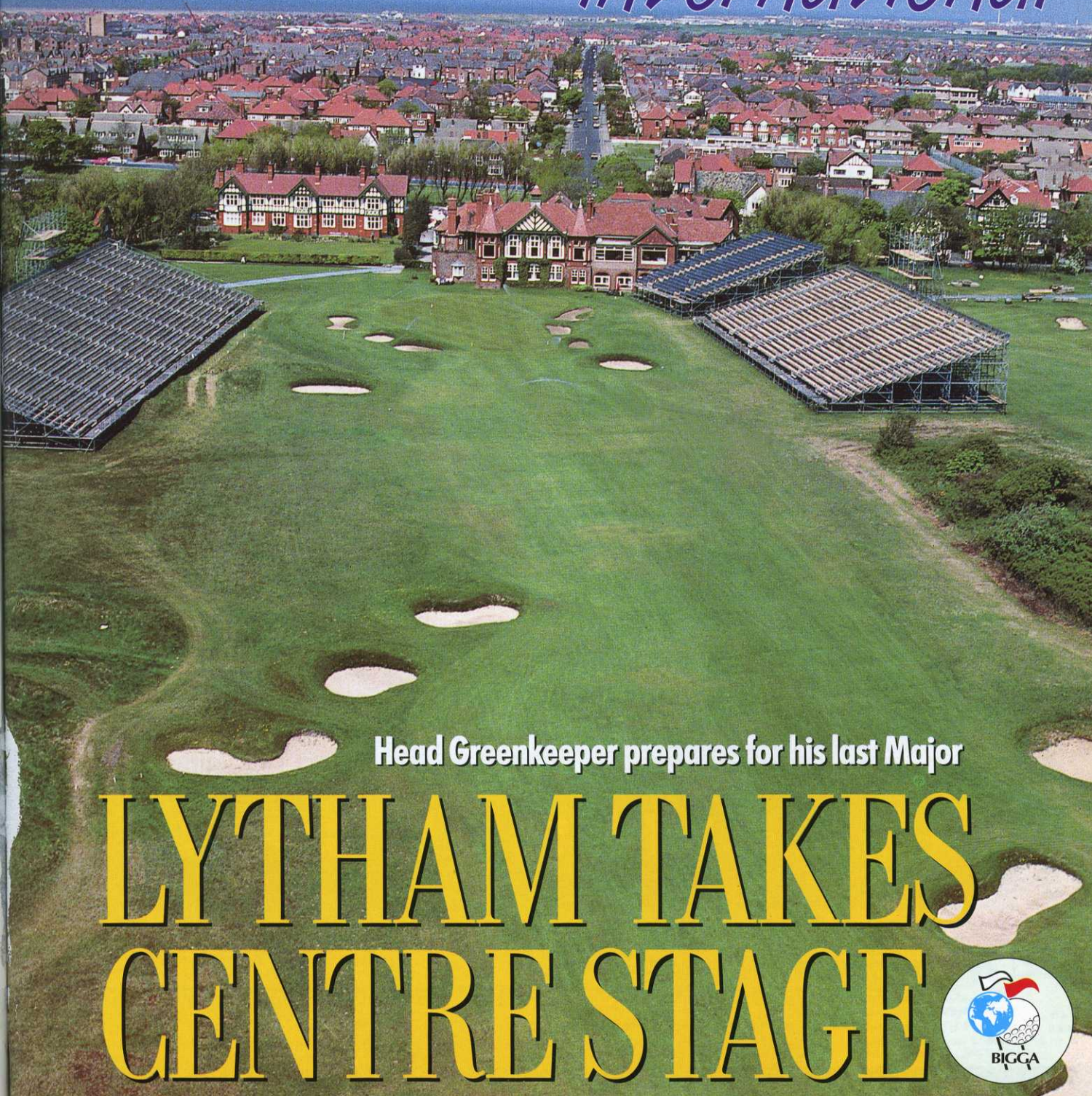


# GREENKEEPER

*International*



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■ The next edition of  
*Greenkeeper International*  
should be with you by August 10

# GREENKEEPER

## International

JULY 1996

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### Gearing up for his final Open

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Royal Lytham and St Annes, venue for The Open, from the air  
Picture by Brian Morgan

### FREE READER REPLY SERVICE

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## GREENKEEPER

### International

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### Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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

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# The importance of image

**T**he dictionary defines "image" as the "character of thing or person as perceived by the public." These are image conscious days with the media ever ready to promote and more often destroy images particularly in the field of politics, entertainment and sport. So, like it or not, we in the greenkeeping world need also to be image conscious both as a "thing" in this case BIGGA and "person", in this context read greenkeeper.

BIGGA, believe it or not, will soon be 10 years old and this is therefore a pertinent time to examine its image. Back in 1987 as a new organisation it had no image and the early years were spent in promoting BIGGA as the greenkeepers' professional body and indeed in explaining what the acronym BIGGA stood for. There was a fair degree of scepticism to overcome. Within the golfing world and particularly among those with an awareness of the internecine strife which had preceded the formation of BIGGA, many doubted the capability of greenkeepers to form and run their own organisation. Within a generally supportive industry there were those who stood back to see if BIGGA was building on a sound foundation. In the early days establishing a positive image was not easy as BIGGA was on a learning curve and there were difficult problems to overcome particularly in relation to two of our cornerstones, namely our magazine and exhibition. The Association came through the trials and tribulations of those formative years and



## BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

today projects a positive image as a professional body representing its members for whom it provides a wide variety of services. Image has considerable significance in promoting the Association within the world of golf. Above all, and with a fair degree of success, BIGGA promotes professionalism among its members and its standing in the golfing world has advanced very significantly in recent years. That is not to deny that there remain sceptics whose image of the Association is that of a trade union. In marketing the Association we will continue to accentuate the positives in the view that eventually even the most diehard of critics will come to see that our professional image is no mirage and that behind it is an organisation enhancing the status of greenkeepers and their profession.

What then of the individual greenkeeper? Here we can look back over ten years and a marked difference in image is apparent.

Perhaps this is best exemplified when one looks at our major gathering, the BTME. So many of our members these days attending the BTME project a professional image both in appearance, in the manner in which they conduct themselves and in the demonstration of their knowledge and technical expertise. Some, of course, do not do themselves justice but the balance of the pendulum has swung as these now tend to be in the minority which perhaps was not the case ten years ago. Education and training has played a major part in the transformation which has undeniably taken place while the emphasis placed by BIGGA on professionalism has clearly brought about results. There can be no doubt that modern standards demand that the greenkeeper who is going places will need to be well groomed, articulate, knowledgeable and yes, image conscious. These attributes will become increasingly necessary in a competitive world. As I travel around the country to greenkeeper gatherings it is possible to assess the change of attitude in 10 years particularly in reference to dress code. Many more greenkeepers now proudly display the BIGGA blazer and badge appreciating its relevance in image terms both for themselves personally and in the recognition it secures for their association. Image is important for them, too, back at their golf clubs and not only in terms of their personal appearance in a club house or committee room

scenario. Do the facilities for greenkeeping staff and equipment pass muster? Are they clean, tidy and efficient? If so it can do much for the team's image. Out on the golf course a small investment in practical but professional looking working apparel can do wonders for the image with the club members out playing the golf course.

Talking of those club members what image do they hold of the greenkeeping team at your golf club? Too easy is the image of the guys who hold up play while they work on the course and invariably are responsible for every golfer's bad round when the greens were too fast or too slow and generally unplayable. Greenkeepers can all too easily become similarly negative in response. Communication with club members is important. Taking trouble to talk with them and post information on the club's notice board will prove image enhancing as will persuading the Chairman of Green and his Committee to hold meetings with club members where the Course Manager can project his staff and their work in a positive light.

So there we have it. We live in an image conscious age – like it or loathe it. Within BIGGA we recognise its importance and will continue to work at enhancing a positive image. For the individual, too, image will continue to be important. While the old maxim of "by their deeds ye shall judge them" remains very apposite, the right image is and will remain important.

## Former Northern President dies at 84

It is with regret that we report the sad death of Bill Mountain, President of the Northern Section of BIGGA (and formerly BGGG) for 36 years. He was 84.

Married to Emmie for 56 years they had three children, Alan, Susan and Andrew and five grandchildren. He was also a keen sportsman and played cricket, billiards and golf.

Bill worked at Thomas Greens in Leeds and then

started his own mower business in 1946. One of his first agencies was for Villiers Engines and he subsequently became main dealer for Ransomes, Sisis and Cushman.

He worked hard to build and develop his business and became successful and well respected by all who knew him.

He was always a keen supporter of the Greenkeepers'

Association and was a popular figure at many events around the country. He will be very sadly missed by all his friends and colleagues in the greenkeeping business.

The Northern Section, together with Bill's family, have purchased a trophy in his memory and The Bill Mountain Memorial Trophy will be played for annually on President's Day.



Bill Mountain and his wife Emmie



## As I see it...

BY DEAN CLEAVER  
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

**S**ince becoming Chairman in January I've travelled up and down the length of the country and I've often been asked by members why don't I have a regular piece in the magazine.

Well, in response to that I will now have a regular column in *Greenkeeper International* and I am looking forward to sharing with you a few of the experiences I have during my year in office and my thoughts on some of the matters which concern us all as greenkeepers.

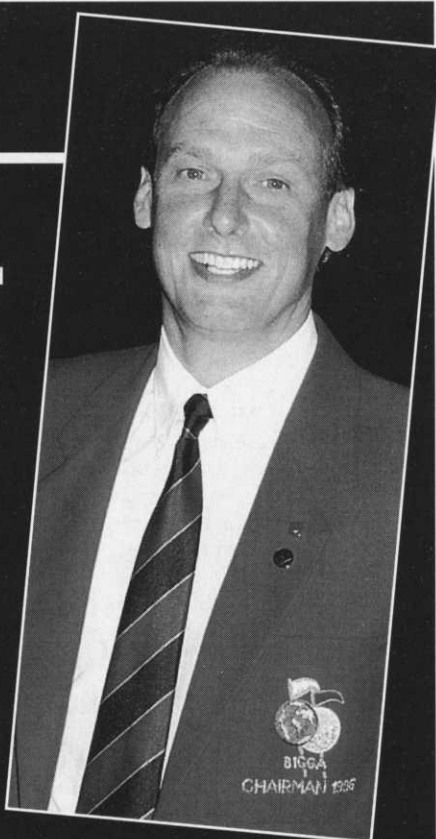
In the past month I've had the pleasure of attending two Hayter Regional Finals. My visit to Royal Aberdeen, where Sam Morrison and his team do a wonderful job, was my fourth visit north of the border since January and as ever the hospitality was second to none. Benton Hall, which unfortunately I was unable to play but which looked superb, was my first visit to the South East Region.

It was also the first chance I had to meet our new Sales and Marketing Manager James McEvoy. I am sure he is going to be a superb addition to the staff and I hope that you will support him in the many new ideas he will bring to the Association.

The June Board Meeting was further proof of the success of the new Constitution with the reduced board working well. It also marked the first meeting for new Board member David Milbourne – another good signing!

It's hard to believe that we are already in June. Looking at my first six months, a high point has been the success of FEGGA – the Federation of European Golf Greenkeeper Associations – and I was honoured to be elected Chairman. FEGGA's success will be a major step forward for the industry.

This month I am looking forward to The Open at Royal Lytham and St Annes and I would like to take this opportunity to wish Jimmy MacDonald and his team every success for the week.

# NEWS



## Peter Bell rings the Jacobsen changes

Jacobsen E-Z-GO's new General Manager has not taken long to get up to speed in his new role.

In the few weeks since taking over the chair in the company's Kettering office vacated by Rene Orban, who moved to Kubota, Peter Bell, pictured, has already initiated a number of new marketing activities including the "you won't have to pay 'Whole in One'" scheme, based on Ford Motor Company's Options plan, which gives flexible finance options on the LF 3810 fairway mower.

"I have joined Jacobsen at a

very exciting time as our new European operation takes shape. I am one of a team of people committed to confirming Jacobsen's position as a global player in the market place," said Peter, who joined Jacobsen from his previous position as Sales Director of Karcher.

"Our traditional market sector has become exceedingly competitive and I think it is important to look to new opportunities that exist for our product range across a wide variety of market sectors."

## Greenkeeper wins Duke's top award

Warren Jones, assistant at Northenden GC in Manchester, has just achieved his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Among the activities 25 year-old Warren did to achieve the prestigious award were abseiling, working at a local hospital, working backstage with a drama group, undertaking an expedition to Snowdonia and attending a three week outward bound

course in the Lake District.

He also won a competition to build a raft which was then used to win a race against another group.

Warren received his award from the Duke of Edinburgh at St James's Palace.





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# HAYTER CHALLENGE

# When tiredness kicks in...

Fatigue is a terrible thing... Particularly on the golf course. Colin Montgomerie blamed it on his final hole slumps in the English Open and no doubt the US Open. Had he been fresh he might have had both these titles in his locker and his bank balance would have swelled by another half a million. But he was overgolfed.

Now spare a thought for Kim Macfie. If anyone has a right to feel overgolfed it's Kim, and it happens at the same time every year. Come the Hayter Regional Finals Kim dusts off his Pings, climbs into his spikes and he's off, like Mel Gibson in Braveheart, into battle.

Last month he was there, partnering Harry Diamond against Dean Cleaver and son Hamish – just before his wedding – at



Prize winners at Benton Hall

Royal Aberdeen. Days later he carried the Editor to a historic Scottish victory at Benton Hall in South East Region over the two "new boys" James McEvoy and David Briggs, of BIGGA and Hayter respectively. A win

avenged two weeks later at Wembley. The fact that it was David's first ever full round of golf had no bearing on the result, particularly as it was only poor putting which prevented him from winning the opening hole.

With barely a moments rest Kim was on to Salisbury & South Wilts for another match this time in the company of John Pember-ton of BIGGA. By now tiredness was kicking in and Kim just couldn't carry his aching body beyond the 9th green and had to seek sanctuary in the bar.

● The Macfie tartan was in evidence at the wedding of Hamish Macfie and Dawn in Hertfordshire at the beginning of June. No doubt they're just back from their honeymoon. In Barbados! Lucky pair. Congratulations from all at BIGGA Headquarters.



## Topic for everyone on Greens day

Around 150 attended the Greens day of the Sisis Grounds and Greens 1996 Seminar at Murrayfield last month.

They were treated to a well balanced programme of speakers who covered subjects as varied as course construction in southern Europe, the name game, ecology, aeration and work on the Old Course.

The morning session was kicked off by Bill Elwood, Grounds Manager at Murrayfield Stadium who described the changes which have turned Scotland's national rugby stadium from good to one of the foremost and most magnificent sports arenas in Britain.

David Lucas, Golf Course Consultant, talked on "Building and Growing on Courses in Southern Europe" based on his experiences in a number of countries, including Greece.

The advantages of such work are the weather but the down side was that there was limited machinery, staff were not golfing orientated and materials were hard to come by.

Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager at Letchworth Golf Club, spoke on "Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager – What's in a Name". He said that the public perception of a Head Greenkeeper was a man in overalls holding a rake while a Course Manager was seen as wearing a blazer and tie. The Course Manager is seen to be a supervisor, planner, delegator, trainer and decision maker while the Head Greenkeeper was seen as someone who cuts grass or someone who supervises others to cut grass.

Anthony Davies, Head Greenkeeper at Prestbury Golf Club and one of the country's Master Greenkeepers, talked on "Golf Course

Ecology" and talked of how, as part of the club's ecology programme he had felled trees on the course which had not originally been on the course but grown up over the years and how natural plants had returned, including broom and bluebells. He explained how he stockpiled decaying trees rather than removed them because they provided food for woodland creatures.

After lunch during which delegates had time to visit the exhibition stands outside the stadium, Steve Isaac, Scottish Regional Agronomist for the STRI, spoke on "Aeration – The Foundation of Turf Management" and outlined the problems which developed from not instigating a policy of regular aeration including hollow tining and slitting.

Eddie Adam, Head Greenkeeper on the Old Course St Andrews, gave a highly amusing and informative talk on "Keeping the Old Course Up to Scratch". He explained that for the 99 holes at St Andrews there were 42 greenstaff and on the Old Course itself there were nine full time staff including himself and 12 OAP divot fillers.

He said that it took two years to prepare for an Open Championship and two years to recover fully from it and described the work done on revetting some of the 112 bunkers on the course one of which, Shell Bunker, took 6,000 turfs and a month to complete.

Exhibitors included Richard Aitken, Alletts, Barenbrug, Briggs & Stratton, Ifor Williams, Jacobsen, Kubota, Levington, Lloyds, Miracle Professional, Mommersteeg, Prime Watermen, Rhône Poulenc, Rigby Taylor, Ruffords, Sisis, Souters, Stewarts, STS and Tildenet.

## Rugby fame of new man



The second employed Regional Administrator, who will take up his position in the Midland Region next month, is a man who may be known to rugby union followers up and down the country.

Peter Larter, who comes to the Regional Administrator post having served in the RAF for over 34 years achieving the rank of Squadron Leader, played for England for six years and was a member of the British Lions touring party to South Africa in 1968.

On the golf front, he has played representative golf within the RAF and been a single figure player since 1971. He was also responsible for the construction and development of the RAF Henlow Golf Club.

