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GREENKEEPER

International

is the official monthly magazine
of the British & International
Golf Greenkeepers Association

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North Anston, Sheffield S31 7NZ

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**Greenkeeper International: winner
of Certificate of Merit in Magazine
of the Year category, Editing for
Industry Awards 1994 and 1995**

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Circulation is by subscription. Subscription
rate: UK £34 per year, Europe and Eire £44. The
magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members,
golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry,
libraries and central government.

ISSN 0961-6977

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Golf Greenkeepers Association

■ The next edition of
Greenkeeper International
should be with you by August 6.

GREENKEEPER

International

JULY 1997

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Cover

Royal Troon, the beautiful venue for this
year's Open.

Picture by Brian Morgan

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COMPETITION:
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General Manager, Jacobsen E-Z-GO

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Memories of Troon in the '89 summer

I have had the exacting task this month of attempting to combine moving house with producing this magazine.

The former has led me into corners of the loft to which I'm sure I've never ventured before – at severe risk to my personal well being – in attempts to rescue boxes containing things we didn't know we owned and are certainly not likely to need in the foreseeable future. The latter saw me pay a visit to Royal Troon to see how preparations for this month's Open are progressing.

While much of the house moving experience involves sweat, tears and occasionally blood it does give a chance to relive old times as clear out sessions are diverted by the discovery of old photographs and souvenirs.

It was during one of these that I came across a programme for the 1989 Open Championship at Royal Troon and it brought back some memories of that hot week eight years ago.

I have always considered Troon to be one of the best locations for an Open. There is a definite "golfing feel" about the place generally while there is plenty of room to host an Open and all the accompanying tentage. Oh yes, and the views it shares with Turnberry over the Firth of Clyde are among the finest to be found anywhere.

What I, indeed everyone, recalled about the '89 Open was the hard running fairways and the lack of rough – the result of one of the west of Scotland's rare extended dry spells! The hard running fairways contributed to Greg Norman's stunning start to his final round – he opened with five straight birdies – but also led to his eventual downfall when he drove into a bunker an obscene distance from the tee on the 18th hole during the play-off and

lost all chance of wrestling the title from Mark Calcavecchia.

The lack of rough was illustrated by Calcavecchia himself who sealed the Championship by playing a short iron to within two feet of the final play-off hole from what would normally have been thick rough.

A recently installed irrigation system, not to mention the wettest June in 40 years – Can I remind you of last month's Editorial piece? – will toughen up a course which will undoubtedly be an exacting test for Tiger, Ernie, Colin, Nick and co. They will also find a course in immaculate condition.

No less a source than Kim Macfie of Hayters, a former Chairman of Green at Royal Troon, played it recently and said he had never seen it look better.

Good luck to Billy McLachlan, in his first Open as Head Greenkeeper, and his team.

The BIGGA Open Championship Greenkeeping Support Team will also be in action once again. As well as being a superb chance for old friends to meet up, the Team is becoming an increasingly influential part of the Championship as a whole providing professional help whenever and wherever it is needed.



Scott MacCallum
Editor

As I see it...

BY PAT MURPHY
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

What a month! My feet just haven't touched the ground. I've visited just about every corner of the country and I've even played some golf for the first time in 10 years.

It started with the Scottish Hayter Final where among the highlights was enjoying some square sausage with Kim Macfie and his brother, and, courtesy of Jim Paton, paying a quick visit to Billy McLachlan at Royal Troon where he was extremely busy preparing for this month's Open.

As ever the Scottish Hayter was organised to perfection and credit must go to Elliott and, of course, Edna Small in what is Elliott's last year as Regional Administrator.

After fitting in a GTC meeting at Aldwark Manor I was off to Burnham and Berrow for another Hayter organised admirably, on her debut by Paula Humphries. Chairman of the Region, Richard Whyman, also presented Kim and myself with a memento of the occasion which was a nice touch.

There followed a Regional Board meeting where it is sad to report we accepted the resignation from the Board of Management of David Milbourne to allow him to spend more time on his own job. He will be replaced until January by Past Chairman Barry Heaney and then by Ian Holoran, Chairman of the Northern Region.

With barely time to reflect on that meeting I was off to Germany to be one of the 180 British greenkeepers on John Deere's Feedback event. I think it is excellent that the greenkeeper's views are given so much consideration and I am particularly excited by the new cutter which eliminates clogging that is being developed.

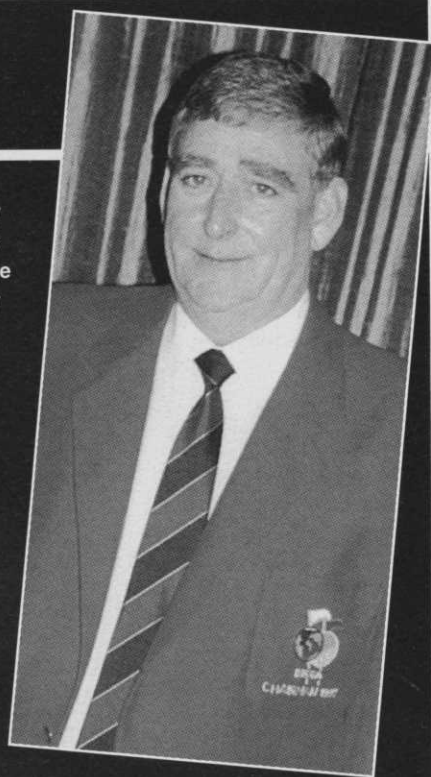
The Anniversary Golf Day was a superb occasion and will probably become an annual event. It was great to see so many familiar faces from the industry attend and interesting to hear Rory Underwood's talk.

After that it was to Shipley College to discuss the college being granted GTC status and I'm delighted to say that it will. Then on to Whitby GC to make Andy Boyd an Internal Verifier and then to South Leeds GC for the Northern Section President's Day. It was then that I played my first 10 holes of golf in seven years.

Having whetted my appetite for the game my next two visits to golf courses just resulted in me getting wet. The Hayters at The Warwickshire and Ham Manor both came within an inch of being cancelled and medals should be struck for the players who played nine holes on each course to ensure a result. I did manage to play at Ham Manor with Kim and James McEvoy from HQ but only out of a buggy!

Can I just thank all the golf courses I have visited in the past month for their wonderful hospitality.

Finally, to those people who contacted me regarding the Box Number Ad in the Magazine a couple months ago. There was a communication breakdown at HQ on the policy for such a situation and the problem will not arise again.



Conference date set for FEGGA members

The Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations has announced a major Europe-wide greenkeeping conference to be held in Spain from November 21-23 this year.

The twin themes of the conference will be education and the environment. Each of the 17 member Associations of FEGGA will be invited to send two delegates to present two papers, one outlining the education provision for greenkeepers in their country and the other covering environmental considerations in relation to the greenkeeping profession.

The European Greenkeeping Conference will be held in association with Toro, the company having become a major supporter of FEGGA. General Sales Man-

ager for Toro, Bob Buckingham, welcomed the announcement of the conference. "FEGGA's progress since its inaugural meeting in Amsterdam in March 1996 has been rapid," he said.

FEGGA Chairman, Dean Cleaver, views the forthcoming conference as a significant landmark in FEGGA's development.

The 17 countries currently in membership are represented by the Greenkeeping Associations of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Iceland, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

FEGGA currently represents some 10,000 members of constituent Associations. The Chair-

man of FEGGA represents the Association on the Management Committee of the EGA's ecology unit. Whether on ecological or other issues, FEGGA recognises the need for the greenkeeping profession to speak with one voice and brings the European greenkeeping associations together for this purpose.

There can be no doubt that the advent of FEGGA will bring many benefits to greenkeepers throughout Europe in the years ahead and the coming together of associations through FEGGA can only enhance the profile and standing of both the profession and its practitioners.

The conference will be reported through the pages of *Greenkeeper International*.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Members of the Scottish Region were saddened to hear of the passing of Ian Forbes, former Chairman of Stewart & Co. Ian was a great supporter of greenkeepers all his life and especially of great help to the various greenkeeper associations over many years. Many of the older members of the region will remember him as a man of great knowledge of the turf trade who was always happy to talk to and advise greenkeepers at any time. With his passing an era of the older generation of trade has gone but not forgotten. The Region were represented at the memorial service and pass on their condolences to his wife Betty, his daughter Morag and son Graeme.

■ Rhône-Poulenc has produced an informative guide to integrated bracken management.

This booklet could prove invaluable for Amenity Managers involved with heathland golf courses or upland amenity areas.

The guide gives details on the biology of the bracken plant, management options and how to optimise the use of the bracken herbicide.

A free copy of the brochure or further technical advice can be obtained by calling Rhône Poulenc Amenity on 01277 301115.

■ Anyone seeking assistance in reclaiming tax for BIGGA subscriptions should contact Janet Adamson or John Pemberton at Headquarters – telephone 01347 838581 – and a form will be issued which should be completed and sent to the local tax office.

■ Roger Bennett, Principal of Askham Bryan College, York has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of York for his research into the 'Amenity and Environmental Impact of Golf Courses in England and Wales.' The research and subsequent thesis examined all the issues relating to planning, conservation, course design and management. The findings should be of interest to those organisations involved in golf education at all levels.



Setback for speedy greenkeeper

The so-called "Nutty Novice", Terry Colvill, (see April issue page 5) has suffered a setback following an outstanding start to his motorcycle racing career.

Deputy Course Manager at Mill Hill in North London, Terry, pictured at Mallory Park, chalked up a series of fine results in the early part of the season including two victories and a second at Mallory Park

and a third placed finish at Cadwell Park in the Supersport Series.

However, his engine blew up at Snetterton due to overheating resulting in the need for a new cylinder head, valves, pistons, con rods, barrels, radiator, gaskets and oil cooler.

Although sponsored by Grass Roots and several other companies Terry is a "privateer" – he

doesn't enjoy the support of a factory so he had to foot the bill for all the work, around £1,500, himself.

The hitch caused him to miss the Snetterton race and also, to his great disappointment, another at Brands Hatch the following week.

It is hoped that by the time you are reading this he will be back in the saddle again.

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Europeans triumph in twitchers' Ryder Cup

The keen eyes and ears of 12 European birdwatchers have struck an early and morale boosting blow for the continent's Ryder Cup hopes, by soundly beating the American challenge in the first ever "Birdwatching Ryder Cup".

The competition took place over the full 24 hours on 12 selected golf courses in Europe, and 12 in the USA. It was a light-hearted way to demonstrate that golf courses can be valuable places for wildlife. On the day the European team recorded a total of 217 species, while the Americans managed 237 species. However, on the basis of the naturally richer North American bird fauna, the team captains had agreed a handicap of eight American species equivalent to five European species. This means the European total rises to an effective 347 species, easily shading the American effort.

Fittingly, in the context of the Ryder Cup, the star European site was in Spain - Club de Golf Ulzama, in the Pyrenean foothills near Pamplona. Here, ornithologist Antonio Rodriguez Arbeloa recorded a staggering 101 species, including 15 different birds of prey; such as golden eagle, Egyptian vulture and Montagu's harrier.

Also in Spain, at Valderrama,

the score was a more modest 48 species but this did include one of Europe's rarest birds, the white-rumped swift and a large number of migrating honey buzzards passing over from the Straits of Gibraltar as well as the only records on the day of red-rumped swallow and orphea warbler.

Among other highlights were arctic skua and bluethroat at Sarvik Golf Club in Finland; while in Hungary there was a spotted crane at Hensce National, and barred warbler and Syrian woodpecker at the appropriately named Birdland Golf Course. Despite atrocious weather conditions the team from the bird observatory at Falsterbo, Sweden, chipped in with a very creditable 94 species, including velvet scoter, marsh harrier and avocet. Most unexpected of all was the sighting of an African purple glossy starling at San Lorenzo, in Portugal, which also contributed little bittern, spoonbill and purple gallinule.

Altogether 18 species of bird of prey, plus five species of owl, 22 waders, seven woodpeckers and 22 warblers were recorded among the 12 European sites. Out of the overall total, 152 species (70%) turned up on more than one golf course. At the commoner end of the scale the four most widespread European birds, found on all 12 sites, were swallow, blackbird, greenfinch and goldfinch. A further seven species were found on 11 sites: mallard, house martin, white wagtail, robin, blue tit, great tit and chaffinch. The average score per site was 64 species in Europe and 65.5 in the USA. This shows that we are not dealing with one-off, stray records, but that golf courses consistently attract an impressive range of wild birds - as well as other wildlife.

The birdwatchers have set the tone. Now it is up to Europe's top golfers to emulate their achievement and secure the real Ryder Cup in September.



Vintage tournament gives students taste for the real thing

The third annual Vintage Open Golf Tournament at the Reaseheath College golf course in Cheshire was again the responsibility of the third year students, studying for their Higher National Diploma in Golf Course Management.

The competition provided the students with an opportunity to work as a team and exercise all of the skills required to make such an event a success.

This included golf course preparation and presentation, attracting both local and national sponsorship, media coverage, catering and customer care, all of which were achieved within the tight budget set. This, in turn, satisfies

the HND requirement for event planning while providing local golfers, over the age of 70, with a competitive and highly enjoyable day's golf.

Sixty one golfers took part in this hard fought and ultimately close Stableford competition, and judging by the comments, all enjoyed themselves immensely. In fact, general opinion would suggest that this year's event was the best so far. The overall tournament winner was Mr J. Sheffield, of Crewe, with a score of 45 points. He received the Vintage Open Trophy and won a round of golf for four at Nefyn Golf Club in North Wales and a putter donated by Ping.

Jim Wensley and Dave Stevens

Ocmis buys Midland

Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Ltd has acquired Midland Irrigation Ltd.

Ocmis say it will continue to develop the service and installation offered by Midland Irrigation and have retained Steve Brennan as Service Support Engineer in the area. The business will trade under the Ocmis name and will continue to supply the Rainbird range of products.

(mis)adventures of Gordon the Greenkeeper



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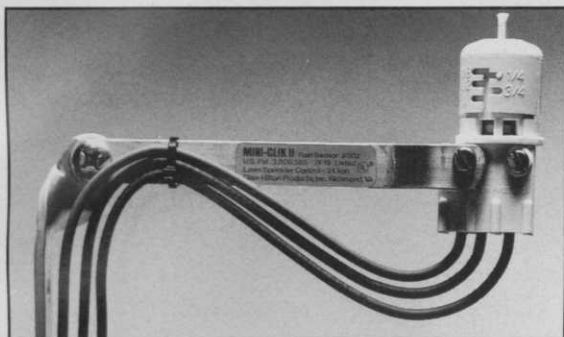
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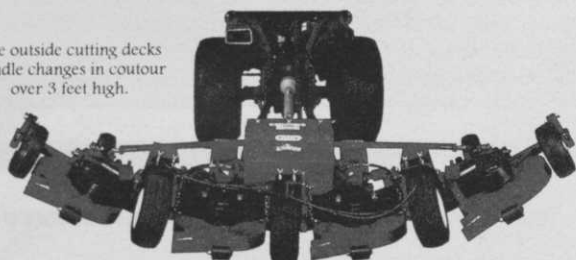
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Victorious teams look forward to Ganton

The Regional Finals are currently well under way and four of the teams will have been decided by the time this reaches you.

For those players they can look forward to the challenge of Ganton, one of the finest courses in the country and if they perform well there they have the chance of winning a place on the Rest of the World team to tackle the Americas team in Atlanta next year. The teams which were confirmed at the time of going to press were:

Scotland

Cat 1. 1. D. Leith, St Andrews, 73-1=72; 2. S. Taylor, Killermont, 74-1=73; 3. D. Wilson, Irvine Bogside, 81-8=73; 4. C. McKay, Elmwood, 79-6=73. Cat 2. 1. A. Wilson, Kirkhill, 86-14=72; 2. J. Johnston, Turnberry, 86-13=73; 3. A. Torrance,

HAYTER CHALLENGE

King James, 86-11=75; 4. C. Cumming, Fortrose, 87-12=75. Cat 3. G. Shearer, Balmore, 91-22=69; 2. S. Carmichael, Fins GC, 92-22=70; 3. D. Nelson, Brunston Castle, 91-21=70; 4. A. Robertson, Grangemouth, 91-20=71.

South West and South Wales

Cat 1 - 1. R. Daly (D & C) 65; 2. L. Millar (S. Coast) 69; 3. D. Bray (D & C) 74; Res. C. Bland 74. Cat 2 - 1. A. Knight (S.West) 71; 2. P. Wentworth (S. Coast) 73; 3. M. Porish (D & C) 73; Res. A. Cosh (S. Wales) 73. Cat 3 - 1. A. James (D & C) 68; 2. J. Cooper (S. West) 76; 3. A. Rideout (S. Coast) 77; Res. J. Braithwaite (S. West) 77.



The Scotland team



The South West and South Wales team

Famous name is still at helm of BIGCA

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects has confirmed Martin Hawtree, the third generation of the famous family, as President for a further year, with Simon Gidman continuing as Vice President.

At its recent Annual General Meeting at Wentworth, the Insti-

tute announced the details of its professional Diploma Course at Merrist Wood College, now in its inaugural year, as the world's first course of its kind in golf course design.

Six Associates have now been invited to join the membership of BIGCA after qualifying recently,

they are Jonathan Gaunt, Thomas Himmel from Germany, Steven McFarlane, working with Hawtree; Tom Mackenzie, a colleague of Donald Steel, and Paddy Merrigan from Ireland.

Nigel Henbury, assistant to Howard Swan joins as an Associate.

