of three months when we work a shorter 35 hour week, which compensates for the 45 hour weeks of April, May and June. This shorter week, and the Christmas break, means we are busy right up to Christmas week, trying to complete the majority of course improvements.

Over the Christmas period, through to the New Year, a working rota will be in operation, with all staff working some mornings and getting a well earned rest on the other days. All the basic preparation work of cutting or switching greens, changing holes, raking bunkers, moving tee blocks, divoting tees, emptying bins and re-routing traffic is planned on the rota, but if it's like last Christmas, with heavy frosts, less work will be possible.

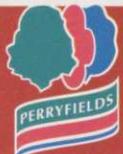
Greens Maintenance

On the sand based greens, bi-weekly surface aeration is carried out with a sorrel rolet, and weekly cutting at 6m with a hand mower helps keep smooth sur-



A GREENKEEPER'S DIARY

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faces. With the greens not having been fed since August, the Winter feed on sand greens is the most important of the year and will see the greens through until Spring with good dense sward. This is applied at the start of December in the form of a slow release fertiliser 15-0-30 at 25gms/m². A contact fungicide will be applied mid month to protect against disease over the Christmas period.

Planning of Feeding Programme

Core samples were taken from the greens in November, when nutrient levels were low and were sent for testing from the results, a feeding programme will be planned for 1997.

Obtaining a balanced feeding programme on these hungry sand based greens is the key to suc-

cess. The feeding programme is based around slow release fertiliser which will not affect the pH too much. During 1997, feeding was carried out on a little and often basis with application rates as low as 12.3g/m² which is possible with quality mini granule fertilisers. This gave us a good even growth pattern, without any flushes, which also helped produce, a good consistent greens speed. This will be the policy for the next year, which will again see some liquid feeding during dry periods, and the use of liquid irons and some seaweed between feeds.

Routine Maintenance

Tees and approaches are slit tined and solid tined, also hand cut during good periods of weather. Weekly divoting of tees and divot buckets filled with rootzone material. Fairways and walkways are slit tined, again in suitable weather. Weekly divoting of fairways especially on the four water holes, as golfers are reluctant to retrieve their divots from the water (they use any excuse). Occasional mowing of fairways at 15m, mainly for presentation leading into the Christmas period.

Bunkers are kept clear of leaves and regularly raked with a final edging for the year in early December. Drop Zones and Gurs are kept clearly marked and water hazard posts checked once a week. As the Oak Trees finally drop their leaves, a final leaf collecting is carried out.

Staffing

My feelings on staff, echo Kerran Daly's views from last month's Greenkeeper's Diary, that staff are my biggest asset. They are well clothed for the Winter weather, and are treated, along with the rest of the company's staff, to a Christmas party. The annual staff appraisals are held the week before the Christmas break and the following years training needs discussed.

Machinery Planning

My mechanic and I plan the reno-



DECEMBER

BY JOHN WELLS,
COURSE MANAGER,
BROCKET HALL

vation and repair of machinery and order certain spare parts ready for January and February. All machinery passes through the workshop, where the well qualified mechanic, Philip Spencer inspects the machines, and with assistance of other staff members carries out the necessary work. This helps to teach staff more about the equipment and the care required in setting up and maintaining them.

Looking Forward to Harrogate

After receiving the Master Greenkeeper Certificate last year, Harrogate was a special week and I anticipate it will be similar this year, therefore my Deputy, John Moorehouse and I will be off to Harrogate at the National Conference/BTME show to learn more about the art of Greenkeeping, look at new products and look closely at the machinery on display.

Talking to other greenkeepers throughout the day and evening also helps in the learning experience, and meeting old friends is not to be missed. There may even be the chance of a snowball fight – weather permitting that is!

Finally, to all BIGGA members and staff, I wish a very Merry Christmas and an enjoyable year of work in 1997.

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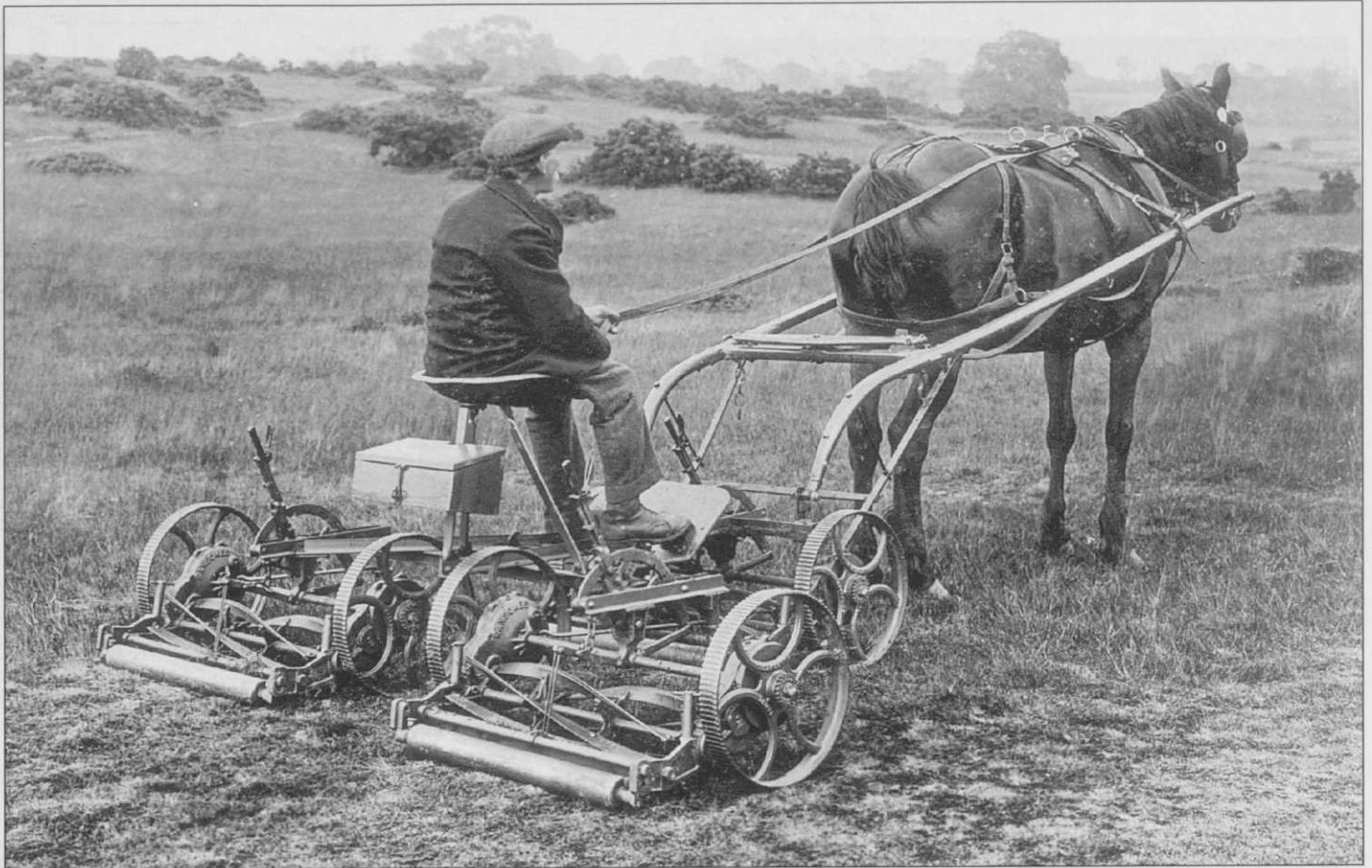
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A one horsepower mower in 1923

Roland Taylor looks back at a piece of machinery which is a vital part of every greenkeeper's working life.

The year was 1828 and an event was about to take place that would dramatically change all sports played on grass, especially golf. Until this time, keeping turf short enough to play on was often down to the rabbit population and courses such as St Andrews relied on them to keep the courses grazed. Documents dating back to the mid 17th century reveal that the city council allowed the Archbishop to keep rabbits on part of the links. This may have seemed a good idea at the time, but the golfers clearly found the scraps and burrows created by the rabbit population were a problem. When the next applicant applied for grazing rights 70 years later there was a clause in the agreement that stated the links were not to be spoilt where golf was played. How they expected the owner of the rabbits to keep them under control is not explained.

By the turn of the century the course was one large rabbit warren and players were naturally very unhappy. Eventually the problem was resolved, but not before the case was finally taken to the House of Lords.

Sheep were also used in the early 1900s one greenkeeper said that his first job was keeping fairways mown with horse drawn mower and a flock of 300 of ewes.

In the Gloucestershire town of Stroud the Industrial Revolution was at its height and the local mills were busy turning out cloth for the British Army. Cost effective methods of production were constantly being sought and one process, shearing the nap of cloth, was very time consuming and required considerable skill.

One man went to mow: 160 years ago

Edwin Beard Budding was a 35 year-old, carpenter, engineer and inventor. One of his jobs was to install a mechanical nap trimmer at a local mill. This machine consisted of a series of blades that rotated against a static blade. Why he should relate this to mowing grass is conjecture. Maybe the mill owner had asked him to look for an alternative away of keeping his lawns mown. Whatever the stimulus, Budding set to work and came up with a system that has stood the test of time and still remains the basic principle of all modern cylinder mowers.

Like most inventors, Budding had to find someone interested in manufacturing and what is more important put up the money for

his new invention. John Farrabee who owned the Phoenix Foundry at Thrupp Mill, near Brinscombe had the ideal set-up and financial backing. The two men formed a partnership in August of 1830 and a British patent for the world's first lawnmower was granted to them on October 5 of that year. The Budding Farrabee company manufactured over 5000 units in the period until 1863 when it ceased production. Farrabee saw the benefit of issuing manufacturing licences to other companies and one of these was J R & A Ransomes of Ipswich, who began making and selling machines in 1832. Another company to take up the licence was Thomas Green of Leeds.

Budding's patent did not cover Scotland and

Alexander Shanks of Arbroath took full advantage of this by registering his design and in doing so moved mower technology forward. Shank's machine was horse drawn. It was quickly followed by models from other manufacturers, and a variety of larger machines up to 40 inches became available. These could be pulled by horses, ponies and donkeys. Leather shoes were fitted over the hoofs to stop them damaging the turf.

The wind blew in young James Sumner's face as he sped through the highways and byways of Lancashire. There was very little traffic about – only the odd steam wagon, horse and cart or rider. The local police were not amused with Sumner's new invention, a steam-driven tricycle. As a result it is reputed he was fined for travelling too fast!

Sumner's family business had been built up from a smithy at the time of the Napoleonic Wars to an iron foundry capable of forging castings of up to half-a-ton. When James inherited the company it was heavily in debt and to help resolve this problem he adapted his tricycle engine to fit a lawnmower. Unlike conventional steam engines, the Sumner model was powered by paraffin and a hand pump pressurised the water tank to enable the unit to raise steam within ten minutes. Two sizes were available, a 25" and 30". One of the first steam driven lawn mowers was sold to Rugby School. On one demonstration it is reported that the mower was being operated by the gardener. He opened the throttle too much and was seen disappearing into an ornamental lake, shouting "Whoa!" Other manufacturers including Shanks and Greens produced their versions of a steam-driven mower including a ride-on model. All were heavy, noisy and difficult to control.

Meanwhile, back at Ipswich, James Edward Ransome was about to make another breakthrough that was to take grass cutting technology forward in leaps and bounds. The company took out a patent in 1902 on a petrol-driven mower and went into manufacture immediately. Cadbury Bros of Bourneville were one of the first companies to invest in

this new model for mowing their sports grounds.

Trials were arranged between Sumner's and Green's steam mowers and a Ransomes petrol machine. The result was the death knell of steam power. This was confirmed when King Edward VII arranged a demonstration on the lawns of Buckingham Palace, and gave the mower his full approval. He was quickly followed by the W G Grace who had experienced the machine in operation at the London County Cricket Ground.

The petrol-powered range offered by Ransomes at this time consisted of a 36" and 42" ride-on, a 30" pedestrian operated mower which was said to be designed for golf links plus a 24" model for ornamental lawns.

The development of the cylinder mower was not confined to the UK. A Mr Worthington, from Shawnee in the United States, introduced a new machine that was to change golf course turf maintenance considerably – the gang mower. His company later was to be taken over by the Jacobsen Corporation. By 1921 Ransomes were manufacturing Worthington gangmowers under licence here in the UK. They were very soon found on golf courses throughout this country. Other well-known names like Greens and Lloyds had also entered the gangmower market. Tractors and cars eventually replaced the horse, speeding up the cutting operation considerably.

With all this activity in raising the standards of the course, players began to demand a better finish on greens. The larger petrol powered

unit was considered to be too heavy, so a range of hand-propelled rear-roller mowers with a multi-bladed cylinder were introduced. These included the Ransomes 'Certes', Greens 'Silens Deluxe' and Shanks' 'Golf Lynx'. Lloyds of Letchworth introduced the Pegasus, this had 1hp engine that only drove the cylinder. It was constructed from aluminium alloy to keep the weight down and there was a choice of five-, seven- or eight-bladed cylinders.

One of first triple mowers for greens was the Overgreen. This came from the Worthington stable and consisted of power unit with large tyres to avoid marking the greens. It pulled three Certes cutters and was said to be able to mow eighteen greens in a day. In later years rear roller driven models began to appear and included the Auto Certes and Paladin – they quickly became popular.

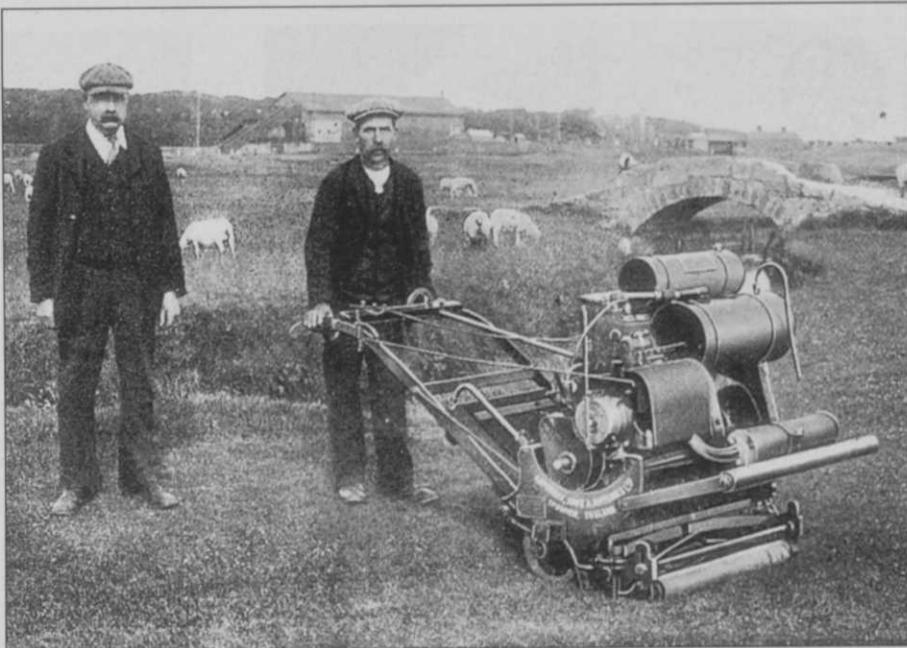
The early 1970s saw the introduction of triple ride-on greens machines and hydraulically driven gangmowers. Diesel power followed and gradually the tractor is being replaced by self-propelled units and utility vehicles that act as a power source for a host of operations.