His rugby administration experience is vast and includes membership of the English Rugby Football Union Full Committee while he is currently Chairman of the Laws Advisory Panel and a member of the National Playing sub-committee, a Midlands Division selector and on the General Committee of Northampton, who have just returned to Courage League Division One after winning every match on their brief visit to Division 2.

"I am looking forward to working for BIGGA and getting to know, and helping whenever possible, the greenkeepers within the Midland Region," said Peter, who lives near Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire.



# Chance for all greenkeepers to advance their careers



Education  
Update

BY KEN  
RICHARDSON

**T**his month sees the deadline for this year's Aldwark Manor four-day Supervisory Management Courses. Remember, that these Courses are not just for supervisors and managers to improve their skills but also for the supervisors and managers of tomorrow. In a time of change it is becoming more and more important for all greenkeepers to have up to date supervisory and management skills and these, intensive, four day courses have proved to be very successful in training greenkeepers in supervisory management skills. Book your place NOW to ensure that you are not left behind.

## Aldwark Manor Supervisory Management Courses-1996

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

– Computing for greenkeepers, time management, team building, motivation, delegation and leadership skills.

### Module 2: Managing People October 14-28

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### Module 3: Managing Operations and Resources October 21-25

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

### Module 4: Managing Information October 28-November 1

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

### Module 5: Managing Finance, Management of Health and Safety, Recruitment and Selection-November 4-8

– Controlling budgets, expense reports, cash flow forecasting, computerised accounts, health and safety management, interview techniques, employment law, race relations, equal opportunities and computers in management.

The cost of each course, which includes all food, accommodation, tuition and access to individual computer terminals is £426 + VAT.

Apply today to reserve your place.

## Regional Supervisory Management Courses

Applications are flooding in for these very popular training courses. Make sure of your place by calling BIGGA HQ NOW.

## Regional Supervisory Management Courses 1996/97

### Essential Management Skills for Greenkeepers

– Ideal for all greenkeepers wishing to improve their general management skills.

Inchyra Grange Hotel	Falkirk	October 1/2 '96	Frank Newberry
Master Robert Hotel*	Hounslow	October 16/17 '96	Frank Newberry
Royal Clarence Hotel	Exeter	October 23/24 '96	Frank Newberry
Slieve Russel Hotel	Ballyconnell	November 18/19 '96	Brin Bendon
Moat House Hotel	Washington	February 10/11 '97	Brin Bendon
Moat House Hotel	Peterborough	February 13/14 '97	Brin Bendon

**COST: BIGGA Members £50 per delegate, all inclusive.**

**Non-BIGGA members £150**

## Budgeting and Finance for Greenkeepers

– Introduces and develops the essentials of financial management

Old Ship Hotel	Brighton	October 14/15 '96	Frank Newberry
Moat House Hotel	Bournemouth	October 21/22 '96	Frank Newberry
Slieve Russel Hotel	Ballyconnell	November 20/21 '96	Brin Bendon
Waterton Park Hotel	Wakefield	November 11/12 '96	Brin Bendon
Quality Friendly Hotel*	Walsall	November 28/29 '96	Brin Bendon
Inchyra Grange Hotel	Falkirk	October 3/4 '96	Brin Bendon

\*Note location change

**COST: BIGGA Members £75 per delegate, all inclusive.**

**Non-BIGGA members £150**

## Golf Course Health and Safety Management

– Does your club meet the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act? Find out by attending one of these courses, which cover policy, risk assessments, manual handling etc.

International Hotel	Ashford	October 16/17 '96	Jon Allbutt
Thornbury Golf Centre	Bristol	October 23/24 '96	Jon Allbutt
Moat House Hotel	Nottingham	November 12/13 '96	Jon Allbutt
Moat House Hotel	Blackburn	November 5/6 '96	Jon Allbutt
Inchyra Grange Hotel	Falkirk	October 3/4 '96	Douglas Shearer

**COST: BIGGA Members £75 per delegate, all inclusive.**

**Non-BIGGA members £150**

## Essential Presentation Skills for Greenkeepers

– Whether it's presentations to committees, seminars and conferences or you just need to improve your verbal presentation skills then this course is for you.

Old Ship Hotel	Brighton	October 29/30 '96	Frank Newberry
Aldwark Manor Hotel	Aldwark	November 25/26 '96	Brin Bendon

**COST: BIGGA Members £75 per delegate, all inclusive.**

**Non-BIGGA members £150**

Each of the courses is linked to N/SVQ Level 3 Supervisory Units.

All applications together with a deposit for £10 must be at BIGGA HQ by 16 August 1996.

Remember, the costs of all of these courses is kept at such a very low level by subsidies from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund which is supported by our Golden and Silver Key Circle Members.

## Toro/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year Competition

Students entered for this Year's Competition will soon be receiving invitations to attend the Regional Finals. These will be held at:

Scotland	September 9	The King James Thistle Hotel	Edinburgh
North	September 10	Novotel	Bradford
South East	September 11	Watermill Hotel	Hemel Hempstead
South West	September 12	Gloucester Moat House Hotel	Cheltenham
Wales	September 12	Gloucester Moat House Hotel	Cheltenham
Midlands	September 12	Gloucester Moat House Hotel	Cheltenham
Ireland	September 10	Novotel	Bradford





Scottish National Tournament winners – and their silverware

# Tournament an example of links golf at its very best

Golf Club House, Elie, was the venue for a wonderful Scottish National Tournament last month and was an opportunity to play links golf at its absolute best.

The course was in magnificent condition thanks to Head Greenkeeper Brian Lawrie and his team and the weather meant that, with no wind, the main problem for the competitors was coping with the hard, lightning fast greens – slippery as an Elie, I suppose you could say.

An excellent turnout of around 80, including many members of the trade, took to the 1st tee – which is notable because of the huge periscope which enables the starter to see when the fairway is clear – and were faced by many excellent and memorable holes including some right down by the water's edge.

Scottish Region Chairman Sam Morrison presented Walter Woods with a picture...of Turnberry, in recognition of all the work Walter had done for Scottish greenkeeping. (Elliott Small was quick to point out that the Turnberry picture was to complete Walter's set).

On a sour note the day was



Sam Morrison presents Walter Woods with a picture of Turnberry

marred for two of the competitors, James Manuel and Michael Lindsay, who had their clubs stolen from the front of the clubhouse. It is a common problem in the area at the moment, apparently.

"I would like to pay special thanks to our patrons. Not only do they support us but they even come along and suffer with us. We appreciate all their support all through the year," said Elliott Small, Scottish Regional Administrator.

Sam Morrison paid tribute to the quality of the golf course as well as the magnificent food and the excellent service provided by Chef Brian McCusker and his wife, the Club Mistress Frances.

The prizes were presented by

the Club secretary Sandy Sneddon.

## Results

SGGA Challenge Cup (Best Scratch). Gary Tough, Carnoustie, 73.

Friendship Trophy (Best Nett).

Sean Jaffray, Strathmore, 68.

BIGGA Challenge Bowl (Best Head Greenkeeper) Stuart Taylor, Glasgow, 74-4-71.

M&M Trophy (Best Assistant)

James Sievwright, Auchterarder, 76-5-71.

Souter Trophy (Best Apprentice)

Sharon Lawrie, Elie, 93-19-74.

SIGGA Trophy (Best Veteran)

Walter Woods, St Andrews, 78-5-73.

Ransomes Trophy (Cat 1) 1.

Kevin Peace, Inverurie, 74-4-70,

2. Iain MacLeod, Tain, 75-4-71,

3. Gordon Kerr, Gleddoch, 81-8-73.

Pattison Trophy (Cat 2) 1.

Gordon McKie, St Andrews, 83-

11-72, 2. Barry Cameron,

Inverurie, 84-10-74, 3. Kenneth

Smith, Scotsraig, 87-13-74.

STRI Trophy (Cat 3) 1. Robert

Hogarth, Innerleithen, 89-19-70,

2. Colin Scott, Glasgow, 92-19-

73, Wilson Morrison, Alford, 91-

18-73.

Trade Prize. Stewart Aird,

Souters, 89-23-66

St Mungo Trophy. North Section

A new trophy was presented in

memory of Norrie Whytock,

formerly Scottish Region Sales

Manager for Rhone Poulenc.

Norrie Whytock Memorial Trophy.

1. North Section Team 212, Kevin

Peace, Barry Cameron and Sean

Jaffray. 2. Central Section Team,

223, Brian Lawrie, Archie Dunn

and Stuart Smith.

## FLYING DIVOTS



■ IPU has appointed of Sue Hadden, pictured above, to co-ordinate areas of the company's development programme. This new position has been created as a result of the addition to IPU's product range of Hoaf and Weed Wand chemical free-weed control equipment, plus the SubAir underground aeration system.

Commenting on the appointment, Managing Director, Robert Beebe said, "In the present trading conditions, our customer base is very important to us. We have to ensure that all the lines of communication run smoothly and this will be part of Sue's role."

■ The English Golf Union has relocated to its new headquarters at the National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire and can be contacted at: The National Golf Centre, The Broadway, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, LN10 6PU Tel: 01526 354500 Fax: 01526 354020.

■ Carol Dutton, Senior Advertising Executive on *Greenkeeper International*, and one of the longest serving members of the BIGGA staff, is leaving the Association.

Carol, who has been with BIGGA for five years, is to take up a position with the Yorkshire Post group of newspapers and magazines.

"I will miss all the friends I have made within the greenkeeping industry but felt that this new opportunity was one not to be passed over," said Carol.

"Carol's drive, enthusiasm, and selling ability has been a major factor in the success of *Greenkeeper International* over the years and she will be sadly missed," said Executive Director, Neil Thomas. "I join everyone at Aldwark Manor in wishing her every success for the future."

## Accolade for Hayter mower

After being nominated by readers of a trade magazine, for inclusion in its annual product awards, the Hayter Double 3 mower won "Best of the Pedestrian Category" and went on to be judged "Best Product of 1996".

The Double 3 machine impressed the judges with its ability to either mow, with side discharge, collect in 88 litre grassbag and mulch extremely effectively. Coupled with its robustness, finish of cut, ease of use and its attractive price of £529 made the machine a clear winner.

Primarily designed for the domestic market the Double 3 has a very firm following in the contractor/local authority market.



# Portuguese greenkeeper scoops NVQ award

Cannington College Student Francisco Bello has recently become the first Portuguese Greenkeeper to achieved NVQ Level 2 in Greenkeeping and PA1 and PA2A FEPA Spraying certification after completing a two year block release course at Cannington.

Francisco, a National Portuguese Rugby Player, whose promising career was curtailed due to a car accident had to find a new vocational career. He opted to take a course in Golf Greenkeeping but was unable to find a course at a Portuguese College.

Cannington was the only College to responded positively to his enquiries. The excellent greenkeeping resources developed at Cannington enabled the college to provide practical experience and the theoretical elements required of the NVQ, at the same time support was

provided to help Francisco overcome the language barriers.

Francisco has now returned to Portugal and is employed on a short term contract with a golf course irrigation company while seeking permanent employment within the Portuguese Golf industry.

## Students take steps in the right direction

A total of 13 First Assistants, Deputies and one Head Greenkeeper are easing their way towards NVQ Level 3 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Supervisory Course at a series of classes at Oaklands College at St Albans.

The group, with Duncan McGilvray as tutor/mentor, learn to understand the language of NVQs, build and develop a portfolio of evidence to achieve the Level 3 award and understand the other factors which have an influence on managing a golf course.

To assist, guest speakers including other Course Managers, Secretaries, Architects, Agronomists, the Trade, BIGGA, EGU and the GTC give talks.

Among the other activities have been mock Green Committee meetings, comprising other Course Managers, at which appeals for more staff and more machinery are made.

The course was designed with the help of two university professors and is aimed at greenkeepers who already have the experience to achieve level 3 but require the portfolio of evidence.



The Oakland College students, with Duncan McGilvray, front row, second left

## Open Championship

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# Preparing



Who will be on cloud nine after this year's Open? Picture by Brian Morgan



# tees fit for a Queen

**Jimmy MacDonald has seen it all before and he knows you do that little bit more when The Open pays a visit.**

**T**he Open Championship, the pinnacle of the golfing year, is just six weeks away and the Head Greenkeeper of Royal Lytham and St Annes is in his office looking as relaxed as one would if it were the Club Championship that was just over the horizon.

Jimmy MacDonald is that type of character. Nothing much fazes him. Well why should it? He's already been Head Greenkeeper at three Opens and four Senior Opens, been Deputy at another Open, and also has a Ryder Cup and a Curtis Cup under his belt. He also coped with what would be many greenkeepers biggest nightmare during an Open.

"I'm led to believe that I'm the only living greenkeeper to have had both the Ryder Cup and The Open Championship."

For all that his Championship CV is unrivalled Jimmy had one regret.

"I'd have loved the Walker Cup. It would have completed the set for me and I'm sure we would've done well here because, other than amateur Bobby Jones, no American has ever won The Open at Lytham."

At 62 this will be Jimmy's final Open. "I feel I've just walked off the 17th and I haven't had many double bogeys but I haven't had many birdies either – I reckon I'm about level par," is his modest assessment of a career which changed course dramatically at the age of 27 after he had trained and lectured in ceramics.

It's his reserved and measured West Highland way and one which is ideal for coping with the conditions which are being thrown at him.

"With the drought of last year followed by a spring the like of which I've never experienced before it wasn't scary but it was slow. People have asked what I think will happen to the course but not many greenkeepers have experienced this so a lot of it is guesswork. You don't know what's going to be thrown at you," said Jimmy.

In those circumstances, although it is a new situation, experience is all the more important.

"We've had Fusarium on the odd green but I know that in '69 we had an extremely bad attack of it and it filled in in time and I'm relaxed in the knowledge that it should be fine by the middle of July."

The drought of last summer caused Jimmy and his team to assess the damage at the end of the year and put in place the measures necessary to bring the course to its peak for July.

"We used irrigation and over sowed many of the fairways. I'd have done some of the areas anyway but with The Open coming up I probably did about four times as much as I would have done normally."

"We did a tremendous amount of spiking



**The greenkeeping team at Royal Lytham and St Annes. Jimmy MacDonald is pictured fourth from the right**

and vertidrainning through the winter. I try to keep it simple and not be tempted to feed too early. Unfortunately I have the Lytham Trophy in May which is a big amateur event and I was tempted to cut a bit closer but I had to resist. As it was the course was not as good as it has been for other years for the event but it's a general feeling throughout the country."

Another area to which Jimmy pays particular attention in the run up to an Open is the fertiliser programme.

"I never want to overfeed although I know people would be tempted because of the weather situations but in the main we don't do anything differently to a normal year."

"We just maybe spent a little more time on jobs than usual. We keep the greens at a reasonable height as a little insurance, divot the fairways more regularly and cut bunker banks more regularly but perhaps not as close," he explained.

He goes on to explain the philosophy.

"If your dear old aunt was visiting you'd made a damn good tea but if the Queen were coming you'd do it a wee bit differently, wouldn't you?"

Like many, Jimmy has detected a slight change in the seasons which has perhaps accounted for some of the weather we've been experiencing.

"I've been looking through one or two old diaries from the 50s that are in the club. Things have changed. They mention 'gang mowers off for winter service mid October.' Not now they are still cutting. The change in standards may have something to do with it but they also mention greens being mown

three or four times a week in mid April so it looks as though the seasons have shunted just a little bit."

Being in a ideal position to reflect on the job of a greenkeeper he does feel that improved machinery has made it easier.

"But you still go out to a bunker like I did 30 years ago with a rake a brush and a shovel. When you build bunkers with reveted walls you still build them with the same tools."

"It is nice to see a young apprentice lay a turf and you watch as he pulls the top of it – just a little thing. I can remember the old man who taught me it the same way. The little things have carried on through the traditional elements. Being a Celt the traditional and folklore was important."

He is also immensely proud of his home nine hole course at Traigh in the West Highlands where he assisted in some rebuilding work. The 4th hole a 247 yard par-4 is called "Jimmy's Choice" after him.

"On the back nine on the scorecard it is called 'Jimmy Choice' in Gaelic so I really have two holes named after me," he says proudly.

Among the other work carried out this year in advance of the Championship has been the complete rebuilding of 56 of the 185 bunkers to go along with the 50 which were done last year.

Work on developing a borehole is also well advanced and it is hoped that they'll be able to extract up to 80,000 in 12 hours, enough for one night's watering.

"It's not enough to keep them green in a drought situation too long. It's only survival kit – it'll still go brown but will recover faster after rain."



# Preparing tees fit for a Queen

Ah rain! This brings me to the situation at the last Lytham Open in 1989 which would have had many lesser men reaching for the strait jacket and voluntarily admitting themselves to the padded cell.

The Saturday of the '89 Open was completely washed out and Royal Lytham became the only venue to have had the final day of the Championship played on a Monday.

"In the end we made more friends than enemies by getting it right," recalled Jimmy.

"I just couldn't believe what I was seeing. I'd never seen anything like it before or since."

After a full day's torrential rain Jimmy and his Green's Chairman left the course at half past midnight.

"We left some pumps running and at that stage we weren't winning. It was stalemate. I went home and dozed in my chair and when I got back to the course at half past four what I saw was unbelievable – 80% of the water had gone. It must have stopped raining while I'd been dozing and while I was away the water must have penetrated the crust on top of the ground because the drains were empty."

