

GREENKEEPER

International



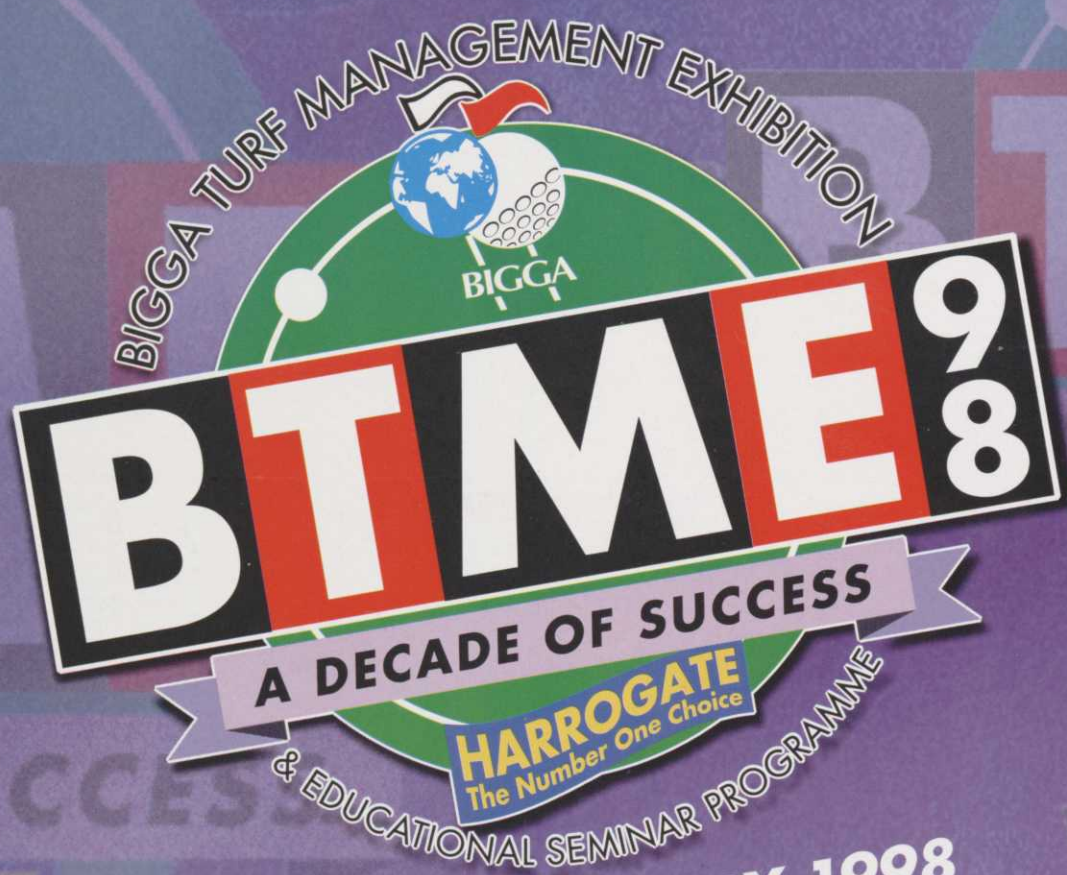
END OF AN ERA



- Fifth and last Hayter Challenge Final
- Tribute to David Spurden



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Where to contact BIGGA

Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline,
York, North Yorkshire YO6 2NF

Tel: 01347 838581

Fax: 01347 838864

■ The next edition of
Greenkeeper International
should be with you by
November 8.

GREENKEEPER

International

OCTOBER 1997

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GREENKEEPER

International

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EDITORIAL

Editor: Scott MacCallum

ADVERTISING

Sales and Marketing Manager:
James McEvoy

Sales and Marketing Assistants:
Amanda Mayo
Jenny Pantan

Telephone: 01347 838581

E-mail: general@bigga.demon.co.uk

PRODUCTION

Design and Production Editor:
Tim Moat, telephone 01904 610611

ISDN: 01904 626130

E-mail: timmoat@headline-comm.co.uk

PRINTING

Hi-Tec Print, Units 9&10, Universal Crescent,
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A tribute to David Spurden

Everyone can recall the absolute shock they felt on the morning of Sunday, August 31, when they awoke to the news that Diana, Princess of Wales, had been killed in a horrific crash in Paris.

A world went into mourning and the collective outpouring of national grief, as highlighted by 12 hour queues to sign a book of condolence and the funeral itself, will be remembered for the remainder of everyone's lifetime.

However, the vast majority of those who grieved had never met the Princess, but formed their "attachment" from television pictures, the printed word and glossy photographs.

A mere 25 days later the world of greenkeeping suffered an equally shocking and tragic loss. In its way the loss cut deeper because David Spurden, who was killed in a shooting accident out on his beloved Ganton course, was known personally by so many who shared his profession. Not only known but respected and, perhaps most of all, liked as a friend.

Respect came from his wonderful skill and greenkeeping ability – you needed only to look at Ganton to appreciate that – and liked because in an industry known for the genuine nature of so many of its people David had also reached the top of the tree. It is rare to find class acts who can wear both business and personal hats with equal aplomb, but David did just that, and in such an unassuming, down to earth, fashion.

It is perhaps fitting that a week before the accident Ganton played host to the last Hayter Challenge Final and that 63 greenkeepers from all over Britain and Ireland had the opportunity to play David's course. With potential critics aplenty and, in Ganton, a huge

reputation to protect, it would have been a daunting prospect for many, but David was relaxed – he even represented the Northern Region team and played well, especially in the morning.

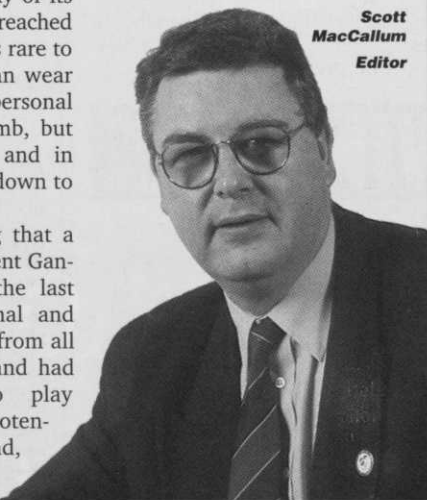
He knew he had no reason to be anything other than relaxed because, as he no doubt suspected, Ganton was the real star of the week. The praise which flowed for its condition and its layout during both practice and competition days, as well as during the gala dinner, would have caused many a head to swell... but David merely smiled contentedly.

You can ill afford to lose people of the calibre of David Spurden and in an industry as close knit as greenkeeping that loss is even more acute and hard felt.

I pass on heart felt condolences to those who will feel that loss more than most – his team, colleagues and members at Ganton Golf Club, his family and, in particular, his son and daughter of whom I know he was so proud.

That two such remarkable people be lost in such a short space of time is truly a tragedy and for those who knew either of them personally the loss creates a gap in their lives which will never be filled.

Scott MacCallum
Editor



As I see it...

BY PAT MURPHY
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

If I'd known being Chairman was so arduous I'd have gone into training six months before I took over. You literally don't stop and this month has been exceptionally busy.

It started with Saltex at Windsor which, with its Royal connections, was a rather subdued place to be two days after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. However, it was an excellent show. I judged the stands and

attended a launch of a new greenkeeper's hard hat by Course Care. I wish it every success.

The next week I headed to Northern Ireland, where, following some superb preparatory work by John Pemberton and Janet Adamson, we were able to launch two new Northern Ireland Sections. If the enthusiasm of the meeting is any gauge they will both be successes – see Page 33 for more information.

The three of us took in a North West Section day on our journey home and enjoyed the hospitality of the Section and the company of Ian Holoran and Bert Cross, the Regional Chairman and Vice Chairman, as well as Viscount Whitelaw, who had taken the trouble to attend. I also managed 12 holes of golf.

Arriving at my hotel after midnight I was picked up by the Editor at the crack of dawn the next morning to turn the first sod at the new six hole academy at the Berkshire College of Agriculture. It is an exciting venture and I wish it well.

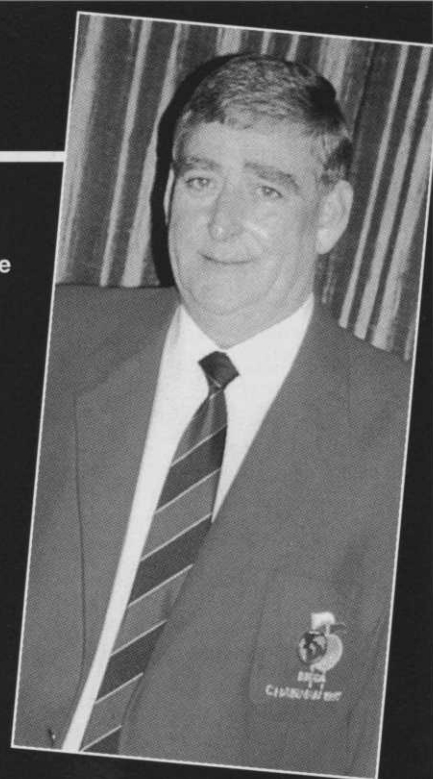
The next day I travelled with Neil Thomas to Scotland for a surprise presentation to Elliott and Edna Small. They both deserved their tributes and I enjoyed once again being among my "ain folk".

Time to rest? Not likely! Off to the Hayter Final. I did delay my arrival – the first time I've had to do so since becoming Chairman – because of my wedding anniversary on the Wednesday but I got to Ganton on Thursday in time for a few holes with Kim Macfie. I was also delighted to present Kim with a music centre as a token of the Association's appreciation of his support to BIGGA over the last five years.

Surely a break this time? Nope. Off to Stockholm for the Swedish Exhibition, which was absolutely fantastic. I was well looked after by Per Olof Ljung, Tommy Lindelof and his wife, Helen, and enjoyed the finest meal I've had since becoming Chairman. It's an expensive place though!

It was only on returning for Sweden that I learned of the death of David Spurden, a man whose company I had enjoyed just over a week before.

It was the most tragic end to what, for me, had been a successful month.



Association's thank you to Elliott and Edna Small

■ Last month witnessed the end of an era. For the last seven and a half years greenkeepers in Scotland, old or young, have been able to lift a phone and know that on the other end of a line help would be at hand in the shape of Elliott and Edna Small.

As BIGGA's Scottish Regional Administrator since January 1, 1990, Elliott and Edna, who is as much a part of the Scottish greenkeeping scene as her husband, have seen at first hand the way the industry, and BIGGA itself, has developed.

That development has reached the stage where BIGGA is able to employ a part-time Regional Administrator and Elliott and

Edna are passing the Region's reins into the more than capable hands of former policeman and still talented golfer, Peter Boyd.

"I believe it is the right time for the change to happen and I think Peter will do well," said Elliott, in the spike bar of Ganton Golf Club during the last playing of the Hayter Challenge Final.

"I'll still be involved in the Association if they need me and they know that they only need to ask for anything and I'll do it. I'm not going to walk away and, for the first year at least, I'll be there to guide Peter," said Elliott.

As our picture shows, Elliott was presented with a set of golf clubs by the Scottish members



and Edna received a figurine at a surprise presentation in Stirling last month.

As Elliott discovers the joys of a bit of spare time for the first time in seven and a half years you can be sure that, with the aid of his new clubs, his handicap of 8 will start to tumble.

BIGGA cracks down on abuse of courtesy golf

BIGGA is taking steps to tighten procedures following evidence that, in certain cases, the "courtesy golf" extended by golf clubs to full BIGGA greenkeeper members is being abused.

A small minority of greenkeeper members (and in some cases non greenkeeper members) are not contacting the club in advance, are not producing membership cards or are using membership cards they are not entitled to and are making frequent visits to the same golf club. As a result, an increasing number of golf clubs are now refusing to continue to offer the privilege of courtesy golf.

BIGGA Sections looking for host clubs for their golf days have also been affected and are increasingly being turned down by golf clubs. This has become a major concern to BIGGA and the vast majority of members who do not abuse their courtesy golf. The Association is,

therefore, anxious to ensure that the selfish actions of a minority of people do not spoil this wonderful opportunity for the majority.

BIGGA has introduced several changes of procedure to ensure that only working greenkeepers obtain full membership, including the need for greenkeeper members to have their renewal form validated by their club, and as a reminder to members, has also issued the following guidelines:

Only those with full greenkeeper membership should seek courtesy golf.

Courtesy golf is only given at the discretion of the individual golf club and is not an automatic benefit of membership.

Members wishing to seek courtesy golf at a club should contact the club at least 24 hours in advance of wishing to play.

On arrival at the club, members should report to the Secretary/Pro

Shop and follow normal procedures for playing golf.

Members should always produce a valid membership card as proof of status to the club.

Members should make a point of thanking the club for their courtesy on completion of their round of golf.

Members should not seek courtesy golf at any one golf club more than twice per year.

Golf clubs wishing to verify membership or requiring further details should contact BIGGA on 01347 838581.

All suspected abuses of the card should be reported in writing to BIGGA headquarters where such complaints will be investigated. Members found guilty of abuse of the card will be disciplined under Paragraph 15 of the Association's Constitution and Rules which gives Sections the power to suspend or expel the member if necessary.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Martin Brothers (UK) Ltd has appointed Mike Crabtree as Regional Sales Manager covering the North of England and Scotland.

■ White Horse Contractors Ltd have appointed Robert Donald as Managing Director



following the retirement of Johan Koster after more than 30 years with the company.

Robert, an engineering graduate from Newcastle University, has worked within the sportsturf construction, drainage and irrigation sector for the past six years.

■ John Di Mascio, an agronomy lecturer from Hiram College in Ohio, has joined the



staff at Myerscough College to lecture in agronomy, golf course design and golf history as well as being the Programme Manager for the college's Higher National Diploma course in Turf Science and Golf Course Management.

■ Derek McJannett, of Sherwood Forest GC and a member of last year's Hayter



International Cup team, produced some scintillating form in the invitation Charnwood Rock event at Charnwood Forest GC.

Derek, with Garry Thurman Chairman of Green at Charnwood acting as caddie, broke the course record with a stunning six under par 63 in the opening round of the event. The round contained a remarkable eight birdies and two dropped shots. Derek, who plays off +1, unfortunately couldn't keep his form going and eventually finished fourth.

■ Those reading the piece on Valderrama in last month's magazine may have been surprised that the course had so little play. The reason for this was a pure typographical error. The course does not have 1200 rounds per annum but 12,000 – still not many by UK standards but more than was indicated.

Salary recommendations published next month

The findings of the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers' Salaries, comprising representatives of BIGGA, the Association of Golf Club Secretaries and the Association of Golf Course Owners, will be published next month.

The Committee was formed following a significant increase in the number of golf clubs which were contacting BIGGA and asking advice on greenkeeper

salaries and conditions of employment.

The 1998 Recommendations of the Committee will be mailed to every golf club in the UK and printed in the November issue of *Greenkeeper International*.

Golf clubs and greenkeepers requiring more detailed information can contact BIGGA for sample greenkeeper's contract of employment, job specifications for all levels of employment as

well as advice on greenkeeping qualifications.

"I am sure the recommendations of the Standing Committee will be a valuable tool for all golf clubs setting next year's pay awards for their greenkeeping staff," said Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA.

The Standing Committee will meet annually to review greenkeepers' salaries and conditions of employment.

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Facility helps students learn ins and outs of maintenance

After years of preparation and planning by Berkshire College of Agriculture, BIGGA Chairman Pat Murphy was the man invited to turn the first sod of the college's new six hole educational golf facility.

The six holes have been designed by Tom MacKenzie, of Donald Steel and Company, on 40 acres of parkland beside the main college building.

The six holes are each designed and constructed differently to give students of the college the chance to explore maintenance techniques on a range of styles.

The 1st will be a look into the future by examining a British specification; the 2nd is constructed to USGA guidelines; the 3rd will be badly constructed and badly managed to assist students with problems they might encounter later; the 4th will have a perched water table for tee and green construction; the 5th will be a traditional Old Tom Morris style hole using techniques from the last century while the final hole is a heathland style hole using a clay bowl style green and green construction taken from the 1920-30s.

The Industry Liaison Committee which drove the project consisted of Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers – including Martin Gunn of Temple, Alun Collis of Castle Royale, Ray Clark of



Harleyford and John Nudds of Garrards Cross; Club Secretaries, students, trade and PGA representatives as well as Malcolm Peake, Chairman of Green at Temple Golf Club.

The college received a £60,000 grant from the R&A for the project towards a final cost of £136,000 while additional sponsorship came from Greenscapes Ltd, Roffey Ltd, Hepworths and

Rigby Taylor.

Pat Murphy used a Kubota digger to lift the first sod and expressed his admiration for the project adding that he felt students attending the college would have a distinct advantage with such a range of holes to work on.

He then planted an oak tree to act as a permanent reminder of the occasion.

■ Pictures show the ceremonies.



Environment winners announced soon

The 1997 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition in association with Rhône Poulenc and Amazone Ground Care is nearing its completion with successful clubs being notified early this month.

The standard of entry has been exceptional and principle judge Bob Taylor, Ecologist to the STRI, has been delighted by the commitment to both the competition and environmental issues generally shown by the entries.

"The quality of environmental work being carried out at the clubs I've visited has been outstanding and it has been extremely difficult to select the clubs to visit and then those deserving of a second visit," explained Bob, who over the last few months has been to 25

courses the length and breadth of the United Kingdom.

Bob has worked closely with Jonathan Smith in Scotland and Dr Keith Duff, Chief Scientist of English Nature, who has been extremely enthusiastic about the quality of entry and standard of environmental practice being undertaken by the golf clubs.

Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone Ground Care, who initially launched the competition several years ago, and Jonathan Hill, of Rhône Poulenc, have taken a keen interest in the progress of the competition.

"Jonathan visited two of the golf clubs with me, Gog Magog and Old Nene, and was delighted by the level of enthusiasm shown for the competi-

tion. I've also seen quite a number of Amazone machines on the courses I've visited," said Bob.

He was keen to stress that clubs which entered, irrespective of whether they won or lost, benefited.

"It is more than just a competition with winners and losers. I've been able to offer advice on all aspects of environmental matters while visiting the golf courses from tree, grass land or heather management through to care of ponds. All clubs will also receive publicity for the work."

The judging has taken the form of the European Ecology Unit's Commitment to Green project

which was launched at the Ryder Cup in Valderrama.

■ Next month *Greenkeeper International* will carry a detailed report on Bob Taylor's experiences during judging and the winners will be revealed.

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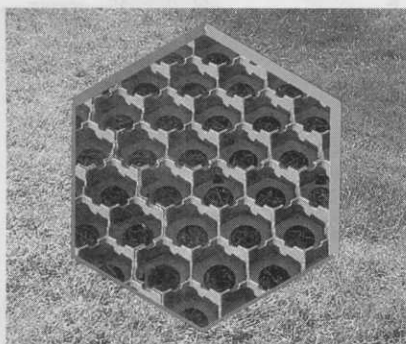
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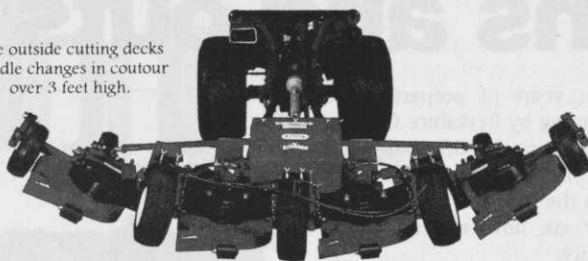
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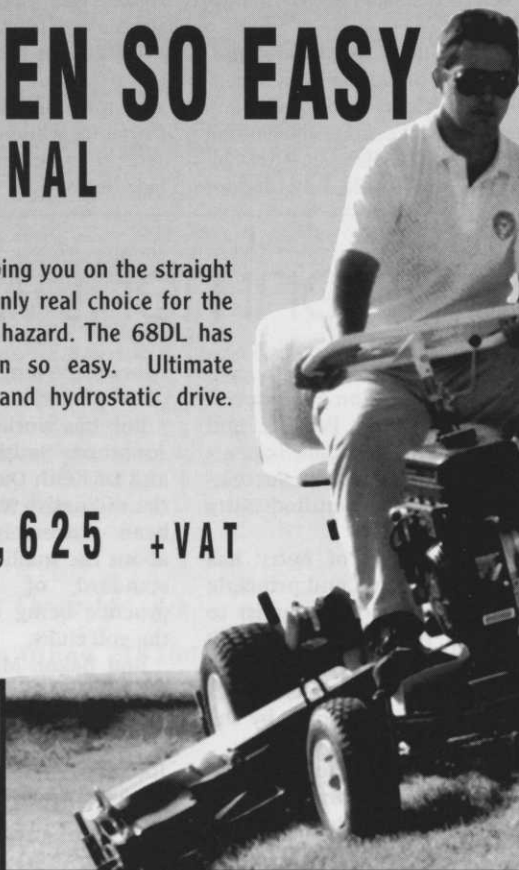
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Fusarium? Not on my patch, thank you

As you are all too painfully aware probably the most important disease that occurs on highly maintained greens is Fusarium Patch. Microdochium Nivale is highly disfigured and occurs primarily in the late autumn and spring but may strike at any time of year under

conditions of cool wet weather.

Regarded as one of the best ways to control attacks of Fusarium Patch, as recommended by the STRI, is regular switching with a fibreglass flexible rod or brushing with a dew brush. Both perform the same job as they

combine the droplets of water sitting on the surface of the turf, dropping them onto the soil and allowing the natural drainage of the soil to disperse the moisture towards the root level of the turf.

Indeed it is especially important to switch greens that are well

protected by tall trees or buildings as the green is therefore well protected from wind and direct sunlight and therefore dries slower. An added benefit of switching is a better cut if it is performed immediately after it is done.

Tim Webb, Tacit

'Course for all seasons' a good aid

This soft back A4 sized book has been produced by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club to bring some of the issues which their Golf Course Advisory Panel have identified as being of great importance to the management and maintenance of golf courses.

The book looks at six main areas that have an impact on the management of golf; Best Management Practice, the World around the Golfer, Golf Course Management, Communications, Golf Course Developments and What the Golf Authorities are doing. The book sets out to illustrate some of the issues that lead to conflict between golfers and greenkeepers eg. green speed, the 'TV' effect, problems due to the changing climate and all year round play. However, it shows that by having a sound course management policy, by investing in greenkeeper training and education, by working with nature and by using good communication skills, many of the problems can be overcome. Useful to greenkeepers as a reference guide, as a source of basic advice and as background information for talks to members, the book would be a useful addition to all Head Greenkeeper's bookshelves. However, if the book was read by all golf course committee members and all golfers then many of the problems that confront greenkeepers would disappear as golfers developed a much better understanding of the complexities of golf course management.