Today's machinery may incorporate computer controlled units, but one thing that has changed very little over the last 160 years is the design of the actual cutting system.

Budding's invention had a profound affect on not only sports areas, but also garden design. Its introduction on golf courses led to the development of a host of other equipment for turf management. A whole new industry evolved in turf culture that included seed and turf production, chemicals and fertiliser. The level of play was dramatically affected and this led to the development of new clubs, balls and other accessories. There is very little doubt that had Budding not invented the lawnmower someone else would have devised a system. He received very little for his invention and sadly, died 16 years after the patent was granted.

Next time you are aboard your all-singing, all-dancing, computer controlled and satellite navigated mower, think for a minute! Had Budding been an ordinary carpenter cum engineer you could today be either sweating buckets swinging a scythe, chasing rabbits off the course or shepherding a flock of sheep!

Thank you Edwin Beard Budding!



Ransomes horse drawn mower

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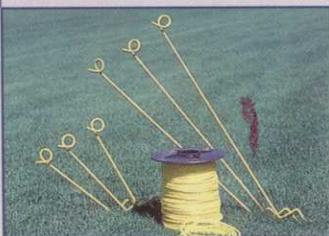
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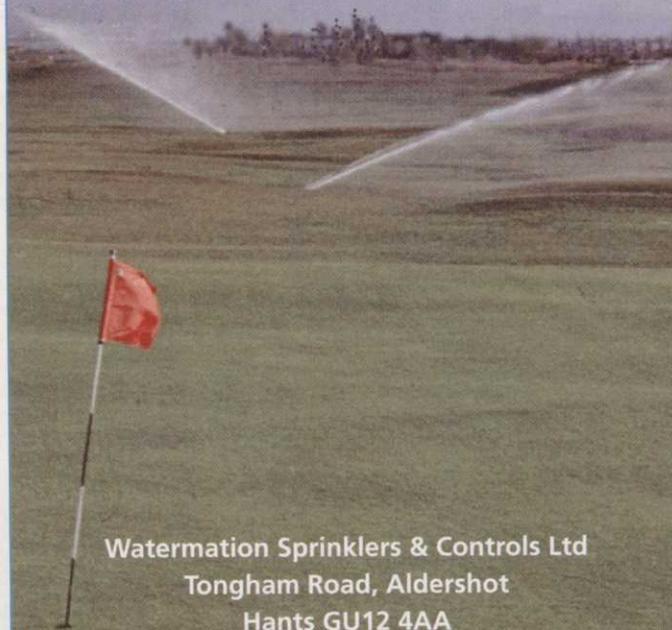
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January 22-24, 1997

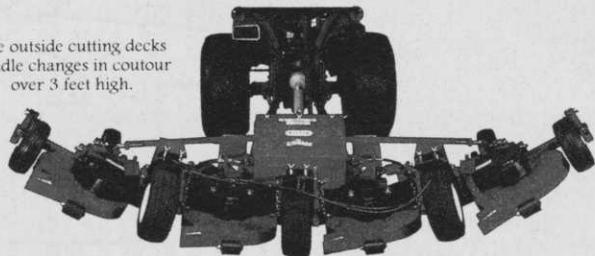
PREVIEW

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AD REF 501

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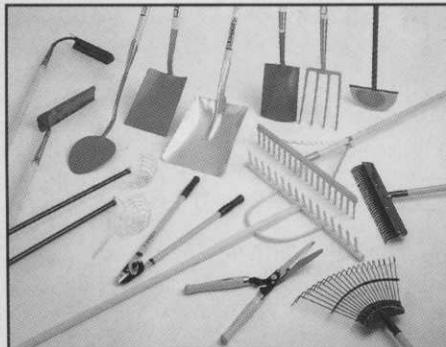
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AD REF 379



FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW...

BTME Opening Times
 Wednesday January 22,
 9am-5.30pm
 Thursday January 23,
 9am-5.30pm
 Friday January 24, 9am-1.30pm

Booking System
 Any delegate wishing to book hotels, seminar sessions or the banquet should contact Sami Collins, at BIGGA Headquarters Tel: 01347 838581.

AGM
 The BIGGA Annual General Meeting will take place at the Majestic Hotel at 5.45pm on Wednesday January 22, 1997. All members are urged to attend but membership cards must be produced.

USEFUL DATES

- BIGGA National Education Conference: January 20-21, 1997
- BIGGA Educational Workshops: January 20-21, 1997 - WORKSHOP ONE SOLD OUT
- Educational Seminar Programme: January 22-24, 1997
- Sports Turf Research Institute/BIGGA Chairmen of Green/Secretaries' Course: January 21-22, 1997
- FEGGA AGM: 12 noon, January 23, 1997

Counting down to the show of the year!

For one week in the year all roads point to Harrogate as people from every aspect of the greenkeeping industry make their annual pilgrimage to BTME.

The growing band who do ink the week into their diaries just as soon as the last BTME has passed are rewarded with an occasion which both up-dates their knowledge of the industry and reinforces friendships formed from previous Harrogates.

This year the delights on offer are more tantalising than ever before. The Learning Experience, in association with Ransomes, is not to be missed with top speakers from around the world at both the Education Conference and the BTME Seminar programme while the BIGGA workshops, so successful at BTME '96 have been extended to four in '97. The range of exhibitors is wider than ever with many companies taking more floor space to display their products to their best advantage while the social programme should following the tradition of every previous years with the high-

light coming from Bobby Davro at the Thursday night banquet.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

The Exhibition Banquet on, Thursday 23 January, at the Majestic Hotel, will be followed by a spectacular cabaret starring Bobby Davro, ably supported by a fabulous female vocalist, Laine Kennedy. The social programme also includes a conference dinner on 20 January with after dinner speaker Professor David Purdie, Dean of the University of Kingston upon Hull and a Karaoke Night on Wednesday 22 January.

THE EXHIBITION

The popularity of BTME '97 is such that the waiting list for 1998 is already growing. This year around 20 companies wanted to

attend but with no available space, had to be content with a place on the waiting list and the hope that some existing exhibitors decide against attending BTME '98.

The light pens which proved so successful in BTME '95 and BTME '96 will again be available so companies can note to whom they have been talking by simply scanning the bar coded delegate badges.

Catering in the show will again be the Tex Mex fare which proved so popular on its debut at the Show in 1996.

In a change for '97 the BTME Seminar Programme will be housed in the King's Suite which is ideally suited for such seminars and will provide a comfortable environment in which to enjoy the speakers.



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Ken Siems, Course Manager, Loch Lomond Golf Course

A Practical look at Golf Course Conservation

David Roy, Course Manager, Linlithgow Golf Club

Reflections over the last ten years of Ecological Management on German Golf Courses

Norbert Lischka, Course Manager, Hamburg Falkenstein Golf Club

Golf Course Construction and Management: An Ecological Perspective

Bob Taylor, STRI Ecologist

Scheduling Maintenance Operations to Suit Golfers

Gorden Witteveen, Superintendent, Toronto Board of Trade

Economy in Golf Course Architecture

James Duncan, Golf Course Architect

Great Expectations

Larry Gilhuly, Western Director, Green Section, USGA

Is it Greener over There?

Robert Bardwell, Course Manager, Euro Golf Green

Biological Methods for Pest and Disease Control in Golf Turf

Dr Alan Gange, Royal Holloway College, University of London

Bunkers in America

Terry Buchen, MGC, Director of

Agronomy, the Legends Group

Managing Rabbits, Current Research

Dr Gordon McKillop, Central Science Laboratory

How Green is Greenkeeping?

Mark Broughton, MGC, Course Manager, Morecambe Golf Club

Rootzone Testing, Theory and Practice

Dr Paul Miller, Elmwood College

Understanding and Managing Compaction

Dr Marty Petrovic, Professor of Plant Science, Cornell University
Five Master Greenkeeper Credits and five BASIS CPD points.

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Workshop 1 - Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment.

Presented jointly by BIGGA and the British Institute of Golf Course Architects.

The workshop will be presented by Howard Swan MSc and Simon Gidman BSc, both members of the Institute of Golf Course Architects.

SORRY, THIS WORKSHOP IS SOLD OUT

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Workshop 2 - Levelling and Surveying

Presented by Peter Jones, Peter Jones Associates and Dean Barlow RICS, DB Surveys

Workshop 3 - Effective Communication-Presenting to

Green Committees

Presented by Brin Bendon of Vector Training

Five Master Greenkeeper Credits and five BASIS CPD points.

Workshop 4 - The Magic of Greenkeeping

Gordon Witteveen, Toronto Board of Trade Golf Course Superintendent and Michael Bavier, Superintendent, Inverness Golf Club, Chicago

This workshop deals with the vital techniques and methods that all professional greenkeepers need to create a healthy, high quality golf course.

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Annual Blue Grass?

Larry Gilhuly, Western Director, Green Section, USGA

How We Can Help?

David Burton, Kirbys Solicitors

Pond Banks-Taking the Soft Option

Gordon Moir, Head Greenkeeper, Eden Course, St Andrews Links

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Martyn Jones, Head of Turfgrass

Science, Myercough College

Education of the Head Greenkeeper

Helen Lindelof, Course Manager, Ingaro, Sweden/Suzanne Lindstrom

The Rules of Golf

Grant Moir, Deputy Secretary (Rules), Royal and Ancient Golf Club

Grow-In Philosophies

Terry Buchen, MGC, Director of Agronomy, the Legends Group

Global Links: Associations Sharing Information for Better Greenkeeping Worldwide

Bruce Williams, President, GCSAA

Pesticides on the Golf Course - Stewardship and Labelling

Patrick Goldsworthy, British Agrochemicals Association

Why They Go Bust!

Bryan Griffiths, Chairman, Golf Consult International

Full Time Golf Course Mechanic - Where's the Justification

Gerry Southgate, Service Manager, Ransomes

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AD REF 461

Who to look out for at BTME – it's the show of the year

WINNERS

James Simmons of Royal Eastbourne GC was the winner of our BTME competition.

James wins a trip to Harrogate for three nights, staying in a top hotel and entry to all educational seminar sessions.

In second place and winner of a trip to Harrogate, accommodation for two nights and entry into the educational seminar sessions is Gordon McKie of St Andrews Links Trust and third is Timothy McCreadie of Royston GC who wins one night's accommodation and entry to all seminar sessions.

Winner of the Christmas Hamper for registering before November 8 was Roger Buchanan, Head Greenkeeper at Wollaton Park GC.

■ A selection of just some of the companies you can expect to see at Harrogate in January. Next month's *Greenkeeper International* will contain the official, comprehensive catalogue and guide to the event

RANSOMES

One of the new additions to the Ransomes range of turf care machinery making its first appearance at BTME is the Envirojet turf grass injection system.

Envirojet is a high pressure water injector designed to break up sub-surface compaction, improving drainage, root growth and aeration without disturbing the surface of the turf. The system can be used also to inject pre-mixed materials such as chemicals, fertilisers and wetting agents, placing them at the exact depth necessary for optimum effect. Benefits of such direct, precise placement include the potential use of lower chemical concentrations and the prevention of spray drift and sur-

face run-off, greatly reducing the risk to staff and the environment.

Being mounted on and powered by a Cushman Turf-Truckster vehicle, the Envirojet system needs no separate water supply. Clean water or a pre-mixed solution is contained in a 160 gallon fibreglass tank carried on the vehicle's chassis and delivered to the 10 jetting nozzles by a high pressure pump. All liquid passes through a patented sequencer unit which can be adjusted to alter the flow rate and the injection depth to suit requirements. Ransomes is planning an extensive demonstration programme for the Envirojet during 1997 and will be pleased to speak with greenkeepers about the system at Harrogate.

LEVINGTON HORTICULTURE LTD

Levington Horticulture concentrates on the key products for revitalising fine turf after the stresses of a winter preceded by a long hot summer on its stand at BTME this January. "Even the best maintained fine turf

will have struggled in the hot dry conditions of last summer. Combine that with winter weather and greenkeepers could well be dealing with some thin stressed swards, open to disease infection and moss colonisation this spring," said Levington Technical Services Manager Keith McKee. "Now is the time to begin the repair process, ready for the coming season."

Levington Greenmaster Mosskiller will be prominently featured on the stand as an ideal spring treatment for fine turf. Alternatively where moss is not a problem, Levington Greenmaster Turf Tonic is an ideal spring treatment similarly encouraging healthy and resilient growth.

MIRACLE PROFESSIONAL

Miracle Professional will as usual be giving their full support to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and their stand will be featuring their wide range of products. Major chemical brands include the fungicides 'Daconil' Turf and 'Greenshield'

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Throughout the United Kingdom Ocmis stock MDPE & UPVC pressure pipe, associated fittings, pumping units, electric cable and mobile irrigators. Ocmis' unique in house design capabilities ensure that the requirements of each client are individually met and that each project is given independent attention. For more information, or a no obligation survey and design contact Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Ltd, Head Office - 01460 241939.

RHONE-POULENC AMENITY

New to the Rhone-Poulenc Amenity range is Crossfire 480 for fast, effective control of leather jackets and fruit fly. Come along to stand A6 and let us explain how this product could fit into your pest control strategy. To ensure your golf course comes through the winter in the best possible shape we will also be featuring Rovral Green - the ultimate turf fungicide and Cast-away Plus the dual purpose pest management product.

MARLWOOD LTD

Lastec with the articulator have just perfected the art of grooming the world's finest turf using the world's finest floating rotary mower. Meet the X-series articulator, with proven durability stronger, lighter, together, better. The articulator offers the highest quality finish cut of any rotary mower. They cut over 10 feet wide with the same accuracy as a single 21" push mower, precise length, better grass distribution, better wet grass cutting, winter mulching.

MAJOR EQUIPMENT LTD

Major Equipment working on its success story of the 12000 Groundsman Roller mower for the Local Authorities market has now launched the latest addition to its range - the 17ft 17000 Groundsman Roller mower based on the same design as the 12ft 12000 Roller mower.

Major has recently become involved with front mounted Roller mowers starting with the 6ft 6000FMX and the 8ft 8000FMX to cover the parks and golf course market.

Showing at Harrogate will be a selection of the Groundsman range starting with the smallest 4400 Major Groundsman through to the 12000 Groundsman.

Demonstrations are now being planned with both the newly launched and the existing machinery.

