

Fastest greenkeeper on one or two wheels

If there is a BIGGA member in the country faster than Terry Colville, Deputy Course Manager of Mill Hill Golf Club in North London, he must be working under an assumed name having been better known as Speedy Gonzales or Road Runner.

Because Terry is happiest when he is racing along at 165 miles per hour on the back of a 600cc Yamaha Thundercat. He can even pull wheelies at around 140mphs.

Terry's skill on a motorbike is such that this season he is taking part in the Supersport Series racing at, among others Brands Hatch, Donnington and Mallory Park and he is being touted as a future champion.

The nickname "The Nutty Novice" is displayed on the sides of his bike and it is a clue to the fearless style adopted by the man who, during the week, is number two to Tony Dunstan, Course Manager at Mill Hill and current Chairman of the London Section.

His father was also a fine racer - Terry describes him as the equivalent of a club professional golfer - and Terry grew up on bikes, from the age of three or four encouraged by his father, also Terry.

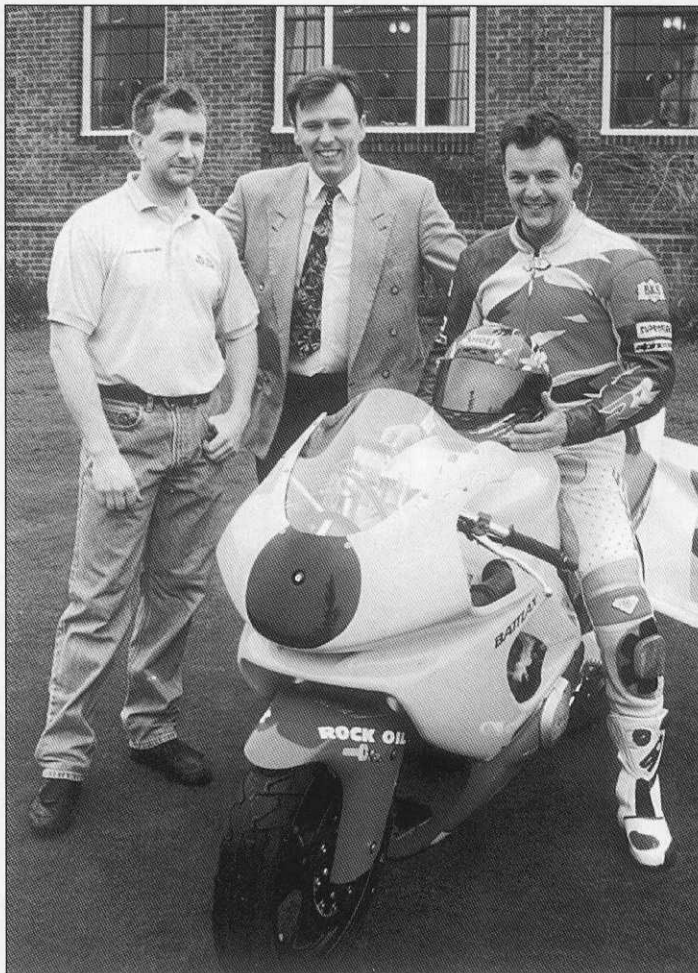
With his mother less keen on the idea Terry junior didn't have a bike for a period of three years but two wheels were very much in his blood and he was drawn back into the sport.

He made his mark when he went to an open day at the Goodwood circuit and on his own road bike was lapping at speeds comparable with those on specially prepared racing bikes.

A former grand prix racer Rob Orme took Terry under his wing and he honed his skills at the racing school at Mallory Park, near Leicester.

"Rob told me I should be racing and helped me in getting sponsorships particularly from Bridgestone who supply me with tyres," explained the 25 year-old Nutty Novice.

Terry has already ploughed about £10,000 of his own money



Tony Dunstan, Jamie Bennett and Terry Colville, the 'nutty novice'

into preparing for the season and it will take about another £6,000 to complete the 14 race programme... and that's if nothing goes wrong and he writes off a bike.

"That's a major disadvantage as many racers have teams behind them and they don't have to worry about money," revealed Terry.

He does have sponsorships and in addition to Bridgestone thanks Jamie Bennett, of Grass Roots Trading Company, who among the generous support is paying his entry fees; Rock Oil, who supply his oil, and local dealer Judd's Motorcycles.

