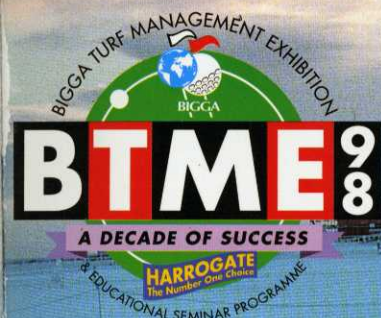


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*International*



OFFICIAL CATALOGUE: *Inside*

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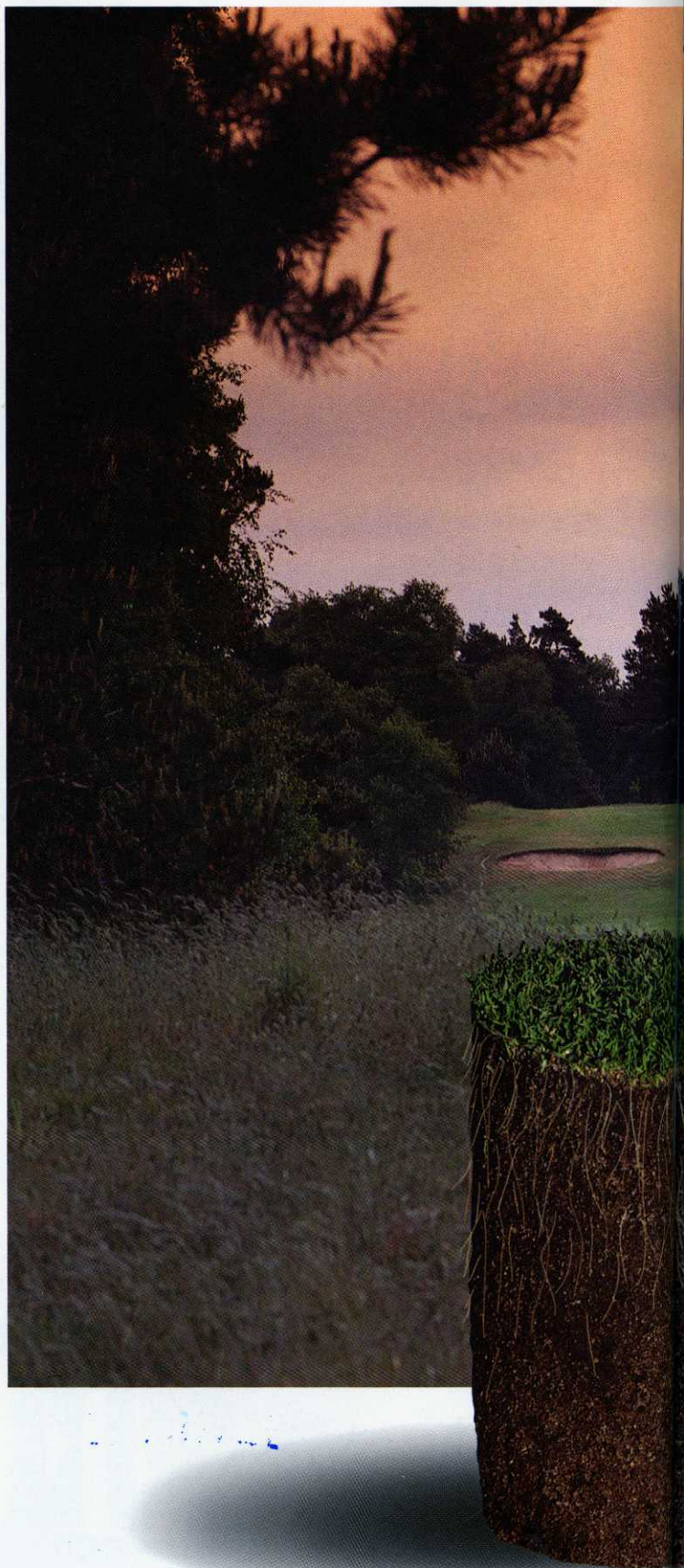
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# GREENKEEPER

*International*

**JANUARY 1998**

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BTME 98 springs into  
life in only a few days  
time – and yet again, it's  
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A seasonal picture of St Andrew's  
Photograph by Brian Morgan



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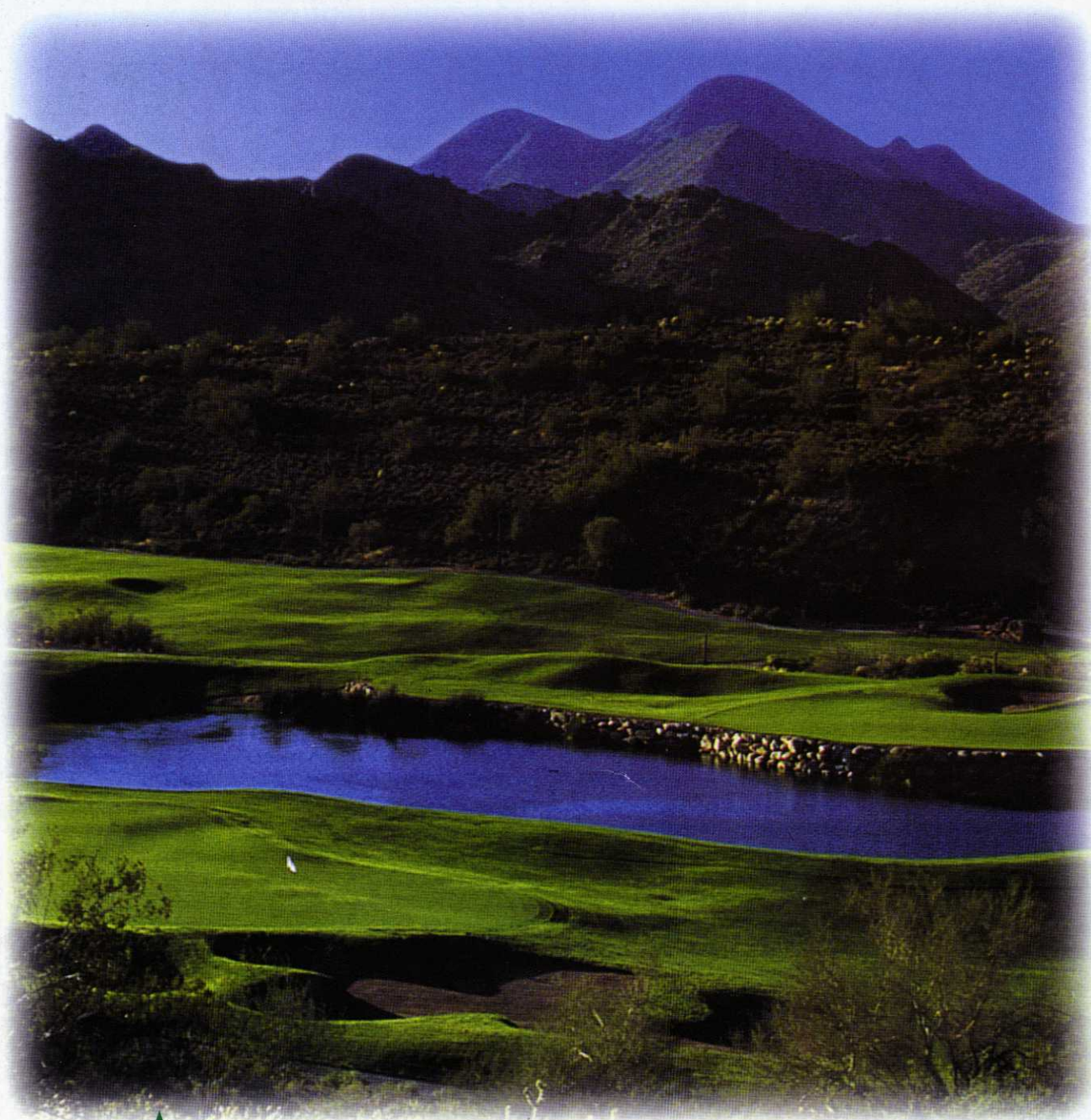


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# Building work starts soon on Association's new headquarters

BIGGA's goal of owning its own headquarters moved a step nearer reality in December when it signed a 999 year lease on a plot of land at Aldwark Manor.

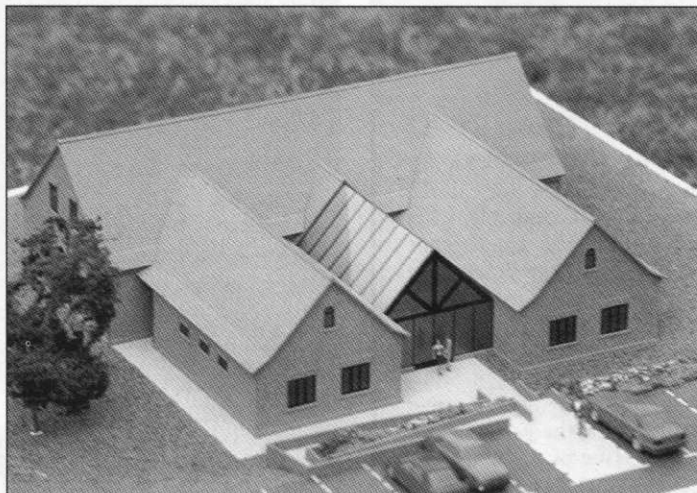
Building is due to start early January with completion expected by August 31.

The purpose designed offices will be sited close to the existing rented building and planning permission has now been granted.

It has not been an easy task to produce a design that met both the Association's requirements and yet satisfied the local planning authority, which was quick to point out that the proposed development lies in a conservation area.

"We have used traditional materials of red facing bricks and plain clay tiles to provide a building which is in a similar traditional style to the existing hotel annexes," explained architect and Project Manager, Stewart Broadhurst.

The building will incorporate a



An architect's model of the smart new BIGGA HQ

board room and training and education facility and utilises a large glazed area to provide maximum natural lighting to most offices and the reception area.

The project is being funded by way of a substantial grant from

the R&A, donations from within the membership and a bank loan. Fund raising events are planned to contribute towards the repayment of the loan and the first of these will be launched at this year's BTME.

## Supporters urged to 'buy a brick'

BIGGA has instigated a "Buy a Brick" campaign as part of its initiative to raise funds for its new Headquarters building. As part of this campaign, BIGGA's first fund raising event will take the form of a major raffle to be launched at BTME with the draw taking place during BIGGA's Company Golf Day at Aldwark Manor, on June 22, 1998.

However, this will be a raffle with a difference. In addition to

major prizes, purchasers of tickets will be awarded either bronze, silver or gold lapel badges signifying their support for the "Buy a Brick" campaign. A bronze badge will be awarded for the purchase of £5 worth of tickets whilst purchasing £25 worth will secure a silver badge and £50 worth enables the purchaser to display a gold badge.

"The new Headquarters building will be an important land-

mark in BIGGA's growth and development" said Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

"I feel confident that our members, the industry and the game of golf as a whole will back our fund raising efforts for this major project."

■ Already Harrogate speakers have donated £850 to the fund by accepting bricks in lieu of expenses and forgoing the customary gifts they receive.

## Taking steps to avoid EC directives

A Levington Horticulture Conference at Woburn Abbey heard that there was a need to be responsi-

ble in the use of pesticides and other products to ensure that the increasing number of EC Directives do not ban more of them.

The warning came from Bob Daniels, the Research and Development Manager of Levington, who also Chairs a European body of manufacturers which lobbies the appropriate European Community Departments.

He explained that there was currently 55,000 pages of data about products with active ingre-

dients and they were all to be reviewed.

He revealed that Sweden had already banned 250 products and said that already in the UK Rose-clear was to be banned as it was an irritant and protective clothing was required before using it.

The conference, which is held every two years included several top Course Managers, agronomists, interested parties and Levington dealers and distributors from around Europe.

## FLYING DIVOTS

■ Twelve members of The British Institute of Golf Course Architects paid a recent visit to the Headquarters of the United States Golf Association, at Far Hills, New Jersey. Discussions on technical issues and presentations were given by both groups.

The Architects, not only from the United Kingdom but from the Continent, Iceland in the north to Spain in the south, visited some of the north eastern states' greatest courses including Pine Valley, Shinnecock Hills and Baltusrol.

The visit was part of the Institute's continued Professional Development programme.

■ In early summer, five of the top courses in Britain are going to play host to their Region's greenkeepers. In Scotland the revered links of **Royal Dornoch**

welcomes the Scottish Region on a date to be confirmed. On June 16, **Mere Golf and Country Club** welcomes the Northern Region. **Stoke Poges** opens its doors to the Midlands Region on June 24; **Wilderness GC** hosts the South East Region on June 29 and **St Mellion** starts off the run on behalf of the South West and South Wales Region on June 4.



■ Avoncrop Amenity Products has appointed Nick Johnson (left) as Sales Representative

for the East and West Midlands.

■ Practical Greenkeeping by Jim Arthur is available from BIGGA Headquarters, price £29.95.

The book will also be available at BTME. Anyone who wishes a copy should contact the office at: BIGGA Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, Nr York, YO6 2NF Tel: 01347 838581 Fax: 01347 838864.

### AGM date

The BIGGA Annual General Meeting will take place at the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate at 5.45pm on Wednesday January 21, 1998. All members are urged to attend but membership cards must be produced.



# Make the most of the big show

**W**ell it's that time again. The same old suitcases are packed, the same old instructions to phone home are given and the same old promises to be good are made. Destination Harrogate.

I must admit when I went to my first BTME in '96 I was amazed by it all. Yes, I'd been to all the preparatory meetings in the months leading up. I knew how many exhibitors we had. I knew that it filled four huge halls. I knew that we had speakers of the highest calibre, many of them flown in from around the world. I knew what was expected of me. I knew what everyone else would be doing. I knew all of this but nothing prepared me for just how good BTME was.

To be honest, amid the admiration for what my colleagues had achieved since BTME was first launched was a hint of jealousy. I was jealous that my profession, journalism, has nothing to compete with BTME and what BIGGA provides for those who work in the industry.

I would just love the chance to stand at a bar and chew the fat with Ian Wooldridge or John Inverdale. Or listen to a lecture by Des Lynam on how he prepares to front the World Cup. Or chat with the manufacturers of the laptop on which I'm writing this piece about what I'd like in their next model. Or take part in a workshop which might cure me of the nasty habit of being totally unable to use one word when – and I know I am prone to this – one is the optimum required number which would, under normal circumstances, be needed to complete the designated task.

Unfortunately there isn't anything on the scale or quality of BTME for journalists and I'd

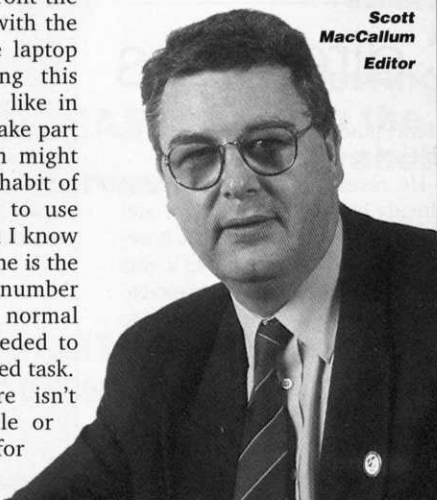
wager that there aren't many industries which are catered for so well. Indeed, what other industry could cope with such a large percentage of those involved in it gathering at the same place at the one time.

Make the most of it and I hope that I'll meet a great many of you there.

