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Where to contact BIGGA

Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne,
York, North Yorkshire YO6 2NF

Tel: 01347 838581

Fax: 01347 838864

■ The next edition of
Greenkeeper International
should be with you by
January 7.



**Have a
Merry
Christmas!**

GREENKEEPER *International*

DECEMBER 1997

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Ian McMillan and Steven Nixon, winners
of 'The Toros' 1997

Photographic montage by Tim Moat

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EDITORIAL

Editor: Scott MacCallum

ADVERTISING

Sales and Marketing Manager:
James McEvoy

Sales and Marketing Assistants:
Amanda Mayo
Jenny Pantan

Telephone: 01347 838581

E-mail: general@bigga.demon.co.uk

PRODUCTION

Design and Production Editor:
Tim Moat, telephone 01904 610611
ISDN: 01904 626130

E-mail: timmoat@headline-comm.co.uk

PRINTING

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The countdown continues in earnest to BTME 98 – for booking details call Amanda Mayo on 01347 838581

It's milk and carrot time once again

I don't know about you but I certainly believe that Christmas loses its appeal the older you get.

I have vivid recollections of Christmas time when I was a kid and certain things which always gave a warm glow inside. There was the funny little candle lighting ceremony which they did on Blue Peter for four shows before the big day – I never could work out how the candles could burn from one show to the next without ever going down; opening advent calendars when you always knew it was going to be a poorly drawn drum; visiting Santa down at the local department store and wondering why he had a Scottish accent; the School performance... No that's a lie, I have never taken a part in a Nativity play.

After what seemed like months it would be Christmas Eve and the ritual of laying out your sack – we also had stockings but they never appeared to be quite big enough for what we were hoping for – and a glass of milk and a carrot. We could never sleep and invariably roused the entire family from their beds at around 2am only to find that Santa hadn't been yet. I could have sworn mum and dad looked as disappointed and surprised as my brother and I.

When the old Man in Red had done his stuff it always seemed that the room was overflowing with presents. I still can't get over the size of the box my World Cup Subbuteo came in. I think I've still got it.

Nowadays Christmas is full of practical things, buying instead of receiving, planning instead of dreaming, and where once the month of December dragged on forever, now it has been scientifically proven by chrononologists to last a mere 15 days – when everyone talks

about wondering where the time has gone in December, that's why!

So this year I've decided to try and bring a little of the juvenile magic back into Christmas and I've started by drawing up my Christmas List which, once completed, I'll send up the chimney. Does anyone still possess a coal fire?

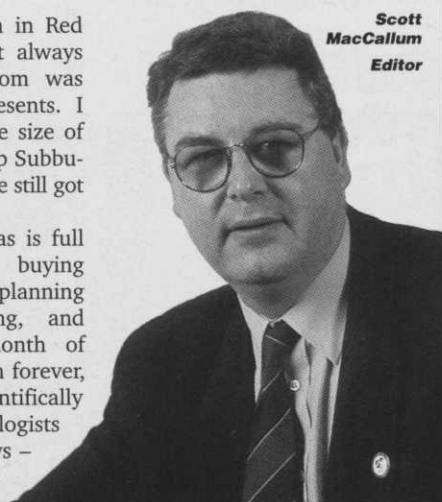
Dear Santa,

This year I've been extremely good, I haven't missed a deadline and as a result I feel I deserve:

- A new golf bag.
- A snowless BTME at which no-one mentions the great blizzard of '95.
- Pick of the rooms in BIGGA's new office and training building.
- A new picture of myself for this column.
- A selection of interesting pictures from Section events up and down the country.
- A National Tournament without rain.
- Fine weather whenever I visit a golf course on either business or pleasure.

The milk and the carrot will be on the mantelpiece and I hope you don't forget me.

If I don't get all that I want I hope that each of you do and have a superb Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Scott MacCallum
Editor

As I see it...

BY PAT MURPHY
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

A rare thing happened at the beginning of this month. I missed a BIGGA event!

It was the finals of the Toro Awards but they clashed with something at home and I just couldn't get away. However it would be hard to find a more able deputy than Gordon Child who stood in for me.

I was absolutely delighted that Steven Nixon from Past Chairman Barry Heaney's old club at Wortley near Sheffield won the Student Award and that Ian McMillan completed a wonderful double by winning the Excellence Award to sit beside the Environment Award Hankley Common had won the previous month. It was quite a remarkable achievement by Ian.

I soon made up for missing the Toros by attending Scotsturf in Edinburgh which was a great success - James and Jenny worked extremely hard and we even ran out of magazines on the stand. It was good to meet up with Elliott Small and his successor as Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, who seems to be settling in superbly and who masterminded our presence at Scotsturf. I also saw Past Chairmen John Crawford and George Malcolm as well as Scottish Vice Chairman Jimmy Nielson and Chairman Sam Morrison who is enjoying his new position at Bothwell Castle. I'm still jealous of that wonderful tartan blazer of your's, Sam.

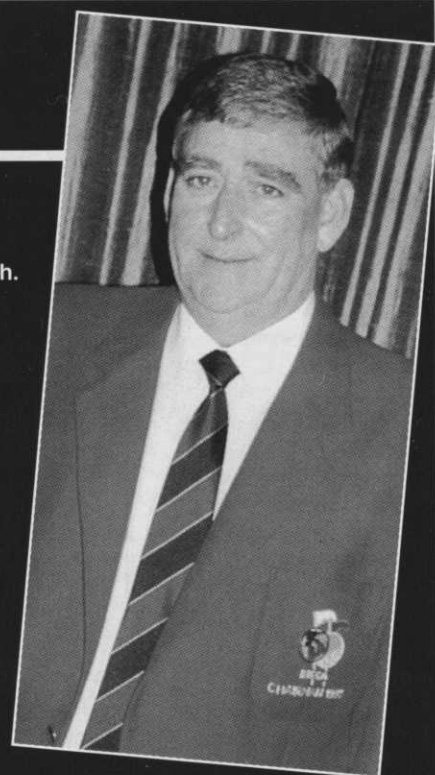
Scotsturf also gave me a chance to have dinner with Ritefeed to discuss the Ritefeed Championship which they are sponsoring as well as the Ritefeed Race Night at BTME from which all proceeds will go towards our Building Fund. I'm certainly looking forward to a long and enjoyable relationship with Ritefeed.

Back home I attended a Northern Regional Meeting at Mere. It was an extremely positive meeting at which Dave Goodridge the North Wales Chairman reported on events in the Principality. The only downside of the meeting was that Barry Heaney was unwell and unable to attend. Get well soon, Barry.

I was also lucky enough to visit Hankley Common to present the club with the BIGGA Golf Environment Award, in association with Amazone and Rhône Poulenc. Hankley were wonderful hosts and the golf course is a credit to the club and to Ian McMillan. The competition has been a tremendous success and the enthusiasm of all the winners who attended Hankley was simply wonderful.

Straight from Surrey it was on to Northamptonshire for an excellent Midland Seminar and can I just say how impressed I was with young Noel Greene, Student of the Year runner-up last year, who made his debut as a speaker and was excellent.

Well I'm just off to Spain for the FEGGA Conference but before I finish my packing can I just wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous and disease free new year.



Environment winners score double success in major competitions

Having been announced winner of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhône Poulenc Amenity, last month Hankley Common Golf Club received its award at a function hosted by the Surrey Club this month.

The occasion was a personal triumph for Course Manager, Ian McMillan, for whom it was the conclusion of an amazing double, having been named winner of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping only a short time earlier – see Pages 38-42.

The day was an opportunity for Hankley to be presented with its magnificent piece of glassware and show what it had done to achieve the award. Among the guests were representatives for three of the four Regional winners – Linlithgow GC, Temple GC, Burnham and Berrow GC. The only absentee being Royal Birkdale, who sent their apologies.

Unfortunately the weather was not kind and the planned course walk had to be abandoned but the excellent clubhouse facilities were ideal for the presentations and question and answer session which replaced the walk.

Club Captain, Mike Hunt, welcomed the assembled gathering and expressed his pride in what the golf club had achieved in Hankley Common's centenary year. He was followed by BIGGA's National Chairman, Pat Murphy, who said how delighted the Association was with the response to the competition and the enthusiasm of all



Top: Members of Hankley Common with Ian McMillan, winners of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, held in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhône Poulenc Amenity. Above, four of the winners with the sponsors

those who had taken part.

The two main judges, Bob Taylor from the STRI and Dr Keith Duff, Chief Scientist for English Nature, then gave talks on the rich seams of flora and fauna they had discovered on Britain's golf courses as well as the quality of conservation work which was being carried out.

Dr Duff explained that he was an extremely rare species – a nature conservationist who was also a golfer.

"Golf clubs should be applauded for doing so much on their courses. It is great for golf and great for the environment as well. I also applaud what BIGGA has done with this competition.

Following the judges Rod Baker, of Amazone Ground Care, whose had originally launched the competition in 1995 talked of his delight at how it had progressed over three years.

"If I had thought when I dreamt up this competition that by 1997 English Nature would be on board I would have been thrilled to bits... and I'm thrilled to bits," he said.

"I know Ian McMillan was dis-

appointed at being runner-up in the first year but they have come back and won this year and the club deserves it.

"We are committed to supporting this competition in '98 and committed to helping BIGGA in any way we can to make it grow."

Jonathan Hill, of Rhône Poulenc Amenity, said that he hoped the competition would continue to grow.

He then explained the rationale about a chemical company being involved in the competition.

"Careful use of our products goes hand in hand with conservation and protecting the environment. Pesticides can be plant medicine," he said.

Ian McMillan then gave a slide presentation showing the work that had been done at Hankley since his arrival and illustrated the extent of loss of heathland in the Surrey area.

Ian was presented with the crystal bowl and a cheque for £5000 to assist the club in its environmental endeavours.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ A new Internet site catering for everyone in the fine turf industry has been launched by Golfex.

The site has four main sections. 1. A Virtual Exhibition in which suppliers of products, services and educational courses have stands, each with a profile page, a page setting out products, services etc and an enquiry page for visitors to the site to send mail. 2. A Virtual Conference Hall in which it is possible to hold the on-line equivalent of a full-scale conference with papers, speakers, delegates. 3. A Library which will become a prime source of information for professionals and students. 4. A Catch-all area called the clubhouse which contains various rooms and notice boards.

Golfex will be on stand G18 at BTME to demonstrate the site and further information can be obtained from Charles Ollerenshaw. Tel: 01565 633667 e-mail: golfex@golfex.com

■ All STRI Training Courses are now BASIS approved and qualify for Continuing Professional Development Points (CPD) under the BASIS Professional Register. Fifteen points are available for both STRI five day residential courses – The General Turf Culture Course and the Turf Culture Course for Golf.

■ Ross Wilson, formerly Deputy at Newbury & Crookham Golf Club, has taken over as Course Manager at Donnington Grove Golf Club. He replaces Master Greenkeeper, David Winterton, who has moved to Maidenhead Golf Club.

Disciples of Hankley Common may have been wracking their brains working out which hole provided the cover shot for last month's magazine. The fact is that it is the 18th... but in reverse. Unfortunately during the printing process the excellent Bob Taylor slide was flipped over and slipped through the various checks and balances which are in place. We would like to apologise to Course Manager, Ian McMillan, and the members and officials of Hankley Common Golf Club for any embarrassment caused by the error.

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Jacobsen's parent company set to buy Ransomes

Two of the biggest names in fine turf machinery will come under the same ownership if a recommendation to shareholders by the board of Ransomes plc to accept a bid of £137.1 million for the company from American giant Textron is accepted.

Textron already owns Jacobsen.

The sale, which is expected to be ratified by shareholders, comes at the end of an extended period of speculation regarding the Ransomes, Cushman, Ryan, during which time the rumour mill had linked them to a number of other companies.

Ransomes' Chief Executive Peter Wilson said that he didn't expect the sale to be completed until the end of the year at the earliest.

On the future of Ransomes he said it was early days but it was his understanding that the com-

pany would continue to operate alongside Jacobsen.

"Textron has stated that we shall become a part of a \$800 million group with others including Jacobsen and E-Z-GO," he explained, from Ransomes' Ipswich base.

On the matter of another well known British company being sold abroad he was a realist.

"There is more to a company than who is the owner and whether it is British or American but it is important to have the security of having someone who is a UK based supplier of the product.

"Up against huge companies which are well financed and extremely diverse it was thought better for Ransomes to join with a

bigger player rather than risk the economic vagaries of going it alone. We have to consider the shareholders and our employees," he explained

Mary Lovejoy, Textron's Vice President of Communications and Investor Relations, based in Providence, Rhode Island, said the acquisition of Ransomes would be a great addition to the Textron group of companies, which already includes Cessna aircraft and Bell helicopter companies as well as E-Z-GO, Iseki and Jacobsen.

"We feel that there are a great many products within the ranges of Jacobsen and Ransomes which are complementary. Ransomes offers a great deal in the commercial market, not just the fine turf

market, which will strengthen our position.

"The fact that Ransomes offers a manufacturing base which we do not currently have in the UK will give us much greater flexibility and we will be looking at the options that brings us. Importing product is extremely expensive," she explained.

She added that brand name was important to Textron and that the Ransomes name, which has a strong reputation and links with some prestigious venues including Gleneagles, St Andrews and Pebble Beach.

"Obviously as the deal has not been completed it is too early to speculate on how Ransomes' name would be incorporated into any new company title."

One of the great figures of British greenkeeping retires at the end of the year.

Bill Lawson, Course Manager at Heswall GC since 1965, and a former Chairman of EIGGA, Vice Chairman of BIGGA and latterly a Trustee of the Association, has been instrumental in the rise of greenkeeping to the stage that it is the respected profession it is today.

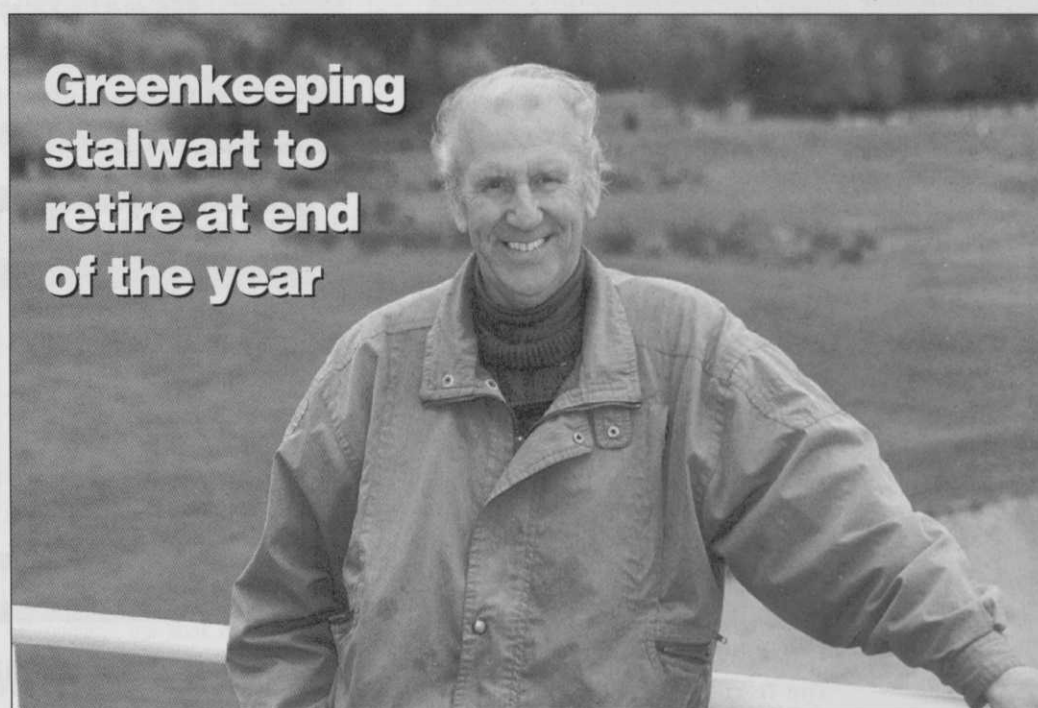
In the '70s and early '80s Bill was at the heart of discussions between Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers on how greenkeeper education should progress.

"The sound nature of those discussions backed by forward thinking golf clubs like Heswall have proved to be right," said Bill, who worked closely with Reaseheath College.

Bill is quick to pay tribute to his own golf club which has had only one Chairman of Green in the last 18 years: "It has been a privilege to work with Dr Frank Harkin who has been so forward thinking in working along with me in setting up the working and training programmes at Heswall. The emphasis is on working on five year programmes with Head Greenkeepers or Course Managers and Chairman of Green who will be there throughout."

A measure of that is the number of people who have moved on to top jobs from Heswall.

Among them, Raymond Hunt, from Forest of Arden; Marc Lewis, PGA European Tour; Kevin Roe, Pannal; Paul Pearce, Stockport; Norman Pearce, Lobenfeld Heidelberg; Ian Farrall, Cald; Nick



Bower Hoylake; Neil Toner, Wirral Ladies, Reg Sommers, Head Groundsman at Liverpool FC and Guy Cannings, the new Course Manager at Heswall.

Bill sees a need for the educational standards to continue to improve. "The pressures are far higher today that you could ever have imagined 30 years ago. Then if you had a dozen cars in the car park it was a busy day. Now you can have 150 people playing by 10.30 in mid November.

"These pressures are here to stay and will only increase as golf continues to grow in popularity. This makes our work as profes-

sional greenkeepers more important than ever and makes BIGGA even more central to the future of every young greenkeeper."

He has enjoyed his time at a genuinely friendly golf club which offers up superb views into North Wales and out into the Irish Sea. He can look back at his work on the course which has included a general tightening up of fairways, the construction of new bunkers and a tree planting project which has involved the addition of 2,800 new trees.

Bill will spend more of his new found spare time on the riverbank indulging his passion for fishing.

■ Picture by Ian Birch.

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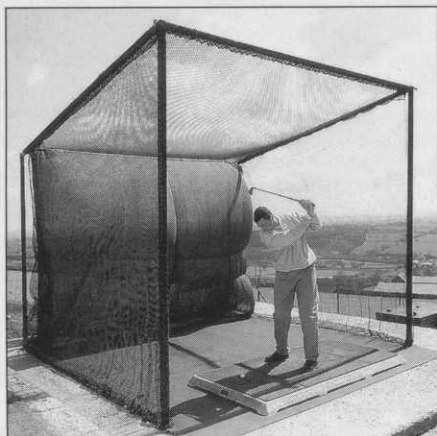


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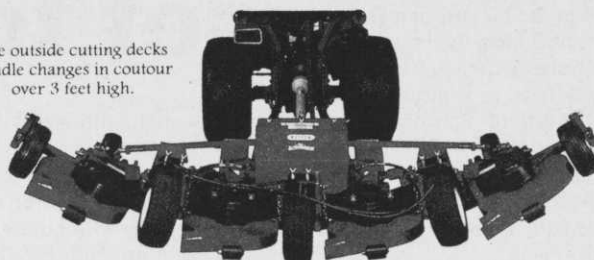
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Eagerly awaited

Practical Greenkeeping by Jim Arthur B.Sc. (Agric.), with foreword by Michael Bonallack OBE, Secretary R&A.

Practical Greenkeeping by Jim Arthur is probably the most eagerly awaited book in its particular field published in recent years as it is the compilation of the thoughts, views and advice of one of the true doyens of agronomy.

Jim Arthur's career spans six decades and he has given guidance and advice to over 550 golf courses throughout the UK and Europe while acting as consultant agronomist to the Championship Committee of the R&A for 18 years.

Among those contributing chapters in their specialist fields are Donald Steel, on golf course architecture; plant pathologist Neil Baldwin; sport drainage expert Barry Cooper; constructor Brian Pierson; health and safety consultant Jon Allbutt and Jim's son, Richard Arthur, on soils and geology.

Practical Greenkeeping is published by The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and is available priced £29.95.

A personal view of the book by Dr Bill Adams, Head of the Soil Science Unit at the University of Wales...

It was a pleasure to read the 270 or so pages of this book because I believe it has provided Jim with the opportunity to draw together, in a more comprehensive manner than I have gathered from his articles, his experiences and opinions on golf greenkeeping.

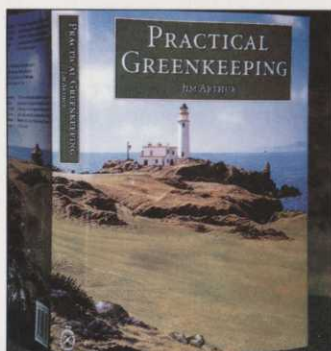
No-one has had such a long and influential experience as an advisor on turf culture for golf in the UK over a period of unprecedented expansion in participation in the game and the technology involved in its provision.

All who have a serious interest in golf turf need to read this book to appreciate the main features of advice which have influenced golf turf culture in the UK over the last half century.

There are 17 chapters. Apart from the first and last two, they deal with the various aspects of course construction and maintenance. So, for example, chapters deal with drainage, topdressing, mowing, irrigation, control of pests etc. The chapters are self contained and topics do not follow an obvious progression. Several chapters end with a series of conclusions but this style was not adopted throughout. Neil Baldwin contributed the chapter on turfgrass diseases.

An underlying theme is that golf should hold true to its traditions both in course design and turf culture. The first two chapters deal with the early development of the game and course design and both are interesting and informative. These chapters and the rest of the book include excellent photographs and illustrations.

Chapters dealing with turf maintenance practice contain indisputable good advice but one often feels preached at rather than agreeing with a conclusion on evidence



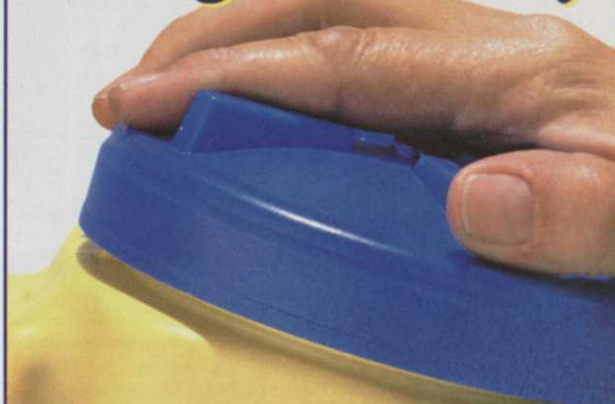
presented. This limits its value as a textbook because above all students, including young greenkeepers, need to reason "why" and not be satisfied with "what", "how" and "when".

