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■ The next edition of  
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# GREENKEEPER

International

**JUNE 1996**

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There she blows: Seacroft, venue for this year's National Tournament  
Picture by Scott MacCallum

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# GREENKEEPER

International

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# Developing the Regional Administrator's role

It is a pleasure this month to welcome Derek Farrington as BIGGA's Part Time Regional Administrator in the South East Region. Derek is recently retired from his role as Manager of the Surrey County Staff Club which is unique in local government and provides recreational, social and conference facilities for staff of Surrey County Council, Royal Borough of Kingston, Kingston University and Kingston College. Prior to this he had been employed as a Principal Management Services Officer. Derek has settled in Worthing in West Sussex and now sees golf taking over from cricket as his main interest. He is currently a member of Coombe Wood Golf Club, Kingston. I wish him well in his



## BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

new role and he will soon become a familiar figure to our South East Region members.

In writing of Derek's appointment, it seems an opportune

moment to reflect on the developing role of the Regional Administrator. Back in 1987 when the regional and section structure was established, the appointment of five Regional Administrators was considered essential in order to ensure the efficacy of administration at regional level. Funding was extremely limited and the call went out for volunteers. These were soon forthcoming and in the intervening years, although personnel have changed from time to time, these posts have proved significant in ensuring the smooth running of the Association. As time went by and the Association was set on a substantial growth curve it became ever clearer that the burden of administration was increasing while the development

of the Association indicated the need for a similar development in the Regional Administrator's role. In recent years it has become apparent that the demands on the Regional Administrator are such that it has now become exceedingly difficult for him to balance the needs of his region against his commitment as a full-time employee of a golf club. The South-East Regional Board was the first to recognise the incompatibility of the respective demands on the Regional Administrator and, after due consideration by the Board of Management, the appointment of the first employee Regional Administrator in a part-time capacity was sanctioned in the South-East Region. Geof Hills was appointed in May of 1995 and following his tragic death in Harrogate in January he is now succeeded by Derek Farrington.

The Midland Regional Board has now set off down the same road as the South-East and an appointment in this Region is now imminent. This is an appropriate opportunity therefore to pay tribute to the excellent work undertaken by Roger Willars in the Midland Region. It has been a pleasure to work with Roger and I know from the many comments I have received from members in the region just how much his services have been appreciated over the years. It has been a job well done.

Just how then does the Association envisage the development of the Regional Administrator's role to meet the present day needs of our members? In a gradual, phased movement to "employee" rather than "volunteer" posts, the Board of Management's philosophy has centred very much on the need to establish lines of communication with all golf clubs in the Regions as well as with Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers and their staff. Allied to this is the need at regional level to implement membership drives to increase the Association's membership. The Regional Administrator will have a clearly defined role in promoting the welfare of the individual member who in turn will be encouraged through his/her section to contact the

## New Marketing Manager's mission for the Association

BIGGA's new Sales and Marketing Manager is 32 year-old James McEvoy, who joins the Association from GPT Ltd, the telecommunications company where he was Product Launch Manager. Greenkeeper International put some pertinent questions to him:

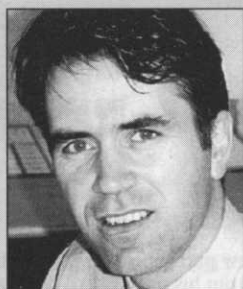
### What attracted you to BIGGA?

I saw in BIGGA the opportunity to use the marketing skills and experience I have acquired in the rapidly growing telecommunications industry to good effect in another fast growing industry. Also the fact that I am interested in golf and am a member of a golf club (*James plays off 8*) and seeing things from the other side of the game made me extremely interested in this career move.

### What are your initial aims?

BIGGA is a highly respected organisation with a well established membership. My initial aim will be to help support the membership and raise the profile of greenkeepers within the golf industry and beyond.

The Association has many



James McEvoy

other relationships within the industry and I will be aiming to continue and nurture these contacts.

### How will you achieve that?

I would like to increase the membership numbers using direct marketing techniques and database information to more accurately target our markets.

### Anything else?

I'd like to find out exactly what greenkeepers want from BIGGA. I believe that we are here to provide a service and help to represent greenkeepers. It is important therefore that we work as closely together as we can.

### What can you see for us in the future?

To help widen our opportunities and improve our profile we must utilise all that technology can offer. This is as true in marketing as it is in greenkeeping.

The Internet and all that it offers is one area that can be explored. Here we can have pages which our members and the industry can tap into providing pages from *Greenkeeper International* and any other useful information.

### Tell us a little about yourself

Well, my career background is that I have worked in telecommunications as both an engineer and then marketer for 16 years.

My main interests are sport and food! I've represented Lancashire Schools at cricket and Liverpool schools at football but now prefer the more genteel sport of golf.

Sadly I'm a keen Evertonian which is a little unfortunate on Merseyside - which makes leaving to move to Yorkshire a little easier to bear.

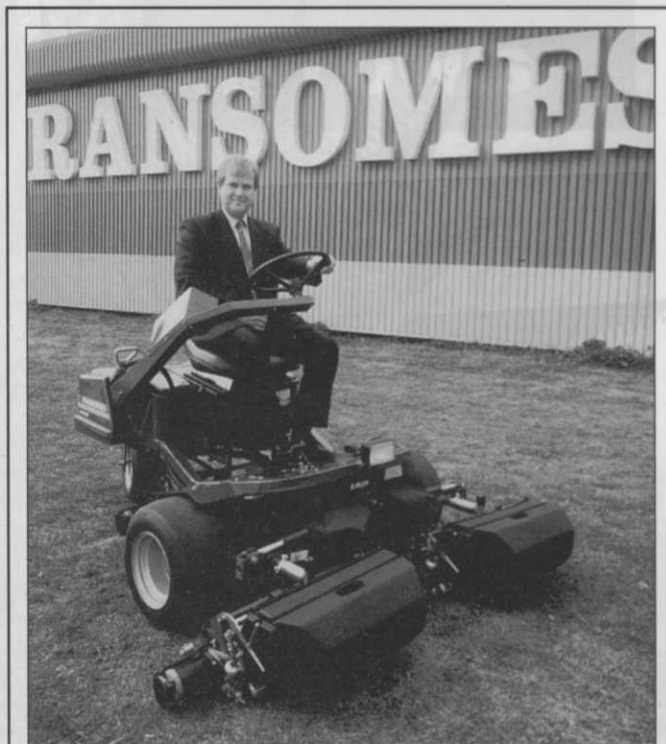


Derek Farrington

Regional Administrator when a need arises. While the Regional Administrator will have an administrative and organisational role to fulfil in his Region, there will be an emphasis on personal contact with the individual member and importantly with the golf club through the Chairman of Green and Secretary. BIGGA's role will become better understood in golf clubs while there should be discernible benefits for greenkeepers' professional development particularly in terms of support from within clubs for educational and training programmes. The Regional Administrator will need time and there will be large geographical areas to be covered but he will have a key role in the further development of both BIGGA and its members interests.

As I have stated, the Board of Management has embarked on a phased programme of implementing "employee" as opposed to "volunteer" Regional Administrator posts. Subject to financial considerations, the Board of Management has set a target date of 1st October 1997 to establish such posts in all five regions but, in a phased programme, the timing of the remaining appointments will be line with the wishes of the individual Regional Boards and the prevailing circumstances in those regions. In conclusion, the work of the Regional Administrators and their contribution to BIGGA, both current and past post holders, since 1987 needs to be recognised. These are members who have given freely of their time to promote the best interests of their Association. In doing so, they have had to balance their Association's demands and their full time roles as golf club employees. It has not been easy and I thank them for their unceasing efforts which have contributed in a substantial way to the strong, professional association which they and their fellow members can enjoy and participate in today and which is well set to meet the challenges of the future.

# NEWS



## New MD for Ransomes

Jeremy Hockham, pictured, has been appointed Managing Director of Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies Ltd.

Given direct responsibility for managing and developing the people, programmes and business prospects at Ransomes' Ipswich site, Mr Hockham's appointment will enable Ransomes Group Chief Executive, Peter Wilson, to direct closer attention towards other parts of the business, as Ransomes contin-

ues to seek and implement cost and efficiency improvements both in Britain and overseas.

Gaining a First Class Honours Degree in Engineering at Brunel University and an MSc in Robotics and Automated Systems from Imperial College, London, Mr Hockham has appropriate previous experience at British Aerospace and the Chloride Group. Aged 35, he is married with two young daughters.

## Greenkeeper moves on

Headland Amenity has appointed former greenkeeper Jim Darling as its northern amenity manager.

Jim, pictured, will service the amenity sector in Scotland, Cumbria and the North East of England providing expert technical advice to greenkeepers and turf managers in the area. He will also service the existing Headland Amenity distributorship within the region.

Formerly a sales representative for Vitax, Jim is a qualified greenkeeper and has been head keeper at a number of well-known courses. His main hobby is golf.



## HAYTER CHALLENGE

### Undie-cover reporter fails to do his job

News from Headquarters is that Ken Richardson has been sacked from his role of part-time news gatherer at Hayter Section events for failing to inform the Editor of the strip-pergram who "did her stuff" on the 4th green at Sene Valley in Kent. Worse still he didn't even take any pictures.

Anyone wishing to replace Ken and provide such titbits of information at future Hayter events should contact the Editor.



John Moorhouse, John Wells and Jason Hatton, winner of the Mid-Anglia Section qualifier



Robert Washbrook, Robert Phillips and Jason Shepherd with Hendon Club Captain David Taylor at the London Section qualifier

Ian Buckley, the Welsh qualifier to represent BIGGA in the inaugural Hayter International Cup, has featured in a superb press release put out by his club, informing people of Ian's success and wishing him well for the competition.

## ISO 9000

In last month's *Greenkeeper International* it was stated that "Toro has been awarded the prestigious ISO 9000 certification for international quality consistency at its US manufacturing plant in Wisconsin. It is the first commercial turfcare equipment manufacturer to receive the designation."

Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter would like to point out that in the UK, BS 5750 was the forerunner to ISO 9000 and those accredited with this standard were therefore also accredited with ISO 9000 when this became the recognised international standard. Hayter achieved BS 5750 in January 1993 and, as stated, subsequently became recognised under ISO 9000.

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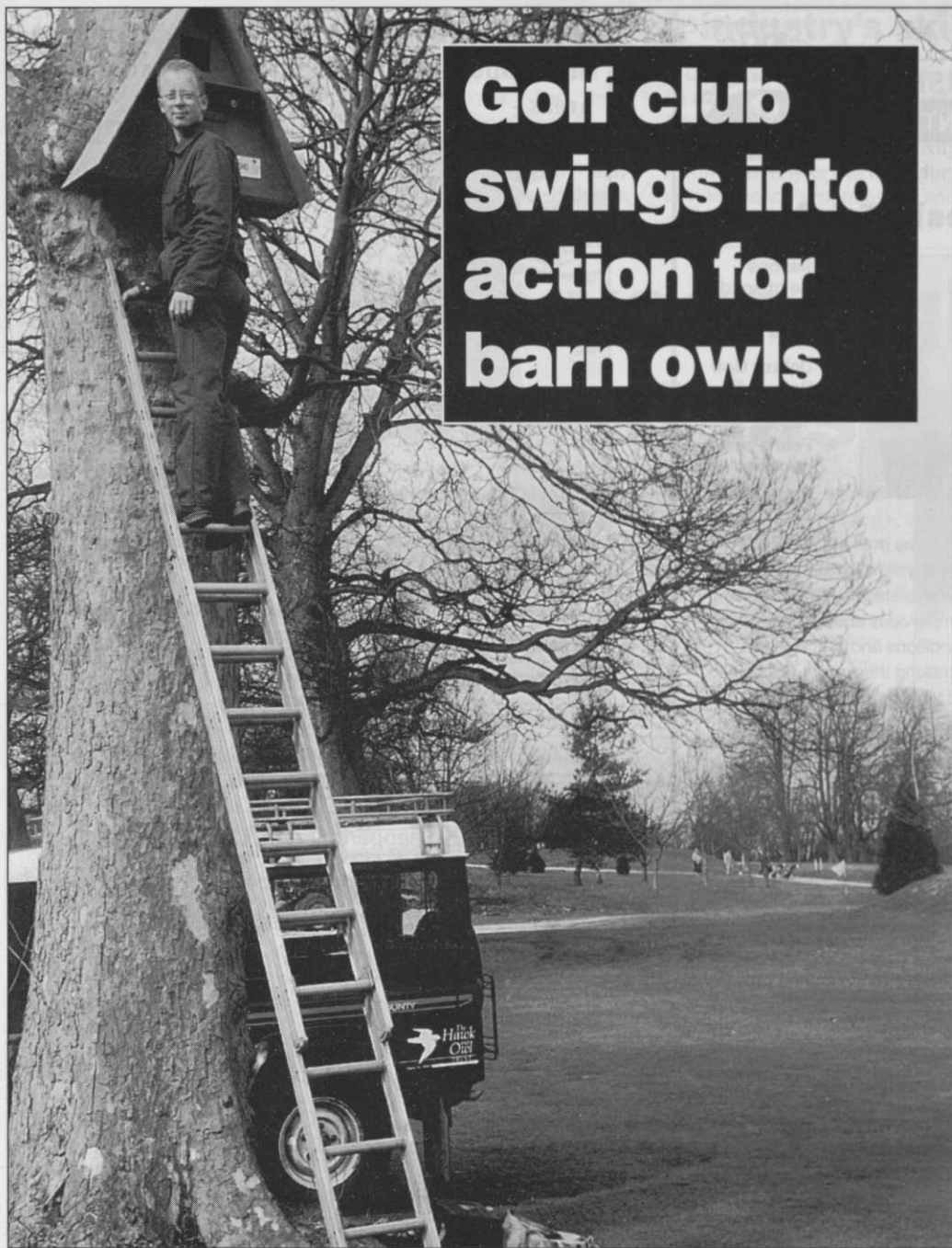


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# Rigby Taylor

**A GROWING FORCE IN LEISURE**

# Golf club swings into action for barn owls



John O'Gaunt Golf Club's Steve Thompson inspects the nestbox put up by Colin Shawyer

Golf and wildlife conservation have joined forces again to offer a new home to a pair of barn owls – just in the nick of time before this spring's breeding season.

Steve Thompson, Greenkeeper at John O'Gaunt Golf Club, near Sandy, Bedfordshire, sent an SOS to specialist conservation charity The Hawk and Owl Trust. A pair of barn owls have traditionally nested in an old building on the golf course, but it was being restored and converted.

Hawk and Owl Trust Director of Conservation and Research Colin Shawyer went to the rescue with one of the Trust's new A-frame nest boxes which are proving particularly attractive to barn owls. But before putting up the box, he carefully selected an appropriate tree within easy reach of good, rough grassland hunting habitat, near to one of the practice greens.

"Now it's finger's crossed for the breeding season said Colin. "Although the building conversion will include a special space for the owls, it will take time for them to get used to it as a nesting site. Our immediate problem, therefore, was to find them a home for this year."

This summer Colin will also be monitoring the success of four different kinds of owl boxes which he put up two years ago at Northampton Golf Club. The club organised a special fund-raising tournament to enable the conservation work to go ahead.

"The Hawk and Owl Trust aims to carry out similar conservation work in partnership with other British golf courses," said Colin. "We hope clubs which are inspired by these examples will contact us so that we can get a nationwide programme under way."

"Many owls and other bird of prey species are still under pressure and we all need to do as much as we can to help them survive," explained Colin. "Golf courses can offer ideal habitat for owls – and if this doesn't already exist it can be created with just a little effort. But only then is there any point in putting up a nest box or basket."

Golf clubs which would like to become involved in this conservation initiative or to get a flavour of the work the Trust carries out may like to purchase a copy of the new booklet, Boxes, Baskets and Platforms (£3.75, UK postage and packing free).

Please write to Colin Shawyer, Director of Conservation and Research, The Hawk and Owl Trust, c/o Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY.

## Founder member quits AGMA

### Statement from British Seed Houses

British Seed Houses has announced its resignation from the Amenity Grass Marketing Association (AGMA) which it helped form in 1981.

In a press statement British Seed Houses Managing Director, Neville Bark, commented "As one of the founder members of AGMA we are obviously saddened to be leaving the Association and it is a decision the company has come to only after lengthy consideration. However, we have for some time felt disappointed with the way the association was moving.

"The original objectives in setting up AGMA were quite clear. As well as ensuring that high quality products were available to end users, another key aim was one of education, as only with accurate knowledge about the relative merits of individual varieties, can consumers make informed decisions when purchasing seed.

"We now feel the company can better achieve these aims outside the association."

### Reply from the Amenity Grass Marketing Association

AGMA (the Amenity Grass Marketing Association) was naturally disappointed in the resignation of British Seed Houses from membership of the Association.

In 1996 the membership has grown to include major European Breeders, UK Wholesale and Retail organisations that account for over 80% of the total UK sales of amenity grass seed.

We have seen an increase in our Distributor Members at the rate of two a month this year.

We have introduced new Affiliate Membership categories for Educational establishments – the STRI having become the latest to join the category.

AGMA's 'voice' is ever present on legislative matters – for we have just been thanked by the Seeds Division of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in bringing to their notice imported lawn seed packs that did not conform to the Seeds Marketing Regulations. Furthermore we are an active member on the Committee making recommendations on the review of the BS Standard for Turf production.