Pressure was put on to start as soon as possible but Jimmy resisted and play resumed at 11am in threeballs.

"There wasn't a pool on the course. I felt the course that year was as good as I've ever had it

## THE GREENKEEPING TEAM

Head Greenkeeper: Jimmy MacDonald

Deputy Head Greenkeeper: Tom Knowles

Assistants: Phil Medcalf, Dave Throup, Richard Aitken, Mark Davies, Phil Ruffley and Paul Smith.

Apprentice: Andrew Webb

and if it hadn't rained and the sun had shone the greens would have been as good as I could possibly have wanted them. I've got video of all the Opens I've been involved in and watching the film of '89 the putts were rolling as truly as they could possibly go."

It says much for the condition of the golf course that year that it will always be remembered for the brilliance of Seve and his wonderful chip on the final hole to seal it against Nick Price.

"Wouldn't it be nice for Seve to win it at Lytham for a third time," said Jimmy, who is the proud owner of the flag from the 18th signed by Seve as well as a flag signed by both teams from the '61 Ryder Cup.

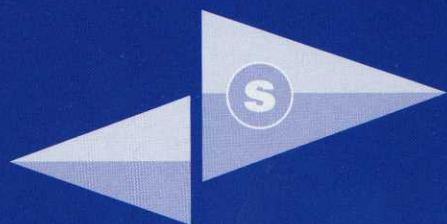
As in previous years Jimmy will be assisted during the week of the Championship by his

excellent team of eight – one more than last time – and his "Old Boys" – Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers at neighbouring courses who all worked under Jimmy either at Lytham or at Formby where he was Head Greenkeeper before returning to Lytham.

Chris and Geoff Whittle, from Royal Birkdale and St Annes Old Links respectively, Peter Simpson, from Fairhaven and Mark Broughton, from Morecombe, and possibly his son Derek from Formby supplement the existing team for the week and their local knowledge and general experience means Jimmy is happy to have them cut greens for him.

"It's always interesting during an Open. You get pressure and you find things go wrong but you think about them and draw on your experience. If conditions are right I know that I've got the staff and machinery go out and present a very respectable course. I think very highly of my staff they've all been to college and all have a great deal of experience and have been with me for a great many years. In fact excluding Andrew the apprentice we average 20 year's greenkeeping each and we have a total of 165 years between us."

To emphasize the fact Jimmy asks if I would mind if he listed the names of his team rather than give an equipment inventory. "They are far more important to me than machines."



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**H**ow do you buy protective clothing for yourself and your staff? Do you consider the job to be done and then seek out the specification that best protects those vulnerable parts of the body from the hazards identified as part of the risk assessment? If your answer is yes then you are one of the very few who have got it right!

In most cases protective equipment is bought on price (often the lowest!); this results in either a failure to protect, or a failure in performance, that is, it didn't do the job. In accident investigations involving injuries to the worker inadequate, or unsuitable, protective equipment is often found to be a contributory cause to the injury.

In our work conducting health and safety audits for clients we frequently find respirators hanging in sheds covered in dust, personal ear protection dirty, torn and left on benches, or worse! Face shields so scratched that they are almost opaque and chainsaw clothing torn, dirty, damp and left hanging on a convenient nail! This type of protective equipment requires special care otherwise it will not do the job, and even worse, it may even spread infection especially to ears and hands.

Manufacturers and suppliers of protective equipment have available detailed test information, and data sheets that provide sufficient information to enable the right choice to be made. If there is any doubt as to what would be the most suitable type for a given situation, there are technical staff available to give advice.

When reviewing your existing protective equipment there are several important points to keep in mind:

- The Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992 place duties on the employer: (Regulation 4) "Every employer shall ensure that suitable personal protective equipment is provided to his employees who may be exposed to a risk to their health or safety while at work"... "it is capable of fitting the wearer correctly, if necessary after adjustments within the range for which it is designed". Where you employ staff who are very small, or in the

## Safety is priority number one

By Arne van Amerongen  
April 29, 1996 was a bad day for me in my career in the golf industry.

I had made a report on safety regulations for the golf course I was working on at the beginning of January. One particular part of these regulations was safety clothing. Costs are becoming a more important factor with the increased competition, especially on new courses which are owned by the members. In this case we are talking about only £30 for safety shoes which had to be saved, though on the other hand money is wasted on other things. For example, £150,000 was spent on pathways which only a few members and green fee players will use.

I will make my point now. Saving £30 caused a terrible accident. On April 29 I was inspecting the 4th hole on the course, when one of the foreign labourers came to me and said in broken German, "Accident happened, please come". I drove to the chipping green area and there I saw the green staff helping a young wounded employee. When I got nearer to the 19-year old boy, I saw that his left foot was bleeding. And as far as I could see he was missing two toes. He had previously been fly mowing on a slope, slipped and his left foot had come under the flymo.

case of greenkeepers, very large!, it may be necessary to order specially made equipment.

- The Regulations now set quality standards for almost all protective equipment, your equipment should have the BSI kite mark, or the CE mark, or both. If you find that existing equipment does not have the correct quality mark, then they may not be suitable.
- Before making a final decision on equipment for a job where you are not sure what would be suit-

This young man was wearing trainers and no safety boots. He was working for £3 an hour. After I called the emergency number, a helicopter arrived within five minutes. He was transported to a hospital specialising in microsurgery.

Half an hour later I found his two toes, put them in a plastic bag and drove straight to the hospital. Unfortunately it is, not possible to sew toes back on.

The point of this story is, that if the job requires it, everybody must work with safety clothes, from head to toe and money does not play a role at that moment. The boy is slowly walking again, but it is still very painful for him. He will probably work again – two to three months time after the accident. It could also have been worse.

For myself, as a consultant, after having written reports of what staff should wear, this accident has left a deep mark. From now on, when I write a report on safety and this is ignored, I will drop out as a consultant. I will not work for such clubs which only think in terms of money and not of human safety.

I hope that other consultants, Course Managers and anybody involved in work at golf courses will open their eyes and will, if necessary, lay down work if safety regulations are ignored.

able and/or adequate, seek advice. It may be better to buy one or two items and issue them to staff to use. If you do this you must monitor the use before making a decision.

- Where staff are issued with new equipment, they will need training that deals with correct use and maintenance. (Regulation 9)

- In addition to purchasing the equipment you must provide the correct facilities for cleaning and storage. This is very important

not only for hygiene reasons but it will also have a significant effect on the life of the equipment.

**Jon Allbutt**

### GET IT BY POST

There's a new range of CE standard protective clothing from Michael Richmond – the mail order specialists of forestry tools, clothing and equipment.

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### CHANGING ATTITUDES FOR THE BETTER

Among the advances taking place on the golf course is the attitude to greenstaff clothing. This has been brought about by a number of factors including the need to ensure: 1. Safe working practices, 2. Protection from the elements, 3. An eye to security where staff can be identified from casual intruders on the course and 4. An extension of the dress code applied to players to the club's own staff, developing the professional image of the club.

As a result Course Care, which is already supplying a full range of consumables to the greenkeeper and Course Manager has undertaken a study and introduced the Course Wear range. Course Wear offers a wide range of clothing to meet all of the above needs. This ranges from Chain Saw trousers to foul weather trousers for machine work. It includes shirts and jackets with embroidered logos to identify the club and the wearer. Course Wear supplies fully water-



# Are you wearing the **RIGHT GEAR** this summer?

proof footwear and protective toecaps to prevent serious injury, safety wellingtons and even a safety trainer.

Embroidery of logos can be undertaken by Course Wear to any design required at an extra charge giving that extra look of professionalism and real feeling of identity for all staff.

## GETTING TO GRIPS WITH LAW CHANGES

The new legislation of Chainsaw clothing - known in the industry as PPEs - has caused confusion as to the level of individual protection needed.

As from July 1 1995 all chainsaw protective clothing had to be made to a CE standard, and display the Chainsaw in a shield logo. Also the clothing had to be tested to a certain speed rating and classed as follows. Class 0 - 16 metres per second, Class 1 - 20 metres per

second, Class 2 - 24 metres per second, Class 3 - 28 metres per second.

In addition chainsaw trousers are divided into three further categories. Type A. Front protection with some extra protection on the outside of the left leg. Type B. Front protection with some extra protection on the inside of both legs and some extra on the outside of the left leg. Type C. All round protection with the same amount of layers all around - usually nine or ten.

Types A & B are for ground workers and Foresters experienced in using chainsaw and certified to National Proficiency Test Council standard. Type C is for the climbing arborist and the occasional user. Most trousers are to Class 1 standard.

Leather and rubber boots come into this category but Class 0 will only be allowed

until December 31 1999.

Chainsaw mitts are usually to Class 0 with no time limit. There are two types. Type A which are chainsaw mitts which give coverage up to the fingers on your left hand. Type B which cover the whole of the left hand.

Most of the clothing apart from the boots use the long loosely woven fibre that will be pulled into the cutting trevin and clog chain rotation, whereas boots provide a medium that a chainsaw will not readily bite into.

Finally no PPE can give 100% protection against cutting by a chainsaw. Training and safe working practices are essential, workers must not become blasé because they are fully equipped with PPE.

Honey Brothers of Guildford, Surrey, stock a full range of trousers and bib and brace to the latest PPE standards and to

Class A, B and C standards.

The company also stocks tree surgeons trousers which have extra material in the knee and crotch for easy movement. Chainsaw Gloves to Class 0, Type A; Chainsaw Boots to Class 0 and Class 1, Chainsaw Wellingtons to to Class 2.

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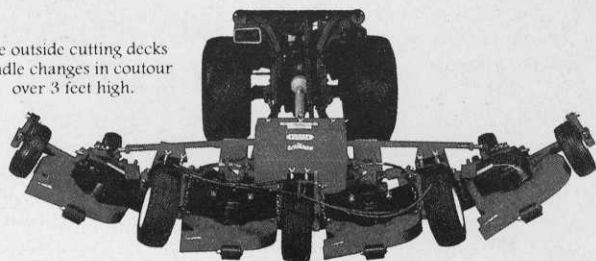


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# Mind your BACK!

**Jon Allbutt concludes his three part series on Health and Safety issues which affect greenkeepers.**

It is a depressing thought that my own back problems, earned after over 30 years of abusing simple principles of correct lifting!, puts me in the that large group of people where it is not even a topic for discussion. It seems to be unusual to find someone of my generation without a back problem, even more depressing is the fact that we all know how it happened! And yet we are not taking some simple steps to ensure the next generation are able to walk upright, don't need painkillers, can play sport and work without fear of ending up laying on the floor for days! Why is it that we accept physical injury as an inevitable result of a lifetime at work. Have you examined your accident records, or staff sickness records lately? Have you calculated the number of days lost in the last year connected to work related injuries, sometimes old ones that keep recurring? Well I do; as part of my health and safety inspection of clubs I ask to see the records, and to be honest, they make boring reading because of their similarity. I could almost predict the numbers of days off with arm, leg and back strains; the accident book entries for slips, trips and other injuries that happen involving handling of equipment and unsafe work practices.

It is also interesting that many employers are failing in their duties to report these accidents and illnesses as required by the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995; yes, 1995, these Regulations have been revised and extended so make sure you obtain the free leaflet "RIDDOR - Everyone's guide to RIDDOR '95" (HSE 31) available from HSE Books or their agents.

The Manual Handling of Loads Regulations 1992, and also the accompanying HSE guides and leaflets, make the position clear:

"Each employer shall so far as is reasonably practicable, avoid the need for his employees to

undertake any manual handling operations at work which involve a risk of their being injured"... "make a suitable and sufficient assessment of all such manual handling operations to be undertaken by them." (Regulation 4).

This means that the employer (who must be competent to carry out the work, or employ someone who is) identifies those aspects of the work that are likely to result in injury. In conducting a risk assessment of each identified task a decision must be made whether risk can be avoided by changes in design, or the use of mechanical equipment. If it cannot be avoided then staff may need to change work practices to reduce the risks of injury. A good example of this is to use a two man lift instead of struggling on ones own and risking an injury.

In identifying those manual handling tasks that can be eliminated by changes in design and work practices the following key areas are common in greenkeeping:

1. The delivery and subsequent manhandling of goods such as bags of fertilisers, pallets of turf etc. can be mechanically handled by the use of pedestrian controlled fork lift or pallet trucks. In this example it will be necessary to ensure yard and shed surfaces are sound and have no steps; this may involve some resurfacing work. Some doors will need changes of width and height to accommodate pallets and trucks. By making such changes in work practices there is also the opportunity of increasing operational efficiency by 20%, or more.

2. Hitching implements where staff have no formal training in tractor driving or hitching procedures. The common technique of dragging the implement to the tractor is incorrect and unsafe. The risk of injury is increased when the yard is unsurfaced and muddy with the chance of a slip or a fall. To avoid injury staff should be trained and supervised to see that the correct procedures are followed.

3. Loading/unloading equipment such as mowers on and off trailers without proper ramps or low loaders. There are some very

good designs of small low loader trailers that are ideal for carrying small machines behind utility trucks.

4. In the workshop where cutter units and other equipment needs to be lifted onto benches, often without any help, there is a risk of injuries to arms, legs and back. By providing a hydraulic platform or mobile hydraulic workbench the risk is almost eliminated

Regulation 4 also requires that the employer carries out training of staff (or arranges for it to be carried out) in safe handling techniques that are directly relevant to the workplace and uses the risk assessments to ensure staff are fully aware of their duties.

The Regulations also require that the significant findings of the risk assessments be recorded and made available for the use of staff.

The consequences of not carrying out these essential risk assessments and implementing an accident reduction programme, will be a continuing loss of time at work, the risk of staff being seriously injured and possibly unable to continue due to partial disablement.

There is of course another reason for dealing with this important health and safety problem; an employer has already been prosecuted under these Regulations following an investigation into an accident involving an employee who injured his back at work.

There are real efficiency benefits to be had from reducing manual handling at work, so what are you waiting for?

(If you would like further information ring Jon Allbutt on 01959-575575).

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# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## Scotland Scottish Region

Was there ever a saying so true as, "the sun shines on the righteous". On Tuesday May 28 it poured rain all day, on Thursday May 30 it poured rain all day, so what happened on Wednesday May 29? Of course it was the Scottish Region Final of the Hayter Challenge and what a grand day it was too. The sun shone, a reasonable temperature and just a light breeze, perfect! Royal Aberdeen Golf Club lies on Balgownie Links, a natural links which must rank high in the list of best links in Scotland.

Even though it was just a light breeze it was still a very stern test, in fact many found it rather more than stern. The first criteria was hit the fairway off the tee or you are in trouble and with quite a few long hard par fours scoring was never going to be easy. However Sam Morrison and his staff had the course in excellent condition, especially the greens and there could be no excuses laid on the course. We were met at Royal Aberdeen with great friendliness and hospitality from all on the staff and our thanks go to the Management staff and to the clubhouse staff under Maureen Sinclair, the service was first class and the food wasn't half bad either. Your sticky toffee pudding was excellent Maureen.

We were delighted to have BIGGA Chairman Dean Cleaver and Executive Director Neil Thomas join us for the day and what better place for Dean to have his first taste of golf in Scotland (don't ask him about his two at the 8th) We were especially pleased to have with us for a meal and to present the trophies the Captain of Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, Jim Christie. A true gentleman and host we learnt quite a bit about Royal Aberdeen over the meal. And to answer the question that Royal Aberdeen had posed to Sam Morrison, yes we did think the course was in great shape. Sam, of course, as well as being Head Greenkeeper is also Chairman of the Scottish Region, so between an early morning start making sure the course was ready for us, then playing in the tournament and acting as host to our guests he must have been a tired man that night. The fact he did

not get to bed till 2am the previous night would have nothing to do with it, of course. But what about the important people and none more so than our sponsors Hayter led as ever by that, forced to live south of the border to earn a crust, Scotsman Kim Macfie (we'll accept that, Kim as long as you don't lose your accent) It's a great tournament Kim it gives so many people a chance to compete locally, regionally and nationally and we are indebted to Hayters for giving us this opportunity. The next most important people are of course the players and we had a great mixture from far and wide, and I'm sure the Dumfries lads did not get home the same day they started out. However it was a marvellous day, well as I said at the beginning "THE SUN SHINES ON THE RIGHTEOUS" Out of all those good players the following were the best and they qualify to represent Scotland at Fairhaven in September.

Cat 0-9: George Mitchell, Newmachar, 73-3-70; Bob McKay, Prestwick St Nicholas, 80-9-71; Ian Bell, Glencorse, 78-6-72.

Cat 10-18: Brian Hillen, Easter Moffat, 86-15-71; Tom Hindmarch, Erskine, 86-14-72; John McLachlan, Brunston Castle, 86-12-74.

Cat 19-28: Graham Shearer, Balmore, 98-24-74; Gordon McRae, Ratho Park, 97-22-75; Garry Crosbie, Dumfries and County, 97-22-75.