The text contains only a small amount of quantitative technical data and there are few citations of literature to support statements of apparent fact. However, the style is consistent and conforms to Jim's philosophy that greenkeeping is "more of an art than a science".

A strong anti Poa annua theme is sustained and repeated fairly regularly throughout the book and a similar treatment is given to phosphatic fertilisers. The cultural control of annual meadowgrass has long been a key component of Jim's philosophy and advice but the extent to which greenkeepers can afford to impose the turf stress required is questionable in a context of ever increasing usage.

The penultimate chapter on conservation highlights a heritage golf courses have because of what they are and where they are. Not only do they occupy some of the wildest areas of coast but they are often the key green spaces among a sub-urban sprawl. The traditional design of courses supported throughout this book provides for variation based on natural features which relate to the local landscape and its vegetation. Long may the tradition continue.

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Ritefeed Classic is born

The future of BIGGA's premier team golf event has been secured for at least the next three years with the signing of a generous new sponsorship agreement with Ritefeed.

The Ritefeed Classic will begin next year with members attempting to qualify for Regional finals via Section events with the grand final being played at a prestigious venue next September.

The Classic, which has been a popular competition under the guise of the Hayter Challenge for the last five years, has always been a superb opportunity for greenkeepers from up and down the country to meet, mingle and compete. Now thanks to a significant investment by Ritefeed over the next three years it is sure to enhance its reputation as an event not to be missed.

"We are delighted that the future of this hugely popular golf event has been secured and look



Doing the deal: BIGGA's Neil Thomas, left and Ritefeed's John Walker

forward to working closely with Ritefeed to ensure that it continues to offer wonderful opportunities for BIGGA members to meet each other and play on some

excellent golf courses," said BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

"I would like to play tribute to Hayter, who sponsored this event

for the last five years, and who have ensured that Ritefeed take over an extremely fine event," he added.

Under the direction of John Walker and Richard Lawrence Ritefeed became a Golden Key supporter of the Association earlier this year and with this latest sponsorship agreement they have reinforced their commitment to the Association and greenkeepers.

"The Ritefeed Classic complements our marketing strategy perfectly and illustrates how much importance we place on our relationship with greenkeepers. We look forward to strengthening that relationship through the Classic and meeting many more BIGGA members up and down the length and breadth of the country," said John Walker, Chairman of Ritefeed.

News on venues for the regional and the national finals will be released shortly.

Best not to judge a course by its title

RECRUITMENT, SELECTION AND INTERVIEWING COURSE AT MANOR HOUSE HOTEL, MORETONHAMPTON NOV 3/4 1997

When I was asked to attend and introduce this course my initial thoughts were "that sounds a bit of a dry subject".

I could not have been more wrong! Frank Newberry is a very charismatic speaker who involves the delegates all the way through. I have done a lot of interviewing in my varied career and I did not think I was too bad at it! After attending Frank's course, however, I realise that there is a lot more to this than I have ever dreamed. It was a real education to sit with Frank and plan the interviewing strategy so that the whole interview was geared

to selecting the right candidate for the position offered. He demonstrated ways of exposing candidates weaknesses as well as highlighting their talents and really demonstrated that putting some thought and forward planning into preparing an interview really could produce constructive results.

It can cost hundreds of pounds to place advertisements in magazines and if these advertisements are not properly worded then many hours can be wasted in sifting through unsuitable applicants' replies and then subsequently even more hours and money wasted in unproductive interviewing when a proper selection formula has not been worked out

It was also great to watch the dele-

gates' confidence blossom over the two days. At the end of the course who had began as rather shy and diffident young men had become confident and personable and I felt were completely capable of very competently conducting a selection interview and of hiring the most suitable candidate.

These delegates, apart from benefiting from their fresh knowledge and increased confidence stayed, FULL BOARD, in a lovely top class Manor House hotel in a glorious setting.

Two days, one night's board, breakfast, a la carte dinner, 2 lunches in the dining room, morning coffee and afternoon tea with biscuits, unlimited soft drinks plus 2 full days tutoring - wow! - it must have cost a

fortune you must be thinking - won't send my staff on that! - Quite right too!

Because of the wonderful support of BIGGA's gold and silver key sponsors this experience cost the delegates exactly £75.

Why weren't more of you there?

Take my advice, when you see the courses advertised, if you are not sure of the content because the title sounds uninteresting, phone up HQ and ask them for more details and if any of the courses are presented by Mr Newberry, get on them as soon as you can. If you want to climb the ladder in your career, you cannot afford to miss this kind of opportunity.

■ Paula Humphries Regional Administrator (S. West & S. Wales Region)

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Alick moves to lead team at Hotchkin

Alick Mackay has been appointed Head Greenkeeper on the Hotchkin Course at The National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa. He arrives in Lincolnshire from Machrihanish Golf Club having previously worked at Skibo Castle, Boat of Garten, Worthing and Royal Dornoch.

He will head at team of seven on the Hotchkin Course with another seven, under Head Greenkeeper, David Horsey, working on the new Bracken course.

"We are all excited by the potential of The National Golf Centre with one course already world renowned and the other, due to open next year, that will not be long in making its mark on the British golf scene," said Course Manager, Peter Wisbey.

"We are all pleased that such a well respected greenkeeper has joined our team," he added.

Don't be snookered by your bunkers

"We have had problems with our bunkers in the past," says David Gower, Course Manager at the Oxfordshire Golf Club, "But the problems are all behind us. The Programme which we are well on the way to completing will ensure that there are no further problems."

David Gower has only been in charge of this prestigious course since June 1 this year, having been the deputy for the previous five years. He puts the bunker problem; which elicited some unfavourable comments from a certain senior member of the European Tour during the Benson & Hedges Trophy, which has been played in May at the Oxfordshire for the past three years, down to the fact that the sub soil is a soft clay. We simply could not get a firm base and the sand we were using did not hold enough moisture. It quickly became mixed with the sub soil and we had the double problem of the ball plug-

ging and a very insecure foothold."

A programme was started to empty the problem bunkers and provide a firm base by putting down a two to four inch layer of broken stone and laying upturned turf on top of the stone before re-filling with sand. "I wanted a sand which would hold some moisture and would be firm underfoot and in which the ball would not plug. The grain structure of a good bunker sand must be sharp and it must contain a good proportion of medium size grains. I was given a sample of HMC's ProSport Bunker Sand from the Leighton Buzzard quarry. We did a trial on a range bunker to compare it with what we were using and it was just what I had been looking for. It performed better than anything I had seen previously and that it was also very similar in colour."

There are 137 bunkers on the Oxfordshire course, some of them very big indeed. One is called

'Hell's Half Acre' and another is over 1½ acres in area and has seven grass islands. "Bunkers should be designed to penalise the player not the greenkeeper." Says David: "None of ours have steep walls and that helps to make them maintainable. Having the right sand is very important. If it doesn't hold some moisture, irrigating can be a major problem."

The Oxfordshire will host the Benson & Hedges in May 1998 and the year after. "Hopefully, there will be no complaints about the course, especially the bunkers," says David Gower, "We have already renovated over half of the bunkers, and that includes all those which had to be due out to put in a firm base. There are about 45 still to be sorted out and they will be done over the winter. It will take about another 300 tonnes of ProSport bunker sand from Leighton Buzzard and that should complete the programme."

High on a hill

Midland Regional Administrator, Peter Larter's, walking trip in Austria nearly turned into a Busman's Holiday when he found himself on a golf course.

I've just had a holiday with friends at Ischgl in the Austrian Alps and, after three hard days mountain walking, we decided to have an easy day in the car. We had just survived some 25 hairpin bends descending from the Silvretta Lake, close to the Swiss border, when to our surprise just around the last bend we came upon Hochmontafon Golf Club on the outskirts of the small town of Partenen.

We just had to stop because the location was quite spectacular. We were given a warm welcome by the club management, and learned that the club was owned by four local men and was just coming to the end of its second season. The 9 hole fairly short (3 par fours and 6 par threes) but tricky course is at 1115 metres, and is surrounded by mountains reaching 2400 metres above sea level. The land for the course, became available when the previous owner, a farmer, passed away leaving the land intestate. The local mayor was sympathetic to the idea of a golf course and the project was launched.

We were shown around the course

by a proud Herbert Berger, one of the co-owners, and experienced some breathtaking outlooks when standing on the tees. Major hazards, apart from some outstanding rock formations, are cows who roam freely. Although the greens were small they were in very good condition, considering they spend five months under deep snow each year; the course is part of a downhill ski piste during the Winter! The land was natural terrain for a golf course and there were many interesting and challenging uphill, sidehill and downhill lies, the course would be a tough challenge to all standards of golfer, particularly challenging on the lungs! There are 120 members of the Golf Club, and the course is open to all who want to play.

The fairways are natural grass from when the area was farmland but the greens were laid with turf and withstand some very hard conditions. The tees, however, are constructed with astroturf, but future grass tees are planned. The day we visited it rained for the first time in six weeks, but they have plenty of water which is applied to the greens manually.

Our only regret was that we didn't have time to play, but a warm welcome and a schnapps would be waiting in the friendly clubhouse for any golfer who just happens to be passing!



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Sowing the seeds for the future

The Sports Turf Research Institute held its first grass trials in 1929, when the modern golf industry was in its infancy. Whilst it was recognised that greenkeepers needed to know which grasses to sow and how they would perform, it's safe to say that no-one could have predicted the demands placed on today's turfgrass mixtures.

Today, with courses played and mowed all-year round, the popular turfgrass mixtures are selected to withstand close mowing and trampling. Amenity grass seed breeders supply a wide range of mixtures designed to perform best under the specific conditions of greens, tees and fairways. Greenkeepers are well aware of what is on offer.

Of perhaps greater concern is the future of turfgrass mixtures for golf courses and the implications for greenkeepers, turfgrass breeders and research bodies alike.

While the general conditions are acknowledged, there appears to be a marked difference in emphasis between the commercial plant breeders and primary seed suppliers and the research bodies.

As far as breeders and wholesalers are concerned, the major consideration is providing a grass playing surface which can withstand close mowing and wear and tear and have high recuperative potential.

Research orientated bodies such as the STRI and The Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research at Aberystwyth acknowledge the need for grasses which withstand close mowing and wear and tear. But, they are more concerned with shifting to and creating new turfgrasses which will perform well in the changing climatic conditions – increasing drought and corresponding water restrictions – and ecological considerations such as the spraying of herbicides.

Dr Andy Newell, Head of Turfgrass Biology and Environment at the STRI, says, "It has to be a major consideration now to produce grasses which will perform well in the future. Drought will become an even bigger problem than it is now. There have already been problems in recent years. Climate change is a problem

which won't go away and the problems of drought will get worse.

"At the highest level, the highest standards of presentation are expected and demanded. Television companies want to see green playing surfaces rather than parched, brown and dead looking grass areas. It isn't just the premier courses which are concerned, today's greenkeeper can be responsible for an investment worth anywhere between £2-20m and has to make decisions which can produce something good or gradually wreck a course.

"In respect of some problems, grass types we use now may not be the best type for the future. For example, bent grasses require more water than fescues to produce a good playing surface. If we can't use water, we may well have to reverse the current trend towards bents and go back to fescues.

"Maintenance is also important. Mowing, in particular, will affect the way grasses will perform. Slower growing grasses, which use less water, naturally require less mowing but what is done needs to be done well. If grass is not cut neatly, with sharp, regularly lapped blades, a larger surface area is wounded and this leads both to greater water loss and likelihood of disease. It is also, quite simply, a case of having the right kind of mower to produce the kind of playing surfaces golfers demand."

At the same time as shifting emphasis over to existing grasses which require less water, research is also being done into Genetically Modified Organisms. Through gene transfer, grasses which require less water and spraying with herbicides can be created.

As Dr Danny Thorogood, of The Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research at Aberystwyth, explains, "It is quite easy to manipulate most grasses through gene transfer. What we have to do is identify and isolate the useful gene. In some cases, the characteristics which we want to trans-

fer – dwarfism for grasses which require less mowing or resistance to disease for grasses which need little or no spraying with herbicides – are determined by a number of genes, which makes it a bit more difficult."

So, why aren't genetically modified grasses available to the greenkeeper?

Danny explains, "It's the implications for the environment which are the chief problem with Genetically Modified Organisms. What happens when GMOs get into the food chain, for example. The potential hazards as well as benefits of each gene have to be assessed individually before release in a commercial variety. As far as golf courses are concerned, the problems are very specific.

"Our research indicates that grass pollen can travel several miles and it's all very well breeding grasses which are resistant to disease and herbicide tolerant for the fairways but what about when the various weeds growing in the rough are pollinated? No greenkeeper wants the problem of herbicide resistant weeds growing on the fairway."

Realistically, then, it's the case that genetically modified grasses created through gene transfer may be easy to create but are a long way off being commercially available to greenkeepers.

"But," Danny continues, "there is still a vast array of naturally occurring variation for characteristics in grasses growing in the wild. Plant breeders such as myself collect this wild plant material. We then hybridise it in complex crossing programmes to combine the useful traits such as drought tolerance, disease resistance, short dense growth and wear tolerance into a single variety."

How, then, does the concerned greenkeeper keep abreast of climatic and environmental considerations; what's happening in turfgrass technology and its implications?

The STRI held its first Cutting

Edge three day Golf Training Course for Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers last month with the express purpose of putting delegates in the picture with regard to developments in turfgrass technology and implications for the future of golf courses.

As Dr Newell explains, "Good greenkeepers have always been well aware of the need to know what's available and what future developments are likely to influence their business. So although the response to the first Cutting Edge was good – with 16 Head Greenkeepers coming along – it was hardly surprising.

"But educating greenkeepers is only part of the whole picture. What needs to happen a lot more is for them to engage in real two-way dialogue with the technical people. Because, when you consider that it takes up to 15 years to create a new grass, for the seed breeders to respond to greenkeepers demands in general, as well as those caused by climatic, environmental and financial considerations they need to know what's required for the future today.

"To be sure, the enlightened seed breeders do take steps to educate their salesmen to understand greenkeepers' current needs and to encourage feedback when it comes to anticipating requirements. But there is still room for far greater exchange of information between greenkeepers and breeders. It's only then that the breeders can supply what the people at the cutting edge really want."

So, it seems that as far as the research institutes are concerned, the challenge is to adapt and create grasses to suit the inevitable demands made on them by the golf courses, brought about by a changing climate and growing concern over the environment. At the same time, it's a question of encouraging a climate of debate between greenkeepers, breeders and the research bodies.

Johnsons Seeds see things differently.

"When we have our regular meetings with the STRI we invariably end up agreeing that the only difference in our perspectives is one of emphasis," said Geoff Taylor, of Johnsons.

As far as the potential benefits of GMOs are concerned Geoff is





Sowing the
seeds for
the future

→ sceptical. He argues that despite the potential of gene technology the range of options available to plant breeders are still bound by the fundamental precepts of plant ecology.

"If grasses are modified by inserting appropriate genes, and traits such as drought tolerance, are fully expressed how will such an organism survive when it is faced with significant deficits or moisture/nutrients but is constantly subjected to the wear and tear and ultra close mowing expected by today's golfers?"

"Grasses which are more efficient at extracting and utilising nutrients than their contemporaries – especially nitrogen – are already undergoing trials. But such advances, despite their benefits are dwarfed by the climatic changes which are likely to be much greater than the capacity of GMOs to produce the higher levels of performance demanded."

So, where does that leave the greenkeeper needing to make commercial purchasing decisions but with an eye to the long-term health and performance of the course's playing surfaces?

As far as Drs Thorogood and Newell are concerned, the crux of the matter is that, in the words of Dr. Thorogood, "Far-sighted companies with direct involvement with the greenkeeper on the one hand and the research scientists and breeders on the other, are in the ideal position to bring together the geneticists and greenkeepers to discuss what is possible and what is needed in the grass seed mixtures for the millennium."

Dr Newell's main concern is that greenkeepers beware of cheap grasses because they can become very expensive.

"Greenkeepers may save money on seed but pay out for extra maintenance, extra watering and extra fertiliser. If grass has to be replaced due to poor performance, this could be extremely expensive."

From Geoff Taylor's perspective, the crucial thing is that the products of plant breeders need to be integrated effectively with the technological development of mowers and other machines, along with chemicals.

"A holistic approach is the only one likely to succeed where superior management skills can maximise the full range of resources available."

Drawing breath before BTME 98

Yet another year has flown by with the New Year only three weeks away and Harrogate only six weeks away. Nineteen ninety seven started with the Learning Experience, commencing with the National Education Conference and the welcome return of two workshops. Workshop 1 on Golf Course Design, Construction and Maintenance was extremely popular again, so much so that we had to stop taking applications in early December. We, therefore decided to this workshop around the Regions, which has proved to be a great success. This workshop will be held at Harrogate again in January and, if you are quick, there are still a few places left. Workshop 2, Surveying and Levelling was, again, very successful and will be running in January. **New for 1998 will be a workshop on Irrigation and its popularity is such that it is completely full.** The National Education Conference will again be held in the Majestic Hotel, with speakers from all parts of the industry sure to offer something for everyone. The Seminar Programme returns to the Royal Hall for 1998. The Seminar Programme begins at 10am with a seminar presented by the Institute of Agricultural Engineers.

Unfortunately, Mr Jaime Ortiz Patino will not be able to attend on Wednesday 21 January, however he will be speaking on Thursday 22 January at 1 pm. This seminar is a must for anyone wanting to hear how Valderrama was prepared for the 1997 Ryder Cup. All three workshops, the National Education Conference and Seminars will, once again, attract Master Greenkeeper credits and BASIS Continuing Professional Development points. Please ask for details at the Conference Office or at Seminar Registration in Hall G.

Thanks to the contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, including those companies listed at the front of this magazine, we have been able to continue to provide a range of courses around the Regions at very low prices. This year has seen courses on Essential Management Skills, Recruitment and Selection, Health and Safety and Leadership, allowing more than 180 greenkeepers to gain impor-



Education Update

BY KEN
RICHARDSON

tant knowledge which they can use in the future to provide better managed, efficient, cost effective, safe golf courses.

TORO sponsored both the Student of the Year and the Excellence in Greenkeeping Award for the first time in 1997. This enabled us to hold a joint final in October, when Steven Nixon from Wortley Golf Club and Ian McMillan from Hankley Common Golf Club were selected as the winners. Congratulations to them both. Ian was doubly successful as Hankley Common also won the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhône Poulenc Amenity, with Hankley winning £5000 to add to the prize of a Toro triple greens mower and Ian's trip to the USA. Full details of all 1998 competition will be available at BTME.

The next field guide, 'Grass Identification' is being distributed and will be available at BTME. Further field guides on 'Trees and Shrubs', 'Control of Mammals' and 'Basic Machinery Maintenance' will become available during 1998.

New for 1998 will be the BIGGA Refund of Education Fees Scheme. Watch out for full details of how and when to apply in the January edition of *Greenkeeper International* and on the BIGGA stand at BTME.

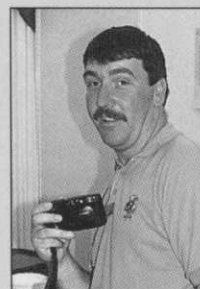
This year has been very hectic for Sami and me. We get immense satisfaction from seeing greenkeepers improve their knowledge, skills and confidence and we see education and training as the way to improve the status of greenkeepers and the greenkeeping profession. Remember, training courses, competitions and other training opportunities are staged for your benefit. Why not make a New Year's resolution to become more involved, attend courses and improve your status.

Sami and I hope that you all have a very happy Christmas and an educational New Year.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Profile

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club. Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star...



Name: **Steven Evans**
Club: **St Enedoc GC**
Position: **Deputy Head Greenkeeper**
Age: **37(ish)**

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
Eighteen years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
D32/D33 Just completed.

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
Revetting Bunkers

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
Pesticide/Fungicide Spraying

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?
Collier

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
Peter Gillard, Greenkeeping Lecturer at Pencoed College In Wales

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
Encourage educational opportunities for all greenkeepers

8. What are your hobbies?
Playing pool, cricket and golf

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
Belonging to a professional organisation, valued friendships on a personal and professional level.

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
Greenkeeping and failing that maybe a professional photographer for BIGGA!

Put it down to the weather

I thought this experience of mine might help others in a similar position.

Two greens at my club had become infected with bleached yellow/white patches attacking the annual meadow grass.

With BIGGA Field Guide to Diseases in hand "Basal Rot," I thought, "But no black spot at the base of the grass stem?"

More expert help was needed, so I took the sample to the STRI and 48 hours later Mr Ormandroyd telephoned and informed me that it was not a disease or virus but etiolated growth of *Poa Annua* (Stress Disorder). He also said that the core sample was greening up nicely in the temperate climate of the lab.

His recommendation was an application of a liquid iron product to even up the colour.

I have therefore learned two important aspects of disease management, which are:-

1. Weather conditions in mid October have a vast effect on how the turf (*Poa Annua*) looks.

2. Always positively identify the disease problems (if any) before reaching for the fungicide bottle.

Nigel Potter
Meltham GC
Huddersfield

Temporary frustrations

It's that time of year again when golfers become frustrated to hear that dreaded words "Temporary Greens". Having worked hard all week, a member arrives at the Golf Club on Saturday or Sunday morning, only to find the Greens Staff removing the flag from the summer to winter Greens, mainly due to frost at this time of year.

The Greens Chairman, or Member of the Greens Committee, meet the Greens Staff to state that the frost will have thawed soon, so leave the flags on the summer Greens as there are members who can only play at weekends and don't want to putt on temporary greens.

As a very keen golfer myself, I can understand that statement being made but first and foremost the Greens Staff are qualified to make decisions, for whatever reason, to protect the course and I can assure members that they get no satisfaction replacing flags onto temporary greens. Although at times it's hard to

accept, it's about time some members respected the decision made at the time. After all what are qualifications all about?

As a greenkeeper myself, who came into the profession later than most, it concerns me deeply why there seems to be a situation, between greens staff and some members. Having discussed this with other colleagues they too have similar experiences at their places of work. Why? You've perhaps noticed that I've mentioned the word profession. Greenkeeping is very much a profession with ever increasing demands and expertise

As a member of BIGGA I was intrigued to read in the September issue of Greenkeeper International where Spain, Mr Jaime Ortiz-Patino, of Valderrama said, "Greenkeeping is a very respected profession in America but in Britain the greenkeeper is often not allowed in the clubhouse. This is beyond my comprehension. It is a highly professional and respectable career and it should be treated as such."

I ask myself is it Britain behind the times or just sheer snobbery extended from years ago?

