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■ The next edition of
Greenkeeper International
should be with you by March 15

GREENKEEPER

International

FEBRUARY 1997

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Some of the action from BTME 97 – a week not to be missed by anyone in our industry Pictures by Tim Moat and Scott MacCallum

WIN £50 CASH IN OUR BUYER'S GUIDE COMPETITION: TURN TO PAGE 44

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Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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

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Booking has already started for BTME 98 – for more details and an application form telephone 01347 838581

Perfection is just down the road...

Well that's it for another year. BTME has come and gone and, judging by the number of congratulatory messages from delegates and exhibitors, all the hard work leading up to Harrogate paid off.

That's extremely gratifying because the preparation work which, incidentally has already begun for BTME 98, takes up a great deal of time. As you know when preparing for Captain's Day, giving time to the small things as well as the large makes all the difference and that attention to detail is noticed by the people who matter.

It was while at Harrogate that I was told of this wonderful new golf course.

It sounds absolutely superb and I'm tempted to get my name down as quickly as possible.

From what I've heard it's open 365 days a year, even when there's three feet of snow. There's never any disease on the course and the greens never stimp at less than 10 – even in the winter.

The Course Manager must be some kind of magician because he has fewer staff than at my current club and the capital expenditure budget is just a fraction of ours but he always seems to be able to produce perfect results.

I gather he never needs to hollow tine or vertidrain and as for temporary greens... You can forget them. Never strays from the greens on which we were intended to play – and the holes are always perfectly painted.

I also believe the flower beds around the clubhouse rival Augusta National's.

You never see greens staff on the course but I'm told the club never has to pay any overtime. So I don't know when the work gets done.

It's also in line for a

Tour event sometime soon.

The whole place is something else. Outside, there's a dropping zone for your bag and it appears on the first tee with every club head gleaming and groove clean while you can see your face in your highly polished shoes. They even replace the spikes you lost the round before.

Inside the clubhouse there are saunas, jacuzzis, a swimming pool and gym. There are 10 snooker tables while you never pay more than £1.25 for a pint.

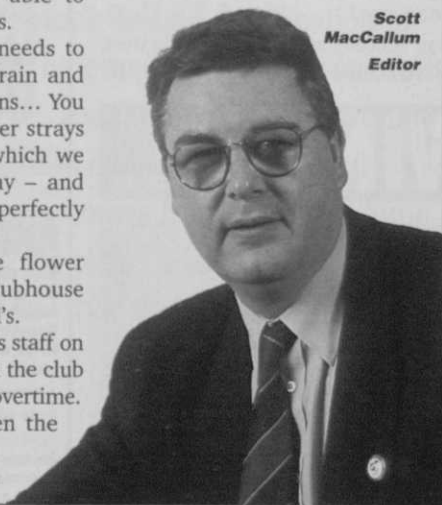
Oh yes. There's a team of volunteers to drive your car home for you if you've enjoyed yourself too much at the dinner dance.

When I heard all this it really whetted my appetite, more so, when I learned that the green fees are only £175 per year and there isn't a joining fee.

Obviously I wanted to meet the Course Manager, who speaks four languages and dances like Fred Astaire, but I was told he was back at the club personally trimming all the ladies' tees with nail clippers.

The name of this club? Well the guy at the bar referred to it only as "The Club Down the Road".

Sound familiar?



Scott
MacCallum
Editor

As I see it...

BY PAT MURPHY
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

It gives me great pleasure to be writing my first column as Chairman. I still remember receiving the call from Dean Cleaver just over a year ago asking if I would be his Vice Chairman. You could have knocked me down with a feather. The prospect of having the honour of being BIGGA's National Chairman in the year of the Association's 10th anniversary soon began to dawn on me. And now that day has arrived.

May I start by paying tribute to the magnificent work of Dean and Barry Heaney, who was last year's Past Chairman. Both are wonderful ambassadors for the Association and I have two great examples to follow.

My year has already actually started. There's no time to ease your way gently into the post in this job!

BTME was an outstanding success and I was overwhelmed by the warmth and sincerity of the congratulations I received from everyone. It makes you proud to be associated with such an industry.

I don't think we could have a better place for our annual get together than Harrogate, the atmosphere is very special and I'm sure BTME at Harrogate will go on getting better and better.

I'd like to thank the BIGGA staff for all their hard work during BTME. It's an occasion which highlights what a wonderful job they do for us.

BIGGA has certainly come a long way in the last 10 years and under Neil Thomas' guidance the Association is now only second behind the GCSAA in terms of membership. The importance of the Association and of BTME can be seen by the number of overseas visitors we had this year. I believe we had 17 different nationalities represented and in some cases large delegations attended.

I mentioned the GCSAA and I'm looking forward to going to Las Vegas this month for their exhibition and show where no doubt I will meet up with our five American Master Greenkeepers who do such a great job in promoting BIGGA.

As I look further ahead I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to meet many of your personally up and down the country.

Before I close I must mention the one disappointing element of BTME. It was the unfortunate duty of the Board on the final day to sit on disciplinary matters concerning two of our members. We must always be aware of the duty we have to our fellow members and the Association and behave in a professional manner. Remember it is possible to enjoy yourselves and present the right impression at the same time.



Open invitation to BIGGA members

Applications are invited from members to join BIGGA's Green-keeping Support team for the 1997 Open Championship at Royal Troon GC.

Those wishing to be considered must be Full members of the Association and should be available from Wednesday evening July 16 to Sunday evening July 20. The opportunity to take part in one of the most important golf events of the year is open both to team members from previous years and also those members who are wishing to participate for the first time.

Duties will be allocated on a rota basis over the four days of

play and include early morning course preparation, bunker raking while matches are in play and evening course maintenance. Members may also be asked to co-operate with the gathering of information for distribution in the Press Centre which helps raise the profile of the Association at the Championship. All members of the Support Team will be expected to remain on the course throughout the day and be available in the event of any unforeseen circumstances arising.

Accommodation, all meals and transport will be provided by the Association but successful applicants will be expected to pay their

own travelling expenses from home to the Championship and return.

Those members wishing to be involved should put their names forward in writing to John Pemberton, Administration Manager, at BIGGA HQ, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF, to be received no later than March 14.

All candidates' names will then be placed into a draw to select the successful applicants. If you have not been to this event before in this capacity and wish to learn more about what will be expected please do not hesitate to contact John. Tel: 01347 838581.

Dampener on bird box success

Steve Thompson, of John O'Gaunt GC, has some bitter sweet news about the success of the bird box he put up in association with the Hawk and Owl Trust of the golf course – see June '96 *Greenkeeper International*.

The box has been used but when it was checked by a member of the Hawk and Owl Trust the bodies of two barn owl chicks were found and there was no sign of the adult.

"It's great to know that the box was being used but sad that the chicks had died and that something had obviously happened to the adult," said Steve. "It appeared as though the chicks were about six weeks old," he added.

Incredibly another discovery in the box was a golf ball buried in among the pellets.

"I knew that the box had been hit a few times by golf balls but it's quite incredible that one actually found its way inside. It's unlikely that it had caused the deaths as it had obviously been there for some time."

A kestrel box has also been put up at John O'Gaunt – it is a different shape from the one used by the barn owls – but there has been no sign of kestrel activity to date.



Peter Bell, General Manager, Jacobsen: looking ahead to broader customer base

Jacobsen set to take over Iseki franchise in UK

Jacobsen UK Ltd and Massey Ferguson have completed negotiations under which the Iseki franchise for the UK will be transferred from MF to Jacobsen.

In a joint statement, the two companies said that under the MF umbrella, the Iseki business had earned a leading position as one of the top three suppliers of specialist grounds maintenance in the sector of the market up to 40hp. Now, complemented by Jacobsen's extensive range of high quality

turf maintenance equipment, the new arrangement will provide a broader customer base to ensure continued growth and offer users one of the widest choices of top quality products from a single supplier in the UK market.

Massey Ferguson will continue to serve the local authority and grounds maintenance markets with tractors over 40hp from its mainstream ranges available from the nationwide MF agricultural dealer network.

Association welcomes new staff

There were two new faces at BIGGA Headquarters at the beginning of 1997, Karen Conroy, who is Neil Thomas' new PA, and Tony Cocker, who joins the Association as a part time Accounts Assistant.



Karen is from Harrogate and joins BIGGA from Leeds-based company On Demand

Information, a supplier of Multi Media information.

A relatively new convert to the game of golf she has been playing for 12 months and like a great many others insists she has "more enthusiasm than ability". Her love of the game of golf was one of the main reasons she was delighted to join the Association as was her desire to move away from the large, impersonal type of working environment.

"In the short time I've been at Aldwark Manor I have found it extremely easy to fit in and I'm looking forward to a long and enjoyable career with BIGGA," said Karen, who fills the vacancy left by Vickie Peckham who left the Association late last year.



Tony is a fully qualified accountant and retired from his full time position of Company

Secretary and Accountant for York & County Press last year. Born a Lancastrian he has lived in York since 1979 but would vehemently reject any "Honorary Yorkshireman" status.

A keen footballer and cricketer in his youth he once scored an own goal past a legendary England amateur goalkeeper who never spoke to him again while he has also played cricket on the Test Ground of Old Trafford for North Lancashire Schools. While no longer playing he is still a keen follower of Blackburn Rovers and Lancashire CCC.

Other hobbies include an interest in railways and stamp collecting.

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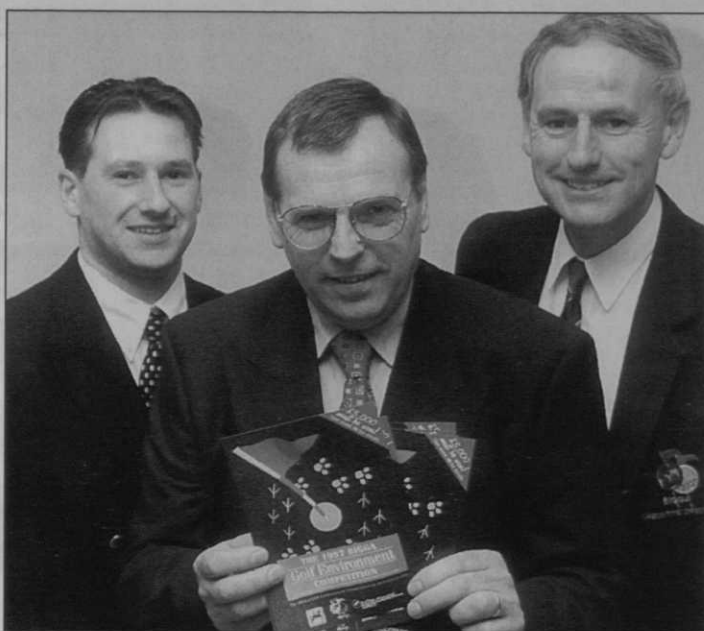
Boost for environment competition

BIGGA's commitment to golf course ecology and the environment has been further reinforced by the launch of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition in association with Amazone and Rhône Poulenc Amenity, which was announced at BTME 97.

The competition which was originally conceived and launched two years ago by Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone, encourages golf clubs to take an active interest in ecology and promote the existence of the many varieties of flora and fauna golf courses are natural homes to. It also encourages the reinstatement and management of historical aspects of golf courses, such as wetlands, heath and natural woodlands which provide habitat for many of our wildlife species.

"I must pay tribute to the wonderful initiative and commitment shown by Rod Baker and his team at Amazone in putting such a valuable competition in motion two years ago and I feel sure that Rhône Poulenc Amenity's involvement and the expertise we have at BIGGA will ensure that the competition will go from strength to strength," said BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

"I am delighted that our initiative in starting and developing the Golf Environment Competition is now to receive 'industry' support



Jonathan Hill, Rhône Poulenc Amenity's Market Development Manager; Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone Ground Care and Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA with entry forms for the competition

so that it can be maintained in future years, and that the positive involvement of Amazone Ground Care is to continue. It was always our intention that, having given this unique competition a two year track record we could invite support of this calibre to ensure its future," said Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone Ground Care.

"Rhône Poulenc Amenity is delighted to be sponsoring this

competition which will encourage and enhance the wildlife on many of our golf courses. The careful use of our products and golf course management that encourages wildlife do go hand in hand and our involvement with this competition fits well with the understanding that pesticides are an important tool in turf management," said Jonathan Hill, Rhône Poulenc Amenity's Market

Development Manager.

This competition is a further example of the commitment shown by BIGGA to ecological and environmental matters and comes at the same time as the Association launches its "Golf Course Ecology" video which highlights some of the wonderful projects currently under way on Britain's golf courses and gives other golf clubs ideas on how to promote good ecological practice on their own courses.

The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition in association with Amazone and Rhône Poulenc Amenity, is open to every golf club in the country. Entry forms will be available from BIGGA Headquarters and clubs will qualify for the final via five regional finals - South East, South West and South Wales, Midlands, Northern and Scotland.

There will be prizes for the Regional winners while the winning golf club nationally will receive £5,000 to be put to use in the further development of environmental and ecological projects on the golf course.

The current holder of the Amazone Environmental Award is Ridding Park GC, appropriately in Harrogate where the new BIGGA Golf Environment Competition in association with Amazone and Rhône Poulenc Amenity was launched.

BIGGA and Toro launch new award

Britain's Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers have something new to aim for in '97 with the launch of The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping.

The Award completes a unique double for The Toro Company as it already sponsors the Toro Student of the Year Award and the finals of both events will be held together at Aldwark Manor in late October.

The golf club of the winning Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper will win a world renowned Toro Greensmaster 3000 triple greens mower while the individual winner will earn a two week trip to the United States, taking in the Golf Course Superintendent of America Association Conference and Show as well as a trip to visit the Toro Company's Headquarters in Minneapolis and Riverside, California.

"To have one sponsor for both of BIGGA's top individual greenkeeping awards seems to make perfect sense and for that company to be Toro is a major boost for the greenkeeping industry. I

am sure that The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping will be a target for many of the top greenkeepers and golf clubs in the country," said BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

"We are delighted to increase our commitment to BIGGA and the greenkeeping industry through The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping which, combined with the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, gives the Toro Company the two most prestigious awards for greenkeepers in the country. It is also a further example of Toro's long term commitment to the development and education of the industry," said Bob Buckingham, Toro's European Sales Manager.

"I am delighted that the involvement which Lely has had in the shape of the Student of the Year Award has increased with the addition of The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping to Toro's portfolio. I have noticed a steady increase in the standard of the Student finals and am sure the ever improving greenkeeping



Graham Dale, left, Managing Director of Lely, Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA and Bob Buckingham, Toro's European Sales Manager with the magnificent prize on offer

standards generally will see the quality of The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping finals rise steadily as well," said Graham Dale, Managing Director of Lely, Toro's UK distributor, and a

man who has, and will continue to be heavily involved in the judging of the finals.

Brochures and nomination forms will be sent out to golf courses in February and March.

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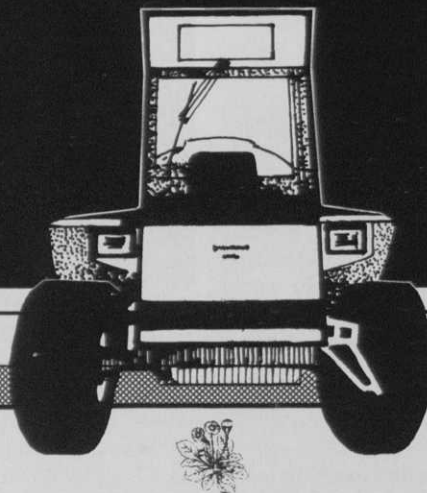
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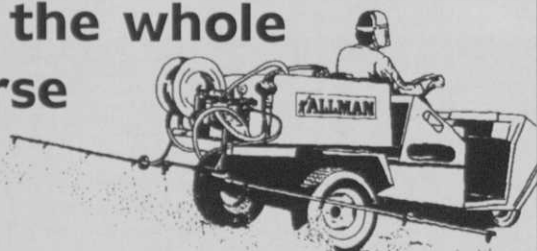
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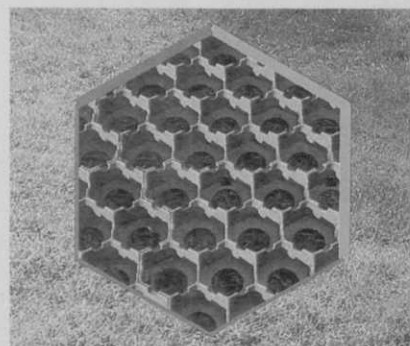
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Three more Golden Key sponsors join Fund

BTME 97 saw three new companies joining BIGGA as Golden Key sponsors.

Amazone Ground Care, the PGA European Tour and Bailey's of Norfolk received their Golden Key plaques from the Association's President, Viscount Whitelaw, at the Chairman's Lunch held in the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, on the Wednesday of BTME week.

"We are delighted to welcome Amazone Ground Care, the PGA European Tour and Bailey's of Norfolk as Golden Key sponsors. The future of the Education and Development Fund, which is such a vital component in the education of greenkeepers, is assured thanks to the generous contributions of our new and existing Golden and Silver Key sponsors," said BIGGA's Executive Director Neil Thomas.

Another company which received its plaque from Viscount Whitelaw was John Deere, which became a Golden Key sponsor during 1996.

Amazone Ground Care, the PGA European Tour and Bailey's of Norfolk join the other 14 Golden and six Silver Key sponsors.



Cut above the rest

The second Great BIGGA Bunker Competition at The Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes in the summer was won by Patricia Davies, of *The Times*, who was presented with her superb prize, a Hayter Harrier lawn mower, at The Belfry just before Christmas.

The media competition involved estimating how many bunkers would be found by players during the Championship – with the data collected by the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team. A member of the team is assigned to every match and rakes all the bunkers found by players, thus ensuring professionally raked sand and minimal delay in play.

The genuine winner of the competition should perhaps have been the course itself because, no doubt influenced by the winning number of 701 at St Andrews the year before, everyone was woefully short in his or her prediction.

Patricia's estimate of 1113 was the highest among those who entered, although still well short of the final figure of 1618 bunkers found by players during the Championship.

The Great BIGGA Bunker Competition will take place for the third year at Royal Troon in July when the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team will again be in action. The 50 strong team not only rakes the bunkers but assists the home club's greenkeeping staff with the general day to day preparation of the golf course and also collects interesting on-course news snippets for circulation in the Media Centre.

■ The picture shows Patricia Davies being presented with the Hayter Harrier lawn mower, valued at over £650, by Kim Macfie, left, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter. *Greenkeeper International* Editor Scott MacCallum looks on.

Make a date for the best in the west

There's lots to see, lots to try, much to learn and friends to meet. A combination hard to beat in the west country. On April 30, at Long Ashton GC, Westurf will provide all this free just for you... So don't miss out of the very best in the west.

Westurf is the first outdoor exhibition of the year where you can see every type of turf care machinery demonstrated on an area which includes fine and outfield turf. The products and accessories on show will cover your every need from seed to turf fertilisers to top dressers, tools to irrigation.

You are sure of a welcome on the BIGGA stand, and you can enter the competitions. Come in and talk to staff and your Regional Board. You can get advice from the experts on insurance and legal matters, and if it is education you need advice on, all the Region's colleges will be there to talk too. Westurf is for you. Make that note in your diary – April 30.

BIGGA flies the flag at conference in Portugal

In December BIGGA was represented by Chairman Dean Cleaver and Administration Manager John Pemberton at the 1996 PGA European Tour biennial Greenkeeper Conference held at The Meridian Penina Golf Hotel, Portugal. Headed by John Paramor and Richard Stillwell and jointly sponsored by Ransomes and Levington Horticulture, the conference brought together Course Managers from most of the leading European courses as well as delegates from as far away as Australia and Dubai.

During the week long event talks were presented on a wide range of topics including Health and Safety by Jon Allbutt; The Rules of Golf, by PGA European Tour Tournament Director, Andy McFee; Rebuilding the Henry Cot-

ton designed Penina course by agronomist, George Shiels; the Golf Professional's course expectations by former European number one, Ronan Rafferty, as well as presentations by the sponsors.

As with most events of its kind the conference also gave participants the opportunity to make new acquaintances, renew friendships, as well as exchange experiences and ideas. BIGGA Student of the Year runners-up John Bachelor and Noel Greene were particularly active in soaking up as much knowledge as possible in the presence of such high profile company.

"The conference proved to be an invaluable opportunity to discuss current greenkeeping issues as well as strengthen relationships between the PGA European Tour and BIGGA" said John Pemberton.

(mis)adventures of Gordon the Greenkeeper



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Yet another benefit of BIGGA membership



My first trip to BTME will not be my last

I felt I must write and congratulate all involved with the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar programme. I am ashamed to say that this was my first visit but it certainly will not be my last. Unfortunately Martin Gunn (Course Manager) and I could only stay for two days. Martin because of a construction programme and myself as my own business does need me occasionally.

The event is run on the most professional lines and the lectures I attended were extremely well presented and very interesting. Having sat through lectures presented by American, European and British lecturers it was fascinating to realise that we all seem to agree on what is best for British golf courses. All we have to do now is to educate the golfer.