RIGBY TAYLOR

Rigby Taylor has made a major investment in the development of new products, and there will be further introductions at BTME '97 under the "Advanced Technology Products from Rigby Taylor" banner.

In addition, there will be Technical Advice from supporting manufacturers, competitions and special show offers to make your visit to our stand at Harrogate entertaining, informative and profitable.

SISIS EQUIPMENT (MACCLESFIELD) LTD

Sisis will display items from their large and comprehensive range of golf course maintenance machinery.

STANDARD GOLF (UK) LTD

Standard Golf will display their complete range of Golf course Equipment from the USA and are the world's leading supplier of course equipment. Included in the range are ball washers, litter caddies, rakes, tee markers, flag sticks, course and tee data signage. Personalised flags are a speciality of Standard Golf and are the finest available, see the quality for yourself on stand B36. Also on display will be winter tee and range mats. Details of the services offered by our sister company Envirogreen Limited will be available, specialists in special waste disposal of chemicals, fertilisers, oils etc, full or empty containers. No disposal is too difficult for Envirogreen. Duncan and Neil Stewart, together with Dawn will be available to assist and welcome clients and look forward to seeing you there.

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at BTME – the show of the year



H. PATTISSON & CO LTD

Pattissons are acknowledged as the one-stop-shop for all course furnishings. From the tee area Pattissons range starts with the simple Trio Tee Marker to their ever popular resin tee markers, available in Deluxe Golf ball, Standard Golf ball, Pear shaped and Cone Shaped styles.

As an alternative, Chichester or Newbury Tee Consoles come complete with a sign that can show all the hole information and layout, D-shaped litter bins, show brushes and scrapers, ball washers, ball towels, sponsorship plates, in fact nearly any specialist requirements can be met. As with the consoles, many Pattissons products can be made to the courses unique specification to maintain a consistency of style. Another attractive tee accessory is the Deluxe Info Panel, this is a multi panel sign made from extruded aluminium and polyester powder coated in the colour of your choice, once again it can be made to the courses specification and can include, course logo, sponsor plates, yardage information and hole layout. This unit can also be removed for grass cutting and ground maintenance. Pattisson can supply virtually any accessory a course will need from the tee to the green. Our catalogue containing all of our new and improved course products is available by phoning 01582 597262.

HARDI LTD

Hardi Ltd has established itself as a leading supplier to the industry, by developing a specialised range of Amenity sprayers.

This range covers tractor mounted, trailed, de-mountable and skid units. In short we have a comprehensive range of products which is designed to meet the needs of the golf course, park or sports ground. By recognising the need for environmental controls, Hardi Ltd in association with Rogers Innovative are marketing the Windfoil Boom in mounted and pedestrian operated forms, also the Root Zone Injector. Hardi Ltd are also European importers for the renowned range of Greencare aeration equipment.

This range includes the Coremaster pedestrian and tractor mounted corers and the Shattermaster sub-surface aerator.

Finally, Hardi Ltd are distributors for the Greens Iron range manufactured by Woodbay Enterprises.

Pattisson's 100th year has been a landmark which the company chose to celebrate with the launch of the 100/100/100 Club which gave 100 golf clubs £100 each to towards the cost of attending education sessions at Harrogate.

"The on-going education of greenkeepers is paramount for the future of the golf clubs and we felt that by assisting clubs in providing help towards the education costs it would be money well spent," explained Mike Hinch, Managing Director – Sales and Marketing.

"We hope that the relationship that we have with BIGGA will continue to grow and that we will be able to work again on future events that help the golfing industry to

evolve even further," he added.

It has been a particularly busy year for Pattissons with one of the highlights being the acquisition of JDS (Customisation) Ltd, now called Cygnet Golf Ltd, Europe's largest supplier of golf gift products.

This year has also seen the opening of Pattissons Spanish Office, based in Marbella. H. Pattisson (Iberia) SL has been set up to sell both companies' range of products, while Pattissons is also having talks with a major supplier of top dressing to become the distributor for Spain and Portugal.

Members of the 100/100/100 Club are invited to visit the Pattisson's Stand at BTME where the 25th, 50th, 75th and 100th member will receive a valuable and

HAYTER LTD

Hayter have been producing top quality grass cutting products for over 50 years without compromising on quality. On Stand C42 this is more than evident with the products on display for golf course and local authority markets. Launched at SALTEX, the new Triple Turf Mower the LT324 featuring a 4 wheel drive "on-demand" system, will make its first visit to BTME. The successful FM514 Fairway machine now features an attractive cab and our pedestrian greens mower will show why this machine is fast becoming one of the most sought after greens mowers both at home and abroad.

JACOBSEN E-Z-GO TEXTRON

Once again we will be exhibiting some of our extensive range of turf equipment including products from Jacobsen E-Z-GO, Graneley, Turfco and Smithco. We will also be able to demonstrate our CD Rom parts system to interested parties.

KUBOTA (UK) LTD

The Super B series, the latest range of compact tractors from Kubota is the main attraction at this year's BTME show.

The three tractors in the Super B range (8hp B1700, 21hp B2100, 24hp B2400) made their debut in late 1996 to wide acclaim and confirmed Kubota's leadership in the compact tractor market.

A hydraulic lift capacity of 750kgs, a flat operator deck, high clearance and optional Buisard cab means the

Super Bs are designed to deliver maximum versatility to operators working in the local authority, contracting and golf maintenance sectors. Further flexibility is available with the option of Bi-Speed Turn on the two larger units.

Other Kubota machines featured at BTME '97 include tractors from the 35hp-45hp Grandel range, the 29hp ST-30 as well as selected ride on mowers.

TIL IRRIGATION LTD

TIL Irrigation are the UK Distributor for Toro Irrigation equipment. As such the company will be exhibiting the range of Toro PC based control systems including the CDS, which has evolved from Toro's SC3000. Available with radio remote control the CDS system shares the SC3000 decoder, which is renowned for its reliability. CDS is supplied as a package of Toro hardware and Toro software with full support for each from Toro and TIL. As always Toro's control systems are offered in conjunction with the comprehensive range of sprinklers which have led the way in gear drive rotation and control technology for many years.

ALLEN POWER EQUIPMENT LTD

Allen Power Equipment will be exhibiting their full range of power equipment suitable for use by golf clubs. This includes the new National 70" hydrostatic triple mower C/W collection boxes. Allen petrol hover mowers and brush cutters plus walkover sprayers. Also shown will

be the new ascender barrow which not only transports loads but lifts them as well. The full range of Echo power equipment will also be shown including brush cutters, blowers, chainsaws and hedge cutters. The popular long handled hedge cutter model HCA 2400 will also be on the stand.

NATURE FIRST LIMITED

Nature First Limited offer a comprehensive arboricultural service on a nationwide basis. Experts in supply, planting and maintenance of Semi-Mature Trees, the company undertakes major contracts for a wide range of clients. Transplanting of trees using their modern fleet of Tree Spades is regularly undertaken with excellent success rates. Machines with a rootball size of up to 2.1m are available for hire with experienced operators. Dedicated to the supply of the completed arboricultural service the Tree Surgery Division of Nature First has the facility to offer services such as consultancy, stump removal and brushwood chipping as an integral part of the operation. Highly skilled staff and modern mechanised techniques enable the company to offer competitive quotations in all areas. Enquiries are invited for contracts in Great Britain and Europe.

VITAX LTD

Since its launch at Saltex 1996 the new Vitax Sport Amenity Product Guide is being acknowledged by many professional Amenity Turf Managers as one of the most informative in the industry. These will be available at BTME 1997. Strongly featured on the Vitax stand will be their leading brand chemicals, Tecto, Fairy Ring Destroyer and Estermone, plus Ultraflo, the UK's leading long term wetting agent. Complementing the full chemical range will be the long established high quality Vitax key range of turf fertilisers.

SUPATURF PRODUCTS LTD

At Harrogate '97 Supaturf will have its biggest stand yet and will be introducing more products to its ever increasing range of water management products, offering all the benefits of new technology. In addition, the new Evensprey sprayer will be launched offering a compact and highly effective electric sprayer and it award winning Clean Carbon will be demonstrated. The new "Supaturf On-Line" service will be demon-

Who to look out for at BTME – it's the show of the year



strated, offering greenkeepers access to information and technical advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Another innovative year for Supaturf.

TORO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS/LELY (UK) LTD

Toro will be showing the new Reelmaster 2600-D precision cut, all purpose triplex mower with a wide 85" cut for highly productive performance and featuring Toro's unique L-I-N-K-S cutting unit suspension system. Also on show will be the Greensmaster 1600, Toro's latest walk behind addition to the firm's market-leading Greensmower series with a wide 26" cut for high productivity on fine turf. Two important new attachments for the ride-on Greensmaster 3200 first shown at last year's BTME will be a grooming reel and thatching unit.

J.D GREASLEY LTD

The company which is a specialist contractor for refurbishment works and alterations to existing golf

courses, along with the construction of new courses has had a very busy time in 1996 having constructed over 40 new golf greens in the year.

A new 18 hole course at Springs GC, Oxon designed by Brian Huggett has been built while a new 11 holes have been built alongside the picturesque river Dee on Royal Deeside for Deeside GC. Due to open in '97 are 14 new holes at Gog Magog GC. The company has unrivalled experience in carrying out alteration work with a minimum of disruption and disturbance to the club and its members. It also operates an extensive range of specialist plant and equipment, much of which has been developed through working on existing courses to ensure damage is kept to an absolute minimum.

JOHN DEERE LIMITED

Three new machines are making their debut on the John Deere stand. The 220A walk-behind greensmower features a new "operator presence sys-

tem", making the machine more comfortable and easier to operate. The new 4hp Honda engine is ISO mounted to reduce vibration, while the grassbox has a new mounting design and is ventilated to allow more efficient airflow while retaining the grass clippings.

The new John Deere 3215A lightweight fairways mower is a value-for-money entry machine, available in 2WD with five in diameter seven blade standard cutting units. In addition there is a new Roberine 802-D front-mounted rotary mower.

INDUSTRIAL POWER UNITS

Industrial Power Units (IPU) is now offering a soil gas measurement service with the AubAir IPU2000 analyser. Oxygen, Carbon Dioxide, Hydrogen Sulphide and Methane levels are processed and results presented in a basic report. Anaerobic conditions are responsible for many of the most common and persistent turf grass problems. This information can be used as an advanced warning and will assist in the formulation of the most effective aeration and maintenance programme. The SubAir blower system exclusively available through IPU may be a possible solution to poor soil gas and moisture retention problems.

CLEVELAND SITESAFE LIMITED

Cleveland Sitesafe Limited manufacture and supply a wide range of highly secure movable storage and accommodation units for chemicals, tools, fuel, equipment and personnel.

SEWARD GRASS MACHINERY UNITED

Specialising in turf compaction Seward is the first company in the UK to operate the vertidrain and now has available two 2.5m fairway and two 1.45 greens machines. Swards have now added their own developed sand and gravel slitting machine to their range for both sale and hire marketed under the Jemison Agri Bander trade name. Overseeding is carried out with various types of drills, stone burying, hollow tining, fairway grooming with a collector is also available. Top dressing is carried out with a 1 and 4 ton spreader. We are also distributors for Force Limagrain Fortiva grass seeds, fertilisers and top dressing.

HEPWORTH MINERALS AND CHEMICALS LTD

Hepworth Minerals and Chemicals

Ltd (HMC) produces under the brand name of Pro-Sport a comprehensive range of graded sands, root-zones and top dressings for application within the leisure industry. Pro-Sport root-zones are available as USGA, Premier Golf, Golf and Sports Pitch. A new product will be on display at BTME 97 – Pro-Sport Eco-Zone, made using a green waste (peat free) product. The new Pro-Sport Leighton Buzzard White Bunker sand will also be on display. Pro-Sport Top Dressing products will also be on display, including the new Pro-Sport Eco-Dress, which again uses the Green Waste technology to provide a peat free top dressing product.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTORS

The Association have an interesting display of photographs covering the various golf courses that have been constructed by members during the past eighteen months. Constructor members are currently building eight new golf courses designed by various golf course architects both in the UK and Europe. They are also actively involved in various course alterations to existing courses. Members will be available during the show to answer any queries concerning the construction and maintenance of golf courses.

MOMMERSTEEG INTERNATIONAL

A comprehensive line-up of grass seed varieties and mixtures awaits visitors to the Mommersteeg International stand.

The display features Mocassin, a highly-rated slender creeping red fescue in STRI trials. Mocassin is the company's newest slender creeping red fescue with good disease resistance and high shoot density. It adds resilience to the turf and produces a dense, close knit even texture. The variety is particularly suited to golf greens, tees, bowling green, croquet lawns and ornamental turf. Mocassin has been included in two specialist mixtures for the golf course – MM12, a mixture for tees and fairways and MM13, a fine fescue mixture for tees and fairways without smooth stalked meadow grass. Also featured is the Mommersteeg biological seed treatment – improved Headstart. The re-formulated seed treatment is used on all Mommersteeg MM mixtures and ensures better root and shoot development, greater water absorption and improved photosynthesis.

