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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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Greenkeeper

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

Editorial

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Printing

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North Anston Trading Estate, North
Anston, Sheffield S25 4JJ

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Greenkeeper International:

Winner of Certificate of Merit in Magazine of the Year
category, Editing for Industry Awards 1994 and 1995.

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Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the
Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content,
advertising or product information that may appear.

Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £36 per
year, Europe and Eire £46. The magazine is also distributed to
BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf
industry, libraries and central government.

ISSN: 0961-6977

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Your next issue of Greenkeeper
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by September 4

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Recollections from The Open

Sitting composing this a mere 50 hours after Mark O'Meara had clinched his second Major of the year the events of Royal Birkdale are still fresh in the mind... if fresh is a word which can be applied to me, the rest of the BIGGA Headquarters staff and the 55 members of the Greenkeeping Support Team. It is a hectic week full of hard work, early starts, late finishes and innumerable candles being attacked from both ends.

For me the week will be remembered for a well deserving winner who displayed the best course management skills and three shots which will go down as among the best ever played in their particular circumstances.

First, Tiger Wood's 35 foot putt at the last to give himself a chance of a place in a play-off. He has a history of making crucial clutch putts and although his putting through the week had been iffy the odds on him holing out when he needed to were to those who knew his reputation, evens at worst. Then there was Brian Watts' bunker shot which will surely earn its place, up there with Sandy Lyle's to the 18th at Augusta and Bob Tway's to win the '87 US PGA as one of the greatest ever played. With the pressure he was under, given a perfect lie, to get it to six feet would have been an achievement but with one foot in and the other out of the bunker the result was extraordinary and would have made him a worthy Champion.

However, despite those heroics the '98 Open will probably be best remembered for a 17 year-old professional-in-waiting who showed that even under the spotlight golf can, indeed should, be fun.

Justin Rose's chip from thick rough short of the green proved that there is such a thing as fate and will contest the title of, "Most spectacular Sign off to an Amateur Career" with the Lamborghini-winning hole-in-one of the Sunday Telegraph golf correspondent recently.

Such achievements are only possible when people become inspired and there is no doubt that the work of Chris Whittle and his team inspired the players fortunate enough to play in the Championship.

Certainly the condition of the course impressed the members of the Support team and the many experienced greenkeepers who visited during the week. The general consensus was that no Open had every been played over a better conditioned course.

The team itself had never looked smarter thanks to a splendid sponsorship deal with Stylo, which saw everyone sporting smart baseball caps, shirts, fleeces and shoes. Also thanks are due to Standard Golf, who supplied rakes, and Hayter who, for the fourth successive year provided a Hayter Harrier mower as a prize for the increasingly popular Great BIGGA Bunker Competition run in the Media Centre.

All these companies help to ensure that, at the biggest golfing event of the year, the work of BIGGA and its members is shown off to its best advantage.

Editor:
Scott MacCallum

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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Roland Taylor has a whale of a time examining the world of the leaf blower.

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Master Greenkeeper Gordon Irvine, has gone down the path of overseeding with fescue at Mill Ride GC with some excellent results.

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On course training has its pluses and minuses. Philip Michael Sharples wrote a thesis on the subject at college and reports on his findings.

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The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team was in fine form at the 127th Open Championship but, brought to a peak by Chris Whittle and his team, it was the course which stole the show.

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BIGGA's Golf Day sponsored by BT Mobile, was a great success with some great fun, great golf, great weather and great food. In other words it was just great!

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Top Golf course photographer Brian Morgan, has some strong views about the use of hazard stakes on the golf course. They are worth listening to.

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In two months Atlanta welcomes the two teams for the second Hayter International Cup and three magnificent courses have been chosen to host the match.

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Dr Catherine York, of the STRI, has noted an increase in the amount of Ditylenchus, and asks if any BIGGA members have noticed any signs of it.



23 In Praise of Fescue



19 Thar' She Blows



COURSE CARD



HOLE	FRONT NINE	HOLE	BACK NINE
1	Ballybunion (Old)	10	Magnolia GC
2	The Belfry (Brabazon)	11	Merrist Wood GC
3	Carden Park GC	12	Reading GC
4	Celtic Manor (Championship)	13	Ring of Kerry G&CC
5	Coombe Hill GC	14	Royal Wimbledon GC
6	Forest of Arden Hotel G&C Club	15	St Enedoc GC
7	Happy Valley GC	16	Sunningdale Golf Club
8	The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers	17	The Wynyard GC
9	Killarney G&F Club (New)	18	Yeovil GC

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A future course is under development to include Farnham GC, Cavisham GC, Royal St Georges, Southport and Ainsdale, Royal Cinque Ports, Richmond GC, Ballybunion (New) and Woburn (New) due for installation this year.



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Boost for Building Fund

E&S Sportsground Contractors/Kestral Golf Ltd held a football tournament at Motspur Park recently for greenkeepers, groundsmen and trade.

The London English team ended up victorious which was particularly disappointing to the London Scottish team who had to sit and watch Scotland's unlucky

defeat to Brazil in the World Cup later in the day.

Richard Veitch, Managing Director of Kestral Golf Ltd, presented George Barr, of BIGGA's Board of Management, with a cheque for £500 towards the Association's Building Fund. E&S will also present a cheque for £250 to the IOG's Education Funds.



Contributing Golf Clubs

Ashton-in-Makerfield GC	Copt Heath GC	Kirby Muxloe GC	Ravelston GC	Sunningdale GC
Banchory GC	Coventry Hearsall GC	Knowle GC	Ravensworth GC	Sutton Coldfield GC
Beaconsfield GC	Coxmoor GC	Lincoln GC	Roehampton GC	Swinley Forest GC
Bedale GC	Crompton & Royton GC	Little Aston GC	Royal Birkdale GC	Tain GC
Bingley St Ives GC	Dore & Totley GC	Loch Lomond GC	Royal Burgess Golf Society	Tandridge GC
Birchwood GC	Dunfermline GC	Longniddry GC	Royal Cinque Ports GC	Temple GC
Bishops Stortford GC	Edenmore GC	Malone GC	Royal Guernsey GC	Tenby Golf GC
Blackmoor GC	Enfield GC	Manchester GC	Royal Liverpool GC	Tenterden GC
Brancepeth Castle GC	Flamborough Head GC	Masham GC	Royal Porthcawl GC	The Wisley GC
Bristol & Clifton GC	Glenberrie GC	Merrist Wood GC	Royal Portrush GC	Thorpeness GC
Bromborough GC	Goodwood GC	Moor Hall GC	Royal St Georges GC	Tidworth Garrison GC
Bungay & Waveney Valley GC	Haberley GC	Moortown GC	Royal West Norfolk GC	Tulliallan GC
Cardigan GC	Haggs Castle GC	Moray GC	Royal Wimbledon GC	Tynemouth GC
Chestfield GC	Halifax GC	Mullion GC	Sandy Lodge GC	Tyrrells Wood GC
Childwall GC	Haltwhistle GC	Murrayfield GC	Scarcroft GC	Uttoxeter GC
Chipping Norton GC	Ham Manor GC	Nairn GC	Seacroft GC	Wakefield GC
Chorlton-Cum-Hardy GC	Hampstead GC	Normanby Hall GC	Sedburgh GC	Walmley GC
Churston GC	Handsworth GC	North Hants GC	Sherwood Forest GC	Walton Heath GC
Clitheroe GC	Hankley Common GC	North Oxford GC	Sitwell Park GC	West Byfleet GC
Conwy GC	Haywards Heath GC	North Wilts GC	Sonning GC	Whitley Bay GC
Cooden Beach GC	Henley GC	Northenden GC	St Andrews	Whittington Heath GC
Coombe Hill GC	Hindhead GC	Pollok GC	St Bees GC	Woburn G&CC
Coombe Wood GC	Ipswich GC	Potters Bar GC	Stand GC	Worcestershire GC
	Kilmarnock (Barassie) GC	Purley Downs GC	Stanmore GC	Worksop GC
	GC	Pyle and Kenfig GC	Sundridge Park GC	York GC
		Ranfurly Castle GC		

Opening of Nicklaus-designed course

Master Greenkeeper Andy Campbell had his hands full on the Monday of Open week with the opening of the new Jack and Steve Nicklaus designed course at Carden Park Hotel, Golf Resort and Spa, near Chester.

Course Manager Andy had to cope with a 3000 strong gallery who had come to watch the inaugural match between the great man Jack Nicklaus himself and former Masters Champion and European number one, Ian Woosnam.

Nicklaus has previously withdrawn from The Open Championship - the first time he had missed it for since 1961- but was desperate to fulfil his commitment to Carden Park.

He flew into the UK on the morning of the opening and, despite obvious discomfort, thrilled the galleries with a commentary and description of the match and the magnificent new course.

Caddying for the big two where Woosnam's Welsh World Cup of Golf winning partner, David Lewelwyn, who carried Nicklaus' bag and Ian Botham who totted the Woosnam bag.



Carden Park now boasts 192 room hotel, 45 holes, a Jack Nicklaus Golf School and a health spa with swimming pool, gymnasium, aerobic studio, tennis course, and mountain bike trails.

Carden Park, built by Kestral Golf Ltd, has also recently taken delivery of £300,000 worth of John Deere equipment.



From the Chairman's desk...

It is with great regret that due to a lack of support the National Tournament for 1998 has had to be cancelled.

This is certainly no reflection on Scotts, who in partnership with BIGGA staff, were preparing a wonderful event at a superb venue but is purely down to the lack of support from BIGGA members.

However from this major disappointment comes the opportunity for us to bring this event into the 21st century and this we intend to do for 1999.

Details will be announced in the near future.

May I say again how grateful we were for the support so willingly provided by both Scotts and the Letham Grange Resort who were so understanding of the circumstances which prevailed.

I would like to stress that any BIGGA event can only be successful with the support of its members and in this regard, members' views are always welcome.

Gordon Child.

Stateside link for Merrist Wood College

Merrist Wood College, in conjunction with Grass Roots Trading Company and Amenity Solutions Ltd, has created a library based computer link to Michigan State University's "Turfgrass Information File".

Access will be available to all commercial greenkeepers or turf managers as well as students at Merrist Wood.

"We do not have a restricted access policy at Merrist Wood. We want to encourage the industry to come in to the college to look at and use our extensive facilities," said Senior Lecturer in Turf Agronomy, David Rhodes.

The computer link allows readers to source or research information about all aspects of the turf world. Entering a key word will produce a bibliography or abstract list of all published work that makes reference to a chosen subject area. A full copy can then be printed off.

"I have been extremely impressed with Merrist Wood's facilities and their commitment to the future of turf grass training in the UK," said Grass Roots Managing Director, Jamie Bennett.



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: Ben Whelton

Club: Merrist Wood GC

Position: Assistant Greenkeeper/Irrigation Technician

Age: 21

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?

Four years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?

NVQ Level 3 and the BTLIA Certificate in Turf Irrigation

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?

Cutting Fairways

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?

Cleaning Sludge traps

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

Always wanted to work on turf

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

Tom Smith, Head Greenkeeper at Merrist Wood

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

A more understanding and closer relationship between greenkeepers and members

8. What are your hobbies?

Watching Chelsea and playing golf

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

A good monthly magazine and an excellent show in BTME

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

Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a high profile course

BIGGA support group

The Midland Region has set up a support group on a trial basis. Because of the many factors involved in forming such a project, it was thought advisable to begin with a trial which would serve as a learning time, allowing us to assess demand and costs before embarking upon further training for support group (members) for other regions.

"The formation of this project comes from the many concerns we have about the high percentage of greenkeepers who are suffering from stress as a result of pressure at work. This often has a knock-on effect, leading to more serious illness, thus affecting families and also places of work," said BIGGA

Past Chairman Paddy McCarron.

"We are also aware that the demands on today's greenkeepers are many and varied and ever-increasing with all-year-round golf. People's expectations at times are too high for the greenkeeper to deal with and because of financial constraints and course limitations and/or poor communications, difficulties build up. It may be that the golf club and the greenkeeper are just not compatible," explained Paddy.

It is also a concern that too many greenkeepers are looking to change their jobs, often for the wrong reasons as many may be suffering from stress during the time that their grievances are

developing. What we are saying is: Talk to us first.

"Our desire is to see more greenkeepers happy in their work and more golf clubs happy with their greenkeepers. We do not promise success - that depends on you, but we are there to talk to," said Paddy.

The service will be totally confidential and the only cost to the caller will be that of the telephone call. Appointments will be necessary if someone wishes to talk in person.

Thanks to A.L.S. Amenity Land Services for their financial support of this worthy cause

Telephone: 0116 2739189 or 01480 437507

A Royal occasion for Chris

Christofer Rawlings, (right) who was a runner-up in last year's Toro Student of the Year Award, visited Buckingham Palace recently to receive a silver medal from the Duke of Edinburgh.

Chris (25), of Rodway Hill Golf Complex, Gloucestershire, was voted top Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance City and Guilds NVQ student in the country after put forward for the award by Hartpury College.

"It was a great honour and quite an experience," explained Chris, who was working at Royal Birkdale with Alan Owen, the other runner-up in last year's Toro Student Award.

"Congratulations to Chris on his wonderful achievement. It really does show that our education system, including NVQs, is working well," said BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child.



Hayter Harrier is voted "Product of the Decade"

Hayter's enduring Harrier rear roller lawnmower has been voted "Product of the Decade" by readers of Lawn & Garden Equipment.

The poll, which was commissioned by the magazine to celebrate its tenth anniversary, resulted in a clear win for a product that first entered the market in 1970.

Now in its fourth form, the Harrier was the trail-blazer of rotary mowers that make stripes. With thousands of satisfied and loyal users over the past 28 years, this accolade is a fitting tribute to the machine's place in

history. Commenting on the announcement of the award, Hayter's Sales & Marketing Director, Kim Macfie, said: "This is tremendous news - very exciting. We have always loved our Harrier model and this acknowledgment is a super vote of confidence for all our staff, our specialist dealers and our customers".

"What is doubly pleasing is that this award comes from the people who really know their products - those that sell them and those that use them. To be recognised for excellence by ones peers, is always very special."

BTME places filling up fast!

Places are filling up fast for the annual trip by the South West and South Wales Region to BTME to the extent that Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, is considering booking a second coach to travel directly up the M1 to Harrogate from somewhere in Hampshire.

If there is space left this coach facility will be available to members from other Regions at a cost of £25 return. Hotel accommodation may also be available at £32.50 per person per night in a twin room sharing.

All enquiries should be directed to Paula Tel: 01363 82777.

Wentworth sign up big deal with Toro

The Wentworth Club has signed an agreement committing itself to Toro as the exclusive provider of both machinery and irrigation products for the next five years.

It is the latest in a series of "big-name" signings by The Toro Company and its UK distributors Lely and Hydroscape with the next two Open venues Carnoustie and St Andrews, as well as The Oval and Murrayfield becoming Toro users.

Wentworth's 54 holes are already irrigated by Toro and the majority of equipment is also Toro but Director and Course Manager Chris Kennedy said that did not stop Wentworth from speaking with other suppliers before committing to Toro this time.

The machinery side of the contract will see £800,000 work of Toro kit supplied to Wentworth in two phases this year and next. Phase one comprises a replacement fleet valued at just over £250,000 for the West Course and a further £355,000 worth of other equipment for delivery this year while phase two, to complete the contract, is scheduled for spring '99.



As for irrigation all three courses already have Toro systems so the new contract is for maintenance, repairs and some possible replacement or updating later of control systems.

"We chose Toro for our first job and we've been pleased to keep with them ever since. We felt more comfortable putting both our irrigation and equipment

with one manufacturer. It's easier to manage, plus we can get a better deal," explained Chris.

"Toro is the only manufacturer that can provide machinery and irrigation products and Wentworth chose us for both because it makes sound economic sense," said Toro's European Sales Manager, Bob Buckingham.

"Brand" new job for Dave



Mommersteeg have appointed Dave Philips to the position of Brand Manager - Mommersteeg Amenity Products. Dave, who was previously responsible for sales of Mommersteeg amenity grass seed in the south east of England, takes on the new role as the company introduces a new strategy for its amenity business.

It will now concentrate on sales through its distributors and, with the exception of a small number of specialist accounts, will no longer handle direct sales.

Scottish National Tournament

West Kilbride Golf Club was the venue for the the Scottish National this year by kind permission of the Captain and committee.

Conditions on the day were pretty miserable with rain forever present. However this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the members who attended and some very fine scores were returned and the course was in excellent condition due to the efforts of Jim Paton and his staff.

At the end of the day the prizes were presented by the

Captain, John Lyon, who was able to congratulate young Barry Crawford, of Old Prestwick GC, who became Scottish Champion for 1998.

Among the other winners were BIGGA Vice Chairman, Elliott Small, who won the Veteran prize.

Prize Winners.
Scottish Champion SGGG Challenge Cup - B.Crawford, Old Prestwick GC Scr 70.
Best Nett Friendship Trophy - I. Miller, Cowal GC, 77-9-68
Cat 1 Ransomes Trophy - 1. M. Kay, Bogside GC, 75-6-69; 2. D. Hutton, Hamilton GC, 77-7-70; 3. G. Morrison,

West Kilbride GC, 79-9-70.
Cat 2. Pattison Trophy - 1. A. McIntee, Bogside GC, 83-11-72; 2. D. Robertson, Newmacher GC, 91-14-77; 3. C. Wallace, Wishaw GC, 90-13-77.
Cat 3. STRI Trophy - 1. J. Bell, Kilmacollm GC, 93-20-73; 2. S. Briory, Wishaw GC, 99-23-76; 3. B. Napier, Retired, 104-28-76.
Best Head Greenkeeper, Dick Aitken Trophy - D. Gray, The Pines GC, 78-8-70
Best Assistant, M&M Trophy - W. Mercer, Skelmorlie GC, 78-8-70
Best Apprentice, Souter Trophy - S. McLean, West Kilbride GC, 78-9-69.
Best Veteran, SIGGA Trophy - E. Small, Tulliallan GC, 82-7-75.
Team Event, St Mungo Trophy - Ayrshire, 415
Trade, Kevin Brunton, Greentech.

New role for Chris Briggs at Avoncrop

Avoncrop Amenity Products have appointed Chris Briggs as Business Development and Marketing Manager.

Chris is well known in the industry having worked at ICI Jeallots Hill Research Station as well as with Fisons Horticulture, Mommersteeg International and latterly Levington Horticulture/Scotts Turf and Amenity.

The appointment has been made to expand Avoncrop's ability to provide professional expertise and quality products in the amenity market.

Best wishes from BIGGA

BIGGA Headquarters staff and all BIGGA members would like to send best wishes and hopes for a full recovery to Chris Cumming, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, at Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC, who was badly hurt in a road accident at the beginning of July.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



David celebrates Silver anniversary



David Rea, Head Greenkeeper at Droitwich GC, recently completed 25 years service at the club and was presented with a watch to mark the occasion.

Prior to joining the club in 1973 David worked for 14 years at the seed trial grounds at Edward Webb & Sons, Wychbold.

In his 25 years David has been directly involved in the many changes to the course and seen the planting of over 2,000 trees.

"I'm proud of the fact that I've served at Droitwich for a quarter of of the club's 110 year history and am looking forward to the challenges that the new millennium will bring," said David.

A familiar Ring for new course?



Ireland's newest golf hole development, Ring of Kerry Golf and Country Club, opened during the week of The Open Championship and lays claim to the title of first quality upland course in the country.

Set in the foothills of the MacGillycuddy Reeks, overlooking the island studded Kenmare Bay the course also has the Caha Mountains

serving as a backdrop. Due to a site comprising bogland and rock, the fairways have been constructed entirely with sand, claimed as a first for any inland course in Ireland.

It was designed by Roger Jones, a member of the Professional Golf Architects Association and an Associate member of BIGGA.



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Watertight seminar in Scotland

Irrigation Scotland held the latest in a series of seminars at Cowglen GC, Glasgow, to give advice to golf clubs considering installing irrigation systems.

The panel of experts included Steve Isaacs, of STRI, the Water Sourcing Design Consultancy, The Lottery Commission and the BTLIA who spoke on their Code of Ethics.

Further information can be obtained from Irrigation Scotland Tel: 0131 333 5495.

Changes at Rain Bird

Rain Bird's Golf Division have appointed Laurent Reinhardt and Brent Thorley as Brand Managers, responsible for the development, testing and marketing of specific new and existing product lines. Both Americans, Laurent will be in charge of all of Rain Bird's satellite irrigations system controllers and weather detection products, while Brent is responsible for the range of golf course sprinklers.

New aerator from John Deere

John Deere's Aercore 800 is a walk behind version of the tractor mounted Aercore 1000 and 1500.

The self-propelled Aercore 800 is designed for aerating golf greens, fairways and other fine turf areas and features an 18 hp Kohler petrol engine with four selectable forward gears and one reverse.

There is an operator presence system with electric raise and lower controls and the aeration unit can be raised manually out of work without damaging the turf. Top speed for transport is 3.5mph and overall weight is around 392kg.

It can work at up to 2123 sq m/hr pulling 266 cores/sq m.

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For further details contact John Deere, Tel: 01949 860491.



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Charterhouse extend range

Charterhouse Turf Machinery have continued their programme of UK expansion with the acquisition of Michael Richmond, one of the country's largest mail order suppliers of chainsaws and other forestry tools, clothing and equipment.

"This is an excellent acquisition for us which fits perfectly into our international growth plan. Two years ago we broadened our product range and moved into mail order with a range of environmental tools, clothing and equipment and now, a single stroke, we have acquired probably the largest and certainly one of the most respected companies in the business," said David Jenkins, Managing Director of the Haslemere-based company.

Michael and Shirley Richmond started their business in



Haslemere 28 years ago and seen it grow to become a major force in the forestry market.

"We are delighted with the deal. Charterhouse have the vision,

management skills and financial backing to take our business to new heights and we are confident that our future is in very capable hands," said Shirley Richmond.

Kubota OAP restored by Evesham College



A 23 year old Kubota B6000 tractor with front loader has been restored "as new" by staff and students from Evesham College in Worcestershire.

When it was acquired by Kubota last year the 12hp four-wheel drive model was the oldest known Kubota tractor in original condition still at work in the UK and once the decision was taken to restore it the College volunteered to carry out the work. The project involved a complete dismantling of the tractor followed by meticulous inspection, overhaul or renovation of all mechanical components and a total respray.

Pictured on the tractor is Adrian Rogers, the student responsible for the majority of the mechanical restoration work.

BIGGA invests in the Future

BIGGA Headquarters staff at Aldwark Manor have officially signed up to the Investors in People Programme.

After an initial series of meetings during which BIGGA was assessed for its suitability and desire to succeed, Investors in People Representative, Avril Jenkins, of North Yorkshire Tech, visited Aldwark Manor to present the staff with their Certificate of Commitment which formally begins the process of working towards the Award.