Copies of the book are available, priced £5, from Michael Barratt Limited, Profile House, 5/7 Forlease Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1RP

Ken Richardson



Barenbrug makes its marque

Barenbrug's Arnold Pilon has been driving from Europe to Asia as part of the Paris-Peking Classic Car Rally. For the car, Barenbrug chose the good old British Jaguar MK 1, dating back to 1960. Undoubtedly, it's the first time the marque has been driven to the Chinese capital with a bag of

BAR 7/Amenity Leys on board, waiting to be sown!

For Arnold, the trip has not been straightforward. As well as participating in the Rally he had the task of visiting many of Barenbrug's European offices along the way. At least he was greeted with a warm reception.

Meanwhile there's a palpable air of excitement around Michel Mulder, Managing Director of Barenbrug UK. "It's great to see a quality British car, taking quality British grass, on behalf of a quality British company all that way to China", he enthused. "I can't think of a better form of cultural exchange."

Laser levelling brought in to fit new root zone

The first 18 hole golf course to be built using the new ProSport Eco-Zone root zone from Hepworth Minerals and Chemicals is at an advanced stage of construction at Biddenham near Bedford.

The course will be the focal point and principal amenity of a new development by Bovis on the western side of Bedford. David Pottage is the architect and designer and the course is being constructed by Golf Landscapes of Brentwood, Essex.

A total of 5000 tonnes of ProSport Eco-Zone has been delivered by HMC for the construction of the greens.

"One of the problems with this

site," says Bob Dunning, the Director in charge of the contract, "is that across the full 50 hectares of the course there is a fall of only about five metres, so we had to be very accurate in sculpting the base of the greens to the architect's design and that accuracy must be maintained as we fill them. Laser levelling has been needed."

After installing the drains, a porous membrane was laid on the base of the greens. 100mm of aggregate was then laid followed by 50mm of grit. Finally, the root zone was laid to a compacted depth of 275mm, with constant checks being made to ensure that the hand raked final

surface followed accurately the line of the base.

Where possible the vehicles, which each carry over 20 tonnes of root zone, tipped at the green site on to a porous membrane to prevent contamination. Where a green was not accessible to heavy transport, the root zone and other construction materials were tipped on a stockpile and taken to the green by dumptruck.

"We handle root zones as few times as possible," says Bob, "not just for economic reasons, good root zones perform best after their initial mixing so it is preferable not to mix them again any more than is essential."

Appeal to keep a look-out for stolen greenkeeping kit

In recent months the Greenkeepers' Store at Hallamshire has been burgled twice.

On the first occasion, last November, the offenders broke into the store during the night and removed much of the portable equipment such as strimmers, brushcutters etc and three new hand mowers which had been bought a short time earlier.

The three machines were Jacobsen 522 Pedestrian Green Mowers, complete with turf groomers, grass boxes and transport wheels, each one costing £5,300 plus VAT new. The serial numbers of the machines were 62261 02388, 62261 02390 and 62261 02317.

Subsequently, in April, the equipment was replaced.

Following recommendations made by the Insurers and the Police, the alarm system was renewed with the very latest system installed and connected to the alarm monitoring company.

Despite all the increases in the security and alarm systems, last month the store was broken into and two of the replacement Jacobsen machines, with serial numbers 62261 03346 and 62261 03317, stolen.

It was obviously a carefully planned burglary as the Course Manager only left the store some 15 minutes before the alarm was activated and the offenders knew exactly what they could transport in the limited time available, and apparently did not mind the risk of burgling the store and stealing property in broad daylight, despite the alarms.

These machines are not com-

mon in this country, being American imported and will only be useful to specialist organisations such as golf courses and certain sports facilities ie bowls clubs, cricket clubs and the like.

From enquiries that have been made it is quite apparent that golf clubs have been targeted through the North of England over recent months and burglaries appear to have taken place at many course stores with similar results and even repeat burglaries have taken place where replacement equipment has been bought.

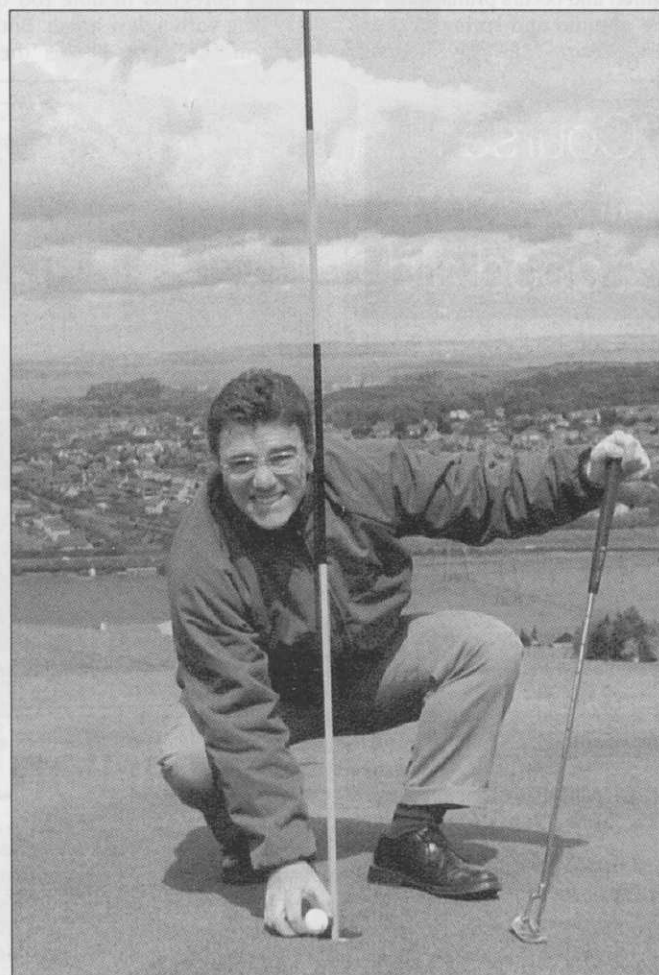
From the number of such incidents it is apparent that there must be an outlet for this equipment. South Yorkshire Police are asking if any Secretaries or Greens Staff are approached to purchase any similar machines to ours, or any other machinery which is being

offered for sale by anyone other than their normal reputable suppliers, to acquire as much detail of these people and their vehicles discreetly and pass this to South Yorkshire Police either through me, or direct.

Aside from the extra premiums and conditions that will be added to our insurance on the next renewal, the theft of such important and essential pieces of equipment causes some disruption to the normal working practices and could lose income to clubs by prestigious events being cancelled due to the course not being able to be presented in appropriate condition for tournaments.

— Keith Sharrocks, Secretary, Hallamshire Golf Club, Redmires Road, Lodge Moor, Sheffield

'These machines are not common in this country'



Success, but at a price

Tom Brannan experienced one of the quickest ways of emptying a wallet known to man at Winterfield GC recently. He holed-in-one in the East of Scotland Section Spring Outing, the feat occurring at the par-3 4th.

Apparently, and this comes from Chris Yeaman, of Swanston GC, his quote after holing the shot was: "Getting a hole-in-one was nearly as exciting as a Thursday night in Trotter's Bar in Harrogate this year." Whatever could he mean?

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An environment for golf

by Bob Winfield,
Environment Consultant

Take a large number of golfers from a selection of clubs and ask, "What do you value most in your golf course environment?" There would be a high level of agreement on the preferred features of a course and the atmosphere of the surroundings. Most golfers would vote for genuine attractive countryside in keeping with the history and natural heritage of the local landscapes. What can a club do to provide such an environment? How should a club decide what is genuine, natural, local and authentic?

The interesting and challenging answer to that question is that the landscape of every golf course has its own history, and can be managed to conserve, restore or re-create features of the man-made and natural heritage of the site. A difficult decision is how far back to go in the history of a course to decide what is the local natural environment? A new

course created on farmland may look back 50 years to traditional farm management with the flora and fauna which existed before modern intensive agriculture. A course created on downland or heathland at the turn of the century will have its heritage in the man-made landscapes of earlier centuries.

A 'new order' of environmental management has developed in recent years, which recognises the priority of conserving whole natural habitats and wildlife communities in order to make any significant contribution to conservation. Adjust the management of the course to include conservation objectives, which are kept in balance with the sporting and visual objectives, in order to achieve a win/win result for both golf and the natural habitats. The golf course environment is greatly enriched by this approach, and can be used as a positive and unique benefit to enhance the golfers' enjoyment of the game.

Fine words! But what does this

mean on the ground? We are not of course talking about the main playing surfaces which are managed as sports turf. The natural course environment lies between the fairways, and around or beyond the tees and greens. In these areas there are opportunities to provide and manage a much more natural countryside at little or no cost. The opportunities were overlooked too often in the past, but happily there is now more concern for the course environment.

'We make special efforts to be as sensitive as possible to the needs of wildlife'

This is well demonstrated by the success of the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition, in association with Rhône Poulenc and Amazone Ground Care. Ken Richardson, Education Officer at BIGGA said "Our hope is being fulfilled that the Competition is increasing awareness of

the positive benefits that golf courses give to the environment."

Let us take one aspect of the management of non-play areas. Probably the greatest loss to the golf course environment over recent decades has occurred in the diversity of ground flora, probably the most vital element in the whole wildlife food chain. Indigenous grasses, wild flowers and wetland plants provide food for invertebrates, insects and small birds which are then available for predators higher in the food chain. Whereas an attempt to re-create the original flora of a landscape could take decades, progressive restoration work can be relatively easy and can go most of the way to an 'original' natural environment in a few years.

The course at Sandford Springs Golf Club, near Kingsclere in Hampshire, was created in the last 10 to 12 years on land previously used for mixed farming with several wooded areas. Design and construction were sensitive to the existing land-

PRESENTING THE POWERFUL NEW REELMASTER SERIES.





Ponds created at Sandford Springs are home to a thriving population of water voles – an increasingly threatened animal

scape, and subsequent management of the course has created many natural features which are both attractive and genuine local wildlife habitats. Some 20,000 trees were planted (all native species), and six ponds created in an area of three acres of marsh. This wetland is protected from the effects of intensive sports turf management, and is especially rich in wildlife. The Course Man-

ager, Norman Fenwick, who is committed to a high quality course environment said, "We make special efforts to be as sensitive as possible to the needs of wildlife, and have developed important habitat areas throughout the course."

Temple Golf Club in Berkshire was created in 1910 on chalk downland, but there was very little of the original characteristic

down grassland left by 1990. Martin Gunn, the Course Manager, amended the cutting regimes of grassland rough and semi-rough, and changed the woodland management to re-create the conditions for an exceptionally rich and attractive ground flora. Large numbers of nectar – feeding butterflies can be seen having a 'birthday' on the roughs during the summer

months. Martin said, "Only a third of the course is under sports turf and it is important to take a holistic approach to course management so that we can restore and retain important natural features." The course now makes a very important contribution to the local wildlife environment without suffering any additional problems from pests.

At Hankley Common Golf Club in Surrey, the natural heritage is lowland heath; a habitat which is now rare and threatened along with the many plants and animals which are found only in lowland heath. Until ten years ago the large areas of heath, maintained for centuries by grazing animals and rotational burning, were reverting to low quality woodland by the invasion of birch and pine seedlings. Ian McMillan, the Course Manager, has removed 40 hectares of trees and scrub to open up heathland habitats for a wide range of plants, insects and birds. Ian commented recently, "We have worked hard over the

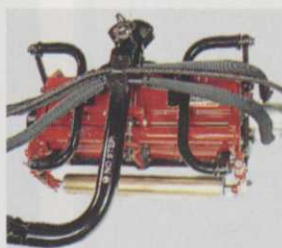
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An environment for golf

last decade to re-create the natural heathland environment for the benefit of future generations, while continuing to maintain the course in best playing condition throughout the year."

Many courses would benefit from restoring some previously unmanaged habitats in non-play areas. This could include the re-introduction of typical local flora which were lost, often through insensitive management and the excessive use of herbicides during the 1960's and 70's. Regular or rotational cutting, coppicing and clearing, are usually the key elements of maintaining good quality habitats. The correct timing of operations to minimise interference with nature (eg nesting sites, or food sources), and allow the maximum benefits for wildlife (e.g. coppice management for birds such as warblers and nightingales), requires specialist knowledge.

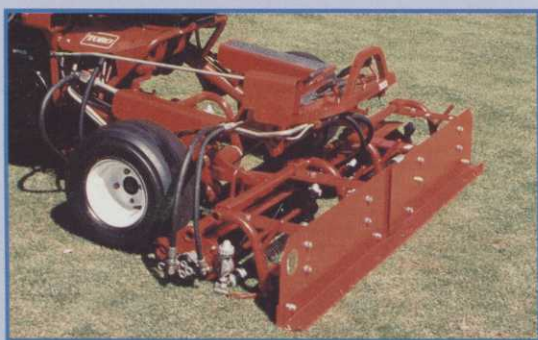
Where the re-introduction of trees, shrubs or ground flora are planned, it is important to select species which are native to the local conditions. This maintains the authenticity of the landscape and provides habitat extension

which will be readily colonised by local wildlife species. If wild flower mixtures are sown they should be customised mixes containing only the most appropriate local species. The soil type, fertility level, moisture and proposed management can all be crucial to the success or failure of individual species within a mixture. Local conservation organisations are usually very willing to give advice on such issues.

Who said "Keen golfers are only interested in one thing – low scores"? How many golfers would complain at the occasional distraction by an unusual butterfly or two, or if they found a ball in the semi-rough surrounded by low-growing vetches, bird's-foot trefoil or ladies bedstraw? Where golf clubs have made information available to members on the value of their conservation management techniques, the well-informed golfer derives satisfaction and a better appreciation of the course environment. ■ Bob Winfield advises golf clubs in the South of England on conservation and environmental management.

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The rich flora at Temple Golf Club is the result of careful and consistent management

End of an Era

Ganton photograph by BRIAN MORGAN

The last playing of the Hayter National Final at Ganton was an occasion to reflect on five outstanding years during which time laughs were had and friendships formed at an equal rate of knots.

Like any good thing which comes to an end there is always a tinge of sadness and, although the excellent relationship of Hayter and BIGGA will continue in other areas, the feeling that an enjoyable era had come to a close was just below the surface in Scarborough.

That sadness was magnified many times over by the subsequent news that David Spurden, Head Greenkeeper at Ganton, and member of the Northern Region team during the week, had been killed in a dreadful accident while out on the course less than a week later.

It is perhaps appropriate that the last Hayter Challenge Final should be the final big event, of many huge events, for which such a staunch BIGGA member had

HAYTER CHALLENGE *the final final*

prepared Ganton. It was an event when David was with his colleagues and he could share in the banter and bon homme for which Hayter events, whether they be at Section, Region, National or International level, have become famous.

There can be no better tribute to David than the stream of compliments he received from the other 62 greenkeepers for the breathtaking quality of the golf course during the week of the Hayter Challenge.

The competition, our friends from Hayter, Ganton itself, but perhaps most of all, David Spurden, will live long in the memories of those who were at Ganton for the last playing of the Hayter Challenge Final.



David Spurden: Breathtaking quality of his golf course is a fitting tribute

HAYTER CHALLENGE *the final final*

On her debut as team Captain South West and South Wales Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, inspired her team to a famous win. Here she takes us through the eventful week.

The coach was booked and the weather looked set fair. The players turned up on time at their chosen pick up points and we kept almost precisely to the timed schedule prepared. All was going too well! This was not to last.

The coach was a rickety old thing which at times, with a following wind and a down hill slope, almost reached 70 mph! It was so noisy that we could not listen to the radio and I could not hear a word that was being said in the body of the coach. (Just as well, probably!) As we approached Scarborough the bus started leaping about and all sorts of funny noises were coming from the engine. "Oh, b., I think I have run out of petrol," said the driver. With a lot of revving and a great deal more of praying we lurched forwards and a local told us that the nearest petrol station was only four miles down the road.

Four miles – it must have been eight, or it felt like it! The bus spluttered and tumbled on ever forwards "It will be ok. as long as we don't have to go uphill," our driver inspired us! At last the petrol station was spotted and just as we pulled onto the forecourt the petrol finally ran out.

Hardly believing our good luck we coasted to the nearest pump. Hooray! we had made it, – well, not quite – the petrol cap was on the wrong side of the bus and the filler would not reach. Out of the bus my trusty team and push! After some delicate manouvres the petrol cap was linked with the filler and we actually missed hitting anything on the way. How, I shall never know.

We left the petrol station to the delight and astonishment of

Humphries' Heroes



everyone on the forecourt who sent us off with laughter and applause which would have done justice to the last night of the proms! Having negotiated the one way system several times and from different directions, we finally found ourselves behind the Irish team who had the sense to stop and ask directions! We stuck to them like glue in what sounded like first or second gear (Genevieve had nothing on this old crate!) and eventually arrived at our hotel where we were met with a delightful staff, wonderful food and a view that was nothing less than magnificent.

Practice day dawned with a cloudless sky, warm sunshine and no wind whatsoever – just per-

fick! What a lovely course Ganton is – completely natural and beautifully cared for – a real joy to play.

Competition day dawned. After having tucked my team up the previous night with hot chocolate and bedtime stories at 10pm. (believe that and you will believe anything), they all turned up bright eyed and bushy tailed (with the exception of the one who crept in to the hotel at 6.45am thinking he had arrived unnoticed!) and played out of their boots

The South West & South Wales Region won the Region Shield for the first time ever – a wonderful achievement over such a tough course. We also took first prize in divs. 2 and 3 and 3rd place in div

I and also won the nearest pin on the 5th. I have not named individuals on purpose. These will appear in the official results. The achievement was, I believe, a team effort and the glory should reflect on all who took part. I was especially proud of the player who finished the first 18 holes in the growing cold, wet and dark at about 5.30 having had a very poor round and still completed the last nine of the 27 holes for the sake of the team result.

A great dinner followed and whoever follows Hayter as sponsor has a tough act to follow. Much celebrating continued into the very early hours (so I hear!).

It was a very quiet journey home!



South East



Northern



Scotland



A gaggle of Regional Administrators? A Regiment of Regional Administrators? A file of Regional Administrators? Whatever! Kim Macfie and Neil Thomas flank Regional Administrators old and new

Alternative awards

The Sellafield Shield for Services to the Environment

The South West and South Wales Region who attempted to fuel their mini bus with fresh air.

The Golden P45 for Career Move of the Week

The Editor of a popular greenkeeping magazine who managed to pour the main sponsor's gin and tonic down the trousers of next year's National Chairman.

The BIGGA Medal for Outstanding Achievement

Dave Spurden and his team who ensured that few, if any, tournaments will be played on a better prepared course in 1997.

Rookie of the Week Rosette

Paula Humphries, who guided her team to a first victory on her debut in the event

The "You Bet" Consolation Bit of Plastic

The entire field, who narrowly failed in an attempt to play a full round of golf quicker than a decent athlete could run two marathons.

The BIGGA Standing Ovation

To Kim Macfie and everyone at Hayters who have been such wonderful sponsors for the past five years.



Individual winner Nick Webber collects his trophy from Tony Bourke and Pat Murphy



Kim Macfie presents Neil Thomas with a memento to mark the end of the Hayter Challenges



Neil Thomas and Pat Murphy present Kim Macfie with a token of BIGGA's appreciation for all of his work over the last five years

HAYTER

CHALLENGE

the final final

RESULTS

HAYTER TROPHY

1. South West and South Wales 943.

Richard Daly, Laughlan Millar, Chris Bland, Anthony Knight, Phil Wentworth, Martyn Parrish, Anthony James, Jason Cooper and Matthew Hawker. Non-playing Captain Paula Humphries

2. South East 963.5

Andy Sheehan, Neil Gilham, David Murdoch, Ian Sutcliffe, Jonathan Selwood, Jonathan Hill, Martin Mison, Trevor Hindmarsh and Barry Jackson. Non-playing Captain Derek Farrington.

3. Midland 969.5

4. Northern 990

5. Scotland 994.5

6. NIGGA 1033

7. GCSAI 1048

BEST NETT 27 HOLES

Nick Webber (NIGGA) 102

Best Gross David Murdoch

South East 118

Over 55s

- Andy Keenan NIGGA

Under 21s

- Greg Hunt Midlands

Longest Drive -

Nick Webber

Nearest the Pin -

Chris Bland SW & SW

Category Winners

0-9

1. Nick Webber NIGGA 102

2. Andy Sheehan South East

111

3. Paul Fitzgerald GCSAI 111

10-18

1. Anthony Knight SW&SW 106

2. Julian Chesson Midlands

114.5

3. Greg Hunt Midlands 114.5

19-28

1. Anthony James SW&SW 111

2. David Nelson Scotland 114.5

3. Barry Jackson South East

119

Four Qualifiers for Hayter International Cup in Atlanta, Georgia, on October 10-16, 1998 are: Andy Sheehan, England; Russell Lewis, Wales; Derek Wilson, Scotland and Nick Webber, NIGGA



NIGGA



GCSAI



Midland

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"Oh no! They've recruited another idiot for me to train!"
A cry from the heart of far too many experienced greenkeepers who are expected by their clubs to make a 'square peg' recruit into a 'round hole' greenkeeper and are mystified as to why entirely unsuitable people are being taken on by golf clubs every year.
Frank Newbury, who has been running management courses for BIGGA members since 1989, turns his attention to how, in many respects, only greenkeepers can help their clubs remedy many of the unnecessary problems associated with recruitment and selection. Frank makes a strong case for the essential involvement of greenkeepers at some or all of the key stages in the selection process and offers an essential list of '10 how to's' or key ways in which greenkeepers can help themselves and their clubs to start getting recruitment right in future.