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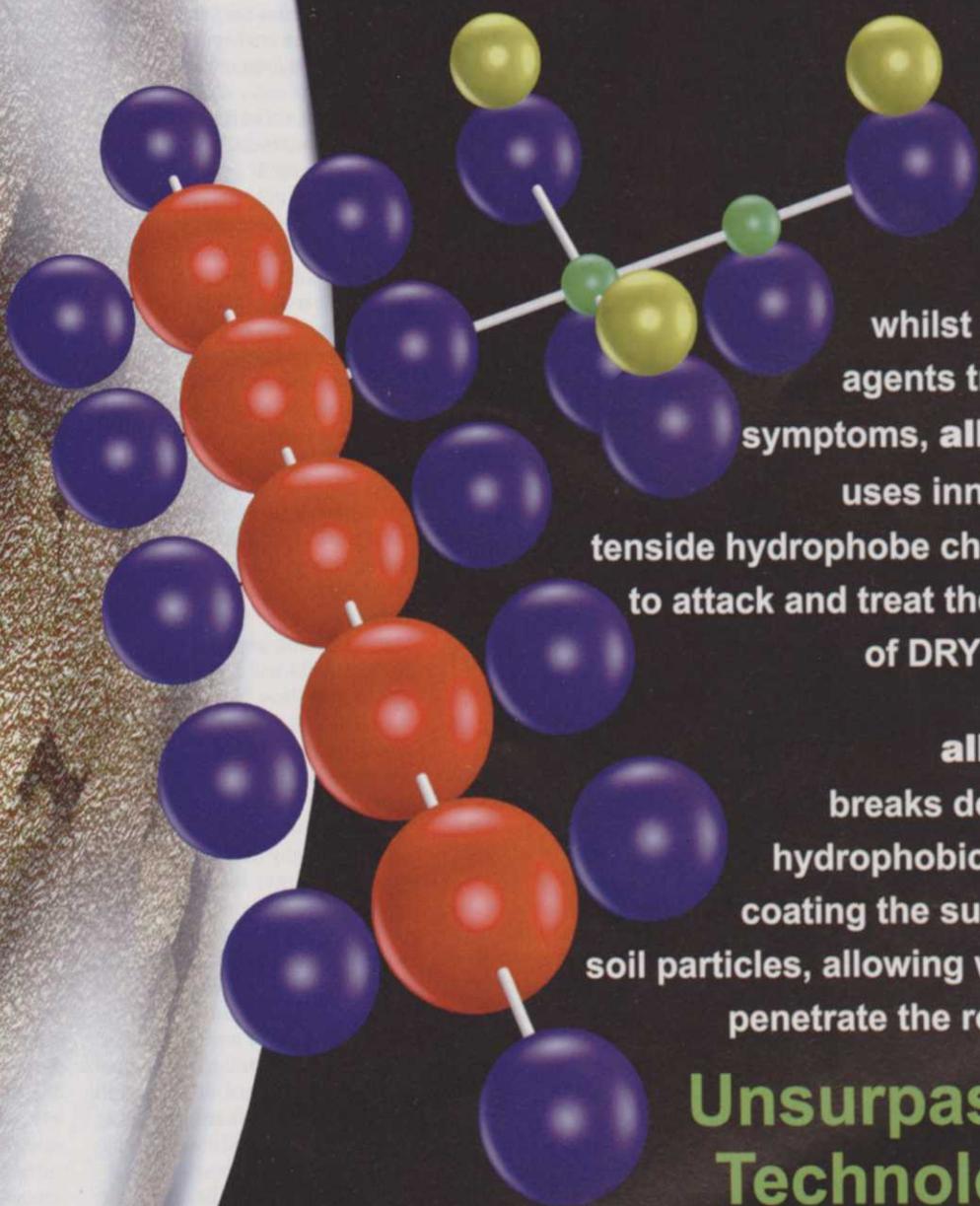
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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

Elliott Small
Tel: 01259 731445

North

One or two movements in the Section to report, Stewart Shaw rejoins us after a couple years absence, Colin Mackay moves from Cruden Bay to become Deputy at the new course run by Elmwood College in Cupar and, returning to the Section, is Graham Mackie who leaves Gleneagles to take up the post of Head man at Edzell where Sam Watson is retiring after many years in charge. Graham was formerly at Murcar. Section Secretary Dougal Duguid tells me that we have had 41 new members this year, yet overall numbers remain similar to last year, a worrying situation which we must try to overcome if we can.

Our Autumn outing was also the section qualifier for the 1997 Hayter tournament, the following members will represent us in the Scottish finals: Class 1: Neil Sadler, Grantown on Spey; Colin Mackay, Elmwood; Iain Macleod, Tain; and Bradley Wood, Westhill. Class 2: Chris Cumming, Fortrose; Ken Kinnaird, Grantown on Spey; Derek Anthony, Duff House Royal; and John Geddes, Ellon. Class 3: Keith Wood, Hazlehead; Colin Burgess, Forres; Stuart Hogg, Fortrose; and George Asher, Kemnay. May 1997 may seem along way off just now but it will soon come round.

The last big north competition of 1996 was the Northern Counties Cup at Tain and you could have been forgiven for thinking it was a greenkeepers outing, as there where so many greenkeepers representing their clubs. Forres led by Head Greenkeeper Mike Wilson made it through to the final where they were beaten by local rivals Elgin. The large amount of greenkeepers in attendance shows the quality of golfers in our profession today which, I believe can only help in producing good golf courses for our members.

In *Golf World's* latest standings, The Carnegie Course at Skibo is voted the best new course in Britain, nearby Royal Dornoch is the 10th on the list of established courses along with Royal Aberdeen 30, Cruden Bay 36, Nairn 54 and Murcar 85. There are many other good courses in our area for visi-



tors to play and some should feature in the top 100 also. Maybe we should invite the *Golf World* Panel up here to see for themselves what the North has to offer

Finally as this is my last report of 1996, I would just like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a good New Year and achieve all you yearn for in 1997.

Iain MacLeod

West

The Section AGM shall be held at Claremont Bowling Club, Milngavie, on Thursday, December 5 1996 at 6.30 pm. The committee has arranged a social night which is always a very enjoyable evening to follow the AGM.

It is hoped each member will make every effort to attend in support in the Section and make their views heard.

Agenda: 1. Apologies 2. Minutes of previous AGM 3. Business arising 4. Secretary's report 5. Chairman's report 6. Election of office bearers 7. Education 8. AOCB

Tickets are now available from committee members for the annual dinner at the Admiral restaurant, Waterloo Street, Glasgow, on Friday November 29 1996. Comedian Clem Dane has been booked to appear. Get your tickets early as this is always a very popular evening.

A J Bulloch

Central

The final golf tournament of the season was held at Pitreavie GC in October when some 55 members and guests had a most enjoyable day "away from work".

Prize winners on the day were: Ransomes' Shield (Best nett aggregate Spring/Autumn Tournaments) Kenny Duncan, Dunfermline GC; AMP Trophy (Best Scratch) Archie Dunn, Auchterarder GC; Aitken Trophy (Best Nett) Alex Wallace, Dollar GC; 1st Class (All Nett) 1. Robbie MacMillan, Falkland GC; 2. Rodney Hensby, Tulliallan GC; 2nd Class. 1. Joe Oliver, Pitreavie GC; 2. David Smith, Aberdour GC. 3rd Class. 1. Stuart Pearson, Aberdour GC; 2. Peter Finlay, Auchterarder GC. Two Ball Foursomes. Andy O'Hara and Anne Strathearn. Patrons, Roy Auld, SGM and Guests, Ian Butcher, Elmwood College.

Our sincere thanks go to every-

one at Pitreavie GC for making it such a successful day, especially Joe Oliver and his staff for having the course in excellent condition so late in the season (and for delaying his hollow coring until after the tournament). Thanks Joe!

While we are on about golf, the date and venue for the Autumn Tournament in '97 is Thursday September 18 at Auchterarder GC. The date and venue for the Spring Tournament has not yet been confirmed but we are hopeful of securing an exciting venue for this one.

The Section's oldest retired member, Jim Harrison, formerly head man at Muthill GC, has been suffering from ill health for some time in hospital. Everyone sends their best wishes for a speedy recovery to him, as we miss the support of both Jim and retired Muthill Secretary Haig Gordon at our meetings.

The Section's nominees for this year's Patron's Awards are Andy O'Hara of Leven Links and Gordon McRae of Ratho Park. These awards are for members of the Section who, in the opinion of the committee, give support to Section events, so if you wish to be nominated, come along to the events which are organised on your behalf.

By the time you read this the Section AGM will have been held and hopefully, a number of new members will have been elected to the committee with fresh ideas for getting more members to participate in the running of their own Section. While on the subject, if anyone has any thoughts for news items which may be of interest to other members - ie a member moves job/is promoted/BIGGA or college achievements - anything! Please let me know and I will include it in the Section news,

As we near the end of another year I would like to thank everyone who has supported the Central Section, through what has been a particularly difficult 12 months, by attending the events which were organised - especially the golf clubs who gave so freely of their facilities to hold our golf tournaments, to the Patrons of the Scottish Region for the support which they gave in so many different ways and to my fellow committee members for the time and effort which they put into the running of

the Section.

Here's wishing everybody "All the Best in '97".

John Crawford

East

Welcome to this month's article. So down to business. Congratulations to the two winners of the Patron's Award for 1996. I don't have the winners' names to hand so look out in next month's magazine.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome any new members to the Section, we hope to see you all at future events. The annual dance on December 7 at the Kilspindie House Hotel is as usual a complete sell out so the night is eagerly anticipated by everyone and I look forward to seeing you all there. (I hope everyone has paid for their tickets so the secretary can have a good night without having to deal with money etc).

The Skittles' Night in October was cancelled yet again due to lack of interest from our members. There were only 11 people going only six of whom were greenkeepers - the rest were guests. From a membership of in excess of 170 that is pretty abysmal. What's the problem? Are we wasting our time on the social committee organising the events? You tell us. As I always say it's your Section. Come to the AGM and let us know. That's the third Skittles' Night to be cancelled at £40 per time. A total of £120 has been wasted in two years.

It is your money so let's see you at the events or they will be lost forever. You don't see any golf outings being cancelled due to lack of members. Does that speak for itself? Any ideas on this let me know - 01875 870485. Just give me a call.

By the time you read this we shall have had the AGM at Swanston GC - November 28 and the Christmas Shopping Trip to Newcastle City Centre - November 24. We hope these were well attended.

There will be news from the annual dance in next month's magazine - also news from the annual dance, and possibly a few photographs.

I hope everyone has his BTME application forms because if it is your first time you won't be disappointed. The week is one of the highlights of the year in the BIGGA

calendar so we hope to see you there. Let's see a big turnout from the East Section. Don't forget there is the BIGGA AGM at Harrogate during BTME. It is your opportunity to have your say. If you can make it we shall see you down there.

Winter lectures start early next year and you will be notified soon. There is actually one before our AGM by Ocmis Irrigation.

If you want to tell me about anything let me know. You can write to me at 12 Craigiellaw Cottages, Aberlady, East Lothian, EH32 0PY or phone me on 01875 870485 or Mobile 0802 623 065. Let's hear from you.

Well that it for this year. We hope everyone's winter programmes are going well while the weather is reasonably good, as it will change as it always does. It's been a good year and I hope next year is the same. The Section is going from strength to strength with only a couple of minor problems ie social events.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members old and new a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year from the committee of the East Section - have a great time.
Chris Yeaman

Ayrshire

We are looking forward to the Section AGM on December 3 in the Parkstone Hotel, Prestwick at 7.30pm. This will be followed by one of the now famous quizzes, hosted by Bob Holness and Magnus Magnusson, alias those Bobby boys, Bruce and McKay. They assure me that the questions will be fun and not too difficult so please come along and have fun with us.

On the employment front we would like to wish good luck to Kevin Hills in his new position as Head Greenkeeper at Thornhill GC and Klaus Schiller on his appointment as Assistant Head Greenkeeper at Powfoot GC. Personally I hope the winter is kind to them and their courses come through this period in good condition. In fact, I hope everyone has this.

A lot of our Section members attended the IOG Show in Ingleston and everyone I have spoken to thought the show was good. It was nice to meet people you might not see during the year and this year I met Ian Taylor from Powfoot. It was good to see you looking so well Ian and I'm sure everyone joins me in hoping that you manage to come along to an outing next year for a longer chat.

As has been asked before please send through any items you would like in the magazine to me or speak to Robert Bruce on his travels.

To close, our Chairman Ian,

myself and all the Committee wish all our Section members, all greenkeepers everywhere, all the staff at BIGGA Headquarters at Happy Christmas and a great New Year.
Jim Paton

NORTHERN REGION

Bob Lupton
Tel: 01782 750539
Sheffield



On October 3 we held our first winter lecture at Rotherham GC. Our thanks go to Bob Taylor from the STRI on a very interesting lecture on the ecological and conservation management of golf courses was enjoyed by a good number of our members. Following the lecture we held our Annual General Meeting. The attendance for the AGM was 32 members which to say we've got 197 members in our section it wasn't that good. Also quite a few members left after the lecture without giving their apologies.

The following members were duly re-elected to the committee.

President K. Arnold; Chairman, N. Maltby; Vice Chairman/Treasurer D. Milbourne; Secretary R. Ullathorne; Competition Secretary B. Heaney; Committee members J. Duffield, S. Hurd, J. Lax, E. Mone and S. Currie.

It was also passed by the AGM that entrance fees to competitions be put up to £15 to cover the ever increasing cost of running the competitions may once again remind you that no late entry's or telephone entries will be accepted from anyone.

Congratulations go to Phil Stain who was recently appointed Head Greenkeeper at Notts GC. Good luck Phil!

Our next lecture will be on December 12 at Rotherham GC at 2.30pm and will be given Mr C. Peel, of ADAS.

Finally I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

John Lax

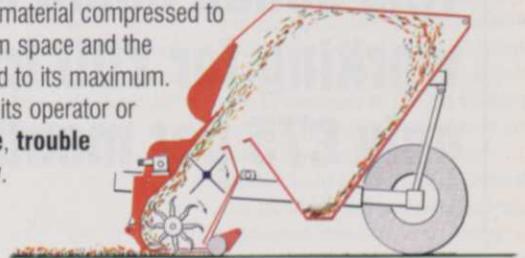
North Wales

The Section's Autumn tournament was held on the October 16 at Chester GC. A total of 107 members and guests took part and although the weather could have been kinder to us it was a very enjoyable day. Many thanks to Chester GC for providing us with such a superb venue and for making us feel so welcome.

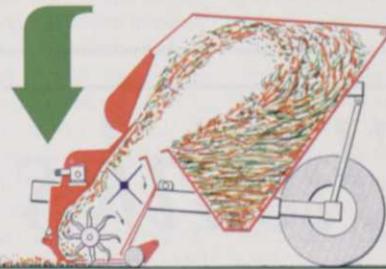
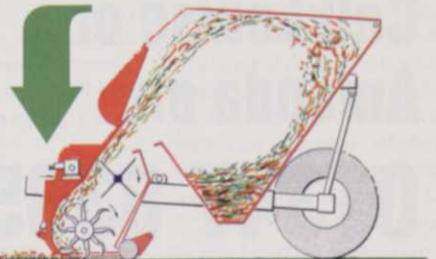
Our thanks must also go to the trade sponsors for the day, Gem Professional, Major Owen, Acorn, Mommersteeg Seeds, Richard Campey, Walker Engineering, Martin Brothers, Ki - chem and to Rigby Taylor who have donated a most handsome trophy that we will be starting to compete at our Christmas tournament at Portmadog.

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The winner of the Gem Professional Shield for the best net was Terry Evans with 38 points, the Major Owen Trophy for best gross went to Andy Peel with a score of 77, 36 points. The Acorn Shield for nearest the pin was won by Dave Parry. In all there were 34 prize winners which I am sure you will agree is quite an achievement.

Congratulations go to Gavin Clarke, of Eaton GC, who married his bride, Sharon, on October 11. Gavin and Sharon have known each other 10 years and were school sweethearts. Best wishes for your future happiness together.

Last month I received two requests from assistant greenkeepers who are looking for work. If anyone knows of any vacancies please contact me so I can pass on the information.

We have three new members to welcome into the Section they are Andrew Mitchell, of Frodsham GC; Neil Gilleland, of Eastham Lodge GC; and Jon Long, of Plassey GC. Our Section now stands at 135 members.