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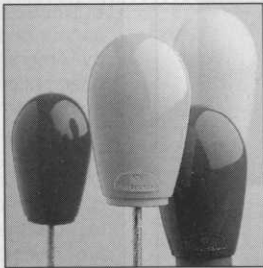
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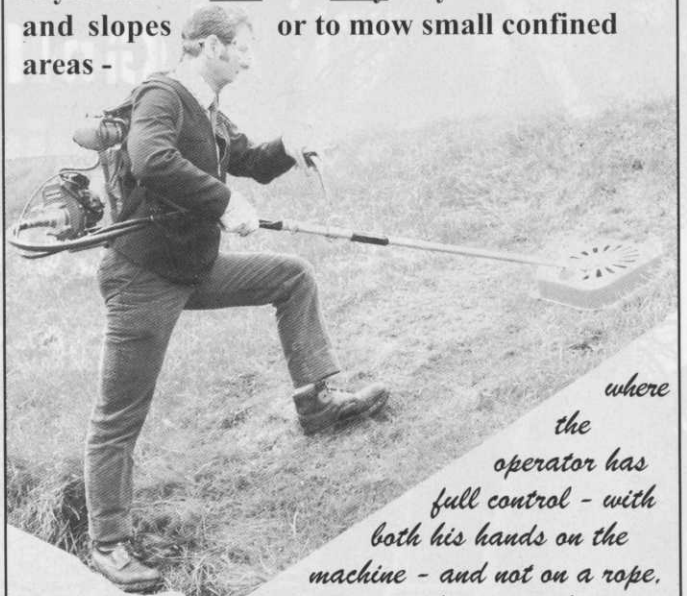
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## Does BIGGA need an Essex Section?

Over recent months there has been a great deal of debate about the need for an Essex Section of BIGGA.

It has been proposed that an Essex Section be formed as part of the South East Region and that the revised East Anglia Section be transferred from the South East to the Midlands Region. The proposal has been made purely on the number of current and potential members within geographical boundaries and the benefits of ease of access to Section events that the changes would produce.

A general meeting of interested members has been arranged for Thursday, June 27 at 7pm at Ravenwood Hall, Hotel, Rougham, which is approximately four miles east of Bury St Edmunds off the A14.

The proposal is only viable with sufficient support and members interested in learning more or in having their opinions heard are urged to attend. If the proposal is adopted then there may be vacancies for Section Committee members for both East Anglia and Essex.

Think about the proposed change and talk to your colleagues.

How will it affect you?

Come to the meeting and have a say in how your Association is organised.

**Richard Gamble,** Head Greenkeeper at Aldwark Manor, home of BIGGA HQ, can be seen on a new piece of machinery

lately after taking possession of a Hayter T93 Greensmower Triple.

"It is a superb machine and I'm absolutely delighted with what we have done with it in the short time it's been here," said Richard.

Richard is pictured aboard the machine in the company of Geoff Platt, Director of Golf at Aldwark Manor and Hamish Macfie of Hayter, who sold the machine.



## David brings other industry's skills to new market

The Marketing Department at Hayter has been strengthened by the recent appointment of Marketing Manager, David Briggs, pictured.



David comes from Pifco, where he was the Brand Manager for the Pifco and Tower brands.

He is already becoming heavily involved in Hayter's new product development programme and strategic planning.

Being responsible for both the domestic and professional product ranges, as well as studying for an MBA at The Bradford Management Centre, will ensure a hectic life style for David, who looks forward to the demands of his new role.

## Five year nightmare ends at last

A five year campaign of bullying and intimidation came to an end for David Robinson when he was awarded almost £9,000 by an industrial tribunal against his golf club.

David, who until last November was First Assistant at Hallowes Golf Club, at Dronfield in Derbyshire, was the victim of a series of jokes and incidents originating from his dyslexia which culminated in the Head Greenkeeper being formally cautioned by the police for threatening behaviour after he drove a van at David forcing him to jump out of the way.

The tribunal, held in Sheffield, ruled that 33 year-old David had been constructively dismissed because his confidence had been shattered by the harassment he had received and the failure of the golf club to provide a proper and safe system of work which constituted a breach of his confidence and trust in the club.

"The last six months has left a bitter taste in my mouth. It's been a very traumatic experience for, not only myself, but Lynn, my wife, and our eight year-old Thomas," said David, after the tribunal's verdict.

"I feel justice has been done and I've been vindicated. I'm glad that I took the action because although I might not get a job again it might stop someone else having to go through the trauma I've been through."

David's victory owed much to the assistance he received by a lawyer recommended and paid for by Hambro - the legal protection service which comes as part of BIGGA membership.

"There was no way I could have afforded the costs of taking a case like mine to an industrial tribunal," he said.

"Hambro couldn't have been more helpful. I chose the legal firm I wanted and Hambro recommended the lawyer from that firm whom they knew was the employment expert - Peter Meldrum. I must have had 10 meetings with him in preparation for

the case," said David, just as Lynn emerged from the kitchen to say that Peter Meldrum had been on the phone to see how he was.

"In the past many people in similar positions would have had to back off because they wouldn't have been able to pay a lawyer. It allowed me to get better and not worry about how I was going to pay my legal fees if I lost. It took a great deal of stress and strain off the family."

David, who estimates that the cost of the legal support he received was approaching £3500, has advice for other greenkeepers who find themselves in a similar position.

"If they were frightened to go to their Chairman of Green they should go through Hambro and the new enhanced BIGGA scheme brought in this April," recommended David, who benefited from the old scheme which required him to resign before he was eligible for help.

The new scheme means members may be eligible for representation at internal disciplinary hearings and this may prevent the stage where jobs are lost being reached.

David is currently trying to get another job and is not ruling out a return to greenkeeping although he is exploring other avenues as well.

"I've just become qualified as a special needs swimming teacher for the disabled and those with learning difficulties and I'm looking at a career in that. I might also set up my own landscaping business or something else. I'll cross that bridge when I come to it but I'll certainly not sit back. I'm going to rebuild my life," said David, who also stood as a candidate in the recent local



The suffering's over: David and his eight year old son, Thomas

elections.

The driving force behind David's recovery has been Lynn, whom he credits with pulling him through the nightmare.

"Lynn has been great. In November I was at my lowest ebb with the pressure of dealing with the case and the thought that I was going to lose everything was getting too much for me. It was Lynn who made sure I survived and I've come out of it a stronger person."

"We're glad it's all over. It's a chapter closed in our lives and it's time to open another."

David also thanked everyone who helped him. "Lynn, all my family and friends, Hambro, Peter Meldrum, my doctor and my therapist, have all been wonderful."

"I would also like to say that the BIGGA subscription is worth every penny that you pay definitely because you get personal accident cover, legal cover so if anything does happen and you need help it's there."

# Not Very Qualified? Now

**National Vocational Qualifications are often misunderstood but David Golding, Education Director for the Greenkeepers Training Committee, and Ken Richardson, Education Officer for BIGGA, will attempt, over the next few months, to take away some of the mystery which leads to so much confusion. This month they answer some of the most frequently asked questions.**

## **1. What are National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications?**

**David Golding:** National or Scottish Vocational Qualifications have been introduced by the Government to industries in order to improve the skills of the British workforce.

NVQs are for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and SVQs for Scotland. They are based on national standards of competence and can tell you exactly what someone is capable of in terms of skills, knowledge and ability.

Greenkeepers can achieve N/SVQs at their place of work and now even the mature greenkeeper with no formal qualifications but years of experience can get qualified.

## **2. How do greenkeepers get on a course?**

**Ken Richardson:** The easy answer is to say that they should apply to their local college but this is only part of the answer as not all greenkeepers need to attend a course of instruction in the traditional sense before gaining a vocational

qualification, ie. prove competence. There are three main routes to gaining vocational qualifications. These are:

a. **The College Route.** For greenkeepers entering the profession without any recognised greenkeeping qualifications, or as Modern Apprentices, the college route is still the best way to gain the knowledge and skills of greenkeeping. However, the best place to show competence, ie the ability to do the job, is at the place of work. These assessments will, eventually, all take place on the golf course.

b. **Modern Apprentices** Modern Apprentices will use the college route to gain knowledge and skills, with assessment taking place at their place of work. However funding for their training is guaranteed, through the Greenkeepers Training Committee, until they show competence at level 3 N/SVQ. More information is available on the Modern Apprenticeship from the GTC

c. **Prior Learning Route** Greenkeepers who have been in the industry for some time, without gaining a qualification, or who hold an out dated qualification, can gain vocational qualifications by proving to an assessor that they are competent to do their job. Using this route means that greenkeepers could gain a formal greenkeeping qualification without attending a college course. However, others may need some top-up training, to reach the required standard. Many of the GTC Approved Colleges are now starting to offer this option.

## **3. Do all greenkeepers need NVQs?**

**Ken:** No, currently, they don't. However, I feel that the greenkeeping profession can move forward and improve its status only when all greenkeepers have or are working towards a vocational qualification.

## **4. How will they benefit the greenkeeper and the golf club?**

**David:** Golf Clubs offering N/SVQs show a commitment to the employees and provide opportunities for both career and personal development, improving motivation and enhancing performance.

N/SVQs can help to ensure the workforce is well trained and has the up-to-date skills for improved performance.

The qualifications can also be used for recruitment as job descriptions can be designed by referring to the standards which list the skills and knowledge the person the club recruits will need.

While the N/SVQs do not specify any particular kind or training programme the GTC will ensure that colleges, STRI, BIGGA and other training providers link their training to the national standards

For the greenkeepers N/SVQs offer recognition for the skills they already possess and use in their day to day work. The qualifications are available no matter what age the candidate is, or at what stage they are in their career.

There are no entry requirements. They can

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# Very Qualified!



help improve confidence and self-esteem. All GTC assessors are trained to accommodate any candidate with special assessment or training needs.

## 5. Do BIGGA courses and training aids meet the requirements of NVQs?

**Ken:** All BIGGA courses, books and training videos are linked to the GTC Training Manual and, therefore vocational qualifications. Any course of instruction can provide only the knowledge and principles of doing a job. Competence needs to be proved, to an assessor, before an award can be made

## 6. What is the cost to register and where can I register?

**David:** If the candidate is new to the profession it would be advisable to allow the person to attend a GTC approved college for the knowledge and principles of greenkeeping but also ensuring most of the assessments are carried out in the workplace. These candidates will register at the college and the fees for City & Guilds/Scotvec and the training will be all inclusive.

Alternatively you can now register through the GTC Headquarters at Aldwark Manor, York. On average the cost per level of N/SVQ is £70 but please contact the GTC for the charges as they vary between City & Guilds and Scotvec and from Level to Level.

## 7. Are there grants available to study NVQs?

**Ken:** Some concessions are available for people who are not in paid work and anyone paying their own fees can claim tax relief on the full amount paid. Modern Apprentices have their training paid for, by the GTC but for greenkeepers in work, it should be their employers, ie the golf club, who pay for any training and or assessment.

## 8. Who are the assessors?

**David:** The role of the assessor is to make sure the person doing the N/SVQ is competent and carrying out the task to the national standard. Who better then to assess greenkeeping skills than competent greenkeepers?

As with greenkeepers there are also national standards for assessing and all industry assessors have to be trained to achieve the necessary qualifications (D32/D33).

To date the GTC has funded and now are training Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers and in some cases, Deputies, to become assessors.

If you have a candidate on the N/SVQ scheme or wish to enrol candidates and you are to be their workplace assessor contact the GTC.

By the end of March '97 the GTC will have trained over 400 greenkeepers to be assessors.

## 9. Why did the previous City and Guilds system change?

**Ken:** The old City and Guilds qualifications were theory and examination based. Candidates were not assessed, doing the job. Very few workers, in Britain, were given the chance to attend college

and gain a qualification and the numbers of qualified workers in Britain was one of the lowest in Europe. Vocational qualifications were introduced in the hope of remedying this by encouraging all workers in all professions to work towards a formal qualification which would indicate what they could do and what they must know in order to do their job.

## 10. Do greenkeepers have to go to college at any stage?

**Ken:** Not all of them. As I have already said, for young greenkeepers just entering the profession, college is the best route, however, more experienced greenkeepers can gain a vocational qualification without ever attending college whereas others may need to attend top-up training at a college or other training centre. The latest directory of colleges including all GTC Approved Colleges appears on Pages 26-27 of *Greenkeeper International*.

● Next month a comprehensive list of N/SVQ Advisers and Assessors will be included and David and Ken will be looking in more detail at the new Modern Apprenticeship.

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# The continuous

**A**lthough golf course turf will benefit greatly from any traffic management measures taken during the wetter months of the year, regular aeration will still be needed to keep the surface and subsoil in good condition.

Those who aerate simply because "we always do it as this time of the year", risk incurring the wrath of the golfers who increasingly are demanding a good reason for disruption to play.

To maintain both good relations and playing conditions, aeration should be carried out for two principal reasons. First, to prevent a problem occurring in the first place, otherwise known as preventive maintenance. And second, to treat (or cure) turf compaction which, for one reason or another, has built up over time or simply cannot be avoided.

For obvious reasons, the more disruptive treatments should not be undertaken in the middle of the summer, if at all possible. Appropriately, such operations



tend to be the "cures" rather than the preventive measures, and are best left to the spring or autumn months when the soil is better able to respond to the work being carried out.

Fortunately, the less disruptive operations such as spiking or slitting are those which are able to benefit the turf during the main playing season, helping prevent a problem occurring in the first place.

"When thinking about aeration, greenkeepers must focus on two important areas," points out Neil



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# battle to maintain fine turf



Solid tining has a similar aerating effect to slitting but the round hole holds its shape better in dry weather

Squires, agronomist with the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley." One is to keep the soil profile as open as possible to encourage the downward movement of air, water and nutrients to the root zone. The other is to prevent the top surface becoming

too hard or too soft, as either condition can lead rapidly to soil compaction, poor drainage, turf wear or root growth problems."

A wide range of aeration techniques and tools are now available to help the turf professional achieve both these objectives with

## TACKLING COMPACTION



minimal disruption to those playing golf.

Although slitting has probably the least effect on compaction, the action does open up the surface, allowing air and moisture to get into the turf and down to the roots with very little disturbance. Particular parts of the course which will benefit are golf greens and tees, the choice of slitter coming down to either a triangular or a knife-type blade, the first-mentioned producing a greater opening at the surface.

Greenkeepers should, however, avoid over-aeration which, through the repeated treading of

tyres and severing of root systems, can create more problems than the treatment actually prevents. Care must be taken also in drying weather to avoid the slit opening up, demanding urgent remedial treatment on the finer turf areas.

If in any doubt about the consequences of blade or knife slitting, use a solid tine instead. This has a very similar aerating effect and is considered by many more appropriate for treatment of summer golf greens. The reason is that a circular hole has far greater strength than an elongated slit and will hold its shape and size



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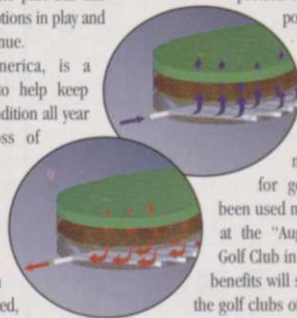
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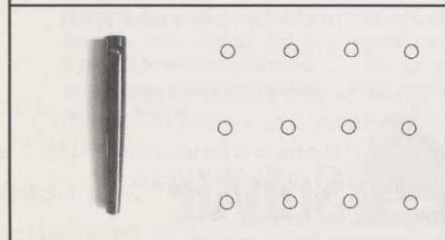
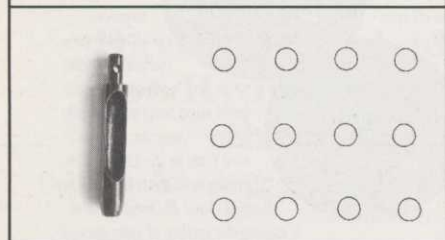
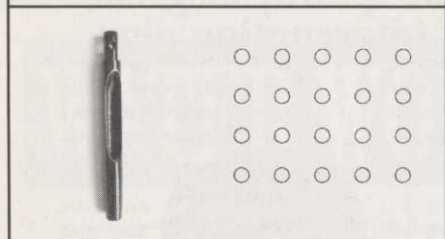
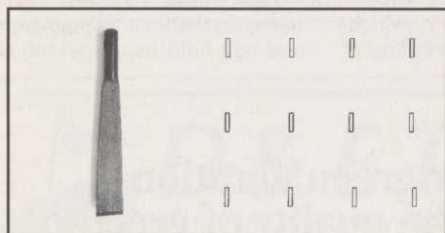
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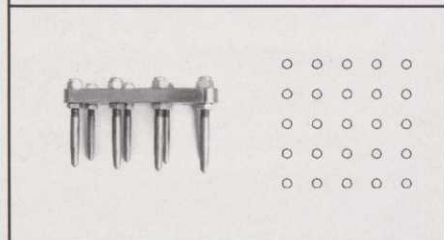
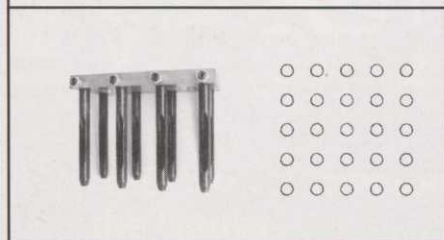
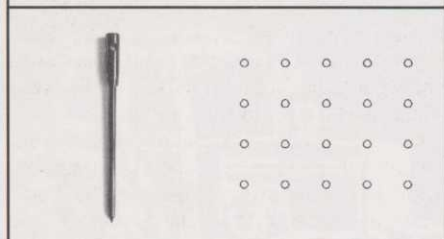
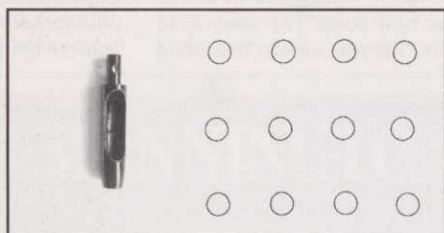
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# TACKLING COMPACTION



better if the ground does dry out.

Hollow coring is probably the cause of more complaints from golfers than any other course maintenance work. It is important, therefore, that the non-professional is kept informed of why it is being carried out at a particular time of the year.

