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Greenkeeper

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Reader Reply Card

Use our post-paid reader reply card to obtain further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the company's Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us, and we'll arrange for further information to be sent direct to you.

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Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, please contact BIGGA on 01347 838581



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Hurry! The last date for you to pre-register is January 5th, 1999. Call the BTME hotline on 01347 833834 if you need more pre-registration cards now!



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A potential cast of thousands

It seems that at this time of the year the spotlight tends to fall on one particular part of the country.

Last year it shone on one little corner of Surrey with Hankley Common clinching the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhone Poulenc Amenity, and Hankley's Course Manager, Ian McMillan, collecting the Toro Excellence In Greenkeeping Award. Quite a remarkable double.

Well, this year there was another double. Not by the same golf club but by the same city. Lindrick, while not exactly in Sheffield does possess strong Steel City connections, won the Environment Competition and Abbeydale, in the south of Sheffield, is the home club of new Toro Excellence Award winner, John Coleman.

A Full Monty of BIGGA's premier awards, you might say. How lucky we are to have such fine winners and it reflects well on the development of both competitions that by general consent the quality of finalists in both was the highest ever.

Lindrick has long set the benchmarks for quality, and sustained, environment work and to have Lindrick's name on the cup is a boost to not only the club, but the competition as well.

John Coleman is a rising star in the profession. He's educated, articulate, determined and ambitious and is keen to promote the industry wherever and whenever possible.

He feels, and there is merit in his thinking, that for too many people greenkeeping is not top of the list when it comes to thinking about a career. People fall into the job, discover what great opportunities it offers, and go on from there. They don't tend to do what John did himself, and start straight from school.

He reaps the benefits from that because, at the age of 28, he is the finished article and the education he's about to start is to add to his considerable knowledge and not to fill gaps.

Congratulations also to Sally Doherty on winning the Toro Student of the Year Award. Another fine Champion, Sally is a university graduate and has quickly risen to the position of First Assistant on the famous Brabazon Course at The Belfry. Another excellent example of the quality of young people in the industry.

* This month I suffered a disaster which could only happen in this, the modern age. While in the 80s it may have been like losing a Filofax; in the 90s it is losing a hard disc on a computer. This I managed on the computer which contains all my magazine work as well as all correspondence... just as the deadline for this magazine loomed!

However, out of adversity comes inspiration. Not to say perspiration, and we piloted the issue home. On three wheels you might say.

However, if you expected to see something promised in this issue and it's not include, or I've not answered a letter please show a little understanding.

It just remains for me, on behalf of everyone at BIGGA HOUSE to wish you a Merry Christmas and a sensational New Year.



Editor:
Scott MacCallum

Greenkeeper

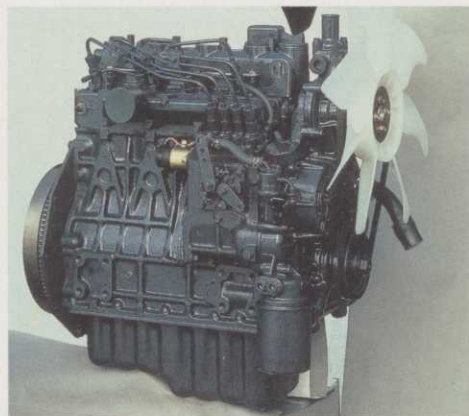
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Prepare yourself for the week of the year!



Lindrick, CC. Photo by Eric Hayward. Tel: 01302 320974



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Damages paid to Greenkeeper

A Hertfordshire greenkeeper who saw his own job advertised in Greenkeeper International has won damages of £14,440 after using the BIGGA Legal Helpline to take action against his golf club.

The 62 year old, who had worked, often single handed on the course, for four and a half years, saw the job of Head Greenkeeper Designate for his own golf club advertised, although no discussions had ever taken place about the possibility of a new appointment.

A short time later the greenkeeper was first suspended by the recently appointed man, at which time he contacted the Hambro Legal Helpline who put him in touch with the Association's solicitors, Kirbys.

"We wrote to the club asking for reasons for his suspension and enquiring whether or not it was intended to pursue any disciplinary proceedings," said solicitor David Burton of Kirbys.

"Having received no response from the club we wrote to the owner once again indicating that unless we received a substantive response to our previous letter our client would be returning to work."

"We then received a fax from the club saying that due to the recent

change in circumstances at the club our client's services were no longer required. Unfortunately we therefore have to make him redundant from today's date."

"This is certainly the first time in all the years that we have dealt with employment work that somebody has first found out that they have been dismissed via a communication to their solicitor," said Mr Burton.

"We immediately issued Industrial Tribunal proceedings, following consultation with Hambro."

Prior to the Tribunal the club threatened that unless a modest sum of compensation was accepted the club would be put into liquidation and during the Tribunal the club argued that the greenkeeper had been offered and turned down another position and that he was suffering illness and would have been dismissed in any event.

"Perhaps not surprisingly neither argument prevailed upon the Tribunal and our client was ultimately awarded the maximum compensatory award which, together with wages in lieu of notice and his basic award for unfair dismissal, totalled £14,440," said Mr Burton.

Commenting on the award, BIGGA's

Executive Director Neil Thomas said, "This is an excellent example of Hambro and Kirbys working jointly to protect the interests of a member, albeit in the distressing circumstances of dismissal.

"It is important also that members are alert to the services that can be provided before a case reaches dismissal stage and in appropriate circumstances members can be provided with legal support at an early point in any dispute or disciplinary proceedings e.g. a summons to appear before the Green Committee.

"In this way the Association aims to assist in preventing disciplinary proceedings moving on to an advanced and possibly terminal stage.

"While other Associations provide support following dismissal and through Industrial Tribunals, I believe BIGGA is unique in the assistance it can give to members in a supportive and preventative capacity at the onset of a dispute or disciplinary proceedings.

It goes without saying that this service is a very considerable membership benefit."

New challenge for Steve



Rigby Taylor has appointed Steve Hall to the position of Marketing Manager and he will be responsible for the marketing of the company's full range of products and services including the Mascot brand. He will be based in the company's Guildford office.

His experience in the amenity market began as Product Manager with ICI Professional Products where he was responsible for the management and marketing of the amenity range.

He was involved in the changes of identity to Zeneca, Miracle and finally to Scotts, from where he joins Rigby Taylor.

SSSI status conferred on Thorpeness GC

Thorpeness Golf Club has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest by English Nature, due to the work carried out by the green staff on bracken, bramble removal and gorse regeneration which has caused the Woodlark and Nightjar population to increase to above the national average.

"In 1997, the number of nesting sites of the Nightjar was recorded on the entire area, including the Aldringham Walks and the golf course, as 10 and Woodlark nest sites as 42. Now the

golf course can boast at least 10-15 Woodlark nest sites in its own right which makes the course a SSSI," said Course Manager Ian Willett.

"On the same day as we were informed about the SSSI the club learned that it had been given a Countryside Stewardship Award for habitat creation in areas of the course that are out of play and usually left. As Course Manager I have been working with Brenda Williamson, from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, and Steven

Curtis, from the Suffolk Sandlings Project, to show that golf and conservation can mix and complement one another," explained Ian.

"I have the backing of the club from the Managing Director, Tim Rowan-Robinson, Secretary, Neville Griffin and Frank Hill, the club Professional, the committee and members but last, but by no means least, my excellent team of greenkeepers. In working towards the stewardship award, this shows that team work plays off."

A cry for help from across the pond

Wanted! Information in any amount of detail about slit-tining. I am currently working in the USA in western Colorado and am trying to convince our Superintendent that deep slitting our greens may help in developing a root system deeper than the one inch we are presently having to manage. The greens are almost entirely Poa,

very heavily watered in the summer, mown at 3mm in the mid-season and played extensively. Active leaf growth ceases during mid-November and resumes during March.

I have explained the success which I have achieved in the past on both courses I have been responsible for in England and Germany and would

like to relay the experiences, methods and theories about increasing rooting depth from other greenkeepers, agronomists and manufacturers of equipment. Thank you to any of you who may like to help me.

My address is as follows and I will reimburse postage costs. Paul Davies, PO Box 1524, Palisade, Colorado, 81526, USA.

Hell of a facelift for infamous bunker

One of the most notorious and infamous bunkers in the world is undergoing a facelift.

Around 150 railway sleepers have been lined up around the highest parts of Hell Bunker on the 14th hole on the Old Course to stabilise the face. The sleepers will be re-vented with stacks of turf built up so when complete the sleepers will not be visible.

At around 1500 square yards Hell Bunkers is one of the largest on the course and at 10 feet deep is one of the most difficult from which to escape. This was highlighted in the 1995 Open when Jack Nicklaus took four attempts to free himself of its clutches.

"We usually have to re-vent bunkers every five years and this is the first time we have used sleepers. They

will help to stabilise the surroundings and provide a template for future reconstruction and repairs. The bunker is now back to its pre-1995 size," explained Old Course Head Greenkeeper Eddie Adams.

The Old Course has 112 bunkers and several have names and historic associations. Next in line for re-venting is Shell Bunker in front of the 7th green.

Carden Park's icy discovery

Evidence of an Ice Age settlement has been discovered at Carden Park, near Chester.

Suggestions are that the discoveries, which include tools fashioned from flint, may have belonged to the later Upper Palaeolithic - Old Stone Age between 11,000 - 9,000 BC. This was the time when people first returned to Britain after the end of the Ice Age.

The site, in caves between the 8th and 9th holes of the Cheshire Course, does have more recent, but still historic past as a hermit, John Harris, lived in the cave between 1744 and 1765.

"The site has caused quite a bit of interest and we have had quite a number of students from Chester Archaeology and Liverpool University studying it," said Courses Manager, Andy Campbell.

New venue for Westurf

The popular South West and South Wales Regional show is moving from its traditional home to the purpose built exhibition centre of Westpoint in Exeter.

"I believe the new venue will be a huge boost for the show and I look forward to welcoming all our regular exhibitions and guests as well as many new ones," said Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries.

Paula can be contacted on 01363 82777.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Profile

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club.

Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star.



Name: Chris Hutchinson

Club: Newark, Notts

Position: First Assistant

Age: 19

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?

I started full-time employment in July 1997, after college

2. What education are you currently undertaking?

Preparing for PA1, 2 and 6 certificates

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?

Course construction and improvement

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?

Repairing divots

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

Always wanted to do Course Management/Greenkeeping. Saloon car racing would be good, but it's difficult to get the sponsorship

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

Charlie MacDonald, now Course Manager at Crieff, and everyone at Witney Lakes

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

Later tee-off times for players - so we can get on with the job!

8. What are your hobbies?

Go-karting, golf, playing drums, basketball, squash, kick-boxing

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

I've borrowed training videos and enjoy GI's up-to-date product, course and career information

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

Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper at Newark. The Lottery win will have come in very handy!

A new man at Whitby

Thanks to the NVQ system Whitby Golf Club discovered a "new man" amid their existing staff.

Two years ago, Robin Evans saw the benefits that could be gained by going down the road of NVQ.

Prior to this decision he had been finding it hard to proceed through the normal system because he found, as many do, it difficult to express his ideas on paper. The NVQ system seemed to be the answer, offering a practical hands on way of proving his technical ability.

Robin took it upon himself to finance his way forward and prove himself by means of the NVQ System.

Within a week or so, in the capable hands of Head Greenkeeper, Ian Lavelle, the golf club noticed a big change in, not only the attitude, but also the once hidden talents of their, now it seems revitalised, greenkeeper.

"Robin's whole outlook has changed. He has begun to display a renewed personal motivation in his job, pride in his work was evident and his previously subdued skills were now coming to light once more," said Ian.

The delight of Whitby Golf Club in his new attitude spurred Robin on and he constantly looked for new ways to improve his new standards.



Robin states, "All I knew about the job was down to Ian's training and the time he made for me to learn the required skills. However, I thought it was about time I achieved a formal qualification in my own right and sought out details of the NVQ Course

Robin's assessor, Andrew Boyd, Head Greenkeeper of Bridlington Golf Club, was delighted with his response, especially now Whitby Golf Club could see the worth of the NVQ way forward.

"What is most rewarding to me as Robin's Assessor is to see the system in place and working to produce a professional man with a whole new outlook and motivation. Added to this is of course the valuable help

given to both Assessor and Candidate in the skilful hands of the G.T.C. and support throughout the two years of hard work."

Geoff Cooling, Whitby's Greens Chairman said, "The Committee is delighted at Robin's success. At a time when a man of his practical experience might reasonably be expected to rest on his laurels, it is pleasing to see that he has made this tremendous effort to improve his knowledge. Both he and the Club must benefit in the long term."

Ian Lavelle added, "Robin has served Whitby loyally for many years and I and the other members of my staff are delighted at his achievement."

Practical Greenkeeping given a boost

Following the decision re-print Practical Golf by Jim Arthur, R&A Secretary Sir Michael Bonallack, has written to all greenkeeping colleges explaining that the book promotes sensible greenkeeping practices and should be made available to students.

"It is an excellent book and we have agreed to a re-print and I wrote to all the colleges to let them know of its availability," explained Sir Michael.

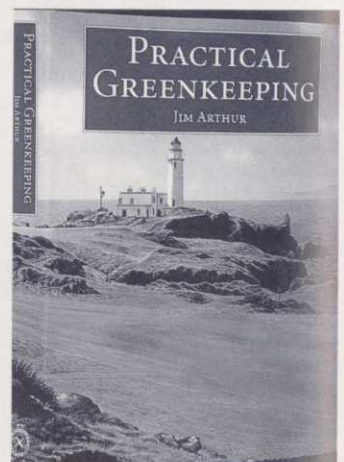
"Jim Arthur's book promotes sound greenkeeping practices and the colleges should use it as part of their teaching tools," he added.

While carrying Jim Arthur's name the book, in addition to containing

Jim Arthur's philosophies on greenkeeping gathered and honed from a lifetime in the industry, is a collection of views and writing from acknowledged experts in many different fields of the game including Donald Steel, Neil Baldwin, Barry Cooper, John Allbut and Jim's own son, Richard Arthur.

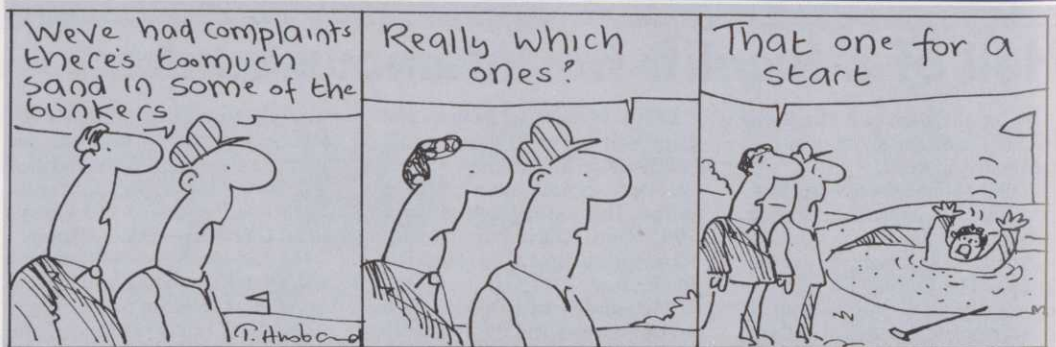
"The original idea for the book came from current BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, and it has become a compendium of views from top experts in their respective fields," said Jim.

Autographed copies of the book are available from BIGGA HOUSE priced £29.95 plus £3 p&p.



Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



Peter Wilson leaves industry

A reorganisation within Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products has seen President Peter Wilson promoted to another Textron company out with the fine turf industry and Paul Hollingworth become Managing Director of Textron Turf Care & Specialty Products Europe.

Peter, previously Chief Executive of Ransomes plc, will now become President of Textron Fastening Systems Europe where his responsibilities will cover the 23 operations across Europe, a total of 5500 staff and revenue exceeding \$700 million.

Paul Hollingworth commented, "We congratulate Peter on his new appointment and promotion and we wish him every success with his new responsibilities. I have benefited from working closely with Peter over a number of years and can confirm that it will be very much business as usual in the Turf Care Group within Europe."

Concurrent with this announcement, a new Group is formed headed by Carl Burtner, who becomes Chief Executive Officer of Textron



Golf, Turf Care & Specialty Products Group, that now incorporates the E-Z-GO company with the Turf Care Group.

Carl will be supported by Bob Grenhart, who becomes Vice

President Finance Textron Golf, Turf Care & Specialty Products Group.

Carl and Bob will be based at Elgin, Illinois, USA.

The new appointments take effect from January 1.

Iseki renew Textron link

Representatives of Japanese tractor manufacturers Iseki recently renewed an agreement with Textron Turf Care in Ipswich for Textron to continue to act as Iseki's UK agents.

Jacobsen Textron had previously marketed Iseki from their base in Kettering. The new five year deal is set to take the relationship between the two companies well into the 21st century.

Iseki were represented by Mr Fukatani, Executive Managing Director; Mr Abe, Overseas Business Managing Director and Mr Hamada, Director Iseki Europe. The agreement was signed on behalf of Textron by Peter Bell, Marketing Director.

Speaking after the signing, Peter Bell said, "Jacobsen have had an excellent relationship with Iseki and their tractors have built up a tremendous reputation in the UK for both quality and performance. Textron is delighted to continue the partnership and we regard Iseki as a fundamental part of our strategy to provide the strongest possible choice of products for our customers to meet all applications both now and in the future."

Record sales of BAR2 for Barenbrug

Steve Lawrence, Head Greenkeeper at The Suffolk Golf And Country Club, took delivery of the landmark 2000th bag of BAR 2 making it today's most successful mixture on golf greens and Barenbrug UK's best selling. The significance of the occasion was reinforced by the presence of Michel Mulder, Managing Director of Barenbrug UK. The supply of 2000 bags represents 50,000 kg of BAR 2 grass seed: enough to reseed at least 200,000 greens across the UK.



Five Lakes Greenkeeper tees off to pastures new

Five Lakes Greenkeeper, Martin Hucklesby, is moving on to Nigel Mansell's Woodbury Park, as Head Greenkeeper after four successful years working on the Links and Lakes courses at Five Lakes.

Commenting on his appointment, Five Lakes General Manager Noel Byrne said, "We are delighted that Martin's hard work has paid off with such a prestigious move for him. He leaves his successor with a tough act to follow."

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Thank you 1

During October I travelled more than 1400 miles on two separate visits to Aldwark Manor.

My first trip was for the official opening of the Association's new Headquarters by HRH The Duke of York. I felt that the day was a great success and I would like to congratulate all our staff for their efforts in making the day run so well. We will look back in years to come with great pride.

My second visit was as one of the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping finalists and, although I didn't win the top prize, I found the whole experience very educational and rewarding.

I couldn't believe the camaraderie shown by all the finalists and look forward to renewing friendships at this year's BTME.

I'd like to thank Toro for sponsoring the awards and to the judges Bob Buckingham, Graham Dale, from Toro and Lely, and to Walter Woods, who had to travel the length of the country to assess each finalist's course. Not forgetting Ken Richardson and Sami for all their hard work in organising the awards.

**Richard Whyman,
 Bude, Cornwall**

Thank you 2

On behalf of the Canadian participants at the Hayter International Cup in Atlanta in October I want to tell everyone how much we enjoyed the friendships developed, the social events shared and the friendly, yet competitive, golf.

Canadian golfers, Sylvain Alarie, Mike Baden, Doug Meyer, President; Dean Piller, Vice President, along with myself and Past President, Pelino Scenna, benefited from this outstanding international event which was organised and funded by the Hayter Company. We acknowledge with gratitude Hayter's commitment to this event and we appreciate their efforts in making it such a great event for all of us. We also acknowledge the assistance and support provided by GCSAA, as representatives from the host country and all the related golf clubs, and other service providers. Often, the full significance of events such as the Hayter International Cup is not realised at the time. Certainly after two such events now having taken place, it is clear that the concept is valid and worthwhile.

We hope that such an event can be continued and we in Canada (GCSA) stand willing to do what we can do to assist in finding the wherewithal to continue this outstanding exchange between, and among, superintendents from many parts of the world.

**Vince Gillis, Executive Director,
 Canadian Golf Superintendents
 Association**

Setting the record straight

With reference to your October letters, may I comment without unnecessarily prolonging acrimonious debate.

First to Ian Tomlinson. The Ghost grass syndrome has been known (in cereal crops too) for at least 50 years and the general consensus is that it is caused by a virus. Some have suggested nematodes (which it certainly is not). There is no cure so, rather like Take All Patch, lie back and accept that the condition will cure itself. Poa is the chief victim, so try to swing the greens back to a better balance - easier said than done, but not impossible.

Joe Paulin's letter rightly condemns writing in misleading generalities, (but writers in journals are always subjected to the handicap of the strict limitations on words). I share his view that greenkeeping is the art of applying science - echoing my own sentiments exactly.

However, I must take issue on the subject of "the USGA green". Strictly this was the USGA Green Section's specification for putting green construction, devised in 1960. Today it has been so regularly and drastically modified and the parameters have been so widened as to include almost everything (in an attempt to please everyone and avoid litigation) that in their own words it is no longer a specification, but a guide.

For the record, we should really refer to perched or suspended water table green construction, of which the USGA's is one version. The principle hinges on soil drainage physics - the essential point

being to balance the retention of water (and nutrients) by the surface tension of the soil particles against drainage dependent on the head of water. The finer the soil the deeper the root zone to achieve that drainage, but in any case there is a fixed and proven ratio between the average size of the particles in the three strata, (stone carpet, blinding and root zone) of 1:8 to 1:10. Below or above this ratio, disaster is inevitable.

I have been building perched water table greens since the mid 60s, in blissful ignorance initially of the "USGA spec" of those days.

Joe maintains that excellent results can be achieved with most things provided all other management was correct. The accent is on the most - and certainly some root zones in pasta disasters have been so bad that they could never be improved by good management, primarily because of excessive "fines".

I fully agree with Joe that the percentage of soluble fertiliser finding its way by drainage from greens to water courses, except in the case of frequent massive applications of NPK needed by sand-only greens, has been proven to be virtually nil. I need not stress that pure sand greens (an anachronism for desert conditions) are emphatically not "USGA specification".

Let's have some more healthy debate on a head to head basis and in good humour. I suspect that this would be far more to your readers' liking than thinly disguised trade advertisements masquerading as

articles.

May I take this opportunity to clarify my comments on the Forest of Arden article. First and foremost, the last thing in my mind was to imply any criticism of Raymond Hunt, who after all came first to Whitbread on my say-so at Goodwood, and who has been a staunch advocate of sound greenkeeping since he first learned it from my old friend Bill Lawson.

I can recall several occasions when I was consultant to the Group when I had to rebuke their hotel managers (including one long departed at Forest of Arden) for interference. "You don't tell your chef how to cook his greens so don't try and tell us how to cook ours".

As for Steve Clement, the facts as known are at variance with his claims and if he did not mean it he should not have said it, but to say "the bunkers acted as swimming pools when the irrigation system was on" implies over-watering to most knowledgeable greenkeepers - or is it not true. I have a card in my office which says "I know you believe you understood what you think I said, but I'm not sure you realise that what you heard is not what I meant". The written word is there for all to read.

What is inarguable is that Raymond has produced excellent conditions over the years for both his employers and the Tour.

**J. H Arthur
 Budleigh Salterton, East Devon**

I thought that I would write to express my personal opinion on what has happened in the last six months regarding local distributor changes.

Having spoken to several local Course Managers I am not alone in my dismay with the way the multi-national companies think they are benefiting Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers by getting bigger and taking competitors out of the market. The net result in 24 months time will be a steady rise in prices, they hope.

My job as a Course Manager at an average members club south of Birmingham is to get the most out of the budgets the golf club can afford. This means I have to build up a relationship with a representative from companies and this is built on trust, service and competitive prices. When the representative I

deal with loses a product line, most of the time I would change to a similar product that the representative starts to promote as an alternative.

With recent changes I have altered my six year machinery plan so as to avoid the problems I experienced four years ago. It amazes me that the people who make the decisions on dealer or agent look for completely different qualities compared to the end user. Big premises, fleet of vehicles and big stock orders are not what Course Managers look for. We want good delivery, good back-up from the manufacturer and competitive prices. If this can be achieved from a garden shed then it would not stop me dealing with that company.

My latest capital purchase is going away from what companies say that we

should be buying and more to agricultural engineering where the machines are expected to last twice as long and spare parts are available within 24 hours, not four weeks.