Trevor Johnston

North West

The AGM this year was attended by 21 members which was a definite improvement on last year's attendance prior to the AGM which was held at Wilmslow GC. We had an 18 hole Stableford Competition and although the forecast for the day was not at all promising, the weather held out making it a very enjoyable day. As usual Steve Outram and his staff had the course in great condition and although Paul Pearse was the overall winner everyone went home with a prize. I would like to thank Wilmslow GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course, and Gwen Chason, and her husband for a lovely meal and for keeping the bar open all day.

The golf was followed by the AGM and the election of committee members. The committee elected to stand for the committee members were voted on. Chairman, Chris Sheehan; Secretary, Bert Cross; Treasurer, Howard McAddey; Vice Chairman, Steve Outram; Committee, Bill Merritt, Alec Davies, Mike Davie, Paul Pearse and Lyndon Smith.

Recently I have heard of so many Head Greenkeepers being sacked and made redundant, I think it must be easier to keep a football manager's job than a greenkeepers. The last two years have been very difficult years for the industry with the drought of '95, and the cold winds and late start to '96 followed by very dry conditions once again. I can only assume that this is the cause of the unrest from golf club officials and members. I think it is about time they realised you cannot cheat

Around the Green



nature and given the opportunity and the right conditions the Head Greenkeeper and his staff will produce the goods. In the past we have tried to bring together, greenkeepers and golf club officials to educational seminars, but I wonder if the old saying "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing" applies.

I will close now by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year. Any queries or ideas ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

Cleveland

Paul Kellett celebrated his 40th birthday at Wynyard GC.

Charlie Hancock is the new staff member at Ian Holloran's Middlesbrough Municipal GC. The Nissan Primera tournament was also held there.

Chester Le Street GC has bought a Weidemann Terraspik for fairways, Head Greenkeeper, Barry Lee, tells me while Mark Sewell, Assistant at the club, won the Club Championship off a handicap of 2.

South Shields GC are having good results with fairway overseeding on stressed areas using dwarf rye mixture. Best wishes also to Craig Wayman from the club who is recovering from a broken leg.

Congratulations to Mark Hodgson, Tony Cheesebrough and Alex Russell, the Beast of Bedale, for doing well in the Hayter Final.

Congratulations also to Bedale's Neil Austwick and wife Adell on the birth of their first child, a baby boy.

Chris Fiddell, of Billingham GC, is making slow improvement after his motor cycle accident last January. We hope you are soon back to work Chris and feeling better. Best wishes to you.

Dinsdale Spa GC have done extensive drainage work on their 10th fairway, says Course Manager, Tony Mears. Tony is also our Internal Verifier and he recently called a meeting of assessors for an update and information which was a well attended evening. Thanks Ian for the room at the "muni".

Ramside Hall GC Course Manager, Roger Shaw, has a surplus of 20,000 tonnes of clay.

In Cleveland we have had a wonderful autumn with grass so green and trees colourful. Some Fusarium which was difficult to control but we got there.

We are in the middle of leaf fall

and having a busy time.

See you all at the Turf Care Quiz v the IOG team at Mount Oswald GC, Durham of December 11, 7.30pm when we all hope that Kevin Heslop excels in the general knowledge and TV questions. Also there will be the usual marvellous supper laid on by Terry Charlton and staff from Turf Care.

Evening lectures will be held on December 4, January 16, February 6 and 27 and March 20. All to be held at Darlington GC, Houghton-grange with a 7.30pm start with buffet to follow.

The next golf event is at the Wynyard Club, The Wellington Course, on December 12. The tee is reserved from 11am and there are a maximum of 30 places. Trade are welcome and a strict dress code applies.

Bruce Burnell

Northern

The weather has eventually changed, winter is with us and Christmas is just around the corner. Most of us will be trying their best to keep the course in as tidy a state as possible.

Our Autumn Tournament was this year held at Malton and Norton GC. Many thanks to the Adamsons for sponsoring the event. Thanks also to the greens staff for having the course in excellent condition and to the caterers for feeding us so well. The results for the day were as follows:- Cat 1. 1. Dave (the bandit) Collins; 2. Steve Midgley; 3. Tony Gerrard. Cat 2. 1. Keith Lumb; 2. Roy Armitage; 3. Mick Bryant. Cat 3. 1. Les Kirkbright; 2. Colin Garnett; 3. Alan Gamble. Trade Prize. Mel Guy.

Thanks as always to the committee for helping out on the day and to the trade "boys" for their appreciated raffle prizes.

I hope you have all received the latest newsletter which was kindly sponsored by Rolawn. The date for the Spring Tournament at Wakefield GC should read 23rd April '97 and not 23rd May '97.

Finally, may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a drink (or two) for me! and thanks to everybody for their support towards the Section over the last year.

Simon Heppenstall

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

East Midlands

I would like to wish all members a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Don't forget we start the New Year with the BTME in Harrogate which will hopefully be supported by as many members as possible.



Also I would like to thank all the members who have supported the Section throughout the year, especially the following companies. A L S & Scotts - for sponsoring our fixture card;

E T Breakwells - Spring Tournament; Charnwood & Highmeres Lawnmower Services - Autumn Tournament; Vitax - A G M Tournament; Rigby Taylor - E Mids V Midlands Section Tournament & Christmas Tournament; Chandlers - East of England Section Golf match

Dave Leatherland was this year's winner of the singles K/O beating Paul Tatlow in a very well fought final. Dave & Paul were also partners in the pairs K/O final losing to Frank Kempster, Glen Gorse, and Carl Chamberlain, Scraftoft, in another hard fought match. I would like to thank all competitors who supported these two competitions, but we desperately need more support from members next year.

This year's Rigby Taylor East Midlands v Midlands Section golf match was played at Longcliffe GC on October 10. The day started with fine Autumn weather, but ended rather sadly as we were on the wrong end of the 11 1/2 - 3 1/2 points defeat. Congratulations to the Midland Section on a fine performance and we shall hope to put the record straight next year. Our thanks go to Longcliffe GC for hosting the day and to our sponsors Rigby Taylor for again providing us with a great tournament. The Section's team was as follows, R. Barker, P. Tatlow, P. Billings, D. Leatherland, A. Porter, I. Needham, M. Smith, J. Bedford, M. Bindley and C. Bates.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Warren Bevan, First Assistant at Greetham Valley GC, on achieving top honours at Myerscough College where he was presented with the Ernest Jones Award.
Antony Bindley

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

At the beginning of last month I attended a secretaries' meeting at Leicester. This was an opportunity to meet other various section secretaries and also some key members of the association from HQ. This proved to be a valuable exercise for those concerned with lots of good ideas thrown around the table. It was an eye opener for myself to find out how much work goes into the running of the Association on a national level. I don't envy their workload with the run up to BTME at Harrogate. Good luck to all concerned.

Although we had our last golf event several weeks ago you will have to wait until next months article for the results, also the result of the Rigby Taylor final. As yet the

Continued on Page 38

GREENKEEPER

THE COLLEGES AND THE

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of colleges offering greenkeeper training courses.

This guide shows colleges offering courses to craft, supervisory and management levels, but it must be stated that until the GTC review is completed only the green coded colleges are approved to train greenkeepers beyond craft level.

The introduction of vocational qualifications into industries, has caused the colleges

to re-think their training policies and the GTC will be issuing guidelines for the golf greenkeeping industry as to which colleges employers and their staff should be supporting.

Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeepers Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF, telephone 01347 838640.

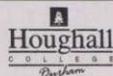
NORTH



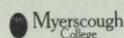
ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE Askham Bryan, York YO2 3PR. Contact Christine Biglin, registrar. Tel: 01904 702121. *Full time courses:* National Certificate – Horticulture; National Diploma – Amenity Horticulture; Higher National Diploma – Horticulture (golf management options). *Part time courses:* NVQ Level 2 and 3, City & Guilds Phase IV Greenkeeping.



CITY COLLEGE MANCHESTER Wythenshawe Park Centre, Moor Road, Manchester M23 9BQ. Contact Peter Riley/Martin Webb. Tel: 0161 957 1526. Day Release and Full Time courses leading to NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with the Greenkeeping option.



HOUGHALL COLLEGE Durham College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Houghall, Durham DH1 3SG. Contact Tony Milan. Tel: 0191 386 1351. *Full time courses:* National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship – 1 Year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option – 2/3 years. *Part time courses:* Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management Level II – Day Release; NVQ Level 3 and NVQ Level 4. *Short Courses:* Health & Safety Legislation; Turfcare; Machinery and Mechanisation. All courses contribute towards NVQ Levels I and II.



MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE Myerscough Hall, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY. Contact Martyn Jones. Tel: 01995 640611. *Full time courses:* HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management; National Certificate in Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping – 1 Year; BTEC National Diploma in Turf Science and Sportsground Management – 3 Years; BTEC Higher National Diploma in Turf Science and Golf Course Management – 3 Years (Both these courses include one year's paid industrial experience). *Part time courses:* NVQ Level II Greenkeeping; NVQ Level III Sportsturf Maintenance; Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation (in conjunction with BTLIA). A range of short courses including FEPA, First Aid and various technical modules.



REASEHEATH COLLEGE Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF. Contact Dennis Mortram. Tel: 01270 625131 Fax: 01270 625665. *Full time:* BTEC First Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) – 1 year. BTEC National Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) – 2 years. BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management – 3 years. *Part time:* HNC Golf Course Management – Distance Learning. NVQ Level 1 Greenkeeping – Day Release. NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping – Day/Block Release. NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping – Day/Block Release. C&G Phase IV Greenkeeping – Block Release. IoG National Intermediate Diploma in Turf Culture – Day Release. IoG National Diploma – Day Release. *Short Courses:* FEPA Chemical Safety; Safe Lifting; Chainsaws; Off-Road Vehicle Driving; First Aid.



KIRKLEY HALL COLLEGE Ponteland, Northumberland (10 miles from the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne). Contact Mike Swinton. Tel: 01661 860808. Fax: 01661 860047. A wide range of full and part-time Amenity and Commercial Horticulture courses including Greenkeeping and Spots Turf maintenance and management.



BRACKENHURST COLLEGE Southwell, Nottinghamshire NG25 0QF. Contact Student Administration. Tel: 01636 817099. National Diploma in Horticulture (over two years) with options – NVQ Level 2 in Amenity Horticulture (Day Release over two years) following the GTC Training Manual – also available short courses in Technical, Supervisory and Management Skills training appropriate to the Greenkeeping Industry.



BROOKSBY COLLEGE Brooksby, Nr Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 2LJ. Contact Ann Hurt. Tel: 01664 434291. National Certificate in Horticulture. National Diploma in Horticulture. Day Release training to NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture – Greenkeeping option. The course is based around the GTC Training Manual. Short courses include Chainsaws, FEPA Spraying and Hedgelaying.



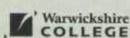
BROOMFIELD COLLEGE Morley, Ilkeston, Derby DE7 6DN. Contact Admissions Officer. Tel: 01332 831345. NVQ Level I and Level II Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Block Release course. Two years duration presented in 12 one-week blocks following guidelines of GTC Training Manual. NVQ Level III gained by 9x 3-day blocks, or APL service.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE COLLEGE Milton Centre, Landbeach Road, Milton, Cambridgeshire CB4 6DB. Contact Martin Crimmins. Tel: 01223 860701. Part time – Day Release over two years leading to NVQ Level II and III (Greenkeeping Options), including the GTC Training Manual requirements. Autumn term commences September/October 1997.



RODBASTON COLLEGE Rodbaston, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5HG. Contact Nigel Foskett. Tel: 01785 712209. Courses offered: Craft Level NVQ Level I, II and III. Day Release. Duration: Over two years, each of weeks duration (September – June). Registration Date: Please contact the College.



WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE Moreton Morrell Centre, Warwick CV35 9BL. Contact Graham Martin. Tel: 01926 318000. Greenkeeping courses – day release – NVQ Level I; NVQ Level II; NVQ Level III; IoG courses (evening class), National Intermediate Diploma in Turf Culture; Full time two year BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture (with option in Turf Culture); *Professional updating courses include:* Groundsmanship, Machinery Maintenance and Repair, Managing Conservation Areas, Plant Identification, Hedgelaying, First Aid, FEPA Spraying Courses, Chainsaw Courses.



MOULTON COLLEGE Moulton, Northampton, NN3 7RR. Contact Student Services Officer. Tel: 01604 491131. *Full time courses:* BTEC First Diploma in Horticulture, BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture, National Certificate in Horticulture. *Part time courses:* NVQ2 Amenity Horticulture with Sports Turf Care, NVQ3 Sports Turf Maintenance. *Short Courses:* FEPA and Chainsaw Operators Certificates.



BRINSBURY COLLEGE North Heath, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1DL. Contact Keith Harrison. Tel: 01798 873832. *Full time courses:* BTEC 1st Diploma Horticulture with Greenkeeping option. National Diploma Landscape Studies, Sportsturf and Greenkeeping option. *Part time:* NVQ II Greenkeeping plus Core. Day Release to NVQ II level. Both full time and part time students with work both to the NVQ II work book and the Greenkeeper manual. NVQ Level II (National Technical Certificate) with Inst. of Groundsmanship manual may be delivered as an evening course. NVQ Level III Sportsturf Maintenance. ND Landscape Studies (Option – Sportsturf Management and Greenkeeping). National Technical Certificate (IoG), National Practical Certificate (IoG), Intermediate Diploma (IoG), National Diploma (IoG).



HADLOW COLLEGE Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL. Contact Keith Backhouse. Tel: 01732 850551. NVQ Level II and Level III Part-time Day Release with two periods of Block Release or evenings. Level II in Groundsmanship evenings. NVQ Level III Golf Greenkeeping. Centres at Hadlow, Canterbury, Nottingham and Maidstone.



NESCOT North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS. Contact Dr S Shaw. Tel: 0181 394 3099/3111. NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) Training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Part time, Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses.

MIDLANDS

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Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Supervisory level

Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Craft level only

Pending GTC approval for all courses

Please note that all college details on these pages were provided by the colleges themselves. Greenkeeper International takes no responsibility for accuracy of information provided. Contact the colleges direct for prospectuses and comprehensive information.

SOUTH EAST



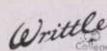
OAKLANDS COLLEGE Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0JA. Contact Ian Merrick. Tel: 01727 850651. Full-time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part-time: Courses leading to NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping. Evening courses leading to NVQ Levels 3 and 4. Short courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw, Fork Lift Truck, Greenkeeper Mechanics.



OTLEY COLLEGE Otley College, Otley, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 9EY. Contact Student Applications. Tel: 01473 785543. Full time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture, option in Sports Turf Technology. Part time NVQ 2 Golf Greenkeeping and NVQ 2 Groundsmanship, NVQ 3 Sports Turf Management. IoG Intermediate and Final Diplomas (Evenings). NVQ Horticultural Mechanics. FEPA Courses PA1, PA2, PA6. Otley College ★ Developing individuals ★ Achieving more.