Martin Hawtree, President of the Institute, added "I am pleased to see our organisation advancing and expanding so positively and that our members continue to impress the market, old and new, with sound professional work."

The Institute now boasts almost 50 members, half of whom are based on the Continent.

New direction for Anthony

Anthony Black, previously Project Manager at Golf Euro-Disney and Course Manager at The Warwickshire, has set up a new company. "Groundstrokes" offers a practical hands-on service involving construction, alterations, and general maintenance.

Contact Anthony on 01676 532826.

STRI to sponsor scorers

STRI is sponsoring a team of 20 boys from Giggleswick School in North Yorkshire, responsible for operating the Hole by Hole Scoreboard at this year's Open at Royal Troon.

STRI advise on the sports grounds at Giggleswick School and on the preparation of all the Open Championship venues, in their role as official agronomists to the R&A Championship Committee.

Giggleswick School has been operating the Hole by Hole Scoreboard for the past 12 years. The score team is selected on a voluntary basis each year.

Gull adds a further hazard on the 18th

The 18th hole is reckoned to be one of easier par fours on the links at Borth & Ynyslas. Recently a new natural hazard has appeared in the form of a Herring Gull that has built her nest just off the fairway just right in line with the pin. A small area of semi-rough separating the 1st and 18th fairways attracted the expectant gull in the last week of May. Having build a nest largely composed of old divots, she settled in and by the end of the month had laid four eggs.

The greens staff at Borth are well aware of the importance of good conservation practice as

the northern end of the course, which borders the Dyfed Estuary Nature Reserve, is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The bird seemed unaware of this and has chosen a very exposed site in full view of the clubhouse and professional's shop.

The first reaction was to put a fence round the nest but as this unsettled the bird it was quickly dismantled. To everyone's relief she showed no adverse reaction to having a white line painted round the nest site and settled down happily with a GUR notice. This is taken to stand for "Gull Under Residence".

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Top seeds!

Barenbrug UK has recently joined BIGGA's Golden Key Sponsorship programme and, as Scott MacCallum found out, it comes on top of a major expansion within the company.

It's amazing what you end up thinking about in the bath. Last week, as I was having my regular soak, I found myself wondering why the strongest competitors in sporting events are called seeds. It was probably because of Wimbledon.

For the life of me I couldn't come up with an answer and I found myself searching for an answer from the type of seeds we all know about. Sowing seeds of success... It didn't quite follow.

As my mind wandered and the water became cooler and the bubbles less bubbly, mentally I put the two types of seeds together and wondered what would happen if you ranked seed companies. Would you have the Top Seed seed?

If that were the case there is a fair chance that the Seeding Committee would consider Barenbrug for that honour based on the criteria that Barenbrug is a global company with a group of companies spread throughout the world and also that Barenbrug varieties are a constant feature at, or near, the top of many of the STRI Rankings. The company has also just joined BIGGA's Golden Key sponsorship programme.

The man whose name adorns the familiar yellow bags is Joseph Barenbrug, a Dutch seed



merchant who established the company in 1904, and since then, while always operating with a Barenbrug at the helm, the company has set a pattern that many of its varieties have followed – showing great strength and an ability to reproduce across the full gamut of climates.

"We export to 80 countries worldwide and have companies all over Europe as well as Australia, New Zealand, North America and China," explained Michel Mulder, the Dutch Managing Director of Barenbrug UK, and a man whose enthusiasm for the industry is infectious.

The British arm of the Barenbrug empire was established in 1990 but the name had been known in Britain for many years as a wholesale product before that, principally in the agricultural field, but Michel is quick to point out that Barenbrug products were supplied to St Andrews as far back as 25 years ago.

In 1990 Michel and John Bradley, who is now Amenity Sales Manager, were appointed

and it was only then that they started to market the Barenbrug products as a brand.

"What happened when John and I went out into the UK market was that most of our customers, like turf producers or golf courses said 'where have you been. We've seen all your varieties for years at the top of the lists and we've been waiting for you'. It was a very positive and a great way to start the company," explained Michel.

"With this support from the industry we really took off," he added, recalling that the first show in the golf market that they exhibited at was BTME '92.

It is indeed remarkable that Barenbrug UK has grown so quickly in an industry where it takes 15 years to develop a new variety to the stage where it can be commercially viable.

"Because of the nature of grass – it flowers only once a year and as it is a cross pollination plant – it takes a long time to produce enough seed for it to be sold," explained John.

"In the trial system you always take what you consider to be the best and test the potential new variety against it and our philosophy is that we only want to introduce grasses which are better than the existing. There is no point in proceeding if we are going to produce a new perennial rye grass which is no better than Barclay or Barcredo," he explained, while adding that he is excited by the performances of some of the varieties nearing the end of the 15 year process.

Much of the success of Barenbrug comes from harnessing the excellent work Mother Nature has already done in producing grass species to produce the latest varieties.

"As a company we like to work with nature. Over 300 grass seed species have been developed naturally without our help and those which do not have winter hardiness or disease resistance for example have already been weeded out. Using breeding technology we can go in, collect and refine the species and try to develop them to increase their yield," explained John.

Having research stations and plant breeding stations in Northern Ireland, Holland, France – one in the north and one in the south, North American, New Zealand and Australia gives Barenbrug a complete range of climates in which to work from.

"There is a lot of inter linking between the research stations and we can combine the drought tolerance on the southern hemisphere with the winter hardiness of the northern hemisphere. All extremes can be tested and, by sharing the information, we get the best of both worlds," explained Michel.

"We really are a global company and say that we can supply from the North Pole down to the South Pole!" he added.



Constant re-appraisal among the testing at Barenbrug



It is perhaps surprising that a company which is found all over the world has a worldwide workforce which numbers a mere 380.

"This is a business where you need warehouses, research stations and a sales force. We have about 60 people on the research side. To produce the seed we contract farmers to use their fields and have fieldmen who monitor quality and advise the farmers on chemical usage. The farmer is happy because the better quality the crop the higher his price," said Michel.

As more of the top rated varieties are produced the more the price to the end user will come down.

"In five to ten years time our varieties will be affordable to clubs in each budget category and everyone should benefit from the quality up-grade," explained Michel, who added that Barenbrug produces a combined 60,000 tonnes of seed a year worldwide in both agriculture and amenity sectors – that's three and a half million golf greens!

Grass breeding is an industry where the ability to see into the future is extremely important and there are a number of areas where Barenbrug is conducting research.

"Our biggest challenge is to producing varieties which are going to cope if, under legislation designed to protect the environment, the

use of fertilisers is restricted. We are also spending a great deal of time looking at disease and how it will affect grasses in drought conditions.

"When I visited our breeding stations recently I didn't only see all the new varieties being tested but them all being tested against all the known diseases," revealed Michel.

While there is much being done worldwide the UK arm of Barenbrug is also making major strides.

"In '92 we had a turn over of £1 million and a staff of ten people. We finished last year with a turnover of around £5 million and a staff of 24 and our aim for the year 2000 is to have a turnover of £7.5 million and a staff of around 30," said Michel.

One of the key members of staff doesn't appear in those statistics however. Mungo the cat is a permanent resident in the warehouse and does sterling work in ensuring it remains vermin free.

"Mungo is extremely popular and colleagues even come in at Christmas and New Year to feed him," said Michel.

As is inevitable such growth means that accommodation which, at the beginning, was more than spacious enough soon becomes cramped and Barenbrug UK is in the process of addressing that particular problem.

"July 1 sees the start of work on our new offices on our Bury St Edmunds site. Greenkeepers and groundsman visit us when we talk about breeding programmes and producing cultivars but at the moment we cannot accommodate the groups of up to 30 that we would like."

"It's been needed for a while but the last thing a seedsman does is put money in an office," joked Michel, of the half a million pound investment, which will see a two phased development including additional warehouse space, office accommodation and a custom build presentation room.

Barenbrug's Golden Key sponsorship has come about through the company's desire to be closer to the end user and will compliment the existing programme which has involved taking groups of greenkeepers to the research station in Holland and working closely with individual greenkeepers in the UK.

"There are not many weeks when Michel and I do not visit a golf course and they are occasions when we are always learning from them. It is important to speak with greenkeepers and listen to their views," said John.

One of those with whom Michel has a close relationship is John Philp at Carnoustie.

"With Carnoustie hosting The Open in 1999 we feel that we are preparing for The Open together," said Michel.

Michel and John both stressed, however, that Barenbrug has the philosophy, that the golf course just around the corner is just as important as the big name venue and that is always key to the thinking.

BIGGA's 10th Anniversary Golf Tournament proved a spectacular success and a fitting tribute to 10 years of progress for both the Association and the greenkeeping industry as a whole.

A total of 22 teams drawn from within the industry arrived at Aldwark Manor, home of BIGGA's Headquarters, for the event and when the last putt disappeared it was to be irrigation water and not champagne which was sprayed in celebration.

The reason? The winners were Watermation with their team of Managing Director, Ray Lewis; UK Distribution Manager, Joe Turner; Turnberry Hotel's Course Manager, George Brown, and Hankley Common's Course Manager, Ian McMillan. They shot a fine 58 to just edge out British Seed Houses who had also broken 60 in the Texas Scramble format tournament.

As well as the golf, visitors were able to view BIGGA's Internet site which was available to view on screens set up in the hotel. There was also a putting competition which offered another chance of clinching a prize.

On hand to present the prizes was Rory Underwood, England's all time top try scorer who had earlier shown himself to be a fine golfer as a member of the Guest's Team. He closed the prize giving with a few tales from the England dressing room.

The course was looking its best for the occasion and George Brown paid tribute to Richard Gamble and his team by saying that, coming from Turnberry, it was nice to putt on good greens for a change!

The win for Watermation was

Golf Day makes tenth birthday event a swinging success

TEN out of ten



cause for a double celebration for the Aldershot-based company as Ray Lewis had earlier been presented with Golden Key plaque by BIGGA's National Chairman Pat Murphy.

It was also the ideal occasion to present plaques to both John Bradley of Barenbrug and John Walker of Ritefeed and welcome them into BIGGA's Golden Key programme.

Following the presentations there was a magnificent barbecue prepared by staff of Aldwark Manor.

■ Pictured right: Brin Bendon, of Vector Training, explores BIGGA's Internet site.



Golden Key presentations: BIGGA Chairman Pat Murphy presents plaques to John Walker of Ritefeed (left), Joe Turner and Ray Lewis of Watermation (above) and John Bradley of Barenbrug.





Left: The winning team is presented with the glassware by Rory Underwood. From left, George Brown, Rory Underwood, Ray Lewis, Ian McMillan and Joe Turner

Below: Rory Underwood with the British Seed Houses team which came so close



Roger Mossop, of Miracle Professional, and Gordon Child, National Vice Chairman, tackle the putting competition



Above: The barbecue in full swing



Left: Aldwark Manor Head Greenkeeper, Richard Gamble, rests after he and his team prepared the course so excellently

Taking control of events

The control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations require that an employer must make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks associated with substances used in his work place (Regulation 6).

To comply with this regulation, the first thing that we must determine is what substances we have actually on site. It is essential that we decide what chemicals we are using, or are going to use in the future, and discard any substances that are now surplus to requirement. The substances that we no longer plan to use must be disposed of in the correct manner. They must not be tipped down the drain or thrown in the general household or site rubbish unless there are specific instructions on the package or with the substance that say otherwise.

After having decided that substances we are likely to use in our day to day tasks and what we have on site we must ensure that we have product Health and Safety Data Sheets for these substances. The suppliers of these substances are under a legal obligation to provide these data sheets and they must be available for every substance used. The Health and Safety Data Sheets will give information pertaining to the substances properties, be they hazardous or otherwise, the manufacturers address

and telephone number, the procedures to follow in case of emergencies and how to dispose of the substance and its packaging.

Once all the Data Sheets have been obtained then the next step is to look at the factors involved in the actual use of the substance. Where will the substance be used? Will it be used in the workshop or will it be used on the course net to a free flowing stretch of water? How often and how many people will use or be in contact with this substance? Is it only the Head Greenkeeper or is it to be everyone right through to part time assistants and possibly holiday staff or work placements. What precautions do we take before, during and after the use of the substance? Where do we store it before use and how is the substance or its packaging disposed of?

All these points have to be considered and in essence this is what an assessment actually entails under the COSHH Regulations.

The points mentioned above have to be taken on their merits and then

we can determine what exactly is a suitable and sufficient assessment.

If the substance is extremely hazardous, ie. weed killer or battery acid then the assessment would have to be more in-depth than an assessment for, say, a tub of general purpose hand cleaner. You would have to consider details such as limiting access to the substance, substituting for a less hazardous alternative, using in well ventilated areas, what training is required

to use the substance safely and keeping records in order that only fully trained operators can use the substance. The last resort in protecting ourselves and our employ-

ees from hazardous substances should always be the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) ie. the use of goggles, gloves, boots, masks, breathing apparatus, chemical resistant clothing etc. PPE should be used where other forms of controlling the hazardous substances are inadequate and PPE should be chosen with regard to not only what it is to be used to protect against but also who is to use it.

Records of the COSHH Assessment

need to be kept and also need to be easily accessible in case an emergency situation should arise. This is important due to the fact that if medical treatment is required then the medical staff would know that the substance was, what chemicals are contained in it, who manufactured it and also how to contact the manufacturer.

A COSHH Assessment sheet is self explanatory: Starting with the assessment number, then the Job Description. Then list the substances we are using for the job. How often and for how long we do the job. What control measures we are currently using to protect operators. Then we need to show our assessment of the type of exposure operators using the substance would be subjected to, eg. splashes, inhalation etc.

Finally if we feel that we could do more, then this becomes the Action Required to reduce the risk further.

To enable us to carry out this assessment the Health and Safety Data Sheets for the substances used, must be used to allow us to identify what control measures the manufacturers recommend, eg. good ventilation, good hygiene practices, etc. This should tie in with the control measures in use, if not should become Action Required.

Further information on training courses and consultancy contact ATB Landbase Training Services (Jean John on 01282 617466 or Tony Rees on 01686 622799).



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Cecil George goes back to the beginnings of the Open Support team and recalls some of the memorable moments on its way to Royal Troon 1997.

Another Open Championship, another Support Team!

Let's go back to when it all began St Andrews Open Championship, 1984, before the amalgamation of the Associations.

The Scottish and International Golf Greenkeepers, through Walter Woods, got the chance to be involved in The Open. Bunker raking at the Open Championship had been inconsistent – it had been left to the Championship clubs to keep the bunkers in order. The R&A wanted a quality job yet at some courses “yoppers” and other odd-bods were hired to the detriment of the bunkers. Walter noticed this and saw the opportunity to rectify the matter. Before the 1984 Open he suggested that qualified greenkeepers should look after the bunkers. He could, of course, have involved his own staff but felt that his men were out early in the morning and evening doing their general work along with all the added extras The Open brings to the already overworked staff.

Walter proposed that SIGGA could be the people to carry out the duties of bunker raking throughout the tournament, free of charge. He did, however, ask that the R & A provide a tent where the greenkeepers could meet, have a place to report to, organise the bunker rakers and rest. Walter also mentioned that if anything untoward happened, such as inclement weather, vandalism or assistance required, there would be a glut of experienced greenkeepers on hand for any eventuality.

His words have come true on many occasions, none more so than when the heavens opened up in 1988 and Lytham St Annes became the second flood. Saturday's third round was postponed until Sunday and Jimmy MacDonald used the greenkeepers to sweep the water off the green for the rest of the day and most of that night.

At Royal Birkdale in 1991 my old friend, Tom O'Brien, had a green badly damaged by vandals. The greenkeepers again came to the rescue in assisting to rectify the damage and so allowing play to start as per the R & A programme.

Many interesting, or should I say “weird” happenings, have taken place year after year. When

we started the luxury of sleeping in a bed was limited to the lucky few who could cram into two six berth caravans. I wasn't one of the lucky ones who was allocated a bed, I and a few others slept on the floor. I still remember marks on my side from the time I woke with a pain in my side and on examination I had a black and blue patch which I could not explain. The next night I again felt something pressing on my sore bit. Being a little less inebriated than the night before I realised there was the connection for a gas pipe sticking into my side!

At Turnberry in 1986 we bor-

rowed a perfectly good big tent from Jimmy Kidd, of Gleneagles, which held about 30. I won't go into the erection of the tent, Head Greenkeepers know everything! What some don't know they invent and the first attempt at putting up the tent was a fiasco.

The site was nearly in George Brown's back garden and let's say it was soft stony ground! The pegs were only half in the ground and I have to say there was an excellent bar run by the Turnberry Hotel staff, for the staff and after an evening of tripping over the guy ropes and generally giving the tent abuse, it partly col-

lapsed in the night.

The next morning at 5.30am I was standing outside the tent shouting out names of greenkeepers to be on the 1st tee for 7am. I could not ask Scott MacCallum to print the utterances that came from the tent!

It was at Turnberry in '86, on a suggestion from Chris Kennedy, of Wentworth, that we started sending a bunker raker with each match. This was a great success and the format has not been changed since.

From Turnberry to Muirfield 1987 and we still worked out of the two caravans and the big tent



Ian MacLeod after raking the bunker Nick Faldo managed to find on the first morning of the 1996 event

OPEN. memories

OPEN memories

was still our main dormitory. We had been asking through the old greenkeeper magazine for volunteers to rake bunkers at The Open and had had some response from both our sister Associations and we always had the few stalwarts from England who took a holiday and assisted in the bunker raking. In 1987 for the first time we saw quite an increase from south of the border and one in particular was Richard Heaslip. He came on his motorbike with his own tent. The weather was gales and lashing rain in July even to us was unexpected. Again the big tent came down and I remember Richard standing looking at his gear lying all over the place and soaking wet. Still, The Open went on and the greenkeepers did their share of clearing up.