Swan designs first modern Croatian Course

Fresh from the success of the country's footballers and Goran Ivanisovic's excellent performance at Wimbledon this year Croatia's first modern golf course has been opened.

The Dolina Kardinala Golf and Country Club, just outside Zagreb is 6200 metres long and a par 71.

Designed by Howard Swan the course is laid out in open land as well as woodland with mature oaks and beech. The design features sweeping interlinking lakes and ponds throughout which the 8th and 17th greens lie within one large water feature.

"It has been a wonderful experience working in a new golfing country and the enthusiasm of the Croats for sport is immense," said Howard, who is currently the President of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects.





Helping Mother Nature

One wonders, with such a hullabaloo round the starters box, what Old Tom Morris would have made of it? Every 10 minutes, from 7am 'til twilight, gaggles of golfers practice their swings, proposition their caddies, pose for snapshots, even make a stab at composure while trying to make light of the awesome occasion.

With a phalanx of players hovering, plus the ever-present gallery of local critics, this is as mind-racking an experience as teeing it up in The Open. So, pray for a cracker off the tee - please Lord, let this one be down the middle! But this is not Open week, simply a routine summer day at The Old Course, St Andrews. Come sunset, the sacred sward will have endured another 280 rounds, eight sets of marching feet per game; an army pounding with niblicks unfurled and divots a flying.

Anyway you tally it, that's giving the course a lot of stick. St Andrews, of course, has always been golf's

Mecca; imbibing 600 years of golfing history considered a must, yet it's magnetism serves merely to increase the enthusiasm of Head Greenkeeper Eddie Adams and his crew, their avowed aim being always to present the old lady in her best guise, whatever the season.

This feature is about The Old Course in summer, though in future issues and leading up to the Millennium Open, Greenkeeper International, as part of "The Learning Experience", will cast an expert eye more than occasionally at the goings-on around St Andrews, looking afresh at the New, the Eden, the Jubilee, plus the new kid on the block; Donald Steel's Strathtyrum. Ask Ian Forbes, Links Manager for the St Andrews Links Trust, how pace of play is handled and he'll likely tell you an apocryphal tale. While The Old is not an invasive course - nothing crowded once away from the first - there are huge shared greens,

narrow fairways and an element of intimidation, especially for nervous tyros.

All these aspects, plus some daunting rough, can indeed slow play, yet Ian boasts the average at well under four hours, thanks to sterling work by links rangers... plus some mythical Scottish adders.

Apparently, they're the favoured ruse of caddies, who would rather not spend all day in fruitless searching. "Not a good idea to go in there, sir, got to be careful of the Scottish adders!"

This, so the story goes, results in rapid retreat. Eddie Adams, Head Greenkeeper of The Old since 1995, has only ever worked St Andrews links, proud of a pedigree that comes with having worked under David Dewar for the 1990 Open, plus as mentor par excellence his original boss and eternal friend, Walter Woods. When Walter retired after the '95 Open, each course was appointed its own Head Greenkeeper and Eddie now manages the plum - the high profile Old Course.

No adders need quicken Eddie, though, who explains that summer on The Old is, quite simply, cutting grass; with 26 hectares of fairways, three hectares of tees; the rest rough, in total some 59 hectares on The Old alone. How, then, do they work around the players? Eddie explains; "Well, we start early, 5am in the summer, with all the fairways cut before golf begins. The whole course is cut, end to end, within three hours - greens, tees and fairways - the far end of the course clear by 8am as the aim."

"We're blessed with all the latest Ransomes kit, the Fairway 300s were out at 6.30am, a pleasure to use and such a far cry from the old gang-mowing days, because it was hard then to cut without some scalping. In particular, I like the floating heads on the 300s and the grass collectors have always been a great benefit to us. We started boxing cuttings when we first used the 180, and it's certainly improved our turf, virtually no thatch build-up at all. We use the Ryan GA60s, in the winter for coring, more in the last few years than ever we did before. We do a lot of

All fairways cut by 8am, that's the target at St Andrews





Eddie Adams, Head Greenkeeper
at St Andrews Old Course

deep aeration on the fairways as well, but not in the summer, though we still use the GA60 with solid tines on tees."

So, no spiking or hollow tining in the summer?

"Just some localised hollow tining in perceived weak areas," explains Eddie, "then overseeding, plus microtines on the greens if we're seeing a bit of dry patch." The exceptionally wet start, hasn't that been a problem? "Well, last year was quite wet also. We don't use wetting agents on the course; we tried, but never really saw the benefit. We've had dry patch on a couple of greens, but we find that just spiking, followed by hand watering, once we get the water infiltrating it's fine. We can live with doing just that. But it's beneficial to get a drying period too, because that'll keep the poa from advancing. We've not used the irrigation at all this year, it's been a beneficial time, with irrigation reserved strictly for excessively stressful periods." Eddie's thinking on chemicals is refreshing: "I'm the chemical salesman's worst customer," he claims, "I'm trying to eliminate spraying, next to nothing at all, bent on establishing a pesticide-free golf course." Pressed further, Eddie explains; "I'm trying to anticipate the future, knowing the controls already imposed in other countries, I'm looking ahead so that when I'm told, say, in 2003 that in 12 months I'm to be user free, I'll be ahead of the game." But not yet a full stop, surely?

"Effectively a gentle withdrawal, the last few years down to a bare minimum, used only as a last resort. We've left the rough and most fairways, we practice IPM (Integrated Pest Management), never blanket coverage. Greens were a problem at first, and still are, because with the nature of the turf we're going to have small problems and areas of compaction, it's the way of The Old. We're doing a lot of hand weeding though, trying a lot of other things, verticutting and the like; getting back to a more culturally based programme."

So, what's the score on disease? "Never really had any," he chuckles,

"haven't used a fungicide in eight years and I don't think Walter used one prior to that." So, no fusarium patch? "A small area on first green, very small. It's a damp, damp area, but it's never severe. We didn't fertilise any greens last year, because of the wet weather, though I did put some ammonia down last week, just to add a bit of fire, also to help the grass fight the good fight against weeds." By eliminating chemical cocktails Eddie believes he's got it cracked. The Old's turf is fescue dominated with some bent and a little poa, probably less than five percent. "Without setting out to destroy the poa," he continued, "our entire management programme is aimed at encouraging indigenous seaside grasses. Because we do that, poa has a stressful time."

"When Walter first started in the mid '70s very few aeration tools were available, though since then, with the Vertidrain, Ryan GA 30s and 60s and all the deep aeration spikers, these have helped dramatically. Aeration tools would always be first priority on our list."

Seeing a formation line of Ransomes Greens Supers, the next, inevitable question concerned hand mowing. "For tournaments, we always cut by hand, though we've a big acreage of green out there. You know, we've just renewed our agreement with Ransomes, 'til way after the Millennium, so thankfully these machines are going to be around for a long time to come."

"With the quality of cut achieved with our three Greensplex mowers, we're so pleased we've gone to the extent of using them for verticutting on fairways. What I'm trying to achieve is greens quality turf on the fairways - with a higher cut, obviously - but with the ultimate goal for the 2000 Open to have fairways that are fiery, fast and hard. But looking out of the window just now, it's mid-summer and with all the rain we've had, if it's like this in 2000 we're going to have a green course, no two ways about it. It's all down to Mother nature; the one thing we can't calculate is how much rain will fall."

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GET INTO TRAINING

The deadline for applications to attend the Aldwark Manor and/or Regional Supervisory Management Courses is fast approaching. With a total of 27 courses, covering nine different subjects in 14 locations, these courses have something for everyone. Thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund we keep costs to a minimum, with prices from £30 for a two day residential course. A

two day Essential Supervisory Management Course, covering the same subject matter as the BIGGA course, was advertised recently at £215. This price did not include accommodation. The message is simple. Use these courses or lose them. The Aldwark Manor Supervisory Management Courses are recognised for their high quality and value. Each of the five week long courses will be held in the

brand new BIGGA HQ offering vastly improved training facilities, which, coupled with the improved facilities at Aldwark Manor, offer even better value for money. No wonder that delegates to previous courses keep returning, expressing amazement that more golf clubs do not send their staff. Full details of all courses are available from BIGGA HQ, however, a list of courses and locations is given below.

Regional Training Courses

Golf Course Design Construction and Establishment

A must for anyone with an interest in golf course maintenance, anyone thinking of constructing new holes or other golf course features. See how not to make expensive mistakes. Understand what golf course architects are saying.

13-14 October 1998
 Inchyra Grange Hotel, Falkirk
 10-11 October 1998
 Lakeside Moat House, Grays Essex
 24 - 25 October 1998
 Burrendale Htl, Newcastle, County Down
 8 - 9 December 1998
 Borington Hall Hotel Plymouth
 10 - 11 December 1998
 Swansea Marriot

£80 + VAT for BIGGA Members.
 Non Members £150 +VAT
 Price includes all tuition, food and one night accommodation

Project Management

Having decided to build new features, replace greens or install a new irrigation system you will have to manage the project to ensure success. This course will help you to understand the principles of project management, including flow diagrams, budgets and practical project management techniques.

8-9 December 1998
 Westone Htl, Weston Flavell, Northampton

£80 + VAT for BIGGA Members.
 Non Members £150 +VAT
 Price includes all tuition, food and one night accommodation

Pesticide Management

Learn how not to fall foul of Health and Safety Law by managing the use and application of pesticides on this two day course.

23 - 24 February 1999
 Inchyra Grange Hotel, Falkirk

£80 + VAT for BIGGA Members.
 Non Members £150 +VAT
 Price includes all tuition, food and one night accommodation

Irrigation Workshop

Discover the theory behind irrigation. Look at the design of irrigation systems and experience some hands on maintenance of irrigation systems components.

17- 18 November 1998
 Barons Court Hotel, Walsall
 *** Note revised date***

£80 + VAT for BIGGA Members.
 Non Members £150 +VAT
 Price includes all tuition, food and one night accommodation

Essential Management Skills for Greenkeepers

Determine how you can acquire and develop supervisory management skills by attending this two day course which looks at leadership, motivation, team building, assertive communication, listening skills and discipline. Can you afford to miss it?

24 - 25 November 1998
 Queens Hotel, Chester

£30 + VAT for BIGGA Members.
 Non Members £150 +VAT
 Price includes all tuition, food and one night accommodation

Interviewing Skills

Learn how to conduct interviews and how to be interviewed. This course covers employment law, equal opportunities, listening and questioning skills, advertising and selection of candidates.

16 February 1999
 Inchyra Grange Hotel, Falkirk

£30 + VAT for BIGGA Members.
 Non Members £100 +VAT
 Price includes all tuition and lunch

Report Writing

This one day/one day course looks, firstly, at written and oral methods of presentation and business English, followed, in the Spring by practical presentations and reports.

29 October 1998 and 10 February 1999
 Aldwark Manor
 18 November 1998 and 23 February 1999
 Forte Post House Maidstone
 3 December 1998 and 9 February 1999
 Watermill Hotel, Hemel Hempstead

£30 + VAT for BIGGA Members.
 Non Members £100 +VAT
 Price includes all tuition and lunch

Health and Safety

Unravel the requirements of the Law on Health and Safety and learn how to put them into practice with this one day/one day course.

3 November 1998 and 23 February 1999
 Castle Hotel Taunton
 10 November 1998 and 10 February 1999
 Nottingham Moat House
 24 November 1998 and 16 February 1999
 Swallow Highcliffe, Bournemouth
 8 December 1998 and 11 February 1999
 Aldwark Manor
 1 December 1998 and 9 February 1999
 Inchyra Grange Hotel, Falkirk

£30 + VAT for BIGGA Members.
 Non Members £100 +VAT
 Price includes all tuition and lunch

Employment Contracts

Do you have a contract? What are your rights? What should your contract contain? Find out on this one day course.

11 November 1998
 Castle Hotel, Taunton

£30 + VAT for BIGGA Members.
 Non Members £100 +VAT
 Price includes all tuition, and lunch.

Aldwark Manor Courses

Back for their fifth year, these courses cover a range of supervisory management skills. Suitable for those in supervisory positions wishing to improve their knowledge and for those destined to become supervisors in the future, these ever popular courses are great value for money.

Managing People 1

Designed to give you the skills and knowledge to get the best from your workforce, this week looks at time management, team building, leadership, planning and prioritising and the use of digital computers in greenkeeping.

2 - 6 November 1998

Managing People 2

These courses can be attended in any order with this second week adding to the knowledge and skills acquired in module 1. This week contains guidance skills, appraisals, grievance and discipline, assertive communication and continues to look at the use of digital computers.

9 - 13 November 1998

Managing Operations and Resources

Discover how to manage budgets and projects, control resources and improve customer service on this week, using digital computers as a management tool.

16 - 20 November 1998

Managing Information

The storage, use and presentation of information forms the basis of this one week course. Concentrating on managing meetings and delivering written and oral presentations.

23 - 27 November 1998

Managing Golf Course Development

Mainly designed for those delegates who have completed weeks 1 to 4, this course includes an irrigation workshop, golf course drainage and health and safety. Delegates continue to use digital computers throughout their course.

30 November - 4 December 1998

Cost for each of the above courses:

£500 +VAT for BIGGA members.
 £600 + VAT for non members which includes all tuition, four nights accommodation and all meals.

All Regional and Aldwark Manor Course Delegates will receive a certificate of attendance, which will contain details of N/SVQ the units covered by each course. These certificates may be used as evidence of underpinning knowledge in a portfolio of evidence.

Thanks to BIGGA's close working relationship with the Aldwark Manor Hotel and Country Club we are pleased to offer you the opportunity to bring your partner for the extremely low rate of £10 per night bed and breakfast.

Remember, these courses are for your benefit. Send for full details today or contact Sami on 01347 838581 to enrol.

The worm has turned...

Dear Sir,

Having read the article on worms and having been a groundsman and greenkeeper for a long time I can assure everyone that the problem cannot be overstated as Nick Park, so rightly says.

I took over a course in 1976 that was considering spending vast sums of money on drainage and managed to persuade them to spray the fairways with Chlordane, the difference was nothing short of miraculous. We ended up putting in two drains in low places and mole ploughing one fairway. The course became playable right through the winter and the grass was springy and clean to play off.

In the 60s I worked at a course

where a shovel was kept in the cab of the tractor to scrape the mud off the rollers of the gang mowers, after cutting half a fairway. There was no point in matting or brushing the casts first as it is never dry enough on a parkland course in winter and the casts are only smeared and spread.

What I'm leading up to is why did BIGGA, the IOG, the R&A, the Golf Unions and the chemical companies not take a stand against the banning of Chlordane?

It is deemed an environmentally unacceptable form of control, but why? It is persistent in the ground and therefore does not need to be used more than every five to ten years. Why is this a problem?

Do people think after another war, perhaps nuclear, that they will need to plough golf courses up to plant vegetables? I read once that golf courses take up less than half of one percent of this country. Not a large amount is it?

After spraying Chlordane I've never seen golfers (or spray operators) dropping like flies, so one could only assume that it did them no harm.

The most important fact about Chlordane was that it stayed put and did not spread. Worms would live and work quite happily right up to the line where the Chlordane had been sprayed. Indeed if a piece, even a metre by half a metre was missed in the middle of a fairway worms would

be found casting in that slither of ground with clean areas all around!

Is it too late for BIGGA and the other bodies, to move in the right channels for a reversal of this decision?

I am sure if it was overturned a company would have a ready market for its product - or are the chemical companies making too much money from the short lived, vastly overpriced, alternatives?

When courses are closed for three or four months a year (and golfers only pay a three quarter sub?) will the sport's governing bodies hold up their hands and say "We allowed this to happen"?

William Pile

Fingle Glen GC



In the first of a new series of articles, Sweden's Per-Olof Ljung gives some of his thoughts on Greenkeeping.

HOW PROFESSIONAL ARE WE ALLOWED TO BE?

During my years within the greenkeeping trade I have experienced - both national and international - colleagues that have been maltreated by "their" Golf Club and its elected members (Board Members or Members of the Green Committee).

Most often the disagreement has started when the Head Greenkeeper has insisted on certain steps as regards the maintenance programme, steps that have not been approved of by the elected Members. In most cases it is the greenkeeper's working experience in combination with what his has learnt at seminars, courses etc. that tells him what to do at a certain point in order to keep the quality of the golf course at the highest possible level. The steps taken may sometimes inconvenience the players and it is here, that most often, the problems occur.

When the Head Greenkeeper insists on taking the necessary steps, contrary to what the Elected Members seem fit, the Head Greenkeeper is looked upon as a stubborn member of the staff, instead of looked upon as a professional who knows what measurements are needed in a cer-

tain situation. When this situation occurs, the Head Greenkeeper often has to leave the Golf Club owing to "difficulties in co-operation", unless he turns a blind eye to his experience and his own knowledge and comply to what the Elected Members say. In doing so, he is also aware of the fact that when it goes wrong he is to be blamed, although he just "followed orders". The Elected Member is always right.

When I started in the greenkeeping trade some 30 years back, a behaviour like the one described above would be, if not acceptable, it would at least be understandable. But that it still happens and besides, is quite common, is unbelievable. The Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager of today is a well educated person, not only in "grass-knowledge" but also in leadership and Health & Safety. Furthermore his attendance to seminars and courses are often supported by the Golf Club, but still, the Elected Members do not look upon him as a professional within his trade.

One can rightly ask oneself why do I educate myself within my profession, when I continually

meet Elected Members of the Golf Club who have a better knowledge of greenkeeping than myself?

When will a serious discussion start whether it is necessary with a Green Committee in the Golf Club? Why do we not have a Committee whose task it is to overlook the way the Golf Professional at the Golf Club teaches how to grip the golf club, how to swing the golf club etc., or a Committee that overlooks the Club Secretary to see that he/she is doing their work in a right manner and with the right tools?

As I see it, FEGGA can play an important role in helping its Member Associations with their educational programmes and trying to reach, on a European level, International standards within our profession. This would be an essential part in influencing Golf Clubs to look upon its Head Greenkeeper as a professional, who has a back up by colleagues all over Europe.

Per-Olof Ljung
Vice Chairman FEGGA

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Roland Taylor has a whale of a time investigating the world of leaf blowers...

Thar' she blows!

Within the next two months most readers will be faced with the annual task of clearing up nature's bounty of discarded leaves. This work can be highly labour intensified and time consuming. As there is no forewarning of the actual days when it will happen, like a good boy scout, being prepared will save a lot of last minute hassle.

Thar' she blows!



Manufacturers have not skimmed on the range of machinery on offer and so there is plenty to choose from.

What you will actually require depends on your specific circumstances.

It may be that more than one machine is the answer to get the job done quickly and efficiently.

In this feature we will be looking at the different systems and equipment available plus the type of areas where they would be of biggest benefit.

Moving leaves can be done in three ways: High-velocity air, Vacuum and Rotary action.

Air

To create an airflow requires some form of impeller and aero-dynamics play an important part in its design and the housing in which it is mounted. The unit works at high speed and so balance is critical, as are the materials used in its construction. One of the main reasons for this will be clear when we come to vacuuming.

'Air broom' is an apt description of how these machines are used - the leaves are blown into windrows ready for collection.

Three versions are available hand held, backpacks or larger walk behind units. Generally speaking,

the small blowers are used to clear leaves from confined spots.

On large open areas the walk behinds can be used to bring leaves into one collection spot.

Vacuum

To expel air requires some form of intake and designers of leaf and litter clearing equipment have used this principle to create a collecting system. Leaves and debris are picked up in the airflow and pass through the impeller into a receptacle, or through tubing into a trailer. Not only does this provide collection, but on most machines the material is also considerably

reduced in volume. This has two advantages. Firstly, more can be collected thus reducing the number of times the unit has to be emptied and secondly, the leaves are chopped up and their fibres exposed. This enables micro-organisms to work on the material and considerably accelerates the decomposing process.

One possible downside, especially on smaller hand-held blower/vacs is that any dust, sand or small stones in the litter can cause wear to the impeller as the material passes through the machine.

An alternative collection system is available although this is largely

The Clean-Up Crew



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confined to the domestic sector. This entails blowing air at high speed down a tube and directing it at the end over a curved surface. A low-pressure area is created which draws in more air causing a powerful vacuum effect, with debris sucked into this vortex and passing directly into a collector. An advantage of this method is that material does not pass through the impeller. However, these units are generally designed more for the domestic consumer than the professional.

Vacuum types of machine come in three configurations: hand-held, walk behind and tractor driven.

The smaller units are usually con-

version kits for a portable blower and one disadvantage is the size of the collector, so they are generally only ideal in this mode for areas where access is very limited.

The pedestrian operated machines are either pushed or self-propelled with a wide range of engine sizes. Most models have the option of a wanderhose which is ideal for getting into awkward spaces such as drains and culverts, as well as emptying litter bins. Some machines have a facility for dealing with light brushwood and twigs.

Also available are specialist machines for dealing with hard sur-

faces such as car parks and walk ways. This type of unit is ideal where a course is part of a hotel or country club complex.

For wide-open spaces there are tractor-mounted versions, which are either driven from the PTO or have their own engine. The hopper on some models includes high-lift emptying.

Another piece of equipment that falls into this category is the loader. This is a unit that is directly attached to the side of a trailer, skip or vehicle.

A large diameter hose enables the operator to suck up large volumes of leaves directly into the recepta-

cle, ready for transporting to a dumping site.

Rotary Brushes

Usually driven from the PTO of a tractor, being either front or rear mounted. The latter often includes some form of collecting facility. This type of system will work on grass but is generally better suited to hard surfaces.

Flail

Like the rotary brushes, they are tractor-driven. In addition to collecting leaves and litter they can be used for scarifying and for cutting grass. There are some very large units that include a vacuum system for loading into a built-in trailer.

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What do you need to know?

With all this equipment available there is a machine to deal with virtually every situation that one is likely to encounter during leaf fall. To ensure that coping with this operation is both cost effective and efficiently carried out, some pre planning and groundwork is advisable. A survey of all the areas that will require clearing is recommended, and special attention should be paid to the following:

1. Accessibility - leaves often get into the most awkward spots.
2. The volume to be handled is a major consideration as loading and unloading can take up a considerable amount of time.
3. Where are the leaves going to be deposited and what will happen to the decomposed material eventually?