■ This issue of the magazine marks the end of a long association with the man responsible for much of the success it has achieved. Tim Moat has been in charge of design and production from the very first issue back in January 1991. Since then he has put up with the foibles and peccadillos of several Editors but always ensured that, whatever the raw material he was handed on deadline day, a consistently fine magazine was delivered to the readers.

Next month, the magazine welcomes the arrival of BIGGA's new in-house designer, David Emery, but it certainly won't be forgotten that *Greenkeeper International* wouldn't be where it is now without Tim Moat.

On behalf of everyone at BIGGA I would like to wish Tim, and his company Headline Communications, every success in the future.



Scott  
MacCallum  
Editor

## As I see it...

BY PAT MURPHY  
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

I began this month in Spain, at the FEGGA Conference, and guess what? It rained! And when it rains in Spain it doesn't half pour. Where do I have to go in the world to break the jinx?

However, it was a superb conference at which 12 different Associations were represented, each giving a paper on Education within his or her country and another on the environment. One of the outcomes

was that every country would attempt to standardise their education to a minimum level which equates to Level 2 NVQ.

I would like to thank Toro, for their generous sponsorship of the Conference and for the use of their conference facility, and also the FEGGA Board for inviting me to attend.

I had no sooner returned from Spain and I was off to Aldwark Manor for a GTC meeting. I had originally agreed to attend the South West and South Wales Seminar on the same day but due to some pressing business I had to cry off so apologies to everyone who was at Cannington College. However, I did hear reports about how excellent a Seminar it was.

Later that week I attended the Annual Dinner at my own golf club Shipley and was absolutely delighted to be presented with an engraved tankard by the Club Captain, Richard Cadman, to commemorate my year as Chairman.

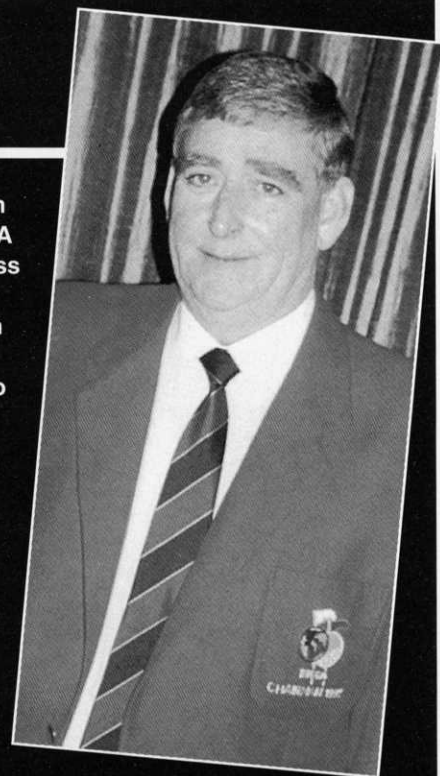
The following Monday I was in Ireland for the Northern Irish Seminar where I gave a talk on the work of the Association. Ken Richardson also gave an excellent presentation on Educational matters.

Next, I went to the Northern Section AGM where it was good to see a strong working committee and a healthy balance sheet. The occasion also marked Alan Gamble's retirement from the committee after a long and fruitful innings. Thanks for all your work, Alan, and keep supporting us.

The Editor and I both attended a Levington Conference at Woburn and would like to thank Levington for their excellent hospitality. The dinner in the Sculpture's Gallery was a wonderful occasion.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Neil Thomas travelled to Shipley one evening to give me the privilege of signing the papers for the land on which the new Headquarters is going to be built. The builders will start on January 12 and I'll be rolling up my sleeves to cut the first turf.

■ The Chairman gives an extended look back to his year in office on Pages 16-17.





# Northern Ireland sections get off to a good start

Nearly 100 greenkeepers and trade from Northern Ireland met at Greenmount College on 1 December for the inaugural Seminar of the new BIGGA Northern Ireland Sections. Speakers included David Garland, Director of the PGA European Tour and Robin Blackford of Hayter Plc. The whole event was sponsored by John Lindsay Professional Sports Turf.

The seminar opened with an overview of safe mowing practices by Robin Blackford. The presentation certainly left listeners in no doubt as to the many potential dangers and accidents which can be caused by short cuts and lack of attention. Philip Baldock, Course Manager at Royal Portrush Golf Club and also Chairman of the new North East Section, followed

this with a look at some of the pests, problems and diseases he has to cope with on his course. It was interesting to note that Phil, as far as possible, avoids the use of pesticides preferring instead organic or natural methods of control. BIGGA's Education and Training Manager then gave an overview of the training offered by BIGGA and colleges throughout the UK for greenkeepers. This led to a lively discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of the NVQ system.

Following a brief repose, David Garland gave an insight into some of the problems of life on the Tour. Using video footage, David looked at a number of challenges to the rules of golf which have occurred in recent years and looked at how



At the inaugural seminar, from left, Phil Baldock, David Garland, Ken Richardson, Graham Wylie and Pat Murphy

the Tour resolved these. The Seminar which was ably chaired by Graham Wylie, Chairman of the South East Section, was concluded by BIGGA's 1997 National Chairman, Pat Murphy, who also presented 12 students from Greenmount College with their NVQ awards and gave the vote of thanks.

The afternoon was successfully rounded off with a buffet provided by the catering staff at Green-

mount College. It is to be hoped that this will be the first of many successful events held by the two sections in Northern Ireland.

Our thanks must go to the sponsor without whom the event would not have been possible, the section committee members who worked hard to achieve the tremendous attendance figure, all the speakers for giving of their time and the staff at Greenmount College.

## Impressive line up for conference

The Scottish Region will hold its annual one-day conference in the Dunfermline Conference Centre on March 3.

Each year the Region tries to introduce new and topical subjects relevant to greenkeeping and this year is no exception.

The Region consider themselves fortunate in having Bob

Taylor, ecologist, and Jonathan Smith, wildlife adviser, both from the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Group, speaking about environmental issues. From Turnberry Hotel and Golf Course, George Brown, Course Manager, will be talking about the work that goes on behind the scenes in preparation for

an Open Championship. Steve Isaac from the STRI will be advising on how to survive winter play. From Cargill PLC, Steve Lucas will be discussing microbacterial populations in golf greens. Finally, Nick Lawson from OCMIS Irrigation will impart his knowledge on irrigation techniques.



## New Sales Manager for Johnsons

Adrian Hayler has been appointed National Sales Manager for the professional division of Johnsons Seeds. He will be responsible for the management, development and growth of the agricultural and amenity business sectors, and will look after all UK wide sales activity in these areas.

He brings a lot of industry experience to the new position, previously working for Dalgety Agriculture for nine years and, prior to that, for Seed Innovations and Bartholomews.

"I am delighted with the opportunity to work with one of Europe's leading seed companies. I look forward to meeting customers and ensuring that they get the best service from all our sales team," he said.

## Maximum pass marks for the 'fast track' Oaklands students

The pass rate for Oaklands College NVQ Level 2 "Fast Track" greenkeepers was 100%. The concept of the fast track course allows students with industrial experience to obtain NVQ Level 2 in one year. This system differs from traditional methods of training by using a combination of projects, accreditation for prior learning, work based assessment combined within college training.

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Missing from the group photo are K. Allen, Hanbury Manor; Neil Robson Harpenden GC and C. Little, South Herts GC.

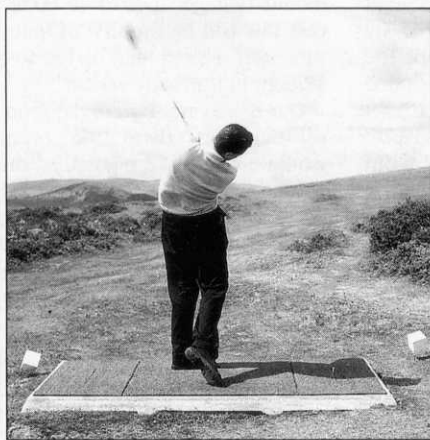


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‘When I fell in I just went straight to the bottom. I was fighting for my life. I was taken about 100 yards down the river.’

A routine journey across a causeway linking the King James VI Golf Club to Perth ended in near tragedy for two greenkeepers.

Head Greenkeeper Bruce Somerton and assistant Kenneth O'Donnell were crossing the causeway in a tractor and trailer from the club, which is on an island in the middle of the River Tay, when the powerful current took over.

Bruce, 33, was swept 100 yards downstream and only survived because he was able to free himself from his jacket which was dragging him under. He was eventually tossed onto the bank by a whirlpool. Ken, 27, a non-swimmer, was trapped until police in a rescue boat were able to pull him out.

It was low tide and the 30 yard long causeway was three feet deep in water when the daily crossing was attempted but, when they realised that on this occasion the current was too strong, they tried to reverse. Unfortunately, just as they began to retreat the force of the water knocked the trailer over and the tractor, with Ken still in the cab, was left balancing precariously.

With emergency services on standby on each bank, a police launch was used to rescue Ken. A safety line was attached and an officer climbed onto the top of the trailer and towards the cab. A life jacket was passed to Ken who was then able to climb out of the window and be hauled aboard the launch.

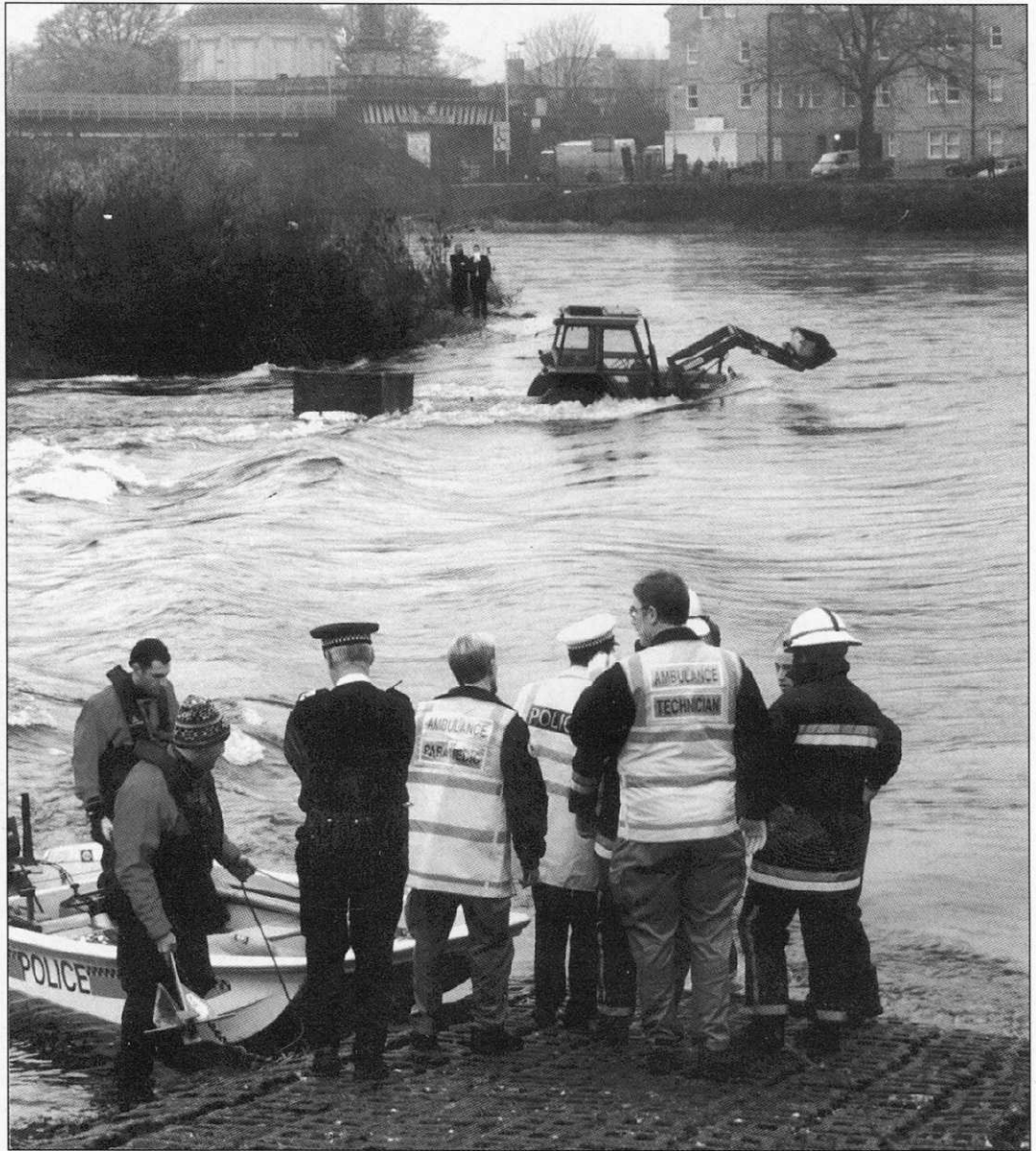
‘We were trying to get across but the water was just too powerful and it knocked the trailer over,’ said Bruce.

‘When I fell in I just went straight to the bottom. I was fighting for my life. I was taken about 100 yards down the river and had to take off my body warmer because it was dragging me down.’

Both men were taken to Perth Royal Infirmary but later released.

The tractor was eventually winched ashore but the trailer, which contained turf cutting machinery, was washed downstream and believed lost.

■ Picture courtesy of DC Thomson and Co Ltd.



## **Pattisson's pledge for new year**

Pattisson's have relocated to new premises in Chesham, Buckinghamshire, from their original home in Luton, Bedfordshire.

‘It is never easy to find the right premises, it is just like finding the right house to move into – somewhere that has the right location and a decent enough building that you enjoy going to every day,’ said Mike Hinch, Joint Managing Director.

‘Moving the company in the height of the season obviously caused many problems, but when the right premises came up we had to move quickly. I can now say that the company is back on track and stock levels are healthy.’

Pattisson's distribute through a successful direct van sales operation and an established dealer network.

‘We have worked closely with

our dealers and embarked on a rigid pricing policy to ensure that we can sell our products at the right price whether it is through our own salesman or through a dealer.’

‘It has been a tough year for us but we are hoping that the close relationships that we have with the greenkeepers and organisations like BIGGA will ensure the industry moves onwards and upwards.’



# Last minute seminar changes at BTME 98

**T**he Institute of Agricultural Engineers have, unfortunately, had to cancel their seminar, which was due to take place on Wednesday, 21 January, between 10am and 12 noon.

However, thanks to a combination of luck and forward planning together with the excellent support of speakers and Jacobsen EZGO Textron, I have managed to organise an even better seminar. Seminar A on Wednesday 21 January will now be:

10 am-10.40 am: TREES, THEIR NECESSARY MAINTENANCE, GOOD AND BAD PRACTICE, by John Nicholson, Associate Consultant, Eamon Wall and Co.  
10.40 am-11.20 am: REEL GRINDING, by Don Laschansky, Managing Director, Foley.  
11.20 am-12 noon: GREENS MOWERS, by David Withers, National Accounts Manager, Jacobsen EZGO Textron.  
12 noon-12.40 pm: THE PRINCIPLES OF TOP DRESSING, by Scott Kinkead, Managing Director, Turfco.

Remember that I have had to move the Seminar by Jaime Ortiz Patino from Wednesday, 21 January, at 1pm to Thursday, 22 January, at 1pm.

Unfortunately, it is now too late to book a place on the National Education Conference and all three Workshops are completely full.

However, you can book places on Seminars, on the day, at Harrogate. Anybody wishing to book a place on their choice of Seminar, should contact Sami Collins on the Seminar Registration Desk in Hall G. Thanks to the continued Support of Ransomes Simms and Jeffries, the Learning Experience 1998 has something for everyone at very affordable prices. Remember, training and education should continue throughout your career. Better trained greenkeepers leads to better golf courses and to an improvement in the status of the industry.



## Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

### BIGGA Refund of Fees Scheme

As I have announced in previous editions of *Greenkeeper International*, the BIGGA Refund of Fees Scheme commenced in January 1998.

To be eligible for a refund, you must meet the following criteria:

- a. You must be a member of BIGGA and have been a member for at least two years.
- b. You must have paid your own fees and be able to provide proof of payment eg receipt/credit card slip or statement.
- c. You must have completed a course, or component part of a course, and be able to provide evidence of completion eg certificate/end of course report etc.
- d. If you are starting a course in 1998 you may apply for a refund to be paid on course completion as in (c).
- e. The course must not be subsidised, already, by BIGGA.
- f. The course must be relevant to your job as a greenkeeper.

Members will be able to claim 80% of fees paid up to a maximum of £200. Application forms will be available in the February Edition of *Greenkeeper International*, on the BIGGA Stand at BTME and from BIGGA HQ. Applications will be dealt with on a first come first served basis. For further information, contact Ken Richardson or Sami Collins at BIGGA HQ or at BTME.

### Health and Safety Training

Training in a range of Health and Safety subjects can be arranged through BIGGA. These include, Chain Saw Competence, Pesticide Application and First Aid. Contact Ken Richardson or Sami Collins at BIGGA HQ for details.

# Pesticides training for sprayer operators

**P**esticides legislation first came into effect in 1986 with the Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA) and was followed a year later by the Control of Pesticide Regulations.

Add to this COSHH Regulations in 1988 and you would think a decade later everyone involved on Greenkeeping would have been trained and, where necessary, certificated.

So who does this concern?

Well, anyone using Pesticides – i.e. Herbicides, Fungicides, Insecticides or Growth Regulators must be trained and competent to carry out the work.

Three categories of people must hold National Proficiency Test Councils (NPTC) certificates namely: 1. Those born after 31 December 1964. 2. Those who act as contractors ie on land not managed by their employer. 3. Those who supervise someone else without a certificate.

If you fall outside these categories then, technically, you don't need a certificate but it is recognised by HSE as the best proof of being competent.

So how do you get a certificate?

The easiest way is to attend a recognised training course. This should prepare you for the necessary tests. An ATB-Landbase course would be as follows:

Most training courses will take a minimum of two days.

Day One – Safe Use of Pesticides.

This covers all the background needed by any spray operator. It covers:

Knowledge of Legislation; Interpreting the product label; Selecting suitable protective clothing;

Storage and transportation; Disposal of pesticides and containers; First Aid; Environmental Issues.

Of course anyone working on golf courses and greens will have the added problems that paying customers and public cause. Its difficult to fit in spraying around clients who start at first light and finish at dark! This course prepares the trainee to be take the NPTC test PA1.

Day two will deal with what ever type of equipment you use. Most commonly for greenkeepers will be knapsack sprayers or CDA's (Controlled Droplet Applicators).

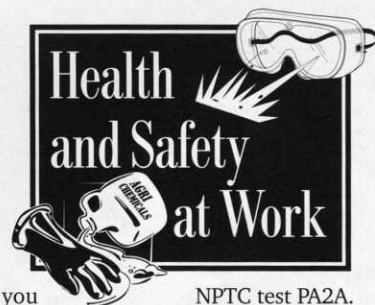
The course covers:

Checking over the sprayer Calibration/Accurately spraying an area (with imitation Pesticide/Disposal of Washings and Decontamination

This course prepares the trainee for NPTC test PA6A.

Some people may use small

tractor mounted sprayers and a course programme similar to the previous one is written to link in with the



NPTC test PA2A.

Anyone with little or no experience might expect to double the training period to four days and, of course, supervised practice is advisable for everyone prior to taking a test.

The testing is not carried out on the training course but arrangements are usually made with the local test committee secretary so the tests take place one or two weeks later.

So that's the outline for anyone needing full training. Of course, many operators have been trained over the last decade and to keep up with changes in both legislation and technical developments a one day refresher course is a useful idea.

■ For further information on training courses and consultancy contact ATB-Landbase (Jean John on 01282 831973 or Andrew Morton on 01430 860057).



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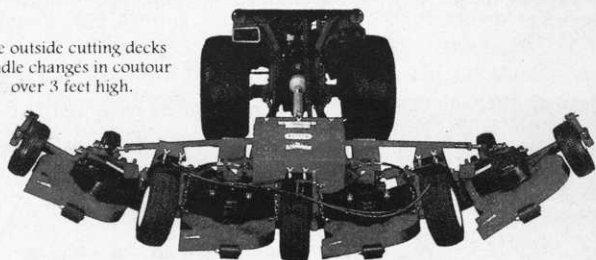
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# Spain hosts

**NEIL THOMAS reports**

**T**he attractive village of Mijas, in the hills above Fuengirola, provided the base for delegates for the first FEGGA Conference held during the weekend of 21-23 November. Eleven member Associations of FEGGA were represented at the Conference with each Association providing speakers to cover papers on the education and training of greenkeepers as well as environmental considerations in their respective countries. From the welcoming barbecue on Friday evening and through the weekend it was noticeable how quickly the different nationalities intermingled, old friendships were renewed and new ones forged. Language did not prove a problem as there was always someone with linguistic ability around when a difficulty arose!

The Conference was held courtesy of the local Toro distributor and the facilities made available were truly excellent. Special thanks are due to Toro for their support of the Conference and in particular to Bob Buckingham, Franco Marcolongo, Christian Grisard Van Roey and Ignacio Miranda. Bob, who had liaised throughout on the organisation of the Conference, found that he had to be in South Africa rather than Spain at the last moment and Franco took over in his absence doing an excellent job in making delegates feel welcome.

It now remains for the FEGGA Board to take stock of the Conference. Sunday morning proved the opportunity for delegates to put forward their views on the way forward for FEGGA and a common concern was the need for establishing uniformity of educational standards in Europe with help being provided to those Associations who lacked both resources and governmental support. On environmental issues, FEGGA's representation on the Brussels based Ecology Unit will be important as representation on behalf of the greenkeeping profession in the respective countries will be vital during the ongoing environmental debate.

Some 18 months on since the formation of FEGGA, this proved to be an instructive conference ably chaired by FEGGA Chairman, Dean Cleaver - no easy task when people spoke with "many

**➤** In Germany training and further training have only a recent history - since 1988 when a few German greenkeepers set the wheels in motion. In 1989 the Deula Rhineland was engaged as a training provider. Training is carried out in a series of three, three week intensive courses outside the growing season. One week is run as a practical in summer at several golf courses. These training courses serve to convey both theoretical and practical knowledge. Between these courses, the greenkeeper must work on a golf course for at least one season. During the respective season, a correspondence course consisting of three lessons is also undertaken providing a link between theory and practice. The qualification can be compared with level three of the British training system and since 1990, 386 students have sat the exam.

Further training for Head Greenkeepers is now in place. Only those people who have successfully completed the qualified greenkeeper training course, and can then prove at least three years work on a golf course, can apply to do this higher course on successful completion of which the title 'Qualified Head Greenkeeper' may be used. It is expected that the first exams will take place at the earliest in 1999. In the next three years about 40 greenkeepers are expected to take part. The qualification will be comparable to level four in the United Kingdom.

**➤** In Sweden the educational programme is organised jointly by the Swedish Golf Federation and Swedish Greenkeepers' Association. There are three courses of increasing levels of difficulty ie Basic Knowledge - four weeks, Further Education - two weeks and Higher Greenkeeper Education - six weeks. The first two courses finish with a written examination, while the higher course has weekly tests as well as a project to be presented in the final week.



# FEGGA's first conference

tongues"! Delegates departed a little wiser and enthused at the prospect of European co-operation in the future and the strength which the profession will gain from speaking with a common voice and in significant numbers.

Many papers were presented and there was much talk during the weekend. Some conference snapshots may be of interest to readers whilst individual papers can be made available on application to the FEGGA Office at P O Box 42, S-139 21 Värmdö, Sweden, Tel. 46 8 570 196 10, Fax. 46 8 570 198 10.



FEGGA representatives at last year's BTME

➤ In Spain, 20 years ago there were 25 golf courses – mainly country clubs. Today there are over 250 golf courses. Spanish greenkeepers suffer from a lack of information and difficulties in translation. The last Association conference attracted 120 members. Support from golf clubs in Spain is vital to assist greenkeepers with their education while there is a need for technical programmes focussed on turf grass management.

➤ In France, golf courses with more than 10 employees are required to devote 1.5% of their wage bill each year to training. Wouldn't that be wonderful in the United Kingdom?

➤ In Switzerland, the position is complicated by language! 64% are German speaking, 19% French speaking, 8% Italian speaking, while 1% are Romansh speaking and 8% speak other languages. In 1980 Switzerland had 29 courses, today there are 59 with 30 new projects in the pipeline. The SGA has 159 members, 64 being French speaking and 95 German speaking. The SGA works closely with the GTC and the Training Manual has been translated into French and German enabling members to pursue training where desired through the framework of the GTC.

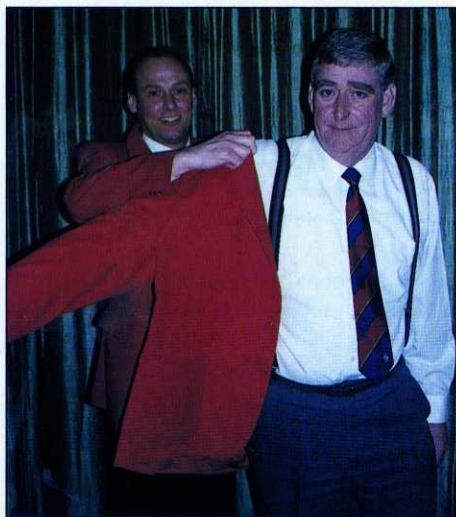
➤ In Belgium, there are 61 golf courses with Dutch, French and German being the main languages. It is interesting that 14 Head Greenkeepers from the USA are employed in Belgium. Greenkeeper training is very much in embryo form with one day training courses for Head Greenkeepers arranged during the winter. However, a one year course for greenkeepers was introduced in September 1997 and a similar course for Head Greenkeepers will be introduced in September 1998. The Association in Belgium is for Head Greenkeepers only.

➤ In Norway, the Association was formed 10 years ago with eight members. There are now 150 members and 60 golf courses with a projection of 150 courses within the next 10 years. An educational plan is lacking but a week's seminar is held every year in the second week of January. For 1998 this will be held in Spain and has attracted 80 members (there must be a moral here!). Additionally one day seminars are organised as well as meetings on golf courses.

➤ In Finland, golf courses are a relatively new industry with the main boom occurring in the 1980s. From less than 20 courses in 1989 there are now more than 90. The FGA with 250 members has an average of three members on each course. Generally courses are frozen every winter, opening in March with the main season from May to October.

➤ In Iceland, there are 30 members of the Association and no educational programmes. The Association was founded in 1994. Some 50 greenkeepers have been educated through a close association with Elmwood College. Occasional seminars are held and at present there are 50 golf courses in Iceland.





January: Taking over from Dean Cleaver

**BTME** brings to an end the Chairmanship of one of the busiest men ever to have donned the famous red blazer.

If you are a member who has not encountered Pat Murphy during the last 12 months you must be one of the few, because there is no part of the country in which he has not set foot and few events which he has not been able to attend.

"It has been a great honour to have been Chairman of BIGGA over the past year but I am genuinely exhausted and looking forward to a holiday next year," explained Pat.

"There has been only one occasion during the entire year that I have had an uninterrupted three week spell at home. As well as all over Britain and Ireland I've been to Las Vegas, Sweden, Spain and Germany and can honestly say I've given 100% to the Association."

Asked to select some of the highlights of his hectic year Pat mentions last year's BTME when he took over from Dean Cleaver as Chairman.

"The most nervous I felt all year was when I chaired the National Education Conference on the Monday of BTME week and once I'd put on the Blazer it was just non-stop meetings and photographs."

Hot on the heels of BTME was the GCSAA Conference and Show at Las Vegas where Pat got some inside information on preparations for the Ryder Cup later in the year.

"I was seated next to Jaime Patino, President of Valderrama, at the Gala Dinner and was most impressed when he told me that he was bringing in the QE2 to act as a floating hotel.

"I also got the chance of attending a world heavyweight boxing match – the infamous one between Lennox Lewis and Oliver McCall, who broke down in tears and didn't want to fight."

If he was already becoming accustomed to the good life this was added to by a luncheon on behalf of the AEA at the Savoy Hotel in London.

"I was also particularly pleased to have been

# A year when your feet don't touch the ground...

Looking back on Pat Murphy's year as BIGGA Chairman



Turning the first turf on Berkshire College's new training facility

"The funeral of David Spurdon, who was tragically killed just a week after he had prepared Ganton so superbly for the Hayter Challenge Final, was an extremely sad occasion."

Another notable occasion was BIGGA's 10th Anniversary Tournament at Aldwark Manor, which looks set to become a regular fixture and The Open Championship at Royal Troon.

"The Open was fantastic. I was introduced to Colin Montgomerie and his wife at the Association of Golf Writers' Dinner where I also met Jaime Patino again. The Open was also one of the several occasions when I met

our President, Viscount Whitelaw, during the course of the year.

"I can honestly say I must have been the most envied greenkeeper in the country when I got to hold the famous old Claret Jug during our traditional photograph with the new Champion. Justin Leonard turned to me and said 'Get a grip of this' It's a moment I'll treasure for a long time."

able to attend every Hayter Challenge Regional final in what was the last year of the Hayter sponsorship. Unfortunately it rained at most of them, which was a recurring theme all year. We are indebted to Kim Macfie and everyone at Hayter for their marvellous support over the last five years."

The Hayter also had a connection with the saddest occasion Pat attended during the year.





The Open was one of several occasions Pat met up with Viscount Whitelaw

Another of Pat's duties was to present Hankley Common's Ian McMillan with the second half of an unprecedented double.

Ian had already been presented with the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping – ironically the only event in the entire year which the Chairman was forced to miss – when Pat travelled to Hankley Common to present him with the BIGGA Golf Environment Award, in association with Amazone and Rhône Poulenc.

"It was a superb achievement and Ian was a worthy recipient of two excellent prizes in two magnificent competitions."

One common denominator at every event Pat attended was the warmth of the welcome.

"Everywhere I went, from Saltex, where I judged the stands, to the IOG Show in Dublin and Scotsturf in Edinburgh I was treated like a King and I can only thank everyone for their superb hospitality."

Another stand out in an outstanding year was turning the first sod on the new Academy course at Berkshire College and the planting of a tree on the course.

Overall, and looking back, Pat takes satisfaction from the progress of the Association over the last 12 months.



Receiving a Westurf memento from Richard Whyman

"I'm delighted that we have now formed two new Sections in Northern Ireland and, having visited them on several occasions, I am sure that with the enthusiasm and talent available among the members they will both go from strength to strength."

Another development over the last 12 months has seen everything put in place for the building of BIGGA's new Headquarters.

"I felt incredibly privileged last month to be the man to sign the piece of paper to confirm the purchase of the land at Aldwark Manor on

which the new offices and training facility will be built. I'm looking forward to turning the first sod later this month," said Pat.

"At the beginning of my year the two immediate Past Chairmen, Barry Heaney and Dean Cleaver, tried to give me an idea of what to expect but, to be honest, nothing could really have prepared me for the year I have had.