For the members who genuinely care and want to protect the course – and I'm sure that includes most of us – may I suggest to members that they find time to talk to their Greens Staff, I am sure we would welcome the opportunity to explain in greater detail the work in hand; let's face it, they're qualified to do so.

As an avid reader of most golf magazines, which I enjoy immensely, maybe it's time that the Editors introduced an article each month, conveying basic greenkeeping skills and why certain tasks have to be done at certain times of the year. This would surely help the members of clubs develop empathy with the Greens Staff and can only improve our courses long term.

Dave Blank
Newcastle Under Lyme, Staffs

Course was outstanding

I attended the recent Management Training Course at the Cheltenham & Gloucester Moat House Hotel and would like to make a few comments about it.

Frank Newberry was outstanding as a lecturer; he has a total grasp of his subject and was obviously well able to alter his delivery to suit greenkeepers – without anyone feeling awkward or pressurised in any way

As to your comments in the maga-

zine complaining about the lack of take-up of this training I agree it is a very great shame that ordinary greenkeepers feel unable to attend possibly through feeling that it is above them

Personally, I can't wait to sign up for the next one and have no doubt that both my colleague Wayne Vincent and I will attend further courses in the future, and would like our thanks to be passed on to the Golden Key sponsors in the meantime

No-one should feel in any way below the content of the course. Everyone has something to learn and to contribute

Paul Worster
Course Manager
Minchenhampton GC
Stroud, Glous

Many thanks from Denmark

I would like to thank the following people for their great and immense help during Flemming Andersen's and my own study tour to England in July of this year.

Flemming, who heads the greenkeeper education in Denmark, and I

visited the following golf courses and greenkeepers over 10 days and received a very warm welcome on every occasion.

We would like to thank David Austin, Sandiway GC; Justin Lee, Oaklands GC; Steve Worthington, Macclesfield GC; Anthony Davies, Prestbury GC; Jimmy McDonald MBE, Royal Lytham and St Annes; Derek Green, Royal Liverpool; Reaseheath College, Northrop College; Richard Campeys, Lymm GC, Prior Hayes GC, Portal GC and Knights Grange Golf Complex.

All the aforementioned will be pleased to hear that as a direct result of our visits we now have a very good base for our education in Denmark and as from 1998 we will be very close to the English system. Let me take this opportunity to thank you all personally and I hope it will be possible to visit again in the near future.

I look forward to seeing friends old and new at Harrogate in January and hopefully enjoy a cold one with you all.

Best regards for Christmas and the new year.

Chris Haspell
Course Manager Falster GC.

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In at the DEEP END

Graham Chambers is not one to shirk a challenge and, faced by a huge one, he has more than measured up.

There was a television programme, I think it was in the early 80s, called "In at the Deep End" where two guys who had been on "That's Life" were given a set amount of time to become marginally proficient in a particular skill.

It all built up to a climax where the "big boss" had to decide whether or not they were up to putting their new found talents to use at the top level. From one recollection among the skills one or other of them acquired were to become a ball room dancer, an auctioneer and an opera singer, while one of them had to direct a Bananarama pop video. There have been a few recent revivals of the format with different "stooges" but for what it's worth I still prefer the original.

I wouldn't be too surprised if Graham Chambers felt as though he had been selected to appear on the programme when he was appointed Course Manager of Longhirst Hall Golf Course, in Morpeth, just as construction was starting.

It wasn't just that it was the then 26 year-old's first job in charge of his own golf course – it was his first job in greenkeeping, and he arrived at Longhirst Hall direct from his previous job as

Store Manager of Morpeth's Superdrug.

It was more a case of entering the deep end via a triple twisting full pike dive off the high board.

That Longhirst Hall is thriving says much for Graham's ability to acquire new skills quickly and the owner's perception in seeing something in Graham which persuaded him that his new course, which opened for play on June 1 this year, was going to be in safe hands.

That owner is Tom Dawson, the golf loving Chairman and founder of Dawson and Sanderson travel agency, whose approach to the development and running of his own course is less than conventional.

The club encourages women to play off the same tees as the men;

operates a relaxed dress code and slow play is punished by the culprits having to pick up their balls and walk the distance they have dropped behind. Whether that would work in The Open or the Ryder Cup is perhaps debatable but it certainly keeps them on their toes at Longhirst.

"The boss has been a member at a lot of clubs and doesn't like being stuck in the traditional role of a golf club. He wanted a club local people could play not one where you couldn't enter the clubhouse if you were wearing a hat or didn't have a tie," explained Graham.

"It was always intended to be pay and play. They can come here in jeans and trainers and it's just £5 a round. We just want to get local people on so they can play,

or learn how to play, golf."

If people in the North East don't know where Longhirst Hall is exactly, they will certainly know of the famous landmark which previously marked the spot.

"The site was an open cast mine and boasted the biggest crane in Europe – Big Geordie – stuck right in the middle of it. The whole place was a bit of an eyesore to be honest," said Graham.

The site already included an excellent hotel, a tennis club, cricket fields and Tom Dawson's view was that a golf course would fit in well.

If it was an ability to learn quickly coupled with a tenacious desire to get things done which Tom Dawson spotted in Graham he is a remarkable judge of character because it is just those qualities which have shone through.

"When I came into the industry two and a half years ago my perceptions were like those of everyone else coming in. I was going to be cutting grass and that it must be a nice job in the summer," he laughs at his own naivety.

Being faced by a whole new challenge Graham took the only real option open to him. He threw himself into education.

"I started straight away and did my PA1 and PA6 before I even started on the construction. It left me totally drained. I passed but I had to study hard to do it."

Since then the fact that he now has a course to work on and put



Graham Chambers, right, with some of his team

'My ambition is to have the course considered one of the better ones in the area'

into practice what he has been learning at Kirkley Hall College.

"I went through Level II last year and I'm half way through Level III at the moment and it's going swimmingly. I'm also going to do a distance learning four year HND course, possibly at Elmwood, from next year.

"I definitely want to improve my knowledge of agronomy. In the past year at college we've been doing quite a lot of work with different cultivars and it's an area I'm very interested in."

Graham began working on July 1 1995 three months after construction work started.

"During the first year and a half there were occasions when I was totally gutted and couldn't face coming to work in the morning. With construction there just seemed that there were times when there was no light at the end of the tunnel. I had this vision in my mind that it would be a nice golf course to work on and it just seemed to be constant digging. It took a lot of getting used to," he confessed.

The course was constructed by Terry Reading Golf Associates and was a design-build.

"An outline drawing had been done but in the main the course was designed as we went along. In the original design plan there were three acres of lakes and by the end this had increased to 35 acres of water."

As the course was being constructed a complete set of temporary greens was included.

"These include the same root-zone, are fully drained and have irrigation," explained Graham.

"These are not only for winter use but will also be handy if working on the main green, the idea was to give our members and guests a quality putting surface throughout the year instead of merely cutting a hole in the fairway."

A grand total of 40,000 trees have been planted which will ultimately give definition to the holes.

"We have larch, Norway spruce, Scots Pine, lime and maple and I keep going out to see if they've grown any or work out how high they'll be in a year's time."

Another statistic to set beside that of the trees is 60 kilometres of drainage. "We've got our own trenching team," he explained.

"Our greens are USGA spec but

the fairways are all on clay so we don't have much soil to work with. We've had to verti drain and top dress to change the structure of the soil and they tend to need a lot of feeding in the summer because they dry up very quickly.

"We are experimenting with fairway irrigation on the 1st and 18th to see how beneficial it will be. If it's worthwhile the boss will probably go ahead with it."

John Hacker has been visiting Longhirst since the project started and is always available should there be any problems while Gary Munro, of The Wynyards, has also been useful in providing advice.

Graham joined BIGGA on the advice of Steve Pope, previously Head Greenkeeper at Tyneside Golf Club but now retired, who worked at Longhirst in the summer.

"He told me all about BIGGA and what I would get out of it and he's been absolutely right. I have been to Harrogate for the last three years, in the last two with the college but I'm going to spend more time there in January.

"The first time I went it just went over my head but the second year I had a little more knowledge but still didn't have a course to work on. Last year I really enjoyed it and met a lot of people in the business. Next year I'll be much more involved."

Graham admits that initially he was driven by a desire to prove the many doubters, who questioned the wisdom of proceeding with such an inexperienced team, wrong.

"As I've gone on that's changed and I'm doing it for myself. I want to have people come up and say how much they've enjoyed the course or that the greens were smashing today.

"My ambition is to have the course considered one of the better ones in the area. Lindon Hall is very, very nice indeed but it was built on existing parkland so had impact straight away. I've heard rumours that people were saying that our place looks very open but we're building from scratch and are targeting different people from Lindon Hall. We're looking at pay-and-play while Lindon Hall is targeting business people."

Graham's experience prior to joining the greenkeeping industry had all been in retail management having become a trainee manager at Finefare (now Gate-



way) before moving to the Coop and then to Superdrug where he was assistant manager of a busy store in centre of Newcastle before being given his own shop in Morpeth shortly before he was lured away to Longhirst Hall.

"What my previous jobs taught me was organisational skills – sorting out daily and weekly priorities and staff training which has been very important here with such an inexperienced staff.

"I like to be the approachable type of manager. If they've got any problems at college it's likely I will have experienced the same as I've been through the same course not long ago so I can help."

The team consists of Graham, his Deputy, Gary Smith who is also the mechanic and four youngsters two of whom have just completed their YTS and completely their NVQ Level II. One of whom, Stuart Wilson, is

currently the Student Greenkeeper of the Year at Kirkley College. Graham also continues to utilise the diverse skills of another five who had worked on the construction.

"There has been a lot of pain and heartache but we've achieved the basics of a golf course. The greens are good, the tees are excellent and we will be working on the fairways for years to come. Otherwise it is just a case of man-icuring and waiting for the trees to mature," explained Graham.

Then he can perhaps assist Tom Dawson on his next project, and it's a biggy.

"On land just next door to Longhirst he wants to copy the 18 best holes in the world. He saw a course in the States which copied the 18 best holes in America and he wants to go one better," explained Graham adding, "That's not until after the millennium though."

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION

BTME 98

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Give me a T!
Give me a M!
Give me an E!

**Four letters which,
joined together, herald
the week of the year for
greenkeepers
everywhere**

In a world full of acronyms – think of NATO, EMU, PAYE and ERNIE – greenkeeping has two which are intrinsically linked.

If it wasn't for BIGGA there would be no BTME and there can be no other grouping of four otherwise disjointed letters which can make a greenkeeper's pulse quicken in quite the way BTME does.

You cannot think about BTME without an image of Harrogate creeping into your head... and everything else which goes to make up the BTME experience.

Harrogate week, which for many begins with the National Education Conference – part of the Learning Experience, in association with Ransomes, is the event of the year for many in the fine turf management family whether

they be greenkeepers, or a member of any one of the related areas which bring people to the Conference and Show.

Among the changes this year is the inclusion of the new Hall G to replace Hall E, which keeps all four halls on one level and ensures a superior flow to the show.

Hall G is a state-of-the-art marquee which BTME takes over from the Toy Fair, the exhibition held at Harrogate the previous week.

■ Due to an amendment to his travel arrangements Mr Jaime Ortiz Patino will not be able to attend on Wednesday 21 January, however, he will be speaking on Thursday 22 January at 1pm. This seminar is a must for anyone wanting to hear how Valderrama was prepared for the 1997 Ryder Cup.

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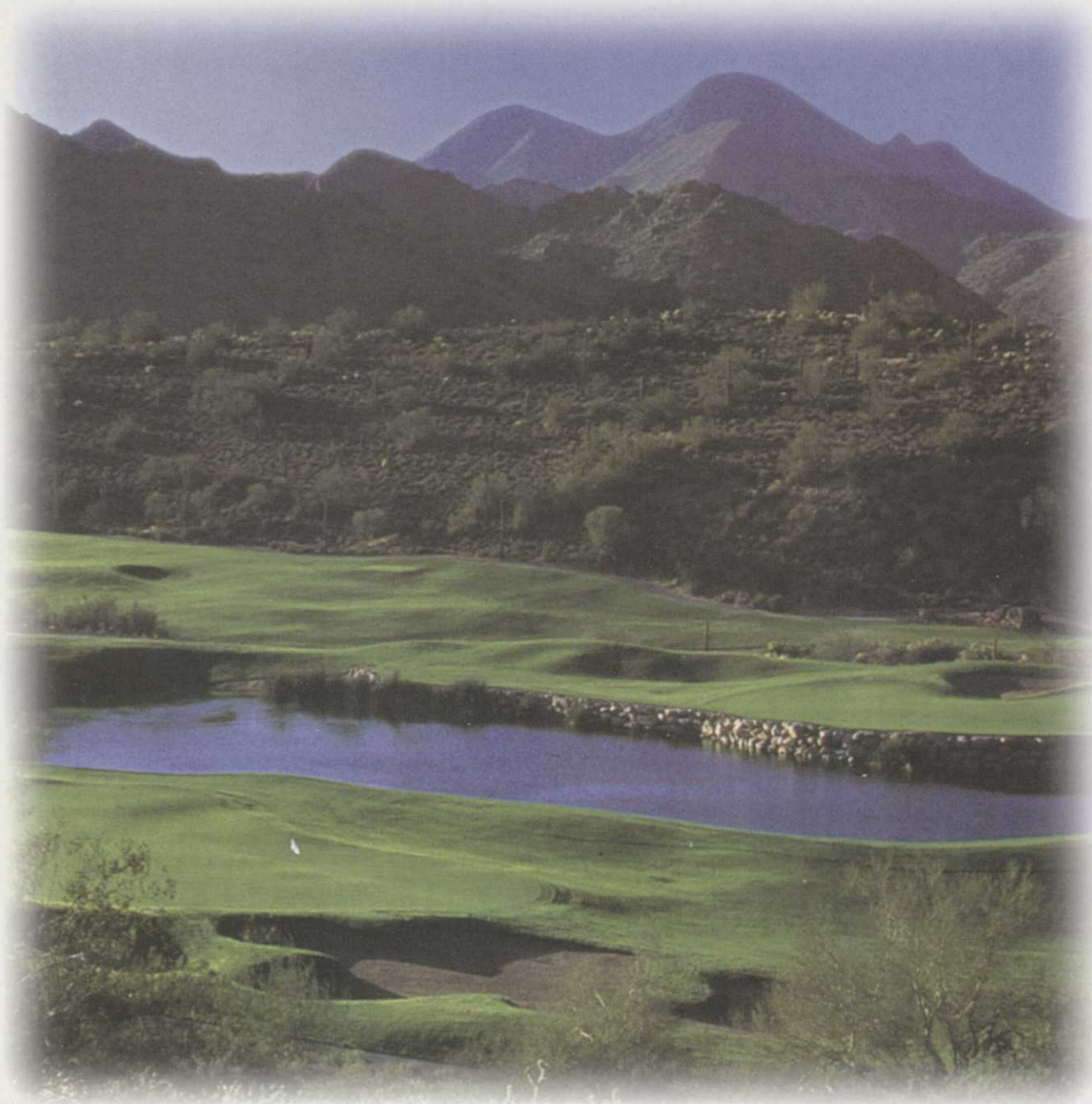
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Facts you need to know...

BTME Opening Times

Wednesday January 21:

9am-5.30pm

Thursday January 22:

9am-5.30pm

Friday January 23:

9am to 1.30pm

Booking System

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

AGM

The BIGGA Annual General Meeting will take place at the Majestic Hotel at 5.45pm on Wednesday January 21, 1998. All members are urged to attend but membership cards must be produced.

Competitions

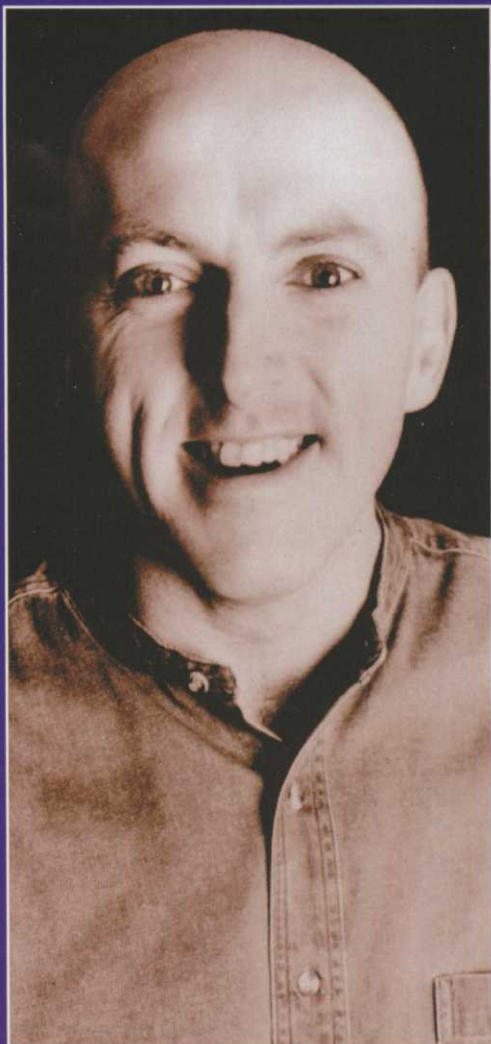
The winner of BIGGA's superb prize draw to win a trip to Harrogate for three nights at a top hotel and entry to all educational seminar sessions is Nigel Aiken of Belfast.

In second place and winner of a trip to Harrogate and accommodation for two nights as well as entry into the educational seminar sessions is Mr J. H. Bragg, from Crete and third is Michael Smith of Southampton who wins one night's accommodation and entry to all seminar sessions.

The winner of the Christmas Hamper for registering before November 14 was Steve Holmes of Hyndhead GC in Surrey.

Workshops One and Three and now SOLD OUT. For details of course availability please contact Sami Collins on 01347 838581

Entertainment at BTME



Lee Hurst



Linda Nolan

We thought our search was over... it is now!

Over the last few months the staff at BIGGA Headquarters have spent many hours on one of the biggest problems the Association faces on an annual basis – how do we improve on the previous year's entertainment at the Thursday night banquet?

As you can imagine each year this task becomes more difficult as standards continue to rise. You will no doubt remember the last three years with Tom O'Connor, Stan Boardman and Bobby Davro topping the bill.

At the end of each of these evenings people left feeling they had a whale of a time and often ribbed us about how difficult it will be even to match it the following year.

It is a responsibility we have

not taken lightly and this year the search for a star has taken many telephone calls and long arduous hours watching videos ensuring that what we will present to our guests on that memorable Thursday evening next January will be the best we could possibly get.

Often we thought it was all over and we had succeeded... only to have our hopes dashed as some of the biggest name entertainers in the country couldn't wriggle out of previous engagements to free up a date BIGGA has had set in stone for years.

Undoubtedly it was all for the best because our patience was rewarded tenfold with the signing of one of the country's finest stand-up comedians – a

man who has simply exploded onto the scene over the last three years and following innumerable television appearances and a nationwide tour is one of the highest profile – and funniest – comedians in the land.

Many times we thought our search was over... but – with the signing of Lee Hurst – it is now!

But that's not all. There is one person who is still talked about in hushed tones amid greenkeeping circles on both sides of the Atlantic following her outrageous performance at BTME '95 and, you've guessed it, we've brought her back. Linda Nolan will be strutting her stuff again at BTME '98.

You know where to go for tickets. Don't wait to be disappointed.

Reservations?

Where else would you rather spend a week in the middle of January than Harrogate?

There are several locations which tend to be chosen for the many exhibitions and conferences found up and down the length and breadth of the country. Political parties tend to favour the seaside and Bournemouth, Blackpool and Brighton, the three Bs, appear on monotonous regularity giving politicians a rare opportunity to look windswept and interesting. Big population centres are chosen for the likes of the Motor Show, British Fashion Week, The Boat Show and the Ideal

Home Exhibition at the likes of Olympia, Earl's Court, in London, the NEC in Birmingham or the Manchester Arena. In Scotland, of course, they have their own SEC in Glasgow.

However there can be few locations to match the delights of Harrogate which doesn't fall into either of the above categories but does offer a unique blend of atmosphere and facility which combined to make the town perhaps the most attractive of all the Conference

and Exhibition venues.

Slap bang between Edinburgh and London there can be few more accessible locations - particularly not with Leeds Bradford airport to service the needs of those who need to be in and out in a hurry. The Harrogate International Centre, itself is in the middle of town which means snatching an hour's shopping is not out of the question while the array of hotels, has something for every budget and many are in walking distance to the town centre.



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SPECIAL RATES FOR BTME GUESTS

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Plenty to see and lots to do

There can be few towns with more to offer in the middle of January than Harrogate and if you can drag yourself away from the attractions contained in our four huge halls, or are looking for somewhere to spend an evening, Harrogate will not disappoint.

With Harrogate International Centre bringing people to the town on a regular basis it has ensured that it plays home to a variety of entertainment normally only sustained by towns and cities much larger than Harrogate.

A visitor could easily spend an entire holiday, not travel more than 10 miles from the centre of Harrogate and still feel they have had a rewarding break.

Following some intensive research from within BIGGA staff members who reside in the Harrogate and surrounding area the following facts about the town were established:

1. Agatha Christie chose the town, and the Old Swan Hotel in particular, for her now famous disappearance when at the height of her literary powers.
2. Norman Lamont was a beaten parliamentary candidate at the last election.
3. The town is the home of the world famous Betty's tea room and Taylor's Tea and Coffee.
4. The water of the town have special healing powers and the Pump Rooms offer traditional Turkish Baths and more modern spas.
5. Harrogate is the home of the Northern Horticultural Society and hosts a twice yearly flower show which attracts visitors from far and wide.
6. A new swimming pool is soon to be built in the town.
7. The town has three fine golf courses, Pannal, Harrogate and Rudding Park which was the '96 winner of the National Golf Environment Competition.
8. The town houses the excellent Black Sheep Brewery Visitors' Centre.
9. Old Mother Shipton's Cave is in nearby Knaresborough.
10. You will bump into a large number of greenkeepers and members of the greenkeeping industry during a certain week in January.



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Who to look out for at

COURSE CARE

Safety and The Environment are the keywords for Course Care at BTME '98. Our extensive display will include: Course Care 30 long drain oil to minimise waste; Bunded fuel tanks to prevent leakage; Clipping Tip to keep clippings under control; Green Concept wetting agent to ensure maximum benefit from expensive irrigation; Oil interceptors to prevent pollution from wash-down areas; A Blue Angel range of biodegradable oils and greases; New Vivusol fuel treatment to prevent black smoke and protect engines; Respirators for all spraying applications; The Full Course Care Environmental Services range – waste oil collection, chemical packaging collection, filter collection.