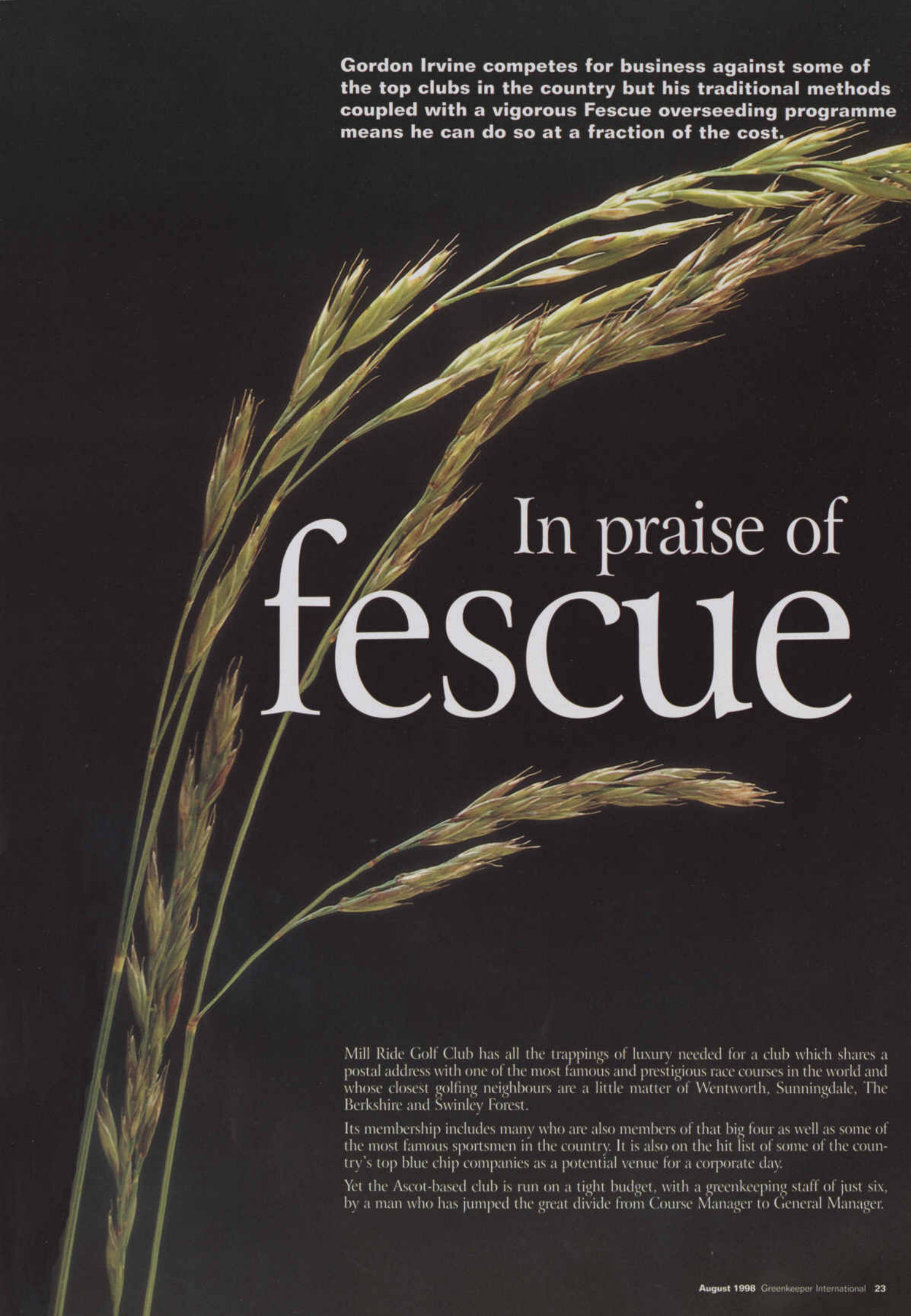
Once an overall picture has been drawn up, it is time to investigate what machinery is available. Exhibitions, magazines, directories and the Internet are all sources of who makes what. Obtain as much information as possible. This can be found in literature and by talking to other members of your profession or closely related groups such as groundsmen, local authorities and contractors. When it comes to clearing up leaves, everyone has similar problems. Research can be productive, but is only the beginning. The next stage is to consult a specialist. He can advise on the suitable machinery for your specific requirements and arrange that all-important demonstration. This is the evaluation stage, a time to see the machine's abilities, speed of operation and efficiency in dealing with situations like collecting wet material.

It is also an opportunity to find out much more such as who already uses the equipment and can they

be contacted - a third party recommendation is always valuable. Check availability of replacement parts and their cost. Length of warranty on components is another area worth investigating. As mentioned earlier, the impeller is at the heart of most leaf blowers or collecting systems and its construction and the material used are vital to the life of a machine. Some models on the market carry a five-year guarantee - a benefit worth having.

Before making a final decision, the question should be asked. - "Is there enough work to justify the expenditure, or would hire be a more cost effective option?" This has the obvious advantage of not tying up capital, but the days when the leaves fall cannot be predicted. The equipment may not be available on the days you require it. One alternative to this scenario might be to have machinery on the fleet for the bulk of the work and hire any extra units when required.

Leaves have a habit of falling at the most inopportune times and so plans are needed to ensure that when it happens both machinery and staff are in place to carry out the clear up operation speedily and effectively. Now is the ideal time to address the handling of this annual event and discover what is available to make it as free from hassle as possible.



Gordon Irvine competes for business against some of the top clubs in the country but his traditional methods coupled with a vigorous Fescue overseeding programme means he can do so at a fraction of the cost.

In praise of fescue

Mill Ride Golf Club has all the trappings of luxury needed for a club which shares a postal address with one of the most famous and prestigious race courses in the world and whose closest golfing neighbours are a little matter of Wentworth, Sunningdale, The Berkshire and Swinley Forest.

Its membership includes many who are also members of that big four as well as some of the most famous sportsmen in the country. It is also on the hit list of some of the country's top blue chip companies as a potential venue for a corporate day.

Yet the Ascot-based club is run on a tight budget, with a greenkeeping staff of just six, by a man who has jumped the great divide from Course Manager to General Manager.

In praise of fescue



Above: Gordon Irvine, General Manager, Mill Ride GC

Below: This attractive lake is a feature of the Mill Ride Course



Gordon Irvine's pedigree is second to none. He is a Master Greenkeeper, was the youngest ever Premier Greenkeeper in '94 and is regarded as one of the most eloquent and intelligent men in the profession. Presented with the opportunity of running the whole club by its Asian owners he has taken on the additional duties with the same verve as he continues to run the golf course.

Gordon has been at Mill Ride since he left Turnberry to become Clerk of Works on the construction of the course.

"Everyone at home nearly disowned me. Imagine leaving a Scottish links course and moving to the heartland of England, for heaven's sake. They thought I'd flipped and gone chasing money," he recalled with a laugh.

In fact the reason he left Turnberry and moved to the stockbroker belt of the Home Counties was purely greenkeeper based.

"I was particularly interested in what was being done here. A golf course specification designed to be British, and recognised as British, at a time, when it would have to compete against some very big American courses being built around the same time."

Pressed on what he meant by a British specification Gordon elaborated.

"A modern British design and construction which was an imitation links green specification, with drainage as the most important factor. The course was also built with British materials; designed by a British architect, Donald Steel; built by a British constructor, Brian Pierson, and with a British agronomist in Jim Arthur."

It was Gordon's conviction that Mill Ride would be able to compete with other new clubs including The London Club and The Wisley which were in the same catchment area.

"I firmly believed that through time our course would be as good as the others, for a fraction of the cost - using traditional British greenkeeping skills."

"After all we gave the game of golf to the world and set the standards for maintenance over the generations."

"British greenkeeping has developed over the years. People have their own way of interpreting what they want to do, while others go off at tangents, but it normally comes back to the same principals," said Gordon, talking the day after an English golf writer had holed-in-one at the 15th hole at Mill Ride, during a golf day organised for the England football squad and winning himself a £189,000 Lamborghini sports car.

Gordon's current maintenance programme was introduced following a

bout of Take-All Patch disease a year after the course opened.

Those grey days tested his resolve and principles to the limit.

"Against my wishes but for understandable commercial reasons, the owners had specified that the greens at Mill Ride be turfed. My feeling was that the Yorkshire soil in which the turf was grown, placed on top of the high pH root zone, with an irrigation water source which also had a high pH, created a situation which made disease a potential problem at a time when club finances were tight with greater and greater demands being placed on the golf course."

"Fortunately the grasses used were Colonial Bent and Fescues because by the time the disease was finished there was no Bent left and all we had was a very thin Fescue sward, very much open to attack by Annual Meadow Grass invasion."

The solution involved long discussions with Jim Arthur and Barenbrug, who supply the seed mixes for Mill Ride, and between them they decided that the best policy was to introduce an overseeding programme using Fescue as the main species with a later injection of Bent when the greens were ready for Bent grass growth.

"That raised a lot of eyebrows in the area because Fescue is not a grass which is particularly well thought of inland. It was felt that it wouldn't cope with the wear and tear," explained Gordon.

"What wasn't understood, though, was that the decision had to be taken on what the greens would take, as at that point, there was no guarantee that the disease, which was still active in the area, wouldn't come back the following summer."

"So we went straight in with a

Three leading **MM** golf mixtures, quality



100% Fescue mix and overseeded and we had Fescue growing and germinating in the middle of the diseased areas," explained Gordon with a degree of pride.

"The putting surfaces which we subsequently produced were great. I remember having greens with a height of cut at just under six mils running at nine and a half on the stimp...not that I ever told Jim I was using a stimp! It was like being back on the links again. The greens have an excellent cover of Fescue grass, regularly top dressed and bleached by the sun."

Gordon's view is that sometimes greens are cut so low that the ball is actually running on the ground and, if it isn't perfectly smooth, it bobbles and jumps.

"We had the ball running on the vegetation which meant that we got a wonderful roll and our putting surfaces were incredible. But the golfers kept coming up with the view that they were hairy," he recalled ruefully.

From an agronomic perspective Gordon was convinced that he had access to the best possible advice.

"I have the utmost respect for Jim Arthur and think he's an unsung hero in the industry. A lot of people have known him a lot longer than me but I'm one of the few people who actually worked with him, as this was the last project he worked on before retiring. He spent a lot of time here 'hands-on' and I learned from him."

"You hear all about stressing meadow grass, but he actually showed me how to go about doing it and still have a golf green at the end of it," he said.

However, it was the fact that the greens, despite putting beautifully, were perceived as too hairy that kept Gordon's bathroom cabinet well

stocked up with headache tablets and resulted in him spending as much time thinking politics as he was thinking agronomy.

"In this part of the world it is very much the standard routine to shave greens as low as machines can and the speed of green that can be achieved is frightening. It is what golfers have learned to expect and they have the power to insist. Some day they may link their demands for summer speed to the forced use of temporary greens in the winter, with fungicide becoming a costly monthly expense, but until then it will always be a battle."

"Greenkeepers want to be able to go home and sleep at night. They want to come into work and not have people continually chasing them and complaining," said Gordon, adding that it took only a fraction of a change in cutting height to keep the golfers happy.

"That fraction, however, is critical in the growing of quality turf especially with the growing demand for winter play.

"The thing that worried me was that we were competing with the bigger clubs, with whom we shared members, and it was difficult to say to golfers 'What I'm doing is what we should do and what the other clubs are doing is wrong...and by the way I know you prefer what they're doing'. You can see the problem."

It was a battle he was bound to lose as he realised that if he was to continue down his chosen path it was going to be a struggle and would cause problems for him personally and for the club financially.

"I was answerable to a Board of Directors made up of people who were golfers themselves and members of clubs with fast, shaved greens with soft surfaces and receptive to their standard of shot."

Gordon knew that he could buy himself time, but in the long run there was only one winner.

"You can soften the blow by saying 'I'm the Course Manager and I know best'. You might be listened to, it's doubtful but you might. You can go

out and collect a Premier Greenkeeper Award and that might get you through an overseeding programme. Tell them you're a Master Greenkeeper and you'll get more space because they're more wary about taking you on."

"But ultimately the financial people don't want to be telling the customer excuses. They want the customer to be telling them how good the product is. But if the product is being judged against other products unfairly it is very difficult," explained Gordon.

He came under more and more pressure to reduce the height of cut and eventually he took the decision to move from using pure Fescue to using a Bent/Fescue mix which has taken the greens from being 70% Fescue to the present day position of being nearly 60% Agrostis.

"It was a conscious decision which had to be taken, although I personally prefer the Fescue greens...but they never stood a chance and weren't wanted."

Gordon feels that it is not just the



at a stroke.



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In praise of fescue

golfers who shy away from Fescue, greenkeepers have also given the grass an unjustified bad name, some now favouring American bred grasses with no history of success in place of grass which has stood the test of time.

"There was a lot of scaremongering about how Fescue disappeared overnight. I've heard all the stories but I think it's a sad fact that the grass just doesn't get the credit it deserves because it can undoubtedly give you a good fast surface at a higher height of cut. I believe in the future it will have to be used more for environmental reasons."

Gordon also advocates the use of Fescue for fairways.

"It takes very little to maintain them in the summer as they don't need much cutting and very little feeding. We run Mill Ride with a greenkeeping staff of six and, despite less than 300 members, we make a profit because our maintenance bills are so small," he said.

"I'm one of their worst customers," he added, pointing to the Grass Roots rep who happened to be visiting at the time.

The initial attempts at overseeding were, by his own admission, miserable and resulted in him making a study of how best to achieve success.

"I wanted to know why overseeding was so hit or miss. I know some guys who would hollow core to a depth of two inches and put seed into the holes. Obviously this wasn't going to work. Others would fill the holes to the surface, then dust seed on the surface and then lightly top dress. That had a chance but all I could think was that you had all these hollow cores just waiting for meadow grass.

"So I studied the subject further and I looked at various machines before deciding on the one I wanted to use. It was a slit seeder which would enable us to inject the seed into and

below the surface and close the surface which was the key as it prevented the meadow grass getting in."

Having taken over as General Manager two years ago Gordon is paradoxically convinced that it has allowed him to become a better Course Manager.

"A lot of people don't think you can be General Manager and stay in greenkeeping but what they don't understand is that I write my own diary. If I need to spend six or seven hours on the course I do it because I ensure that the time is in the diary."

Another advantage is that Gordon can ensure that the course gets consideration when corporate events are being scheduled.

"Our Corporate Events Organiser will tell me about events which are being considered and ask me if we can take them. I'll look at the diary and say that the week they were thinking about is earmarked for maintenance and, although open to members, it would be closed to bigger events."

"On the up side, what I can say is when the course is going to be in fantastic condition and that clients should be guided to that time. This way essential maintenance can take place in harmony with an economic need to have a busy golf course."

Gordon's time is split about 60% General Manager duties and 40% Course Manager duties.

"I always take the dog a walk over the course first thing in the morning to get a picture of how it's looking. I've got a wonderful Head Greenkeeper, Mike Holland, whose priorities are to keep all areas cut and tidy and to the standard that I've set him. I'll say when we're going to groom, what height of cut, when we're going to overseed and what seed or fertiliser we're going to buy, all long term greenkeeping practices. He must then carry them out but within a time



frame that is most realistic considering the weather etc.

"I manage all the irrigation in the evenings. I often spend three or four hours on the course as it's a wonderful chance to see that everything is the way it should be. Irrigation is the critical maintenance procedure for good greenkeeping. I like to imitate a heavy dew backed up with hand watering and that's about it, so if I tell a sprinkler to go off I don't want it to go off three or four minutes later. I want it off straight away."

Talking with and listening to Gordon, you are left with the impres-

sion of a man who loves his job and has a real passion for the industry.

"What I'm most proud of is that I could leave here tomorrow and know that whoever took over would be inheriting something that was very honest that he could work with. I work an open book policy and I've not been spraying fungicide every two weeks for the last six months just to keep it alive, or growing silage. I believe my job is to producing playing surface for all year enjoyment with nature as my friend not my enemy. This way I can please both golfer and Bank Manager."



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Good managers know that the time expended in employee training is more than compensated for in employee loyalty, better equipment maintenance, less lost work time, less equipment down time, fewer insurance claims and reduced liability. Philip Michael Sharples takes a look at...

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Routine golf course maintenance tasks require a unique combination of equipment knowledge and operational skill, persistence, an understanding of golf, a keen sense of aesthetics and a broad based knowledge of turfgrass management practices. Maintenance tasks must be performed quickly and regularly, but always with safety and precision.

Golf course employees perform many different tasks involving some of the most expensive agricultural and horticultural machinery in the world, while remaining aware of golfers and other activities surrounding them.

So, here we are in our golf industry, which is quite often a major contributor to the revenue from tourism in many countries across the world. Yet no significant or 'standardised' courses of on-the-job training for employees using mechanical equipment have been established.

In many instances performance of employees could be directly attributed to the techniques and calibre of the Course Manager or informational content supplied with the particular machine in question. All of these could and should be regarded as unsatisfactory training methods.

I would like to make it clear that the above is by no means stating that the National Standards in educational qualifications are not significant or standardised but is purely aimed at on-the-job training issues, functions and delivery. The GTC along with their partner colleges have played vital roles in ensuring relevant and quality work-based greenkeeper qualifications such as N/SVQ's are available.

So, where is this leading to? Well, three years ago, in my final year of study for an HND at Myerscough College I produced a Thesis specifically aimed at the subject of on-the-job training due to the aforementioned points and I would like to briefly share some of my findings with you. What I hoped to gain was a deeper understanding of employee training and mechanical training issues specific to golf course management.

To provide information toward future training programmes and to benefit management practices, while expanding the professionalism needed to keep up with technological advancements in respect of machinery and the golf courses of the future.

Training and the organisation

The last decade has seen a resurgence of interest in the training provided by employers - the courses, events and on-the-job activities that an organisation arranges for its workforce. A dramatic increase has been seen in the provision of educational courses and companies are now competing to recruit and retain the 'knowledge worker'.

The aim of training is to modify or develop the knowledge, skills and attitude through learning experience, to achieve performance in an activity or a range of activities. Its purpose in the work situation is to enable an individual to acquire abilities in order that he or she can perform adequately a given task or job.

Training provides benefits to both the employees and the organisation; trainees may gain greater intrinsic or extrinsic job satisfaction. Intrinsic job satisfaction may come

from performing a task well and from being able to exercise a new repertoire of skills. Extrinsic job satisfaction may be derived from extra earnings accrued through improved job performance and the enhancement of career and promotional prospects, both within and outside the organisation.

Benefits for the organisation include improved employees work performance and productivity; shorter learning time which could lead to less costly training and employees being "on-line" more quickly; decrease in wastage; fewer accidents; less absenteeism, lower labour turnover and perhaps most importantly greater customer or client satisfaction.

To summarise, I suggest that in preparing an individual to perform a specific task more effectively, training can contribute to the organisation achieving its current objectives. Although more importantly in some respects is the influence that the content and conduct of training can have on the attitudes towards the processes of learning and development. This in turn can create a "learning organisation" that is more flexible and responsive in coping with present and future internal and external demands.

On-the-job training

On-the-job training is a key way of progressing new recruits, developing apprentices or other long-term trainees, teaching employees new skills when new equipment and methods are introduced and a way of updating and upgrading new skills.

At the crudest level on-the-job training can be taught informally to

PICTURE

the newcomer or inexperienced by an experienced worker already doing the job to be mastered. This can be successful if the skills can be easily mastered, if the experienced worker has instructional skills, can spare time to instruct and possesses current knowledge of the best work methods.

At a more sophisticated level the trainee can be given opportunities to learn through the use of brief induction programmes, by changing jobs at planned intervals (job rotation) and by means of coaching.

In a profession where the potential for accidents is high the implementation of an on-the-job training programme has a number of potential possibilities.

a) Prevention of serious accidents, alleviating the possible future suffering of an employee and the resultant absence of that employee.

b) Improved quality, quantity and efficiency of workmanship.

c) Better uniformity of workmanship if each employee has received the same training.

d) A significant reduction of equipment breakdown. Operators are taught to correctly operate their assigned equipment and carry out correct daily maintenance.

e) Prevention of legal action aimed at you or your company.

f) An effective training programme can help show your employees that you care for their welfare.

This leads on to be specific advantages and disadvantages associated with on-the-job training:

Advantages

a) It is less costly than off-the-job training because it uses normal equipment in normal surroundings.

b) Learning will take place on the equipment, which will actually be used when the trainee is proficient; there are no transfer of learning problems.

c) The trainee is in the "production" environment from the beginning; he or she does not have to adjust to it after the rather sheltered conditions of off-the-job training.

d) Trainees who are currently studying in an off-the-job environment will feel more competent and eager in learning to learn at the place of study.

Disadvantages

a) The instructor (usually a supervisor or trusted worker) may have limited teaching experience and may not have enough time to give proper training.

b) The trainee may be exposed to bad methods and learn these instead of more efficient methods.

c) There is a risk of damage to valuable equipment.

d) There is a risk of spoiled or damaged work being produced.

Data needed to design and implement training programmes for the organisation or the manager are notoriously difficult to understand and produce. I found for the needs of our industry the most relevant and easily achievable route to be a systematic training model that is based on a continuous loop. This has two key characteristics - Training can be perceived as a sequential set of steps and identification of needs can be introduced into the training cycle at the appropriate stage. The subjects that require attention are set in the correct order of attention which follows:

Identification of learning require-

ments; Job analysis; Training objectives; Training Strategy; Design and delivery of training and lastly but most importantly Evaluation of learning.

All these subject areas should be discussed in detail and are all extremely important to successful training but for the purposes of this article I am afraid will have to be skipped over. Copies of my thesis which explains fully all the above and sets out three on-the-job training programmes written with this model namely verbal, visual and written can be made available to interested parties by application to the Principal at Myerscough College.

Being a Course Manager with time constraints, and I suspect lack of an organisational support group, a more reasonable approach to on-the-job training might come from the Training Within Industry model. This was originally established in the USA during the Second World War. It is probably the most commonly used approach in both the USA and the UK.

When drawing up an outline plan for training, trainers will need to bear in mind the nature of the learning group or learner; training content; performance criteria; timing and duration of the training sessions, and guidance and assessment procedures. One of the first steps any trainer must take should be of attaining a D32/D33 assessor qualification.

I feel the future holds many new challenges and innovations for our profession and full scale on-the-job training programmes will need to be designed and implemented as a matter of course. Only time and effort will tell!

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This time last year the rumour mill was churning out all sorts of spicy gossip about who was likely to purchase Ransomes and what might the future hold for a company whose name had been synonymous with grass cutting for over 200 years. Now, 12 months on, these questions have been answered, with Ransomes, now a part of the mighty Textron company, whose portfolio also includes Jacobsen, Iseki and EZ-GO, as well as Cessna aircraft and Bell Helicopters.

The deal eventually went through, just after BTME this year and the man who has been charged with running the new enlarged company is Peter Wilson who had previously been at the helm of Ransomes. As President of Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products Worldwide, Peter will be the man responsible for plotting a successful course for this "super tanker" of a company on a global basis.

Just back from a trip to Tokyo, and between twice monthly trips to the States, Peter took time out to talk with Greenkeeper International Editor, Scott MacCallum, about Textron Turf Care and Speciality Products, what might be in store for the company and the industry in general over the next few years...