The treatment is normally combined with top dressing, the hollow coring action removing poor soil to be replaced with a fresh, clean, friable dressing. Apart from removing compacted soil, hollow coring helps combat thatch, improving drainage and root growth by allowing the surface layers to "breathe". Hollow coring followed by top dressing and brushing or matting-in is best carried out in the spring or early autumn when the grass is growing, helping the dressing work its way into the surface.

Choice of hollow-coring implement lies between the trailed revolving drum and the powered punch-action corer. While the first-mentioned is less complicated and less expensive to buy, the punch-action machine does penetrate the soil cleanly with reduced surface disturbance. Those who plan to hollow core once or twice a year could consider hiring in a high output, purpose-built machine to do the job. A core collector will also make light work of picking up and removing the cores littering the turf, restoring the surface to play with minimal delay.

Of all the specialist aeration machines introduced in recent years, those which mimic the original hand-forking technique



**Hollow coring - an essential job which, nonetheless, prompts considerable criticism from golfers**

on a golf green are regarded extremely highly by Neil Squires. "The Verti-Drain is perhaps the best known although there are others which follow similar working principals," he commented. "The action of the tines entering the ground then kicking before removal undoubtedly is of great

help in treating sub-surface compaction."

Mr Squires stressed that soil conditions are most important if full benefit is to be achieved. The surface should allow easy tine entry while the sub-soil must be sufficiently dry to crack and fissure. This makes the technique

ideally suited to late summer or early autumn on medium to heavy land while lighter and sandy soils can often be treated successfully through the winter.

Other specialist machines which work well on drier soils and cause minimal surface disturbance include those with vibrating tines or blades and those which inject water under pressure to depth, displacing soil to open up cracks and fissures.

Although pointing out that the use of water can be helpful also in treating localised dry spots, Mr Squires expressed some concern about the soil displaced by the high pressure jet. "It has to go somewhere, either downwards or sideways and this, in time, could lead to deeper-seated compaction, requiring supplementary treatments," he commented.

For courses suffering from deep, widespread compaction, the traditional answer has been disruptive soil-loosening action by subsoiler or major earthworks to eliminate the cause, with new drainage systems installed to help disperse excessive surface water. However, surface compaction, if left untreated, will soon spread and hinder the downward movement of water to even the most modern of drainage schemes.

On fairways, slit or vibrating aerators and verti-drain type machines will keep both the top and sub-surface open to allow the unrestricted passage of water, air and nutrients. For more localised, deep-seated problems, compressed air is increasingly proving a sound solution to shattering compaction at depths down to 600mm.



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# TACKLING COMPACTION



Able to inject air under pressure via one or more long hollow probes, such machines are suitable for use on all parts of the course and are now available increasingly within hire fleets. Because such implements can cause considerable surface heave, Mr Squires advises their use on greens in late autumn, giving the turf plenty of time to recover before the main playing season.

"The problem today is that the main playing season has become far harder to define," concluded Mr Squires. "Golf is no longer a fine weather sport and more and more players and machines are treading the turf, giving it less time to recover and making it more susceptible to compaction.

"The answer which will have to be accepted both by golfers and maintenance staff is more aeration treatments throughout the year. The weapons are available to fight the battle against com-



**Collecting hollow cores efficiently will help minimise course disruption and reduce pressure on greenstaff**

paction but, due to the growing popularity of golf and the vagaries of the weather, it is a battle which I can never envisage being won."

● Many thanks to Neil Squires of the STRI for assistance in the preparation of this article. The STRI is based at Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU. Telephone: 01274 565131.

*Richard Campey*

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Pattisson's Mike Hinch, left and BIGGA's Neil Thomas at the draw

## Lucky 100 are selected

The 100 lucky recipients of the £100 education discounts to BTME '97 courtesy of the Pattisson's 100/100 Club were picked by Mike Hinch, Joint Managing Director of Pattisson's, in the company of BIGGA Executive Director Neil Thomas.

The Club was devised to celebrate Pattisson's 100th Anniversary and clubs were invited to enter the free draw to receive a £100 discount to education seminars at next year's BTME.

"We are absolutely delighted with the response to the club," said Mike. "We had golf clubs ringing us up and asking how they could be involved and it

really caught the imagination." A total of 655 clubs entered the draw and the 100 clubs selected, listed below, were widely spread with Lismore GC in Northern Ireland the first out of the "hat".

"The support of our Golden Key sponsors like Pattissons is welcome and extremely generous and we feel privileged to have been included in the company's 100th anniversary celebrations," said Neil.

"We hope to see the 100 winners at Harrogate next year and urge them to retain the letters sent to the clubs to qualify them for a further promotion to be announced later this year," said Mike.

### THE PATTISSON'S 100/100 CLUB MEMBERS

Wheatley GC	Whitchurch GC	Newtonmore GC
Bradford GC	Lydney GC	East Sussex National GC
West Middlesex GC	Epsom GC	Burnley GC
Broadstone GC	Bushey Golf & Country Club	Royal St Georges GC
Llandudno GC	Verulam GC	Dulwich & Sydenham Hill GC
Withington GC	Neath GC	Enfield GC
Cams Hall GC	Ashton Under Lyne GC	Branshaw GC
Helensburgh GC	Corinthian GC	Thirsk & Northallerton GC
Shrigley Hall GC	Pachesham GC	West Sussex GC
Salisbury & South Wilts GC	Swinton Park GC	Liphook GC
Rugby GC	Billingham GC	Chippenham GC
Canterbury GC	Ipswich GC	Stonyhurst Park GC
Lewes GC	Merlin GC	Callan GC
Colchester GC	Sapey GC	Prestwich GC
Dumbarton GC	Farnham GC	Kirby Muxloe GC
Prestwick St Nicholas GC	Redbourn GC	Bromborough Golf Club
Sonning GC	Shirehampton Park GC	Winwhistle GC
Upton By Chester GC	Carden Park GC	Worlebury GC
Knole Park GC	Kilmarnock GC	Wakefield GC
Newcastle Under Lyme GC	Stanmore GC	Elmhurst GC
Carmarthen GC	Kenilworth GC	Hale GC
Dufftown GC	West Lancashire GC	Harpden GC
Wenvoe Castle GC	Pannal GC	Glamorganshire GC
East Devon GC	Bakewell GC	Caldwell GC
Leek GC	Brough GC	Coxmoor GC
Huddersfield GC	Nottingham City GC	Lanhydrock GC
Stoke Rochford GC	Royston GC	Cochrane Castle GC
Greatham Valley GC	Hamptworth G&CC	Crieff GC
Rowlands Castle GC	Burghill Valley GC	Thorndon Park GC
Pitdown GC	Filford GC	Upminster GC
Kingsknowe GC	Bridgnorth GC	Woburn Golf & Country Club
Muthill GC	Lochmaben GC	Lismore GC
Stand GC	Wetherby GC	
Backworth GC	Mountain Ash GC	



## Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

# Deadline nears for supervisory courses

The deadline for applications to attend this year's Aldwark Manor Supervisory Management Courses is fast approaching. Full details of these five residential courses appeared in the April issue of *Greenkeeper International*. They were very highly rated by past delegates drawing comments like 'Far better than expected' and 'I never realised what good value these courses were'. Details are also given below

### Aldwark Manor Supervisory Management Courses: Level 3 N/SVQ

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

This first unit of people management includes:

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

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

This second unit of people management includes:

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

#### Managing Operations and Resources October 21-25

This unit deals with:

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

#### Managing Information October 28-November 1

This unit deals with:

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

#### Aldwark Manor Management Module: Level 4

#### Managing Recruitment and Selection, Managing Finance & Management of Health & Safety November 4-8

This level 4 unit is for delegates who have attended at three level

3 units in the past and includes:

Recruitment and selection methods, the Law, Equal opportunities, discrimination, interview techniques, controlling budgets, expense reports, re-forecasting, cash flow forecasting, use of spreadsheets, computing for finance, Health and Safety Policy, problem areas, managing safely

The cost of each course, which we have managed to keep unchanged for three consecutive years, including, 4 breakfasts, 5 lunches 4 dinners and 4 nights accommodation plus all tuition fees is £426 + VAT for BIGGA members (499.38) or £490 + VAT for non-members. Each delegate and employer receive a certificate of attendance.

Applications for a place on these courses must arrive at BIGGA HQ by 31 July 1996.

Remember that these courses are not just for Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers but also to prepare the managers of tomorrow.

### TORO/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year Competition 1996

The closing date for entries to this year's competition was 31 May 1996. However, any college still wishing to nominate students can do so if applications are received by 28 June 1996.

### MY AMBITION IS...



"To become a Head Greenkeeper at a golf course in Spain"  
Simon Walley, Sandy Lodge GC



# Hold on to your hats!

**Seacroft, venue for this year's National Tournament sponsored by Miracle Professional, is a magnificent links - but boy is it windy.**

I've always known the east side of the country was cold. I was brought up there and can still remember climbing into my thermal vest in June.

I wasn't too surprised then when Richard Hardie, Head Greenkeeper at Seacroft GC, suggested I might need a thicker jacket as we prepared to look over the course despite it being the middle of May.

Confident in my ability to embrace the chill like a long lost childhood friend I said I'd be fine and was content merely to "zip up". Just as well I did because had I left my jacket flapping open I'm convinced I'd have taken off and finished up in some dark corner of Lincolnshire.

Seacroft is a windy golf course. It is a kite flier's paradise. Weather vanes have been known to seek shelter. It could double up as a wind tunnel. Wind socks are so full young children think it's permanently Christmas. If flags hang limp it's only because the flagpoles are horizontal... Get the picture? Seacroft is a breezy place.

We walked most of the way down the 1st hole known as "The Tree" because of the magnificent "marker" to the 1st green which is the only tree on the course, when Richard said



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- ◆ Venue: The Seacroft Golf Club August 5th-7th
- ◆ Closing date for entries Friday July 5 - forms available from BIGGA Headquarters.
- ◆ Accommodation - Skegness Tourist Board Tel: 01754 764821
- ◆ Note: Would any trophy winner from last year who has not yet returned his trophy to Vickie Peckham please do so as soon as possible.

that people had been driving past the fairway bunkers to our left and right. I looked back and there appeared enough room to land a jumbo jet between the tee and where we stood.

On the other side of the course players were attempting the 18th hole which, by coincidence, is exactly the same length as the 1st. I know on which of the holes I'd like to play if I had to make par to save my life.

"You really need the wind to make the course a challenge," explained Richard, although I'm sure it's a rare day when it's left defenceless.

It's also the wind which causes most of the greenkeeping problems at Seacroft.

"The bunkers do get blown regularly and we have problems keeping the sand in place."

The solution is one which will cause the odd shiver to work its way down the spine of the competitors in this year's National Tournament sponsored by Miracle Professional.

"We do a lot of riveting and the bunkers tend to be quite deep," said Richard, a man known, as I found out on the course walk, for understatement. The first one he showed me was at least eight feet deep.

"We've had an on-going programme of riveting over the past five years or so and over the winter added a new bunker and replaced one big one with two smaller ones on the 18th - as if it needed any more defences!

"We find it is the best way to keep the sand in place and is fairer to the golfer as shots can be played by both right and left handed players wherever they are in the bunker.

"They've got straight faces which help to keep the sand in and we've done a lot of work on them. It's a little like painting the Forth Bridge because by the time we've done them all it's time to start again at the beginning."

Like every other course at the time of my visit the course was well behind for the time of

the year and if the native Indians of South America had devised a dance for rain...plus a bit of sun, Richard and his team would have been straight on the phone to Peggy Spencer.

"This is the worst it has ever been. We are often late as it can be so cold here but this year I reckon we're about a month behind. Just last week we had three mornings of frost on the trot"

Richard has worked at Seacroft since he left school and became Head Greenkeeper late last year, taking over from his mentor - father John, who still works at the course in an advisory capacity.

Speaking to Richard you would have no idea of his origins. They only become clearer speaking to his father. He still retains a broad Scottish accent, having been brought up in Inverness, and he worked as greenkeeper/professional at Tain before moving south.

"They say Scotsmen make the best links greenkeepers," says Inverness-born Richard later, in an accent which is definitely from the wrong side of Hadrian's Wall.

But back to the course. Like many of the best links it's not fair. Hit a screamer down the middle and you're quite likely to face an awkward lie with the ball below or above your feet - that's if you're lucky enough to miss a bunker. The fairways are undulating and this causes Richard and his four man team a few problems.

"It's quite a severe course and we have to cut them both ways to make sure the jobs done properly - we have two sets of gang mowers, one four bladed unit and one six bladed unit and we get a lot of run off into the hollows making them green and the humps bare. Balls also gather in the hollows so the divots concentrate there much more."

The club is in the process of installing irrigation to the tees already having a Watermation system on the greens.

"We have a double valved system so we can organise it that we can cover the entire green by only using a sprinkler on one side because of the wind. We don't waste water."

On the prospect of have a host of greenkeepers descending on his course and giving it the critical eye Richard just smiles. "I haven't given any thought to the fact that they'll be coming. Not yet anyway. But I am looking forward to meeting them."

Skegness is the pleasure capital of Lincolnshire and those who make the trip for the National Tournament sponsored by Miracle Professional will find a playground to occupy everyone from the youngest in your party to the oldest.

In conjunction with the tournament there is the Miracle Professional evening with barbecue and entertainment on the Monday while the Tournament Dinner on the Tuesday will feature after dinner speaker Reg Thompson. Tickets may be purchased from BIGGA Headquarters, price £15.

Among those stars who will be appearing in



the town in August when the National Tournament takes place are Chubby Brown, Joe Brown (no relation) and Sheila Ferguson, Cannon and Ball, the Grumbleweeds, Ken Dodd and Chas and Dave.

For those of a more racy disposition "The Ultimate Challenge" is available, Skegness' Indoor Karting centre and, as a veteran of such entertainment, I can vouch for the rush that speeding round a cut down Grand Prix track on four wheels with a lawn mower engine purring behind you provides.

For those who intend ensuring that their name rarely disappears from the higher reaches of the scoreboard they can wile the hours away from the course by visiting The Elms Golf Centre where they can utilise the...deep breath: 20 all weather floodlit bays, six hole par 3 course, 18 hole putting green and practice bunker.

Yes it's all there and the excellence of Seacroft, which is surely one of the better links south of the border, coupled with the other

attractions of Skegness make the National Tournament, in association with Miracle Professional '96 one not to miss. Oh yes. But if you're thinking of camping make sure you've got plenty of lead in your ground sheet.

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# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## Scottish Region North

This month sees the Scottish Greenkeeping Annual Tournament at Elie Golf Club in Fife. After last year's resounding success's at Royal Dornoch, the section will have to go some to keep up the standard set last June. Let's have a big turnout of North members to at least give us a chance and good luck to us all.

Good news concerning Gary Tough, Firstly congratulations to him for winning the prestigious Craigmillar Park Open with a 72 hole total of 6 under par. Also Gary has left Montrose to take up a position at Carnoustie Golf Links, we wish him all the best.

Another Macleod has been let loose on the Greenkeeping world. My son Ross has joined me at Tain as a trainee and will be shortly be joining BIGGA, you have been warned. While on the subject of new members, we have three new faces in the North to report. Malcolm Parsons, an assistant at Strathlene, Kevin Keith, a trainee at Fortrose, and Michael Reid, a trainee at Newmacher, with Derek Chisholm, Assistant at Kingussie, rejoining us after a one year break.

Last but not least I have pleasure in reporting that Newmacher's George Mitchell has become a dad, his wife giving birth to a little girl, we hope all are well.

Iain Macleod

## West of Scotland

Firstly a couple of good wishes and congratulations to two new appointments. Robert Johnson has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Williamwood GC, nice to see him at the convenors match in March. Neil Cameron has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Clydebank and District GC. The section wishes both men the best of luck and look forward to seeing them at various activities.

The Greenkeepers-Secretaries match at Falkirk Tryst proved a very exciting day even if the weather was dull and overcast. The Greenkeepers came through on the last green to win 6-4 after having been 4-1 down. An excellent recovery from the back end of the team. Falkirk are to be thanked for the course and catering. Without the club's support many of these occasions would not be possible.

At the last meeting of the Section various ideas were put forward for consideration with regard to health and safety, and social events. A letter should have been received detailing these, therefore the committee would like as much feedback as possible. Take the time and send back the forms, even suggest additional events, we are trying to cater for your needs.

The recent outing at Cawder was very enjoyable, and the course proved a good test of skills. Thanks to Neil McLennon and his staff for the condition of the course on the day and for some less trying pin positions. Thank you to Cawder members and committee for allowing the section the use of the course for the day, this is very much appreciated. Again thanks to the catering staff for their assistance with the bacon rolls and tea

time delights. The results were: Scratch - G Beven (E Kilbride) 74. 1st Class - 1st S Taylor (Killermont) 76-2-74, 2nd D Johnstone (Cardross) 81-7-74, 3rd K Forsyth (Cawder) 85-9-76. 2nd Class - 1st B Hillen (Easter Moffat) 87-15-72, 2nd T Hindmarsh (Erskine) 87-14-73, 3rd J Brown (Bearsden) 86-13-73. 3rd Class - 1st R Grainger (Cawder) 92-22-70, 2nd G Shearer (Balmore) 97-24-73, 3rd A Young (Douglstown) 95-21-74. Trade Prize - K Hunter (Huxley's) 84-12-72.

Well done to everybody, all these people qualify for the Hayter Challenge with the exemption of K Hunter.

The last item to mention is the five-a-side tournament, remember those wishing to enter need to let me know by July. Six or seven in a team and only two clubs can join forces. Entries to myself at 0141 942 5554 or Glasgow Golf Club. Stuart Taylor

## East of Scotland

Welcome to this month's report, sorry there has not been one for a while but there has not been a lot to report in the Section. So here we go, first of all back in April we had our Spring outing at Longniddry, so thanks to the Captain and Council for courtesy of the course for the day, Clubmaster/mistress and all clubhouse staff for keeping us all well fed and watered, some more than others (don't ask), the Pro for keeping the tee moving and last but not least Kenny Anderson and his staff for presenting the course in great condition which was a credit to them considering the very cold spring we have had to endure (or was it still winter).