TORO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS

Toro is displaying a large selection of turfcare equipment from its wide product range, including many new products that are mak-

ing their first European showing.

Leading the line-up is a new-generation tees mower (NGT) incorporating many innovative features.

Also making debuts are the new top-of-the-range bunker vehicle, the Sand Pro 5020, which replaces the Sand Pro 5000, and a new addition to Toro's highly-popular greensmower range, the Greensmaster 3050. The ride-on triplex unit is a lighter weight economy model.

There is also a new version of Toro's Greensmaster 500 pedestrian mower with improved handle configuration for easy operation.

Visitors can also see the new 78in Trailed Turf Aerator.

HAYTER LTD

Hayter has been producing top quality grass cutting products for over 50 years without compromising on quality. On Stand C42 this is more than evident with the products on display for golf course and local authority markets.

LEVINGTON HORTICULTURE LTD

Levington Horticulture will be exhibiting the new Greenmaster Liquids range of turf fertilisers at BTME this year. Ideal for use on both fine and outfield turf, the range comprises formulations designed to meet the needs of turf managers throughout the season and in all situations.

One of the key benefits of the new Greenmaster Liquid Fertilisers is that they are not only designed for specific purposes in themselves but are also formulated to be tank mixed in order to achieve nutrient ratios previously very difficult to market due to storage instability.

Full information will also be available on the complete range of Levington turfcare treatments, including Greenmaster granular fertilisers, Sportsmaster, Tritox and Turfcare.

AMENITY TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS LTD

Amenity Technology will be in

unfamiliar territory at this year's show, moving their stand to G20-G24. However as always visitors can be assured of the finest selection of innovative new products combined with Amenity Technology's existing ranges of bio-stimulants, micro-nutrients, wetting agents, water management, course accessories and fertilisers.

Exclusive to the show will be a special promotional offer on Indicator Green, the new spray pattern dye. Since its release, Indicator has enjoyed unparalleled success, leaving the opposition GREEN with envy. Make Amenity Technology on stand G20-G24 your first point of call, to keep up to date on what to use for the green environment.

AITKENS SPORTSTURF

Richard Aitken and his staff will be pleased to welcome customers old and new to their stand at BTME '98 Harrogate. On display are a number of new and interesting products, furthering the choice Aitkens can offer to green-

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the show



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Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd will again be displaying its full range of turf maintenance equipment with particular focus on the new verti-drains which were announced last year and which have received such wide acclaim throughout the last 12 months. Also included for the first time will be the Robin Dagger and the new Charterhouse pedestrian aerator. We look forward to meeting all our old friends and many new ones, so do not hesitate to contact any member of staff for added information or even a copy of our verti-drain video.

M J ABBOTT LIMITED

M J Abbott Ltd offers a range of specialist services to the golf and leisure industry. State of the Art Techniques together with fine workmanship ensure quality and

efficiency throughout the company. M J Abbott Ltd concentrate its activities in the field of land drainage and irrigation. Recognised as one of the top companies in the UK offering Rain Bird Irrigation Systems, water sourcing, distribution, construction, maintenance and landscaping complete the range of services provided. Illustrated examples of the types of projects undertaken will be on display with technical staff on hand to answer questions and advise as required.

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John Greasley Ltd is a specialist contractor who carries out alterations to and refurbishment of existing golf courses. The company established in 1984 has unrivalled experience in completing such works with a minimum of disruption and disturbance to the club and its members.

Over these years John Greasley has developed a wealth of experience and expertise in the way contracts are carried out, using

his unique fleet of specialist equipment. This ensures works are completed efficiently with little or no damage to the course.

The company has been involved with the total reconstruction of the championship greens at Royal Birkdale.

KAWASAKI MOTORS (UK) LTD

Kawasaki Motors (UK) Ltd will be displaying the new innovative range of brushcutters. The six models ranging from 23cc to 48cc will be on display along with the already well established Kawasaki Mule-Utility vehicle. In addition to the brushcutter range, later in 1998 there will be a full range of hedgetrimmers and leafblowers.

LINKS LEISURE LIMITED

The all weather tee mat is manufactured in 3 sizes – 1.0 x 2.0 mtrs, 1.5 x 1.5 mtrs and especially for the pitch and putt course a new mat 1.5 x 1.0 mtrs. The practice net, strong enough to withstand the most adverse weather conditions, measures 2.5

x 3.5 x 3.2 mtrs high and comes complete with a heavy duty baffle net. The attractive yet functional tee markers and entrance signs made either to a standard shape or to your own requirements, can be supplied in a variety of colours and stands. Introducing for the first time a litter bin made with the golf course in mind. Totally enclosed with a plastic bin liner. The base can be painted to your requirements and can include either your course details or sponsor plaque, if required.

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Who to look out for at the show

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SISIS EQUIPMENT (MACCLESFIELD) LTD

Come and see the new SISIS 21-1D tractor with articulated power steering, patented weight transfer system and 21hp engine. There is an impressive list of options including hydraulic tipping box, speedo, canopy, flashing beacon.

Also on show will be the new SISIS Ecospray. Most sprayers are based on agricultural models, with the attendant problems of spray drifting from the intended target causing damage to adjoining vegetation. Therefore, each unit on the Ecospray is enclosed by a perforated shroud to reduce drift to an absolute minimum. The 5-gang Ecospray can be towed or fully mounted behind virtually any vehicle.

SUPATURF PRODUCTS LTD

Another innovative display from

Supaturf Products for 1998, featuring the world's favourite range of water management products including Primer 604, Aquadoc and Infiltrix. Other products such as the Evensprey 2000 multi-functional and versatile battery powered sprayer and the Supamark range of multi-coloured aerosols will be displayed. New from the Evenspred range of broadcast spreaders will be a top dressing and mulch spreader and new for the technologically advanced supatest soil test system will be a portable test moisture meter and a range of specialist test equipment.

VITAX LTD

Vitax Seaturf Soluble is a 100 per cent soluble concentrated seaweed extract, ideal for tank mixing with soluble feeds such as the new Vitax Vitaturf range, giving today's turf manager the ability to produce his or her own liquid feed with the added benefit of seaweed.

Vitax Ultraflo Granular is the granular form of Ultraflo Liquid,

with the added benefits of ease of application for specific treatment areas where high irrigation requirements are a problem.

BOURNE AMENITY

Bourne Amenity announce the launch of its new manufacturing plant at Sevenoaks and will be delighted to welcome customers, both old and new, to join them for a glass of their very own 'Bourne' wine to help them celebrate the launch of their new plant. So, don't delay, go and visit their Stand No C13!

Bourne Amenity's own high quality topdressings and rootzones blended at its new Sevenoaks manufacturing plant will be on show. By incorporating Bourne Sports Stand with either peat, loam, fensoil or green organic, they can produce a blend to the clients specification. For more information see Bourne Amenity on Stand No C13 or contact them at Bourne Amenity, Newenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5QG, Telephone 01797 255598.

We would like to wish
 all our customers new and old,
 a very merry Christmas,
 and a happy New Year


IRRIGATION
 — control —

**COME AND SEE US ON STAND B25
 AT THE BTME, HARROGATE**

Irrigation Control, Cheshire
01606 558927

Irrigation Control, Yorkshire
01132 450414

CONGRATULATIONS

The following are the ten lucky winners of the

Course Care

competition who will each receive a Course Cap exclusively designed for BIGGA by Course Care.

Nigel Buxton, Chapel-en-le-Frith
John Noble, Coningsby
Kit Gordon, Maidstone
Jason Fursman, Beaminster
Jeff Bailey, Newbridge
Mike Gash, Stratford-upon-Avon
Mr A Lawson, Framlington
G A Wyatt, London
Chris Sturgess, Andover
Michael Smith, Bishops Waltham
Iain Turnbull, Sutton Park

Congratulations to you all, your cap will be sent to you very shortly.

Look out for forthcoming competitions in future editions of Greenkeeper International and next time it could be you!

Course Wear

Keeping ahead in protective clothing

2268 people
a year visit hospital
with head injuries sustained
on the golf course



DON'T BE AN INJURY STATISTIC. COURSE CAP MEETS EUROPEAN SAFETY STANDARD prEN 812 TO PROTECT FROM HEAD INJURIES CAUSED BY CONTACT WITH HARD OBJECTS.

CE marked light weight, durable and fully breathable in Blue or Green. Soft cover and lining designed for comfort and appearance. Tested to protect from flying balls, tree branches, cab roofs, day to day impacts.

The Keeper – hard-wearing cotton cover **£39.75**

The Murray – ventile cover out-performs other waterproof fabrics with fold-down flap for cold weather or sun protection, sweat band, ear defender clip. Supplied in a drawstring bag **£47.75**

To order call **Course Care** on **01535 611103**

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- 11 Pumps a Pumping
- 10 Pipes a Piping
- 9 Controllers Working
- 8 Trenchers Trenching
- 7 Moleploughs Moleing
- 6 Designers Drawing
- 5 Galvanised Tanks
- 4 Spray Heads
- 3 Solenoids
- 2 Watering Points

And Only One
Irrigation Company...



Merry
Christmas

and a Happy New Year

AD
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360

NEW PRODUCTS

Flymo has introduced a new Flymo Petrol "Hover-Trimmer" Range for the commercial market. The new mower is less prone to damage than many existing hovers, ideal for steep slopes when using a rope kit and uses a simple to change monofilament line system giving an even finish. Its anti vibration benefit means it can also be used for prolonged periods.

The two mowers in the range will be designated HVT40 (16" cut) and HVT52 (21" cut) and will be powered by 49cc and 98cc Tecumseh engines.

The key launch for the mowers will be BTME.

For further information Tel: 01325 300303

EQ Waste Management has expanded its operation enabling it to produce nutritional compost which is pathogen free and weed seed free.

"The greenkeeper knows that all green waste can be recycled but has not had the necessary technology to produce a high quality batch tester product. We have the machinery to enable us to blend different forms or organic waste to produce a high quality organic compost," explained Simon Lupson, a Director of EQ.

For further information Tel: 0990 60 20 60

A new litter bin – designed for use on golf courses and other sports grounds and suitable for sponsorship or advertising – has been launched by Links Leisure, the Shropshire-based course accessory manufacturer.

Produced from glass reinforced cement and needing little or no maintenance, the triangular-shaped 800mm high, is available with or without a lid.

The new litter bin can be finished in a choice of club colours and it incorporates a recessed flat panel which can be used to house a sponsor's details or a club name and logo.

For further information Tel: 01948 663002 Fax: 01948 666381.

Saxon Industries of Hungerford, has introduced two new models of 22" pedestrian green mowers from the Baroness factory in Japan.

These two models incorporate



The new Flymo Hover Trimmer range

floating cutting heads, which are claimed to be ideal for mowing McKenzie greens and undulating surfaces.

They both have all gear drive construction, 4 inches diameter, 9 blade cutting cylinders made from nickel chrome tungsten. Quick release pneumatic transport wheels and hand operated drum brakes are fitted as standard.

For further information and demonstration Tel: 01488 684545, Fax No: 01488 681525

Kubota has introduced five new turbocharged four cylinder diesel engines. Extending the company's power range to 66 kW, the new power units provide a power-to-weight ratio combined with low fuel consumption. They also meet all known and expected regulations on noise and exhaust emissions.

The new engines are the 24 kW DI 105T and 31.3 kW V1505T that are based on existing Kubota engines and the V2003T, F2503T and V3300T, developing 42, 52 and 66 kW respectively, that are totally new.

Kubota reports that the uprated D1 105T and V1505T benefit from an additional 25 percent power over the naturally aspirated versions. The three new engines are among the most powerful in the Kubota range. The V3300T, is also the first Kubota engine to feature three valves per cylinder to provide cleaner exhaust emissions. Kubota has introduced the new engines in response to grow-

ing industry demand for ever more powerful four cylinder engines. "Manufacturers of small compactors, compact wheel loaders and larger skid steer loaders are looking to make their equipment more powerful. But most designs cannot accommodate a larger five cylinder engine," says Engine Sales Manager Brian Garner.

"The new engines allow us to provide OEMs with that additional power from an engine that is equally compact."

Kubota is also meeting the growing demand for high quality replacement engines with its new remake service. It is designed to offer customers a cost effective alternative to the purchase of a new engine and provides remanufactured engines that will perform to the same level of reliability and efficiency as a new Kubota power unit. Kubota Remake uses only genuine Kubota parts and will operate through the company's existing network of 13 UK engine dealers.

For further information Tel: 0184 421 4500.

In response to demand from Greenkeepers, Tacit now produce two types of dew brush. Original in black with very soft bristles and a new green version with slightly less flexible bristles. This green version is used in the removal of debris and worm casts as well as the removal of dew. Both still fit into the Tacit Switch to provide the handle resulting in the Green-

keeper being able to easily switch the green if desired. Both brushes still retail at £48.00 each. For further details contact Tacit. Tel. 01788 568818.

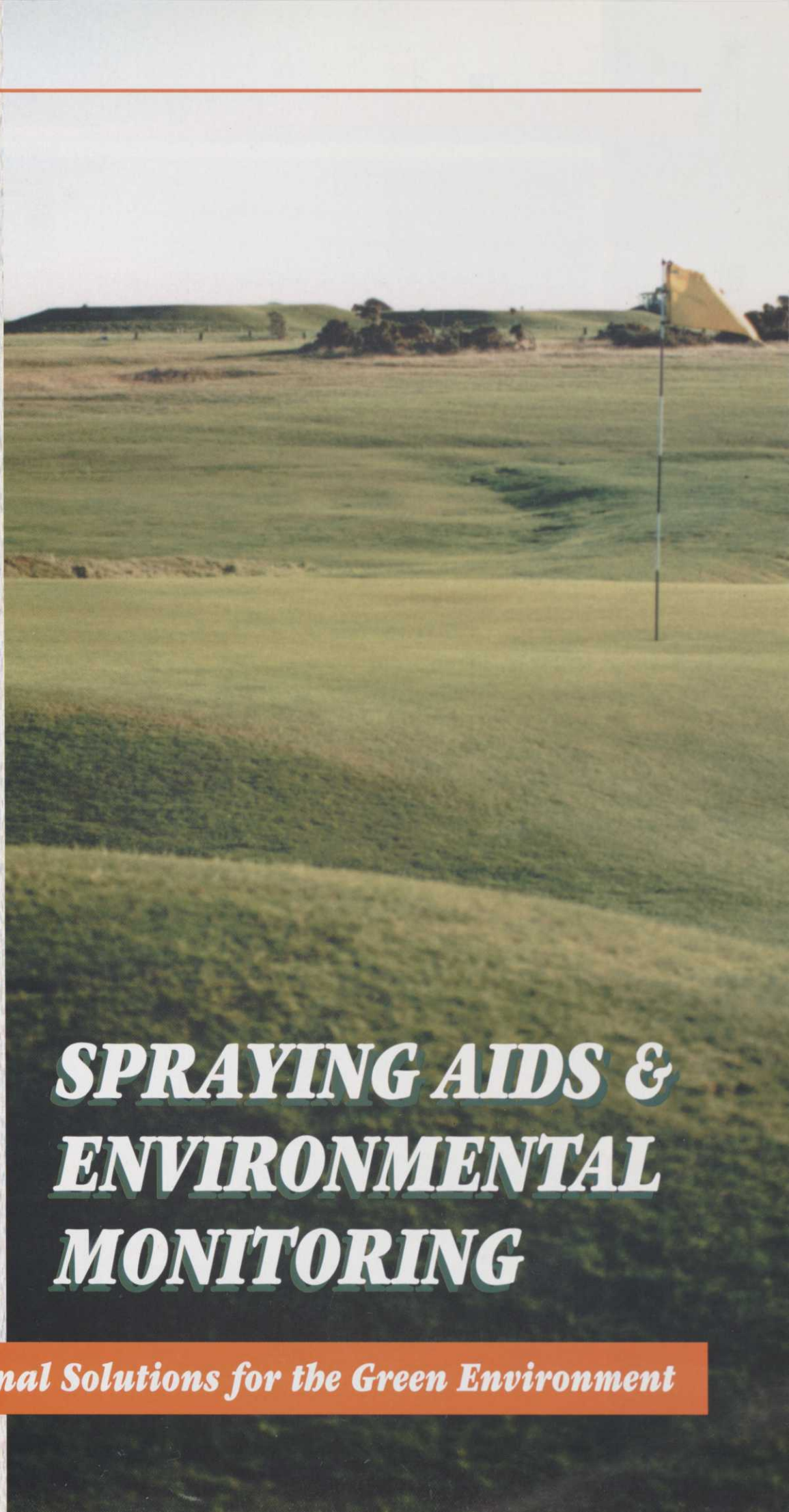
An advanced synthetic turf purpose-designed for use in golf as well as other sports and leisure applications is being introduced to the market by Huxleys.

Known as Campbell Turf, the material has been developed by Tony Campbell, a former leading Irish amateur golfer and holder for 26 years of the record for the world's longest measured drive as listed in the Guinness Book of Records.

Already installed at a number of well-known golfing venues including St Andrews, The Belfry, Coombe Hill and Meon Valley, Campbell Turf is a low maintenance, high performance replacement turf system designed to bring major cost and practical benefits to those who own, manage, maintain and use golf course facilities. It is ideal for installation on all areas which are subject to wear, water-logging or damage at any time of the year including tees, practice grounds, driving ranges, paths and roadways used by golf carts and buggies.

Manufactured from highly resilient green polypropylene yarn, Campbell Turf's W-stabilised fibres are bonded to an aviation grade latex backing giving it exceptional resistance to abrasion and wear. The backing material is porous, enabling rain or irrigation water to pass through at a controlled rate, maintaining optimum surface conditions without erosion of the surface.

Drencher Fe is the unique combined Liquid Iron and Wetting Agent, new from Amenity Technology. The 25% organic wetting agent in Drencher Fe not only aids in the uptake of the iron but also provides a good level of dew control and helps to condition the soil. Drencher Fe provides a rapidly sustained green up to harden turf during winter months against frost and disease. For more information on Drencher Fe contact Amenity Technology on: Tel 0118 951 0033 Fax 0118 951 0044.



SPRAYING AIDS & ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Professional Solutions for the Green Environment

Low cost pH meter 03011

Economic low cost pH probe to give an indication of soil pH.

Soil probe pH Meter 03012

High quality soil probe to give accurate pH measurement between pH's of 3.5 and 8.0 without the need for preparing soil solutions, with the added benefit of an integral moisture meter.

Electronic pH Meter 03013

Electronic pH meter for measuring pH of soil sample in solution.

**Rain Gauge plus Spike 03015**

Larger 50 mm/m² capacity rain gauge for monitoring water application, complete with its own mounting spike for easy re-positioning.

Moisture Smart 03016

The Moisture Smart watering gauge is a breakthrough in water management for the professional greenkeeper and private homeowner.

Knowledge of the current irrigation requirement for healthy, well watered grass provides the basis on which the user can determine when and how long to run a sprinkler system for the selected turf or landscape area. The Moisture Smart, a portable, miniature pan evaporimeter conveniently provides this information.

The Moisture Smart is simply 'planted' in the selected area. The instrument then behaves like a mechanical plant and begins accounting for evaporation, rainfall, irrigation and soil-stored moisture within that area. An easy to read scale determines how much water is required.

**Standard Rain Gauge 03014**

40 mm/m² capacity rain gauge for wall or post mounting. Ideal for monitoring water input from either rain or sprinklers.

WSP Sling Shot 03017

The ideal applicator for WSP dispersal into lakes.

Digital pH Meter 03018

Easily used electronic pH meter for measuring pH of lakes and irrigation water.

Water Thermometer (Float) 03019

Floating thermometer for measuring temperature of lakes.

Brass Soil Probe 03022

Top quality soil probe (max. depth 200 mm.)



Standard Minimum/Maximum 03023

Wall mounted min./max. thermometer for recording extremes of temperature.

Pocket Soil Thermometer 03020

Digital pocket size probe for measuring soil temperature. As supplied with the Meterite kit.

Economy Soil Probe 03021

Heavy duty probe for testing soil temperature in root zone (max. depth 130 mm.) As supplied with the Meterite kit.

Digital Minimum/Maximum 03024

Electronic min./max. with dual display and remote sensor. As supplied with the Meterite kit.

Large Wall Thermometer 03025

Large display thermometer. Limits -40 to +60°C.

Meterite Kit 03010

Fitted carry case containing:

- Low cost pH meter
- Digital min./max. thermometer
- Economy soil thermometer probe
- Pocket soil thermometer



Weather Station 03026

Complete weather station panel. Stainless steel case contains Hydrometer, Barometer and Thermometer.



Aneroid Barometer 03027

Monitor changing weather conditions by variations in air pressure.

Dial Hydrometer 03028

Use to monitor relative humidity and moisture content in the atmosphere.

Wind Wizard 03029

Top quality wind speed meter, for judging suitable spraying conditions.



DEFINE™ Drift Control

With the current environmental concerns, it is especially important to keep fertiliser and pesticide sprays under control. Define™ drift control additive ensures the accurate spraying these requirements demand.

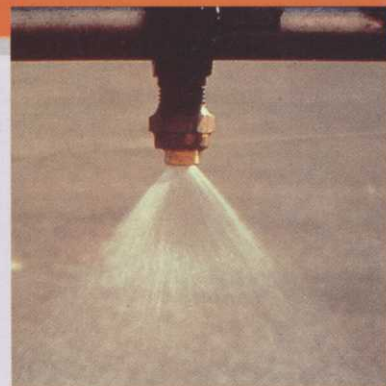
The uniform size of the spray droplet produced by Define™ promotes consistency in application, and also reduces drift prone particles and spray evaporation. This saves wastage on material costs and avoids potential problems from chemical trespass. Because of its unique formulation, Define™ maintains the same high level of drift reduction throughout the entire application.

Unlike some other drift control products, the performance of Define™ is unaffected by the constant pounding and shearing that occurs as the spray solution is continually forced through pumps, screens and nozzles. In addition, Define™ disperses much faster into spray solutions than other drift control products.

Define™ should be applied at 120g. per 100 lts. of spray solution, so for this reason we have pre-packed Define™ in two convenient sizes.

1. Define™ WSP (120g.) - 6 WSP per case - each WSP will treat 100 lts.
2. Define™ DF (Dry Flow) 360g. Foil packs - 6 foil packs per case - each foil pack will treat 300 lts. of water.

WSPs are ideal for small tanks/mixers as no measurement is required. The WSP is simply added to the solution and will dissolve completely. Foil packs are better for large tanks (300 lts.) where one pack can be opened and added (not water soluble).