This was one of the years when our tent in the village was back to back with the stewards tent. We formed a lasting friendship with the Stewards the first year at St Andrews and some of us still meet in the Stewards tent at the close of each day's play.

At Muirfield in '87 there was still no distribution of shirts, waterproofs or umbrellas though we did get the meal tickets which was excellent. However, the amount of food some of the lads put away we would have to give them an abundance of tickets to stove off their hunger.

The Swedish greenkeepers at this time were some of our stalwarts in particular Carl, Einar and Jan. I think Einar had a bed somewhere while Carl and Jan slept in their car. One morning at Muirfield the East mist crept in from the sea and the greenkeepers started arriving in small groups. I looked out of the caravan window and the two huge Swedes seemed to appear like the Vikings of old coming from their long boats for a bit of rape and pillage instead of a bit of rake and bevy!

The Swedes always gave me food for thought. Why do the biggest men always take the small plastic rakes?

It is pleasing to hear that the Swedish Greenkeepers Association is now involved with a support team at the Swedish Open. I am sure anyone who wants to assist need only contact Stig Pers-



Above: At least you get a good view...
Left: Blending in with the crowds

son and his or her wish will be granted.

Reverting back to St Andrews '84 and Jimmy Neilson, of Murrayfield, was the President of the SIGGA. He tells me all they had in the tent was a bar, of course, and six promotional advert stands. After the first practice day our tent was transformed, lovely tables and chairs and even a carpet. The recliners and furnishings were borrowed or something (!) from a certain hotel in St Andrews. Walter said the Manager was a sympathetic friend.

As all of you who have raked bunkers at the Open will know rotas are been drawn up, and there is a list of instructions. You have to keep to the ropes, only speak when spoken to, assist the lady scorers and make yourself "inconspicuous". The last time at Royal Troon, Alex Robertson, of Grangemouth, made himself so inconspicuous that he was reported missing by one of the chappies on the intercom. Chris Kennedy went out to see where Alex had gone to find Alex sitting inside the rope with his faithful rake beside him. Chris asked where he had been, "Here" was the reply, "Just making myself

inconspicuous!" Since then we have walked with the scorer and the person carrying the scoreboard.

This turned out to be a god-send especially in wet and windy weather where we, being the improvisers and forward thinkers of the golfing fraternity have assisted boys and girls to hold the score boards up in strong winds, shelter the scorers with umbrellas from the rain while at the same time keeping a professional eye on the golfers and how many strokes each takes, in particular, when a pro is out of sight of the scorer.

Our professionalism came to the fore at Lytham last year when Duncan Smith, of our support team, was called in by the R&A to assist in a rather awkward situation. The pro, Des Smyth, had been in a bunker but had miscalculated his score for that hole. Duncan said "Yes, he had raked that bunker and yes, the pro's score was wrong". So with the greenkeeper's assistance all was put to right. This should be a lesson to all of us who are involved in the Support Team, always remember "Big Brother is Watching You!" If you are lucky enough

you might, like Jimmy Paton, be rewarded with a set of irons. Mark Calcavecchia thanked Jimmy then gave him the set of irons from his bag. I was always envious of this show of generosity, the most I ever got from a pro was a handful of banana skins from Paul Azinger at Muirfield '87 when he was leading going into the final round.

We have greenkeepers from all over the world visit our marquee. Some of them have raked bunkers last year at St Annes with two young men from Augusta out doing their bit. The Swedes are always present, Welshman John Rodgers, reported in from Thailand and there were lads from Germany, France, Spain, Canada, USA, Japan, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa and these were only the greenkeepers I remember speaking to.

Harry Diamond always has a story to hand and last time we were at Royal Troon he and I were asked to go down to Norman Ferguson's house to invite him up to the tent for the reception BIGGA was giving for the Press. We got down to Norman's to find him out in his garden lifting his early tatties. "No panic here" Harry said, "That's Norman - cool, calm and deliberate in the middle of the Open Championship."

Don't be like a young greenkeeper at Muirfield in 1987. He came into the Portakabin, threw his rake with disgust in the corner and said, "Tomorrow give me the clubs and give that sand-martin I was out with the rake and I'll return a better score than he put in today!"

See you all doon at Troon soon!

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Dream team head into first

Billy McLachlan and his team are well prepared for this month's Open Championship as Scott MacCallum discovered when he paid a visit a month before the big week.

Preparing an Open Championship venue would be a dream for many greenkeepers but with only one Open a year, and a set rota of venues, it is an ambition which remains unfulfilled for most.

Not so Billy McLachlan who, at the age of 33, is the man charged with ensuring Royal Troon is at its perfect best for the visit of the world's top golfers in the third week in July.

A local man, Billy joined the staff at Troon in 1982 working under Norman Ferguson and took over from Norman at the beginning of '94 with The Open Championship looming over the horizon.

If he is daunted by the prospect of having his work on show to thousands of spectators and billions of television viewers across the world, Billy does a good job of hiding it. Blessed with the matter-of-fact demeanour which prevents many Scots from getting above themselves, Billy is taking everything in his stride.

One of his master strokes, however, had nothing to do with the golf course but, along the lines of Kenny Dalglish, Alex Ferguson and Roy Aitken (hopefully!), has been in a great new signing.

Now I don't believe Jim Devlin cost Billy a huge transfer fee – and not because he arrived under the Bosman Ruling – but Jim has quickly proved that he's worth more than his weight in gold.

Previously the Course Supervisor at three of Troon's Municipal courses, Jim joined Royal Troon as Billy's Deputy in December of last year.

He brought with him a wealth of experience and ability which was identified when he was a finalist in the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year competition in '96.

"It is fortunate that we have got together this year and have started to change a few things. It actually looks as though we have changed them for The Open but they would have been done any-



Billy McLachlan, fourth from left, Jim Devlin, second from left and the Troon team

way," explained Billy, speaking from the maintenance unit which itself shows signs of a recent significant overall and Jim's influence.

Jim reinforces the point by adding, "We are trying to get the course to a standard where it is going to be like it all the time and it just happens that it looks as though it is being done specifically for The Open."

The talents of Billy, Jim and the rest of the team combined with a new watering system should ensure a true test for the world's best golfers and provide sufficient rough to make The Open field think twice. In 1989 when Mark Calcavecchia defeated Greg Norman and Wayne Grady in the first ever four hole play-off, you may recall a lack of water kept rough down to a minimum ensuring that

the course was less fierce than it was originally intended to be

"There were certain things we were doing which we were quite happy with and wanted to keep going and other things which Jim brought in and we thought were good ideas.

"Many of these were just small. Things going on at different times and different materials that Jim had used but I hadn't," explained Billy, for whom the '97 Open Championship will be the third on which he has worked.

The approach is obviously to the liking of the R&A which has been happy to allow Billy and his team to get on with their work.

"They visited last August and on the strength of that we have tightened four fairways and David Boocock, the R&A agronomist, visited in March and he was happy with the way things were looking.

"If they were here all the time we would be wondering if they were worried about us but they are quite happy to let us get on with it," said Billy.

"They could see that we were on the right tracks," added Jim.

Among the major tasks that the team has carried out has been the revetting of 62 of the courses 84 bunkers and the relaying of the path on the course's most famous hole – The Postage Stamp.

"We lifted all the sleepers and relaid them so that they were horizontal to the hill and not running down the hill. We're pleased with the way it looks," said Jim.

Billy visited Royal Lytham last

year during The Open to get a flavour of how the Championship went and spent time in the company of Jimmy MacDonald MBE, whose major championship experience is second to none.

"Jimmy was a great help and despite being busy took time to talk to me. I've also spoken to George Brown at Turnberry and, of course, Norman Ferguson and been given some excellent advice."

A month before the Sunday when the players start to arrive and begin practising the course looked immaculate and more than capable of hosting The Open then and there.

"The idea of the Championship is that you have the course in such a condition that all you need is a final tweak to get it to where you want it. The last thing you need to be doing is sitting three weeks before it and wondering what we need to do it get it



ready. You want it to be there early so that you can keep it bubbling over ready for that final tweak," explained Billy.

The two men obviously have a very good rapport and think along the same lines on what they want to achieve.

"We've had our greens down for a little while now so it's not a case of drastic cutting on the day. It's just that final adjustment and we are quite close now," said Jim.

"We're trying to do a week's work every day at the moment. We want to get it right and we



Jim on the "postage stamp"

Open with confidence

Scenic pictures by BRIAN MORGAN



have the bodies to do it," said Billy.

"If you start worrying about it that's when things start to go wrong and you start thinking about things you haven't done rather than concentrating on things you have," said Jim.

The course was closed on June 29 and prior to that, on June 15, member's guests were also stopped.

The greenkeeping team has had to work closely with the outside contractors brought in to erect all the tents and stands which go together to create the

modern day Open venue.

"We marked out tracks for them all with a yellow line so we could keep the mess where we wanted it and to begin with everyone stuck to these but as we are getting nearer the time more people are around and just nip in here and there. A few weeks ago it didn't bother us but nearer the time there isn't enough time to repair damage," said Jim.

"When I went to Lytham last year I learned that that they stopped visitors but not member's guest and the course was as busy

as ever so we made the decision to stop member's guests," said Billy.

The 12 man Troon Greenkeeping team works very much as a unit and everyone has a say.

"We've tried to ensure that it is not a one man or a two man show here. Everyone is involved and if any of the guys comes up with an idea we'll sit and listen. None of us is so big headed or selfish to say it's our way or nothing. I'm sure Billy would have the whole team with him at the prize giving on the Sunday afternoon if he could," said Jim.

"Don't remind me," says Billy, as he contemplates the most public part of the job of an Open course's Head Greenkeeper. "I'll probably trip up walking onto the green."

It is perhaps the one thing which crystallises the scale of the event for Billy who has grown up watching, and, as "one of the boys", working at Open Championships.

"Jim and I have talked about it and it is one of those things that if you did start to think about it from early in the year you could get quite worried. But you tell yourself that you will do your best and the Championship will be here and gone. All you can do is try your best.

"If you thought too deeply into it and worried about all the

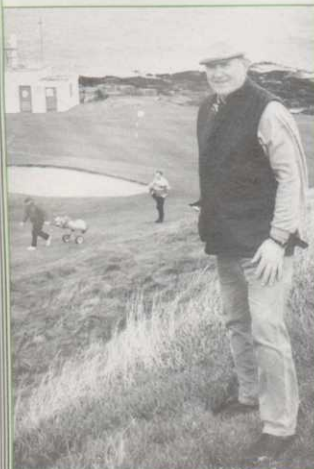
things you needed to do and the number of people out there watching you'd end up jumping off Ailsa Craig out there. You have just got to get on with it," said Billy.

"Good weather, nothing unforeseen, no problems. That'll do us. It's not a lot to ask for. Is it?"

No it isn't. But you can't help thinking if it doesn't quite happen like that Billy, Jim and the team will be able to handle themselves whatever is thrown at them.

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A Salt on Larne's 7th Hole

The Bell Hole at Larne may only be 105 yards long, but its sheer physical position, bounded by the Irish Sea and with a carry across rocks from a high tee, make it intimidating.

But for head greenkeeper, Davie Craig it's not keeping the ball on the green that's the problem, it's maintaining its sward. Sea-spray can completely burn-off the bents and fescues he tries to establish.

Last spring he'd almost given up hope of ever having a resilient grass cover. Now, twelve months on, he claims that the Fortiva treated seed which he bought through JA Humphrey Agriculture has transformed the green into the best it's been in 20 years.

"I was resigned to the STRI's view that it would be better to move the green," he says. "However, we've now got a good sward with no sign of damping-off or fusarium.

"Having used seaweed extract prior to overseeding, I'm very impressed with the result," says Davie.

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By Dr Steve Baker, Senior Research Officer, The Sports Turf Research Institute

The "speed" of the putting surface is one of the most important factors influencing the playing quality of golf greens. On a slow surface that five foot downhill putt may look relatively easy, but on a fast putting surface misjudgment of the line can easily mean that the ball finishes four feet past the hole. Faster greens undoubtedly increase the challenge for the golfer and do help identify the better players. As such, faster greens should be an objective in turf management but not at any price. Too often pressure is put on greenkeeping staff to reduce cutting height in the quest for faster greens when turf conditions are not suitable for closer mowing.

In this article I would like to consider some of the factors that influence green speed in the light of research results from around the world. If we can identify the main turf characteristics controlling the speed of putting surfaces we can use this information in our management strategies without the recourse to substantial reductions in cutting height which, in the long term, will do far more harm than good.

MEASUREMENT OF GREEN SPEED

Several methods have been used to measure green speed including pendulum arrangements, in which an arm is released from a fixed height so that it strikes the ball in a similar manner to the golfer's putter, and also a variety of ramps. Usually the distance rolled is measured. The international "standard" however has become the Stimpmeter. Originally developed in the 1930's as a wooded ramp by E.S. Stimpson, the current version consists of an aluminium bar 0.91m long with a 145° V-shaped groove extending its entire length. It has a ball-release notch 0.76 m from the tapered end which rests on the ground. In use, the ball is placed in this notch and the angle of the Stimpmeter is gradually increased until the ball starts to roll. The ball-release notch is designed so that the ball will always be released when the Stimpmeter is raised to an angle of 20° to the horizontal.

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE SPEED OF PUTTING SURFACES

To use the Stimpmeter it is best to find as flat an area near to the centre of the green as possible then to roll at least three balls in one direction followed by the same number of balls in the opposing direction. If the green is flat you can calculate the green speed from the average distance travelled in each direction. If however the green is sloping and downslope reading is more than about a third higher than the upslope value, use of a straight-forward average of the upslope and downslope readings will exaggerate green speed. To compensate for the effects of slope, green speed can be calculated as: $\text{Green speed} = 2 \times \text{Upslope reading} \times \text{Downslope reading} / (\text{Upslope reading} + \text{Downslope reading})$

FACTORS INFLUENCING GREEN SPEED

■ Grass type There is work from the United States to show differences in green speed in relation to species and cultivar selection and in work at the STRI we have found similar effects. Tests, averaged over five dates, indicated that ball roll distance ranged from 1.57 m for annual meadow-grass to 1.96 m for slender creeping red fescue (Fig 1). Chewings fescue, which also has fine needle-like leaves, also gave high values of ball roll while browntop and highland bent gave intermediate values.

■ Rootzone composition Rootzone composition has little direct effect on green speed and work on a trial at Bingley with different rootzone mixtures showed no significant effect of rootzone composition except during wet

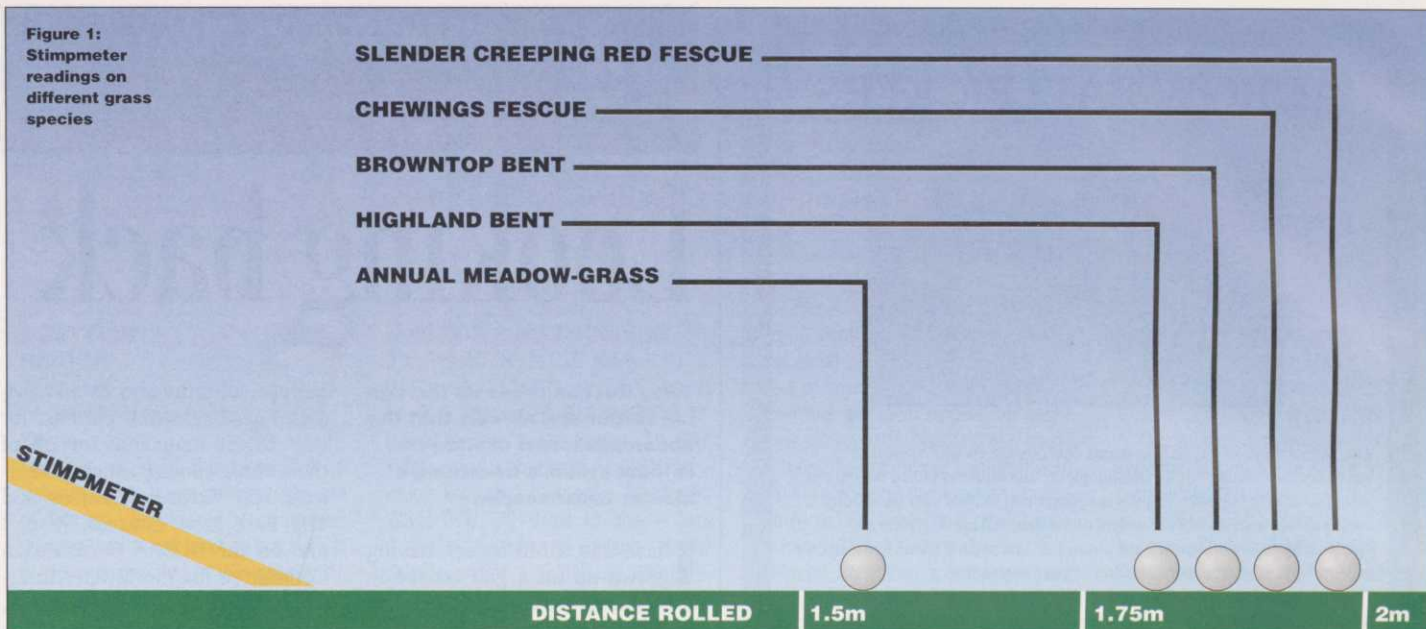
conditions. In wet weather distance rolled on those mixes with the highest content of soil (50% soil: 50% sand) was 10-15% lower than on mixtures with 95% sand or more, mainly because of the slow clearance of surface water.