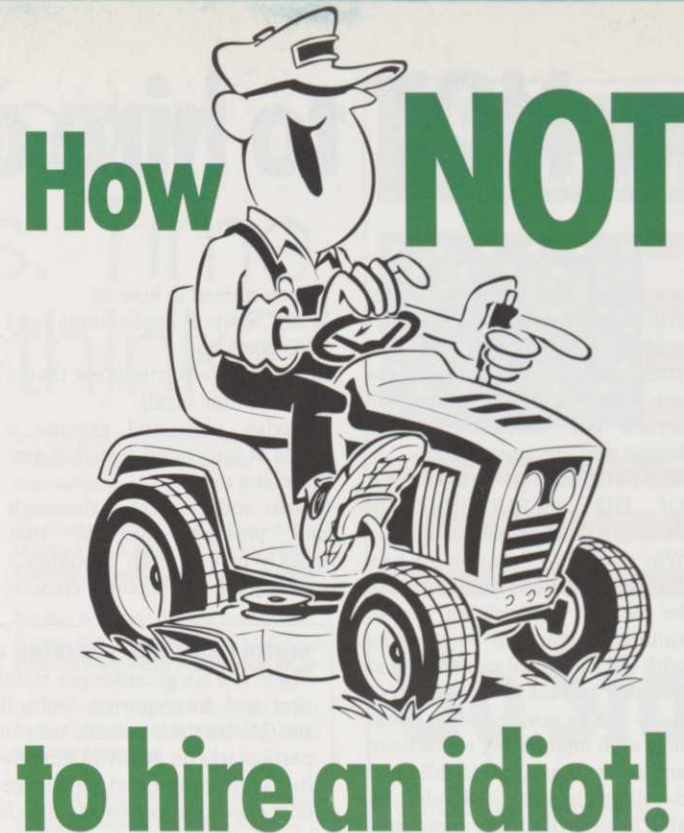
"Recruiting someone is a £1 million decision – we had better get it right"

Some years ago it was calculated that the average cost of a skilled worker over an entire working life amounted to £1 million or more. All costs were taken into consideration including 45 years salary and employer's pension and N.I. contributions as well as accommodation, equipment and training costs. If recruiting someone is a £1 million decision – we had better get it right.

Some employers are apparently happy to make this very expensive decision on the strength of an interview lasting only 20 minutes! Some have longer interviews but clutter them up with information about the job and the club. This less important "telling" part of the process takes valuable time away from the "asking" part when really probing questions can be posed and other methods used to test the suitability, resilience, durability and potential of each candidate.

"The candidate was really good at the interview but only lasted a week in a job."

Unfortunately a candidate's unsuitability is not always evident at the time of selection. They may do well at the interview, they may seem keen and enthusiastic, they may have an impressive list of written qualifications and the candidate may even be a great golfer! All persuasive reasons for taking someone on – and all wrong as far as suitability for the



BY FRANK NEWBERRY

job is concerned. Many greenkeepers speak to me of their so-called best qualified people: "The candidate was so good at the interview but only lasted a week in the job". Some did not even last a week in the job and some left after only one day!

"Interviewing is the least effective method of selection"

People behave differently when being interviewed. Many are on their best behaviour, they want the job and will say anything to reassure the selectors. Many excellent greenkeepers are not so good in interview situations and do not present themselves as well as much less able people who have the gift of the gab. Result? Too often we hire the ones who "did well on the day" i.e. the good talkers. Over the years personnel professionals have gradually formed the opinion that interviewing is the least effective method of selection. Aptitude tests, group work (where appropriate) and practical exercises have proved to be a much better indicator of a person's suitability for a particular job and thankfully, as many clubs promote people from within, the right tests provide a good test of a person's future potential as well. Interviewing, for all its limitations will always be a part of the selection process. People will always want to meet and talk to the person they may well take on as an employee. However, it should be noted that a secretarial recruitment agency in London once claimed that seven out of eight people get through the job inter-

view because the employers felt "the candidate had a nice face". This "nice face syndrome" goes beyond appearance and probably includes social skills. Whatever it is it seems to persuade people that a "nice face" is one that will fit easily into a work team. Heaven help those of us who do not have particularly nice faces!

"He's useless but he is the Chairman's son – how could I have rejected him?"

Other issues can cause the wrong candidate to be taken on. For example what should you do if only one or two candidates apply and neither is really much good? What do we say to the Course Manager who said to me once "He's useless but he's the Chairman's son – how could I have rejected him?" The answer to the first question is easy. If we are investing up to £1 million we may just need to look at our advertising and try again.

"The wrong person in a job can have a catastrophic effect on the work performance and on the morale of the entire work team"

As far as the Course Manager (above) is concerned the problem is much bigger (for him) now than it was at the time the interviews took place. The wrong person in a job can have a catastrophic effect on the work performance and on the morale of the entire work team. Sadly, these serious problems can be long lasting if the unsuitable person is not removed quickly or put onto work he or she can do reasonably well. Work teams do not

like passengers so it is vital to get the right person for each job.

"TOP TEN things greenkeepers can start to do IMMEDIATELY to help themselves and their clubs to get the RIGHT people in the RIGHT jobs"

You may already be doing some or all the 10 activities listed below. If not, and you would like to develop your abilities in each of the areas mentioned, then you should consider attending one of the RECRUITMENT, SELECTION and INTERVIEWING Courses currently being run locally by BIGGA. See the list at the end of this article for venues and dates in October and November 1997.

GREENKEEPERS SHOULD:

①HELP THE CLUB TO DEVISE JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR EACH GREENKEEPING JOB

Why you? Who knows the demands of the course and the job better than the person doing the job?

②HELP THE CLUB TO DEVISE THE EMPLOYEE SPECIFICATION FOR EACH JOB?

Why you? The employee specification lists the qualities and skills of the ideal candidate for the job so the interviewer has something to compare the candidates with, and who else knows the type of person for the job better than you?

③HELP THE CLUB WRITE THE ADVERTISEMENT

Why you? Well, you will have helped write the job description and the employee specification upon which the advert will be based and you know what would attract you to a job. A warning for you – do not just copy anything from the back of this magazine. Some of the adverts are very good but not all of them.

④SCOUT THE COLLEGES FOR GOOD STUDENTS

Why you? Well you want the best people coming through and the good students want to work at a club where they know someone, and where they will feel valued. You may have attended one of the colleges or you may have friends, relatives or work-mates there now. Same goes for schools, sports clubs etc.

⑤GET TO KNOW THE GOOD GREENS STAFF IN YOUR AREA

Why you? Well they may be more likely to confide in you (not in their club) about their career aspirations. Are they looking to move? If not then when might they be interested in a move (to your club when a vacancy arises)?

⑥HELP THE CLUB TO DEVISE A SUCCESSION PLAN FOR ALL KEY POSITIONS

Why you? If the club has an idea



How NOT to hire an idiot!

who will fill vacancies internally they can keep external recruitment to a minimum. Each job will have an understudy waiting in the wings if anything should happen ie the current job holder gets promoted or leaves the club. If you help devise the succession plan then you can plot your own career path in the club.

⑦ HELP THE CLUB TO DEVISE A MANPOWER PLAN

Why you? Well if you are helping with the succession plan the obvious development is to be one step ahead looking at when vacancies are likely to arise and how long it will take to train people up to the required standard at each level. You will also be in a good position to indicate what needs to be done to enable everyone to be able to do everyone else's job - which brings us back to your career path. Which job do you really want?

⑧ HELP THE CLUB TO DEVISE SUITABILITY TESTS FOR CANDIDATES

Why you? Back to your knowledge and expertise again. There

are simple suitability tests that will demonstrate a candidate's manual dexterity, physical strength and mobility that you can put together which will screen out unsuitable people before they are interviewed.

⑨ PARTICIPATE IN EACH STAGE OF THE RECRUITMENT OR SELECTION PROCESS

Why you? Your input on the performance of each candidate will be vital in determining overall suitability. You will be working with the successful candidate and you will be able to tell which of them will fit into the team, what they each might bring to the team and what (if any) skills still need development. You will also be able to say who is the most suitable person when a number of candidates are qualified ie a tie-break situation.

⑩ LEARN INTERVIEWING AND SELECTION TESTING SKILLS

Why you? Three reasons:

First, so you can help the club by taking your full part in the £1 million decision.

Second, you may be the only

person trained in how to:

■ sift written applications and NVQ portfolios

■ devise an advertisement that is effective (and legal)

■ devise, plan and execute a series of integrated selection and screening tests

■ plan and conduct a thorough and probing interview that quickly reveals each candidate's past experience, personal circum-

stances, individual disposition, relevant skills, reasoning ability, problem solving skills and social skills, including those times when the candidate is under pressure

■ review and evaluate each candidate and rank them in order of suitability, prior to job offer.

Third, with the skills listed above you will also make yourself a much more attractive candidate for better paid jobs!

BIGGA REGIONAL TRAINING COURSES

There are six greenkeeper training courses on Recruitment, Selection and Interviewing Skills being run locally this Autumn by BIGGA. On these courses we will cover the ten areas above focusing particularly on practical interviewing skills, and selection methods. In a very positive and supportive atmosphere greenkeepers learn not only how to interview but also how to be interviewed! If you would like to join a group of like-minded greenkeepers on one of the regional courses listed below contact the BIGGA Education Officer Ken Richardson at BIGGA HQ as a matter of urgency.

Good luck and happy recruiting!

<i>Regional Course Dates.....</i>	<i>Town</i>
21-22 October 1997.....	Crawley
3-4 November 1997.....	Moretenhampstead (Taunton)
10-11 November 1997.....	Corby
18-19 November 1997.....	Dublin
26-27 November 1997.....	Accrington

GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS
ASSOCIATION
OF IRELAND



TURF MAINTENANCE EXHIBITION 1997

The only trade fair in southern Ireland dedicated to the maintenance of amenity turf.

Due to the great demand for space, the fair now occupies Ireland's most prestigious exhibition hall, the Main Hall of the RDS, Dublin.

Essential for greenkeepers, groundsmen, county councils and corporations or indeed anyone responsible for the upkeep of large grass areas.

CAN YOU AFFORD TO MISS IT?

Dates are 5th and 6th November 1997

Phone, fax, e-mail or write for your free invitation to:

**Fairlink Ltd., 58 Clonard Court,
Balbriggan, Co. Dublin, Ireland**

Tel: 00 353 1 841 1362 Fax: 00 353 1 841 2934

E-mail: jbreivik@iol.ie

NEW DIVOT BOX



This new product for Patissons is available in both **Green** and **Grey 'granite'** effect and is moulded in **durable all-weather** medium density polyethylene.

It comes with **'Please Repair Divots'** vinyl script in a contrasting colour or you can have the option of an aluminium plate coloured to your own specification with course layouts or logos.



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Supervisory courses: Time for a re-think?



Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

The booking deadline for this year's Supervisory Management Courses is long past and, once again, due to the poor response in some Regions, some courses have had to be cancelled. I have been trying to think why these courses are not more popular and I have come up with the following thoughts:

1. Are all greenkeepers fully qualified to do their current and future jobs and therefore not need training?
2. These course at £50 or £75 for members do not represent value for money.
3. The content of courses is not what is required by greenkeepers.
4. Golf clubs cannot afford to give greenkeepers two days away from work.
5. Insufficient advertising.
6. Courses are at the wrong venues.
7. Courses are run at the wrong time of year.
8. General apathy.

Remember, these courses are run for your benefit and, thanks to the support of contributors to the Education and Development Fund, they are offered at minimum cost eg. £75 covers only the cost of the lecturer's fees per course. Accommodation, food and training facilities are provided by BIGGA. I would be interested to hear from members (or non members) with their ideas why these courses are not more successful.

Places are still available at:

Aldwark Manor Hotel – Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 November 1997: **Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment**

The Dunkenhall Hotel, Accrington, Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 November 1997: **Recruitment, Selection and Interviewing**

Hollins Hall Hotel, Bradford, Monday 16, and Tuesday 17 February 1998: **Essential Supervisory Management Skills for Greenkeepers**

Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby, Northampton – Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 November 1997: **Recruitment, Selection and Interviewing**

West Retford Hotel, Retford – Wednesday 26

and Thursday 27 November 1997: **Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment**

The Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth – Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 December 1997: **Essential Supervisory Management Skills**

The Blue Boar Hotel, Maldon, Essex – Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 October 1997: **Essential Supervisory Management Skills**

Old Ship Hotel, Brighton – Thursday 16 and Friday 17 October 1997: **Leadership, Team Briefings Motivation**

The George Hotel, Crawley, Surrey – Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 October 1997: **Recruitment, Selection and Interviewing**

The Cheltenham and Gloucester Moat House Hotel – Thursday 23 and Friday 24 October 1997: **Essential Supervisory Management Skills for Greenkeepers**

The Manor House Hotel, Moretenhampstead – Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 November 1997: **Recruitment, Selection and Interviewing**

Marriott Hotel, Swansea – Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 November 1997: **Essential Supervisory Management Skills for Greenkeepers**

Finnstown Hotel, Dublin – Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 November 1997: **Golf Course Health and Safety Management**

Finnstown Hotel, Dublin – Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 November 1997: **Recruitment, Selection and Interviewing**

The Country House Hotel, Ballymena – Thursday 20 and Friday 21 November 1997: **Essential Supervisory Management Skills for Greenkeepers**

Vocational Qualifications

Following publication of several letters in *Greenkeeper International*, it seems that there is still confusion about the role, implementation and philosophy of Vocational Qualifications.

In simple terms, Vocational means, of or relating to an occupation or employment and Qualification means an accomplishment fitting a person for a position or purpose. In other words, Vocation Qualifications indicate that the holder is qualified to do a particular job. This underlying philosophy ie competence to do a job is the reason for Vocational Qualifications.

There is, however, more to VQs than that basic statement and, together with David Golding, Education Director of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee, I will be exploring VQs in more detail in future editions of this magazine.

GCSAA CONFERENCE AND SHOW, ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 2-8, 1998



Go Stateside!

GCSAA's 69th International Golf Course Conference and Show will be held in the Anaheim Convention Center. BIGGA will once again host a trip and the BIGGA party will meet at London Heathrow Airport on Sunday, February 1, for departure to Los Angeles at 3pm.

BIGGA will be able to arrange accommodation for any member wishing to stay overnight before the flight at competitive rates.

The Disneyland Hotel has been selected to accommodate our party and offers outstanding facilities. It is located near to the Convention Center and adjacent to Disneyland.

The GCSAA Conference and Show runs from February 2-8 with the trade show taking place from February 6-8. You will be able to attend the conference seminars and education programmes as well as take in the latest golf course equipment, products and services at the trade show.

ITINERARY

Sunday, February 1

All members will assemble at London Heathrow Airport and will take the 3pm Virgin Atlantic flight to Los Angeles with onward transfer to the Disneyland Hotel for an eight night stay on a room only basis inclusive of private facilities.

Monday, February 9

You will be transferred to the airport for your return overnight flight to London, departing Los Angeles at 5.30pm arriving at London

Heathrow at 11.45am on February 10.

PRICES

£845 per person based on a twin share

£ 1270 per person based on single occupancy

Plus comprehensive travel insurance for the duration at £30. Included are:

- Return Economy class flights London Heathrow/Los Angeles
- UK and US taxes
- Transfer to and from the airport to the Disneyland Hotel
- Eight nights accommodation on a room only basis and US accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for the Pre-Conference seminars which run from February 2-5, the Educational Programmes which run from 5-8 February and the Trade Show are not included in the package and bookings will need to be made directly with the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America. Details are available from BIGGA upon request.

Please forward full payment of £875 or £1300 (unless travel insurance is not required) to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO6 2NF to arrive no later than Friday, November 28, together with name, address and contact telephone number. If accommodation is required for the night of January 31 please advise in order for the hotel rooms to be booked. Payment will be made on checking out of the hotel. N.B. Places on this trip are limited – book early!

SALTEX

97

REVISITED

The 1997 SALTEX Show will be remembered by those who attended as much for when it was and where it was as what was in it.

Beginning two days after the death of the Diana, Princess of Wales and in a town as Royal as Windsor the talk in the show was as much about the Princess and the circumstances surrounding her death as it was about cutting heights, nitrogen levels and take-over gossip.

Although a degree muted, and with many flags at half mast and the visit of the Sports Minister Tony Banks cancelled, the show could not be rated anything other than a success. It boasted a range of new products from many companies and weather which although less than perfect was a darn sight better than others of recent years.

NEW PRODUCTS

■ **Levington Horticulture** announced a special autumn promotion on the combined turf fungicide and casting worm control product Turfclear (containing carbendazim) at the show.

For a 20 litre purchase of Turfclear – either four x five litre or 25 x 800 ml packs – made by November 30 1997 Levington will supply a free Sony Walkman personal stereo.

The offer comes at a time when weather conditions have been highly conducive to both casting worms and turf diseases.

For further information Tel: 01473 830492

■ News that the **Course Cap** has satisfied all tests and subsequently been awarded the European Safety Standard prEN812 was greeted with applause at the Course Care office in Keighley.

The SATRA Safety testing centre in Kettering approved the Course Cap after more than sev-



eral weeks of rigorous testing. Penetration and impact tests on a large number of caps were preceded by exposure to ultra violet radiation, water and low temperature conditioning. All caps passed in time for the product launch at the Show.



The Course Cap will equip its wearers with baseball cap style head protection, that is both waterproof and breathable.

Based on an original idea by Richard Murray, Course Manager at Sandbach GC, who had identified the need for such a head protector Course Care took time to develop the idea.

As a tribute to Richard's inspiration the deluxe version of the hat – covered in Ventile – is named the Murray. The regular version, the Keeper, is cotton covered.

For further information Tel: 01535 611103.

■ **British Seed Houses** made a number of announcements at the Show including the launch of Aberelf perennial ryegrass, the first in a series of commercial developments resulting from a partnership between seed experts, British Seed Houses and the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER). Also launched was a velvet bent called Avalan which trials have shown to have an exceptional shoot density and fineness of leaf and a new variety of UK perennial ryegrass allied to a Poa supina variety – Supra Sport and Supra Shade.

Among the other developments

revealed by David Hides, IGER's Head of Plant Breeding, was the control of chlorophyll ryegrasses with a non senescing gene which ensures that leaf colour is maintained under low nitrogen status, when disease symptoms are prevalent or in other plant stress conditions.

British Seed Houses began funding breeding programmes for non-agricultural markets at Aberystwyth-based IGER in 1987.

Originally established as the Welsh Plant Breeding Station in 1919, IGER already had a strong track record in research and plant breeding and offered an advanced UK-based breeding facility for amenity grass varieties. The first result of the British Seed Houses funded programme came to market within ten years. Completed in only ten years – compared to the usual 12 to 15 for a new variety – the development of Aberelf highlights the research, breeding and marketing



220A



RZi 700



TURF GATOR



1500 AERATOR



3235A



2653A

OUR QUALITY IS ON COURSE

No one can accuse John Deere of standing still. Since 1995, we've added 8 quality machines to our line. Another strong statement about our commitment to your business. New this year are the Turf Gator and 220A Walk-Behind Greens Mower.

The Turf Gator's unique combination of toughness and quietness make it perfect for the golf course. Toughness comes from uni-body construction and one-piece forged axles. Quietness comes from a large volume silencer, internal sound absorbing material, and golf-car-style transmission.

The 220A is the latest addition to John Deere's quality line of walk-behind greens mowers. 220A improvements include an isolation-mounted engine for reduced vibration, improved operator-presence safety system, and an easier-filling grass box design.

Add superior parts support and our existing line of quality mowers, tractors, aerators, root zone injectors and utility vehicles and you see why John Deere is the fastest growing golf and turf equipment name in the world. Talk with us soon for a first-hand look.



NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE



John Deere Ltd., Harby Road, Langar, Nottingham NG 13 9HT, Telephone 01949 863299 (answerphone)

► expertise which the new partnership is bringing to the breeding of varieties for non agricultural markets.

"Our funding of breeding programmes at IGER harnesses our expertise in seed innovation and marketing to IGER's scientific resources. This will open up wider potential uses for new varieties," explained British Seed Houses Director Roger Saunders.

For further information Tel: 0117 982 3691

■ Indicator is the new spray pattern dye from **Amenity Technology**. It is available in either a liquid form or in water soluble packets for easy application. Indicator can be used in conjunction with all spray tank mixes to highlight the area to which the product has been applied, ensuring a correct application of pesticides and all other spray treatments. Indicator can be used on all turf areas, shrubberies and nurseries and unlike any other spray pattern dyes indicator leaves turf a natural green colour with no discoloration.

For further information Tel 0118 951 0033.

■ The Broadsword, **Hayter's** new high output ride-on rotary machine was unveiled for the first time at SALTEX.

The Broadsword has a maximum cutting width of 3 metres (118") with the flexibility of two hydraulically folding outer decks allowing the machine to be used with a single 1.5 metre (60") front mounted deck only.

For easy transport between sites, the Broadsword has been designed with an extremely narrow transport width of 1.5metres. The powerful automatic 4WD closed loop hydrostatic transmission, with the additional benefit of a hydraulic differential lock, gives excellent stability on steep slopes.

The three fully floating cutting decks have a built-in hydraulic weight transfer system to assist traction and, for maximum utilisation, individually mounted hydraulic motors for each cutting blade. The two outer decks have a built-in "breakaway" system to protect them in the event of accidental contact with immovable objects.

As with all Hayter professional products, easy servicing and



■ **Amazone Ground Care** has entered the zero-turn ride-on sector with the introduction of the Profi Hopper.

A multi-operation machine, the Profi Hopper's flail mechanism allows it to efficiently mow and collect across a wide range of surfaces, from cutting fibrous plants to producing a professional finish on manicured lawns, and be as equally adept working as a scarifier; a one-pass mower/scarifier; a mulcher; or a leaf/litter collector.

Because the Profi Hopper does not rely on vacuum collection, its efficiency in all operations is not impaired by even the wettest conditions.

When operating as a mower/collector, the winged blades, rotating at 3,600rpm, lift and cut the grass – and/or, the material gathered from scarifying and surface trash and leaves – and throw it onto short cross augers running at the rear of the rotor. These move the material inwards to a central auger, which transfers it to the hopper.

Under conditions which require moisture conservation, the Profi Hopper is easily converted into a mulcher by simply moving two spring-loaded, over centre levers to disengage the collecting augers, to allow cut material to fall back to ground.

Operator comfort is provided for by the walk-through platform and a seat adjustable for leg length, rake and ride, which provides a 'bird's eye' view of the cutting head. Additionally, the Profi Hopper's auger collection system appreciably reduces dust – unlike vacuum collectors – and its quiet drive keeps noise levels well below EU requirements.

For further information Tel: 01579 351155.

accessibility are paramount. The Broadsword incorporates the now familiar Hayter hinged operator platform and engine/radiator cover allowing quick and easy access to all parts of the machine.

With its low centre of gravity, compact size and impressive traction system this high output rotary mower offers excellent versatility and performance in all grass cutting applications.