BOUTMARKER™ Foam Concentrate

Specifically designed for use with conventional foam marking systems, this long lasting formula will not stain turf or equipment. Bout Marker will remain on the surface long enough for it to be clearly seen on the return pass. The foam has been tested under tough weather conditions to ensure its effectiveness in all spraying environments. Boutmarker concentrate is bio-degradable.

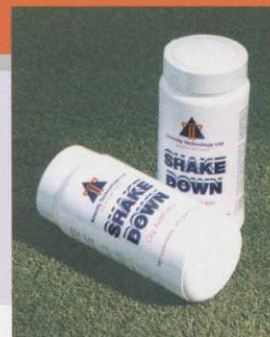
Available in 1 lt. containers.



SHAKEDOWN™ Dry Antifoam

Even spray application with reduced filling and mixing time is assured with the elimination of unwanted foaming in spray tanks caused by agitation. Shake Down is a silicone based formulation which quickly eliminates foam on contact. Shake Down is completely innocuous to chemicals and will not clog spray nozzles.

Available in cases of 6 x 226g.



NEUTRALIZE™ Spray Tank Cleaner

A special chemical possessing a powerful cleaning ability, Neutralize™ will directly attack pesticide or herbicide particles that remain in the tank when changing chemicals. Tank Cleaner enables the user to quickly clean the tank and start a new application with the same tank. Tank Cleaner eliminates potential damage to crops from cross-contamination. Ideal for large tanks or backpack sprayers.



Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment
from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

Peter Boyd

Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

The Scottish Region

once again offers members a subsidised package deal for BTME 1998.

The package includes, coach to Harrogate, entry to all seminars and exhibition, three nights bed and breakfast in en suite twin rooms in the Cairn Hotel on January 20, 21 and 22. Package cost £135.

Partners are welcome at a cost of £100 for travel and accommodation.

For booking form call or fax Peter Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6TA. Tel: 0141 616 3440

North

Only one new member to report this month, but a few on the move. Gilbert Steven, Head Greenkeeper at Cullen, joins the Section while on the move we have Alick Mackay leaving the North to take up a position of Head Greenkeeper at Woodhall Spa and Robert Patterson leaves Royal Dornoch to become Head man at Royal Aberdeen. Gordon Leslie moves up to Head man at Duff House Royal. At the time of writing vacancies at Murcar and Golspie have still to be filled as the chain reaction of job movements in the area continues, watch this space. We wish all success in their new posts.

Sadly I have to report the loss of one of our members - Tom Simpson, formerly of Murrayshall, passed away recently. Tom was a regular at Section outings and had only retired a year or so ago. Our feelings go out to his family at this time.

The Hayter Competition has been replaced by the Ritefeed Competition from 1998 and the Section qualifiers are as follows:- Class 1 - Scott Williams, Peterculter; John Taylor, Forres; Michael Keay and Phillip Don, both Kemnay; Class 2 - David Marnoch, Peterculter; Gordon Mckie, St Andrews; Sean Jaffrey, Ellon;



John Morton, Alford; Class 3 - George Aitken and Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead; George Asher, Kemnay; Dougal Duguid, Westhill.

Anyone still thinking about going to Harrogate on the Region bus should get in touch with Regional Administrator Peter Boyd on 0141 616 3440 as soon as possible as time is running out. You won't regret it as the trip is really worthwhile and very reasonably priced at £135 for bus, three nights B&B and entry to all seminars.

Dates for your 1998 diary - August 3, 4 and 5 when the BIGGA National Tournament will be on in our Section at Letham Grange GC.

Last, but not least, I wish all a Happy Christmas and hope 1998 brings you all you wish for and more.

Iain Macleod

West

Christmas is nearly upon us - will the weather be kind? So far yes, but what is looming round the corner? As usual the construction and drainage work is underway so everybody will be busy, busy, busy and looking forward to a good festive season. By the time this reaches you the AGM come games night at the Claremont Bowling Club will be over as will the annual dinner. Hopefully everything will have run smoothly on the night, there will be a report next month to confirm.

BTME - remember all those wishing to go should contact the new Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd. I hope to see a lot of you there.

What's happened and what's going to happen - firstly, the Autumn outing to Hilton Park. A super day although a very poor turn out with only 40 taking part mainly due to the time of year with people being busy coring and topdressing. The Section wish to thank John Robertson and his staff for an excellent venue which was thoroughly enjoyable. Please extend our thanks to the committee members and the catering staff for their hospitality and consideration. The results were:-

NEW

Greenmaster Double K

High potash, phosphate-free
turf hardener



Greenmaster® Double K is a unique, phosphate-free, fine turf fertilizer with a novel two-to-one potash to nitrogen ratio for improved growth and enhanced disease and wear resistance on greens where potash is low but phosphate is not recommended.

- Satisfies latest recommendations for high potash inputs.
- Provides 42kg/ha potash but only 21kg/ha nitrogen when applied at 30g/m².
- Overcomes potash deficiency, controls soft growth and helps turf resist disease.
- Phosphate-free formulation limits P build-up and *Poa annua* establishment.
- Low nitrogen application allows use throughout the year.
- Ideal alternative autumn treatment where phosphate levels are adequate.

Greenmaster Double K
7-0-14 + 4% Fe

ALTOGETHER AN UNBEATABLE COMBINATION



If you would like to know more please call our Technical Services Manager on 01473 203143 or contact your local Area Sales Manager:

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N. England, Scotland & N.I. - Richard Walton

Tel: 0378 603091 (mobile)

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Scratch - J. Steadward, Douglas Park, 76; Division 1 - 1. G. Kerr, Gleddoch House, 78-9-69; 2. C. Goodall, Balmore, 77-4-73; 3. A. Bulloch, Ferenze, 78-4-74; Division 2 - 1. S. Brawley, EK, 86-16-70; 2. G. Shearer, Balmore, 88-13-75; 3. M. Corey, Balmore, 93-17-76; Division 3 - 1. D. Mowatt, Kelly, 90-20-70; 2. C. Fulton, Douglas Park, 99-28-71; 3. C. George, Lenzie, 99-20-79; Trade - D. Duthie, Aitken, 80-5-75; Visitors - P. Boyd, 74-3-71; Apprentice - S. McKittrick, Kirkhill, 90-9-81.

New members to the Section are:- Stephen Ramsey, Langside College; Donald Clark, Loch Lomond; Barry McCulloch, Langside College, and Stephen Nichol, Whitecraigs. As I keep saying to all new members I hope to see them at future events but very seldom do we hear from them, lets hope in future all will attend.

A question to all members. Are we, the Section Committee, doing enough to satisfy your needs? If not, how can we help. Write to me at Glasgow GC or contact the Secretary. At all the events the same core of 50 or 60 members attend so where are all the rest, please can we see some more faces.

A fixture card will once again be issued stating events with hopefully some more firm dates.

A football match, North of the River against South will be arranged so please come along. Details from Brian Hilton, Drumpellier GC, team manager for the football.

Finally we welcome back to the fold Steven Hogg, Scottish Grass, and Alistair Connell. Best wishes in your new chosen careers.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all members for their support and wish them seasons greetings.

Stuart Taylor

Central

The AGM at Kinross GC on October 29 proved to be a very con-

Around the Green



structive meeting, with numerous ideas being put forward as to how we can attract new members, encourage more members to participate in events and how to improve communications between each other. (I won't tell you how many attended the meeting so that any of you who didn't will think you were the only one who missed! How's that for communication?)

Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, attended the meeting and gave us an up to date report on how he has settled into his post since taking over from Elliott and I have no doubt that he will not take long to stamp his mark on the continuing success of the Scottish Region. If CG reads this I will be getting a letter from him for using the "R" word! Honestly Cecil, I agree with you!

Your Committee for 1998 is:- Chairman - Archie Dunn, Auchterarder GC; Vice Chairman - Andy O'Hara, Leven Links; Secretary - John Crawford, Stirling GC; Committee - John Bashford, Kinross; Elliott Small, Tulliallan GC; Stuart Sime, Leven Links; Ian Ross, The Dukes Course.

The golf competition prior to the AGM was won by Stuart Sime (he of Leven Links Sporting Club fame) with John McPhail, from Crieff, runner-up. There is a rumour circulating that a special cabinet is being constructed in the sheds of Leven to hold all the trophies won by the greenstaff. I'm beginning to wonder if they only work part-time at Leven as they find so much time to play golf/football/cricket/go-karting etc etc.

It's just a pity that we don't have more members like Andy and Stuart in the Section as they

find time to serve on the Committee, support all our events and they even take all the ribbing in good fun (so far anyway)!

Men on the move - Robbie MacMillan has moved from Balbirnie Park, Markinch, (where he worked with his Dad, Ian) to Thornton GC. Clark Birnie moved from Dunfermline GC, Crossford, to Bonnybridge GC and Rod Hensby moved from Tulliallan GC, Kincardine, to Lanhydrock GC, in Cornwall. We wish them every success in their respective new appointments.

Well, that's nearly another year over and on behalf of your Committee I would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who has supported us in '97, especially the Scottish Patrons and the golf clubs who have given us the courtesy of their courses and facilities for numerous events throughout the year.

Here's wishing you all the best in '98.

John Crawford

East

Since last month we have had our Section AGM at Swanston GC. I would like to thank our sponsor for the day Mike Dooner, Thorn-tree Landscapes, who provided the speaker. John McLauchlan gave a short lecture on "The use of humates and micro organisms in fine turf" which was a very interesting subject on which some good questions were raised. We also thank Mike for providing us with a nice buffet lunch. So thanks, Mike, for a good day.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Swanston GC for the use of the clubhouse and facilities and also to Dave and Irene, the Club Steward and Stewardess for keeping us fed and watered for the day. Again I have to report a very small turnout for our AGM this year. There were only about 20 people in attendance which out of 170 + members is very poor. If anyone knows the reason please let us know. You

can call any committee member if you have any comments. The committee remains the same as last year with the exception of Stuart Cruickshank, Deer Park, who was co-opted last year and was voted on a full member of the committee. Welcome Stuart, we hope you have an enjoyable time in your position as the Education Officer for the East Section.

There is not much to write about the AGM as it was quiet as usual. David Roy, Linlithgow, handed out two forms which he had produced with aims and objectives for the Section and a questionnaire about what you would like to see going on in the Section. These were welcomed with enthusiasm by the Committee and members that were in attendance. Copies will be sent out to each member soon so when you receive it fill it in and send it back as soon as possible then the Committee can act on any of the comments you make.

Now on to a different note, it was good to see Tom Murray, Ratho Park, as a nomination for the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award. Tom tells me he had a great weekend in Harrogate at the finals where he met all the other finalists and had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Well done Tom from everyone in the Section and also the other Scottish Sections.

By the time you read this the annual dance will have taken place so I will report next month and hopefully some pictures as well so anybody on the dance floor beware! The evidence will be shown!

If anyone is attending the Scottish Region trip to BTME return your forms as soon as possible as the closing date is December 15, so we hope to see you all there. I shall be attending the Patron's Dinner in December so I will be reporting on this next month along with photographs of this event.

At Scotsturf Mike Dooner, in conjunction with Sharpe's Grass



THE UNIQUE VERTI-DRAIN:

Redexim

- Unique patent adjustable parallelogram forced heave
- Simple tine design
- Leaves playing surface in superb condition



THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP CO

Seeds, held a draw for a bottle of champagne for anyone that visited their Stand during the Show. This was won by Alan Aitken, Kilspindie GC, – if he needs a hand to drink it I'm only a phone call away!

Well, that's it for this month but before I go I would like to wish all our members plus all our friends in the trade including our Patrons who do so much for us every year a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. If I have missed anyone let me know and in the meantime, all the best to one and all from the Committee and myself. I look forward to writing the first column in the New Year and to seeing you all in January 1998.

PS – while at the Scotsturf Show and being on the Standard Golf Stand, I found out that Nat Beggs was retiring when the show finished so all I can say to Nat from all our members, the Committee, myself and all fellow trade friends is have a happy retirement – you deserve it and we hope to see you at some of our Section outings etc as you are most welcome. I will send you out a 1998 fixture card so you can keep track of what's happening in the Section once we have finalised all dates at the start of the year. So that's it for 1997, see you all next year.

Chris Yeaman

NORTHERN REGION

Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433
Sheffield



On October 2 we held our first winter lecture at Rotherham GC. The lecture was given by Mr Jay Dobson from PSD Agronomy Ltd. Our thanks go to Jay who gave an interesting lecture on thatch problems which was enjoyed by around 40 of our members.

My apologies go to Dave Norton who also qualified for the Hayter finals but unfortunately I wasn't informed – sorry Dave, and well done!

Congratulations go to Steve Nixon, from Wortley GC, who has recently won the Toro Student of the Year Award. Well done Steve! As part of Steve's prize he won an eight week course in America.

Only one new member this month and that is John Sunderland, of Rapler Barracks GC.

Anyone who has any news for these notes can contact me on 01909 480150.

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

John Lax

North Wales

Well lads and lasses, two months on the trot and you've got something to read. However, as stated last month I can't write much if no-one tells me anything. I'm not a reporter, I'm a greenkeeper just like you! News needs to come to me, not me to go out and find it, I ain't got time. 01824 710693 – I can't do any more than give you my phone number again!

The Autumn meeting was held at Abersoch, the weather was mixed as was the golf but everyone who played enjoyed the day and our thanks go to Abersoch for inviting us and especially to Arthur and his team for the preparation that went into presenting the course. I never got to see a lot of the course due to my own work commitments and arrived late but as the 40 plus who played must agree even if their golf was rubbish the views on the drive to Abersoch made for a delightful day.

Andy Peel, of Bull Bay, rang me (see, someone has) and informed me that he has just had a fully automatic irrigation system fitted using Toro heads and everything was done for under £30,000. He seemed very pleased with it and thought that other members should know and if you are thinking of a system get in touch with him for the low down on how it was done.

BTME – we are thinking of hav-

ing the the coach leave later this year to avoid all the morning traffic, get there in the afternoon and take in the AGM which is at 5.45, but the Committee needs feedback.

On the same note I attended the AGM this year (the only member of the North Wales Section to do so to my knowledge). It made me realise how the Association has progressed, I was at the BTME for three days and I came away feeling very proud of what BIGGA has achieved.

Ask your own clubs because the Seminars etc are all very educational and my club thought the package was excellent value for money. Remember if you don't ask you don't get. This year I will endeavour to make sure that every committee member attends the AGM but it would do you all good to go!

On the educational note, the Welsh College of Horticulture at Northrop is holding its annual Golf Greenkeeping Technical Seminar on Wednesday February 18. Subjects will include Health and Safety, Irrigation, Grass Seed Breeding, R and A Golf Research and Micro Organisms so make a date in your diary. The College is also holding one day courses on Machine Maintenance over five separate days in January/February. They will be held from 10 am to 3 pm with theory in the morning and practical in the afternoon. Dates to be confirmed.

Our last committee meeting was attended by Douglas Bell, the Northern Regional Administrator, it was good to meet him and he explained his role in the Association. He will attend our AGM – he is there to help and as with me, he is only a phone call away.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May all your greens stay fuzz free. Now that would be a Happy New Year! Dave Goodridge

North West

October has been a great month

for greenkeeping and I am sure you all took advantage of the good weather to complete your hollowtining and top dressing. The dry conditions have also allowed scarifying fairways to be done without causing damage with wheel marks. This of course all adds up to a good start to your winter work programmes so let's hope a mild winter ensues and all programmes can be completed and targets reached. Not a lot happening in the Section in October, but in November we have the Section AGM and the first Regional Board meeting with the new Regional Administrator, Douglas Bell. At the moment I am awaiting replies from several golf clubs regarding permission to hold our tournaments for 1998 and as soon as all the fixtures are completed you will receive your fixture list for the year.

That seems to be it for this month so I will close by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Any news ring me on 0151 724 5412. Bert Cross

Northern

John Waite, our Section Chairman, represented the greenkeepers on behalf of the Northern Region in the 1997 Kubota Challenge event. Although he won both of his matches, the team finished third. John stated that it had been one of his ambitions to play The Belfry and that he was pleased with the presentation of both courses. Pat Murphy, our National Chairman also attended and once again brought the rain – this talent could earn him millions in the right location!

News has filtered back that Tim Blacombe, who was at Scarthingwell GC, is to return to greenkeeping in the New Year after taking care of his daughter, Kate, back in his native Canada.

On behalf of the Northern Section may I thank all sponsors who have very kindly donated money for prizes ➡ Continued on Page 34

ITS EFFECT IS SHATTERING

Charterhouse



Deep aeration on an intensively used golf course is vital if the grasses which we require are to survive.

We purchased our first Verti-Drain back in 1983 and very quickly bought a second. Both these machines have been working on a continuous basis providing excellent results and utilising only a minimum of spare parts.

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

For your free guide to compaction relief send this coupon to Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd., FREEPOST, (G1/2283), Haslemere, Surrey GU27 1DW.
Tel: 01428 661222 Fax: 01428 661218

Name: _____ Position: _____ Address: _____ Postcode: _____

COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

GREENKEEPING

THE COLLEGES AND THE

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

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

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

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

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

NORTH

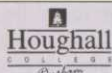


ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE Askham Bryan, York YO2 3PR. Contact: The Registry Tel: 01904 772211.

National Certificate in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture (Turf Option), Higher National Diploma in Horticulture (Golf Management Option) all available full or part time. Block release courses: NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance, NVQ Level 4 Amenity Horticulture. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.



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



HOUGHALL COLLEGE Durham College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Houghall, Durham DH1 3SG. Contact Tony Milan. Tel: 0191 386 1351.

Full time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship - 1 Year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option - 2/3 years. Part time courses: Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management Level II - Day Release; NVQ Level 3 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 Academic Registry. Tel: 01995 640611.

Fax: 01995 640842. Full time courses: BSc (Hons) Turf Science and Golf Course Management - four years; Higher National Diploma Turf Science and Golf Course Management - three years; National Diploma Turf Science and Sportsground Management - three years; National Certificate Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping - one year. Part time courses: NVQ Level 2 and 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance (plus Fast Track option); Higher National Diploma Turf Science and Golf Course Management; Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation; FEPA and Chainsaw short courses.



REASEHEATH COLLEGE Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF. Contact Dennis Mortram. Tel: 01270 625131 Fax: 01270 625665. Full time: BTEC First

Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 1 year. BTEC National Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 2 years. BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management - 3 years. Part time: HNC Golf Course Management - Distance Learning. NVQ Level 1 Greenkeeping - Day Release. NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping - Day/Block Release. NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping - Day/Block Release. C&G Phase IV Greenkeeping - Block Release. IoG National Intermediate Diploma in Turf Culture - Day Release. IoG National Diploma - Day Release. Short Courses: FEPA Chemical Safety, Safe Lifting, Chainsaws, Off-Road Vehicle Driving, First Aid.



KIRKLEY HALL COLLEGE Ponteland, Northumberland (10 miles from the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne). Contact Mike Swinton.

Tel: 01661 860808. Fax: 01661 860047. A wide range of full and part-time Amenity and Commercial Horticulture courses including Greenkeeping and Spots Turf maintenance and management.



SHIPLEY COLLEGE Exhibition Road, Saltaire, Shipley, West Yorks BD18 3JW. Tel: 01274 757222. Full time courses: BTEC First Diploma

Horticulture (Environment and Landscaping), BTEC National Diploma Horticulture, BTEC National Diploma Environmental Horticulture. Part time: Greenkeeping NVQ 2, Amenity Horticulture NVQ 2/3, Horticulture Skills Test, Pesticide Spraying, Royal Horticulture Society Certificate, City & Guilds Gardening Certificate.



BRACKENHURST COLLEGE Southwell, Nottinghamshire NG25 0QF. Contact Student Administration. Tel: 01636 817099. BTEC First

Diploma, C&G National Certificate, BTEC National Diploma, RHS Diploma, BTEC HND in Landscape Design and BSc (Honours) in Urban and Rural Open Space Management both in conjunction with The Nottingham Trent University. Part-time courses include GTC & RHS day release, evening and short courses.



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) and III (day release), including the GTC Training Manual requirements. Autumn term commences September/October 1998.



RODBASTON COLLEGE Rodbaston, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5PH. Contact Nigel Foskett. Tel: 01785 712209.

Courses offered: NVQ Level 1, 2, 3 and 4 by Day Release. FEPA and chainsaw training



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.



WEST OXFORDSHIRE COLLEGE Warren Farm Centre, Horton-cum-Studley, Oxford OX33 1BY. Contact: Alan Brown. Tel: 01865

351794. BTEC First Diploma Amenity Horticulture; NVQ Levels 2 and 3 Greenkeeping (based on the GTC Training Manual) - day release or evening. Short courses include: Chainsaw; FEPA Spraying; Machinery Maintenance and Health and Safety.



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.



NESCOT North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS. Contact Dr S Shaw. Tel: 0181 394

3220/3049. NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) Training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Part time, Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses.

MIDLANDS

SOUTH EAST

ER TRAINING

E COURSES AVAILABLE

GREENKEEPER

International

KEY TO COLOURS

Currently GTC approved as Regional Training Centres, offering courses at Craft, Supervisory and Management levels

Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Supervisory level

Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Craft level only

Pending GTC approval for all courses

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

Greenkeeper International takes no responsibility for accuracy of information provided.

Contact the colleges direct for prospectuses and comprehensive information.

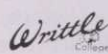
SOUTH EAST



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



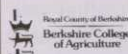
PLUMPTON COLLEGE Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE. Contact David Blackmur. Tel: 01273 890454. *Full time courses:* National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture (options in Landscape and Sportsturf); National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture; First Diploma; A11 BTEC. *Part time courses:* NVQ Level II Amenity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



MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE. Contact Student Services. Tel: 01483 884040. *Full time courses:* National Diploma in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. *Part-time:* NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 1, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 2, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3.