The indirect effects of rootzone composition may be more significant. There is a better chance of maintaining a fine bent/fescue sward on for example a links course than on a heavy clay soil which is likely to become dominated by annual meadow-grass. The difference in grass type associated with the contrasting rootzone materials may well have implications on green speeds that can be achieved.

■ Fertiliser input Succulent growth associated with high nutrient levels will inevitably slow down a golf ball. On an STRI trial with topsoil, USGA and pure sand rootzones, ball roll in July 1990 for example decreased from 1.62 m to 1.27 m on the topsoil area as nitrogen application increased from 35 to 635 kg/ha per year. On the pure sand rootzone the roll length decreased from 1.82m to 1.33m as the nitrogen input changed from 35 to 410 kg/ha per year, but there was a slight increase in distance rolled at higher nitrogen rates, possibly because the turf was weakened at these very high rates of fertiliser application.

The effect of other nutrients are likely to be smaller and are less well documented. However in the same trial described above we found some reduction in green speed on sand constructions as phosphate levels

Figure 1:
Stimpmeter
readings on
different grass
species



increased from zero to 50 kg/ha per year but differences were only statistically significant when nitrogen levels were more than 200 kg/ha per year. This effect did not occur on the topsoil or USGA constructions and almost certainly reflects less vigorous grass growth on the pure sand rootzone where phosphate had not been applied.

■ **Effects of cutting height** It is inevitable that ball roll should increase as the turf is cut more tightly, but very little work on the effects of cutting height on ball roll has been published in the United Kingdom, so I have to refer to American studies to assess the magnitude of the effect. Work from the New Jersey Agricultural Experimental Station and the USGA showed that reducing cutting height from a quarter of an inch. (6.4 mm) to three sixteenths of an inch. (4.8 mm) increased distance rolled by 13% for upslope putts and a massive 57% for downslope putts. Their results also showed that ball roll measured in the direction of cutting was between 7-15% greater than roll length against the direction of cut.

Research from Penn State University published a year later showed that mowing at three thirty seconds of an inch (2.4 mm) increased distance rolled by about one third compared with mowing at three sixteenths of an inch (4.8mm). They also found that mowing seven times per week, instead of thrice weekly, increased distance rolled by about 15%.

■ **Effect of other maintenance practices** There appears to be very little published work on the effects of other management practices on green speed. A recent trial at Bingley showed

that although variations of irrigation rate from up to 40% above and below the theoretical evapotranspiration demand had major effects on hardness and ball impact properties, the effects on ball roll were small.

American work from the University of Rhode Island in 1981 showed some differences associated with varying top dressing programmes and for example turf receiving a sand-soil mix based on loamy, coarse sand every four weeks had significantly lower green speeds than turf receiving twice yearly top dressing treatments.

Light rolling can also increase green speed without the need to reduce cutting height and many tournaments now have rolling as part of the preparation programme e.g. the use of a Turf Iron. Work from Penn State University published in 1994 showed that light-weight rolling increased Stimpmeter readings by an average of 38 cm. The effect was short-lived (less than 24 hours)

and the amount of thatch present may have an effect on how much green speed is increased. The results from Penn State showed no significant effects on infiltration rates or bulk density but this perhaps needs to be examined over a wider range of soil types and in studies of longer duration than their 95 day project.

There appears to be very little work on the effects of mechanical treatments such as verticutting and scarifying on green speed. This is perhaps surprising in the light of the fact that thatch accumulation is often listed as one of the main factors responsible for slow green speeds.

KEEPING THE GREENS UP TO SPEED

In a recent study – *Greenkeeper International* March 1997 – we concluded that Stimpmeter values between 1.6 m and 2.8 m were normal for the United Kingdom and that values below 1.5 m were too slow. A practical upper

limit of 3.0 m was suggested because it is felt that with current technology and grass types available in this country sustaining ball roll values above 3 m would have long term consequences on the quality of the putting surface.

Nevertheless it should be an objective to achieve firm, fast putting surfaces and the research summarised in this paper suggests that there are a number of ways to accomplish this without recourse to major reductions in cutting height.

Firstly ensure that greens are not over-fertilised. For the majority of soil dominated greens around 100-200 kg/ha of nitrogen are needed on an annual basis to sustain reasonable growth and for sand dominated rootzones this figure rises to about 250 kg/ha of nitrogen. For phosphate and potassium levels the key is to keep values on the low side.

Secondly, do not over-water. In hot, dry weather around 20-25 mm of water will be required to replace evapotranspiration losses. In cooler conditions this figure will fall substantially and allowance must also be made for natural rainfall. If there are any localised dry areas it is better to rely on hand watering, selective spiking and the use of wetting agents, rather than risk over watering the entire green.

Finally, although there is perhaps little research evidence on this point it is essential to control thatch development. Moderation of fertiliser and irrigation inputs discussed above will certainly help in this respect but a good aeration programme and regular grooming and verticutting will help deal with procumbent, matted growth.



Measurement of green speed on a rootzone trial using an inclined ramp

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A GREENKEEPER'S DIARY

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Looking back

Terry Buchen takes us through his career and reveals that the accomplishment of which he is most proud is becoming a Master Greenkeeper.

I have had a fun career, having grown-up on a golf course in the Chicago suburb of Glenview under the mentoring and guidance of my father and grandfather, both Golf Course Superintendents for most of their lives. After graduating from Penn State University in agronomy/turfgrass management in 1968 and the University of California-Irvine with a certificate in golf and park facility administration in 1974, I have worked in all four corners of America and most areas in between, having grown every type of turfgrass used on golf courses, including Kikuyugrass fairways at storied Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles.

My travels have included being the Golf Course Superintendent during grown-up on 10 new golf courses, designed by such famous architects as George & Tom Fazio; Pete Dye; Ted Robinson; Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish, Robert Bruce Harris and Jack Nicklaus, in the three distinct growing medians in the US. Being an agronomist for the PGA TOUR was a grand experience, setting-up 47 tournaments on the regular tour, in 20 different states and one in Canada, as I shall always treasure this as a very important milestone in my further learning of the art of greenkeeping.

The accomplishment that I am most proud of was being awarded the Master Greenkeeper Certificate by The Right Honourable The Lord Griffiths, MC, during BTME '94 in Harrogate. It was my first trip across the pond and my wife, Debbie, and I had loads of fun as we made many new friends in the process and had many, many laughs with the nice people of the UK.

I keep very busy as a contributing editor for *Golf Course News* magazine while writing the monthly column titled "The Savvy Superintendent" and other

feature columns and as an advisory board selection panelist for *Golf Digest* magazine for all of their rating contests, such as America's 100 Greatest Courses and The Best New Courses. Also, I and on the GCSAA Certification Committee for the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation, Green Section Committee for the United States Golf Association, and a Research and Advisory Board Member for Total Quality Management (TQM) in Golf & Country Clubs. One of my proudest moments was while I was golf course superintendent at the Double Eagle Club in Columbus, Ohio, *Golf Digest* magazine in their May, 1995 issue ranked Double Eagle the 2nd best conditioned course in America, Augusta National was ranked in first place. *Golf* magazine, in their June, 1996 issue

'Last year I decided to give full-time agronomy consultancy a try'

ranked in first place. *Golf* magazine, in their June, 1996 ranked the Double Eagle Club 4th best conditioned course in the US.

Last year, after doing agronomy consulting work for 20+ years part-time, I decided to give full-time agronomy consulting a try and formed my own company, travelling worldwide to share my many experiences with greenkeepers, superintendents and other course officials. Most of my consulting work entails grow-in during new construction and restoration/renovation projects; tournament conditioning on established courses, due diligence agronomy audits for course officials and routine maintenance issues. Gordon Irvine, MG, and I have discussed the possibility of working together on some selected projects as well as hopefully with Jeremy Slessor of European Golf Design. Thank you and have a great summer.

■ Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG, Consulting Agronomist, Terry Buchen Golf Agronomy International

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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

Elliott Small
Tel: 01259 731445
East



The quiz night at the Black Bull in Dalkeith had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. Is the social committee wasting their time? Next on the agenda is the spring outing at Winterfield GC. In Dunbar, a great day was had by the 50-plus members and trade who attended. There are a few people to thank – the captain and council for courtesy of the course, the club master and club mistress for the refreshments (by the way, that Belhaven best is something else) kitchen staff for the meals – they were extremely good. Last but not least Craig Pennyquick, Head Greenkeeper and his staff. The course was a credit at this time of year, it was in excellent condition. Craig, keep up the good work. To the trade thanks for your support, raffle prizes etc. Also to Tom Murray and Graham who look after all your cards on the day and kept everything running smoothly, thanks lads.

All scores and names are below, one thing to mention though, trade representative Tom Brannan, from Souters of Stirling, had a hole-in-one on the par-3 4th (it bounced along the fairway onto the green then into the hole) Tom was jumping about and shouting so much I thought Celtic had won something. Congratulations to him and a quote from Tom himself – "It cost me more that night than it did when my twin daughters were born a few months ago." (PS: Tom, wait until they both decide to get married. You ain't seen nothing yet!)

Next golfing on the calendar is the Summer Tournament, on 24 June at Harburn G.C. which is teams of two playing a Stableford. Partners will be drawn on the day this is so members will get to meet different people in the Section. This is something new, the committee are trying this year as well as making all outing afternoons only this gives you time to get some work done on your courses in the morning before you head off to the section event. BIGGA is a golf club friendly association. It was also good to see a lot of new faces at the spring outing, the committee hope that this continues. If you think different to any of the above or have any views of your own give me a call or drop me a line.

Results – Spring Outing 1997, Winterfield G.C. Scratch-G. Wood 72, 1st Class – 1. S. Crawford 67, 2.; S. Green-

wood 72, 3. I. Bell 73. 2nd Class – 1. S.J. Russell 69, 2. C.J. Yeaman 71, 3. G. Purves 73. 3rd Class – 1. S. Hayes 71, 2. G. Stavert 74, 3. A McCleish 77. New Member – Ian Cowan 70 B/H; Trade – Ian Thompson 67; Veteran – Ralph Bullock 72; Guest – R. Martin, Winterfield, 70; Hole in one – Tom Brannan, Souters of Stirling. Hayter Qualifiers. Cat 1. I. Bell, G. Wood, S. Greenwood, A. Holmes, Res T. Murray. Cat 2. S.J. Russell, R. Thomson, K. Anderson, J. Nielson, Res S. Dixon. Cat 3. A. McLeish, G. Trotter, S. Hayes, B. Duthie, Res A. Forrest. Worst score of the day D. Jefferies, T. Sheriff, 122, worst aggregate on par 3's G. Blair 52, Ratho Park GC.

At our committee match at Gullane Golf Club on May 20, a great day was had by all the Committee (so I was told). We also had Paul Sago, Course Manager, and Bill Robertson Head Greenkeeper both from Gullane. The weather on the day has to be the worst I have played in for a long time, it was torrential from the night before and still when we left the club that night, not ideal for golf. The winner of the Eddie Holt Trophy this year was Craig Pennyquick, so well done to him. By the way Craig I will get it back off you next year. Yet again a different name on the trophy – no committee person has won it twice since it was first played for back in 1991, and we hope that's how it will remain. Eddie would have liked it for everyone to get a chance of winning. The Chairman v Vice Chairman for the Shield was won by the Vice Chairman's team.

Thanks must go to the Gullane GC for the courtesy of the course, Paul Sago/Bill Robertson for the condition of the course(s), they were in great shape considering the weather. Also the club house staff for the meals and refreshments which was indulged in considerably over the day and thanks to our sponsors for the day Lothian Tractors. A big thank you to Suzanne Gilles, Lothian Tractors, who played golf with us that day. Thanks to you and the company.

The Skittles night in May was cancelled due to lack of numbers – we had only about seven members some with a partner so I would think that will be the demise of the Skittles nights, as that is the fourth one to be cancelled in a row. At £40 a time that is a total of £160 lost for four events. At the end of the day that is your money.

Next on the agenda is the Summer Tournament at Harburn GC on June 24 – report next month. Section member-

ship is continuing to go up – I don't have exact numbers to hand but if you know of anyone in the trade that is not a member get them to give our secretary a call on 0131-6603965 and he will tell them the benefits of joining BIGGA, and will also send them out an application form. So if you're a greenkeeper get into BIGGA. It's worth it.

Myself, Steve Dixon, (secretary), and our wives were very pleased to be invited to the official opening of King Acre Golf Course on May 31. We would like to thank Tom King and his family for the very kind invitation, this has to be one of the best new courses I have seen for a long time. You would think it has been there for quite a number of years. All I can say is give Tom a phone call and get down to play it, but watch the lake at the left of the 18th! I would also like to congratulate George Purves and his team for the amount of work that must have gone on to have it ready for opening day. It was well worth it in the end. Well done to everyone concerned with Kings Acre Golf Course, it is a credit to you all.

If anyone has any news, information to pass on, simply pick up the phone (0131-4457165 office, 01620-842037 home) or drop me a line at Muirfield Drive, Gullane.

That all this month folks, see you next time.

Chris Yeaman

North

The spring outing at Duff House Royal was a great success with almost 90 members and trade golfing, and several others along for the day. The weather was excellent as was the course thanks to Willie Forsyth and his staff, prize winners were as follows:- Scr:- 1. M. Wilson, Forres, 71; 2. K. Peace, Inverurie, 73 Class 1:- 1. N. Sadler, Grantown-on-Spey, 71-5-66; 2. P. Don, Demway, 74-4-70; 3. S. McBain, Hazlehead, 78-7-71. Class 2; 1. S. William, Peterculter, 70-8-62; 2. C. Cumming, Fortrose; 3. M. Keay 76-9-67. B.I.H. Class 3 – 1. D. Marnoch, Peterculter, 84-16-68; 2. D. Robertson, Newmacher, 85-14-71 B.I.H; 2. R. Donald, Oldmeldrum, 75-6-69; Apprentice:- 1. J. Morson, Westhill, 86-16-70; 2. P. Watson 91-18-73. Trade:- P. Allan, Stewarts, 72-5-67. Guest:- B. Edmund 72-3-69. Longest Drive:- Class 1 N. Sadler; Class 2 S. Morrison, Royal Aberdeen, Class 3 S. Hogg, Fortrose. Nearest the hole:- D. Green, Huntly. Draw for BIGGA Blazer:- D. Anthony, Duff House Royal, 200 Club winners were as follows: January No.35 D.

Duguid, Westhill, February No 114; Mrs P. MacLeod, Coventry, March No.31; A. Dobbie, Boat of Garten, all £30. April £100 No.21; B. Cocker Jnr, Alyth.

The following members will represent the section in the Norrie Whytock competition this August – H. McLatchie, S. Williams, C. Cumming, and C. Burgess, Forres. Finally on the outing, this is the first time we have had to turn away entries so next outing get your form back quick to ensure participation.

The Hayter Qualifier at Troon Lochgreen was not a great success for the Section with no qualifiers, Colin Mackay, Elmwood GC, and Chris Cumming, Fortrose, are reserves in Class 1 and 2 respectively. The Section dinner dance this year will be at the Clover Leaf Hotel, Bucksburn, Aberdeen, on Saturday November 22, price remains £12.50 and rooms are available at the hotel for £38.00 B&B for two. If members want this event to continue a good turnout is required, as friends and guests far outnumber members in previous dances and we are running this for members really, although others are more than welcome.

I hear Colin Forbes and Doug Boyle have moved from Aboyne to Terland we wish them well, also we wish Martin Dodds well in his new job in Aberdeen after leaving Cullen.

Iain Macleod

Central

Apologies for there being no Section news last month, the reason being that I was in hospital at the time the magazine went to press. Thanks to everyone who sent their good wishes, I appear to be on the road to recovery and hopefully things will get back to normal, whatever that is, pretty soon.

No sooner do we welcome Jim Ellis's return to the Section when he ups and leaves for pastures new, in Germany. Every success in your new appointment Jim, I hope everything goes well for you. (Perhaps we may now get a contribution from Germany for the section news!)

While we are on about members it is great to welcome the following new ones, Scott Watson and Ben Durkin, both Aberdour; Marc Brownlie, Pitreavie; Gregor McNee, Glenbervie; Craig Hopkins, Elmwood College; Andrew Crawford, Kinross; and Ian Smith, Bishopshire, and we look forward to meeting them at some of our forthcoming events.

We have gained 18 new members so far this year, that's down on our target of one per week, so if you know of any

greenkeeper near you who is not a member, encourage him/her to join. If you wish, bring them along to any of our events, as a guest and let them see for themselves what they are missing by not being part of BIGGA.

The first golf tournament of the season was held over The Dukes Course at Craigtoun, St Andrews, in April, when some 55 members and guests enjoyed the courtesy of their excellent facilities. Our sincere thanks go to Course Manager, Owen Browne and his staff, for having the course in tip top condition on the day, a great achievement when you consider it is a new course and the terrible weather conditions in the early part of the year, a special thanks to Heidi Orr, Golf Administration Manager, for all her help in making the arrangements and for helping to make sure everything ran smoothly on the day – that includes granting extra tee times for those who did not return entry forms!

Scottish Chairman, Sam Morrison, made the long journey down from Aberdeen and we appreciate the support Sam gives to Section events. I would also like to thank all our Patrons and everyone who contributed to the raffle prizes and helped to make the day a great success.