Over the seven years I have been involved in Golf Course Management, Martin and I have visited many clubs and spoken to green staff all over the British Isles. It has always been worthwhile and I have always been shown great courtesy and patience. Our visit to Harrogate gave us the opportunity to renew old friendships and to make new ones. We learnt as much in the bar and over the dinner table as in the Seminar.

If only club golfers appreciated the asset they have in their greenstaff. I am always impressed with the dedication and professionalism of the people responsible for our golf courses. They deserve all the support they now receive from enlightened golfers.

Malcolm Peake, Chairman of Green, Temple Golf Club

Chest a minute...

It is of the utmost importance that an esteemed organ such as *Greenkeeper International* takes an active role in making its readership aware of Health and Safety matters and the magazine should be applauded for the considerable effort taken to highlight such issues.

Unfortunately one area seems to have been completely missed. Using the photographic evidence in both the magazine and the 10th anniversary calendar, it seems that a combination of exposure to Longlife Fertiliser combined with paint and a strong light renders parts of the body temporarily invisible. This must have been embarrassing for the model, although as the invisibility seems to be very localised in the chest area use of a warm vest should suffice until her nipples reappear.

The question that needs answering is what does the aforesaid combination of elements do the male anatomy? Am I to be doomed to a life of worry in case one limb disappears half way through a presentation to my committee? If two limbs disappear, am I to expect them to reappear one at a time, or are they like buses and travel in pairs? When they return will they be on the correct side and be pointing in the same direction? I am sure that you will agree that this is an area of great concern.

I plead with you to continue the magazine's crusading approach in order to bring sufficient pressure to bear on the manufacturers of either the paint or the fertiliser to research all possible side effects. Secondly, could I suggest that the young lady in the photograph be contacted and invited, as my guest, to the first of Kent Section's golf days. I am sure that the extra large turnout would enable us to collect a considerable amount of money towards a disability fund for her.

Richard Page, Shortlands GC, Bromley

A job well done

I would like to direct this correspondence to the entire BIGGA staff and the general membership.

Our most recent visit to the BTME was to date the best conference I have ever attended due to two factors. Number one was the manner in which the staff attended to every detail in its planning and the follow through. You are all to be congratulated on a job well done. Second is the fellowship among the membership and the fellowship among the membership and the relationship one feels between the organisation and other greenkeepers.

Each year, since my first BIGGA conference in Ayr, Scotland, I return to the States anxious to spread the word of what wonderful colleagues we have overseas in the golf industry and how welcome they make you feel in their country.

A very special thanks to Barry Heaney, Dean Cleaver and Patrick Murphy, who, as did the BIGGA staff, went out of their way to make my wife's visit an extremely enjoyable one also.

A most sincere thank you, one and all, for your hospitality and friendship.

Bill Montague, MG, Oakwood Club, Cleveland, Ohio

Help me out of a hole

I am a third year Golf Course Management student at Cannington College and for my major assignment this year I am studying bunker placement and design. I would greatly appreciate any information relating to the subject and examples (sketches, description, planner etc) or exceptional and different bunkering and bunkers. This would include those which are considered to have been placed fairly or unfairly, those which have been removed and why and why new bunkers have been introduced to a course.

The help of any greenkeeper who has been involved in such work would be of great benefit to me.

Paul Bawden, 12 Ruth Close, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1HQ



Delegates in the 'Communication with Committees' workshop during the Learning Experience

What a majestic week in Harrogate! Or was it a week in the Majestic? I suppose the answer is both. The Learning Experience goes from strength to strength



Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

and, thanks to the continued support of Ransomes, we are able to offer delegates an entertaining and educational week.

It would not be possible to list all that happened during the week but I have tried to highlight some of the more memorable events that took place. More than 150 delegates and 14 speakers from five different countries made sure that the Education Conference was a success.

It was pleasing to see that the majority of delegates were still in their seats, late on Tuesday afternoon to watch Dr Paul Miller use a computer generated slide show to show how Elmwood College had conducted the rootzone testing for their new golf course and to hear Dr Marty Petrovic, from Cornell University, speaking about managing compaction. Thank you to all speakers at the conference who made sure that the week started off so well. More than 70 greenkeepers were taking part in four workshops while the conference took place. From the feedback that we received, I know that everyone enjoyed themselves, even though some people had sore brains at the end of each day. Thank you to all speakers at the Workshops.

A special event took place on Tuesday evening when the Toro Company held a reunion dinner for all past winners and runners-up of the Student of the Year Competition. This was a most enjoyable event and it was pleasing to see so many old faces and catch up on what had happened over the seven years since the Competition started.

Tuesday saw us move the Learning Experience to the International Centre and the Kings Suite for the Seminar Programme. The seminar programme was varied and the talks were delivered most professionally. The compactness of the Kings Suite compared to the Royal Hall ensured that all speakers could guarantee a responsive audience who gave a lot of feedback.

The launch of the new BIGGA video, Golf Course Ecology, took place on Wednesday afternoon with more than 20 members of the Press being given a chance to preview

the video and question BIGGA staff, Bob Taylor, from STRI, and Roger Greenwood, from Goodwood Productions. The feedback so far has been excellent and if you have not yet obtained your copy,

they are available from BIGGA HQ priced at £9.99 to members and £19.99 to non-members. The Press Conference also saw the launch of the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition, in association with Amazone and Rhone Poulenc Amenity Care. This competition, which has been very successfully run by Amazone for two years should be even more successful in the future. Almost 60 people asked for application forms, during Harrogate week. Further details will be sent to golf clubs and appear in this magazine next month.

Another new competition was launched at BTME. The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping joins the Toro Student of the Year Award as a major competition in BIGGA's calendar. This new competition which aims to reward the winning greenkeeper and his/her golf club is designed to recognise that greenkeeping excellence can only be achieved if clubs and greenkeepers work together. Prizes reflect this with the winning Head Greenkeeper/ Course Manager attending the GCSAA conference and show in California, in 1998 and visiting the two Toro factories and the winning club receiving a Toro Greensmaster Triplex Ride on Mower. Watch out for more details in this magazine in the very near future.

Finally, I am starting to plan the Learning Experience for January 1998. If you know of any speaker or would like a particular subject covered then please let me know.

■ The next Master Greenkeeper examination will take place on March 20-21. Anyone wishing to sit the examination should contact Ken Richardson at BIGGA HQ.



The 'Levelling and Surveying' workshop

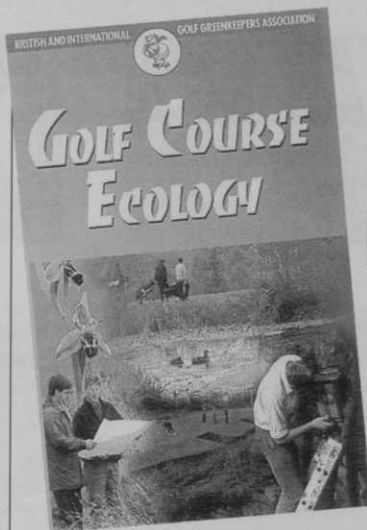
Kitchen firm cooks up new job for Louise

BIGGA's Sales and Marketing Executive, Louise Lunn, left the Association on a high after this year's successful BTME.

After four years at BIGGA, during which time she has been responsible for selling advertising on *Greenkeeper International* and the organisation and smooth running of BTME, Louise is leaving to take up the post of Assistant Marketing Manager with Leeds-based Symphony plc, one of the country's leading fitted kitchen specialists.

"Louise's work on behalf of the Association and, in particular, on BTME at Harrogate has been exemplary and certainly contributed to the great success the Exhibition has become. On behalf of everyone at BIGGA, and I am sure her many friends in the industry, I wish her well for the future," said BIGGA's Executive Director Neil Thomas.

"I'd like to thank all my friends in the industry for some super times over the last four years and also thank all those who contributed to the wonderful present I received from the industry during BTME," said Louise.



BIGGA's latest video "Golf Course Ecology" – launched in Harrogate at BTME 97 – reflects the growing importance the Association is placing on golf course ecology and the environment in general.

The video, which complements the book "A Practical Guide to the Ecological Management of the Golf Course" produced last year, examines the environmental and ecological techniques employed by some of the country's top golf courses including Royal Birkdale, Lindrick, Temple and Rudding Park – winner of the recent Amazon Environmental competition. It also hears views of the importance of the environment in the game of golf from some of the game's top stars. The video is endorsed by English Nature, the

Video launch highlights concern with ecology

Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Trust, the Sports Turf Research Institute and the Greenkeepers Training Committee.

"As an Association BIGGA is well aware of the ecological benefits a golf course can bring to an area. Our superb new video "Golf Course Ecology" is an opportunity to show others many of the important initiatives already being undertaken by greenkeepers up and down the country and perhaps gives some hints to other golf clubs about what can be done," explained BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

The video was financed by BIGGA's Education and Development Fund to which the Association's Golden and Silver Key sponsors contribute.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ BIGGA's Building Fund received a major boost with the presentation of a cheque for £1000 from the South West and South Wales Region.

"We are absolutely delighted to receive this valuable contribution from the South West and South Wales Region as we move closer towards our goal of new Headquarters Offices," said BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

■ Winner of the annual Kubota award for the Best Machinery Student at Lancashire's Myerscough College is Mark Aynsley.

Mark recently graduated from the National Diploma in Turf Science and Sports ground Management course.

■ David Lawton has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Trentham GC. He was previously First Assistant.

■ Stephen Pike, Head Greenkeeper at Trentham Park GC, Stoke-on Trent, died suddenly in mid January. He was 30.

■ Apologies to Ian Harrison, of Mendip Spring GC, whose name appeared in the Golf Course Management Date Planner under the list of winners of the Miracle Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award as "Ian Harrington".

■ Standard Golf's BTME '97 catalogue entry in the January issue of *Greenkeeper International* was incorrect. It should have read Standard Golf (UK) Ltd 20b Buckingham Avenue, Slough, Berkshire SL1 4QA. Tel. 01753 537410. Fax. 01753 534663.

Miracle Professional to merge with Scotts-Sierra

Exercising the option built into the partnership deal set up at the inception of Miracle Garden Care, The Scotts Company of Marysville, Ohio, USA, has purchased the other two thirds of the company for an undisclosed sum. Miracle Professional will merge with Scotts-Sierra (UK) Ltd as part of Scotts International Division, headed by Robert Stohler.

All existing brands will continue to be actively marketed in the UK, including Longlife fertiliser, Casoron, Touchdown and Daconil Turf.

Robert Stohler, as Managing Director of Miracle Garden Care Ltd and head of Scotts International will be based at Godalming and will replace John Wilson.

All other existing personnel

will continue to be employed by the new owners, including Roger Mossop, who heads the turf and amenity business and Steven Gent running the horticulture sector.

"The products and people in the Miracle team will complement the existing expertise to give us formidable strength in the horticulture and amenity markets," said Robert Stohler.



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THAT WAS THE V

BTME 97 could lay claim to be the most successful yet.

People came from far and wide to Harrogate '97. Friendships were forged and deals were struck but most of all people enjoyed themselves.

The Learning Experience in association with Ransomes brought some of the finest speakers on their subjects to the stage while the Exhibition was hailed as the best yet – by both visitors and exhibitors.

It was also the busiest ever. And that's official. A total of 5,486 delegates visited over the two and a half days. That's 27% up on last year. No wonder you could hardly move! It was also pleasing to meet so many visitors from overseas – Harrogate resembled the United Nations with 17 nationalities represented, including some from the golfing outposts of Iceland and the Czech Republic.

The week was a great success and a superb launching pad for BIGGA's 10th anniversary celebrations. Even the singing of the BIGGA Boys improved on last year's performance at the Karaoke night!

The week ended with the deafening sound of people scratching dates into the diaries – January 21-23, 1998 for BTME 98 with the Learning Experience in association with Ransomes in the shape of the Education Conference kicking off at the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate on Monday January 19.

See you all there!



Bridie Redican, Richard Andrews, Bob Buckingham and Graham Dale at the reunion

REUNION FOR TORO WINNERS

For the first time since the start of the Competition in 1989, Toro Student of the Year Competition winners, runners up, representatives from Toro, in Europe, England, and the USA, Lely and the PGA European Tour and Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education Officer met at a reunion dinner in Harrogate.

Mark Procter, who is now Golf Estate Manager at the St Pierre Golf and Country Club, was the winner in 1989. Mark, who was the Course Superintendent at Portal Golf Club, in Cheshire, back in 89, has nothing but praise for the competition and feels that all college students should be encouraged to enter. Mark has also been busy off the golf course. He married in 1993 and he has three children.

David Norton, Course Manager at Forest Pines Golf Club, North Lincolnshire, was the winner in 1990. He was an assistant greenkeeper at Beverley Golf Club in 1990 and has also worked at The Belfry, being involved in the English Open and Ryder Cup in 1993. David married in 1995.

The two runners-up in 1990 could not attend. Guy Woods, who is Course Manager at Bath Golf Club, could not attend as his wife is due to give birth at any time and Michael Wattam, Deputy Course Manager at Loch Lomond Golf Club was unavailable.

Brian Storey was the winner in 1991. Brian nominated by Elmwood College, was a greenkeeper at Silloth Golf Club and is now the Course Manager. Brian's wife is also due to give birth and he was unable to attend. John Waite, runner-up in '92, is now Head Greenkeeper at Scarthgillwell Golf Club near Tadcaster. He was the first assistant at Temple Newsam Golf Club in '93. He has completed his education to Phase 4 City and Guilds and is now married with a 3 year old daughter.

Barry Neville, the winner in 1992, is yet another whose wife is due to give birth. Barry is the Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Stanmore Golf Club. Anthony Gooch, runner-up in 92, is the Head Greenkeeper at Torrington Golf Club. Tony visited Penina for the PGA Tour Conference, the Scottish Open at Gleneagles and the German Masters in Stuttgart as his runner up prize. The other runner up, Paul Brannan could not be contacted.

Nineteen Ninety Three saw the first and only lady

to win the Competition, Bridie Redican. Bridie has moved several times in four years and is now the Administrator with the Golf Course Superintendents of Ireland Association. She is married and has a four month old son. Jonathan Oldnow, is still single, is still at Coventry Hearsall Golf Club but he is now Deputy Course Manager. Richard Andrews is still at Highgate Golf Club. Richard, who is now married expects his wife to give birth in late February.

Euan Grant was the winner in 1994. Euan moved from Effingham Golf Club to Royal Jersey soon after winning the Competition. After gaining valuable experience as the Deputy Course Manager, Euan moved back to England to take charge of a new course being built at Westerham in Kent. Euan has also married since winning. Margeir Vilhjalmsdottir returned to his native Iceland, and became a father. He is now Course Manager at Reykjavik Golf Club. Margeir visited La Manga and Wentworth for the World Matchplay as part of his prize.

Byron Thomas was First Assistant at Morlais Golf Club in 1994. Byron, who celebrated his 21st birthday on the day of the Competition final is now at Celtic Manor.

James Braithwaite not only won the competition in 1995, he also had to beat the weather to get to the University of Massachusetts in the severe American weather of January 1996. James has moved from the Hallgarth Hotel and is now the Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Long Ashton Golf Club.

Unfortunately, the runners up for 1995 and 1996 could not make the dinner, nor could the 1996 winner, Fintan Brennan who is out in Massachusetts on the start of his eight week trip to the USA.

Bob Buckingham, European Marketing Manager for Toro welcomed everyone to the dinner and said how pleased he was to see that so many student greenkeepers had benefited from the Competition. Although some slight changes had been made to the rules of the Competition and runners up prizes for 1997, he said that he was sure that the next five years would see an increase in entries as more greenkeepers and golf clubs saw the benefits of education and training in general and of the Toro Student of the Year Competition in particular.

WEEK THAT WAS!



PICTURES BY TIM MOAT AND SCOTT MacCALLUM, with a little help from John Pemberton and Ken Richardson



■ Jacobsen E-Z-GO Textron and PGA European Tour Courses plc concluded a lucrative agreement to supply equipment into the six courses owned by European Tour Courses plc during BTME.

Sean Kelly, Managing Director of PGA European Tour Courses plc, flew to Harrogate to sign the agreement with Peter Bell, General Manager of Jacobsen E-Z-GO Textron UK.

The three British courses which will benefit from the agreement which will give Jacobsen the status of official supplier are Collingtree Park, Stockley Park and the Tytherington Club, which has recently been bought by PGA European Tour Courses plc. The others are in Sweden, Germany and Portugal.

"We look forward to a long and successful partnership with PGA European Tour Courses and we are confident our equipment will exceed their expectations for quality and performance. The association will be a prestigious partnership for both parties," said Glynn Patrick, Managing Director of European Operations for Jacobsen E-Z-GO Textron.

"PGA European Tour Courses are very pleased with the partnership and look forward to an increasingly close and productive relationship with Jacobsen E-Z-GO," said Sean Kelly.

European Tour Courses plc, of which the PGA European Tour owns 20%, is hoping to own as many as 20 courses by the year 2000. Picture shows Peter Bell (left) with Sean Kelly.

■ The occasion of BIGGA's 10th anniversary was the perfect occasion for the first ten National Chairmen to meet for dinner.

As you might imagine there was much to talk about and the dinner stretched on long into the night.

Back row, from left, Dean Cleaver ('96), Barry Heaney ('95), John Millen ('94), John Crawford ('93), Roy Kates ('92). front row, from left, Walter Woods ('87), Jack McMillan ('88), Paddy McCarron ('89), Ivor Scoones ('90) and George Malcolm ('91).



PAT SUCCEEDS DEAN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION

The BIGGA Annual General Meeting held in the Majestic Hotel on the Wednesday of BTME week was the occasion for Dean Cleaver formerly to hand over the Chairmanship of the Association to Pat Murphy.

As BIGGA chalked up 10 years since its formation the AGM was an opportunity for Executive Director Neil Thomas to report on a successful year in the run up to the 10th anniversary and outline what the coming year has in store while the Association's first Chairman Walter Woods spoke on where the Association had come from and his pride at how it has developed.

Walter then took up his place as a Guardian of the Association, replacing the retiring Bill Lawson, alongside the other Guardian, Brian Gilbert of the R&A.

Gordon Child, of the South West and South Wales Region, became Vice Chairman of the Association while Barry Heaney, '96 Past Chairman, and Harry Diamond, of Scotland, retired from the Board of Management to be replaced by Robin Greaves, of the South West and South Wales, and Jim Paton, of Scotland.



The first ever AGM of the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations (FEGGA) was held in the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate during BTME.

A measure of the progress made since a meeting was held at the same time the previous year to look at the possibilities of forming such a Federation can be made by the fact that over 50 attended the AGM and 12 of the 16 affiliated National Associations were represented.

A wide ranging discussion covered the annual membership fee and the need to assist smaller associations and the agreement on the constitution.

It was also agreed that the interim Board

electd at an earlier meeting remain in position for another year until the Federation has established itself.

Member Associations are Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Northern Ireland, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland while later during BTME a representative from Portugal indicated the desire of his National Association to join.

The picture shows the FEGGA Board. L-R Roland Favrat, Elise Jarvenen, Per-Olof Ljung, Vice Chairman, Dean Cleaver, Chairman and Claus-Detlef Ratjen.



The response to Pattisson's 100/100 Club was exceptionally good at the Show. The Club was conceived to celebrate Pattisson's 100th anniversary and provide 100 golf clubs with £100 to put towards BTME or a BIGGA training course.

To encourage 100/100 Club members to visit the Pattisson stand the 25th, 50th and 75th member to make an appearance received a gift. The lucky three members were 25th Derek Neave, of Brough GC, Hull; 50th Ian Beech, of Newcastle Under Lyme GC and 75th, Doug Fernie, of Epsom GC. They each received a Ryder Cup presentation box produced by Pattisson's sister company. Doug is pictured receiving his gift from Northern Area Sales Manager Peter Marshall.



MASTER GREENKEEPERS COLLECT THEIR PRAISE

The ranks of the Master Greenkeepers were added to at BTME with the presentation of three more plaques – bringing the number of greenkeepers worldwide with the distinction to 14.

One of the three, Mark Broughton, of Morecambe GC, had previously been presented with his Master Greenkeeper blazer at The Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes last year but the other two Ian McMillan, of Balbirnie Park GC, Markinch, Scotland and Gary Grigg, Royal Poinciana GC and the immediate Past President of the GCSAA, received both their blazers and their plaques at Harrogate.



Entertainment of varying qualities was provided during week by the BIGGA Boys, the BIGGA Girls, Laine Kennedy and Bobby Davro.



■ Laurence Pithie, MG, led a strong delegation from American Golf (UK) Ltd, the largest golf operating company in the world.

"BTME was an excellent opportunity for us to meet all our suppliers under one roof as well as meeting colleagues to discuss business in general," explained Laurence, Director of Maintenance for the company in the UK.

■ One of the busiest stands on the Wednesday was Miracle Professional's who had Danni, the Miracle Girl, who stars in BIGGA's calendar and Miracle's latest adverts, as a special guest.

Danni, who by coincidence appeared on a certain page of a certain newspaper on the same day as she visited BTME, spent her time signing posters of herself for visitors.

She is pictured with Miracle Boys, Steve Hall and Johnny Beck.