It would be interesting to hear how many Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers are happy with the way the big companies keep changing dealers, whether for machinery or sundries. I prefer to deal with individuals who visit my course, not multi-national names in adverts, so if the local representative has an alternative product to sell then I will change too. In turn I keep the good working relationship that I have built up with the local representative.

**Kim Blake, Course Manager
 Fulford Heath GC, Wythall**

I would like to answer the letter from Mr Ross in the October issue. Having just returned from the official opening of BIGGA HOUSE, and seeing just what first class offices we now have, (in surroundings that are second to none) I would like to point out several facts to him.

Firstly our Association is to represent the greenkeepers and the greenkeeping profession (which includes you Mr Ross), and not to donate money to charities. While I'm sure we all agree with Mr Ross that Scope is a real charity, I think Mr Thomas and the Board of Management

would not be thanked by the members for spending our money in this way. As for the princely sum of money paid to Lee Hurst, for the BTME banquet, I'm confident in assuring you, Mr Ross, that a good fair price is always sought by the Association for these events. Linda Nolan (or the fourth rate singer as referred to by Mr Ross), was brought back by popular demand from the members. I think all members would agree that golf clubs who have supported the Building Fund did so to help further the development of the Association. This in turn improves the education of the greenkeeper, and who

benefits most from this? The golf clubs. A cheap price to pay for success, Mr Ross.

I would like to thank Mr Ross' Laleham Golf Club who are in the 60% majority that pay the greenkeepers' subscriptions, and obviously a lot more supportive to the profession than Mr Ross himself.

Finally, if you haven't seen our new offices yet Mr Ross, please take the time to do so as I'm sure, like all those members who have already seen them, you will be proud of what we have achieved.
**Antony Bindley, East Midlands Section
 Secretary, First Assistant Kirby Muxloe
 GC, Leicester**

The latest FEGGA conference was held in Fuengirola, Spain, and took 'Water Management on the Golf Course' as its main theme. BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas reports...

Flowing conversation

FEGGA's second conference was held in Fuengirola, Spain in November.

Delegates attended representing their Associations from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

The conference was again sponsored by Toro as part of their commitment to the education and training of greenkeepers throughout Europe and on this occasion they were partnered by Supaturf/Aquatrols given the theme of the conference "Water Management on the Golf Course".

The conference also featured a FEGGA summit giving delegates the opportunity to express their views on the future development of FEGGA and to review its progress since its inception in March 1996.

The first part of the programme dealt with the theory and reality of water management while the second covered strategies for effective management. Justin Smith of Supaturf began with a review of soil-water-plant system basics and the implications for responsible water management. He was followed by Mark Gunter of Toro who reviewed the basics of irrigation systems. Demie Moore of Aquatrols then gave an excellent introduction to water dynamics, repellency and movement in the soil-water-plant system. The first part of the programme concluded with Justin Smith giving an interesting talk on water management in turf.

The second part of the programme began with Justin Smith covering prac-



tical applications of moisture sensing before Mark Gunter dealt with the key principles of irrigation systems. Demie Moore then spoke on rootzone delivery and managing water movement.

Mike Meyrick, currently working in Switzerland, followed with a paper on water storage and legalities before David Stubbs concluded proceedings speaking on issues relating to water within the "Committed To Green" document.

Delegates benefited from an in-depth study of water management and some really excellent presentations before relaxing at the Toro dinner which was highlighted by the presence of flamenco dancers with three delegates being invited to take to the dance floor. It is better that they remain nameless!

The next day saw the first session of the FEGGA summit followed by a visit to San Roque Golf Club and a tour of the golf course under the guidance of the Head Greenkeeper, Salvador Gonzalez, President of the Spanish Greenkeepers Association.

The final morning saw the second summit session before delegates departed throughout Europe albeit reluctantly given that Spain was still enjoying hot, summer weather.

FEGGA's AGM will be held in the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate at 12.00 pm on Thursday 21 January where a large attendance is anticipated of members of associations affiliated to FEGGA as well as other interested parties.

Below: Mark Gunter of TORO lectures on irrigation systems





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There are those who think that the management of golf turf requires no scientific understanding or input at all. Conversely, do not get hung up with science, apply it, use it, question it and you will quickly realise that the wonderful world of golf course management encompasses the best of both worlds - science and practice. David Rhodes, Senior Lecturer in Sportsturf Agronomy, at Merrist Wood College beams us up into the 21st Century...

• The appliance of Science

The dictionaries tell us that science means fact or knowledge, understanding. I think this places the importance of science within golf course management today. I will define my philosophies on the application of science and try to show how it can be directly applied to modern turf culture. How it can be used as another tool to assist in creating a good golfing experience through good golf course turf.

The Endaphic Environment

As our limited understanding of endaphology expands, we are becoming more and more responsive to turf grass rootzone needs. I believe that good soil can help in producing good turf and the study of this important area can really assist in your work.

Examples of this type of work currently being undertaken include research looking at the effects of Vascular Arbuscular Mycorrhizal fungi in turf grass roots and the symbiotic links with turf grasses. Endaphology is defined as the science that deals with the influence of soil and other media on the growth of plants.

The practical application of find-

ings and fact is equally a challenge that we must embrace. We will move towards proving things and justifying to ourselves and others that operations and tasks undertaken actually work. Those managing golf facilities in the public sector will feel the implications of the search for quality under the umbrella of best value.

Of course there are benefits in adopting this approach. Who wants to undertake tasks that are achieving nothing or even worse are detrimental to our golf turf? A good example of this is so called aeration.

Science has taught us that amongst other things plants and microbes in our soils require oxygen for aerobic respiration. In order to achieve optimum gas exchange (the exchange of O₂ and CO₂ between the atmosphere and soil) we must produce a soil that has a distribution of varying pore spaces. The difficulties in achieving this in the field are wide ranging, therefore we tend to employ methods of cultivating our rooting mediums to encourage this. I believe that one should ask several questions in relation to what we are trying to achieve.

Do we fully understand our objec-

tives, and the factors that may influence our achievement of these?

Can we discount the rules of science applicable in this case because it doesn't suit us?

How do we know we are employing the best methods to aerate our site?

How can we measure this both scientifically and practically?

Let me offer further explanation. Unless we define what we are trying to achieve, we make the assumption that we are achieving something positive (oxygen content of the atmosphere is 21% so one might argue that soil oxygen levels should be comparable). Realistically between 10-20% is achievable.

Of course other factors can affect actual achievements in relation to rootzone oxygen concentrations for example:

- Soil texture
- Structure
- Type of ground cover including species
- Rainfall / precipitation
- Topography
- Contouring
- Moisture content of soil



Above: Applying science to the management of golf turf

Top right: Merrist Wood, an ideal seat of learning

Increases in plant and microbe respiration require additional inputs of oxygen (an example being seedling respiration). This can vary depending on the time of year.

Unfortunately the calendar of science was not designed around the Golf Club competition calendar so lateral thinking is called for. Alternatives are both available and feasible.

Should we assume that machinery available to us actually aerates the soil? No, it depends - what options does one have?

Where, when, how? Ask questions.

Germination and PLS

The fairly diverse number of grass species found on today's golf courses perhaps indicates that species selection for use can offer more options than is traditional.

The sentence above does not detract from fine fescues and bents but I believe that plant breeders have

now made available alternatives to cope with the demands of the modern game - after all it is fair to assume that the so called traditional species may not be suitable in all instances, equally so new species may not be either.

One thing we do know however is that a seed requires water to germinate. Simply put, a seed imbibes water through the testa or coat due to internal salt concentrates, Gibberellin is produced which stimulates the alurone layer to produce an enzyme called amylase which in turn breaks down the reserves of starch to sugars and fuels initial germination until the plant can look after itself.

If you understand the full spectrum of a plant's requirements then it can throw into question seed mixes, seed rates, seeding techniques etc, (hence the reason drill seeding has become popular). Species to watch include:

Definite

- Perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne*
- A and G series bents

Possible

- *Poa annua* reptans
- *Poa supina*

Pure live seed calculations are simple to undertake and can assist with cost effective selection of seed species and cultivars. Any reputable seed supplier will supply data sheets for a given cultivar which amongst other things gives valuable information on purity and germination (viability). Before use by any purchaser the seed is produced to meet % purity and % germination figures as laid down by law. The percentages are usually higher than required by law because of a voluntary standard that seed companies work to. The laboratory tests show actual seed species (including weeds) and debris, for example 1% *Poa annua* seed by weight equals 250g x 3000 seeds per gramme which equals three quarters of a million potential plants in a

25kg bag. The viability of the seed, (number germinating in a petra dish) can be related to the condition, age and care of the seed.

All in all it gives the user valuable information when selecting and costing seed. The calculation is simple:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Purity} \times \text{viability} &= 99\% \times 99\% \\ \div 100 &= 98.01\% \\ 90.25\% \text{ of } 25\text{kg} &= 24.502 \text{ g} \end{aligned}$$

This means that nearly 0.5 kg of the bag is weed or waste and if we divide by the cost of a bag it gives us a cost per kg for comparison between suppliers.

When the seed has been purchased, post seeding mortality and factors in the field will also contribute to overall loss and species success.

Quality measurement can and should take place in golf course management. When benchmarks have been established, operations should show a continuation or improvement in standard, workable routine tests that are easily carried out or requested include:

Species Quality and Composition

- Turf speed
- Grass frequency and density

Soil Quality

- OM Content
- Nutrient content & availability
- pH
- Porosity

Overall one can build a picture of where the course and particularly the turf lies in relation to perceived quality and current thinking on golf course agronomy. This provides additional support and justification to your decisions. Remember assume nothing.

I hope you have enjoyed reading the article and it stimulates you into finding more out about science.

Here's to good turf!



Simple Science • Simple Science • Simple Science

Water - Water

Why can you skim stones on a pond? Why can you fill a glass with water just above the rim? The answer lies in the chemistry of water. H₂O is a wonderful molecule that reacts and changes all the time. The forces of adhesion and cohesion should be studied in detail to understand a lot more about water management and its use on golf course turf. It will help you understand the perched water table or suspended water table construction more as well.

Dormancy

True dormancy is defined as the suspension of physical and physiological processes that occur within the plant and this rarely occurs on cool season turfgrass. I believe it is more appropriate to use the term resting when we would normally use the word dormant as this explains what cool season plant actually do. True dormancy turns turf brown in colour and affords maintenance opportunities in its own right. There is a greater likelihood of true dormancy occurring in this country in summer not winter. Remember the right word choice implies greater understanding and more knowledge of the subject.

Etiolation

Solve this one if you can! This has been noted widely in golf turf management with several explanations offered for this unusual symptom. At particular times of the year, autumn being a common season, a chlorotic (lacking chlorophyll) singular leaf emerges rapidly from fine bents and poa annua. This disfigures the turf and is difficult to remedy.

Reasons suggested include:

- Of fungal origin - mildews
- Nematodes
- Stress
- Shade

We know that the production of this mutant singular leaf is caused by a release of ethylene (a growth hormone) and its extended functioning is reliant on other parts of the plant for water and nutrients etc. Frictional contact between the new shoot and rootzones seems to stimulate this ethylene production and this may be one reason why verticutting or grooming the turf may actually stimulate adverse reactions and short term results are not achieved. Any advance on this?

Allelopathy

Why does Yorkshire fog tend to form patches in established turf? There have been many explanations offered over the years to answer this question. We all know that the plant can stand close mowing regimes and grooming / slashing operations as well. I offer this most interesting answer - its allelopathic.

The production of toxins by plants is not a new phenomenon, but little is understood about it in grasses particularly amenity grasses. Recent research has shown that Yorkshire fog along with fescue and perennial ryegrass produces toxins typically phenols, coumarins, tannins etc to control the dominance of other species (interspecific competition). The result of this is more apparent in Yorkshire fog than the other species but nevertheless offers a scientific reason why the species seems to patch itself on fine turf. It is also one of the few grasses that flowers twice a day.

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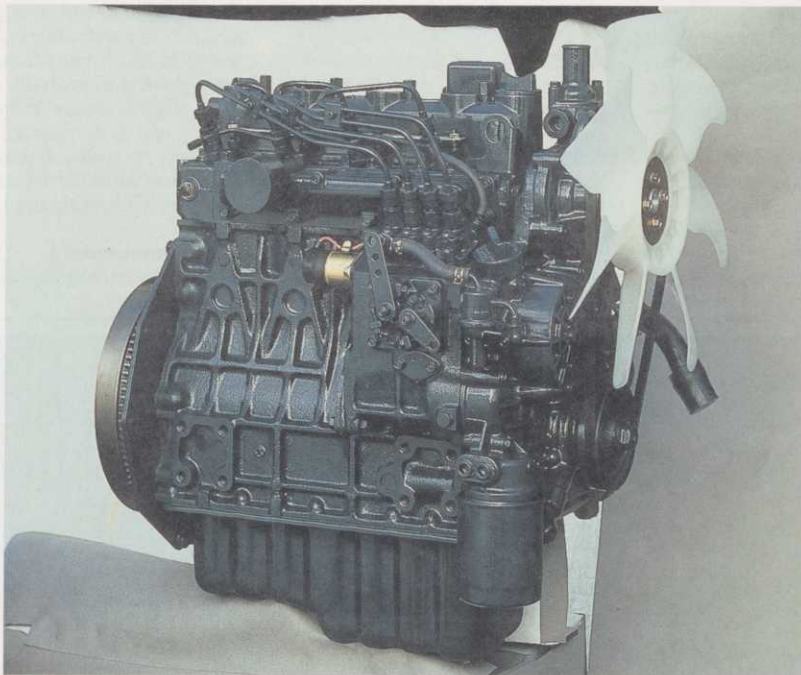
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Ad Ref 583

Roland Taylor looks the harmful gasses produced by the internal combustion engine and examines ways of ensuring damage to the ozone layer is minimised.

Smog warning



As we stand on the 18th green with a clear blue sky overhead, the sun shining down and a light breeze blowing down the fairway, it is hard to believe that all this fresh air is a myth and lurking out of sight is something sinister.

No, this is not the beginning of a thriller it is fact not fiction, air pollution throughout the world has become a major problem and one of the biggest culprits is the internal combustion engine. Four by-products result from the fuel burning process carbon monoxide, Hydrocarbon nitric oxide and particulates - all potentially harmful.

Carbon monoxide (CO)

High concentrations of this can affect the blood and nervous system and are generally considered to be the biggest threat to health. This pollutant is produced as a result of incomplete fuel combustion due to a lack of oxygen. The critical factor in its production is the fuel and air ratio (carburettor setting on a petrol

engine, injector on a diesel). A rich mixture produces CO, while a lean one keeps levels down.

Hydrocarbons (HC)

Hydrocarbons react with nitric oxides in sunlight to form ozone, which can cause respiratory problems.

These are also formed due to incomplete combustion, but there is a difference in the case of a very lean mixture. Ignition is likely to become unstable or the engine misfires, then emission levels of hydrocarbon rise.

Another source of this pollutant that is often overlooked is fuel evaporation from spillage or containers.

Tests carried out in America showed that among all non-road combustion engines, small power units, especially two-strokes, contributed to about 4% of hydrocarbons from all sources. The emission tests were as follows: 67% from exhausts; 23% due to evaporation and 10% from spillage.

Nitric Oxide (NOx)

This gas is produced when nitrogen and oxygen are combined at high temperatures and its formation is once again dependent on the fuel and air ratio going into the combustion chamber. Lowering the engine temperature by retarding ignition timing and re-circulating exhaust gases does reduce NOx formation, but this tends to reduce power output.

Particulates (Black smoke)

Tiny particles of burnt or unburnt carbon are discharged from engine exhausts. These are thought to increase the risk of heart or lung problems. Diesels produce more of this than their petrol counterparts.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)

Even when fuel is burnt efficiently carbon dioxide is discharged. While this does not harm health it has been found to be a contributor to the greenhouse effect.

Smog warning



As far as pollutants are concerned there is little to choose between emissions from a diesel or petrol four-stroke engine. In the case of a two-stroke power unit the picture is different and indications are that even with all the latest technology they will not get through the next round of CARB regulations in America, hence the introduction over recent years of smaller four-stroke models.

Over the last decade the research departments of engine manufacturers have been working flat out to come up with design improvements that will enable them to comply with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) emission regulations. These came into effect in January 1995 and not only laid down engine performance levels, they also required manufacturers to establish facilities for measuring emissions from every unit supplied into the Californian market. Their introduction has become a benchmark for all engine production throughout the world.

Engines now coming onto the market have improved fuel economy, produce less noise, work at low temperatures and are said to have greater reliability and durability.

Most readers will have several

engines in their fleet, so what measures can be taken to reduce pollution?

Engine maintenance

This needs to be carried out as laid down by the manufacturer. Not only will it help to reduce the emissions, it will ensure the engine continues to produce its optimum performance.

Cooling systems

Regardless of which system the engine has, the most important factor is keeping the airflow moving over the cooling areas. Build-ups of dried grass or dirt between the cooling fins around the compression chamber or in a radiator can dramatically reduce the system's efficiency. The temperature within the engine will increase resulting in a drop in performance and subsequently higher levels of pollutants.

Air filters

As we have seen, the volume pollutant gas produced is dependent on the correct ratios of air to fuel. Dirty and clogged up filters restricts air intake and change the mixture getting into the combustion chamber. Ignition is less effective and a high level of neat fuel is discharged into the atmosphere via the exhaust.

This also occurs if the carburettor setting is incorrect. Apart from the pollution aspect, more fuel is wasted and the engine's performance is only mediocre, thus placing more stress on both machine and operator.

Ignition

The correct spark or fuel injection at the right time is critical. A dirty or wrongly set plug in the case of a petrol engine, or faulty injector on a diesel, will upset the balance.

Spark plugs should be the correct type for the engine and have an adequate heat range.

Lubrication

Oil reduces friction and dissipates heat. If in short supply hot spots develop and unless oil levels are topped up immediately a costly bill will be incurred. Top quality lubricants should always be used. For two-stroke mixtures there are available smokeless based oils. These only produce carbon dioxide and water vapour from the combustion process and no carbon residues are deposited in the engine, so internally it is kept cleaner.

Fuel management

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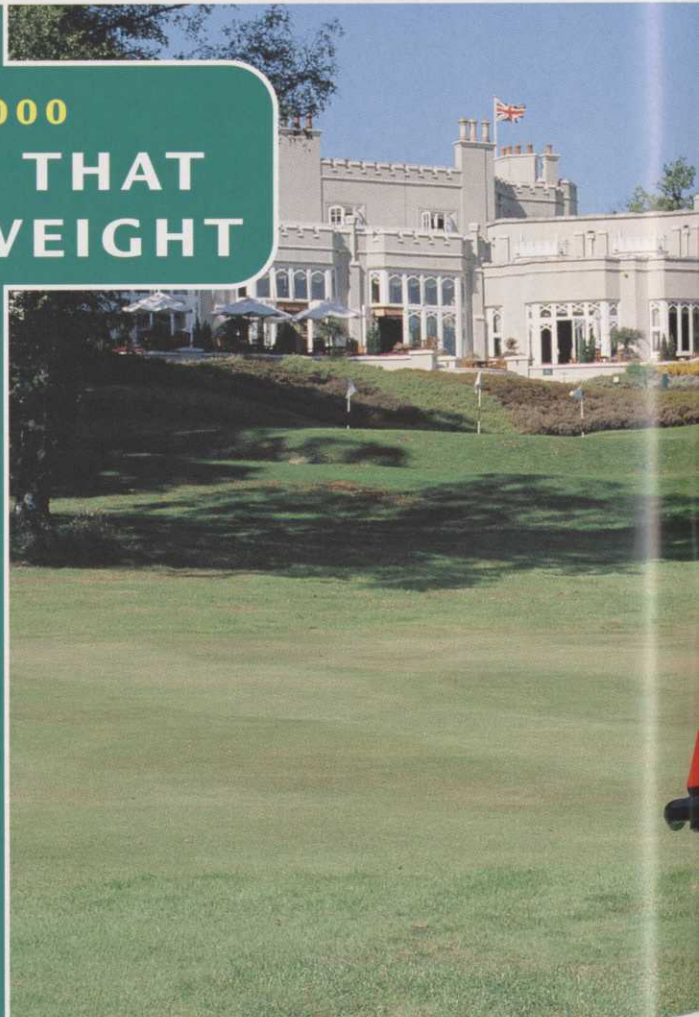
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Previous page and far left: Eco-friendly engines from Briggs & Stratton come with a variety of Horsepower options

Immediate left: A Kubota engine undergoes regular maintenance as an integral part of Environmental concern on the Golf Course

formula is likely to be changed about three times a year. This is to reduce the vaporisation rate during hot spells and increase it when the temperature drops. Because petrol has a limited life, any machinery not being used for long periods should have all the fuel drained off, or a fuel stabiliser can be added to the tank.

When experiencing starting problems, it is worth first checking the fuel is not stale, especially if the equipment has been laid up for some time

Fuel should be stored in a cool place and needs to be kept in an approved and labelled container, which is fitted with an airtight cap.

Clean up any spillage as quickly as possible to stop hydrocarbons being released into the atmosphere.

General

Drives, transmission and cutting sys-

tems need to be maintained and set up correctly so that minimal stress is placed on the power unit. It is important it is to ensure the engine is running correctly and the rest of the machine's components are not causing overloading.

Manufacturers, instruction books will give details of servicing and adjustment routines.

Repower an attractive option

There comes a time when an engine's performance is well below par.

At this stage it is likely to be spewing out plenty of gas emissions becoming difficult to start; more likely to break down and running costs are escalating.

A decision has to be made whether to invest in a complete new machine. As most course managers and greenkeepers are faced with financial constants, this may not be a very practical solu-

tion. There is another possibility that is worth exploring - re-powering. This has some distinct advantages and the cost compared to a new machine will be very attractive.

The new engine incorporates all the latest technology. Features like reduction in fuel consumption can represent considerable savings over a period of time. Lower noise and emission levels contribute to the environmental issue and the engine carries a warranty. It may be an advantage to change from a petrol engine to a diesel unit.

Providing all the other components of a piece of equipment are okay, re-powering is an option worth investigating. Your local engine supplier will be able to advise on suitable replacements and can carry out the work.

The future on a global basis indicates that legislation in some countries is becoming increasingly stringent and

engine manufacturers design teams are being pushed to the limits of technology to comply. Other forms of fuel are being tested such as natural gas. At present this is mainly on applications where a stationary engine is used, mobile applications are on the drawing board.

Electric power has already been introduced on golf machinery. Everyone is out to seek acceptable solutions, but it is also up to those responsible for using engines to ensure they are maintained to a standard that minimises unwanted gas emissions.

Pollution is a growing problem that has to be addressed it will not go away.

Next time you are out on the course and take one of those deep breaths just ponder for a few seconds on how much poison the engines under your care are discharging into the atmosphere.



Howard Swan, President of the British and International Golf Course Architects (BIGCA), extols the virtues of teamwork when it comes to producing the successful golf course.

EQUAL partners

When the R&A, in 1987 published its market research document 'The Demand for Golf' we all thought the good times had come! Just the 700 more golf courses by the end of the '90s, increasing our national stock by a third. And so it came to pass that we saw a rush of blood to the head of many, a climbing on the bandwagon, a clamour to make a quick buck. Developers arrived, with or without adequate cash or funding, banks were prepared to back them. Business plans were presented, most of them highly optimistic.

People believed them. The EU Agricultural policy, thought set aside, encouraged farmers to give up their known business and turn to recreation. Golf seemed a good bet, especially to those who played it at their local club.

The boom came...
No overall strategy...
No overall direction...
Where would golf courses be?

What type of course should they be?... Surely not the ubiquitous championship course! Yes, why not, it sounded good! Was there really the demand in the locality? Where would the players come from? Was it sufficient to suggest that one 18-hole course needed a population around it of 20,000?

It seemed to be... Golf courses sprang up all over the place. The planners were inundated with applications for permission to develop golf courses. They could hardly cope. Permissions were granted on the flimsiest of information.

Those in the golf industry rubbed their hands together. Architects, contractors, irrigation experts came out of the woodwork. It would be fair to say some cowboys appeared, and reappeared to take advantage of and from the boom. To meet the supply, new recruits to the greenkeeping profession were needed in bigish numbers. Three or four years intensive activity on all fronts.

Inevitably standards fell....