PLUMPTON COLLEGE Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE. Contact Richard Black. Tel: 01273 890454. Full time courses: National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture (options in Landscape and Sportsturf); National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture; First Diploma. Part time courses: NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture in Arboriculture, Interior Landscaping, Hard Landscaping and Greenkeeping, Sportsturf and Sportsground Management; NVQ Level III Amenity Horticulture; Level IV Amenity Horticulture, IOG Courses, various short courses including FEPA, Chainsaws.



WRITTLE COLLEGE Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3RR. Contact Dai Edwards. Tel: 01245 420705, Fax: 01245 420456. Part time courses include: NVQ Levels I, II, III and IV Sportsturf & Greenkeeping. Day Release. Includes training and assessment of Greenkeepers Training Manual. Full time courses include: BTEC First Diploma (1 year), BTEC National Diploma with Option in Sportsturf and Golf Course Management, 3 year sandwich course; BTEC Higher National Diploma in Sports Turf and Golf Course Management 2 or 3 year sandwich course, BSc (Hons) Degree course in Landscape and Amenity Management. Short courses for FEPA, Irrigation, Fork Lift Trucks, Chainsaws and First Aid also available. Associate students welcome, progression routes identified, accreditation of prior learning possible.



MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE. Contact Student Services. Tel: 01483 232424. Full time courses: National Diploma in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part-time: NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 1, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 2, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3.



BERKSHIRE COLLEGE Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 6QR. Tel: 01628 824444 Fax: 01628 824695 Full time courses: BTEC First Diploma and National Diploma in Greenkeeping. Part time courses: NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Fine Turf Management, GTC Manual, NVQ Level II Groundsman and Sports Turf Management. NVQ Level III Golf Greenkeeping.



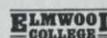
CANNINGTON COLLEGE Cannington Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS. Contact Decland Gallagher. Tel: 01278 652226. BTEC National Diploma Sports Science (Golf Studies), Higher National Certificate Golf Course Management, BTEC First Diploma, BTEC National Diploma in Golf Course Management, BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management (inc. European Studies) NVQ Level I and II Golf Greenkeeping, NVQ Level III Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management, NVQ Level IV Greenkeeping Management, FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Off-road Vehicle Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics.



HARTPURY COLLEGE Hartpury House, Nr Gloucester GL19 3BE. Tel: 01452 700032. Fax: 01452 700629. HND Land Use in Sportsturf (with Optional modules), ND Greenkeeping and Sportsturf, ND Golf Studies, FD Greenkeeping, NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf, NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf, NVQ Level 4 Sportsturf Management.



SPARSHOLT COLLEGE Sparsholt College Hampshire, Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2NF. Contact Bob Young. Tel: 01962 776441. Full time courses: National Diploma in Golf Course & Sportsground Management, National Certificate in Greenkeeping & Sports Turf Management. Part-time courses including Modern Apprenticeship in NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, Certificate in Management Studies, GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC: Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FEPA Short Courses: Spraying and Chainsaw Short Courses. TDLB Assessor Training. Full residential facilities available.



ELMWOOD COLLEGE Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB. Contact Carol Borthwick. Tel: 01334 658800. Fax: 01334 658888. Craft Level courses. Full-time National Certificate, Block-release, following SVQ Level II and the GTC Training Manual. Six week specialist modular programme (January-February), including Golf Course Construction, Pesticide Application and Plant Protection Procedures. SVQ Level III (Supervisory) Block Release. HNC/HND Golf Course Management available as full-time, block/day release and distance learning. FEPA, COSHH and Health & Safety short courses also.



LANGSIDE COLLEGE GLASGOW Langside College Glasgow School of Horticulture, Woodburn House, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen G73 3PF. Contact Colin S Urquhart. Tel: 0141 647 6300. SCOTVEC National Certificate - 3 years day release or 1 year full time. Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management - 2 years day release. SVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with Greenkeeping options plus a range of NC and HNC Horticulture programmes including G SVQ Level III. Short courses on a range of subjects including Tractor Operations and the Safe Use of Pesticides can be negotiated.



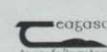
OATRIDGE COLLEGE Ecclesmachan, Broxburn, West Lothian EH52 6NH. Contact Steve Miller. Tel: 01506 854387 Fax: 01506 853373. Full and part time courses: HNC in Golf Course Management; National Certificate in Greenkeeping; SVQ Level I, Level II (GTC/IOG Training Manual) and Level III. National Certificate in Hort. machinery. Short specialist courses - including safe use of chemicals, operation of greenkeeping machinery.



GOSTA TRAINING LTD Unit 2B, Clydeway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow G3 8JU. Contact Chris Bothwell. Tel: 0141 248 2772. Fax: 0141 248 2453. SVQ II in Amenity Horticulture will all options including Greenkeeping and GTC Training Manual. Available Day/Block Release from November-February. Evening classes also available. Short courses including pesticide training, noise assessment, chainsaw and health & safety courses, SVQ III in maintaining sportsturf to be offered from early 1997.



GREENMOUNT COLLEGE Greenmount College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Antrim, BT41 4PU. Contact Henry Shaw. Tel: 01849 426666. Day release courses leading to (a) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management (b) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level III Golf Course Supervision.



TEAGASC COLLEGE Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Contact Pat Suttle. Tel: 003531 8374 388. Phase II Greenkeeping - Block Release two weeks, three times per year. Phase III Greenkeeping - Block Release, one week, three times per year.



PENCOED COLLEGE Pencoed, Mid Glamorgan CF35 5LG. Contact Peter Gillard. Tel: 01656 860202. Day Release courses in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf at Craft, Advanced Craft, Supervisory and Management levels to GTC requirements, incorporating the Training Manual of the Greenkeepers Training Committee. National Diploma Greenkeeping and Sportsturf - full time.

SOUTH WEST

SCOTLAND

Northern Ireland

EIRE

WALES

■ From Page 35

only confirmed venue for 1997 is the Autumn Tournament which will be held at Lambourne GC. Trying to find venues for our golf days is becoming increasingly difficult so if there are any members out there who feel the club who would like to host one of our events in the future then please contact myself and I will approach the club in official manner.

I have mentioned in the past that we are looking at running a series of lectures in the winter months, well hopefully I will have some positive news on that aspect soon. I have been approached by Chris Viner from Warren Farm College, the new GTC training centre, with the idea of using their college as a venue. I will keep you informed of any progress.

Finally I would like to thank all who have taken an active roll in the section events this past year to make them a success, I look forward to seeing more of you next year. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Lindsay T. Anderson

Midland

Due to a mix up between myself and Headquarters, these notes did not appear in the November magazine. Every member should have received a letter stating the date and time of the AGM and other information regarding the winter lectures.

As some of you may be aware the Golf Day at Fulford Heath GC was cancelled due to lack of support. Only 24 greenkeepers entered. Martin Brothers, Rigby Taylor and Barenbrug are hoping to put on another similar event next year and we hope enough support will be forthcoming.

The Autumn Tournament was played over 27 holes at King's Norton GC. The results were as follows: Best Gross, P. Loffman; Best Nett P. Holtham, 2. P. Loffman, 3. M. Bryan, 4. M. Hughes, 5. A.E. Cutler, 6. M. Cutler, 7. R. Hunter, 8. R. Jones. Nearest the pin. P. Woodham. Longest Drive. D. Shortridge. Trade Prize. D. Shortridge, Toro Irrigation.

The Committee would like to thank the main prize sponsor Abbey Mowers and all the other trade people for their prizes. We thank King's Norton GC for their courtesy of a fine course, which Mick Reece and his staff presented magnificently. Thanks to the Captain of the club for presenting the prizes and also to Supaturf for supplying the wine which proved to be as good a wetting agent as Primer 604.

The Ritefeed singles, semi-final and final were played at Southport. The winner was M. Butler and runner-up P. Loffman. The

Around the Green



other semi-finalists were N. Couchman and A. Roberts.

A great day was had by all and we all wish to thank John Walker and Richard Lawrence from Ritefeed for their support and hope it continues next year.

Congratulations to R. Thomas and his wife, Steph, on the birth of their son. The first of many.

We have to report the very sad death of our President Reg Pugh. I hope everyone read the article in the August magazine, which featured Reg and some of his memories of when the Midland section started.

Reg had not been well for some time but did manage to get to the Christmas tournament last year where I had the privilege of talking to him. His memories and stories of greenkeeping etc were so good you could write a book.

Reg will be sadly missed by all of the Midland Section who knew him. We send our condolences to his family. The Midland Section has made a donation to Reg's requested charity.

The next item of news is one Reg would have been proud of – the annual team match against the East Midlands Section. It was played on October 10 at Longcliffe GC and was won by the Midland team 11 points to 3. The Midland Section would like to thank Rigby Taylor for their support and hospitality and also for the help received from David Morgan and Steve Blakeman. Thank you to Longcliffe an the East Midland Section for a good day. Well done to our team for getting their early and winning in style.

Still on golf tournaments the Rigby Taylor Greensome Double Tournament final was played at Hoylake (Royal Liverpool) on October 14. The winners were J. Chesson and R. Thwaites. The runners-up were A. Roberts and R. Hunter. Again we would like to thank Rigby Taylor for all their hard work and support in helping to run this competition.

In next month's magazine will be the results of the Christmas Tournament and also the names of the Midland Section Committee – this will have the name and telephone number of the new Secretary.

Finally it was disappointing at the Regional Seminar to see so few members. I did meet Andrew Smith from North Warwickshire GC who told me of a five-a-side football match against Stonebridge

GC which they won 10-0. Well done Andrew and team.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Kim Blake

Mid Anglia

The match which was due to be played against the London Section in early September had to be cancelled as they could not get a team together, it being the same week as Saltex.

The annual Texas Scramble event takes place on Tuesday December 3 at Dunstable Downs GC over 18 holes.

On behalf of the Section and Committee I would like to wish Martin Lay, Don Pemberton and Neil Whittaker every success in the future following their recent departure from their respective clubs.

The final of the Lodgeway four-ball tournament was played of 36 holes at Mentmore GC in early October.

John Wells and John Moorhouse defended their title, overcoming Gary Boulton and Alan Grew by 3&2 after a very close match.

Our thanks go out to Mentmore for allowing the final to take place, and to Mark Ellis and his team for preparing the course so well.

Chas Ayres has once again organised the event superbly and his company, Lodgeway Tractors, will continue to sponsor the competition in the future.

There were a few problems this year mainly caused by entrants not playing their matches within the time limits.

This can only be solved next year by people being more responsible about getting their matches played and not leaving it to the last minute.

If anyone reading this has not entered the competition before I would certainly recommend it as it is a good opportunity to play other golf courses and to mix with other members of the section. Our Autumn Tournament this year was held at Collingtree Park GC in late October. It attracted an entry of nearly 50 members, all of whom I am sure enjoyed playing the attractive course.

There are certainly some very testing holes throughout the course with lots of water hazards are rough to contend with.

Our thanks to Alistair Connall and all his staff for preparing the course and to Collingtree for their hospitality shown to us during the day.

A very popular winner was received by everyone, Neil Whittaker with 40 points Mark Whittle, of Mentmore GC, was second with 38 points, and Chris Brook was third with 37 points after a countback.

Mark Ellis, of Mentmore GC,

won nearest the pin and Keith Allen, of Hertfordshire, the longest drive.

Driving Force Leisure sponsored the day and our thanks go to David Murphy for donating the excellent prizes, and helping on the day.

Also many other trade members attended so thank you all for supporting the Mid Anglia Section so ably.

Following the prize giving the annual general meeting was held. The officers were elected to form the committee for next year; Chairman, Stewart Boyes; Vice Chairman, Mark Ellis; Secretary, Gerald Bruce; Fixtures Secretary, Richard Saunders; Treasurer, John Wells; Regional Representative, Paul Lockett; Committee member, Chris Brook; Handicap Secretary – Ronan McKeown.

My personal thanks go to Chris Brook, our outgoing Chairman, for the way he has continued to advance the Section forward and to Gerald and Richard for their hard work during the year. I'm sure Stewart Boyes will be a worthy Chairman in succeeding Chris, and continue to steer the Section on to continued success.

The business discussed during the AGM as follows. Gerald reported that our membership had risen to 239 members, out of a national total of 6,097. New sponsors had been appointed for the fixture list, George Browns.

Richard gave a report on all the golf fixtures played during the year, listing all the winners etc.

Our treasurer John Wells reported the section to be in a very healthy state, with over £2000 in the bank.

Some of this money will be used towards office equipment (a compatible printer for our existing computer)

Only one item was raised from the floor during A O B.

This was a proposal that no professionals should be permitted in Texas Scramble teams at the Christmas Tournament, which was raised by Gavin Simkins.

After discussion the proposal was voted on and defeated. The meeting was then closed. Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Paul Lockett

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Gordon Child
Tel: 01803 844056

South West

There has been mixed success for the Section in the two recent team matches against the South Coast and South Wales Sections. On October 2 the team met at Wells



GC for the annual match against the South Coast Section. Unfortunately for the second year running we were beaten in this fixture. Although not there on the day I understand that the course was in great shape and thanks go to Maurice Pearce and his staff for their efforts and presentation and to Wells GC for their hospitality. A week later it was our turn to be victorious with a 5-0 victory, this time against the Welsh Section at Tredger Park. Thanks go to Welsh Secretary, Peter Lacey, for his organisation of the event, and to both the South Coast and South Wales Sections for making these events possible.

Most fixtures for 1997 are now in place. TH Whites have once again offered to provide a fixture card for Section Members and our thanks go to them for their continued support.

Lawson Products Limited are now sponsors for the Winter Tournament which is held around February each year. They have offered to provide a winning trophy and prizes for the top scores on the day.

Burnham and Berrow GC will host the Hayter Regional Final for 1997 which no doubt will be a tough challenge for those members who qualify from the respective Section event.

A reminder once again that BTME is now just around the corner. If you have not booked there may still be a few places left on the coach. Gordon and Marion Child can ensure you place at a cost £125 for members.

This is my last report for the magazine as Section Secretary for the South West and I thank you for your support over the last three years. It just remains for me to say that the Christmas Tournament this year takes place at Worlebury GC on December 12, for which a comedian is booked for the afternoon. Any late applications for this event can be booked through myself. For those who won't be there on the day I wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous 1997.

Kevin Green

South Wales

This year's annual match versus the South West Section of BIGGA recently took place at the Tredegar Park GC near Newport. Each side was represented by a full team of 12 golfers, the course I am told was in good condition, the weather was excellent and the new format of meals served on completion of the round worked well.

I would personally like to thank our team Captain, Mike Jones, for running the day on my behalf as work commitments prevented me from being present.

However, a good job was done

of the course. But on the course, a different story well what can I say or how can I put this. We lost! Every match. We lost by 6 matches to 0. A strong looking team on paper was literally blown away on the day. So the South West retain the Shield, well done!

Our winter evening lecture series is under way at Pencoed College. We have been designated a new room, which is the old library room. Totally refurbished with excellent facilities that include a bar, yes a BAR! Hopefully this new addition will bring in a few more attendees.