The Future is Orange...
and Green

“Around 1200 **greenkeepers** a year visit us at Ipswich and I think now we will be in a better position to listen and have greater resources to respond. It's unrealistic to ask a **greenkeeper** what he wants, we're supposed to be the experts in terms of machinery, but we have to listen to the trends and translate these into the sort of equipment that is going to play a part for the **greenkeeper**.”

SMac: Can you give some insight into why Textron decided to purchase Ransomes when they already owned a similar company in Jacobsen?

PW: It was clear that Textron had to decide for themselves whether they really wanted to be in this business and I think this was the answer. They felt that there was no point in being small, they would either expand into it and take a commanding position or decide that there was no point in being there.

Together Ransomes and Jacobsen business has a turnover of about \$650 million and when you add EZ-GO golf carts and the industrial business to that grouping we have around \$800 million so you can see the size of the company now.

It was also a very good complimentary fit. Yes, we've got all these products which overlap but, if you look at sales of Jacobsen products, something like 80% comes from greens, fairways and rotary mowers while at Ransomes probably 70% came from utility vehicles, aeration equipment and rotaries. Even in rotaries there is a segmental difference so when you see it in those terms it is a very good fit. The overlap is not nearly as encompassing as it would at first appear.

SMac: With regard to research and development will you be continuing down the path of individual product lines for both green and orange, which would suggest some doubling up, or will you be moving green in one direction and orange in another?

PW: Certainly in the short term we have made a commitment that we will be retaining our individual brand. We're unlike our competitors who tend to go under one name as we have Jacobsen, Ransomes, Cushman, Ryan and Bobcat to name only a few. Now I can see a time coming when we start to think about developing the next generation of Textron products and that's where we will look at taking the best of the orange and the best of the green and come up with a totally new product. Whether we look at dual branding is something we will have to wait and see. It depends upon how the market reacts because I don't believe we can force our opinions on the market.

There will be people who particularly like the Ransomes name, or

the Jacobsen name. I don't think we can ride roughshod over customer preferences. We are bringing together Jacobsen with a 76 year history and Ransomes with a history of over 200 years. You don't throw that history, that experience and that customer loyalty away. Textron paid a lot of money for some of those things so we've got to hold on to it.

SMac: There must have been, and no doubt still are, teething troubles. In effect you've taken two large jigsaws, thrown all the pieces in the air, let them land on the floor and are now trying to make one even bigger jigsaw.

PW: When you bring together two well established organisations like Jacobsen and Ransomes there are obviously going to be differences in culture, style and attitude and we are trying to bring all these things together... and do it very quickly. But I think it's gone remarkably well.

The deal was done at the beginning of February this year, and I didn't know I was going to be involved until it was signed and sealed and Textron asked us to stay on.

But you always have thoughts. It took a long time to bring the deal to fruition and I couldn't had gone through that time without actively thinking what I would do if I were pulling it all together. So I can hardly say I started on day one with a clean piece of paper.

SMac: With Textron's European base now at the old Ransomes base in Ipswich how have the Kettering-based Jacobsen staff dealt with the situation?

PW: I always think that if you have to take tough decisions you must do so quickly and with some degree of compassion for those people whose lives are going to be affected. There were some very clear cut decisions to make. For example we have a major manufacturing facility here at Ipswich which was going to be one of the key advantages for Textron in the acquisition. It did not make sense to have a separate distribution centre at Kettering, particular when we are six or seven miles from the port of Felixstowe where all the product comes into. So it was a very easy decision that Ipswich would be the main manufacturing and distribution point for the whole of Europe.

Similarly in Germany we had two facilities for our sales organisations and we've pulled that back to one while in France we still haven't made up our minds although we will have a central location so again there will be rationalisation.

Again in the United States there were similar decisions being made. We did not need two sales organisations or two offices so we decided to go to Rasine near Chicago, very largely because communications are easier.

Some of these decisions were fairly straightforward.

Then we had to make more fundamental decisions. How do we take the business forward? On that we decided we would create a concept of Centres of Excellence. For example in the US the Centre of Excellence for cylinder products will be Charlotte, for rotary products it is Johnson Creek, while for vehicles and aeration it is Lincoln. The Rasine facility will produce cutting units and be the major machine shop.

Here at Ipswich we will concentrate on both cylinder and rotary products while we will continue to import aeration and vehicle products from the US as the volume doesn't justify setting up new production lines.

SMac: Both Jacobsen and Ransomes had large dealer networks, what decisions are being taken with regard to them?

PW: We are going to be quite demanding. Our distributor has a right to expect a level of service from us and for us to value him as an independent business man but he must become totally self sufficient to be able to serve the market in which they are in. That means that they must be financially strong and have succession plans in place.

We are going to grow so our dealers will not only have sufficient resources but also the ambition to grow to the same extent and speed as us.

In some areas it will move quicker than others because those decisions will be easier to make than others.

In some cases we will continue with dealers who handle specific products and others who will carry the whole line of products.

There is no time table or set agenda but we do want to get to the strongest distribution set up as quickly as we can.

When you bring together two well established organisations like Jacobsen and Ransomes there are obviously going to be differences in culture, style and attitude

We are going to grow so our dealers will not only have sufficient resources but also the ambition to grow to the same extent and speed as us

It was clear that Textron had to decide for themselves whether they really wanted to be in this business

The coming together of Ransomes and Jacobsen is really an indication that there has been some consolidation and I believe we will see more



Peter Wilson

President, Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products

SMac: Have you been surprised, as much of the industry has been, that Ransomes has not been swallowed up in the deal and, with you at the head, Ransomes and not Jacobsen is seen as the dominant partner?

PW: I don't see it as a case of Ransomes domination or Jacobsen domination. The Textron management looked at it and asked "How are we going to manage this company?" It just so happens that they decided to have myself as President and Paul Hollingworth as Vice President. I think they looked at the results we'd achieved at Ransomes over the past three years and decided that we could make money out of this business and would be a good team to head up the business. It would have been silly to get rid of that experience.

What we've done is try to produce a good team and we've looked at people in both organisations and tried to mould them together.

If you look at the geographical spread of the business there are parts where Ransomes were stronger and others where Jacobsen were stronger. In the UK Ransomes had a very strong position not only in the golf market but also in the commercial grass cutting side so it tends to give the impression that Ransomes are dominant but in other parts of the world it is slightly different.

SMac: How would you persuade the average BIGGA member that having two of the biggest names in the industry under one roof is a good thing?

PW: Well, I think that he is going to have more choice. With these two companies coming together it means that we are not knocking each other but pulling our resources and combining them to be able to give BIGGA members a better product and a better service.

Around 1200 greenkeepers a year visit us at Ipswich and I think now we will be in a better position to listen and have greater resources to respond. It's unrealistic to ask a greenkeeper what he wants, we're supposed to be the experts in terms of machinery, but we have to listen to the trends and translate these into the sort of equipment that is going to play a part for the greenkeeper.

SMac: What do you think the industry is going to be like in five or ten years time?

PW: Ever since I joined Ransomes there was talk in the machinery side that there were too many players and everyone wondered where the rationalisation would take place. The coming together of Ransomes and Jacobsen is really an indication that there has been some consolidation and I believe we will see more.

The reason for this is that there has been a slow down in the growth of golf worldwide, although it is still forecast to grow, albeit at a slower pace.

In terms of trends, environmental issues are going to continue to gain in importance while people are going to continue to demand a higher level of presentation.

SMac: On a personal note how does your new job differ from your old one?

PW: In 1993 when I joined Ransomes it was very much a rescue situation for the first 12 to 18 months. Having then gained a degree of stability it was a question of how to grow the company and although we dramatically improved the financial base we were always a small company playing against the big boys.

The change is to move from that to being part of Textron which is a huge multi industry company which is where I really started when I worked for BTR.

At Ransomes we weren't short on ideas or ambitions and we knew where we wanted to take the company but the difference then was that we didn't have the immediate resources.

That doesn't apply now. If we can put forward a good solid case we do now have the financial backing to do something sooner rather than later.

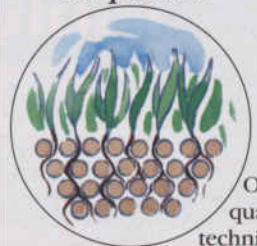
I'd given some thought to whether I wanted to stay in this industry or move on but a lot of people had shown a lot of loyalty through some difficult times and worked extremely hard to bring success back to Ransomes so I felt that if the right opportunity came I'd stay. I felt I owed it to these people to try to give them some continuity and at the end of the day it's a nice industry to work in and is a lot of fun.



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East

Before I start I must apologise for not having a piece last month but there was no news to write about. So that was the reason.

Since the last time I wrote to you we have had our first tournament of the season, at Royal Musselburgh Golf Club. I wish to thank the Captain and Council for courtesy of the course, the catering staff for keeping us well fed and equally well watered and also Head Greenkeeper, John Reid and his staff, for the excellent condition of the course.

The weather started off well, then some rain then the sun appeared again to finish off an excellent day. We had a very good turnout from members, trade and guests. We would like to thank the trade for helping with cards, scoreboard etc and for providing us with raffle prizes.

The results are as follows: Best Scratch, K. Mail, 67; Cat 1. I. I.

Bell, 71 (BIH); 2. T. Shepherd, 71; 3. C. Gilholm, 72 (BIH). Cat 2. 1. A. Russell, 71 (BIH); 2. M. Ewing, 71; 3. S. Halliday, 73. Cat 3., 1. J. Lumsden, 68; 2. C. Pennyquick, 75; 3. J. Nesbit, 77. Veteran, R. Dugan, 76; New Member, R. Mullen, 70; Trade, I. Henderson, 71; Guest, R. McCulloch, 75. Highest score of the day, P. J. Zawinski. After all that if I missed anybody please let me know on the usual number!

Next on the agenda was the committee day at the Hirsell Golf Club, Coldstream, which was sponsored by local Toro dealer A M Russell Ltd. When we all were picked up en route the rain was falling lightly but as we got closer the rain was getting heavier and when we eventually got there the course was under several inches of water in places and the course closed signs were up and the rain didn't look like stopping so that was it closed for the day.

After some frantic phone calls we located our sponsors for the day who were somewhere en route, who arrived soon after calling them. We did some more frantic phoning and with thanks to committee member, Craig Pennyquick,

Winterfield Golf Club, Dunbar, we managed to secure a round of golf, plus meals at his club. Thanks to him, Captain and Council for courtesy, Club Professional, Steward and Stewardess, catering staff, etc for their help at such short notice.

Also thanks to Hirsell Golf Club for organising our day but due to the weather it was not to be, we hope to go back there sometime in the future. And I must say their new clubhouse is very impressive. So it was all back into the mini-bus after a couple of liquid refreshments and up the road, to Dunbar. After lunch we decided due (yet again) to the weather we would play the last 10 holes, thank goodness as the wind was howling, the sea spray was splashing up onto the course and it was cold as well. I thought we played this tournament in the summer not January. The result was; winner - Craig Pennyquick. Chairman v Vice Chairman match = V Chairman's team. Well done Craig who retained the Eddie Holt Trophy for the second year in a row. No person has done that before, so come on lads let's see some better performances next year. So last but not least thanks to Craig and his

staff for having the course in fine condition.

The East Section summer Texas Scramble, at Kings Acre, was held in June and results will be published shortly. A big well done to two members who have just completed their HNC in Golf Course Management at Oatridge College. They are Scott Corrigan, Greenburn Golf Club and Andrew Forrest, Swanston Golf Club. Both passed all sections of their two year courses. All the best to everyone who has passed their first year and is going on to do year 2. Also congratulations to any members that have just finished years 1-2-3 or 4 at Oatridge College or Elmwood. Well done to each and everyone of you. If anyone has anything you want me to let everyone else know drop me a line or a call on 01620-842037 home, 0131 445 7165 work or 74 Muirfield Drive, Gullane, East Lothian, EH31 2HJ.

So come on, it's your Section if you have got anything of interest lets hear from you. So that's it for this month, hope to hear from you soon or your will hear from me in this report next time around.

Chris Yeaman.

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Central

We begin with congratulations going to Section member Elliott Small on his appointment as Vice Chairman of the Association, and winning the Veteran's Trophy at the Scottish Tournament at West Kilbride, I haven't asked him which one means the most! The appointment to the BOM is an honour Elliott deserves for all the work he has put into both SIGGA and BIGGA over the years and I am sure you will all join me in wishing him every success during his forthcoming terms of office. Elliott's wife, Edna, thought that she would see a bit more of him when he gave up as Regional Administrator for Scotland last year, but now he is going to be on his travels again she will just have to take up knitting, painting/decorating or something to pass the time.

Joining us this month is Kenneth Robb, from Falkirk. Kenneth is an apprentice at Falkirk Tryst Golf Club and hopefully we will get the chance to meet him at some of our events in the near future. Things are a bit quiet on the news front at the moment, everyone is too busy

coping with fixture lists, holidays, the terrific summer weather we are having, rain, hail, frost, sunshine and that was June! Never mind things can only get better. If you recall, over the past few months we have been trying to find ways of reducing Section expenditure, I bet you are all saying, "Oh really?" as nobody replied to the request for ideas. Anyway, one way would be to place the entry forms for the golf tournaments and events in the magazine, which would save a considerable amount on postage, stationery etc.

So look out for changes in the near future! Not a lot, I know, but hopefully there will be more next time.

John Crawford

Ayrshire

Sorry for a blank column last month with no news and nothing to report. No more news reported this month, however the Scottish Region Tournament was enjoyed at West Kilbride Golf Club, on June 23. Our thanks to Peter Boyd for a well run event and for promptly tying up proceedings to enable us to watch a certain

World Cup match. Your efforts were in vain Peter. A full report of this event will appear elsewhere in this magazine but congratulations to our members who contributed for us to win the Best Section Trophy and to young Barry Crawford, from Old Prestwick, who used his golf and greenkeeping experience over the West Kilbride Links to record a fine scratch score of 70-3-67 to become the Scottish Champion. Congratulations also to Jim Paton and his greenstaff for the fine condition of the course as the weather did no favours on the day.

Our Section would like to wish Elliott Small well in his new position as our Association's Vice Chairman to Gordon Child. This came after George Brown stepped down due to work commitments.

Finally I would like to say Hello to Mark McBride a mate from my HNC days at Langside and say Beith Golf Club's annual outing visits Windyhill on August 24 and all going well I hope to see you then Mark. Any news 01505 683278 (Evenings) or 0498 634122.

Iain Barr

North

Another three new members to welcome this month. David Busset from Edzell, Gavin Neil from Tain, and Wayne Gordon from Elgin, are added to our ever growing membership list, which is now at its highest ever. We wish Chris Cumming, of Fortrose, a full recovery from his car accident, and hope to see him up and about soon. Not too much to say about Section members at the "Scottish" at West Kilbride, no big trophy winners this year.

As mentioned last month, here are the winners of the first three draws of the 200 Club. January £30 No 68 Jeffrey Herd, Banchory, February £30 No. 74 Robert Klimas Wick, April £100 No 60 George Gray, Newmacher. The reason there are only three winners is because the March winner had not paid for his ticket. At the time of writing he had still not paid, with the deadline for outstanding dues fast approaching. It is therefore likely that we will have five draws to do at our Autumn outing in September, as we will have to redraw the March winner. The tickets not sold will be sold at the reduced price of £4 each as, of course, there are fewer prizes left.



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This cuts down our funds unfortunately, so please next year if you get a card and do not want it, then at least have the decency to return it promptly so we can resell it and maximise fund raising. Also, one of you out there looks like missing out on £30 because you did not buy your ticket this year!

Finally, next month I hope to have all the details of our One Day Conference to be held at the end of November. We have our Speakers sorted out but were let down with the venue, however, we expect to get that organised soon and will reveal all in September.

Iain Macleod



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Northern

Ken Christie organised a dinner dance which took place on Saturday, July 4, at Northcliffe Golf Club. There was an excellent turn out of around 50 people. Mike Brear and his barmy army again turned out in force to get the after dinner disco off to a flying start. Thanks Ken for taking time to organise the event and maybe we can arrange a barbecue evening for later in the year?

Myself and many fellow greenkeepers were shocked to hear that Gary Potter, of Skipton Golf Club, had been involved in a bad accident at work. The incident happened in the greenkeepers sheds, but fortunately Gary had his mobile phone at hand to enable him to contact the emergency services. After undergoing surgery, Gary is back at home, but will be "laid" up for some time until he makes a full recovery. From all of the Northern Section we wish Gary a full, speedy recovery and we hope to see him gracing the fairways in the near future. The President's Day Tournament had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. Up to press we haven't finished any of the fixtures this year. I hope the weather is better for the Roses match and the following Invitation Day tournaments. If anyone has any news from within the Section please contact me at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA or ring me on 01484 317813 or 0411 601420.

Simon Heppenstall

North East

The following new members have joined the Section: S. Cooper, Slaley Hall; G. Dawson, Close House; S. Embleton-Ryton, S. Hagar, Crook; J. Ivil, South Moor; J. Keay, Close House; G. Milliken, Seahouses; I. Patterson, Gosforth; R. Peebles, Close House; T. Pickles,

Seaham; C. French, Student; D. Hawikins, Student; M. Lowdon, City of Newcastle.

There has been quite a bit of movement up to now in the Section this year with the following members; Neil Parkin, from Hexham to South Moor as Deputy Head; Robbie Williams, from Matfen Hall to Slaley Hall; Gary Reynolds, from South Moor to Slaley Hall; John Surtees, from Slaley Hall to Hexham; Craig Parkinson, from Slaley Hall to Matfen Hall as Course Manager and myself, from Slaley Hall to Hexham as Deputy Head.

Just a reminder that the Autumn comp, is at Consett GC, on Thursday, September 24 tee off at 9.30pm. If anyone has any news please let me know or any more moves.

Jimmy Richardson

Sheffield

On July 1 we held our annual competition at Worksop Golf Club. Our thanks go to Worksop for giving us the courtesy of their course. After the recent weeks' weather we were very lucky and managed to stay dry all day. Our thanks go to Barry Lax and his staff for the excellent condition of Worksop, well done Barry! I think the day was enjoyed by everyone who played, although I think the course was found rather tight by many who played, me included! - Didn't I, Jeremy? Thanks also go to the catering staff who provided an excellent meal which was enjoyed by everyone. Thanks also go to trade members who provided some of the prizes. There was some very good golf played and with a net 69 the eventual winner was Stuart Pigott, from Bondhay Golf Club.

Results, 1. S. Pigott, 69, best back 9; 2. D. Chappell, 69; 3. J. Goldthorpe, 71. The best gross of the day was won by Dave Chappell with an excellent score of 78. Our guest prize was won by Arnie Senior, Worksop's Greens Chairman. Our next golf is our Autumn Competition on September 29, to be held at Gainsborough Golf Club, 1pm tee off.

Once again may I ask the person who has a trophy they won at our annual competition held at Cavendish Golf Club in 1995, could they please return it! Congratulations go to Barry Heaney who won a set of golf clubs in the Buy a Brick raffle. Congratulations go to Graham Wells and his wife on the birth of their baby girl recently.

Finally may I wish all the best and a full recovery to two of our members, Kevin Atherton, of Coxmoor, and Brian Alton of Serbly Park. Kevin recently suffered a stroke, we all hope you get well soon and take it nice and easy Kev! Brian

recently had a heart by-pass operation, we all hope you get well soon. Take it nice and easy Brian.

J V Lax

North West

According to the Met Office this has been the wettest June on record for many years, and I am sure that for most of you, it has been far too wet. Not so for

everybody. I am sure the links courses have not suffered, including Royal Birkdale. I dropped in to see Chris Whittle three weeks before The Open and the course was looking exceptionally green and in lovely condition.

The summer tournament on June 25 was played at Haydock Park GC with a good turnout of 45 competitors. The course was

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in perfect condition thanks to Ken Bennison and his staff, who must have been working flat out for weeks to have the course looking so good. Some excellent scores were returned, and the winner of the Reg Vickers trophy was Mike Davie with a 76-11-65. Once again the members of the trade helped to swell the prize table, allowing prizes to 13th

nett. I would like to thank Haydock Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course, and use of their facilities, the caterers for a lovely meal and an excellent bar service, Ken Bennison and his staff for preparing the course to such a high standard, and the members of the trade for donating prizes.

The following companies donat-

ed prizes, SISIS, County Crops, Gary Worrall Groundcare, Rigby Taylor, Richard Campey, Cheshire Sand & Top Dressing, Rufford Soil Technology, Amenity Technology, Acorn Equipment, Cheshire Turf Machinery. The day was enjoyed by everybody, and the sun shone for a change.

A further reminder about forthcoming golf events. Steward's

Match, Warrington GC, August 24. Roses Match, Swinton Park GC, August 26. Autumn Tournament, Dean Wood GC September 17. I will require a team of 16 for each of the matches with the Stewards & Roses Match.

Anybody interested please contact me on 0151 724 5412. Bert Cross.

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Cleveland

First sorry about June's news but I did not get it sent in on time. Well on the news front things are very quiet I think most greenkeepers are struggling with the weather, we might as well call June the Monsoon season. Our course has kept open and we have only lost four to five days where some local courses have been shut for up to a week.

On a more sombre note Ossie Tallentire, a retired greenkeeper from Brancepeth, lost his wife to cancer in June. Everybody who knows Ossie has sent him letters and cards giving him support in his hours of need.

Getting back to Section news it's been a short letter this month so if anyone has anything to report please give me or any Committee member a ring, I know we are all going flat out at the present time, but there must be something going on (that's printable of course) so if anyone is getting promoted or married, having babies... or if anyone wants to have a child give me a ring. I'm free most Fridays.

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop.

North Wales

Firstly, apologies, a couple of months ago I welcomed new members to our Section but due to the fact that I can't seem to understand PTO, thinking it was something that sticks out of the back of a tractor I missed the following. Jeff Jago, Stephen Fort, Jon Astles, Stephen Wright, Sutton Hall Golf Club & Delroy Bruffell, Northrop Country Park. Sorry lads a very belated welcome to you.

I had a lad come to see me he's nearly 20 years of age; got his first aid and spraying certificates; has worked at a couple of clubs and is looking to further his career, he lives in North East Wales and seems very ambitious. So if any of you out there are looking for someone who has experience please phone me on 01824 710693. Congratulations go out to Dewi Lloyd Hughes, Head Greenkeeper at Pwllhellis Golf Club, on completing 25 years at the club. That's from his staff Alwyn, Iwan, Dylan and Steve, the Section and all his friends in the trade. The annual awards day took place at the college on June 25. (Sorry I couldn't make it Graham). Prizes were awarded to students who produce high standards of achievement and were donated by the trade. Thanks once again for the support shown by the trade. This year each student was presented with a copy of Jim Arthur's book "Practical Greenkeeping". Congratulations to all award winners, who were: The Gem Professional Merit Prize, Paul Simon, Welsh College; The Walker Engineering Prize, Emyr Rowlands, Storws; The Rufford Merit prize, Ian Ellis, Ruthin Pwllglas; The

Mommersteeg Merit Prize, Philip Davies, Rhuddlan; The Merit Prize, Martin Roberts, Caernarvon; The Martin Bros Merit Prize, Robert Jones, Old Padeswood; The ICAM Prize, Barry Williams; The C.J. Mitchelmore Prize, Huw Townsley and Practical Plant ID Prize, Sarah Tait.