The prize draw, open to any member who had introduced two new members to the Association, was won by David Murdoch, Head Greenkeeper at Liphook GC, in Hampshire. David, whose name was drawn by Viscount Whitelaw wins a £600 holiday voucher.



■ Ransomes announced at BTME that it is to launch its own range of compact tractors onto the European markets during 1997. This initiative results from an agreement reached with a major producer of compact tractors.

To be manufactured in Ransomes corporate colours and styling, the tractor range will be marketed and supported fully by the company through its existing commercial distributor and dealer network throughout the British Isles and mainland Europe. Encompassing a power band from 18 to 45hp (13.4 –

UNVEILED

New products seen for the first time

33.5kW), the new Ransomes compact tractors will complement the company's current line-up of professional grass-cutting and turf maintenance machinery, adding strength and value to the Ransomes product range.

"This move has been planned for some time and reinforces our position as the world's most complete supplier of grass and turf-care equipment," commented Ransomes' Sales and Marketing director, Andrew Sunaway.

It is planned that the first Ransomes compact tractors will be available in Britain during the Spring in time for the coming season. Full information on the new range, together with model

specifications and prices, will be released as soon as details are finalised.



■ John Deere showed a new walk-behind version, of the Aercore 1000 and 1500 tractor mounted aerators – the Aercore 800 – at BTME '97

"This is its first public showing in Europe, and we have chosen

the BIGGA event to get initial reactions to the product from greenkeepers and other turf professionals," said Graham Williams, John Deere's Commercial & Consumer Equipment Division Manager.

"The Aercore 800 is going into full production in February, and is due to be available here in March or April." Like its stable-mates, the self-propelled Aercore 800 is designed for aerating golf greens and fairways, and other fine turf areas. It features an 18hp Kohler petrol engine with four selectable forward gears, a working width of 81cm (32in) and adjustable depth control down to 100mm (4in).

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There is an 'operator presence system' with electric raise and lower controls, and top speed for transport is 3.5mph. Overall weight is around 392kg (865lb).

There are three sizes of tine holder available to provide the widest possible choice of hole spacings. The special Flexi-Link tine design produces clean, tidy holes with minimal scuffing at the hole top, using a variety of solid, open-sided or hollow tines.



■ A new powerful Kubota BL770 blower attachment was on show at BTME'97. Attached to one of

the new Super B compact tractors it is designed to help greenkeepers and amenity managers solve the problem of debris clearance.

Its 200km/hr air blast is designed to clear loose and lightweight debris from golf courses, sports ground, roadways and parkland or if preferred the operator can blow debris into rows for collection and disposal later.

Three point linkage makes attachment to selected Kubota compact tractors easy and height adjustments can be made according to grass length. The BL770 also features an anti-scalp roller to prevent tUI, scuffing especially on uneven surfaces.

An optional 180 degree diverter chute is also available to enable the operator to change the air delivery from left to right. There is also a hand-held wander hose option.

Price ex VAT: £2550

■ If BIGGA's 10th anniversary is not enough to celebrate, there are four other good reasons why being a member of BIGGA is such good value.



First it was the introduction of the BIGGA Year Planner sponsored by Toro. This welcome addition to every head greenkeepers office provides an 'at-a-glance' view of the complete year and a means of recording a wide range of dates and important reminders.

The Miracle sponsored Desk Planner also provides a versatile office aid which enables greenkeepers to make record those important telephone calls, detail weekly appointments, convert weights and measures, plan the weeks work and of course scribble

down any thoughts that may come into the head.

Complementing the Desk Planner is the Hardi sponsored golf course management Date Planner which provides Head Greenkeepers with their own Diary. The Date Planner includes a useful reference section on BIGGA's ten years of growth, provides a month to view calendar to record day to action plans and activities and details important events in the golfing calendar. Featuring a 'wipe-clean' cover, the Date Planner is both attractive to look at yet serviceable as a day to day work tool.

Last but not least is BIGGA's first calendar, introduced to celebrate the Associations tenth anniversary. Supported by twelve leading names in the golf course supply industry, the BIGGA calendar is both useful and attractive, either in the work place or in the home.

■ The Toro Company announced a two-year warranty on its entire commercial equipment product line effective from the beginning of this year.

The worldwide warranty covers Reelmaster, Greenmaster and

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Groundsmaster mowers, Multi Pro utility vehicles, aerators, top-dressers, sprayers, sweepers and all other commercial products. Toro's product line has applications in the golf, government/municipal, landscape, outdoor, recreation, sports field and other turf management markets.

"This warranty decision shows our customers around the globe that Toro is committed to manufacturing quality, design expertise and meeting service expectations," said Dan Stiller, International Product Manager. "Turf maintenance professionals can depend on Toro to be there to support them – no matter where they are located on the map."

Toro has achieved ISO 9001 certification for its Commercial Business and Riverside facilities, and ISO 9002 certification for the Tomah Commercial and Shakopee parts production facilities.



■ Levington Horticulture launched two new fine turf fertilizers at BTME,

both of them featuring a high potash to nitrogen ratio. These new products are additions to the comprehensive Levington Greenmaster range of fine turf fertilisers, bringing the number of Greenmaster formulations to ten.

Greenmaster NK (12:0:12 plus 2% iron and 3.3% magnesium) and Greensmaster Double K (7:0:14 plus 4% iron) have been introduced to the range to meet the increasing demand for such fertilisers from greenkeepers caring for sand green systems. Importantly, both products have been formulated with a zero phosphate content in order to eliminate risk of encouraging *Poa annua* establishment.

Levington also introduced new Sportsmaster Fairway at BTME. Sportsmaster Fairway is a spring and summer feed with a balanced



formulation (12:6:9 plus 3% MgO) for a fast sustained green up without excessive growth.

■ Two new Charterhouse Verti-Drain machines (pictured above) had their European debut at BTME.

These two new models replace the existing Popular Verti-Drain and the best-selling Greens Verti-Drain.

The two new models are both faster over the ground than the previous machines and can be operated without creep gearboxes being fitted to the prime mover. The re-design of these machines has been specifically focused on providing the Greenkeeper and Groundsman with an excellent finish to their turf after the shatter tining process.



■ Allen's new Lawncycler hover mower is a unique addition to the grass cutting machinery market – and will be available to the professional user in March 1997.

This mulching mower has a patented, Grass Recycling System, an 18" cut and is powered by an easy start 4 stroke 4hp Briggs & Stratton engine, designed for quieter operation and minimum pollution.

Lawncycler's GRS (Grass Recycling System) obviates the need for grass collection and is ideal for keeping grass healthy and fresh looking. This feature is of special use to greenkeepers and groundsman when very dry weather conditions, such as those experienced in this country over the last few years, persist for many months.

Ideal for bunker and tee surrounds, grass can be cut with minimum effort, but maximum manoeuvrability, using Lawncycler (rsp £449.95 inc VAT).

■ This year's BTME saw the launch of the latest, state-of-the-art (of grass) varieties and mixtures from Barenbrug.

Comprehensive details of the range can be found in the 1997 Amenity Grass Seed Mixtures handbook, now available from Barenbrug. But BTME showcased one mixture and two varieties specifically.

BAR EXTREME has been developed for extreme wear tolerance, for applications such as golf tees, tennis courts, cricket wickets and fairways. This special blend of perennial ryegrass gives a compact, fine-leaved, clean-cutting appearance, which is able to withstand close mowing and has been formulated to give rapid establishment from overseeding.

BARCAMP5IA is a unique new species of tufted hairgrass, which Barenbrug has developed especially for shaded situations. It therefore addresses the problem that can arise from your back lawns to tree-lined parks. Not to mention the increasingly talked about situation of shade in sporting arenas. BARCAMP5IA has been extensively tested and trialed at the STRI, Bingley, and at Barenbrug's own research station in Holland with excellent results. Highly wear tolerant, this variety has a light green colour and a broad leaf similar to smooth-stalked meadow grass.

■ Huxley launched its brand new Greenstar ride-on greensmower at BTME.

Paul Huxley unveiled the Greenstar and explained that Huxley's was the only all-British ride-on currently being produced in this country.

Boasting steering and quickly detachable cutting units, exceptional traction and stability, permanent all wheel drive, power steering and a Perkins 20.3hp diesel engine the Greenstar will sell for £17,500 without groomers and £19,999 with the groomers.

Appropriately the first purchaser was Alresford GC. Huxley's home base club and Head Greenkeeper Mark Webb, who assisted with some of the research and development was at BTME to look over his new machine.

■ Pattison's launched its own brand of line marking paint at BTME.

Premier Line has been specially formulated for use on golf courses and sports grounds and is not harmful to the atmosphere, the user or fragile root systems.

It has won an Environmental Award for Innovation in Aerosols as neither the product nor the propellant gases contain lead, chlorinated solvents, or chloro-fluorocarbons.

Premier Line is available in six colours – white, yellow, blue, green, orange and red and also available are the handheld, two wheel and four wheel applicators.

■ Due to lack of space more of the new products launched at BTME will be published next month.



| Product | N P K | Fe | Mg | S | Seaweed Extract | 'Didin' | Coverage sq. m | Usage Period |
|-----------------|--------|------|------|-------|-----------------|---------|----------------|--------------|
| Spring & Summer | 14 3 7 | - | 2.0% | 8.5% | ✓ | ✓ | 500-710 | Mar-Aug |
| Autumn Feed | 5 5 15 | 1.5% | 2.0% | 8.4% | ✓ | - | 710 | Aug-Nov |
| Finegreen NK | 15 0 5 | - | 2.0% | 10.0% | ✓ | ✓ | 500-710 | Mar-Aug |
| Nitrogen + Iron | 8 0 0 | 2.5% | - | 12.0% | ✓ | - | 500-710 | Mar-Aug |



| Product | N P K | Fe | Mg | S | Seaweed Extract | 'Didin' | Coverage sq. m | Usage Period |
|-----------------|----------|----|------|-------|-----------------|---------|----------------|--------------|
| Spring & Summer | 11 6 9 | - | 1.0% | 12.0% | ✓ | ✓ | 500-710 | Mar-Aug |
| Autumn Feed | 10 10 15 | - | 1.5% | 9.0% | ✓ | ✓ | 710 | Aug-Nov |
| Nitrogen | 25 0 0 | - | - | 10.0% | ✓ | ✓ | 500-710 | Mar-Aug |



| Product | N P K | S | Herbicides | Coverage sq. m | Usage Period |
|-----------------|---------|-------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Spring & Summer | 9 7 7 | 14.0% | - | 355-710 | Mar-Aug |
| 'Cleanrun' | 9 7 7 | 14.0% | 2,4-D + mecoprop | 355 | Apr-Aug |
| Autumn Feed | 4 12 12 | 7.0% | - | 355-710 | Aug-Nov |



| Product | N P K | Fe | Mg | S | Seaweed Extract | Herbicides | Coverage sq. m | Usage Period |
|---------------|--------|------|------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 'Invigorator' | 4 0 8 | 4.0% | 2.0% | 7.5% | ✓ | - | 710 | Feb-Nov |
| 'Mini-Gold' | 31 0 0 | - | - | 27.0% | - | - | 830-1670 | Mar-Jul |
| Preseeder | 8 12 8 | - | 2.0% | 9.0% | ✓ | - | 500-710 | Mar-Oct |
| 'Renovator' | 8 1 1 | 3.0% | 2.0% | 12.0% | - | 2,4-D + dicamba | 355 | Apr-Aug |

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The 'Longlife' range of high quality fertilizers from Miracle Professional provides many benefits for today's turf manager, and with application rates as low as 35 g per sq. m are very cost-effective.

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FINE TURF RANGE

reducing the risk of scorch and mower pick-up. They contain additional trace elements beneficial to turf, along with sulphur which can help in the maintenance of soil pH.

The 'Longlife' Fine Turf Range includes a zero

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SPORTSFIELD RANGE

and helps to reduce the growth flush immediately after application.

Fairways, tees, outfields and other recreational areas are supported by two 'Longlife' ranges. All the Sportsfield products contain 'Didin' for a slower release of nitrogen, and reduction in nitrogen

Longlife

STANDARD RANGE

'Mini-Gold' provides slow release nitrogen for up to 14 weeks in the form of sulphur coated urea mini-prills. Preseeder gives the ideal balance for establishing seed and new turf, whilst 'Longlife Renovator' feeds, weeds and kills moss all in one

Longlife

SPECIALITIES RANGE

With the exception of 'Mini-Gold' all 'Longlife' fertilizers are mini-granules, which breakdown within days of application allowing rapid uptake of nutrients but

phosphate fertilizer and certain formulations contain the nitrification inhibitor 'Didin'. This provides nitrogen over a longer period of time (an average of 10 weeks)

and helps to reduce the growth flush immediately after application. Fairways, tees, outfields and other recreational areas are supported by two 'Longlife' ranges. All the Sportsfield products contain 'Didin' for a slower release of nitrogen, and reduction in nitrogen leaching.

For areas where the slow release benefits are not required there is the Standard Range which includes the weed-and-feed 'Longlife Cleanrun'.

In the Specialities Range

'Invigorator' is an all year round feed and general turf conditioner, particularly ideal for fine turf.

'Longlife' - bags full of benefits, bags full of experience.

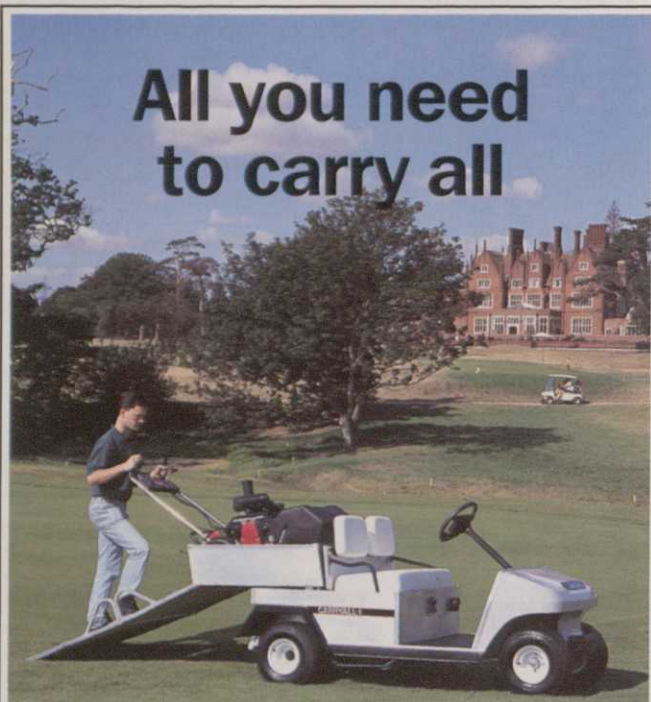
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Part of Miracle Garden Care Ltd.

'Longlife Cleanrun' contains 2,4-D and mecoprop. 'Longlife Renovator' contains 2,4-D and dicamba. Products marked thus 'Longlife' are trade marks of Miracle Garden Care Ltd. 'Didin' is a trade mark of SKW Trostberg AG. READ THE LABEL BEFORE YOU BUY. USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.

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It's the little things that count...

Good housekeeping ought not to be regarded as a chore. Think of it instead as a means of instilling greater interest in the job and pride in the workplace, helping improve the appearance and running of the golf club for the benefit of staff, club members and visitors alike.

Every golf course will have a list of "housekeeping" jobs which will need to be carried out alongside the routine turf maintenance tasks. Some clubs will do them on a regular basis while others will put them off to a time when turf maintenance is impossible. Whatever your approach, always bear in mind the well-used adage that "there's no time like the present".

During the course of a year, the consequence of staying on top of the job can mean a great deal less time and effort expended by staff and a better appreciation of the golf course and its surroundings by all who use or visit the club.

Always remember that you are involved in the running of a business and, like all businesses, you



face competition. In striving to present the best possible playing surfaces, greenkeepers can overlook the fact that a misplaced sign or a muddy path can have a more lasting impact on visitors than the run of the green.

Your club is "under the microscope" from the moment a visiting golfer first turns into your driveway. You may never see that golfer again but his or her adverse impressions and comments can have a negative effect on other potential visitors and possible future members.

The following list is designed to



Replenish bare or thin patches on paths with fresh wood chips

act as a reminder and guide to some of the "good housekeeping" practises that can help bring long-term practical and economic benefit to the golf course.

None of the suggestions demands the use of specialist equipment, a large labour force or a bottomless bank account. However, all require a little planning and the understanding and co-operation of the greenkeeping staff.

Anyone prepared to involve all of their staff in these daily, weekly or monthly tasks will find that routines will fall quickly into place, the work will be completed faster and more effectively and the whole golf club will benefit. There is every chance that you will be pleasantly surprised at the difference and the compliments that result.

Look at all physical aspects of the golf course with a critical eye, adopting the point of view of a visiting golfer or ideally, ask someone unfamiliar with your course to present their overall impressions following a round of golf. Their comments and ideas can be most helpful.

If you have responsibility for maintaining the "off-course" parts of the club, drive your car through the main entrance to the club from time to time, remembering that what you see (or don't see) is the impression gained everyday by members and visitors.

Are the entrances to the club and to the car parks clearly signed



A freshly-painted or thoroughly cleaned pin cup will present an excellent impression to golfers as they putt

and is there any confusion over where people should drive their vehicles or where they should park? Introduce new signs where necessary and clean and re-paint regularly direction arrows and parking bays. Are exit signs clear and could you assist visiting golfers by indicating at the exit from the club the direction to the nearest motorways or towns?

Keep roadways, pathways and other hard surfaces clean and tidy using a blower or vacuum, remembering to grit icy surfaces and to clear away grit and salt later. If you have a large tarmac area to maintain, consider engaging a local contract vacuum-sweeper service.

Ensure that all on-course direction signs are clearly visible and



Not just a job for the winter. Tee markers will benefit from regular cleaning and a fresh coat of paint

well maintained. Keep bollards, posts, fences and railings clean and tidy. Use of a sponge and bucket of soapy water can transform appearance as can regular repainting.

Equip all tractors, vehicles and powered machines with refuse sacks. Check and empty litterbins every day and wash out as necessary. Remove and collect stray litter, leaves, twigs and other debris from roads, paths, fairways, greens and tees. Also, regularly check the condition of ball washers and replenish the water.

Are all pathways and trolley routes clearly signed? If you want golfers to follow a particular route, you will often require more than just hoops or ropes to guide them. Indicate with signs which

way you want the traffic to flow and it will usually comply. Keep all signs clean and freshly painted. Similarly, ensure that hoops and posts are clearly visible and well maintained.

Natural paths wear over time and can become messy in wet weather. A layer of timber chippings spread over walkways will minimise such problems and help keep turf and hard surfaces looking tidy. Check the chippings regularly and top up any thin or bare areas. Digging a small natural kerb will help prevent chippings spreading onto adjacent turf.

The pin cups on golf greens will look much neater if regularly repainted. If you have no time for painting during the season, then wash the cups with warm soapy water before reinstalling.

Pin flags will show signs of wear and tear over time. Even if you do not have a spare set of flags, it can pay dividends to regularly remove, wash and dry the flags, replacing them at the next morning's mowing. Also, wash and wipe down the pins regularly and repaint them at least once a year.

Complete bunker raking should be carried out as a matter of course. A neatly-raked bunker will be appreciated by golfers and will encourage them to rake out their footprints after playing a recovery shot.

Divots will always need repairing. Consider "employing" local people or the family and friends of golfers to come in regularly to walk the fairways, replace soil and reseed divots. A reward might consist of a complimentary round of golf or a match involving divot repairers. Why not have a divot session for two hours on a Saturday afternoon followed by a match?

Course furniture will quickly deteriorate if not maintained. Apply preservative to wooden items such as seats, bins and palings. De-rust, wash down and repaint metal items and ensure that broken, worn or bent components are repaired or replaced. Don't forget to maintain the tee markers and course information signs and boards.

■ Many thanks go to staff at The Wentworth Club and at the RAC Country Club for their invaluable assistance with the preparation of this article.

MAINTENANCE

A well maintained sprayer is a reliable sprayer

Accuracy is the key word in modern turf protection. To ensure consistency in this aim makes heavy demands on the function and reliability of the spraying equipment and is a major focus when thoughts turn to the new season.

The first thought that might occur to many when looking back to the previous year may be... was the sprayer stored a little too quickly when the spraying season was over?

If the answer is yes or even a maybe, now is the time to go thoroughly over the sprayer during the quiet winter months. The following is a check list of things of importance to the sprayer's reliability of operation and ability to distribute turf protection chemicals as precisely as possible.

Cleaning

To keep the sprayer in top form, the most important thing is to clean thoroughly, immediately after every use, both internally and externally. A thorough cleaning ensures that everything functions correctly, and at the same time prevents spray damage due to unintended mixture of chemicals.

Together with cleaning, the sprayer should be tested with clean water and all functions and operating valves activated to reveal potential problems and leakage's, which should be immediately rectified.

Filters

Many turf protection chemicals leave residues that can adhere to the filters. Disassemble the suction filter, self-cleaning filters, operation unit filter, line filters and nozzle filters and clean them with a brush and soapy water.

Check the filter inserts and change any damaged ones.