In a sport when a new helmet, and you need a new one each time one is even slightly dam-

aged, costs £440 all help is greatly appreciated.

"I believe that Terry has great potential and I'm delighted to be able to help him," explained Jamie.

Like many motorbike racers Terry is no stranger to his local casualty unit and his latest visit saw him off work for five weeks with two broken ankles and damaged ligaments, not forgetting a dislocated shoulder.

"I've also broken fingers, fractured the top of my foot and had all sorts of sprains," said Terry, whose first race in his series was on March 23.

Greenkeeper International will keep you up to date with his progress.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Deere & Company has acquired the assets of the German farm machinery company, Maschinenfabrik Kemper GmbH. The agreement is subject to approval by the German anti-trust authorities.

Based in Stadtlohn, Germany, Kemper is a leading European producer of specialised maize headers, with European sales in 1996 totalling around \$50 million.

Kemper will retain responsibility for product development and manufacturing, and will continue to provide full sales and service to its customers through the Kemper dealer network.

Deere & Company and its subsidiaries worldwide manufacture, distribute and finance a range of agricultural, construction and grounds care equipment, and also provide a variety of financial services.



■ KK Ransomes, the Japanese subsidiary of Ransomes, has announced the appointment of Mr Shoji Katsuta, pictured, as Technical Sales Manager.

Trained as an engineer. Mr Katsuta brings to the position a sound technical knowledge together with additional wide experience of international business gained from working in North America and Germany in recent years.

Based at the company's southern office in Kaizuka City, Osaka, Mr Katsuta will be working closely with KK Ransomes' Managing Director, Mr Katsuji Ohashi, and Ransomes' five distributors in Japan to maintain the strong growth in Ransomes, Cushman and Ryan grass and turf machinery business throughout the country.

■ Johnsons Seeds, the leading supplier of turfgrass seed for professional users have appointed a new distributor - East Riding Horticulture Ltd.

East Riding which has its head office in Sutton on Derwent, York, also has a branch in Kirknewton, Mid Lothian.

Some excellent golf clubs are hosting Sectional Qualifiers while the venues for the Regional Qualifiers form a group of clubs which it would be hard to better.

■ South West and South Wales

HAYTER CHALLENGE

- Burnham and Berrow GC, June 11.

■ Midland - Warwickshire GC,

June 26.

■ South East - Ham Manor GC, June 27.

■ Northern - Matten Hall GC, July 9.

■ Scottish - Loch Green GC, Troon, May 27.

Ecological plan brought to life

By Neil Rowland, of Innovative Design by Newart

Following discussions with the local naturalist group I was responsible for erecting nest boxes at South Herts Golf Club in Totteridge, North London,

Although the Club is on old farmland with many elderly Oaks, Hornbeam and Ash in the hedgerows there are very few suitable nesting holes, as dead or decaying trees tended to be removed in the name of tidiness.

I erected a mix of 64 boxes, mainly for Tits and Nuthatches, some open fronts, three Owl boxes and this last spring a

Kestrel box high on a Lombardy Poplar.

Some 80% of the Tit boxes were taken up in the first year though the Owl boxes were used by the Squirrels.

The cost of the whole scheme has been borne by the golfers themselves as we initiated box sponsorship and members "bought" an allocated box for £10.

A list of numbered boxes is displayed during the Summer so that the member can see whether his sponsored box is being used during the nesting Season.

Each nesting family of Blue

Tits consumes a total of some 10,000 caterpillars until the young fly from the nest.

It is sensible to provide nesting facilities throughout the Course so that nesting birds can consume those caterpillars which are eating away the Oak leaves.

This scheme has been copied at other local clubs, providing there is an enthusiastic golfer with "birdies" in mind to initiate a scheme, there will always be a following of members to support a project of this nature.

I will be pleased to advise on the setting up of a scheme.

Westurf gets dressed up to the nines for '97

At Long Ashton GC on April 30, Westurf will open its gates for the ninth time giving the west country greenkeepers and groundsmen an early season taste of the likely front runners in the turf care market place.

Westurf is a fine example of the making of a Region. It brings together all who represent the voice of our industry, where they can talk, try and test any machine or product in its own environment. On show will be all the old tried and tested, along with the new and brand new launches seen for the first time.