BERKSHIRE COLLEGE Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 6QR. Tel: 01628 824444 Fax: 01628 824695 *Full time courses:* BTEC First Diploma and National Diploma in Greenkeeping. *Part time courses:* NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Fine Turf Management, GTC Manual, NVQ Level II Groundsman and Sports Turf Management, NVQ Level II Golf Greenkeeping (craft level – block release); NVQ Level III Greenkeeping; IOG National Diploma (Intermediate) in Turf Culture. ★ Regional Centre of Excellence for Land based Industries & Professions ★



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

SOUTH WEST



CANNINGTON COLLEGE Cannington Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS. Contact Decland Gallagher: 01278 655083/Hugh Parry: 01278 655084. *BTEC National Diploma Sports Science (Golf Studies), Higher National Certificate Golf Course Management, BTEC First Diploma, BTEC National Diploma in Golf Course Management, BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management (inc. European Studies) NVQ Level I and II Golf Greenkeeping, NVQ Level III Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management, NVQ Level IV Greenkeeping Management, FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Off-road Vehicle Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics.*



HARTPURY COLLEGE Hartpury House, Hartpury, Nr Gloucester GL19 3BE. Hartpury Marketing Tel: 01452 830065. Hartpury Marketing Fax: 01452 831393. *Courses available:* First Diploma Horticulture, National Certificate Horticulture (Landscape), National Diploma Horticulture (Landscape), First Diploma Greenkeeping, Certificate in Greenkeeping, National Diploma Golf Studies, National Diploma Greenkeeping, Modern Apprenticeships, Route 2 Work, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Level II, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Level III, NVQ Commercial Horticulture Level II, NVQ Amenity/Turf Level II, NVQ Amenity/Sportsturf Level III & IV, City & Guilds Certificate in Gardening, TDLB Assessor Awards, HND Land Use, BSc Land Use* subject to validation



ELMWOOD COLLEGE Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB. Contact Carol Borthwick. Tel: 01334 658910. Fax: 01334 658918. *Craft Level courses. Full-time National Certificate, Block-release, following SVQ Level II and the GTC Training Manual. Six week specialist modular programme (January-February), including Golf Course Construction, Pesticide Application and Plant Protection Procedures. SVQ Level III (Supervisory) Block Release. HNC/HND Golf Course Management available as full-time, block/day release and distance learning. FEPA, COSHH and Health & Safety short courses also.*



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



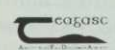
OATRIDGE COLLEGE Ecclesmachan, Broxburn, West Lothian EH52 6NH. Contact Steve Miller. Tel: 01506 854387. *Full and part time courses:* Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management; National Certificate in Greenkeeping; National Certificate Modular and Scottish Vocational Qualification Level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



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



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



TEAGASC COLLEGE Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Contact Pat Suttle. Tel: 003531 8374 388. *Block release courses in greenkeeping providing Level III Certificates by the National Council of Vocational Awards.*

Northern Ireland

EIRE

COLAISTE STIOFAIN NAOFA Tranmore Road, Cork. Contact Paul O'Neill. Tel: 00353 (0) 21961020. *National Certificate in Greenkeeping NCVA Level III one year full time course. Also one year full time courses offered in landscape design and construction and amenity horticulture general.*

► From Page 31 at all the golfing tournaments throughout the year. I hope this will continue in the future, as all help to generate funds and keep the Section going is much appreciated.

There has recently been a football match played between staff at Rigby Taylors and our Section greenkeepers. Unfortunately I do not have any details at present but will give a full report in next month's magazine.

Any news from within the Section can be passed on to myself by telephoning 01484 317813 or to John Waite on 0113 286 6432.

Finally may I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Do not forget the Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday March 4 1998 - £16 per person payment is required to book a place. Simon Heppenstall

North East

The Barburall Foursomes Knock-out Cup has now been played at Tyneside GC and the winners were John Surtees and Tony Mclure who defeated Michael Gunn and David Thompson 5&4. The presentation will be made at South Moor GC on December 11 after the AGM. An 18 hole competition will be held in the morning and all members will be notified.

The annual match between the North East and the South East of Scotland was recently played at Haddington GC for the Stewart's Cup. The winners were the North East Section, our thanks to Stewarts for sponsoring the event and we look forward to the return match next year. Hopefully we could be playing at Slaley Hall.

Alan Parkin, Assistant Greenkeeper at Whickham GC, has taken over the Head Greenkeeper's job at Beamish Park Golf Academy. We wish him well in his new appointment.

The first green at Whickham is busy being altered again and put back to its original design of a two tier but on a larger scale.

Askham Bryan College is doing well out of the North East Sec-

Around the Green



tion, John Surtees and Brian Clark are doing Phase Two and Craig Parkinson and Craig Wyman are doing Phase Three.

Brian Hughes passed Phase Two and is now taking Phase Four.

Stocksfield's Head Greenkeeper, for 18 years, Tommy Harrison, has now taken over at the Bridle Path course at Gosforth, the Section wish him well on his new appointment. Ian Hutton, formerly working in Austria is now working at Slaley Hall GC. The golf fixture is almost complete for 1998 and the match against the South East of Scotland will be played at Slaley Hall in the first week in October. Jimmy Richardson

Cleveland

John Chanthill, ex Teesside GC, has moved to Lilleshall GC, in Staffordshire, and is very happy in his new appointment. His old boss, Tony Smith, has now completed mound building and tree planting as a sound barrier close to the A19 and A66 and Parkway motorways. Over the past two years 10 new tees have been built and bunkers altered at four greens at Teesside GC.

At Bedale, Ian Pemberton, the Head Greenkeeper moved house from Middlesbrough but his wife has not settled in Bedale so they are to return to Middlesbrough to live and he will travel daily, while Kevin Scarce, the Assistant at Bedale is on a training course at Askham Bryan College, York. Bedale are to install irrigation to six tees and have started an extensive tree planting programme. The 6,000 trees will certainly create interest to the golfers in the future!

Dinsdale Spa GC have re-laid two greens to USGA specifications using their own greenstaff. The surrounds and mounds have been newly shaped and turfed to complete the job.

SISIS held a machinery demonstration at Eaglescliffe GC in October. Sixty greenkeepers attended a successful day of excellent equipment. Two courses have also been arranged at Houghall College this winter, NVQ 3 and NVQ 4.

George Malcolm, at Brass Castle GC, Middlesbrough has replaced his sand in the bunkers with one which is firmer for both the player's stance and for the ball to sit on the sand rather than sink in. Bruce Burnell

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter

Tel: 01480 437507

East of England

The annual match again the Secretaries Association took place at Market Rasen. Head Greenkeeper John Hewson and his staff had prepared the course in its usual excellent condition. The result went in favour of the Secretaries 5-3. There was talk around the dinner table that the Secretaries had had their Spring meeting at Market Rasen to practice in preparation for this match as they lost to the Greenkeepers last year. The event was sponsored by Chandler's Machinery, thanks to Jim Carr for the company's help. The longest drive was sponsored by Phil Wilkinson, of Fieldcare, and was won by the big hitting Jim "Daly" Carr! Nearest the pin was won by Eric Coombes, of the Secretaries Association.

While I am on the thank you trail one must thank John Brown, Secretary of Market Rasen, for allowing us all courtesy of the course and thanks to the caterers for an excellent meal (but get some port in stock!).

The East of England Section results were:- Jim Birkett & Phil Wilkinson lost 3&1; Dave Griffin & Andy Richardson lost 1 down; John Scotney & Les Purdy lost 3&2; Peter Fell & Dave Hornsey won 3&2; Ted Lake & Fred Cobb lost 2 down; Norman Hewson & John Hewson won 7&5; Richard Smith & Graham Bontoft lost 2&1; Graeme Macdonald & Jim Carr won 3&2.

Next year's match has been provisionally booked for Toft GC.

Anybody interested in attending a Chainsaw Course at Woodhall Spa on February 2, 3, 4 and 5 then contact me on the number below.

That's all for this month apart from saying hello to Jim Brown, a Northern BIGGA member, who always reads this Section.

Contact me if you have any news from around the Region or Section on 01636 626564. Graeme Macdonald

Midland

The much awaited educational trip to Sunningdale and Wentworth took place on October 13 and proved to be very enjoyable for all of the members who took part. To be able to see behind the scenes of these two well documented courses was of great interest and the time given to us by Brian Turner and Chris Kennedy was much appreciated. The timing of our visit to Wentworth was not the greatest being the day after the World Matchplay and many thanks go to Chris for



his co-operation.

I would also like to thank Richard Minton, of Miracle/Scotts, and Nigel Tyler, of County Crops, for their sponsorship of the day and mainly the meals and drinks at lunchtime, thank you.

We are also looking to organising another trip to Turnberry but this will involve an overnight stop and there could be a round of golf. There would obviously be a small cost but if we can get enough numbers there would probably be some kind of sponsorship. If you are interested please contact me on 01384 292396.

Finally I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and hope every greenkeeper has a successful 1998.

Welcome to these new members - Michael Bratton, Robert Coxall, Steven Lloyd, Adrian Haddock, Michael Gash, Robert Mason and Michael Trotman. Jonathan Wood

B B & O

The golf day at Lambourne was a great success with a full field yet again. The weather was a bit on the miserable side but this didn't affect the enjoyment on the day. Sadly there were no surprises when it came to the winner again! He must be in the running for sports personality of the year! The results were:- 1. S. Putt & M. Timms, 61 pts (boring!); 2. T. French & P. Walker; 3. L. T. Anderson & T. Smith (a prize at last!); Longest Drive - P. Walker; Nearest the Pin - M. Timms; Wooden Spoon - B. Wall & D. Winterton. I won't embarrass them by revealing their score as neither of them would speak to me again... on second thoughts I'm sure it was approximately one point per hole!

The day was sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity Products which was much appreciated by all. My special thanks to Richard Haynes for his organising on the day and also to Joe Feltham for presenting the prizes on behalf of the company. Thanks to Tony French and his team for providing an excellent test of golf and many thanks to all concerned at Lambourne for their hospitality on the day.

One other golf tournament is drawing to a close at last and that is the Rigby Taylor Fourball Knockout. B. Benzie and C. Millard have coasted into the final having disposed of P. Plater and J. Lee with ease. They will play R. Clark and C. Jacobsen who knocked out last year's winners T. French and G. Wheeler 3&2. The results of the final will be posted in next month's magazine. There are some Winter Lectures

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It's right for me.

Robert Hogarth, Cathcart Castle G C

approaching so please make a note of the following dates in your diary:-

Berkshire College; January 14 – Communications, February 4 – Golf Course Design, March 4 – Irrigation. These all commence at 7 pm and run until 9 pm when refreshments will be served.

Warren Farm College; January 28 – Health and Safety, February 25 – Irrigation and Conservation, March 25 – USGA Specification. These also commence at 7 pm with refreshments to follow.

Please try and attend as many of the above as possible, the colleges need to see some support from our Section.

I would like to end by wishing all of you a Happy Christmas and a drunken New Year! See you in 1998.

L. T. Anderson

Mid Anglia

Our Autumn golf tournament was held at the end of October at South Beds Golf Club over 18 holes. Although the first frost of the year arrived prior to the tournament, it quickly disappeared in the autumn sunshine and didn't spoil the day.

The golf attracted an entry of 32 people, seven of whom were trade members. This was down considerably on last year's corresponding fixture at Collingtree Park. Those who did enter however seemed to enjoy a good round, with good scores evident on the day. The results were as follows:- 1. Gary Boulton, Dunstable Downs, 41 pts; 2. Leon Cant, Brocket Hall, 39 pts; 3. Eddi O'Hanlon, Chesfield Downs, 39 pts; Longest Drive – Jon Moorhouse, Brocket Hall; Nearest the Pin – Gary Boulton, Dunstable Downs; Trade Prize – John Donaldson, 44 pts.

Our thanks go to our main sponsors for the day, Driving Force Leisure, represented by David Murphy, and also to Kings Horticulture who sponsored Nearest the Pin.

Thanks also to the other trade members who supported us on the day and participated in the golf. My personal thanks to South Beds for the excellent choice of meals and hospitality shown and also to my staff for preparing the course.

The AGM of the Mid Anglia Section was held after the prize giving and in the absence of our Chairman, Stewart Boyce, Vice Chairman Mark Ellis chaired the meeting. The Secretary, Gerald Bruce reported that the Section now had 242 members and that the Hayter National Tournament will in future be sponsored by Ritefeed. He also thanked Chris Brook, who is standing down

from the Committee this year for his efforts over a number of years of service to the Section.

The Fixtures Secretary, Richard Saunders gave a report on all the golf matches throughout the year and complimented Jason Hatton, of Brocket Hall, on reaching the National Final of the Hayter Tournament.

The Treasurer, John Wells, submitted a balance sheet and gave a verbal report on the financial situation which is most satisfactory at the present time. No rise in the cost of golf events is anticipated.

The following people were elected to serve on the committee for the next year:- Secretary – Gerald Bruce; Fixtures/Match Secretary – Richard Saunders; Chairman – Stewart Boyce; Vice Chairman – Mark Ellis; Treasurer – John Wells; Regional Representative – Paul Lockett. Three other new members were voted on to the committee:- Colin Robinson, John O'Gaunt GC; Steve Mason, Mount Pleasant GC, and Neil Whittaker, Arkley GC.

One of these newly elected officers will become the Handicap Secretary. In "Any Other Business" several questions were asked concerning spread of prizes, fixture lists, handicaps and reduced levels of attendance to golf events. Most of the questions were answered at the time but they will also be discussed in depth at the next full committee meeting.

Finally, I would like to wish all our members a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year and look forward to seeing Section members at BTME in Harrogate next month.

Paul Lockett

East Midlands

This year's Rigby Taylor East Midlands v Midlands Section golf match was played at the delightful venue of Whittington Heath GC on October 16. Despite a wet start to the day things eventually improved, not long into the greensome matches, with the Section taking a 3-2 lead. The afternoon format of matchplay singles started very badly for us with us losing five of the first seven games with the only winners being Anthony Foulds and Adie Porter.

Needing to win the final three games was left to Steven Heap, Mark Bindley and myself and all of us managed convincing wins, to finally win the competition 8-7. I would like to thank all the members of the Midland Section for participating in a great game of golf, and for playing in the correct spirit. Also I would like to thank Whittington Heath Golf Club for their marvellous hospitality. Finally a special thank you

should go to Steve Blackman and the rest of the Rigby Taylor team for sponsoring a really enjoyable day.

The Team on the day consisted of the following members:- Pete Billings, Dave Leatherland, Anthony Foulds, Dave Mitchell, Steve Goode, Adie Porter, Ian Needham, Antony Bindley, Mark Bindley and Steven Heap.

As Chairman of the Region I was fortunate enough to represent the Greenkeepers Team at the Kubota Golf Challenge, held at the Belfry GC on October 14 and 15. After losing in the semi-final to the eventual winners, the EGU the team performed well in the third place play-off defeating the Golf Foundation by 6.5-1.5 points. Thanks should go to Kubota for sponsoring an excellent two day competition.

This month I would like to wish all members of the Section a Merry Christmas and a Happy 1998. Remember this year starts off with the BTME at Harrogate, where hopefully as many members as possible will attend.

I would also like to thank all the companies who sponsored the Section throughout the year:- Spring Tournament – E T Breakwells, Autumn Tournament – Charnwood & Highmeres Horticulture, AGM Tournament – Vitax Ltd, Christmas & East Midlands v Midlands Section – Rigby Taylor and Scotts and ALS for sponsoring the Pairs Tournament, your support is greatly appreciated.

Two dates for next years diary, Spring Tournament – Beeston Fields on May 13 and the Autumn Tournament at Scraftoft GC on September 2.

Antony Bindley

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Surrey

The sun was up, the sky was blue and Kingswood GC on October 29 was the venue for the Autumn Tournament. The course was in superb condition and with lush green fairways and fast greens, the promise of a great day's golf was fully realised. The results were:- 1. D. Langhiem, Foxhills again!, 38 pts; 2. A. Freeman, Roehampton, 36 pts; 3. T. Edwards, Lingfield Park, 34 pts; Nearest the Pin – R. Christie, Addington Palace; Longest Drive – R. Glazier, Foxhills; Trade Prize – P. White, 40 pts.

Congratulations to Ian McMillan on winning the 1997 Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the 1997 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Rhone Poulenc and Amazone Ground Care. A



truly excellent achievement to win them both in the same year. Perhaps a Golf Day at Hankley Common will inspire other Surrey members to take up the challenge.

And now a bit of local news from our roving reporter. Gavin Kyle has moved to Hendon GC as Course Manager, Ray McClatchie is the new Head Greenkeeper at Blackmoor and Bill Lowe, Head Greenkeeper at High Elms GC, has just become the father of a bouncing baby named Jason. All three have moved to courses in adjacent Sections but can we get rid of them? Fortunately not! Brian Willmott

East Anglia

Our travelling band went to Gog Magog GC on October 9 and played the Wandlebury Course which is very new and was in excellent shape due to the high standards set by Lydon and his team. It was also a Captains and Greenkeepers competition – my fourball played some excellent golf but failed the orienteering! The Captain/Greenkeeper prize went to D Childs and his Captain D Bram from Sheringham with a combined total of 73 points. The other results were:- 0-9 Handicap – 1. Alan Carter, 38 pts; 2. M Brewster, 38 pts; 3. Roger Plummer, 35 pts; 10-18 Handicap – 1. I Semson, 38 pts; 2. I Hill, 37 pts; 3. P Mallows, 37 pts; 19-28 Handicap – 1. Tim Russell, 41 pts; 2. Steve Davidson, 36 pts; 3. Ernie Hart, 34 pts; Guest Prize – 1. T Winter, 40 pts; 2. D Bram, 40 pts; 3. I Skellon, 38 pts; Longest Drive – James Gemsun; Nearest the Pin – Brian Lemmon.

The prizes were donated by Kings, Rigby Taylor, SISIS, Rushbrooks, Pattisons (Longest Drive), Tomlinsons (Nearest the Pin), Barenbrug (Captains and Greenkeepers) and Does (main sponsor). Thanks lads yet again. The prizes were presented by Mr T. Winter, Captain of the Wandlebury Course. Our thanks to all at Gog Magog for a super day and I ➔

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Neil Whittaker, Arkley Golf Club

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must just mention Brian and Colin from Canvey, Essex who made golf what it should be – fun, thanks lads!

Bartram Mowers sponsored a great day at Barnham Broom in early October. Ian told me to mention it, I think its because he won first prize on the day with 37 pts! Longest Drive was the Plum and Nearest the Pin was Cyril Stammer. Brian set up a first rate course and a good day was had by all thanks to Barnham Broom and Bartram Mowers.

What's next? We desperately need some Head Greenkeeper to assess young greenkeepers to pass their D32 and D33 exams themselves. Anyone interested please contact Ian Willett. We need about a dozen (or ten if you're metric!).

The next meeting is on December 10 – the AGM at Thorp Ness, Loch's brother.

Mick Lathrope

Essex

As we are now fast approaching the end of our first 12 months as a new Section together, we can be pleased with the success of the 5 golf days and the 3 evening lectures held at Writtle College.

By the time you have read this the Essex Section will have held its first AGM on December 3 at Orsett GC and new from the above will appear in next months publication.

On a disappointing note, the lack of support for both the presentation dance, which had to be cancelled and the two day regional supervisory course at Maldon had only two members from the Essex Section attending giving some cause for concern. These events are for all our benefits and without your attendance they will never be a success.

On behalf of all the members I would like to take this opportunity to thank the trade for their support throughout the year and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 1998.

See you at BTME.

Dave Wells

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Paula Humphries
Tel: 01363 82777

South West and South Wales

The Region's Special Express to BTME includes the following: Luxury Coach Travel – various pick-up points starting from Exeter; three nights bed and breakfast in an en-suite hotel; entry to all seminars; spouses welcome – a trip to York will be arranged; payment by instalment accepted.

The cost for members is £135,

Around the Green



spouses (excluding seminars) £110, non-members £160. All inclusive. Further details from Paula Humphries Tel: 01363 82777

South Coast

By now you should have all received your programmes for the Section and Regional events for 1997/98. If you have not received a programme, please contact Jef Drake who I'm sure will get one to you. I do hope that the programme meets with your approval. The Winter Lecture Programme is slightly different this year. For example there was the trip to the London GC in November. I shall be reporting on how the trip went in the next month's report. Also we have made the venues more central so that the amount of travelling has been cut to the minimum. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve our lecture programme please let us know.

Talking about winter lectures, our next meeting will be held at Bramshaw GC on January 7 at 7pm. Our speaker will be Mrs Susan Oldale-Deamon. Susan will be talking about Conservation on the Golf Course. Susan gave a talk to the members of Alton GC to a full house a few months ago. I am told that her talk went down very well with the members. I feel sure that with conservation becoming such an important aspect of course management, Susan's talk will be well received. Please gentlemen let's give Susan our full support.

Our Regional/Section seminar is fast approaching. This will be held at Sparsholt College on February 26 1998. Jef will be sending out details of the speakers very shortly. The last few years we have had some very successful seminars. Some very good speakers have been approached and agreed to come along. One or two points have yet to be finalised. As I said last month there is no reason why this seminar should not be as successful as the last ones have been.

I don't know whether there are any seats left on the Regional Coach for BTME. If you have not booked and still wish to go get your booking forms in to Paula Humphries, our Regional Administrator or contact her on 01363 82777. You might be lucky! Just another reminder regarding those of you who wish to make use of the feeder coach. Please contact

me with your names so that I can arrange pick-up points and the size of the coach to book.

It just doesn't seem possible that we are close to ending another year, they seem to fly by. Still they do say as you get older time goes by a lot quicker. All that remains for me to say is for everyone to have a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.
Ken Lodge

Devon and Cornwall

Seasons greetings to you all.

Our first meeting of the autumn and winter programme was the Roffey's October meeting held at Bowood GC on Wednesday October 8. On the morning of the meeting members awoke to find the rain coming down in bucket loads so it was a credit to Bowoods greenstaff who managed to have the course playable for the mornings reduced golf competition for the DO Hunt Trophy which was played over the front nine holes. Only the hardy or mad played golf and walked the course during the morning. Our sponsors for the day Roffeys kindly rearranged our afternoon talk to start earlier and lunch was brought forward to prevent members hanging around too long.

After an excellent lunch Don Hunt, on behalf of Roffeys, presented the prizes for the singles Stableford golf competition for the D. O. Hunt Trophy:- 1. Buster Lewer, Dainton Park; 2. Eric Barber; 3. Chris Bland, Dainton Park.

The Section would like to thank Roffeys and Don Hunt for their support in sponsoring the day. Also we would like to thank Mr Ross Cobledick and all his staff who made our day run so smoothly.

Our afternoon educational talk followed the golf presentation and Company presentation by Roffeys with our friends from Cannington College presenting their talk on "Winter Golf and Courses at Cannington". Our thanks to Brian and Huw for their informative talk.

Our raffle concluded an excellent day, pity about the rain!