Pump

Check the valves for failure and wear. If wear is found, change all valves at the same time. Always use new sealing rings when the valves are reassembled.



Check the diaphragms for cracks. Should just one diaphragm have a crack, change all diaphragms at the same time, as those not changed will be functioning on borrowed time, and are likely to fail in the near future.

Finally grease the pump.

Control unit

Check the function of the control unit during the test with clean water. The main valve must close completely. If the nozzles drip when the main valve is closed, it is likely that the valve ball and the ball seat are worn. Check and change if necessary.

The boom section valves must also close completely. Open the main valve and all section valves with the pump working. When the return hose from the constant pressure valves is removed and the housing drained, no water must appear on the valves. If the section valves are not completely sealed, the valve cone should be replaced.

Finally all movable parts of the control unit operating handles

should be lubricated with oil.

Pressure gauge

A simple way of controlling the pressure gauge is to mount a completely new set of nozzles that are known to match the valves of the nozzle table. At a fixed working pressure e.g. 3 bar – the nozzle flow rate is calibrated with a measuring jug. If the flow rate of the nozzles matches the table value at this pressure, the pressure is ok.

Nozzles

The condition of the nozzles is of critical importance in achieving an even spray distribution across the boom, and consequently a good deposit of the turf protection chemical. Carry out a visual check of the spray pattern of all nozzles when spraying clean water at normal working pressure. The spray pattern must be regular fan-shaped for normal flat fan spray nozzles. Irregularities are a sign of damage and wear.

Calibrate the flow rate of the nozzles with a measuring jug. The precision of the nozzles and dis-

tribution are acceptable with flow rates of up to 10% above the table values. If the flow rate is above 10% in excess of standard, the nozzles are worn and should be replaced.

Remove the turn plate of the TRIPLET nozzle holder and lubricate with a little oil or grease on the plate. This will ensure the TRIPLET is always easy to turn when changing to another nozzle.

The boom

In order for the spray boom to operate as evenly and quietly as possible, it is important that it has been adjusted and lubricated correctly. The instruction manual indicates adjustment and lubrication of the various boom types.

PTO

Check that the guard of the PTO shaft is in good condition and lubricate the shaft. It is also important that the profile tubes are well lubricated so that the shaft can move backwards and forwards without hindrance during operation.

Boom tubes and hoses

Check all tubes and hoses for damage and security. Change damaged hoses and tighten hoses that may have become loose.

Rust prevention

Some turf protection chemicals are very aggressive, discolour paint, and can be extremely difficult to wash off when dry.

It is recommended to apply to all metal parts of the sprayer a thin layer of penetrating, water-repellent rust prevention oil before putting the sprayer into service. Suitable products are available on the market, which after application leave a protective oil film. The sprayer can then be washed completely clean.

At the end of the day turf protection chemicals will only be as effective as the machines in which they are applied.

**At the end of the day
turf protection chemicals
will only be as effective
as the machines in which
they are applied**

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Digital computers and micro processors are being used more and more in all walks of life, in the home, school and at work.

Some golf clubs and some greenkeepers have been slow to introduce this new technology but from the feedback that I have received since introducing computers and computing to Aldwark Manor and Regional Management Courses, it is clear that greenkeepers are beginning to see how computers can be used as management tools. In this series of articles, I will be aiming to take some of the mystique out of computing and computers, explain their operation in everyday language and describe some of the software available to assist golf greenkeepers in the management of their golf course. This, the first article of a short series, will look at Hardware.

Computer Hardware

Computer hardware is all of the hard items that comprise a computer as opposed to Software which comprises the instructions that make the computer work. There are two main types of computer that can be used in the office. These are the PC clones and the Apple Mac. However, all digital computers are made from four basic components. These are:

- Input devices, such as keyboards, mouse, microphone and joystick.

- Output devices, such as monitor (screen, VDU), printers and loudspeakers.

- Central processing unit (CPU)

- Memory (Store)

These four devices are then connected together and, with luck, when power is applied, the system will start to work. Let's now look at each of the four components in more detail.

Input devices

Digital computers can use a number of input devices but I will only consider the Keyboard and mouse in this article

Keyboards

There are many types of keyboard, each with slightly different keys. However, all keyboards have keys that are common.

All keyboards are similar, using



the QWERTY layout for alphabetical and numeric keys, a series of function keys, cursor and screen control keys and a numeric keypad. There are some other 'special' keys that you may have to use. These are:

- a. Shift keys, normally marked with an upwards arrow are used to access 'UPPER CASE' (capital) letters and the top symbols on numerical keys eg to type a £ sign, hold down either the left or right shift key and press 3.

- b. Caps lock keys, normally marked with an arrow with a bob underneath, are used to type several CAPITAL letters by locking the shift feature. Caps lock can be removed by pressing the caps lock key again.

- c. Enter or return key normally marked with a reverse arrow is used to 'send' information to the

processor ie. enter and to return the entry point to the left of the page and move down one line, similar to the carriage return on a typewriter.

- d. Tab keys, normally marked with a left and a right facing arrow, are used to move the entry point a set distance to the right. They can also be used to move the entry point around the screen in some software applications.

- e. Control keys are used for special functions.

- f. Alt keys normally marked Alt are again used for special functions.

- g. Back space key normally marked with a backwards facing arrow is used to move the entry point one space to the left.

- h. Delete key normally marked 'del' deletes the last character typed.

Mouse

There are several types of mouse that come in different shapes, however they all operate in the same way.

Externally, the mouse consists of a button (or buttons) and a roller ball. To prevent excess wear, and a build up of dirt and or static, it is always advisable to use a mouse mat. The mouse can be used to perform three operations. These are:

- a. Point. This is where you use the mouse to point at an object by tracking the mouse across its mat. Remember, if you wish to move across the screen further than the width of the mouse mat allows then pick up the mouse, move it back to the start position, replace the mouse on its mat and start again.

- b. Click. Pointing and clicking the

How to crack PUTERS without CRACKING UP

by KEN RICHARDSON

mouse button can initiate a software action by operating 'buttons'. However the action usually needed to begin a software application is point and Double Click ie clicking the button (left hand button if more than one) twice.

c. Drag. The mouse can be used to drag items around the screen. This is achieved by pointing at the item with the mouse pointer, clicking and holding down the button and dragging the item to a new position.

Output Devices

Again, digital computers can use numerous output devices. This article considers monitors (screens, VDUs) and printers.

Monitors

Monitors come in different screen sizes, however, the usual office/home computer comes with a 14 inch screen. They can be monochrome (black and white) or colour and be described

as being EGA, VGA, SVGA etc. Modern computers are supplied with SVGA screens and this denotes the graphics quality of the screen. Monitors are controlled by a mains on/off switch and variable controls for brightness, contrast and position of picture.

Printers

There are many types of printer but the usual types found in homes and offices are dot matrix, bubble (ink) jet and laser printers. The cheapest and noisiest printer is the dot matrix, which also has the lowest quality of print. Bubble jet printers can be used to print in black and white and colour and can give good quality results at a reasonable price. However, if you are considering printing a large amount of material then the cost of ink cartridges can be quite high. The fastest high quality print comes from laser printers but the cost

can be high. Colour laser printers are very expensive for the average office or home.

Central Processing Unit

The Central Processing Unit (CPU) is the heart (or brain) of a digital computer. This unit contains the processor which could be a 386, 486 or Pentium, memory devices, control circuitry and devices to perform calculations and logical functions. The CPU can come in Desk Top, Slim Line and Tower cases depending on

your needs. The CPU normally has one external control

ie the on/off switch which is sometimes marked 1 for on and 0 for off. The CPU also contains input/output circuitry and connections for input output devices. These connections are sometimes called ports and can be serial ie the information is carried along one data line and parallel ie the data is carried along several (normally 16 or 32) lines. To make interconnection easier, input/output ports are individual ie it should not be possible to put the wrong socket in the wrong plug and each port is marked with an identifying symbol eg keyboard, mouse, printer, network etc.

Memory

Memory (or storage devices) are usually found within the CPU. There are three main types of memory. These are:

a. Random Access Memory (RAM). This is short term memory and is situated 'close to' the CPU which holds information (instructions and data) when software programmes are operating. Any information stored in RAM is lost when the computer is switched off. Therefore, information (data) should be stored in permanent storage if you wish to use it again.

b. Read only memory (ROM). As the name suggests, this type of memory only allows you to read information ie take information out. It will not allow you, the

user, to write (store, put in) information. These devices are used to store information which has been pre-programmed by the computer manufacturer. Compact disk ROM is also pre-programmed by the manufacturer and can hold large amounts of data on interchangeable disks. Read-write CDs are available but are very expensive. However, as with most computers and peripheral devices, costs are bound to reduce in time.

c. Backing store. This is memory which is used to store information which you wish to keep permanently. The two most common types of backing store are 'floppy' disks and hard disks. Floppy disks fit into a disk drive (or drives) which is normally found on the front or side of the main processor. Although modern computers use three and a half inch disks, some older computers still use five and a quarter inch disks.

Five and a quarter inch disks are made from thin plastic and are 'floppy', hence the name, however three and a half inch disks are made from much thicker plastic and are not floppy. They are still called floppy disks to distinguish them from hard disks. Hard disks are normally situated within the CPU are not accessible to the user.

All memory devices are categorised by the amount of data which they can hold. For example, RAM is sold in multiples of Mega Bytes where Mega is one million (actually 1048576 which is 2 to the power of 20) and one Byte is eight binary digits (1s and 0s). A minimum of 4 Mega Bytes (Mb) is needed to run Windows 3.11 and a minimum of 8 Mb for Windows 95. Hard disks come in a variety of sizes eg 50 Mb, 120 Mb, 250 Mb, 50 Giga Byte (approximately 1000 Mb) etc. Most computers allow memory to be added in expansion ports but it is always best to over estimate the amount of memory needed when purchasing a computer.

This article has looked at computer hardware. The language used and the various configurations which can be used can be confusing. However, computer hardware is relatively simple to interconnect and operate. The clever part of computers is the Software that makes them work.

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

Elliott Small
Tel: 01259 731445

North

The end of year Section Dinner/Disco was another great success with members attending from as far afield as Fortrose in the North and Perth in the South of the area. Numbers were not as high as hoped for but those present had a good enough time to ensure the continuation of this event.

The new Committee, their various tasks and contact numbers are as follows: Chairman – Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead, 01779 470173; Vice Chairman, magazine report and outings-day – Iain Macleod, Tain, 01862 894402; Secretary – Dougal Duguid, Westhill, 01224 740329; Treasurer, outings-prior to day – Sam Morrison, Royal Aberdeen, 01224 705083; 200 Club – Andy Wilson, Letham Grange, 01356 625902; Education – Stewart McBain, Nigg Bay, 01224 733347 and Kevin Peace, Inverurie, 01467 625125; Entertainments/Raffles – Wilson Morrison, Alford, 01224 826289 and John Geddes, Ellon, 01358 723034; Outings-day – Stephen Sullivan, 01738 643778. Anyone requiring any information on these subjects should ring the relevant person or, if in doubt, contact Dougal our Secretary.

As you can see Andy Wilson has the job of running the 200 Club this year and has already sent out the cards after securing Stewarts of Edinburgh as this year's sponsor. We are indebted to Stewarts for this sponsorship and with the help of all you members and friends out there let's make Andy's job easy by sending your cheques/postal orders back to him quickly so that by the time of the Spring outing in May all tickets are sold.



Nothing to report on the membership front just now, no new members or old members moving around that I have been informed of. Remember this is your opportunity to spread news around so get in touch if you have anything to pass on. I have a new mobile number now – 0374 642996, a phone that vibrates as well as rings, essential when you have ear defenders on! Iain Macleod

Ayrshire

As I wrote in the last report I promised a full list of changes to the committee for 1997. I can now detail these as at the time of going to press for the last issue some of the office bearers wanted to ensure they could fulfil the positions before confirming their appointments.

As I said last month the Chairman is still Ian McNab, from Dumfries and County GC.

The first change comes in the Secretary's position. At the last Scottish Region Committee meeting a vacancy arose for a Board of Management representative, because the Deputy Steven Hogg had moved to a new appointment in Portugal. I was nominated for this position which made me extremely honoured. I wanted to make sure it was in order with my club to hold this position and this is why there was a delay in the announcement. I made the announcement at the AGM and resigned the Secretary's position.

Derek Wilson was nominated for the vacant position and he also wanted to check with his club that they had no objections to him holding the position. They did not and as from now Derek is your Section Secretary.

I thank you all for the honour of being your Section Secretary for the past 12 or so years and wish Derek the

best of luck and hope that he has as much fun and enjoyment as I have had representing you. I would also like to thank Ian and the rest of the committee for their support and perseverance in putting up with me for so long. I have seen a lot of changes in my time in office and have seen the Association through a very changing period, the culmination being the formation of BIGGA.

I now have the chance to be at the forefront of this, as we go into our second decade, as the representative for all of Scotland on the Board.

I promised that I would help Derek as much as possible as he finds his feet and I would urge you all to give him as much help as you can as well. Please contact him with any information for the magazine or anything else you need help with. If he cannot help you, he will know where he can go for help.

The full committee is now the three above plus Bob McKay, from Prestwick St Nicholas, Harry Diamond, George Brown, of Turnberry, Brian Finlayson, of Barrassie, Jimmy Johnstone, of Turnberry, and Robert Bruce, of Stewarts.

This is a big year in our Section with The Open at Troon and I hope as many of our Section members as possible will put their names forward for the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team. It is great fun and well worth the trying. While on the subject, can I, on behalf of all our members, wish Billy and his team at Troon the best of conditions weather wise to prepare his course. Congratulations also to Jim Devlin on his appointment as Billy's Deputy at Troon. Good luck, Jim.

By the time you read this the Section nominations for the Patron's Award will have been to Harrogate and I hope Lee Blackburn, from Southernness, and Jimmy Johnstone, from Turnberry,

enjoyed their trips.

To finish, I hope you all have a great year on your course and thanks again for your support.

Jim Paton

West of Scotland

Just a couple of things to cover as the last month has been quiet due to the winter (Christmas shutdown). Hope everybody who attended the BTME had a good time. A report will be submitted for next month.

The AGM, games night was held on December 5, at the Claremont Bowling Club, with 37 people in attendance, which is excellent.

The meeting in general went without hitch until the matter was raised with regard to GTC assessorship and progress. Discussion was great and viewpoints expressed with hopefully some doubts removed. In all a fruitful meeting was experienced, the main point being increased numbers and support for the Section. The games night went well, eventual winners Kenny Hunter, Huxley's, and Gary Burns, Lenzie, although some doubt was expressed with regard to participation from one party. The whole evening was a resounding success and another games night is planned for February. So please come along and enjoy yourself.

Football. Once again the West are supreme. In a recent friendly against a mixture of players the depleted West side came out tops. The venue was Scotstown Leisure Centre which provided first class facilities allowing for light spirits after the game.

The result was 6-2 for the West. Another match is scheduled for February where I'm sure only the best side will win. From those who turned up at the trial on January 19 the best will be



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THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP C

selected for this big match where the select will want revenge. The time and the place is still to be advised.

The goal scorers at Scotstown cannot be forgotten. They were Graeme Shearer, Peter Cowan (3) and Brian Tulan (2). So well done lads.

I hope those attending the conservation talk found the information interesting and decided to continue to the site visit.

A few things to note. The education conference at Isle of Skye Hotel, Perth, on March 4. A course visit is to be arranged for March, those interested contact a committee member for course, time and day. The games and football have already been mentioned. Last of all, a proposed visit to a turf producer, again those interested contact a committee member. The fixture card should have been received by people and this should give names for contact.

Remember please, any information for the magazine, births, deaths, promotions or just general interest please contact me on 0141 942 5554. So far only one person has passed on information. Stuart Taylor

East

As this is the first magazine article of 1997 I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a good New year and hope you all had a good Christmas and enjoyed yourselves over the festive period.

Now it's a new year and only three months until the new season so it's down to the hard graft to get our courses prepared for the new season. Since my last article in the magazine we have had a couple of events going on in the Section. On November 28 we had our lecture and AGM at Swanston GC with thanks to the Captain and Council for allowing us the use of the clubhouse facilities. Our thanks also go to the Dave and Irene, the Club Master and Mistress, for keeping everyone fed and watered and, last but not least, Nick Lawson, from Ocmis Irrigation, for giving a very good lecture on irrigation from start to finish including planning, installing, after sales, breakdowns and how to sort out a burst pipe yourself! Thanks also go to our two demonstrators, Peter Ormiston and Jimmy Weil-

son, who showed us how to repair two burst pipes in two different ways.

We held our AGM on the same day and with 30 members it was the largest attendance for some time. Craig Penny-cuik, Winterfield, and Stewart Crawford, North Berwick West, were elected onto the committee which now looks: Chairman - J. Weilson, Vice-Chairman - S. Greenwood, Secretary/Treasurer - S. Dixon, Education Officer - P. Ormiston, Members - T. Murray, S. Crawford, G. Wood, A. Forrest, C. Pennycuik and C. Yeaman. The AGM went very well with no problems. Congratulations go to the two new committee members, I hope you have an enjoyable time on the committee.

Our planned Christmas shopping trip to Newcastle was cancelled due to not one member replying to the letters that were sent out. This is something I find quite amazing considering we have 170+ members in the East Section. I could say a lot more on this subject but the Editor would not allow it to be printed if I did. The bus was cancelled five days before the trip and luckily the company did not ask us for the £170 for a late cancellation. If this was a golf outing would it have been cancelled?

Our Annual Dance was held at the Kilsplindie House Hotel, Aberlady, 82 members attended and thoroughly enjoyed the night. It was great to see out Scottish Chairman, Sam Morrison and his wife, in attendance. Our thanks go to Mr R. Binnie and his staff at the Kilsplindie who looked after us so well and also to the band "Cool Reception" who were excellent. Thanks also go to the companies who provided us with raffle prizes including Willie Blair who provided a signed football from Livingston FC and Ronnie Blair who provided a signed ball and strip from Hearts FC. These were auctioned and raised a total of £170. Thanks also to anyone I have missed out! The numbers were down on last year due to us restricting the numbers to 90 and a few late cancellations. Sam Morrison bought the Hearts FC ball and was last seen trying to sell it at breakfast when he realised what he had done! The dance has been booked at the same venue on Saturday December 6 1997, details in future articles.

The Section would like to congratulate Steve Sinclair, Head Greenkeeper - Craigmillar Park GC, and his wife Joanne on the birth of their baby girl, Jordan. Congratulations also to Tom Brannan, Souter of Stirling, and his wife, Jana, on the birth of their identical twin girls, Chloe and Erin, who were born on Saturday January 4, 1997. Our best wishes for the future.

Lastly, I would like to thank all our friends in the trade for all the work they have done over the past year and we look forward to welcoming you to our Section events in the coming year.

I look forward to the rest of the year. You can contact me on 01875 870485 or mobile 0410 110253. If anyone has any photographs from the dance, Section events etc could we borrow them to publish them in the magazine. I will make sure they are returned. Chris Yeaman

To all members of the Scottish Region

Have any of our members out there got any photographs from their section events such as outings, social nights, dances etc or even Scottish region events showing what BIGGA has to offer to potential new members and also any members that have not rejoined. If you could send me them and we will hope to publish them in future editions of Greenkeeper International. All pictures will be returned after use. Also if you have any stories of past events that would be of interest to our members please let me know and I shall try my best to get them into the magazine. Articles about work done at your golf course would also be interesting. So don't be afraid, write it down and send it to me and I will do all I can to get it into print. Send any photographs or information to Chris Yeaman, Magazine Liaison Officer, 12 Craigielan Cottages, Aberlady, East Lothian, EH32 0PY or phone 01875 870485 or mobile 0410 100253. Do it now!

Central

Apologies for there being no news last month but the publication deadline beat us following the AGM. Excuses out of the way, I hope all is going well with everyone at the start of another year

with the challenges which lie ahead.

Your committee for the coming year is as follows:- Chairman/Secretary - John Crawford, Stirling; Vice Chairman - Archie Dunn, Auchterarder; Committee - Andy O'Hara, Leven Links, John Bashford, Kinross, David Smith, Aberdour, Ian Ross, The Dukes Course, Stuart Sime, Leven Links, Stuart Campbell, Stirling.

Hopefully now that we have new faces on the committee we will come up with fresh ideas for events which will come up with fresh ideas for events which will create a wider interest for more members to participate in.

A number of trade reps have offered to gather information for the Section news so if you have anything you wish to be included let me know or you can also let either Pat Allan, John Geddes or Allan Crawford know and they will pass it on to me.

Section member David Sword has retired from Bishopshire GC, a nine hole course at Bishop Hill, east of Kinross with superb views over Loch Leven. We all wish David a long and healthy retirement and now that he will have more free time on his hands we look forward to seeing him at more section events.

An invitation has been extended to us by Alan Miller, of Stewarts, to visit their turf farm near Kinross. This invitation has been accepted and a visit will be organised whether one or 101 wish to attend, so please let me know if you are interested. The visit will take place in either late March or early April this year.