The region are proud of its exhibition here in the west. It not only brings to you the customer, the best that's on offer in the way of equipment but also presents the opportunity of an educational experience. Among the exhibitors will be all the Region's training colleges, the STRI, IOG and BIGGA all willing to answer your questions.

Westurf is certainly worth a visit, not just for greenkeepers and groundsmen but for managers and committee personnel as well. All will find a warm welcome.

Parking and entry are free. There are demonstration areas for both fine turf and outfield. Hot and cold refreshments all day, not forgetting the chance to win a free holiday voucher.

The Regional Board and BIGGA staff look forward to meeting visitors. For further information please ring 01803 844056.

Bowcom will launch two new products for greenkeepers at Westurf '97. Plifix is a revolutionary indicator which clearly identifies walkways or ground repairs without interfering with the greenkeeper's normal work or mowing while the Bowcom One-handle Bowspray was developed on request from greenkeepers who wanted flexibility when using aerosol markers.

Exhibitors: Amenity Land Services • Amenity Technology • Atterton & Ellis • Avoncrop Amenity Products • Bailey's of Norfolk • Barenbrug • Bennett Engineering • Better Methods - Europe • BIGGA • Bioseed Probiotics • Bourne Amenity • Bowcom Ltd • Boyd Golf Course Accessories • Britannic Garden Furniture Ltd • British Seed Houses • Cannington College • Celtic Mowers • Complete Weed Control Course Care • DGM Turf Equipment • Encore Leisure Ltd • Farmura Ltd • GWilliam Kellands • Gem Professional • H. Pattissons & Co • Hartpury College • Headland Amenity Products • Huxley's Grass Machinery • IOG • K Two Group • Levington Horticulture • Lindum Seeded Turf • Logic Irrigation Ltd • Lubrication Engineers • Maxicrop International • Medland Sanders & Twose • Miracle Professional • Nomix Chipman • Ocmis Irrigation • PJ Flegg • Pencoed College • Pipewise UK Ltd • Pro-Seed Equipment • RS Bird • Ransomes • Rhône Poulenc • Rigby Taylor • Rocol Site Safety Systems • Roffey Ltd • Ruffords Top Dressing Supplies • Scotts UK Ltd • Shelton Trenching Systems • Sisis Equipment • Sovereign Turf • Sparsholt College • STRI • Supaturf Products Ltd • Swan Plant Services • Ted Hopkins • Tildenet Ltd • TH White • Tonick Watering • Turf Irrigation Services • Vitax Ltd.

Video library is on offer

A free library of 30 operator training videos for turf maintenance equipment is being offered by Toro to all colleges and other establishments running training and education courses for golf greenkeepers. The videos, each 20 to 30 minutes' long, give students a complete overview of the safe operation and routine maintenance of Toro machines, including how to make adjustments to set up equipment to get the best performance out of it.

Anyone interested in getting the library should contact David Cole at Toro Commercial Products. Telephone 01480 476971.

In fast lane

As winner of the last year's Blazon "Jet Setter" campaign, former Formula One World Motor Racing Champion Nigel Mansell, together with his greenkeeper Jeff Mills, took delivery of a new Hardi sprayer for Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club in Devon.

The Blazon 1997 'Spray Watch' campaign offers greenkeepers the opportunity of winning for their club a Hardi AMK 400 litre Tractor Mounted Boom Sprayer, fully equipped.

Profits up

Deere and Company has reported record first quarter worldwide net income of \$176.7 million or \$0.69 per share for the quarter ended January 31, an increase of 10 per cent in earnings per share compared with the first quarter of 1996.

New post at Rhône Poulenc

Rhône-Poulenc Amenity has appointed John Hall to the new post of Contractor and Utilities Customer Manager. This post enables Rhône Poulenc Amenity to gain closer contacts with the Spray Contractor and Utility Customers. John will be able to advise on technical, product stewardship and business issues as well as

providing relevant training. This close contact with the key players in the industry will be to the mutual benefit of both parties.

After working for a contract organisation doing a wide variety of Amenity and Agricultural Field Trials in Scotland, John joined Rhône-Poulenc's field trials team.

New partners

Terravent has appointed two new overseas distributors. Jean Heybroek BV, Houten, Holland, will import and distribute Terravent's soil aerators and decompressors in Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg while Sports Turf Services of Christchurch is importing and distributing Terravent's products in New Zealand.