It's July 3 and so far I've seen more rain than Noah. Anyone want to buy any silage!

Dave Goodridge



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

Midland Region

A note for your diaries. The Midland Region Seminar will be held this year at Mentmore Golf & Country Club, near Leighton Buzzard, on November 18. Applications for attendance will be sent to all BIGGA members in the Midland Region during August. BTME 99. There will be a limited number of places available to BIGGA Midland Region members on the SW & South Wales Region coach, which will travel from the home counties to Harrogate via the M1 to the BTME. There will also be a number of rooms available in the Imperial Hotel, Harrogate at £32 per night B&B. Anyone interested should contact the SW & South Wales Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, on 01363-82777.

P J Larter

East Midlands

We now have a new company sponsor for this year's Autumn Tournament, Banks Amenity Products Ltd. As I'm sure you are all aware this year's event will take place on September 3, courtesy of Scraftoft GC. The results in this year's singles knock out are as follows; 1st Round C. Chamberlain, Scraftoft, beat J. Bedford, Birstall, 3&1. A. Porter, Greatham Valley, won 1 up against K. Davis, Lutterworth. 2nd Round A. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, beat D. James, Scraftoft, 7&6. Please remember that the Semi-Finals must be played by August 31.

Sorry I have no more news for you this month, but if you the members have anything you would like to see in this article, please give me a call.

Antony Bindley

Mid Anglia

Our next golf event to be held is the Summer tournament on Thursday, August 27, at Leighton Buzzard Golf Club. Should you wish to play, please ensure that

entries are sent to Richard Saunders, our Match Secretary, by Monday, August 17. The golf format for the day will be an 18 hole Stableford in the morning, followed by a nine hole Texas scramble, after lunch.

All the Lodgeway four ball league matches will have been completed by now, with the seven league winners and best runner-up going forward to the quarter final knockout stage. These matches need to be played before the end of August. Finally, good luck to Duncan McGilvray in his new appointment as Course Manager at Potters Bar Golf Club, after 11 years at Letchworth Golf Club.

Paul Lockett

East Anglia

Stowmarket was the venue for the TORO sponsored Captain and Greenkeeper Shield which was won by Greg McHugh and Neville Keteringham. I think Greg won just about everything that day as you will see in due course. Roger Eade and his men did a fantastic job in presenting the course in great shape. Unlike some members we know it isn't all due to "the rain we had lately". I think there were about 60 greenkeepers and two guests trying to master the course. As you will see we all failed. In Cat 1 which was pretty tight; 1. M. Gill, 32pts; 2. P. Howard, 32pts; 3. M. Brewster, 31pts. Cat 2 which was just as tight; 1. Greg McHugh, 33pts (overall winner of the TORO Shield); 2. B. Porter, 32pts; 3. Mike Virley, 32 pts. In Cat 3, equally tight; 1. Richard Mitchell, 31 pts; 2. Martin Myson, 31pts; 3. Ernie Hart, 30pts. Trade prize was won by David Cole, 37pts. Guest prize, Mr G. Page, 34pts. Nearest the Pin was Dick Moore, Eaton Captain. Longest Drive, Gary Cunningham. The Ladies' prize was won by Jayne Leslie, Lyndon's guest.

Talking of Lyndon he won the Loo Seat. (Been there, done that). £50 was donated to Papworth by those not wearing BIGGA ties. Prizes were donated by TORO, SISIS, Rushbooks, CMW, Rigby Taylor and presented by Mr Denis Leaming, Club Captain. Our thanks to all concerned at Stowmarket for a really good day out. There was also another good day out sponsored by Rushbooks, SISIS, Rhone Poulenc and Levingtons at Brett Vale back in June. It really was a good day. Colin, Bob and Brian all did their bit to make the day go well. They are always worth the entrance money. A bit like Larry, Mo and Curley (The three stooges for those who can remember that far back). I think Colin is a good Curley. Anyway thanks for a good day. See you all on the next tee.

Mick Lathrope

Midland

By the time you will receive this magazine we will have played the Summer Tournament at the Wrekin Golf Club and hopefully everybody will have enjoyed themselves and the weather would have been kind for us. But the way this year's summer has gone up to this time who can blame us for being sceptical. The deadline for entries to the Autumn tournament to be played at Edgbaston is August 31, please get your entries in as soon as possible. There is the possibility that we can arrange a 5 a side tournament at the Bescot Stadium, this will probably take place in the evening. Anyone interested please contact Andrew Smith on 01676 523020.

As a committee it has been suggested that we should try to arrange a quiz night in a local pub, so again will anyone who is interested please contact Andrew Smith on the above number. In my last report I told you of my new address but did not have a telephone number at that time, here is my new number- 01562 861434. Finally I would like to introduce this months new members; David Carr, Craig Campbell, Dean Hill, Robert Harris and David Healy.

Jonathan Wood



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Sussex

The Sussex Section enjoyed a superb day at Slinfold Park Golf Club on July 2, perhaps the brandy supplied on arrival at 7.30 am had the desired effect and set everyone up for a 9 hole Texas Scramble before breakfast proper was served! This Competition which was sponsored by Scotts was won by the Team of Jon Hill, Peter Ray and Mike Butrymowicz. The afternoon was an Individual Stableford sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity Products, the winner being John Shepherd, narrowly beating Peter Ray on count-back. John Hill was third. The Guest's Prize was taken by Peter Baynham, narrowly beating Gary Ogilvie who had some consolation by winning the longest drive. The Nearest the Pin was won by Steve Vogels. The highlight of the Prize giving however was the presentation of the "Longest Walk" prize to Bruce Alexander who really deserved a special award for completing the round!

It was difficult to get players in to dinner because the setting at Slinfold is so relaxing, with the bar opening out on to a balcony overlooking the 10th tee which is



set in the middle of a lake giving a very formidable drive over a considerable distance of water, and Greenkeepers seem to get a great deal of pleasure from watching Members (who now had the course back for themselves) driving into the water!

The meal however was worth it and it would be fair to say it was only surpassed by the condition of the course that Course Manager, Paul McDowell, had presented to us that day. Those of us who had played Slinfold in its earlier days could not believe the incredible improvement of the course over the last few years and a lot of credit is due to Paul and his General Manager, Stephen Blake, who is also a full member of BIGGA.

All that remains is to thank Neil Cleverly for his efforts and to inform those present that Neil is making a good recovery from his seven nervous breakdowns that he suffered on the day! I'm sure that Members would not drop out at the last minute if they saw what Neil had to go through in order for the Texas scramble and the rest of the day to go so well!

Derek Farrington

Kent

Considering the weather during June, the Section were indeed fortunate that the rain stopped in time to tee-off and turned into a fine afternoon (if a little windy)! at Boughton Golf Club on the 25th. Most golfers have a pre-set impression of a well used pay and play golf course. When it comes to Boughton, forget it. The course is set in beautiful Kent countryside and Course Manager, Gary Debenham, had it in superb condition for our visit, and with Club Captain, John Epps, making us so welcome it would have been difficult not to have had a superb day. It was also very encouraging that the attendance was greatly improved for this meeting, making it so much more enjoyable for all concerned. As so often happens local knowledge proved to be an advantage with the winners of the Best Gross and Best Net Scores going to Greenkeepers from the Course, James Duncan and Philip Belton respectively, both winning some superb glassware generously provided by Rigby Taylors, as did Neil Pullen, Willmott-Pertwee, who won the Guest's Prize. Not to be outdone Bernard Diddhams, of Rigby Taylor, won the Willmott Pertwee "Nearest the Pin" Prize!

Don't forget, the next Golf Day for the Section is at Westerham on August 11, so please try to get there and make it more enjoyable for everyone.

Huw Morgan

Surrey

Congratulations to Ken Harding who is now in charge at Worplesdon Golf Club. We all wish him good luck, good weather and a co-operative Greens Committee. Epsom Golf Club had a very successful Pro Am on the May 21. The course was in terrific condition and I understand that Doug Fernie, the Head Greenkeeper, who played in the event was among the prize winners. Your committee met on Monday evening the June 1 at the Drift Golf Club. Ernest Doe has kindly agreed to sponsor the Cresta Cup, at Foxhills Golf Club, on the June 16 and the winners of that competition will appear in the August magazine.

Other forthcoming events include and the McMillan Tankard on the August 5. If any member needs further information on any of the above events please contact Ted Stiles, your Section Secretary. Peter Broadbent and his team at Effingham Golf Club are still talking about an unwanted visitor who arrived with a bang at the end of May. A thunderbolt struck property within yards of the sheds at Effingham causing fire damage, shock and additional laundry expenses for the greens staff! The third round of the Huxley Bowl Competition should have been played by the end of June and the draw for the quarter finals will be by now in the hands of the successful teams.

Brian Willmott

Essex

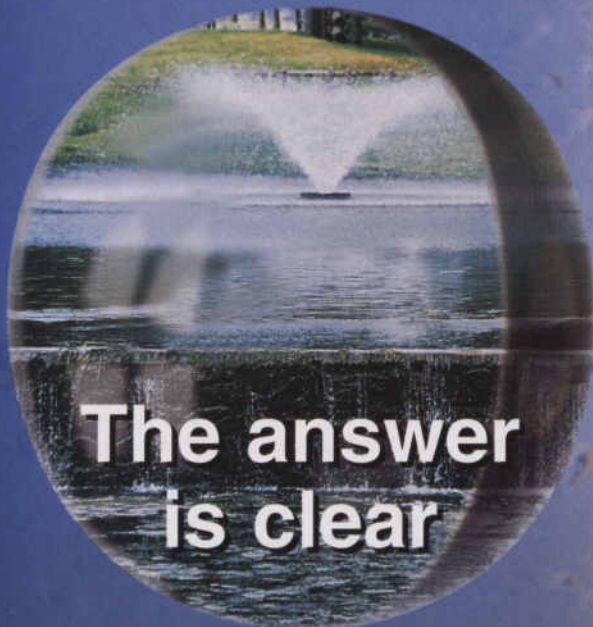
Well, August is generally the month for the holiday makers and if you have already had a break or with one coming up on the horizon, no one can argue with the fact that we have earned a rest from the pressures endured during the first half of the year. On to the golf front, with our golfing day at Thorpe Hall GC being played on August 7 a report will appear in a later edition.

The next golf day will be a joint effort with our neighbours East Anglia on August 26, at Stoke By Nayland GC giving us a chance to meet up with some old friends. For further details contact Richard Pride 01268 752281. Education, the second day (for those who attended the first in March) will be on November 17 at Stock Brook Manor GC, price £12, for the Frank Newberry Management Skills. Details will be sent out.

Jason Brown, from Chelmsford GC, is our latest recruit to join the Section and we give him a warm welcome. I am only on the end of a telephone waiting for ideas or news to write about, so come on pick up the phone and start dialling 01702 522202.

Dave Wells

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**South West
and South Wales**
Paula Humphries
Tel. 01363 82777

Devon and Cornwall

As in previous years the Section will hold six meetings during the winter as promised in last month's article. I have included dates and venues in my report this month which are as follows. The Roffey's meeting, October 14, Saunton GC; The Devon Garden Machinery meeting, November 11, Lanhydrock CC; The P.J Flegg meeting, December 9, Okehampton GC; The Barenbrug meeting, January 27, Bude GC; The Avoncrop meeting, February 24, St Enodoc GC; The Rhone Poulenc & Supaturf meeting, March 24, Venue to be confirmed.

Please note the changes to our meeting programme listed below; 1. Golling members to receive starting times before meeting with a draw for partners being introduced to avoid same old groups playing together, this will be done for all meetings include foursome competitions etc. 2. Company and golf presentation to conclude the day. 3. A levy of £2 will be added to each entry received after the closing date. 4. As some members have problems paying before meetings, they will be able to continue to pay on the day without being levied as long as the entry has been received before the closing date, any member who doesn't attend after entering will be invoiced if no payment is received. Have you booked your place on the regions trip to BTME at Harrogate yet as places are going fast? For more information call Paula Humphries on 01363 82777.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

Our Annual Golf Match against the South West Section will take place at Yeovil Golf Club on Wednesday, September 16. Those of you who would like to play contact our Tournament Organiser, Trevor Smith, Manet, Horton Road, Horton Heath, Wimbourne, Dorset, BH21 6SB, Tel 0410 835242.

Arrangements seem to be well in hand for a visit to Hankley Common Golf Club. Last year you may remember we visited The London Golf Club. As this proved to be very successful we have decided to visit Hankley Common this year. All of you who wish to go on the trip let our Secretary know as soon as possible; Jef Drake, 6 Villiers Walk, Wash Common, Newbury, Berks, RG14 6SJ, Tel 01635

846575. Jef can then make the necessary transport arrangements. The exact date has not been confirmed yet. I can tell you it will be early November. Confirmation of the date will be in next month's report.

Another plug for BTME. In the July report I mentioned the prices for the coach and the bargains on offer. I can now tell you that if we can get the support from you the members, a coach will be run for the South Coast Section. It is envisaged it will start from Bournemouth and make its way through the Section to the M1. This will save all the hassle of making our way to Bristol to pick up the coach. All those of you who would like to make the trip should contact Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries. For those of you who have not been before it's something not to be missed. Paula would like your booking forms returned as soon as possible along with your deposits. This is to enable her to book the hotel accommodation.

Our Regional Seminar will be held at Cannington on Wednesday, November 25. Some very good speakers have been approached. Although the list has not been finalised, I can tell you that Frank Newberry will be there. He will be talking about communication. His topic will be Making Committees Work for you. He is also doing a workshop. Tony Rees will be talking about Risk Assessment. Ian McMillan will be giving us an account of his achievements over the year. John Miller will be there from Supaturf, who, I hasten to add, are the main sponsors for the Seminar. Dave Phillips from Mommersteeg will be talking about grass seed. More details will be forwarded to you in due course. However I think you can see it should be a very informative day Let's have some good support from the South Coast.

Ken Lodge

South West

Illfracombe was the venue for the annual match against the South West Secretaries. I am afraid I was not able to make this match but Captain Matt Hawker told me all about it. I remember playing this course about 20 years ago and seem to recall finding the club by going to the seaside town of Illfracombe and then travelling in a vertical direction for about a mile. Delightful on a pleasant day but this apparently was more of your howling gale and torrential rain type weather. It was summed up with Matt's first tee shot that, once air borne, actually managed to

travel backwards over his head. In fact the entire match appears to have been more of an endurance test which the greenkeepers won by two matches and three halved. This is obviously due to the superior physical attributes of the greenkeepers and would also explain why our very own administrator, Paula, was playing for the secretaries on this occasion. This was not an act of gross treason but, as she so diplomatically pointed out, was merely an excuse for her to admire the physical form of two greenkeepers as she went round instead of one. Very understandable in my opinion, especially when one considers the shape of your average Club Secretary. I seem to recall Illfracombe being blessed with an unusually high number of blind shots which is just as well as our poor Chairman Gordon Child was unable to see a thing anyway through his glasses in the typical June weather. Thanks Gordon for playing for us and thanks also to John Palfrey and Avoncrop who very kindly sponsored a mini bus to take everyone down there. They also sponsored the prizes and provided Robert the driver so as all our team could politely sample the local refreshments. The next match is on September 16 and is against the might of the South Coast Section at Yeovil. As an added incentive there will be team BIGGA shirts provided for all competitors on our team.

Marc Haring



North East

We held a BBQ and Deep Bunker Chipping competition at Greenmount College, Antrim on July 3. The event was extremely well supported by members from both Sections. The North East Section would like to thank J. A. Humphrey for sponsoring the Chipping Competition and special thanks to Elizabeth Wilson for all her help and support. We would hope to make this an annual event. Thanks must also go to Greenmount College for the use of their facilities, Neil McLaughlin for setting it up and cooking the food and our Secretary, Mark Farrell and his mum, for purchasing and preparing the food.

Congratulations to Nick Webber, Portstewart GC, who has just become Greenmount College's top student 1996-1998 NVQ II. He has also won the

I.O.G cup for best student and has won the Northern Ireland Toro Young Greenkeeper. We all hope that Nick will go on to do well for himself. And if all that were not enough Nick will represent Northern Ireland in an international team against America. The Hayter International Cup match to be held at Cherokee Town & Country Club in Atlanta, Georgia, in October. A reminder to all our members that our AGM will take place on August 24, at Allen Park Golf Centre, at 7pm sharp. We are also holding an 18 hole competition that day, tee off time is 2pm sharp. The committee has been working on an agenda for the next 12 months. If anyone has any ideas, or would like to see a particular event taking place please contact myself on 01574 276001. Finally on the move are Lee Eager, who moves to Allen Park; Mark Farrell, Mark Cassidy and myself who move to Stakis Park Templepatrick.

South East

The latest member to the South East Section this month is Ronald Neil, from Royal Co Down Golf Club. On July 1 our Section had a golf day at Malone Golf Club. The weather was perfect although some of the golf may not have been, myself included. The prizes were provided by Rite Feed and the winners were; 1. Gordon McBride; 2. James Logan; 3. Alison Sloan; and "nearest the pin" went to Alan Stracon, Royal Co Down. Tensions were running high at the bar as one or two arguments arose over handicaps but all was settled and everyone had a good day. Many thanks again to Richard Lawrence from Ritefeed for the prizes and his hospitality in the clubhouse and also to Malone Golf Club.

Jonathan McCabe



See you all next month!

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Royal Birkdale wins the Open

The Claret Jug may have gone to the man currently in possession of the Green Jacket, and the hearts of everyone to a 17 year old amateur, but the real winner during the 127th Open Championship was Royal Birkdale itself which had been brought to a peak by Chris Whittle and his superb team.

That there was not a blade of grass out of place was testimony to the course preparation. That the winning score was level par showed that despite the space age advances in ball and club technology in the

hands of the finest exponents of the game in the world, 18 magnificent holes and a testing wind can still produce a stalemate.

The excellent work over the last few years by Chris and his team was complemented by that of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team, sponsored by Stylo for the first time, who provided a divoting team before and after each day's play as well as someone to rake the bunkers with each of the matches every day.

In difficult conditions the Support team produced professional performances on the course, particularly during the play-off - which involved speeding to the chosen holes in advance of the players and raking every bunker from there to the finish - and many stories to take home off the course.

Top of the latter list must come from Russell Black, of Westerhope GC, and Kevin Bell, of Elmwood College GC, who, having missed the last mini bus back to their hotel on the final day, were given a ride back into Southport by none other than Mark O'Meara, the new Open Champion, himself.

The BIGGA Marquee in the Tented Village was graced by visits from the Association's President, Viscount Whitelaw, as well as Jaime Ortiz Patino, President of Valderrama Golf Club.

Great BIGGA Bunker Competition

For the fourth successive year BIGGA ran a competition in the Media Centre to estimate how many bunkers the BIGGA Support Team would rake during the course of the four days. Each member of the team was issued with a score card to record every bunker a player went into which, as well as supplying the data for the competition allowed BIGGA to supply valuable information to the press and media on a daily basis covering how many bunkers were found, which hole had been most and least costly and who, among the players had spent most time in the sand.

As the Support Team members also recorded any incidents which occurred with their match these were also put together in a daily press release which was distributed to the press, BBC Television and Radio Five Live.

A separate competition was also held for the members of the Support team

The Royal Birkdale Bunker Raking Statistics

Day 1.	355
Day 2.	406
Day 3.	226
Day 4.	153 (including one in play-off)

Overall 1140

Chris Whittle, right, and his magnificent men





Action men including (above top) Russell Black, Westerhope GC, raking the bunker from which Brian Watts played his stunning recovery to force the play-off, and (middle) Scott Purdy of Ashbourne GC, and above, the team preparing the 18th for the play-off.

Below: Robert Hogarth, Cathcart Castle GC, after running all the way to the 15th in the play-off!





Winners Press and Media
 Day 1. Anne Wilson, STRI Turfgrass Bulletin, 351.
 Day 2. David Hamilton, Press Association Sport, 401.
 Day 3. John Huggan, Golf Digest, 222.
 Day 4. Mark Garrod, Press Association Golf Correspondent, 160.
 Overall winner Tim Glover, The Independent, 1160.

Tim wins a Hayter Harrier 48 lawn mower. The presentation will be made in due course by Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter, who kindly donated the mower.

BIGGA Support Team Winners
 Day 1. John Berry, Penrith GC, 354
 Day 2. Robert Hogarth, Cathcart Castle GC, 405
 Day 3. Ian Semple, Old Fold Manor, 224
 Day 4. John Berry, 156.

Overall winner, John Berry, Penrith GC, 1234.

Left: With the new Open Champion. Above: Marcus Hamon, of Royal Guernsey with Tiger Woods' ball. Below left: Close to the action. Below right: About to receive the acclaim.

History of the Bunker Data

	St Andrews ('95) (117 bunkers)	Royal Lytham ('96) (185 bunkers)	Royal Troon ('97) (84 bunkers)	Royal Birkdale ('98) (117 bunkers)
Rd 1	214	501	344	355
Rd 2	201	577	272	406
Rd 3	130	269	107	226
Rd 4	156	271	136	153
Total	701	1618	859	1140

Total for four years = 4418

Support Team Snippets

Bob Estes found sand so often during the first round that his caddie asked BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Anthony Davies, of Prestbury GC, if he would mind joining the US Tour as their personal bunker raker.

Tiger Woods nipped off to the loo after teeing off on the 11th but finding the Gents engaged used the ladies instead. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member Russell Black, of Westerhope GC, in the north east.

The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team has provided support to the resident greenkeeping team at every Open Championship since St Andrews in 1984.

This year the team contains greenkeepers from golf clubs including Wentworth, East Sussex National, Royal Guernsey, Clondeboye, in Ulster, and Valderrama and from as far north as Tain and south as St Enedoc in Cornwall.

Mark Calcavecchia came up with an excuse many club golfers would have been proud of during the second round. On the 15th hole he ripped off his hat saying that it was too tight and he couldn't think!



Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Terry Crawford, of Clondeboye GC, in Ulster.

Stuart Appleby encountered some of Royal Birkdale's renowned wildlife during his second round. He found the rough to the right hand side of the 16th green but had to wait for a frog to move from beside his ball before he could play. Last year Royal Birkdale was the Northern Regional winner of the BIGGA Golf Environment competition in association with Amazone and Rhone Poulenc. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Ian Semple, Old Fold Manor GC.

Darren Lee had a spectator to thank for saving him on the 18th in the second round. He had lost his ball on the right hand side of the 18th but a spectator who had watched it land jumped over the barrier on the left side of the fairway and led Darren straight to his ball. He returned to his place arms raised in triumph to a round of applause from the gallery. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member Chris Sheehan, of West Derby GC.

BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Stuart Hogg, certainly impressed one of his players, Dudley Hart, during the second round. Dudley was watching as Stuart raked one of his bunkers and turned to his caddie and said, "Now that's how a trap should be raked." They then offered to take Stuart with them to the US Tour. Stuart works at Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC.

US Open Champion Lee Janzen was cleaning his contact lens between tee and green in Saturday's third round but dropped one near a ditch. Fortunately he was able to find it just before the Rules Man stood on it! Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Billy Merritt, of Allerton Park GC.

BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member Anthony Davies, of Prestbury Park, who was with Nick Faldo's match met Prince Andrew on the 17th fairway. The Prince came up behind Anthony and asked what club he thought Faldo would be playing. "A 7-iron maybe?" Anthony replied "Maybe for you, Sir. For Faldo a 9." The Prince agreed. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Anthony Davies, of Prestbury Park GC.

Anthony also had to rake a bunker after a Faldo supporter fell into it trying to get a little closer to his idol in the third round.

Justin Leonard called a shot on himself at the 2nd when his ball moved slightly in a bunker. No-one noticed apart from himself and the Greenkeeper Support Team member Robert Hogarth, of Cathcart Castle GC. The referee was called, the ball replaced and an extra shot added to the score. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Robert Hogarth, of Cathcart Castle GC.



Above (top): Tom Woolley of Eastbourne GC on the 7th.

Above left: Chris Kennedy, Gordon Child, George Brown and Walter Woods share a joke.

Above: Some well-known faces share a drink in the BIGGA marquee.

Left: The divoting team on Saturday evening.

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BT Mobile sponsored BIGGA's second golf day, and walked off with some of the top prizes as well...

UPWARDLY MOBILE



The second annual BIGGA Golf Day more than lived up to the standard set by its predecessor as 34 teams put club to ball on one of the few decent days served up by the month of June.

With the ability to enjoy oneself just as important as a talent for holding difficult putts and driving long distances the old adage about it being more important to take part than to win found its true home.

There were more non winners than winners at Aldwark Manor Golf and Country Club on the evening of June 22 but even those who had left their best shots on the practice range had contented smiles of their faces as they watched the wonderful prizes being presented.

The Texas Scramble format with three drives from each player and a maximum handicap allowance of six ensured a tight competition, tight that is apart from the winning team who came from the sponsors. BT2 took no prisoners with a magnifi-

cent score of 56.8, over three shots clear of another British Telecom team, representing BT Internet, showing that for sure if "Driving is for Show Putting is for Dough".

The day was graced by several well known faces with the star guest being Ian Mercer, alias Gary Mallet from Coronation Street. Ian played in the day as part of the Granada Studio's team which would have also featured Phil Middlemiss, Des Barnes to you and I. Unfortunately Phil's show biz lifestyle got in the way of his trip to Aldwark Manor and he had to cry off a week before the day.

Ian thoroughly enjoyed his day and mingled with all the guests even finding time for a few holes the day before and the day after the event thanks to a window in his filming commitments on "The Street".

From the sporting world football, cricket and rugby union were represented with ex-Scottish Internationalist Bobby Moncur, now employed by Aldwark Manor, ex-Yorkshire County Player, Ashley Metcalfe, and our own Midland Regional Administrator, Peter Larter who is, of course, an ex-British Lion.

The day will have bitter sweet memories for two of the competitors who shall remain nameless. Those who know the first hole at Aldwark Manor will recall that it is a par 3 of around 160 yards with a tight entrance guarded by out of bounds and a tree to the left and some trees and the driveway on the right. One player saw his errant tee shot slice off to the right bounce off the bonnet of a car and finish six feet from the flag. The legacy was a fine start for one team and a dirty big dent in the car of another of the players, a man indeed, whose journey to the day the year before had been interrupted by a broken windscreen.

"BT Mobile is delighted to have been the sole sponsor of the 1998 BIGGA Golf Tournament. Judging

by the positive feedback received, not only from our guests but from the other companies that attended this was clearly a successful and enjoyable day," said Gill Shaw, Events Manager, BT Mobile.

"I was particularly impressed by BIGGA on the day, who catered for all the participants' needs, no matter what the requirement, nothing was too much trouble.

I was extremely pleased with the high levels of participation. Everyone appeared to be enjoying themselves and I am now really looking forward to receiving the complimentary video.

"As the UK's leading provider of mobile communication products and services we are committed to sponsoring events such as BIGGA, that deliver our overall business objectives and further develop the strong relationships upon which our business is founded," added Gill.

1st. BT2.

Paul Titman, Eric Black, Stuart Johnson and Phil Purssey.

2nd. BT Internet 2.

P. Monaghan, D. Hinchcliffe, J. Braidy and D. Dwight.

3rd. Turf Mech.

Andy Davey, David Serles, Alister Rowell and Craig Hardy.

Nearest the Pin. Frank Flaherty.
Longest Drive. David Norton.

The day also featured the drawing of the Buy a Brick Raffle which raised a substantial sum of money for the new headquarters which is making great progress a 100 yards from the existing office.

Remarkably the top prize, a set of golf clubs and bag was won by BIGGA Past Captain Barry Heaney, whose name was drawn out by current BIGGA Chairman Gordon Child.

A full list of prize winners appears on page 10.

A passing cameraman is visibly shocked at the amount on the plate of Aldwark Manor's Head Greenkeeper, Richard Gamble





Above: Past Chairman, Barry Heaney receive top prize in the Buy a Brick Raffle from Gordon Child.

Above Right: BT Mobile 2, Paul Titman, Eric Black, Stuart Johnson and Phil Purssey showed the rest of the field a clean pair of heels to take top honours.

Right: Richard Minton, Kim Macfie, Bob Moncur, James McEvoy and David Butler contemplate the day ahead.





Above: BT Internet 2 (Runners-up) pictured receiving their prizes from Ian Mercer.

Below: Third placed Turf Mech receive their prize from Ian.



Below: Ian Mercer displays a touch of style, and a lovely pair of knees, on the 1st tee



Winner of the putting competition Iain MacLeod (above) and the nearest the pin Frank Flaherty receive their hip flasks from Ian.





Right: Golf Day sponsors, BT Mobile display their wares.

Below: BIGGA Executive Director, Neil Thomas, mistook this wedge for a cricket bat.

Below right: The Rovers with a beer garden? I think not! Ian Mercer and pals relax after a hectic day.



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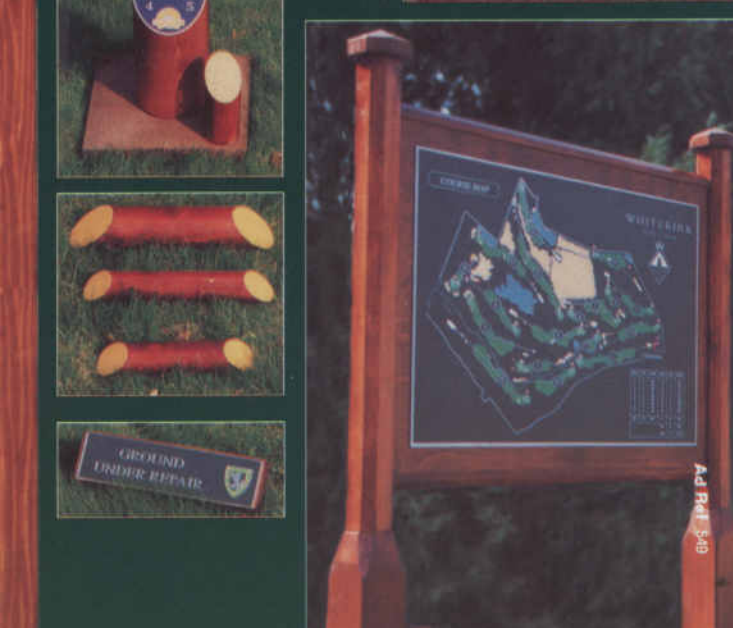


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Prime sta

World renowned golf course photographer and regular Greenkeeper International contributor, Brian Morgan, gets one of his real gripes of his chest and comes up with an idea which could make golf courses look a lot tidier...

I call it the "Augusta Rule" - If it stands still paint it green.

Many courses would look a lot better if they applied this rule and painted everything dark green. From the maintenance building to the rain shelter and from the bunker rakes to the hazard stakes.

Hazard Stakes? I hear you say, yes instead of long yellow or red stakes why not green with a red or yellow strip and Out of Bounds with a white strip.

As a golf course photographer I've lost count of the hours I've spent tidying up even very well groomed courses. Moving bunker rakes and hazard stakes. I photographed Augusta for 16 years, re-photographing each hole every year for their publications. Augusta has no hazard stakes, you are either in the hazard or not. Even during the Masters the only concession they make to the professionals is to paint a thin red or yellow line around the places where there may be a dispute.

Most golfers don't even know the rules concerning balls in hazards except to drop back under the penalty of one stroke.

For those of you who don't know, there are different options for relief, depending how it is marked. Even professional Tour players are often unsure of these options so the simpler we can keep it the better.

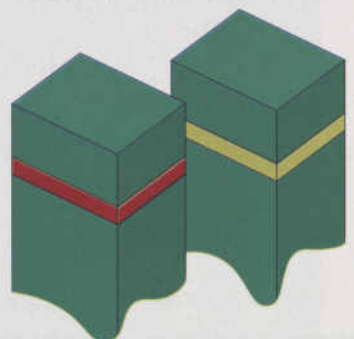
I don't see hazard stakes along the Swilcan Burn at St Andrews or Out of Bounds signs or stakes along the 16th by the old railway line or the 17th or the 18th. The out of bounds are only mentioned

on the scorecard. If the Swilcan Burn was on most courses I'm sure there would be dozens of red and yellow stakes. For the burn not only crosses the 1st and 18th holes it bends to run almost parallel at times.

If famous courses which host major tournaments can do without stakes why not your course? Golf's ruling bodies don't make any mention of the size or colour or ways to mark hazards. The European Tour has its own people who work with the greens staff to mark the tournament courses for GUR and paint lines along hazards which may be unclear.

Clubs should designate all Out of Bounds on the scorecard and if a hazard has to be marked do it as subtly as possible. My design for hazard stakes should be adopted and recommended by Golf's governing bodies so that we have a standardised system and the stakes can be made simply and cheaply.

Here is my Idea.
If stake is at junction of red and yellow - two lines



Like



The "Morgan" hazard stake is not exactly new. I'm sure I have seen it before but from an aesthetic viewpoint it certainly does the job. I am sure some golfers will say they have to see the hazard from a distance but there is nothing in the rules of golf which say you have to be able to see every hazard. In fact many courses have blind holes and to go back to the Old Course it is not easy to see the burn on the 1st or on Augusta to see where the pond starts when playing your second shot from the right side of the fairway on the 11th.

In a lot of cases the old adage applies "It's only blind the first time." So off you go and pick up all the stakes on the course, have a nice bonfire and think about not having to move them every time you mow!

See how long it is before anyone notices and see how few complain. Swat up on the rules concerning hazards and see how many of these "know it all" complainers can recite all the options for all the situations.

Restake the course with my type of markers but only if you have to!

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Derek Farrington, South East Regional Administrator chats to some of his members about the difficulties they encountered when new roads were routed through their golf courses...

The price of roads

If you are from north of London and heading for the continent on a holiday, a 'booze cruise' or even the golfing paradise of the Kent links courses, there is a fair chance that you will take the M25 and then head for the coast and ports of Kent along the A2/M2.

After a few miles along this motorway, on the right hand side you will get your first glimpse of a golf course, Rochester and Cobham Park, a fine course dating back to 1891.

From that part of the A2 where you can see the course, you are now travelling over what was the 18th green, one of the first casualties to the development of our road system in this part of Kent, for the course had to be re-designed to allow for the dualing of the then A2 during the 60s. You can also see the

building that served as a very fine Clubhouse until a few years ago, but more of this golf course later on.

This area of North Kent has seen massive investment in road development over the past few years, mainly to enable us to convey goods and people quickly and easily to and from our trading partners on the Continent. One such investment has been the A299 which has now opened large stretches of motorway quality road around the Herne Bay/Whitstable area.

Driving along this road will take you under a tunnel some 300 yards long. Above you will be Chestfield Golf Club. That tunnel, the road development and the consequential work load has been a real challenge to the Head Greenkeeper, Gary Mills, and his staff, at this course.

No doubt the Department of Transport, Kent County Council and the District Valuer have been very fair and generous to the Club in compensation to enable the Club to employ an architect to re-design and a contractor to carry out the work. In fact a large number of people not connected with the Golf Club have probably earned their living for their involvement with this particular project. Gary, in fact was given an extra member of staff to help cope with the extra work load. But as to compensation for the stress involved, I'm afraid not, that particular item does not appear in the equation for compensation. I use the word stress, for that is often the real word for what is euphemistically called a "Challenge"!

I'll not bore you with all the facts and figures at Chestfield. Suffice it to say that Gary had nine holes affected by the road works. As holes are altered, new greens and temporary greens have been constructed and as a result Gary now

Below: Rochester and Cobham Park during reconstruction





Right: Chesterfield Golf Course during the road construction

Below: Rochester and Cobham GC's splendid new clubhouse

has 26 greens to maintain for this 18 hole course. As work progresses he will of course end up with 18, but of those nine will be to USGA specification and the original nine will be old style on clay.

Before I left Chestfield, I returned to the tunnel. Work is soon to commence on seeding the top of it. At present the access road on it has been left in such a condition as to make it dangerous to take any machinery on to it. After it has "grown in" and tees have been constructed it will form part of a very formidable par 5 and perhaps will not be the only hole on the course where a tee-shot (like mine that can resemble a drive through extra cover) could put vehicles travelling the new road at considerable risk.

A considerable amount of Gary's stress has been caused by new areas (greens and fairways) being used far to soon. Members, however, have been very understanding, as has his Chairman of Green, who is only a voting member of the Golf Development Committee which makes most of the decisions. The main reason however that Gary has coped so well with all of these alterations to his course has been the support that he has had from his staff, who have worked long hours to keep the course in a playable condition whilst these works have been and are still going on.

Although this has only been about Chestfield Golf Club, Phil Hirst and his Staff, at Herne Bay Golf Club six miles along the same stretch of road have had the same sort of problems (and stress) to cope with, as have David Horne, at Sittingbourne and Milton Regis and Steve Johnstone, at Gillingham. No doubt many more Greenkeeping Staff throughout the country have been affected by this never ending policy of appeasement to the motor car.

Back to Rochester and Cobham Golf Club. As mentioned before the A2(M) is now routed over what was the 18th green. A few years later the Club built a splendid new Clubhouse alongside the newly widened A2. Then came the Channel Tunnel and the demand for a 'high speed rail link to the Continent. That's right - you've guessed it - through Rochester and Cobham Park Golf Course.

Barry Coveney is the Course Manager and he seems the sort to deal with stress very well. Fortunately. The first big change was that the splendid Clubhouse had to be re built. Right in the very spot that the Club had wanted it some years before but the Planners would not allow! The new building

is splendid, with a profusion of oak fittings that are beautiful. What was needed was nine new greens and rather than players having to play on greens of a different type (as at Chestfield) it was decided that although the compensation provided for the nine new ones the Club at its own expense would build all 18 greens to the same specification. Lucky Members!

Barry has been at Rochester and Cobham for over 20 years and appears to have taken all this work in his stride, and with one extra member of staff to cope with the increased work load has finished up with a magnificent golf course. I was lucky enough to play it with a Golf Society last year, and it really is a credit to him and

his Staff, the work now complete and now only the inconvenience of access, and road and rail works going on around him. The old Clubhouse is still there, being used as offices by Kent County Council and the contractors, McAlpines.

I suppose it is all very necessary, all the cost and all the work involved in the way that we pay homage to the motor car and the need to get everywhere in a hurry, but on reflection

I often wonder if it were possible to measure just how much money has been made by those involved and to what cost in stress to the Greenkeeper, who appears to have made not a penny more than his normal wage.



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1 Frankly my dear, we all give a damn

The closing hole at the Golf Club of Georgia which might well decide the match.

The 24 competitors in the Hayter International Cup match being played in October in Atlanta, host city for the '96 Olympic Games, can look forward to the match being decided over three of the finest courses they could wish to play.

The format is along the lines of the Ryder Cup with foursomes and fourballs matches deciding who will hold an edge going into the final day singles to decide the destination of the Cup.

The foursomes will be played at Cherokee Country Club on the

Tuesday, and as always in such a difficult form of golf much will depend on the non-playing Captains Gordon Child and George Renault and their ability to find a winning formula when selecting the pairings. With five points on offer it will be important not to give too much away before the fourball matches the following day at the prestigious Peachtree Golf Club where another five points will be up for grabs.

Both Captains will be looking to take a lead into final day singles at the Golf Club of Georgia but neutrals will no doubt be hoping that there is not more than a couple of points in it as the final 12 points are played out.


"I'm sure that we are in for an exciting three days of golf but I'm particularly looking forward to a repeat of the marvellous atmosphere and camaraderie that was created at West Lincs Golf Club two years ago," said Hayter Sales and Marketing Director, Kim Macfie.

Cherokee Town and Country Club has 18 holes under construction and, at present, it isn't decided which 18 holes will be used for the tournament. Which ever one gets the vote is sure to be an exciting challenge for the opening day of the match

The Superintendent is Randy Nichols.

Peachtree was the venue for the 1989 Walker Cup match which is remembered, on this side of the Atlantic anyway for the manner of Great Britain and Ireland's victory with Jim Milligan chipping in at





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- Paul McGinniss
Alta Mesa Country Club, USA
- Dave Fearis
Blue Hills Country Club, USA
- Tommy D. Witt
Still Waters Resort, USA
- Doug Meyer
Cedarbrook G&CC, Canada
- Dean Pillar
Cordova Bay GC, Canada
- Mike Baden
Cranbrook G&CC, Canada
- Ken Mangum
Atlanta Athletic Club, USA
- Al Pondel
Deerfield GC, USA
- Jim Dusch, USA
- Sylvain Alarie
Club de Golf St. Jerome, Canada
- Ricardo de Udaeta
Argentinean Golf Assoc., Argentina
- Alejandro Young
Argentinean Golf Assoc., Argentina

Full Rest of the World Team

- Non-Playing Captain -
Gordon Child, England
- Australia - Peter Frewin
- England - Andy Sheehan,
Bentley GC, Essex
- Finland - Jorma Eriksson
- France - Remy Dorbeau
- Germany - Andreas Kauler
- Ireland - Nick Webber,
Portstewart GC, Co Antrim
- Norway - Atle Revheim Hansen
- Scotland - Derek Wilson,
Irvine Bogside GC
- Spain - Eugenio Rezola
- Sweden - Martin Sternberg
- Switzerland - Pierre Ambrosin
- Wales - Russell Lewis,
Northop Country Club, Flintshire

The Hayter International Cup will be played in the week beginning October 11, 1998.



the final hole to grab the vital half point from American legend Jay Segal. By coincidence the Green Committee Chairman is Danny Yates, who is Captain of next year's American Walker Cup team. He will certainly be looking to avenge that famous defeat.

The course was designed by the great Bobby Jones in 1948, rounds per year, has nine water hazards and 50 bunkers and is

Above: The victorious Americas team from two years ago

Below: Kim Macfie who came up with the concept for the Hayter International Cup

Below right: The two non-playing captains from two years ago, Bruce Williams and Dean Cleaver



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described as having rolling terrain. It is a measure of the exclusive nature of the course and the honour the Hayter International Cup team members will feel that the course has a mere 12,500 rounds per annum.

The Superintendent is William Shirley.

The Golf Club of Georgia will offer a superb opportunity for those with an interest in nature to

see some unusual wildlife as raccoon, beaver and muskrat are listed as on the course. No doubt the beaver enjoy the five water hazards on the course more than the golfers might while there are 60 bunkers to get snare anyone who avoids the water. Like Peachtree the greens stimp at nine and a half for tournament play.

The Superintendent is Travis Shirley.



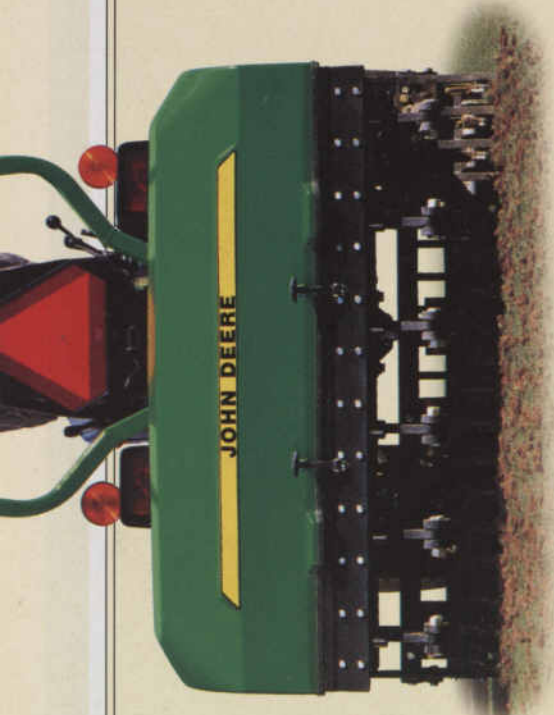
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SEE YOU IN WINDSOR

The annual outdoor Saltex Show, at Windsor, in September, is the ideal complement to our own indoor BTME Show, at Harrogate in January.

It will again be a case of all roads heading to Windsor on September 8-10 for the annual Saltex Show and this year the emphasis is very much on special working features. More than 12,400 square metres of the 48,500 square metres of space available at the show has been dedicated to working demonstration areas where machinery will be put through its paces before the gaze of potential purchasers.

"Machinery and equipment demonstrations are one of the main reasons why people keep coming back to Saltex," said Show Director Jon Gibson.

"People spend a lot of money on some of this machinery and it's not enough simply to find out about it from leaflets and brochures. No-one would be foolish enough to buy a car without first giving it a test drive, so why should the attitude be different towards buying a tractor."

However, Gibson adds that the demonstration areas are not just not about giving visitors a better look at equipment.

"Some companies use the exhibition to introduce a prototype and they need feedback from visitors so that they can make adjustments before launching the real thing," he explained. Among the companies exhibiting for the first time including Stihl, Twose Turf and Spray and Zaun while MJ Abbott are among the companies returning to the show after a gap. The show will also include a free seminar programme, running throughout the three days of the show.

Among the special guest speakers will be Eddie Seaward, Head Groundsman at the All-England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, who also spoke at this year's BTME, while the English Sports Council will give information on the Lottery Sports Fund and how to attract funding.

BIGGA will again be well represented at the Show with a prominently placed stand G1 and a team of staff keen to meet existing and prospective BIGGA members.