Inter Section Prize: West Section. Elliott Small

## North

The Section outing at Cruden Bay was a great success with 70 members, guests and trade participating. All credit to Hamish Stephen and his staff for presenting the course in such great condition, the only complaint I heard was from Scottish Chairman Sam Morrison about the stone in the 18th fairway which must have been there as this was the only way he reckoned Gordon Mckie could have beaten him in the longest drive competition. Seriously though, I envy Hamish having such beautiful links land to work on, no wonder Cruden Bay is so highly rated in world golf. The lucky prize winners were as follows: Scratch, 1. Colin Forbes, Aboyne 73; 2. Bradley Wood, Westhill, 79. Class

One, 1. Steve Sullivan, Craigiehill, 75-4=71; 2. Iain Macleod, Tain, 80-4=76; 3. Kevin Peace, Inverurie, 81-4=77; Class Two. 1. Gordon Moir St Andrews.79-7-72; 2. Gordon Mckie, St Andrews, 87-11=76, 3. Ken Kinnaird, Grantown-on-Spey, 89-12=77. Class Three, 1. Steve Simpson Fraserburgh 95-18=77 (bih); 2. Wilson Morrison, Alford 96-19=77; 3. Keith Wood, Hazelhead, 101-22=79. Veterans. 1. George Asher, Kemnay, 104-28=76; 2. Roy Donald, Oldmeldrum, 86-7=79. Apprentice. 1. Michael Reid, Newmachar 98-16=82, 2. Kevin Keith, Fortrose, 103-15=82. Trade. Pat Allan, Stewarts, 84-6=78. Guest. Chris Campbell. Special prize Anne Strathnairn. Nearest the pin Patrick Wood Newmachar. Longest Drive, Class One, George Mitchell, Newmachar. Class Two, Gordon Mckie St Andrews. Class Three. Wilson Morrison Alford. Amid cries Of 'fix' Chairman Andy Wilson won the scorecard draw for the BIGGA Blazer. The winners of the first four draws of the 200 Club were: January £30 James Peace Newburgh GC, February £30 John Geddes Macdonald Ellon GC, March £40 Iain Macleod Tain (at last!) and April £100 Gary Urquhart Nairn GC. A final big thank you to Cruden Bay for making us so welcome, and we look forward to returning one day to see the new clubhouse shortly

This month sees the Open Championship at Royal Lytham and I hope to be there with Downfield's Paul Murphy to represent the Section on the Greenkeeper Support Team. Let's hope for a good week. Also this month at the Carnegie Golf Club at Skibo Castle in our section, we have the opportunity to see a challenge match in the Shell Wonderful World of Golf series. The match is between Greg Norman and Fred Couples and I believe is, the only one to be held in the UK, so if you have got the time to spare on Sunday July 14 you know where to go.

Finally congratulations to Muir of Ord Assistant Stevie Macintosh on winning the North District Championship at windswept Tain with a 36 hole score of 142, just two over par which was excellent scoring as a cold North West wind gusted over the course all day. Iain Macleod

## Northern North West

Penrith GC, once again played host to the Cumbria Cup competition, sponsored by Course Care. This competition in its second year, is mainly for greenkeepers in the N/W section, who work in the Cumbria area, and are out on a limb as far as getting involved with most of the N/W competitions. Course Care sponsored the day, the prizes, and the meal for the competitors. We were also honoured to have Lord Whitelaw, the President of BIGGA, join us for a meal, and the presentation.

The course was in great condition thanks to John Berry and his staff and I must admit I was also pleased to see so much wildlife of the course. (The animals and birds of course).

The spring tournament on the 30th May, was played at Morecambe GC, and almost a record number of 60 played. Myself and many others not having visited Morecambe before, were pleasantly surprised to find, not a links course, as expected, but a well established parkland course, in beautiful condition, with magnificent views of Morecambe Bay, and the lake district.

Mark Broughton, the Course Manager, whom I am happy to say, has gained his Master Greenkeeper Certificate, had the course in excellent condition considering the bad start to the season we have all had.

Many thanks to Morecambe GC, for allowing us the courtesy of the course, and to Ken Dean and his wife, Eileen for the fair banquet they gave us.

The results were:

Best gross. P. Pearse. 68; Best nett. P. Simpson. 80-14-66; Over 55s. W. Shipley. 82-11-71; 2, nett C. Ball; 3, nett C. Stanley; 4, nett J. Coar; 5, nett W. Merritt.

Many thanks to the companies who supported us with the prize table. They were: SISIS, Acorn Equipment, Gary Worrall Course Care, Rhône Poulenc Premier Turf, Miracle Grow, Gem, Hayter.

The competition was also a qualifier for the Hayter Regional Final, and the qualifiers are:

0-9. P. Pearse. W. Merritt. J. Berry. Reserve. C. Hulme.

10-18. P. Simpson. C. Ball.



C.Stanley. Reserve. J. Coar.

19-28. A. Holt. N. Berry. A. Davies. Reserve. J. Fitzgerald.

The regional final to be played at Abergele & Pensarn July 3.

Finally the Roses Match will be played at Whitefield GC, on Wednesday 14 August. A team of 16 will be required so anybody interested please contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

### Northern

Well, it's well into the year and most courses seem to be struggling to get any kind of growth in the right places. But at least everybody seems to be in the same boat, so that's not too bad.

With regards to our Spring Tournament held at Scarborough South Cliff Golf Club, may I thank Nick Gray, Managing Director of Martin Brothers (UK) Ltd, for their kind sponsorship of the prizes and Mel Guy who represented them on the day.

I would like to welcome the following new members to our section and look forward to meeting them at one of our forthcoming events: Kevin Alderson, Shipley Northcliffe G.C.; Steven Slator, Beverley & East Riding G.C.; Benjamin Pearson, Shipley Northcliffe G.C.; Eric Garlick, Redhall Services; Stephen Dwards, Swingtime GC; Stephen Couzens, Flamborough Head G.C.; Roger Bielby, Hornsea G.C.; Leslie Bunker, Filey GC.

Anyone who has any problems or wishes to put their name down for any golfing days, please contact me Tel: 01484 519829.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Andrea and I were married in the Caribbean on the 13 May 1996.

Simon Heppenstall

### Sheffield

Firstly, good luck to Paul Unwin who after 21 years at Hallowshire GC is leaving. He is to run his own pub in Sheffield called The Hallowshire Hotel which, I am told,

## Around the Green



has nothing to do with the golf club!

Just a reminder of a couple of dates – our annual competition on July 9 at Abbeydale GC and our autumn competition at Hickleton GC on September 2.

Finally it is with regret that I have to report that Tony Wadkins passed away recently. May I, on behalf of the Sheffield Section convey our sympathies to his family.

John Lax

### North Wales

The Section's Spring tournament and Hayter qualifier was held on May 14 at the Bull Bay Golf Club, Almych, Anglesey. Given that we have had such a cool start to the year it was an unusually sunny day with temperatures into the high 70s and hardly a cloud in the sky, at least one member was sighted wearing regulation shorts and I for one was suffering from sunburn the following day. Eighty five members and guests took part in the competition and for those members who did not play, you missed a real treat. We have quite a few thank yous to say for what was a wonderful and most pleasant day out. Firstly to Bull Bay Golf Club, which at short notice provided us not only with courtesy of the course for the day but also with a splendid venue and a good challenge of golf, also to the caterer and his staff who provided a beautifully prepared and presented meal and not forgetting the splendid job done by the bar staff in Re-hydrating us on such a hot day. Our thanks must also go to Andy Peel and his staff for presenting the course in such fine condition, especially the firm, fast

and true greens. Last but by no means least our thanks must go to our sponsors for the day who provided all the prizes:- Hayter, Acorn Equipment, Gem Professional, Grosvenor Nurseries, John Osman Machinery, Ki-Chem, Major Owen, Martin Brothers, Mommersteeg International, Richard Campey, Rigby Taylor and Walker Engineering.

The results of the competitions were as follows:

The best scratch score was achieved by R Cowell 68 – 5 – 63 a little bit of local knowledge might have had something to do with this, he is Captain of Bull Bay. Very well done.

The following qualify to represent the section in the next round of the Hayter Competition.

Cat 1 Pat Valentine 76-6-70. Darryl Davies 81-6-75. Ian Buckley 83-7-76.

Cat 2. Craig Wheeler 83-15-68. Steve McCabe 90-17-73. Andrew Jervis 89-16-73.

Cat 3. John L. Jones 93-22-71. Don Rowland 96-24-72. Stuart McCall 96-24-72.

We are pleased to welcome two new trade sponsors for the section: Aitken Sportsturf (Nigel Prestwick) and Strike Top Turf (David Robertson).

Our Chairman Brian Anderson wishes to thank our Section President Terry Adamson and Vice President Phil Davies for the effort and hard work that they have given to the section over the years and especially in the last few months, it is only with support like theirs that we have such a active and successful section. Brian also wishes to thank Andy Campbell for his support and service. Andy resigned as Section Secretary in May and has transferred to the North West section. It has been decided that all future section competitions will have properly organised starting times. This will entail a bit more work for our Match Secretary (MS) Terry Evans. Entry forms will require you to indicate at what

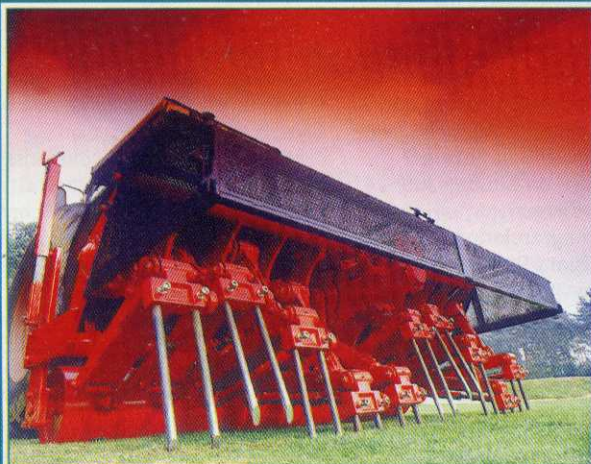
time you would wish to start your game and will need one person to act as the contact for the MS to advise you of your allocated starting times. To make life easier for the MS entry forms will also require you to indicate for each entrant whether they are guest or member. Completed entry forms will of necessity have to be returned to the MS approx. one month prior to the competitions. Please remember that first come will be first served and the earlier you return your entry forms the more likely you are of teeing off when you want to. It should also be noted that as we are granted courtesy of the host golf clubs our guests are expected to be golf club related ie. Captains, Vice Captains, Secretaries, Green Chairman etc. Our Match Secretary, Terry Evans would like the winner of the '95 Christmas Cup at Prestatyn and the cup winner of the Autumn 95 Chirk competition to contact him on 01352-720692 as soon as possible.

With over 130 members in our section I am sure there must be some news out there or someone with an idea for a new activity or event. Remember that this is your magazine and if you have anything that may be of interest to the rest of your colleagues please feel free to phone me on 0151-336-6675 or write to me at 11 Ashtree Close, Little Neston, South Wirral, L64 9QS. Trevor Johnston

### Cleveland

Our Spring Tournament was held for the first time at the new course at Ramside Hall Hotel golf complex, Durham City. This magnificent 27 hole centre is now fully open to all.

Our congratulations must go to the owner Mike Adamson, for the wonderful layout and to Roger Shaw, Course Manager and staff for the fine fescue greens and fairways and the tee mix of Bent grasses. The condition of all was superb.



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## THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP C



Results: Cat 0-9. 1. M. Hodgson. Overall winner 41 pts. 2. G. Border, 3. D. Crocher; Cat. 10-18. 1. H. Stevenson, 2. A. Reed, 3. R. Lawton; Cat 19-28. 1. T. Cheeseborough, 2. I. Pemberton, 3. D. Joby. Best Nett on Par 3. 1. Pemberton. Best Visitor. J. Pemberton.

Thanks to sponsors Course Care and the other trader suppliers who gave prizes, Rigby Taylor, Aitkens, Skeens and Norman Sneddon.

Thanks to Norman Sheddon for the card marking. It's great to have Norman with us since retiring last year. Thanks Norman.

Welcome to new member Tommy Pickles, Course Manager at Seaham Harbour GC, Co Durham.

News of some of our members is that Phil Walshaw, Head Greenkeeper at Salbrun has pulled a back muscle while Chris Fiddell broke his leg in a motor bike accident. He is slowly improving and we wish them both well. Graham Scott is helping Bob Lawton at Billingham while Chris is off. Bruce Burnell

## Midland Midland

Here are the results of the first golf tournament of 1996. Apologies for the lateness due to me missing the magazine deadline. 1. D. Fellows 68; 2. J. Wood 70; 3. M. Cutler 70; 4. P. Holtman 72; 5. A. Roberts 72; 6. J. Palmer; 7. M. Bryant 73; 8. J. Randall 74; 9. S. Mucklow 74; 10. M. Hughes 74 (All scores nett). Nearest the Pin. D. Fellows; Longest Drive M. Hughes - just beat R. Thomas by the thickness of a tee peg.

J. Brown, who was playing in his first tournament, scored a nett 71 but could not collect a prize as he had forgotten his handicap certificate. Under the Association rules, all players must play in two tournaments before they can receive a prize unless an EGU handicap certificate can be produced. There were four new members playing for the first time - it is good to

hear to new members joining in.

After the tournament there was a handicap review. D. Fellows 11 to 10. As this was for the Hayter Challenge may I remind all players who qualified that the final is on July 16, 1996.

The committee would like to thank all the following companies and their representatives for their support. Firstly, E. Breakwell for being the major prize sponsor and all the other Trade Associates for their raffle prizes. TACIT for sponsoring the Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive. New scoreboards were used on the day, supplied by Bathgate Silica Sands and we thank Mr GM Wood Managing Director for these.

We thank all the staff at South Staffordshire GC for all their help and support and I'm told a good afternoon was had by all concerned. Ken Richardson attended on behalf of HQ.

New members to welcome this month are as follows - James Mannion, Richard Swingler, David Marsh and Richard Jones. Kim Blake

## East of England

Firstly my apologies for the last two months. The reports were not received by Scott so our first Golf Day is a bit short of results and news from the region.

Our first Golf Event of the year was held at Ramsey GC and sponsored by Peterborough Garden Machinery. A poor turn out for our section but all who played had a enjoyable sunny days golf. Thanks to Phil Belton and staff for presenting the course and a good test of golf.

1. Andrew Brown 35pts, 2. Graeme Macdonald 34pts.

The top five placings this year will receive points which will go towards an Order of Merit and the overall winner will receive a BIGGA Blazer.

Our day out in May was played at Market Rasen. This course must be the hidden jewel of the East of England, because it offers all you

can want of a golf course.

A tough test of golf, breath taking holes, tree lined fairways and in excellent condition, pleasant clubhouse and staff and excellent catering. The day was sponsored by Rigby Taylors and Hayters, with prizes donated also from Aitkens, Fieldcare and Purdys. The Rigby Taylor Trophy and decanter went to Richard Smith, Immingham GC, 78 - 12- 66. 2. George Mackay, Lanceby GC, 84 - 17 - 67 who took the Whisky tumblers, 3. Graeme Macdonald, Ryston Park GC, 77 - 5 - 72, who received Brandy glasses. 4. James Dair, Oundle GC, 74 - 1 - 73 took the wine glasses. Nearest the pin on the 18th was won by Les Purdy, who played the last shot of the day and was the only person to hit the green. Rigby Taylor rep, Stuart Jeffs, certainly did not lose any business caddying for John Scothey because his mobile must have gone off 20 times which John said affected my putting (his excuse).

The Hayter qualifiers from Market Rasen to represent EoE at Peterborough Milton in the regional final are as follows

Cat 0-9. G A Macdonald, Ryston Park, James Dair, Oundle, Michael Wood, Thorpe Wood, Richard Owen, Boston West.

Cat 10-18. Richard Smith, Immingham, George Mackay, Lanceby, Kevin Hodges, Northshore, Alan Buckley, Newark Cat 19-28. G Taylor, Market Rasen, G Ogden, Stoke Rochford, F Cobb, Newark, J Hewson, Market Rasen.

A welcome to new members Leigh Siddon and Jonathan Deavin. The next event is at Newark GC on the 26th June sponsored by Purdys, Hayter Regional Final July 16, Peterborough Milton.

Graeme MacDonald

## Bucks, Berks and Oxon

The second golfing event of the season takes place at Henley GC on Monday July 15. If you haven't

entered by now then I'm afraid it is too late because numbers are restricted.

The following day is the Hayter Regional final at Peterborough Milton. I feel pretty confident that the 12 representatives of the B, B&O will do us proud (they can't do any worse than we did last year). Good luck to the Section lads.

Congratulations to Martin Jones and staff for a successful Benson and Hedges tournament. for the benefit of all members local greenkeepers helped with the bunker raking throughout the week. It's probably the only time in my life that I've enjoyed raking bunkers. Mind you I don't envy the guys doing them daily!

If you cast your memory back some months I mentioned the introduction of a newsletter (what newsletter I hear you say) Well hopefully after a few hiccups you have received it now. Hopefully you have some feedback with regards to this venture both positive and negative.

See you all at Henley on the 15th.

Lindsay T. Anderson

## South East Kent

On June 9 the Hayter Regional Qualifier was held at Benton Hall GC in Essex. On a very hot day conditions were very tricky with the ball bouncing everywhere often into the few small ponds hidden around the course.

The Kent Section was well represented and out of the nine qualifiers on the day we supplied four.

The lucky ones are: Cat 1. 2. H. Morgan 3. N. Gillham; Cat 2. 2. R. Malt; Cat 3. 2. B. Abbott.