Our first meeting in the new year will be held at Bude & North Cornwall GC on Wednesday February 4 and sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds, the morning will start with a St Andrews foursome golf competition with starting times between 9.30 am and 10.30 am. For our non-golfing members there will be a workshop running between 10.30 am and 12.30 pm on "Business Planning for Greenkeeping" presented by Robert Brewer, Director of Golf at St Melion G & CC.

After lunch our sponsor for the day Barenbrug Seeds will present the golf prizes and Company pre-

sentation which will be followed by our afternoon seminar on "Business Planning for Greenkeeping".

Have you booked your place on the Region's package to BTME 98 which includes transport, accommodation and entry to the BTME Show and Seminars. There's only a few places left so hurry!

Richard Whyman

South West

I am sometimes reminded of that well known Channel 4 "Cutting Edge" documentary in which the viewer was taken into the fascinating world of the old established golf club in which a group of the finest of Britain's managerial minds get together and succeed in running the club in the most haphazard, discriminatory and out of touch way imaginable. It was hilarious to see the total lack of diplomacy, the political bickering and all the many little factions within the golf club all convinced they had total knowledge when it comes to the management of their club. Now I am not saying that Kingsdown GC comes into that category but if it did then their Head Greenkeeper, Mark Ford, would undoubtedly rise well above it. Regardless of the reputation Kingsdown may or may not have they can be very proud in listing the 1997 Premier Greenkeeper runner-up as among their assets. Congratulations Mark, you've deserved it and have done the Section and your Club proud.

No tournaments to report on this month but we have been running a few courses. Unfortunately we have had to cancel the chain-saw course due to a last minute negative availability situation but will be running one as soon as we get a couple more people on the list. It will be run over five days and will lead to a certificate of competence in the safe use of chainsaws. We are still open for places on the abrasive wheel course. I was hoping to arrange one for November 26 at Chippenham College but as this clashed with the Regional Seminar I am trying to find another venue and date for that one. The incorrect use of an abrasive wheel can lead to a fine of up to £8,000 if caught, so it's probably best to give me a ring on 01380 828380 to book your place. Remember the other courses we can sort out, namely all the spraying courses and the first aid course. Anyone interested, just give me a ring.

I recently had the pleasure of attending one of the BIGGA regional courses down at Bournemouth. These are very well organised and highly informative courses that are being held locally



so as to attract and educate as many people as possible. So please try and attend them if at all possible so as to ensure their continuation and also to put yourself in a well informed position when dealing with the above mentioned committees.

Finally may I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and may your greens be perfect throughout the next year.

Marc Haring

NORTHERN IRELAND

North East

It's now official – BIGGA is in Northern Ireland and judging by the interest shown at the BIGGA Stand at the IOG Show on October 2, it can only go from strength to strength. Northern Ireland has now its own Region with two Sections – North East representing Counties Antrim and Derry and South East representing Counties Down and Armagh. Members in Counties Tyrone and Fermanagh will be given the choice which Section is most convenient for them. Each Section has a strong grouping of clubs thus creating two strong sections. The members who attended the meeting in early September have elected Philip Baldock of Royal Portrush as Chairman with Henry Farrell as Vice Chairman, Mark Farrell of Allen Park as Secretary with Mar-

tin Laverty as Vice Secretary and Eamonn Farrell of Cairndhu as Liaison Officer for the North East Section. Any inquiries on BIGGA membership and the benefits for greenkeepers, any of the aforementioned Committee members will only be too happy to help.

A joint section meeting will be held at Greenmount College on Monday December 1. BIGGA will give a talk on membership and its benefits, Philip Baldock of Royal Portrush will also be speaking on pest problems and diseases, other speakers have yet to be confirmed. The seminar will last for no more than three hours, buffet included. All attendees will be charged a nominal fee of £5 to cover expenses. Details of times and speakers will be forwarded to all golf clubs closer to the venue date.

Anyone with relevant information in the North East Section that would be suitable for printing in Greenkeeper International would you please contact me on 01574 276001.

BIGGA would like to congratulate Frank Ainstworth on his new position at Templepatrick, we all wish him the very best.

On closing may I congratulate Bob Walker BEM of Cairndhu GC who is celebrating 50 years service to Cairndhu. The man is a legend in golfing circles. E Farrell

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Dates of next courses in 1998

Venue	Rabbits (1 day)	Moles (1 day)
Bristol	January 13	January 14
Manchester	February 18	February 19
Edinburgh	(not available)	March 6
York	March 17	March 18

For further details and to register contact:
Ed Allan on 01303 863948 or Jan Pullen on 01626 892639

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Most industries have their own night of nights. The Oscars are the most famous of them all. They are occasions to celebrate excellence and reward people who have reached the top of their chosen field.

BIGGA has had such nights in the past – separate events covering both the greenkeeper and student greenkeeper of the year titles but only this year have they been combined and under the titles of Excellence in Greenkeeping Award and Student of the Year to become known as "The Toros".

It has come about due to Toro adding the new Excellence Award to the Student of the Year.

To be known as a Toro winner, or indeed a finalist, now means entry to a select club for both students and established greenkeepers.

TORO

Student
GREENKEEPER
of the year



The TOROs



The winner: Ian McMillan, holding plate and certificate, with, from left, Bob Buckingham, Toro and Pete Mansfield, Lely and BIGGA Vice-Chairman Gordon Child

Notes from a small island

Walter Woods visited the courses of all five finalists and what he found gladdened his heart

The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping certainly conjures up all sorts of factors in your mind – how do you measure good greenkeeping or good greenkeepers? These were some of the thoughts which went through my mind many years ago

when I first set foot in Elmwood College to talk to students who were taking their first ambitious steps into a greenkeeping career. During that period the only education available was a one year course to achieve a City and Guilds certificate. Fortunately, owing to the dedicated effort of many, mainly greenkeepers themselves, education has advanced considerably even almost to a University Degree in Agronomy.

The Toro Company based this award on Course Managers' ability to organise their affairs both in maintenance and management. The philosophy was the more encouragement greenkeeping education receives the more that golf clubs with their golf courses will improve.

The '97 competition got going in earnest in April when nominations were accepted at BIGGA Headquarters. Each entry was vis-

THE FOUR RUNNERS-UP



Ratho Park



Nottingham Golf Club



ited at local level with a winner coming from each Section.

The final five Section winners were Tom Murray, Ratho Park, Edinburgh; Philip Stain, Nottingham Golf Club; Mark Ford, Kingsdown Golf Club; Ian MacMillan, Hankley Common Golf Club and William Sparrow, East Herts Golf Club – all spread out across the length and breadth of Britain. The Competition had a high judging criteria right through every part of their golf course maintenance, taking into account the level of resources available. Other judgments on the individuals were their role in the golf club management coupled with their ability to set policies throughout the daily work programmes either on the golf course or in the maintenance building.

Ken Richardson, the Association's Education Officer, is certainly a perfectionist, with military precision on train journeys, golf course locations, time of arrivals – this made me wonder why trains are always late when I organise them. However, my first golf course was Notts Golf Club, Hollinwell, where at one time I was employed. What a majestic golf course this is, organised in a traditional manner with a large history spanning over a 100 years. Philip Stain is the Course Manager and what a super job this young man is doing – with tidily kept maintenance buildings housing the most up-to-date machinery. Philip has been at Notts Golf Club for a number of years but this has been his first one in total charge. He has taken it in his stride and has

hosted a top amateur event to the complete satisfaction of players and members.

Next on the list was Kingsdown Golf Club, near Bristol, a very progressive golf club with recent acquisition of land on which to build a practice ground and perhaps extend the golf course. Mark Ford has worked at the golf

and what I would say is an example for every golf club to follow. About 10 years ago the Club Council drew up policies in every department of golf club organisation. Their first priority was to employ a Course Manager which they did with Ian MacMillan, son of Jack, coming on board. The golf course was in magnificent condition with perfect playing conditions. Heather was in abundance making it into an environmentalist's dream.

Travelling from Hankley Common to East Herts Golf Club is two train journeys, numerous tube rides then miles of twisting roads through traffic lights and traffic jams bringing you to a lovely parkland golf course with mature trees where deer and pheasants roam undisturbed, making me think what would happen to them if they were on a municipal course in Glasgow! Bill Sparrow is Course Manager and has an abundance of experience which he is putting to good effect to the golf playing conditions along with the training of his young staff. Bill is also a very good golfer and knows what a golfer's requirements should be.

Back to Scotland to visit Ratho

Park, a private golf club not far from Edinburgh Airport, and what a surprise confronted me. A beautiful parkland golf course in perfect condition with fast firm fairways and greens along with tees perfectly cut and presented. Tom Murray, the Course Manager, has worked at Ratho, I believe, all his working days taking charge in the last ten years. Tom is a product of Elmwood College and certainly a credit to his club who encourage him.

On completion of the golf course visits and assessments all of the five finalists still had to go through the mental barrier with a vigorous interview session to a selected Panel which was organised in Harrogate on October 27. Each of the candidates were asked like-for-like questions to create consistent answers on a similar pattern. This was terrifying for the individual and it could be detected on their faces. However a winner had to be chosen and this was Ian MacMillan making it a remarkable double for the golf club having won the BIGGA Golf Environment Award, in association with Amazone and Rhône Poulenc only two weeks before.

Ian receives a two week trip to the USA taking in the Superintendents' Convention, in California, which is the ultimate in learning. He will also be taken to the machinery and irrigation Toro factories. His golf club, Hankley Common, also benefit being presented with a new Toro Greensmaster Greens Triplex.

The other four finalists were also presented with cheques and gifts. The Toro Company has been outstanding in their contribution towards greenkeeping education and encouragement. Bob Buckingham and Graham Dale along with their colleagues should be congratulated.



course for 20 years and been the Course Manager for the last seven. Kingsdown is a parkland course but was in very good condition. Mark is also very enthusiastic in education on all aspects of club management.

The following day it was organised to visit Hankley Common, a heathland golf course with outstanding natural beauty



East Herts G C



Kingsdown Golf Club



The TOROs

Hankley Common's Ian McMillan set himself and his golf club two goals at the beginning of the year. On each occasion he scored the winner.

How many of us set goals at the beginning of each year? One, two, three four... Yep! I make that most of us. How many of us actually achieve them? One, two... any more? No, I'm afraid that's about it.

One of the guys who should have had his hand up is Ian McMillan, Course Manager at Hankley Common in Surrey who, like so many of us, set himself some goals in January. They were to win both the inaugural Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the BIGGA Golf Environmental Award, in association with Amazone and Rhône Poulenc. Ten months, and a great deal of hard work later both trophies sit together proudly in a little corner of Surrey.

If the name is familiar perhaps it should be because Ian belongs to perhaps the best known family in the world of greenkeeping. Dad, Jack, was Course Manager at Sunningdale for many years and is a Past Chairman of BIGGA. He is now a respected consultant. Ian's oldest brother Stewart is Course Manager at Leatherhead, Bobby at Burhill, Billy is General Manager of both Wildwood and Lamerwood golf clubs and younger brother Cameron at Stockley Park – all are top golf courses and it's a dynasty unrivalled in golf.

"I don't know how or why it is that I'm the one who has gone for the awards. I enjoy entering into things that are competitive but I certainly wouldn't look forward to the prospect of competing against them," laughed 36 year-old Ian. It certainly isn't a male only family sister, Heather, now a nurse, has also spent time working with Cameron and mother, Rita, has probably picked up enough knowledge to be a dead cert if she were ever to



The winner, runners-up and competition organisers. Top row, from left, Bob Buckingham, Graham Dale, Neil Thomas, Walter Woods. Front row, Mark Ford, Philip Stain, Ian McMillan, Tom Murray and William Sparrow

Fanfare for the Common man

sit a Master Greenkeeper exam.

Ian had previously entered both competitions in their old formats in the past and had been runner-up in each of them – in the Premier Greenkeeper in '92 and the Environment Competition in '95.

"That basically made us feel that we could win them both and we worked very hard at putting both documents together," said Ian, using the plural to reflect the input he received from his three Course Members – Hankley's version of a Chairman of Green – John Harris, Peter Green and the present incumbent, Alan Kerr; the Club Secretary, John O'Brien; his team and his family.

"The competitions complemented each other. Both entries were fairly weighty documents – about 60 pages each – and there

was a considerable amount of thought put into them. I started work on the Environment entry in January, completed it, then started on my entry for the Toro award.

"Inevitably we thought it would be a bit of a fairy tale to win them both."

Asked if winning one and finishing runner-up in the other would have been seen as a failure Ian paused before smiling and saying slowly.

"We do set our goals high. We like to achieve."

Winning was not without its pressure and Ian freely admits to feeling nervous as he sat in the St George's Hotel, Harrogate, waiting for the result of the Toro Award to be announced.

"I could certainly feel the tension in the room and I didn't

really realise just how tense I was myself," he explained.

No-one who watched Ian make his victory speech could have doubted just how much winning the award meant to him and it was clear that his unique pedigree, a desire to learn and many years of hard work had combined to make him an outstanding winner.

"My father never wanted any of us to be greenkeepers but it was a desire of mine from fairly early on. I enjoyed the game, I liked the outdoor way of life and tinkering with mowers. There were lots of aspects which attracted me in those early days."

Ian grew up at Cardross Golf Club in Scotland and it was there that he picked up his love of golf.

"We moved south to Bush Hill Park, North London, and that's where I started work as an apprentice under my father." Remarkably four out of five of the McMillans worked on the course at the same time. Jack, Stewart, Ian and Bobby before Jack moved to Effingham Golf Club and Stewart took over as Head Greenkeeper at Bushill.

"I was there for four years then moved to Datchet which was my first job as Head Greenkeeper. It was 1981 and I was 20. After three years I moved to Finchley and spent a couple of years there before going to Hankley as Course Manager in 1986.

"Hankley was a real magnet. I'd played the course before and I was very fond of the area but I really had a desire to work on a heathland golf course.

"When I was at Datchet I lived at Sunningdale and gained lots of heathland experience helping my father and I certainly appreciated the finer aspects of it," he explained.

Ian's 12 years at Hankley have, by his own admission, been exciting and very progressive times.

"The whole club is run by very professional people, many of them company directors, and through dealing with these peo-

TORO® Student GREENKEEPER of the year

ple and sharing their skills and experience I've learned communication skills, computer usage, dealing with budgets etc. Equally I was imparting my greenkeeping skills to them. It was a very good partnership."

One of the interesting concepts at Hankley is the Course Management Status Report which is published every two to three years.

"It talks about greenkeeping philosophy, it talks about woodland management, the turfed areas, conservation areas, staff requirements, resource requirements. All aspects of the golf course. It also pinpoints what we want to achieve and reviews some of our successes and things which haven't worked so well," explained Ian, who has produced four of these 24-25 page reports.

'We do set our goals high. We like to achieve'

"I get lots of comments from members who find them refreshing and interesting because we try to write them in such a manner that they are readable for members.

"If we were to do them more frequently than we do it wouldn't give us enough time to achieve some of the goals we set," he added.

The Hankley team – Gareth Roberts, Paul Hutton, Michael Jennings, James Andrews and Gavin Baldwin – are all over the moon about the club's success and Ian is quick to give them credit.

"You are only as good as the guys around you and none of these things would have been possible without them.

Ian's self confessed passion for the environment has been with him for many years and developed from his love of heathland golf courses.

"I realised that heathland was disappearing at a phenomenal rate and that developed to an appreciation of wildlife as well. That has grown through time."

Asked to comment on what answer he would give to other greenkeepers who might ask what he possesses which has helped him to two national competitions Ian gives a practical answer.

"These competitions are there to be won and the way to do it is by application and endeavour and I think we did that. If you can exhibit the history of the work you have done on your course by keeping a well documented file of slides it also helps.

"There are a tremendous number of fabulous greenkeepers out there and what I can say to them is that I've been runner-up in both competitions before and that made me focus more and made me realise that I had to work a bit harder to win...So we came back a second time and won them both."

He also has praise for both competitions and what they do for the profession.

"They highlight the professionalism that's around in the industry. BIGGA is very much to the forefront of initiating lots of that through their education training programmes," said Ian, who is married to Karen with three children Callum, 8, Hannah, 6, and Daniel, 2.

"It has been an absolute pleasure to represent my golf and the staff at both of these competitions. I'm just the ambassador and an awful lot goes on behind the scenes."

Speaking with Jack about his son he pays him a tribute to which greenkeepers would probably relate.

"He's like me," he explained, "the grass talks to him."



Steven Nixon collects his prizes from Gordon Child, right, as Bob Buckingham and Pete Mansfield look on

The best of both worlds

Steven Nixon has shown he can excel in two careers

To reach the top in one field takes dedication, effort and no little ability. It's a reason to feel extremely proud and self satisfied. After all, there can only be one at the top at any one time.

To reach the top in two fields, singles a person out as quite exceptional, and to have done it by the age of 26 is even more remarkable.

Such a person is Steven Nixon, winner of the Toro Student of the Year Award, who adds the title to that of MAA YTS Mechanic of the Year which he won seven years ago.

"Having won another national competition I didn't go into the Toro Student of the Year thinking that it was so far out of reach not to be worth bothering about. You do get a belief in yourself having won a big competition and I was quietly confident when I arrived for the final... That was until I started to talk with the others. They were all good guys," explained Steven, speaking in the foyer of the St George Hotel, Harrogate, the morning after the results had been announced.

Steven was entered for the competition by his tutors at Askham Bryan College but had been aware of its existence since he first came into greenkeeping four years ago.

In hindsight the fact that Steven ended up working on a golf course should be of no real sur-

prise. He lived on Wortley Golf Club near Sheffield from the age of 13, where his parents were Steward and Stewardess, and the golf bug really bit him hard.

"I was a fanatic. I absolutely love golf and I always fancied working at Wortley Golf Club. Unfortunately people tended to stay for a while and jobs didn't come up very often."

To that end, once he had left school it was to become a mechanic and was soon showing himself to be an outstanding apprentice.

"The Mechanic of the Year Award went on college work and I was monitored at my placement," explained Steven, who worked at David Bentley's Subaru/Isuzu dealership in the centre of Sheffield.

"My exam results were the highest in the country," he added, in a quiet manner which betrayed not a hint of boastfulness.

On the strength of his success he was chosen to appear in a career video for the Mechanical Industry and this is still shown in schools today.

Steven worked at David Bentley's after finishing college then, for two years, was self-employed during which time he worked on the machinery at Wortley.

"It is great that both jobs, mechanics and greenkeeping are moving together and that is why I got the job at Wortley when it came along. The club saw the benefit of me being able to look

The TOROs

after their machinery. All I had to do was pick up on the greenkeeping element of the job and I took to it better than I could have expected."

At Wortley Steven worked under Barry Heaney, BIGGA's 1995 National Chairman, and after a year Barry placed him at Askham Bryan College.

"I did a two year Level 2 course which I passed while I also passed my spraying exams while I was there.

"I can't get enough of greenkeeping. I watch videos. I read about it. It is more than just a job, it is part of our life," said Steven, who is a member of the Sheffield Section which has a strong winter lecture programme.

Part of Steven's prize for winning the Toro Student of the Year Award is to undertake a six week residential study course at the University of Massachusetts early next year and it is his attendance

at on this which will delay his starting Level 3.

"I'm going to pick that up next September, but I'm really looking forward to what I'll learn while in

'Winning this award is going to give me a lot more confidence'

America. I'm sure it will open my eyes and I'll learn how greenkeeping is progressing around the rest of the world. It may be a different climate where different methods

are used but I'll certainly learn things which I can bring back to Wortley," enthused Steven.

"Winning this award is going to give me more confidence and I believe it will open up many more opportunities for me."

The club helped Steven cope with the pressure of being in the final and the feeling that if he hadn't won he would have disappointed a lot of people..

"The club sent me a letter on the Friday before the final to say that in their eyes I was a winner for getting to the final and that took a bit of the pressure off me because I was feeling it at bit. It's true though because we were each one of eight who had got through to the final from hundreds who could have done."

One element of the competition which Steven did enjoy was the linking of the Student award with that of the Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition.

"It was great talking with some of the older guys and they gave me great support on the day. Bill Sparrow and I were both waiting for our interviews and when we got talking all my nerves went and before I realised I was in and the interview had started."

"I've always wanted to visit the States so I just couldn't believe I'd won when the announcement was made."

Steven's success was greeted by great celebrations from his club, family and friends.

"My girlfriend, Michelle, is 200% behind me and burst into tears when I told her I'd won, while my mum and dad have organised a celebration for me when I get back. I'm also happy for Barry (Heaney) because he started me off and was one of the main driving forces behind my getting on. I know that greenkeeping is his life and that he loves BIGGA," said Steven who also paid tribute to the encouragement given to him by Steven Hulme, a close friend who had been the Acting Head Greenkeeper at the club.

"I'd also like to thank Toro for sponsoring such a great competition, BIGGA for organising it so well and Wortley Golf Club for all their support."

In addition to the six week study course. Steven will also visit the Toro factories in Minneapolis and California and, if time permits attend the GCSAA Conference and Show in Anaheim, California.

The two runners-up, who will also attend the Anaheim Show are Alan Owen, of Royal Birkdale Golf Club and Myerscough College and Christopher Rawlings of Rodway Hill Golf Club and Hartpury College.



At the presentation: back row, from left, Jeff Bailey, Mark Hunter, Pete Mansfield, Gordon Child, Ken Richardson and David Ansell. Middle row: Andrew Baker, Daniel Crowley, Neil Robson. Front row: Alan Owen, Steven Nixon and Christopher Rawlings.

HUGH TILLEY looks at several distinct types of fertiliser spreader and talks to the people most qualified to talk about them – working greenkeepers

Although the amount of solid fertiliser applied to golf courses is relatively small – frequently using a pedestrian operated spreader, or as a liquid, accuracy is important – even vital.

Several distinct types of spreader are available, ranging from trailed and/or tractor mounted broadcasters to pedestrian operated broadcasters and drop spreaders.

Of tractor mounted and pto driven machines, two spreading principles are common, those which use a spinning disc, and those with a wagging spout. Of hand machines the spinning disc model is most prevalent, however fluted roller models are available – often referred to as 'drop spreaders'. Turf maintenance vehicles accept tractor linkage mounting models. Trailled chassis are also available, designed for ATVs, which allow any small mounted spreader to be used.

Most fertiliser spreaders will spread a wide range of materials, often including top dressings, seed and even salt as well as the more normal granular fertilisers.

How accurately and at what swath width normally needs to be assessed by a few calibration runs.

In fact calibration may be essential whenever a different material is used or there are differing moisture contents in the material.