So thanks from all who played that day. Also Kenny, welcome back to the East Section after your travels over the last few years. There was some good golf played that day but not by yours truly I am sorry to say, but here are all the results of a great day and night: Scratch - Tom Shephard - 72. 1st Class - 1st T Murray 74-2-72, 2nd I Bell 77-5-72, 3rd G Ferguson 77-3-74. 2nd Class - 1st G Purves 84-13-71, 2nd S Russell 84-11-73, 3rd K Anderson 87-12-75. 3rd Class - 1st D Melville 90-21-69, 2nd A Russell 93-18-75, 3rd G Hobbs 95-18-77. Veteran - Bob Smith 88-7-81, Guest - G Davidson, Trade - Ian Henderson (Ian Henderson Finance), New Member - Dougie Melville. This was also the 2nd round of the Hayter Qualifier (first round Prestonfield last Autumn) the qualifiers are: 1st section - 1 Tom Shephard, 2 Ian Bell, 3 Tom Murray, 4 Mark Pagan. 2nd Section - 1 George Purves, 2 Craig Pennyquick, 3 Allan Russell, 4 James Thow. 3rd Section - 1 Douglas Melville, 2 Graham Hobbs, 3 Andrew Forrest, 4 Robert Hogarth.

At the prizegiving at the outing we had a presentation to an old friend of the Section, none other than Bob Smith of Harburn who after a good number of years (could somebody tell me how many) has retired to concentrate on his golf, if he needs it (see outing results). The Section would like to take this opportunity to wish him all the best for the future and hope to see him at all section outings and all other events. The social section are putting the final

touches to a list of forthcoming events up to the end of this year which will be published in this column next month so keep your eyes peeled. If anyone has anything interesting let us know about it by calling or dropping me a letter and I will let the membership know about it. The next outing on the agenda is at Innerleithen Golf Club, home of our Hon Secretary Robert Hogarth, which is situated in the Scottish Borders. It is a nine hole picturesque little course on the banks of the river Leithen. This is a tournament that you pick yourself a partner and you play as a team for the resurrected Richard Aitken Trophy. So get you entries in quickly as there are only a limited number of places available. So we hope to see all of you at the Summer outing.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Nat Beggs (Standard Golf) a speedy recovery from his recent accident and stay in hospital, we hope to see you up and about soon and getting about the courses, all the best from all your friends in the East Section. Congratulations also to George Thomson (Goswick) who recently got married, so we can all look forward to your handicap going up now and we hope to meet your new wife at the annual dance on the 7th December 1996 at the Kilsplindie House Hotel, tickets on sale soon so get your order in soon. Details in next month's magazine. So that's it all for this month, if I have missed anything let me know and it will be in my July article. So I will talk to you next time.

C J Yeoman

## Ayrshire

The first event of our new year was the spring outing at the Dumfries and County golf course, home of our Chairman Ian McNab.

In spite of a very late spring - if not non-existent - the course was in good condition thanks to Ian and his trusty staff. Thanks must go to the committee and members for allowing us the use of the course and to the caterers for an excellent day's food. The weather was not great, but thankfully the promised downpour never materialised. Results:

0-9. Bob McKay 78-9-69, Ian McNab 78-5-73, Willie McMeekin 78-5-74. 10-18. Duncan Gray 77-10-67, Ian Barr 85-13-72, Martin Lothian 86-15-71. 19-28. Dave Nelson 89-24-65, Gary Crosbie 89-22-67, Jimmy Paton 90-18-72. Scratch. Keith McCartney BIH from George Brown 77. Trade. Gino Garfagnini, McNabs 74. Scramble 1. Ian McNab, Bob McKay Gary Crosbie, Hamish Macfie 28.2, from Paul Rae, Dave Nelson, George Brown, McKenzie Munro. This went to the final hole of a countback to decide a winner.

Jimmy Paton had the pleasure of meeting Jonathan Smyth, the new R&A Conservation Officer, during the Scottish Boys' Championship at West Kilbride and tells me it should be an excellent appointment to help us all preserve all our natural resources. I may well contact him regarding the course I am building in Dumfries to compliment my newly opened driving range. It is called the Pines Golf Centre and I would be pleased to see any fellow greenkeepers

calling in on the area.

No more to report this month so will leave you now.  
Duncan Gray

## Northern Region North East

On Thursday April 25 we paid our first visit to the new course at Matfen Hall for the Spring Competition and Hayter Qualifier. The course has only been open a year and was in excellent condition considering the winter we have had. Everyone was very praiseworthy.

Unfortunately the wind was well and truly blowing and played havoc with the scores.

On behalf of the section I would like to thank Vinny Price, Course Manager, and his staff, for the presentation of the course.

We would also like to thank John Pemberton from HQ for paying us a visit and his little chat about Miracle Greenkeeper of the Year award.

Donations came from the following, Rytton Gravel Co, Shorts of Whitehorn, Border Turf Services, Greenlay, Rickerley's Aitkens, Bolden GC, Turf Care Supplies and Gerald Brady of Rhone Poulenc (nearest the pin).

Our thanks to all those people who gave a prize or donation and to John Harrison, Director of Golf, for giving us courtesy of the course.

I would like to wish Ian Hutton, of Consett GC, the best of luck on moving to Austria for a new job as do all the Section.

Results: Best Gross A. McLure, Whickham GC, 77-1-78; Best Nett S. Cram, Slayton Hall GC, 83-7-76; Assistants' Cup. O. Cuthbertson, South Moor GC, 80-3-77; R. Black, Westerhope GC, 83-7-76; I. Cairns, Close House GC, 86-9-77; M. Lathan, Hexham GC, 79-1-78; S. Pope, Tyneside GC, 87-8-79; C. Parkinson, Slayton Hall GC, 84-4-80; N. Irvin, South Moor GC, 90-8-82; A. Dalby, Warkworth GC, 89-7-82; B. Wilson, Stocksfield GC, 88-5-83; J. Richardson, Matfen Hall GC, 89-6-83; G. Baxter, South Shields GC, 89-6-83.

In August this year Steve Pope, Head Greenkeeper of Tyneside GC, retires after 37 years in greenkeeping - 30 plus of those were at Tyneside GC. It is hope that we shall have a retirement party for him later in the year. It should also be noted that Steve has been a member of the Association for most of this time.  
Jimmy Richardson

## Cleveland

PAR 4 Irrigation celebrated its 15th anniversary with a friendly Stableford golf event at Romanby Northallerton GC. The winners included Graham Border from Castle Eden GC, Barry Walker from Wearside GC, Linda Simms from PAR 4. A most enjoyable day, thank you to Eddie and Linda Simms.

Congratulations to Course Manager Robert Upton, for the excellent condition of this relatively new course and we welcome him to BIGGA membership. His boss, farmer Brian Craven, is to be congratulated on developing such a splendid course layout. We had difficulty at the water approach to a par 3 - nice to see the swans.

At Wynyard Golf Course near Billingham, Gary Munro and staff are hard at work putting the finishing touches to the new course prior to opening later this summer. In a beautiful setting and 200 hundred acres, it will be challenging to the best of players. Gary has chosen some golfers to be on his staff and their expertise will be welcome.

We need some warmer weather, as growth is about to begin here in Cleveland Section.

Bruce Burnell

### Sheffield

At the beginning of April we held our final winter lecture at Rotherham GC and I would like to thank the club for their hospitality and letting us hold our lectures there throughout the winter.

I would like to thank Amazone for giving us a very interesting talk and slide show at Rotherham which was enjoyed by a good number of our members.

On April 15 we held our spring competition at Sherwood Forest GC. It was also the Hayter qualifier. Sherwood was in excellent condition for so early in the year and our thanks go to Kim and his staff or all their hard work.

We would like to thank Sherwood Forest for the courtesy of the course and to the steward and his staff for providing an excellent meal. Also thanks to Hayter for providing the main prizes for the Hayter qualifiers and to all the other trade members who provided prizes.

Congratulations to everyone who won prizes at Sherwood and to Phil Stain who with an excellent score of 39 points won the spring competition. Well done Phil!

1. P Stain; 2. P Lyons; 3. D. McJannet; 4. R. Stanley; 5. J. Cumberland; 6. A. Rhodes.

The nearest the pin was won by K. Kirkham (with the help of local knowledge?)

Congratulations to the following people who won the handicap division of the Hayter Qualifier. 0-9. P Lyons; 10-18. A. Allsop; 19-28. P. Stain.

All the qualifiers for the Northern Regional Final are 0-9. P Lyons, D. McJannet, J. Cumberland, Reserve A. Rhodes. 10-18. A. Allsop, C. Hopper, N. Maltby, Reserve A. Whittington. 19-28. R. Stain, R. Stanley, J.V. Lax, Reserve P. Neve.

Good luck to you all in the regional final in Wales!

I've been asked by Barry Heaney to remind people to return entry forms for competitions by the closing date and with the entrance fee as late forms and ones without payment will not be accepted any more. May I also remind people that to play in golf competitions you need to attend a minimum of two lectures throughout the winter.

Our next competition will be our

## Around the Green



annual competition which will be held at Abbeydale GC on July 9 with a 10.30 tee off. Please return entry forms on time!

Congratulations go to Derek McJannet of Sherwood Forest GC on his selection to represent England in the inaugural Hayter International Cup at West Lancashire GC in September. Good luck Derek!

Finally would like to wish Ron Graham a very happy retirement who at the end of February retired after 19 years as Head Greenkeeper at Tankersley Park GC.

J.V. Lax

### North West

This year's annual tournament against North Wales was played at Wilmslow GC, on April 11. The weather was good, the course was in excellent condition, and the golf was good. Unfortunately we lost 5-3, allowing North Wales to take the Gem Professional trophy back from the North West. I would like to thank Gem Professional for sponsoring the day, Wilmslow GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course, Stephen Oultram and his staff for presenting his course in lovely condition, and Gwen Chason, Catering Manageress for the superb evening meal, (and the bacon and egg baps).

Mike Sheehan, Course Manager at Mere Golf and Country Club, has a vacancy for a young lad to train as a greenkeeper. If you know anyone in the Knutsford area who might be interested contact Mike on 01565 830155. Peter Baume, Course Manager at Birchwood GC, says that due to a heavy workload, he is looking for a trained greenkeeper willing to work at Birchwood GC, on a temporary basis. If you are between jobs and fancy earning some money, contact Peter on 01925 818819.

I suspect that now we have had some rain, and the ground is warming up you will all be able to sleep a little easier. I am sure you have all had to put up with the

"Armchair Greenkeepers Association", wanting to know why our greens are not like they are in Augusta. Well now that spring has arrived, and some growth has appeared, they will forget Augusta until next April.

The North West committee has purchased some videos which will be available to any members wishing to borrow

them. They are:

**GOLF COURSE PRESENTATION.** Featuring various maintenance work on the course, plus bunker construction.

**GOLF GREEN CONSTRUCTION.**

**SETTING STANDARDS,** A video on spray application.

**KEEPER OF THE GREEN.** A career in golf course management.

If you would like to borrow any of these videos, contact me on 0151 724 5412.

These videos can also be purchased from H.Q.

Bert Cross

### North Wales

Firstly my apologies for the lack of Section notes in the last few months. This is partly due to my inability to remember journalistic deadlines together with a hectic time at work and to top it all off organising and getting married! Hopefully now that we are reorganised office wise at work things should settle down.

March saw the Section - some of it anyway - visit Holland. No we didn't see any tulips, for their spring is as far behind as ours. What we did see was the very impressive set up at Mommersteeg HQ at Vlyjmen, the new golf course at Eferling and the Kuypers Turf Farm. Our thanks to our hosts for an enjoyable and informative visit, but special thanks to Phil Davies and Terry Adamson for their hard work making the visit possible. On a more worrying note the visit nearly heralded financial disaster for the Section because YOU did not support it. It left us in the embarrassing position of having to ask the trade for help yet again and gave some of us an extra workload and headache that we could have done without. Our thanks to John Osman, Major Owan, Gem Professional and Mommersteeg (including Phil Davies on his own account) for their very kind sponsorship of places. I know that the people who were given this opportunity to go are all very grateful to you.

In April the North West/North Wales Match took place at Wilmslow GC. We were victorious 5-3 against the home team and look forward to next year's return match. Many thanks to Wilmslow GC and Gem Professional for their help and sponsorship. Again, sadly, it left Terry Adamson to phone around looking for players only then to be let down by some. Gentlemen, this is not fair to him and shows extremely bad manners and the situation must be rectified. We cannot afford to lose stalwart members of this section through the inconsideration of others.

On a happier note I am particularly pleased that members have felt able to contact me particularly over employment problems. While I cannot always be of any real assistance at least it puts

me in contact with the membership.

For the record my telephone numbers are: Work: 01829 731186; Home: 01352 780602; Mobile: 0802 310576; Fax: 01829 731133. My address is 7 Cae Helyg, Pentre Halkyn, Clwyd, Nr Holywell, Flintshire CH8 8JA.

Any news suggestions for events etc please do not hesitate to contact me. Andy Campbell

### Northern

As many of you will be aware, it is with deepest sympathy that I announce the death of Mr William Mountain. Bill served the section as president for 35 years and some say this will never be matched. The funeral was well attended by section members.

President Day will proceed as planned and a 'Bill Mountain Memorial Trophy' is to be introduced so that people will remember all the hard work and effort Bill gave over the years.

Mr Mel Guy is now the acting president for Northern Section.

Our Spring Tournament at Scarborough South Cliff G.C was a great day. Forty one players braved the strong winds and the results were as follows:

0-9. 1. S Midgely, 71, 2. D Collins, 74 (back 9), 3. A Clark, 74; 10-18. 1. M Bryant, 71, 2. J Waite, 73, 3. Robin Smith 74; 19-28. 1. D Cockburn, 78, 2. J France, 84,

3. Richard Smith 86

The course was presented in an excellent condition, so many thanks to Paul Sleight and his greens staff. Thanks are also extended to the club house staff.

The next tournament will be President's Day, which is to be held on June 12 at Howley Hall Golf Club. Please remember that all names and payments must be received at least one week before the event.

I would like to welcome the following new members to the section: Richard Smith, Clayton GC; Julie Smithies, Temple Newsam GC; Timothy Balcome, Scarthingwell GC

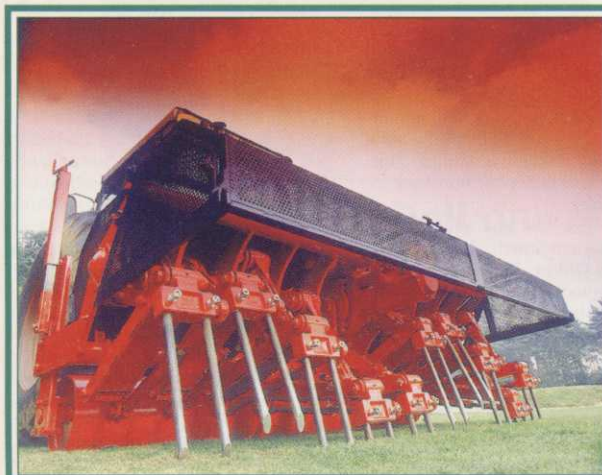
Finally, I would like to congratulate Andrew Leech, of Outlane GC, and his wife on the arrival of their new baby girl. Anybody volunteering for babysitting duties please contact the aforementioned!

Simon Heppenstall

### Midland Region East Midlands

This year's Spring Tournament was held on April 25th at Rothley Park G.C, on a fine spring day 47 members competed for the chance of qualifying for this years Hayter Challenge Tournament. category winners were.

0-9. 1. Richard Barker (Kirby Muxloe) 76 - 4 - 72; 2. Carl Chamberlain (Scraftoft) 78 - 6 - 72. 3. Paul Tatlow (Kedleston) 77 - 5 - 72. 10.19. 1.



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Antony Bindley (Kirby Muxloe) 84 - 15 - 69; 2. Donald Blacker (Manor) 83 - 12 - 71; 3. Martin Hopkins (Kirby Muxloe) 90 - 17 - 73. 19-28 1. Mark Bindley (Kirby Muxloe) 91 - 21 - 70. 2. Chris Bates (Willesley Pk) 101 - 28 - 73. 3. Dean Cooper (Rotherly Pk) 98 - 24 - 74

Trade and Association - Ivan Toon 81 - 12 - 69  
This was not only a day for being Bindleyed but also Kirby Muxloed as all four members had top three placings, and even the Trade and Association prize was taken by an ex-Kirby Muxloe Greenkeeper.

On behalf of all section members I would like to thank Rotherly G.C. for the courtesy of their excellent course, and for providing us with a splendid meal. Also many thanks should go to our new sponsors E.T Breakwells for providing us with such a grand prize table. Best wishes to all members in the Hayter Regional final at Peterborough Milton G.C.

Finally congratulations are in order for Chris Bates of Willesley Park on the addition of a baby boy named Luke to his family.

Antony Bindley

### Mid Anglia

Our first golf event of the year took place on the 29th April, at John O'Gaunt GC, Beds. As is usual, our Spring Tournament was the qualifying event for the Hayter Challenge, although this year we took the qualification over the full 36 holes, instead of eighteen. Both courses were in excellent shape for so early in the year, and our thanks go to Colin Robinson and his staff for all their efforts. Also thanks to John O'Gaunt GC Bob Gilbert of Rigby Taylor, who sponsored the day, Hayter, and all the other members of the trade who supported us on the day. It was also nice to see Scott MacCallum our editor of the magazine attending and taking a few snapshots.