Design, construction were not alone. Financial integrity seemed missing on many occasions. Too many times were projects architect led, without adequate client briefs. Too many who designed courses were not professional architects. The results soon showed!

Too many times did too much money get spent. Budgets were exceeded, if there were budgets in the first place. Financial disasters loomed. With too high an expectation of returns, and too high gearing levels, there was little chance to service capital let alone interest.

Too many times did greenkeepers have to pick up the remains.

The economy turned, recession arrived, with many golfing bankruptcies. There is much truth in the idiom that the third owner gets the best deal! So, some ten years later we have found this out.

However, hopefully we've learned

much from the roller coaster ride of the late eighties and early '90s, and the market is now better for it. We are all the more discerning from the experience, and we are all the more appreciative of the need to work together as a cohesive team.

We are all the better that there are now considerably less new courses being built and the concentration of many is on the existing stock, old and relatively new, and how these can be improved, renovated, restored to meet modern day demands and expectations.

However there remain new courses to be designed and built if the Henley Futures report is to be believed - another 300 or so.

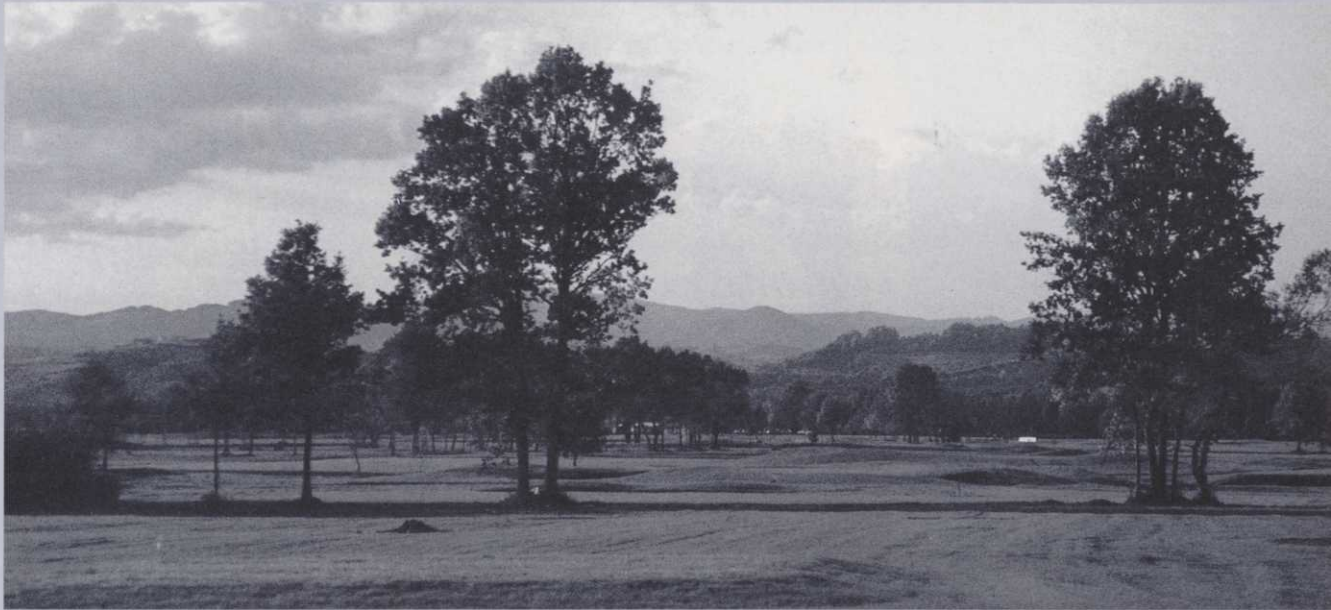
If that is to happen it is vitally important that these courses are designed correctly, properly, professionally by suitably educated and experienced golf course architects, no matter where they might be, or to what scale they might be required. Putting architectural work in the hands of those unqualified is a recipe, almost without exception, for disaster.

The record of the past ten years supports such a view. Designs need to be properly planned and documented after sites have been thoroughly investigated, technically as well as commercially. Working drawings need to be prepared golf courses are no longer designed on the back of a cigarette packet! - and specifications and Bills of Quantities or schedules of work made up to define simply and clearly the quality and extent of work envisaged in the project. This can then be priced, on a competitive basis by experienced and reliable contractors who are committed to make an honest attempt at adhering to such specifications. Not all, sadly, have done, or do. From this, a developer can have a good grasp of his cost outlays, and his funding programme.

Every new course needs growing in. Establishment is not a task to be

The 5th green at Royal Wimbledon and its restored bunkering is a fine example of a successful partnership between architect and greenkeeper, resulting in outstanding work.





On Croatia's first golf course, the grow-in is in the hands of an experienced English Greenkeeper, directing local labour in the establishment programme. Roger Bott has worked closely with the design team in the phases of drainage, irrigation and seeding of the championship standard course near Zagreb, whilst bringing the range, academy and 9-hole family course to play earlier in the year.

taken lightly or quickly. Anyone, or anything in its infancy needs tender loving care... enter the greenkeeper.

The greenkeeper is, perhaps, the most vital part of that team in the development.

But the entrance made by the greenkeeper is often far far too late. He should be there at the beginning or at least close to the beginning of any development, any construction. He is the man, or woman, who can be, and should be the eyes and ears of the golf course architect, and of his employer, the developer.

If anyone is to see, and ensure that the project is built correctly and properly on a day to day basis, it is the greenkeeper. He will, after all, inherit the baby and nurture it through its childhood towards maturity. It is in his direct interests to make sure that all is done well. Rarely can a golf course architect be on any particular project every day. Certainly weekly, if not twice weekly at certain delicate parts of the construction - shaping, drainage, rootzone placement, preparation and seeding - and certainly not once in a blue moon. But the dependence upon the greenkeeper is immense and the relationship vital.

It's little good the greenkeeper arriving where the final stages of seeding are being undertaken, or worse still (but often) after seeding. Any golf course architect, professional and worth his salt, will have advised his client that the early arrival of an experienced and competent greenkeeper is essential and is in everyone's best interests. He needs to see what is going on under the surface as well as on top of it. After all, there is far more below than above in the design and construction of a golf course.

Being there and working with the architect closely and with initial respect and understanding is the absolute requirement.

The situation is even more important in the increasingly active renova-

tion and improvement of existing golf courses. Every course, no matter how old, how young, needs to evolve and grow towards maturity. Its fabric needs constant inspection, evaluation, appraisal, and measures taken on a sensible, rational, programmed basis for improvement.

Its fabric sometimes needs renewal if and when it wears out and cannot withstand the demands and pressures of today, let alone tomorrow.

Golf clubs need to recognise this, and plan for it. Such planning needs to be in the hands of professionals not amateurs.

Constitutions. A few more clubs seem to be going in that direction.

Historically of course, and frustratingly for both greenkeeper and the architectural profession changes to golf courses have been undertaken on something of a random fashion, often by the Captain or Secretary, or Green Committee Chairman in his or her year(s) of tenure of office; a result, without doubt, of the 'democratic' system in membership clubs. We've all heard of classic cases of tees, and particularly bunkers going in one year, on the desire of a Captain or Chairman of Green, and the next

year, renovation, restoration, whatever it is called, the right results are achieved. Any programme of improvement should be set out fully at the beginning, evaluated by the officers of the club, and priorities set by them. The architect should derive the programme after a comprehensive analysis, in which the greenkeeper should have a major contribution. The programme needs to be over a 5-7 year term, the length being directly related to the resources, material, machinery, labour and financial, available.

The cloth needs to be cut to suit the purse.

Decisions need to be taken as to whether the work programme can be carried out entirely in-house or whether, for the larger works external assistance should be brought in.

Bunker work is sensitive, delicate and needs to be taken slowly and is best in the province of the greenkeepers. Tees and greens work, may be suited to experienced contractors under direction and supervision.

The contribution of the greenkeeper to this programme should not be underestimated. Nor should his relationship with the architect. Both are essential for success.

Working together in a professional partnership can be and should be fun! We, both professions, have an excellent opportunity to make it so, together.

The entrance made by the greenkeeper is often far far too late. He should be there at the beginning or at least close to the beginning of any development, any construction. He is the man, or woman, who can be, and should be the eyes and ears of the golf course architect, and of his employer, the developer.

It is reassuring to find that more clubs are embodying in their Constitutions and Rules the requirement of a golf course maintenance policy which hopefully is written by the greenkeeper for his colleagues on the Green Committee. It should clearly state the objectives of the policy and strategy and programme adopted to maintain the golf course.

More clubs seem to be taking the same stance towards course improvements, alterations and upgradings.

Let us hope that the requirement to put such measures in the hands of a professional golf course architect, competent and experienced is also becoming written in such

year taken out by the next incumbent: Maybe something to do with each hitting the ball in a different way. Hookers don't like bunkers to the left, slicers not to the right!

It's about time the system bucked this staccato process and each and every golf club had development committees, taking advice from professional golf course architects, and letting their professional greenkeepers execute the work to proper, and sustainable standards.

The biggest asset at most golf clubs is the course. It has a heritage also. It needs to be treated rationally, consistently and delicately to get the best out of it, and to ensure through revi-

Howard Swan operates his design practice from Essex, and works internationally, presently in nine countries. His work on restoring some of the United Kingdom's oldest courses is well noted. He is presently President of The British Institute of Golf Course Architects.

Swan Golf Designs can be found at; 01277 396229 and on E-mail: St-JanGolfDesignst_btinternet.com.

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The field for the 1998 Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping final was by common consent the strongest ever, and produced a fine Champion who, as this year's Ambassador for Greenkeeping, will do a marvellous job in promoting the profession...



From Strength to strength

John Coleman is a man of drive, determination and talent who would stand out in any walk of life. It is our good fortune that he has chosen to make his mark in greenkeeping.

He is supported by a fine golf club, Abbeydale in Sheffield, and they will benefit from John's success with a new Toro triple mower worth around £20,000. John wins a trip to the GCSAA Conference and Show while each member of his team receives a set of BIGGA waterproofs. The other finalists each received a cheque for £100.

The Toro Student of the Year Award saw the emergence of a young woman who again will stand as a fine example of the quality of people being attracted to the profession.

Sally Doherty is a university graduate who has thrown herself into her job at The Belfry with such enthusiasm that she is already a key member of the team which is preparing the Brabazon Course for the 2001 Ryder Cup. Sally wins a place on a turf science course in the United States as well as a trip to the Toro Headquarters in Minneapolis and the Toro's irrigation Headquarters in California as well as the GCSAA Show in Orlando.

We are indeed fortunate to have two such able Champions and it says much for the success of the two competitions that people of their quality strive to succeed in them.

Toro are owed a debt of thanks for enabling the events to go on and for the hard work and commitment the people of Toro and Lely UK put into them.

THE MAN WITH THE **ABBHEY** HABIT

New Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award winner John Coleman has packed a lot into his 28 years...



Take a close look at the picture of the smiling dark haired man which accompanies this feature.

Stare into the eyes and there's a fair chance that you'll detect the steely determination to succeed. The eyes also reveal a depth of experience which belies the rest of the relatively youthful face and hint at the story behind the picture. A tale which describes the route which culminated in John Coleman, Abbeydale Golf Club's Course Manager, becoming the 1998 Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award winner.

It is a story of bloody-mindedness, hardship, confidence, prejudice and of a close and rewarding relationship between a greenkeeper and his Chairman of Green.

The first element emerged when he eschewed the chance of joining Dumbarton-based J&B Whisky, where his father was Industrial Manager, in a job which many young men would have welcomed with open arms.

"A lot of my family automatically went into J&B and it was assumed I'd do the same, and I'd have earned decent money for a guy of my age," explained John.

"But it was partly bloody mindedness which made me go into greenkeeping. I just wanted to do it myself. Also I was a keen golfer and like many thought I'd be able to play all the time so I started at Dumbarton Golf Club as a YTS on £27 a week. Peanuts!" recalled John, who is now 28.

He'd gone into it at full tilt with a view to greenkeeping being his career but after two weeks of being put through the mill by his boss, Frank Scullion, now of Dunstable Downs GC, John began to doubt the wisdom of his decision.

"I raked all the bunkers myself and used the hand mower the rest of the day and it was walking the legs off me. I said to my dad that I was absolutely knackered and that I didn't know if it was worth £27 a week. But my dad

was clever because he said 'Well, if you don't think you can handle it...' That was like the red rag to a bull and I worked hard from there on."

A top student at Langside College he reached the National Finals of the Toro Student of the Year Competition, - he admits now that he was out of his depth in the final won by David Norton - and was promoted to Deputy Head Greenkeeper. He also represented the apprentices on BIGGA's West of Scotland Section.

"It was great experience. I was on committee with the likes of Chris Kennedy and remember playing golf at a Section meeting with George Brown when I was about 17. He was absolutely great to me but I'd doubt if Chris or George would remember me."

It was at this stage, still at the age of 19, that John decided that his career needed to take a different course. The path he chose was education.

"I felt that I could have stayed at Dumbarton for a couple of years and



THE MAN WITH THE ABBEY HABIT

then gone down the road of trying to get experience at different golf courses, which is a good way of doing it. But I wondered how I would be able to stand out from the crowd doing it that way," explained John.

"So I thought I'd try and go a bit further with my education and the three year BTEC National Diploma in Turf Science and Sportsground Management at Myerscough College was the highest level you could get at the time in greenkeeping."

It meant some drastic action. He handed in his notice at Dumbarton sacrificing a regular income, moved south without a grant and he funded his progress through a succession of bar jobs.

Having made such sacrifices, and passed the Diploma, you might think a host of potential employers would have been knocking at the door to speak to this talented and ambitious young man

It didn't happen and the clue to the

abject failure of golf clubs to take notice of John is revealed in the second last word of the previous paragraph.

John was only 22 and over qualified for anything other than the top job at a golf club and clubs were reluctant to put the affairs of their golf courses in the hands of someone seen as no more than a callow youth.

"I was back living with my parents and applying for every Head Greenkeeper's job which appeared in the magazine but wasn't getting any response. It's funny but even now when I go home to Dumbarton and come downstairs in the morning I always look at the front door to see if there's any mail for me," he recalled.

While John was becoming more and more disillusioned a Chairman of Green in South Yorkshire was putting together an advert for a Head Greenkeeper's job after the previous incumbent had moved on.

Jack Copeland took his role seriously at Abbeydale Golf Club. He attended, and still attends, every lecture put on by the Sheffield Section and had also visited BTME.

"At Harrogate I heard a talk by a young man who made a huge impression on me. It was the first time I'd seen a young Course Manager and it showed me where greenkeepers were going. I knew this was the future," explained Jack.

"That was in the January and that October I was put in the position of appointing a new Head Greenkeeper."

That young Course Manager was Anthony Davies, of Prestbury Golf Club, by coincidence the first winner of the Premier Greenkeeper Award which has become the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award John has now won, and a Master Greenkeeper.

"I remember reading John's application and being interested, but then noticed his age and was depressed by it. But, remembering the young Course



Manager at Harrogate I still chose to interview him," said Jack.

In the middle year of his course - which incidentally he would have no hesitation in recommending others - John had worked under Bill Lyon at Royal Mid Surrey, in Richmond.

"Bill Lyon was a major influence in John getting this job," explained Jack.

"He got a superb reference from the college highlighting his leadership qualities - despite being the youngest on the course he was a class spokesman when a dispute arose regarding some elements of college life - and another excellent reference from Bill which I decided to take up.

"We had a long conversation during which time I said that it would be a gamble taking on someone of his age. Bill said that wasn't a gamble, the real gamble would be in not taking him. He said that of all the people he'd been involved with he was the brightest. That stuck with me and encouraged me to go down the path of employing John," said Jack, whose decision was not universally applauded at the time by the rest of the membership.

It didn't take John too long to win round the membership particularly in his work on a new irrigation system, bunker renovation and the masterminding of a new maintenance facility brought about by a threat to close the club down by the Health and Safety Executive (See Greenkeeper International October '97.) Oh yes, he's also proved himself to be a bit of an inventor coming up with needle hollow tines which some of the major companies now produce.

The close relationship between John and Jack is highlighted by the fact that Jack was the person on the end of the phone when John made his first call both, after his interview and after the announcement of his win.

"This has vindicated my decision to go down the education route as I've achieved a status that would have been out of my reach if I'd gone down the more orthodox route. It means a lot to

me and from Jack's point of view proves to us that we were right. I wanted to win it for him as well as the team - Craig Richards, Lee Mason, Barrie Wild, Glynn Hancock, Paul Mason and Steve Hewins - and for lots of members of the club."

On the future John is well aware of the benefits such success can bring but he is too level headed to get carried away.

"I'm the same greenkeeper now as I was before I won the competition. I'm not any different. I don't want to come across as a mercenary so unless something comes along that I really feel I couldn't turn down as far as I'm concerned things will continue the way they are at the moment.

"I want to continue my education. Myerscough College is offering a correspondence degree course which it is going to do on CD Rom the year after next and I've also applied to go on the Master Greenkeeper programme."

Jack is sure that if and when the day comes that John does decide to move on, and he confesses that the club Board were concerned that it might happen if John won the Toro, it would not mean the end of the relationship.

"John would never leave this club spiritually. He's done too much here. I'm sure that if he went anywhere else he'd always be available to support whoever got the job."

Having won the Toro John will devote some of his incredible energy to promoting the industry and BIGGA.

"I'll shout it from the roof tops that I've come through the education system that BIGGA is promoting and that it has worked.

"There are too many people coming into the profession by default and I'm willing to go into schools and, taking a leaf out of Ruud Guillet's book, try to make greenkeeping sexy and a more appealing profession to get into."

With such a fine example of modern greenkeeping promoting the cause we can expect an influx of new talent on the next few years.

Above: John very much a double act with Jack Copeland

Below: A valiant effort; (from L-R) Back row; Andy Campbell, Peter Wisbey, Richard Whyman Front row; John Quinn, John Coleman and Allan McDougall



TOP STUDENT – BAR NONE

Sally Doherty's elevation to Toro's top student came after a chat across a bar changed the course of her life...



Above: A delighted Sally poses with her well-earned trophy

Below: The finalists (from L-R) Back row; Gary Gruber, Mark Allen, Nick Webber, Geoff Mills, Richard Aitken Front row; Paul Shelley, Sally Doherty and Steven Myres

A chance remark in the Golf Bar of The Belfry changed the course of Sally Doherty's life and led her to the title Toro Student of the Year for 1998.

"I'd just handed in my notice at the bar when got speaking with Derek Ganning. I said 'Go on. Give me a job.' It was just pure chance as he happened to be in the bar and to be honest I was bored with life at the time. After humming and hating for a while he agreed and I started full time. That was three years ago," explained Sally, whose progress since has been such that she has recently been promoted to First Assistant on the renowned Brabazon Course.

Born and raised in Tamworth, near Birmingham, Sally completed an Environmental Science Degree at Wolverhampton University, and had worked at The Belfry in the bars and restaurants for several years during holidays and after completing her course.

"Despite that I'd never thought of working on the golf course until that time and I certainly never dreamed I'd end up greenkeeping," said Sally.

Having taken the plunge it then dawned on Sally that when she walked into the Mess Room for the first time she would be the lone female amid 40 males.

"I was super nervous on my first day but the guys have been brilliant. They do give me a bit of stick now and again but I'd rather have that than be treated with kid gloves."

Sally has not regretted her decision to take up greenkeeping one little bit.

"Once I started, and after the initial shock of working outside in the winter, I loved every minute of the job," she explained, enthusiasm oozing from her voice.

Although her Environmental Science degree did involve soil science and looked at trees and grasses there was little cross over into the golf side but Sally threw herself into education for her new chosen profession.

"When I found out about the NVQs I wanted to do them straight away and started a block release course at The Warwickshire College. I've just finished my Level 2 and started work on my Level 3. I'm also an assessor to Level 2."

Progress in the Toro Student of the Year Award came when her tutor, Graham Martin, nominated her as the college representative for the Regional Finals.

"I attended an interview in Shropshire and wasn't nervous at all. I just thought I'd give it a go and wasn't particularly worried about it," she explained.

Nerves did start to build, however, when two weeks later she was informed that she'd made it through to the National Finals.

"Just before the final interview I was very very nervous," she admitted.

However, she shone in the longer, more technical, interview conducted in BIGGA HOUSE by Mark Gunter, of Toro; Peter Mansfield, of Lely; Ken Richardson, of BIGGA and BIGGA's National Chairman, Gordon Child and was delighted when her name was announced at the Toro Awards dinner held in Aldwark Manor Hotel that same evening.

Part of Sally's prize for winning the Toro Student of the Year Award is to undertake a six week residential study course at the University of Massachusetts early next year.

"The thought of going to the States is exciting, but a little bit scary as I've never travelled on my own before, but I'm looking forward to being able to feed back to the lads at work on what I've learned."

It is not the first time she has been to the States having been on a University field trip to Boston a few years ago.

"I was working in the hotel at The Belfry at the time but even so the Americans were excited to hear that I worked at the Ryder Cup venue even although at that time I didn't work on the course. No doubt the students on the course this time will be interested to hear about what's The Belfry," said

Sally, who was working in the restaurant serving the players and assembled starts when the last Ryder Cup was played at the course in 1993.

She has and will be more involved for the next match as she has been carrying out the work which has and is being done to make the Brabazon an even greater test for the Ryder Cup in 2001.

"I've been lucky to have been involved in the renovation work on the course - new paths, bunkers and bridges - and pick up such valuable experience.

"The course is looking brilliant and it will continue to get better as it will be closed every winter between now and 2001," explained Sally, talking about an initiative made possible by the opening of the new PGA course.

It all means that Sally is going to be busy between now and the playing of the Ryder Cup but you get the impression that she wouldn't want it any other way.

"I'd like to thank my tutor Graham Martin for setting me on the way for the award and of course Derek Ganning for giving me the chance in the first place. I'd also like to thank David Samuel (Courses Superintendent for all three Belfry courses), Bevan Tattershall (Head Greenkeeper of the Brabazon) and all the rest of the guys for their help."

The joint runners-up in the Toro Student of the Year final were Steven Myers of Glenisla Golf Course and Elmwood College and Paul Shelley of Chesfield Downs GC and Oaklands College who each win all expenses paid trips to Harrogate next year.



SETTING THE STANDARDS

Walter Woods visited all six finalists as part of the judging process and came away enthused by the quality of work that he found

The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping was initially organised to raise standards of the greenkeeping profession and judging by the quality we have seen in the two years of the competition this has undoubtedly been achieved.

Last year's competition, won by Ian McMillan of Hankley Common GC, was a huge success thus ensuring that entries for this year would be increased. That was the case and it meant that changes to the judging procedure had to be made so that all entries had to go through a qualifying round before a short list of finalists was decided. This judging was carried out by a distinguished panel comprising Jimmy Nielson, Barry Heaney, Bill Lawson, Paddy McCarron, Eric James and the BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child.

Being asked to perform the final judging for the second year running was an honour, giving me a personal insight into the improvements in standards, even from last year.

Starting off in early September I set out by car on a tour of Britain which took in the six finalist's golf courses.

I first headed for Carden Park, near Chester, to meet Course Manager, Andy Campbell, who is in charge of 45 holes of golf, including the recently-opened Jack Nicklaus course which is set in magnificent scenery.

Andy is one of the modern type of Course Manager who is setting the standards for others to follow and is already the holder of the Master Greenkeeper Award.

When walking the fairways with Andy I could detect a pride and passion for the greenkeeping profession, coupled with a great ambition for his golf course.

Leaving there I headed south, through heavy rainstorms, to meet Richard Whyman, who has been Head Greenkeeper at the delightful Bude and North Cornwall links course for the last 14 years.

When arriving at the clubhouse my first impression was one which you would see anywhere on the east of Scotland as it is a course which starts and finishes in the town.

Richard is an enthusiastic greenkeeper constantly having to compete with the weather, mainly strong winds coming straight over the Atlantic from America.

Royal Mid Surrey, in Richmond, was next on my list and a chance to meet Allan McDougall, whom I have known for many years, as he was an enthusiastic committee member of the old SIGGA regime.



Allan's golf course is one of the old traditional type which you find in the London area. Situated next to Kew Gardens, the club is now well into its second century with a colourful history involving famous professionals and tournaments. Having 36 holes it is difficult to believe that there could be a stretch of land with such perfectly maintained grass, surrounded by mature trees of every description.

Allan has continued to develop and learn over the years and now appears to thrive in the quality atmosphere which abounds at this famous golf club.