"I certainly couldn't have done it without the backing of Shipley Golf Club and I'm indebted to everyone at the club for their tremendous support over the last 12 months. Not only were they happy that I had whatever time off was required to give the Chairmanship 100%, members were also keen to know about some of the experiences I had."

Another factor which enabled Pat to devote the necessary time was the work of his own team at Shipley. "I was always available on the end of a telephone but they have done a superb job and the course has been in excellent condition all year," he said.

During the year Pat has had constant involvement with Headquarter's staff and this reaffirmed his belief that the Association is extremely lucky to have the highly professional staff it does.

"It all reflects well on the Association and I'd like to thank Neil and his team for all their help during the year."

Gordon Child becomes the new National Chairman at BIGGA's AGM during BTME and Pat is sure he could not be handing over to a better man.

"Gordon has been a superb ambassador for the Association, as Board Member and long time South West and South Wales Regional Administrator since the Association was formed and it is an honour he thoroughly deserves. I'm sure he will do an excellent job. I just hope he lasts the pace!"



Meeting up with BIGGA's Kubota Cup team at The Belfry



The Golf Environment competition: a big success



# A lab with letters after its name

**European Turfgrass Laboratories in Stirling is the only lab outside America to hold an A2LA certificate.**

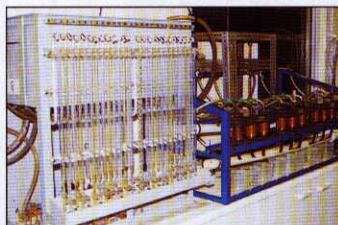
**E**uropean Turfgrass Laboratories has become the first lab outside of the United States, and one of only five in total, to receive accreditation from the USGA.

The Stirling-based lab was formed in 1996 out of a partnership between three agronomy consultancies, Grass Technology International, Professional Sportsturf Design and McMillan-Shiels and it is run by a full time staff of three.

The six directors of ETL, who are among the best known names in their respected fields, are John Souter, Eddie Connaughton, John Hacker and Mike Harbridge – who also acts as Lab Manager, Jack McMillan and George Shiels.

Prior to the setting up of the lab, each of the three companies was using a separate facility.

"We used the labs at Myrscough College, George had his own lab as did GTI and we



thought that we would benefit from pooling our resources," explained John Hacker, as we spoke in the lab based to the rear of Souter of Stirling's premises.

"Although we are in competition as consultants, we've all been in the business a long time and hold each other in high esteem,"

"There is something to be gained by us all in having this independent facility. We are confident that it works effectively," he added.

Lab Supervisor is Ann Murray who works with technicians, Audrey Mackintosh and Sharon Bruce. The equipment she already had from the GTI lab was pooled with that from George Shiel's own lab in Woking.

"We now have two of every-

thing which enables us to do a whole lot more and we extended the premises quite a bit into a larger Portakabin than we had previously occupied," explained Ann.

When the lab was started ETL contracted Neil Howard, whose initial PHD work established the USGA spec back in the '60s, and he came over from the States and worked with them for about ten days. He has since been retained by the lab as a consultant.

"We decided to do this before we even went for the accreditation because he would be able to give us a good idea of how close we were to the standard required and how much work we may have had to do," explained Ann.

"What he did discover when he looked at our testing was that we were not that far out and that we were within the margin of error."

The process involved in achieving the A2LA accreditation recognised by the USGA is long and arduous and not a little expensive.

"We had to put together a qual-

ity manual which contains everything about the company – where it came from, how it runs and details on all our testing procedures," explained John.

Once the application had been made, a date was given for an assessor from the States to visit the lab and this visit was made last March.

"He looked into everything in great detail going through every file to check how the business ran and what we did. It was a full audit.

"We had to perform certain tests for him and he even went so far as to ask how we knew the weight we dropped for the compaction test was three pounds. I told him that we had specified three pounds to the engineering company who had made it for us but he insisted we take it to bits and weigh it. Fortunately it was three pounds," said Ann.

"We were happy with what we were doing but there is nothing like an external person to look at you to sharpen you up. Also, there were certain things we were

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Ann Murray, centre,  
with Sharon Bruce, left  
and Audrey Macintosh

doing to the British standard which weren't the same as the USGA so it would not be listed as a deviation."

The examination was certainly more thorough than Ann and her team had expected.

"I didn't think it would be a cake walk but what we said at the end of the week was that they'll be coming back in two years to

re-assess and we'll be ready for them then," said Ann.

Perhaps the main difference between an accredited lab and one which isn't is not the quality of the results but in the recording of each stage in the process.

"It is very important that there is a paper chase from the product coming in the door to the paper going out of the door and that it goes all the way through,"

explained John.

"Other labs might be very similar but might not be able to back track a result the same way as we can."

The day the confirmation of ETL's accreditation popped through the letter box was a great one indeed and grouped the lab – alongside Brookside laboratories Inc, in Ohio; N.W. Hummel and Co, in New York; Thomas Turf

Services Inc in Texas and Turf Diagnostic and Design in Kansas – as the only five accredited USGA labs in the world.

The benefits to the three shareholding companies are great.

"First of all Ann and her colleagues are keyed into what we want. When we ring up they know exactly what we are after. Also a few years ago if we had sent something to a lab it might have been a five or six week turn-around. Here we can get them back within the week," said John.

About 75% of the lab's work comes from the three shareholding companies with the rest coming from other clients.

They also take part in comparative testing for universities in the United States including the Western State testing programme and work for Pennsylvania State.

"We see the results and can tell where our results fell within the band. You always want to be in the middle," laughed Ann.

It is one of the few occasions the lab, which strives for excellence, would ever settle for mediocrity!





# PHOTOCAST TEE SIGNS



By

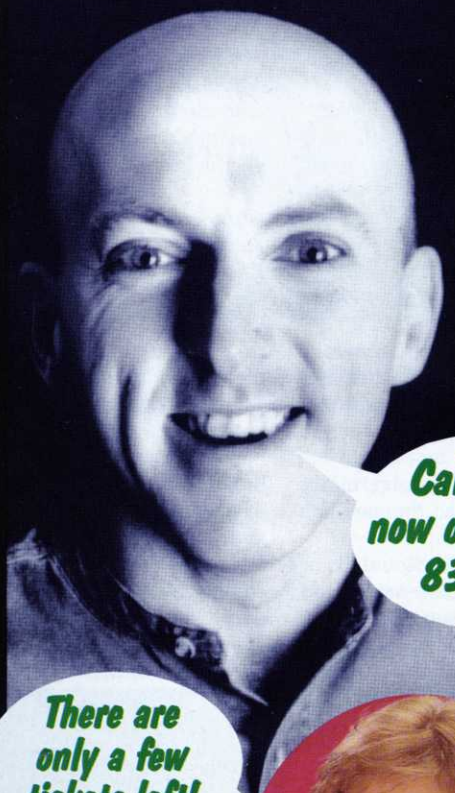
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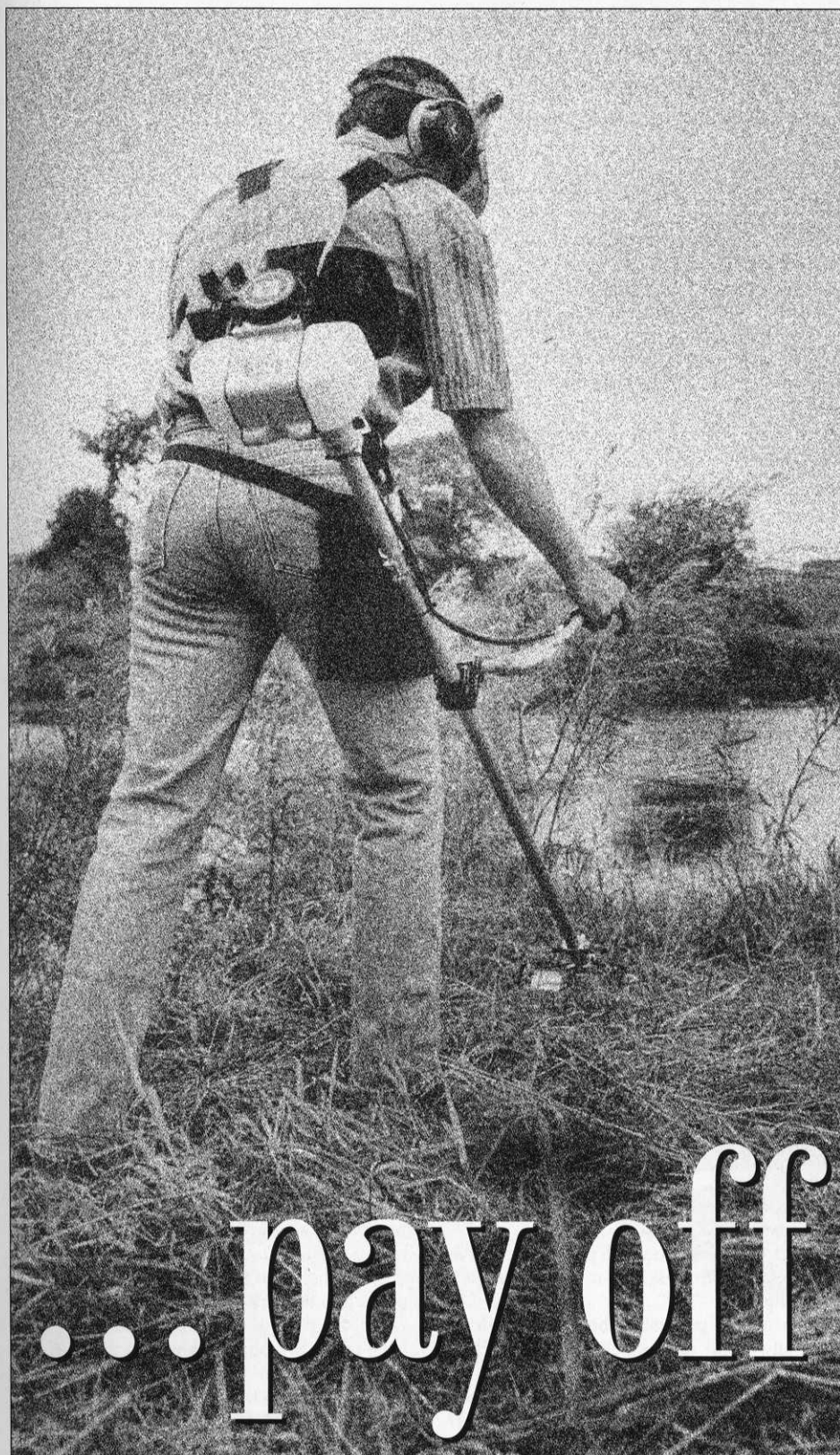


If you haven't reserved your ticket for the BTME banquet, then you'd better hurry as there are only a limited number left! Don't miss out on a five-course meal, live band and fantastic entertainment, which all makes for a fabulous evening of fun!

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# Preparation and detective work...



**Roland Taylor gives some advice on what to look out for in outdoor power equipment before committing pen to cheque book.**

**W**ith a "force six" howling round the machinery sheds and snow piling up on the fairways, now is an ideal time to do preparation and research into the equipment you are intending to buy come the spring sunshine.

A visit to BTME at Harrogate presents an ideal opportunity to investigate what exactly is available. The basic components of equipment are often very similar – same engine and drive systems. However, there can be many subtle differences. These are often hidden from view and make a machine ahead of its competition. A good sales person, or enlightening leaflets, should promote these strongly. Where this is not the case, a little detective work can come up with some interesting, beneficial features and advantages.

Let's take a look at outdoor power equipment. Most of this type of machinery is hand-held and often used for long periods of time. In the case of pumps these may have to be transported to sites. One common denominator in all this equipment is the power-to-weight ratio. In recent years there have been considerable advances made in this area. New materials and engine configurations have resulted in increased power and performance, without the accompanying weight.

Engine vibration is also critical. Modern machines will have built-in anti-vibration systems, but in order to keep levels to a minimum, it is also necessary to regularly service all machinery and ensure blade systems are sharp and correctly balanced. Low noise levels are important. There are personal precautions to take including wearing ear protectors, but also remember that noisy equipment can pollute the environment in which it is being operated.

To sum up, what you need to be looking out for is high power output, low weight with minimal vibration and noise levels, plus a well-balanced unit.

**Trimmers, brushcutters and clearing saws**  
We need to identify the difference between these three machines.

The first trimmer was built in a garage in Houston, Texas, belonging to George Ballas. His invention consisted of an electric lawn edger driving a tin can to which was fastened nylon fishing line. He called it "Weed Eater" and went on to sell millions throughout the world. There were soon plenty of competitive brands on the market. This type of machine is used mainly for cutting grass and is sold pre-

# ...pay off



# Preparation and detective work pay off

➡ dominantly in the domestic sector. The brushcutter and clearing saw evolved from forestry applications where they were used for cutting brush and later thinning and harvesting small trees. The major advantage of these units is the range of cutting heads that can be fitted, thus enabling them to be used on grass and scrub. From this, it can be seen that a brushcutter is the answer for a majority of readers. Stand a range of different branded brushcutters in a line and you could be forgiven for thinking they had all been cloned. Don't be fooled, underneath those covers there could be a world of difference. This is what you want to find out before deciding which model has the qualities you require.

To begin with, it is important to decide exactly what you are wanting to cut, as this will have a bearing on the size of engine. These start at around 25cc and go up to 100cc. Unless you have a large amount of heavy work a 35cc engine is a good starting point. The drive shaft is subjected to high torsion loads – ones manufactured from a solid, single piece of high-carbon steel are the best. The shaft is mounted in oillite rubber bushes that provide stabilising support and reduce the vibration. When it comes to a choice of handles, the cow-horn style gives better control of the machine. They make it easier to operate and are a "must" when using steel blades.

As far as the cutting head is concerned, this will depend on the type of work to be carried out. Generally, around the course, a nylon line head is suitable for most grass applications. Using the correct thickness of nylon is important as the wrong diameter will slow down the rotational speed.

This reduces the cutting efficiency, increases the chances of growth becoming tangled round the head and places greater strain on the clutch and engine. There may be odd occasions when overgrown areas such as brambles, saplings and light brushwood need to be tackled. For this type of work, a brushcutter blade is needed. These resemble a circular saw and there is a choice of either 30, 80 or 120 teeth – the more teeth the smoother the cut. All the cutting heads are interchangeable.

## Chainsaws

This is a piece of outdoor-power-equipment that many courses will not require. For anyone contemplating buying one, there are a number of features that need to be taken into consideration. These are:

- A combination of light weight and engine power.
- It needs to be well-balanced to handle.
- Is it easy to use with a fully built-in anti-vibration system?
- Does the exhaust direct heat, noise and fumes away from the operator when the saw is used at most working angles?



“An exhibition like BTME presents an ideal opportunity to ask those pertinent questions and find out what really is beneath those covers.”

- Can it be started easily and smoothly without “snatch”?
- How many rings does the piston have? Two give better compression, more power and longer life.
- What type of crankshaft bearings are fitted, especially on the drive side?
- Are they heavy-duty and oversized?
- Does it have an automatic piston-driven chain oiler?
- The length of guide bar and type of chain

need to be matched to the average diameter of timber likely to be sawn.

This will also determine the size of the power unit. There is no point in having a large powerful saw when for the majority of the time it is only being used for taking off branches. On the other hand, a small saw will not cut efficiently and excessive strain is placed on the power unit.

## Hedgecutters

Again, they are not going to be required by every course. Most of the features that one should be looking for in a petrol driven hedgecutter are the same as those for a chain-saw power unit.