I would like to thank the Kent players who filled in as reserves at short notice unlike some Section players who failed to turn up at all. On behalf of the players I would like to thank Benton Hall for a super day and for making us very welcome and to Hayter for their continued support with this

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## COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



tournament.

Details for the next competition at Wilderness will be sent out soon with start times.

I would also like to with John Roots a speedy recovery from his car accident recently. Get well soon John.

Watch this space for further information.

Huw Morgan

### Surrey

The Spring Tournament this year had a very good turn out with 51 Surrey members entering. The event was played at Foxhills GC over the Longcrosbie course. Thanks firstly must go to Foxhills for accommodating us in such great numbers and to Neville Shade, the Course Manager, and his staff for turning the course out in such great shape. Also a big thank you to Hayters for their sponsorship and all the rest of the trade's generosity. Results:

Cat 0-9. 1. D. Langheim, 2. D. Murdoch, 3. T. Ingram, 4. A. Freeman; Cat 10-18. 1. D. Jones, 2. G. Pitfield, 3. B. Eyre, 4. G. Kyle; Cat 19-28. 1. E. Stiles, 2. J. Lockyer, 3. J. Roberts, 4. M. Bellarmy. Longest Drive C. MacMillan.

The turnout for this event was outstanding and most encouraging for our Section. I hope those of you who had not played in our Section events before had a most enjoyable day and will be in attendance at future events. Thanks for everybody's support. Keep it up! It makes our job on committee more worthwhile.

There's a cause for congratulations on several items of news.

Firstly to Kevin Day and his family of Woking GC upon the birth of a son, Fraser. Well done! Hope all are well. Also to Mark Bellarmy of the Drift on his marriage to Deborah on May 25. Further congratulations to Puttenham GC's, Tim Watts, who is at present the club's First Assistant. Tim has completed 27 years with Puttenham and at the youthful age of 42 we consider this to be quite a feat.

Forthcoming events include the MacMillan Tankard on Aug 7 and also the Parker Salver on September 12 and the Autumn Tournament on October 3. Entry forms for these events should soon be dispatched if they haven't been already.

David Gibbs

### South West and South Wales Region

We had a great day for our Hayter Regional Final at Salisbury & South Wilts GC on June 12. Everything was perfect and our thanks to the golf club and all the staff for making us feel so welcome.

## Around the Green



A brilliant sunny day with a course in superb condition – we couldn't ask for more...but we got it in the form on excellent food. Everyone recommends the treacle bread and butter pudding.

Results and our Hayter Team for Fairhaven on September 18.

The Section Shield was won by The South West with a score of 924 while the three category mugs are C. Tozer, B. Jones and J. Breyley.

(All scores nett) Cat. 0-9. 1. N. Pring, 69, 2. C. Rawlings, 71, G. Payne, 72. Reserve. B. Emberley.

Cat 10-18. 1. A. Knight, 73, 2. W. Potter, 74, 3. P. Wentworth, 75. Reserve, D. Jenkins.

Cat 19-28. 1. A. Crichton, 72, 2. J. Barr, 73, 3. A. Archer, 75. Reserve, A. James.

Marion Child

### South West

Despite a later date for this year's Westurf, again held at Long Ashton Golf Club, we were once again subjected to some poor weather with heavy rain greeting visitors to the show. This year's events had many new ideas with a redesigned show ground having a central demonstration area, a public address system to publicise demonstrations and products and a major draw prize. There was also a question and answer forum organised by the region with the Association's Executive Director, Chairman, Editor and Membership Officer in attendance. Despite the publicity for this last item it was disappointing to see so few people attending what could have provided some interesting discussion. Improved afternoon weather helped in the success of the day with thanks as ever to Gordon and Marion Child for their organisation and to everybody in the section who helped in the event's setting up, running on the day and clearing up afterwards.

The annual Greenkeeper/Amateur Tournament was this year held at Erlestoke Sands GC. This enjoyable competition is always well supported with this years being no exception as over 50 people played on the day. Don Southey and his staff worked extremely hard to have the course in excellent condition despite the slowness of the growing season. The course itself provided a good test of golf with most of us returning average

scores. However one or two pairs did come in with the now familiar rugby score! Thanks go to Secretary Mike Pugsley and Erlestoke Sands for allowing us and our guests course courtesy, to Trevor and Pauline Head for an excellent buffet meal and once again to Don and his staff for the time spent preparing the course.

The results are as follows:-1. Jason Cooper (Saltford) and Paul Evans 48 points (back 9); 2. Robin Greaves (Thornbury) and Tim Greaves 48 points; 3. Chris Sealey (Chippenham) and Doug Maddison 45 points (back 9); 4. Anthony Knight (Kingsdown) and Robert Pyaz 45 points; 5. Gary Cook (Enmore Park) and Kevin Budd 43 points.

This year's match against the secretaries will be held on the July 30 at Holsworthy GC. Team Captain Terry Humphery may well have been in contact with you for selection by the time you read this report.

Another reminder that Supervisory and Management Courses are being run by Headquarters between October 7 and November 8. Contact Ken Richardson at Headquarters for more details.

Finally I look forward to seeing you all at the Summer Tournament at Mendip GC on July 25.

Kevin Green

### Devon and Cornwall

I start my report this month by wishing Don Hunt of Roffeys a speedy recovery from his sudden illness, Don's commitment to our section has been second to none, we all look forward to seeing Don at our meetings in the very near future.

Congratulations to Michael Bosley of St Enodoc who has been nominated by Cannington College to represent them in this year's Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year. Good luck Michael.

The summer meeting programme is now well under way, unfortunately I was unable to attend the first meeting held recently at Yelverton Golf Club. Our organiser for these meetings Steve Evans reported that the meeting went well. Our thanks to Head Greenkeeper Steve Peters and Yelverton G.C for allowing us use of their facilities. Our next meeting will be held at Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club on Wednesday 17 July, the agenda will be as usual, arrive and meet in the car park at 6.15pm prompt, course walk with host Course Manager Jeff Mills returning to the Clubhouse at approximately 8pm for a bite to eat. If you would like to attend please call Steve Evans on 01208

863647 by Wednesday 10 July. Richard Whyman

### South Coast

Our Summer Golf Meeting will be held at Stoneham Golf Club on Wednesday August 14 1996. The Competition will consist of an 18 Hole Four Ball Better Ball.

Members may bring a guest from their Golf Club or a Greenkeeper Colleague from another Club. The cost of the day will be £11.50 each. All Cheques to be made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section and forwarded along with entry forms stating current handicap to: Mark Webb, 12 Lime Road, Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9LD, Telephone 01962 733061. The closing date for entries is Monday 5 August.

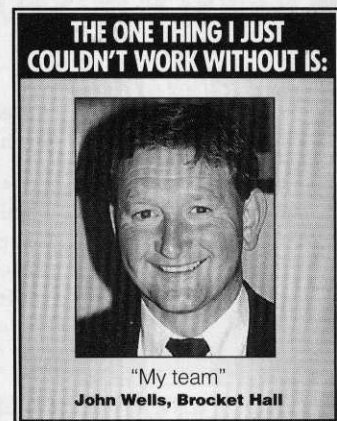
Once again I must ask all the Trophy holders to make sure the Trophies are on the prize table at the end of the Competition.

Westurf has been and gone again. The re-vamping of the show seemed to have met with every one's approval whom I spoke to. Personally I thought it made a big improvement to the show. The Demonstration Area in the Centre was a great success. A number of the Members of the Trade took full advantage of this facility and this allowed demonstrations of their machinery.

We must not forget Gordon and Marion who do so much for Westurf and all the other regional events. Without them these events would just not happen. So thank you both.

It is very sad that I have to finish on a low note as regards to Westurf. "South Coast Section where were you?" You were very conspicuous by your absence. Walking around the show I could count the numbers of you on my hand, Westurf is the main support of our region and we should support it a lot more than we do. Incidentally I do not consider the weather as a reason for not attending. For those few who do make the effort I thank you for your support.

Ken Lodge





**Hugh Tilley explores a very necessary market for greenkeepers**

**M**uscle is required for a whole range of tasks on the golf course, from simply filling a top-dresser to constructing greens, handling fertilisers and digging ditches, and nowadays for reasons of time efficiency and/or health and safety this muscle is inevitably provided by tractor loader, excavator or loader/backhoe.

Many clubs used to keep an elderly (ex-agricultural) tractor with loader, often of dubious reliability, while others had second-hand loader/diggers, however elderly machines can be more liability than asset (and often offend the eye and pride) thus most clubs have replaced them with new purpose designed machines more suited to their tasks. Nevertheless there are still ex-agricultural or ex-construction tractor front loaders and 'JCBs' still in use, but while these may be effective at scooping up sand and loading a trailer or top dresser most greenkeepers see them as cumbersome and too heavy to use for work on the course. Older machines may also be deficient when asked to work hard or lift greater weights, nor are many of them equipped with the 'shuttle gears' or 'quick attach' which makes for faster and easier working, and makes them more versatile.

A quick poll round several local south-west clubs failed to find anyone admitting to having anything except modern and reliable loaders – until further pressed when several greenkeepers admitted to such machines, "retired but useful as a standby", to quote one. One local authority course which previously used industrial loader tractors – passed on by its highways department – has, since winning their contract (under CTT), justified a new loader while for serious digging or excavating such as for drainage or piping in irrigation they now hire.

Perhaps because greenkeepers now see the need for reliable equipment which is cost efficient and justified by the work of the course, most have settled for a compact tractor fitted with a

loader. Where they have a need to excavate or trench, and most do, there are several makes of backhoe specifically designed for compact tractors. However not all compact tractors are ideal as the base for loader or backhoe so it is worth considering the loader when initially specifying the tractor. Retro-fitting "when the club has the money" may not be a good idea for loaders and backhoes when their fit to the tractor is so crucial to functionality allow the dealer or manufacturer to sort out any compatibility or fit problems in his yard, in his time and at his expense.

Clubs which are contemplating serious work for a loader or excavator may be best advised to con-

sider purpose made machines. Hire may also be an economic option. It is important to consider the implications before embarking on self-drive hire, implications of health and safety as well as of work rate and job quality. The best and most cost effective choice particularly for drainage or trenching is often to hire digger complete with an experienced operator, even if does not allow "the boys to play with a new toy". It is also important to remember that some operators are more equal than others – ask locally. All greenkeepers in this feature found operating their loaders easy, and some have become very skilled diggers.

Cheapest of all loaders are the

skid steer loaders, but the whole 'skid' concept is alien to greenkeepers. Small wheeled loaders are more expensive but may be justified for their ease of use and high work rate. All wheel steer and all wheel drive offers minimum damage to surfaces, be they grass, gravel or tarmac. Lift height and capacity may be limiting factors with some smaller machines if trying to fill a lorry. Mini excavators are more specialist but may be justified if there is the work for them. Ability to remove loader and/or backhoe quickly and easily is an ideal more in theory than in practice, few clubs with them ever take them off.

#### **The JCB 2CX at The Belfry**

With 200 hectares and three 18 hole courses plus surrounding woods and boundaries The Belfry has a need for a purpose made loader. Selecting the JCB 2CX gave the complex a compact relatively light machine with four wheel drive and four wheel steering. Derek Ganning, course manager, said that this meant low compaction and no 'turf scrub' in turning, and no tracks across fairways – an important factor when



**Derek Ganning with his JCB 2CX at The Belfry**

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The machine replaced a compact tractor with back-hoe which proved to be inadequate. Derek commented that the loader is used for a wide range of duties on the estate, in particular it has made The Belfry much more efficient on jobs such as path construction, ditching and forming bases for greens and tees. There are also some six miles of ditches to maintain.

As well as the four in one bucket the front loader is equipped with pallet forks which have enabled the machine to unload materials, such as fertiliser bags and 50 gallon tanks of liquid feed. In fact it is the only machine in The Belfry's £2.4 million fleet of machines which can handle this size of unit load. Four wheel steering is particularly effective when working with the forks and in confined spaces. A complete range of bucket was provided for the backhoe, and in addition The Belfry has a grader blade for the machine. Other duties foreseen for the JCB 2CX are snow clearance and sweeping, thus a snow plough blade and brush attachment have been ordered. Derek stated that dealer support, particularly from Dan Conway at Gunn JCB, has been very good and as part of the purchase package he (Dan Conway) arranged for specific members of the greenkeeping staff to be trained at the JCB training and demonstration grounds at Ashbourne. This training is seen as having been invaluable. In fact Derek said it is essential that all operators have a certificate of competency under current health and safety law, and no one at The Belfry is allowed to operate the machine without one.

Since having the machine Derek said he is finding more and more work for it, already there is seldom a day when it does not work and it has become such an indispensable part of the estate that, often required to be in two places and do two jobs in the same time that he is considering buying a second.

#### JCB 801.4 at St Margaret's Golf & Country Club - Dublin

With heavy clay underlying the course St Margaret's has a considerable need for drainage - as a result they elected to buy a 1.4



Lewis Landlord on a Ford New Holland 2120

tonne JCB mini excavator. The course, an 18 hole par 72, is relatively new, and as well as some remedial work there is still some construction to be carried out. In addition the machine has helped to put in the considerable number of trees which have been planted around the course.

The JCB 801.4 is a light and compact excavator which runs on rubber tracks so making a minimum of surface damage. Head greenkeeper at St Margaret's is James Fisher and he reports that he is absolutely delighted with the unit. He has found it easy to use and all eight staff can use it although two have most experience and as a result are the most capable. The machine is now two years old and has 575 hours on its clock, which is not an insignificant number for a machine of this type in this use. Greenkeeper International was told that the machine is a popular machine which is eminently 'borrowable'.

The club has several buckets for the machine, however James said that much of the work is done with the narrow 6" bucket as this makes so little damage. Typical of current usage is an irrigation pipe burst which had been discovered just before Greenkeeper Interna-

tional phoned. Digging down to it took little time and the whole repair was effected in under half an hour. A dozer blade is built into the machine and this simplifies refilling trenches. Another important use for the excavator has been forming bunkers. Maintenance is extremely simple and no reliability or repair problems are reported.

The club also has a larger wheeled loader which is used for materials handling and loading.

#### Lewis Landlord and Landlubber on a Ford New Holland 2120 at Woodspring Golf & Country Club

This is one of the most common combinations of loader and backhoe to be found on golf courses - Woodspring's unit is mounted on a Ford New Holland 2120 tractor, which says Steve Chappell, course manager, provides ample power without being too heavy. It has been on the course for six months and during that time it has proved totally reliable and its maintenance straightforward.

In giving the reasons for the purchase Steve put 'need' as number one - the course is on heavy blue clay, and there are a lot of materials such as aggregate, top

dressing, earth etc., which have to be handled. Several alternative makes were considered, however Steve has previous good experience with Ford (now called 'New Holland') and this together with the price asked (the machine was part of a 'package') and the support available from the dealer, T H White, clinched the deal.

The tractor has manual transmission and four wheel drive, this latter Steve considers is essential to make most efficient use of available power. In fact, he said, the tractor has never been found lacking in power either when used with the front bucket or when operating the backhoe. Both loader and backhoe are quick to attach and detach although to date this has only been done by the maker when demonstrating at handing over. The club was given a comprehensive induction by dealer T H White and Lewis's representative. Steve said that all his staff except the trainees use the machine, and he rated it as "very user friendly." He considered it important that all his staff could use all machinery on the course as this maximised labour flexibility - and their interest in the job. Ten or 15 minutes was about all the time needed for operators to get used to the digging controls - and several operators have become extremely proficient.

The club has three buckets for the backhoe, nominally 200, 300 and 600 mm wide which covers all their main requirements from trenching to ditch cleaning, while the front loader has a simple 4ft wide bucket. The club expects to purchase a set of pallet forks in the future. Loading is usually into top dresser or tractor trailer and for this lift height has proved to be ample.

The tractor is equipped with turf tyres which gives it the versatility to be used for a range of other duties should this ever be required.

#### MF 875 loader on MF362 tractor at Peterstone Golf Club in South Wales

Peterstone purchased its tractor and loader as a "good low-hours second-hand" unit from MF dealer Ted Hopkins who is just a few hundred yards down the road. It was available at the right



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price, in the right condition and at the right time, and while, by Philip Bowes's, joint head greenkeeper, own admission, it is a larger, heavier and more powerful unit than is necessary for loading, the tractor is essentially required for operating a hydraulic gang mower which is the club's means of cutting their fairways. This means that 'quick attach' for the loader has to be just that – and it is, normally taking about five minutes to fit or remove. However there is the proviso that there is something solid, such as a steel building stanchion or the wall of the top-dressing bunker into which the loader can be pushed to get it fully bedded onto its attachment points. Philip also said that it was important that hydraulic pressure was released from the lines before attaching or detaching the unit – or all sorts of difficulties can ensue.

The loader requires one single and one double acting hydraulic

service for operation. The arms being operated by single acting rams means that the loader can't be pushed down into the ground, however Philip did not see this as a disadvantage. More important is having a double acting system for crowding and tipping the bucket as this gives complete control of filling and emptying the bucket and this is particularly important when loading Peterstone's Toro Workman topdresser.

