

he has recently conducted a pesticide usage survey of golf courses which has highlighted the pest and disease problems faced by greenkeepers in the production of high quality turf. He spoke at last year's Education Conference and he returns this year to talk on "Biological Methods for Pest and Disease Control in Golf Turf".

The talk will address some of the biological methods which may be employed to enhance the health of grass in golf greens.

Gerry Southgate

Gerry Southgate is Service Manager for Ransomes Sims and Jefferies and is responsible for the technical support of the Ransomes/Cushman/Ryan products world-wide outside of the Americas and Canada.

In the course of his work he has visited golf courses and talked with superintendents, greenkeeping staff and mechanics in the USA, Canada, Australia, Singapore, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, South America and much of Europe.

His talk "Full Time Golf Course Mechanic - Where's the Justification?" will include an outline of some of the differing maintenance requirements for the increasingly sophisticated machinery in use at the average golf course and look at the way this is normally achieved and the involvement and relationship between the greenkeeping staff, machinery dealer and manufacturer.

Dr Paul Miller

Paul Miller is a lecturer in greenkeeping at Elmwood College in Scotland and designed the rootzone for the 'new 18 hole' course at the college. He has worked as a technical representative for British Seed Houses and as a technical advisor for Grass Technology International Ltd involved in soil testing and agronomy.

His talk on "Rootzone testing: Theory and Practice" will explain some of the theory of particle size distribution in rootzones, how they can be achieved in practice and how it was achieved during the construction of Elmwood College's newly constructed course.

Grant Moir

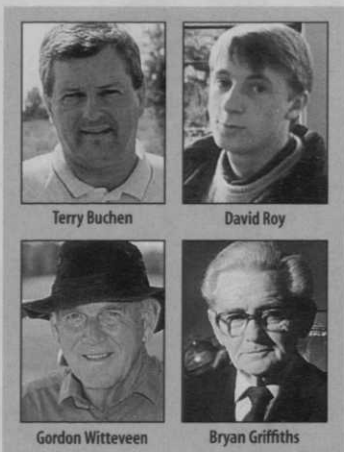
Grant Moir is the Assistant Secretary (Rules) of the R&A having been a member of the R&A staff since '94. He was promoted to his present position in January '96.

His talk will outline the role of the R&A in terms of the Rules of Golf and using a video he will discuss incidents involving well known professional golfers.

Ken Siems

Ken Siems is Course Manager at the acclaimed Loch Lomond course, in the west of Scotland, which hosted the Loch Lomond World Invitational on the European Tour last year.

Based on his work at the course he will talk on "Drainage: Unplayable to Playable".



Patrick Goldsworthy

Patrick Goldsworthy is Market Resources Manager for the British Agrochemicals Association. Among his work experience he has managed the family firm in Devon and worked for ICI Fertilisers. Within ICI he became Technical Services Manager before moving to the BAA in '91.

His talk, on Pesticides on the Golf Course - Labelling and Stewardship, will discuss how the sale and continued use of pesticides, which used on golf courses account for about 1% of UK pesticide sales, depends on the user and their stewardship of the product.

Howard Swan and Simon Gidman

Howard Swan is a golf course architect and member of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects. He has worked in the field for almost 25 years, having followed his father into the business, and has worked on nearly 300 projects.

Simon Gidman is also a member of BIGGA, and his interest in golf course architecture developed during his time as golf professional at Gerrards Cross GC, Sandy Lodge GC, Crowborough Beacon GC and Sonning GC. He has worked on projects in Ireland, Portugal, France, Belgium, Cyprus, Bali and Turkey.

Howard and Simon return for a second year to run their popular workshop on Golf Course Design and Construction.

Susanne Lindstrom

Susanne Lindstrom is Course Manager at Partille GC, just outside Gothenburg, in Sweden. She is a Board member of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association and her greenkeeping career has moved on far better than her playing of the game. She gave up, sold her golf clubs and told her club that she no longer wished to be a member the day after her first round! "I thought golf was the most ridiculous game ever."

She will talk on "Lady in a Man's World" and how there are differences in being a woman but that the differences are positive.

Helen Lindelof

Helen Lindelof is the Course Manager at Ingaro

GC, near Stockholm, in Sweden which has two 18 hole courses, one 35 years old and the other five years old. Helen, who has 12 years in greenkeeping under her belt, is the wife of Tommy Lindelof the Executive Director of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association.

Her talk, "Education Makes the Head Greenkeeper", will discuss how the well being of the modern golf club depends on the club realising that education is a wise investment and not an unnecessary cost they can avoid.