The series kicked off with an entertaining presentation from comedy duo little and large, otherwise known as Danny Goffrey and Mike Franklin of Boughton Loams. Mike's presentation was primarily on Top Dressings for turf their compositions and analysis. While Danny's presentation for grasses for use in fine turf, covered such topics as genetic engineering /molecular biology and the creating of new cultivars.

An excellent evening that could have gone on all night (and nearly did) thoroughly enjoyed by all 17 attendees.

Our thanks to both Danny and Mike for their presentations and also to Boughton Loam who made it possible.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their support during 1996 and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 1997. Peter Lacey

Devon and Cornwall

Seasons greetings to you all.

Our first meeting of the autumn and winter programme was held at Dartmouth Golf & Country Club Wednesday October 9. The day started with our golfing members competing over the excellently presented course for the Don Hunt Trophy, as usual our non golfing members had a guided tour of the course and greenkeeping complex by host Course Manager Terry Farkins.

After an excellent lunch we moved to the club's President's suite for the presentation of the Don Hunt Trophy and prizes. After Don's recent illness members were delighted to see Don looking so well and to hear he is back on the road with Roffey's.

Don presented the prizes to: 1. Gordon Tamblin, Mullion; 2. Carry Rawlings, Padbrook Park;

3. Roy Battishill, now enjoying life.

All three winning greenkeepers scored 37 points with the results being decided on back nine. With the trade prize going to Martin Samuel who scored 40 points.

The section would like to Don

for donating and presenting the prizes, our thanks to Terry Farkins and his crew who had the course in superb condition, also to all the management staff who made our day run so smoothly.

Our afternoon educational talk followed the golf presentation with course manager Terry Farkins presenting his excellent paper on "The development of Dartmouth Golf & Country Club from construction to present day". Many thanks Terry. Our raffle concluded an excellent day. Pity some of the raffle winners weren't around to receive their prize!

Our first meeting in the New Year will be held once again at Fingle on Glen on Wednesday January 15 and sponsored by Barenbrug seeds. The theme this year will be on Irrigation with Ocmis Irrigation presenting a workshop on irrigation maintenance during the morning and after lunch a seminar on Irrigation design from extra tees to complete course design. Golfing members don't worry we will hold a nine hole competition for you during the morning.

Have you booked your place on the Region's package to BTME 97, which includes transport, accommodation & entry to the BTME show and Seminars. There are only a few places left, so hurry!

Richard Whyman

South Coast

On Wednesday January 15, 1997 at 2pm a visit to Roffey Bros at Bournemouth has been arranged. Roffeys, as I'm sure you all know, is one of the largest distributors of top dressing in the country. You will be able to see how all the various top dressings that Roffey's produce are graded and mixed. This should prove to be a very interesting and informative afternoon. Roffeys are expecting a large turn out. So let's not let them down.

Our annual match against the South West Section on October 2 was held at Wells GC. Mark tells me the match was halved. The golf was good, the food was good, the course was in excellent condition and the weather was fine and sunny. Thanks to all concerned. I'm sorry I have not got the names of the people involved.

Finally, thanks to the Captain, committee and members of Wells GC for allowing us the courtesy of doing battle with the South West Section on our patch next year.

Unfortunately I was not able to attend the Autumn Meeting which was held at Brockenhurst Manor GC on October 10. However Mark kindly forwarded the day's events to me.

Thanks must go to the Captain and committee for allowing us

courtesy of the course. All the staff at Brockenhurst made the Section very welcome. Martin and his staff, gratifying the inner man in the clubhouse and Ed McCabe and his crew for presenting the course in the best condition I have seen it (mine's a pint when I see you Ed). Ed even managed to organise a wonderful sunny day as well.

The winners were: 1. Paul Fitzjohn, 39pts; 2. Shaun Hodgkins, 37pts; 3. Brian Wilmot, 36pts; 4. Bernard Emberley, 34pts; 5. Tony Gadd, 33pts. Nearest the Pin was Chris Greest and the Longest Drive was none other than our host Ed McCabe.

On behalf of our Section I would like to thank our generous sponsors, Scats, Vitax and Avoncrop.

Any last minute bookings for BTME, contact Gordon or Marion Child. I would thin that by now the coach is either full or getting very close to it. For those of you who will be travelling on the Region's luxury coach, I will be contacting you all as to travel arrangements to pick up the main coach.

Here we are again another nearly gone. They seem to fly by and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members, sponsors, members of the trade and all our friends a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

I look forward to seeing you all at BTME.

Ken Lodge

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Surrey

A big thank you to all the surrey section members who attended the autumn tournament at Effingham GC for kindly putting their hands in their pockets for the children of Romania. £25 was raised and will be put towards Christmas treats for the less privileged children whose only present is a single chocolate bar, I'm sure your generosity will be much appreciated. Thank you very much.

As this will be the last time I write our Section's news I'll take the opportunity to say thank you for your support and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of the Surrey Section committee.

David Gibbs



JUST A THOUGHT

Buy a used car with the same caution as a naked man uses to climb a barbed wire fence.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
Taken from L.A.'s Little Instruction Volume II compiled by H. Jackson Brown Jr. published by Harper Collins

Mentmore Golf and Country Club is a new golf club with a big future if Mark Ellis and his team have their way. Scott MacCallum came away convinced.

You could almost hear the "Mission Impossible" tune in the background as Mark Ellis described his job at Mentmore Golf and Country Club. All that were missing were the words. "Your mission, should you decided to accept it, is to turn Mentmore's two golf courses into one of the finest golfing developments in the country; solve the acute drainage problems; improve the design and keep the membership, who have paid significant membership fees, happy while the work is being done... this tape will self destruct in ten seconds."

If Mark is daunted by the job he took on as Head Greenkeeper in March of this year he conceals it very well and in his own mind it is not so much "Mission Impossible" as "Mission Extremely Difficult But We'll Get There in the End".

"The lads are doing a tremendous job and we are all striving for high standards every time we go out and do work. I'm never going to leave this place. I've invested so much time and effort into it," explained Mark.

The main problem at Mentmore and its two courses the Rothschild and the Roseberry is the heavy clay soil.

"The fairways are heavy clay and you can imagine how compacted they get. When we first opened up they were so muddy that we had to put in drainage. We put in so many drainage channels that it works too efficiently and it dries out now. This causes the fairways to crack open. The more we filled them in the more they cracked open. It was just like an hour glass. Last year we used more than 700 tonnes of sand but when we seeded over the top by the time the seed had come through it had sunk again. It was a never ending cycle.

"Now we have moved on from using pure sand to an 80/20 or a 50/50 mix but we have got to be careful that we don't cap over what we've already done because the drainage is working."

With the benefit of hindsight Mark feels the job would have been tackled a little differently.

"We should have waited and let the water find its own forms of moving away and then worked on the areas which needed drainage but the commercial pressures of getting the course ready meant a lot of sand bagging had to be done," explained Mark who



Meeting the challenge head on

joined Mentmore as Deputy Head Greenkeeper in early '92, when construction was under way.

The Director of Golf at Mentmore is ex-European Tour player Pip Elson who has been on site since day one.

"I worked out of a Portakabin at the entrance and initially I spent me time driving people around in a 4x4 giving people an idea of how the course would

eventually look," explained Pip, from the splendid clubhouse which is currently being extended to take in a leisure complex.

The course is owned by Invicta Leisure, a major company which also owns Maple Durham, near Reading, built the same year as Mentmore, and Chelsfield Lakes in Orpington.

"The 36 holes here were built by CJ Collins in the space of

seven months but much of the work was beset by weather problems. We had an inch of rain a week midweek for four consecutive weeks. The men had to be sent home on the Tuesday. The rain actually tore out the root-zone."

It is a time both men obviously remember vividly and the lows they describe then mean that the pride in what they have achieved

The Mentmore team with Mark Ellis in the front row, centre



is all the more tangible.

"The 9th is 616 yards and the water washed all the way down taking the soil with it. We had that on several fairways which we have now remedied. We built them up, originally seeded them, then turfed them and we had to do it again and again," recalled Mark.

"When we used to get rain our 360 was up to its windows with water and you couldn't wade across it with a spike to release the water," he added.

"We've come in on a Monday after rain on the weekend and had to scrape back all the silt which had blown or washed out. We've had to do the same on the Tuesday and the same on the Wednesday. You just keep going and going."

Pip is working closely with Mark on the amendments to the course.

"In the original design there was no fairway bunkering so we are working on putting more in but we are restricted by budget. We can't run before we can walk," he explained.

"With a bigger subscription income coming in – at the time of writing almost 900 debentures had been sold – we will have more money to invest and I want it invested in our biggest asset – the golf courses. I have to fight my corner and promote Mark's position to the Directors if we need a new greens mower etc."

Mark has laid out a five year plan for the course and at the top of the list is to get rid of the rye grass tufts which shoot up around the greens and the approaches.

"Obviously any areas which are closely mowed are not too bad because they are mowed out but around the actual collars of the greens they are more predominant and they do affect the roll of the ball – we have to weed kill or trim them out.

"It is a laborious task so my main plan is to overseed all around the affected areas using short stem rye grass so it will blend in. We'll just keep dressing them out and cutting out the collars so there will be two widths and it will take the tufts away from the greens – we'll go outside the greenside bunkers. They will be scarified then we will overseed with a neat penncross because a lot of the approaches are penncross anyway.

The greenkeeping teams – they are broken into six on the Roseberry and five on the Rothschild under teams leaders – are working on constructing new

"The tiger tees were originally constructed at ground level and we are raising them by about a metre to a metre and a half – at the moment the water just can't get away."

It is all part of an on-going improvement to the course which is overlooked by Mentmore Towers, home to the British Natural Law party and is just a few miles from Chequers, the Prime Minister's country retreat.

As Pip Elson explained there is much work to be done with regard to fairway bunkering while all 120 of the existing bunkers over the two courses were built by the current greenkeeping staff.

"Since March we have come on in leaps and bounds and with the commitment the team has shown, if we can keep going and get

some decent grass coverage around the greens we will see even more improvement," said Mark.

Mentmore is particularly proud of its greens, which stimped at 10 for a pro-am held at the club in October.

"In March we hammered the greens. We double scarified them, double verticut them to a millimetre, then hollow cored, overseeded and dressed it all out. It took ages for them to recover and it wasn't until Easter that they started to recover but it paid off.

"The greens are fantastic and we are always complimented on them," said Mark, just as he had to assist one of his staff who had uncovered another minor problem to overcome. Terraspiking the greens it was impossible to know where the root zone finished and the clay began and several of the tines were broken.

"I really do have a good team. I've got a file full of ideas which have come from them about improving the course while one of the team leaders, Gavin Sowden, saved us quite a bit of money the other day just through his irrigation knowledge and was able to pump water from our main lake into a reservoir without us having to dig a trench."

Since taking over as Head Greenkeeper Mark has injected some of his own enthusiasm into his team and it is paying dividends.

"I just love greenkeeping. I could be doing other jobs but I do this for the love of it and I love being connected with BIGGA," said Mark, who is a regular on the Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open.

"The clubhouse here is run like a five star hotel and the course has the potential to be in the same class. When I left Woburn I didn't want to do myself down and move to a lesser club and I feel I have achieved that."

The face looks familiar...

Now there many be some of you out there who look at Mark Ellis and say, "Now that face is familiar."

Any you would be right – particularly if you were a fan of one of the best British-made films of the last 20 years – because Mark was an extra on *Quadrophenia*. Not only that, he appeared in the film on his scooter with Toyah Willcox riding pillion.

"I was on the front cover of *Time Magazine*," recalls Mark from those heady days.

A music fanatic he was also part of *The Jam's* entourage travelling around Europe with them and is a friend of Paul Weller, meeting him again only recently at one of his concerts in the Royal Albert Hall.

"Those were the days. I've even been interviewed by Garry Bushell of *The Sun*," he said.

FACT FILE

Original Fairway and Approaches Seed Mix

- 40% Poa Pratensis (Baron)
- 20% Chewings Fescue (Frida)
- 30% Creeping Fescue (Boreal)
- 10% Agrostis Tenuis (Highland)

Mentmore Greenkeeping Staff

- Mark Ellis, Head Greenkeeper;
- Eamon Slattery, Deputy Head Greenkeeper;
- Mark Whittle, Team Leader;
- Gavin Sowden, Team Leader and Irrigation;
- Sean O'Connell, Bill Lewis; Russell Howson; John Frampton; Mechanic;
- Lee Rance; Lee Stegles, Gardener;
- Michael Dunleavy, YTS; Naomi Janes, YTS; Danny James, YTS; Danny Gilbert

Equipment Inventory

- Two John Deere 2243 greens mowers
- Two Ransomes GT Classic greens mowers
- 2 Ransomes Auto Certes Pedestrian green mowers
- One Ransomes 180D
- Two John Deere 2653A
- One Ransomes 300
- Three John Deere bunker rakes
- One Honda TRX300 ATV
- One Yamaha ATV
- Two Honda 6522 compact tractors
- One Kubota B700 compact tractor
- One John Deere 1070 tractor
- One Ford 334 tractor
- One Zeta 5245 with front loader
- One Jacobsen Turf Truck with attachments
- One Hardi Sprayer
- One Top Dress Unit
- One Tipper Top Box
- Two Ransomes leaf blowers
- One Stihl knapsack leaf blower
- Two Allen Flymos
- Two Flymo GT
- One Victa Rotary Mower
- One Ariens 911 Rotary Mower
- One Kubota KH101 strimmer
- One Komatsu GTHC strimmer
- One Lawnflite brushcutter
- One IBA vacuum cleaner
- One Stihl chain saw
- One Echo lawn edger
- One compact roller
- One Turfco turf cutter
- One Sisis Multi Slit
- One Sisis Rotorake
- One Weidenman Terraspikes
- One Sisis snowplough
- One Charterhouse Moleplough
- One Groundsman 800 Roller mower
- One Wessex leaf sweeper
- One Multi Core TM1000
- One Charterhouse Top Dresser
- One Grader Bar
- One landscaper
- One Charterhouse Dragmat
- One DW Tomlin Rotorake
- One Gravel Cart
- One Farmach back box
- One Warwick trailer
- One Huxley trailer
- Two Logic trailers
- One Sisis overseeder
- One Gandy dropseeder
- One Charterhouse Discseeder
- Two Scotts fertiliser spreaders
- One fertiliser hopper
- One Ransomes golf leader cylinder grinder
- Two copper Pegler knapsack sprayers
- One walkover sprayer

NEW PRODUCTS

■ A highly-effective alternative to brushing or switching fine turf to remove moisture prior to mowing has been developed by Ransomes.

The Air Groomer is a patented design available as an option on the Ransomes Greens Super 55 walk-behind greensmower. The device comprises a full width, height-adjustable nozzle mounted on brackets ahead of the grass-box, an air delivery tube and a radial fan belt driven from the cutting cylinder layshaft. The fan produces an airflow in excess of 200 cu ft/min (5.6cu m/min) and the air delivery tube incorporates a flexible section to allow for nozzle height adjustment.