The results on the day were as follows: 1st - J Wells (Brocket Hall) 77pts, 2nd - J Moorhouse (Brocket Hall) 74pts, 3rd - A Dancer (Shendish GC) 71pts. Best am - D Forsyth (Mid Herts GC), pm - R McKeown (Arkley GC). Nearest Pin - D Forsyth (Mid Herts), Longest Drive - G Simkins (Mount Pleasant GC).

The following people make up the team which goes to the Regional Final at Peterborough Milton on Tuesday 16th July. 0-9 Handicaps - R McKeown, J Moorhouse, G Simkins, S Cherry, (reserves - D Forsyth, R Coogan). 10-18 Handicaps - J Wells, A Dancer, M Hendry, P Robinson (reserves - C Toms, E Thompson). 19-28 Handicaps - J Hatton, L Cant, I Payne, R Saunders (no reserves).

If for any reason, any members who have qualified cannot attend, please let me or Roger Willars, our regional

administrator know as soon as possible.

Finally I would like to welcome the following new members to the Section: Ian Cropper, Steven Gransby, Edward Long, Lee Folbigg, Phil Spencer, R Stidston, A Randall, G Mair, D Baker, James Peddar, I Gallacher, B Adamson, Lee Hudson, S Kane, K Armstrong, R Childerley, R Preece, G Jenkins, D Ritchie, S Grass and A Parsons. Paul Lockett

### Bucks, Berks and Oxon

At last a Golf Day to report on, and what a day it was with the weather throwing everything at us, rain, hailstones and the occasional bit of sunshine. We must be a hardy bunch to carry on in that sort of weather (possibly slightly mad). At one stage it looked like a scene from Caddyhack when the Priest is playing in the storm. If anybody hasn't seen the film it's a must for all greenkeepers.

The venue for this event was Southfield GC near Oxford a course I had never played before but one I would like to play again in more favourable weather! Ian Holton and his staff deserve a lot of praise for the condition of the course under difficult conditions this Spring, well done lads.

This event proved popular with 26 competitors fighting it out for a place in the regional final at Peterborough Milton in July. The standard of golf was very high as you will see from the winning scores. Category 1 (0-9) 1st - A Wakefield 66 (Local knowledge helped), 2nd - D Eldridge 67, 3rd - S Adby 69 (better back 9), 4th - P Whelehan 69. Category 2 (10-18) 1st - D Jones 67 (better back 9), 2nd - R Clarke 67, 3rd - D Parrish 67, 4th - B Benzie 71. Category 3 (19-28) 1st C Lillitoo 71, 2nd D Bolton 72, 3rd - R Hindaugh 78, 4th A Hill 88. The above 12 people qualify for the Regional Final in July. Details of this event will be posted to the above. There are three reserves: A Murray, J Scoones and D Wassell. Longest Drive winner - A Murray, Nearest the pin - B Holt. Finally I would like to thank all at Southfield for there hospitality on the day, excellent food and service. Thanks to all trade members for their support again, without it these events would be impossible. The next golf day is at Henley Golf Club on the 15th July. If anybody still hasn't received their fixture cards please get in touch and I will post one off to you. Lindsay Anderson

### South East Region London

The Hayter Qualifier was held at Hendon GC on April 24. The course was in excellent condition and I would like to thank Mike Jeffrey and his staff for preparing the course. The overall winner of the day was Robert Phillips from Sandy Lodge GC with a nett 72, The cat-

egory qualifiers were as follows: 0-9. Robert Phillips, David Montgomery, John Jackson and Chris Carpenter. 10-18. Robert Washbrook, Tony Dunstan, Edward Dickinson and Simon Walley. 19-28. Jason Shepherd, Mark Ambler.

The longest drive was won by Simon Walley and the nearest the pin was won by Alec Macindoe. The guest prize was won by Mike Jeffrey.

I would like to thank Hendon GC for its hospitality and especially the Captain Mr David Taylor and General Manager Mr David Cooper for all their help. The catering and bar staff are commended for their service on the day. I was also nice to see Scott MacCallum present on the day and we thank him for making the effort to come down and visit us.

I would like to thank the trade for its support and especially Richard Haynes, from Avoncrop, for returning his raffle prize which was auctioned to raise money for our section.

Tony Dunstan

### East Anglia

On April 18 the Spring Trophy was up for grabs, as well as a place in the next round of the Hayter Tournament. The venue was Waldringfield Heath GC and some 30 plus greenkeepers took up the combined challenge of the tight course and strong winds. The opening holes resembled the Sahara Desert during a sand storm as the winds whipped up the light soil from the surrounding fields and blew across the course - the sun wasn't quite blocked out but those on the 4th tee had to beware. It has to be said, what a marvellous way to have your top dressing applied, direct from the supplier with free delivery! Keith Titshall and his staff are to be congratulated on the condition and presentation of the course. The wind was a big enough test and with the competition being played off the white tees (obviously a low handicapper's decision) there were few players near to a nett par.

The overall winner of the Spring Trophy was D. Smith - nett 69.

0-9. 1. R. Hickford, 75, 2. M. Virley, 77, 3. M. Fance, 78, 4. C. Crocher, 78, 5. A. Toomey, 79. 10-18. 1. D. Wells, 74, 2. J. Timms, 74, 3. S. Piggot, 80, 4. B. Lemon, 81. 19-28. 1. D. Smith, 69, 2. T. Tyrell, 73, 3. T. Huddleston, 74, 4. M. Mison, 77.

The top trade member was A. Turbin - nett 85. Nearest the pin competition winners were 2nd hole - M. Fance, 10th - R. Hickford, 12th - A. Sheehan.

Many thanks to the catering staff at Waldringfield for a fine meal and splendid service. The meal was followed by the Club Captain, Alan Adamson, saying a few words and David Wells, Chairman of the Section, thanking Waldringfield GC and Hayter for its sponsorship of the

competition. A bottle of whisky was presented to Keith for his efforts on the course.

The day would not be the same without the members of the trade who support the section and donate prizes. They are Avoncrop, Bob Chesham, Course Care, Ernest Does, Green Sports Ltd, Kings, Parker Hart, Pattissons, Rigby Taylor, Colin Rushbrooke, Tuckwells, Turf Actant and Waldringfield GC.

A seminar has been arranged for Tuesday May 14 at Whittle College. The topics will be grass seed, a talk from Barenbrug Seeds and folia feeds, a talk from Maxicrop Ltd. For further information contact Andy Sheehan on 01277 215765.

A meeting open to all East Anglia members has been arranged by Head Office to discuss the proposed setting up of an Essex Section. The meeting would be attended by Head Office representatives and we would like as many members as possible to attend, to air their views.

The meeting will take place on Thursday June 27 at 7.30pm at the Ravenwood Hall Hotel, Roughham, three miles east of Bury St Edmonds, just off the A14 trunk road. More details are elsewhere in this issue of Greenkeeper International. Stephen Millard

### Kent

Our first tournament of the year - the Hayter Qualifier was held at Sene Valley GC. On a windy, dry day conditions were very tricky. The course was in good condition for the time of year and we thank Sene Valley for courtesy of the course. The scores were as follows: 0-9. 1. P. Belton, 2. H. Morgan, 3. S. Suttle, 4. N. Gillham. 10-18. 1. P. Biscoe, 2. D. Vidler, 3. W. Banks, 4. R. Malt. 19-28. 1. J. Sillcock, 2. C. Moore, 3. N. Stapley, 4. J. Poots.

All the above qualify for the next round of the Hayter Tournament.

There are also two reserves for each category. Many thanks go to the trade for supplying raffle prizes and especially Driving Force Leisure for providing a day's golf in France for each category winner.

Our guest for the day was Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education Officer, who updated us on what is available on the education front in the future.

I would like to remind you about sending money and confirmation letters in on time. For all future tournaments nobody will be admitted after the deadline. There will be no exceptions.

On a lighter note I would like to thank somebody at Sene Valley for the stripogram that appeared on the 4th tee just before dinner. We will not be charging extra for this entertainment but we will supply telescopes next time for you

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*Comment From Walter Woods  
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor*

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## COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

short sighted greenkeepers.

That's all for this month but watch this space for future events etc. I can be contacted on 0860 260 240.

Huw Morgan

■ Ken Statham, President of the Kent County Golf Union, died peacefully at his home in Biggin Hill early on Tuesday morning, April 23. His sudden and untimely death at the age of 62 when he still had so much to contribute to golf, was an extremely sad loss and his leadership, counsel and wonderful sense of humour, together with the friendships generated since his involvement with the game, and particularly during his time with the County Committee, will be greatly missed by the golfing fraternity. Kent golf owes him a great deal.

Ken began his golf joining Cherry Lodge in 1969 and as a natural administrator, inevitably became involved in committee work including Junior Organiser and Chairman of Greens. In 1981, when his son Neil made his County debut, his efforts in the interests of golf brought him onto the County Committee where initially he managed the Kent 2nd teams and later took charge of the Colts. At about that time, he was also involved in setting up, with George Will, the County Coaching Scheme which has proved so successful. In 1988 he was honoured to be invited to take Office as County President, and his subsequent election to the E.G.U. Council, and the following year his services to Cherry Lodge were recognised and rewarded by his election to Club Captain.

Ken's enthusiasm and love of golf knew no bounds and was such that he rarely missed an event. During his term of County Office this would average one day in every three 'On Duty'. On many of these occasions he would be accompanied by Audrey, and as a result she became well known and very popular with players and supporters alike. There is no doubt that they both enjoyed every minute so spent.

The funeral took place at Lewisham Crematorium on the 2nd May and among the many present were representatives from the E.G.U., the South-Eastern Group Counties, the Kent Ladies Golf Union, and many Kent Clubs. An Address was given by Ken's brother, Michael, and by Ray Saunders, Kent County Captain who spoke of Ken's achievements and of his dedication to furthering the game of golf. Ken would have enjoyed Ray's quip to the effect that there were no 'Apologies for Absence' from the County Committee on this occasion. Many Clubs will also have acknowledged Ken's passing with the traditional lowering of flags.

Ken leaves his wife Audrey, son Neil and daughter-in-law Sue, grandchildren Sam and Chloe, and daughter Toril

### Sussex

We have held two events in April this year, as we did last year so successfully. The first one was for Head Greenkeepers accompanied by their Club Secretaries which was held at West Sussex Golf Club. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to a back injury at the last minute. However, I understand the day went well and Alastair Cale and Chris Reed, with their Secretaries, walked away with the glassware donated by SCATS of Billingham.

The second event was the Spring Meeting and Hayter Challenge Qualifier which was held at East Sussex National. The response was phenomenal and we had to go down on bended knee to increase from 48 to 60 players. Even then we had to turn people away although we ended up with 64 people there in total! Among these were John Pemberton, who came down from Head

## Around the Green



Office to play, and also Derek Farrington, our new Regional Administrator, who was thankfully able to take over the admin duties from Sue when we left early. The course was brilliant, if challenging - the 16th gobbled up golf balls by the score! The Hayter Challenge qualifiers were Lawrie Tremlett, Chris Allen and Danny O' Rouke in Category 1 with Roland Hughes as reserve. Alastair Cale, Jon Hill and Neil Cleverly qualified in Category 2 with Ken Barber of East Sussex National (!) as reserve. Category 3 was Tony Bremer, Colin Cathy and Jonathan Sales with Mike McQueen as reserve. Congratulations and good luck to you all on the 6th June. The overall winner of the morning round of the Spring Meeting was Alastair Cale who has now been cut two shots! Raymond Day won the afternoon round and we are trying to figure out how to cut his handicap as well - below the knees! All in the day was a great success with Culverwells and Rigby Taylor kindly sponsoring some wonderful prizes.

On a personal note I would like to announce the happy and long awaited arrival of my daughter, Samantha, in November last year and Gary Ogilvie's daughter, Charlotte, in March this year. Stefan G. Antolik

### South West and South Wales Region

#### Devon and Cornwall

With section events completed for another winter our section's thoughts turned to the Region's Trade show Westurf. The show allows our Region to offer its members reduced cost educational events and in the past our local Colleges have received grants towards greenkeeper education.

With this it is important that Westurf continues to thrive, this year's show started off not as we would have liked with the rain pouring down at that stage it crossed our minds that the show may have to be cancelled but within minutes of the show opening the rain eased to just a few showers and was that the sun we saw! Numbers around the stands were steady all day, with the prize draws taking place it gave all who attended a chance to walk away with a prize, the new show layout provided the machinery companies with an excellent area to show off their latest equipment. Also this year our Executive Director Neil Thomas, Chairman Dean Cleaver assisted by Janet and Scott held forum at the BIGGA tent, all members were invited along to discuss any points they had regarding our Association.

All in all Westurf 96 continued to consolidate its position as a superb local, turf care show with most of the trade delighted with enquiries on the day.

On behalf of the section I would like to thank Gordon & Marion Child who put in so much time and effort into organising the show, also thanks must go to Steve Evans and Bill Mitchell who helped with the setting up of the show the day before and on the day and to all who helped out especially the South West lads on car park duty in all that rain.

Good luck to all our Hayter Qualifiers at this year's regional final at Salisbury and South Wilts GC on Wednesday June 12.

Trevose Golf Club is the venue for our June summer evening meeting on

Wednesday the 19th please contact Steve Evans on 01208 863647 if you would like to attend.

Richard Whyman

### South West

It was into cider country that we travelled for this year's Spring Tournament and Hayter section Qualifier held on April 17 at Oake Manor GC. The blustery conditions did not make playing this excellent young course any easier with many challenging holes created by well designed water features presenting themselves as the round unfolded. Course Manager Nigel Pring had prepared the course in first class condition particularly considering the slow start to the growing season, with dense growth on the fairways being the envy of others who have far less after last year's drought.

For this second event of the year we were privileged to have the presence of the Editor, who not only put his swing to the test but also had his camera on hand to snap some unsuspecting competitor. Thanks though are given to Scott for coming so far down country to be with us particularly as he drove back the same night.

Thanks are also given to Nigel for his course presentation, to Russell Gardner, the club professional for allowing us course courtesy and, of course, to Robin Boyes and the lads from Hayter for their sponsorship. The drinks, crisps and sweets were welcome at half way point.

The results were as follows:- 0-9. Craig Fudge nett 66; Nigel Pring nett 68; Michael Fawcett nett 73; Paul Godwin nett 74; Chris Tozer nett 74; reserves Paul Garland nett 74; Gary Cooke nett 75. 10-18. Alan Turner nett 72; James Williams nett 73; Duncan Smith nett 75; Anthony Knight nett 76; Oliver Stevenson nett 78; reserves Jim Nicholson nett 79; Maurice pierce nett 81. 19-28. Chris Sealey nett 73; Tim Dabennett nett 76; John Barr nett 76; Steve Mitchell nett 78; Peter Cox nett 80; reserves Matthew Hawker nett 85; Bob Gate nett 86.

Suggestions are being invited for presentations, speakers, subjects and titles for the Learning Experience at Harrogate in 1997. If anyone is interested in contributing, please contact me for a application form.

Five Supervisory and Management Courses are being promoted for 1996 to be held at Aldwark Manor starting from the 7th to 11th October and finishing from 4th to 8th November. If you are interested in booking a space then please contact either Ken Richardson at Headquarters on 01347 838581 or myself on 0117 9793127 for a application form.

Finally the Summer Competition takes place this year at Mendip Golf Club on 25th July. Kevin Green

### South Wales

The South Wales section seminar recently took place at Pencoed College and was deemed a great success by the 36 who attended.

Our thanks to the sponsors for making the day possible, Miracle Professional, Barenbrug, Hardi and Envirogreen Ltd. To the seminar speakers, Richard Minton, Bill Oliver, John Bradley, Gareth Goddard and Duncan Stewart for their interesting, educational and enjoyable presentations.

As the seminar rounded off this series of educational events, I'd like to thank all of those who have given so freely their time to help in the organisation of these meetings, but especially Peter Gillard and Malcolm Davies for their sterling efforts and also to the principal Mr JDB Thomas for allowing us the use of the college facilities.

Lastly (thank god I hear you cry) to our very own marathon man Mr David

Gladwin. Dave recently completed his second London marathon, although his finishing time around was not as fast as the first, due to the unexpected heat-wave of 75 degrees. Crossing the finishing line itself an achievement, well done!

On route, Dave reckons that he consumed at least 20 pints of water (makes a change from beer) and he'd like to personally thank the fire services for their efforts in cooling people down with their hoses. To those, they know who they are, who doubted his ability to run the race. I believe him, although he does have a second bike for sale. Peter Lacey

### South Coast

The Spring Golf Meeting was held on Monday 15th April at Crane Valley GC. Martin Summers, the Course Manager had prepared the course in good order for us, he and his staff at the Crane Valley were most helpful on the day and they even managed to supply us with fine weather. Our thanks must also go to management for allowing us the use of the course, the catering staff for keeping us fed and watered. Last but not least our thanks to our generous sponsors for the day Huxley Grass Machinery and our President Jim Fry.

The results were as follows:-

Nearest the pin. P Fitzjohn; Longest Drive. R. Walker; Nita Simpson Trophy. R. Crouch; 1st Gross B Emberley, 2nd Gross L Miller; 1st Handicap A Rideout, 2nd Handicap M Woodrow

As from now our section is running its own Handicaps for those that are bandits (see above), and for those members who have not got club Handicaps. This means there is no need for anyone to feel left out. All members are welcome to attend these meetings.

As you are all probably aware some of the courses held at Aldwark Manor are now going to be run at regional level. This is to cut down on expenses. If you have any ideas as to what sort of courses and subjects you would like covered please contact Kerran Daly on 01722 742898.

We are still looking for assessors within the section. If you are interested in obtaining your D32 contact Kieran who will fill you in on all the details.

At the time of writing this report we have just had some really hard frosts that have slowed down the growth considerably. A lot of grass must be suffering at this time, still by the time this report gets into the Magazine the sun will be shining and we will have forgotten all about the cold spring "we hope".