Prize winners were as follows: Best Scratch:- D. Leith, St Andrews, 74; Best Nett:- K. Mitchell, St Andrews, 72; 1st Class, H/cap:- 1. T. Braid, Lundin Links, 74; 2. H/cap S. Robertson, Elmwood, 75; 2nd Class, H/cap:- 1. I. Ross, The Dukes Course, 77; 2. H/cap – S. Sime, Leven Links, 78; 3rd Class, H/cap:- 1. P. Brown, Falkland, 83; 2. H/cap – S. Campbell, Stirling, 84; Stewart's Quich:- I. Ross/K. Stirling, The Dukes Course, 151; Patrons:- S. Barbour, A & J Bowens, 75; Guest's:- G. Prendergast, Greenma UK Ltd, 73.

The Inter-Club Tournament is now under way and with an entry of 16 teams the competition to stop Auchterarder from winning the trophy three years in a row looks even tougher this year, although Archie and James will be all out to make it a hat trick of victories.

Congratulations on their recent marriages to Owen Browne, of The Dukes Course, and Robin Hadley, of Pitreavie GC. Unfortunately I don't have the names of their spouses so have to

Around the Green



remain rather formal. Anyway, best wishes for the future Mr & Mrs Browne and Mr & Mrs Hadley from everyone in the Central Section.

Arrangements are being made to organise some of the events which were on the list sent out earlier this year, although going by the number of forms returned (36 out of 240) it would appear that events are not going to be that well supported. John Bashford will be organising the fishing on Loch Leven during the season so there maybe some interesting stories being told at the Autumn Tournament, at Auchterarder in September. Andy O'Hara is hoping to organise a further football match, but unfortunately it will not be representative of the Section as only seven members showed an interest in forming a Central Section team. Kevin Brunton is helping to arrange a visit to Parkhead Stadium, Glasgow, which will allow members to see the work involved in the renovation and preparation of a pitch prior to the start of a new playing season. Details of all Events will be mailed out as soon as possible. (Probably only to those who took the time to return there forms). So if you failed to return your form you may miss out!

John Crawford

Hayter Challenge Scottish Regional Final

The Scottish Region had another glorious day for the Regional final of the Hayter Challenge. The Loch Green course was in excellent condition all thanks to Bill Fletcher and his staff and it certainly provided a very stern test for the competitors. We were pleased to have Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayters, joining us. Mind you he was only coming home as Troon is his home town. It was also nice to have our BIGGA Chairman Pat Murphy and John Pemberton from HQ with us for the day. With Hamish Macfie and then Pat Murphy acting as

starters everything ran exactly to time, (Cecil and Harry look out) and the last three teed off on the dot, pale faced greenkeepers these three, obviously spending too much time in their offices.

It was a long way round for many of the lads over 6500 yards and between the heat and the strong breeze, yes it was, just a breeze up here, there were a few weary travellers at the end. The first pint never touched the sides, and so to the results; Cat 1. 1. D. Leith, St Andrews, 73-1-72; 2. S. Taylor, Killermont, 74-1-73; 3. D. Wilson, Irvine Bogside, 81-8-73; 4. C. McKay, Elmwood, 79-6-73. Cat 2. 1. A. Wilson, Kirkhill, 86-14-72; 2. J. Johnston, Turnberry, 86-13-73; 3. A. Torrance, King James, 86-11-75; 4. C. Cumming, Fortrose, 87-12-75. Cat 3. G. Shearer, Balmore, 91-22-69; 2. S. Carmichael, Fincs GC, 92-22-70; 3. D. Nelson, Brunston Castle, 91-21-70; 4. A. Robertson, Grangemouth, 91-20-71.

So what a team we have this year everyone dedicated to giving the team manager a winning finale to his time as Administrator, yes I'm sure they are!

Elliott Small

NORTHERN REGION

Bob Lupton

Tel: 01782 750539

North West

A good attendance at the spring tournament ensured good competition to qualify for the Hayter regional final at Matten hall on Wednesday July 9. The spring tournament was at Didsbury Golf Club on Thursday May 1, and although I was otherwise engaged and could not attend, I was assured that Alec Davis and his staff had the course in excellent condition.

The qualifiers for the Hayter regional final are: Cat 1 1. P. Pearce; 2. S. Moon; 3. F. Platt. Cat 2. 1. L. McAndrew; 2. A. Bennett; 3. B. Turner. Cat 3. 1. S. Moseley; 2. J. Fitzgerald; 3. A. Davis.

I would like to thank all the companies who provided prizes for the day. Unfortunately Alec Davis has the list of companies, and he's in Florida at the moment, but I will name the companies in my next Section news. On Monday August 4 we have a match against the Northern Section. I require two teams of 16 players, and both matches are

sponsored so the day will cost you nothing, both matches will be played to win, but at the same time are always very enjoyable.

There are several supervisory and management courses both at Aldwark Manor and regional. If you are available for the golf matches or require a further information about the courses contact me on 0151 7245412.

Bert Cross

Sheffield

There is not a lot of news this month, but there are quite a few new members to the section they include: John Evisan, Neil Vernon, David Ingleton, Paul Jarvis, Ian Scott, Geoffrey Wells, Glenn Hearn, Richard Evison and Colin Jessop all from Gainsborough GC. Jonathan Knowles and Mark Knowles from Rufford Park GC and John Darroch from Hirst Priory GC.

Our next golf will be our autumn competition to be held at Sicklehome GC on September 22 at 1.30pm.

John Lax

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter

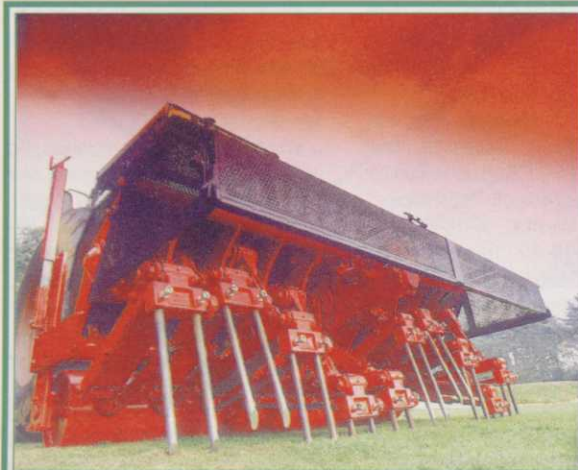
Tel: 01480 437507

Midland

July has come around quickly again bringing with it the usual concerns about water usage and all the grievances which seem to go hand in hand with this seasonal crisis. Well I suppose it could be worse, we could all have the troubles of Yorkshire Water which never seem to be rectified. After all we have had one of the better starts to the season regarding weather for some time and actually being able to get a better degree of growth on those usually dormant areas.

On May 13 the annual President's Day took place at Handsworth GC. This always proves to be an enjoyable evening and this one was no exception many thanks to all the greenkeepers who took part and especially to Eric Thomas for organising the greenkeepers' team so admirably.

Can I remind anyone who is participating in the Rite Feed singles that the first round needs to be played before July 18? Also, to any pairs playing the Rigby Taylor to make sure that you get



THE UNIQUE VERTI-DRAIN

Redexim

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



THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP

your games played before the deadline dates to save the back up of games.

There is the possibility of arranging 5-a-side football matches, Keith Weston from Kenilworth GC is hoping to get things organised so if anyone is interested could they please either talk to myself or Keith at the next tournament or give Keith a call on 01926 411948.

Anyone wishing to give me news or information would they please give me a ring as this article is all about getting information and news to the members of the Midland Section and I can not possibly be able to get all the information which you need to know so anything you can tell me I will be pleased to print in this article.

Jonathan Wood

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

The first golf event proved very successful with 40 competitors battling it out for the prestigious prizes. Castle Royle proved to be a very good test of golf with nobody beating par on the day (very little work for our newly appointed handicap secretary!). Allan Collis and his staff are to be congratulated on the superb condition of the course.

The main sponsors of the day were Rigby Taylor and Hayter so many thanks to both companies.

Prize winners as follows:- 1. S. Putt; 2. T. Evans, 3. J. Socket. Longest Drive:- T. Webb, Nearest the Pin:- P. Whelehan. This event was also the Hayter qualifier for the Regional Final to be held at the Warwickshire on June 26. Cat 1:- 1. C. Evans; 2. P. Whelehan; 3. M. Smith; 4. G. Divers. Cat 2:- 1. S. Putt; 2. D. Jones, 3. R. Fletcher; 4. D. Edwards.

By the time this article goes to print hopefully the team will have done us all proud! The draw for the Rigby Taylor knockout has taken place and all competitors should have received there copy. Please remember the top names in the draw have home advantage. Maximum handicap allowance is 18! Good luck to everybody especially my partner Paul. I will post results in the magazine throughout the season. The next golf event is at Badgemore Park on Thursday July 17 (go easy on me please). Prediction for the forthcoming Open at Troon: Tiger Woods to miss the cut.

Lindsay T Anderson

East of England

Rutland County was the venue for the Purdy's Cup which saw a good turnout of members, playing in fine weather over a course in magnificent condition. Thanks go to Chris Squires and his staff for producing a challenging test of golf. There being little wind "we had it easy" said the Captain and the scores indicated that. The eventual winner is now cut two shots, and was Sheamus Coggin, from Belton Woods, 38 pts, second was David Griffon, also Belton Woods, 35 pts, and third Richard Owen, Beston Wests, 34 pts. Graeme Macdonald, Ryston Park, picked up nearest the pin. As usual the prize table was overflowing, a big thank you to Les Purdy for sponsoring a fine day on a fairly new course in good condition. Other prizes were donated by Peter Fell, Aitkens, Leigh Siddon, Colliers, Stewart Jeffs, Rigby Taylors, and Roy Harrison, Stoke Rochford.

"Mac's on the Move" - I mentioned in my last report that Charlie Macdonald had left Newark to take up the post of Course Manager at Crieff Golf Club. Well, your secretary is also on the move, Graeme Macdonald is leaving Ryston Park Golf Club to take over from Charlie Macdonald at Newark. Graeme Macdonald

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Surrey

The Cresta Cup was held at West Surrey GC on June 10 on a very hot and humid afternoon. The course needless to say was immaculate, well done Mike and his team. We were treated royally by the management, for which we thank them.

The food under the helm of Mrs Kirkham was superb, a carvery no less, this was a first. The results were:- 1. R. Tydeman (Mr Old Reliable) with 36 pts; 2. M. Todd also with 36 pts on count back and 3. D. Williams with 34 pts also on count back with about five others, don't do this to me lads, you know I have trouble. The next tournament is the McMillan Tankard at Sunningdale, I don't know yet the numbers Brian can manage, so get in quick, first come first served. You will receive the entry form



very shortly. A little news from around - Lee Strutt is now Course Manager at Richmond Golf Club and he has aboard with him David Patterson as D/CM Lee and Adam Hartley (RAC) have now joined the committee. The good news for some of you is that I am retiring on July 31, the bad news is I will still be around! The Drift have done me a great deal whereby I am still playing golf here and try to be useful as well. But I shall be out and about on my motorbike to keep an eye on you.

Ted Stiles

Sussex

I've just returned from a week of lying in the sun in Rhodes to realise it's time for another write-up. So as I have not had time to catch up with the news, I thought I would take the opportunity to broach another subject.

Education is always at the forefront of BIGGA's agenda. So before your Course Manager has spent all of his budget on summer fertilisation it might be worth talking to him about college courses to be taken over the autumn and winter months. Maybe your club would find it difficult to lose members of staff during the working day, if so why not approach your local college about evening courses. I, along with nine other greenkeepers, have just completed an NVQ course at Plumpton College. It consisted of an evening session once a week with projects and studying to be carried out in your own time. This is the first year the course has been run like this and I found it very informative. Apart from gaining a qualification, it keeps you in touch with other greenkeepers through the long winter months. On behalf of all the lads who attended, I would like to thank David and Colin for making the course such a success. We need more courses of this kind and if enough interest is shown, I'm sure more colleges will hold educational classes in the evening. If you wish to find out more about this or any other courses contact David Blackmur at Plumpton College on 01273 890454 or contract your local college.

Congratulations to Tony Bremmer who has been promoted to Deputy Course Manager at Gatton Manor GC. I worked with Tony at Slinfold Park GC two years ago, before he moved to his

present club. Although Patton Manor is just into Surrey, Tony has stayed with the Sussex Section.

Finally, we still need venues for our golf days in 1998. Anyone who thinks they may be able to help with this, please contact a member of the committee.

Results of the summer meeting at Haywards Heath in next month's write-up.

Colin Cathie

Essex

The Essex Section held a golf day at Five Lakes Golf and Country Club, playing the European Tour Course. A good day was had by all but, Martin, we would just like to have the greens a bit quicker next time! Thanks to Martin, his staff and all at Five Lakes for making us welcome. Our thanks also go to Earnest Doe's for sponsoring the event and in particular to Andy Turbin for his efforts on our behalf.

Prize winners were as follows: Cat 1:- 1. C. Crocher, 2. R. Pride, 3. S. Cox; Cat 2:- 1. C. Ward, 2. D. Wells, 3. J. Selwood; Cat 3:- 1. J. Shelton, 2. M. Stopps, 3. M. Forrester; Guest:- P. Keeble; Trade:- A. Turbin; Nearest the Pin on 13th and Longest Drive 18th:- M. Fance.

I had a great day watching Volvo PGA Tournament at Wentworth thanks to the hospitality of Ransomes.

Our next lecture evening will be at Writtle College, Thursday September 25 at 7.30pm in the Main Building, Room L60. Dr Tim Lodge, from STRI, will be talking on the use and misuse of top dressing and recent research concerning golf green maintenance and construction.

Dave Wells

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Paula Humphries
Tel: 01363 82777

Devon and Cornwall

You may be aware that following the approval of the Association's revised constitution at the 1996 AGM the BIGGA Board of Management request that all Regions should have a paid part-time administrator in place before the end of this year. Paula has subse-



ITS EFFECT IS SHATTERING

Charterhouse



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

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

Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

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Tel: 01428 661222 Fax: 01428 661218

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COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

quently been appointed to the post of Regional Administrator.

The funding for the new part-time Regional Administrator will be from central funds, although the Section and Region will have to forgo their sub refunds to help cover some of the costs. The loss of our refunds means that the Section has to become self-sufficient to survive. To help finance the section, the Committee has decided to offer the companies already involved in donating golf prizes at our meetings first refusal on sponsoring the whole meeting. This would entitle the companies involved to put up a sponsor sign on the 1st tee or 18th green and the use of their display boards in the club house (both are subject to host club's approval). They will also be entitled to present their Company's golfing prizes having taken up the new sponsorship deal. The section would like to thank Avoncrop, Barenbrug, Devon Garden Machinery, PJ Flegg, Rhône Poulenc, Roffey's and Supaturf for their continued sponsorship and support of our section.

The section would also like to thank DGM for their sponsorship of our fixture cards over recent years, after a Section committee some two years ago it was decided to offer other companies the chance to sponsor the cards on a two-year sponsorship deal, which takes effect from this year with PJ Flegg taking up the sponsorship package. Look out for next month's article for more details of venues, dates and sponsors. Richard Whyman

South West

May has been an interesting month for us all in the region. At last we have had a spring with some genuine rain in it. The resultant growth and recovery from the severe winter and early spring has forced me to apologise to some of my members as for a brief moment they don't have anything to complain about. We have come through the Augusta syndrome relatively unscathed and as I write are drawing battle plans for the US Open syndrome which always seems to clash with that other "Major" our club championship. I have guaranteed them perfect lightening quick greens, cross cut fairways mown at 6mm, three tiers of lush green monostand rough and a fresh load of crushed marble in the bunkers. The only catch being that they will have to go to the club down the road to get it. One of those clubs down the road is Chippenham who very kindly hosted our members and guest day. Our thanks to Secretary, Doug Maddison, and the club for their courtesy in allowing us the use of their facilities, particularly as half the contingent were not greenkeepers. The course as ever was immaculate thanks to Chris Sealey and his staff.

The scores were as follows: 1. Michael Fawcett (no surprise there) and partner K. May 44 pts. 2. Phil Greenway and partner Nigel Hopper 42pts. 3. Tim Dabernett (Placed pins to suit his fine draw) and partner Ian Widows 41 pts.

Around the Green



We were then treated to some fine cuisine from the caterer, Neil Simpson, and enjoyed a few witty words from the club Captain Brian Elliot. Tim Dabernett then handed over the nearest the pin prize which was won by a some off fluke from Marc Haring. This particular competition which has just been started and will hopefully become a permanent fixture raised £50 for the clubs charity the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Thanks to Tim for his organisation and donation of the prize of a bottle of Scottish produce which is rapidly becoming depleted. The day was nicely rounded off when Dave Harper, one of the guests from Cumberwell Park, bought everyone a drink following his hole in one at the 6th.

While on the subject of Cumberwell Park, this is the venue for our summer tournament on July 23, so it is my turn to endure the sleepless nights and endless worry that goes with this responsibility. This is the first visit to Cumberwell for the greenkeepers tour and I can recommend it as an excellent course, well worth a visit. As the members say all they need to do is sack the Course Manager and it could be one of the best around.

Marc Haring

South Coast

It is with regret that I have to inform you that Bill Young has passed away. He was 84 years old. Bill was Arlesford Golf Club, his links with the club go back to the 1920s. He started off as a caddie and then became a member of the club, he was later made club Captain. Bill was also the Head Greenkeeper/Professional, he was an active member of BIGGA and was a founder member of the South Coast Section. He was made a life member when he retired, he retired from greenkeeping in 1997, quite an achievement for one man, our sincere condolences go to Bill's son Barry and all his family at this sad time.