Most of the loader work is shifting top dressing, firstly from where it is tipped (lorries can't get in or turn in) into the greenkeeper's compound, and secondly from this bunker to the topdresser. The bucket matches the top dresser well both in terms of its width and capacity, as a result the Bowes have found the most ideal operation is to use the tractor to transport each load in the bucket out to the topdresser. In this way all 18 greens can be dressed in under five hours.

The tractor does not have four wheel drive and Philip does not consider it is required, his feeling is that if 4WD is required then the tractor should not be on the ground. His view is that four wheel drive is an added cost and complication. It has to be added that Peterstone is a very flat and level course.

In the two years the loader has been at Peterstone it has required no repair or maintenance and there have been no oil leaks in either rams or hoses.

**Kubota ST30 with LA350ST front loader and KL180 backhoe at Bradford Golf Club**

Derek Thackeray at Bradford opted for a 29hp Kubota ST30 with Kubota front loader and backhoe (pictured below), this was bought in January 1994. The ST30 has hydrostatic transmission, has now clocked up about 400 hours, and neither loader nor backhoe are ever removed.

The hydrostatic transmission, Derek says, makes the tractor ideal for front loader work giving it a very fast work cycle, and he quoted the feat of moving 250 tonnes of root zone mix in under two days.

Having both loader and backhoe designed specifically for Kubota is seen as an important guarantee of compatibility as well as providing an assurance of back-up – there is a good local dealer. Bradford use the machine for a variety of purposes but one which occupies it for a considerable amount of its time throughout the year is picking up the grass clippings. The mowers leave these in piles just off tees or greens from whence they are later picked up by the tractor bucket and loaded onto a 3 tonne trailer. The Kubota is (naturally) equipped with grassland tyres and Derek stated that these provide ample grip for most normal use.

The club has a greenkeeping staff of five plus a trainee and all use the Kubota, Derek said the trainee took about half an hour to become proficient.

Asked about its service history, the answer was simply "no problems." In an overall appraisal Derek said he is happy to recommend it to anyone, it was one of the best machines that he has ever bought.



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# The very model of a MODERN APPRENTICESHIP!

Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education Officer and David Golding, Education Director for the Greenkeepers Training Committee continue to answer the most asked questions on education.

## Whom should I contact for more information on N/SVQs on a more local basis?

There are 41 qualified advisers up and down the country (see list) They will be able to identify training needs – whether you need to go to college, require top up training or are fully competent to gain an immediate award.

## How does the industry ensure that national standards are maintained?

Both the GTC Centre and the College Centres have to ensure that a quality control structure is in place. Eighteen of the above advisers are also Internal Verifiers and their job is to ensure all assessors assess to national standards. There are now over 300 qualified greenkeeper assessors throughout the country and to identify your nearest assessor you should contact your Internal Verifier.

## What are Modern Apprenticeships?

They are the latest Government initiative to ensure quality training for anyone under the age of 25. The scheme is open to new entrants to the greenkeeping profession as well as anyone already working on a golf course.

## What is the aim of Modern Apprenticeships?

To raise the standard of the workforce with the goal that those undertaking the Modern Apprenticeship must be capable of achieving NVQ Level 3.

## How much would it cost me?

The training may not cost you or your club anything. A 100% train-

ing subsidy is available for those employers in England and Wales who have a modern apprentice accepted on the training scheme. For full information contact the GTC.

## What about Scotland?

The Modern Apprenticeship framework has yet to be accepted in Scotland but the GTC hope to contract with Local Enterprise Councils in future so that the framework will be accepted in Scotland.

## I thought the Training and Enterprise Councils were controlling Modern Apprenticeships?

They do. The GTC has contracted with one Training and Enterprise Council to offer Modern Apprenticeships to all employers and candidates ensuring that qualified advisors, training, assessment and funding is available.

■ Next month Ken and David will look at how you become an assessor.

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### Scotland

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Alasdair McLaren, Abernethy GC\*  
Donald Menzies, Peebles GC\*  
Stephen Hogg, Drumpellier GC\*  
Stuart Taylor, Glasgow GC\*  
Alan Holmes, Blairgowrie GC  
Ian MacMillan, Balbirnie Park GC  
Paul Murphy, Downfield GC\*

### Northern England

Brian Story, Silloth-on-Solway GC  
Tony Mears, Dinsdale Spa GC\*  
George Malcolm, Middlesbrough GC  
Barrie Gregson, Mottram Hall Hotel\*  
Anthony Davies, Prestbury GC  
David Berry, Bury GC

Howard McAddey

Pat Murphy, Shipley GC\*

### Midlands

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David Leatherland, Kedleston Park GC  
Tony Howorth, Willersley Park GC  
Martin Smith, Ramsdale Park Golf Centre\*  
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Peter Woodward, Moor Hall GC  
Kim Blake, Fulford Heath GC

### Wales

Brian Anderson, Abergele & Pensarn GC\*  
Michael Williams, The Glamorganshire GC

### South West

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Martin Gunn, Temple GC\*  
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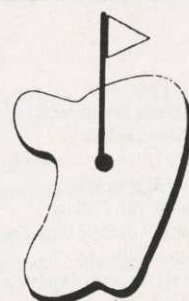
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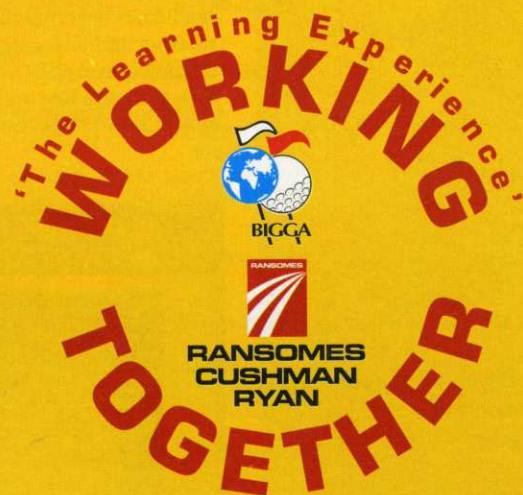
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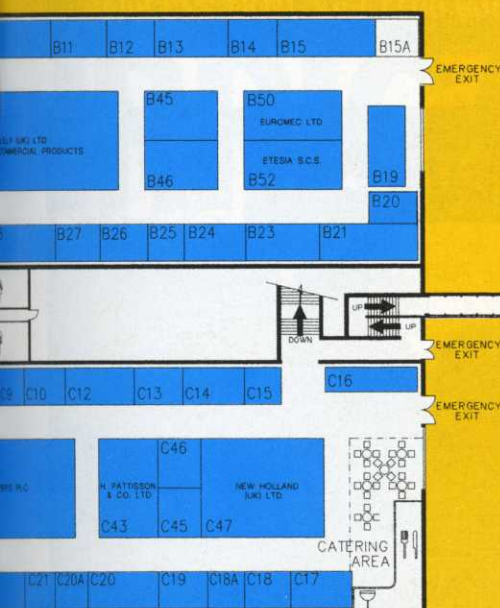
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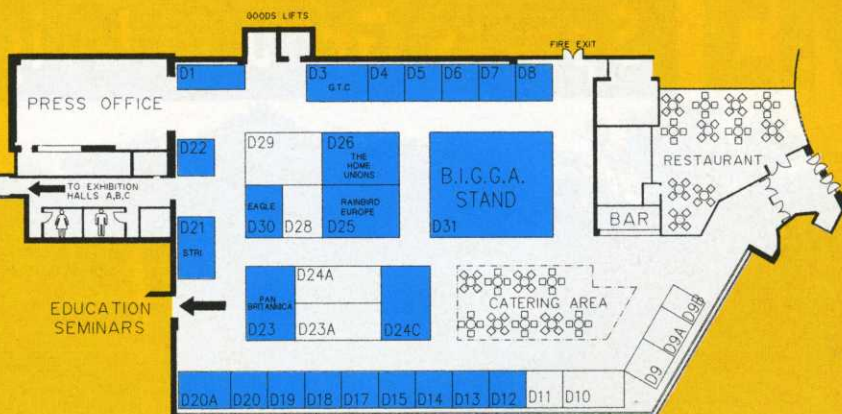
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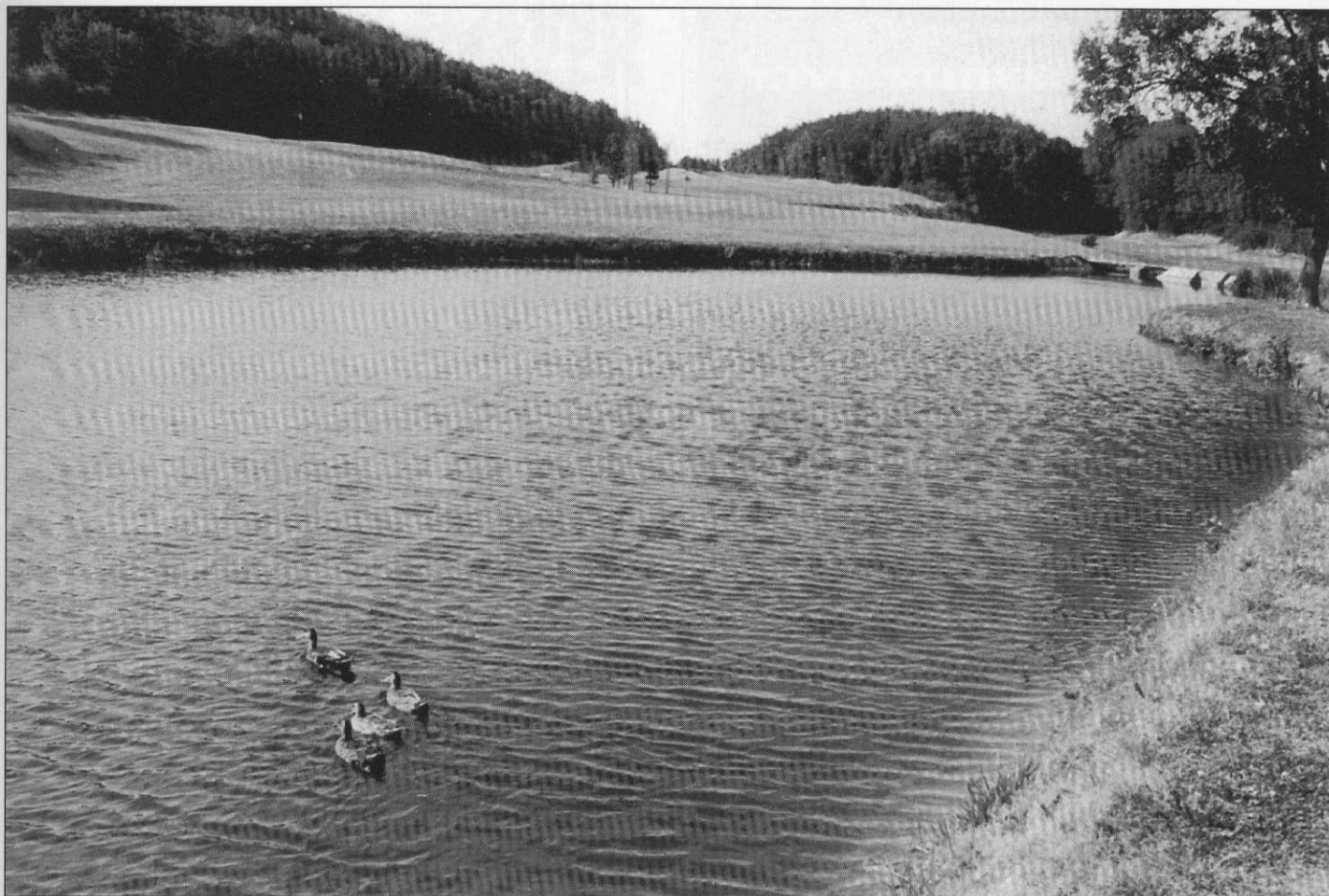
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491





# IRRIGATION WATER

**F**inding a suitable source of irrigation water for golf courses is becoming an increasing headache with heavy water charges, stringent abstraction limits and unreliable rainfall. Although automated irrigation systems are helping to maximise the efficient timing and use of irrigation water, these systems can still be limited by a poor quality water source. As a result, existing water features are being used to supply irrigation water together with an increasing number of specially constructed reservoirs.

The final quality of irrigation water is very much dependent upon the management of these water features and the quality of their original source water. The following is an overview of typical irrigation water sources, some problems inherent in them and how these problems can be managed to maximise irrigation water quality.

## **Borehole and Mains Water**

A readily accessible underground water supply can provide a cheap source of high quality water. If

drawn off chalk, however, there can be problems with high alkalinity and some groundwaters contain high metal levels such as iron. Groundwater supplies are also becoming universally nutrient enriched, as a long term result of agriculture – this becomes a particular problem when water is used to maintain lake and reservoir levels.

Mains water varies greatly in its suitability for irrigation, depending upon the area of the country and the original source of supply. Water drawn from an aquifer is typically of the highest quality, whereas river extracted water, that may have passed through several treatment processes in its lifetime, can have a high level of dissolved nutrients and minerals. Chlorine levels can also vary considerably, both from region to region and from day to day within the same region. Holding mains water in a tank before use, allows any residual chlorine to dissipate.

Local water companies will supply a detailed breakdown of the mains water quality in your

area. This information can be used to determine whether water can be used directly or would benefit from blending with another available source.

## **Lakes & Reservoirs**

Golf course water features have long been used as a source of irrigation water. As a greater understanding of how the natural ecosystems of these features work however, we are becoming better able to manage these features to maximise their irrigation water quality. A well managed water feature can improve the quality of an initially poor water source, whereas a poorly managed one will have the opposite effect.

## **Eutrophication**

Eutrophication, or nutrient enrichment, is an almost universal problem in lakes and reservoirs. Nutrient rich ground and mains water sources, combined with surface fertiliser run off, means that excessive inorganic nutrients readily find their way into water courses. The most visible effects of this are heavy fila-

mentous algal growth (blanket weed) and unicellular algal growth (pea-soup water). As well as generating complaints from members, the effects of heavy algal growth in an irrigation lake range from the constant blocking of pump filters, to an accumulation of decaying algae in the sward.

## **Contaminated Water Sources**

Lakes and reservoirs fed by stream or surface run off, are prone to a wide range of contaminants. The origin of a stream may be many miles from the lake it feeds and in the interim can become contaminated with a variety of industrial pollutants affecting pH, salinity, nutrient and cation levels.

Any water sources originating in urban areas have been shown to be universally contaminated with lead and zinc, together with hydrocarbons from fuel and mineral oils. All these pollutants will accumulate in the sediment of a lake, ultimately accumulating in the rootzone through irrigation.



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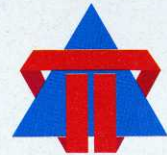


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# IRRIGATION WATER



## On Site Waste Treatment

The distance of some courses from mains drainage means that sewage effluent may be treated on site by systems ranging from a septic tank, to a full biological waste treatment plant. This treated waste is typically discharged to a water course feeding an irrigation source.

When working efficiently, a waste treatment plant produces large quantities of inorganic nutrients, nitrates, phosphates and minerals, as a result of organic degradation. These nutrients will accelerate lake eutrophication and reduce water quality. When working inefficiently, which they do for a number of common reasons, a treatment plant will discharge undegraded organic solids, together with high levels of ammonia and nitrites and other ecotoxic compounds. Unless heavily diluted, these pollutants will seriously damage a lake or reservoir and will have a similarly damaging effect on fine turf and soil microflora. The problems associated with irrigating with treated effluent are becoming common in southern Europe where water restrictions demand more recycling. It is

important to be aware of the downstream effects of inefficient effluent treatment so remedial action can be taken before long-term damage is caused.

Many fine turf problems resulting from poor water quality are cumulative, with the cause being masked as a result. Most irrigation water related problems can be determined however, through analysis of water sources and a survey of the lake or reservoir.

## pH Fluctuation

In trying to maintain acid conditions on greens, the use of high pH water presents the most obvious problems. Most lakes are naturally slightly alkaline but degrees of alkalinity vary greatly throughout the country. Alkalinity is typically countered with acid dosing direct to water or by the use of acid releasing fertilisers.

A heavy algal bloom in a lake or reservoir will also significantly raise the pH of the water due to the photosynthetic process. The pH rises through the day reaching a maximum in the evening and then lowers through the night to reach its lowest point in the early morning. If algal growth is heavy, irrigation can be timed accord-

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# IRRIGATION WATER



ingly to reduce the effect of alkalinity.

## Abstraction

Abstraction methods can be tailored to minimise some of the problems inherent in a water feature. Where there is a contaminating water source, water should be drawn off at the furthest point to take advantage of the natural purifying capacity of the ecosystem.

In shallower lakes, where there is a problem of accumulating silt, pump inlets should ideally be floated on the surface to avoid the uptake of any bottom sediments, as these have been identified as one of the causes of anaerobic 'black layer' on greens.

Deeper lakes, especially reservoirs, are prone to seasonal stratification. In some cases, this results in algal growth being limited to the surface layer, making a deeper abstraction point beneficial. Stratification problems can be prevented through effective

**'Modern biotechnologies are being used to combat the problems of eutrophying water bodies with applications in the control of algae, the reduction of silt and the improvement of water quality'**

aeration, which will also help to oxidise pollutants in the water and reduce the accumulation of organic sludge.