Bruce Williams

Bruce Williams is the current President of the GCSAA - and Captain of the winning Americas Hayter International Cup team.

He has been Superintendent at Bob O'Link GC, Illinois, since 1979. He has been a member of the GCSAA for 19 years and has been on the Board since 1991. He holds a bachelor's degree in English and is also a graduate of Michigan State University's turfgrass management programme.

His talk is on Global Links; Associations sharing information for better greenkeeping world-wide.

Larry Gilhuly

Larry Gilhuly is Western Director, Greens Section with the USGA. He became Seattle GC's fourth superintendent in its 75 year history having been assistant superintendent for eight years, and six weeks later was chosen for his current position. He currently visits courses in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Wyoming and he is responsible for turf visits to Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada and Utah.

He will talk on Annual Blue Grass from the view of pest or friend and look at new poa annua varieties. He will also talk on Great Expectations outlining the top ten responses to a golfer survey conducted in Washington.

David Ansell

David Ansell is Course Manager at The Dyke GC, near Brighton and he will talk on Looking Beyond the Trees on the subject of downland conservation.

Institute of Agriculture Engineers

The IAE will talk on Maximising Cost-Effectiveness of Machinery. Choosing the correct tyres for the job, new developments in machine and implement control and machinery purchase and maintenance decisions.

David Burton

David Burton is a partner with solicitor's Kirby's the firm which administers BIGGA's Legal Help Line. His speciality is employment law and he has already been involved in helping several greenkeepers win unfair dismissal tribunals.

His talk will be on the Legal Helpline and legal representation.



Guess who in BIGGA staff quiz!

★ Can you work out who each member of staff is from these cryptic clues

1. But for the addition of a son would have joined a famous family.
2. Shares a name, but not the talent, of a famous English amateur golfer.
3. Her name is in a great many diaries.
4. She should, by rights, have a parrot.
5. Could have had an alternative career appearing in children's locomotive books.
6. John McCarthy felt like this person when he was finally released from captivity.
7. Let your fingers do the walking on the alternative directory which shares this person's name.
8. The informal and phonetic version of this person's surname could have seen him appearing in Dock Green.
9. Shares a name with a Leeds United footballer.
10. It wouldn't be hard to guess which country this person comes from.

Choose From:

Neil Thomas, Sami Collins, John Pemberton, Amanda Freeman, Louise Lunn, Pauline Thomson, Janet Adamson, Scott MacCallum, James McEvoy and Ken Richardson.

Answers on page 65.

were fed, solid tined and dressed with sand. A fly mower and another Greens Zepher was purchased. The work was mainly mowing and general tidying of the course. Although the time up to now had been concentrated on greens, tees and fairways, the rough had been let to grow, this would have to be dealt with. It was mown, made into hay and carted off by a local farmer. Up to the present time the rough on the existing course had only been cut once a year (before Captain's Day) and made into hay. This year it was all going to be cut for hay. The policy was then to keep the rough down, so the following winter the stones were removed. It was soon discovered that a lot of the stones were just below the surface. These cause damage to gang mower when they became exposed so a flail mower was purchased. Although it is not used on the rough now - 25 years on - it proved to be the ideal machine in those early days.

Presidents Day - The 18 holes were played for the first time. As there had been very little money available for the building of the extension many members had given up their golf in order to assist. They had dug out and picked up rocks, dismantled and carted away dry stone walls surrounding the fields which were to become the course. All this stone was used under greens and tees.

It has been estimated that 6,000 tons of stone were moved, 1,000 tons of ashes, 5,000 tons of topsoil carted and levelled, 9,500 square yards of turf laid and 8,000 field tiles.

I had been employed to work a 40 hour week, however, it had been a case of working six days a week with never under 50 hours in summer and dawn till dusk in winter, but we had got there. As time and finance had been concentrated on providing 18 greens with appropriate tees, no bunkers had been built and tees were small but this would be put right in the following years as finance became available.

Twenty-five years later this has and is still being done and I still feel this was the correct way forward. The rest of the growing season was taken up mainly with mowing, although the greens were given an autumn feed with the new greens having been occupied first to produce a better putting surface.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 42

1. Janet Adamson,
2. James McEvoy, 3. Sami Collins, 4. Louise Lunn,
5. Neil Thomas, 6. Amanda Freeman, 7. Pauline Thompson, 8. Ken Richardson,
9. John Pemberton,
10. Scott MacCallum

(mis)adventures of Gordon the Greenkeeper



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