THE FACTS: NOT THE HYPE

Ken Barber
Course Manager
East Sussex
National
Golf Club

"I have used Primer 604 liquid and spreadable for a second year. It has enabled me again to keep labour cost, hand watering and dry patch to a minimum. As a user, and within my consultancy role, I would not hesitate to recommend Primer 604."

PRIMER
Matrix Flow Soil Surfactant
Primer 604 is manufactured in England by Supaturf Products Ltd under license from the Aquatrol Corporation of America.
Tel: 01455 234677

AD REF 164

Leatherjacket damage a real risk to turf this spring – report

DowElanco's Pestwatch service has detected a rise in leatherjacket populations across the country this spring. Attributed to poor weather conditions this time last year, the rise means that populations are currently exceeding the traditional threshold for treatment in rough grassland.

"This indicates that there will be a particular threat to fine turf this year," says Talei Herbert of DowElanco's Specialty business.

"The high quality of grass required to make up cricket or football pitches and golf fairways and greens could really suffer visually from this level of leatherjacket attack."

Leatherjackets feed on grass stems just below the soil surface taking out tillers and even the plant's central shoot. The pest will leave bare patches of soil in its wake if large populations are left unchecked.

In the Midlands and North West, average pest numbers are exceeding the threshold for treatment in grassland. And in the South and South East, soil sampling is recording average populations of 2 million larvae/ha – the

highest level of activity found in this part of the UK for more than five years.

"Last year, despite the existence of high pest populations, only a small percentage of grass in the UK was treated to prevent damage," explained Miss Herbert.

"This is mainly because bad weather during the spring of '96 slowed pest activity down. Low temperatures force the larvae to remain further below the soil surface, making damage much more difficult to recognise."

According to Miss Herbert, higher populations of adults survived to lay eggs last autumn. This was compounded by the fact that weather conditions over the autumn favoured successful adult flight and egg laying. A warm, dry period was followed a few weeks later by moist conditions which, in turn, suited larval development and survival.

"This spring there is a real risk of turf damage," warns Miss Herbert. "Areas at risk should be treated with Lorsban T at a rate of 1.5 litres/ha. This will arrest damage and help to reduce the risk of damage for the following season."

HANDSHAKE FOR PRIZE DRAW WINNER



Keith Lough, Head Greenkeeper at Beamish Golf Club, was the lucky recipient of £150 worth of BIGGA vouchers after winning the Vitax Prize Draw at BTME. He is seen being presented with his vouchers by Henry Bechelet, Vitax Technical Sales Advisor.



As part of a plan to highlight the many wonderful events held throughout the Sections it is hoped to print photographs taken at Section events.

First in is this offering from the East Section in Scotland. Chris Yeaman from Swanston Golf Club is the one in the funny hat.

Please feel free to send any contributions to The Editor, BIGGA Headquarters, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York YO6 2NF.

(mis)adventures of Gordon the Greenkeeper



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Greenkeeper Members call the **LEGAL HELPLINE** for FREE advice: 0990 234500

Yet another benefit of **BIGGA** membership



Architects' specifications to bring more washed turf

(mis)adventures of Gordon the Greenkeeper



TENSION AT HOME?

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An article by Dr Jim Beard extolling the virtues of washed turf has taken Stephen Fell, Managing Director of Lindum Seeded Turf right round the world, and resulted in a major new investment for the company.

The concept of turf washed completely of any soil particles by pressurised hydraulic means prior to transplanting is not new. Ben Warren patented the system as early as 1970, but it was not until the USGA specifications advising a high sand root zone for golf greens came into force, that golf course architects began to specify turf prepared in this way.

The danger with conventional turf is that the finer soil attached to the sward is responsible for a layer developing between the turf and the root zone which retains excess water. With properly washed turf there is no conflict between soils, water flows freely into the prepared root zone and rapid root development within a free draining environment is the result.

StrathAyr, an Australian company seeing the way things were going, bought the patent on Ben Warren's system in the 1980s, and introduced it to the US in the early 1990s.

It was to Bill Casimaty head of StrathAyr, that Stephen Fell wrote after reading Dr Beard's article. He was directed first to Austria, then the US, to see the process in action, before finally arriving in Australia, where StrathAyr, had completed the re-turfing of Melbourne Cricket Ground with BAyr Root Washed Turf. After six months of investigation Stephen Fell was finally convinced that totally soil free turf was the only logical material to use on sand based construction, and the StrathAyr process was the only system with the means to achieve this 100%. "If the turf is only partially washed the benefits are completely lost," he said. "We felt the whole concept was so right that we could convince people of the long-term benefits."