Well gentleman that concludes the report for this month. I would like to ask all members that if they have any item of interest they would like to be put in the magazine please give me a ring with the details. Ken Lodge

## MY AMBITION IS...



"To play cricket until I retire and golf as long as possible"  
Adrian Dancer, Shendish Manor GC





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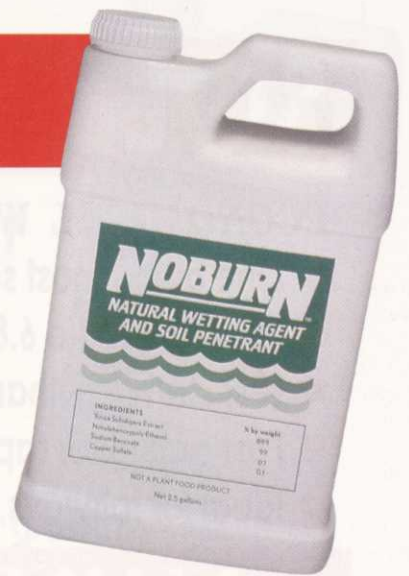
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# Under the COSHH

**More words of wisdom on health and safety matters by Jon Allbutt**

**T**he Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations were introduced originally in 1988 and have been progressively revised since then. The most significant revision came in 1994 with some changes in definitions and important additions, but more about that later on. When trying to understand new health and safety regulations it is not a bad idea to ask the question why?; Why was it necessary to introduce a special set of regulations under the Health and Safety at Work Act that deal specifically with hazardous substances? The Control of Pesticides Regulations were introduced in 1996 along with a handful of Codes of Practice so the problems of use and exposure to pesticides were being taken care of, or were they? But, there are many other substances hazardous to health to which we are exposed more frequently than pesticides, and these are not subject to the same testing, registration, labelling and use restrictions as pesticides.

The employers general duties set out in Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 do not give details on the specific matter of hazardous substances. There are no definitions, no specific duties with regard to protection, monitoring, risk assessments etc.

So there is a need to raise awareness of the risks to health, both short and long term from exposure to hazardous substances. We need an action plan to avoid and/or minimise exposure and a system for recording, informing and monitoring all work activities involving these substances. That in a nutshell summarises the employers duties as required by COSHH Regulations. The wording of Regulation 6 is interesting:

**"An employer shall not carry on any work which is liable to expose any employees to any substance hazardous to health unless he has made a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks created by that work to the health of those employees and of the steps that need to be taken to meet the requirements of these Regulations."**

This vital point "shall not carry on any work" is missed by most employers; another vital point usually missed is the duty to assess "the risks created by that work". It is not sufficient to merely record what is being used; to complete a "suitable and sufficient" assessment there must be a study of the work done involving hazardous substances.

A classic example in greenkeeping is the use of diesel fuel. A typical material safety data sheet (MSDS) states clearly:

"The products are defatting agents and contain low concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, some of which are known, from experimental studies, to be carcinogenic. Prolonged or repeated skin contact, and in condi-

tions of poor personal hygiene, may therefore cause dermatitis, and pose a possible long term risk from skin cancer."

Diesel fuel tanks or drums that have no proper means of dispensing except into a makeshift container which is then poured into the fuel tank involve unacceptable exposure during the fuelling of vehicles. Add the fact that this is an operation that takes place one of more times per day, and you have a situation that contravenes the requirements of Regulation 6.

So how can we deal with this situation? The diesel tank will be raised on piers within a bund, or be fitted with a pump. There will be a delivery hose long enough to reach, and designed to deliver fuel, without spilling(!), into a variety of types and sizes of fuel tank. The diesel storage tank will have the warning symbol (Harmful) and any guidance fixed near to the delivery hose and gloves of the correct type nearby for use on every occasion the fuel is dispensed.

I recently carried out a health and safety audit at a golf course and found an old diesel fuel tank sitting on some sleepers in the shed. It was just high enough off the ground to fit a bucket under the tap. The tap was leaking and the greenkeepers stood in a slurry of sand and diesel to fill the bucket which was then poured (mostly!) into the fuel tank of the vehicle. All the vehicles had the typical staining of spilt diesel, not to mention the characteristic smell!

## ACTION PLAN

Here is a suggested action plan to take to the Greens Committee for adoption, to help the employer to comply with the COSHH Regulations:

1. Those members of the club management team to attend either the BIGGA Courses (see insert), or one of the British Safety Council Tel: 0181 741 1231 one day courses run throughout the year on Risk Assessment and General Health and Safety.
2. Make a complete list of all chemical substances in use for the whole site. Justify the list and dispose of all those substances that are no longer required; amend the list.
3. Set a policy that no new substances will be purchased by the Club until a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) has been obtained first, studied and a decision made that it is not more, and preferably is a less hazardous substance than that previously used. Obtain Material Safety Data Sheets for all the substances on the list.
4. Complete a list of work activities likely to expose staff to micro-organisms and state how these risks can be eliminated, or reduced.
5. Make another list of those work activities involving exposure to dust and decide if expert help is needed to quantify the

The regulations make it clear that it is not only chemical substances that are hazardous, in fact the regulations also state:

"A biological agent", and gives this definition – "biological agent" means any micro-organism, cell culture, or human endoparasite, including any which have been genetically modified, which may cause any infection allergy, toxicity or otherwise create a risk to human health.

So here we need to be aware of the risks to health from a variety of organisms such as Tetanus, Leptospirosis, Legionella, Hepatitis and so on. All greenkeepers should have up to date protection against Tetanus and take care when working in or near rat infested water, or working with materials in rat infested areas e.g. plastic fertiliser bags. The revisions for the 1994 regulations include for the first time An Approved Code of Practice for the Control of Biological Agents and places additional duties on the employer to complete a risk assessment where exposure arises from a deliberate intention to work with a biological agent, or where exposure is incidental to the main work activity.

Another area often missed by the employer is "a dust of any kind when present at a substantial concentration in air". Mowing in drought conditions, mixing and applying top dressings or fertilisers are the sort of jobs that may expose staff to high concentrations of dust, sometimes for long periods.

degree of exposure. State how this exposure could be eliminated or reduced.

6. Review all personal protective equipment and establish whether it is adequate, up to date and carries the CE Mark. Remember you will need material safety data sheets for this equipment as well to establish its suitability.
7. Prepare risk assessments, where necessary, taking into account the degree of exposure and the actual work activity. Decide if the exposure can be reduced by changing the substance, or the method of working. If necessary prepare written guidance where staff need to follow specific procedures.
8. Put all of this into a Health and Safety File and present it to the appropriate Committee for adoption as part of the Club Health and Safety Policy.
9. Introduce it to all staff as part of a training session giving them enough time to become familiar with the File and their duties.
10. Monitor the use of the File on regular occasions during the first six months of use and report back to the Committee with recommendations for revisions.

# GREENKEEPER

## THE COLLEGES AND TH

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

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

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

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

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

### NORTH



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



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



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



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



**BRACKENHURST COLLEGE** Southwell, Nottinghamshire NG25 0QF. Contact Student Administration. Tel: 01636 817000. National Certificate in Horticulture, Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management – 1 Year. *Day Release over 2 Years:* NVQ Level 1 Amenity Horticulture; NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with options. City & Guilds Phase 3 Greenkeeping Management. We also offer short courses in Technical, Supervisory and Management skills training appropriate to the Greenkeeping Industry.



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



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



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE COLLEGE** Milton Centre, Landbeach Road, Milton, Cambridgeshire CB4 6DB. Contact Martin Crimmins. Tel: 01223 860701. Part time – Day Release over two years leading to NVQ Level II (Greenkeeping Options), including the GTC Training Manual requirements. Autumn term commences September/October 1996.



**DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY School of Agriculture and Horticulture, Lincoln** Caythorpe Court, Caythorpe, Grantham, Lincs. Contact Neil Rowbottom on 01522 522252 or Student Services on 01400 272521. Day Release NVQ Level II. NCH with Greenkeeping. National Diploma in Horticulture with Greenkeeping and Turf Management options. National Diploma in Golf Studies. Also HND Golf and Leisure Studies.



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



**WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE** Moreton Morrell, Warwick CV35 9BL. Contact Graham Martin. Tel: 01926 651367. Greenkeeping courses – day release – NVQ Level I; NVQ Level II; NVQ Level III; IoG courses (evening class). National Intermediate Diploma in Turf Culture; Full time two year BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture (with option in Turf Culture); *Professional updating courses include:* Groundsmanship, Machinery Maintenance and Repair, Managing Conservation Areas, Plant Identification, Hedgelaying, First Aid, FEPA Spraying Courses, Chainsaw Courses.



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



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



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



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

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Please note that all college details on these pages were provided by the colleges themselves.

Greenkeeper International takes no responsibility for accuracy of information provided.

Contact the colleges direct for prospectuses and comprehensive information.

SOUTH EAST

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



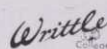
**OAKLANDS COLLEGE** Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0JA. Contact Ian Merrick. Tel: 01727 850651. Part time courses leading to NVQ Level II Greenkeeping, evening courses leading to City & Guilds Phase IV Business Management. One year full time NC Greenkeeping & Sports Turf Management. Courses start September 1996.



**OTLEY COLLEGE** Otley College, Otley, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 9EY. Contact Student Applications. Tel: 01473 785543. Full time courses include: BTEC National Diploma (Horticulture), NCH (Sports Turf Option). Part time courses: NVQ 2 Greenkeeping/Groundsmanship, NVQ 3 Sports Turf Management/Landscape Construction. IOG Qualifications including NID & NDT (Evenings). Also horticultural Mechanics, Welding & FEPA Spraying courses. Modern Apprenticeships in Commercial & Amenity Horticulture Options are available. New for 1996 BSc (Hons) Environmental Landscape Management. Otley College - Developing Individuals - Achieving More.



**PLUMPTON COLLEGE** Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE. Contact David Blackmur. Tel: 01273 890454. Full time courses: National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture (options in Landscape and Sportsturf); National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture; First Diploma; A11 BTEC. Part time courses: NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture in Arboriculture, Interior Landscaping, Hard Landscaping and Greenkeeping, Sportsturf and Sportsground Management; NVQ Level III Amenity Horticulture; Phase IV Business Management.



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



**CANNINGTON COLLEGE** Cannington Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS. Contact Nick Rigden. Tel: 01278 652226. HNC Golf Course Management. BTEC First Diploma. BTEC National Diploma in Golf Course Management. BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management (inc. European Studies). NVQ Level 1 and 2 Golf Greenkeeping. NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management. NVQ Level 4 Greenkeeping Management. FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Off Road Vehicle Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics, BTEC National Diploma Sports Science (Golf Studies).



**HARTPURY COLLEGE** Hartpury, Nr Gloucester GL19 3BE. Tel: 01452 700283. Fax: 01452 700629. Amenity and Decorative Horticulture: NVQ Level II and III, First Diploma, National Certificate, National Diploma and HND Land Use. Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management: NVQ Level II and III, First Diploma, Certificate, National Diploma and HND Land Use. Golf Studies: National Diploma. FEPA Training.



**SPARSHOLT COLLEGE** Sparsholt College Hampshire, Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2NF. Contact Bob Young. Tel: 01962 776441. NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase IV Management Studies, GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC: Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FEPA: Short Courses, Chainsaws. All courses, other than Phase IV, are offered on Block release. Full residential facilities available. New for '96 ANCA Machinery Maintenance. Full time or part time.



**ELMWOOD COLLEGE** Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB. Contact Carol Borthwick. Tel: 01334 652781. Fax: 01334 656795. Craft Level courses. Block-release and full-time, following SVQ Level II and the GTC Training Manual. Six week specialist modular programme (January-February), including Golf Course Construction, Pesticide Application and Plant Protection Procedures. SVQ Level III (Supervisory) Block Release. HNC/HND Golf Course Management available as full-time, day-release and distance learning. FEPA, COSHH and Health & Safety short courses also.



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



**OATRIDGE COLLEGE** Ecclesmachan, Broxburn, West Lothian EH52 6NH. Contact Steve Miller. Tel: 01506 854387. Full and part time courses: Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management; National Certificate in Greenkeeping; National Certificate Modular and Scottish Vocational Qualification Level I and II. National Certificate in Hort. Machinery. Short specialist courses - including safe use of chemicals, operation of greenkeeping machinery.



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



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



**PENCOED COLLEGE** Pencoed, Mid Glamorgan CF35 5LG. Contact Peter Gillard. Tel: 01656 860202. Day Release courses in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf at Craft, Advanced Craft, Supervisory and Management levels to GTC requirements, incorporating the Training Manual of the Greenkeepers Training Committee. National Diploma Greenkeeping and Sportsturf - full time, commencing September 1996.



**WELSH COLLEGE** Welsh College of Horticulture, Northrop, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6AA. Contact GM Wright. Tel: 01352 840861. Fax: 01352 840731. Full time courses: BTEC First in Landbase Golf Greenkeeping NVQ Level II. Part time courses: NVQ 4, 3, 2, 1 all available on block weeks. Short courses: Pesticide PA1, PA2, PA6, 1-3 day courses (training and testing); COSHH Assessments; Safe lifting and carrying; PICKUP courses. Home study learning at NVQ Level II Option Greenkeeping. All courses are integrated with the GTC Training Manual.

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# Working

**Making alternations to a golf course is much easier when everyone works together as a team.**

Unlike many art forms golf courses are living things. Of course, we know the playing characteristics change with the seasons and the weather but they also differ in other ways to the extent that they rarely ever remain exactly the same as the original architect's design.

Nature dictates that trees grow, changing the look of holes while others have man made alterations – extended or shortened, bunkers added, greens altered, always with a view to refining the original golfing challenge. All this, coupled with less than repetitive natures of most players swings, ensure the only time, unlike the accurate Ben Hogan who was reputed to achieve the feat with regularity, players tend to play from their own divot marks is when the first effort has failed to move the ball.

Golf Course architects are a singularly thick skinned lot and don't seem to mind others tampering with their handiwork. Can you imagine Da Vinci's response to being told that the committee had decided that the Mona Lisa's dopey grin was to be replaced by something more sultry and they'd called in Rembrandt to do the work? Or Beethoven's on being told that the committee had asked Noel Gallagher to rework the middle eight in his Ninth Symphony. Personally I don't think they'd be over the moon. But I'm fairly sure Alister McKenzie would be quite pleased if he saw the way Augusta National now looks or that Harry Colt would appreciate changes made to the West Course at Wentworth.

However, amendments are not just made to the elite golf clubs, it's something which members' clubs have done for many years and now, particularly with the VAT windfall, it is an avenue more clubs have the wherewithal to attempt.

Such a club is East Herts, which has shown that by employing a professional architect and contractor and then working closely with them and the green-keeping team seemingly wide

ranging work can be carried out without closing the course and to the satisfaction of everyone concerned.

A total of 52 bunkers were involved – remodelling existing ones and putting in seven brand new ones.

"Most of the existing ones have been reshaped because of the amount of sand caused by the banks on them. They just swallowed up vast quantities of sand and that is very difficult to maintain," explained Ian Scott Taylor, the architect charged with completing with the work in concert with constructor, Cousell Associates Ltd, Head Greenkeeper Bill Sparrow, his team and the members.

"There will be 47 sand bunkers in total the rest of which are grass hollows. The thought behind it is to introduce more strategy into the golf course to make the member think about what he is going to do around the course and to improve course management for the greenkeeper as well. That was the brief that East Herts gave us to work to and I believe it has worked very well."

The fact that the relationship with the club, its members and the professionals was so good speaks volumes for the way the job was tackled because, let's face it, putting in bunkers is a little like getting the job of putting up taxes – you wouldn't expect to win many popularity contests.

"A member said the other day. We must be the only club in the country to spend £100,000 putting in things which no member wants! You can't give him an argument really," said Ray York, a member of the Green Committee and a man whose work on the project has been so well appreciated he's had a new bunker on the 1st named after him!

The course was originally designed and constructed by the members and their own green staff when the club was relocated 20 years ago and the quality of the layout is a credit to all involved.

"The old course was a figure eight and we wanted to retain that concept here and this site automatically lent itself to that design again," said Ray.

The bunkers at the new East



# in harmony...



Ian Scott Taylor, left, and Bill Sparrow, right, with two members of Cousell Associates Ltd construction team

Herts course were more or less a copy of those at the old course.

"The general feeling was that after 20 years our bunkers were old fashioned and didn't fit in with what they had everywhere else.

"The shaping of them was unfair. In certain times of the year if ball ran in to within 12 inches of the back of the bunker you didn't have a shot. Our plan

was to enhance them and bring them up to latter day design," said Ray.

The club decided to put its VAT money to good use and decided on this occasion to commission a professional architect.

The Green's Committee quickly saw the benefits of bringing in professionals to do the work.

"Because the members know we have a professional golf archi-

tect on the job we've been able to put in new bunkers which weren't on the original plan. They've gone in and we've had very little problem because the members know they are being done by someone who knows what he is talking about and not Charlie Bloggs from the club who's decided to pop one in there. That has been a terrific help," said Ray.

"My first impressions of the course were that it didn't need a lot doing to it. The members had done an excellent job of routing the golf course. I couldn't have done a better job myself to be honest but it just needed tweaking here and there," said Ian.

"We came back with some proposals and we all went through them with Bill Sparrow. I gave my thinking on each bunker and discussed them all in detail. The good thing about this is that it's been a team effort all the way round. It just proves that the golf architect, constructor, can work with the greens committee and the greenkeeper as a team."

The old adage about a camel being a horse designed by committee was avoided because there was no doubt where the buck stopped.

"The casting vote is with the architect. The buck stops with him and he's got to balance all the opinions of the constructor, greenkeeper and the committee. It has not always been a bed of roses we have had our points of contention on one or two bunkers and I have had to say enough's enough and that is what we are going to do."