Jeff Drake, our Secretary, is organising a trip to the London Golf Club on November 6. You may remember that Joe Paulin from the London Golf Club gave a talk at our spring seminar at Sparsholt college early on in the year. Joe invites the South Coast Section to a day at his club to see the complex first hand. This has got to be a must to see how a top class golf complex operates. Will all those wishing to make the trip let Jeff know as soon as possible, he can then make arrangements for the coach and pick up points, Jeff can be contacted on 01722 503938.

We do not know the price of the coach yet, however there is a strong possibility that the trip will be sponsored. For those of you who have not

entered, your names for the Summer Tournament and Bramshow GC, there is still time if you are quick. All entries complete with current handicaps of yourself and your partner to:- Tony Gadd, Cherry Trees, Lymington Road, Milford on Sea, Hants. SO41 0QL. Tel: 01590 643746. At the time of going to press we still have not got the price for the tournament. By the time this report gets to the magazine Tony will be able to let you know the cost, all entries are to be with Tony by first post July 28.

Ken Lodge

South Wales

The results of the recently contested Hayter Qualifier and Spring Tournament held at Kington GC in Herefordshire were; Best nett and winner of the Cardiff Cup was Richard Patterson with a 63. Best gross and winner of the Brown's Shield was David Gladwin with a 63. Winner of the John O'Gorman Cup was Maesteg's David Jenkins with a 71. Despite the poor attendance an excellent day was had by all. The course was in excellent order and the quote that I was given was "the greens were superb" so congratulations to Course Manager, Ian Gough, and his team for their efforts. My personal thanks to Mike Jones who ran the day on my behalf as I was unable to attend. Thanks also the Kington Golf Club for making us so welcome and allowing us the courtesy of their super hillside course.

Qualifiers for the Hayter Regional finals at the Burnham and Berrow GC on June 11 are:- Cat 1; Mike Jones, Daryl Bray, Andy Roach, Jamie Probert, Vince Nortley. Cat 2; Dave Gladwin, Rob Frater, Andy Hatcher, Andy Cosh, Peter Edwards. Cat 3; Ian Gough, Richard Patterson, David Jenkins, Gareth Evans, David Ward. Good luck for the event, bring back the winning team shield, please!

Shortly we will be organising the forthcoming winter evening lecture programme, if anyone has any recommendations or requests then please contact myself or Education Chairman Malcolm Davies as soon as possible, so that we can include in this series of lectures. I hope that you have already booked your place on one of this year's supervisory or management courses. "Essential Supervisory Management Skills for Greenkeepers" is to be held at the Marriott Hotel in Swansea on Wednesday and Thursday 6 & 7 of November later this year. The cost will be only £50 for BIGGA members, inclusive of all tuition, meals and accommodation. This is the first course to be held in South Wales, so please support it and ensure that it is not the last!

The Pencoed College Open Day is to be held at the college in Bridgend on Saturday June 28 for 2pm until 6pm. Please come along and say hello to your committee members who will be manning a BIGGA stand and will be only to pleased to answer any queries that you may have. Have a browse around the college and visit the all new

lecture theatre and conference complex. Bring the family, walk the farmyard and see the animals. A worthwhile day out. Please support it and us!

If you could be interested in attending a one day pesticide update course, please let me know. It is possible, if there are enough interested parties, that we may run the above course in the not too distant future. The course would be available to twelve people and would provide information on the changes in law, new legislation, pesticide labelling, calibration and application techniques. The cost would be in the region of £40 per person.

Congratulations are in order for Mr and Mrs Huw Morgan for they were blessed recently with the arrival of Thomas Jack weighing in at 9lb 2oz. Well done, another budding greenkeeper, possibly?

Lastly, if anybody has not received their 1997 fixture card then please let me know. This years fixture card sponsored by "Power Cut" John Deere dealers of Carmarthen has been sent out, (better late than never) but if for any reason your card has failed to appear, then let me know!

Peter Lacey

Hayter Regional Qualifier – South West & South Wales Region

What a superb venue! The course is second to none and nothing but compliments were heard all day. Congratulations go, of course, to Jock Millar and his team for the splendid condition of their course. The welcome and facilities provided in the clubhouse were wonderful and the catering magnificent.

The night before the competition there was torrential rain which looked as if it would never stop. However, I told everyone that I do not run wet golf competitions – I always order sunshine! Low and behold, Wednesday morning dawned bright and sunny – if anything a little too hot – and there was not enough wind even to fly the BIGGA flag! – we had to bin it onto the back of a bench!! Gordon & Marion Child were in charge of the starting and everyone went off spot on time. We were honoured to have the Chairman, Pat Murphy with us and also Scott MacCallum from HQ. Kim Macfie from Hayter attended with Robin Boyse and Peter Hampton and Kim kindly presented the prizes which Hayter donated – rather splendid hip flasks which I am sure will be treasured. Gwillim Kellows and BS Motors kindly provided a half way house, which was greatly appreciated.

Results:- Cat 1 – 1. R. Daly (D & C) 65; 2. L. Millar (S. Coast) 69; 3. D. Bray (D & C) 74; Res. C. Bland 74. Cat 2 – 1. A. Knight (S.West) 71; 2. P. Wentworth (S. Coast) 73; 3. M. Porrih (D & C) 73; Res. A. Cosh (S. Wales) 73. Cat 3 – 1. A. James (D & C) 68; 2. J. Cooper (S. West) 76; 3. A. Rideout (S. Coast) 77; Res. J. Braithwaite (S. West) 77.

All in all it was a great day. Good luck to the qualifiers in the final. Paula Humphries



AMENITY
TECHNOLOGY

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Professional Solutions for the Green Environment

DRENCHER PELLETS

With the summers getting longer and hotter there is an increasing demand on the water supply and its application into the amenity sector. Through normal irrigation methods the spread patterns of water may give adequate coverage, but this does not mean that there is an even absorption of water into the soil. High spots on greens can be particularly prone to hydrophobic conditions caused by surface water run off due to insufficient water absorption.

For this reason, it has always been necessary to apply additional water to high spots, by syringing. To increase the effectiveness of this procedure it is advisable to apply a wetting agent along with this extra water. The easiest and most cost effective way to add this wetting agent is through the Drencher hose end applicator.

This has been designed to incorporate a chamber for a solid wetting pellet which is eroded as the water passes over it.

The Drencher pellet range consists of a straight WA (wetting agent) pellet and the 123 Premix pellet, a combined wetting agent, biostimulant, and micronutrient feed, both of which are supplied in cases of six pellets with each pellet treating between 3 and 6 greens.



DRENCHER GUN

The Drencher Gun is the most advanced hose end applicator of its type in the UK.

The applicator gun is easy to connect and operate and gives the operator total control at the hose end, where it is needed.

Designed and manufactured in Europe, the applicator has improved hose connector couplings, a simple shut off valve, brass spray nozzle and clear chamber which is tested to 120psi, making it easy and effective to use. An optional rose attachment is available.



GREEN LAWNER™



Greenlawnger™ turf colourant will restore the natural appearance of turf which has been damaged or discoloured by fertilizer burn, winter yellowing or other problems such as chemical or oil spills. It is ideal for sports turf, golf greens, tees and fairways, along with commercial application.

Greenlawnger™ turf paint is easily applied with any tank or knapsack sprayer to give a healthy, natural look to all turf grass. It will not wash or wear off turf after it has been applied, and the colour will last 10-14 weeks, or until the coloured grass is removed by mowing.

Greenlawnger™ is available in both 1 and 10 lts. for spray mixes, and should be applied at 1 lt. per 500m² or in Ready To Use(RTU™) aerosols for spot treatment. RTUs come in a case of 6 cans with a free applicator gun. Greenlawnger RTU™ is available in two colours, Standard Green for all applications and Agrostis Green for darker turf.

Greenlawnger™ Sand Concentrate is also available in 100 lt. drums for colouring sand/divot mix.



WATER MANAGEMENT

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Crystal Clear™ WSP is a concentrated microbial based lake clarifier containing 4 billion CFUs (Colony Forming Units) per gram of a proprietary blend of 17 bacillus bacterial strains. Crystal Clear WSP will biodegrade the nutrients, organic matter and hydrocarbons reducing surface scum, algae blooms, sludge and organic sediment, improving water clarity and quality. In addition, Crystal Clear will control methane and sulphide odours.

Crystal Clear™ WSP is packaged in easy to use water soluble packets. It is non-toxic and harmless to humans, animal and aquatic life. Crystal Clear WSP is fully compatible with all aquatic colourants.

For initial application each WSP will treat 250m³ of water, with a maintenance rate of 1 WSP per 1500m³ every 2 weeks. Available in cases of 6 WSP.

Lake Colorant™ WSP



Using Lake Colorant™ WSP to create natural looking blue water is easy and inexpensive. It is the perfect colourant for lakes, ponds, water hazards or large fountains.

Lake Colorant™ WSP is a highly concentrated blend of dry-flowable colourants in water soluble packets. Unlike liquid colourants, these totally eliminate any need for measuring or for any applicator contact with the colourant, so there is no mess. The packets dissolve quickly and completely, leaving no residue.

Lake Colorant's exclusive formula disperses the colourant quickly, and since the water soluble packet floats, colouring occurs from the top down for much faster results. Lake colourant is available in cases of 6 WSP. Each WSP will treat 1500 m³ of water.



DRENCHER LIQUID

Drencher liquid is a performance enhanced organic soil penetrant, combined with natural sugars to aid in the treatment of dry patch and stimulate soil microbial activity. Formulated for use on fine turf, Drencher liquid is an essential weapon in the fight against hydrophobic soil conditions.

- **ENHANCED WATER PENETRATION**
- **AIDS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRY PATCH**
- **STIMULATES SOIL MICROBIAL ACTIVITY**
- **NON SCORCHING FORMULATION**
- **100% ORGANIC**

Maintenance Rate

750 ml. - 1 lt. per 500 m² in 40 lts. of water (15 - 20 lts. per hectare in 800 lts. of water)

Extreme Hydrophobic Conditions

1.5 - 2 lts. per 500 m² in 40 lts. of water (30 - 40 lts. per hectare in 800 lts. of water)

Dew Control

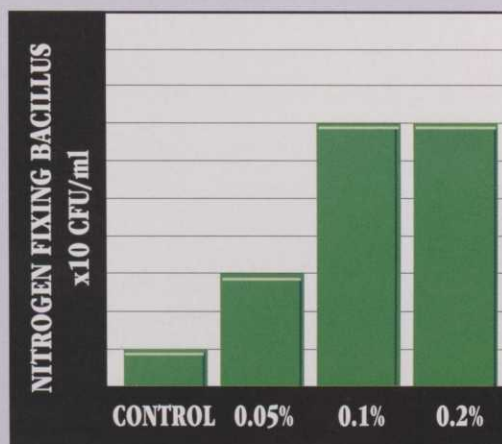
A treatment of between 625 ml. - 1250 ml. per 500 m² in 40 lts. of water will provide a dew control of between two and three days. This is, however, dependent on climatic conditions and irrigation levels and therefore the longevity of dew control may vary.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Independent research carried out in the USA shows the effectiveness of Drencher as a soil penetrant. The data below shows just a few of the beneficial results you can achieve with Drencher liquid.

PRODUCT	TIME (min)
Drencher	8.60
Aqua-Gro	15.26
Distilled Water	21.75

**In the above test, an 8 cm. column was filled with peat and various solutions of equal concentration were added on top of the peat, then timed to measure how long it took the solutions to penetrate.*



**The above test shows that Drencher is an effective microbial imulator of beneficial bacteria.*

*Full copy of results available on request.



Hugh Tilley takes a look at the one of the golf course's workhorses and speaks with the people who know them best - the greenkeepers

Highest profile of all greens machinery is the greens mower, and pedestrian or hand operated machines are preferred by most greenkeepers. Most clubs operate a fleet of these and replace them on a regular basis although one 20 year old machine - a 'reserve' - was found. About four makes are in common golf course use, with three or four others not uncommon. Part of the reason for this bias is dealer support, and their active selling of the product. Nevertheless Lloyd, Allett, Hayter and Dennis all have users who believe their machines are in every way equal - if not better than - higher profile and usually more expensive makes, nor did they usually consider that the back up was inferior. Few clubs have undertaken comparative on site testing before purchase - most greenkeepers know what they want.

While reliability is important, perhaps more important to the greenkeeper are other attributes such as ease of use and setting,

quality of cut, ability to keep an edge and how well the set is maintained. Most if not all machines are available with groomers or brushes to set the grass up prior to the cut, however not every greenkeeper is happy with these so not all use them even it fitted. Certainly the variety of grass does have an effect as does how well the club wishes to present its greens. One non-user greenkeeper said, "if this was a championship course I would always use them."

Hayter has recently introduced a totally new greens mower, and states that most of these have been sold into Ireland. The company is currently taking greenkeepers' comments and expects to make a few minor modifications before generally making the model available across the UK. For this reason there was little point including them in this feature. However Hayter is keen that greenkeepers should be aware that it is still in this market.

Sharpening and/or replacement of bottom blades (bed knives) also seems to vary more by user (and location) than by machine. In situ grinding would seem to be the ideal, however not all clubs have this facility, and as a result many rely on back lapping through the season with an out of season dealer service and cylinder sharpen. How frequently this is carried out again varies more by club than by machine - and what is used after top dressing - most greenkeepers spoken to for this give their ride-on triples all the hard and aggressive work - like verti-cutting and cleaning up after top dressing.

Lloyds Paladins at Mendip Spring, Somerset

Course Manager, Ian Harrison, has been a Paladin man for 20 years although his current three main machines are only three years old. One of the most important reasons for his like of the machines is their basic simplicity with a well proven design. He

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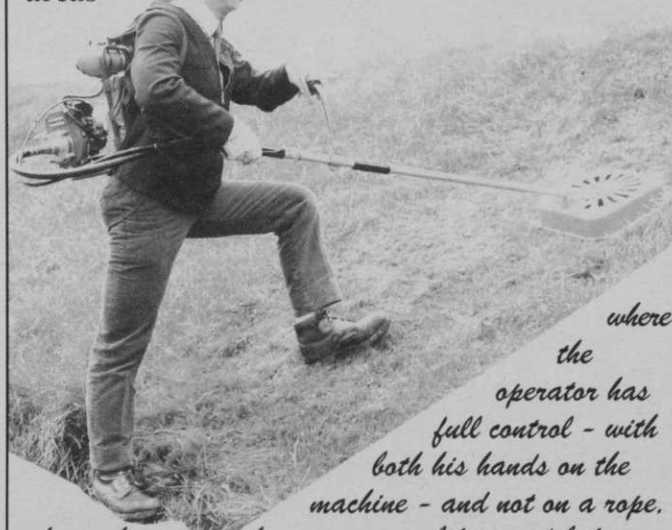
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considered that the original machines were ahead of their time and that as the design has proven itself there was little need for a change. Additionally the price is right. Another plus point was the clutch design which is more gentle and smoother than most others.

In particular he commented that this simplicity allowed him to explain to trainee greenkeepers how and why the machines worked – which allowed them to get the best from them. Simplicity and accessibility also promoted ease of maintenance. Sharpening is carried out off site about twice a year, with about two bottom blades used per cylinder grind. Back-lapping is carried out by hand about twice a week and each operator is responsible for setting 'his' machine.

Ian maintains that the Paladin produces as good a cut as any machine, he has found the avail-



Ian Harrison with the Lloyds Paladin

ability of spares excellent and while – out of patriotism – he would like a British rather than a Honda engine, he admitted that this engine is reliable and almost

everlasting.

The use of roller bearings on the cylinder are an example of the engineering quality which Ian sees as epitomising the design.

The club uses a ride-on triple in the summer, but the pedestrian machines in winter and for all perimeter cuts. No groomers or verti-cutters are used. Verti-cutting being done by the triple, as are first cuts after topdressing.

In simple terms with the Paladin, Ian stated, "what you see is what you get."

Super Certes 51 at East Devon, Budleigh Salterton

The three main machines are now about three seasons old having replaced a competitive make with which the club had considerable trouble. Paul Newcombe, Head Greenkeeper, attributed the trouble to the very pebbly and bumpy nature of the tracks between greens (and shed) which took its toll on clutches, gear-boxes and drives. Since changing to the Ransomes machines he said that he has experienced no reliability problems (just one clutch cable), although he admitted that the club had modified the transport wheels, replacing

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Paul Newcombe and the Super Certes

them with larger softer pneumatic tyred ones. There has also been the occasional need to adjust the clutches.

The club does not use groomers on their pedestrian machines although these and verti-cutters fit to the ride-on triple which is

the mainstay of summer (March-August) cutting.

Each operator tends to use and be responsible for a specific machine, but Paul sets and adjusts all before they go out. This allows for some individual preferences such as handle height

and clutch cable setting. Cut heights range from 4mm to 6mm, the latter for winter.

Machines are back lapped as required but may not be resharpened for up to two years – little top dressing is used, certainly not in front of the Super Certes. Paul would like to be able to cut all greens all the time by hand but staffing does not allow this.

In Paul's opinion the Ransomes machines offer good value and solid robust reliable engineering.

John Deere 220A at Wincanton Golf Course

This racecourse centre nine hole pay and play club was built about five years ago and has only known hand mowing on its greens. The current pedestrian mower recently replaced one of a similar make and has several significant improvements. The machine is equipped with groomer, brushes and verti-cutters, the latter being used about twice a week while the brush may only be used for special occa-

sions, perhaps monthly, if 'nice stripes' are needed. The course is relatively new and has US spec fescue/bent greens. The original JD machine was 'put in' by the constructor, and by fortunate coincidence local dealer Rochford Garden Machinery have taken on the JD franchise. The new machine has an eleven blade cylinder giving it a better cut, and it is also faster than the previous machine. Another significant improvement has been to setting, this is much easier, reported head greenkeeper Richard Cartwright. The Honda engine also has more power than the predecessor, thus it is altogether quicker and better. Improvements have also been made to the grass box.