Hayter's professional range of

equipment was "christened" at SALTEX. In a "user friendly" move, the professional models received names to complement the existing combination of letters and numbers.

Taking the names from classic swords, new stylish decals have been created. In addition to the new Hayter Broadsword high output rotary mower, the lightweight triples are now known as Sabres, and the Gang Mowers become

Scimitars. The T44five cylinder mower takes the name of Crusader. Katana is now the fairway mower and the sturdy T224 is the Rapier.

This move has been welcomed and as Kim Macfie states: "We take a great pride in the products we make and the people who make them."

"Just as we wouldn't contemplate calling our staff by numbers we feel it appropriate to call our products by name too."

For further information Tel: 01279 723444.

■ **SISIS** proved itself to have been one of the busiest of all companies on the research and development side of the business with the launch of a host of new products: the Rolasped, the Powacart, the Autocore, the Ferret, the Maxislit, the Tilth N' Seed, the 21-1D Tractor, the Ecospray and 5mm Needle Tines.

Among these the 21-1D tractor (pictured below) has been specially designed for turf maintenance operations on golf courses, sports grounds and sand filled synthetic surfaces. It is a 21 horsepower diesel powered machine with a patented weight transfer system, rear three point lift, articulated power steering and hydrostatic drive to the front wheels in forward and reverse. A range of Sisis implements can also be used with the 21-1D.



The Tilth N'Seed is an economical seeder for all outfield turf and fairways. A range of seeding rates can be used – from as low as 0.1 oz/sq yd – for maximum seed economy. The rakes create a good tilth followed by the seeding unit which has capacity hopper. The rear roller firms the surface to give an improved presentation after seeding.

The Ecospray has been designed to minimise "drift" and can therefore be used in adverse weather conditions. It can be towed or fully mounted behind the Sisis 321, trucksters or pick-ups.

Each of the floating units has a

mesh shroud which is scientifically designed to allow the correct amount of air flow to reduce drift to a minimum while maintaining droplet size.

The Needle Tines were developed from an idea by John Coleman, Course Manager at Abbeydale GC, near Sheffield. The advantage of the 5mm needle tines is that thousands of fine holes are made at a constant depth of up to 127 mm. These allow the roots to go down deep, yet surface disturbance is negligible.

For further information Tel: 01625 503030.



■ The new Hydro 124D, pictured above, is the first mower from the **Etesia** stable to combine rear-ejection, integrated collection and high-lift emptying – the New World Cutting and Collecting System. This is only a part of this exciting introduction from one of Europe's most innovative manufacturers. In designing the Hydrol24D's new system Etesia have drawn on the experience gained from their already successful Hydro 100 and extensive trials carried out over the last five years.

Emptying the grass collector is an important feature of modern mowers and here Etesia have used hydraulics and a parallelogram principle to easily lift their 600 litre capacity grass box to any height from ground level to a maximum of 1.9 metres. As part of the design the entire cutting system is cleared of clippings every time the box is emptied.

The driving position is forward of the engine and above the mower so in addition to all-round visibility, engine noise and exhaust fumes are well out of the way. All the controls are within easy reach.

Optional extras include: three point linkage; RTS lighting and safety cab.

For further information Tel: 01926 403319.

■ Aeration equipment specialist, **Multi-Core**, has added a 2m wide model to its range of tractor-mounted aerators.

Developed to enable greenkeepers, groundstaff and contractors to carry out fast, effective aeration of large, open turf areas the British-built MC20 aerator complements the existing 1m and 1.5m wide machines in the Multi-Core range. All three aerators can be equipped with a choice of solid, coring, slicing, or chisel tines to suit specific turf needs and seasonal aeration requirements. Aeration pattern is variable depending on the specific tine head and forward speed selected.

The MC 20 is able to aerate from the surface down to a maximum 125mm deep, quickly and easily adjusted without tools, on a large diameter full width front roller. Indicator markings on the machine assist with accurate depth setting.

For further information Tel: 01937 843281.

■ **Toro** introduced the Grounds Pro 2000, a ride-on triple mower which can also be fitted with an extensive range of attachments to carry out a variety of different jobs using only the one power unit.

It means that budget-conscious users working in the sports, amenities and landscape sectors, who previously compromised on grass-cutting quality because they found it uneconomical to invest in a mower for fine-finish turf, can now do just that as the Grounds Pro 2000 can turn its hand to a host of other work too.

The list of attachments currently available consists of a sprayer, fertiliser spreader, rotary broom, debris blower, snow blade and hydraulic tipping dump cart. An over seeder and white line marker are in the pipeline. Other attachments will follow later.

Toro worldwide marketing manager for commercial products, Barry Beckett, said: "Our aim was to develop an economically-priced utility product that optimises quality of grass cutting – hence the triplex reel units – and versatility, which is achieved through the use of an extensive range of attachments.

"This machine will provide a new set of customers with a Toro machine that has all the benefits

they are looking for in terms of quality and versatility at an affordable price."

The unit is available either with a three or four-wheel axle layout providing one or two rear-wheel steering. It is fitted with hydrostatic transmission and has a forward speed range from 0mph to 8.5mph, 0mph to 3mph in reverse.

In its standard guise, the Grounds Pro 2000 comes as a triple mower which can be fitted with either fixed head five-bladed reels or floating head five and eight-bladed reels.

To convert the mower for other operations, Toro engineers have designed their own special A-frame mounting system that allows for quick demount and plug-in of the various attachments. This includes the two front-mounted cutting units, while the rear cutting unit remains in position at all times. All the attachments are front mounted.

Toro has improved its popular Sand Pro range of bunker vehicles with the announcement at SALTEX '97 of the new three-wheel drive Sand Pro 3020. The model incorporates major improvements over its predecessor in the stable (the 3000 model), drawn from the top-of-the-range Sand Pro 5000.

The new model is also provided with a PTO capability, similar to the 5000, which was the industry's first bunker machine with this feature, so that operators will be able to use power-driven attachments when they become available in the future.

Toro's answer to the problem of achieving an even cut without scalping on undulating ground is the Contour 82 Deck, a rotary mowing unit.

"Our deck design lets the cutting chambers articulate significantly in two different planes," says Barry Beckett, Toro worldwide marketing manager for commercial products. "This allows the deck to mow areas with undulations that current belt driven rotary mowers simply can't handle.

"Now, an operator can mow with a rotary even in heavily-contoured areas such as around golf course bunkers and greens, not just roughs."

For further information: Tel 01202 295533.

■ **Bailey's of Norfolk** introduced a new range of dressings. Olympian Prescription Dressings have been developed to help greenkeepers plan an integrated maintenance strategy building around their topdressing programme.

An active granulated component is combined with a dressing during the manufacturing process so the control of fungal disease, thatch build up or nutrient deficiency can be incorporated into the top dressing schedule, thereby building a multi-functional dressing programme.

The range includes Olympian Sea-nymph, a seaweed enhanced dressing containing a balance of macro nutrients and a range of trace elements making it an effective treatment for suspected mineral deficiency. Olympian Thatch Eater is a dressing containing a living microbial component selected for its ability to breakdown thatch while simultaneously releasing locked up nutrients. Olympian Inhibitor provides protection against disease by stimulating the turf's natural defences to harmful fungus such as fusarium.

As a BIGGA Golden Key member, Bailey's is striving to set new standards within the turf dressing industry and an "open house" policy allowing greenkeepers the freedom to visit the production and laboratory facilities has helped in the development of the Olympian range.

For further information Tel: 01603 754607.

■ **Ransomes'** new ride-on AR 250 articulating rotary mower has five fully-floating cutter decks engineered to deliver an even, consistent finish across level and undulating terrain.

Designed for high output mowing of golf course rough and semi-rough, driving ranges and general sports and amenity grass, the AR 250's five steerable cutting decks give an overall mowing width of 2.5m (98in) and fold to 2.1m (84in) for transport.

Each deck features Ransomes' twin blade Envirodeck cutting system. The lower blade cuts the grass which is then immediately mulched by the upper blade and blown down into the sward.

Saltex '97 also marked the first public appearance of the all-new range of Ransomes' tractors. ➔

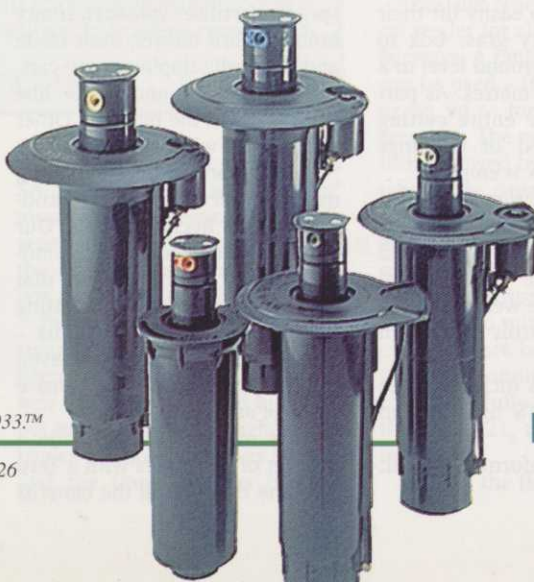


Rain Bird irrigation products conserve water resources for a greener future

*Reliable products
and technical service
all over the world.*



*Central control systems
Impact and
gear-drive rotors
Valves*





► Styled and finished in Ransomes' corporate livery, the line-up encompasses six compact tractor models with power outputs from 18hp to 45hp and a 16hp commercial mower with 48in (1.22m) mid-mounted rotary deck.

All of the compact tractors are equipped with four-wheel drive and power steering and come with either hydrostatic or mechanical transmission, depending on the model specified. The two largest tractors in the range have, as standard, shuttle and creep speed transmission systems, the latter being required for the operation of specialist aeration and drainage equipment.

Being featured at Saltex on the top-of-the-range 45hp CI445 tractor is the first of Ransomes' new ROPS 'Q' cabs which will be available as a standard fitting both on

this model and on the 38hp CI435 tractor. The remaining four Ransomes' tractor models have a folding ROPS frame as standard. Ransomes plan to offer cabs for all its tractors, including the CG161 commercial mower.

Designed to complement Ransomes' range of grass and turf care machinery, the new tractors will be embarking on an extensive demonstration programme after the show, responding to requests from greenkeepers, groundstaff, contractors and other grounds maintenance professionals made direct to Ransomes and through the company's nationwide dealer network.

Also launched was a commercial-duty zero turn radius rotary mower with brush grass collection system. Known as the ZT323, the 1.2m (4ft) mower is the first of its type to be developed and

manufactured at Ransomes' Ipswich headquarters. The all-new machine incorporates a number of features with close attention being directed at operator comfort, tractive ability, grass capacity and noise levels.

The ZT323 has a four-wheeled rigid chassis with the driving wheels at the rear. This layout provides positive traction and good climbing ability under all turf conditions. The use of hydraulic drive to the rear wheels also produces excellent underbelly clearance while eliminating the expensive mechanical drive systems used on a number of other zero turn radius rotary mowers.

For further information Tel: 01473 270000.

► **Miracle Professional** launched two 'Longlife' turf fertilisers with modified formulations to replace the existing

products on the range.

'Longlife' Cleanrun 2 is a mini-granular weed and feed fertiliser for use on outfields and fairways. The 9 7 7 analysis is complemented by a triple herbicide mixture of dicamba, dichlorprop and MCPA. The application rate is 50g per sq.m and the product has a recommended user price of £9-90 per 25kg bag.

'Longlife' Renovator is a mini-granular, triple action fertiliser for use in amenity turf situations with an 8 3 3 analysis. It also contains the herbicides dicamba, dichlorprop and MCPA and 6% Iron for the control of moss. The application rate is 50g per sq.m with a recommended user price of £16-99 per 25kg bag.

For free leaflets on these products call the Miracle Professional Technical Advice Centre on (0870) 603 9146.



The Ransomes 45hp CT445, top and the Ransomes ZT323

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: **David Gillon**
Age: **19**
Club: **Tulliallan GC**
Position: **Assistant**

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?

Three and a half years.

2. What education are you currently undertaking?

None at present but qualified to SVQ I, II and III.

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?

Cutting greens using a pedestrian mower.

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?

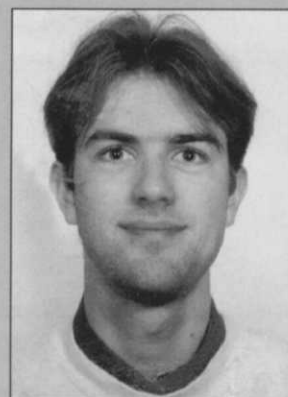
Cleaning and lifting grass clipping piles in winter.

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?

Sports Coaching

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

My Head Greenkeeper, Elliott Small.



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

All committee members should attend AGM and work a week on the golf course.

8. What are your hobbies?

Football, golf and music

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

Magazine and outings.

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

Golf Course Manager or golf course architect.



■ The DR Powerwagon, pictured, is a revolutionary walk-behind powered wheelbarrow from Charterhouse designed specifically for moving heavy, bulky loads with a minimum of strain and effort. The weight of the load is balanced over big, power-driven wheels for maximum traction and manoeuvrability. The operator steers and controls ground speed using a brake and clutch from the rear-mounted handlebars. It is especially suited for use on slop-

ing, rough terrain, and soft ground where it is difficult to move heavy loads with unpowered wheelbarrows, wagons or carts, and in areas where the use of ride-on equipment, including a pick-up truck would be difficult or impossible.

Able to haul-up to 800 pounds the Powerwagon features a multi-speed transaxle, power-reverse and a dump bed.

Four models are available including manual and electric-starting wagons including all terrain tyres, and moulded polyethylene or a wooden stake-side bed.

Charterhouse also announced that they had been appointed distributor for Desert Extrusion products throughout the UK as well as distributor to Redbreast Industrial Equipment for the Fuji Robin Dagger soil ameliorator.

For further contact: Tel: 01428 661222 or Fax: 01428 661218.

■ The Warren Golf Club, Woodham Walter, Essex is this year's



winner of the annual Blazon 'Spray Watch' campaign, receiving the first prize of a brand new Hardi AMK 400 Tractor Mounted Sprayer equipped with state of the art, electric 'operate-from-the-cab' controls

The presentation to the winning club's Head Greenkeeper Peter Hurrell, was made on the Farmura stand by BIGGA Executive Director, Neil Thomas, pictured above.

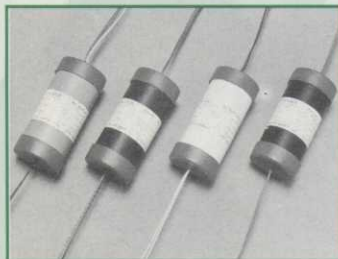
Also in attendance at the short ceremony were Club owners John

and Mark Durharn, together with the entire greenkeeping team from the Warren who were brought to the exhibition in a coach especially hired for the occasion.

Ten runner-up prizes of a Cooper Pegler Series 2000 knapsack sprayer were won by the following clubs: Royal Troon, Bridlington, Sherwood Forest, Naunton Downs, Stoke Poges, Durham Park, Walton Heath, Bristol & Clifton, Royal St. Georges', John O'Gaunt.

ALTERNATIVE DECODERS BY

Tonick Watering



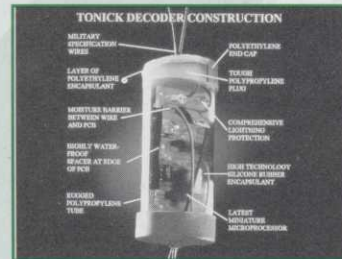
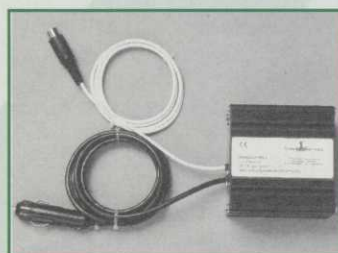
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TONICK decoders will work with all leading controllers – and the range is growing continuously. All types are available with 1,2,3 or 4 independent solenoid outputs.

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Student GREENKEEPER of the year

Eight finalists for the TORO Student of the Year Competition will join the five finalists for the TORO Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping

COUNTING



Jeff Bailey



Steven Nixon



Alan Owen



Andrew Baker



David Ansell



Neil Robson



Christopher Rawlings



Daniel Crowley

The Student of the Year Finalists are:

Jeff Bailey

Jeff is a much travelled man, having spent 13 years in the Army, before leaving to start a career in greenkeeping. Jeff now works as an assistant greenkeeper at the Royal Burgess Golfing Society in Edinburgh. He completed the first year of his SVQ Level II at Oatridge College, winning a nomination for the BIGGA First Year Prize and he will complete Level II in 1998. Jeff, his wife and three sons live in Ratho Station, Midlothian.

Steven Nixon

Steven is an assistant greenkeeper at Wortley Golf Club, where his Head Greenkeeper, until his recent retirement, was past BIGGA Chairman, Barry Heaney. Steven has been a greenkeeper for three and a half years following time served as an apprentice motor vehicle mechanic, where he not only achieved his City and Guilds in Motor Mechanics but was also voted MAA Mechanic of the Year and appeared in a career video. Steven joined Wortley in 1994 as a greenkeeper/mechanic and he has recently completed his NVQ Level II at Askham Bryan College.

Alan Owen

Alan has been involved in landscaping and gardening for some time, working for a landscaping company and in a local garden

The winner of this competition will be awarded the TORO Scholarship, which includes a six weeks residential study course at the University of Massachusetts and visits to the TORO factories in Minneapolis and California. If time permits, the winner will join the two runners-up and his college lecturer at the GCSAA Conference and show in Anaheim California. All expenses will be paid by TORO.

centre. He joined Royal Birkdale as an apprentice in 1995, where he has gained a wide range of experience, preparing the Course for the 1998 Open Championship and contributing to the ecological management of the Course. Alan has recently completed his NVQ Level II, at Myerscough College, where he was voted Class Student of the Year in 1996. Being awarded his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace was a day that Alan will never forget.

Andrew Baker

Andrew has been a greenkeeper for over four years and he has just moved to his second club, Gog Magog, from Bar Hill Golf Club. Andrew is a keen sportsman, playing hockey for Cam-

bridge City, golf and rugby. Andrew has completed his NVQ Level II at Cambridgeshire College, where he won the Barenbrug Prize for the Best Student on his course. He hopes to start NVQ Level III this year when he feels that his Business Studies A Level will help his understanding of the Supervisory aspects. Another finalist with travel in mind, Andrew would like to return to Australia and perhaps work on a golf course.

David Ansell

David is a very experienced greenkeeper, having been Course Manager at The Dyke Golf Club for four years. No stranger to BIGGA events, David spoke at Harrogate during the 1997 Seminar Programme and he is through to the final stages of the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition. Although very experienced, David has recently completed his Level II NVQ, hence his nomination by Plumpton College for this competition.

Neil Robson

Neil has worked as an assistant greenkeeper for three years at Harpenden Golf Club and he gained more experience from working at Dunstable Downs Golf Club during his summer holidays from school. Neil is a keen golfer, playing off 4 and he also plays football, is a boxer and martial arts expert. He has recently completed a "fast track" NVQ Level II Course at Oaklands College, where he

hopes to return, in September for an NVQ Level III Course.

Christopher Rawlings

After starting life as an apprentice in an aerospace factory, Christopher moved into greenkeeping five years ago. He is a keen rugby player, coaching and playing at a number of levels. Chris has a great deal of experience of golf course construction and tree planting, although he wishes that he had been given more say in the construction of his present course, Rodway Hill, now that he is head greenkeeper. Chris gained his Level II NVQ at Hartpury College and he has almost completed Level III. Keen to learn through study and from experience, Christopher would like to continue his studies to gain a degree in Landuse and would like to work in Europe and the United States.

Daniel Crowley

The youngest of our finalists, Daniel is the Head Greenkeeper of a new 18 Hole Course at Blarney Golf Club, which is nearing completion. He also has experience of working at Muskerry and Fota Island Golf Clubs. Daniel followed a course in Amenity Horticulture with a National Vocational Certificate Course in Greenkeeping at Colaiste Stiofain in Cork and attended the complete Learning Experience Week at Harrogate in 1997. In his search for more knowledge and experience, Daniel would like to work abroad.

at the Hotel St George, in Harrogate, on October 27, for what promises to be a very intensive day of interviews.

DOWN



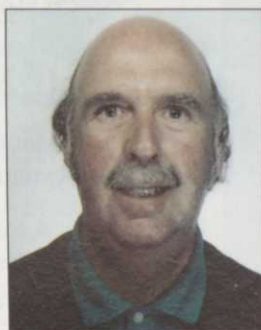
**Tom
Murray**



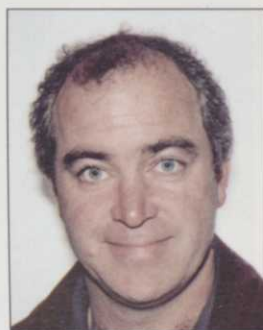
**Philip
Stain**



**Mark
Ford**



**William
Sparrow**



**Ian
McMillan**

Tom Murray

There must be something in the air at Ratho as Jeff Bailey, a Student of the Year Finalist also lives in the area. Tom is the Head Greenkeeper at Ratho Park Golf Club, an 18 hole parkland course, situated eight miles west of Edinburgh. The club is, currently, having a driving range built, a tee reconstruction programme has commenced as has a tree planting programme. Tom is heavily involved in education and after completing his studies at Oatridge College he is keen to ensure that his staff are all qualified. He feels that winning this competition will not only benefit the Club and himself but will also be of great benefit to his staff.

Philip Stain

Philip is the Head Greenkeeper at the Notts Golf Club (Hollinwell), four miles south of Mansfield. An 18 hole heathland course, it has a membership of 400, playing 26,000 rounds a year. Philip has been with the Club for 13 years but he has only recently become the Head Greenkeeper. He is very careful to manage his course in an environmentally friendly way, even installing escape routes for toads to exit deep drains. Philip sees a trip to America as the highlight of any greenkeeper's career and it would make him very proud if he should win.

The Finalists for the TORO Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping will join the Students of the Year Finalists in Harrogate on 27 October. The process to select the five finalists for this competition started back in February when golf clubs, committee members, greenkeeping staff, golfers etc were invited to nominate their Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager. More than 200 nominations were received at BIGGA and all nominees were sent individual application forms. This resulted in more than 40 entries which were sorted and sent out to BIGGA Sections. Each Section selected their choice of candidate and their entry forms were sent to the relevant Region. Regions then assessed their candidates and these were selected:

Mark Ford

Mark is the Head Greenkeeper at Kingsdown Golf Club, which is an

18 hole, downland club, five miles east of Bath. Mark has been at the Club for 20 years and he has been Head Greenkeeper for seven years. This club has 700 members playing 45,000 rounds a year. The club is planning a number of changes, having just bought 30 acres of land. Mark feels that winning this competition would be a major achievement for the Club and would enhance its reputation.