The ideal spread tapers by weight from the centre of the machine, equally to either side. This allows two adjacent spreading runs to match to give a uni-

form spread. However the normal single disc spinner tends to spread to one side more than to the other. With some machines this can be counteracted by adjusting the position at which the material is dropped on to the disc. With wagging spout models wear and damage to the spout can have a radical effect on spread.

Speed over the ground is another variable which needs regularising. This may be difficult

with pedestrian operated machines, as it relies on the operator walking at a regular speed. On mounted machines, engine speed and gear ratio need to be constant to get a consistent spread.

Thus in selecting a machine the important considerations are the type of fertiliser to be applied, the volumes and rates to be used and the accuracy needed.

Hardi 300 at Sutton Green Golf Club near Guildford

Sutton Green has a new Hardi 300 which is mounted on a MF1020 compact tractor. This is used for fertilising fairways and semi roughs, but it was also bought with the option of using it over greens and tees etc. to apply top dressing. The course is new and to USGA spec., and the machine is in its first season of use.

Head Greenkeeper, Gavin Kyle, said that the spreader has met expectations, although it has not yet been fully tested. Applying top dressings require that the dressing is dry – which he can specify, and he aims to apply these regularly at lowish rates – going over the greens every two or three weeks putting on a hopper full – 300kg – over each green. The hopper is fitted with a very effective agitator and a cover

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has been improvised pending supply of a purpose made one.

With fertiliser only one type of granular has been used, a 21.8.11, and no noticeable unevenness has been seen. With top dressing a 15 metre spreading width is produced and this is fully overlapped to give a 100% coverage.

The spreader, a single spinning disc type machine with a cone shaped hopper, has given no problems in setting or use, however it has been found essential to wash it thoroughly and oil the shutter mechanism after use. Gavin commented that he did not know that fertiliser was so corrosive.

Scott Professional Rotary spreader also at Sutton Green

This pedestrian push machine is used for greens, and has been in use for four years. Spreading is a two man operation with one man placing pegs on the green perimeter for the other to work to. Gavin commented on the need to have consistency of pushing speed. Regular greasing is a simple maintenance procedure and Gavin has encountered no problems with the machine.

Supaturf Evenspread and Greenland Varispreader at Eagle Star Sports Ground in Cheltenham

Run by Dave Turner who has been Head Groundsman for four years, and under Gardner Merchant Pension Fund management, the club uses the Evenspread mainly for the cricket square while a tractor mounted Varispreader is used for the outfield.

Previously the club had a drop spreader and Dave found several specific advantages to the Evenspread. In particular he likes the

fact that the fertiliser is spread in front of the him where he can see how and where it is spreading. The machine was calibrated when new, spreading, sweeping into piles and weighing the material used, and Dave has continued using the same mini-granular fertiliser.

Spread with the granular is about 3m wide and has always appeared even. Wheel marks are easily seen and the groundman can judge the width easily 'by eye'. Dave did say that the user has to maintain a constant walking speed to ensure a constant width of spread.

No problems have been encountered in use and no new parts have been required.

The Varispreader has been in use for over 12 years, being mainly used to apply granular 20-10-10 (or similar) two or three times a year. Dave, again, has no complaints about the 32ft spread. The machine is used behind a

45hp tractor and is easily hitched up being relatively light. The tractor's single speed PTO limit the gear options and require a higher engine speed than Dave would have liked, however this was criticism of tractor not spreader.

Again maintenance begins with a thorough wash off after use, again with particular attention being paid to the control slide. The original spout was damaged – in the traditional way – by backing it into something, and it has been replaced with the newer design with plastic/metal spreader.

Amazon EK broadcasters at Thornbury Golf Centre – Bristol

The centre with 36 holes and owned by Burhill Estates, was so pleased with their first spreader that they bought a second. Head Greenkeeper Robin Greaves commented that because these are so reasonably priced he could afford to buy two. The Amazone EK is a single disc spinner with conical hopper of about 300 litres capacity – other sizes are available.

Materials spread have included top dressing and salt as well as several types of granular fertilisers. In particular the centre uses Sierra-blen S which is a high nitrogen sulphur coated prill material which needs accurate application.

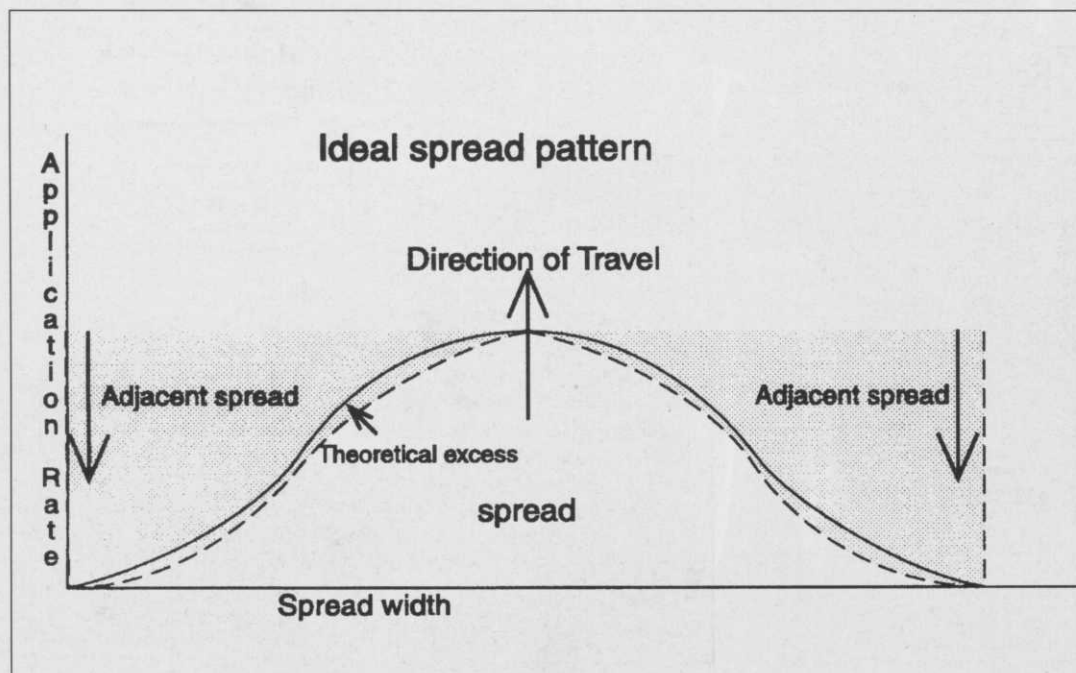
Robin commented that the

spreaders were small, robust and easy to adjust. They gave a good spread and when used for top dressing they gave a very neat and precise edge to the spread which minimised any loss of material off the green and made it easy to see where the material had been applied. One hopper full – about 300kg is applied to each green. The abrasiveness of the material has resulted in some wear to the control gate on the older machine, so that it does not shut off completely and this means that only the newer machine is used for more critical spreading tasks – such as for the 38-0-0 Sierra-blen S.

A modified – extended – control handle has been made for use with one of the centre's tractors, this can be damaged by the cab if care is not taken with setting the linkage height.

Setting the machines is by manufacturer's handbook recommendations followed by user experience.

The Centre also has two Scott Pro-Turf hand spreaders for the greens, these are set according to the manufacturer's chart and are mainly used with Scott's own products, in a recommended two pass routine. No problems have been experienced with either machine. Their construction is such that they are virtually corrosion proof.



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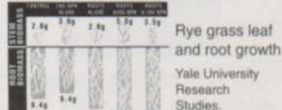


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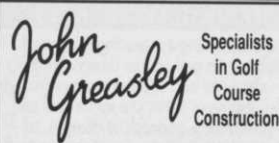
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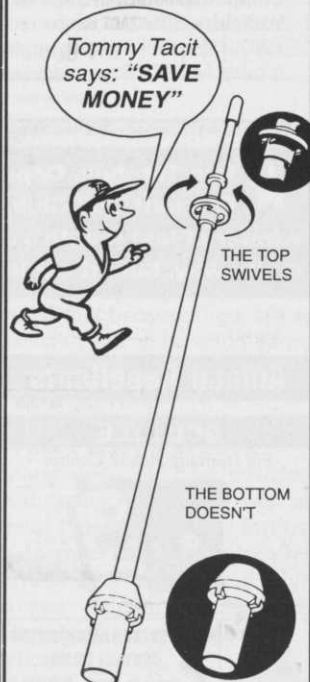
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**Reliable, hardworking and
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**College graduate from Ryde
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degree in Irrigation.**

**Ten years experience on championship
golf course in Sydney, Australia.**

**Four years as Greenkeeper, six as
Assistant Superintendent.**

**All locations considered.
CV and references available.**

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STRATEGIC SERVICES

South Ayrshire is one of the most attractive parts of the country, with an extensive coastline and numerous golf courses including Royal Troon and Turnberry. The area includes the towns of Ayr, Troon, Prestwick, Maybole and Girvan, has a population of 114,000 and the council has approximately 5,000 staff.

Golf & Bowling Officer

PO4 (£22,563 - £24,522) Ref: SS40

Location: Burns House, Ayr

Re advertisement: Previous applicants need not re-apply

A vacancy exists in the Department of Strategic Services, Parks and Environment Division for a person who will be responsible for the management of Golf and Bowling facilities and associated activities in South Ayrshire.

The post holder will assist in the development and the delivery of a Golf and Bowling Marketing Strategy for South Ayrshire and will be expected to provide advice and guidance to South Ayrshire Council on all matters relating to Golf and Bowling.

The postholder will raise the profile of the Council's Golf and Bowling assets creating an identifiable brand that will promote these facilities to local residents and the tourist market.

The postholder will liaise with local and national organisations to develop South Ayrshire as a quality venue for local participation and sporting excellence.

Candidates should be able to demonstrate a sound knowledge of all matters related to Golf and Bowling and associated activities and will bring to the position relative experience of managing similar activities/facilities in the Tourism/Leisure industry.

Please contact Sandra Nixon, Strategic Services, Burns House, Ayr. Tel: 01292 616232 for a job application pack. Closing date for completed applications is Monday 22 December 1997.

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Agriland is a specialist manufacturer of liquid fertilizers and organic-based biostimulants, supplying the professional amenity turf care market through an established distributor network.

The successful candidate will be a self starter, promoting the product range through calling on existing customers and developing new business. Liaison with our distributors and the provision of sales support is an important aspect of the post.

Knowledge of amenity turf management is essential and previous sales experience is desirable. A clean driving licence is required.

Competitive remuneration is offered, plus company car.

Please apply in confidence, with detailed CV including current salary to:

Mr R West

Agriland Limited

**Blue Roof Farm, Throop Road
Bournemouth BH8 0DL**



Redhill and Reigate Golf Club

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Redhill & Reigate Golf Club, founded in 1887, has a reputation of being one of the friendliest clubs in the south.

We are seeking a keen, hardworking, qualified Greenkeeper to join our team. A minimum qualification to Level 2, or equivalent plus a full spraying certificate.

Accommodation is not provided.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

**Colin Brown, Manager, Redhill & Reigate Golf Club,
Clarence Lodge, Pendleton Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 6LB**

Royal Dornoch Golf Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The Club

- Established in 1877, the Championship Course is judged to be one of the world's finest natural links. The second 18 hole course – Struie – is also becoming recognised in its own right.
- Host to top amateur and professional events
- Outstanding international reputation

Primary responsibilities

- Managing both courses to present links of the highest possible standard
- To lead, motivate and supervise an established greenkeeping team
- Prepare work programmes and budgets for both revenue and capital plans

The Individual

- Appropriate professional qualifications to NVQ Level 4 standard
- A strong understanding of the game of golf and its traditions
- Some experience of links is essential.

Remuneration

- Salary and pension will be offered commensurate with the responsibilities of the post and the attributes of the successful candidate
- Accommodation may be available.

Please apply in writing by 20 December 1997,
enclosing your CV to:

**John S Duncan, Secretary/Manager, Royal Dornoch Golf Club,
Golf Road, Dornoch, Sutherland IV25 3LW**



Chesterton Golf Club

Chesterton, Nr Bicester, Oxon OX6 8TE

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

required for mature 18-hole course and associated areas.

Applicants should have recognised qualifications, with the ability to plan, communicate and implement a comprehensive, HSW-compliant programme embracing total course maintenance/improvement (traditional soil greens); equipment maintenance and use; management, training and motivation of three to four staff; purchasing within agreed budgets.

Realistic salary (detached 2-bedroom accommodation if required).

Brief CV in confidence to the Managing Director as above.

Stanmore Golf Club (Est. 1893)

require a

MECHANIC/ GREENKEEPER

Suitable applicants should be experienced in working on modern golf course machinery, and have greenkeeping experience.

Applications from suitably qualified persons to:

**The Secretary, Stanmore Golf Club,
29 Gordon Avenue, Stanmore, Middx HA7 2RL**

Sutton Green Golf Club (Est 1994)

invite applications for the position of

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

to join a hard working team at this 18 hole, private members club.

All applicants must have City & Guilds/NVQ Levels 1 + 2, PA1, 2 & 6 spraying certificates, sound knowledge of course management, modern machinery and irrigation systems.

Apply in writing with CV to:

**Head Greenkeeper, Sutton Green Golf Club, New Lane,
Sutton Green, Guilford, Surrey GU4 7QF**

Banstead Downs Golf Club

18 hole Downland course and private members club
established 1890 requires a

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have at least five years experience and be qualified to Level III with PA1, PA2 and PA6 certification. A thorough knowledge of modern machinery and maintenance is essential together with the ability to motivate and direct staff.

Salary negotiable based on experience and BIGGA scales.

Golfer preferred. Accommodation available if required.

Applications in writing to include full CV to:

**The Secretary/Manager, Banstead Downs Golf Club, Burdon Lane,
Belmont, Sutton, Surrey SM2 7DD**



Coombe Hill Golf Club

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will have the following qualifications:

Phase I and II NVQ Equivalent

PA1 and PA2A Spraying Certificates

A minimum of five years greenkeeping experience

An ability to show initiative, self discipline and to work effectively within a team is essential.

Apply in writing, with full CV to:

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



Bearsted Golf Club

Established 1895, Bearsted is situated near Maidstone,
the county town of Kent

HEAD GREENKEEPER/ COURSE MANAGER

The successful applicant will possess relevant qualifications and
be experienced in all aspects of golf course management.

The ability to lead and motivate staff, organise and control work
programmes and maintain budgetary control is essential.

Salary negotiable: no accommodation available.

Applicants should have previous experience as a head
greenkeeper and should apply in writing, with CV to:

**The Secretary, Bearsted Golf Club, Ware Street,
Maidstone, Kent ME14 4PQ**

Closing date: January 6, 1998



Waterers Landscape plc

This prestigious firm of Landscape Contractors with several
golf courses in its maintenance portfolio seeks a

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

for a select private 18-hole course near Daventry.

Relevant experience and qualifications required.

Please apply with CV and telephone contact number to:

**Tom Brooke,
Waterers Landscape group,
Head Office,
London Road,
Windlesham,
Surrey GU20 6LQ
or telephone 01344 628081**

*(Asylum & Immigration Act 1996. - Proof of entitlement to work in UK
will be required at interview.)*



Hartsbourne Country Club, Hartsbourne Avenue, Bushey Heath, Herts. WD2 1JW

ASSISTANT/TRAINEE

required for prestigious 27 hole course in Hertfordshire.

Salary according to BIGGA rates. Fees paid for college release.

Accommodation available if required.

Please apply in writing to the Course Manager

Forest Hills Golf Club Newgate Street, Hertfordshire

wishes to appoint

HEAD GREENKEEPER DESIGNATE

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping
and have comprehensive knowledge of bringing on a new Course.

The salary is negotiable and will reflect experience and qualification.

Accommodation will not be provided.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:-

**The Secretary, Fairways Centre, Walthamstow Avenue,
LONDON E4 8TA.**

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There is nothing we cannot do

Duncan McGilvary looks at how best to ensure harmony between club and staff.

I believe we have now reached the point where the vast majority of golf club officials actually trust Course Managers to make decisions on greenkeeping matters i.e. select appropriate materials to apply and know how and when to apply them; are trusted to select/buy machinery and equipment as well as negotiating the best deals possible including after sales service.

This is very much thanks to the more professional way in which we have been working over the recent past and being more proactive in getting across tried and tested agronomic views as well as using experts to back us where necessary.

Another factor has also played its part. Short term decisions made by non-greenkeepers (well meaning amateurs) have resulted

in long term disasters on the golf course where time, money and professional greenkeeping expertise had to be found to put things right.

We should therefore be congratulated on our efforts so far. So why do we still hear the regular moans and groans from the vociferous playing membership particularly where a golf course manager has passed his "honeymoon period" of say three to five years.

I believe the simple answer is that we are still not doing enough, particularly in the important area of resource management, we are not trying hard enough.

We are more often than not thinking negatively instead of positively – which granted, is easy to do when criticised. In short the powers that be in our golf clubs i.e. Club Chairmen, General Managers, Secretaries and Committee Members have to be convinced

that we are competent, efficient, and seek continual improvement in all areas, that we are capable of managing.

Following recent personal experiences I would suggest that the following points be considered among others to those Course Managers who have had or are having similar experiences.

■ When Winter Programmes are questioned "It surely doesn't take four men two weeks to do that amount of work!" The statement should be met with a positive "Yes, it does" and be backed up

with a detailed breakdown of the project i.e. Man days to cut turf, excavate area, level, consolidate, transport turf, lay turf, etc etc and would state if the time taken includes a contingency for weather, illness, holidays etc. Every manager in whatever

industry must justify staffing levels and time so why should we be any different in our industry? The natural negative reaction to the aforementioned statement is to look for another position because you think that they don't trust you but this reaction is very short sighted as the same situation will occur in your next position in a few years time and you will probably react in the same way again. A certain scepticism from your employer of how long a project takes is healthy so we must accept it and take the opportunity to prove that all greenstaff are gainfully employed at all times and that you have nothing to hide.

■ When asked for higher standards eg "Can we have nice stripes all over the fairways like Wentworth?" "Can we have all the tees cut on Sunday mornings", or "Can we have the approaches and aprons cut every day?" as long as there is no detrimental agronomic reason then the answer should always be "Yes" and add that "We, the Greenstaff, can do anything you want as long as we are given adequate resources". Then work out the cost for any request in Man Hours, machinery, fuel and any other resource and present the

true cost. It is then the golf club's decision if the suggestion is acted upon – it is their golf course after all and as long as there is sufficient funding any standard can be achieved.

■ Review your Summer cutting and maintenance regime with the golf club i.e. how often every area on the golf course is cut and maintained so that there is an agreement on standards and presentation. Most of us treat the approaches and aprons in the same way as greens these days (except height of cut) so why

don't we cut them every day as we do on greens? On project work (usually construction work within a Winter Programme) itemised work-sheets must be kept on a monthly basis which individually codes man hours to projects and stands as an extremely accurate

record of labour use and performance.

■ An up-date of the Course Manager's job description should be undertaken (followed by all Greenstaff and would state in detail resource responsibility, overall job objective, key result areas and work standards to be judged in key result areas. This will ensure standards are measured, efficiency is increased and the workload is monitored using a staff assessment/appraisal system which would be in place. Only by acting positively to criticisms (unfortunately some of them are found to be justified) can we hope to advance to the stage when we are trusted to manage resources properly as well as keep the golf course in acceptable condition at all times.

Golf club management at the highest level will see just how efficiently the golf course is run, that all greenstaff are gainfully employed at all times and that you seek continual improvement in all areas.

It is unfortunately no longer enough just to have a well maintained and presented golf course.

■ Duncan McGilvary is Course Manager Letchworth Golf Club in Hertfordshire.

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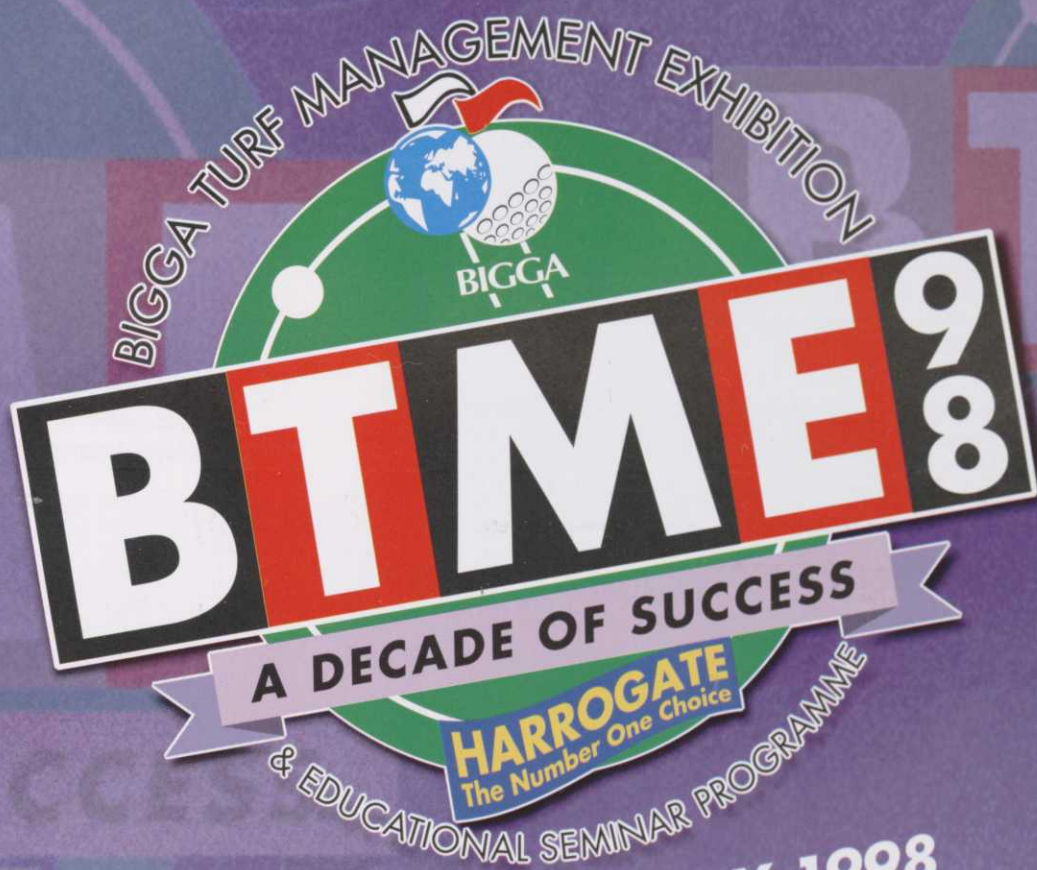
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