PRESENTING THE POWERFUL NEW REELMASTER SERIES.





British washed turf 'ideally placed' for export overseas

Lindum has teamed up with Strathayre, and is now sole UK licensee of the BAyr Root Washing process.

One of the first people to try BAyr Root Washed Turf in the UK was Jimmy Kidd, Director of Gle-neagles Golf Developments, on their new Academy Course. He reported that two weeks after laying, the turf had produced roots of 22 inches, and after six weeks the course was open for limited play, in time for the Jackie Stewart Rolex Challenge.

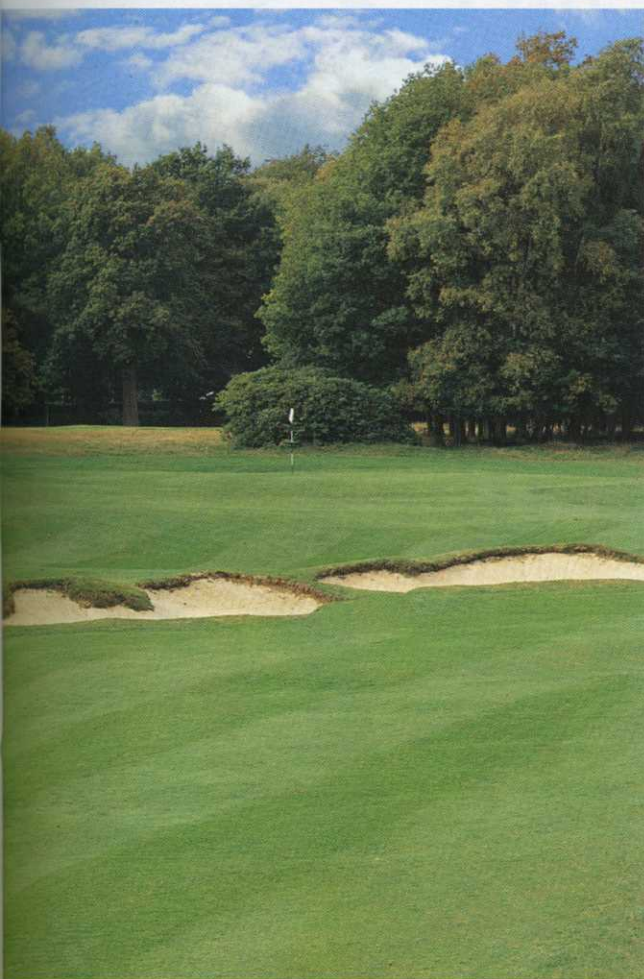
Following Stephen Fell's extensive air miles covered to reach the

right decision, there are signs that BAyr Root Washed Turf could soon be circling the globe. The company has already exported to Berlin and received enquiries from Norway and Istanbul. As washed turf is considerably lighter than conventional turf, and can survive quite happily in refrigerated lorries for several days, supplying these destinations is a viable proposition. But the "coup de gras" has to be the recent delivery of BAyr Root Washed Turf to the Kildare Golf and Country Club in Southern Ireland.



Pictured above: Stephen Fell at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Left, the StrathAyr Root Washed Turf System

SO DEDICATED, THEY EARN THEIR STRIPES EVERYTIME.



Whatever the season, whatever the weather, this greenkeeper cuts a fine swathe through thick, uneven turf to produce the perfect fairway.

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Rugged, powerful and durable, they have the lightest of touches. Their new L-I-N-K-S™ system of floating linkage and individual lift arm dampers hug the turf to get into dips and hollows for a close, all-over cut with no "bobbing", even at speeds in excess of 7mph.



The new L-I-N-K-S™ system

The Reelmaster 6500D, with its 5-gang mower, and the 6700D, a 7-gang mower, both offer impressive cutting technology with all-interchangeable variable speed, automatically controlled reels to handle fast-growing, tough seasonal grasses.

Quiet in operation thanks to Toro's advanced noise reduction, the powerful 38hp and 42hp diesel engines will help these machines reach inclines other mowers can't.

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