William Sparrow

William (Bill) is the Head Greenkeeper at East Herts Golf Club, an 18 hole parkland course with a membership of 700. Bill, who has been with the Club for approximately two years, manages a team of five greenkeepers who all hold or are working towards formal qualifications. Bill feels that winning this competition would improve the status of his staff and be a reward for his years in the industry. The course has seen many changes since Bill's arrival and he is keen that it should continue to improve.

Ian McMillan

Ian is the Course Manager at Hankley Common Golf Club, three miles south of Farnham in Surrey. This 18 hole private members' Club is a heathland course which supports a wide range of flora and fauna and, 40,000-

45,000 rounds of golf a year. Ian manages a staff of five greenkeepers, and is proud to have provided several Course Managers for other clubs. Ian feels that, although the Club is 100 years old, its committee structure and constitution make it more than ready for the challenges of the future. Ian thinks that winning this competition will not only be of benefit to himself but also to his club, to his team of greenkeepers and to the industry in general.

■ Walter Woods revisited all five courses during September, ready for the Final in October. Each entry was judged on a number of criteria ie. Golf Course Maintenance, Continuing Professional Development, Role in Golf Club Management, Environmental Management and Benefits of winning.

The winner's golf club will be presented with a world renowned TORO Greensmaster 3000 triple greensmower and the winning trophy. The winning greenkeeper will win a two week trip to the United States, visiting the GCSAA Conference and Show as well as trips to the TORO factories. His team will each receive a set of BIGGA waterproofs. Each Regional winner will receive £100 and a plaque to display in their clubhouse.

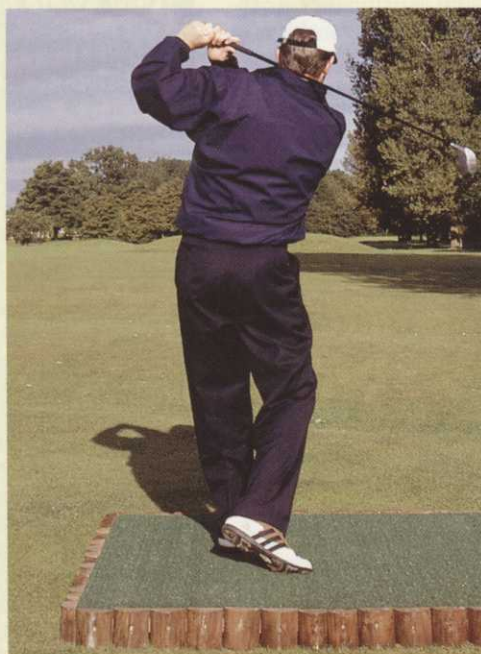
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BIGGA launches two new Sections in Northern Ireland

BIGGA has extended its influence across the Irish Sea with the creation of two new Sections in Northern Ireland.

The move comes in response to demands from existing Ulster members and potential new members who wished to take advantage of the wide range of services and networking opportunities which have been available to members of the 26 Sections already in Scotland, England and Wales since BIGGA was formed in 1987.

The new Sections were launched officially at a meeting held at Greenmount College, Belfast, and will be known as the North East and South East Sections. The former will cover Counties Antrim and Londonderry and the latter Counties Down and Fermanagh. Greenkeepers living in Counties Tyrone and Fermanagh will have the choice as to which Sections they wish to be affiliated.

"We are delighted that our members in Northern Ireland, and hopefully many new members, will now have the same opportunities to attend training courses, share ideas and experience the many social activities that BIGGA members in Sections in mainland Britain already enjoy," said Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA.

Both Sections are now preparing for the IOG Sportsturf Growers NI Exhibition 1997 to be held in Belfast on October 2. Members from each Section's committee will be on the BIGGA stand along with BIGGA staff where they will be available to talk to members and non members and answer any questions they may have about the new sections.

The IOG Show will be followed by a Christmas seminar open to all greenkeepers to be held at Greenmount College on December 1.

Anyone wishing to join either section should contact the relevant Section Chairman:

■ North East Section: Philip Baldock, Royal Portrush Golf Club

■ South East Section: Graham Wylie, Bangor Golf Club

Your final chance to enter our BTME 98 quiz!



MAKE A DATE FOR THE EVENT OF 98

★ Over 175 companies are set to promote their products and services at the forthcoming BTME. Only two spaces remain for sale – so if your company is thinking of exhibiting at the industry's

premier event, call Amanda Mayo on 01347 838581, or you could be too late.

Details of the Educational Seminars and workshops are listed in the Learning Experience brochure in this magazine.

The BTME Gala Dinner will be moved to Hall D in the Harrogate International Centre which will be spectacularly transformed for the occasion. Booking details are also in the Learning Experience brochure.

This could be YOUR big chance

It's the greenkeeper's dream holiday – an expenses paid trip to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. If you're a winner, we'll pay your rail fare, put you up in one of the best hotels in Harrogate and give you a free pass to Europe's most comprehensive educational seminar programme.

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of the three superb prizes is answer these six questions – two appeared in August's magazine, two last month and the final two are detailed below. Complete the form and return it to us by October 31, 1997.

■ August questions

On what date does the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition start?

On what date does the BIGGA National Education Conference start?

■ September questions

Name BIGGA's Education Officer

Name the new workshop

■ October questions

Who won the 1997 Open Championship at Royal Troon?

Which Region won the 1997 Hayter Challenge Final?

FIRST PRIZE: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three nights' accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate and entry to all the education seminar sessions. **SECOND PRIZE:** Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus two nights' accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all the education seminar sessions. **THIRD PRIZE:** Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus one night's accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all education seminar sessions.

Name:

Address:

Send your completed entry form to BTME Competition, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF, to be received by October 31, 1997. The first three correct entries opened after the closing date will win the prizes. Judges' decision is final.



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| Able to operate a large number of implements, effectively | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 21 SISIS attachments plus others |
| PTO drive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydraulic 6spline, 540rpm |
| Low ground pressure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6lbs/in ² footprint pressure |
| Weight transfer system | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SISIS patented system |
| As manoeuvrable as a truckster | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Articulated steering for tight turning circle |
| High workrate | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fast ground speed |
| Tipping body | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Option |
| Low maintenance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimal |
| As easy to use as a compact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> And with all the advantages of a truckster |
| Somewhere to put a drinks can and mobile phone | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Even this! (And lots of optional add-ons) |



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**Optional extras - Hopper cover
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Optional extras - Hopper cover
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- 50 kgs. capacity
Dropspreader
- 0.91 m. wide spread
- Steel hopper with epoxy coated paint finish
- Ideal for landscaping and turf
- For application of powders, granules or grass seed.



Spread pattern
without
trim control



Spread pattern
with
trim control



Uniform Flow



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PRODUCT ANALYSIS	SIZE GUIDE No.	RATES			kg/NUTR/hect*			NUTRIENT SOURCES		SPREADER SETTINGS		
		gms/m ²	kg/hect	bag/hect	N	P	K	NITROGEN	MICROS	LESCO	SCOTTS R8A	AMTEC 50
13-2-13 w/100% Ammonium Sulphate	100	20	200	9	26	4	26	13.00% Ammoniacal N	18.3% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	D 1/2	I 1/2	3 3/4
19-5-19 Spring Starter w/25% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	38	10	38	1.95% Ammoniacal N 12.88% Urea Nitrogen 2.44% SAWSN* 1.73% WIN**	6.5% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	D 1/2	I 1/2	3 3/4
25-5-15 w/50% Nutralene®	125	20	200	9	50	10	30	1.96% Ammoniacal N 12.14 Urea Nitrogen 6.40% SAWSN* 4.50% WIN**	5.1% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	F	L	4 1/4
14-28-10 Seed Starter w/50% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	28	56	20	5.60% Ammoniacal N 2.27% Urea Nitrogen 3.59% SAWSN* 2.54% WIN**	3.4% S	E	J	3 3/4
18-6-15 w/65% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	36	12	30	2.35% Ammoniacal N 5.41 Urea Nitrogen 6.00% SAWSN* 4.24% WIN**	5.1% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E	J	3/34

Premium Fine Turf Summer Fertilizers

22-0-22 w/65% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	44	0	44	9.3% Urea Nitrogen 7.5% SAWSN* 5.2% WIN**	7.5% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E	J	3 3/4
18-6-15 w/65% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	36	12	30	2.35% Ammoniacal N 5.41% Urea Nitrogen 6.00% SAWSN* 4.24% WIN**	5.1% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E	J	3 3/4
21-3-16 w/97% Nutralene®	100	25	250	11	52.4	7.5	40	1.18% Ammoniacal N 1.97% Urea Nitrogen 10.45 SAWSN* 7.40% WIN**	5.4% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E1/2	J 1/2	4
15-0-30 w/100% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	30	0	60	1.87% Urea Nitrogen 7.69% SAWSN* 5.44% WIN**	10.04% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E	J	3 3/4

Premium Fine Turf Autumn and Winter Fertilizers

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

General Purpose Fairway and Sports Grounds Fertilizers

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

* Slowly Available Water Soluble Nitrogen ** Water Insoluble Nitrogen

• Bag Weight = 22.68 Kilos

***Coated Slow Release Urea Nitrogen

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



Abbeydale Golf Club came perilously close to being closed down because of the state of its maintenance facilities but thanks to the club making some tough decisions and some exceptional work by its Course Manager it survived.

We would all admit to having "bad days at the office". Occasions when just nothing goes right. It may be that the photocopier goes on the blink, or that someone says "no" when you desperately needed him to say "yes", or that the boss has a go at you.

In the case of BIGGA members it might be getting into work on the morning of Captain's Day and discovering disease on the 18th green, or finding out that the course's loudest critic has just been appointed Chairman of Green.

Any of these scenarios would pale into insignificance, however, if lined up against the experience of John Coleman, Course Manager of Abbeydale Golf Club in Sheffield.

John's "bad day" involved a lady from the Health and Safety Inspectorate taking one look at his maintenance facilities and threatening to shut the whole club down... immediately!

As it was, one of the buildings had a prohibition order slapped on from immediate effect and the club was given six months to put it right.

Fortunately for Abbeydale the team it had in place to cope with such a horrific "Challenge Anneka" like task was up to the job. In addition to John and his team, the club's Chairman of Green, Jack Copland, is a model for all holders of the position, while the rest of the Board boasts some experienced business men.

The catalyst for what could have been the end of a very fine golf club was an accident which saw a young assistant break his wrist.

"We had previously studied the COSHH regulations and were beginning to become health and safety aware so when I looked at the legislation I realised that it was a notifiable injury. I rang the Health and Safety Inspectorate a couple of days later and they admonished me for not contacting them or sending in the completed relevant forms straight away," explained Jack.

The club had had a health and safety problem over the years and it had been neglected. In mitigation, however, for many years the club had been operating on a comparatively short term lease from the council which inhibited any major investment. The club

Surviving the ultimate sanction

from
THIS



to
THIS



had only obtained a longer lease as recently as '93.

"General amenities were lacking for the greenkeeping staff. There were inadequate washing facilities – no showers or toilets, a mess room which was just part of a shed. The facilities from a machinery point of view were also poor. We were housing what was becoming extremely expen-

sive equipment in barns which were not water proof nor vandal proof. It was a bit like a farm yard."

John took up the description of the facilities.

"There was no hard standing and no drainage. We would wash a machine off but we'd only go 15 yards, particularly if it was raining, and it would be dirty again,"

he explained.

It was these conditions which had led to the accident.

"The young lad was assisting in the hitching up of a trailer on to the back of a tractor and because there was no adequate hard standing it was parked on a couple of cut down old sleepers. As the tractor was backing up it dislodged the support which caused



the front of the trailer to fall on his hand," recalled Jack.

A short time later the Health and Safety Inspector visited and met with John in the clubhouse.

"The clubhouse is magnificent and the offices are the same – computerised, with low level lighting etc and the Inspector agreed that the place was lovely," said John, as he began to describe the fateful day.

"She asked where my office was and I told her it was on the other side of the course. It was a sunny day and as we walked across the course she commented that the place was obviously going places.

"But when she reached the sheds, within seconds she had threatened to close us down. She was horrified. Annoyed beyond belief at the conditions in which we were expected to work and the difference between the excellent clubhouse and our area.

"I'd spoken to Jack before she came and thought that something good might come from her visit

but it had gone way beyond that and the implications of what was happening made it a little worrying," explained John, in his understated way.

"There and then she placed a prohibition order on one of the buildings and basically locked it up. It contained equipment but was deemed unsafe and liable to fall down at any time. She also put prohibition orders on some of the old equipment including the trailer that had caused the accident," said John.

The normal procedure from that stage is that a letter is sent to the golf club giving a time scale in which to get things done.

"In our case they went a stage

further and said that in six months if work hadn't actually started they would close the golf course. It wasn't going to be enough just to have the planning in place," explained John.

"They said it had obviously been like this for the last 10 or 20 years so we have had more than enough time to put it right."

The financial implications of what was involved soon began to hit home and to make it even more of a bitter pill to swallow it came on the back of some fairly hefty investments by the club and its membership.

"We had persuaded the membership to spend the recovered VAT money on a new irrigation system costing around £120,000, while we were also down the road in implementing a major revamp to the course itself with remodelled greens and rebuilt bunkers," said Jack.

"We weren't sure what it was going to cost so in effect we were asking for an open cheque," added John.

"The entire future of the golf club was at risk," said Jack, reliving the moment.

Part of the problem was that so many different bodies had to be consulted before anything could be done.

"There were the planning department, the National River Authorities, the water board, the environment agency, the electricity board, not to mention the conservation groups. None of whom made any concession to the fact that there was a strict time limit imposed on the job," said Jack.

"There were so many knock on effects. We found that to do one thing was going to involve another 10," said John.

As well as having a Board capable of dealing with the level of trauma and a membership with deep enough pockets to cope with the excessive financial demands, Jack was quick to credit another huge advantage on Abbeydale's side.

"We were fortunate that four

years ago the club took on a young, vibrant greenkeeper and without that there is no doubt that we would have been in difficulties. The remarkable progress this club has made in the last four years has to be seen to be believed.

"In the space of a season we remodelled some greens, completely rebuilt 50 bunkers in-house, produced a quite professional video to show members the benefits of an irrigation system – which has been looked at by other clubs, planned and authorised a system – John has a Diploma in irrigation – as well as coped with redesigning our entire maintenance facility," he explained.

Initially the club put the building of the new facility out to tender but the cost of doing it that way was quite prohibitive – over £300,000. So John and Jack, with the help of an architect, took on the planning and implementation of the work themselves.

"We'd saved a minimum of 50% by the time we finished," explained Jack.

The finance was raised by increasing the subs and borrowing money from the bank.

"That way people who join in the future will pay as well as those who are around now."

Building work began in October of '95 and coincided with the work on both the bunkers and the irrigation installation with John acting as Clerk of Works on all three.

"We'd decided we were too far down the road on the other two jobs to stop them and that we would just bite the bullet and get them done," said the 26-year-old Scot.

"It was no mean feat to be perfectly honest with, at times, 25 people all wanting me at once but I quite enjoyed it and it was certainly good experience for me.

We took the viewpoint that we would keep the Health and Safety Inspectorate informed so I talked to them on a weekly basis about what we were planning and

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whether it would meet with their requirements," said John.

He then went on to describe how one part of the job was undertaken – that of the washdown area.

"I told the architect about the washdown area and he asked what I had in mind. I then explained that I wanted a grid system with a false bottom and he told me that from his point of view it was feasible. Then, I went to the Inspector to ask what was needed to meet the requirements and she said I needed a petrol and diesel interceptor and that it would need to be weight rated and have a silt trap'.

"I then had to find a petrol and diesel interceptor. I contacted the council and they put me on to a company who told me the size I'd need for the amount of equipment we'd got. They then drew up a spec which I took to the builders and told them that it was a 600 litre interceptor and that it would need the appropriate room. That was how it worked."

Other problems were that the facility was the furthestmost point from the clubhouse, the highest point of the club and also the wettest.

"We had tremendous problems with drainage and by necessity we couldn't just race on because

we had to keep involving people like the NRA," said Jack.

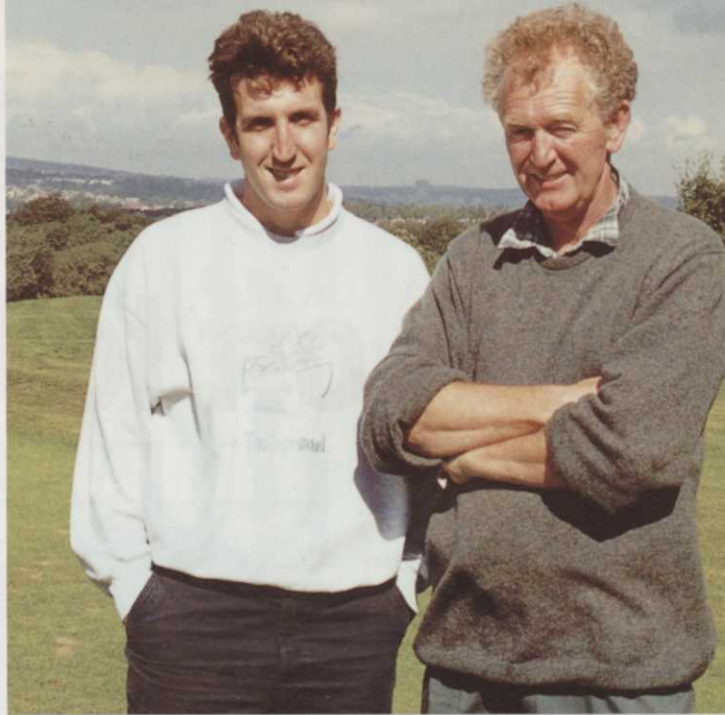
With no services to the area and all other avenues explored – soakaways etc a sewage treatment plant had to be installed which again involved the NRA, who then did tests and a huge questionnaire then had to be completed before it could proceed.

"We fitted the sewage plant ourselves and it has worked very well but it shows some of the problems we were hitting. Everything we did seem to produce problems," said John, ruefully.

By January '96 – the deadline imposed – the Health and Safety Inspectorate was satisfied and the threat of closure was removed and by April the first phase was completed and by October the temporary accommodation block has been installed. With the financial demands on the membership becoming increasing excessive it was decided to put a hold on the permanent accommodation for three or four years.

"In many respects we are fortunate because we're over it now and, while we are still paying, we won't have to consider the problem again.

"It is a difficult one for most clubs because it is an area you can forget and the average mem-



ber is accustomed to cheap golf.

"One asked me recently what the health and safety has got to do with the golf club as we weren't a factory.

"Golf clubs and their memberships are out of touch, one or two generations behind the times when it comes to their golf club," said Jack.

"As club members we are all landlords on an estate and we have a duty of care as landlords whether we go on that piece of land during our round or not. We are responsible for the woodland, the wildlife, boundaries and hedgerows. It is a concept we have to get over to the membership that when they become members of a private club they accept responsibility for the

whole structure and are not just there to play golf," Jack continued.

Back on the subject of Health and Safety Jack is convinced that had the unfortunate accident not taken place the club would still be where it was two years ago.

"We did ask why other clubs had not been examined and the Inspector said it was just that they hadn't got round to them yet," said Jack.

Abbeylea is by no means unique.

The original facilities, although bad, are those still seen at many other golf clubs up and down the country and before long you can be sure that those clubs are going to be hit with the same demands as Abbeylea.

Finding our own way of tackling aeration

When taking over the running of any new golf course there will inevitably be concepts in greens management which differ from those of previous persons in charge and as such new methodologies will have to be implemented to achieve these goals.

The problems I faced at Abbeylea were generally those being faced by many courses built of that era (early 1900s). Greens built with indigenous soil, no drainage system or drains which were dysfunctional and predominantly annual meadow grass dominant.

Although numerous management practices were used to alleviate this problem, the main source of success in the transformation of the greens has

been aeration.

In order to gain the most benefit from aeration it is important to aerate during the summer months ie when the grass plant is active. However, as this is also the height of the golfing season the primary objective of producing a smooth putting surface may be compromised. The old adage of sometimes having to go back to go forward bears little weight with golf club committees who are none too enamoured at the prospect of bombarding greens with holes throughout the golfing season. I, then, had to find a method of achieving this with little or no disruption to the putting surface. This simply boiled down to the working width of the tine, the thicker the tine the larger the entry hole,

the greater the surrounding displacement of compaction will be and the longer the recovery time of the green surface.

All this sounds fairly straightforward, and it is, but when broaching the subject with equipment manufacturers their response was hesitant to say the least. We have all at some stage thought that our ideas were good but have not been able to take them further. Fortunately being in Sheffield the expertise in steel manufacturing was close at hand and I was able to put forward my ideas, I basically invited a metallurgist from a local firm to look at the problems I was faced with, explained to him my requirements and asked if it were possible to meet them.

Over a period of nearly three

years with much trial and error we have now perfected a tine of only 4 mm in diameter capable of punching to a depth of over five and a half inches. Used with two leading manufacturers machines, each producing about 400,000 holes per green the results have been no less than excellent. Sward density has improved enormously and unless they witness the machine on the green, golfers are totally oblivious to the fact the greens have been tined at all.

It is rewarding to know that the two leading manufacturers of aeration equipment are now producing this tine for use on their machines – hope at least that sometimes large companies do listen to our requirements!

John Coleman

Here is a unique chance for you to win one of ten newly designed Course Caps exclusively embroidered with the BIGGA logo. Simply study the three questions and insert a tick in the box that you think contains the correct answer. Entries should be sent to: The Sales and Marketing Department, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF to arrive no later than 21 November 1997.

Caps off to Course Care!

The launch of the Course Cap at SALTEX '97 brings comfortable head protection to the turf maintenance sector. Following requests from greenkeepers for an approved alternative to the uncomfortable, cold and heavy builder's helmet when working, Course Care have developed the Course Cap.

The Course Cap is certificated to European Safety standard prEN812. This standard covers safety items for use in areas where the head is likely to come into contact with hard surfaces. Special attention has been given to protection from flying objects such as golf balls. Testing of the Course Cap involved conditioning by water immersion, ultra-violet radiation, and in sub-zero temperatures.