The date and venue for the Spring Tournament have yet to be confirmed but I will be in touch as soon as they are to hand. If anyone fancies hosting any of our golf tournaments at their course please let me know and I will make the arrangements.

The Inter-Club Tournament will take place again this year (probably with a different format), details will be circulated soon.

For various reasons membership of the section dropped during 1996 so let's make every effort to reverse this slight hiccup and reach at least 250 members this year. This can easily be achieved if we all encourage one new member to join.

TS 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

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COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

We extend a warm welcome to new members David McCormack, The Dukes Course, St Andrews, and Tom Rawlinson, Neil Henderson and Ross Anderson, all from St Andrews Links, and look forward to meeting them at some of our Section events in the not too distant future.

As we have now entered our 10th year in BIGGA would any member be interested in attending a "Gentleman's Dinner" to mark the occasion. This would probably be organised towards the end of the year with guest speakers etc. If not please let me have your ideas on how you think we should mark the occasion, if at all.

Hopefully the Central Section will be well represented at the Scottish Annual Conference at Perth next month when a varied and interesting programme of speakers covering a wide range of subjects have been brought together for your benefit. See you at Perth.

John Crawford

NORTHERN REGION

Bob Lupton
Tel: 01782 750539

Cleveland

We welcome new members Mark Blueman, Richmond GC; Ian Christie, Northern Aggregates Ltd; Alistair Rowell, Carrs Agriculture; John Nicholson, Eamon Wall & Co; George Smith, Woodham GC, and Paul Kellett, Wynyard Club (East) to the Section.

Rejoined members are Kevin Heslop, Andrew Welch, Mark Brown and Kevin Bush all from Brancepeth GC, Durham with colleague, Neil Stoker, joining them as a new member.

Ian Holloran, Middlesbrough Municipal GC, has a special project for Ian White for his college NVQ 3 with four new ladies tees on the 4th, 5th, 9th and 12th.

The Turf Care quiz at Mount Oswald GC, Durham, was won by Teeside IOG. The greenkeepers team of Barry Walker and his staff plus Kevin Heslop and staff fought magnificently but lost in the last round. Many thanks to sponsors Terry Charlton and Barry Clennell and staff for a great evening and the best steak and kidney pie and peas to finish. The Shield is now called the David Pearson Memorial Shield.

Bruce Burnell

Northern

By the time you read this many of you will have visited BTME '97 at Harrogate. No doubt, I will have seen quite a few while on the Northern Region stand.

Our winter golf was held at Selby GC. Many thanks to the greens staff, caterers and clubhouse staff for looking after us so well. The weather was very kind to us for the time of year and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. For many of us, we had the novelty of playing off astro-turf mats through the green. I wish I could get as much backspin normally.

Many thanks to certain members of

Around the Green



the committee for their much appreciated help on the day and as always to the trade for supplying the many prizes on show.

Our AGM followed the golf and passed very smoothly. The new committee for 1997 is as follows. President - M. Guy, Greentech; Chairman - J. Waite; Vice Chairman - D. Thackray; Secretary/Treasurer - S. Heppenstall; Members. T. Jarvis, D. Cockburn, I. Thompson, R. Harris, P. Mitchell, G. Potter, A. Gamble and R. Gamble.

Robin Smith, Colin Garnett and Mick Hannan have decided not to stand for the committee this year. May I thank them all for their support during the previous year.

Tickets are now in circulation for our annual dinner dance at Bradford (Hawthorn) GC on Saturday, March 15, 1997 priced at £14 per person to include carvery meal, wine and entertainment. This should be a good night out so please purchase tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Also book early for the forthcoming golf events with deposit of £10, the first of which is the Hayter qualifier at Wakefield (Woodthorpe)GC on Wednesday April 23.

Anyone with any news or problems please contact me on 01484 519829. I also hold a few dinner dance tickets, but will be able to put you on to someone else if mine have run out.

Simon Heppenstall

Sheffield

Firstly, a late thank you to Adrian Ellis, from Barenburg UK Ltd, for his lecture in November.

On December 12 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC and we had two very interesting lectures. Our thanks go to David Stephenson, from D & E Turf, for his lecture on Aerification which was prepared at very short notice and to Chris Peel, from Grass Science, for his lecture on Annual Meadow Grass.

After the lectures which were attended by 75 members (which I think is a record attendance) we had a buffet which was enjoyed by everyone.

We also presented our President, Ken Arnold, with a commemorative plaque and some books on gardening with thanks for his 30 years and service as our Section President which is very much appreciated by us all.

We also presented Barry Heaney with an engraved glass tankard in recognition of his services as BIGGA's National Chairman.

Our congratulations go to Derek McJannet and his wife on the birth of their daughter recently, all the best to all three of you.

Our next lecture will be given by G.

Brady, from Rhone Poulenc, and will be held at Rotherham GC on March 6 at 2.30pm.

John Lax

North West

On Tuesday December 10 a seminar at Mere G & CC was enjoyed by 64 member of the North-West Section and several members of the trade. The presentation was given by Mike Robinson, President of Seed Research of Oregon, who has spent many years developing and refining varieties of grasses, especially Providence Creeping Bentgrass. Mike outlined the breeding programme, production aspects and the issues of establishing and maintaining "Providence" in the UK. Mike claims that "Providence" can be used on greens, tees and fairways and has a good resistance to fungal disease and good colour throughout the year. The seminar was followed by a hot supper and the costs for the evening was sponsored by British Seed Houses.

The President of the North-West Section, Mr Arthur Harrison, Sales Director of SISIS, retired in December and the Section presented Arthur with a barometer as a retirement gift. Arthur has been President of the North-West Section for some years and now feels that he should hand over to someone else, possibly in the trade. On behalf of the Section I would like to wish Arthur many happy years' retirement and many thanks for his efforts in preaching the cause of greenkeepers at all levels.

We still require courses for this year's spring and summer tournaments so if you would like to suggest any course please ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

North Wales

The Section's Christmas competition took place on December 5 at Porthmadog GC. Seventy five members and guests took part on a bright clear day. The course was presented in beautiful condition, which considering the time of year was a credit to "Bronco" and his team. Our thanks to Porthmadog GC for providing us with courtesy of the course for the day and for looking after us so well. For anyone who has not played Porthmadog you are missing out on a treat, the course which is both part parkland and part true links is set in beautiful, peaceful surroundings.

The winner of the TORO Cup for the Best Net was Andy Peel. Ken Cooke won the Nine of Clubs Golf Club "Nearest the Pin" trophy. Craig Wheeler, of Frodsham Golf Club, won the "Best Aggregate Trophy". This trophy donated by Rigby Taylor will be awarded each year to the player with the best aggregate score from our Spring and Autumn competitions. Our thanks to Rigby Taylor and the Nine of Clubs Golf Club for these two new handsome trophies.

As is usual at our Christmas competition, each player received a prize. Our thanks for their continued support and prizes must go to our sponsors of the day who were: ALS, Andy Acorn,

Cheshire Sand, Gem, Ki-Chem, Major Owen, Martin Bros., John Osman, Rigby Taylor, Strike Topturf, Toro and Walker Engineering.

Thirty members attended our AGM that followed our Christmas Competition. Our outgoing Chairman Brian Anderson and Treasurer Dave Proctor were thanked for their many years devoted service to the section. The committee for 1997 is as follows:- President - Terry Adamson, Chairman - Pat Valentine, Vice Chairman - Dave Goodridge, Match Secretary - Terry Evans, Treasurer - Neil Toner and Secretary - Trevor Johnson. Stuart McCall, Justin Cheung, Carl Price and Alan Kift make up the rest of your committee.

This year the Section's funding will be reduced by approximately £2000. This will be caused by the ending of the membership rebate scheme whereby each section received a rebate on each member's membership fee. This undoubtedly will have an effect on the running of the Section. Your committee will be looking at ways to make up this shortfall of funds and would appreciate any points of view from yourselves. If you have any thoughts of ways to improve the running of your section please contact myself or any of the committee.

Our Spring Competition, that is also the Hayter qualifier, will be on Wednesday, April 30 at Frodsham GC. This is a new venue for our Section competition and I hope that it will be fully supported, please remember that guests for our competitions should be golf related such as Secretaries, Green Chairmen, Captains and Committee members.

Do not forget the seminar and lecture at the Welsh College of Horticulture on February 26. Rigby Taylor will be giving an "Organics" seminar from 10 am to 4 pm and then on March 27 at 12 am for the "Little and Large" show given by Boughton Loam.

I would also like to welcome three new members - Russell Lewis and Gareth Roberts of Northrop Country Park GC and Andrew Roberts, of Caldly GC.

Finally an apology to Gareth "Bronco" Williams, of Porthmadog, who may have been surprised to see himself referred to as Gareth "Bronco" Roberts in the Section Newsletter. Sorry Gareth. Trevor Johnson

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

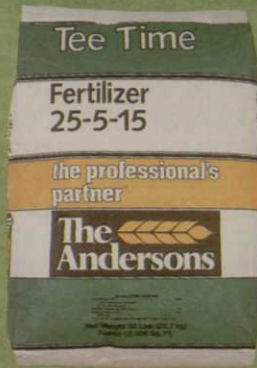
East Midlands

The last event of 1996 was the Sections Christmas Tournament held on December 12 at Charnwood Forest. On a cool but calm winters day 33 members participated in the Stableford competition with the winners as follows:- Category 1: 1. P. Tatlow, (Kedleston Park, 32 pts; 2. C. Chamberlain, Scraftoft, 29 pts; 3. R. Barker, Kirby Muxloe, 28 pts. Category 2: 1. A. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 33 pts; 2. C. Taylor, Willesey Park, 27 pts; 3. M. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 27 pts.



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Tee Time® Premium Fine Turf Spring Fertilizers

| PRODUCT ANALYSIS | SIZE GUIDE NUMBER | RATES | | | kg/NUTR/hect* | | | NUTRIENT SOURCES | | SPREADER SETTINGS | | |
|--|-------------------|--------|---------|----------|---------------|----|----|---|---|-------------------|------------|----------|
| | | gms/m² | kg/hect | bag/hect | N | P | K | NITROGEN | MICROS | LESCO | SCOTTS R8A | AMTEC 50 |
| 13-2-13 w/ 100% Ammonium Sulfate | 100 | 20 | 200 | 9 | 26 | 4 | 26 | 13.00% Ammoniacal N | 18.3% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn | D 1/2 | I 1/2 | 3 3/4 |
| 19-5-19 Spring Starter w/ 25% Nutralene® | 100 | 20 | 200 | 9 | 38 | 10 | 38 | 1.95% Ammoniacal N 12.88% Urea Nitrogen 2.44% SAWSN* 1.73% WIN** | 6.5% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn | D 1/2 | I 1/2 | 3 3/4 |
| 25-5-15 w/ 50% Nutralene® | 125 | 20 | 200 | 9 | 50 | 10 | 30 | 1.96% Ammoniacal N 12.14% Urea Nitrogen 6.40% SAWSN* 4.50% WIN** | 5.1% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn | F | L | 4 1/4 |
| 14-28-10 Seed Starter w/ 50% Nutralene® | 100 | 20 | 200 | 9 | 28 | 56 | 20 | 5.60% Ammoniacal N 2.27% Urea Nitrogen 3.59% SAWSN* 2.54% WIN** | 3.4% S | E | J | 3 3/4 |
| 18-6-15 w/ 65% Nutralene® | 100 | 20 | 200 | 9 | 36 | 12 | 30 | 2.35% Ammoniacal N 5.41% Urea Nitrogen 6.00% SAWSN* 4.24% WIN** | 5.1% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn | E | J | 3 3/4 |

Tee Time® Premium Fine Turf Summer Fertilizers

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|----|-----|----|------|-----|----|---|--|-------|-------|-------|
| 22-0-22 w/ 65% Nutralene® | 100 | 20 | 200 | 9 | 44 | 0 | 44 | 9.3% Urea Nitrogen 7.5% SAWSN* 5.2% WIN** | 7.5% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 1% Mn, 0.1% Zn | E | J | 3 3/4 |
| 18-6-15 w/ 65% Nutralene® | 100 | 20 | 200 | 9 | 36 | 12 | 30 | 2.35% Ammoniacal N 5.41% Urea Nitrogen 6.00% SAWSN* 4.24% WIN** | 5.1% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn | E | J | 3 3/4 |
| 21-3-16 w/ 97% Nutralene® | 100 | 25 | 250 | 11 | 52.4 | 7.5 | 40 | 1.18% Ammoniacal N 1.97% Urea Nitrogen 10.45% SAWSN* 7.40% WIN** | 5.4% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn | E 1/2 | J 1/2 | 4 |
| 15-0-30 w/ 100% Nutralene® | 100 | 20 | 200 | 9 | 30 | 0 | 60 | 1.87% Urea Nitrogen 7.69% SAWSN* 5.44% WIN** | 10.04% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn | E | J | 3 3/4 |

Tee Time® Premium Fine Turf Autumn and Winter Fertilizers

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----|-----|---|----|----|----|--|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 10-5-25 w/ 50% Nutralene® | 125 | 20 | 200 | 9 | 20 | 10 | 50 | 1.95% Ammoniacal N 3.67% Urea Nitrogen 2.57% SAWSN* 1.81% WIN** | 8.5% S | E 1/2 | K 1/2 | 4 1/4 |
| 14-0-24 w/ 65% Nutralene® | 125 | 20 | 200 | 9 | 28 | 0 | 48 | 6.05% Urea Nitrogen 4.66% SAWSN* 3.29% WIN** | 8.16% S, 2% Fe, 5% Mn | E 1/2 | K 1/2 | 4 1/4 |

Tee Time® General Purpose Fairway & Sports Grounds Fertilizers

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|----|-----|---|------|---|----|---|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| 28-3-10 w/96% SCU | 215 | 20 | 200 | 9 | 56 | 6 | 20 | 1.12% Ammoniacal N 26.88% Urea Nitrogen 26.88% CSRUN*** | 14.29% S | F 1/4 | M 1/2 | 4 1/2 |
| 37-0-0 w/100% SCU | 215 | 15 | 150 | 7 | 55.6 | 0 | 0 | 37.00% CSRUN*** | 15% S | H | L 1/2 | 4 1/2 |

*Slowly Available Water Soluble Nitrogen

**Water Insoluble Nitrogen

***Coated Slow Release Urea Nitrogen

NOTE: Tee Time spreader settings were established using the standard equipment available from the spreader manufacturer at swath widths and speeds typically used within the industry. It is recommended that all spreader equipment be calibrated at the time of application to achieve the desired application rate.

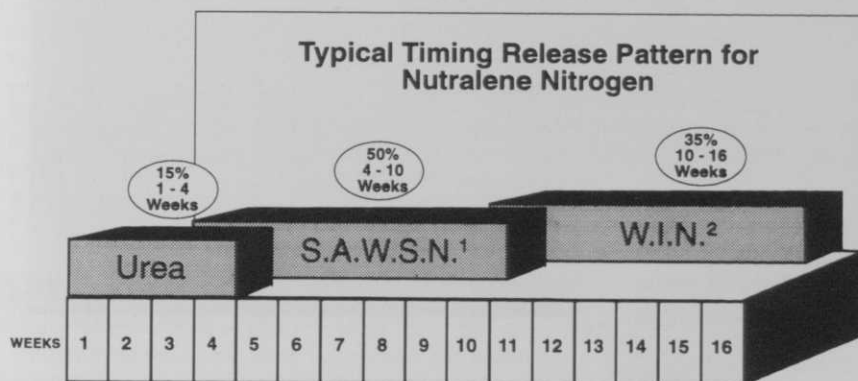
•Bag Weight = 22.68 Kilos



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This chart demonstrates Nutralene's fractional release availability over time. The water soluble portion, slowly available water soluble portion and water insoluble portion have overlapping release to provide efficient nitrogen availability as plants require it.



Nutralene - Trademark of Nu-Gro Corp.

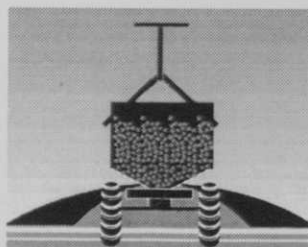
¹ Slowly Available Water Soluble Nitrogen
² Water Insoluble Nitrogen

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The Andersons precise screening and processing ensures that all particles are consistently uniform in size. As a result, we've been able to eliminate the majority of variability and resultant "speckling" that can occur due to the "flight path" of particles. You can count on getting an even application of product that you need for your fertilizer program to be successful.

The Andersons offer you three particle sizes, defined as "size guide number" or "SGN", ranging from GREENS GRADE 1 mm (SGN 100) to 1.25 mm (SGN 125), and FAIRWAY GRADE 2.15 mm (SGN 215). The Andersons greens grade fertilizers (SGN 100) will apply 16 particles per square inch, **MORE THAN ANY OF OUR COMPETITORS!** Product uniformity and precise sizing of particles ensures that the fertilizer gets under the turf canopy where they can't be seen, picked up by a mower, or deflect the path of a ball.

Application Uniformity

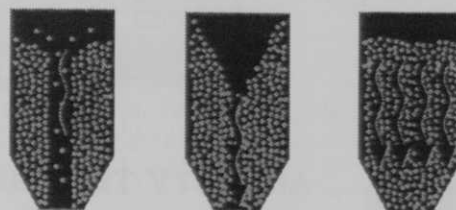


Trajectories For Several Sizes Of Granular Raw Materials (Granular Urea)

- 3.3 mm / 6.2 ft.
- 1 mm / 5.2 ft.
- .5 mm / 4.2 ft.

The importance of uniformity in application is demonstrated here if a wide disparity exists in particle sizing the risks of uneven - and improper - product coverage increases.

Application Flow Through



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The Andersons greens grade product uniformity helps deliver the product to the turf consistently for maximum effectiveness.

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Trade and Associate Winner – Ivan Toons, 28 pts.

Thanks go to Charnwood Forest for hosting our Christmas Tournament and to Tim Allard, Head Greenkeeper and his staff, for providing us with an excellent golf course. I'm sure all members would agree that the greens especially were a pleasure to putt on. Unfortunately it was another day for being Bindleyed not only in the golf but also the Quiz, organised by Dave Leatherland, as Mark's and my own team finished first and second! Also thanks should be extended to the Stewardess for providing everybody with a great Christmas meal. A special thanks should be extended to Rigby Taylor for again sponsoring the day and to all Section members for supporting the event. Again the committee members pulled together to help in the smooth running of the Tournament and I would like to thank them all for their valuable help.

Also the Section would like to thank our Regional Administrator, Peter Larter, for making the long journey to support our Section's day and answer any queries for our members.

On March 5 a new fixture has been arranged at Lingdale GC. The format for the day is a Better Ball Stableford competition. This will replace the old pairs knock-out tournament. The tee has been reserved from 11 am and is restricted to full greenkeeper members only. No entry forms will be sent out so should you wish to attend please give me a ring and I will forward you a form.

This year's AGM will be held at Greatham Valley, on November 5, at 4.30pm.

I would also on behalf of all members of the Section like to wish Brian Harding, of Birstall GC, a long and happy retirement. Brian has been at Birstall for 23 years.

Finally if there are any members who have not been receiving their entry forms over the past 12 months, could they please give me a ring so we can sort out the problem.

Antony Bindley

Midland

I would like to start by introducing myself as your new Secretary as I have taken over from Kim Blake and I would like to thank Kim on behalf of the Midlands Section for his continuous work and commitment to the Section.

The AGM was held at Whittington Heath GC, on December 9. There was a good representation of members and those present elected the following officers and members of the committee: President – Alan Kite, Chairman – Trafford Stonebridge, Secretary – Jonathan Wood. Other members include Rhys Thomas, P. Richmond, T. Morris, D. Fellows, P. Holtham, K. Weston, A. Smith and E. Stant. At this point you will obviously realise the absence of Mike Hughes name from the above committee. He has given time and a great deal of effort to the Midlands Section at committee and as Chairman for a number of years so on behalf of the Mid-

lands Section I would like to thank Mike and ask for his continued support of the Midland Section.

The Christmas Tournament was also held at Whittington Heath GC on December 9. It was a Texas Scramble format which created an enjoyable days golf with some great scores and the results are as follows:- 1. T. Cheese, A. Kite, B. Nuttal, A. Southam; 2. R. Hayhurst, D. Brazier, P. Jefford, J. Wideson. Thanks to Burrows of Stafford who were our main sponsors and to Whittington Heath GC for hosting the tournament.

The tournaments and venues will be in next month's report along with the education programme. To finish with I would like to ask any member who has information which they think of importance to be put into future months reports to contact me on 01384 292396. I would also be keen to help with any other secretarial matters which you have.

Jonathan Wood

East of England

Another year over, which ended with a Texas Scramble at Belton Park GC, followed by the AGM. The scramble was sponsored by Groundcare and John Deere Ltd and won by David Welberry, Barry Anderson and John Kircock who took first place with a birdie, eagle, birdie finish. The course was in good condition and it was nice to see the hard work put in by Colin Swinger and his staff on the fairways is now paying off.

The AGM followed on from the golf and saw a fairly good turn out of members.