How to get to Saltex

SALTEX is held at Windsor Racecourse. About 20 miles west of Central London, Windsor is easy to reach by rail, road and air. Heathrow is only a 15 minute drive away; Gatwick and Luton are within an hour's drive.

By road

From the M25. Leave the motorway at Junction 15, where you'll join the M4, heading west.

From the M4: Westbound -- leave M4 at junction 6. Eastbound -- leave M4 at junction 8/9. Then follow brown and white signs for Windsor racecourse.

By rail

From London Paddington: Leave the train at Slough and join the local service to Windsor and Eton Central Station. Approximate journey time is 35 minutes.

From London Waterloo: Leave the train at Windsor and Eton Riverside Station. Approximate journey time is 45 minutes.





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EXHIBITOR

Listings, listings, listings, listings, listings, listings

Amenity Technology - Stand D71

Amenity Technology will be launching a number of new ranges at this year's Saltex show, which will herald a new generation of Amenity Products to take the company into the new millennium.

This year Amenity Technology have moved their stand further forward to allow easier access and as in previous year's free gifts will be available to the first 500 visitors every day, so don't be late!

Amenity Technology continue to pioneer developments in products to the amenity market. A visit in to the Amenity Technology show stand is the best way to find what is new in the amenity market.

Avoncrop - Stand H71-73

Throughout '98 Avoncrop Amenity Products have continued to develop their range of turf products to enable turf managers to meet ever increasing expectations and challenges of producing high quality playing surfaces. We have also developed a range of products and services which help turf managers to meet strict environmental regulations and will be exhibiting the latest products from our own AAP range; Scotts Turf & Amenity; Rhone-Poulenc; Supaturf; Farmura; Headland and Vitax. The organic and microbial products from Green Releaf and Terralift will also be featured.

Details of the new highly successful AA Chemical Container Disposal Service will be available along with a range of the latest spraying, line marking and golf sundries.

The BAA/Basis Advanced Contractor Certification Scheme (Supported by Rhone-Poulenc Amenity) - Stand T30

Rhone-Poulenc, as a Company focused to improving standards in the Amenity Industry, is supporting the BAA/BASIS Advanced Contractor Certification Scheme. Amenity Spraying Contractors, D.S.O's and D.L.O's can gain certification through this new scheme. This will indicate to Local

Authorities and other customers, that the contractor is operating very high standards of pesticide application. Local Authorities will be encouraged to use only "Advanced" contractors in their tenders. This quality concept is important with the move from Compulsive Competitive Tendering (CCT), to the Best Value principle within Local Authorities.

Barenbrug - Stand I12

Whether it's dedicated professionals or enthusiastic amateurs, when sports players take to the turf they expect nothing less than perfection. Which is why turf managers from all disciplines should seek out the Barenbrug stand. Their technical advisors will be on hand to discuss Barenbrug's extensive range of quality grass seed varieties and mixtures. Barenbrug's BAR 2 is today's most successful mixture on golf and bowling greens. The presence of BARCROWN, slender creeping red fescue, provides compactness, disease resistance and drought tolerance; this mixture offers a perfect sward. If shade or dryness is an issue, it will be worth investigating the newly formulated BAR 15. Also suitable on golf fairways, this mixture requires only minimal maintenance.

BLEC - Stand V43 and demonstration area numbers A29-33 & A43-47.

With an increasing demand to mechanise and create higher productivity in the landscape, turf-care and amenity industry, we at BLEC are able to offer an extensive range of equipment to meet that need. Experience dating back to the 1950s has given us first hand knowledge of the industry's requirements, both from a technical and cost effective point of view. BLEC are constantly researching and developing new equipment for the future - confirming our total commitment to establish BLEC in the forefront for many years to come. To purchase a BLEC product is to invest in a machine designed and built to serve you reliably and efficiently.

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EXHIBITOR

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Complete Weed Control - Stand E33

Following its highly successful introduction at Saltex 97, Weed-It, the winner of the award for Best New Landscape Product at Saltex 97, will be shown in final production form.

Weed-It is an acronym for Weed Economical Eradication Detection - Intelligent Technology. This employs an optic sensor working on the principle of measuring luminescence picked up from the chlorophyll in a plant by using an infra-red light and optic sensor. When a weed is identified, a signal is sent to the computer that effectively tells the sprayer to turn on a jet and spot treat the weed.

The unit incorporates a sealed chemical handling system that reduces exposure to the chemical by both operator and public alike, and also minimises problems with chemical disposal and waste packaging.

The Sisis Ecospray designed specifically for spraying close mown areas, and developed by Complete Weed Control and Cranfield University, will also be on display.

Eagle Promotions - Stand D24

Eagle Promotions provide an extensive range of services to Golf Clubs from the initial Course Measure through to Scorecards, Yardage Books and other Point of Play accessories. This Exhibition enables us to show our exciting choice of signage for the Golf Industry. Our signage is developing around our ability to create any image etched into zinc plate. These mounted on stone, moulded rock and wood create truly spectacular sign systems. For more information please contact Philip McInley or call on 0860 239 354.

Eric Hunter Grinders - Stand Q12

The chance to witness relief angle grinding first hand, is offered by Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd. Eric and his team will be demonstrating the unique capabilities of the Jupiter and Juno machines which are the only grinders guaranteed to grind a cylinder perfectly parallel to

0.004" over 30". Both models offer a total service to golf clubs, with their ability to accurately relief grind cylinders "in situ" or out with the benefit of coolant, and also precision grind bottom blades.

The increasingly popular "in - frame" Jupiter is top of the range. It is built, like the standard machine, of heavy duty cast iron, ensuring that both models give accurate results for at least 50 years. The Juno offers all the advantages of the Jupiter at a budget price. Large golf and local authority complexes with ample work shop space can take advantage of the Amazon or the Orion. These precision grinders for bottom blades only are designed to supplement cylinder grinding machinery.

Gannon Oils - Stand T4

Gannon Oils Limited have a range of high performance multi-purpose lubricants and specialist greases all designed to meet the criteria of the agricultural and amenity industry and will be launching their 'Slip Plate' dry film lubricant at this year's event. As the sole agency for Superior Graphite Co, Gannon Oils invite Groundsmen/Turf and Amenity Managers to sample the benefits of this superb product. Ideal for use on all grass cutting and landscape machinery or tools, 'Slip Plate' bonds quickly and is easy to apply, with little clean-up. You are warmly invited to meet our colleagues from Chicago to discuss your requirements.

Green Releaf - Stand H70-H72

Green Releaf, the US leaders in liquid microbial products are exhibiting a range of microbial products at Saltex. The Green Releaf liquid beneficial microbes applied with their own unique food source rapidly improve root structure, enhance nutrient uptake and increase natural resistance to disease. Other products at the show include Thatchless Liquid which will reduce your Thatch in only 30 days. And for faster, hard wearing greens why not try KCS 0-0-14 Liquid which is used on the USPGA tour for tournament preparation. Visit us at our exclusive South & South West distributor, Avoncrop Amenity Products.

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Phone 01530 510060 for complete compatibility list.

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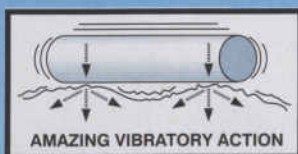
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Hayter - Stand W15

Products on the Hayter stand will include the upgraded gang and triple mowers and the production version of the R314 rotary mower. The popular professional pedestrian mower, the hydrostatic Condor will show a 36" rotary attachment. This machine can also be fitted with a 30" rotary or 30" verge attachment. The Bank Condor will also be shown with a 30" rotary attachment.

Recently voted "Product of the Decade" the Harrier will also be featured. Initially designed for the domestic market a high percentage of contractors use this product very successfully.

Hydroscape - Stand U25

The importance of water quality management in lakes and ponds has never been greater. The essential features of good lake and pond water are the maintenance of a balanced eco-system with high levels of circulated oxygen. As leaders in the development of amenity water quality management systems, Otterbine Barebo has the most comprehensive range available. This wide range of options allows for the selection of the most appropriate system for each application, including floating fountain models, submerged and land based circulation units. Visitors to the Hydroscape stand will be able to experience a unique opportunity of seeing a number of water aeration units operating in a real-life river setting and a demonstration of the benefits offered by the new range of Weather Stations introduced into the UK for the first time this year.

Kubota - Stand W40

Kubota's Saltex exhibit will be highlighting the care and dedication applied by the company in all its contacts and dealings with owners and users of Kubota tractors, implements and ride-on mowers. Areas which will come under the spotlight on stand W40 include:
The care taken to appraise, understand and meet each customer's specific machinery requirements.
The availability of competitive and flexible finance for lease or purchase funding through Kubota Credit.

Respect for the environment through the extensive use of low noise, low emission diesel engines.
The wide selection of implements available to extend the year-round versatility of Kubota tractors and mowers.
Sustained performance and reliability through the fitting of genuine Kubota replacement parts supported by trained engineers at appointed dealers nation-wide.

Mommersteeg International - Stand F22-24

Mommersteeg International will be exhibiting its wide range of top quality grass mixtures.

The company's MM mixtures, which continue to find favour with groundsmen and greenkeepers will be the focus of the exhibit. The mixtures will be backed by a team of experienced technical experts who will be on hand to advise on the best use of grass seed mixtures for sports and amenity areas.

Recent contracts for the company include the supply of mixtures for the new Reading Football Club - the Madjiski Stadium - the soon to be opened Newbury bypass, where 32 tonnes of Mommersteeg grass seed will be used, and the new cricket arena and sporting village for Hampshire County Cricket Club, which includes 20 new wickets, outfield, 9-hole golf course and bowling green, will also be using all Mommersteeg grass seed.

Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Ltd - Stand Q6

One of Europe's largest irrigation companies specialising in the design, supply, installation and service of sportsturf and landscape irrigation systems.
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Pattison's - Stand Q1

Pattison's enhance product portfolio with 3 new additions: The, Oakland, The Windsor Tee Collection and The Junior Sarrell Rollers

1. Pattison's have established themselves as the innovator of golf course furnishings since 1896 and continue to do so.
2. This year has seen 3 new products come onto the market, first was the Oakland Tee Marker, taking the popular design of the wooden log tee marker but making the tee marker out of resin instead of natural wood. The effect is identical and obviously environmentally friendlier. They came in two size's and can be personalised.

3. The Windsor Tee collection consist's of a matching Divot Box, Tee Block to hold the hole information and a Litter Bin all made from the same material. For anyone looking for consistency throughout the course you will find it with these new products

4. The popular Sarrell roller has been complimented with a one and two drum version. These new versions will be a popular product for someone needing to aerate small areas instead of having to get the big machinery out of the sheds.

Rain Bird Europe - Stand CP9.

Rain Bird's Nimbus Decoder central control system uses powerful colour graphics and simplified on screen instructions to provide ET-based schedules and advanced flow management. With Nimbus Quick Start™, users easily start-up the software and are able to build their first customised program step by step. Maxi Nimbus™, uses Microsoft Windows™ '95. With advanced built-in features to maximise your irrigation efficiency, Nimbus will put you in control of your irrigation system in record time form tees to greens, this feature rich, user-friendly system will optimise water use, reduce input costs and prolong the life of your hardware.

Rhone-Poulenc - Stand P2

Visit Rhone-Poulenc Amenity to discuss their extensive range of sportsturf products and to hear about a number of exciting new developments and additions to their product range. Zapper is a revolutionary new total herbicide giving season long control of all weeds thanks to its combination of glyphosate and the unique anti-germinative properties of oxadiazon. It has a superb environmental profile which is further enhanced by its innovative water soluble packaging. Also featured will be Mildothane Turf Liquid with its new label recommendation for the suppression of worm casts. Whatever your problem, be it sportsturf or total weed control, Rhone-Poulenc Amenity have an effective solution and look forward to sharing their expertise with you.

Richard Campey Ltd - Stand W60

Richard Campey Ltd are exhibiting in their own right for the first time in order to launch the KORO range of Turf Renovation Machinery. The equipment is new and exclusive in the UK via Richard Campey and is available as a Recycling Dresser and Field-Top-Maker.

This unique concept of surface management will be demonstrated to underline its ability to create an ideal environment for re-seeding - by the completion of several jobs, i.e. flattens, creating even ground: collects earth and sand: aerates sports turf areas: removes top layer: improves drainage and surface water percolation.

The Field-Top-Maker corrects surface irregularities by removing top turf to 1 cm depth, eradicating weeds and weed grasses, resulting in flat level surfaces, ready for conventional overseeding.

Rigby Taylor - Stand M1

Come and talk to the experts at the Rigby Taylor. Staff will be on hand as always to offer friendly help and advice. In addition you'll also have the opportunity to meet guest experts from major manufacturers who will be more than happy to provide more specialist assistance and information.

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welcome and comfortable hospitality as well as exhibiting the latest products together with comprehensive reference literature. All of us at Rigby Taylor look forward to meeting friends both old and new.

**Rolawn -
Stand CA11**

Feedback from greenkeepers and agronomists throughout the UK led Rolawn to sow a new mixture of turf in late spring last year.

Sown from a mixture of Chewings Fescue (Bargreen), Slender Creeping Red Fescue (Barcrown), Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass (Limousine) and Brown Top Bent (Heriot) the turf is now ready for harvesting. The brand name Olympic has been used to identify the new turf and it was tested by STRI in late July with results available from August. It is non rye and purpose grown for tees. However it is also suitable for green surrounds. It can be seen during the show.

**Scotts UK Professional
Turf and Amenity Division -
Stand E1**

Scotts UK Professional Turf and Amenity Division is the UK's leading supplier of fertilisers and chemicals to the landscape and amenity market, focussing in particular on fine and outfield turf-care and weed control. The business was formed following the acquisition of Miracle Garden Care and Levington Horticulture by The Scotts Company. The company invests heavily in Research and Development at Levington Research Station to ensure that the Sierra, Greenmaster and Longlife ranges continue to meet the needs of today's turf managers. A comprehensive range of formulations and treatments is available in both granular and liquids options, combining even and accurate application with uniform and reliable turf growth and colour response.

**Sisis Equipment
(Macclesfield) Limited -
Stand B27**

Sisis are moving to a larger stand this year, where we will be exhibiting the largest range of Sisis machinery ever shown at Saltex. And, as always, Sisis will have lots of new introductions

**Supaturf -
Stand E18**

Supaturf will be displaying their full range of amenity and grounds maintenance products, but in pride of place, will be the new line marking machine - the Topline TXE. The Topline TXE follows on from the revolutionary Topline 2000, and features a totally new - no-weld -rugged free frame, designed to offer new levels of performance and reliability. At the heart of the TXE is an improved battery powered pump system that can provide a full day's work between charges. Also, a new addition to Supaturf's world leading range of Water Management Products is AquaDoc In-A-Can. AquaDoc, already available in liquid form, has been specially formulated for rapid recovery treatment of localised problems such as: Dry Spot, Wet Spot, and Hydrophobicity on slopes and banks.

**Symbio -
Stand H20**

Symbio is launching a range of mycorrhizal inoculants for turf that will be of specific interest to greenkeepers growing in new greens and for architects and greenkeepers building new greens. Lake, pond and irrigation water management. Symbio is building on its long experience of pollution control and management of urban lakes and wastewater to provide a complete service for golf courses and amenity water managers.

**Textron Turf Care &
Specialty Products -
Stand V15**

Textron Turf Care & Specialty Products may be a new name to some, though when it comes to equipment the stand remains the Mecca for all discerning greenkeepers. Revered names like Jacobsen, Ransomes, E-ZE-GO, Iseki, Ryan and Cushman will be demonstrated, though each brand will be grouped separately. So you'll see many familiar faces and some wonderful new machinery, for Textron's philosophy is to continue providing exciting equipment that delivers value, performance and productivity- always. Newcomers include Jacobsen's Sand Scorpion, plus their innovative LF 3400 and LF 3800 fairway mowers, while Ransomes' unveil the acclaimed new Turf-Truckster; the first of its type to offer automatic transmission.

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Listings, listings, listings, listings, listings, listings

Look also for the new G-Plex 11 with a swing-out centre reel for easy access, plus the reintroduction of Ransomes' highly favoured T-Plex 180 with improved performance and economy. E-Z-GO vehicles on display will include golf buggies and specialist load carriers with bespoke bodywork, while a galaxy of Iseki tractors and accessories will nicely round off the Textron exhibition.

Toro Commercial Products - Stand W50

Toro Commercial Products is showing a large selection of turf care equipment from its comprehensive product range, including two new products being launched on to the UK market. Brand new and representing a bit of a departure from the normal Toro line-up is a walk-behind, compact utility machine designed to speed up and take the backache out of a wide range of groundworks operations. Far more conventional is the new Toro Reelmaster 5200-D fairway mower making its UK debut. A much-awaited diesel version of the Grounds Pro multi-purpose grounds machine makes its first appearance; while favourites from Toro's existing range include all four Greenmaster pedestrian mowers, as well as 3000-D and 3200-D ride-ons, Groundmaster out-front rotaries, Reelmaster 6500-D and 2300-D, Sand Pro bunker vehicle, Workman utility vehicle and the Hydroject aerator.

Turfmech - Stand W38

A high capacity, high-tip vacuum collector suitable for use behind smaller tractors is to be launched at the show by Turfmech Machinery. Designed for fast, efficient collection of leaves, litter, cut grass and other debris from turf or hard surfaces, the TurfVAC TM5 is a trailed machine ideal for tractors of just 30hp-plus. Standard features of the TM5 include a high-lift, high-tip unloading capability and a fully-floating suction head with full-width powered agitation brush. To assist the collection of stubborn, damp or sticky material, the head is fitted with a full-width, rotating polyester filament brush as standard. The brush is supported by two height-adjustable wheels, enabling the severity of the brushing action to be altered quickly and easily to suit the type and condition of the debris being collected.

Vitax - Stand F54-56

Continuing Vitax's commitment to innovative new products, for Saltex 1998 we launch three new products to further boost the strength of our already successful Sportsturf Chemical range. Firstly comes a new fungicide/worm killer spray called "Twincarb". A very cost effective chemical, it also offers the benefit of worm killing at low rates. We think it will be a winner with Greenkeepers and Groundsmen alike, but are reluctant to give too much away! Next is Vitax Vitamark, a super concentrated spray indicator which disperses over a 24 hour period, and has very low usage rates. Finally we launch Vitax Defoamer, again a super strength defoamer in a handy, easy to use trigger spray.

Weed Free - Stand CA15

A day at the races awaits the visitor who can meet The Mantis Challenge. Weed Free, who launched their unique spraying unit, The Spraying Mantis at last year's show and chose its name from entries submitted during the event, are offering free entry to Ascot Racecourse for two, to the turf professional who can correctly answer questions on the machine's performance and say in under 50 words why they would like the Mantis to spray their turf areas. The Spraying Mantis will be on show along with full information on Weed Free's comprehensive range of Amenity Spraying Courses.

Toro Irrigation - Stand W52

Toro will be demonstrating its most innovative computerised central irrigation control system ever - the revolutionary SitePro. Combining an easy, productive, graphic user-interface, matched with a Microsoft Windows 95 operating platform, SitePro takes all the guesswork out of professional irrigation management. Toro Irrigation has contributed to an amazing summer of UK sport with its systems installed in many of the country's major sporting venues. Places such as Highbury, home of Arsenal; Wembley; The All England Tennis Club; Royal Birkdale; Twickenham and Ascot. Many other sporting arenas have benefited from Toro Irrigation systems, none more prestigious than the Home of Golf, St Andrews, where Toro Irrigation products have been specified for the Old Course and the other four and a half courses.



FREEBIE THREE FREE

This is your opportunity to attend the 1999 show absolutely FREE!

The BTME99 will once again be held in Harrogate, with the National Education Conference Seminar Programme starting on Monday, January 18 and the Exhibition and Education Seminar Programme commencing on Wednesday, January 20.

The show represents the ideal forum for Greenkeepers to meet both trade and other greenkeepers.

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of the freebie-three-free prizes is to answer six questions - two in this issue, two more in September, and the final two in October's issue. Then send in your answers with the entry form which will be printed in the October edition, and you could be one of our lucky freebie-three-free winners!

FIRST PRIZE: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three night's accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate and entry into all the education seminar sessions.

SECOND PRIZE: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus two night's accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate and entry into all the education seminar sessions.

THIRD PRIZE: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus one night's accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate and entry into all the education seminar sessions.

AUGUST QUESTIONS

1. What date does the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition 1999 start?
2. What date does the BIGGA National Education Conference start?



Dr Catherine York, Turfgrass Pathologist at the STRI, examines some of the reasons behind turfgrass disease, and asks "Is Ditylenchus a pest on your turf?"

Nightmares from nematodes

Working as a turfgrass pathologist can be quite a lonely profession, especially when you consider the rarity of the "breed". Confirmation of your knowledge and improvement of your understanding can be developed over time through reading and receiving unusual turf problems. However, to be able to receive information directly from someone who has written the books that you've learned from, provides obvious confidence in your abilities.

It was a pleasure to have had the opportunity this year to work with Dr Noel Jackson, who came over to the STRI in April on sabbatical leave from Rhode Island, USA. Dr Jackson, who was the Biologist at STRI in the 1950's, initially accepted a two year position at Rhode Island - but decided to stay and is now Professor of Turfgrass Pathology & Turfgrass Management.

He came over to do a couple of months research with us looking specifically at dollar spot and anthracnose diseases, but generally at all disease problems that can be found on turf at that time of the year.

The Biology laboratory at the STRI is kept busy during the year, mostly with identifications and confirmations of disease problems that occur amenity turf. It is interesting, however, when samples arrive in the laboratory and the problem is not "routine" but something a bit different. In the first few months of 1998, we had two rather interesting samples arrive on the laboratory bench - one from a golf green and the other from a golf fairway. Both were problems caused by nematodes.

Nematodes are microscopic roundworms which are generally between 0.5 mm and 2.0 mm in length. There are many types of nematodes which naturally inhabit our soils but it is only a relatively small number which actually cause problems on turf in the UK. Their activity is favoured by warm soil temperatures and restricted by soils which are either dry or waterlogged. They also prefer light, sandy soils rather than heavy and compacted rootzones. Nematodes move through soil in a similar way to

that achieved by the common earthworm although they can be spread across large distances in surface water, or soil movement, due to their small size. It is probably fair to say that, until recent years, nematodes had not been considered a problem for turf in this country. Recently, however, we have seen nematode problems on both coarse and fine turfgrasses. The symptoms caused by nematodes vary depending on the type which have infected the tissues but they basically fall into one of two types - ecto-parasites (which attack and remain outside the plant) and endo-parasites (which enter the plant tissues). Over the past couple of years we have seen problems caused by the stubby root nematode which causes symptoms as described by its name. The nematode attacks the roots on the outside and causes the root to 'react' in such a way as to protect itself from further attack. The infected area swells and the nematode moves on to attack the root at another point. The result of these attacks is to have a restricted root system which is swollen all over. This type of attack, however, is not the type which we have seen in recent months.

