

## 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 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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