Research undertaken in the development of the Course Cap showed that over 34,000 people

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Please note, the Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The winners will be the first ten correct entries to be drawn after the closing date. Greenkeeper International reserves the right to publish details and photographs of winners. No purchase necessary, file copies of the magazine are available from BIGGA Headquarters upon request. Entries also accepted on plain paper.



By Tony Rees MIOSH

This month we are going to look at Health & Safety (Consultation With Employees) Regulations 1996.

Specific provisions requiring employers to consult with employees on matters of health and safety are contained in four pieces of legislation:

■ The Health & Safety At Work Act 1974

■ Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1977 (S I No 500)

■ Management of Health & Safety At Work Regulations 1992 (S I No 2051)

■ Health (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996 (S I No 1513)

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ACT 1974

Section 2(4) of this Act provided for Regulations to be made which allowed the appointment of safety representatives from 'recognised trade union' members – for the purpose of these Regulations a 'recognised trade union' is one that is accepted by the employer for 'collective bargaining' negotiations. These safety representatives are required to represent their particular group of employees in consultations with employers on health and safety matters, and undertake other prescribed duties. The Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1977 implemented this particular provision.

In addition, employers have a specific duty under section 2(6) to consult safety representatives on the drawing up and maintaining of arrangements for the effective promotion, development and monitoring of measures to enable the health and safety at work of employees.

The Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1977 detail the appointment, functions and rights of trade union safety representatives, including their right to consult with the employer on matters relating to the health and safety of the employees they represent.

An amendment to these Regulations made by the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992 requires employers

to consult with safety representatives, in good time, on matters concerning:

■ the introduction of any measure that will affect the health and safety of the employees represented by the safety representative

■ the persons nominated to provide health and safety assistance, and assist in emergency procedures (as required by regulations 6 and 7 of the 1992 Management Regulations)

■ any health and safety training or information the employer is required to provide to the employees, the safety representatives

■ the health and safety consequences of the planning and introduction of new technologies into the workplace.

As the 1977 Regulations only apply to safety representatives from recognised trade unions, many non-unionised workers did not have any rights of consultation with their employers on health and safety. This has now been re-addressed by the Health and Safety (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996 which require employers to consult with employees directly, or through elected 'representatives of employee safety'. The roles and functions of union safety representatives are not affected by these Regulations.

HEALTH & SAFETY (CONSULTATION WITH EMPLOYEES) REGS 1996

These Regulations came into

Consultation with employees

effect on September 1 '96 and implemented the consultation provisions of the 'Framework' Directive, which extend the rights of consultation on health and safety matters to all workers, not just those represented by trade union safety representatives.

Duty of employer to consult (regulation 3)

In workplaces where employees are not represented by trade union safety representatives, employers must consult with their employees in good time on health and safety matters, particularly with regard to:

■ the introduction of any measure that will affect the health and safety of employees

■ the arrangements for appointing/nominating persons to assist the employer in complying with relevant legislation, and to assist in emergency procedures (as required by regulation 6 and 7 of the 1992 Management Regs.)

■ the provision of relevant information as required under health and safety legislation

■ any planning and organisation of relevant training required to be provided to the employees under health and safety legislation

■ the health and safety consequences of introducing new technologies into the employees' workplace.

Persons to be consulted (regulation 4)

Employers may consult with their employees directly, or through 'representatives of employee

safety' (hereafter referred to as 'employee representatives') elected by a group of employees to represent them in consultations on health and safety matters with the employer.

Where consultation is through such employee representatives the employer must inform the employees of the names of these representatives, and the group of employees they represent. Employees must also be told when the employer discontinues consultation with these employee representatives. Such discontinuation may occur when: the employee representatives have informed the employer that they no longer intend to represent their group of employees in health and safety consultations; the employee representatives no longer work in the group of employees they represent; the period of election has elapsed without the employee representatives being re-elected, or the employee representatives have become incapacitated from performing the duties required under these Regulations.

Employees and their representatives must be informed by the employer if the employer decides to change from consulting with the employee representatives to consulting with the employees directly.

Provision of information (regulation 5)

Where employers consult directly with employees, they must provide all such information as the



Consultation with employees

employees will require in order for them to participate fully in the consultations. The same applies to employee representatives who must be given all necessary information to enable them to perform their functions and participate in consultations. In addition these employee representatives must also be provided with information associated with the records to be kept under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) where information relates to the workplace of the employees they represent.

The employer is not obliged to disclose information that: does not relate to health and safety; is against the interest of national security; would contravene any prohibition imposed under any legislation; relates specifically to an individual (unless that individual has given consent); would damage the employer's undertak-

ing, or the undertaking of another person where that other person supplied the information, or, that has been obtained by the employer for the purpose of any legal proceedings.

Functions of representatives of employee safety (regulation 6)

Employee representatives may make representations to the employer on any hazards, dangerous occurrences and general health and safety matters, particularly in relation to the matters on which employers are obliged to consult (as defined in regulation 3 above), which may affect the health and safety of the employees they represent. They may also represent their group of employees in consultation with enforcing authority inspectors.

Training, time off and provision of facilities (regulation 7)

Employers must provide employee representatives with

appropriate and reasonable training and other relevant facilities so as to enable the representatives to perform their function. Employers must also meet all reasonable costs associated with the training, including travel and subsistence costs. In addition, the employee representatives must be given paid time off to perform their functions and to attend relevant training courses. Paid time off must also be provided for candidates standing for election as employee representatives, in order for them to perform their functions as such candidates.

Employers must pay employee representatives their normal work remuneration, where that remuneration does not vary with the amount of work carried out, or, at an average hourly rate where the remuneration does not vary with the work carried out. In the latter case if no fair estimate can be made within the workplace then an estimate from comparable external work may

be used. Full details relating to paid time off are contained in Schedule 1 of the Regulations.

If employers refuse to allow employee representatives time off with pay to fulfil their duties, the representatives may make a complaint to an Industrial Tribunal. Full details in relation to Industrial Tribunals are contained in Schedule 2 of the Regulations.

Miscellaneous provisions

Regulation 8 makes some amendments to the Employment Rights Act 1996 to protect employees who participate in consultations with employers, from suffering any detriment or unfair dismissal in health and safety cases.

Regulation 9 excludes these Regulations being used in civil proceedings for a breach of a duty under these Regulations.

■ 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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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

Peter Boyd
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The Scottish Region once again offers its members a subsidised package deal for BTME 1998.

The package includes, coach to Harrogate, entry to all seminars and exhibition, three nights bed and breakfast in en suite twin rooms in the Cairn Hotel on January 20, 21 and 22. Package cost £135.

Partners are welcome at a cost of £100 for travel and accommodation.

For booking form call or fax Peter Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6TA. Tel: 0141 616 3440

From Edna and Elliott Small

We would like to express our thanks to everyone in the Scottish Region for the marvellous gifts given to us on the occasion of relinquishing our posts in the Scottish Region Office and as Regional Administrator respectively.

Since January 1, 1990 when we first started we have been privileged to be part of the growth of the Region and Association, and although it has been a lot of hard work, especially in the latter years it has been immensely satisfying. We feel we have made many new friends along the way and look forward to keeping and renewing these friendships in the years ahead.

There is no doubt in our minds that the Association is good for greenkeepers and greenkeeping as a whole and we hope that the new Administrator, Peter Boyd, will enjoy the challenge as much as we did.

The Scottish Region held its Annual Tournament for the Norrie Whytock Trophy in August at Tulliallan GC. The event was sponsored by Rhone Poulenc. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Club Captain Phil Mawhood and his Committee for the courtesy of the course, the Steward and Stewardess for the meals and refreshments on the

day and also Elliott and his staff for the condition of the course which was excellent, as were the bunkers. I was in just about every one on my way round! Last, but not least, thanks to McKenzie Munro and Rhone Poulenc for the sponsorship of the day. Well done to the North Section and their Captain, Hugh McLatchie, who retained the trophy for the second year in a row. They will be looking for the hat-trick next year so we will all need to improve (some more than others) if we are to stop them.

The results were as follows:- 1. North Section (H. McLatchie, S. Williams, C. Cummings, C. Burgess) 88 pts; 2. Central Section (A. Dunn, D. McAllister, A. O'Hara, G. McRae) 87 pts; 3. Ayrshire Section (H. Diamond, D. Wilson, S. McLean, J. Paton) 84 pts; 4. West Section (J. Scott, S. Bulloch, G. Dingwall, C. George) 82 pts; 5. East Section S. Dixon, S. Crawford, C. Yeaman) 71 pts.

Also in attendance on the day were Phil Mawhood, Captain of Tulliallan GC, Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator Elect and Elliott Small, Regional Administrator. Once again, thanks for a great day and we look forward to seeing you in 1998.

Chris Yeaman

East

First on the agenda was the Willie Woods Memorial Trophy which was held at Kingsknowe GC. We would like to thank the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the course, the Steward and Stewardess, Denis and Dot, for the excellent food and refreshments which were superb as usual. We would also like to thank Course Manager, Steve Dixon, and his team for the excellent condition of the course. Well done lads. Another great day was had by all who attended so if you didn't make it this year try and make it next year so get your committee members along in 1998. The results were:- 1. I. Bell/ I. Corrigan, Glencorse; 2. M. Ewing/K. Raeburn, Kingsknowe; 3. S. Dixon/D. Hastings, Kingsknowe. All three shot nett 60s with the pair from Glencorse

taking it on the back nine. Next year's tournament will be hosted by Glencorse GC.

The next fixture is the Autumn Tournament at Turnhouse GC and the results will appear in next month's magazine. The annual Dinner Dance is on Saturday December 6 at the Kilspindie House Hotel, Aberlady. Tickets are £17 each and B&B is £20 per person. There are a number of rooms booked already so if you are going to stay on the night of the dance you had better contact them as soon as possible to avoid any disappointment - telephone 01875 870682 or fax 01875 870504. If you require tickets please call Steve Dixon on 0131 660 3965 (home) or 0131 443 0235 (work). A large number have already gone so hurry up and get your tickets for the best night of the year!

Also coming up soon is our AGM at Swanston GC on October 29 this year. It is sponsored by Mike Dooner, Thorntree Landscapes, and letters should be with you at the time of writing so let us see a good turnout this year. We have some interesting speakers booked this year - people who we have not heard before so it should be a good day. The speaker on the day will be Mr John McLauchlan, of John McLauchlan Horticulture. He will be speaking on the use of humic acid and micro organisms in fine turf so we hope to see all our members at your AGM. This is your chance to have a say in what happens in your Section.

We are also organising a trip to the new Scottish Grass Machinery Premises in Inverkeithing, Fife. This is a new purpose built building so it is a trip to look forward to.

In November BIGGA will again have a stand at Scotsturf on 12th and 13th. The East Section will be on the stand for some part of the day so come along and say hello and also meet some representatives from other sections.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Elliott and Edna Small who are giving up the position of Regional

Administrator for Scotland to make way for an employed Regional Administrator. From the whole Section I would like to say a big thank you for all the work you have both done for the Region. So now you will have more time to improve your golf! So, all the best from the East Section. PS we hope to see you at our Annual Dinner Dance in December.

The new Scottish Regional Administrator is Peter Boyd who takes over on September 15. Good luck to him and we look forward to seeing you around the Sections in the very near future.

Well that's all for this month, if anyone has anything to say just drop me a line or give me a call.

Chris Yeaman

West

Firstly, could I express my thanks to Elliott and Edna Small for all their hard work over the years. Elliott has been the Regional Administrator for almost eight years and his tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed. I hope you and Edna enjoy your spare time away from the administrative hassles and look forward to playing more golf. You will be dearly missed. Thanks from all the West of Scotland Association members and best wishes for the future.

A couple of things to be mentioned or brought to mind - the date for the annual dinner at the Admiral Bar will be notified in due course along with the date for the AGM in December. A men only night full of entertainment is new and good attendance is looked for on October 31 at the Tally Rand outside Barrhead.

A warm welcome is extended to Sam Morrison, who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Bothwell Castle. This means no more jokes about the North Section! The Section wishes Sam well and I am sure he will enjoy his new position.

At the time of writing this the five-a-side tournament was not played but information will be forwarded next month.

That's all until next month, so if there's any information for the

next issue then call me on 0141 942 5554.

Stuart Taylor

North

Congratulations to Hughie McLatchie, Peterhead, and his partners Scott Williams, Peterculter, Chris Cumming, Fortrose, and Colin Burgess, Forres, who successfully retained the Norrie Whytock Trophy for the Section recently. Maybe if we win it next year for the third time we will get to keep it!

If you are finding things difficult then spare a thought for another member even worse off. Willy Rusk was running the six hole course on Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides when they had to close as a crofter built a house on the 5th green. For their Annual Tournament the members had to take the ferry over to Oban and play over the Taynuilt course there. Rumour has it that first prize was to be an Eriskay pony which had been recently born on the Island!

It's all change at Royal Aberdeen just now. First Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Janice Florence, left to become Head Greenkeeper at Inchmarlo Golf Centre and then Head man Sam Morrison tells us that he is leaving to take up a similar post at Bothwell Castle GC, south of

Glasgow. We wish them both success in their new positions and take this opportunity to thank Sam for all his hard work on the Section Committee where he has held just about every position over the years, more recently as Treasurer and outings organiser. We will certainly miss him. Also on the move is Charlie Mackay leaving Forres to become Head Greenkeeper at the British Petroleum GC in Aberdeen.

Bonar Bridge and Ardgay GC has just opened up its three new holes, replacing three holes that shared fairways. They have land to extend to 18 when finance allows. Also work is well under way at Alness on its 9 hole extension in a lottery funded project with work done by a Welsh company, their first project in Scotland I believe.

Have you got your ticket for the Section dinner/disco yet? Time is running out.

Iain Macleod

Central

The Leven Links Sporting Club is continuing on its world tour of Fife and following the football match against East Fife Supporters Club they have been in action on the cricket pitch at a tournament in Freuchie. This time Stuart Sime captained the team as I think Andy O'Hara is writing a

book about that "famous" goal of his. Anyway, this time they were up again a team of "Lady" cricketers named the Crooked Stumps – or was that what the ladies named the Leven boys? The end result was a resounding defeat for Stuart and his team but all was not lost as it appears that they are the most popular team in the tournament as they have yet to win a match and anyone who is drawn against them is guaranteed to go through to the next round. A video is available of both the football and cricket matches and at the moment Andy is negotiating with Neil to have it screened at Harrogate in January!!

Congratulations go to Section Vice Chairman, Archie Dunn and his wife, Karen, on the birth of their first son, Jonathan. Karen and the baby are both doing fine. Archie is still on Cloud Nine at becoming a Dad and just to keep him on a high he was chosen to represent Scotland in the BIGGA Team for the Kubota Trophy at the Belfry. This month should also see Archie take over as Chairman of the Section so he has a very busy time ahead of him.

Congratulations also go to that man Walter Woods again, this time on his election as President of Tillicoultry GC. Walter has a long association with his home town club and this is a fitting

honour for all he has done for them over the years. He must be busier now than when he was at St Andrews!

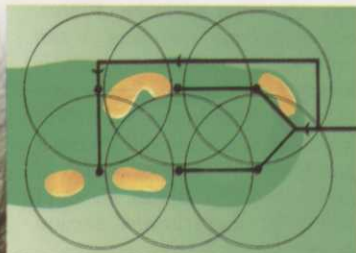
David Leith, of St Andrews, and Stuart Sime, of Leven Links, are the Section nominees for this years Patron's Awards (an expenses paid trip to BTME at Harrogate in January). Well done lads and thanks for the support which you give to Section events.

New members this month are Ian McLellan, Hayston GC, Simon Freeman, Crieff Hydro GC, John Paterson, Polmont GC, and Steven Richardson, Bothwell Castle GC. A warm welcome to the Section is extended to them all and we hope to see them at our future events.

It is intended to organise lectures/presentations during the forthcoming winter months and it would be appreciated by your Committee if they were given a bit more support than in the past. With over 200 members in the Section it gets rather embarrassing when only half a dozen turn up at an event. After all it costs companies time and money to put on a lecture or demonstration etc for our benefit, so come on, let's give them some support in return!

The new Regional Administrator for Scotland is Peter Boyd. Peter is a retired Police Officer

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Around the Green



from Glasgow and on behalf of the members of the Central Section I extend a warm welcome to him and wish him every success in his new appointment. No doubt many of you will have the pleasure of meeting him at some of our forthcoming events.
John Crawford

NORTHERN REGION

Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433



North East

The new knock-out cup sponsored by Carbural is now well underway with the following players having reached the semi-finals – S Cram/G Lauder v M Gunn/D Thompson and D Sharkey/G Baxter v J Surtees and/A McLure. The final will be played on a neutral course.

Clifford Bunn has moved from Stocksfield to Hexham and yours faithfully has left Maften Hall GC to work at Slaley Hall.

Congratulations to Tony McLure, Head Greenkeeper at Whickham GC, who won the Durham County Match Play Championship recently defeating Craig Parkinson, greenkeeper at Slaley Hall GC.

On behalf of the Section I would like to welcome John Barr, formerly of Bristol and Clifton, on his appointment as Course Manager at Maften.

Jimmy Richardson

Northern

We are well into Summer now and still getting good growing weather though some places may be beginning to see their fairways burning up a little.

The Trophy is home! This year's "Roses Match" was held at Halifax GC where the weather was not too kind and nearly everybody ended up getting drowned! Congratulations to the Northern team for a fine 5-3 victory over the North West Section. Thank you to Pattisson's for the valued support towards this event and to Peter Marshall for attending and presenting the trophy on their behalf. Also for providing a new trophy to replace the old one which has no space left for winners' names. Thanks also to Halifax GC for hosting the event and to all the staff for looking after us so well. Special thanks to Mick Harris and his boys for presenting the course in its usual tough fashion

and to Tony Gerrard for his kind words after the meal on behalf of Halifax GC. Thanks to Bert Cross for organising the opposition – hard luck Bert, I think your boys will need a couple of lessons in mountaineering before you conquer the mighty Ogden!

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Section to welcome Dennis Cockburn to the "gnome" of retirement. Dennis retired on September 26 after eight years as Head Greenkeeper at Silsden GC, formerly at Keighley GC for nine years as Head Greenkeeper with three years at South Bradford prior to that. Dennis has been and still is a dedicated member of the Northern Section Committee and all who know him will agree the Section's golf events would not be the same if it were not for him. Thanks Dennis for all the help you have given me in my years as Section Secretary and I hope that you will continue to attend events for many years to come. Good luck in your retirement and I hope the "gnome" business proves to be a lucrative one, as I have been told you have several large orders in the pipeline.

Finally anyone with any news from within the Section please write to me at No 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA or telephone me on 01484 317813.

Simon Heppenstall

North West

In the words of Cilla Black – "Surprise, Surprise!" Once again nobody has contacted me with any news that might be of interest to Section members. I can only assume that everybody is happy with their lot and the population growth in the North West has come to a stand still. Please if you have any news or advice or funny stories to tell ring me and I will print them in the Section news.

The Annual Match against the Golf Club Stewards was played on Monday, August 4, at Saddleworth GC. After many phone calls we managed to finish with a team who enjoyed the day. The course was in great condition and the day was completed with a win. Many thanks to the Golf Club Stewards for organising the venue and thanks to Gary Worrell Ground Care for sponsoring the greenkeepers once again.

The National Tournament as you will have seen in last month's magazine unfortunately came to an abrupt end on the third day due to torrential rain, thunder and lightning. This was a shame because after playing poor golf on the first two days I felt that I

would murder the course on the third day! The course, which was well below sea level, was in good condition even though it must be a very difficult course to maintain with dykes and sluice gates to control. No wins for the North West but there is always next year in Scotland.

The annual "Battle of the Roses" was played at Halifax GC and do the Northern Section pick them tough. I think the course should be called Halifax Climbing Club! The first 12 holes seem to be all uphill with four then dropping gradually until the 17th which is a sheer drop to the green without any fairway. The weather could have been better, the result could have been better (we were beaten 5-3) but the company and the condition of the course could not have been any better. Thanks to Simon Heppenstall for arranging the venue and many thanks once again to H Pattisson and Co Ltd for sponsoring the Tournament and for presenting a new cup to be played for.

The Christmas Competition and Annual General Meeting will take place some time in mid-November and once again all competitors will be required to bring along a bottle in order that everybody wins a prize. Watch out for the details in next month's Section news and if you are playing contact Bill Merritt on 0151 284 4416 as soon as possible.

Bert Cross

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507



The Midland Regional Seminar will take place in the Sturtridge Pavilion at the Northampton Rugby Club on Wednesday November 19 beginning at 9am and finishing around 4.15pm.

Registration is from 8.15am and the speakers include Jack McMillan, on Progressive Greenkeeping; Danny Godfrey, on Breeding, Production and Selection of Grass Seed; David Powell, Northampton Rugby Club's Head Groundsman, on the Development of the Saints' Rugby Pitches; Noel Green, on his experiences since becoming Toro Student of the Year runner-up; Mike Wadley, on Communications with the Golf Club; Andrew Lawrence, Fenchurch Insurance, on Members' Insurance Cover Explained; George Brown of Turnberry; Peter Jones, Budgeting for Greenkeeping and Roland Taylor, on the Merits of a Mechanic on the Greenkeeping Staff.

Tickets cost £25 including lunch and further information can be obtained from me.

Peter Larter

East of England

The Annual Match with our friends, the East Midlands Section took place this year at Melton Mowbray GC. The result was a pleasing draw especially after last year's hammering. Alan Buckley and Sheamus Coggin could have snatched it for us but lost the last hole for a half. The worst thing is the East Midlands retained the Toro Trophy but I am sure we will take it back next year when it will be on our own soil, though the venue is still to be decided.

Thank you to the Melton Club, greenstaff and caterers for their courtesy on the day and for the green staff for presenting a testing course. Results:- (East of England names only) Josh White/Les Purdy – Lost; Phil Wilkinson/Gil Ogden – Lost; John Henson/David Welberry – Won; Alan Buckley/Sheamus Coggin – Halved; Graeme MacDonald/Julian Benamout – Won.

For any information, please phone 01636 626564.

Graeme MacDonald

Midland

On August 12 the Annual Match against the Mid-Anglia Section was held at Harpenden GC. The match was won by the Midland Section for the first time since 1993. A great result! Many thanks got to the victorious team who were as follows; Mike Hughes, Trafford Stonebridge, Peter Richmond, Peter Holtham, David Fellows, Mark Cutler, Michael Bryan and Graham Summerfield. They had a long and tiring day and our thanks are extended to the Captain, Mike Hughes, and to Graham Summerfield, who represented Alexanders Toro, who were the day's sponsor.