The Chairman welcomed all and apologies were read. The previous minutes were passed. The Secretaries report covered the 1997 programme of events and the Secretary took the opportunity to thank all the clubs for allowing us courtesy of their courses and thanked all our sponsors for the excellent prizes. He outlined the winter Education programme and asked for topics from the floor. The Treasurer then explained the healthy financial report. The election of officers has no change and so all committee positions remain the same. Any other business covered a range of discussions which left the Secretary with plenty of ideas for 1997. The evening should have finished with Michael Wood, of Thorpe Wood GC, being presented with the Order of Merit Blazer but it is still on order!

The fixture list for 1997 EOE Section events are almost completed and will be posted to you as soon as possible.

Finally I close by wishing you successful greenkeeping and good golfing for the forthcoming year.

Graeme A Macdonald

Mid Anglia

Our last golf event of the year took place in early December at a very windy Dunstable Downs GC. Not the sort of conditions you need really at such an exposed course, still I'm sure most peo-

ple enjoyed the day.

The Texas Scramble format was used once again which enabled non-greenkeepers to participate, giving it a more social feel.

Our thanks go to Frank Scullion and all his staff for the excellent condition of the course and to Dunstable Downs GC for their hospitality. Twenty four teams entered the competition, sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity Products, and the results were:- 1. J. Moorhouse, J. Hatton, L. Cant, D. Wright, 59.7; 2. S. Giardani, R. Lawrence, A. Grew, J. Clark, 60; 3. A. Dancer, J. Elborn, C. Carson, A. Dance, 61.8. Nearest the pin was won by Ken Bunting and the longest drive by Mark Whittle.

Our thanks go to Colin White, of Avoncrop, for sponsoring the event and all other members of the trade who supported us on the day.

It was also nice to see Peter Larter, our newly appointed Regional Administrator, in attendance and I am sure he got a good impression of the Mid Anglia Section. Thanks for attending Peter. Although I could not stay for the after-dinner comedian from what people have said he was very good.

On behalf of the Section I would like to wish Derek Prior, formerly of Rogers Engineers, a happy retirement and Ronan McKeown all the best in his new position as Head Greenkeeper at Hayling Island GC. Ronan leaves our Section to join the South Coast Section and over the past few years he put a lot of effort into making our Section successful so thanks for that Ronan.

Our next Section event a talk by Andy Cole, the STRI Agronomist, on February 18 has been cancelled since Andy is unavailable. The next talk is to be held on March 11 and will be given by Bruce Jameson, who was formerly Director of Agronomy for the European Tour. This event will be held at Mentmore G&CC and begins at 2pm.

Paul Lockett

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Gordon Child

Tel: 01803 844056

As dawn broke on January 21 the Region's trip to the BTME got under way, although a few from the extreme edges of the Region had already started to make their way to the pick up points. Everyone was on time as indeed was the coach itself much to the disappointment of the jokers on board. On our arrival at Harrogate we were received with the usual warm, friendly welcome by the staff of the hotel.

What do we say this time about the one and only BTME? The bustling crowds said it all. Another record broken for our tenth anniversary and the year has only just started. The excitement of the last few days has generated more warmth within every aspect of the industry from worldwide friendships. Long may it continue.

Nearer to home we, the Region's organisers, are blessed with some very

good friends who took us out for a meal and bought us presents and flowers. It is very gratifying to know how much they appreciate the efforts. While on the subject of organisation the exhibition was extremely well run and put together. We are all going to miss you Louise. The seminars were very well received as were the social events. We must make a special mention about the banquet, it was just superb and our thanks to Ransomes for the gift they sent to our table to mark Marion's and my own retirement as Regional Administrator. It was a very nice thought.

Our thanks must go to the entire BIGGA staff for all the hard work put in on our behalf. It is easy to forget the problems and emergencies which always seem to happen and have to be dealt with at big events. They did all this and still came up smiling. Well done!

On a personal note, I wish Pat all the very best for his year as Chairman and I thank him for inviting me to serve as his Vice Chairman. I am very honoured and proud to do so.

Gordon Child

Devon and Cornwall

The Section's congratulations are extended to David Harrison on his new appointment within SISIS. David would like to express his thanks to all the Section's members for making his time working in our area so enjoyable.

Our Christmas meeting was a sell out with more than 80 members attending the day which started as always with our golfing members competing in a greensome format for the P J Flegg Trophy. Our non-golfing members were as usual treated to the guided course walk by head man, Richard Wisdom.

After an excellent Christmas lunch Patrick Flegg presented the morning's golfing prizes to some outstanding pairs:- 1. J. Mitchell, Perranporth, & R. Whyman, Bude, 39 pts; 2. G. Tamblyn, Mullion, & D. Manley, Mullion, 39 pts; 3. T. Ramsden, Budock Vean, & T. James, Tehidy, 38 pts.

The Chairman and President presented the prizes for nearest the pin on the 12th and 15th holes and for the longest drive on the 10th: 12th (Presidents Prize) M. Gilbert, Launceston; 15th (sponsored by Links Leisure) K. James, West Cornwall; Longest Drive (sponsored by Links Leisure) T. Gooch, Torrington.

After our golf presentation we were entertained by Chris James, with his incredible mind reading act. Following our entertainment we held two raffles the first being for Hampers kindly donated by Avoncrop and Peter Andrewartha and won by K. James and T. Pipe. The second raffle of 50 prizes concluded our day.

The Section would like to thank Okehampton GC and all their staff who made our day so special, with a special mention to Richard Wisdom and his crew as they seem to improve the course each year.

A big thanks to the day's main spon-

sor Patrick Flegg, of P J Flegg, to our President John Palfrey, who supplied the wine at lunch and to all of you who donated prizes for the day.

Dates for your diary; February meeting on Wednesday 26 at Perranporth GC; March meeting on Thursday 20 at Honiton GC; Westurf Trade Show, at Long Ashton GC, Bristol on Wednesday April 30.

Richard Whyman

South Wales

Our latest winter evening lecture was presented by Guy Longshaw, of Symbio Ltd, and was entitled "The Biological Approach to Sports Turf Management". A dozen or so hardy soles braved the freezing temperatures to attend an excellent intriguing presentation. Many topics were covered including the breakdown and reduction of thatch, disease resistance, ward development, black layer removal and improved drought resistance. The presentation provoked many questions and much audience participation and could have gone on all night. It was a thoroughly worthwhile evening, a pity about the attendance but it was definitely your loss. Our sincere thanks to Guy Longshaw and Symbio.

Our winter competition, AGM and Christmas Dinner were held recently at the Pyle and Kenfig GC. The day as always was sponsored by Vitax and their local distributor, Celtic Mowers. Our sincere thanks go to both Allan Stowe and Kim Davies for their support

Around the Green



and continued sponsorship.

Some 47 golfers took to the course armed with six layers of clothing, a hip flask (each) and of course some golf clubs. The weather on the whole remained bright despite the sub-zero temperatures and as always the well presented but tricky links course made for a challenging round of golf. Thanks to Pyle and Kenfig GC for allowing us the courtesy of their facilities and to Paul Robinson and his team for their sterling work in presenting a course in such good condition despite the inclement weather last year. The AGM also witnessed an excellent attendance of some 50 or so despite the absence of Ted Thompson (who sent his apologies) through ill health who missed only his second AGM in 32 years – a record surely!

Many of the changes that occurred during 1996 were highlighted such as the constitutional changes, the introduction of part-time paid regional administrators, the introduction of both retired and student membership and an update on a new BIGGA Headquarters.

In concluding his report the Chairman, Idwall Morris, thanked both the committee for their support during his

term of office and also the trade for their sponsorship and support of which we rely on and helps make the section tick. He then went on and paid tribute to retiring Regional Administrator Gordon Child and his wife Marion for their 10 years of service and echoed all our wishes for a long and happy retirement.

The Secretary in his report gave an explanation in greater detail of the changes and how they would affect both individuals and the section. He then went on to give facts and figures of both the section and total BIGGA members at present.

The Secretary paid tribute to the education committee for their sterling work during 1996 and especially Malcolm Davies who, along with Peter Gillard, organised all educational events and saved the Secretary an enormous amount of work.

In summing up the Secretary stated that the Section needs to get greater numbers of greenkeepers to its events, whether they be at Section, Regional or National level. All events are organised for your benefit, please support them!

The committee again were thanked for their support with special tribute to Idwall, who fronted the Section admirably for longer than his elected term.

Section Committee:- President – Colin Murphy; Vice President – Ray Burrows; Chairman – Gerwyn Price; Vice Chairman – David Ward; Secretary – Peter Lacey. Golf and Social:- Chairman – Mike Jones; Douge Donne,

Adrian Panks. Education:- Chairman – Malcolm Davies; David Ward, Mike Williams. Regional Board:- Peter Lacey, David Ward, David Jenkins. Liaison Representatives:- Malcolm Davies, David Ward, Mike Williams, Peter Lacey.

Fixture cards will be issued as soon as confirmation has been received from all parties.

The Section wishes to pass on their congratulations to Huw Morgan, of the Wilderness Golf Club in Sevenoaks, for his recent success in coming third in the Miracle Professional Greenkeeper of the Year Award. Well done Huw!

Peter Lacey

South Coast

On December 2 we held our Christmas Turkey Trot, AGM and Christmas Dinner at Royal Winchester GC. We have been made welcome at Royal Winchester for more years than I care to remember and our thanks go to the Captain, Committee and everyone at Royal Winchester for another memorable day.

Our Turkey Trot this year took a different line. Instead of the usual Stableford Mark organised a Texas Scramble which was a great success. The results were:- 1. Ed McCabe, Keiran Jaques, Simon White; 2. Adrian Archer, Phil Nason, Steve Ridland; 3. Matt Blake, John York, Pat Bell; Nearest the Pin: Mark Webb, Mark Wilton, Neil Cleverly. Congratulations to all the winners. The weather this year was ideal and thanks go to Phil Hanks and his team who as usual presented the course in excellent condition.

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On completion of the golf we had the AGM which ran smoothly. The Chairman emphasised the need for more fund raising within the Section.

After 10 years our Regional Administrator Gordon Child is standing down. Gordon, assisted by his wife Marion, has done a fantastic job for the Region and BIGGA as a whole. They will be greatly missed. If it was not for their hard work over the past 10 years the Region would not be in the healthy state it is today. A successor is being appointed and he/she will be a paid employee of BIGGA. This means there will be no more annual refunds from Headquarters and each event that we hold will have to make a profit or at the very least break even so we keep the Section solvent at all times.

As the AGM marked the Section's 25th Anniversary Eric James, a founder member of the Section gave us a brief history of its progress. As I am sure you all know Eric has been Chairman of our Section for most of its existence.

Jim Fry has been President since our Section was formed. He has supported BIGGA at International, National, Regional and Section level. Before BIGGA he was a staunch supporter of BGGGA and has sponsored a large number of our events over the years. Thank you Jim on behalf of our Section for all the marvellous support you have given us.

The main item on the Agenda was the election of the Committee:- President - Jim Fry; Chairman - Allen Mitchell; Vice Chairman - Ed McCabe;

Secretary - Jeff Drake; Tournament Organiser - Mark Webb; Magazine - Ken Lodge; Sparsholt College - Bob Dennis; Regional Board - Keiran Daly, John York, Andy Hill, Tony Gaod, Fred Deacon, Trevor Smith. If you have any queries concerning the Section, Region or Association in general contact any of the above.

On completion of the AGM the catering staff provided us with an excellent Christmas Dinner. The wine was kindly donated by Jim Fry and once again our thanks go to him.

All that remains is to thank our main sponsors for the day:- Rigby Taylor, represented by Mark Wilton and John Deere, represented by Nick Clarice. Mark and Nick have been attending our Turkey Trot for a number of years and we thank them both for their continued support. Our thanks also go to Avoncrop, Parker Hart and Diamond Products for their contributions.

By now you should have received details of the Regional/Section seminar to be held at Sparsholt College on February 18. There is still time to book in, contact Jeff Drake, 10 Cold Harbour Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 7PW. Telephone 01722 503938.

Preparations are being made for Westurf 97. The Regional event of the year will be held at Long Ashton GC on Wednesday April 3. We have asked for a dry, sunny day this year! I look forward to seeing you all there. Anyone who has transport problems please let me know along with anyone who has empty seats

in their car. I have room for 3 to start the ball rolling so give me a call on 01329 282362.

Unfortunately our speaker for the March Winter Lecture William McKechnie has left Parkstone and returned north of the border to Scotland. However British Seed Houses have agreed to fill the gap and Bob Scott will be giving us a talk on grass seed, in particular British Seed Houses new creeping bent. Whether you are a supporter of creeping bent or traditional fescue come along to Crane Valley GC on March 6 at 10 am. It should prove to be a very interesting topic. Lunch will be available and 9 holes of golf has been arranged, though the format of the golf is still to be decided.

Alan Rideout has asked me for a list of all winners of the Roffey Cup since 1985. The Roffey Cup is the best handicap score over 36 holes at the Spring Tournament. Alan is the present holder of the trophy and would like to update the names on the cup since they are sadly out of date. Anyone who has won the trophy since 1985 please contact Alan on 01202 394552.

Finally I am sure that the Section would like to wish William McKechnie good luck and good fortune in his new post in Scotland.

Ken Lodge

South West

Bleak conditions will now be rendering the courses deserted except for that strange sub species of the golfing family

- the senior golfer. I always somewhat naively assumed that this particular genetic freak evolved over many, sometimes hundreds of years at golf clubs but having worked at a brand new course I realise they just appear almost overnight at the first sniff of a new course being constructed. It is almost as though they dig themselves out of the ground complete with a half set of "pin-splitters" and 20 year old rubber shoes. It doesn't matter what the weather is like, the attire never changes. But there they are, the same fourballs everyday, consistently shooting scores of between one and two hundred with only a pot of tea and a piece of toast split four ways as the only visible form of nutrition. Don't get me wrong, they're a great bunch of people but why do they have to play every day. The fact that they have developed these blindingly quick proddy golf swings guaranteed never to lose a ball would lead me to conclude they feel positively cheated if they do not play every day. This theory is further substantiated when I see them return after their round to scour the area should the initial search fail to find an errant golf ball. Even their tee pegs are crudely tied together to prevent the loss of a one penny investment.

But enough of my ramblings and on to the Section news. A full house was present at the annual South West seminar at Cannington College and we were treated to some excellent speakers. Jim Arthur sitting in for Bill Lawson, who had to drop out through ill health, gave

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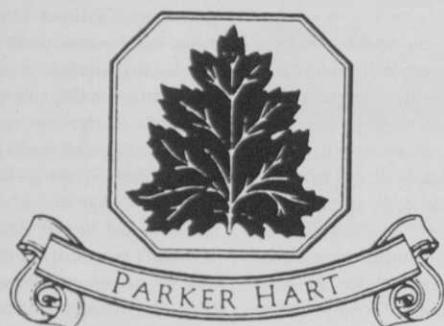


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us the benefit of his views on a variety of subjects. George Brown educated us on the preparation of Turnberry for the British Open and also on the nocturnal habits of Scottish greenkeepers and there were also some excellent talks from Gordon Irvine and the BIGGA Roadshow team among others. Thanks must go to Rhone Poulenc for their sponsorship.

Later in the month we gathered together for the Christmas Tournament at Worlebury GC and once again this proved to be very popular. The course was presented superbly and our thanks must go to Chris Stabbings and his crew for this. As at the previous meeting it was local knowledge allied to a touch of banditry that took the honours with Derek Mogg, the host club's Captain and John Kane of Clevedon winning first prize with 39 pts. Les Johnson, our retired Salford member, and Trevor Cleverley, of Elestoke, took second place. Our thanks go to Worlebury GC for the use of their course and the sponsors, Roffey Bros, for providing the wine on the table which was very much appreciated. A superb Christmas lunch was followed by the raffle with all the prizes being provided by other local sponsors. We were then entertained for an hour or so by a comedian. Although he might have heard of the phrase political correctness I would not recommend him to a convention of black Irish lesbians but nevertheless he kept us very much amused!

We are now getting together a couple of courses on first aid and spraying etc. If anyone is interested in attending any of these please contact either Peter Baynton or myself on 01380 828380. Marc Haring

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

East Anglia

Quite an eventful day I think – that's how December 12, 1996 will go down in history. A day when Essex man decided to set up on his own and call themselves, surprise, surprise, the Essex Section. A day of mixed emotion for me being an ex-Essex man myself I shall miss the lind of my old haunts and "HG" Wells who was always good for a laugh as we shared the Cockney wit and humour.

Life must go on however and while we wish Essex man all the best for the future the East Anglia Section must look at recruiting for from within, especially North Norfolk greenkeepers who many now be more interested now that there is now quite so much travelling involved.

If the Section is to survive which I am sure that it will now that it is truly East Anglia, we must all relate to it as our Section, take pride in it and support it as much as possible.

Ian Willett is our new Secretary and anyone who wants to know anything at all about the new East Anglia Section can contact him on 01842 754241 or through Thorpe Ness GC. If anyone wants me to put anything in the maga-

Around the Green



zine contact me on 01603 432120 or through Eaton GC.

Back to that history making day at Alderburgh, a game of golf did precede the AGM and the top three were Ian Willett, Andy Sheehan and Sam Sylvester, all on 32 pts (that's points not pints).

Three other people are also worthy of a mention. They are Lyndon Upham, who thought he'd take the tiger line off the temporary first tee but put his ball through the clubhouse window. He tried to look the other way but could not keep a straight face. Not that breaking the window was funny but the sight of the spectators hitting the deck like someone had just thrown a hand grenade was.

The second person is Roger Plummer, who scored 19 points. He only "played nine" he said as the other nine were blobs.

Your scribe, to score more points than Roger, was always going to get a mention. The third person is Andrew Kersey who scored eight points. Full marks Andrew for handing your card in. As the song goes things can only get better.

The four desperados, Curtis, Chesham, Richardson and Rushbrook played the nine hole and came 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

We also had the men in green coats from BIGGA Palace to oversee the pantomime. They were John Pemberton and Derek Farrington, who is our area officier from on high. We shall all see him in due course.

John Pemberton presented the prizes to Doug Smith, Spring Shield, Steve Millard, Summer Shield, Ray Mitchell, Autumn Shield, and Tim Russell, Winter Shield.

After the presentation our thanks went to all the trade for their support over the years. They include, Rushbrooks, Sisis, Rhone Poulenc, CMW, King's Toro, Ransomes, Doe's, Colliers, Rigby Taylor, Turf Actant, Ben Burgess and Bartrams.

If I have missed anyone out I am sorry but it should not happen in future!

The next stage was the election of the officers who are as follows.

President, Ernie Hart; Vice President, Bob Chesham; Chairman, Steve Millard; Treasurer, Martin Mystow; Handicap Secretary, Alan Carter; Secretary, Ian Willett; Scribe, Mick Lathrope; Regional Members, Michael Peters, Sam Sylvester, David Childs, Roger Plummer; Liaison Officer, Colin Rushbrook.

Next year's dates are Finn Valley, April 9 (Hayter Challenge), Next Round Ham Manor; Felixstowe, June 25; Yarmouth and Caister, August 13 (30 limit); Gog Magog, October 9; Gentleman's Dinner (Don't tell the wife) Walton Heath, March 7; National Tournament August '97 Cooden Beach.

I do believe that's nearly it except to say a big thank you to Aldeburgh GC for putting up with us yet again. They really do look after us. Thanks also to to Mick Moss (CMW) for yet another turkey. Long may the tradition continue.

I'll just end by saying, come on East Anglia, let's get this show on the road. It's your Section. Support it! Mick Lathrope

Sussex

The Turkey Trot for 1996 was once again held at Littlehampton GC. We were luckier with the weather this year, no frost, no snow, just the sea breeze that went through rather than round you. After a hearty breakfast and a brandy we set out to do battle. All was fine until we arrived at the halfway bar (provided by Miracle). After more brandy, beer and mince pies the golf deteriorated some what, but who cares as it's Christmas. After 18 holes we were all ready for a hot shower and our Christmas dinner. The food and the service were up to their usual high standards. Then to the prize giving. All scores have been verified by George Barr:- 1. George Barr(!), Paul Ward, Bob Watters, Mark Day, 54 points; 2. Rob Short, Les Templeman, Brian Finn, A. Finn, 54 points. The turkey vouchers were provided by Avoncrop. On behalf of the Section could I thank Keith Palmer, Secretary of Littlehampton, and Dave Wood and his greenkeeping staff for presenting the course so well. Rumour has it that we have been invited back again this year.

For those of you who do not already know two of our Section managed to find brides last year. Congratulations to Raymond Day who married Jill in October 1996 and to Alistair Cale who married Dee also in October 1996. After partnering Alistair in the Turkey Trot I don't know whether to send congratulations or sympathy to Dee (only joking Alistair).

Well that's it for now, don't forget I need your input for future articles. Contact me on (01403) 731567. Colin Cathie

Surrey

As we are in a change over period on the committee it has fallen my lot to keep you up to date as to what has been going on in the Section.

The Turkey Trot was held at Guildford GC on December 3. The weather for once held fair, my thanks to all who attended and my apologies to those who were too late with their applications – for once the start sheet was full up! My thanks to the Management and to Chris and his merry men for a job well done. Results:- 1. J Mathis, Northants GC, 40 pts; 2. Billy McMillan, 37 pts; 3. Ian (Sooty) Sutcliffe, 35 pts. Trade prize:- I. Sellars, 40 pts.