As far as blades are concerned, the type, length and height of the hedges are a good guide to which one to choose.

## Pumps

When it comes to buying or hiring a pump, time can be saved and possible frustration later by preparing beforehand.

If you have a particular application then the following information will be needed to match it to a suitable pump:

What flow rate is needed? There may be times when you want to move water fast or at least keep ahead of any inflow. This is especially important when dealing with flooding. Is the suction going to be vertical and at what height will it be discharged? The length of pipe run will also be required. Pumps do not generate the same head and this has a considerable effect on the flow. You may wish to transport the pump. If so, it will need a trolley or lifting frame to make this easier. Is it going to be handled by one person? In this case the overall weight will be important. Which is the most suitable power source for your particular requirements? The siting of a pump should be as close as possible to the source of water. Then it can be determined what lengths of hose and filters are going to be required. With all the above pieces of outdoor power equipment there are some other general factors to be taken into account before deciding which one to buy.

How long is the warranty when used professionally? Often this is a different period to when the machine is used domestically. Check the availability of after-sales service, especially replacement parts. An exhibition like BTME presents an ideal opportunity to ask those pertinent questions and find out what really is beneath those covers. You can then match these to your specific requirements and decide whether it is worth seeing the machine perform on your site. The result of this type of exercise will considerably reduce the risk, long term, of ending up with a piece of outdoor equipment that fails to produce the results you expect.

A little homework now can save a lot of frustration later.



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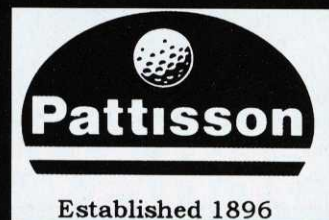
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# Time please, Gentlemen!

If your BIGGA membership expires on 31 December or 31 January, and you haven't received your membership renewal form, ring Janet Adamson now on 01347 838581

Make sure of your priority membership renewal today, otherwise you could be crying into your beer!

# IT'S COMING...



# 1998 PROMOTIONS

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## Chemical analysis results are just part of a bigger picture

Jim Arthur, in his letter (*Greenkeeper International*, November) correctly drew attention to over-fertilisation of golf greens and the dangers of uninformed soil chemical analysis. In medicine it is often said that "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing". This is also true in the case of phosphate analysis where there are two main techniques in use by laboratories which both give "correct" results but whose figures often bear little relation to one another. The interpretation of such results therefore depends on having the knowledge of the analytical technique used and its implications. Part of the role of Agronomists is to help Greenkeepers through such traps in what is becoming an increasingly technical profession.

As I am quoted by Jim Arthur as saying that STRI no longer undertakes routine analysis of soil samples as it tells us nothing, I feel that this should be set in context as the impression is created that analysis is never worthwhile, which is incorrect.

The key word in the sentence quoted is "routine". At one time many clubs with soil-based greens having adequate nutrient content and stable pH sent samples of all 18 greens to STRI each year for "routine analysis". In such cases the results told us nothing about management of the greens that we did not know already. However, this does not preclude soil analysis in problematic situations or on sand-based greens as Jim Arthur accepts. For example, an Agronomist visiting a Club for the first time may need a baseline soil analysis for future reference or to reassure the Club that the potassium and phosphate are already in abundance and that nitrogen-only fertiliser is needed. High sand content greens need constant monitoring in order to prevent violent fluctuations, especially in pH which is sensitive to nitrogen source and rate. So there may be a variety of situations in which soil chemical analysis is appropriate, indeed Jim Arthur himself used to send samples to STRI for analysis from time to time.

Therefore, the message is that for Greenkeepers and Agronomists,

chemical analysis results are just part of a much bigger picture. Fertiliser companies are trying to provide better products for Greenkeepers with commercial gain in mind and who can blame them for offering soil analysis as an additional service, gimmick or no! But it is incumbent on greenkeepers to ask difficult questions about analysis methods and their implications. If in doubt they should have samples tested by an independent laboratory and seek the advice of an Agronomist who can place the analysis results in the broader context.

**Dr P M Canaway**  
Chief Executive  
STRI

## Restoration help wanted

I write to enquire whether you might be able to help my son and I. My son, 13, is a keen engineering enthusiast and we are currently involved in the restoration of the engine from a piece of obsolete green keeping equipment kindly given to us by Hamish Brough, the greenkeeper at Broomieknowe Golf Course in Bonnyrigg, Midlothian.

The machine is a Ransomes Overgreen dating from the 1950s. The engine is running but is unfortunately missing one or two parts which we would like to obtain.

We have tried our local lawn mower specialists but without success. I wonder if anyone who reads this letter might know of an old machine lying at the back of some shed on a golf course somewhere.

If anyone can help they may contact us at the telephone numbers.

Thank you.

**William D Hendry**  
Bonnyrigg, Midlothian  
Tel: 0131 663 1785 or 0410 764 475  
or Fax: 0131 660 9671

## Fringe benefits

The recent article about Valderama (September issue) was quite informative and does, of course, bring about a reaction or two.

Two remarks by Mr Patino in particular struck me, one about the professional nature of the greenkeeping business and the second about Pencross.

The comparison of the approach towards the Golf Course Superintendents in the US and the Course Manager elsewhere shows yet again, unfortunately, that the latter has not yet made much progress, so far at least, on this side of the Atlantic. Clubs in Europe have still not got the important message that greenkeeping should be, and has to be, regarded as a highly professional and well respected profession. As soon as the overall attitude towards greenkeeping staff changes for the better, the general atmosphere and, therefore the level of maintenance of golf courses, will improve.

There is definitely a genuine relationship between the two. It is not magic – the nature of the game is common sense and respect. Greenkeeping staff are not on golf courses to be treated like clay pigeons to be shot at. They are there to do a very dedicated, professional and highly important job.

The end of the century is coming up fast. Now is the time to become really sensible about this much discussed subject. It is not too late yet to treat it in a well mannered and mature way. A new era within greenkeeping will hopefully make a good start into the new millennium.

On the matter of Pencross. This wonderful grass has kept many people awake, especially at night time over the years.

I do agree with Mr Patino when he remarks about the side-effects of this grass.

There are still people who wish to simply copy pictures they either see on TV or in reality at certain "dream courses".

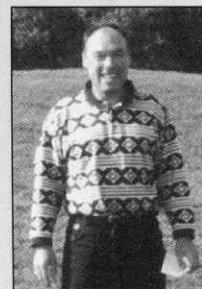
There is no secret that in a country not far from the UK excellent greens have been produced without the need to use a grass like Pencross.

There is absolutely no need to choose to go the hard way in Europe. We definitely can live without Pencross very happily.

**Frederick Ten Hage**  
The Netherlands

## 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: **Steve Panting**  
Club: **Thornbury GC**  
Position: **Student Assistant Greenkeeper**  
Age: **41**

**1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?**  
Two years

**2. What education are you currently undertaking?**  
HND Golf Course Management and NVQ 1+2

**3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?**  
Mowing Tees

**4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?**  
None

**5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?**  
Prior to becoming a greenkeeper I was a qualified nurse

**6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?**  
Robin Greaves, Head Greenkeeper Thornbury GC

**7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?**  
Improve recognition of the greenkeeper's knowledge and skills and improve facilities (mess room etc)

**8. What are your hobbies?**  
Golf, reading, gardening and football

**9. What do you get out of BIGGA?**  
Education on the art of greenkeeping

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



# ELMWOOD CREATES THE REAL THING

**Scott MacCallum travelled back to his home town in Scotland to see the new golf course which is going to give Elmwood College students the experience of training on a live course.**

**A**n oft heard criticism of greenkeeping colleges has been that it is all well and good training full time students in the ways of the job but they don't start learning properly until they're out there doing it on a live golf course when doing it right first time really matters.

In response, and to enhance their positions in what was become an increasingly competitive environment, several colleges have built their own golf courses. Among these has been Elmwood, in Cupar, Fife, which recently opened its new 18 hole course to the public.

"Any golfer coming to play Elmwood will see a lot more bodies working on the course than is normally the case. Hopefully, though, there won't be a whole class of them standing in the way," laughed Carol Borthwick, Head of the Greenkeeping Section.

"When they are working they should be spread out but there may be occasions when a lecturer is doing a theory subject and there may be 16 of them together.

"We will have an information board on the 1st tee so golfers will know what to expect and what the students might be doing. Our leaflet also says "Watch out for the green overall brigade!"

"It should be a learning experience for the golfers, too, because by telling them what we are doing, and why, they will pick up a bit about the greenkeeping side of the game."

The idea of Elmwood building its own golf course had been talked about for some time but it became more of a realistic proposition about four years ago.

"Basically greenkeeping has become very important to us and the previous Principal decided that it was going to be the showcase



**On course: Ian Hume, Michael Bonallack, Robert Burns and Stuart McDowall**

for the college. In order to fulfil that it was important that we had a working golf course," explained Carol.

Initially they looked at a nine holer but the Scottish Office is currently encouraging colleges to look at commercial activities and the viability of having 18 holes stood out as the better way of making money for the college as well as providing an excellent training resource for the students.

The land, to the west of Cupar, had previously been farmland owned by the college and the ultimate decision to go ahead was made easier by the college diversifying into game keeping and small animal training and as a result not needing so much room.

The new course was laid out by John

Salvesen of the R&A and John Quinn, previously of Alva Golf Club, was brought in as Course Manager from day one.

Work began in June '95 and the course was playable in August '97, with the official opening due to be held in May this year.

"John runs the golf course and is also heavily involved in training. He has five staff, three of whom are permanent and trained to supervisory level and the other three are on schemes of some description," said Carol.

"Those who are involved in training and assessing during the academic season revert to pure greenkeeping during the summer when the college is in recess. However, we do have the potential to take on students in the summer."

Asked the vexed question that, "as the



# 'We have somewhere in the region of three times the amount of equipment the average 18 hole course would have'

course is a training facility, won't there be areas which are not quite up to scratch because they had been worked on by someone who is learning a particular task?" Carol is upbeat.

"We are hoping that the golfers really don't notice – that's our plan. The staff will be watching over what the students are doing and hopefully there won't be too many mistakes and problems," she said, while pointing out that most golf clubs employ younger greenkeepers who learn on the job.

She is also aware of the criticism levelled at full time college courses about students gaining qualifications but not knowing one end of a mower from the other.

"We've always had a training facility at Elmwood in the past but, now that we have a real live course with real live golfers and students who will be using state-of-the-art equipment, that criticism is completely invalid."

On the subject of equipment the college put the contract for that and the irrigation system out to tender and in both cases Toro came out on top.

"We have somewhere in the region of three times the amount of equipment the average 18 hole course would have – not right across the board but, for example, we have a lot more pedestrian mowers," explained Carol, who revealed that the total cost on machinery was around £300,000.

"In future, once we have settled in, we'd like to get a permanently manned workshop and give students hands-on experience but at the moment we are avoiding this because of the problem of warranties and the importance of having the machines running."

Elmwood's Greenkeeping Section moved out of the college buildings into its own self-contained unit on an old farm site in '95 and this, together with the new course, has totally changed the way Carol and her colleagues operate.

"It's like chalk and cheese and it really makes us wonder how we ever managed before."

"Last year we had 398 greenkeepers but trying to put that number through a three hole training facility wasn't easy. Now we have no problems at all. It also means that they are not doing jobs for the sake of doing them."

"The students are involved in a real project as opposed to something which might be ripped out when they go away or re-done with the next group. Everything is new and permanent and I think that gives the students a bit more satisfaction."

One complication which Elmwood has addressed is when John

Quinn wants to do something at a particular time because it is right for the golf course but the students are required to learn something else.

"We try to dovetail as best we can but if a job needs doing, like hollow coring or top dressing, it will be all hands to the pump and it doesn't matter what else is on the time table that week."

"The key time is when we have block release students who have to do scarifying in December because that's when they are in. It doesn't happen often but when it does we will use the practice area or go back to the three holes at the college."

The first rounds of the course were played on August 2 last year and there could scarcely have been a more distinguished group of guinea pigs. They included R&A Captain, Harvey Douglas; R&A Secretary, Michael Bonalack, the architect, John Salvesen, and the Chairman of the GTC, Bob McLaren.

They reported back that the greens, tees and fairways were of an extremely high quality but that the fairways were a bit tight and the semi rough not quite wide enough.

"Because the course is on good farmland the rough grows quickly so when we arrived for the first day the rough was a bit of a jungle. We are working on refining the landing areas over the winter."

"We have planted around 9000 trees and the course is more undulating than you think when you are playing around it. There are some excellent views as you play around the course."

The college, which is one of the biggest

employers in Cupar, hopes the course will bring a few more golfers into the town, which currently boasts a golf club claiming the oldest nine hole course in the world and, incidentally, the course on which your Editor learned, after a fashion, to play golf.

One of the other benefits of the golf course is that it will get students into the way of a greenkeeping life.

"With our agriculture courses students had to get up at six o'clock and do the milking because the cows couldn't wait. We'll be in a similar situation as the golf course will need to be presented for play each day in its life. We shall perhaps operate a rota system so students will have to come in early or work at the weekend. They will get a flavour of what they are going to get in real life," explained Carol.

The onus is on the golf course, which hopefully in time will form its own club to enable members to gain handicaps and break even financially.

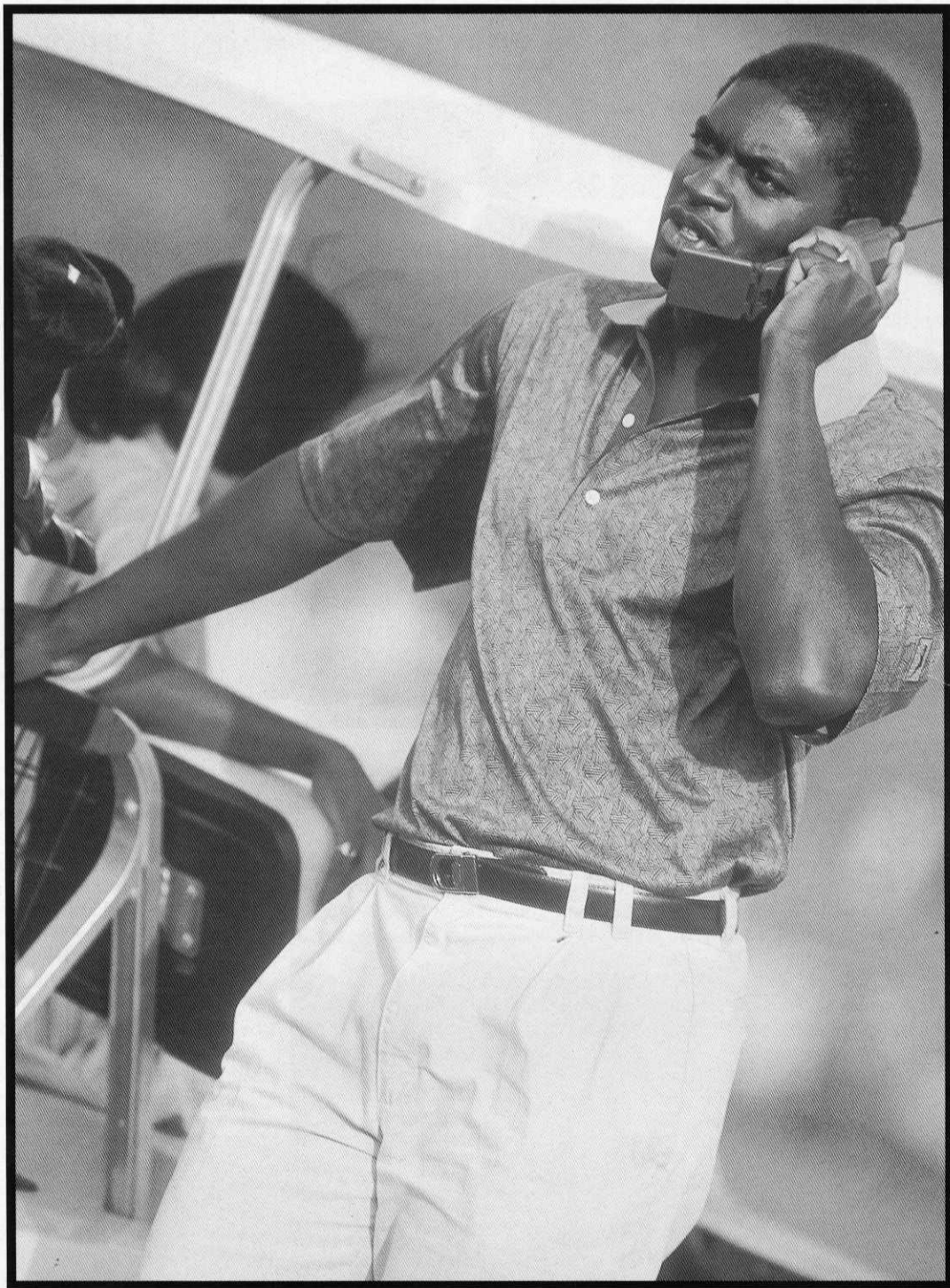
"Money is going to be the crucial thing in the next few years. Other areas of the college don't make money so the plan is that the course will be profit making... but not huge," she said, admitting that she now had two focusses – to ensure that students pass with flying colours and also that the course makes money.