For those members who applied to go on the educational visits to the championship courses we now have dates to be discussed at our next committee meeting so you will probably hear from me before you read this report.

We will also be discussing the possibility of sending out voting forms prior to the AGM so that we can conduct a more organised vote for officers and members of the Committee but this will need your commitment for it to have any benefit to the Section.

The results of the Autumn Competition to be held on October 2 at North Worcestershire GC will be reported in next month's issue.

The Section is holding a Machinery Maintenance Course at ET Breakwells of Shirley, Solihull, on Wednesday, November 5, and will include a "hands on"

demonstration followed by a local pub lunch. As a large response is anticipated please contact Andy Smith on 01676 523020 as soon as possible as numbers are limited.

Jonathan Wood

Mid Anglia

Our annual golf match against the Midlands Section took place at Harpenden GC in early August. By all accounts it was a very close match with the Midlands just coming out winners at 7-5. Thanks to all those players who represented the Section and to Harpenden GC for allowing us to stage the event.

Next year's event will be held at a course in the Midlands region and we are looking forward to getting the trophy back!

Our summer tournament was held this year at Arkley GC, on August 22, over 27 holes. As it was held on the Friday before the Bank Holiday Weekend the number of entries was affected with only 25 playing including six trade members.

However, a great day was had by all on a tough nine hole course which was in superb condition thanks to Neil Whittaker and his staff. We were certainly made to feel very welcome by the Club and our thanks for an excellent lunch and evening meal.

It was nice to see the Arkley Greens Chairman, Mr Munro, playing in the event as well as Peter Larter, our Regional Administrator.

After 9 holes in the morning and 18 in the afternoon, the results were as follows:- 1. Jon Moorhouse, Bocket Hall GC; 2. Neil Whittaker, Arkley GC; 3. Gavin Simkins, Mount Pleasant GC; Best am - Eddie Thomson, Berkhamstead GC; Best pm - Jason Hatton, Bocket Hall GC; Longest Drive - D. Munro, Arkley GC Greens Chairman; Nearest the Pin - Eddie Thomson, Berkhamstead GC; Trade Prize - David Hawkins, Patterson.

Our thanks to Mike Franklin, from Boughton Loam, for once again sponsoring the event, and to all the other trade members for their support.

Our next golf event is at South Beds GC on October 23. This will be 18 holes followed by the AGM. Entries should be in the by the time you read this! If any Section member has any business to raise or members to nominate for the Committee, could they make sure this is put in writing beforehand and sent to Gerald Bruce, our Secretary.

Our Regional Seminar is being held much closer to home this year in Northampton on Wednes-

day November 19. The programme is packed with interesting speakers and topics including Jack McMillan and George Brown from Turnberry so please make every effort to support the event. Paul Lockett

East Midlands

The Section was again successful in retaining the Toro Shield held this year at Melton Mowbray on August 20.

Despite a spirited performance from the East of England Section the match was halved 2 1/2 pts - 2 1/2 so the Section retain the trophy as previous winners. I would like to thank Melton Mowbray GC for courtesy of their fine course and for providing us with an excellent meal.

Our thanks also go to the sponsor for the day, Chandler's. The unfortunate setback was that one member of the Section failed to turn up which meant that Jeff Dickinson had no partner. Despite a sterling performance from Jeff he was not quite able to win his match.

The other eight members to represent the Section were Steve Goode, Adie Porter, Ian Needham, Roger Willars, Antony Bindley, Martin Smith, Jamie Bedford and David James. Nearest the pin on the 14th was won by Steve Goode. Next year's fixture will be hosted in the East of England Section.

This year's AGM will be held at Greatham Valley GC at 4.30 pm. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend the day which starts at 10.30am with a Texas Scramble Golf Tournament and concludes with an evening meal.

All members should have received their entry forms for the AGM and Christmas Tournament, if you have not then please contact me.

At the BIGGA National Tournament the Section was represented by Richard Barker, Ian Needham and Roger Willars. Despite only two days of golf due to some appalling weather conditions Richard and Roger were still able to come home with a prize each.

Finally if anybody has any information that they would like to see in this column then please give me a ring.

Antony Bindley

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956



East Anglia

The Autumn Trophy was played for at the Yarmouth and Caister GC, on August 13, and a good turnout ensured that an enjoyable ➔



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Around the Green



afternoons golf was had. In the very hot and dry conditions some reasonable scores were returned, this being a reflection of the well prepared course which was in fine condition. The lack of a sea breeze may well have helped too, what a nice change from our previous seaside experience back in June. During the evening meal a thunder storm rumbled its time away overhead and the heavens opened giving a small bit of relief to the plant life on the course and no doubt everyone was hoping it was doing the same at their own respective courses.

The Secretary thanked David Holmes, Yarmouth's Head Greenkeeper, and his team for the presentation of the course and then welcomed Mr I. Boon, the Captain, who then presented the prizes. Results:- Overall winner – E. Hart, 38 pts. 1-9 handicap: 1. R. Whiting, 398 pts; 2. P. Howard, 36 pts; 3. Clark, 35 pts. 10-18 handicap: 1. G. McHugh, 37 pts; 2. I. Willet, 32 pts; 3. J. Seisun, 32 pts. 19-28 handicap: 1. E. Hart, 38 pts; 2. S. Curtis, 36 pts; 3. T. Huddleston, 34 pts. Guest and Trade prize – J. Humphreys. Loo seat – J. Holliday, 15 pts.

Thanks to the trade for their generosity in giving prizes – Collier's Turf Care, Miracle Professional, Rigby Taylor, Rushbrook & Sons, Patisson's and SISIS.

The day was a memorable one for J. Timms who on the day started off fine as he scored well apparently for 17 points from the first seven holes. I write this just to make sure he remembers that part of the day as then he was struck on the head by a stray golf ball and was poleaxed. An ambulance was required on the course which took him to hospital. I believe he was later okay but with stitches to his head and one hell of a headache. The banter in the clubhouse, as you could imagine, was whether he should have been disqualified for leaving the course part way through a competition or failing to sign his card! But seriously we are all pleased that you are ok and hope the bump has gone down by now.

Bury St Edmunds GC retained the West Suffolk Greenkeepers' Challenge for the Atterton and Ellis/Toro Trophy. S. Millard, M. Mison and J. Seisun won the competition by just one Stableford point over Haverhill scoring 353 and 352 respectfully. Following a three course meal at the last

venue, Newmarket, John Humphreys, of Atterton and Ellis Grinders, who sponsored the prizes, made the presentation in the company of Tim Townsend and Andrew Humble, of Toro UK, who sponsored the meal. Thanks to them for all their support and to all the staff at Newmarket GC, to Rob Boyce and his team for the great course and to the kitchen and bar staff for their hospitality and wonderful food.

Some 50 greenkeepers attended Collier's Turfcare Golf Day, at Ely City GC, on August 21. It was a fine day and a very enjoyable occasion made possible by Andrew, Lee and Darren, of Collier's, along with Mommersteeg International, Miracle Professional, Barenbrug Seed, Amenity Technology, Vitax and Supaturf who sponsored various prizes. Thanks to Kevin and his band of greenkeepers for preparing the course for us. The prizes were shared pretty well around the Plummer household as is seen in the results:- 1. Richard Plummer; 2. Roger Plummer; 3. Chris Slimm; 4. Kevin Bunn; 5. Stuart Plummer.

Our next Section Meeting will be at Gog Magog GC, on Thursday, October 9, and the Christmas Meeting is at Thorpness on Wednesday, December 10. The format for this day will be a Texas Scramble in the morning followed by lunch and the AGM. All members are welcome to any event and if you did not elect to receive entry forms for events or maybe are just not getting them for some reason but would like to attend any of the competitions or the AGM then please ring the Secretary Ian Willet on 01728 452759 or Stephen Millard on 01284 725515 for more information.

Stephen Millard

Kent

Our Summer Tournament was played at West Malling GC on a sunny, warm day. The course was in great condition despite being short staffed – well done Bryn and the lads. Our sponsor for the day was Rigby Taylor and the results were as follows:- Nett: 1. J Cocker; 2. L Sayers; 3. S Jones. Gross: 1. N Gillham; 2. J Duncan. Trade Prize: G Oglivie. Many thanks to West Malling and to Rigby Taylor for the excellent prizes.

In August we tried something different in the shape of a green-some-foursomes at the Wilderness Club. Despite a poor turnout everyone enjoyed themselves.

Thanks to Parker Hart for sponsorship and to my staff for their hard work and to the club for their courtesy. The results were:-

1. R. Lucas/G. Elliott; 2. R. Slade/A. Arthur; 3. N. Gillham/J. Cocker. Guest prize – R. Day/H. Morgan.

Our Autumn Tournament was at Langley Park. The course was in great condition and thanks must go to Willie McConville and Langley Park for courtesy. Our sponsor for the day was Gem Professional and the results were as follows:- Nett: 1. W. McConville; 2. S. Jones; 3. A. Arthur. Gross: 1. S. Suttle; 2. S. Johnstone.

Our next tournament is in December with the AGM. Please attend because we need help on the Committee to organise next year's tournaments. We also need venues for next year, please contact Steve Johnstone if you are interested in hosting an event on 01795 410927.

Huw Morgan

Surrey

Although Ted Stiles is still working hard on the Surrey Section Committee I am sure we all wish him well in his retirement from his day job as Chief Mechanic, Greenkeeper and General Dogsboddy. To think that never again, when I call the Drift GC, will I hear that heartfelt welcome "what do you want!" emit from somewhere deep beneath a thick covering of axle grease and facial hair! Ted – enjoy your retirement

and your golf.

Effingham GC was the venue of the Parker Salver on August 14 and we thank Peter Broadbent and his staff for a course in excellent condition. The results were:- 1. D. Wyborn, Foxhills, 43 pts; 2. A. Freeman, Roehampton, 41 pts; 3. R. Christie, Addington Palace, 40 pts. For the first time a mystery team prize was presented and the winning team turned out to be Steve Johnson, Roger Glazier and John Davidson with 108 points.

The next Golf Day is the Autumn Tournament, 18 holes at Kingswood GC, on October 29 when the sponsor will be Send-marsh Tractors.

Ian McMillan has been nominated by the Surrey Section for the Toro Award of Excellence. We wish him luck, the weather of his choice and a result that will send all Greenkeepers rushing to play at Hankley Common GC.

It is a well known fact that Surrey Section members are noted for their intelligence and knowledge and so a quiz night is in the process of being organised for November. The quiz will be a team event of probably four members per team, answering questions (we hope) on general knowledge and a light sprinkling about greenkeeping – venue to be advised.

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Around the Green



The Turkey Trot and AGM will be on Friday December 12 at the Drift GC and if Ted uses his retirement time practising, he is the odds-on favourite.

We all send our deepest sympathy to Prince William and Prince Harry for the very sad loss of their mother, Diana, Princess of Wales.

Brian Willmott

London

Our Autumn Tournament was held at South Herts GC, in August. The course was in excellent condition and I would like to thank the Course Manager, Colin Hamilton, and his staff for all their hard work. I would also like to thank the catering and bar staff for their wonderful service and to the club for allowing us courtesy of the course.

The results for the day were as follows:- 1. D. Crewes, 42 pts; 2. D. Montgomery, 38 pts; 3. S. Ringrose, 38 pts; Guest - J. Donnelly. The longest drive was won by Craig Handyside on the 18th hole. The results of the King pin

competition sponsored by King's were:- 1. L. Eden; 2. D. Badham; 3. D. Montgomery; Guest - D. Wall.

I would like to thank all the trade for their valuable support and especially Grass Roots Trading for paying for the postage and stationery. I would also like to thank Johnny Beck, from Miracle Professional, for providing the half way refreshments.

Our turkey trot and AGM is next month at Porters Park GC and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Tony Dunstan

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Further details from Paula Humphries.

South West

Call me unpatriotic but as a stressed out Course Manager I would love to see a systematic and complete annihilation of the European Ryder Cup team by the Americans. This is in the hope that it will induce a prolonged spell of depression and subsequent apathy among my members thereby reducing the amount of winter golf to an almost non-existent trickle. Anyway when you read this the outcome will be known and besides such a slaughter would probably in reality simply increase the golf played as my members see a greater chance of making the next team themselves.

Hopefully everyone will be well into their Autumn/Winter programmes and the growth rapidly diminishing by the time you read this and so will be able to think about going on one of the upcoming courses that we will be organising for you in the ensuing weeks. The first two, namely a first aid course at Cumberwell Park on October 7 and a PA1 at The Kendleshire on October 15 will already be behind us by this time but we will be running others as soon as we get enough people together on the list. We have

also arranged a chainsaw course hopefully at Minchinhampton starting on November 3 and running for five days. This will be a very comprehensive course that will include assessment on the last day and if successful the student will be issued with a chainsaw certificate. I think it is important that every club has at least one person and preferably two qualified in the safe use of chainsaws in the interests of the health and safety of the staff and also for insurance purposes. So put your name down for this course, if you cannot get on the one in November we will soon organise another one when we have the demand. The other course that we are still waiting to organise when we get sufficient numbers is one for abrasive wheels. When you realise that these things, if not correctly fitted, can come off the bench at about the speed of a bullet then you can understand that it's best to have your mechanic or a member of staff qualified in the use and fitting of them especially as it is a legal requirement to be qualified before you attempt to fit them.

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Remember the Autumn Tournament at Shirehampton on November 13. This will be followed by the AGM so if anyone has some original thinking particularly as regards fund raising for the Section or would like to put themselves forward for a place on the committee then be there.

Marc Haring

South Coast

Our summer golf meeting was held at the Army GC, Aldershot. The course was in excellent condition thanks to Phil Wentworth and his team. The weather was dry but very humid, so humid in fact you could see the grass growing. By the time everyone got to the 18th we were gasping. The halfway house hole and the three water fountains around the course were more than welcome. The results were as follows:- 1. Phil Wentworth and B Wilcox, 47 pts. Yes, you have read it correctly, we have put it down to local knowledge this time! 2. Eddie Fox and T Curtis. At this stage we must thank the Captain and Committee for allowing us the use of their marvellous course at such short notice and for making us so welcome. Thank you to the caterers who gave us a real treat, the meal was excellent. I will remember those delicious spare ribs for a long time to come. As usual Tony has done a grand job of organising the afternoon and evening's events. The directions he gave us on how to get there were spot on. At least everyone who should have been there was there! Thank you Tony. Let's hope it won't be too long before we pay another visit to the Army GC.

There are still a few seats left on the coach to the London GC on November 6. Anyone who has not given their names to Jeff Drake can still do so. Jeff's number is 01722 503938.

Another reminder for the Regional Seminar to be held at Cannington on November 26. By now you should all have received your entry forms and list of speakers. All entry forms complete with cheques should be returned to our Regional Administrator Mrs Paula Humphries, Truants Cottage, Zeal Monachorum, Crediton, Devon, EX17 6DF. Anyone with transport problems please contact me on 01329 282362. I have noticed a lot of new faces at our section events and I hope to see you all at Cannington.

Pete Lovall who was at Dudsbury GC has now moved to Canford Magna GC. He has taken up the position of full-time Mechanic

and Irrigation Engineer. We wish him well with his new appointment.

BTME will soon be with us again and a coach has been organised for the Region. This will follow the usual route. The cost of the coach, three nights in Harrogate, entry to the Exhibition and entry to all Seminars is £135.00 for members and £160.00 for non-members. This is THE event of the BIGGA calendar. All the regulars who travel up every year will tell you it is a trip not to be missed. It's got everything so get your names down now. The seats will be swallowed up very quickly. All enquiries to Jeff Drake and hurry, book early to avoid disappointment! Ken Lodge

Devon and Cornwall

The Devon Garden Machinery meeting and Section AGM will be held at Woodbury Park G & CC, on Wednesday, November 12. The morning's golf will be of foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lely. As usual the non-golfer's course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30 am. Lunch will be from 12.30 pm onwards followed by the golf presentation and a short Company presentation by Devon Garden Machinery, our sponsor for the day. The Section's AGM will conclude the day. After the recent resignations from the Section Committee and Regional Board of Section Chairman Bill Mitchell and Regional Chairman Richard Whyman with J. Parr standing down from Committee, the AGM will need to elect at least two Cornish Committee members and one Devon member to serve on the Section's Committee. Also the AGM will have to elect a representative to serve on the Regional Board. In the past members have inquired what their roles and responsibilities would be if they stood for office. With this I have drawn up below a brief summary of what is expected from a Committee Officer and Regional Representative. The Section Committee Officers will be required to attend Section Committee meetings (approximately two per year). The Officers will also be expected to attend as many if not all of our Section meetings and will help with duties at these meetings on a rota basis. Our Regional Representative is expected to fulfil the duties of a Section Committee Officer and to attend the Regional Board meetings (usually four per year). Also our Representative should be available to help with Regional events which include the Regional

Seminar, BTME and Westurf. The Regional Representative should also be aware that they may in future be required to serve the Region on the National Board.

I hope the above doesn't put you off from standing for office as you will find great rewards from serving and promoting your profession as I have over the last eight years on the Regional Board.

I would like to remind you that the Region's Annual Seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 26. Also you should all have received details of the Region's package to Harrogate for the BTME show and seminar programme. If you haven't already booked your place for the seminar or BTME package and wish to please contact our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries on 01363 82777. Richard Whyman

South Wales

Our summer tournament was held at the Glyneath GC recently. A reasonable turnout attended this annual fixture kindly sponsored by R S Bird Ltd of Cowbridge. Our thanks to both Roger and Jeffrey Bird for their continued support. It was pleasing to note that among the attendees there were some new faces participating and I hope that they had as an enjoyable day as we did.

The golf course was in excellent condition, a tribute to David James and his staff, for not only has he got his work cut out maintaining the course (it's a grass factory!) but he has to contend with bringing the newly acquired land into some sort of reasonable condition, but please, please cut the rough!

As far as the prize table went it was a case of local knowledge prevailed. Winner of the day and the Birdie Cup was (local man, on his own course, working out his notice!) Daryl Jones with a nett 71 and second nett with a 73 was local hero, Doug Donne. Best gross and winner of the President's Shield was Idwal Morris, the former Head Greenkeeper at Glyneath and winner of the John Duncan Cup was Kingdon's Gareth Evans.

All in all an excellent day was had by all apart from Daryl Bray who retired hurt after losing seven, yes seven, golf balls! Our thanks to all at the Glyneath GC for contributing to the day and allowing us the courtesy of the course.

Our annual match Greenkeepers versus Golf Club Secretaries recently took place over the Langland Bay GC near Swansea. We managed eventually, after some gentle persuasion to raise a worthy team to do battle with the

Secretaries over this tricky seaside course. The weather was super and we found the course to be in excellent condition and well done to Peter Gee and his team of merry men. Again it was pleasing to see some old faces reappearing, hopefully it won't be so long before we see them again! A keenly fought match it was, nip and tuck all the way to the wire and ending with a very friendly half. Therefore the Secretaries, winners last year, retain the Shield. Well done to the Secretaries and their Captain, Mr David Peak for making the day so enjoyable. We very much look forward to doing battle again next year.

A sincere thank you to both John Jenkins and John Weekes and also the committee of the Langland Bay GC for their support and allowing us the courtesy of the golf course.

The results were as follows:- Dennis Jones/Andy Roach v Jim Graham/Dil Roderick - Won; Ray Everson/David Jenkins v Paul Keneally/Leon Adler - Won; David Gladwin/Allan Crichton v David Peak/Ray Howell - Lost; Fred Smyth/Mike Norfolk v Dick Richards/Fred Ireland - Lost; Mal Davies/Brian Jones v Brian Player/Kelvin Housely - Lost; Adrian Panks/Ron Parker v John Jones/John Jenkins - Half; Peter Lacey/Laurence Walter v John Weekes/Ian Donald - Won.

Thank you also to our President, Colin Murphy, who joined us for the presentations and evening meal and who appropriately reminded us of the sad loss this last year of Fred Crossman, former Secretary of Creigiau GC, Secretary of the Secretaries Association and the organiser of this annual event for many years. A minutes silence in remembrance of Fred was asked of before the meal. Finally, thanks also to David Gladwin for his summing up and after dinner speech.

If you know that you will be available to take part in the Annual match versus the South West Section of BIGGA at the Thornbury GC on September 23 please let me know as soon as possible.

The programme for the Regional Seminar at Cannington College, on November 26, has been finalised and details will be with you shortly. Please book your place promptly as places will no doubt be in demand.

Booking forms for the Express Trip to the BTME 98 on January 20-23 are also available. If you haven't received yours then give me a ring. Despite the larger coach, tickets will be in high demand so book early to avoid disappointment.

Peter Lacey



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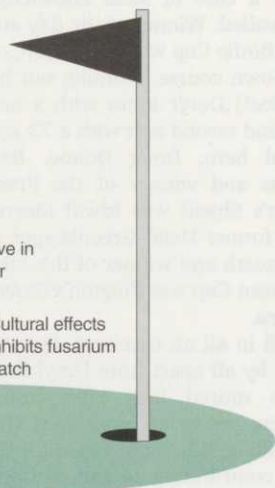
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REAL WORLD TEST ROUGH MOWERS GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

**Hugh Tilley judges some of
the mowers for rough
currently on the market.**

Rough going is getting less rough it would seem, as greenkeepers reduce the length and extent of their "rough" in order to speed play. The word itself now has many interpretations, from grass cut as low as two inches to some which is never cut at all.

Justification for no or minimal cutting is conservation – of wildlife habitat and natural flora, but not all golfers are happy about long grass as once a ball goes in it can take a lot of time to find it.

In talking to greenkeepers about mowing "rough" the general preference for reel or cylinder mowers is obvious, and while my initial expectation was that all rough would be cut with a rotary, the reality is that some clubs prefer to use gang mowers.

In addition, the tidiness requirement at most clubs is against a rotary which can leave the grass on the top in swaths, thus some clubs have resorted to flail mowers despite their greater power requirement and slower working speed.

The advent of mulching or recycling mowers – where the grass is recut and powered to the ground – was not very evident. However, some rotary mowers spread the cut grass better than others and this should be considered. Roller mowers – rotaries with a roller at front and/or rear produce a neater looking finish because of the stripes but this is mainly cosmetic and, in wet conditions, wheel marks may soon appear too. Also cut grass can build up on the roller.