In action, the high volume curtain of air delivered by the nozzle displaces early morning dew and irrigation water droplets from the blades of grass, blowing them down into the soil to present a dry turf surface to the mower's cutting unit. The result is a clean, precise finish without the time consuming brushing or switching normally needed prior to mowing damp turf in order to give an effective cut and prevent the drooping of clumps of wet, cut grass.

By using the Air Groomer in conjunction with the Greens Super 55 mower, greenkeepers and groundstaff are able to save time and effort and avoid any risk of damage to the turf caused by physical pre-treatments on wet grass.

Both quiet in operation and simple to use and maintain, the Ransomes Air Groomer is available as a factory or dealer-fitted option on the Ransomes Greens Super 55 greens mower.

■ Tonick Watering announce the addition of the new WinWater PC based irrigation controller to its fast growing range of products. It allows total control of any irrigation system from a PC and allows full flexibility for changing the program as required.

WinWater, running in Windows, is very simple to use and requires little or no computer skills to operate it. A boon to greenkeepers, changing from time-consuming, conventional, fiddly controllers to the new "on-screen" set-up is straightforward and quick; familiarisation takes only a short time and setting up an irrigation programme is carried out by simply



The new Amazone Stone Burier has a 'screen' of bars which catch stones and trash, dropping them to the ground where they are covered by the topsoil which passes through the screen

■ Amazone Ground Care, combination seeder specialists in the amenity field, has introduced an entirely new range of grass seeders for golf course and general amenity work. The machines consist of Rotary or Reciprocating Harrow or Stone Burying modules based around the Amazone seeder unit which is carried on a cage type roller: as such, the system suits all applications in amenity grass establishment.

The seeder unit itself uses a force feed seed distribution system that gives a controlled broadcasting effect, with application rates infinitely adjustable from 0 – 600kg/ha. Seed is sown across the entire width of the machine with chute delivery to the seedbed.

A new calibration system enables the operator to precisely adjust the seed rate to the required quantity of seeds per square metre. The calibration device enables seed to be collected for measurement via the outlet chute, after which they can be returned to the seed hopper.

The units are available in five working widths: 1.10, 1.30, 1.50., 2.00 and 2.5 metres with power requirements from 20 to 50hp depending on size and configuration.

With the reciprocating harrow/seeder combination the machine has a pto powered harrow element. This works ahead of the seeder to create a well cultivated, level seedbed into

"pointing and clicking" with the computer mouse. Most older controllers can be upgraded to the new Windows based system usually without the need to change existing decoders or wiring.

which seed is sown and covered by a following tined harrow.

The reciprocating harrow, as with earlier models, arranges the seedbed into layers of small clods which are crushed around the seed, a fine layer of tilled soil in which roots quickly germinate, and an under-layer of coarser material to provide drainage and space for deep root growth. The machine can be used for both direct seeding into ploughed or cultivated land and also for patching up worn areas such as goal mouths and reinstated areas of parks, etc.

The combination with a Rotary Harrow is a "one pass" combination capable of sowing seed into a wide range of soil type without primary cultivation. The pto powered rotary harrow is attached to brackets at the front of the machine with cultivation depth controlled by the cage roller. This ensures constant working depth.

The rotary harrow will work through vegetation and other debris and has the advantage that it does not bring stones to the surface. It also ensures a good levelling effect.

The third configuration for the seeder combines a stone burier with the seeder.

The price of the new Stone Burier is £5,500. Prices for the other equipment will be according to size and type of combination.

For further information: Tel: 01579 351155.

Costing considerably less than other computer based controllers, WinWater is fully compatible with current decoders from TORO, Primetime, Robydome and Wraith-train and with all Tonick Watering

replacement decoders. Full support is provided by Tonick Watering.

For further information: Tel: 01903 262393.

■ The Little John Scarifier consists of a hydrostatic drive unit with fully floating scarifier head that also takes interchangeable options including verticut, moss remover, sorrel roller and brush reels. The possibility for extending the unit's applications is considerable.

In field trials the hydraulic system gave a smooth, constant drive to the floating scarifying head, while the transmission system enabled the operator to match ground speed to prevailing conditions. The standard of finish the machine produces is of a very high quality and all debris is collected in one pass.

From an operational point of view, the 65cm width of the head provides a fast working speed thus reducing time spent on the turf to a minimum. Considerable attention has been paid to strength, low ground pressure and simplicity of use. The unique handlebar design incorporates a lifting system that enables the operator to easily manoeuvre Little John without scuffing or damaging the turf.

The unit can be used in either forward or reverse mode, so is ideal for towing dragmats and brushes. Power is provided by an 8hp Honda engine and there is a choice of smooth profile tyres for ultra-fine work, or turf savers for those occasions when extra traction may be needed.

A large polypropylene grass collector is fitted as standard Little John was developed and built here in the United Kingdom and is supported by a team of turf care specialists. It represents a highly cost effective and versatile piece of equipment that covers a broad spectrum of turf, from very coarse to the ultra-fine modern mixes.

Little John joins the RTS range of turf care equipment including, the Big Willy (pedestrian) and Hercules (tractor mounted) aerators; plus sorrel rollers; drag mats; brushes and rakes.

For further information: Tel: 01844 274127.

■ The new Soil Reliever Junior allows Greenkeepers and Groundsmen to carry out heavy duty deep tine aeration on

greens and sports turf with suitable compact tractors.

Extremely quick, the Junior can solid tine to 12" depth and hollow core to 10", leaving a clean surface finish across the 48" working width.

As with the larger 60" and 80" Soil Relievers, the Junior has two separate crankshafts, each half being driven from the centre. This reduces torque and vibration, allows the machine to turn faster and increase tine speed, so that turf disturbance is minimised. The Junior's frame design adds leverage and places more weight at the tine heads. Together with the fast crankshaft turn, this gives a bigger and faster "hammer action", resulting in deeper soil penetration.

Huxleys say that customers with suitable small tractors, capable of handling the Junior's 1100 lb weight, will find that they can achieve similar operating speed and depth of penetration to that of the larger Soil Reliever Models 60 and 80. This may avoid the

expense of purchasing a new larger tractor.

The Soil Reliever Junior costs £12,500 plus VAT, and is offered with optional hydraulic top link (for depth control from the operator's seat) and a wide variety of solid and hollow tines.

For further information: Tel: 01506 856968.

Miracle Professional (formerly ICI/Zeneca Professional Products) has launched "Invigorator", the latest addition to its "Longlife" range of amenity turf fertilisers. "Invigorator" is a true compound mini-granular feed and general turf conditioner with an analysis of 408 (+4% Fe + 2% Mg + 7.5% S + Seaweed Extract). The Iron and Magnesium help to give Rapid greening and hardening of the turf, while



the sulphur helps in controlling soil pH.

For use on all amenity turf, the application rate of 35g per sq.m provides a bag coverage of 710 sq.m.

The recommended user price is £14.95 per 25Kg bag and is available from all Miracle Professional Main distributors.

For further information: Tel: The Miracle Professional Technical Advice Centre on 0990 301010.

SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd has introduced two new reels for use with their range of Rotorakes:

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the added benefit of a brushed finish and improved collection of debris. Used prior to mowing, it raises the grasses for a better cut.

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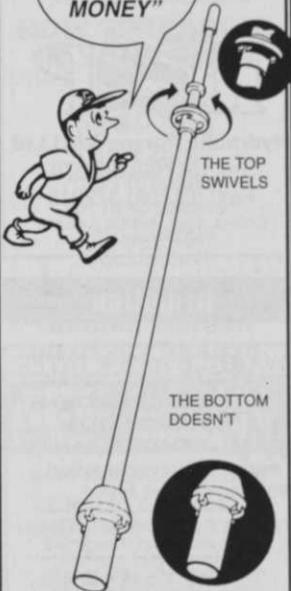
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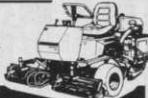
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Henbury Golf Club

COURSE MANAGER (designate)

Henbury is a well-established, attractive, members' course set in Blaise Woods in NW Bristol.

We are embarking on a five year project to update the course which will include four new greens, rebuild of tees and a bunker review.

This creates an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic, experienced person to manage the project.

The successful applicant will initially concentrate on the project but will assume full responsibility for course management when the present Course Manager retires in the summer of 1997.

Candidates require:

- A recognised qualification in Golf Course Management
- Experience either as a Head Greenkeeper or Deputy
- Experience in building new greens
- Ability to train, motivate and direct staff
- Ability to control various contractors
- Ability to prepare plans and budgets and to control expenditure

Applications, together with CV, should be sent to:

**Mr Robin White, Managing Secretary,
Henbury Golf Club, Westbury on Trym, Bristol BS10 7QB**

by 31 December 1996

Blackley Golf Club

Applicants are invited for the position of

COURSE MANAGER

Applicant must be experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping, properly qualified and have the ability to motivate and work with existing staff.

Applications in writing with CV to:

**The Secretary,
Blackley Golf Club,
Victoria Ave East,
Blackley,
Manchester M9 6HW**

PROFESSIONAL GRASS MACHINERY SALES PERSON

Due to expansion resulting in promotion within the Company, a vacancy has occurred for a Professional Grass Machinery Salesperson operating from Ulting to cover the county of Essex.

The successful applicant must have experience within the industry preferably with knowledge of Ransomes and New Holland grass machinery and involves selling to Local Authorities and Golf Courses.

We are looking for an enthusiastic dedicated person who will be rewarded with a secure position in a family owned Company.

Apply with full CV to:

**Mr A Turbin, Horticultural
General Sales Manager, Ernest
Doe & Sons Limited, Ulting,
Maldon, Essex CM9 6QH**

or telephone 01245 380311
for application form

**ERNEST
DOE
& SONS LTD**

Golf Club Schaumburg

requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

to start work from March 1997.

Presently we are a 9 hole course wishing to extend to 18 holes in 1998.

This position will be very rewarding for somebody who is enthusiastic, keen to work and will bring new ideas to a growing club.

Salary package will be discussed at interview.

Applications with full CV to:

**Mr Peter Kinzel, President
Golf Club Schaumburg
Röserheide 2
37683 Obernkirchen
GERMANY**

Falling victim to Iceland's booby traps

Eric Hunter and his wife visited Iceland to install an new grinding machine at Reykyavik and stayed on for a holiday. Perhaps they should have come straight home!

It all started well enough with a visit to The Blue Lagoon a well known attraction in Iceland. There is a chemical reaction which turns the water bright blue and is a constant 75° throughout the year. Very pleasant to swim in until you meet a cool spot which makes you shiver and occasional hot spots which give the impression you are being boiled alive. However after nearly three hours your skin is turning wrinkly, so we figured it was time to move on.

It was then that things began to go wrong.

"We decided to tour the S.W. corner of Iceland from Grunduvik to Kissivik about 20 miles away but as soon as we left the road deteriorated into a rolled dirt track similar to a forest road in UK.

"After 10 miles or so, cracks across the road caused by melting snow were getting wilder but not impassable. We hit one 'rut' which was filled with orange coloured water which clung to the glass and, could not be cleared by the washer jets and wipers. Consequently the car ran into a deeper rut and 'bottomed'. We were well and truly stuck in the Icelandic wilderness.

"We had passed a farm about seven or eight miles back, but as it was getting darker by the minute, we decided to place our faith in the scale of the map which showed a community about three to four miles east. Abandoning the car, we stumbled along the muddy track up a hill. Silently praying we climbed up yet another hill and gratefully saw some distant lights. Salvation! Struggling through a field of snow we approached a building which was well lit, on both sides of the central doorway ran corridors with numbered doors. No sign of any life!

"Eventually we climbing into the building and saw about 20 men sitting round reading or watching television. Approached by a female attendant, we discovered that we were in an Institution for alcoholics and drug abusers! The manager, who was



When life can be a grind: Eric Hunter in Iceland

Dutch, offered to put us for the night.

"Having reached safety and being well received by our Dutch hosts, the next morning we returned to extricate our hired Astra from the mud which overnight had frozen solid! Case, the name of our saviour easily pulled us out with his four-wheel drive Lada, thus improving their rotten reputation at once!

"Back at Case's farm, his wife Tinneka had coffee on the go and suggested that we stay a while and investigate the area. It was beautiful but strange. The colours in the hillside were not the traditional browns and greens that we are used to, on show were blue, purple, grey, brown, black, white

but the white was not snow!

"With a couple of ski sticks for assistance my wife and I set off up to the nearest hillside. About a mile up, we found the geysir which had been capped to provide hot water and heat for Case's farm and the alcoholic's Institution, a pressure gauge showed 200 psi. and this was natural! A little further up we could see a stream of water flowing downhill, from which I could swear steam was rising. Curiosity aroused I approached slowly, prodding the grey coloured ground with the ski stick. It did not penetrate. However when I stood on this peculiar surface it collapsed under my weight - the hard surface was just a hardened crust under which

was whiteish hot mud and I was in it up to the knees. Flinging the cameras away, I managed to extricate myself but not without getting both my hands into the hot mud. Luckily there was plenty of grass around to wipe the hands and quite a bit of snow to cool the flesh but, too late, blisters on the hands and wrists were rising.

Carrying on up the hill and approaching the same stream by firmer ground and rocks, I was amazed to find that this stream was running with warm water. Quite an amazing experience to be found outdoors and something never found in the UK.

The hands and wrists by this time were starting to smart somewhat, even with the regular immersion in piles of snow. So we started back down the hill to the farm but on another slope. Stepping out with the intention of returning quickly, I failed to notice that the colour of the grass was changing from green to a darker green until again without warning the ground collapsed under me again. This time it was not hot mud but a bog into I had descended full leg length deep. Having this strange slowly sinking feeling, the cameras were hurled safely away for the second time that morning and by leaning forward, spreading my girth across the surface I practically swam and pulled myself to firm ground.

By this time I was fairly traumatized by these happenings and according to the 'other half' I was repeating myself. It really felt like a bad dream, but not one from which I could wake up. The principle consoling thought being that at least we only had one more day, then back to good old Glasgow. We drove back to Reykjavik by putting my hands in polythene bags filled with snow to cool the flesh.

All in all an interesting experience, which I would not like to repeat.

JUST A THOUGHT

Keep a diary of your accomplishments at work. Then when you ask for a rise you'll have the evidence you need to back it up.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
Taken from Life's Little Instruction Volume II compiled by H. Jackson Brown, Jr. published by Harper Collins

From TEE to GREEN



Photograph courtesy of The Oxfordshire Golf Club

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- ◆ Wide range of analysis available.

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18.9.18+Fe+Mn	16.0.0+5Te
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This professional multi-task mower combines high performance with rugged reliability, making it ideal for both golf course and local authority work.

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