Work began on January 29 and was completed by the middle of May in time for a big pro-am at the club in July.

To speed the process all work was being turfed not seeded to come back into early play as soon as possible. David Cousell visited the site twice a week to coordinate the work with his full time on site team, Bill and his team.

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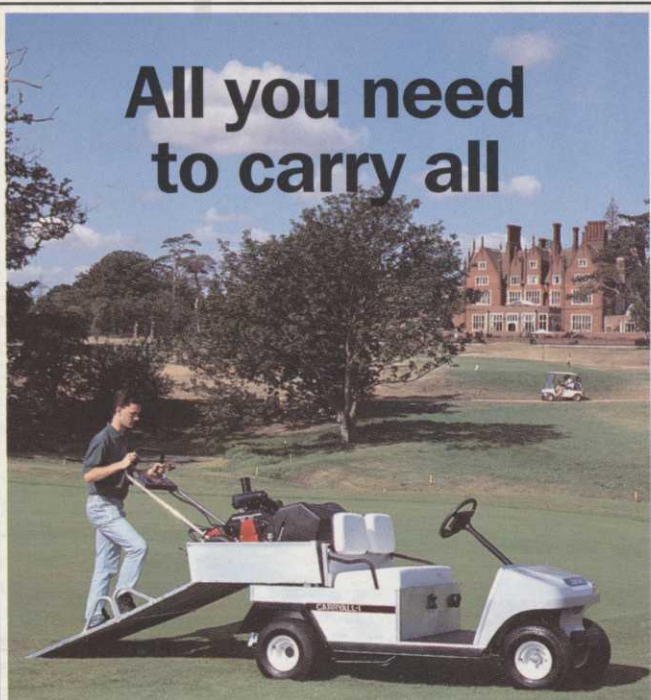
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## Working in harmony...



The 17th with three new bunkers guarding the right side of the fairway

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my programme I'll be able to blend the aprons in with the ride on triple when I go around the surrounds. I think it is cutting it down the maintenance of the bunkers." Previously when it rained the sand is some of the bunkers used to be washed down.

"It looked horrible and I would have to ask staff make sure they shove it back. Another benefit will be that not so much sand will be thrown onto the greens damaging them, smothering them and getting into the cutters. The whole appearance of the courses should be enhanced with the bunkering," said Bill.

The work at East Herts shows that extensive work can be carried out while the course remains open and the benefits of working closely with the professional team engaged to do the work.

"We have been very lucky at East Herts because the committee has been very progressive in the way it has looked at things. We can talk to, and reason with, them and we have respected their opinion and they have respected our professional opinion," explained Ian.

"While the work has been going on we've not had any problem with stopping play. I've been in daily communication with the construction team and we've been able to talk problems get round it one way and another avoid disruption on the course," said Bill.

He will also benefit from the style of the new bunkers which have been installed.

"The new style bunkers will save on maintenance time and it will give me more time to do work on other parts of the course.

We will have one or two bunkers which we will still have to fly mow but once I've got into

### MY AMBITION IS...



"To learn to play this silly little game of golf properly"  
Richard Saunders, St Neots GC

# A BIGGA retrospective

**Roger Robinson has been involved in BIGGA since its inception and is well placed to measure the Association's progress since then.**

It has always been essential in an organisation to be looking and planning ahead. The world of golf gets larger and larger, entailing change so that skilful management with commitment is necessary to move with the times and succeed. I believe BIGGA has achieved much and is progressive in outlook.

Why am I writing this piece? I was asked by the R&A to represent them at the first official meetings held in York and participated actively in the events leading up to the formation of BIGGA. I was delighted to accept the invitation to be a Trustee which appointment I have held until the AGM this year. Despite my opening comments I feel this is an occasion especially for the benefit of more newly joined members, to reflect upon what has been achieved to date often under difficult circumstances.

Neil Thomas faced a daunting task when first appointed operating from one room courtesy of the STRI at Bingley. The early days were not at all easy but gradually the organisation was put together and the move to premises at Aldwark Manor was very signifi-



cant. At that time other golfing organisations offered to help accommodate BIGGA but I believe the right decision was taken to retain the independence of separate premises.

It has been encouraging to see the progress achieved though, as Neil would agree, there were at least a couple of hairy moments. However with the recent undoubted success of

BTME, the excellent Greenkeeper International magazine and, most of all, the large membership there is now a firm platform.

Attitudes within golf clubs are notoriously hard to change. In my belief the golf course is the main product, desirable though it is of course, to have all the other facilities at optimum level. Many golfers have travelled extensively to America, Spain and Portugal and all are aware of standards being set, albeit often with large budgets. Nevertheless I feel that it is coming home more and more to clubs that members and visitors expect high standards for their courses and all year play as far as possible. If my premise is correct this must make the case for the need for the professional skills of BIGGA members.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement with BIGGA making many friends in the process. I speak for the R&A as well as personally in congratulating BIGGA on reaching its present position and wishing further success. I would say to the BIGGA membership, do please support your Chairman, Board of Management, Executive Director and Staff. They work long and hard for you.

May I also pay tribute to your President – Viscount Whitelaw – who has contributed so much to your cause since the inception.

Good luck and success to BIGGA.

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# Levington blossoms under new regime

**Levington Horticulture has a new identity but it has a long pedigree.**

**A** new company came into being two years ago. It was launched into a competitive sector of the industry at a time when the country had not quite shaken off the longest recession since the war.

An extremely brave decision one might think, but when you consider that Levington Horticulture was formed following a management buyout from the Fison empire and that the expertise and experience contained within the "new" company was among the finest in Europe you can see why investors had such confidence.

The progress of Levington Horticulture since then has done nothing to change any minds and its fortunes, like the natural recipients of certain Levington products, are blossoming.

At its Bramford headquarters, just outside Ipswich, the zeal and enthusiasm of the workforce is infectious and the staff talk of Levington and its many innovative new products in a way parents describe the achievements of their children.

"The new business is based on very solid and firm foundations. You also get decisions made quicker, as it is all done in the same corridor. You don't have to wait for them to go from board level to board level," said Paul Waller, Senior Product Manager.



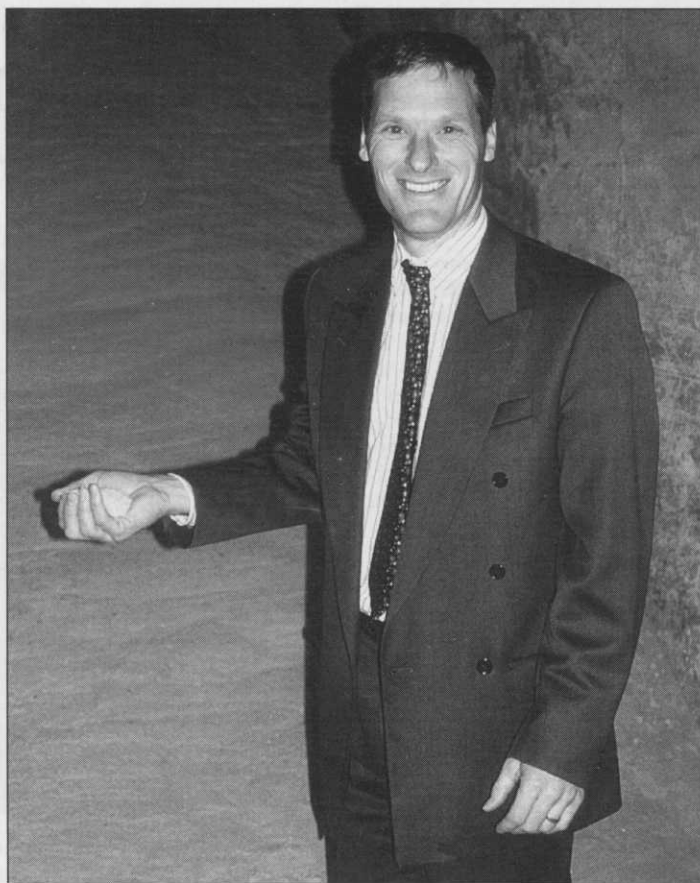
"That is coupled with the experience we have to ensure that we proceed with caution," he adds.

Levington Horticulture is a major player in European Horticulture selling around £50 million worth of fertilisers, composts, garden chemical and professional amenity chemicals a year.

A total of 250 people are employed at the main site at Bramford which manufactures and packs fertilisers and chemicals and the other plant near Doncaster in Yorkshire, which is the



**At the heart of the matter: Inside a test site**



**Handing it to Levington: Steve Holton, Works Manager, with some base product**

growing medium site where peat is extracted and compost manufactured for commercial growers and for the amateur market.

The opportunity for the management to liberate themselves and become masters of their own destiny came when Fison's needed to generate cash in the early 90s and put the Horticulture Division on the market.

"Thankfully there was a management buyout and it was the best solution all round. It retained the same team, same commitment, same plant, same product. It gave continuity," said Public Relations Manager Alan Shaw.

That team had been responsible for many major innovations over the last 150 years, since the 50s all developed at the Research Station in Levington – now you see where the company name comes from – 15 miles from Bramford.

The first commercially successful peat based growing medium – the Levington Compost range; the Gro-bag – still a multi million pound business in the retail market; the first specialist sports turf fertiliser developed as demand increased on sports facilities. They just trip off the tongue and are recognised milestones in the industry.

"The demand on sports facilities increased a need to feed and maintain these facilities and straight agriculture fertiliser was too concentrated and not ideal for maintaining turf. We, therefore, used the company's expertise in fertilisers to develop a granule which could be used reliably and efficiently to the point that it is used at, among others Wimbledon and the Wentworth Club – most European Tour venues use and recommend our products and our Greensmaster range has been granted the endorsement 'PGA European Tour Official Supplier' which is a testimony to our quality," explains Technical Services Manager Keith McKee, as he and Paul combined to ensure nothing was overlooked.

"When I was first working on the Greenmaster Range it was called the 'Greenkeeper' and was peat based. We were the business which revolutionised the supply of fertilisers to greenkeepers because it was a light weight granule of high concentration," said Paul, with more than a hint of pride in his voice.

**Kate Sudgen,  
Product  
Development  
Officer on site**



"It was the first pinhead fertiliser granule. Previously it was large granules or powder and there was nothing in between. It was called Hi Lite - high concentration light weight. The plant which was there at that time was known as the Hi Lite Plant. The product outlived itself and we rebuilt the plant with a new formulation based on vermiculite but we still call it the Hi Lite Plant. It enabled people to treat high quality turf more effectively and efficiently to get good mechanical distribution."

Golden Key membership will allow Levington to expand its, already established, policy of talking to greenkeepers to find out what they want.

"One of main reasons we became a Golden Key member is that it is important to us, and always has been, to have a forum to discuss the greenkeepers needs and how technology can meet those needs. The sales call is not the most appropriate time or place for that and neutral ground is far better. The opportunities brought by Golden Key are ideal for that kind of interaction," explained Alan.

"We are involved with the European Tour which has allowed us to talk at its greenkeeping conference over the years. There, the greenkeepers, could be described as the creme de la creme and a lot of hot information comes out of the meeting and you tend to react to it. It is vitally important to talk to the people who do the job."

"We can sit and dream something up but it is the guys out there who know what they want," added Keith.

One of Levington Horticulture's biggest growth product has been Turfclear, a dual purpose product originally promoted as a fungicide with some worm cast control but now, as people have seen that it is an excellent worm control, its usage has grown and more people purchase the product for that purpose than as a fungicide.

"It doesn't contain carbaryl or chlordane and has probably quadrupled in sales in last four years," said Keith.

The company has the Royal Warrant as suppliers to Her Majesty the Queen but of equal pride to all concerned is the BS EN ISO 9001 accreditation.

"Many people have the 9000 accreditation but, in fact, are

accredited for just service and maybe manufacturing but 9001 means that uniquely our research and development is covered for quality assurance.

"We're very proud to have that because our heritage is that we are a research and development based company," said Dr Bob Daniels, Research and Development Manager, who joined the meeting.

The safeguards are in place at Levington to ensure the highest possible standards and are a reassurance to even the most sceptical of clients.

"We make sure product is right before we start the line running. We used to have 'policemen' at the end of the line who would say 'yes' or 'no' but we have empowered the workforce so that anybody can stop the line if they see something wrong. Quality assurances are high and a great deal of training has been done to reach this level. We can trace back everything if anything goes wrong to find out exactly what happened and put in our corrective action procedure," explained Dr Daniels.

It can take between three to five years to develop a pesticide or a fungicide before it reaches the stage where it can be produced commercially so they are currently working on developments now which won't be available until the year 2000.

The excellent Research Station allows development and comparison work to go on in both outdoor and controlled environments and is a wonderful springboard for new products.

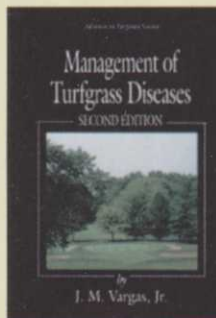
The company spends over £1 million a year on Research and Development. "It's a lot of money on tomorrow," says Dr Daniels.

Among developments recently launched is the water soluble sachet which Turfclear is now sold in.

"For safety purposes it's another step forward. The ultimate is not to have any contact at all and water soluble sachets help towards this. It's all part of the on-going product stewardship."

Words again spoken with a high degree of pride and enthusiasm and it is those qualities which will carry Levington Horticulture on to the next millennium.

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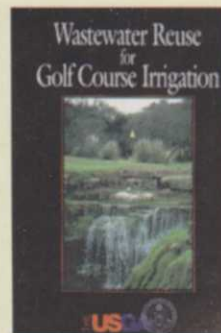
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# Getting to the ROOT of the problem

**Dr Alan Gange of Royal Holloway, University of London explains how soil dwelling microorganisms may help in the fight against annual meadow grass.**

In terms of living biomass, the majority of most plants is hidden beneath the soil surface in the form of roots. Grass plants are no exception and in some cases, 70% of the total plant weight may be below ground. However, it is a mistake to think that a root system is just plant material. On the outer surface of the root live countless thousands of bacteria. These survive on chemicals exuded by the root and they are thought to play an important role in maintaining healthy growth. There is evidence that these bacteria also protect the root against disease-causing fungi.

A group of 'friendly fungi' also live in intimate associations with grass roots. The scientific name of these is arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF). The fungi grow in soil and when they encounter a root, they enter the host cells. Inside these they form a number of different structures, most notably highly branched microscopic arbuscules, from whence they are named. The arbuscules are sites of nutrient exchange and the association benefits both partners; the fungi donate nitrates and phosphates to the plant, in return

for a supply of carbon.

It is a fact that fungicides which are applied to golf turf in order to control pathogenic fungi may harm the mycorrhiza too. In our experiments at Royal Holloway, we use a fungicide to reduce mycorrhizal abundance in natural grasslands, and thereby demonstrate their benefit to plants. However, a survey of

pesticide usage on Britain's golf clubs, conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and ourselves, has found that this chemical is the second most widely applied pesticide on greens.

#### **Mycorrhizas in golf greens**

A well-respected text book has stated that

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mycorrhizas can be detrimental to golf turf, because if the flow of carbon to the fungus exceeds the benefit derived from enhanced nutrient uptake, then the fungus becomes parasitic. In theory this is true, but there is virtually no evidence to support this suggestion and the nutrient status of golf green soils makes it a highly improbable scenario. Instead I believe that AMF may be of great benefit to greenkeepers in the battle to reduce or even eliminate Annual Meadow Grass (*Poa annua*) growth.

It is an odd fact that *Poa* does not form a mycorrhiza, while bent grasses (*Agrostis*) and fescues (*Festuca*) form a very strong one. In other words, bents and fescues seem to derive great benefit from the mycorrhiza, while *Poa* does not. Until recently, it was thought that this benefit was entirely manifest in increased growth, because

of the enhanced nutrient uptake. However, recent work has shown that mycorrhizal plants may show greater resistance to insect pests and diseases which attack shoots or roots, than do non-mycorrhizal conspecifics. In addition, because some plants do not form a mycorrhizal the balance of competition between them and other species which do form the association can depend on the level of the fungus in the soil.

In natural grasslands, by which I mean no added fertiliser or pesticide and grazed by rabbits, the infection levels of the roots of *Agrostis capillaris* and *Festuca rubra* were 81% and 76% respectively. In the greens of a nearby golf course, the average values for all 18 greens were 1.6% for *Agrostis* and 4% for *Festuca*. On a second course, we failed to detect AMF in 11 of the 18 greens. Furthermore, on this second course we have recently completed bacterial counts of the soil. In the natural grassland, the average value was about  $7 \times 10^7$  bacterial cells per gram of dry soil.