The first problem sample to come into the laboratory was from a green from Bedale Golf Course in North Yorkshire. The problem was found on one of the five greens constructed about five years ago on land which had previously been farm land. The only symptoms observed on the turf surface were those of weak, patchy *Poa annua*. An inspection by our agronomist, Emma Kirby, identified some unusual growths on the roots of the turf. The affected turf was *Poa*



Figure 1



Figure 2

annua and the symptoms observed were small nodules on the roots (Figure 1). The nodules were in the order of 2mm wide and 3mm long and each had a small portion of the root extending from the lower part of the nodule. When viewed under the microscope, the nematodes could be clearly seen and were identified as *Ditylenchus radicola*. This nematode is not a new problem on turf and indeed was discussed in the 1959 Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute as one of the gall-forming nematodes of grasses in Britain. It is of interest that this nematode is colonising turfgrass roots and affecting turfgrass quality. It would be useful to know just how extensive the problem is country-wide.

The second sample that arrived in the laboratory, was from Thetford Golf Course in Norfolk. The turf in the affected areas had changed colour to a ginger-brown and the symptoms had been seen on two roughly parallel fairways. The Course Manager had seen the same symptoms during 1997 around two bunkers and he had thought the damage likely to be due to drought or possibly chafers. This year, however, the symptoms developed earlier in the season, around late March/early April and whilst looking for chafers, the Course Manager had noticed swellings at the base of the fescue plants (Figure 2). Our regional agronomist, Dr Tim Lodge, had telephoned me prior to the sample arriving in the laboratory, asking if I had ever seen swollen bases on fescues and if so, what the problem was. I had to confess at the time that this was a new one on me. I asked Dr

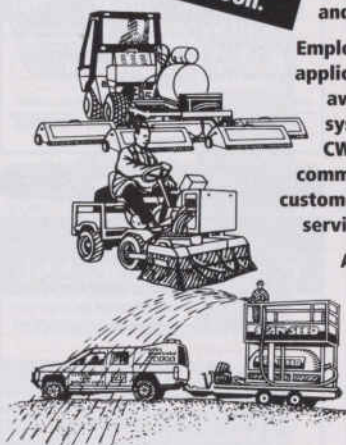
Jackson for his thoughts but speculation was not going to identify the cause of the problem formally. When the sample of turf arrived, it was found that the stem bases were infected with the stem nematode *Ditylenchus dipsaci*. This nematode occurs worldwide in temperate areas and is capable of infesting many plant species. As far as I am aware, it has not been commonly found on *Festuca* spp. in the UK and because of this, we were extremely interested in this "find". This nematode has a relatively short life cycle and can therefore rapidly increase its population size in a year. It is possible for the nematode to remain viable for several years.

As with other nematode problems, there are no chemical controls which have approval for use against these two nematodes on turf in the UK. Control options for agricultural crops include alternation of the plants grown, but for a turf situation, this is not possible. Generally, nematode problems will affect the plants water and nutrient uptake ability and therefore affect the colour and vigour of the turf. It is likely that, if you have an area of turf which is well fed and watered but which is not responding and appears a little "off-colour", nematodes are at the root of the problem. I am presently trying to gauge the severity and extent of nematode problems on amenity turf across the UK and would appreciate any assistance that you can offer. If you have any areas of turf on your course which continually seem to be "lagging", even after all of your efforts, please give me a call or drop me a line and I'll get back to you.

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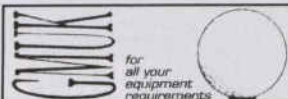
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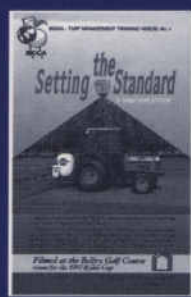
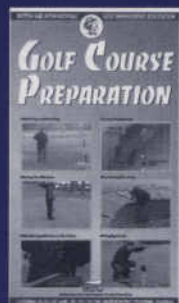
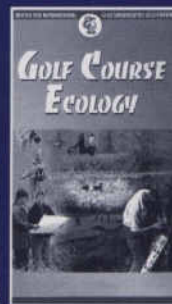
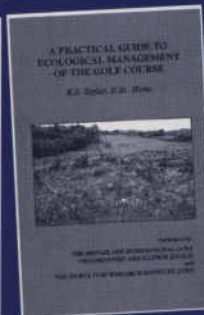
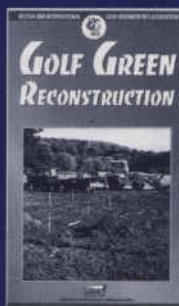
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could win
a Walrus
waterproof
jacket!**

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Greenkeeper
INTERNATIONAL

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BRITISH & INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION, ALDWARK MANOR, ALDWARK, ALNE, YORK, YO6 2NF 01347 838581



Clandon Regis
GOLF CLUB

(Home of the PGA Southern Region)

HEAD GREENKEEPER/ COURSE MANAGER

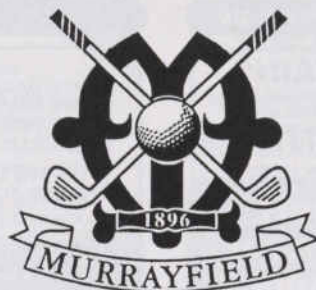
Clandon Regis is a 4 year old course, recently purchased by its members and the venue for a number of Professional events.

We are seeking a top class Greenkeeper / Course Manager with proven record as a Head Greenkeeper or First Assistant. Knowledge of course construction and alterations required.

Applicants must be fully versed in modern greenkeeping methods with proven man management skills. The ability to prepare and monitor work programmes and budgets is essential. Interest in wildlife conservation desirable.

Salary is negotiable but no accommodation is available.

Please apply in writing before 23rd August 1998 enclosing a CV to:
The Chairman of the Greens Committee, Clandon Regis Golf Club,
Epsom Road, West Clandon, Surrey GU4 7TT



ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

Murrayfield Golf Club invites applications for the position of Assistant Head Greenkeeper.

Applicants should have a minimum of 5 years experience as an Assistant Greenkeeper and be suitably qualified.

In addition to assisting on the 18 hole golf course at Murrayfield, the successful applicant will be given major responsibility for the adjoining 9 hole course at Ravelston.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary, Murrayfield Golf Club Ltd, 43 Murrayfield Road, Edinburgh, EH12 6EU. The closing date for applications is August 31, 1998

DAVYHULME PARK GOLF CLUB

requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The ideal candidate will be experienced in all aspects of Greenkeeping and possess all the necessary qualifications as laid down in BIGGA's job specification.

Applications in writing, with C.V. to: The Secretary, Davyhulme Park Golf Club, Gleneagles Road, Davyhulme, Manchester, M41 8SA.

OXLEY PARK GOLF CLUB

EST. 1914

Applications are invited for the position of

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER/ GROUNDSMAN

at this rolling Parkland course. Reporting to the Head Greenkeeper you will be experienced and self motivated with a good knowledge of greenkeeping practices including all ride-on machines.

Recognised qualifications including spraying an advantage. Ability to be flexible during main golfing season and work overtime as required.

Please apply in writing to: The Secretary, Oxley Park Golf Club Limited, Bushbury, Wolverhampton WV10 6DE.
All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

COVENTRY GOLF CLUB

Has a vacancy for an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have a minimum of two years experience in all aspects of Golf Course maintenance.

NVQ Level 2 or equivalent. PA1A, PA2 and PA6.

Apply with full CV to:
The Secretary, Coventry Golf Club, St Martins Road,
Finham Park, Coventry CV3 6PJ

BIRCHWOOD PARK GOLF CENTRE

requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful candidate will have: NVQ Level 2.

Three years experience. Pride in producing quality standards of work PA1, PA2A would be an advantage.

If you have these, then please apply in writing with full CV to:

Mark Drake Golf Course Manager Birchwood Park Golf Centre Birchwood Road Wilmington Kent, DA2 7HS Closing date 28th August 1998.

The Old Course Ranfurly Golf Club

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The Club has a well established moorland course situated approximately 15 miles West of Glasgow in the village of Bridge of Weir.

We require a competent, experienced person who is both progressive and self motivated. A practical knowledge of greenkeeping machinery, irrigation systems and current Health & Safety at Work Regulations will be required together with excellent man-management skills.

Salary and Conditions Negotiable

(Commensurate with experience and qualifications)

Accommodation is not provided.

Applications in writing enclosing full CV to: The Secretary, The Old Course Ranfurly Golf Club, Ranfurly Place, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire PA11 3DE. Closing date for applications, 24 August 1998.



AMENITY SALES MANAGER

Salary negotiable + car + benefits Midlands/South West

Scotts is the market leader in the manufacture and supply of high quality branded products to both amateur and professional gardening markets.

In the Professional market, our customers are professional growers, local authorities and sports/leisure facilities which encompass golf courses, bowls clubs, etc.

A rare opportunity now exists in our Amenity team for a sales professional living in the Midlands/South West region. Ideally aged 25-40, you should possess the flair, drive and ambition to sell strongly branded fertilizers and chemicals used in the care and maintenance of turf. A background knowledge of horticulture/agriculture would be particularly advantageous, but of equal importance is a demonstrable record of sales achievement.

Applicants not possessing the BASIS qualification will be required to achieve this level of competence with the company's financial support.

Our competitive benefits package includes a fully-expensed company car, 25 days holiday, contributory occupational pension and subsidised health schemes. Relocation will be considered.

Please write with full career details, including current earnings to: The HR Dept., The Scotts Company (UK) Ltd., Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4BZ.

Closing date for applications is 21st August 1998.

BERKHAMSTED GOLF CLUB

requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have a minimum of NVQ Level 2 & hold a clean driving licence.

Apply in writing with full C.V. to: Gerald Bruce, Berkhamsted Golf Club, The Common, Berkhamsted HP4 2QB

CHIPSTEAD GOLF CLUB

Invite applications for the position of

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be suitably qualified in all aspects of Course Maintenance. BIGGA rates. No Accommodation

Apply in writing, enclosing CV to:

Course Manager, Chipstead Golf Club, How Lane, Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 3LN

PACHESHAM PARK GOLF CENTRE

require

GREENSTAFF

At busy 9 hole golf course and driving range. Applicants should be qualified to a minimum of NVQ2 with spraying certificates of benefit, and a sound knowledge of modern machinery maintenance and irrigation systems. Salary £12,500 to £13,500 according to experience.

Applications in writing with CV and telephone, for details of job description to:

Phil Taylor, Pachesham Park Golf Centre, Oaklawn Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 0BT. Tel: 01372 844666

HAWKHURST GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have a minimum qualification of NVQ Level 3 and possess PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates. Accommodation (flat) is available at reasonable rent.

Apply in writing by 1st September 1998, enclosing full CV to: Mr B Morrison, General Manager, Hawkhurst Golf Club Ltd, High Street, Hawkhurst, Kent TN18 4JS

BOOTLE GOLF COURSE

FOUNDED 1934

Applications are invited for the post of

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

to maintain this 18 hole golf course.

The successful applicant must be experienced and qualified in all aspects of greenkeeping, have leadership skills and the ability to motivate staff also to have knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems and to maintain Health and Safety requirements.

Applications together with full CV should be addressed to;

The General Manager, Bootle Golf Course, Dunningsbridge Road, Litherland, Merseyside, L30 2PP

gem

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Technical Representative

Salary negotiable + car

Gem Professional require an energetic sales person to sell a comprehensive range of amenity products to golf clubs and professional end users throughout Yorkshire. BASIS qualifications and sales experience preferable, but the drive and commitment to develop new and existing business is essential.

Apply to: Mr C Pearson, Brookside Lane, Oswaldtwistle, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 3NY

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IRRIGATION SERVICE ENGINEER

Hugh Pearl Ltd are "Toro" irrigation area dealers for golf course and sports turf watering systems for East Anglia and North London.

They require a Service Engineer to repair and maintain existing systems and assist on the installation of new projects.

A fully stocked service van is provided.

This is a permanent salaried position with a performance related element offering the opportunity to earn in excess of £20K per annum and Company pension scheme.

Apply in writing with CV to the Managing Director, Hugh Pearl Ltd, New Farm, Bobbingworth, Ongar, Essex CM5 0DJ

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Greenkeeper
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We are one of the largest multi-branch agricultural, construction and grass care machinery dealers operating throughout the South East. We have the following vacancies at our Sutton-at-Hone Dartford branch.

PARTS MANAGER

The successful applicant will be capable of competently running the Parts team which includes 3-mobile Van Parts Salespersons and busy Hardware showroom. Previous experience in retailing is essential.

GARDEN MACHINERY SALESPERSON

We require a person with knowledge of all types of garden machinery - mowers, strimmers, hedgecutters, chain saws and shredders. Retail experience an advantage but not essential. Must be capable of using own initiative in dealing with customers and an aptitude to sell.

GARDEN MACHINERY SERVICE TECHNICIAN

Experienced Service Technician with knowledge of both garden and professional grass machinery.

PARTS VAN SALESPERSON

This position involves the sales of Parts/Hardware items to our customer base, local authorities and golf clubs. The ideal candidate should have sales experience and some knowledge of our industry and hold a clean driving licence.

PARTS SALESPERSON

The vacancy is in the busy Parts/Showroom and previous retail experience would be helpful but not essential as training will be given. Must have pleasant personality and smart appearance.

Applications with full CV to:

Mr R Link, Branch Manager, Ernest Doe & Sons Limited, 83 Main Road, Sutton-at-Hone, Dartford, Kent, DA4 9HQ

Or telephone 01322 863285 for an application form.

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But delivering the equipment is only the first part of our service. We have also worked extremely hard in developing a Textron worldwide dealer network which offers support right through to after sales.

There is one more thing that experience has taught us at Ransomes. Our passion and commitment to serve our customers at all times and at all levels is what differentiates us from the competition.

For a free demonstration or the name of your nearest dealer call freephone **0500 026208** for details.



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July '96; Loaders, diggers and excavators; Royal Lytham GC; Protective Clothing; Modern Apprenticeships; Irrigation

August '96; Turf Tissue Analysis; Environmental Communication; Assessors; Tee Mats

September '96; Budgeting; Greenkeeping in Finland; Kings Acre GC; Grinding; Role of Training Providers; Blowers

October '96; Drainage; The Wentworth Club

November '96; Irrigation Equipment; St Andrews; The Oaks GC; Engines

December '96; Maintenance Facilities; History of the Mower; Mentmore Golf and Country Club

January '97; Trees; Tenby GC; Communication; Addressing the imbalance in Sports Turf; Hiring Equipment

February '97; Attending to the Details; Computers; Fertilisers; Ridding Park

March '97; Making Machinery Last; Computers; Irrigation; Musselburgh Old Links; STRI; Defining Playing Performance; Compact Tractors

April '97; Turf Quality; The London Club; Computers; Electric Greens Mower; Course Accessories; Ecology; Aerators

May '97; Data Tagging; Naunton Downs GC; Alternative Spikes; Suspended Water Table Greens; Shallow Aerators; Working in Germany

June '97; Drought Survival; Cooden Beach; Monitoring the Weather; Slitters

July '97; Royal Troon GC; Speed of Putting Surfaces; Mowers

August '97; Maintenance Facilities; Heather Management; Bunker Rakes; Workshops; Architecture; Kedleston Park GC

September '97; Accident Reporting; Greens Mowers; Valderrama GC; Links Courses

October '97; Environment; Recruitment; Abbeydale GC; Rough Mowers; Soil Analysis

November '97; Environment Competition; Bank Cutting; Risk Assessment; Pumps

December '97; Seed Development; Longhurst Hall GC; Toro Awards; Fertiliser Spreaders; Communication

January '98; FEGGA Conference; Buying Power Equipment; Elmwood GC; Mobile Phones; Traffic Management; Spraying; Environment

February '98; BTME Review; Overseeding; Royal Mid Surrey GC; Drainage; Thatch

March '98; Trees, Golf Course Accessories, News from GCSAA, Leamington & County GC, Trevor Smith's BTME Talk

April '98; Gleneagles Hotel, Compact Tractors, Environment, Protective clothing, Rain bird, Internet

May '98; Greens Mowers, Suspended Water Table Greens, Seeds, Letham Grange Resort, Charterhouse profile, Security and BIGGA's Fund Raising Campaign

June '98; Interview with Nick Park, Earthworm special, ATVs, Royal Porthcawl, Grinding

July '98; Aeration, Royal Birkdale preview, The importance of research, Architecture,



Watching the weather



I would like to start by thanking the South West Section for inviting me to play in their match against the Golf Club Secretaries at Ilfracombe. The course was in very good condition. The food and company were great, but the one thing you don't want at Ilfracombe is rain and wind, and we had them both in abundance. It was one of those times when the hot shower after was like paradise.

We did manage to win which helped us forget the weather and enjoy the day. Thanks must go to Avoncrop for their sponsorship of this event. My next engagement was the Anniversary Golf Day at Aldwark Manor, and what a day it turned out to be, just for once the weather was good. The organisation was superb thanks to the staff and in particular to Pauline Thompson, the event organiser. I would like to thank Aldwark Manor for hosting the event. They gave us the golf course free, and put on a barbecue in the evening which would be hard to better anywhere. The staff were all very helpful and it was a pleasure to meet and talk with Aldwark Manor's new Corporate Events Manager, Bob Moncur.

The event's sponsor, BT Mobile did us proud, as did the companies who entered the golf. Our special guest was Ian Mercer from Coronation Street who had time for everyone and anything. A genuine man who came to take part and enjoy himself, and his parting shot the following day was "Thanks, I hope you invite me next year." Ian, you can take that as read.

One of my duties of the day was to make the draw for the "Buy a Brick" raffle and the first ticket I pulled out was for a set of Hippo golf clubs and bag which was won by Barry Heaney. By the way I am still waiting for the drink, Barry. Thanks to everyone who was involved, it was a wonderful day.

I have spent some time in the last few weeks helping with the judging for the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping, and I have visited many different types of courses, but one thing stands out more than anything else, the lack of understanding by management at clubs. How essential it is to have proper shower and washing facilities within the compound area and not use the clubhouse, which apart from being in many cases away from the working area, mean they are going against health and safety regulations by washing off pesticides, oils and fuel in a public place.

Another task which is often missing is a proper record of spraying,

use and stock. This, of course, is down to the greenkeeper. All records should be kept by law. Having had my little dig, I saw some very well kept courses. The award demands both sides of course management is in place and some got it right. Obviously I cannot go into that here, but I do wish them all good luck and thank them for their time and hospitality.

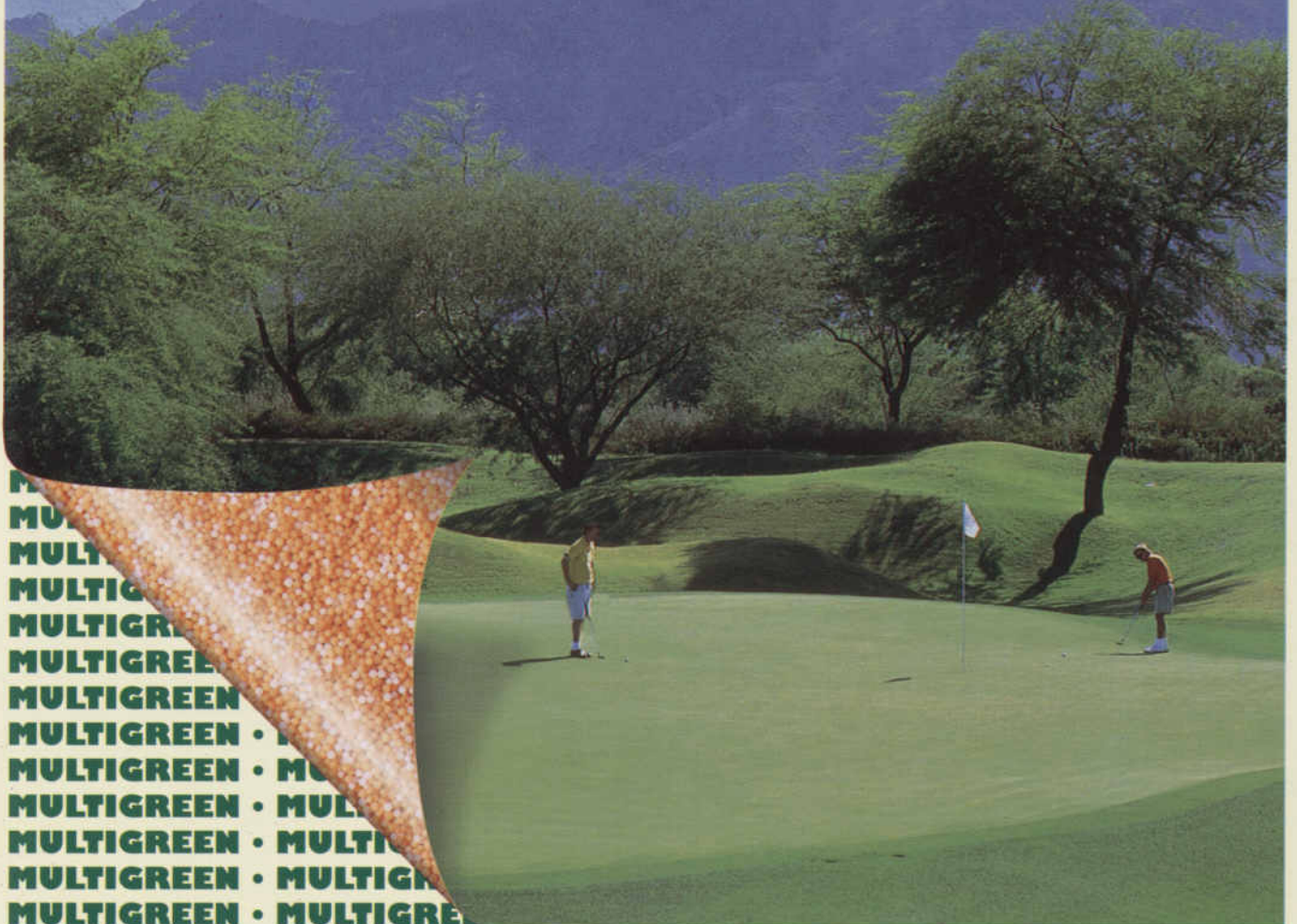
News from Aldwark and our new HQ Building is that despite the wet weather everything looks good and on schedule for the opening in October. So, we can all look forward to that.

Our staff are already preparing for BTME in January 1999. It only seems a few weeks ago when we were in Harrogate for the last greenkeepers' week, and here we are talking of the next, but that's a measure of the work and time put in to organising a week like BTME, National Conference and Workshops. I'll tell you about my nostalgic trip to Royal Birkdale for the Open, next month.

Gordon Child

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