From London it was north to Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire to meet Peter Wisbey who returned from Portugal to manage the English Golf Union National Golf Centre including the old Hotchkin course and the successful growing in of the new Donald Steel designed Bracken course.

This is a wonderful place to visit or play golf with its rugged terrain, heather, trees and abundant wildlife - an environmentalist's dream.

Peter has settled into his job over the last two years and is using his vast experience to produce high quality results.

The following day I made my way to Abbeydale Golf Club, near Sheffield, through countryside which could have come straight from an episode of Emmerdale with narrow winding roads sided by grey stone walls.

On arrival I was met by John Coleman, the Course Manager, who

has been at the club for the last six years. My first impression was of how tidy everything appeared. From the clubhouse, the perfectly maintained gardens with colourful bushes and flowers of every description and overlooking a golf course maintained to perfection.

This young man was given the opportunity to work at a very progressive golf club which knew that without bringing in a talented greenkeeper it would be unable to meet the main objectives of its mission statement to its members.

On my return to Scotland my last but not least visit was to Elmwood College where I have a personal relationship with the very progressive greenkeeping learning centre which has recently constructed a perfectly laid out 18 hole golf course which visitors can play.

The main objective, however, is to train greenkeeping students who travel from all over Europe to train and improve their greenkeeping education.

John Quinn, the Course Manager, arrived a few years ago to oversee the planning and growing-in of this delightful golf course.

Once each of the six finalists had been visited the final assessment was made, sticking strictly to the criteria laid down by BIGGA and Toro whose duties it was ensure that, as near as possible, an "apple for apple" situation could be applied. Markings of one to five applied to criteria relating to golf course conditioning; the continuing development of education; the individual's

role in the golf club coupled with his ability to manage every department of given authority dictated that only confident, progressive, ambitious individuals were selected.

At the end of October the six finalists descended on BIGGA HOUSE to complete round two which was the personal interview - conducted similar to Mastermind but probably more difficult.

Each candidate was questioned for 45 minutes on all aspects of his job. Once complete the individual was again assessed and marked on his performance before the winner could be announced.

On this occasion it was John Coleman, from Abbeydale, with only a few points separating all six contestants.

However the main objective of the competition, as I said at the start was to raise the standard of greenkeeping and management and I have no doubt that this has been achieved.

I would like to congratulate the Toro Company for their valuable contribution in making such a valuable competition within the greenkeeping profession a success.

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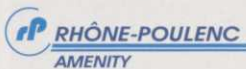
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A JUST REWARD

Lindrick's triumph in the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhône-Poulenc Amenity, is long overdue and well deserved.



In many competitions there are entrants who always have the rest of the field looking over their shoulder. I'm thinking about Brazil, and perhaps Germany, in the World Cup; in golf in the 60s and 70s it was Jack Nicklaus and in Europe, of late, it's been Colin Montgomerie; in rugby union it's the All Blacks.

They may not win every time, but they ensure that everyone else feels that they are the ones to beat to lift the spoils.

In golfing environment terms Lindrick is the name which has been on everyone's lips since the start of the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhone Poulenc Amenity and indeed when the competition was originally launched as the Amazone Golf Course Environment Competition in '95.

In each of the first three years Lindrick was mentioned in dispatches, becoming regional winner or being Highly Commended but it was not until this year that the famous South Yorkshire Club won the title and received the trophy from none other than HRH The Duke of York during Askham Bryan's recent Golf Environment Conference.

It is a measure of the emphasis placed on the environment at the venue, which will forever be known as the venue for the final Great Britain and Ireland Ryder Cup victory in 1957, that it doesn't go out of its way to win the competition. It just opens its doors and says "This is what we do, and have

been doing for a great many years, see what you think."

And it's true. Lindrick was one of the first golf clubs to take an active interest in matters not strictly concerned with playing areas.

The driving force for much of the early work was Eddie Park, a Sheffield-based dentist and a man so engrossed in the game of golf, course maintenance and greenkeeping generally that his views were regularly sought and published in the likes of *Golf Monthly*.

His collected writings, including a series on "The Management of British Golf Courses" have been gathered together by his widow, Nan, into an excellent book "Real Golf", which includes a pictorial history of conservation work at Lindrick.

"Eddie lived close to the course and the whole team used to go to his house once a week for lectures, based on what he had learned while visiting other courses," recalled Course Manager, Kevin Hazlehurst.

"Eddie died in '89 but he would have been chuffed to bits to have won this award. I know Nan is," a fact confirmed by the fact that as soon as the announcement had been made Nan, still a Lindrick member, was looking at ways of maximising publicity for the club.

Son, Nick, also a dentist, carried on much of Eddie's work and his involvement, experience and expertise has seen him become Vice Chairman of the R&A's Golf Course Advisory Panel.

"This success is a tribute to the staff but also to the Parks as we're carrying out the actions that Eddie and Nick put in place," said Kevin.

The club was formed in 1891 on an area of magnesium limestone - which has now seen parts of the course designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest - and initially had only a handful of trees over its entire area.

Over the years trees grew but so did hawthorn which became the real conservation problem for the club.

"The gorse was being invaded by hawthorn and scrub and we were losing the club's rare limestone grasslands," explained Kevin, who has kept copious records and photographs of the work that has been carried out over the years.

It called for drastic action and large areas were cleared. much of it done by NACRO - National Association of Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders who - with up to 20 men working at a time.



Below: Dougal Rae receives the 1998 Environment Award from HRH The Duke of York

Bottom: The justifiably proud Lindrick Greenkeeping team



"The whole operation was new to us and clearing areas was not something that we'd previously thought about," said Kevin, who has been at the club since 1977.

"In November of '83 the club bought its first chain saw and that made things a lot quicker for us and we cleared the edge of the 1st."

We would clear trees down to the bare soil and then in the spring it would regenerate with bulbs and cow slips and the area would be a mass of colour.

More recent history has seen the club revive the environmental policy which had been established in the 70s and 80s and the SSSI designation, an agreement was drawn up including a management plan for the relevant areas of the course.

"We have introduced English Nature's policy to other areas of the course and, such is our relationship with English Nature we would have been happy to have the SSSI extended to cover the entire course," said Chairman of Green, Dougal Rae.

"I would say we have done more in the last three years than at any other times in the club's history to push back the scrub and open up the grasslands. We believe that what is good for the environment is also good for



the club as we have wild flowers and increasing numbers of orchids on the course which look quite spectacular in spring and early summer," he added.

The English Nature programme involves a three year cycle of cutting back to different heights at different times of the year and the club employs someone in the summer to trim the areas and rake up all the cuttings.

"We are paid by English Nature to look after these areas but we wouldn't have the time to do the amount of work we do without the extra help we employ," explained Kevin.

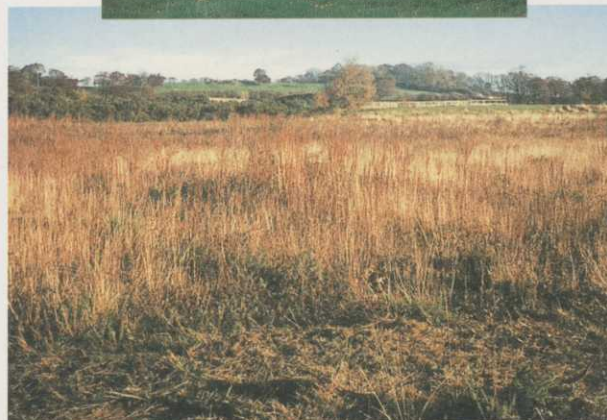
The area which Kevin revealed to be English Nature's favourite is to the back of the 12th.

"It was initially cleared so that it could act as a car park in the 60s - no doubt for one of the many professional Tour events the club has hosted. It was scraped down to the rock but it grew back with a mass of small wild flowers. The area wasn't worked on from 1990 to '95 and it reverted to the original overgrown mass.

"English Nature asked if we could take a JCB and clear it again which we did, all 1.2 hectares. It has now recovered and looks great. We now cut it to three different levels.

"People think that you need to put a barbed wire fence around things and leave them alone and that when you're cutting things down you're not conserving anything but that's not the case," said Kevin.

The club will use some of the £5000 prize to give a bonus to the greenkeeping staff; carry out a programme of hedge laying in conjunction with the Sheffield branch of the British Conservation Trust as well as funding a full environmental study of the course.



Above: A glorious view from the back of the 18th green at Lindrick GC

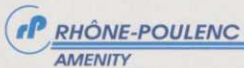
Right: The three stages of recovery:
Top: (Feb '95) The area around the 12th tee had become overgrown with Gorse

Middle: (Apr '95) Clearing reveals bare rock

Bottom: (Nov '96) After 18 months the difference is there for all to see

ECOLOGICAL EXCELLENCE

As one of the judges in this year's competition, Bob Taylor B.Sc, Ecologist at The Sports Turf Research Institute had an ideal opportunity to examine some of the excellent courses on offer.



1998 has been another exceptional year with regard to the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition and our thanks must once again go out to the sponsors, Rhone-Poulenc Amenity and Amazone UK Ltd for their continued support. Without them the competition would not exist and the considerable level of awareness and interest now running through the golf industry with regard to environmental issues would be greatly diminished.

When visiting golf courses within all aspects of my work I do from time to time come across negative criticisms suggesting, for example, that golf courses are for playing golf and are not nature reserves. This negativity, however, does very little to win the support of local planners, conservationists, etc, many of which now realise that golf is a major and important land use, supporting a variety of different habitat types, all of which add value for wildlife.

An equally important point is that golf throughout Europe is facing a relatively bleak future, particularly given the way in which restrictions are now being imposed on the use of pesticides, ie herbicides, fungicides, etc, on which we all at certain times must depend. In

Sweden, for example, there is now only one fungicide with a seal of approval for combating Fusarium. Rovral Green marketed through Rhone Poulenc still produces good effect but should the disease become resistant at any time (which is highly likely) then Sweden, or at least golf in Sweden, is likely to be up the proverbial fjord, so to speak.

If we in Britain can show that we do manage sympathetically recognising the importance of golf and showing that it can offer a major contribution to our wider countryside, then just perhaps we can hold back the inevitable tide of change and win acceptance from potential critics, ie those who see golf as a negative form of land use. Given the above, I do feel that the golf industry does owe quite a lot to the sponsors in bringing and raising the level of awareness through the golf industry to where it is today.

1998 saw a total of 42 entrants, 35 of which were

new applicants. These range from highly prestigious sites such as the St. Andrews Links to relatively new pay and play courses such as Oulton Park in Leeds. It is clearly good news to see that all Clubs at all levels are entering. Whatever the status, prestige or habitat format, all have an equal chance of winning the competition just as previous winners have shown.

The competition this year was judged in a similar manner to 1997. In the initial scoring stages it was important to determine what kind of backing the greenstaff receive from the management as clearly without this it would be difficult to progress. Other considerations were given to types of work being undertaken and as to whether these would benefit the wider landscape.

Questions were asked as to the greenstaffs knowledge and enthusiasm and whether this was appropriate for the types of work being implemented. Consideration was also given to other conservation projects, ie bat surveys, bird boxes or other innovative strategies that may be in place to elevate the conservation status of the course.

Following the above, a selection of courses were visited. A general walk-over gave me the opportunity to ask questions of the management programme and to evaluate aspects of the recently formed Committed to Green strategy. Included here would be a Club's water resource, turfgrass and waste management policies with particular emphasis being given to grass clippings. Conservation, communication and indeed support towards education and training of the greenstaff were also considered.

Having assessed at this level, obtaining considerable information from each Club, it became even more difficult in choosing the finalists. I suppose at this stage I should point out that all of the Clubs entering are, by and large, worthy winners, simply due to the fact that they are proud to show their environmental interests. Given the above, the judging process becomes an academic exercise for the purpose of the competition.

Rigorous selection this year narrowed the field to the following finalists:

In Scotland - Linlithgow (regional winner for the past three years), Kilmacollm, Loch Lomond, with Cardross and Hilton Park and Torphin Hill following close behind.

In northern England - Lindrick and Oulton Park (Leeds) were followed closely by Hesketh, Carden Park and Ilkley.

In Wales we had an excellent response but the eventual field nar-

rowed to accommodate Royal Porthcawl, Pennard, Pyle & Kenfig, Trefloyno and Carmarthen.

In the Midland region - Burnham Beeches and Mid Herts Golf Clubs were selected to run to the final stages.

In the south - Thorpeness, Frinton and The Dyke Golf Clubs were selected and in the south west, Broadstone was chosen.

With the help of Dr Peter Hayes (retired Director, STRI) standing in for Dr Keith Duff, Chief Scientist with English Nature, the regional finalists and the overall winner were determined. The regional finalists were as follows:

Scotland - Loch Lomond Golf Club

Although the construction of Loch Lomond has necessitated the removal of many established trees in an area of outstanding natural beauty, the areas of rough, many of which are now dominated with soft rush, whilst penalising ball retrieval, do certainly create real opportunities for birds such as the reed bunting which is a scarce bird identified for priority help within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Loch Lomond in recognising the sensitivity of the site, appointed a Nature Conservation Officer to deal with the day to day rough management which must be recognised as a very progressive approach and one which all Clubs could do well in following (OK, all Clubs don't have the resources, but I am talking in ideals now). I am sure that in the relatively near future such initiatives will be commonplace.

Wales Royal Porthcawl Golf Club

Considerable effort has been made at Royal Porthcawl in reinstating the boundary walls, creating habitat for stoat, weasel, rodents, insects and birds such as the pied wagtail, for example. Heather, gorse/broom and rough grassland management are all now being considered and have been documented in a longer term management plan outlining the main areas of work which will be implemented on a phased and ongoing basis.

South West Broadstone Golf Club

Considerable attention at Broadstone has been given to reinstating the heath by tree removal and heather management. Although still in the early stages, the Club is keen to trial the different approaches to this work. Much of Broadstone is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest and the man-

Below: The characteristic Loch Lomond dock leaf



Right: Phased water management of the water feature at Royal Porthcawl

agement given follows closely the guidelines set out by English Nature.

The South - The Dyke Golf Club
The Dyke Golf Club by its presence has secured an important fragment of the downland, much of which, certainly that surrounding the golf course, is now being managed as intensive agriculture. Area of acidic grassland can be seen amongst the dominant chalk rich grassland. Round-headed rampion or Pride of Sussex is an interesting plant species to be found here, surviving only in one or two areas of the South Downs. Much of the greenstaff's time in the winter is spent coppicing and controlling hawthorn regeneration. Glades have been created so as to maximise the grassland habitat for butterflies and other wildlife; the roughs are generally managed for their botanical interest, although several are left to facilitate overwintering.

Midland Mid Herts Golf Club

The decision between Mid Herts and Burnham Beeches was very difficult, although Mid Herts was possibly slightly more ahead in terms of how much work has been undertaken on the course with regard to rough management. Emphasis is largely given to developing the grassland roughs providing attractive swathes throughout the summer period. Heather is present in one or two pockets and efforts are being made to encourage this further. A programme is also underway to conserve and increase juniper which is present on the course but is generally rare within the surrounding countryside. The Club maintains a regular liaison with the Middlesex Trust for Wildlife who often offer labour to assist with the project.

The North

The overall winner of the 1998 Environment Competition this year came from the North. Lindrick Golf Club have always been serious contenders, receiving Highly Commended and Regional Finalist awards.

The judges were particularly impressed with the degree of commitment and enthusiasm that clearly runs throughout the Club towards ecological management. Areas of the course have been given Site of Special Scientific Interest status and as such are managed with guidance from English Nature and the local Wildlife Trust. Other areas outside the areas of SSSI are managed in a similar manner so as to maximise habitat and species interest. The work undertaken has included a substantial amount of gorse management and rein-



statement of the rough grassland. The Club has also developed a wildlife pond which now forms an important feature on entering the course.

In response to winning the Regional Finalist award, David Ward, Course Manager at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club states that: "The winning of the award has certainly created a buzz through the Club and has helped considerably in highlighting our environmental profile. It has made members much more aware of what we are trying to achieve out on the course." Similarly, David Ansell of The Dyke Golf Club says that: "Entering the competition has helped the role of communication between members, particularly given that the judging has been carried out by external groups, i.e. with no internal bias to the Club. The level of interest now present within the Club will allow more scope for the greenstaff to address those more sensitive areas that previously lacked positive management."

Mr Richard Jourdan, Secretary of Mid Herts Golf Club pointed out that the Club was highly delighted with the award. The plaque has been placed within the Clubhouse and full coverage has been given to the award in the Mid Herts Golfer Newsletter. "One of the major attributes of the competition is to raise the awareness through the membership as to what we are trying to achieve out on the course."



Above right: Swans at Loch Lomond perfect their bunker play!

Right: Reinstating gorse at Broadstone





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East

Well, we now have had our last tournament of the season. This was held at Peebles Golf Club down in the beautiful border country. On behalf of the members I would like to thank the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the course. Also, the Steward for keeping us fed and well watered and Head Greenkeeper, Donald Menzies and his staff, for the excellent condition of the course.

The weather could not have been better. Perfect sunshine from the first tee off to the last putt. We had a good turn out from members. Nice to see some new faces, also the trade was well represented. Our thanks to them for providing us with raffle prizes.

Results: 1st Class Scratch - Stewart Quaich. Winner: Kenny Mail, 73pts; Handicap-Watermation Cup: 1. Ian Bell, 75 pts; 2. T Murray, 78 pts; 3. A. Holmes, 79 pts; 2nd Class - SGM Cup. 1. C. Pennycook, 70 pts; 2. N. Fergie, 71 pts; 3. I Aitchison, 72 pts. 3rd Class - STS/Rigby Taylor: 1. S. Hayes, 68 pts; 2. I. Cowan, 73pts; 3. G. Stavert, 75 pts; Veteran Winner - Eddie Holt Cup. J. Nesbitt. Trade - I Henderson, 70 pts; Best Nett of Day - Russell CUP. S. Hayes, 68 pts; Best Spring/Autumn Aggregate - Bill Beveridge Trophy. K. Mail, 65 & 71 pts; Highest Score of Day. Bruce Joyce, 139 pts.

Congratulations to Stevie Dixon for reaching his big 40th birthday. This was on the same day as the outing. Remember, anyone interested in playing football against the West Section, please contact me either at work: 0131 445 7165 or at the house 01620 842937.

Well, that's all folks. Must dash, got to go and meet Mickey Mouse. pp Andrew Forrest.

Chris Yeaman.

North

The Section AGM took place recently at Moray GC Lossiemouth. 22 souls braved the elements to play in the Chairman versus Vice-Chairman golf match over the new course. The Vice-Chairman's team won by 4 matches to 2 and I duly received the Daval trophy from Dennis Slater, sales rep for the North. We thank Alex Cruickshank, of Daval, for providing the trophy and handy bottle to go with it.

The meeting passed off very smoothly with myself taking over the Chairmanship from Hugh McLatchie and Wilson Morrison becoming my Vice-Chairman, being the only changes on the Committee. I would like to thank Hughie for all his hard work as Chairman for the last two years and hope I can keep the ball rolling in the Section. A very big thank you to all at Moray Golf Club for the use of their fine facilities and especially to Neil

Ballingall and his staff for the course.

The final four 200 Club winners were drawn and are as follows, September £30, No. 185 James Whyte Fraserburgh, October £30, No. 57 David Inglis, Balnagask, November £30, No. 129 Mark Mclean, Fraserburgh and December £100, No. 14 Alistair Angus Elgin. Once again thank you to all who bought tickets and if you were unsuccessful this year, better luck next year.

Chris Pearson has re-joined the Section and has taken the Head Greenkeeper job at the Crathstone course in Aberdeen. Steve Davie is on the move, leaving Craigiehill GC Perth to work at King James GC also in Perth.

Once again the Scottish Region are running a bus to BTME in Harrogate next month. The cost is only £142 for bus, three nights B&B, entry to all seminars and the exhibition, for further details contact Peter Boyd on 0141 6163440, miss it at your peril.

Our two Patron winners, Stuart Hogg, Fortrose, and Ross Macleod, Tain, will receive their awards at the Patron's Lunch in Stirling this month and will be on the bus to BTME.

We finish the year with 259 members, our highest figure yet and on that note, we are trying to find the Sections oldest surviving members, any help will be gratefully received. A happy Christmas and soberish new Year to one and all. Iain Macleod.

Central

The final golf tournament of the season was held on October 5 by courtesy of Crieff Golf Club in Perthshire, when over 40 members and guests enjoyed playing on a course in superb conditions on what must have been the only dry afternoon that month. Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Crieff, especially Head Greenkeeper, Charlie Macdonald and his staff for the course presentation, Club Captain, Jim Fordyce and Managing Secretary, Scott Miller, for all their help on the day.

It was also pleasing to see Haigh Gordon, from Muthill Golf Club, at the tournament, many of you will remember Haigh and Jimmy Harrison, Head Greenkeeper at Muthill, who both attended every event which was organised. It's just a pity that we don't get the same support from some of our younger members. Thanks for all your help Haigh and I look forward to seeing you at Lundin in the spring.

Prize winners were as follows: Ransomes Trophy: D. McAllister, Ladybank; Best Scratch: D. McAllister, Ladybank; Best Nett: J. McPhail, Crieff; 1st Class 1st H/Cap: D. McAllister, Ladybank; 1st Class 2nd H/Cap: C. Macdonald, Crieff; 2nd Class 1st H/Cap: S. Sime, Leven; 2nd Class 2nd H/Cap: D. Scott, Scoonie; 3rd Class 1st H/Cap: J. McPhail, Crieff; Patron's: P. Allan, Stewarts; Guests: J. Fordyce, Crieff. The next big event was the section AGM which was held on October 28 at Kinross Golf Club. This time the grand total of eight members (representing five golf clubs) and four

Trade members made the effort to attend, out with those who sent in their apologies, there must surely be more than eight of us who are interested in the Section. WHERE ARE YOU ALL? The committees for 1998/9 are: Chairman, A. Dunn Auchterarder, Vice Chairman, A. O'Hara, Leven, Sec/Treas. J. Crawford, Stirling, E. Small, Tulliallan, D. Scott, Scoonie and S. Sime, Leven.

While I am on about events, here are some dates for the future. The date of the golf tournaments next year are: Spring, Lundin Links on Thursday, April 29, and Autumn, Balbirnie Park on Tuesday, September 21. In the year 2000 the Spring Tournament will be held in April at St Andrews, date still to be confirmed and the Autumn Tournament will be on Thursday, September 21 at Stirling Golf Club.

Another new member joining us this month is Derren Brown from Muckhart Golf Club. Derren is an assistant at Muckhart and I have no doubt that Alistair or Robbie will encourage him to join them at some of our events, when we look forward to meeting him.

Next month sees the annual pilgrimage to the BTME at Harrogate when, no doubt there will be the ever increasing number of Section members attending "educational" events, morning noon and night. Well, that's what you've got to tell those who miss out on the week's Learning Experience. If you haven't booked yet and are thinking of going, just get in touch with Peter Boyd on 0141 616 3440 and he will give you all the details regarding travel and accommodation.

As we near the end of another year I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the section in 1998, especially the numerous golf club committees and members, the Patrons of the Scottish Region and those of you who supported the events which were organised. Have a very Merry Christmas and Awrabest in '99!

John Crawford.

Ayrshire

Nobody's phoned any news this month. What a surprise!, so I'll report what I could collate myself.

Our secretary, Derek Wilson, had an enjoyable and enlightening time at the Hayter International Cup, although the Yanks lifted the silverware. He has some interesting stories to tell, one of which is the greens aeration system. It has a network of perforated pipework under the green, to which a connection is made to a portable compressor and compressed air is pumped through the pipework which slightly rises the green's surface, after which the green is lightly rolled and there is no disruption to play. This system can also be reversed and used for drainage. This sounds like a dream. I wonder what the cost is?

The Patrons awards for this year has been won by our Secretary, Derek Wilson, Irvine Bogside, and Marshall Sloss "Beith". They both win, among other prizes, a trip to BTME '99 at

Harrogate. Congratulations and enjoy your prizes.

On the subject of BTME99, yes it's fast approaching, our Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, is again organising the Scottish bus to Harrogate. The bus travels down on Tuesday afternoon and returns on the Friday. You have three nights bed and breakfast at the Moat House Hotel and entry to the show and all the seminars. All this is on offer at the excellent price of £142. More details or a booking form can be obtained from Peter. Call 0141 616 3440.