"The course is something which will enhance Elmwood's reputation as a college to which students want to come and we want to be able to say to those students come to Elmwood and you can train on a real live golf course. It will help us retain our position at the top of the market."





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# Mobile revolution

**With over 2.7 million users in the UK alone, the mobile phone has become a familiar part of our working and social lives. HOWARD GRAY looks at the reasons behind the rise and rise of this unique technology.**

**F**ew modern technologies have had such a significant impact on working life as the mobile phone. Once the ultimate executive icon of the eighties, the mobile has quickly made the journey from status symbol to essential tool of business for anyone

whose work takes them out and about.

Statistics confirm just how popular mobiles have become since the launch of the cellular service in 1985. At the end of its first year in business, Cellnet (one of the two main network operators)

had just 25,000 customers – today, it has over 2.7 million. Across all the UK cellular networks, there are currently around 8 million digital and analogue mobile phone users, with over 12 million forecast by the year 2000.

What are the reasons behind



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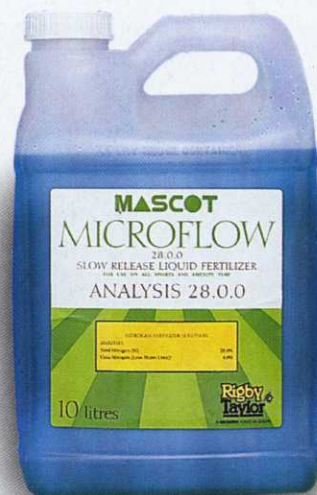
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e-mail, faxes and short text (SMS) messages from remote locations, as easily as if they were sitting at their desks.

Another popular network service is cellular messaging. Services like Cellnet Callback can be easily activated on your mobile and will answer and record all your calls when you're not able to, or when your phone is switched off. In this way you can ensure that you'll never miss an important message from a colleague or friend, and that you'll remain contactable throughout the day – even when you are out and about on the golf course.

Other factors too have contributed to the expansion of cellular usage. In real terms, the cost of buying and running a mobile has fallen dramatically since 1985. At the same time, tariffs – such as BT's Regular Caller Business tariff – have opened up mobile phone ownership to a much wider audience, allowing a cost-efficient way of being able to stay in touch.

Security is high on many people's list of good reasons to own a mobile, when travelling alone (perhaps at night) or when you are out on the golf course, a mobile is a reassuring link with the outside world.

■ To put a mobile phone in your life, please see the special offer from BT enclosed with this magazine.

8 ➔ this boom? Firstly, with the growing trend towards mobility in the workplace, the advantages of improved contactability are clear; staying in touch when on the move can have a significant effect on productivity, time management and customer service. People like yourself, who work out in the field can get on with their work and respond quickly to requests without having to keep returning to base to pick up messages. Getting the information you need, where and when you need it, results in better decision making and less wasted journeys – as well as better management control. These are the bottom-line benefits that no busy person can afford to ignore.

The last decade has also been one of technological innovation. The breakthroughs that have contributed most to rising market demand are new digital technology and the development of more advanced handsets.

Analogue was the cellular technology of the day in 1985, but the more recent digital service has quickly become the preferred choice for many (especially business) users, as it offers major benefits such as superior call quality and security, and access to a range of network services such as digital Mobile Data (ie sending and receiving data and faxes via

your mobile phone).

Digital also allows you to use your phone when abroad, in countries where the UK mobile operator has a 'roaming' agreement with a foreign digital (GSM) network. So for example, BT Mobile customers connected to Cellnet's digital service can currently make and receive calls in over 70 countries around the globe.

With around eight million international business trips now made every year from the UK, this roaming facility is widely popular with those in the tourist and leisure industry in particular, as well as a growing number of holidaymakers. If you're staying in a hotel abroad, your mobile can actually save you money – recent research commissioned by Cellnet shows that it is cheaper to phone the UK from your GSM mobile than from a hotel phone in 10 out of 11 countries surveyed.

Handsets themselves have come a long way from the chunky models of a few years ago. Thanks to advances in microchip and battery technology, most modern mobiles are small and light enough to comfortably carry around in your pocket, and have a range of features unthinkable just a few years ago. Most models offer a range of accessories, such as hands-free car kits which allow

you to use your mobile safely while driving.

Recent developments such as the Nokia 9000 Communicator have taken handsets a quantum leap forward by combining a mobile phone and data terminal in one compact unit.

However, anybody with a digital mobile can use the service by connecting their phone, via a credit-card sized data/fax card, to a laptop PC. Users are able to connect, to transmit and receive







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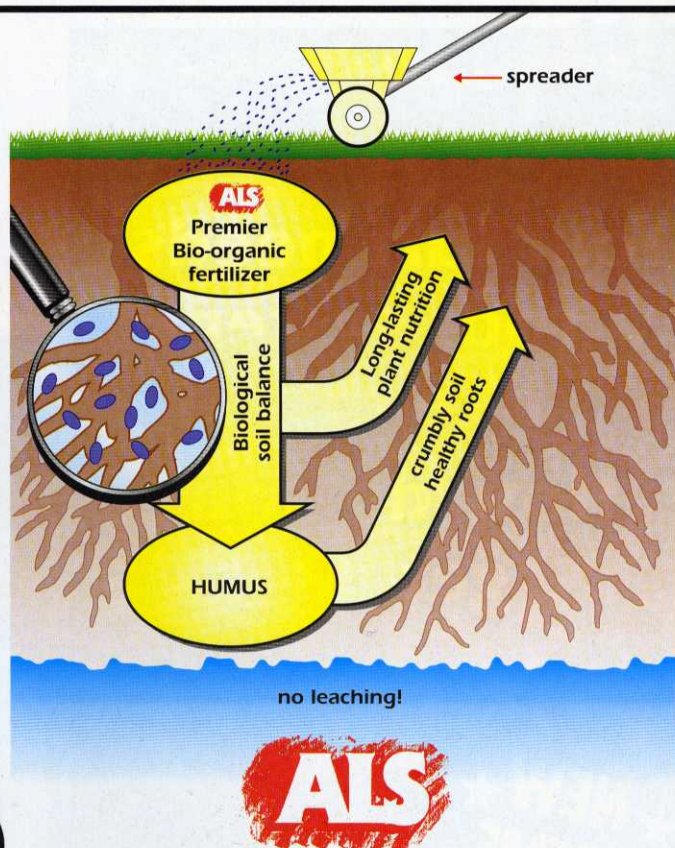
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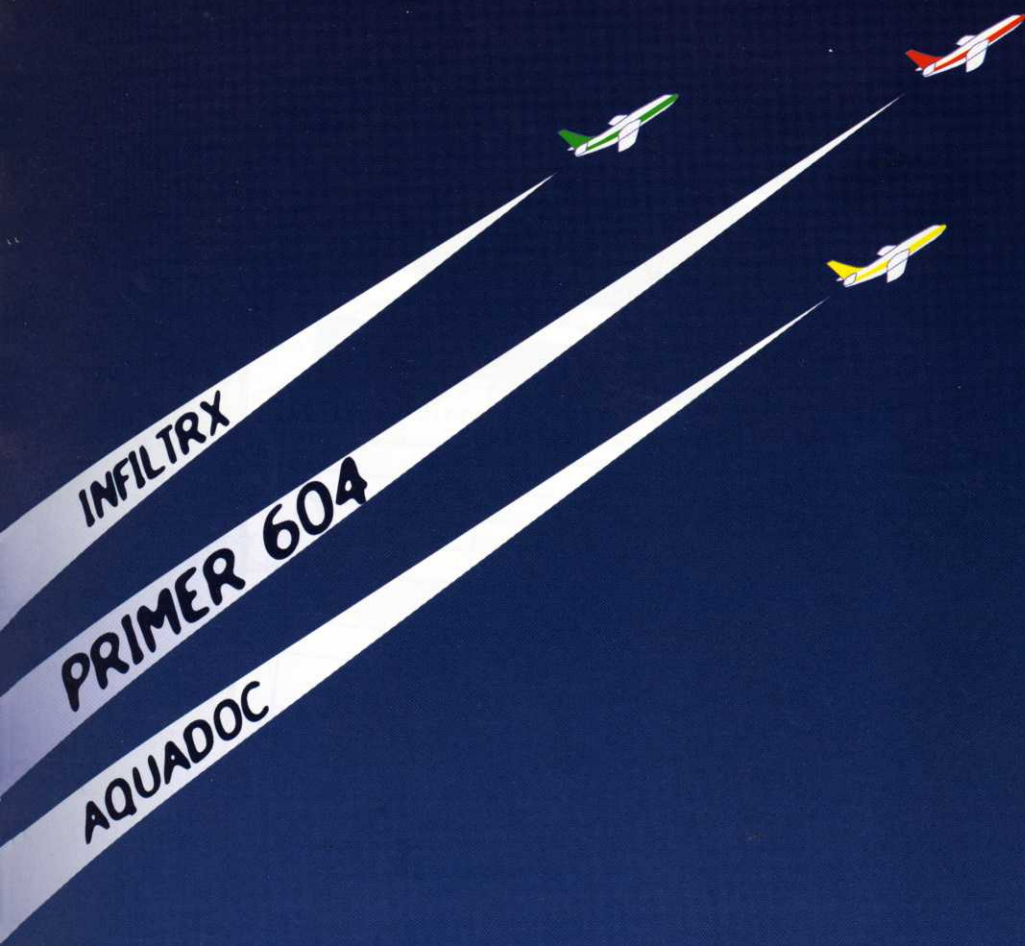
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## Which Product To Use And When !

Aim / Need	Primer 604	Primer 604 Granular	AquaDoc	InfilTRx
Creation of a uniform playing surface	✓	✓	✓	✓
Emergency treatment of dry spot			✓	✓
Make irrigation water more effective			✓	
Fast removal of standing water	✓	✓	✓	
Assist fast germination when over seeding		✓	✓	
Prepare effective divot repair mix	✓	✓	✓	✓
Improvement of grass coverage on mounds and slopes		✓		
General improvement of large areas	✓	✓	✓	
Create matrix flow of water in the root zone	✓	✓	✓	
Improve appearance of approaches and aprons	✓	✓	✓	
Minimise the visual effects of fairy ring	✓	✓		
Restore uniform quality to tees	✓	✓		
Year round maintenance				

## Application Rates and Product Benefits

### PRIMER 604 - Matrix Flow Soil Surfactant

- Safe non-ionic surfactant
- Will not scorch
- One 600L tank sprays 18 greens
- Requires no watering in
- Creates unique matrix flow

Pack size	Outer size	Pack coverage	Outer coverage
2 Litres	6x2 L	1,081 - 1,600 sq m	6,486 - 9,600 sq m
5 Litres	4x5 L	2,702 - 4,000 sq m	10,811 - 16,000 sq m
20 Litres	1x20 L	10,811 - 16,000 sq m	10,811 - 16,000 sq m
210 Litres	1x210 L	113,514 - 168,000 sq m	113,514 - 168,000 sq m
Granular	20 kg bag	1,111 - 1,667 sq m	1,111 - 1,667 sq m

#### APPLICATION PROGRAMME

Initial application pre and early Spring	185 mls in 7 litres of water per 100 sq m
Rate per 10,000 sq m (Hectare)	18.5 Litres in 700 litres of water
Monthly application 5 or 6 per season	125 mls in 7 litres of water per 100 sq m
Rate per 10,000 sq m (Hectare)	12.5 Litres in 700 litres of water
Granular spread rate	1.2 kg / 100 sq m
Regular	1.8 kg / 100 sq m
Initial	

### AQUADOC - Rapid Recovery Localised Treatment Soil Surfactant

- Does not burn
- No watering in
- Safe non-ionic surfactant

Pack size	Outer size	Pack coverage	Outer coverage
1 Litre	10x1 L	400 sq m	4,000 sq m
5 Litres	4x5 L	2,000 sq m	8,000 sq m

#### APPLICATION PROGRAMME

Apply weekly until symptoms are relieved	250 ml per 100 sq metres in 4 litres of water
--	---

### INFILTRX - Wide Area Soil Penetrant

- Does not burn
- No watering in
- Safe non-ionic surfactant

Pack size	Application rate irrigation	Application rate spray
20 or 210 Litres	2.5 L / Hectare once or twice per month	25 ml/100 sq m



# WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT THE PRIMER 604

"After applying Primer 604 there was a remarkable improvement in the greens"  
Head Greenkeeper  
Ansty Golf Club

"Drought conditions are a thing of the past and dry patch problems are no more thanks to Primer 604"

Chris Pearson,  
Head Greenkeeper  
Murcar Golf Club

"My greens this year are much better after using Primer 604. The dry patch has been reduced by 75%"

Frank Kempster  
Course Superintendent  
Glen Gorse Golf Club

"After applying Primer 604 there was a remarkable improvement in the greens"

Head Greenkeeper  
Ansty Golf Club

"Using on a monthly programme we were delighted with the results. We will use Primer 604 again next year"

Head Greenkeeper  
Sherwood Forest Golf Club

"Since I started using Primer 604, I now have 100% grass cover on all greens after many years of dry patch problems ..... I said I'd want my money back if it didn't work; I'm not asking for a penny"

Jim Paton, Head Greenkeeper  
West Kilbride Golf Club

"The best wetting agent on the market; I found it does what it promises"

Head Greenkeeper  
Erewash Valley Golf Club

"I have found Primer 604 easy to apply with no watering in even after one application"

Mr Finlay  
Port Stewart Golf Club

"It is the best wetting agent I have ever used"

John Wells  
Brockett Hall Golf Club

"Using on a monthly programme we were delighted with the results. We will use Primer 604 again next year"

Head Greenkeeper  
Sherwood Forest Golf Club

"In only half a seasons usage, I have noticed marked reductions in my dry patch. I would highly recommend Primer 604"

Paul Crouch  
Puttenham Golf Club

"Very easy to apply - the best wetting agent used on sand based greens"

Adrian Porter  
Greetham Valley Golf Club

"Primer 604 has greatly reduced labour costs due to less hand watering and has reduced the dry patch on the greens"

Ken Barber, Course Manager  
East Sussex National Golf Club

"It is the best wetting agent I have ever used"

Mr J Wells  
Brockett Hall Golf Club

"In only half a seasons usage, I have noticed marked reductions in my dry patch. I would highly recommend Primer 604"

Paul Crouch  
Puttenham Golf Club

"Very easy to apply - the best wetting agent used on sand based greens"

Adrian Porter  
Greetham Valley Golf Club

"We have had excellent results from Primer 604 during our summer spraying programme on both the championship and Burnside courses. It outperforms all previously used products"

John Philp, Links Superintendent,  
Carnoustie Golf Links

"The best wetting agent on the market; I found it does what it promises"

Head Greenkeeper  
Erewash Valley Golf Club

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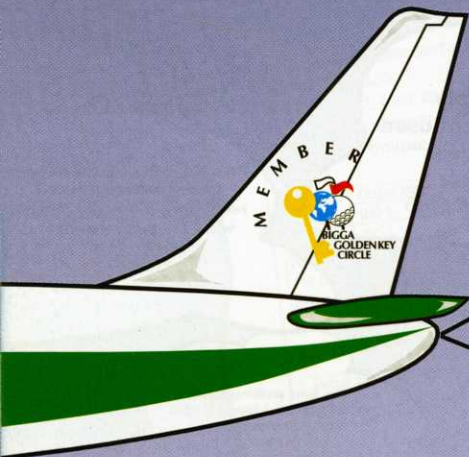


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# GREEN FINGERS

by IAN DAIR

I bet Bob Taylor is regretting what he said in the November issue of *Greenkeeper International*. In writing about the winners of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, Bob described fellow judge Keith Duff as "one of the seemingly few golfing conservationists"

The Royal Mail have made a bomb on stamps as letters of protest and denial have hurled through Bob's letter box.

