

## Don't fall foul of change in law

I have felt it important to write with some important information which should be of interest to BIGGA members.

New Regulations regarding Special Waste became law on September 1, '96. These new Regulations include Fines of up to £5000 and/or two years imprisonment on conviction together with costs. These apply to the actual producer of Special Waste ie the person who created the waste as well as his or her supervisor and employer. In other words the person who emptied the pesticide container or who illegally burned, buried or discarded the waste.

The regulations also introduced new categories now to be defined as Special Waste and among these are waste oils and most cooking oils. It is illegal to store or use out of date chemicals, do you know the date of manufacture and the manufacturers product shelf life? You must by Law, have an up to date Health and Safety Data Sheet for every product you use, not just pesticide. The Regulations changed in September '96 and most Health and Safety Data Sheets dated prior to that date are unlikely to conform.

The new category products, together with those covered by previous legislation, must be consigned as Special Waste using a licensed contractor and the Special Waste Consignment Note, which is issued, for a fee, by the Environmental Agency and has a unique number by which the Consignment can be traced from uplift to final disposal. There is no minimum quantity for pesticides in the Regulations, if you have one ml of chemical in a container, the Regulations apply to you.

There are 'catch-all' clauses, for example, "...any materials, substances or products which are not contained in the above categories". The Regulations apply to premises occupied by a Club, Society or Association. Also to waste from a private garage with a floor area exceeding 25 square metres or which is not used

wholly or mainly to accommodate a private motor vehicle. This last point also raises questions regarding storage.

The Regulations allow for "clean" empty containers to be treated as commercial waste. The definition of "clean" however is very complex and will vary according to the active ingredient. United Nations research shows that even after "30 washings out" the containers are still contaminated. Plastic containers absorb their contents and therefore it is unlikely that any such container can be "clean".

The Environmental Agency and Health and Safety Executive are the enforcing bodies of the Regulations, not the Environmental Health Department of your Local Authority. Never remove or deface the label from the pesticide or any container, it is illegal and the contractor should refuse to accept any unmarked container. There is only one sure and safe way – dispose of your containers as Special Waste, then you are guaranteed that you have complied with the law.

**Duncan Stewart**  
Envirogreen

■ For further information or a leaflet on the above Tel: 0345 125398.

## Unauthorised use of name...

When the STRI undertakes commercial research for manufacturers, STRI Terms and Conditions state that: "The name or logo of STRI shall not be published by the client or used in any technical literature or advertising or promotional material without the prior written consent of STRI." The advertisement carried on the back page of the May issue of *Greenkeeper International* comprised an advert on Drencher placed by Amenity Technology. This material was used without the prior permission of STRI and therefore Amenity Technology will be solely liable for any action brought by competitors on the basis that the advertisement is unfair. We have taken up this matter with Amenity Technology. The purpose of the STRI Terms and Conditions is firstly to protect

the name of the STRI and secondly to ensure that information based on STRI trial results is used in a fair and equitable manner.

**Dr P M Canaway**  
Chief Executive  
STRI

## ...Sorry for the mistake

Amenity Technology would like to apologise to the Sports Turf Research Institute for any embarrassment caused by contravention of the Institute's terms and conditions in the advertisement which appeared on the back cover of the May issue of *Greenkeeper International*.

As a company we accept that we should not have mentioned the STRI's name in the advertisement without the prior consent of the Institute and will, of course, ensure that Amenity Technology abides by the terms and conditions in all future promotional material.

**Carl Crome**  
Director  
Amenity Technology

## Overwhelmed by kindness

Since moving to the south west and into the Devon & Cornwall Section of the then BGGA, I have found a warm and genuine welcome from all Section members and trade which I still find hard to take in. Even after 16 years of putting up with me and my Fatherland, the friendship remains as strong as ever. So when BIGGA was formed in 1987 and I was asked to take on the duties of Regional Administrator for the South West & South Wales Region, I could hardly refuse.

Having a full time job the task would have been daunting but for the help of Marion, but the success of the Region is not just down to us. Without the cooperation and support of the Region's Board and Section Secretaries, the Region's success would have been limited.

Westurf is a fine example of what can be achieved with a bit of effort and good relationships

with members and trade. Having decided to stand down as administrators after this year's Westurf it was nice to have a warm sunny day – like the very first year – to remember it by, and to make it complete we were overwhelmed by the kindness shown to us. Our thanks go to all the people who contributed to our presentation.

In my new capacity we hope to find time to visit all Sections and therefore keep in touch with many of the friends made over the years. Meanwhile we wish the Region and our new Administrator continued success.

**Gordon and Marion Child**

## Please contest this proposal

Having just read the amended edition (1997) of the Standard Scratch Score and Handicapping Booklet I am a little concerned of a proposal contained on page 56, Appendix K, Decision 11.

It is with regard to teeing areas and it is proposed that, with effect from 1 January 2001, all distance points shall be positioned on tees so that they are not less than four yards in-front of the rear of the tee. This is in place of the current two yards and my concern is that on small medal tees, or tiger tees, where, because of the topography of the land (or other reasons, SSSI etc) you would be unable to extend the tee size and this would place even more wear on the front of already overused tees.

While it may not be a problem on more recent designed/constructed courses we certainly have a number of Medal tees, as I am sure other well established courses have, that only measure eight to 10 yards from front to back and to lose that two yards is losing up to 25% of the teeing area.

Also to have to remeasure the course and provide new distance markers could prove an expensive operation for no great apparent benefit. I would hope BIGGA as a body would consider lobbying the Council of National Golf Unions to abandon this proposal and retain the status quo.

**Gordon A Moir**  
Head Greenkeeper  
Eden Course, St Andrews