Congratulations to our Chairman, Jim Patron, who has been re-elected Scottish Region Board Member of our Association for 1999. That's it for this month apart from wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy 1999 when it arrives. Any news call 01505 683278.

Iain Barr.

West of Scotland

Just a few things to mention as very little has happened recently. The main event was the AGM held at the Claremont Bowling Club on Thursday, October 22 which was attended by 24 people. The proceedings went according to plan with no major hiccups. Three members of Committee came off, Scott Ballantyne, Drew McKechnie and Gary Burns, and all are to be thanked for their endeavours over their time in the office. Two new members were elected - Gavin Jarvie and Colin Nicol. I hope they enjoy their time on committee.

As for myself now, I take a back seat and allow the newly elected Chairman Brian Hillan to run things the way he wishes. The new Vice Chairman is Robert Hogarth and the outline of committee is as follows: Chairman, Brian Hillan, Drupellier Golf Club; Vice Chairman, Robert Hogarth, Cathcart Castle Golf Club; Secretary, Sandy Bulloch, Fereneze Golf Club; Past Chairman, Stuart Taylor, Glasgow Golf Club; Scottish Region Vice Chairman, John Scott, Kirkhill Golf Club; Kenny Hunter, Huxleys; Derek Duthie, Aitkens; Apprentice Representative, Colin Nicol, Cathcart Castle Golf Club; Committee Member, Gavin Jarvie, Lenzie Golf Club.

Please remember that committee members are your representatives, if you want answers about something, ask them they will then endeavour to obtain those answers for you or will put your question to the appropriate people. With the social events I'm sure Brian will have a few new ideas. I wish him and his committee a successful year.

After the AGM there was a games night and 16 people took part in what was described as entertaining and action packed. Members played darts, bowls, snooker, pool and dominoes with the cream coming to the top. On the last game two tied on wins, only the points from snooker separated the winners and eventually Gavin Jarvie and I came out on top after the nail biting

performance on dominoes coming back from two down to win the next three. Everybody appeared to have a good time, hard lines to the two lads from Lenzie, Michael Kelly and Mark Johnstone - maybe next time. In all, the night was excellent considering the floods, and to all those who attended both things, thanks for your efforts.

The Section owes thanks to John Scott Sr. for the pies at half-time, arranging the hall and for his continued support. Thanks to the barman Graham and Claremont Bowling Club for once again providing us with an excellent venue. Last but not least, thanks to Mike Dooner, of Thormtree Landscapes, for his donation towards the evening's festivities. Notification of future events will be as and when but from general conversation it looks likely that another game of football will be arranged between either the East or Central Sections. Those interested please contact me on 0141 942 5554, the same goes for information of interest to other members, births, deaths, promotion etc. Finally I hope everybody has remembered to book a place on the BTME trip. If not be quick as they are sure to disappear. Well that's all folks, have a good Christmas and New Year. Hope to see you around.

Stuart Taylor



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North East

Firstly let me congratulate Tony McIure and John Surtees on winning the Carburol Knock Out Cup for the second year running in beating Craig Parkinson and David Cuthbertson 3/2 in a closely fought match at Tyneside Golf Club. Both finalists will collect their prizes at the AGM date and venue will be announced soon. The annual match against East of Scotland took place at Tyneside GC. recently. Our thanks to the club President, Geoff White, on coming to the rescue for this game at such short notice as the original game was to be at Staley Hall but due to the excess amount of rain that fell 48 hours prior to the game, we had to find another course very quickly. So, on behalf of the Section, we would like to thank Tyneside G.C.'s courtesy. Also, let's not forget the Head Greenkeeper, David Simpson and his staff, for having the course in great condition. Both teams were very impressed considering how much rain had fallen. The North East Section retained the trophy again, sorry lads from across the border, maybe next year at Eyemouth you might borrow the trophy for a year.

The score was three all and the results are as follows: C. Parkinson/R. Black lost 4/3 to T. Murray/I. Bell. I. Hutton/S. Pope beat G. Thompson/S. Greenwood 3/2. S. Quince/J. Redhead lost to G. Wood/J. Neilson 4/3. D. Cuthbertson/N. Hughes beat N.

Wood/S. Nixon 4/3. A. Ainscough/G. Wright beat J. Manuel/D. Dugan 4/3. N. Parkin/R. Bell lost to A. Holmes/C. Pennicuik 3/2. Thanks again to Stewarts of Edinburgh for sponsoring the match for the eighteenth time. We look forward to seeing you all next year.
Jimmy Richardson

North West

How was your year? February and March promised a great start to the year with warm dry weather allowing fairways and greens to be cut and making the courses look really tidy. Then April came along and the rain started. I remember writing in the April Section notes that it had been the wettest April on record for many years and at the same time the Midlands were suffering severe flooding.

After the April rains the grass took off and combined with the rain and warm weather, it was difficult to keep on top of the mowing. Even after cutting fairways and semi rough, the courses looked untidy with wet grass lying about. The rain continued and never stopped, giving, I'm sure, many of you sleepless nights. Today, October 24, while writing these notes, the news is that severe flooding has occurred in South Wales due to continual rain for days and gale force winds are bringing down trees in many parts of the country.

All of this, I am sure, will mean extra work this winter, on top of your planned winter programme. I certainly hope that your members understand how difficult a year it has been. Looking on the brighter side, the Section has had seven golf days with the Christmas competition to come, and won two cups, Stewards match and The Roses match.

The Mere seminar in March was also a great success, and we will be holding a seminar at Mere once again in March.

I have just returned from the opening of BIGGA HOUSE, our new headquarters at Aldwark, which was opened by the Duke of York and it is a lovely building which we should all be proud of. If you go to Harrogate in January, take time out to visit the building and browse through the reference library. If any members have any news or points of interest, please contact me on 0151 724 5412. I will be pleased to hear from you. In the meantime, I would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Bert Cross.

Sheffield

On November 5 we held our first winter lecture at Rotherham Golf club and we had a very good attendance. Our thanks go to Richard Tyas, of Twose Turf and Spray Ltd, who gave an interesting lecture on spraying which was enjoyed by everyone. After the lecture we held our Annual General Meeting which also had a good attendance. The meeting showed that the Section has had a good year and is in very good condition. It was passed that

the committee remain the same. President, Ken Arnold; Chairman, Neil Maltby; Vice Chairman, Jeremy Duffield; Secretary, Ron Ullathorne; Treasurer, Barry Heaney. Other committee members, David Chappell, Steve Currie, John Lax. Also elected to the committee was John Coleman.

I would just like to thank Ron Ullathorne and Barry Heaney for the excellent work they have done in the past year.

Congratulations go to John Coleman from Abbeydale golf club who has won the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award. Well done John! This is a first for our Section and once again shows our Section is moving forward all the time. Congratulations also to Kevin Hazelhurst and Lindrick Golf Club for winning the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. Well done Kev! Once again, another first for our Section.

Congratulations to Jeremy Duffield on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Doncaster Town Moor Golf Club. Good luck Jeremy!! Finally may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

John Lax

Northern

Where did all that rain come from? At my golf course we had 228mm (9") of rain in one month period. This year's Autumn Tournament was held at Bridlington Golf Club. Weather prior to the event had been a little wet to say the least, but thankfully it stayed dry on the day. Thanks to Andrew Boyd and his team for presenting the course in such good condition, also to the caterers for the first class meal and to the professional and his assistant for their hard work in setting up the prize table. A big thank you to F G Adamsons for sponsoring the prize table and to Tony Jenkins for attending on their behalf.

Results for the day were as follows: Division 1. Dave Collins, Richard Harris, Peter Thompson; Division 2. Alan Baxter, Robin Smith, Andrew Cooper; Division 3. Andrew Boyd, Joe Baxter, Les Kirkbright; Trade. Mel Guy. Congratulations to Richard Gamble and his wife on the arrival of their baby boy James Robert. Richard, you will have to make do with a little less beauty sleep than normal! On behalf of the Northern Section Committee I hope everybody has a good Christmas and that 1999 gets off to a good start. Anyone with any information from around the section please contact me at 1 Cockey Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA or ring me on 01484 317813 or 0411 601420.
Simon Heppenstall

North Wales

Hey, guess what! I've got something to write about, not a lot, but it does involve greenkeeping for once. Firstly, Alan Kift has moved to the new Millington Grange development. Lovely weather for it Alan, how about our spring tournament, (only kidding). Phil Davies has moved from SDA train-

ing to ALS. Keith Burt has left Ruthin Pullgass to go back to Walker Engineering, so here's wishing all of you all the best for the future.

The autumn meeting was held at Denbigh with smaller numbers than normal due to everyone being behind with their programmes. The sun shone (amusing), the wind blew (as always) and the trees got in the way, except for the winner Ian Buckley who even avoided a whole wood on the dodgy 18th to get an incredible eagle two. Well done Ian. May I thank everyone for their kind comments. It was a privilege to have had you here.

We will be running a coach to the BTME again, free for members, £10 for non-members. There will be no alcohol allowed on the coach due to last year's incident. A raffle will also be held to help Section funds. I will expand on Section funding in another column in the future. The pick up points will be Abergele, Northop College and Sainsburys. More details next month.

Some members are wondering where all the seminars have gone. I went to one held by Barenburg/ALS in June, but not many others did. I have been told it was due to the fact they didn't know about it and here lies the problem. If as a Section we organise a seminar and mailshot all members, it costs money and still doesn't mean people will turn up, which is embarrassing. If there are any trade members or even trade people that want to give seminars, please contact me on 01824 710693 or Gary Edwards on 01492 593646 so we can make all the necessary arrangements.

One course that should be undertaken is First Aid. I know my certificate has lapsed so if anyone is interested, and you should be as it is a legal requirement if any organisation employs more than five people, please contact above numbers. We need at least ten people to make it happen at the college. College news and it's good news. The 9 hole course has now got full planning permission. Textron has come up with an excellent machinery package through Walkers and all the various greenkeeping courses are in full swing and very well supported.

The college will again be represented at BTME and the annual Technical Seminar will be on February 17 with some excellent speakers being lined up.

At the last golf liaison meeting at the college the WGU showed once again the commitment to greenkeeping in Wales and not just its youngsters but also its older experienced greenkeepers on the educational front. Watch this space. One final note, I am currently in the process of becoming the internal verifier for Wales and will be contacting all the assessors (if I haven't already) about moderation meetings etc. If any of you have any queries, information etc. about NVQ's please contact me on the number above and I will endeavour to sort it out. See ya!
Dave Goodridge.

Cleveland

Well, this will be the last bit of Section news before Santa pays us all a visit. Quite a bit of news this month, I'll start with the Autumn Tournament first. The turn out was atrocious. Ten greenkeepers, two from the trade. The winners as follows: 1. Martin Woods; 2. Tony Burge; 3. Barry Walker; 4. Steve Jacques. The trade prize once again went to Alan Cordingley. Well done.

We have also had our first lecture which was on environmental conservation. Again, poor turn out. I myself did not get to the above lectures but all members should make an effort to attend. The committee put a lot of time and effort into booking these speakers.

Pat on the back time this month, Eaglescliffe GC, greenkeeper, Nick Dawson, has been awarded Askham Bryan Student Greenkeeper of the Year. The college presentation of a new trophy was handed over to Nick by no other than HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York at a ceremony in October. Nick has completed Phase 4.

Also successful at passing Phase 4 was Geoff War, Course Manager at Eaglescliffe GC. This club now has four staff qualified up to Phase 4. A very good achievement.

Well, don't forget the Christmas Quiz December 16, 7.30 Mount Oswald. I have had a word with Terry Charlton, from Turfcare, who puts on a very good quiz. When he asks the greenkeepers questions, we would like them to be from the Salvation Army's Young Soldier Quiz Book. At least we might be able to answer half the buggers. Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop.



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

East Midlands

Having just returned from the official opening of BIGGA House, I would like to take this opportunity to inform our members what superb facilities we now have and what a credit it is to all those members, Golf Clubs, Companies, etc., that have so generously donated to our Association.

This year's annual East Midlands v Midlands golf match sponsored by Rigby Taylor was held at Horsley Lodge G.C. on October 8. The day started cool and breezy and thankfully, dry and bright. The morning Greensomes saw the two sides locked on 12.1/2 points each, our winning pairs being Jeff Dickinson & Anthony Foulds and the number 5 pairing of Antony & Mark Bindley, with Dave Leatherland and Carl Chamberlain gaining a halve. Full of optimism for the afternoon singles games, it all ended in disappointment as we performed rather badly with only two wins from 10 matches, Dave Leatherland gaining a 4&2 victory, with Antony Bindley winning 7&5. This resulted in a 10.1/2 to 4.1/2 victory to the Midland Section. Our section

was represented by the following members. Jeff Dickinson, Anthony Foulds, Carl Chamberlain, Dave Leatherland, Steve Goode, Adie Porter, Donald Blacker, Hamie Bedford, Antony Bindley & Mark Bindley.

Congratulations should go to the Midland Section for again winning the shield. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Horsley Lodge for hosting this event and to Russell Allen, Head Greenkeeper, and his staff for presenting a superb golf course.

Last but by no means least I would like to thank our very generous sponsors, Rigby Taylor, for organising this popular event, especially Steve Blakeman for all his hard work. This year's singles K/O final was contested between Dave Leatherland and Carl Chamberlain at Longcliffe G.C. on September 28. After a very closely fought match Dave eventually ran out as the 2&1 winner. Thanks should go to Longcliffe GC for hosting the final and to all those members who took part in this competition. I would also like to thank E T Breakwells for their golf day at Evesham G.C. on October 7, sorry I have no details on scores etc.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors of our Section for their continued support. Miracle-Pairs Tournament, E T Breakwells - Spring Tournament, Chandlers - East Midlands v East of England, Rigby Taylor - East Midlands v Midlands & Christmas Tournament, Vitax - AGM Tournament. Finally I would like to wish all our members and readers a very merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Antony Bindley.

Midland

On October 21 I attended the opening of the new BIGGA Headquarters, appropriately named BIGGA HOUSE. The new building is a great step forward for the Association and a facility which should take us into the millennium and further. The facilities on offer are open to all members and it would be a greater success if we could get more involvement in the Association from the grass roots level as all these new facilities are there for the benefit of the subscription paying members. The annual committee cup was held at Ross-on-Wye Golf Club and was won by Rhys Thomas, our Competition's Secretary with a Stableford points score of 34. Well done to Rhys, the trophy will be presented at the Christmas tournament. The Christmas tournament will be held at Copt Heath Golf Club on December 10 and the AGM will follow the golf. Any member who is not playing in the golf is also reminded that they are still welcome to the AGM.

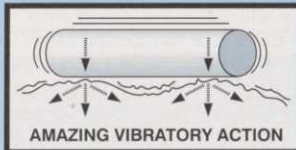
I would just like to wish everybody a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Finally, I have some more new members to introduce, they are as follows: Francesco Polino, John Hughes, Andrew Dalton, Steven Harvey, Joe Clifford, Andrew Richards, Leslie Howkins, Philip Shakespere and John Cassidy.

Jonathan Wood.

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East of England

The Rigby Taylor Cup was played at the second attempt at Ryston Park as the first was washed out in June. The course was a little dryer this time and in excellent condition. Thank you to Kevin Hodges and Merv Codling for presenting a testing course for our competition. Also thank you to the Ryston Golf Club for allowing us courtesy second time around. The eventual winner was myself (G A Macdonald) not surprising because I used to work there as head greenkeeper. Kevin Hodges the existing Head greenkeeper came in second and Phil Brown "Vice Captain" won the guest prize. Longest drive went to J Carr "Chandlers" and the Lambs Cup for nearest the pin went to G A Macdonald. Everybody who played took home a prize and we thank our main sponsor Stuart Jeffs of Rigby Taylors for some superb prizes. It was a pity that there was not more members playing, because we had a fantastic meal afterwards and thanks to Eric Greig for that. Other sponsors were: Tower Chemicals, Willmot Pertwee, Chandlers, Aitkins, Greenpride, Barenbrug and Maxicrop. The section would also like to congratulate the Head Greenkeeper of Ryston Park, Kevin Hodges on the birth of his second baby boy. Hope you don't have too many sleepless nights. Also congratulations to Newark's Alan Buckley on becoming Askham Bryan's NVQ3 Student of the Year.

G A Macdonald.



South West and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01363 82777

South West

A crisp autumnal day greeted the competitors for the annual match against our friends from across the Bristol Channel at a very impressive St Pierre. Following the humiliation of our last defeat at the hands of the Welsh giants, we put out our strongest team yet with some carefully hand picked bandits making up an impressive side. I am pleased to say that this tactic was very successful with a five matches to two win in our favour. Thanks to the Welsh side for making this such an enjoyable fixture and to St Pierre for allowing us courtesy of their magnificent course.

Chipping Sodbury is the venue for the Christmas Tournament on December 10. This is a very popular event, which is nearly always blessed with some excellent weather. The course itself, although new to me, is a delightful layout that has recently undergone some financial investment to enhance an already superb facility and so should prove to be interesting from a greenkeeping point of view as well as golfing one. Please come along for this one, especially if you are one of the members who do not come into the category of being a regular attendee. We need as many of you as possible to

keep this Section in its present healthy state. Although early days, we would like everyone to start thinking about next year's Westurf. This is to be completely revamped by our administrator, Paula Humphries, and will now take place at the new venue of Westpoint near Exeter on April 17. The new location should be of benefit to more people within the Southwest as it is located just three minutes from the M5.

In addition it is all under cover and promises to be considerably bigger and better. Included will be entertainment, free seminars, courtesy buses to Exeter for partners who wish to indulge in a bit of shopping and a huge show all under cover. Put this date in your diary as it promises to be something very special and will bring all the suppliers in the area to you at a terrific new venue. As this show is going to be appreciably bigger in size, we will need more exhibitors to take up the space and so could you please have a word with all the people you do business with and make sure they get in contact with Paula to book their place. They cannot afford to be absent.

I am standing down from the committee this year and so this will be the last article of mine that you will have to read. Thanks for putting up with my libelous statements and I hope to see you all at the fixtures throughout the coming months. Merry Christmas to every one and may your New Year be stress free.

Marc Haring

South Wales

With a warm and bright day we returned to the St Pierre Golf & Country Club to play the seventh match versus the South West. What a delight to be back after a short break, with the course in good condition and excellent food, a superb day was had by all.

Congratulations to the South West team captain Matthew Hawker and his team on their 4 games to 2 win. Our thanks also to Richard Minton and Scotts Amenity for sponsoring the longest drive and nearest the pin prizes. Nearest the pin: 2nd hole - Douge Donne. 6th hole - David Gladwin. 13th hole - Kerry Jones. 18th hole - John Keenaghan. Longest drive on 17th - Andy Cosh.

Sincere thanks also to our Regional Administrator, Paula, who travelled up to become the official starter and saw everyone off on time. A mention again and congratulations to the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club and Course Manager, David Ward and his staff on winning the Regional finals of the Amazone Environmental award 1998.

Although this time it has to be mentioned that on behalf of the club David received a plaque and a cheque for £250 by the HRH Duke of York at a presentation held at the Askham Bryan College near York. On October 21 both P. Lacey and D. Ward had the pleasure of attending the opening ceremony of the new BIGGA HQ.

The building was officially opened by the HRH Duke of York followed by a

reception at Aldwark Manor Hotel where they had the great pleasure of meeting the Duke in person. What an event of which Peter and David must be proud and privileged to have attended. Recently a number of people attended a tour of the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research at Aberystwyth with British Seed Houses. IGER has been in the news lately for developing the Stay Green Grass.

After a visit to the field to see the trial plots of grasses being grown and the breeding programmes that are taking place, a tour of the laboratories took place to see the science behind the breeding. This look into the Genetic Engineering and Genetic Mapping along with the techniques that are being used and the scientific methods involved are of what is happening and what could happen in the near future.

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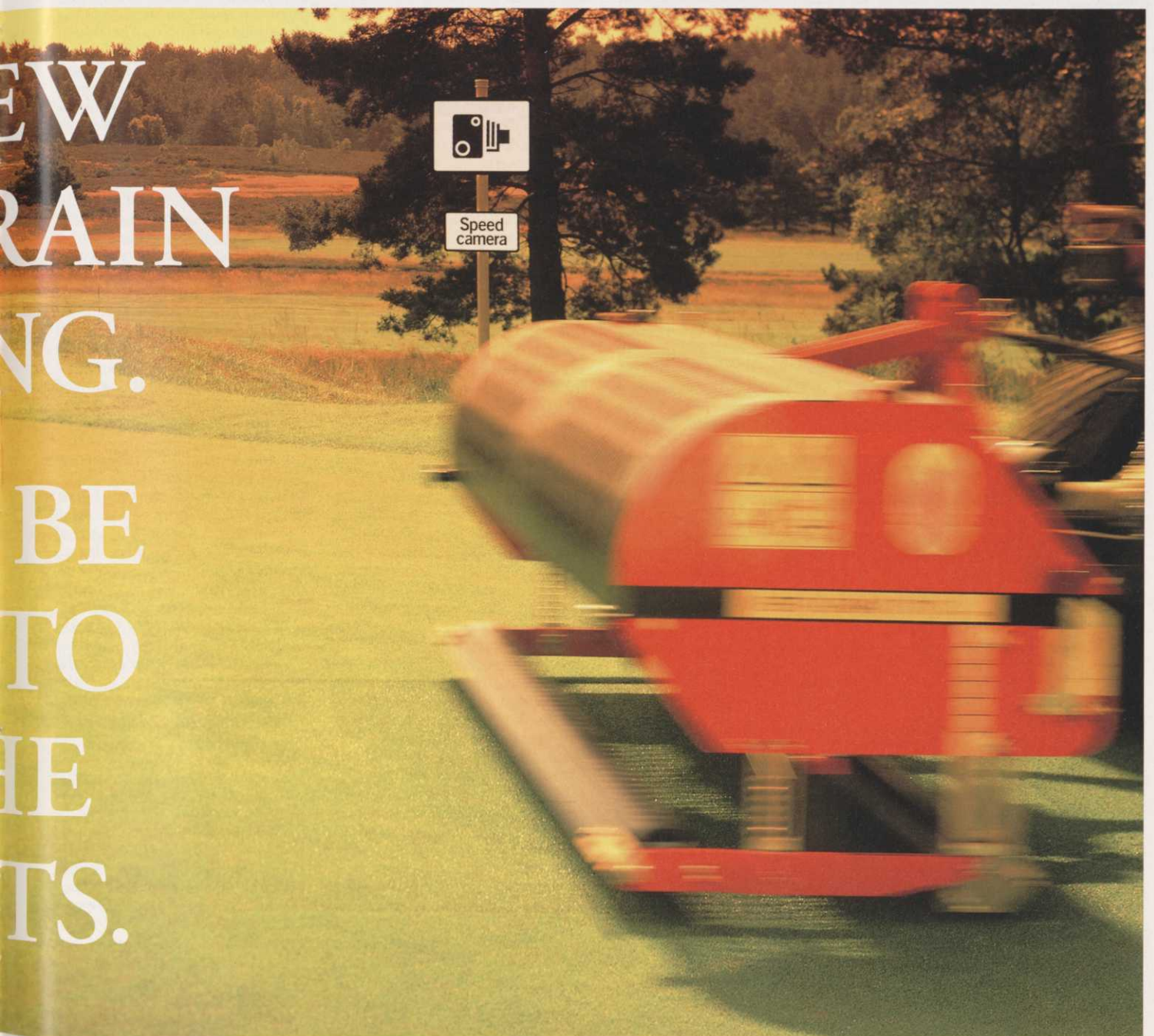
Sincere thanks to the Institute from all who attended for their insight into plant breeding programmes taking place on behalf of BSH and especially to Dr Danny Thorogood for his explanations. And to all at British Seed Houses but especially Alan Sinclair, Simon Taylor, John Hughes and Roger Saunders for their wonderful hospitality. Despite the horrendous weather, gale force winds and flooding, a good

time was had by all.

On October 28 the Rigby Taylor Matchplay Finals were held at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. Kerry Jones of Garnant Park and Mike Norfolk of Southerndown Golf Club were battling it out in gale force winds that almost made their golf impossible. The pair were assisted by Roy Barker and David Carver, Rigby Taylor representatives for South Wales. Mike

Norfolk led 1 up after 9 holes, the back nine resumed after a healthy lunch with the strong winds continuing, they did well stay on their feet! A spirited fight back by Kerry Jones took place. During the back none Kerry became 1 up and at the par 5, 17th his long hitting proved an advantage as he parred this hole to a bogey from Mike to win the match 2 and 1. A great day was had by all despite the weather.