## Ecosystem Management

Effective management of a water body can reduce the occurrence of irrigation water problems as well as limiting the impact of a polluted water source. Combat-

ing heavy algal growth is a priority which can be achieved in several ways. Planting a range of marginal submerged and floating plants is an effective means of long term management however, the nature of the water body and its seasonal fluctuations in water levels will determine the most suitable plant types.

The prudent use of herbicides; triazines for blanket weed and glyphosates for floating plants can help to restore a highly eutrophied lake. These products should always be applied by qualified personnel and the timing of application is also critical. The algicidal effect of decomposing barley straw has long been used for algal control with the latest research indicating that the production of the chemical requires light and aerobic conditions. Floating the straw loosely packed in netting therefore, is recommended over sinking whole bales. Certain plants such as the milfoils have also shown

algicidal effects and can be encouraged in shallower water

Modern biotechnologies are being successfully used to combat the problems of eutrophying water bodies with applications in the control of algae, the reduction of silt and the improvement of water quality. Unicellular algae can also be temporarily controlled by the use of environmentally safe flocculants.

The fish population of an irrigation lake should also be monitored and managed. Ideally, planktivorous fish numbers should be limited as they graze on the invertebrates that graze on the algae. Bottom feeding fish should also be restricted in new or developing lakes as they prevent plant growth. Large resident and visiting waterfowl populations should be discouraged, where possible, as their polluting effect on water quality is becoming an increasing problem.

■ David Ward is Senior Biochemist at Symbio.



# NEW PRODUCTS



Ray Malt of The Ridge Golf Course using Bio-Lube

## Environmentally friendly oils: the way ahead?

There is a worldwide concern at the scale of environmental pollution due to a wide ranging source of contaminants, particularly those from mineral hydro-carbons. The lubricants market has long been the target for environmental groups particularly when one considers that, allowing for natural consumption and reprocessing, within Europe a staggering 0.5 million tonnes of mineral oil remains unaccounted for.

To put this into perspective two litres of oil can contaminate one acre of water with the potential for serious effects on aquatic species in the lower food chain and excessive growth of algal blooms resulting in de-oxygenation of the water systems.

Therefore any equipment in direct contact with soil or water is a prime source of contamination and can be considered to be a potential source of pollution. Chain saws are a classic example as the total loss lubrication system employed by them is calculated to deposit approximately 5,000 tonnes of

pollutant into the eco-system. Furthermore it has been calculated that approximately 80% of the total usage hydraulic oil used in agricultural equipment is lost through leakage and/or accidental spillage.

While mineral oil free lubricants have been available for some time it is a misnomer to assume that biodegradability automatically means environmentally friendly as, during the process of biodegradation it is not uncommon for toxins to be generated which can readily accumulate in the eco-system with catastrophic results to flora and fauna.

Bio-Lube (UK) Ltd will be the first oil company to be totally committed to marketing a range of biodegradable lubricants, based on natural vegetable oil technology, with minimal impact to the environment. This has been achieved by carefully selecting raw materials and additives which are completely non-phytotoxic and yet which still meet or exceed the specifications of most engine

and pump manufacturers.

Particular application which will benefit from the all round advantages of the Bio-Lube range of products are:

Golf courses (Reduces potential for damage to greens and fairways due to leakage and spillage) water authorities, forestries, local authorities, power boat users and enthusiasts.

Or in fact any consumer of lubricants who wants to reduce the pollution impact of mineral oils.

The range of products currently on offer includes: hydraulic oils, diesel engine oils, chainsaw oils, 2 stroke oil, rust preventative, animal repellent.

John Le Mar, Managing Director of Bio-Lube (UK) Ltd, believes there is a change in attitudes towards the ever increasing threat of pollution to the environment. With the expected tightening of pollution controls just around the corner, companies who work on the land will have to consider carefully the products they use in the future.

Local seminars will be held and anyone wishing to attend or requiring information/technical data on the complete range of biodegradable lubricants, please complete the card attached inside the back cover of this magazine.



■ Following the introduction of Hoef chemical weed control system Wolverhampton based IPU has launched the Parsasene Weed Wand, an environmentally friendly approach to weed control that leaves no chemical residues, so treated areas are safe for the public. This a unique tool which resembles a walking-stick which uses a 185 gram butane canister is light and easy to operate. Just a touch from the high temperature flame at its tip destroys the cell structure of the weeds and they die in a few days. Because of its precise application it can be used close up against walls or between cracks in paving and even on flower beds. The unit is ideal for



■ Staffordshire-based Turfmech Machinery has introduced a revolutionary way to incorporate liquid or dry materials into greens and tees with virtually no disturbance to the playing surface. Materials being injected are pulled into the ground up to eight inches

deep through the swift moving action of high pressure water jets. The water blasting at extreme force relieves soil compaction while soil amendments, sand or insecticides are placed at the root of the problem.

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# NEW PRODUCTS

use in shopping areas, precincts and car parks in fact any public areas which require weed treatment without leaving chemical residues For the commercial operators and gardening contractors the Weed Wand is an inexpensive addition to their fleet which safely simplifies the task of spot weeding on all types of applications including driveways, paths and patios. The Weed Wand is available direct from IPU at £34.99 inc VAT.

■ The most recent addition to Vermeer's range of rugged stump cutters, the new 252 SC is designed to be both easy to use and environmentally-friendly.

For ease of operation, the 252 SC has a simple control panel, preventing distractions while operating hydraulic controls to feather the sweep of the cutter precisely for optimum results. It

also features Vermeer's Auto Sweep system, that makes stump cutting easier for the operator and reduces stress on the machine.

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■ Roffey Brothers Ltd of Bournemouth has added a new range of slow release fertilisers to its catalogue.

The latest polycoated technology directly from the United States is now available exclusively from Roffey Brothers Ltd.

The new range is very attractively priced, particularly when comparing nutrient analysis and application rates with other competitive products.

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■ Spaldings has extended its range of Truecraft Air Tools to include a mobile Air Greasing System.

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trolley mounted and has a high performance pneumatic pump and grease control gun. It can be used with any standard 12.5kg Grease Keg and has a minimum operating pressure of 30 PSI.

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are stronger and less prone to damage that may be caused during application or subsequent maintenance operations.

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For further details contact Roffey Brothers Ltd. Tel (01202) 537777 or Fax (01202) 532765.

■ Amenity Technology Products Ltd has launched Crystal Clear WSP, a concentrated microbial product that can be used to reduce algal growth by removing nutrients and organic matter from

the water supply.

It retails at £87.50 per case of six WSPs which is sufficient to treat, on initial application 1,500,000 litres.

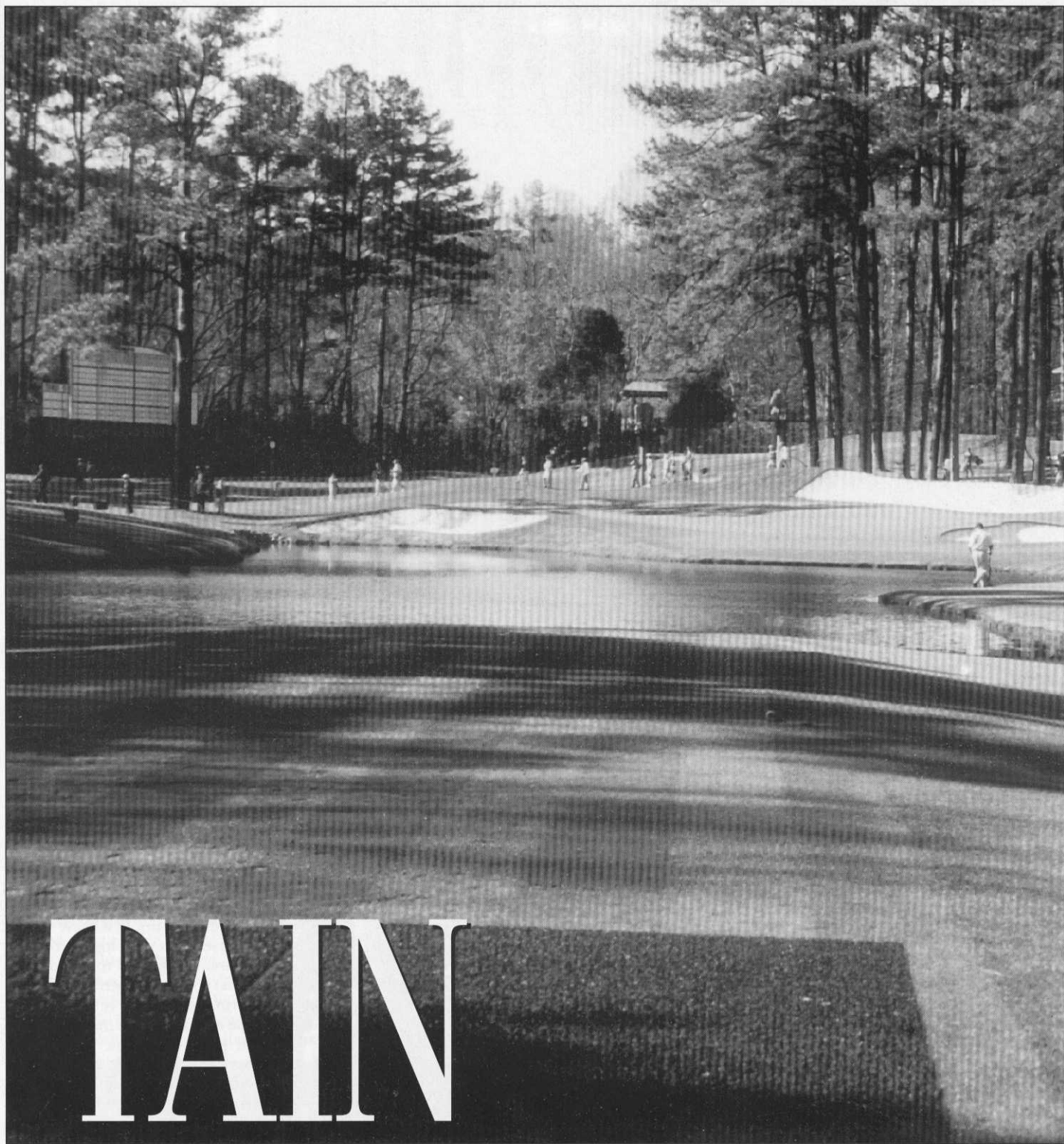
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# TAIN to AUGUSTA!

**I would defy anyone not to be just a little envious when they read Iain Macleod's trip to the States. Seeing the Masters live and playing Pine Valley? I ask you.**

**A**t the 1995 Open Championship at St Andrews my American friends Steve Cadenelli and Shaun Barry introduced me to Dr Rich Hurley of Loff Seeds in New Jersey. Two days

later Dr Hurley was inviting me over to the 1996 Masters at Augusta as his house guest. This was clearly a chance not to be missed if at all possible. Fortunately my good wife, Barbara, agreed and

with considerable help from Steve and Shaun, nine months later, I was flying to New Jersey for the holiday of a lifetime.

On my first day Steve, Shaun and I travelled to Essex County



# TAIN to AUGUSTA!



Augusta Par 3 course. Previous page: the 170yds 16th, tee shot

Country Club to play with another good friend, Ed Walsh. We had a great day playing over Ed's superb course in glorious sunshine.

We spent an evening in New York City, doing a bit of sightseeing including a visit to the Empire State Building.

On the Sunday we were due to play Steve's course, Metedoconk National but the weather was against us so we decided to leave it until the following week.

We stayed overnight in Baltimore before travelling the short distance to Caves Valley Golf Club, Owing Mills, Maryland where Steve's brother Bruce is Superintendent. The three of us played this fine course unhindered as it is officially closed on Mondays. After thanking Bruce for his hospitality and congratulating him on the excellent course, we set off on the next leg of the journey, a seven hour drive to Pinehurst, North Carolina. We actually spent the night at the Hampton Inn, Aberdeen, North Carolina.

The next day we played 36 holes at The Pit Golf Links, Pinehurst. Another lovely course and I experienced playing to my first



Iain with Donald Ross!

Island green. We visited Pinehurst with its eight courses, the number two course considered to be Dornoch man Donald Ross's finest creation. Shaun, another superintendent Dave Pease a man whose reputation owed much to the Lithuanian blood in him, and I travelled down to Augusta and to the house that would be my home for the coming week. That night Dave and myself sank a few Buds (his two for every one of mine)

and another golf related friendship was forged.

The house is actually owned by a gentleman unfortunately named Mr Shanks, and yes he is a golfer. It is rented for Masters week each year by Dr Hurley's Company to entertain guests etc mostly Course Superintendents it seemed.

On the Wednesday morning Shaun, Dave and I travelled the short distance to Augusta

National Golf Club. Wednesday is final practice day and the Par Three Competition. I find it hard to describe my first view of the course without going overboard, awesome springs to mind. The grass looked so perfect and uniform in colour, there is no rough, the area under the trees is cleared of grass and pine needles are spread. The ponds have perfect coloured water in them. Even Georgia had suffered this Winter, so the beautiful colours were not so evident as usual, but they got better each day as the hot weather arrived.

The greens looked excellent and so undulating, something I noticed about the whole course as television certainly levels things out. In fact, looking at the fairway bunker at 18 makes me realise what an incredible shot Sandy Lyle played when winning here back in 1988. I took my camera with me as during the afternoon the course is closed so it would be my only opportunity to take photographs of the course and green-staff working. I walked a few holes watching the Pros' practice then went over to the par three course to watch some of the competition.



**Fairway cutter complete  
with tennis ball!**

I met up with Steve and Shaun and we went out onto the course to see the greenstaff in action. At the 11th we witnessed 12 Ransomes fairway mowers cutting the fairway, each one slightly set back from the other. They cut the fairway one way from green to tee and it takes two passes. Each machine operator has a tennis ball on his control panel and if the machine in front develops a fault he throws the ball ahead and the operator can stop work immediately. The greens were being mowed by Jacobsen pedestrian mowers, two per green. The pond banks were being flymoed with flymos that had nylon line instead of metal blades. We were told that the whole course is cut in about 53 minutes! I soon realised that the six rolls of film Ed Walsh had most generously given me were all going to be used.

Thursday morning we were up early to go and watch the Ceremonial Tee Off at 7.45am. Sam Snead, Gene Sarazen and Byron Nelson opened the tournament by teeing off at the first hole. We spent the rest of the day watching the golf, most of the time at the par three 6th sitting on the bank behind the green. Unlike The Open over here where you can get all kinds of food, sandwiches and crisps were just about all that was available inside the grounds. The sandwiches were excellent



and very cheap as, well. Something I noticed about everything for sale inside Augusta National was the fair prices, even in the golf shop.

It was good to see a few Brits up on the leaderboard on day one, but Greg Norman was the man in form shooting 63.

On Friday morning we decided to try and get a game at the course on the estate where we were staying, Jones Creek. Shaun and Dave had left on the previous morning to head back to New Jersey, stopping off to play golf on the way. Steve, myself and Joe O'Donnel Manager of Sunbelt Seeds, Atlanta who was staying at the house with us, managed to get a time for the afternoon shotgun start at 1.30pm. We were joined by a local member to make up a four ball teed up at the 7th.

Joe calculated that with two full shotgun starts a day during Masters week the club would take in around \$250,000 in green fees alone. We had a very enjoyable game on a very undulating course, where I managed to get up and down five times out of six from greenside bunkers thus earning the nickname "The Highland Sandman" from Joe. The free bar at two tees around the course was much appreciated on this lovely sunny day.

Saturday was spent at the course watching Greg Norman stretch his lead as none of his nearest challengers made a move. Nick Faldo remained in second place but was six shots back, surely too far to prove a threat now! For the second day running I had the shorts on and with the help of my Masters sun bloc the

tan was coming along nicely. Also down at the waterfront is a bronze statue of Arnold Palmer, the start of a Golfers Hall of Fame which is due to open in 1998.

Sunday. The day of reckoning and a stroll in the park for Greg? With only 42 in the field the golf was not starting until 11am, so no need for an early start, which was just as well as we had sampled downtown Augusta night life the previous evening. We walked a few of the early holes to start with and then found a good seat in the stand at the 13th green to watch all the matches come through. The scoreboard behind us started to tell the amazing story of Norman's collapse and the gallery were clearly upset, except for me of course resplendent in my Leeds United shirt so everyone would know I was a Brit. When Nick and Greg arrived Nick was already two shots ahead. We watched both birdie the 13th and then moved to the left side of the 16th to watch play to the 15th green and 16th hole. I think Greg's ball was closer to us than the green at 16 as his dreams vanished in the water. As everyone now knows Nick Faldo closed with a 67 and won the 60th Masters by five shots, which was great for me, a Brit winning when I was present. But you have to feel very sorry for Greg Norman and hope that he recovers from this major disappointment. We stayed on for the prize giving ceremony held on the putting green after the televised event in the Butler Cabin. After the prize giving I spoke with a couple of friends from the R&A, David Rickman and Mike Stewart, from the European Tour who were over



Augusta 11th, fairway mowing 455 yards



# TAIN to AUGUSTA!

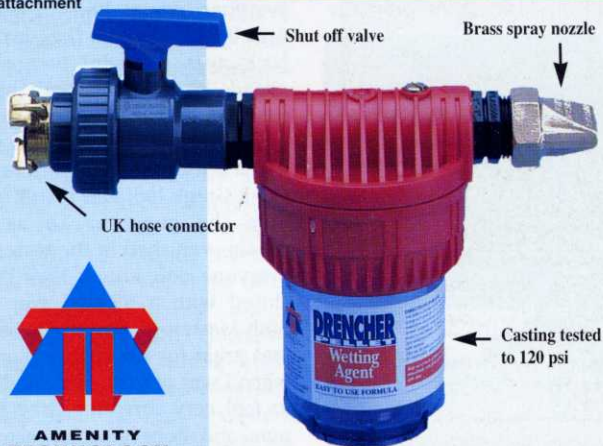
Pine Valley 16th, 433 yards tee shot



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working at the Tournament. During the day several British folk said hello on recognising my shirt.