I play regularly with a nature conservationist and he isn't Keith Duff. This chap can tell what bird is singing, invisible in a far away tree. He often picks up snails (they're like that, nature conservationists) and identifies, them. Funny, most snails seem to be unnamed. He once, got very excited by a black dot in the sky. A rare Pomarine Skua (so rare it's not in my bird book). I believe him – golfers always tell the truth.

Most golfers wouldn't claim this depth and breadth of knowledge, even if they had it. But most appreciate, in a general way, the wildlife that surrounds them as they go round their course. And this is my point. Every golf course plays its part in conservation. While I must applaud the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, I wouldn't like it to be taken that the runners up, or even the courses that didn't enter, are somehow unimportant.

Imagine a visitor from outer space cruising at three thousand feet in his spaceship. Spread out below is the countryside. A collection of colours. Black for roads, red for roofs, yellow for oil seed rape, blue for flax, dirty brown for set-aside. Where is the green and pleasant land? Ah, there. Standing out proudly as the last guardian of woods, meadows, ponds and long grass is – the golf course.

Every golf course is a conservation area. Courses old and new are green fingers in a land which is increasingly hostile to wildlife. If it's not already under brick and concrete it soon will be. Or if it isn't built on, it will either be under-managed and neglected or intensely over-managed eg. an arable field ploughed and treated

several times a year with chemicals. Compared to this golf courses are permanently stable, low-input environments where wildlife has a chance. Courses make up about 0.7% of Great Britain's 22 million hectares. Not much? It's double that of the RSPB's reserves And over four times the area of country parks.

But you greenkeepers know all this because you went on one of BIGGA's environmental courses or you've got the books (if you haven't, contact Aldwark Manor right away) or you've read about it in this magazine. Amid the enthusiasm I want to mention a word of caution. You might find this hard to believe, given all that has been said and written in its favour. Yet there are people who are anti-conservation. Sometimes, it's the conservationists who are their own worst enemies. I recall a seminar at Aldwark where a course designer was moaning about the difficulties of course building in Germany. There, the local conservationists tried to insist on green sand in the bunkers, to blend in better with the landscape. Then, there's the opposition right in our camp. I was at the First World Scientific Congress of Golf at St Andrews when a really, really famous American course architect described conservationists as being like water melons – green on the outside and red on the inside.

There are prejudiced and ignorant folk in all walks of life, although a higher than average percentage seem to make their way onto golf club committees. Them aside, I acknowledge that all golfers are not conservationists and all conservationists are not golfers – Bob Taylor was right there. But every greenkeeper, however humble his or her course, is a conservationist, an environmental manager looking after one of the few bits of the countryside which are green, wildlife-friendly and accessible to people, whether or not they have time to look up from the golf ball and smell the flowers. You may not have won an award from BIGGA this time round, but you get one from me

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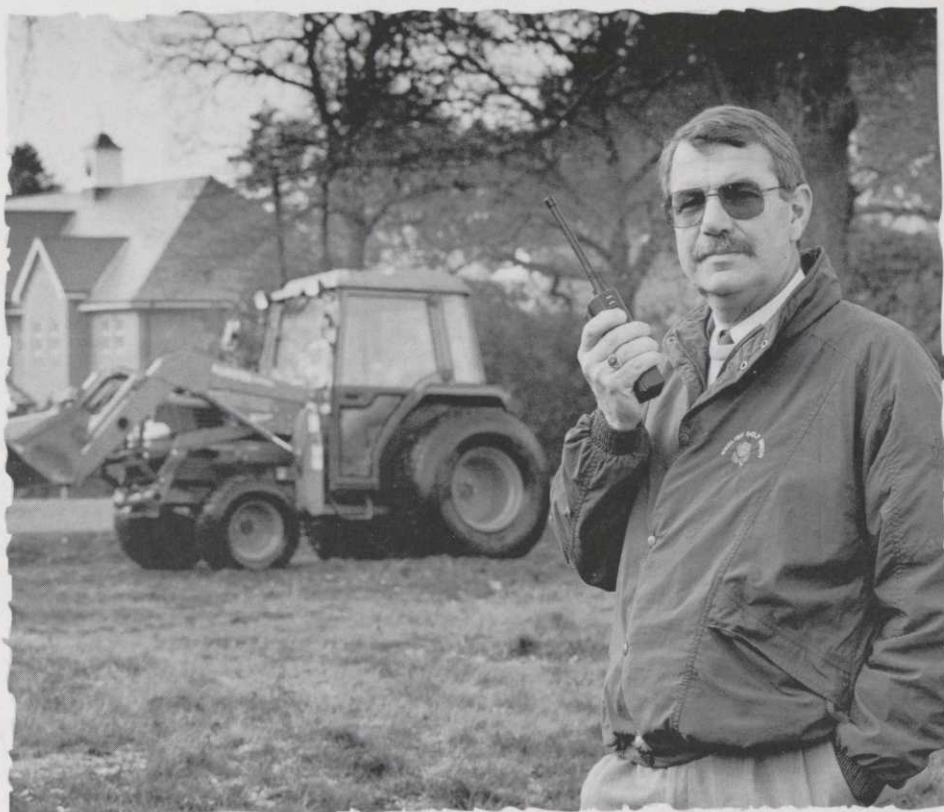
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– Peter Wisbey, Courses Manager,  
The National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa

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# Golf traffic management:



## ON THE RIGHT LINES

by MARGARET STEWART

**W**ith an average of 40,000 rounds per year now not an unusual total, golf clubs are basking in an unprecedented boom. The combination of more and more people taking early retirement, the greatly increased proportion of women players, and golf's appeal as a social focus as well as a game have meant it is riding high on a wave of popularity.

Good news for clubs, developers and suppliers, but – in a way – bad news for greenkeepers who are fighting a rearguard action against far more wear and tear than they had ever anticipated on their courses.

Most courses were originally planned around the knowledge that winter's bad weather would make the surfaces unplayable, and so give the ground a well-earned rest, while giving green-

keepers a chance to repair the season's damage.

Now, however, with year-round playing, the ground has little chance of recover, making soil compaction and pathway maintenance two issues which have taken the science of ground maintenance some time to address.

Another problem – partly due to the increased number of retired players, who wish to conserve their energy, and those who are less fit – is that many golfers are now using power caddies.

"Three out of four players use power caddies on our hilly course," says David Weston, of Enmore Golf Course near Bridgwater in Somerset.

"The combination of the battery's extra weight and the power caddy's third wheel meant that soil compaction was becoming a real problem for us.

"It was particularly noticeable on the approaches to the greens where players had to go between bunkers. We were finding that the soil was compacted to the extent that the ball's behaviour was being affected, as well of course as the ground's slope being altered from its original angle.

"We wanted to find a permanent way of reminding players to keep off these areas. Marking paint was not really the answer for this situation: the grass is cut so often there that it would have been far too time-consuming to re-mark every time we mowed."

David dealt with the situation by using one of the latest – and most ingenious – marking devices to indicate trolleys paths which avoid the edges of the greens as well as keeping players from running their caddies between the bunkers.

Developed in France, Plifix – the Bowcom Carrot – is a durable polypropylene screw set with white fibres. Once fixed into the ground and filled with natural granules, the fibres are cut off in the normal mowing operation: a permanent bright white spot is left, clearly marking areas to be avoided.

"After just a few weeks of using the Carrots, we could see that the soil was loosening up and the turf was reviving to a good springy quality," says David.

"Although they were puzzled at first, our players have responded to the Carrots and many have commented on the improved playing surface on the approach to the greens.

"Another useful benefit is the saving of the greenkeepers' time and effort, since they can simply mow, seed or scarify over the top



# Golf traffic management

'The saving in time and effort... plus the fact that it is much less painful on the greenkeepers' backs, has made this a good investment!'

of the Carrots, without having to remove and replace them as they used to do sticks."

So much for dealing with soil compaction: but there are other aspects of traffic management around the golf course which demand consideration with year-round play.

Although the tees themselves can be saved by using winter tees – often artificial turf mats – the paths leading to winter tees come under concentrated use due to the volume of traffic making its way over the same area all day long.

In addition to winter tee paths, the wear caused by trolleys and power caddies has to be distributed as evenly as possible across the fairways, meaning that, particularly on parkland courses, greenkeepers must allow the ground a chance to recover by designating routes which can be moved each week.

Since aerosol paint sprays are

in common use to mark out 'Ground Under Repair' and other messages on the course, many greenkeepers have been using aerosols to indicate pathways to follow.

However, Course Managers on courses such as Abbeydale, Sheffield, have realised that while aerosols are ideal for short lines, or intricate marking such as lettering, there are other products which are specifically designed to mark out longer lines.

"A little lateral thought made us realise that a sports pitch line-marking machine would do the job faster and better," explains John Coleman, Abbeydale's Course Manager. "That being so, we have now bought a three-wheeled line marking machine.

"It's unique, and ideal for our purposes since the paint spray is driven by the front wheel, meaning that we can lift it up and use it like a wheelbarrow when we



need to manoeuvre round tight corners.

"Apart from that, it is light and stable with a sturdy chassis, so as well as marking long straight lines last, its pneumatic tyres are not adding to our problems. Another plus for us is that the paint comes in sealed buckets, so doesn't slop out when we are going up or down slopes.

"The saving in time and effort, the cash savings we are making by using a water-based line-marking paint, plus the fact that it is much less painful on the greenkeepers' backs, has made this a good investment!"

The chief difficulty in managing

traffic on the golf course is a matter of finding an approach which will be clear and easy to follow, then in persuading players to respond to the request. It's not always easy to make people recognise that what they are being asked to do is for their own long-term benefit, by protecting the course.

However, it's a problem which greenkeepers must address if they are to maintain a playing surface which will meet the demands of all-weather golf: new ideas and strategies such as these will soon come to be adopted by more and more courses as golf becomes ever more popular.

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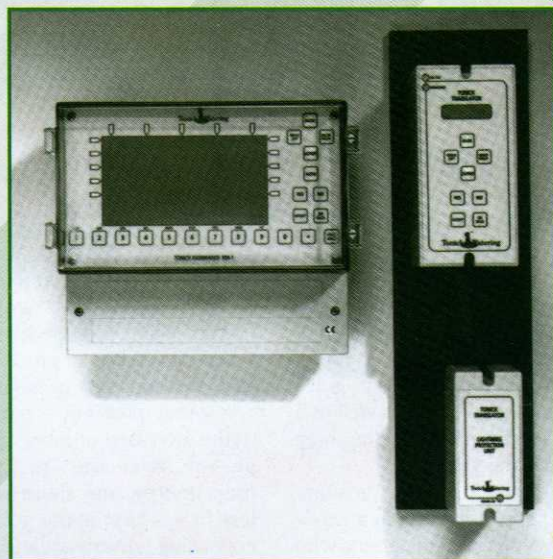
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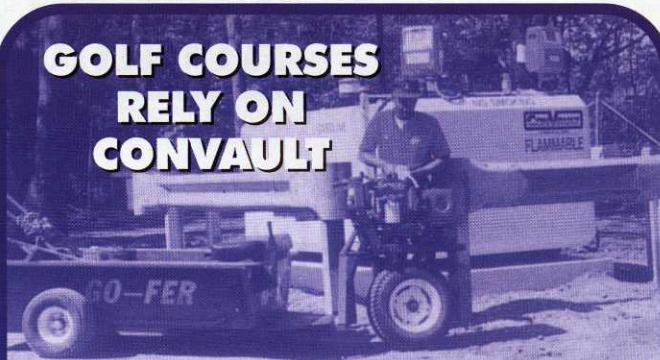
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# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## SCOTTISH REGION

Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

### Central

Well, we are into another year and hopefully everyone has recovered from the festive activities and getting ready for another season on the course... or are you stuck in the shed painting things for the umpteenth time because of the weather? There's not a great deal happening with regards to Section activities at the moment but it won't be long before we are back into the swing of things.

Everyone should have received notice of the visit to Scottish Grass Machinery's new premises at Inverkeithing next month and the visit to Stewart's top dressing plant and premises at Dalkeith in March. As both these companies are making their facilities available to us on those days please give them and YOUR Section some support. If you wish you are welcome to bring along a member of your club committee and it will give them an insight into a side of the golf course which they probably give little thought to.

Another date for your diary is the Spring Tournament/Ritefeed qualifying event which will be held by courtesy of Ladybank GC on Tuesday April 28 so if you wish to participate in this event please return your form as soon as possible. At the time of writing I have not had confirmation of the venue for the Autumn Tournament but as soon as I know I will let you know.

We extend a welcome return to the Section to Duncan Peddie, of Alloa GC, and we also welcome new members Ethna Canniffe, Stephen Hain and Callum Munro, all from Elmwood College.

No doubt there will be a large contingent of Central Section members descending the BTME at Harrogate this month when I am sure everyone will enjoy the seminars and exhibition, not to mention the nightly tours of the Harrogate refreshment areas! Section members Stuart Sime and Kenny Duncan will be attending as part of their Patron's Award and with a bit of luck they may share their experiences with us in next month's magazine, that's if they can remember what happened



during the week there.

It would appear that a certain Andy O'Hara has gained nationwide fame (or is it notoriety?) regarding his exploits in the sporting world as everywhere he goes he is asked if he is THE Andy O'Hara whose name keeps appearing in the magazine! Well this may be the last you will hear of him (for a while anyway) as he has vowed to get revenge on me for making him the topic of conversation across the country, but if you wish to join the Andy O'Hara Fan Club he can be contacted c/o Leven Links, Fife!