The AGM was held after the golf, again my apologies to those who arrived at the correct time but after the meeting had started. This was due to events beyond by control. Four members of the committee have decided to

stand down this year – Clive Osgood, Derek Walder, D. Gibbs and Roger Glazier. Our sincere thanks to all the hard work they have put in over the years. We did manage to recruit one screaming and kicking volunteer, our singer and expert golfer, Johnny Mathis! Any more recruits would be welcome.

The lecture by British Seed Houses, held at Reigate Heath GC on December 12, was a great success and very well attended with excellent food and the American speaker being well worth the trip.

I will get the 1997 diaries out as soon as possible but we still have a couple of venues to fill. I would like to take this opportunity in thanking all of you "regulars" that have supported our events throughout 1996. We have been playing to full houses but new faces are more than welcome.

The Parker Salver is open to suggestions, give me, or any committee member, a ring and let us have your ideas. Hopefully someone else will take on the newsletter in 1997 so I will wish you all the very best for the New Year. Ted Stiles

Kent

First of all I hope you all had a good Christmas and a happy New Year, and no doubt a successful Harrogate.

I have got some long overdue results from last year's golf tournaments. At Sundridge Park we played for the Gem Professional Shield on a very nice day with the course in excellent condition. The results were:- Overall winner – J. Fullager; 2nd Nett – R. Lucas; Best Gross – H. Morgan; 2nd Gross – P. Rudkin; Trade Prize – G. Ogilvie. Many thanks must go to Gem, Sundridge Park and Raymond Day and his staff for the course.

Secondly the Turkey Trot at Darenth Valley was played on a beautiful, but frosty, morning. The course was in excellent condition with the best prepared temporary greens in the South-East. The golf scores were a credit to the course and the results were:- 1. B. Abbott – 40 pts; 2. S. Grand – 38 pts; 3. D. Wood – 37 pts; 4. J. Fullager – 37 pts; 5. J. Le Mar – 38 pts (trade prize). After the golf we held the fastest AGM ever – 15 minutes with no complaints! After a superb meal and the speeches the committee provided everyone with a festive bottle of wine to show thanks for your support during the year. Thanks must go to Darenth Valley, the sponsors, Scott and Avoncrop, and Nigel Stapley and his staff for the course.

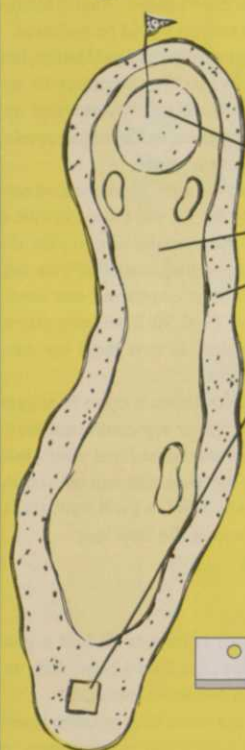
For 1997 we have some new tournaments lined up. Firstly, there is a four-somes knock-out to be played between March and September and a greensome at Wilderness in the summer. Further information will be sent out soon. All members will be sent out a letter with a slip attached and if the slip is not returned by the closing date you will not be included on the golf mailing list for the rest of the year.

If you have any news etc please call me on 0860 260240.

Huw Morgan

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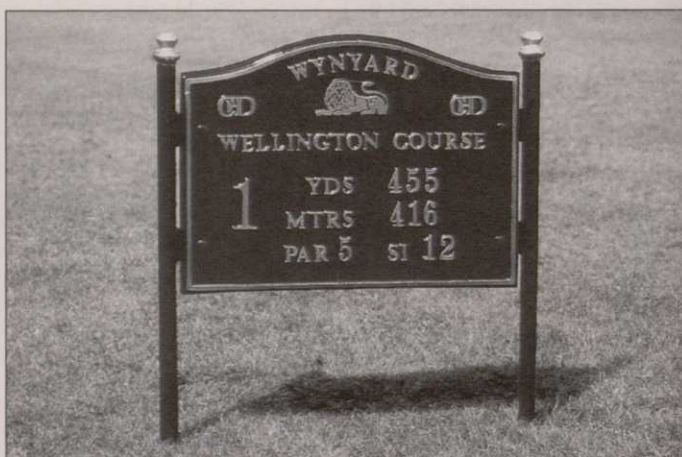
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GROWTH INDUSTRY



Hugh Tilley examines the field of fertilisers and looks at the developments which have taken place.

While there are various views on the need for fertiliser on golf courses, particularly on fairways, most greenkeepers accept a need for fertiliser on greens and tees which are regularly mown with clippings boxed off. Greenkeepers are also recognising that more rounds over an extended season require the grass to be kept growing for longer and for it to be strengthened.

There is also an increasing requirement for courses to look good throughout the year. As a result there are several pressures to apply fertilisers, perhaps in increasing amounts, and to increasing areas of the course. There are also differing thoughts over the use of organics, turf conditioners and growth stimulants, and perhaps there is now a realisation that applying the major nutrients without a balance of minor nutrient and trace elements is recipe for disease etc, and, talking to Course Managers, greater use is being made of analysis. Most fertilisers are supplied through a local agent, who also often supplies other services such as soil and tissue analysis. The most usual scenario on most courses appears to be to apply a "complete" fertiliser in the spring and then to top up with nitrogen once or twice later in the season as needed – often using the later

dressings to include other products such as iron and/or a fungicide. The last few years have seen many changes in the manufacturer supplier chain, the golf course and its manager has become more important while agriculture has declined in importance and this change has led to greater importance being attached to meeting the requirements of golf. Other changes have been in the composition of greens, which are the areas which receive most fertiliser, as more and more are built or re-built to USGA Guidelines with under-drains, stone and mainly sand root zones. Composition of the root zone has considerable bearing on fertiliser use. There have also been several critical changes in supplier and manufacturer with changes of name – ICI became Miracle, via Zenica and Fisons became Levington Horticultural while US based Scotts and Mascot, both marketed by UK companies, have made a significant impact on the UK golf course. Miracle is now wholly owned by Scotts, but both will continue to run as two separate operations while it is seen how they marry together.

Few changes in product are envisaged. BASF now market their turf fertilisers through Kings Horticulture. The term "fertiliser" has a precise meaning in law – and analysis of the product must be stated. But as one maker stated the exact method of analysis can vary between US, UK and Europe – thus "like" need not be "alike".

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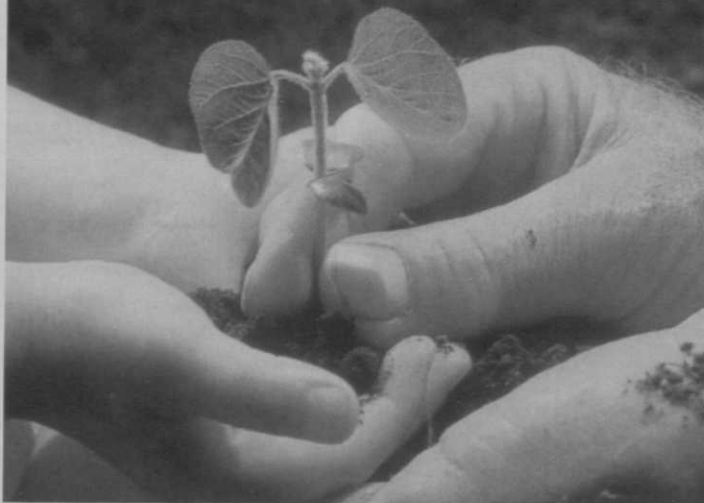
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GROWTH INDUSTRY



The main plant nutrients are Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potassium, normally abbreviated to N, P and K after their chemical symbols. In addition many fine turf fertilisers have added iron – Fe – for its ability to induce deeper green into the grass and to help suppress moss, they may also have other elements such as sulphur (S) and Magnesium (Mg) plus trace elements.

Techniques such as resin coating have been proven and from a single exponent (Sierra) there are now several makers offering coated products. Didin (a nitrification inhibitor), IBDU and Methylene Urea (MU), the latter two urea nitrogens, have to be broken down before becoming available to the plant and this is another way in which nitrogen release can be extended and these are well proven for those who want to make their nitrogen uptake extend into the mid-summer period – but not all manufacturers are agreed how effective this is. Resin coating is claimed to be able to extend the release season by up to six months.

Many nutrients do not bond to sand – thus N and K in particular may be leached out, nor may there be any nitrification bacteria to breakdown urea into nitrate for uptake by the plant – thus the form of N become critical for sand based greens. Mark Hunt, of Scotts, admitted that their range was particularly geared to this type of green. Of course the whole idea of slow release is to save time and labour (on application) as well as levelling out the growth curve. Drought in the last seasons has only partly affected grass growth on greens because many courses now have irrigation removing lack of water as a controlling factor allowing nutrient to be utilised. High summer temperatures increase bacterial activity and so increase the rate of nitrification. On non-irrigated fairways differing thinking may be needed, although perhaps fertiliser can be used to promote drought resistance – with longer stronger root growth which can pick-up soil moisture better. Special fertiliser formulations are available for the turf market with both liquid and solids on offer, however a past ploy on most courses has been to use a mini-granule in early season to put on all the year's potassium (K) and phosphate (P) with enough nitrogen (N) to get the grass growing,

however increasingly the use of a mixture of nitrogen sources within the fertiliser is resulting in products with higher levels being available. Typically these products will have three types of N – with immediate, medium and slow release properties.

Despite the best endeavours of scientists to produce ever slower release nitrogens, nitrogen usually has to be supplemented in the summer when the plant can use it, however warm autumns and some mild weather in winter has allowed some nitrogen to be used out of season. Potassium (potash) – K – is also leached from sand and so can be deficient and as a result additional fertilisers are being added to most ranges to give the knowledgeable greenkeeper a suitable product to apply. Experience in agriculture and horticulture has shown that a surfeit of K can cause other nutritional problems, and a lock-up of other elements – but there is no suggestion that this is occurring with golf greens. Both the potassium and phosphate elements tend towards giving the plant greater resilience to wear and disease, while nitrogen is known to promote softer more disease prone growth, but in truth having the elements available in the right proportions must be the best answer to healthy turf. Other important 'minor' elements are magnesium and sulphur, the former often available as a specific element of the fertilisers, however there are many other elements needed by healthy turf, particu-

larly close mown turf which is verti-cut, scarified and has the clippings removed. Several manufacturers now include seaweed extract, "hoof and horn" or other organic ingredients in their product to broaden the spectrum of nutrient provision as well as to help carry the major nutrient. This belief – that organic compounds are good – is also promoted by the many suppliers of turf conditioners and growth stimulants and although seldom proved by analytical science has a lot of adherents amongst greenkeepers. Other particular concerns for the greenkeeper are take-up of fertiliser by the mower, hence the preference for micro or mini-granules apart from blunting the blades, fertiliser is corrosive, nor is there any sense in removing an expensive product with the clippings even though it may help them rot down! Most clubs with irrigation will run a watering programme specifically set to wash the fertiliser off the leaf and into the ground – and many suppliers actually suggest this course of action.

Several manufacturers stress that their products are true compounds rather than blends – blends being cheaper and easier to produce because they are simply a mix of the required 'straight' ingredients. The contention is that such mixes can separate and cease to be homogeneous, so producing variable results on the ground – these worries are voiced strongly by suppliers of compounds. In contrast the supplier

of blends is able to state that there is little evidence of this on the ground and that he can mix a product which will more exactly match the customer's requirements. One supplier added that he takes care to ensure that all granules are within a close size tolerance so that they have similar spread characteristics. Chelation is another science blinding word relating to fertiliser – in theory chelating means that the nutrients are 'buffered' so that they are less likely to bond to soil or other elements so becoming 'locked-up' and unavailable to the plant.

Liquid fertilisers have a number of adherents, and in particular N can be effective as a foliar feed. As a general rule liquids are less concentrated but more readily available thus they have a definite place in agronomy.

Several suppliers of organic compounds augment their products with the major nutrients in order to provide a total feed – and to meet greenkeepers' requirements, few greenkeepers subscribe to the muck and mystery theory that if it is organic and includes 'everything' it must be good for the grass.

Just what is the correct level and analysis of the major nutrients which should be applied is far too complex a matter to discuss here – it should be a matter of soil analysis and discussion between greenkeeper and supplier. There are a wide variety of differing compounds on the market offering an almost infinite range of differing ratios of N, P and K, perhaps with Fe, S and/or Mg. so the greenkeeper can take his pick. Many head greenkeepers and course managers have very decided opinions of what their course needs, and greater education has allowed them to base these views on science. Unfortunately for the greenkeeper, plant and soil science is extremely complex and subject to an infinite range of variables and conditions, ask any agronomist – so that what works well one year, in one soil, in one management may not produce the same results the next year or consistently. Nevertheless the main objective of most greenkeepers is to keep the grass looking healthy and growing so that it can be cut. Perhaps the greater truth is that grass growth really enables turf to be kept at its pristine best – and that this is the nub of the greenkeeping art.

From TEE to GREEN



Photograph courtesy of The Oxfordshire Golf Club

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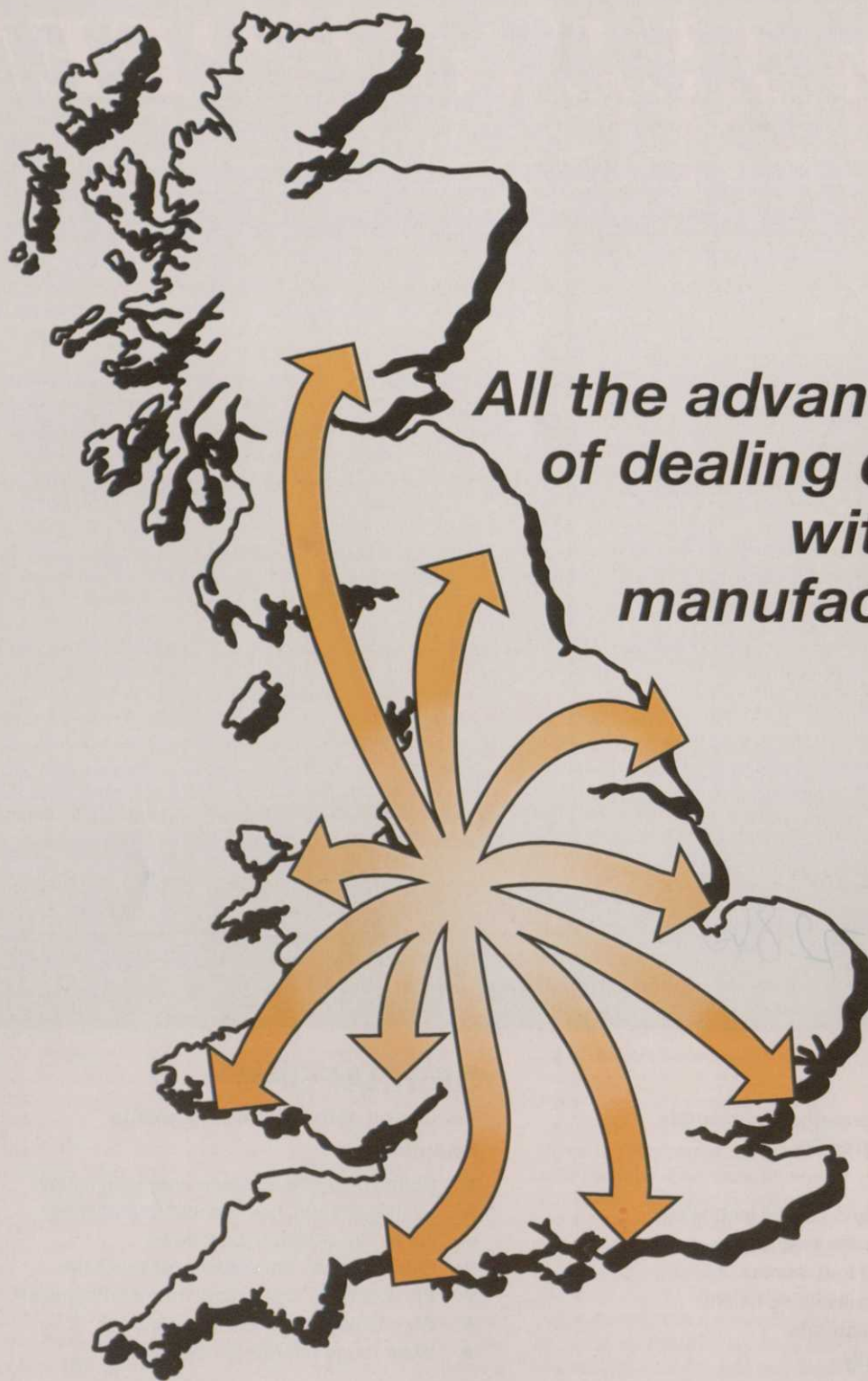
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Greenkeeper awarded MBE

Jimmy McDonald has been awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List.

It topped off a wonderful year for Jimmy, who ensured that Royal Lytham & St Annes was in magnificent condition for last year's Open, the final major championship of his illustrious career.

"It was a wonderful surprise and reflects well on the work that the entire greenkeeping staff put in during the run up to and the week of the Open itself," said Jimmy, who receives the award for "Services to Golf".

It is a fitting tribute to the success of the '96 Open and, with him due to visit Buckingham Palace in the next few months to receive the Award, makes his quote in the lead up to the Championship all the more fitting.

"If your dear old aunt was visiting you'd make a damn good tea but if the Queen were coming you'd do it a wee bit differently, wouldn't you," he said at the time when discussing the meticulous work which went into preparing for the Championship.

The effort paid off and during and since the Championship



Jimmy, fourth from right, and his team

praise for the course has been unstinting.

"I have had letters from all over the world congratulating us on a wonderful Championship and on the condition of the course.

"The feedback I've had is that the genuine links with burnt up grass was just what was wanted. Ironically just a few weeks prior to it I was worried because it was still pretty green."

As ever Jimmy has some thoughtful views on the country's great links courses.

"They should be treated like listed buildings and not tampered with. Ideally, on the Open venues play should be restricted and the clubs compensated. They are like

pieces of antique furniture and should be treated as such."

Since July's Championship much work has been done to return, particularly the spectator walkways and tented village area, to what it should be.

"Because we had two dry summers in a row the sward wasn't a thick as it should be and the damage was quite considerable on the walkways and the nine hole course but John Mallinson, of Ormskirk, who we used after the last Open, has done a great job in repairing the areas."

The recognition Jimmy has received reflects well on the entire greenkeeping profession and Neil Thomas, BIGGA's Execu-

tive Director paid tribute to him.

"The Award is richly deserved and reflects a lifetime's commitment to the greenkeeping profession. Many greenkeepers have worked with Jimmy and been trained by him over the years and a good many have gone on to manage their own golf courses having benefited greatly from the time spend with him.

"As well as being a personal award it is pleasing to see the recognition of greenkeeping as a profession and today the profession offers excellent opportunities. This is in no small measure due to the efforts of the older generation such as Jimmy who has set standards and through the year's enhanced the status of greenkeeping and greenkeepers," said Neil.

Jimmy's CV is the envy of most. He has been Head Greenkeeper at four Opens, four Senior Opens, been Deputy at another Open and has Ryder and Curtis Cups under his belt. He also helped to rebuild the nine hole course at his home in Traigh in the West Highlands.

"The first congratulatory fax came from Traigh. I was chuffed by that," said Jimmy.