Another use for the "rough" mower is to remove seedheads from the fairway – when these get away from a fairway cylinder/reel mower. Many courses have tree planted areas which need to be tidied so a rotary or flail type mower may be required for this. Unfortunately tree plantings are often too narrow for the wider mowers which are most economic to use

on open ground. Few are planted with consideration for a club's normal operations.

Many "roughs" are on banks and steep land, so being able to use four wheel drive may be essential. Stability and surefootedness is also needed, but fortunately rough cutting can usually be reserved for dry conditions – there is nothing as slippery as wet grass.

The least expensive mower option is usually a tractor mounted and pto driven rotary mower and these are made by many different manufacturers in several widths – from about 1.8m (6ft) to about 8m (27ft) – although few clubs have, or would want, a sufficiently heavy and powerful tractor for the larger machines.

Several problems affect rotary mowers, one is the power required to cut great bulks of grass, as often the machine will not allow large amounts of cut material to pass out of the back quickly. The front of the mower must be lower than the back or power demand increases considerably – often to the detriment of the belts. Mulching mowers also need extra power. Wheel marks are usually left where long grass is run down by the tyres and often not lifted by the cutters, and cut grass can be left in a thick swath which is both untidy and may kill the underlying plant. But in contrast to a cylinder mower the rotary is simple in design, use and maintenance. Flail mowers are also easy to use although their maintenance may be slightly more expensive.

While most options utilise a conventional or compact tractor, there are many purpose built self-propelled out front rotaries which offer specific advantages such as exceptional visibility and manoeuvrability.

Jacobsen gangmower at Broome Manor, Swindon

Prime reason for using gang mowers for the rough at Broome Manor is to keep play moving. The 27 hole municipal "pay and play" amenity

relies on golfers being able to move fairly freely and fast.

Head Greenkeeper, Kelvin Dudley, said that the current set, bought second hand from B.S. Mowers of Bristol, were proving ideal and succeeded a set which had reached the end of their economic life – nevertheless they have been traded-in. The five bladed units are mechanically driven but mounted on a Jacobsen Ranger trailed hydraulic lift and fold frame. Kelvin said that one of the greatest advantages is that they follow contours extremely well. Broome Manor has several ex-highway tractors in its fleet and these are ideal for operating the mowers. A previous wrap-around tractor mounted set had proved less than ideal because the extra weight on the tractor caused rutting on the wet ground, was difficult to remove quickly, and did not follow contours well.

The Jacobsen frame allows the operator to work with three, five or the full seven units down, thus he can cut narrower strips or cut between trees etc, while the full set gives fast coverage of the area. Normal cut height is around 60mm (2 to 3 ins).

Because this configuration of mower has limited demand generally, the price was reputed to be right, especially as the set had seen very little use. To date there have been no reported problems and no breakdowns, and maintenance is simple – just a quick grease round.

Cutting during the growing season is normally carried out about every fortnight, thus there are no problems with a clippings mat left over the ground.

Major two rotor roller mower on a Carraro at Marlborough Golf Club

Marlborough had been using a flail mower/scarifier unit for its semi and attended rough, but this was taking a considerable amount of time – about 14 days, so the decision was made to buy a faster rotary mower.

Danny Dobie, Head Greenkeeper, said that they looked at several options before it was decided that the Major Equipment rotary mower on a reverse drive Antonio Carraro Tigre-trac 3800 (pictured) would be ideal.



Simple costing showed that this combination was several hundreds of pounds cheaper than a purpose-built self-propelled out front rotary, furthermore it gave the club a compact tractor which could be used for other operations. In fact, on demonstration, a greens slitter was fitted and proved that the tractor was ideal for this operation.

Reverse drive, with the mower mounted on the linkage and the driving position reversed gives the operator an exceptional view of his work, and exceptional manoeuvrability, all the attributes normally expected from a self-propelled out-front rotary. The club cuts its semi-rough weekly to a height of about 50mm (2in) while the attended rough is cut about every six weeks to a height of about 150mm (6in).

The mower is pto driven and has twin contra-rotating rotors, two adjustable leading castor wheels and a rear depth control roller. The combination has been in operation at the club since March and during this time there has been a breakage on a castor wheel arm which was re-welded locally, and a problem with a bearing which resulted in it being out of commission for a week, – having to go back to cutting with the flail mower proved to Danny the speed and value of the new machine.

While scalping is almost impossible in some circumstances it is possible to get the side frames to cut into the edges of banks. Cut grass is discharged from the centre back of the unit and no problem of swathing has been encountered. However, in wet conditions there can be some build-up, and dropping, of grass on the roller.

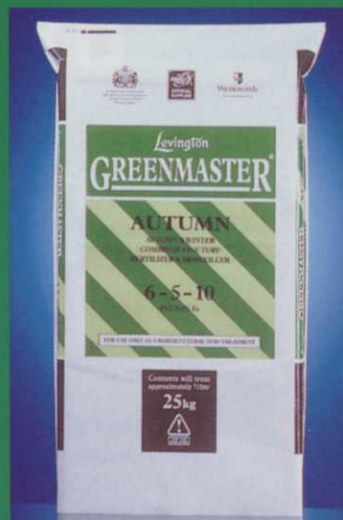
Overall Danny is very pleased with the combination which has cut down the 14 day operation to one of three days. He commented that it would "go anywhere" (the club has some steepish banks), and it is extremely surefooted and safe, but above all it is "fast."

Amazone Heavy Duty Groundkeeper at Ogbourne Down Golf Club

The Amazone Groundkeeper is a pto driven flail mower which can scarify and in heavy duty form as at Ogbourne, it is semi-mounted and has a very large capacity hopper to collect the cut grass or other debris. At Ogbourne it is fitted to a 42hp Kubota L4200 with four wheel drive and while it looks as if this tractor is too small to control the Groundkeeper which has a 2.45m width, Nick Pusey, Head Greenkeeper, said that in fact the only time there is any hint of a problem of stability is on steep hillside in damp conditions when the hopper is full.

In particular, the machine is used prior to competitions as it does produce a very satisfying groomed effect. The normal pre-match preparation is to cut the first three strips

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Amazone Heavy Duty Groundkeeper

round the fairways as semi-rough at a 50mm height and a further four strips at a 100mm height. The machine is also used at maximum height in the autumn in order to tidy up outlying long grass and prevent it going into winter this way. An advantage of the Groundkeeper is that because it has a hopper all the cut grass and debris is collected and removed from the course. Scarifying blades are fitted as standard.

In the 18 months that the club has had the machine, it has required one new belt and, a few days outside the warranty period, the drive keyway on the main rotor was found to have worn out. Nevertheless, overall Nick is happy with it and certainly with the finish it leaves.

Toro Contour 82 at Clendon Regis Golf Club in Surrey

James Watson, Head Greenkeeper, visited USA last winter, saw the machine launched and was impressed. On getting home he asked John Colebrook, of Ian Kerry Machinery, when he could get one. The answer arrived in June this year.

The Contour 82 is a 2.1m (82 in) cut multi-deck out-front machine based on the Toro Groundsmaster 3000D power unit and while it is not cheap, James commented that it does do a magnificent job and it is virtually unable to scalp the ground. He added that some of the rough at Clendon which is a new course is not very level and has significant landscaping. This has made the Toro Contour an ideal machine to use.

The power unit has a 35hp engine and four wheel drive which will take it anywhere. Manoeuvrability is exceptional and the operator has an excellent view of the decks and what he is cutting into. James said that his greenkeepers have found it a very comfortable and easy machine to use.

Semi-rough is cut to 38mm (1+in)

height, using the machine up to three times a week when it produces a very clean cut with minimal grass left on the surface. James expressed great satisfaction with the finish and added that it claims ability to recycle up to 50% of the cut grass. On the true rough a conservation policy to protect the fauna means that cutting is not started until late summer, and then the machine is operated at a maximum height for the decks of 100mm (4in). The bulk of grass, perhaps 400mm plus high, required the area to be cut twice in order to produce good finish.

Since receiving the machine there have been a couple of teething problems with the hydraulics – decks are powered hydraulically – but these have been easily and quickly resolved. Obviously adjusting height takes slightly longer than with a conventional rotary deck, and there are more greasing points to be serviced, however this is not considered to be a major problem.

Wessex RM24 at North Wiltshire Golf Club

Mounted behind a Kubota L4200 and pto driven from it, the Wessex RM24 is a substantial machine with a wide cut (2.4m), three rotors and rollers front and rear under the deck. Bought to replace a narrower and slower machine the Wessex is used on all the roughs at North Wilts as well as occasionally for topping seedheads and stalks on other areas. The club also has a Kubota out-front rotary for trimming around trees and other areas where it's narrower width and greater manoeuvrability is more ideal. The Kubota machine is quick and easy to adjust and therefore it is used for tidying up areas where the Wessex cannot easily reach. Height is seldom adjusted on the Wessex.

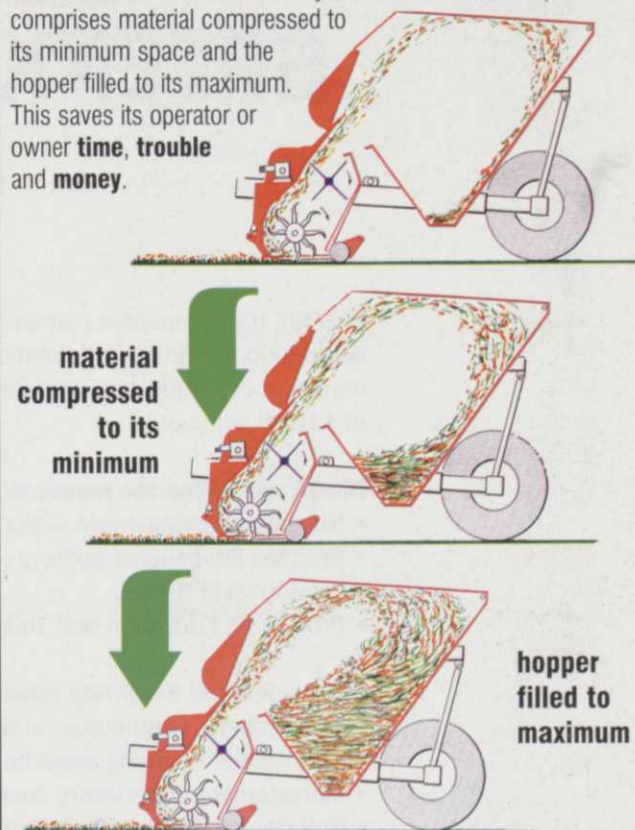
First Assistant, Glen Timms, said that the RM24 was a large and heavy machine, and one which needed the front loader on the tractor in order to stabilise the tractor and add enough weight to the front. North Wilts have also found it important to keep the check chains on the linkage tight to minimise sway. There is a real fear that "the tail will wag the dog", even to the extent of overturning the tractor.

The club has had the machine

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Wessex RM24 on Kubota L4200

since the beginning of the year, and while Glen said that it had caused no problems, on inspection prior to photographing it for Greenkeeper International he noticed that one of the roller bearings looked suspect. No other repairs have been needed, although when delivered noise from two of the rotors needed rectifying by a generous portion of grease – leading to an assumption that either an assembly or pre-delivery maintenance had been omitted.

Because the machine is so heavy, North Wilts have found it important to raise the cutter from the ground before turning, especially where the ground is not flat to prevent the side skids ripping up the ground.

Normal cutting height is about 100mm (4in), however, the machine will take grass which is up to 460mm (18in) high although it is necessary to slow forward speed. Usually the club cuts the roughs regularly before they are more than about 200mm (8in) high.

The cut grass is left on the surface, and while wheel marks are evident, because the area is "rough" there is no criticism of it.

Ransomes Frontline 951D at Stockwood Vale nr Bristol

No apologies are made for returning to Nick Tyley, at Stockwood Vale, for a review of this machine, as a previous visit had discerned its existence and the problems it had faced. However, several months have passed and Nick commented that both T H White and Ransomes had been 100% in their support and have always responded quickly and effectively. This meant that the machine was now functioning well and doing what it was bought to do extremely well. He pointed out that Ransomes went to great lengths to set the machine up correctly for the course and usage.

The Frontline follows a range of Ransomes' machines – previously it was the Rider Rotary T-51D – and it is

a rugged out-front self-propelled rotary with a front deck and two wings – hence it is also known as the "bat wing". The decks are driven individually by hydraulic motors. The traction is also hydrostatically driven and is what Nick called assisted four wheel drive, with rear wheel drive provided "on demand" by a foot switch.

Full cutting width is 2.95m (114in) but with wings folded the 951 will work the centre deck only with an overall width of 1.55m (61in) and this enhances its versatility so that it can trim around trees and in other confined areas. For the operators, Nick said it is a "dream machine", easy to operate and extremely manoeuvrable. Such is its turning ability that it can cut square corners or back alongside a previous cut without shunting and furthermore turning with the decks down does not mark the turf. The official turning radius is given as 430mm (17in) – using power steering and full lock, the machine also has independent wheel brakes.

The 50hp Perkins engine provides ample power and although it gives the impression of being a thirsty machine, it does cut a lot of grass in a day. Stockwood Vale has some demanding banks and it copes with these easily although there are some reservations over its surefootedness in the most adverse circumstances – going uphill, nevertheless it feels extremely stable.

Cutting height is varied, easily, from about 25mm to 100mm as it is used for a variety of parts of the course. In addition to cutting rough and semi-rough, it has the jobs of de-stalking, and tidying fairways after verti-cutting. Maintenance with the possible exception of oil filter changing is rated as 'very easy.'

Stockwood Vale bought the 951 to do exactly what it is doing, without any competitive demonstrations and Nick is quite happy with its ability and versatility. And he is extremely happy with the back-up he has had. He admitted that he was initially disappointed with the performance, but now with Ransomes having set it he is extremely pleased with it, adding that he thought it "would cut anything". But perhaps the most crucial question was whether he would buy another, and the answer was an unequivocal "yes".

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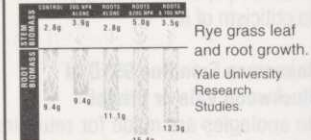


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**The Course Manager, Newbury & Crookham Golf Club Ltd.
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Applications in writing with CV and references to:

**Eric Booth, Greens Chairman, Birchwood Golf Club Ltd.,
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Blackley Golf Club

Applicants are invited for the position of

COURSE MANAGER

Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping, properly qualified and have the ability to motivate and work with existing staff.

Applications in writing with CV to:

**The Secretary, Blackley Golf Club, Victoria Ave East,
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For an 18 hole course situated west of London.

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Please apply in writing with current CV to:

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Leasowe Golf Club

(Founded 1891)

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Applications, together with full CV should be addressed to:

**Secretary/Manager, Leasowe Golf Club,
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The need to analyse a soil's nutritional state is without question a vital tool to good turf management practice. Soil conditions change constantly, and with increasing wear and tear and intensive turf management methods, soil conditions can alter very quickly, often without warning. Without the accurate monitoring of what is happening in the soil, the practice of turf management will always be based on guesswork not facts.

Natural Resource Management Ltd (NRM), based in Berkshire, has been unravelling the mysteries of the soil since 1930 when the laboratory was first set up by ICI. Originally the operation provided independent technical support for the company's Agricultural Division.

Originally better known colloquially by the name of its geographical location, Jealotts Hill, NRM relocated to its present site in 1991 following a management buyout by Michael Eustace and Christine Collins.

This change of ownership, brought about by ICI's decision to sell-off its agricultural fertiliser interests, was the beginning of a major expansion of business in the field of soil analysis and an increase in associated spin-off activities.

Operating on a 10 hectare site the new laboratory complex covers 15,000 square feet and contains state of the art equipment valued in excess of £2,000,000. Opened in 1993 by the then Minister of State, John Redwood, the company's client base has expanded considerably and the company undertakes work for a wide and diverse range of organisations. These include Multi-national companies, Consultants, Universities, Land reclamation businesses, River Authorities, Foreign & Commonwealth countries and companies involved in Satellite mapping.

The Miracle Professional Soil Analysis service provides the professional turf manager with essential information on the nutrient status of the soil and, more impor-

tantly, what is required to improve the balance.

On arrival at the NRM laboratories, samples are coded and set out in trays, together with "Standard" samples of soil to ensure extremely high levels of accuracy. For every 30 soils received, no fewer than 16 chemical and actual soils are used for every sample. The ADAS method of analysis is practised throughout to provide the most reliable estimate of available nutrients.

The next part of the analytical process involves the drying stage. The samples are dispensed into metal trays and dried at a temperature of 33 degrees Celsius and then finely ground to a consistent 2mm crumb. To prevent cross contamination the grinding mill is cleaned out between samples with sand.

From this point, the samples are submitted to a number of analytical stages that takes place in a series of dedicated laboratories, each equipped with specialist equipment to analyse specific areas of interest.

From a soil management point of view, the major nutrients of nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium,

together with magnesium and pH are probably the most important for the well being of turf. However, being aware of the sulphur content in the soil is also becoming more important, due to the fact that sulphur is required to convert nitrogen into proteins that can be used by the plant.

To measure the major nutrients, the dry ground sample is subjected to three different chemical processes to assay the nutrients that are available to the plant. These tests use special extractants and are conducted under tightly controlled conditions in air conditioned laboratories.

The next stage in the analytical process is the test for pH values. A sub-sample of the ground soil is taken and automatically stirred in a container with de-ionised water. This is then measured potentiometrically against two buffer standards of pH 4 & 7.

A computer programme analyses the readings of the test and a print out indicates the resultant values.

To measure for phosphorus, a further sub-sample of the ground soil is measured under Olsen's

method. A Sodium bicarbonate reagent is used and the available phosphorus extracted is then measured colorimetrically using a Spectrometer.

For measuring potassium and magnesium an additional sub-sample is mixed with an ammonium nitrate solution. The resultant extract contains available potassium which can be measured using a Flame Photometer that measures the intensity of light generated by the potassium present. The magnesium content of the extract is assessed using an Atomic Absorption Spectrometer.

Each sample sent into the NRM laboratories under the scheme is tested against known standards in batches of 30. The results of all the samples analysed are retained on record for 10 years in NRM archives.

Of course, knowing the results of the soil analysis is just the start. From the laboratory findings, an advanced computer software programme audits the analysis results and provides the turf manager with a printed recommendation. This recommendation will detail the soils immediate and medium term nutritional requirements in terms of which fertilizers are recommended and what units are required to bring the soil back into balance.

The scheme is already in its eighth year and will continue to operate in association with NRM. Today, the laboratory employs 30 staff, all highly trained graduate material with a focused attention to detail and an over riding desire to achieve extremely accurate results.

NRM currently undertakes a large part of the UK's total requirement for a diverse range of soil analysis undertakings. From Multi-national commercial ventures to Universities providing a few samples for research, from farming groups managing thousands of acres to helping a greenkeeper with the analysis of samples taken from his golf greens.

"At the end of the day, we are driven by customer demand," states Michael Eustace NRM's Managing Director. "We are continuing to invest for the future in analytical techniques, new business areas and international perspectives."

As the saying goes, the answer lies in the soil, but you have to ask the right questions.



Soil analysis under rigorous clinical conditions

not a blast from the past,
more a glimpse of the future

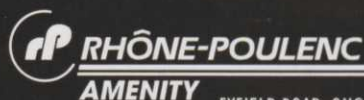


Leatherjackets can cause massive damage to fine turf. That's why you need a pesticide you know you can rely on.

Crossfire was one such product and now it's back and re-invented for the new millennium.

Its special new formulation is super-concentrated for maximum effect to ensure rapid and reliable control of leatherjackets and frit fly at low doses, stopping serious damage before it starts.

Safe for use on any turf type, there's only one sure way to deal with leatherjackets - Crossfire 480 - it's back from the future.



FYFIELD ROAD, ONGAR, ESSEX CM5 0HW. TEL: 01277 301114 FAX: 01277 301119.
CROSSFIRE 480 CONTAINS CHLORPYRIFOS. READ THE LABEL BEFORE YOU BUY. USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.

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Crossfire is a trademark of DowElanco

See Clearly

with Amenity Technology



COLOURANT WSP™

Using Lake Colourant 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 Colourant 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 Colourant'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 1500m³ of water.

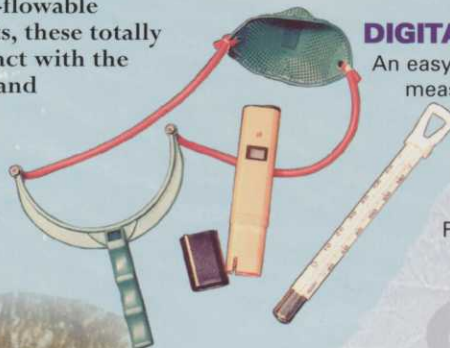


WSP SLING SHOT

The ideal applicator for water soluble packed products to be dispersed into lakes.

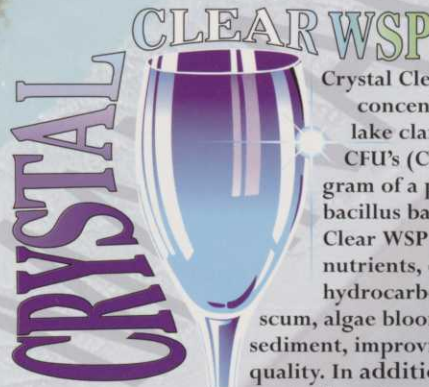
DIGITAL pH METER

An easy to use electronic pH meter for the measuring of pH in lakes and irrigation water.



WATER THERMOMETER (FLOAT)

Floating water thermometer for the measurement of temperature in lakes and ponds.



Crystal Clear WSP™ is a concentrated microbial based lake clarifier containing 4 billion CFU's (ColonyForming 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 odour.

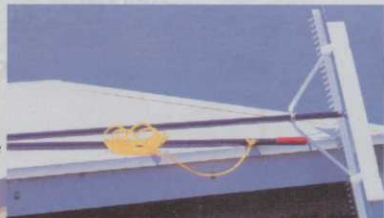
Aquatic Weed Eradicator

This Rake is the ultimate in weed killers, with its 28" wide double-sided serrated edge blade which cuts and plucks all weeds in its path.

With its 11' handle length and brace design is lightweight but very durable and also disassembles for easy storage.

Lake Rake

With its 11' handle and lightweight aluminum construction makes ease of removing cut weeds and algae from lakes and ponds.



The photographs left and below illustrate before and after application of Crystal Clear WSP™

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.