Back-lapping is carried out 'when required' while the cylinder is reground annually and a new bottom blade is fitted as routine. Routine greasing is a weekly requirement. Cutting height is adjusted between 5mm and 7mm.

This machine has an operator

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presence handle, however this is of light pressure and easy to hold, in fact the operator liked it and was happy with using it. He also liked the operator friendly layout of the controls and in particular the ease of operating the throttle, which could be shut down with simple thumb pressure at the end of each run. The machine has a centrifugal clutch.

Jacobsen Greens King 522 at Orchardleigh Golf Club, Frome

This new 18 hole course has recently taken delivery of a new Greens King 522 for its US spec greens which are based on Pencross creeping bent. Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Ian Roberts, said that they had found distinct lines where the mower had cut with the groomers down. Detailed examination has suggested that this is caused by the groomers not extending across the full cylinder width. Considerable concern has

been shown by the supplier, Bristol dealer – B.S. Mowers and by Jacobsen UK – and significant time has been spent on trying to solve it. In fact there is no effect to actual cut, nor on play, the lines being purely cosmetic where the Pencross is not set up for the cylinder, and this seems to be unique to Orchardleigh, and perhaps Pencross greens. Ian said that both supplier and maker get



Richard Cartwright and the JD 220A

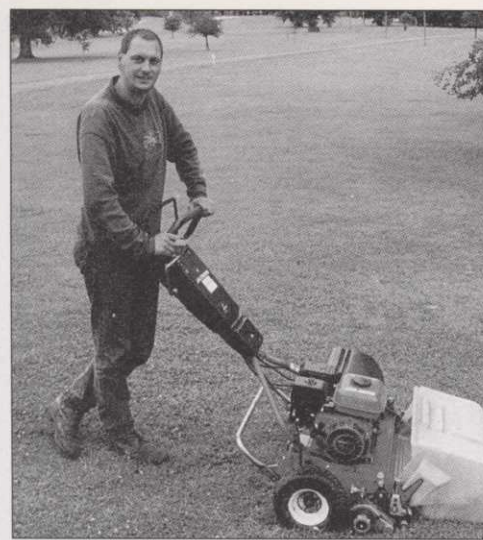
100% for effort, and they are now going to produce a 'special' full width groomer specifically for Orchardleigh. This is not quite as simple at it may seem as the front roller needs extra grooves and the groomer needs extra discs and modification to the bearing housings.

The club operates a one man, one machine policy with its pedestrian mowers, however there are triples for weekend work and for verti-cutting.

Otherwise the club is very pleased with the machine which is lighter than the make it replaces. There have been no problems and the operator is delighted with it.

Allett Tournament at Alresford Golf Club in Hampshire

The price was right, significantly



Ian Roberts and the Greens King

lower than most of the competition, the cut quality was equal and it was British, stated Darren Hatcher, Head Greenkeeper at Alresford Golf Club.

The club has recently purchased a single machine, but anticipates buying an additional two before the main hand mowing season this autumn.

Thus while Darren admitted that they have not really tried the machine extensively, the club did have most makes out on demonstration before selecting the Allett.

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undertaken, mostly on the putting green, it has been exemplary, with the Kubota engine always starting first time and a superb cut. The club is replacing some elderly machines.

In particular Darren is pleased with the brush groomer system which can be used both for setting the grass up and for cleaning the front roller.

Verti-cutting is carried out by the club's triple.

Operating is extremely easy, and while the machine has two operator presence levers – or dead man's handles, one for cylinder, one for drive, both can be held in by one hand when required.

Obviously without extensive use a sharpening/back lapping routine has yet to be established, but no problems are envisaged. Normal servicing is carried out by the club, and is seen as simple and quick.

Toro Greensmaster CR1000 at The Oxfordshire

Course Manager David Gower has the luxury of ten machines, originally bought as tees were also hand mown. Four were bought with groomers primarily for greens use and now three are in daily use with the remainder in reserve – and one set up for collars. Again verti-cutting is carried out with a ride-on triple, but the reserve machines are used after top dressing or coring.

The club has its own mechanic and sharpening system, nevertheless the emphasis with the greens mowers is to ensure that they are adjusted 'right' to minimise the amount of sharpening and back lapping needed. David said that their mechanic is 'very very good' at sharpening, but he would not detail his 'tricks of the trade,' and although there are spare mowers he can get four mowers sharpened in the afternoon after the tea break without trouble.

The club used the thinnest available bottom blades for the



The Allett machine

championship played on the course this spring, however it is now using slightly thicker blades

and not cutting as low. David expects to use two or three blades a year, but then the machines are

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seldom on the perimeter cuts, which are omitted rather than just taking the groomer out just for these couple of turns.

Another important routine prior to cutting is to check the area, to remove twigs, ball markers, loose studs and etc.

David said the reliability of the Toros has been fantastic and although he admitted to being a 'Jacobsen man' – and still thinks that they have a better groomer, he expects to replace Toro with Toro when the need arises.

In overall appraisal he said "there's no doubt they are a superb mower."

used exclusively on the greens. All mowers are carefully checked each day before they go out to ensure that they are set right and sharp.

Groomers are normally used once or twice a week, however



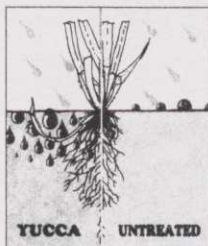
The Toro Greensmaster 1600

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When 600 heads are better than just one

A total of 180 British greenkeepers made up a total of 600 greenkeepers who took part in John Deere's first ever European Feedback event, held over two weeks in June at Bruchsal GC in Germany.

Following five successful events in the USA, this was the first opportunity for European greenkeepers, from Scandinavia to Spain, to give their opinions on the company's latest golf and turf products, and to see the European Parts Distribution Centre at

Bruchsal, one of 22 worldwide parts depots.

A total of 34 machines, from a prototype 26in walk-behind tees and greens mower to a new 70hp tractor equipped with a gang mower, were scrutinised, driven and commented on by the greenkeepers.

Graham Williams, commercial and consumer equipment division manager for John Deere Limited in the UK & Ireland, who brought the British greenkeepers to Feedback '97, said: "The participation of greenkeepers and turf professionals on a worldwide basis is vital to take the company forward and enable us to produce the right machines for all our customers.

"We depend on these meetings, on pre-production demonstrations and on thousands of test hours on golf courses around the world, to frame our product development and improvement programmes. There is no substitute for this kind of information, and we never introduce a product without it."



Graham Williams, of John Deere



David Walden, left, of Nene Valley GC and Rob Boyce of Newmarket Links GC

For example, the John Deere 1200A bunker and field rake was simply a concept machine only two years ago. Introduced to the market in 1995, it is now widely accepted as an invaluable tool because of design suggestions originally made by American golf course superintendents at a previous Feedback event.

The European meeting was hosted by Chuck Greif, Manager of Market Development for Golf & Turf Products Worldwide. He said: "This year we're getting the views of around 1,300 green-

keepers worldwide through Feedback – that represents nearly five percent of the world's golf courses. It's the little things seen through all those different pairs of eyes that will benefit our company immensely.

"We have found over the last five years that greenkeepers and superintendents all have the same concerns, and face the same challenges. These include environmental responsibility, noise reduction, safety, parts and service support and serviceability.

"The basic design of any

INTRODUCING THE NEW GREENSMaster 3200-D.





Colin Wilson, of Linlithgow GC, has celebrated 25 years at the club. He was presented with an inscribed barometer from the club during Linlithgow's Open Day. Pictured, back, from left: Iain Harrison, Vice Captain; David Roy, Course Manager; Lee Fraser, Alex Fleming and Derek Smith, Professional. Kneeling are Ian Campbell, Club Captain and Colin Wilson.

machine works worldwide. What we do with the Feedback meetings is say, here we are, tell us how you use our machines, and what you want them to do in the future. As a result we can fine tune the equipment so it does the right job.

"The greenkeeper is an artist, and he's an individual. He has to be able to set up the golf course to meet his needs and the needs of the members, and how he does

that differs from one man to the next.

"That means we'll be going back to the factory with a pretty healthy list of comments – but that's exactly why we're here."

David Walden, Nene Valley, Peterborough, and '95 Premier Greenkeeper of the Year said, "If we come and do this, we can get the machines right from the start – it's an excellent idea."

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Profile

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

Name: **Wyndham Potter**
Club: **East Devon GC**
Position: **First Assistant**
Age: **63**



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

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
None.

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
Cutting greens.

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
Divotting.

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you ended up doing?
I was a gardener for 14 years before becoming a greenkeeper.

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
Ken Loxton, who was my

Head Greenkeeper for 18 years.

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
Pay more.

8. What are your hobbies?
Gardening, fishing and golf.

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
Golfing days out and the magazine.

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
Enjoying my retirement.

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GREENKEEP

THE COLLEGES AND T

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

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

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

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

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

NORTH

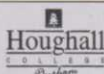


ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE Askham Bryan, York YO2 3PR. Contact Registration. Tel: 01904 772211.

Full time courses: National Certificate – Horticulture; National Diploma – Amenity Horticulture; Higher National Diploma – Horticulture (golf management options). Part time courses: NVQ Level 2, 3 and 4 City & Guilds Phase IV Greenkeeping.

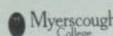


CITY COLLEGE MANCHESTER Wythenshawe Park Centre, Moor Road, Manchester M23 9BQ. Contact Peter Riley/Martin Webb. Tel: 0161 957 1526. Day Release and Full Time courses leading to NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with the Greenkeeping option.



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

Full time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship – 1 Year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option – 2/3 years. Part time courses: Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management Level II – Day Release; NVQ Level 3 Amenity Horticulture – Afternoon Evening. Short Courses: Health & Safety Legislation; Turfcare; Machinery and Mechanisation. All courses contribute towards NVQ Levels I and II.



MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE Myerscough Hall, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY. Contact Academic Registry. Tel: 01995 640611.

Fax: 01995 640682. Full time courses: BSc (Hons) Turf Science and Golf Course Management – four years; Higher National Diploma Turf Science and Golf Course Management – three years; National Certificate Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping – one year. Part time courses: NVQ Level 2 and 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance (plus Fast Track option); Higher National Diploma Turf Science and Golf Course Management; Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation; FEPA Spraying and Chainsaw courses.



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

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



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

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



BROOKSBY COLLEGE Brooksby, Nr Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 2LJ. Contact Ann Hurt. Tel: 01664 434291. National Certificate in

Horticulture. National Diploma in Horticulture. Day Release training to NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture – Greenkeeping option. The course is based around the GTC Training Manual. Short courses include Chainsaws, FEPA Spraying and Hedgelaying.



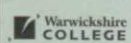
BROOMFIELD COLLEGE Morley, Ilkeston, Derby DE7 6DN. Contact Admissions Officer. Tel: 01332 831345.

NVQ Level I and Level II Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Block Release course. Two years duration presented in 12 one-week blocks following guidelines of GTC Training Manual. NVQ Level III gained by 9x 3-day blocks, or APL service.



RODBASTON COLLEGE Rodbaston, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5HG. Contact Nigel Foksett. Tel: 01785 712209. Courses offered: Craft

Level NVQ Level I, II and III. Day Release. Duration: Over two years, each of weeks duration (September – June). Registration Date: Please contact the College.



WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE Moreton Morrell, Warwick CV35 9BL. Contact Graham Martin. Tel: 01926 651367. Greenkeeping courses – day

release – NVQ Level I; NVQ Level II; NVQ Level III; IoG courses (evening class). National Intermediate Diploma in Turficulture; Full time two year BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture (with option in Turficulture); Professional updating courses include: Groundsmanship, Machinery Maintenance and Repair, Managing Conservation Areas, Plant Identification, Hedgelaying, First Aid, FEPA Spraying Courses, Chainsaw Courses.



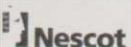
BRINSBURY COLLEGE North Heath, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1DL. Contact Keith Harrison. Tel: 01798 873832. Full time courses: BTEC 1st

Diploma Horticulture with Greenkeeping option. National Diploma Landscape Studies, Sportsturf and Greenkeeping option. Part time: NVQ II Greenkeeping plus Core. Day Release to NVQ II level. Both full time and part time students with work both to the NVQ II work book and the Greenkeeper manual. NVQ Level II (National Technical Certificate) with Inst. of Groundsmanship manual may be delivered as an evening course. NVQ Level III Sportsturf Maintenance. ND Landscape Studies (Option – Sportsturf Management and Greenkeeping). National Technical Certificate (IoG), National Practical Certificate (IoG), Intermediate Diploma (IoG), National Diploma (IoG)



HADLOW COLLEGE Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL. Contact Keith Backhouse. Tel: 01732 850551. NVQ Level II and Level III Part-time

Day Release with two periods of Block Release or evenings. Level II in Groundsmanship evenings. NVQ Level III Golf Greenkeeping. Centres at Hadlow, Canterbury, Motingham and Maidstone.



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

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



OAKLANDS COLLEGE Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0JA. Contact Ian Merrick. Tel: 01727 850651. Full-time

courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping. Modern Apprenticeships. Evening courses: leading to NVQ Levels 3 and 4. Short courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw, Greenkeeper Mechanics.

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

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Contact the colleges direct for prospectuses and comprehensive information.

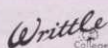
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OTLEY COLLEGE Otley College, Otley, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 9EY. Contact Course Enquiries. Tel: 01473 785543. *Full time courses:* National Certificate in Horticulture, option in Sports Turf Technology. Part time NVQ 2 Golf Greenkeeping and NVQ 2 Groundsmanship,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



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



WRITTLE COLLEGE Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3RR. Contact Dai Edwards. Tel: 01245 420705, Fax: 01245 420456. *Part time courses include:* NVQ Levels I, II, III and IV Sportsturf & Greenkeeping. Day Release. Includes training and assessment of Greenkeepers Training Manual. *Full time courses include:* BTEC First Diploma (1 year), BTEC National Diploma with Option in Sportsturf and Golf Course Management, 3 year sandwich course; BTEC Higher National Diploma with Option in Golf Course Management 3 year sandwich course, BSc (Hons) Degree course in Landscape and Amenity Management. Short courses for FEPA, Irrigation, Fork Lift Trucks, Chainsaws and First Aid also available. Associate students welcome, progression routes identified, accreditation of prior learning possible.



MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE. Contact Student Services. Tel: 01483 232424. *Full time courses:* National Diploma in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. *Part-time:* NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 1, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 2, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3.



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

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



HARTPURY COLLEGE Hartpury, Nr Gloucester GL19 3BE. Tel: 01452 700283. Fax: 01452 700629. Amenity and Decorative Horticulture: NVQ Level II and III, First Diploma, National Certificate, National Diploma and HND Land Use. Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management: NVQ Level II and III, First Diploma, Certificate, National Diploma and HND Land Use. Golf Studies: National Diploma. FEPA Training.



SPARSHOLT COLLEGE Sparsholt College Hampshire, Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2NF. Contact Bob Young. Tel: 01962 776441. NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase IV Management Studies, GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC: Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FEPA: Short Courses, Chainsaws. All courses, other than Phase IV, are offered on Block release. Full residential facilities available. New for '96 ANCA Machinery Maintenance. Full time or part time.

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



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



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

EIRE



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

WALES



WELSH COLLEGE Welsh College of Horticulture, Northrop, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6AA. Contact GM Wright. Tel: 01352 840861. Fax: 01352 840731. *Full time courses:* BTEC First in Landbase Golf Greenkeeping NVQ Level II. *Part time courses:* NVQ 4, 3, 2, 1 all available on block weeks. *Short courses:* Pesticide PA1, PA2, PA6, 1-3 day courses (training and testing); COSHH Assessments; Safe lifting and carrying; PICKUP courses. Home study learning at NVQ Level II Option Greenkeeping. All courses are integrated with the GTC Training Manual. Revised NVQs.



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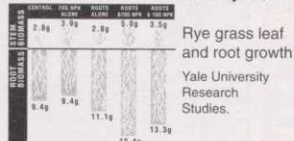
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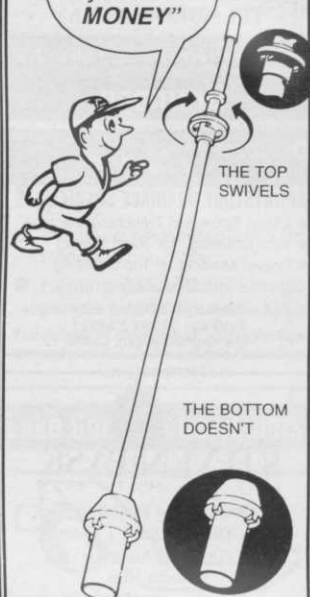
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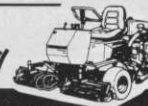
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1.2M VERTIDRAIN, in ex demo cond.	£ 8,950
UNIVERSAL 1.5M ex demo	£13,950
2.0M VERTIDRAIN, in v.g.c.	£ 9,250

MOWERS

JACOBSEN 1671 Triking 3WD 5 blade, overhauled	£ 6,450
RANSOMES 180D serviced/sharpened	
floating head units, 850hrs	£ 3,950
SABO ROBO 1900 Fairway Mower, 4WD in good cond.	£11,250
JACOBSEN 3810 2WD 5 blade units	£ 9,950

All prices are subject to VAT

Large selection of tractors, mowers, sports turf
maintenance machinery available

Tel/Fax for details

Tel: 01260 224568

Fax: 01260 224791



Ramsey Golf Club

A highly scenic parkland course
currently have a vacancy for a

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have at least six years experience and possess qualifications of a minimum NVQ 1 and 2, also PA1 and PA2. Some course construction experience would be an advantage.