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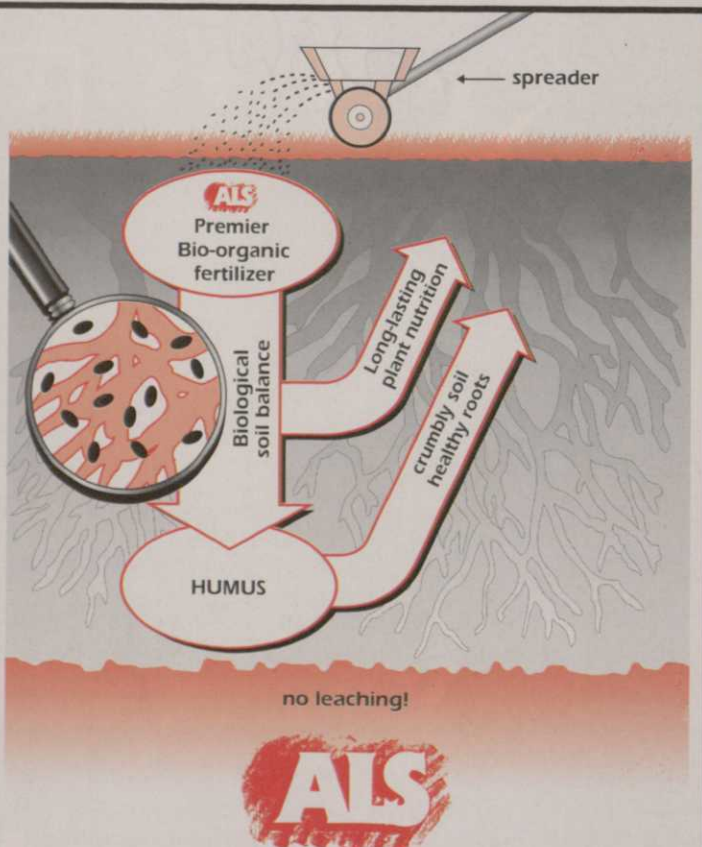
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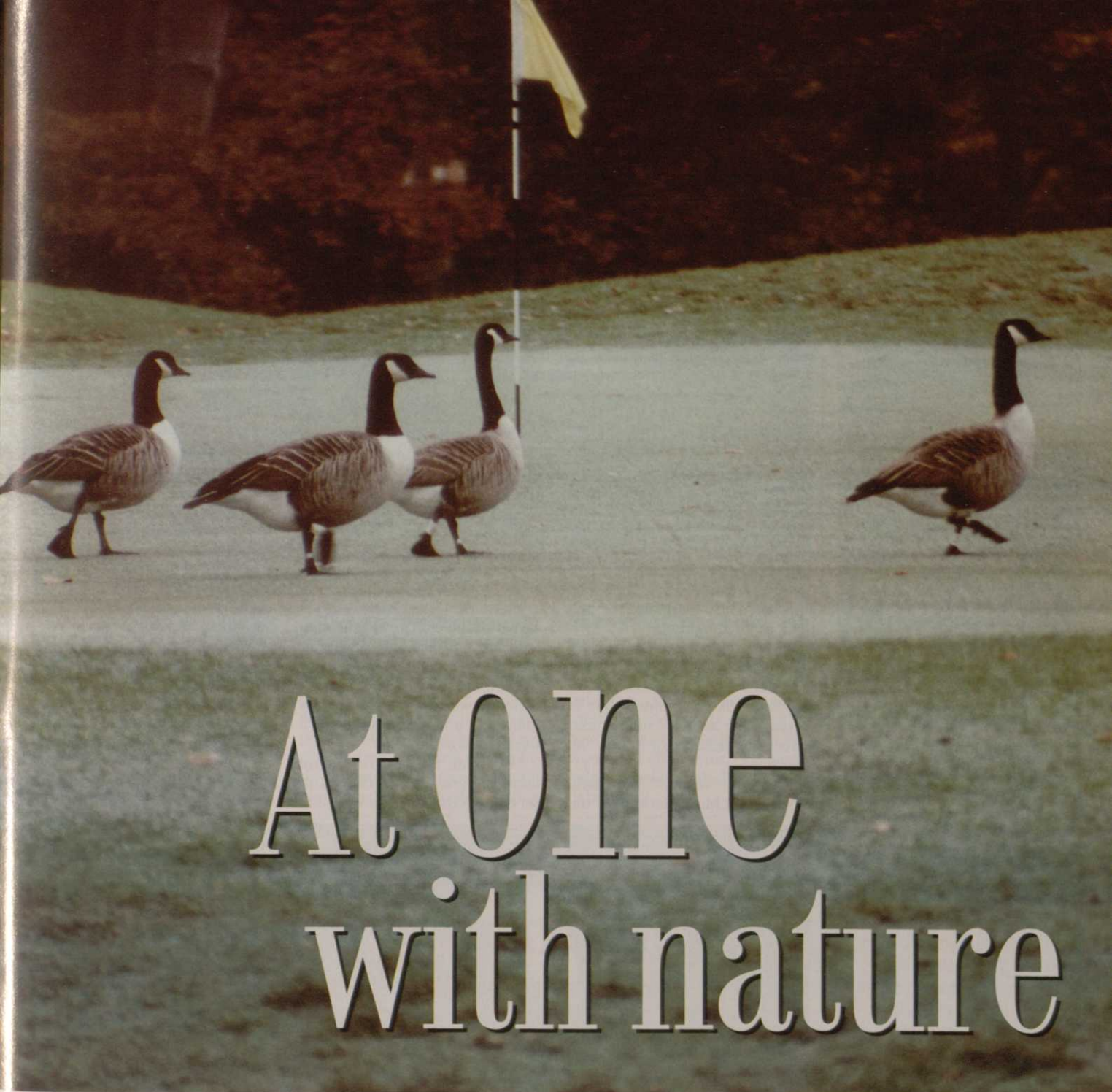
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At One with nature

Canada geese on the green at Rudding Park. Picture by Scott MacCallum

Rudding Park in Harrogate is the most environmentally aware golf course in the country. Scott MacCallum discovered why.

It's not too many people who can claim they are the best in the country. Anyone who rises to the top, in whatever field, has shown talent, determination and operates to a set of personal standards which marks he, she or it apart from the majority.

Rudding Park, in Harrogate, is one golf course which can claim to be the best. In this case the best for its environmental practices, as the current holder of the Amazone Golf Environment

Award – which this year becomes the BIGGA Environmental Award in association with Amazone and Rhône Poulenc – having been judged to be the golf course which does most to encourage a harmonious relationship between golf and the ecology of the course and the surrounding area. It also features strongly in BIGGA's new Golf Course Ecology video launched at BTME.

Not bad considering the course is still under two years old and that it had already won the regional award for the North of England in '95. So what is it that sets Rudding Park apart from the rest and what is it that is done there which makes it so special?

Well, for a start the setting is second to none. Martin Hawtree designed the course with the remit that nothing should be allowed to damage the look of the park. This has been achieved successfully with the major, and perhaps unique, element of the design that there are only six bunkers on the entire course all surrounded by trees and so virtually invisible.

"Part of the planning approval was that there should be minimal visual disturbance and it would have spoiled the look of the park if there had been a conventional number of bunkers," explained Head Greenkeeper Richard Hollingworth.

"If we didn't maintain the golf course it would only be a year until it reverted to parkland and you wouldn't know a golf course has been here other than the contouring and mounding around the greens," explained Richard.

The course opened on May 25, 1995 but Richard arrived at the course, having previously been an assistant at Moortown in Leeds, just after the contractors had finished seeding.

"Even before there was any grass it looked like an established golf course with avenues of oak trees radiating out from the house. The setting almost sold itself and the Hawtree design complements the surroundings."



Great Hadham's Green Recovery

When David Dollimore took over at Great Hadham GC on the Herts/Essex border, greens were worn and weeds were starting to get a foothold.

His problems increased when a late April herbicide was followed by unusually severe frosts. Attempts to returf and then re-seed were also thwarted, this time by drought.

It was then that he spotted a Fortiva advert and, after consulting Kings Horticulture, decided to give it a go.

"We added the Fortiva treated pure bent mixture to a top dressing, chitting the seed over a weekend. Just 12 days later, it was up and running," he recalls.

"Normally I'd expect grass to take 21 days to establish, but within a fortnight it had bedded in. This was an incredible recovery, the best I've seen in 15 years.

"Fortiva treated seed is certainly worth it," he says. "Now I'll rarely consider anything else on the greens."

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At one with nature

"Before we opened we had a hard core of five working here together with three students who worked extremely hard picking stones in the summer months. The standard of conversation stepped up a notch when they were here," joked Richard.

The course opening coincided with the '95 drought and Richard was faced with a battle to keep greens which were facing up to their first summer, alive.

"We had two people hand watering throughout the '95 summer. It was a big shock to the greens which had come from nothing to regular mowing and golfing traffic."

Richard also maintains the irrigation system himself.

"It was a bit daunting, particularly when I fitted £3000 worth of additions to it, not having done anything like it before. But it saved quite a bit of money and now I can tackle most things," he explained.

Richard works extremely closely with Mark Mackaness, the



Bat boxes

owner of the course and the man who has masterminded many of the ecological initiatives.

These include areas of meadowland which are sensitively managed and have become a haven for wild flowers.

"To obtain the best results we leave the grasses and flowers to set their seeds before mowing and

we turn the hay several times (more than absolutely necessary) to ensure the seeds are thrashed out before baling the hay," explained Mr Mackaness.

"Conservation does not need to cost a lot – indeed the sale of hay from the meadowland areas pays for the cost of the cutting," he added.

Golfers are not excluded from the meadowland areas but venturing into them doesn't help their score.

"Golfers can play their ball from the areas of rough if they can find it – it's pretty thick. We mow the areas once a year using an agricultural mower and the seed goes everywhere," said Richard.

They are also extremely frugal when it comes to the application of chemicals.

"Many people see one weed on a fairway and spray the whole lot just in case and it is probably easier that way but we always use a knapsack and spot spray. It saves us a great deal on chemicals."



Richard Hollingworth: Head Greenkeeper at the award-winning Rudding Park



The course is a haven for rabbits, hares, wild fowl, Canada geese, bats, foxes and badgers. "We create corridors of woodland so that there is room for the mammals to move around."

Rudding Park has its very own ecologist, Chris Firth, who sees the park as his own personal nature reserve.

"He has his own hide where he watches the wildlife and monitors the badger set," and a visit to the hide enabled us to see some pheasants wandering happily about. Unfortunately they disappeared before I could get the lens cap off the camera but I was a little luckier when it came to snapping some Canada geese strolling

over a green oblivious to the golf going on around them.

The golf course should be a Mecca for any homeless bird or bat with countless trees being used as staging posts for bird or bat boxes all made out of recycled wood and all of which are numbered or lettered to allow records to be kept.

To keep golfers informed of what is around them there are nature boards scattered throughout the course which give illustrated information of the flora and the fauna.

The bat boxes have the entry hole underneath and ridges to allow them to climb in. There is also a box on three sides of a tree so the bat can decide upon the most comfortable for each time of the year – winter facing the morning sun, shaded in the summer etc.

"Occasionally Chris and I have disagreements when best golf course management practices don't coincide with the best ecological practices – whether we should clear 10 metres into the woodland or leave it naturally etc – but generally we are fairly compatible."

That compatibility is obviously the key to ensuring that the golf course does what it does best while at the same time the flora and the fauna are allowed to flourish.



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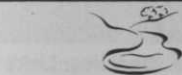
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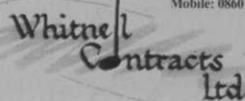
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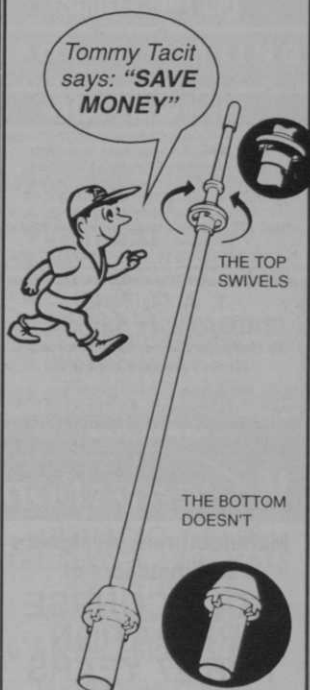
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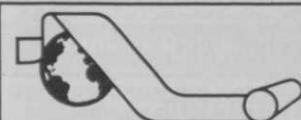
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and a combined

MECHANIC/GREENSTAFF

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Applications, together with CV
and written references, to:

Mr Nick Warner, Course Manager,
The Essex Club, Earls Colne, Colchester,
Essex CO6 2NS

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Accommodation available.

Application in writing with full CV not
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The Managing Secretary,
Crieff Golf Club Ltd,
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London Borough of Bromley

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Recreation Client Unit, Room A79, Anne Springman Building, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley BR1 3UH

Envelopes should be clearly marked GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE

Applications and pre tender questionnaires must be returned to the above address by 14 April 1997. A copy of the existing contract specification may be inspected by appointment at the above address however the Council of the London Borough of Bromley anticipate that preference will be given to an output specification during the next round of tendering.



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Applicants must possess recognised qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of Golf Course Management, including maintenance of machinery.

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

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Applicants should send hand written applications together with CV to:

Mr R N Portas, Secretary/Manager,
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Closing date: 24 February 1997

The Richmond Golf Club Petersham, Surrey

invite applications for the position of

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

The successful applicant will have:

- ◆ A minimum of eight years greenkeeping experience
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The Managing Secretary, The Richmond Golf Club,
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Boldon Golf Club Ltd

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Salary negotiable.

Applications in writing, together with CV, should be sent to:

**The Honorary Secretary, Boldon Golf Club Ltd,
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A full driving licence would also be an advantage.

Please apply with full CV to:

**T J Sullivan, Secretary/General Manager,
Southfield Golf Club Limited, Hill Top Road, Oxford OX4 1PF**

Newtownstewart Golf Club

invite applications for the post of

COURSE MANAGER/ HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have ■ Recognised qualifications ■ Experience in all aspects of greenkeeping ■ Ability to maintain Health and Safety regulations ■ Ability to prepare, implement and monitor budgets ■ Ability to motivate and work with existing staff.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Above post will be for an initial period of two years and may be extended by the agreement of both parties.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

**The Honorary Secretary, Newtownstewart Golf Club,
38 Golf Course Road, Newtownstewart, Omagh, Co. Tyrone BT78 4HU**

Closing date: 1st March 1997

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5. Experience of links courses an advantage
6. Accommodation not provided
7. Closing date 7th March 1997.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Secretary, Furness Golf Club,
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Stockwood Vale Golf Club

GREENKEEPER

required due to expansion to 18 holes at Stockwood Vale Golf Club in Bristol.

The successful applicant will work under the direction of our Head Greenkeeper.

All applicants must be experienced and competent machinery drivers with basic greenkeeping skills. The start date is March/April.

Send CV and other details to:

**Mr M Ramsay, Stockwood Vale Golf Club, Stockwood Lane,
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Gatton Manor Golf Club

require a

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Due to restructuring, this busy parkland course requires applicants holding recognised qualifications plus PA1 and PA2.

With a minimum of eight years' experience and a current BIGGA member, the successful applicant will be required to motivate, supervise and work with the existing staff and deputise for the course manager in his absence.

Salary negotiable according to experience and qualifications.

Accommodation is not available.

Apply with hand written application and CV to:

**Mr John Davidson, Course Manager, Gatton Manor Hotel, Golf and
Country Club, Ockley, Nr Dorking, Surrey RH5 5PQ**

Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Golf Club

invite applications for the position of

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The 18 hole private course was founded in 1894 and lies within the ancient grounds of The Dulwich Estate.

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Greenkeeping Phase I and II, Spraying Certificate, plus full Driving Licence. Experience in the use of modern machinery and maintenance of automatic irrigation systems is required.

Salary will be based on BIGGA rates. No accommodation available.

Applications in writing with CV to:

**The Secretary, Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Golf Club,
Grange Lane, College Road, Dulwich SE21 7LH**

Rushmere Golf Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

for 18 hole healthland course over common land on outskirts of Ipswich, Suffolk.

No accommodation available with this position.

Applicants should be suitably experienced with relevant qualifications.

Please apply with full CV to:

**The Secretary, Rushmere Golf Club, Rushmere Heath,
Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 5QQ**

Manchester Golf Club

invite applications for the position of

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

This prestigious, forward looking golf club, seeks the services of a qualified, working Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate strong working knowledge of all modern golf course management practices and presentation. They should also have the ability to maintain Health and Safety requirements and to manage and motivate staff in the absence of the Head Greenkeeper. Possession of recognised qualifications, sprayer certificate and experience of modern machinery and irrigation systems are also required.

Please write enclosing your full CV and current salary details to:

Peter Thomas, Head Greenkeeper, Manchester Golf Club,
Hopwood Cottage, Middleton, Manchester M24 2QP



Birchwood Golf Club Ltd

require a

QUALIFIED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and have a good knowledge of modern machinery and irrigation systems.

Applications in writing with CV to:

Mr P J Baume, Course Manager, Birchwood Golf Club Ltd,
Kelvin Close, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 7PB



Abridge Golf and Country Club

Applications are invited for the position of

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful candidate must have at least three years experience in all aspects of greenkeeping and have qualifications up to Level 2.

Please apply with full CV to:

The Secretary, Abridge Golf and Country Club,
Epping Lane, Stapleford Tawney, Essex RM4 1ST

Royal Porthcawl Golf Club

requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

to join a motivated and committed team.

The candidate must be suitably qualified and have practical experience.

Apply in writing with CV to:

Mr David Ward - Course Manager
Royal Porthcawl Golf Club
Rest Bay, Mid Glamorgan CF36 3UW



Parkstone Golf Club

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER/ COURSE MANAGER

Applicants should be experienced in traditional Greenkeeping methods for this 18-hole heath and heather links course.

Accommodation not available.

Salary is negotiable.

Please apply in writing with current CV to:

The Secretary/Manager,
Parkstone Golf Club, Links Road,
Poole, Dorset BH14 9QS



Ramsey Golf Club Cambridgeshire

Wish to appoint an

EXPERIENCED HEAD GREENKEEPER

This traditional member's 18 hole parkland golf course, with a 6 rink county standard bowls green, invite applications for the position of Head Greenkeeper.

The successful applicant will have the appropriate Greenkeeping qualifications and possess the necessary man management skills to enthusiastically lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes, work within budgetary limits and maintain health and safety requirements.

Please write enclosing your full CV and salary expectations to:

Mr R A R Hill, Secretary/Manager,
Ramsey Club Company, 4 Abbey Terrace,
Huntingdon, Cambs PE17 1DD

Closing date: 28 February 1997.

Employers or intruders?



by David Roy,
Course
Manager at
Linlithgow GC

As we are presently in the grip of some seasonal weather, (namely snow, frost and ice) there are many households in the country with some very pent-up and anxious golfers who are suffering (probably along with the rest of their family) from a severe lack of golfing exercise. The more this weather continues, the greater the pressure on the greenkeeper, or committee, to open the course when at all possible in order to relieve these ever increasing levels of stress.

This in itself can have detrimental effects, but as an added bonus the weather for the past 18 months or so for greenkeepers in this part of the world has been odious; with the drought of last

year followed in the spring by frost, snow (with a resulting attack of snow mould) and a seemingly never ending east wind making the first half of the year quite unpalatable. Admittedly Mother Nature eventually relented and provided some conditions for growth albeit well into June when most club championships had already started, but by this time the inevitable grumbles had started on most courses in the area.

During poor growing conditions there are many decent people who empathise and have regard for the work that we are doing, but equally there are many people who seem to be only interested in getting a "fix" of their chosen pastime and woe betide anyone who tries to stop them. In this type of situation I have experienced every type of impassioned reason for opening the course, namely:

■ The irate older member with the equally old line "the course never used to be closed for a wee bit of rain in the old days".

■ The regular golfer who has pleaded almost on his knees that we open the course (the alternative being to spend the whole day with his wife!)

■ I have also been bullied into changing holes in order to keep the course open only to see the same person walk in off the course after half an hour!

So when the season proper starts will we hear comments from those who have played all winter such as "...it's marvellous what good condition the course is in considering the wear the course has had over the winter"; or will the poor condition of the greens almost entirely be due to something the greenkeeper has or has not done "...he hasn't fed them ...he's punched them full of holes!" you know the sort of thing.

■ Soft conditions in autumn and the greens look as if it has been raining ball-bearings.

■ Monday morning after a busy weekend and some of the golfers that have been out seem to prefer that the course be decorated with empty cans, bottles and crisp packets scattered randomly anywhere but in the multitude of bins provided.

■ Hoops and fences that have been carefully placed to spread wear have been cast aside because they were obstacles to the direct route around the course.

The question is, do the perpetrators of these acts do these things simply because they know no better, or is it because they think that they know better?

If it is because of the former and these problems are on a national scale, then all clubs should be making more of an effort to educate new members (adult & junior) on all forms of golf course etiquette. I am led to believe that clubs in Sweden do this in a form of registration whereby anybody who wishes to play golf must attend lessons in golf and golfing etiquette and pass a subsequent exam before they are given a "Green Card" without which they cannot gain access to a golf course. It doesn't really matter if this scheme exists or not, the principals are sound and surely would not be too difficult to implement in this country.

If it is because of the latter then all golfers need to take greater care in policing those that use the clubs' facilities. All too often, if there is no green ranger, it is we as greenkeepers who face the sometimes intimidating job of approaching golfers who are flouting the rules. Every fee paying golfer has a responsibility to ensure that the golf course is being looked after, otherwise the destructive minority will amplify the failings of the course and give everyone something to moan about.

So what I would like to know is, am I alone in feeling very protective of the course that I look after, resenting those that wantonly damage my pride and joy, or does this diatribe strike home at the heart of many greenkeepers reading this?

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So come April next year when I receive unbalanced criticism of the course that has been open all winter bar a few weeks snow, what will I think? Will I be able to shrug and accept that ill informed comments are only emanating from a minority of the membership or will it make me wonder why it is that I am a greenkeeper.

Is it that I am an altruist going to work ostensibly to please others or is there a more self serving approach that I take to work?

The answer it is probably a bit of both, because there are plenty of people who care about the golf course that they are playing on and will appreciate the effort put into the production of that course, but lately there seems to be more and more golfers whose selfishness can leave me listless with exasperation. This is selfishness, or laziness on a level that should affect even their own game of golf or subscription rates? So why certain people persist in this behaviour I will never know.

To illustrate this point here are some descriptions I am sure some readers will identify with:

■ Freshly raked bunkers at 9am. By 11am they look as if they have hosted the world rodeo championships.

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