We dined at an Indian restaurant just down the road from the golf club to let the traffic get away, yes folks there are even Indian restaurants in Georgia.

That night there was only one other person left at the house with Steve and myself. Paul was a Hungarian who had been at the prize giving representing the Hungarian Golf Federation. He owned a golf course in Hungary and was planning to build more so was in search of greenkeeping knowledge. Maybe we should get him to join BIGGA and avail himself of our knowledge. We went to bed at Midnight and were up at 4.30am to drive to Columbia Airport in South Carolina to catch a flight up to Newark, New Jersey at 7am. Shaun met us at the airport and we drove the two hour journey down to Pine Valley to play what many consider to be the number one golf course in the World. Steve's other Brother Eric met us and Course Superintendent Rick Christianson joined us. Here we were on the World's number one course playing a five ball with the course to ourselves as it is shut on a Monday, and no green fee to pay, just caddie fees.

The course is superb with large

areas of sand and trees. The Caddie's advice, to keep the ball in play or you will get double bogies or worse, was spot on. The sand areas are all treated as bunkers, but because of the size they are only raked once a week so when I put my tee shot into one at the 232 yard 5th and found it in an impossible lie the Caddie just said "Welcome to Pine Valley!" We had a great time on a great course and I managed a couple of birdies for good measure.

Rick took us to their ten hole short course after our round. Most of the holes are replicas of either the par threes on the main course or the second shots into the par fours, ideal for practising. Eric is Course Superintendent at a new course in Atlantic City, apparently nine of the holes are modelled on Pine Valley and nine on Augusta, so I look forward to visiting him and playing there one day.

Tuesday April 16 and my final day. Shaun took me to see Robert Hansen at his family owned Bel Aire Golf Club. Robert has an incredible collection of antique golf equipment and he very kindly showed us it. I think it is time to start searching the antique shops. The next stage of the plan was to meet Steve at Metedeconk for golf, but alas the weather was against us again. We visited a shopping mall so I could buy some presents and had lunch. With time running out we headed for Newark airport and my 7.40pm flight home. My return journey was very smooth and by 11.30am I was unpacking at home in Tain, sad that my holiday was over but happy to be with my family.

I have so many people to thank for making this trip possible and for all the great times on it, but will not bore anyone with a list here, I have personally written to all concerned and hope to be in a position to return the favours some day, anyway I have to go back to play Metedeconk National Golf Club.

One final thing I must say is that this whole trip became a reality all because I am a greenkeeper in BIGGA, and had I not been, then I would not have met these people and ended up at Augusta National Golf Club.



# Buyers' Guide

The most cost-effective way of reaching readers of *Greenkeeper International*. Simply ring Carol Dutton or Louise Lunn on 01347 838581 and ask about an alphabetical category listing: the cost starts from as little as £28 per month.

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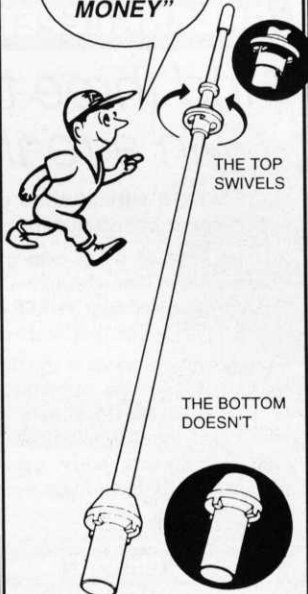
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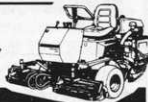
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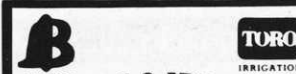
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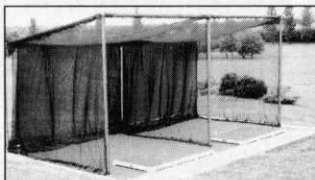
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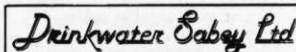
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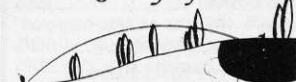
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1 Huxley 358 Greensmower	77hrs ex demo	16,915	13,500
1 Huxley Soil Reliever & Tines	Shop soiled	15,500	12,500
1 Huxley HD 84 Triple Mower	Shop soiled	6,875	5,500
1 Set 358 Tees Units	Shop soiled	2,820	2,000
1 Set 358 Verticut Units	Shop soiled	2,250	1,650

#### Grasshopper

1 Grasshopper 718D Zero Turn Rotary Mower	Shop soiled	8,445	6,000
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#### McConnel (all less 50%)

1 McConnel Dabro 1.1m Green Slitter	Shop soiled	1,934	990
1 McConnel Dabro 1.5m Top Dresser	Shop soiled	2,978	1,490
1 McConnel Dabro 1.8m Outfield Slitter	Shop soiled	3,237	1,680
1 McConnel Dabro Turf Scarifier	Shop soiled	937	465

#### Amazone

1 Amazone 135 Superlift	Shop soiled	8,085	3,000
1 Amazone Top Dresser	Shop soiled	2,400	1,000

#### Ransomes

S/H Bobcat XT4020 Mower 'J' 1992			2,750
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Kingstown Broadway, Kingstown Industrial Estate, Carlisle CA3 0EF  
Tel: (01228) 27611 - Ian Brown/Simon Bell

### FOR SALE

Ransomes Magna Gang Mowers,  
5 Units on Steel Wheels.  
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Tel: 01494 676545

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John Deere 14HP Commercial mower 38" Deck c/w Sully Seat.....	£2,943	£1,800
John Deere 1200 Bunker Rake.....	£6,553	£5,000
Bomford Trojan Pedestrian.....	£3,500	£2,000

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## CHIGWELL GOLF CLUB

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This renowned Essex course some 10 miles North East of London was built in 1925 to a Hawtree and Taylor design. Whilst only occupying some 99 acres it is nevertheless a challenging 18 holes of undulating parkland character with a par of 71 measuring 6,279 yards.

This new position, the result of restructuring, is a challenging opportunity. Candidates must possess recognised qualifications, be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and golf course management and be able to demonstrate a proven track record. The ability to lead, motivate and organise an established team of greenkeepers is essential. There will be an emphasis on high standards of course presentation. In addition you will be responsible for preparation and maintenance of the course budget, staff work programmes and machinery schedules; monitoring actual expenditure against budget; maintaining Health & Safety programmes and presenting monthly reports to management.

In return the remuneration package will reflect the importance of the position.

To apply please write in confidence with a detailed CV and current salary details by 31 July to:

**Richard Danzey, Secretary Manager, Chigwell Golf Club,  
High Road, Chigwell, Essex IG7 5BH**



## Monifieth Golf Links

requires a

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

for its highly rated traditional links 2/18 hole courses.

Applicant must be suitably qualified, experienced and have proven man management skills. A sound practical knowledge of greenkeeping machinery and automatic watering systems is also required.

Salary and conditions negotiable.

No accommodation available.

Apply in writing enclosing CV to:

**Secretary & Treasurer, H. R. Nicoll,  
Medal Starter's Box, Princes Street, Monifieth,  
ANGUS, DD5 4AW**

**Tel: 01382 535553**

## Moor Park Golf Club

require a

### HEAD GREENKEEPER (HIGH COURSE)

to work directly under the Course Manager John Edwards, to ensure the on-going first class condition to this prestigious parkland tournament course. He will be responsible for maintaining the High Course to a superior standard throughout the whole year assisted by five greenkeeper, an irrigation engineer and the backup of full workshop facilities. A new greenkeeping complex is planned for the Club giving excellent working conditions, which should be operational within the next twelve months.

The successful applicant will probably already be a head greenkeeper of a small course, or a deputy looking for his first post as head. He should be particularly aware of the difficulties involved with sustaining an attractive course presentation, despite heavy usage particularly in the busy society season.

Salary will be based on BIGGA salary scales between Deputy Course Manager and Head Greenkeeper (18 holes)

Please apply in writing to: **John Davies (Secretary), Moor Park Golf Club, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 1QN**



## The West Lancashire Golf Club

invites applications for two posts on Championship Links

### DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

A qualified and experienced Greenkeeper required

and

### MECHANIC

A qualified mechanic required. Applicants should have wide experience of greenkeeping equipment and irrigation systems.

Salary by negotiation.

No accommodation.

Application with full CV to:

**Secretary/Manager  
West Lancashire Golf Club  
Hall Road West  
Blundellsands  
Liverpool L23 8SZ**



## Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol

invite applications for the position of

### DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be suitably qualified and experienced.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

**Managing Secretary, Long Ashton Golf Club,  
Clarken Coombe, Bristol BS18 9DW**





## Coombe Hill Golf Club

require an

### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful candidate will be suitably qualified and also hold PA1 and PA2A.

A committed team worker with good communication skills is essential.

Salary negotiable.

Please apply in writing with current CV to:

**Murray Long, Head Greenkeeper, Coombe Hill Golf Club,  
Golf Club Drive, off Coombe Lane West, Kingston, Surrey KT2 7DG**



## Portstewart Golf Club

require a

### FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

for their 45 hole links.

Applicants will have a suitable supervisory qualification or be working towards one as well as being experienced in all matters of greenkeeping and the use of modern machinery.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Applications with CV to:

**Portstewart Golf Club, 117 Strand Road, Portstewart BT55 7PG**



## EXPERIENCED AND QUALIFIED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

For an 18 hole course situated west of London.

The successful candidate will be self motivated, have a good working knowledge of the maintenance of a parkland course together with experience of automatic irrigation, machine maintenance and preferably hold a PA1 and PA2 Certificate.

Please apply in writing with current CV to

**The Secretary/Manager,  
Wyke Green Golf Club (1996) Limited,  
Syon Lane, Isleworth, Middx TW7 5PT**



## Carmarthen Golf Club

requires a

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

For our 18 hole course situated in West Wales.

Applicants must possess a recognised qualification and be experienced in all aspects of course management.

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

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

Accommodation is not available.

Salary is negotiable according to experience.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

**Secretary/Manager,  
Carmarthen Golf Club, Blaenycloed Road,  
Carmarthen, Dyfed SA33 6EH**

**Tel: 01267 281588**



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Please apply in writing with full CV and career details marked private and confidential to:

**Wendy Osborne  
Headland Agrochemicals Ltd., Norfolk House,  
Great Chesterford Court, Great Chesterford, Essex CB10 1PF.**



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## ASSISTANT COURSE MANAGER

You should have a minimum of five years' relevant experience to include at least one year in a supervisory role. A management qualification, or working towards one and a spraying certificate are essential.

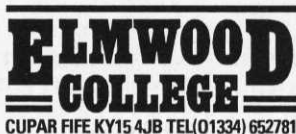
Applicants must have experience with computers and automatic irrigation systems. BIGGA rates will apply.

## FIRST ASSISTANT/INSTRUCTOR

Applicants should have a minimum of 3 years' relevant experience and a National Certificate in Greenkeeping (or equivalent). A willingness to continue with management training, a supervisory qualification and possession of the spraying tests would be advantageous. BIGGA rates will apply.

Further details and application forms for above posts are available from the address below.

Closing date for applications 26th July 1996.



# Dudley Golf Club

require a

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping, use and maintenance of machinery and staff supervision.

Salary in the region of  
£17,000 per annum - negotiable  
Accommodation available  
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*Please write or telephone for an application form:-*

The Secretary,  
Dudley Golf Club Ltd.,  
Turners Hill, Rowley Reges,  
Warley, West Midlands, B65 9DP  
Tel: 01384 233877



## Mittelrheinischer Golf-Club Bad EMS e.V.

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## HEAD GREENKEEPER

This post will become vacant on 1 October 1996.

The successful candidate must have the ability to exercise personal authority and to manage all the work belonging to our golf course. He should have a good knowledge of greenkeeping and should be familiar with necessary machines. He should be able to lead the course workers and to work in harmonious cooperation with them.

He should also have a basic knowledge of the German language and in writing.

He will be responsible to the President and Head of Greens.

The successful candidate will be offered a three year contract, which may be renewed by mutual consent for a further period.

Candidates should write with references to:

Mittelrheinischer Golf-Club, 56130 Bad Ems  
Denzerheide, Germany



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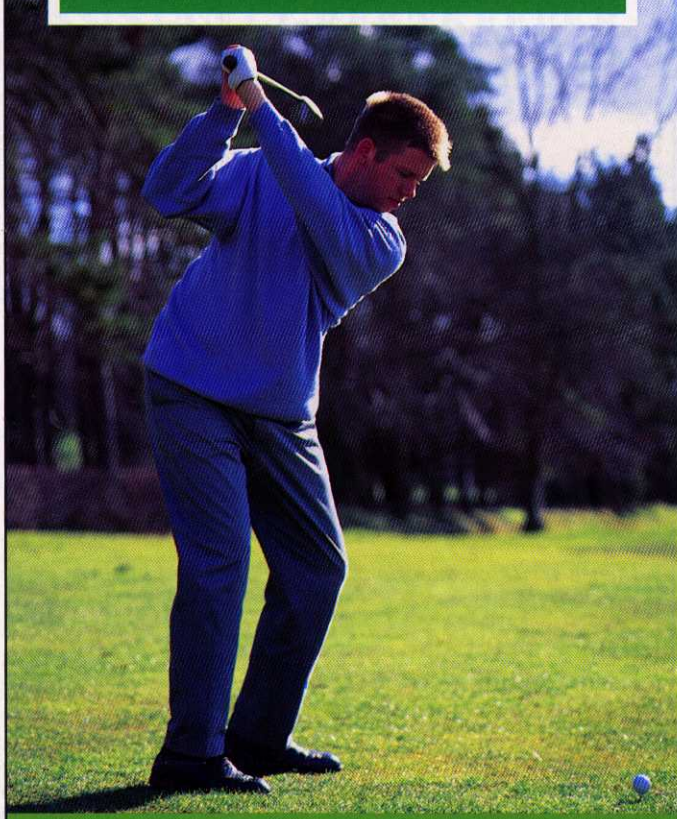
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# GREENKEEPERS Stars

Greenkeeper International has engaged an astrologist for the month who has taken a look at the stars and passes on the following advice with a greenkeeping slant to it. Please contact the magazine if our version of Russell Grant hits the mark because if he is successful he may be re-engaged.

## **Cancer (June 23-July 23)**

A superb month for all Cancerians. Your efforts will be appreciated by your colleagues and your superiors and away from work you will have success when it comes to matters of the heart.

## **Leo (July 24-Aug 23)**

A surprise and unwelcome bill will put a blight on July for all Leos, but don't worry, once this has been cleared your financial outlook will be a lot brighter and you'll have money in your pocket later in the year.

## **Virgo (Aug 24-Sept 23)**

Virgos should be extra careful this month as an accident either in outside work is likely to keep you off the golf course for a few days. Don't take any chances with safety.

## **Libra (Sept 24-Oct 23)**

Frustration is a possibility as a vital piece of equipment breaks down just when it is most needed. Be vigilant this month and check all equipment a couple of days before its intended use to give yourself a chance of repairing it before it is too late.

## **Scorpio (Oct 24-Nov 22)**

An unusual star configuration is a sign that it is the ideal time to tackle a job you've been putting off for a while whether it be on the course, in the office, or at home. If someone offers you a game of golf take it. - July is a good month for all Scorpio golfers.

## **Sagittarius (Nov 23-Dec 21)**

It's the busiest time of the year but it is also the right time to consider what you are going to do with your holiday. Listen to another member of your family on this matter and act on the advice given.

## **Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 20)**

A good month to keep your head down and avoid confrontation especially when it comes to arguments with a member. You might win the battle but you are likely to lose the war of words.

## **Aquarius (Jan 21-Feb 19)**

Make sure that you take whatever opportunity to relax as you can this month. It's a busy time but the odd picnic or taking your partner to the pictures is the best way to ensure that you make it through July.

## **Pisces (Feb 20-Mar 20)**

Don't be afraid to take responsibility for a job this month. An ability to take charge and use initiative will be noted and go down well with your superiors and more responsibility will come your way in a more formal manner.

## **Aries (Mar 21-April 20)**

Ariens can expect a busy month in July. A hoped-for day off will have to be cancelled due to the amount of work brought on by the improving weather. This will lead to an argument with your partner.

## **Taurus (Apr 21-May 21)**

Be careful of flying golf balls this month as the planets Mars and Pluto Jupiter combine to show danger in the skies. Wear a hard hat and listen out for those distant cries of "Fore!"

## **Gemini (May 22-June 22)**

You will find something valuable while working out on the course. You are likely to receive a reward from a relieved owner and praise from your superiors for not succumbing to temptation.



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