In the golf green this was 4 000 times lower and in two greens, we could not detect bacteria. It therefore appears that the microbiological constituents of plant root systems in golf greens are much lower than one would normally expect. I think this may highlight a potential problem with bacterial amendment treatments which have recently become available. If one applies bacteria and increases their numbers to something approaching "normal", then this is likely to have more effect than if one starts from a baseline of zero. Clearly, as

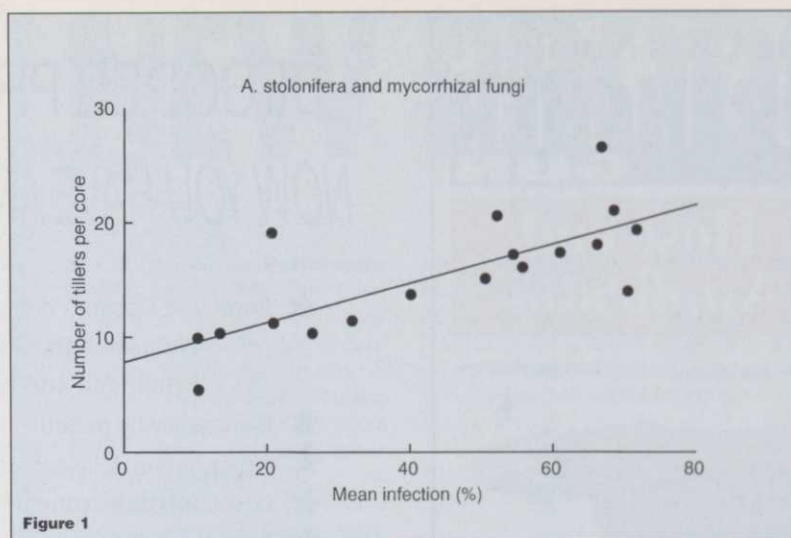


Figure 1

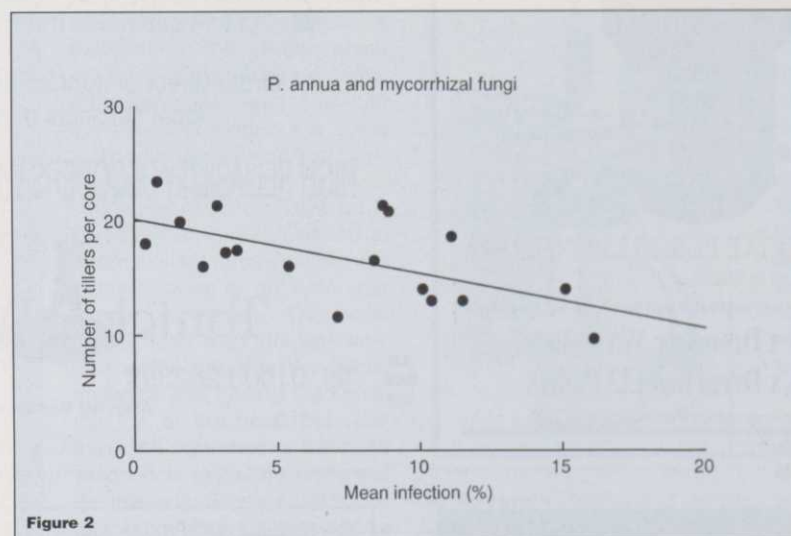


Figure 2

both mycorrhizas and bacteria can protect roots against disease-causing fungi, grass plants in golf greens are going to be more susceptible than those in unmanaged turf. There is a vicious circle here which somehow we need to break: Grass is attacked by disease, fungicide is applied, this kills the beneficial microorganisms as well as the pathogens, hence the plant loses its natural protection, so it is more susceptible to disease etc.

In my studies of AMF and grass abundance I have found that there is a relationship between the amount of mycorrhiza in the soil and the abundance of *Poa* and *Agrostis*. I sampled from two areas on the 18 greens of one course – the green itself, which had received fungicide application over a number of years, and the collar which had not. There was a striking difference in the amount of AMF fungi in the two areas. In the green, the bent grass had 5% of the root system infected with the fungus, while in the collar it had 30% infection. Furthermore, if one plotted the amounts of the two grass species on graphs against the abundance of fungus in the soil, then areas with high fungal abundance also had high *Agrostis* (Fig. 1) but low *Poa* abundance (Fig. 2).

My reasoning for these results is as follows. When bent grass has a reasonable level of AMF infection, it benefits from enhanced nutrient uptake, and is therefore a stronger plant, more able to withstand the intense management regime of cutting, trampling etc. Without the fungus, it is weaker and more prone to disease and loss from the green. Once the bent grass plant dies, it cannot be

replaced naturally, because golf green soil does not contain its seeds. However, most green soils contain large amounts of *Poa* seed, which germinates and grows rapidly to fill the gaps left by the bent grass. Even if the green is overseeded with bent, this will not alleviate the problem, because of the continual regeneration of *Poa*. The lack of bacteria also contributes to the problem, because recent studies have shown that the functioning of the mycorrhiza is enhanced and more efficient when the bacteria are present. Therefore, in golf greens, one has the opposite situation to that in natural grasslands; the annual grass is the strongest competitor because unlike the perennials, it does not suffer from a lack of its microbiological helpers. It can dominate the greens, at the expense of bents and fescues.

#### The root of the problem

I believe that a way to combat the growth of Annual Meadow Grass on golf greens is to target research on the bents and fescues. If we could replace their natural root microorganisms then we may be able to slowly reverse the competitive balance between the annual and perennial grasses.

The elimination of *Poa* from golf greens must be a slow process, so that the game can continue to be played.

The easy solution would be to shut every green with *Poa*, spray with an appropriate herbicide, and reopen six months later. Not a very sensible idea, I think!

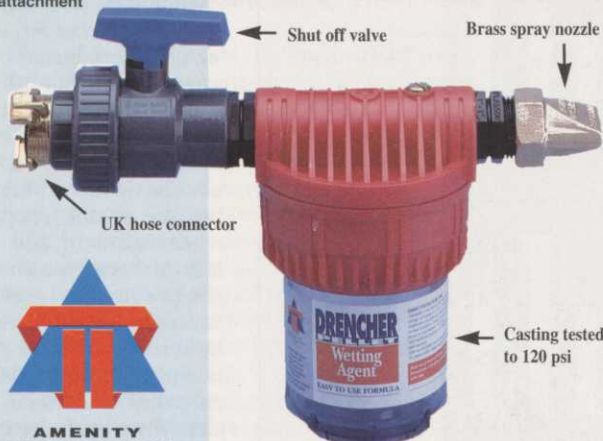
Clearly, there are a great many issues which we need to address before this approach can be implemented. I believe that this is an exciting and important area of work which needs pursuing with funded research. There are potential advantages for not only the golf industry, but for manufacturers of pesticides and fertilisers as well. Of critical importance is the need to find out whether there are fungicides which are less deadly to AMF and bacteria than others. Furthermore, we need to set up experiments in which the relations between microorganisms and the various management methods employed on greens are determined.

When we have this information, we will be able to look at ways of replacing the fungi and bacteria in greens and then sustaining their levels. In this way we will really be getting to the root of the problems which many greenkeepers face.

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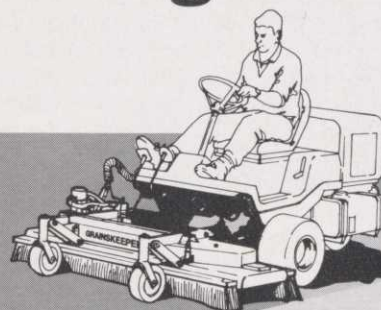
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## LETTERS

### Explain the code of conduct

I noticed with interest the article on advances in turf production by Mr Derek Edwards which was carried in your April edition. There were many interesting and sensible comments contained in the article.

However, there was also a reference to TPI UK (ie Turf Grass Producers International UK). There was reference to TPI achieving the introduction of "Minimum Standards of Turf" and "A Code of Conduct for its Members".

What exactly are the standards referred to?

What are the contents of the code of conduct?

Where are these items published?

It seems to us TPI UK are being allowed to talk about standards without ever being asked what they mean exactly.

TPI UK should be invited to put up or shut up on the subject of standards for turf.

**Terry Ryan**

Sales and Marketing Director  
Rolawn (Turf Growers Ltd)

### Green speeds

I write with response to the letter in April's edition of the magazine concerning green speeds and grass species. I am a believer in trying to make my greens as fast as possible without causing any undue stress or harm to the quality of performance of the greens.

The weather maintenance programmes and, obviously, the species of grass on the greens can all influence the decision on how fast we can make them. I think that once a good healthy sward or desirable grasses has been achieved then a competent greenkeeper can then decide how fast to make his greens. I was under the impression that the more desirable fescue and bent grasses could withstand close mowing and that mowing to, or lower (not much) than five millimetres would actually discourage poa annua as this grass is usually the first to show signs of stress either from hot weather or outbreaks of disease. Or am I wrong?

May I also congratulate Mr Billy McMillan of his excellent "In my View" article.

**Julian Farrimond**

GC Aschheim  
Germany

# NEW PRODUCTS

■ The DewMaster, **Pattison's** newest product line, has been developed by Greenkeepers across the country for Greenkeepers across the country. It helps to save time by removing dew from the greens. A comment from the Greenkeeping fraternity is that the DewMaster is an excellent product, but it is unable to dispense of the worm casts. As from May 1996 the new DewMaster Mark II will encompass a switch-tip in the handle, which will be on a quick release screw from the main head and can therefore be used in the same manner as the conventional Stanmore telescopic Switch.

The new Holecup Extractor & Rammer has been designed to remove or set cups into the hole without having to get onto your hands and knees. The waist height hand held tool works by putting the end into the ferrule acceptor and turning the key at the top of the hand bar. This turns the cam disc at the base which locks under the bottom of the hole cup. Simply by lifting the tool will remove the cup, setting the cup is just as easy as there is a rammer collet along the length of the tool. This collet is placed exactly to allow the ramming effect to set the cup into the ground.

For further information Tel: 01582 597262 Fax: 01582 505241.

■ **Roffey Brothers Ltd.** of Bournemouth has added a new range of slow release fertilisers to its catalogue with the latest polycoated technology directly from the United States.

The accuracy of polycoating provides a much more consistent quality of coating and ultimately a more reliable pattern of release. The new polycoatings are stronger and less prone to damage that may be caused during application or subsequent maintenance operations.

The range includes three mini-granular Nutralene based fertilisers for fine turf with analysis suitable for both summer and autumn application. Nutralene's success is its unique controlled release mechanism. The nitrogen in this advanced product is converted by both hydrolysis and microbial activity, which means that Nutralene is not solely dependent on either moisture or

soil temperature for its ideal release pattern. It assures you of 10 to 12 weeks of sustained release under a broad range of environmental conditions and enriches the soil microbiology at the same time.

For further information Tel: 01202 537777 Fax: 01202 532765



■ **Maverick**, pictured, is an all new diaphragm pump knapsack design with a 33% more powerful pump than contemporary designs, it has an Easi-clean system for reduced chemical wastage, Easi-mount harnesses and an ergonomic shape.

"In essence" says Adrian Vass, Managing Director of Maverick manufacturer Crop Protection Ltd, "we have built a sprayer that is both more comfortable to wear and more powerful. It is, quite simply, more efficient and far easier to use".

"The first responsibility of any company in the field of chemical application is to ensure that its products are both safe to operate and environmentally sound" says Adrian.

"To achieve this it is essential to understand the specialist skills required to design an efficient sprayer, to have extensive knowledge of the varied and numerous chemicals used in spraying and to have access to modern manufacturing processes" he continues.

Crop Protection can be contacted on Freephone 0500 821880.

■ **Jacobsen** has introduced the Greens Aerator Vaerator VA24 as an upgrade of the 1124 model. It is the ideal machine to handle a

number of aeration and compaction needs with five coring patterns, conveniently designed operator controls, low maintenance and built-in durability.

Its features include aeration patterns from 1x2 inch to 5x2 inch, it can aerate up to 21,000 square feet per hour, available with quarter of an inch mini-tine to relieve compaction with minimal disruption to play and has a unique double clutch system.

For further information Tel: 01536 417777 Fax: 01536 310245.

■ **Headland Amenity** has introduced a new generation of liquid feeds - The Headland Triazone Range - which are quick and easy to use and offer numerous benefits among which is that they are fast acting, do not require watering in after application and are not prone to pick-up during mowing.

The range performed well in independent ADAS trials and showed that the fertilisers matched urea-based products for speed of initial response, yet also continued to release nitrogen at controlled levels for up to eight weeks.

The trials showed that for a set application of nitrogen the highest actual uptake by the plant was achieved when the nitrogen was supplied in the Triazone form while the fertilisers contained slow and fast release sources so they produced rapid greening and the appearance was retained longer.

Among the other benefits were less scorching in the summer, that it was ideal for low volume application and there was less leaching.

For further information call Headland Amenity: Tel: 01799 530146

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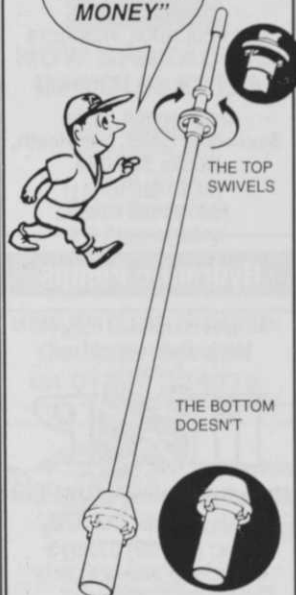


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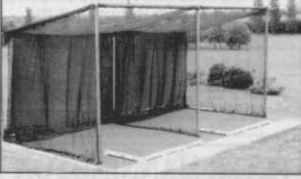
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# Event is a hit despite the weather

**A**lthough the weather was every unkind to us at this year's Westurf it did stop raining on occasions, giving the steady flow of visitors time to look around the stands and watch several demonstrations taking place throughout the day.

On entering the show there was some very fine British outdoor furniture on display from Britannic Teak, beautifully made and attracting a great deal of genuine interest. I am assured that you will certainly see them again next year.

The Huxley Soil Reliever on a Kubota 360 Tractor from the MST stand started off the demonstrations, along with the Shelton single leg gravel band drainer coupled to a compact tractor.

Unfortunately Gannon UK couldn't demonstrate its Aerator on the soft ground but nevertheless were pleased with the interest shown.

The change of layout, and putting the demonstration area



in the central position proved to be very popular as the latest machinery could be seen by everyone, with information given over the loud speakers and we have discovered an exciting new commentator in David Merhagh from Groundsman Industries.

The entry for the £200 holiday

voucher on the BIGGA stand was drawn by Eva Graham from Golf West and was won by Bob Greenshields, Head Groundsman at Kings Hall School, Taunton.

All aspects of fine turf were catered for, and comments were made on the attractive stand displays this year - in spite of the

weather. Our thanks go to all traders and visitors alike who were considerate in preserving the ground conditions, and special thanks to Long Ashton GC for hosting the eighth Westurf.

We hope to see you all next year.

**Marion Child**

## Open day success is a lesson for us all

Ramsdale Park Golf Centre played host to a Greenkeeping Open Day organised and managed by Course Manager Martin Smith with the help of his wife Mandy and the full support of the club.

The day was split into two very different parts with the same aim of communicating what the job of the greenkeeper was all about.

The first part began by welcoming golfing membership, visiting fellow greenkeepers, visiting golfers and even general public.

There was good support from the trade with indoor and outdoor stands ranging from golf course accessory suppliers to major equipment suppliers who were on hand to answer questions and give action demonstrations.

A great deal of interest was generated from many areas not least the BBC whose television cameras recorded Martin explaining the various jobs of the greenkeeper as well as getting over the important etiquette of the game which was shown on local TV that evening.

The second part of the day took the form of an Evening Seminar and included very interesting talks by Martin himself and Neil Hay-

ward of the English Golf Union.

Support from Martin's golf club came in the form of his Captain, Tom King, who chaired the evening seminar which also featured Steven Dando of Bracken-hurst College, Alistair Fraser an independent consultant and Mike Shepherd of Vitax.

Many Course Managers are looking to put on similar events and Martin's experiences will help everyone in this vital part of the job.

**Duncan McGilvray**

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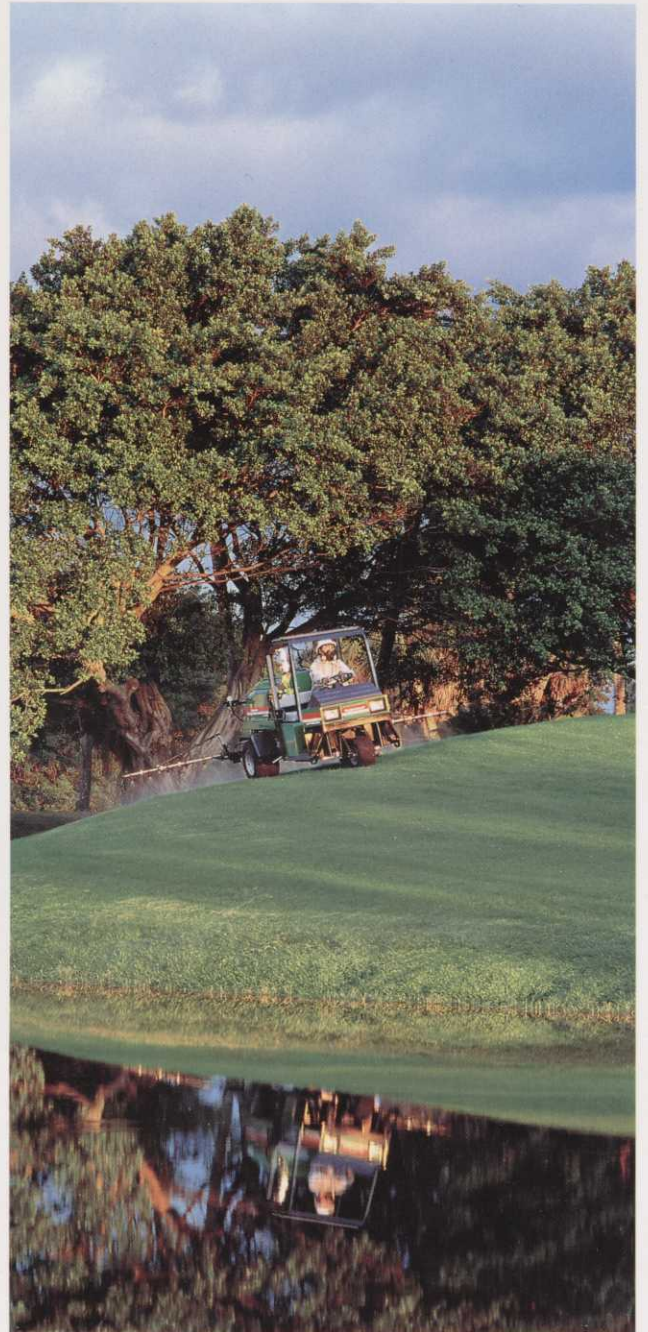


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