Our sincere thanks to Rigby Taylor, Roy Baker and Dave Carvey for sponsoring this competition (and who will sponsor the competition for the next 9 years). Only a few seats left for the BTME Express so avoid disappointment, send your application to P. Humphries as soon as possible. Remember, £95 per person and £85 for the second travelling from the same club!



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Last but not least, congratulations are in order to Mr and Mrs Alan Walker on the recent arrival of their first baby.

Alan, Head Greenkeeper of Carmarthen Golf club will have plenty of time to consider the best and most suitable position of this future Welsh Rugby International. Lastly we most probably would have played the Winter Tournament, Christmas competition and have had our Annual General Meeting at the Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club, so I will bring you up to date with information in the New Year. Have a Merry Christmas.

Richard Hatcher.

Devon & Cornwall

Seasons greetings to you all. Our first meeting of the autumn and winter programme was the Roffeys meeting held at Saunton Golf Club on Wednesday October 14 and a sellout. The day started as usual with golfing members competing for the D.O. Hunt Trophy, our early morning starters had the worst of the weather as the rain gave way to a very pleasant morning's golf.

Our non-golfing members were treated to an excellent guided tour of the course by Course Manager Ray Day. After an excellent lunch, Steve Hasell from Cannington College presented our afternoon educational talk covering the subject of "Working safely within the law". After Steve's superb talk, Don Hunt, on behalf of Roffeys, presented the prizes for the singles Stableford Competition for the D.O. Hunt Trophy. 1. Steve Milne, Exeter; 2. Harry Roberts, Crediton; 3. Terry Pascoe, Budock Veon.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsors Roffeys and Don Hunt for their support and to Saunton Golf Club for allowing our Section use of their excellent facilities and to all the staff at Saunton for making the Section so welcome. Special thanks must go to Ray Day and his crew who had the course in superb condition.

Our raffle concluded an excellent day with Billy from Watermation winning the golf shoes and Graham winning James Beard's book on turf diseases. Our first meeting in the New Year will be held at Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club on Wednesday January 27 sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds. The morning will start with a St Andrews foursome golf competition with starting times between 9.30am - 10.30am. This meeting will be the one you cannot afford to miss if you are in any way interested in computers as there will be computers set up with all the latest software available to manage your course, you can try these programmes any time between 10.30am - 1pm, 3pm - 4pm.

After lunch our sponsor for the day, Barenbrug seeds, will present the golf prizes and Company presentation. Have you booked your place on the Regions package to BTME 99, which includes transport, accommodation & entry to the BTME show & seminars, there's only a few places left, so hurry!

Richard Whyman.



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

South Coast

The Festive Season is with us once again. How time flies! A Happy Christmas to all our members, all the staff at Headquarters, all Members of the Trade and all our sponsors over the past year. By now you should have received your programme for the Section and Region events for 1998-1999. If you have not received one yet, get in touch with Jef, our secretary, straight away. Our first event for 1999 is at Canford Magna Golf Club on Wednesday January 13.

The proceedings start at 10am. We start with a talk by David Whitaker, from The Wisley Golf Club. This will be followed by a talk from Amenity Technology. Then 9 holes of golf or a course walk, whichever you prefer. Everyone is welcome.

By now bookings for the Region's trip to BTME should be full. However, there may still be some vacancies, so if you have left it to the last minute, contact our Regional Administrator, Paula, straight away. On February 23 we are holding our seminar at Sparsholt College. The speakers include: Howard Swan, Jim McKenzie, Jack McMillan and Sandy Wilson. Booking forms should be with you shortly, along with details of costs. All enquiries to Jef. Last year's seminar was a big success. Let's make this year's an even bigger success.

Ken Lodge.

Mid Anglia

The Mid Anglia Section Autumn Tournament was held this year at Mill Green Golf Club near Welwyn in 1st October. Thirty-six people entered the tournament and enjoyed the course which was in good shape. Our thanks go to Mark Root and his staff and to the club, for allowing us courtesy and looking after us on the day. As the course was fairly short and the weather conditions reasonable, high scores were posted with Gary Boulton, of Dunstable Downs, just edging out Richard Saunders of St. Neots on a countback, both with 40 points. Gavin Simkins of Mount Pleasant was third with 38 points. The 'longest drive' and 'nearest the pin' competitions were won by the same person: Nolan Whitehead of Aldwickbury Park. Peter Owen of Patissons picked up the Trade Prize with 35 points. Our thanks also to David Murphy of Driving Force Leisure for providing prizes and to other trade members for their continued support.

The Annual General Meeting fol-

lowed, with the following officers elected to serve the section: Chairman, Colin Robinson; Vice-Chairman, Mark Ellis; Secretary, Gerald Bruce; Match Secretary, Richard Saunders; Treasurer, John Wells; Regional Representative, Paul Lockett; Other Committee Members, Steve Mason and Neil Whittaker.

Gerald Bruce reported that membership of the Section has increased to 250. Richard Saunders gave a summary of the golf events during 1998 and Steve Mason reported on the Lodgeway Four Ball Competition. A balance sheet was submitted and although things are reasonably healthy, a rise in price for golf events is expected next year, to cover costs.

Paul Lockett.

London

An era ends in December 1998, after 45 years in Greenkeeping, Gerrards Cross Golf Club's Head Greenkeeper, John Nudds, is retiring. John was born in the Norfolk village of Brancaster Staithe in 1933 and his lifelong interest in golf was sparked off at the age of 15, when he caddied at Royal West Norfolk Golf Club and also joined Brancaster Artisans at the same age.

His career in greenkeeping started after getting his first job at Royal West Norfolk GC. After two years National Service in the REMÉ, he soon achieved success by winning six cups shortly after his demob, despite have played virtually no golf for these two years. With his handicap down to Scratch, he was asked to play for the Norfolk County side.

Marrying his wife Jan in 1957, three years passed until 1960 when John became Head Greenkeeper at Hunstanton GC and that year also saw the birth of his son Alan and daughter Debbie was born in 1962. While living and working in Norfolk, John played golf very successfully winning the Norfolk Artisan Championship nine times. He also recorded two Norfolk Amateur Championship wins. The first came in 1964 at his home club Hunstanton, and was played over 36 holes medal play to decide the last 16 and the finalists then competed match play - John beat Derek Rains 5 and 4 in the final. The second championship was won in 1969, played over 36 holes medal play to decide the last 16 and the finalists then competed match play - John beat Derek Rains 5 and 4 in the final.

The second championship was won in 1969, played over 36 holes of medal play, also at Hunstanton. With rough a foot high just off the fairways, John returned scores of 76 and 75 for a total of 151 to win by two shots. The highlight of his golfing career came in 1970 win-

ning the Norfolk Open, only the second Amateur to win this trophy - Arthur Perowne, the Walker Cup player being the only other. Played at Yarmouth & Caister GC, John scored 70 in the morning and broke the course record with a 66 in the afternoon, giving an aggregate of 136, which still stands today. The course record of 66 wasn't bettered for another 20 years!

In the twelve and a half years as head man at Hunstanton, John prepared the course for such events as The Brabazon Trophy, The British Ladies Championship, The English Ladies Championship, The Oxford & Cambridge and The Schweppes Professional Championship. In all, John played for the Norfolk County side for 14 years and played off Scratch for nine years!

In 1972, an approach was made from Gerrards Cross Golf Club to see if he would be interested in taking up the challenge of managing a parkland golf course. John accepted the job and moved his family down to Buckinghamshire. As anyone who has played his course will testify, John's greenkeeping skills on seaside links transferred extremely well to the lush parkland course at Gerrards Cross. He has involved himself in many activities during the last 26 years, a Council Member of the National Artisan Golfers Association and Captain for the last 15 years.

He has served on the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Executive Committee, acting as Manager of the Colts for three years, before serving as Captain of the BB&O for three years from 1991 to 1993, the only Artisan ever to have done so. He has been Secretary of the Berks & Bucks Artisan County Union for 12 years and also represented the BB&O Golf Union on the Berkshire College of Agriculture Greenkeeping Liaison Committee.

He is also currently the Chairman of the Gerrards Cross Artisan GC for the second time. In 1994, John was asked to join the Gerrards Cross & Chalfont St Peter Rotary Club and has served on its Vocational Committee since 1995 and was elected Chairman for both 1997 and 1998. He has also been appointed to the District Vocational Committee for 1998. To those of you who do not know John, what you have just read will indicate a man whose golf and greenkeeping achieved very high standards, and a man who has put an awful lot back into his sport. For all those of you who have had the privilege of knowing his ever cheerful character, I am sure everyone in the trade and the golfing fraternity, wish him and his wife Jan, a long and happy retirement.

Congratulations to Stuart Bertrum, Head Greenkeeper at moor Park Golf Club and John Broome, the Golf Secretary, at

Around
the green

Moor Park Golf Club on reaching the final of the Kubota Golf Club Challenge held at Woodhall Spa Golf Club - home of the English Golf Union. Stuart and John won through to the final of 15 competing clubs from an initial entry of 500 clubs.

The first day's play was on The Hotchkin Championship Course and with its narrow fairways and cavernous bunkers, provided a stern test of golf. The second day's play was on the new 'Bracken Course' and although providing totally different characteristics to the Championship Course, it was equally demanding. Accommodation was at the notable Petwood Hotel which, during the war, was the billet for the RAF Officers serving with the famous Dambusters Squadron. Thanks must be given to Kubota UK for organising the Golf Club Challenge and for their generosity hosting the Finals at such a prestigious venue. Also thanks to Rene Orban and Mr Miyake, of Kubota UK, for presenting the prizes. Congratulations also to David Montgomerie of Finchley Golf Club on his engagement to Kay Dowley. It's nice to see a chap floating into the landing net with a smile on his face!

Peter Hopkinson.

Surrey

The Surrey Section Autumn Tournament was played at the Drift Golf Club on Thursday October 15. Paul Weston the Course Manager and the rest of his enthusiastic team had presented the course, despite an extremely wet spell, in excellent condition and we all thank him and the management of the Drift for the golf, the delicious food and the warm welcome. The result was: Nearest the pin 3rd: Dave Murdoch; Nearest the pin 16th: Ken Harding; Longest Drive: Paul Robinson; 1. David Jones, 37 pts; 2. John Davidson, 37 pts; 3. Michael McLoughlin, 36 pts. Well, I'm afraid that's it for this month, except to welcome back to Surrey 'Clandon Regis' Steve Swanson and from me, I'll see you all when I return from California.

Brian Willmott.

Essex

The Essex Section held an education evening on November 4 at Writtle College where we had a talk from David Gehior. The talk was entitled "Do you really know how to achieve the best results from the various types of fertilisers?"

Allen Stowe also gave us an insight into Vitax products and a very smart product guide. Thanks to David and Allen for their time. 28 members attended a very interesting evening and a few beers in the student bar afterwards. Thanks to Pearl for sponsoring the evening

and Willmot Pertwee, Vitax, Rigby Taylor and Grass Roots for the raffle prizes.

We have a new member. Ian Wright from Romford Golf Club. Welcome Ian. Can I wish all Essex members and Trade members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you at the AGM December 1 at Orgett Golf Club.

David Wells.

Northern
Ireland

South East

Apologies for no South East Section notes in the November issue as I was on holiday in Greece, where the weather was a complete contrast to here, sunshine and heat were unfamiliar after the year we have had. I know everyone is in the same 'boat', literally! With the amount of rain over the last two months alone even the best drained courses have had to close on some occasions, but look on the bright side, it's nearly Christmas! Our Section Secretary, Ken Henderson, representing Northern Ireland, flew over to England to attend the opening of the BIGGA headquarters, BIGGA HOUSE where he was warmly received.

The new Headquarters were opened on October 21 by the Duke of York. Ken would like to thank everyone who helped raise money for The Building Fund, especially club donations from Edenmore GC, Malone GC, Royal Portrush GC. New members; Clive Richardson, 'Horta Soils' has become an Associate member of the South East section.

We also have our first member from the South of Ireland: Tim McGrath from Ballybunion GC, County Kerry has affiliated to our Section. Merry Christmas to all! Speak to you in January.

Jonathan McCabe.

Around
the green

See you all next month!

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Dates of next courses in 1999

Venue	Rabbits (1 day)	Moles (1 day)
Berkeley, Gloucs	January 21	January 28
Didsbury, Manchester	February 18	February 25
Wetherby, York	March 19	March 25

The training courses are all registered, certificated and
attract BASIS points. For further information and details of
courses dealing with other pests contact:

Jan Pullen on 01626 892639 or Ed Allan on 01303 863948

ADAS

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Ken Richardson keeps us up to date with all the latest events in the BIGGA Educational calendar...

A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

I noticed this week that the Learning Experience 2000, in association with Textron Turf and Specialty Products is only 435 days away which must mean that the Learning Experience 1999 is 70 days away.

Thankfully, the programme is set for 1999 and applications are flooding in. If you have not booked your choice of Workshop, National Education Conference, Secretaries/Chairman of Green Course, Seminar and or accommodation package then contact Sami on the BTME hotline 01347 833833 as soon as possible.

Back to basics

New for 1999 will be a workshop on Basic Machinery Maintenance, complementing the successful Irrigation and Golf Course Design Workshops which make a welcome return.

The National Education Conference will again be held in the Majestic Hotel, with speakers from all parts of the industry sure to offer something for everyone. Please note that David Oatis from the United States Golf Association will not be able to attend and give his talk at the Conference nor on the Seminar Programme. However, Mr Stan Zontek has agreed to attend in his place.

Seminar Programme update

The Seminar Programme will again be held in the Royal Hall, beginning with a keynote speech by Mr Frank Dick, commencing at 11 am on Wednesday 20 January. Frank Dick is well known for his prowess as an international athletics coach and for his work as an expert in motivation. Free to anyone who wants to attend, this seminar should give all levels of greenkeeper an insight into how to motivate themselves and their staff.

Master Greenkeeper credits

All three workshops, the National Education Conference and Seminars will, once again, attract Master Greenkeeper credits and BASIS Continuing Professional Development points. Please ask for details at the Conference Office or at Seminar Registration in Hall G.

Competition update

October was a very busy month for all of us at BIGGA HQ as you have read elsewhere in this magazine. Not only did we have the arduous task of moving to our new headquarters building, packing and unpacking, sweeping, polishing, erecting furniture, recataloguing the library and a host of other jobs needed to make the new facility workable

but we also had the finals of three major competitions. Firstly, the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhône-Poulenc Amenity. Following the final stages of judging by Dr Peter Hayes and Bob Taylor from the STRI, Lindrick Golf Club were selected as worthy winners, receiving a cheque for £5000 and the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Trophy from His Royal Highness the Duke of York, at the Askham Bryan Golden Jubilee Conference on Golf and the Environment. Runners up cheques for £250 each were presented, by His Royal Highness, to Loch Lomond Golf Club, Mid Herts Golf Club, the Dyke Golf Club, Broadstone Golf Club and Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. The next week saw the finals of the TORO Student of the Year and Excellence in Greenkeeping Competitions won by Sally Doherty and John Coleman respectively. I am sure that, as Scott says in his column, that they will both make worthy winners, enhancing their own reputation that of their golf clubs and the reputation of the profession of greenkeeping. It was pleasing to see that they have both been formally educated and trained as greenkeepers and see themselves having a long term career in the industry.

Sally wins the TORO Scholarship at the University of Massachusetts and John also wins a trip to the USA as well as the TORO Triplex Mower for his club.

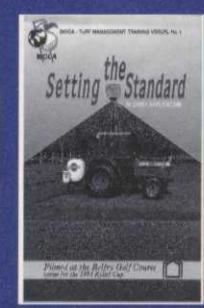
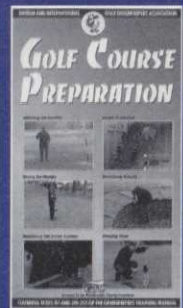
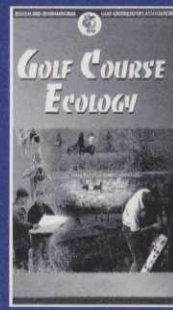
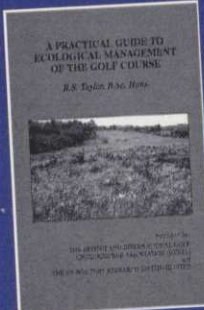
Available soon...

The Develop your Potential Booklet, listing the full range of education and training opportunities available through BIGGA should be reaching you soon. Contact HQ if you need further copies or pick up a copy at BTME from the BIGGA Stand in Hall G.

Nineteen ninety eight has been even busier for Sami and me. We continue to strive to provide the training and support that greenkeepers need and we get immense satisfaction from seeing greenkeepers improve their knowledge, skills and confidence. Remember, training courses, competitions and other training opportunities are staged for your benefit. Why not make a New Year's resolution to become more involved, attend courses and improve your status.

Sami and I hope that you all have a very happy Christmas and an educational New Year.

ON COURSE WITH BIGGA EDUCATION



Golf Course Preparation Video
 £14.95 to BIGGA members
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Golf Course Reconstruction Video
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Ecology Book
 £3.00 to BIGGA members
 £7.00 to non-members

Ecology Video
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 £29.95 to non-members

Raising the Standards of Mowing Management Video
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 £29.95 to non-members

Setting the Standard in Spraying Application Video
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THE FINAL BTME OF THE MILLENNIUM WILL BE A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION. AS WELL AS THE REGULAR EVENTS OF THE WEEK THERE WILL BE SOME ADDITIONS WHICH ENSURE THAT BTME99, LIKE THE LAST 1000 YEARS, WILL HAVE A LOT TO RECOMMEND IT



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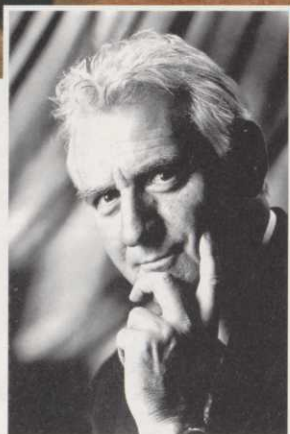
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IT'S SHOWTIME!

Among the highlights will be a motivational talk by one of the top speakers in the business. Frank Dick OBE (inset picture) is a world renowned athletic coach who has also used his talents to inspire the likes of Daley Thompson, Boris Becker and Gerhard Berger to some stunning heights. Frank's talk is free to attend at 11am in the Royal Hall on the Wednesday. You'd be a fool to miss out of this one. The BTME '99 Banquet will pay tribute to some of the finest music of the latter half of the 20th century with Showaddywaddy performing their brand of rock and roll, which is a throw back to the 50s and 60s. With 23 top 40 singles to their credit including such classics as "Three Steps to Heaven", "Heartbeat" and "Under the Moon of Love" Thursday night's banquet is sure to have everyone rockin' and a rollin'. Tickets are selling fast so book now to ensure your place at what will be a truly memorable night. The Conference Dinner speaker is Ian Shuttleworth.



Come on Down... or Up!

The three winners of the annual win a trip to Harrogate competition are Antony Bindley of Kirby Muxloe, Leicester; Gordon McKie, of St Andrews Links and Nigel Buxton, of Cavendish GC, Buxton, Derbyshire. As overall winner Antony can look forward to Harrogate for three nights at a top hotel and entry to all educational seminar sessions. In second place and winner of a trip to Harrogate and accommodation for two nights as well as entry into the educational seminar sessions is Gordon and third is Nigel, who wins one night's accommodation and entry to all seminar sessions.

NEED TO KNOW INFORMATION

Workshop 2 - Irrigation is Sold Out and places are limited on the other two Workshops. Call Sami Collins for availability.

BIGGA Annual General Meeting Wednesday 20 January, The Majestic Hotel, 5.45pm
Membership cards must be shown to gain admission

Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association's (FEGGA) Annual General Meeting will be held at 12 noon on Thursday in the Majestic Hotel.

Stan Zontek, USGA Green Section Director of the Mid-Atlantic Region, and a long time friend of BIGGA and BTME, has replaced his USGA colleague, David Oatis, on The Learning Experience programme. Stan will deliver the two papers which David had agreed to give - "Traffic Management; Turf Managers' Biggest Challenge" during the National Education Conference and "Poa Annua, Friend or Foe" during the Seminar Programme.

THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE HOTLINE IS 01347 833833

H Hotels. Loads of them and just as well because the influx of greenkeepers and other members of the fine turf industry mean they're all just about full for BTME week.

A Atmosphere. There is nothing quite like the one generated by BTME either during the day in the conference, seminar sessions or Halls or in the evenings when every pub, club and restaurant contains a familiar face.

R Reunions. They take place all the time at BTME when friends not seen for 12 months can catch up on the past year over a beer and share recent greenkeeping triumphs and disasters.

R Rumours. Often fuelled by gossip these are the lifeblood of BTME. Who's moving where, which company is a target for another. Rumours abound throughout the week. And you know what? Occasionally some of them are true!

O Organisation. The attention to every detail which the BIGGA staff have fine tuned over 10 years or putting together BTME ensures that nothing is left to chance during this one week in January.

G Global. BTME truly is with visitors coming for all corners of the greenkeeping world including every FEGGA affiliated country as well as many from the United States, Canada, Australia and South Africa.


A Addiction. For many BTME and Harrogate is addictive and once they tasted the experience once they want to do so again and again. But the great thing is that this particular addiction doesn't do you any harm at all. In fact it's downright beneficial to your career prospects.

T Trading. With all the major fine turf companies exhibiting at the Show it is an ideal opportunity to do the homework required before making an expensive purchase on behalf of the golf club or, from the other side of the fence, secure new orders.

E Education. The bedrock of the entire week. Workshops and seminar sessions, The Learning Experience, in association with Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products. Talking to colleagues and associates ensures everyone leaves Harrogate richer than when they arrived.

20-22 JANUARY, 1999
EDUCATION PROGRAMME STARTS JANUARY 18
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Green Releaf

Green Releaf, the US leaders in liquid microbial products are exhibiting a range of microbial products at BTME. 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 for tournament preparation. New for 1999 see our range of granular organic fertilisers inoculated with beneficial microbes. Visit us on Stand C11 and/or at our exclusive Distributors:- Avoncrop Amenity Products Stand B7 and Aitkens Stand A30.

Kubota (UK) Ltd

1999 is going to be a very important year for Kubota, its dealers and end-users as the results of several years' intense product development are unveiled to grounds and turf maintenance professionals throughout the UK. Although details of the most exciting new Kubota machines are not being revealed until the spring, the company has announced that improved manufacturing technology and efficiency at its factories in Europe, North America and Japan will result in higher quality products at prices which, in a number of cases, will be considerably lower than the competition and the machines which they will supersede. The first of Kubota's new products for 1999 will be revealed on stand number A13/A14 at BTME. Visitors should look out for improved cabs on the 35hp to 45hp L Series tractors and new ranges of commercial quality walk-behind rotary mowers and brushcutters.

Sovereign

Sovereign has been producing high quality turf in the Woodbridge area of Suffolk for sports and amenity use since 1988. Founder members of the Turfgrass Growers Association, in 1996 we became the first grower to offer TGA Approved Quality Turf. In a unique move, seed of the same high purity as that used for turf production is now available to the consumer. Packed in 1Kg boxes or 15K bags, the mixtures have been specially blended to match our Regal and Elite turf. A new corporate video showing the production processes involved in growing Sovereign turf can be viewed at BTME on stand C14 along with our complete range of top quality turf and grass seed.

Hayter Limited

Hayter will be showing a selection of fine grass cutting machines suitable for both golf courses and local authority applications at BTME in January. Our popular triple cylinder machines, T324 and T322 are now complemented by the R314 Rotary model. All these machines feature the "easy latch system" enabling the operator to gain quick access to all parts of the machine for servicing, thus minimising "downtime". The popular gang mowers, TM539 and TM739 have recently gone through a major re-design programme and now, apart from the modern look, new features have been added, including an optional electro hydraulic lift control kit.