Applications, CV and references in writing to:

**The Manager, Ramsey Golf Club, Brookfield,
Ramsey, Isle of Man IM8 2AH**

Richings Park Golf Club

invites applications for the position of

GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant must be experienced in modern greenkeeping methods and possess relevant qualifications and spraying certificates.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

**Head Greenkeeper
Richings Park Golf Club
North Park, Iver, Bucks SL0 9DL**

Prenton Golf Club

Prenton Golf Club is an 18 hole parkland course, situated on the Wirral.

Applications are invited for the position of

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Must be enthusiastic and self motivated, must have experience of all aspects of greenkeeping, with a sound knowledge of modern course maintenance equipment and irrigation qualified to Phase 2 and hold PA1 and PA2 spraying certificates and hold a full driving licence.

Send CV to:

**The Course Manager, Prenton Golf Club, Golf Links Road,
Prenton, Birkenhead, Wirral, Merseyside L42 8LW**

Closing date: 31st July 1997

Newbury & Crookham Golf Club

require

MECHANIC/ GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for the position of Mechanic/Greenkeeper at an 18 hole club in South Berkshire. Competitive remuneration is offered to a suitably qualified mechanic dealing with greens machines.

Training would be offered for greenkeeping duties.

Apply to:

**The Secretary, Newbury & Crookham Golf Club, Bury's Bank Road,
Greenham, Newbury, Berks RG19 8BZ.**

Telephone: 01635 40035 • Fax: 01635 40045

Nuneaton Golf Club

requires a

COURSE MANAGER/ HEAD GREENKEEPER

We require a Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper who is in possession of recognised greenkeeping qualifications to manage our 18 hole course to the highest possible standards.

The successful applicant will also have shown proven ability in man management, able to lead and motivate staff. Practical knowledge of automatic irrigation systems, machinery maintenance and Health & Safety regulations are essential.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. No accommodation is provided but re-location expenses will be considered.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

**L. Fitzgerald, Chairman
Nuneaton Golf Club
Golf Drive, Whitestone
Nuneaton CV11 6QF**

Sutton Hall Golf Club

We currently have a vacancy for an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The applicant must have a minimum of three years experience and hold a full driving licence. Phase 1 and 2 qualifications preferred but not essential.

All applications and CVs for the attention of:

**Mr P Sproston, Sutton Hall Golf Club, Sutton Weaver,
Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 3FD**

Blackmoor Golf Club

invites applications for the post of

COURSE MANAGER/ HEAD GREENKEEPER

The Course Manager will be expected to oversee all aspects of his/her department and should be fully conversant with modern machinery and automatic watering systems. No accommodation.

Salary according to experience.

Those with relevant qualifications and experience of an 18 hole heathland golf course should apply in writing by 4 August 1997 to:

**The Secretary/Manager,
Firgrove Road, Whitehall, Hants, GU35 9EH
Tel: 01420 472775 Fax: 01420 487666**



Launceston Golf Club

invites applications for the position of

COURSE MANAGER

The successful applicant will have considerable experience (preferably at Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager level) and a thorough knowledge of greenkeeping techniques with particular reference to those required in respect of an inland course with drainage problems.

Ability to manage and motivate staff, organise and participate in work programmes, operate within a planned budget and experience in the use and maintenance of machinery and watering systems is essential.

The possession of formal qualifications will be an advantage.

Launceston is a parkland course situated close to the Cornwall/Devon borders and is a very busy club with a playing membership in excess of 750. Salary negotiable according to qualifications and experience.

Living accommodation may be available.

Please apply in writing together with CV to:

**The Chairman
Launceston Golf Club
St Stephens
Launceston
Cornwall PL15 8HF**



Due to internal promotion, an excellent opportunity has arisen for ambitious greenkeepers to gain experience at this prestigious golf course, venue of the Benson & Hedges International Open.

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

The successful applicants will be qualified to at least Level II and possess PA1 and PA2 certificates and have a minimum of six years experience. They will need to demonstrate an ability to lead and motivate staff and to organise and supervise daily work programmes.

A knowledge of irrigation systems and creeping bentgrass would be an advantage.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

Applicants must have at least three years greenkeeping experience, ambitious, qualified up to Level II and enjoy working as part of a large team.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

**Mr David Gower, Golf Course Manager,
The Oxfordshire Golf Club, Rycote Lane,
Milton Common, Thame, Oxon OX9 2PU**

Closing date: Friday 25 July 1997

West Africa

Applications are invited for the positions of

HEAD GREENKEEPERS

for a privately owned golf club.

Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of golf course management including maintenance of machinery and must have the ability to motivate staff.

The two successful applicants will work one month on, one month off rota basis.

Package includes: Excellent salary, full accommodation and all travelling expenses.

Apply in writing with CV to:

**Mr T R Boyes, Kirklands Ltd, Kirkland House,
Main Cross Road, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 3NZ**



Matfen Hall Golf Club

requires a

COURSE MANAGER

For a beautiful 18 hole parkland course opened in Spring 1995 with a further 9 hole par 3 course opened in 1996.

The successful applicant will be responsible for helping to re-develop and bring on this popular new course and must possess all relevant greenkeeping qualifications and demonstrate the ability to lead and motivate staff. Experience of course construction an advantage. Salary negotiable.

Apply in writing with CV to:

**Director of Golf, Matfen Hall Golf Club,
Matfen, Northumberland NE20 0RQ**

Farnham Golf Club

wish to appoint a

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have City & Guilds 1 and 2 in greenkeeping, or equivalent and PA1 plus PA2 and PA6. Chainsaw competence desirable.

Practical experience of turf management, modern machinery and irrigation systems essential.

Accommodation available if desired.

Salary negotiable in line with BIGGA rates.

Applications in writing with full CV by 21st July 1997 to:

**Mrs J Brazill, Secretary/Manager,
Farnham Golf Club Ltd, The Sands,
Farnham, Surrey GU10 1PX**

The National Golf Centre Woodhall Spa

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The home of the English Golf Union has a vacancy for an experienced Head Greenkeeper to join its dedicated and conscientious staff.

The successful applicant will already hold the position of Head Greenkeeper or be an experienced First Assistant with a minimum of five years experience.

Qualifications of NVQ II and III are desirable and spraying certificates PA1, PA2 and PA6 are essential.

The candidate will be required to motivate and supervise staff and take responsibility for programming and overseeing the day-to-day maintenance of one of our 18 hole courses under the guidance of the Course Manager.

Experience in the traditional management of heathland or links courses will be an advantage.

An attractive package and accommodation is available.

Please apply in writing enclosing a current curriculum vitae to:

Mr P A Wisbey, Course Manager
English Golf Union, The National Golf Centre
The Broadway, Woodhall Spa
Lincolnshire, LN10 6PU

Uttoxeter Golf Club

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Required for 18 Hole Parkland Course.

Experience in all aspects of Greenkeeping and Course Development.

Salary negotiable.

No accommodation provided.

Apply in writing giving current salary and CV to:

The Secretary
Uttoxeter Golf Club
Wood Lane
Uttoxeter
Staffordshire
ST14 8JR

Dore & Totley Golf Club Ltd

This Club is set in South Yorkshire, was formed in 1913 and is now looking for a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Suitable applicants should have a good all-round experience in the methods and techniques required to maintain and present a golf course and ancillary areas to the highest standard.

They should possess a recognised greenkeeping qualification and be conversant with the use of up-to-date methods and use of resources.

This is an ideal opportunity for an ambitious and dedicated Greenkeeper to utilise his or her skills across the broad remit of course maintenance. This will include the management and motivation of the Greenstaff and the scope to improve and enhance this vital area of a Member's Club.

A good package will be offered to the right candidate in recognition of the importance of this position with accommodation, if required.

Please apply in writing enclosing a CV to:

Mr J Johnson, Secretary,
Dore & Totley Golf Club Ltd,
The Clubhouse, Bradway Road, Sheffield S17 4QR

Corhampton Golf Club

invite applications for the position of

Assistant Greenkeeper

The successful applicant will be qualified to N.V.Q. Level II and/or beyond.

P.A.1 and P.A. 2A Spraying Certificates an advantage.

Salary will be negotiable dependent on age, experience and qualifications.

No accommodation provided.

Please send a full C.V. to:
The Secretary, Corhampton Golf Club
Corhampton, Southampton, SO32 3LP.



Job Shop

Reliable, hardworking and motivated 37 year old course manager. College qualified with over 19 years greenkeeping experience within the UK and Europe wishes to settle in the UK and seeks challenging position with ambitious club.

References available, anywhere considered.

Box No. JS69/97, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Airedale, York YO6 2 NF

Head Greenkeeper looking for Deputy Head or Head Greenkeeper post although offers considered.

14 years in profession currently working on a new course, with in-depth experience on construction and redesigning of green and tees.

10 years experience on Championship course in Scotland. Working to PGA standards gaining excellent course presentation qualifications SCOTVEC, I, II and III. Very professional attitude.

Box No. JS70/97, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Airedale, York YO6 NF

On course for a brighter future



Education Update

BY KEN
RICHARDSON

This month's article looks at a major BIGGA competition, Supervisory Management Training Courses, a reminder about the special offer on TRIMS to colleges, the special offer available on the Pests and Diseases Compact Disk, reviewed in last month's magazine and Health and Safety Training.

The TORO Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping

BIGGA Sections are beginning to nominate their choice for the Regional Finals of this competition. Judging to select Regional Winners will commence in early July and each Regional winner will have their golf course reinspected by Walter Woods, prior to the National Final, which will be held in Harrogate on 27 October. Despite some initial problems, judging seems to be running fairly smoothly and my thanks to all those greenkeepers, especially Section Secretaries, who have helped with the judging. The names of those selected for the National Final should appear in the next edition of this magazine.

Supervisory Management Training Courses

Applications for both the Aldwark Manor and Regional Courses have to be received at BIGGA HQ by 29 August 1997. Places are available on most courses and several courses have not attracted any applications.

Make sure that you reserve a place on the course of your choice by sending a completed application form to BIGGA HQ as soon as possible. Remember, you do not need to be in a supervisory or management role to attend one of these courses. Congratulations to Jeff Bailey, of Newbridge, Midlothian, who is the winner of the Competition to win a free place on a two day Supervisory Management Course.

See panel for details of courses.

TRIMS 97/Compact Disk special offer

I have written, recently, to colleges informing them of a special

SUPERVISORY MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSES

ALDWARK MANOR

Week 1, 6 – 10 October 1997

Managing People Module 1

Week 2, 13 – 17 October 1997

Managing People Module 2

Week 3, 20 – 24 October 1997

Managing Operations and Resources

Week 4, 3 – 7 November 1997

Managing Information

Week 5, 10 – 14 November 1997

Managing Golf Course Development

REGIONAL COURSES

Scottish Region

■ Airth Castle Hotel, Airth by Falkirk – Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 October 1997

Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment

Howard Swan and Simon Gidman

■ Airth Castle Hotel, Airth by Falkirk –

Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 October 1997

Recruitment, Selection and Interviewing

Brin Bendon, Vector Training

Northern Region

■ Aldwark Manor Hotel – Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 November 1997

Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment

Howard Swan and Simon Gidman

■ The Dunkenhall Hotel, Accrington,

Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 November 1997

Recruitment, Selection and Interviewing

Brin Bendon, Vector Training

■ Leeds Bradford Court Yard Hotel, Bradford, Monday 16, and Tuesday 17 February 1998

Essential Supervisory Management Skills for Greenkeepers

Brin Bendon, Vector Training

Midlands Region

■ Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby,

Northampton – Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 November 1997

Recruitment, Selection and Interviewing

Frank Newberry

■ West Retford Hotel, Retford – Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 November 1997

Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment

Howard Swan and Simon Gidman

■ The Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth – Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 December 1997

Essential Supervisory Management Skills

Brin Bendon, Vector Training

South East Region

■ The Blue Boar Hotel, Maldon, Essex –

Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 October 1997

Essential Supervisory Management Skills for Greenkeepers

Frank Newberry

■ Old Ship Hotel, Brighton – Thursday 16 and Friday 17 October 1997

Leadership, Team Briefings Motivation

Frank Newberry

■ The George Hotel, Crawley, Surrey – Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 October 1997

Recruitment, Selection and Interviewing

Frank Newberry

South West Region

■ The Bournemouth Moat House Hotel,

Bournemouth – Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 October 1997

Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment

Howard Swan and Simon Gidman

■ The Cheltenham and Gloucester Moat House Hotel, Cheltenham – Thursday 23 and Friday 24 October 1997

Essential Supervisory Management Skills for Greenkeepers

Frank Newberry

Recruitment, Selection and Interviewing

Frank Newberry

■ Marriott Hotel, Swansea – Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 November 1997

Essential Supervisory Management Skills for Greenkeepers

Frank Newberry

Republic of Ireland

■ Finnstown Hotel, Dublin – Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 November 1997

Golf Course Health and Safety Management

ATB Training

■ Finnstown Hotel, Dublin – Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 November 1997

Recruitment, Selection and Interviewing

Brin Bendon, Vector Training

Northern Ireland

■ The Country House Hotel, Ballymena – Thursday 20 and Friday 21 November 1997

Essential Supervisory Management Skills for Greenkeepers

Brin Bendon, Vector Training

offer on the latest version of TRIMS ie TRIMS 97. If ten or more colleges are interested in buying the latest version of this grounds management software, we can provide it for £200 instead of the usual price of £1500. Last month's edition of *Greenkeeper International* reviewed a very useful compact disk that could be used to identify a large

number of pests and diseases that could affect turf grasses. This disk normally costs \$300 (£180 approx) but if ten or more people wish to purchase a copy then BIGGA can supply it at £120 (approx). Contact me at BIGGA HQ for more details.

Health and Safety Training

Did you know that the Health

and Safety at Work Act requires that operators of machines must be trained in their use and be certified competent?

How many of your staff are trained in pesticide application, chain saw operation, off road driving etc?

Training is available in a range of subjects through BIGGA. Contact HQ before it is too late.

Goodbye weeds.



'Intrepid' will take care of your turf weeds

'Intrepid' is a new cost-effective selective weedkiller that can be applied throughout the growing season. It's powerful three-way mixture will control many broad-leaved weeds in turf. And unlike some turf herbicides, repeat applications *are* possible should new weeds germinate or deep-rooted weeds regrow during the season.

Goodbye empties.



Miracle will take care of your used containers

Empty pesticide containers are no longer a problem. In conjunction with a registered waste disposal contractor, Miracle Professional offer a *free* service on the UK mainland for all Miracle (ICI/Zeneca Professional Products) labelled containers. Envirogreen Ltd will collect and dispose of your empties in full compliance with legal requirements.

Good buy, Intrepid

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Salisbury House, Weyside Park, Catteshall Lane,
Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XE. Tel: (0990) 301010
Part of Miracle Garden Care Ltd.

'Intrepid' contains dicamba, dichlorprop and MCPA. 'Intrepid' is a trade mark of Miracle Garden Care Ltd.
READ THE LABEL BEFORE YOU BUY: USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.

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DRENCHER PELLETS the easiest way to spot treat Dry Patch. W.A. PELLETS 100% Wetting Agent or 123 PREMIX PELLETS contains added micronutrients.

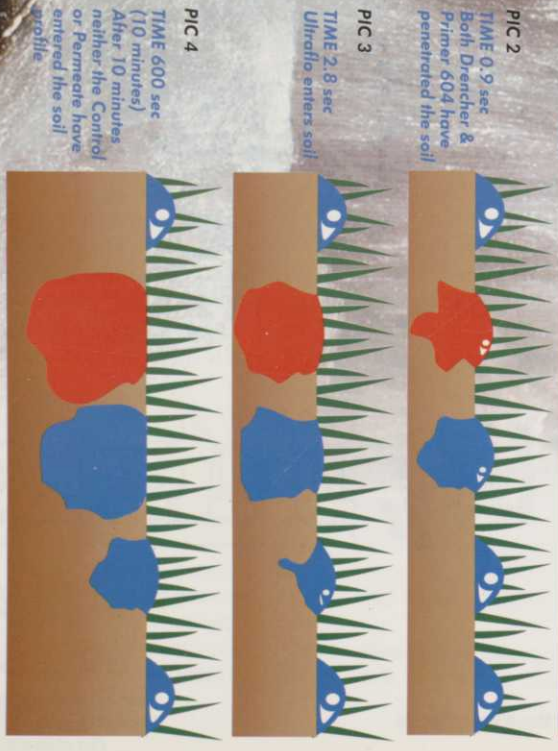
DRENCHER

the best way to treat your turf.

Tried and Tested

Independent Trials -
DRENCHER LIQUID vs The Rest

DRENCHER LIQUID
PRIMER 604
ULTRAFLO
PERMEATE
CONTROL



Average penetration time (seconds) of each treatment tested on hydrophobic soil.

TREATMENT	Average Penetration Times (seconds) per replicate:					Treatment means (seconds)
	1	2	3	4	5	
UNTREATED CONTROL	>600	>600	>600	>600	>600	>600c
DRENCHER LIQUID	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9a
PRIMER 604	1.6	0.9	0.4	1.0	0.5	0.9a
ULTRAFLO	1.6	4.3	2.5	4.0	1.8	2.8b
PERMEATE	>600	>600	>600	>600	>600	>600c