John Greasley Ltd

Stand - C20. Contact - Mrs G. Hairs, 1154 Melton Road, Syston, Leics. Tel: 0116 2696766 Fax: 01169 2696866 During 1998 the company has completed the construction of the final five holes on the "Wandlebury" course at Gog Magog, Cambridge. The reconstruction of nine greens at St Ives (Hunts) G C, with a further five greens at Bromborough G C on the Wirral and three more at Chestfield in Kent. All 18 greens at the Leicestershire G C have now been replaced, the final nine being

reconstructed this autumn. A new six hole Academy was built at St Edward's School, Oxford and works have started on the construction of three new holes at North Hants G C, Fleet, Hampshire. The new greens for the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale received very favourable comments and the company is very proud to have been the contractor responsible for carrying out this work.

Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Ltd

Stand - A5. Contact - Mike Young Higher Burrow, Kingsbury, Martock, Somerset, TA12 6B. Tel: 01460 241939 Fax: 01460 242198

Ocmis are experts in irrigation system, design and installation for all golf course, Sports Turf and Landscape areas. We are distributors in Rain Bird, Buckner and Hunter irrigation products and can supply/service equipment manufactured by other companies. Ocmis have unique in house design capabilities ensuring that the requirement of each client are individually met and last year were awarded BTLIA Contractor of the Year and Rain Bird International Contractor of the Year. For more information or a no obligation survey and design contact Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Ltd on Head Office 01460 241939, Midlands Office: 01789 414604, Northern Office: 01924 453102; Scotland Office: 0131 220 2102.

Barenbrug UK Limited

Barenbrug UK, Stand No. A20, will welcome all visitors to their stand whether from championship course of the municipal 9-holes. We believe we have the varieties and mixtures to help everyone achieve the best possible playing surfaces whether it be for a parkland or links course. This year will see a more international flavour on the stand with Lex van der Weerd, Barenbrug's International Agronomist, who works not only throughout Europe but also the Middle and Far East as well. He will be on hand to give advice with the rest of the Barenbrug team and to relate his experience of golf in different countries. We hope you can make the time to visit us. For more information contact Alan Lomas.

Rhone-Poulenc

Visit Rhone-Poulenc Amenity to discuss their extensive range of sportsturf products and to hear about the latest developments and additions to the range. Featured on the stand will be MILDOTHANE TURF LIQUID with its new label recommendation for the suppression of casting worms, their complete range of selective turf herbicides and of course the leading fungicide, ROVRAL GREEN. Also available will be a free 'Spray Calculator' to help make life simple when calibrating your sprayer - you'll wonder how you ever managed without it! Whatever your weed, pest or disease problem, Rhone-Poulenc Amenity have an effective solution and they look forward to sharing their expertise with you.

Tonick Watering

NEW FOR BTME 1999! New Tonick Rainmaker RM-1 Irrigation Controller. A wall-mounted irrigation controller with a graphics display that does the job of a PC based system. This means the latest features in performance are available with a massive saving in cost. Unlike other makes of PC based controllers, the RM-1 is compatible with most existing decoder types and there is no need to scrap any serviceable wiring or decoders; even partial refits are possible. It runs existing Watermaton, TORO, CIC, Wright Rain, Primetime, Robydome and Tonick decoders; up to 511 named stations are available over 36 holes and putting greens. Other Tonick products include the growing range of reliable, replacement decoders.

Symbio

Thatch-Hot on the success of Symbio's guaranteed thatch reduction programme in 1998 (every treatment worked) Symbio Thatch Eater has been improved to speed up the process. Fertilisers - Get the best from biotechnology, Symbio will tailor make fertilisers to your requirements, based on soil and tissue analysis. Nutrient imbalance causes disease, the Symbio solution allows you to apply just what your grass needs. Mycorrhizal Inoculation - Mycorrhizal inoculation of sterile soils can increase root growth by over 60%. Get new greens playable faster with Symbio's new range. If you want a biological programme talk to one of our five biologists first. For further information contact Martin Ward, Symbio, 38 Bookham Industrial Park, Bookham, Surrey KT23 3EU.

North Staffs Irrigation

Consultant or Contractor? In times past if a Greenkeeper required an irrigation engineer he had only to look in a buyer's guide and choose from a short list of specialists. But this is the age of the consultant and the potential for business looms large in the eyes of men who don't want to get stuck up to their waists in a muddy hole. By employing a consultant to find a specialist contractor, how can you be certain that the consultant is providing you with the independent service you deserve? If you deal direct with contractors, how can you tell if they are smooth talking cowboys or professionals? The BTLIA are there to help. Their members must pass stringent standards set by the association. North Staffs Irrigation, a founder member of the organisation, has proven their professionalism and expertise over twenty-five years in business. They would be delighted to deal with your enquiries on 01785 812706.

Amazone

Amazone Ground Care will be exhibiting a representative selection from its extensive range of landscape and amenity maintenance equipment at BIGGA. On display will be the latest specification of the versatile, sero-turn Profi Hopper ride-on 1.2m wide flail mower/collector, plus representative models from the well proven 1.2m to 2.10m wide Groundkeeper range of trailed or linkage-mounted mower collectors. Both the trailed GS15 topdresser and a Mule-mounted GS10 unit will be shown, as will models from the new SLS/SLC slitter/aerator range launched earlier this year and an example of the various combination units available.

Textron

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products brand names include - Ransomes, Jacobsen, Cushman, Ryan, E-Z-GO and Iseki. The range includes greens and fairway mowers, aerators, utility vehicles, golf cars and compact tractors. New products include - Jacobsen LF 3400 and 3800 new light-weight fairway mowers with 34 or 40hp diesel power, 2 or 4 wheel drive. New Cushman Turf Truckster features increased payload capacity and rust-free uni-body construction. Iseki's new SP200/230 compact rotaries have a choice of 20 or 22.5hp power units. The newest version of Ransomes Greensplex 160, the G-Plex II features a patented swing-out centre reel for easier maintenance. Choice of Kohler petrol and Kubota diesel power units. E-Z-GO introduce a new all-terrain vehicle, the ST350 with a load capacity of 800lbs powered by an 11hp OHC engine.

Watermaton

Once again Watermaton will be attending the BTME Exhibition in Harrogate. This annual event provides the Watermaton team with an opportunity to meet with their customers, both old and new alike, and update them on the latest news.

This year there is much to tell with regard to the advances of Watermaton's own range of products and their strategy to add Toro to their portfolio. The mission at Watermaton is, as always, to provide the highest possible quality in terms of product, design and service. Find out more by visiting their stand A2 where their friendly team of professionals will be only too pleased to offer you advice on all of your irrigation requirements.

Rain Bird Europe SARRL

The importance of efficient water management has never been greater and, as the industry leader in the manufacturing of irrigation equipment, Rain Bird is committed to the continuing development of more reliable and efficient irrigation products. As a result of Rain Bird's innovation and development some exciting new products will be on show. These include the new Maxi Cirrus Decoder computer control system with its enhanced graphics, smart weather and superior monitoring features; the new Eagle's Tail nozzle for green surround watering; and Rain Bird's most exciting feature to-date, the "Top Serviceable Rock Screen", (Rain Bird's latest Eagle sprinklers are fitted with a rock screen accessible from the top of the sprinkler!). Visit the stand of the Course Leader.

Marlwood Ltd

Marlwood show the new Articulator Model 425D at BTME. 721X and the 325EF will also be on display. The new model 425D 96" cut is an advanced rotary mower with four articulating cutting decks that has instant change of cutting height, zero turning and low center of gravity for banks. The 721X Articulator has seven fully articulating 21" cutting decks, with the LasTec patented belt drive system that make the 721X one of the best floating mowers for the standard of cut and value for money. Combined with the 72" cut of the 325EF that will fit on to most Out Front Tractor units.

Amenity Technology

We were the first company to sell a green paint for turf!
We were the first company to sell a blue dye for lakes!
We were the first company to sell a green spray indicator dye!
We were told that there was no market for our new products and that they wouldn't sell.
We are still selling all of the above with great success; the difference now, is that these have all been copied, by those that said they wouldn't sell.
If you want to find out what is really new in the amenity market visit stand G20-24 to see the company that has put TECHNOLOGY into AMENITY.

Farmura Environmental

Balanced Management, Organics, Liquids, Bacteria, Green Product, Recycling - Environmental Thinking has arrived - Farmura have been successfully promoting this approach for over 20 years so come and talk to the experts who really know and care and have the results to prove it! The Farmura market leading range includes Farmura Liquid Organics, Soil Conditioners, Flo Gro Super Concentrate Liquid Fertilisers, Ferrosol Liquid Iron, the Mark II F25 Spraying System, Matrix Grass Reinforcement Paver System and Blazon Spray Pattern Indicator. Ask for the latest literature, the current exciting promotions and meet the team - you will get a warm welcome



Turfgrass Services International t/a Inturf

Greenkeepers will be interested in inspecting the latest turf from INTURF, introduced for the first time at Harrogate, MILLENNIUM TURF. Grown on sand this new and unique mature turf contains over eight species of grass and could be suitable for those 'difficult' areas around the course where normal grass mixtures seem always to fail. Also exhibited and shown for the second time Inturf's INTEGRATED TURF MODULES completed 1.34 square metre sections of mature turf in moveable/replaceable units. Ideal for teeing areas - temporary or permanent. Custom growing of turf has become very popular with Inturf's customers over the years and this service allows greenkeepers to choose their own grass mixtures and rootzones for Inturf to grow, harvest and deliver and if necessary, install. As always the standard range of INTURF will be on display and greenkeepers from their installation department will be on hand to deal with customer's questions. For more information contact Inturf Headquarters at The Chestnuts, Wilberfoss, York YO41 5NT. Telephone 01759 321000. Facsimile 01759 380130. e-mail: info@inturf.co.uk

Accurate Precision for 50 years

Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd., who will be delivering one of the company's "in frame" Jupiter machines to the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa (Home of the EGU) next month (January 99) are taking an extra stand at BTME to demonstrate the unique capabilities of their grinders. On stand F1, visitors will be able to witness both the Jupiter and Juno, grinding cylinders perfectly parallel to 0.004 inch over 30 inches - the only grinders guaranteed to do so. Full information on both models, which 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 is available on stand C29. The company's three day training service is FOC with each delivery. Both models are built of heavy duty cast iron, ensuring that they give accurate results for at least 50 years. Contact Michael or Eric Hunter or Keith Evans. Tel: 01207 270316. Contact Carole Dutton Tel: 01904 644449

H. Pattison & Co Ltd

At Pattison's we strongly believe in offering a 100% service to the customer base that has been established over the last 103 years. With this kind of experience behind us Pattison's will continue to innovate new products that are needed for the Greenkeepers and Groundsmen. The continued feedback and support from the Greenkeeping fraternity allows Pattison's to continue to offer the right product that is required. The acquisition of Cygnet Golf two years ago, a company that manufactures Golf Gift items and has its own golf ball printing facility, has cemented the group's dedication to supply quality products to the golfing market both for the U.K. and through our own international network of distributors. This year Pattison's has established a trading relationship with STANDARD GOLF, America's leading supplier of golf course furnishings. Standard Golf product range is distinctly different from Pattison's range, but allows the golf course to purchase all their requirements from one supplier. By continuing to work closely with our customers and listening to your requirements we will continue to source the right products that you require which will ensure that Pattison's will continue to offer that traditional service but in a modern manner.

John Deere

Ten years after introducing its first professional greens mower, the 2243, John Deere will launch a completely new model, the 2500 based on information received from customer feedback programmes. The new triplex mower has been totally redesigned to provide extra operator comfort, easy to use controls and the optimum quality of cut - only the steering wheel and the colour have been retained from the previous model. The 2500 features a clean and silent 20hp John Deere Series 220 diesel engine and is claimed to be the lightest diesel greens mower on the market helping to minimise compaction.

Groundsman Industries

The Mill, Seymour Street Balimoney, Col Antrim BT53 6JR, Tel: 012656 67049 Fax: 01256 66855, Stand B16 Contact: Bill Warke Groundsmen manufacture the largest range of vertical action pedestrian, tractor mounted and turf vehicle mounted aerators. Their unique patented action offers the professional user a wide range of tine and holder options. The award winning flexblade core collector gives huge savings on time and effort. The clean hole presentation, good depth (130mm) and high work rates make it a clear winner. With the range starting at £2600 it means vertical action aeration is within most budgets. Come and visit us to see what's new.

Supaturf


Another Innovative Year for Supaturf Products - Stand A27 Another innovative display from Supaturf Products for 1999, featuring the world's favourite range of water management products, including Primer 604, AquaDoc and InfilTRx. NEW for 1999 will be 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. AquaDoc requires no watering in and does not burn. It's an easy-to-use, convenient method of spot treating those areas that are difficult or untreatable because of their location on the course. Also NEW to the range will be sprayable dew control product, specifically designed to reduce the unsightly dew apparent at certain times of the year, which causes greenkeepers the need to remove dew early in the morning. Visit the stand and see these innovative products for yourself! For further information please contact: Rachel Higgins, Supaturf Products Limited Amenity House, 2 Maizefield, Hinckley Leicestershire LE10 1YF Telephone: 01455 639639 (Extension 615) Fax: 01455 234714


Wiedenmann


New Additions to Terra Spike range of Depp Aerators. Wiedenmann is currently completing tests on two new Terra Spike models which will be available to the market following the BTME show. The new Terra Spike called Greens Machines are lighter and faster than the existing models and will be additional to the existing range. Two working widths will be offered 1.35m and 1.6m. A unique feature of the new machines will be a hydraulically operated heave adjustment system. An extended range of tines and accessories will be available which will make the Greens Terra Spike a very versatile machine. Prices will start at £11,280.00 for the G135 model. For further information please do not hesitate to contact David Rae, Gordon Mcmurdo or Michael James at Wiedenmann. Tel: 0141 884 2552 Fax: 0141 884 6252

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Midlands • Dean Broughton • Tel: 0116 289 2595

Scotland • Sandy Armit • Tel: 01382 330556

Northern Ireland • Bill Wacke • Tel: 012656 67049

Southern Ireland • John Focan • Tel: 00 353 405 30082

Ad Ref 602

GREENKEEPER

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of colleges offering greenkeeper training courses. This guide shows colleges offering courses to craft, supervisory and management levels, but it must be stated that until the GTC review is completed only the green coded colleges are approved to train greenkeepers beyond craft level. The introduction of vocational

qualifications into industries, has caused the colleges to re-think their training policies and the GTC will be issuing guidelines for the golf greenkeeping industry as to which colleges employers and their staff should be supporting. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeeper Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO61 1UF, Tel: 01347 838640.

NORTH



ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE Askham Bryan, York YO23 3FR. Contact: The Registry Tel: 01904 772211. National Certificate in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture (Turf Option), Higher National Diploma in Horticulture (Golf Management Option) all available full or part time. Block release courses: NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance, NVQ Level 4 Amenity Horticulture. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.



REASEHEATH COLLEGE Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF. Tel: 01270 625131 Fax: 01270 625665. E-mail: rheath1@reasheath.ac.uk Website: www.reasheath.ac.uk Full time: BTEC First Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 1 year. BTEC National Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 2 years. BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management - 3 years. Part-time: HNC Golf Course Management - Distance Learning. NVQ Level 1 Greenkeeping - Day Release. NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping - Day/Block Release. NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping - Day/Block Release. C&G Phase IV Greenkeeping - Block Release. IoG National Intermediate Diploma in Turf Culture - Day Release. IoG National Diploma - Day Release. Short Courses: FEPA Chemical Safety; Safe Lifting; Chainsaws; Off-Road Vehicle Driving; First Aid. NVQ Level 4.



HOUGHALL COLLEGE Durham College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Houghall, Durham DH1 3SG. Contact Tony Milan. Tel: 0191 386 1351. Full time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship - 1 year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option - 2/3 years. Part time courses: Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management Level 2 - Day release; NVQ Level 3 Amenity Horticulture - Afternoon-Evening. Short Courses: Health & Safety Legislation; Turfcare; Machinery & Mechanisation. All courses contribute towards NVQ Levels 1 and 2.



MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE Bilbottle, PRESTON, Lancashire PR3 0RY. Contact: Course Enquiries Tel: 01995 640740 Fax: 01995 640842 Email mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk WWW http://www.myerscough.ac.uk. Full time courses: BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science - 4 years; HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management - 3 Years; ND Turf Science and Sportsground Management - 3 years; National Certificate Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping - 1 year. Part time courses: NVQ Level 2 and 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance (plus Fast track option); Higher National Diploma Turf Science and Golf Course Management; Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation; FEPA short courses.

MIDLANDS



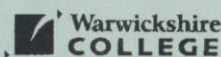
BRACKENHURST COLLEGE Southwell, Nottinghamshire NG25 0QF Contact Student Administration Tel: 01636 817099. BTEC First Diploma C&G National Certificate, BTEC National Diploma, RHS Diploma, BTEC HND in Landscape Design and BSc (Honours) in Urban and Rural Open Space Management both in conjunction with The Nottingham Trent University. Part-time courses include GTC & RHS day release, evening and short courses.



RODBASTON COLLEGE Rodbaston, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5PH. Contact Nigel Foskett. Tel: 01785 712209. Courses offered: NVQ Level 1,2,3 and 4 by Day Release. FEPA and chainsaw training.



BROOMFIELD COLLEGE Morley, Ilkeston, Derby DE7 6DN. Contact Admissions Officer. Tel: 01332 831345. NVQ Level I and Level II Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Block Release course. Two years duration presented in 12 one-week blocks following guidelines of GTC Training Manual. NVQ Level III gained by 9x 3-day blocks or day release or APL service. Also available TDLB, Pesticides, Chainsaws and First Aid Training.



WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE, Moreton Morrell, Warwick CV35 9BL. Contact Brian Cook. Tel: 01926 318268. Greenkeeping courses - NVQ levels 2 and 3 (day release), NVQ levels 2 and 3 underpinning knowledge only (block release), NVQ level 4 (block release), IOG National Intermediate Diploma (evening class), 2-year ND in Horticulture with turf culture option. We also offer short courses in FEPA, Chainsaw, First Aid etc to cater for individual and company training needs: Call us to discuss your requirements.



THE COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA offers a range of programmes for Greenkeepers including NVQ Levels I, II and III. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact our Milton Campus on 01223 860701 or Student Support at King's Lynn on 01553 761144 Ext 271.

SOUTH EAST



HADLOW COLLEGE, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL. Contact Tony Leach Tel (01732) 850551. First Diploma Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Horticulture (Sports Turf Option). NVQ Level II and Level III. Part-time Day Release or evenings. Level II in Groundsmanship evenings. NVQ III Golf Greenkeeping. Centres at Hadlow, Canterbury, Maidstone and Mottingham.



NESCOT North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS. Contact Dr S Shaw. Tel: 0181 394 3220/3049. NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) Training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Part time, Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses.



PLUMPTON COLLEGE, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 3AE. Contact: David Blackmur. Tel No: 01273 890454 Full time courses: National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture (options in Landscaping and Sportsturf); National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture; First Diploma in Horticulture. Part-time courses: NVQ Level 1, Level 2 Amenity Horticulture in Decorative, Nursery, Hard Landscape and Sportsturf, Level 3 Amenity in Decorative and Sportsturf, Level 4 Amenity. Also available are RHS General and Diploma and IOG National Technical and National Diploma (Int). Short courses are also available for FEPA spraying and chainsaw courses.



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

TRAINING

A GUIDE TO THE COLLEGES AND COURSES AVAILABLE

KEY TO COLOURS

Currently GTC approved at Regional Training Centres, offering courses at Craft, Supervisory and Management levels

Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Supervisory level

Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Craft level only

Pending GTC approval for all courses

Please note that all the college details published in this guide were supplied by the colleges themselves. Greenkeeper International takes no responsibility for accuracy of information provided. Contact the college directly for prospectuses and comprehensive information.

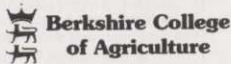
SOUTH EAST



BRINSBURY COLLEGE North Heath, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1DL. Contact Keith Harrison. Tel 01798 877400. Full time courses. (Subject to approval) HNC sportsturf sciences management. BTEC 1st Diploma Horticulture with Greenkeeping option. National Diploma Landscape Studies, Sportsturf and Greenkeeping option. Part time: NVQ II Greenkeeping. Day release. Both full time and part time students. Greenkeeping manual. (National Technical Certificate) with Inst. of Groundsmanship manual may be delivered as an evening course. NVQ Level III Sportsturf Maintenance. National Practical Certificate NID, NDT (IOG)



OAKLANDS COLLEGE Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0JA. Contact Ian Merrick. Tel: 01727 737000 Fax: 01727 737752. Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, Modern Apprenticeships. Evening courses: leading to NVQ Levels 3 and 4. Short courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw, Greenkeeper Mechanics.



BERKSHIRE COLLEGE Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 6QR. Tel: 01628 824444 Fax: 01628 824695 Full-time courses: BTEC First & National Diploma. Part-time courses: GTC Manual - NVQ2 and 3 Amenity, Sports Turf (day & block release); Short courses: FEPA, Horticultural Machinery, Chainsaws, Greenkeeping for Golfers *Regional Centre for Leisure and Land based Industries & Professions*



MERRISTWOOD COLLEGE, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey, GU3 3PE contact D I Rhodes. Tel: 01483 884003. Fax: 01483 884001. E-mail: info@merristwood.ac.uk. Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Greenkeeping & Sports Turf Management. Part time courses: NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 1, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 2, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 2 (block release), NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3 (afternoon/evening release), Higher National Certificate Turf Science (subject to approval) 1999. Various short courses throughout the year.

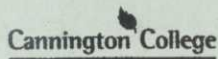


EASTON COLLEGE Norfolk's College of the Countryside. Sportsturf qualifications, Amenity Horticulture and Rural Resource Management. For details contact the registry on 01603 742105. Easton College, Easton Hall, Easton, Norwich, Norfolk NR9 5DX Tel: 01603 742105 Fax: 01603741438



EALING TERTIARY COLLEGE Norwood Hall School of Horticulture and Floristry at Ealing Tertiary College, Norwood Green, Southall, Middx UB2 4LA. Information Centre: 0345 023883. Courses range from Sportsturf Management, Nursery Practice, Turfculture to Groundsmanship, Horticulture, Garden Design and Floristry. All levels offered to suit enthusiasts, amateurs and professionals.

S WEST



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



HARTPURY COLLEGE Hartpury House, Gloucester GL19 3BE. Hartpury Marketing Tel: 01452 830065 Fax: 01452 700629. Courses available: First Diploma Horticulture, National Certificate Horticulture, National Diploma Landscaping, First Diploma Greenkeeping, Certificate in Greenkeeping, National Diploma Greenkeeping, National Diploma Golf Studies, Modern Apprenticeships, Route 2 Work, NVQs available in Amenity Horticulture, Commercial Horticulture, Amenity / Turf, Amenity / Sportsturf, Decorative Horticulture, plus RHS General Examination, City & Guilds Certificate in Gardening, TDLB Assessor Awards and a full programme of amateur, leisure and day release courses.

SCOTLAND



GOSTA TRAINING LTD Unit 2B, Clydeaway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow G3 8JU. Contact Chris Bothwell. Tel: 0141 248 2772. Fax: 0141 248 2453. svq II in Amenity Horticulture will all options including Greenkeeping and GTC Training Manual. Available Day/ Block Release from November- February. Evening classes also available. Short courses including pesticide training, noise assessment, chainsaw and health & safety courses, SVQ III in maintaining sortsturf - Mixture of block and day release. SVQ IV in Amenity Horticulture available from Winter 1998.



ELMWOOD COLLEGE Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB. Contact Carol Borthwick. Tel:01334 658910. Fax: 01334 658918. Craft Level courses. Full time National Certificate, Block-release, following SVQ Level II and the GTC Training Manual. Six week specialist modular programme (January-February), including Golf Course Construction, Pesticide Application and Plant Protection Procedures. SVQ Level III Block Release and SVQ Level IV coming soon. HNC/HND Golf Course Management available as full-time, block/day release and distance learning. FEPA, COSHH and Health & Safety short courses also.



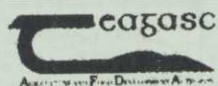
OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Broxburn, West Lothian, Near Edinburgh, EG52 6NH. Contact Steve Miller - Tel: 01506 854387 Fax: 01506 853373. E-Mail. OATRIDGE_AGRICULTURAL_COLLEGE_EDU@msn.com. HNC in Golf Course Management and Certificate in Greenkeeping. Block and day release SVQ Level II and Level III (GTC and IOG manuals) and Modern Apprenticeship. SVQ's in Groundcare Machinery. Short Courses: FEPA, Chainsaw, Forklift, etc.

IRELAND



COLAISTE STIOFAIN NAOFA, Tramore Road, Cork. Contact Paul O'Neill Tel: 00353 (02) 21961020. National Certificate in Greenkeeping. NCVA Level III one year full time course. Also, one year full time courses offered in ladscape design and construction + amenity horticulture general.

GREENMOUNT COLLEGE Greenmount College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Antrim, BT41 4PU. Contact Brian Corr. Tel: 01849 426668. Day release courses leading to (a) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf (b) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level III Golf Course Supervision.



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

The most cost effective way of reaching readers of Greenkeeper International. Simply ring Jenny Panton, Cheryl Broomhead or James McEvoy on 01347 833800 and ask about an alphabetical category listing; the cost starts from as little as £29.50 per month.

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS

Here's your chance to win £50!

Simply look through all the products and services in our guide and name the companies which the following telephone numbers refer to;

- a. 01765 602175
- b. 01759 321000
- c. 01302 888676

Write down your three answers on a postcard and send your entries to:-

Know Your Numbers, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF

Entries to reach us no later than Tuesday, November 17, 1998. The first correct entry drawn will receive a cheque for £50!

The judges decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. This competition is not open to BIGGA staff or non-members.

Last month, Malcolm Hawker of Silsden GC, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

Our congratulations and a cheque for £50 are on their way to you!

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Contact: Ivan Toon, Jonathon Carr, Duncan Burton
Tel: (01952) 641949 Fax: (01952) 247369

Architects

Howard Swan MSc
Nigel Henbury B.A.Dip.Arch
Golf Course Architects

Swan Golf Designs Limited
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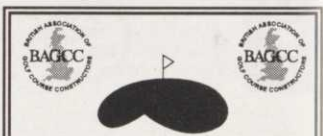
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Royer 112 Soil Shredder, demo, PTO driver £870

Charterhouse 1.7m Sitter; ex demo £1,150

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QUALITY USED MACHINES

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All prices plus VAT

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Toro 450 D, 5 unit, Fairway mower. 8 blade cylinders. Grooved front rollers. 1,400 Hrs. Very good condition, regularly serviced. Ready for work.

£8,000 + VAT ono

Telephone: Secretary, Preston Golf Club; 01772 700011 or Head Greenkeeper on 0374 803043



CONGRATULATIONS

TO MR IAN J MORRIS, DEPUTY HEAD
GROUNDSMAN AT ELLESMERE COLLEGE

A CHRISTMAS HAMPER
IS ON ITS WAY TO YOU!

IAN'S NAME WAS THE FIRST TO BE DRAWN
FROM THE LIST OF BTME DELEGATES WHO HAVE
PRE-REGISTERED FOR THIS YEAR'S EXHIBITION

DON'T BE TOO DISAPPOINTED IF YOU
HAVEN'T WON THE HAMPER, EVERYONE
WHO GOES TO BTME IS A WINNER!

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Machinery For Sale

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Balmer's Garden Machinery Centre

New and used

**Compact Tractors and
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**HUXLEY HYDRAULIC
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**TWOSE TURF
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PORTACABIN £OFFERS
36ft x 9ft

Contact: Alec Backhurst
at Kinsale Golf & Leisure Ltd.
Tel: 01745 561080

Job Shop

28 year old Head Greenkeeper seeks new challenging position. I have 10 years experience in all aspects of greenkeeping including managing staff / resources, administration and budgeting. Qualifications include City & Guilds phase 1 & 2, spraying certificate, manual handling course, qualified first aider, BIGGA supervisory & management courses modules 1, 2 and 5. All locations considered.

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**Vermeer TS-44A
Tree Moving Machine**

Trailer mounted on flotation tyres. Moves trees with a 10cm trunk diameter. Has own engine and irrigation tanks. Ideal transplanter and packaging unit. Fact sheet available, VGC.

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Hybrid Poplars used for specimen and group plantings to make handsome trees and perimeter windbreaks.
Hybrid Willows used for screens, hedges, wind-breaks, and dense cover on course.

Both are tolerant of poor soils and sites and require little post-planting care.
All sizes available from 12 inch slips to 8 foot well-rooted trees.

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Nursery seconds from £3.00 each.

Ideal for golf courses.
Also first grade trees available.

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FRONT LINE ROTARIES**

728, 60" Rear, 850hrs, £7,500
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Recruitment

BARROW GOLF CLUB

Requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should 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 full C.V. to:

Mr . J. Slater, Hon. Secretary, Barrow Golf Club,
Rakesmoor Lane, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria. LA14 4NX



ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

REQUIRED

Minimum Two Years Experience. PA1 and PA2 preferred but not essential.
Must be Ambitious, hardworking and have the ability to work as part of a large team.

Applications in writing with full C.V. to:

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

GOLF CLUB HERFORD (GERMANY)

wishes to appoint a

FIRST ASSISTANT

Applicants must possess recognised qualifications and be experienced. The Herford golf course is a 9 hole course established in 1987 in the Hannover Bielefeld area of Germany.

It's famous for its friendly atmosphere.

Applications in writing together with CV to:

Head Greenkeeper, Heideholz 8, 32602 Vlotho-Exter, Germany.

STAMFORD GOLF CLUB

Requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Who will be experienced in all aspects of Greenkeeping and possess the necessary qualifications as laid down in BIGGA's job specification. The Club is soon to celebrate its 100th anniversary and is a well established moorland course.

Apply in writing with full CV to:-

Mr B D Matthews, The Secretary, Stamford Golf Club,
Oatfield House, Huddersfield Road, Stalybridge, Cheshire. SK15 3PU

ELLESBOROUGH GOLF CLUB

Has a vacancy for a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

An excellent opportunity has arisen at this prestigious 18 hole Private Members Golf Club for an enthusiastic and ambitious Greenkeeper seeking a career progression.

The successful applicant will be qualified to at least NVQ Level 3 or equivalent, possess PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates and have a minimum of 5 years experience either as a Head or Deputy Greenkeeper.

You should be familiar with the latest greenkeeping technology and be able to demonstrate an ability to lead, motivate and organise staff.

A good working knowledge of modern machinery, irrigation systems and Health & Safety at Work Regulations would be a distinct advantage.

Salary is negotiable, but will be commensurate with the candidate's experience and qualifications. Accommodation is provided.

Apply in writing with full CV by 15th January 1999 to:

P M J York, General Manager, Ellesborough Golf Club,
Butlers Cross, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP17 0TZ

Polo Estate Head Groundsman

An exciting opportunity exists for a Head Groundsman to join our team at a prestigious private polo estate of around 100 acres, maintaining top class polo fields, equestrian and other sporting facilities, parkland and grazing fields.

You need sound knowledge of turf culture and associated machinery operations (but polo experience not essential), effective organising and management ability, preparedness to work long hours during March to September polo season, high standards of presentation, good team spirit and lively sense of humour.

We provide glorious surroundings, first class equipment, well established grounds team of 8, possibility of accommodation/transport and excellent salary.

Please apply in writing with full C.V. by 18th December, 1998 to:

The Estate Office, The Polo Centre, London Road,
Sunninghill, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 7SE.
Further details may be obtained from Denise Running on 01344 875155.

WHARTON PARK GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The suitable applicant will be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping, with appropriate qualifications, having practical knowledge of modern machinery and irrigation systems. The ability to lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes and maintain budgetary control and health and safety requirements is essential.

Salary and conditions negotiable - no accommodation available.

Applications in writing, including current CV and salary expectation, are invited by 14th December 1998 and should be addressed to:-

The Professional, Wharton Park Golf Club,
Longbank, Bewdley, Worcestershire DY12 2QW

BOUGHTON GOLF

Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

to join their young and enthusiastic team.
Applicants should have at least 2 years experience.

Apply in confidence with full CV
(including details of current salary) to:-

Course Manager, Boughton Golf Club,
Brickfield Lane, Boughton, Faversham, Kent. ME13 9AJ

CHESHAM & LEY HILL GOLF CLUB

This nine-hole course requires a

Greenkeeper

Applicants should have a minimum of NVQ Level 2 with 2 years experience in Course maintenance & record keeping & hold a clean driving license. No accommodation

Apply in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary, Chesham & Ley Hill Golf Club,
Ley Hill, Chesham, Bucks. HP5 1UZ

GARESFIELD GOLF CLUB



Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be experienced and qualified in all aspects of greenkeeping to provide a high standard of course presentation. A practical knowledge of machinery maintenance, turf management and irrigation systems is essential.

Good man management skills and the ability to prepare and implement course improvements are also required.

Salary and conditions are negotiable.

Applications in writing enclosing a full CV should be received by 22 Dec '98

The Secretary, Garesfield Golf Club, Chopwell, Tyne & Wear, NE17 7AP

West Hove Golf Club Limited

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

West Hove Golf Club was established in 1910 but relocated to its present position in 1991. This new 18 hole Downland course was constructed by

Hawtree & Sons.

Although a relatively new course, there are some areas that require redesigning and modification and it is expected that the Head Greenkeeper will play an integral role in the decision making to effect the desired changes.

The successful applicant will be suitably qualified to NVQ level 3 or equivalent, PA1A, PA2 and PA6 preferred, and have practical knowledge of modern machinery and irrigation systems. Experience in the management of sand based greens is desirable but not essential.

This position requires a hands-on working Head Greenkeeper and the successful applicant will lead by example, be hard working and self motivated with a keen and positive attitude towards their work, show good man management and supervisory skills and have the ability to organise and carry out work programmes within an agreed budget.

Salary will be in line with Standing Committee recommendations.
Accommodation is not available.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

Keith Haste, Operations Director
West Hove Golf Club Limited, Church Farm, Hangleton, Hove,
East Sussex BN3 8AN. Telephone 01273 419738

ROEHAMPTON CLUB

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Roehampton Club is a members-owned sports club situated five miles from the centre of London.

Facilities include an 18 hole parkland golf course, 30 tennis courts, three croquet lawns, a bowling green, extensive gardens, two swimming pools, five squash courts and a fitness centre.

The successful applicant will report to the Course and Grounds Manager and be responsible for the upkeep of the golf course with the assistance of four staff and a full time mechanic.

He or she will be qualified to City & Guilds Phase III and have previous experience in the supervision and motivation of staff. A sound understanding of modern greenkeeping techniques, the use of turf machinery and automatic irrigation systems will be required.

Salary negotiable plus other benefits.

No accommodation.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

Anthony Freeman, Course and Grounds Manager,
Roehampton Club, Roehampton Lane, London SW15 5LR

Closing date for applications: 31 December 1998

Irrigation Service Engineers

Required within close proximity of the M25. The ideal candidates should have both mechanical and electrical experience, must be self-motivated and capable of organising daily work schedules.

Experience with irrigation systems would be an advantage.

Excellent earning potential/Company Pension Scheme/Bupa Health Care. Send current C.V. to:

Ocmis Irrigation, Higher Burrow, Kingsbury,
Martock, Somerset. TA12 6BU
Tel: 014620 241939

THE INTERNATIONAL GOLF CLUB BONN

requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

An experienced qualified Head Greenkeeper or First Assistant Greenkeeper is required to maintain a busy, high quality 18 hole golf course situated near Bonn.

Very good salary depending on experience. A knowledge of the German language would be useful, but not necessary.

Please reply in writing to:

Golf Course Bonn, Konrad-Adenauer-Strasse 100
53757 St Augustin/Germany, or call 00 49 22 41 33 25 12

CIRENCESTER GOLF CLUB

Founded in 1893, Cirencester is an established 18 hole course with a driving range in rural Gloucestershire.

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

We require a well qualified (competent to NSVQ3 or equivalent), self-motivated person, with a minimum of 5 years experience as a greenkeeper to manage and maintain this golf course to the highest standard.

The successful applicant must be able to demonstrate an ability to manage and motivate staff, be conversant with modern technology and equipment, health and safety requirements and be able to work within budgetary limits.

An ability to play golf will be considered an advantage.

Salary and conditions are negotiable but no accommodation is available.

Applications in writing, enclosing a full CV to:

Mr I A Gray, Secretary/Manager, Cirencester Golf Club,
Cheltenham Road, Bagendon, Cirencester Glos GL7 7BH

Closing date for applications 4 January 1999

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TRADING COMPANY



Distributors for ASL and Standard Golf



20 Regional Business Development Managers

2 National Sales Managers

The Company

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Our mission is to become the market leader in our particular sector within 3 years and in order to achieve this serious intention we need the best people or those with the most potential to join us. We are a unique company with an informal but dynamic culture that maintains a highly valued loyalty from our customers. Take this opportunity now to find out more...you may find competing against us is not as rewarding as competing for us.

The Person

Aged 25-45 you will be self-motivated, competitive and determined to succeed. You will possess an enthusiastic attitude coupled with above average interpersonal and communication skills. A solid understanding of the commercial pressures in the Amenity Market will be matched by your positive commitment to customer satisfaction. You must be a team player who can adapt to change and through initiative and your own energy levels make a dynamic impact to the team effort. You are looking for a fresh start and challenge but above all feel your present position lacks the support, rewards and satisfaction to fulfil your true potential.

The Experience

You will have at least 2 yrs experience in an active and successful field sales role operating in the Agriculture, Horticulture or Amenity Market. Further sales experience and training will be an advantage. You will be used to unusual hours and be comfortable dealing with a diverse range of potential customers. You have experienced first hand the importance of time management, route planning and telephone techniques as prerequisites to success. Computers are now part of your life. Alternatively you may be a Course Manager/ Head Greenkeeper/ Head Groundsman who recognises and relates to many of the above attributes and feels strongly that your present knowledge and experience could be utilised in a more rewarding way.

The Role

You will be assigned an exclusive territory and be predominantly based from home having been provided with PC, E-mail, mobile, fax and separate business line. Your objective will focus on business development throughout your territory and making contact with all potential customers through supplied leads, cold calling and referrals. You will become actively involved in all local BIGGA, IOG, ILAM events as well as maintaining a marketing and promotion budget for your individual area. You will report to one of the 2 National Sales Managers and will be expected to attend the monthly Sales Meetings held in Wokingham. After evaluation a 3-year sales target will be jointly agreed and achieved.

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The Products

Without fear of contradiction you will be offering the most impressive and important range of quality products presently available in the UK. At the forefront of technology you will be increasingly involved in raising the awareness of environmental and ecological issues supported by an unequalled range of natural products that are the applied future of turf management. Many of these products are presently being used successfully by prestigious sporting venues and the impact of the additions to the range at BTME99 should not be underestimated.

The Marketing Plan

We have a marketing budget in excess of £480,000 which will be used over the next three years to promote and place our message regularly in front of end users. If you understand the power of marketing then you know what this means to our sales team. Advertising, PR and a continual promotion effort will ensure that all your clients and competitors are aware of the companies commitment to turf management solutions.

The Support

As you would expect, an ongoing strategy of training, support and appraisal is a fundamental company philosophy. After all, your success is our success! After a basic induction you can rely on continued self-improvement through product, sales, management and IT training. Industry qualifications such as BASIS, other correspondence courses as well as the facilities we sponsor at MERRIST WOOD College are all available to the team. First hand experience in product research will be gained from our very own research centre with over 25,000m² of fine turf trials, which is not only unique, but also an ideal venue for customer education seminars. Our links with industry experts and manufacturers means your field training will be productive and with comprehensive HO back up and daily contact with your manager, potential failure is minimised.

The Package

The rewards for your commitment far exceed the industry standard. Besides the normal expectations of company car, private health, pension (year 2) and all out of pocket expenses, you will receive an enviable basic wage guaranteed to increase by 5% pa over the first 3 years. This combined with a monthly paid "no ceiling" commission of 10% of sales turnover, and a 6 monthly OT bonus will produce an income for those experienced in field sales of over £60,000 pa year 1 and well over £80,000 by 2001. Those new to sales can expect an OT year 1 reward of between £28,000 and £32,000.

Sales Managers will be remunerated on a similar basis with the addition of a team override and pre-agreed annual profit share.

The Timing

All applications must be received by no later than 12.00pm on the 24th December, and should include a contact telephone number for the following week. If successful you will be contacted to arrange an initial interview date during the first week of January '99. Saturday interviews for present work commitments can be arranged, and all expenses for travel will be reimbursed. Job offers will be formally confirmed by 9th January with a critical induction start date of the 25th January.

The Next Step

Please apply in writing enclosing a hand written letter, plus up to date CV, to the Sales Director at the address below. ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE DEALT WITH IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE.

Also required:

- 1 Technical Research Manager, 2 Sales Administration Support Staff
- 1 Accounts Assistant, and a partridge in a pear tree!

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Tel: 0118 973 6600 Fax: 0118 973 6677 E-mail: jamesbennett@grassroots1.demon.co.uk

Feature listing from November '96

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; Longhirst 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

August '98: Mill Ride, Fescue, Blowers, Textron, Open Review, Nematodes, Training

September '98: Nine holers - Tolladine and Fingle Glen, Turf, Steve Clement profile, Drainage, World Scientific Congress report

October '98: Saltex Review, BIGGA Retrospective, Stirling GC, Toro Awards Preview, Tree grants

November '98: Royal Opening, Ramside Hall GC, Gang Mowers, Hayter International report, Irrigation Systems



Success Story



Wednesday October 21 1998 will be part of BIGGA history forever.

That was the day His Royal Highness the Duke of York officially opened BIGGA HOUSE. I am sure everyone who attended this wonderful day will remember it with pride for a very long time. It was certainly a great honour for me in my term of office as your Chairman to welcome His Royal Highness The Duke of York, Viscount and Lady Whitelaw and all our distinguished guests which included Sir Michael Bonallack to Aldwark. I don't recall ever being so nervous standing there with just a few words to say, and it was a great relief when the words came out in the right order. The whole day went without a single hitch and credit must go to our staff for a well organised day. I would also like to thank Aldwark Manor Hotel owners and staff for the reception and a buffet you would find hard to better anywhere. "It was a great day."

The following week saw the climax of the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping and Student of the Year awards. It is very noticeable that the standards of the finalists are rising each year, which says much for education within our industry. I sat on the panel judging the Student of the Year, and after the interviews we debated a long time before we agreed

on the winner, a young lady from Warwickshire College and a greenkeeper at The Belfry, Sally Doherty.

Sally is First Assistant on the Brabazon Course and although she admitted to being nervous when facing the panel, she answered the questions with confidence and impressed us all with her ability.

The Excellence in Greenkeeping final was run at the same time with a panel of judges headed by Walter Woods and talking to him afterwards it was obvious that they also had a difficult time, but

eventually placed John Coleman in first place. John is Course Manager at Abbeydale Golf Club, Sheffield, and is also a past finalist in the Student of the Year, so he comes to the top with a fine pedigree. While we all congratulate Sally and John on their success, which was richly deserved, anyone who wins through to the finals can be justly proud of their achievements and I wish them all every success in the future. I would also like to thank and congratulate Toro, not just as sponsors of the two awards, but for taking such an active interest from start to finish. They certainly put a lot of time, money and effort into the Awards and greenkeepers and golf clubs should all be grateful to them for putting so much back into golf.

My next stop was Scoturf and once again a true Scots welcome was waiting. It was nice to meet many old friends including the Scottish Chairman, Jimmy Neilson and BIGGA Vice Chairman Elliot Small. The show was well attended and the BIGGA stand manned by Peter Boyd and Tracey Maddison from HQ, had a steady flow of visitors.

Unfortunately I was unable to stay the two days because I was booked to fly out of Edinburgh at 6.30 am the following day to Spain for the FEGGA Conference which I attended on BIGGA's behalf with Ian

McMillan. The Conference itself was good, based on Water Management on the Golf Course, and sponsored by Toro with backing from Aquatrols and Supaturf who provided two excellent speakers in Demie Moore and Justin Smith, who were a breath of fresh air to the seminar circuit. The Conference was followed by the FEGGA summit which was attended by delegates from 15 countries in Europe and provided an interesting exchange of ideas. We also got the chance to visit the San Roque Golf Club and a tour of the course. The following day it was back to Malaga airport for our return home to cold and windy Britain.

In recent weeks, talking with many greenkeepers you start to realise the speed in which the whole industry is changing. There is more and better equipment, different products such as seeds, fungicides, feeds etc., but most of all the improvement in the general conditions of golf course is very evident. The young greenkeepers coming through today are without a doubt better equipped to deal with the problems and pressures put on them. Sure, experience still has a part to play, but good sound education is the key to success. I know there are some who pour scorn on the present education system, but they are a minority and in most cases do not understand. I, like many others, have worked a lifetime in turf management and we have put a lot of time in at colleges, seminars, workshops etc., trying to improve education and the results are there too for all to see and if we older greenkeepers have had a part to play, then we can and should be proud of the success hundreds of young greenkeepers and course managers are achieving today.

Gordon Child



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Regional Sales Representative

For Buckinghamshire and surrounding areas

We are looking for an energetic and well motivated person to promote our extensive range of leading products to Golf Clubs, Sports Grounds, Local Authorities and other sports facilities.

Ideally, the applicant will have proven experience in Grounds Maintenance. Sales experience is desirable but not essential, as on-going Sales Training will be provided. The ability to obtain BASIS Registration is essential.

The package includes comprehensive salary, company car, pension etc.

Please apply in writing with full CV to;

Mr CJ Briggs, Business Development and Marketing Manager,
Avoncrop Amenity Products, Eastern Road, Bracknell,
Berkshire RG12 2UP

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All applications in writing to:

Mrs Margaret Wares,
ET Breakwell Ltd, 814 Stratford Rd,
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Following a period of continuing growth our Specialty business requires a Specialty Sales Manager with responsibility for the entire Dow AgroSciences specialty chemical range for use in amenity, sports turf, vegetation management, forestry and professional pest control markets.

specialty sales manager

Dow AgroSciences is one of the world's leading research-based crop protection and specialty chemical manufacturers with an ambitious programme for growth.

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The position will involve planning, forecasting and implementing sales through key accounts across the UK. This will also include running training workshops and providing constant support and motivation to field based customer staff. You will therefore be expected to maintain an up to date knowledge of key issues and trends within the market place.

Educated to graduate level, ideally BASIS qualified with relevant technical and/or commercial experience, you will have strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work independently. The successful candidate will join a small proactive team in both the UK and Europe and will report to the UK Specialty Business Manager.

This position represents an opportunity within a top international organisation. Salary and benefits – which include pension, life insurance, and private health care schemes, are highly competitive and career prospects within Dow AgroSciences both in the UK and abroad are second to none. Location is negotiable, to allow easy access to our UK customer base. A company car will also be provided with this position.

Please apply in writing with full CV and career details to Glyn Jones, Human Resources Manager, Dow AgroSciences Limited, Latchmore Court, Brand Street, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1NH or E.mail: gjones@dow.com



The Amenity Technology range of Irons offers a choice of a liquid or soluble formulations to satisfy every requirement and situation. All of the products provide a rapid sustained greenup and strengthen turf against disease and can be used throughout the year.

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Is a unique 100% chelated liquid Iron. The fully chelated Iron in IRONplex Xtra is readily available for uptake by the plant providing a rapid greenup, which is evident for weeks. IRONplex Xtra is ideal for the treatment of turf throughout the year, even in colder periods and will help to strengthen turf from disease and frost.

- **Fully chelated liquid Iron supplement**
- **Gives swift prolonged greenup.**
- **Perfect for use all year round.**
- **Bio-availability of Iron through leaves and roots.**
- **Formulated for fine turf.**
- **Helps to strengthen turf and shrubs and protect against disease**
- **Xtra benefits of Humic Acids**



SOLUBLE

GREENplex

Is an extremely economical iron supplement that provides turf with 20% Iron in a readily available form, giving a rapid sustained greenup. With an application rate of 20kgs/hectare, GREENplex is the ideal way to treat large areas such as fairways and outfields, providing an economical, no-mess alternative to Sulphate of Iron.

SOLUplex

Contains 15% Iron and also 13% Sulphur which aids in the uptake of the Iron by the plant. SOLUplex is perfect for the treatment of large areas of turf all year round providing a rapid sustained greenup and can aid in the correction of high pH levels, reducing casting worm activity and the invasion of weeds.

The Complete Ballwasher Additive

- Benefits**
- Gives a perfect clean
 - Helps to protect the metal innards of ballwashers and prolong the life of your ballwasher
 - Contains a harmless anti-freeze to protect ballwasher against winter freezing
 - Concentrated BALListic will not freeze even at temperatures as low as minus 15°C
 - Extremely safe to use



DON'T FREEZE THIS WINTER!

Ad Ref 431



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