Well, that's all folks! See you next month unless I happen to meet up with a certain Section member before then.  
John Crawford

### North

The Section AGM was held at Macdonald GC, Ellon preceded by the annual Chairman versus Vice-Chairman golf match. The weather was good and 25 members contested a close fought match with Chairman Hugh McLatchie's team triumphing by 3 matches to 2 with one match halved. Thanks to John Geddes and his staff for the great condition of the course and the bar and catering staff for fulfilling our inner needs. Thanks also to Alex Cruickshank, of Daval Products, for presenting a trophy to the winning team at this competition.

There were two committee members stepping down this year, Sam Morrison and Andy Wilson. Sam, as you already know, has left the Section and Andy has also moved on. He has left Letham Grange to work at Carnoustie. We wish both all the best and thank them for their contribution to the Committee over the years.

Ian Gunn, Strathpeffer, has joined the committee. The committee and their duties etc are as follows:- Chairman - Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead, 01779 470173; Vice-Chairman, Magazine and Education - Iain Macleod, Tain, 01862 894402; Secretary - Douglas Duguid, Westhill, 01224 740329; Treasurer - Wilson Morrison, Alford, 01224 826289; Raffles - Kevin Pearce, Inverurie, 01467 625125 and John Geddes, Ellon, 01358 723034; Outings and Handicaps - Stephen Sullivan, Craigie Hill,

01738 643778 and Iain Gunn, Strathpeffer, 01997 421219 and last but not least 200 Club - Stewart McBain, Aberdeen, 01224 733347.

The Section is in a good financial position and running smoothly. We have decided to donate £1000 to the new BIGGA Headquarters fund and plan to have Hugh McLatchie hand over the cheque at BTME this month. Patron Winner Bradley Wood, Westhill, was unable to take up the offer of a trip to BTME so John Morton, Alford, will take his place.

We had to cancel the Section dinner due to a poor response and lost our deposit. Next year's outings are Fortrose and Rosemarkie in May and Alford in September, more details to follow.

We are also planning a bus trip to the Stewart's turf farm, anyone interested get in touch with Dougal now. There are still some library books missing, anyone who can help find them please get in touch.

We are planning a conference for November this year, anyone with ideas for speakers please let me know as soon as possible. This is your chance to choose the programme that you would like to see on the day.

Congratulations to Andrew Macrae, who moves from Royal Dornoch to be Head Greenkeeper at nearby Golspie where he hails from.

The final four winners in our 200 Club were as follows:- September £30 - Gordon Mackie, Edzell; October £30 - Michael Clar, Kingussie; November £30 - Iain Gunn, Strathpeffer; December £100 - Alex Cruickshank, Ayr. The 200 Club was a great success again with all tickets sold so let's keep the trend going this year to raise funds for the Section.

Finally, I hope to see as many Section members as possible at BTME this month as well as all old friends for what promises to be another great week. One of the highlights must surely be David MacIndoe's talk during the Seminar programme. I can hardly wait.

See you all at Harrogate.  
Iain Macleod

### West

A Happy New Year to all West Section members - may we have as

good a season as last year. For my sins (of which there are plenty) I now take over the reins as Chairman of your Section. I hope everything runs smoothly. I would like to thank all the committee members on behalf of John Scott for their help last year and to John we would like to say a big thank you for your efforts during the year. A lot of John's time was spent on the phone smoothing things over and getting people to commit themselves in different ways. Well done John we wish you well.

Now I have your attention - where are all the members, are you speechless or just not interested with what is going on. We as a committee try to organise events to satisfy a need but the reaction are less than enthusiastic. Feedback would be appreciated for suggestions, comments, complaints or even just a good argument then contact me at 0141 942 5554. Last year I received not a single call about individual personal points of interest, thank god for trade members. Well, now I've said my piece.

A report on events recently - the Gentlemen's night was a success from all accounts with some 35 people from our Section in attendance being entertained by two very pleasant young ladies. Derek Wilson, from the Ayrshire Section, has to be thanked for his efforts, glad the night went well. Our apologies to those who didn't get enough of the finger food - we will endeavour to rectify the savagery in future.

Now for the Annual Dinner at the Admiral Bar. On the night a poor turn out was in evidence but other than the short delays the evening was successful. The comedian, Mike Cash, spoke fast and furiously - if you turned your head the punchline was gone - we thank him for his one liners. The meal was well presented - home style cooking and very enjoyable. Thanks to the main organisers for the evening, Brian Hillan and Sandy Bulloch for their efforts. Thanks also to the sponsors of raffle prizes, this was much appreciated helping towards the funds for the eventing and for the enjoyment of those in attendance. Next year a change could be in the offing, suggestions are welcome.



Within the next few weeks it is intended to supply, 'as with last year, a note on all events run by the Section. All football connections are to be organised by Brian Hillan, of Drumpellier GC – those interested should contact him on 01236 434323.

That's all folks – please contact me with your information or ideas.

Stuart Taylor

## **NORTHERN REGION**

Douglas Bell  
Tel: 0151 431 0433

### **North West**

The Christmas golf competition was played at Wilmslow GC, on November 27, and was well attended with 44 competitors including one or two guests. After a wet start to the day the light rain stopped before the first game out at 10am and although the day remained overcast everybody completed their game in dry conditions. The course was in great condition for the time of the year thanks to Steve Oultram and his staff and although he had us playing off the "Open qualifier" tees some reasonable scores were returned. The first and second places were won by Andrew Cornes and Bill Merritt but everybody collected a prize even if it was their own bottle. Many thanks to the trade who kindly donated prizes for the Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive competitions. These companies were Farmura, Burrows, Pattissons, Ritefeed, Richard Campey, Martin Bros and Acorn UK. The golf was followed by the Annual General Meeting which was attended by 27 members. The statement of accounts was accepted by the membership and the committee who had pledged to stand for a further year were voted on en-bloc. Chris Sheehan stood down from being Chairman for the last two years and handed over the chairmanship to Steve Oultram. The North West Section committee are Chairman – Steve Oultram, Vice Chairman – Alec Davies, Secretary – Bert Cross, Treasurer – Paul Pearce, Committee members – Chris Sheehan, Bill Merritt and Lyndon Smith.

The day was rounded off with a lovely Christmas dinner, mince pies and Christmas pudding. I would like to thank Wilmslow GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course and their facilities, Steve Oultram and his staff for starting work in the dark, Gwen Chason for a lovely meal and David for providing a great bar service and being so patient with the late gang.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and any news, please ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross



## **Sheffield**

Happy New Year to you all!

On November 6 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC followed by our Annual General Meeting.

Our thanks go to Robert Laycock, Turf Consultant, for giving us a very interesting lecture on grass tissue analysis which was enjoyed by all our members present.

After the lecture we were introduced to our new Regional Administrator, Douglas Bell, who gave a short speech on what he hopes to achieve for the Northern Region. Then we held our AGM which was attended by quite a lot of our members but not everyone who attended the lecture.

It was passed that the committee stayed the same, apart from Steve Hurd who stood down. I would like to thank Steve on behalf of the Section for all the work he did on the committee. It was proposed and passed that David Chappell be elected to the committee. The committee is as follows:- President – Ken Arnold, Chairman – Neil Maltby, Treasurer/Vice Chairman – David Milbourne, Secretary – Ron Ullathorne, Competition Secretary – Barry Heaney, Committee Members – Steve Currie, Jeremy Duffield, David Chappell and John Lax.

Thanks also to Amenity Turf supplies for providing the raffle prizes, thanks Steve.

Congratulations go to Paul Neve who recently played in the Kubota Challenge and won both of his matches but unfortunately the greenkeepers came 3rd, well done Paul.

On November 24 we held our Christmas competition at Rotherham GC and our thanks go to Rotherham for giving us courtesy of their course. It was a very cloudy day but fortunately it stayed dry and was enjoyed by everyone who played. Our thanks go to David Chappell and his staff for the excellent condition of the course in such wet weather – well done Dave! Our thanks also go to the Steward and his staff for providing an excellent Christmas dinner which was enjoyed by everyone.

Our thanks also to Brian Booth of Rigby Taylors for being the main sponsor of the competition and providing some excellent prizes. Thanks also to the other trade members who provided prizes including Gem, Purdys, Aitkens, Henton and Chattels and Amenity Turf supplies. Some good golf was played and congratulations go to Colin Hopper who with 22 pts won the competition, well done Colin! The results were:- 1. C Hopper; 2. C Jessop; 3. S Currie; 4. D Chappell; 5. N Maltby.

The winner of the trade prize was Peter Fell, well done Pete!

Our next lecture will be on February 5 at Rotherham GC at 2.30 pm and will be given by Neil Baldwin, from Service Chemicals, (ex STRI).

John Lax

## **North Wales**

Well this month has been very quiet, yet again. We must all be very content in our work and lives and nothing must have happened in the whole of the Section as again no-one has phoned with any information.

The Christmas competition and AGM was held on December 3 at Northop Country Park. Once again there was an excellent turnout with nearly 80 members and guests taking part in the golfing festivities, however I can't give you the results because of a stewards inquiry – too much Christmas spirit was it Terry?

I would like to express our thanks to Northop Country Park for inviting us, Ian and his team for the presentation of the course, after what had been atrocious weather conditions in the lead up to the event, and the Captain for presenting the prizes.

The AGM was attended by 33 members as well as Doug Bell, our Regional Administrator. I took the Chair in my role as acting Chairman and spoke about the events of the past 12 months. We have a situation in our Section where our golf and educational events are very well supported compared to most other Sections considering our membership is relatively small, but we didn't get one single form returned for standing for committee work. At the meeting Gary Edwards, of Old Colwyn, put himself forward to take on the Secretary's duties and he can be assured of all the help possible from the rest of the committee. However, we still need other members willing to take on committee roles, basically we need a Vice Everything to keep continuity. It is hugely important or the Section could, in a worst case scenario cease to exist! As I have stated before it is YOUR Section and it needs YOUR input.

The committee as it stands is David Goodridge, Chairman; Gary Edwards, Secretary; Trevor Johnstone, Treasurer; Terry Evans, Match Secretary; Stuart McCall, Vice nearly everything!; Carl Price and Alan Kift. Jeremy Williams and Simon Shakespeare have also stated that they will serve to learn the ropes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Terry Adamson for everything he has done for the Section over all the years, he has effectively been the main contact

point for all the membership and nothing has every seemed too much trouble. Without him the running of the Section would have been an awful lot harder. Once again thanks Terry.

Trade members are invaluable to us as representatives get around all the clubs and can pick up and relay information quickly and are a genuine asset so if any one of you out there fancies adding to your workload the committee would love to hear from you.

I would just like to finish by thanking the rest of the committee for all the work done over the past difficult 12 months and Doug Bell who, since his appointment has done an excellent job, and helped guide me especially, because God, I need it!

Dave Goodridge

## **Cleveland**

B Skeen, Horticultural Machinery Ltd, has gone out of business. Brian and Freda have been main agents and distributors for grass machinery companies for 30 years and have built up the biggest and most modern business in the North East. A major new development some years ago was followed by local authorities having to go out to contractors for tenders and these contractors took over a lot of councils maintenance work. This reduced the company's annual turnover and with increased market competition eventually led Brian and Freda to decide that enough was enough and ceased trading in October 1997. We greenkeepers have a lot to thank Brian and Freda for, they were always willing to support us and give us technical information about equipment before purchase and after. Our sincere thanks go to Brian and Freda for not only support but help. We wish you both good health and hope you do enjoy the retirement you both so richly deserve.

Ian White, from Middlesbrough Municipal GC; Geoff Ward, from Blackwell Grange GC, and Mick Dawson, from Eaglescliffe GC, are all on Level 4 NVQ Greenkeeping at Askham Bryan College and we wish them well.

See you all at Harrogate.  
Bruce Burnell

## **MIDLAND REGION**

Peter Larter  
Tel: 01480 437507

### **Midland**

I would like to start by wishing everybody all the best for the New Year ahead and trust all of you had an enjoyable Christmas. We can now look ahead to the annual trip to Harrogate and BTME and the usual high quality of the show and hospitality.





There are some final winners of 97 which I need to mention and congratulate them on their achievements, these are as follows:- Ritefeed single's winner is Rob Shaw who beat Paul Loffman in the final at Little Aston. Rigby Taylor double's winner's are Steve Wood and Mike Hughes, who beat Nigel Couchman and Rob Shaw in the final at Woburn. The Gross Cup was won by Tony Cheese and the Nett Cup was won by Martin Jones.

As this report has been written in November I have no details of new committee members and of the tournaments for 98 so I will keep you informed on these matters and indeed any other matters of interest in future reports and again I would appreciate any news or stories which you have which I can put into this report, my home number is 01384 292396.

Finally I would like to introduce some more new members – Ronald Wheeler, Benn Chamberlain, Malcolm Mitchell, Stephen Bernhard, Simon Hardman, Lee Mole, Matthew Turner, Nicholas Clarke and Jason Molesworth. Jonathan Wood

#### East Midlands

This year's AGM was held at Greetham Valley, in Rutland, on Bonfire night. Although only 25 greenkeepers were present the meeting was one of our longest at 57 minutes. I would like to thank our retiring Chairman, Tim Allard, for his two years in office and also welcome our new Chairman, Dave Leatherland. The Vice Chairman is now Gavin Robson and Richard Barker and myself remain as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. The Section also welcomes Kevin Davis and Steven Heap to the committee and would like to thank our retiring committee members Pete Forshaw and Paul Tatlow for all their work.

Before the AGM the day started with a Texas Scramble format golf competition. No fireworks

## Around the Green



appeared with the scores although every score was just below par, the results were as follows:- 1. S. Goode, G. Robson, P. Fell, 64.4; 2. A. Bindley, D. Leatherland, T. Allard, 64.8; 3. K. Davis, G. Arnold, A. Mellow, 64.8. Our gratitude is owed once again to Vitax Ltd for providing again an excellent prize table. Thanks also should be extended to Greetham Valley for courtesy of their fine golf course which was in super condition. Also thanks to the steward and stewardess for a great meal.

Next year's AGM will be held at Lutterworth GC, on November 13, at 4.30 pm.

This year's Regional Seminar, held at The Saints Rugby Club, Northampton, was very well supported with over 80 delegates attending an excellent day. I would like to thank all the companies for their support to the seminar and to thank our Regional Administrator for all his great work on the day.

My two years as Regional Chairman have now elapsed and this position will go to the Vice Chairman, David Walden, at the Region's next meeting. I have had two really enjoyable years in this role, firstly being involved in the appointment of our Regional Administrator, judging greenkeepers and their courses for the 1996 Miracle award and representing the Region in the 1997 Kubota Golf Challenge at the Belfry. I would like to wish David well in his role as Chairman.

Antony Bindley

#### B B & O

The last golfing event of the season was held at Richings Park GC back in November. Although the

weather was miserable the day was enjoyed by all with some very good scores posted. There were 13 golf clubs represented in teams of three but unfortunately the prizes were shared by only two clubs, Burnham and Beaconsfield:- 1. N. Storey, J. Brooks & D. Manning, 83 pts; 2. B. Payne, B. Payne (jnr) & D. Schillaci, 79 pts; 3. C. Lillitou, M. Skelton & B. Paterson, 79 pts. Nearest the Pin – B. Payne; Longest Drive – M. Skelton.

Thanks to GEM Products for providing the wonderful prizes and thanks to Bernie for his contributions once again. Many thanks to Richings Park for their hospitality on the day – the food was first class!

Congratulations to Phil Russell and his team for providing a superb test of golf, all who played were very complimentary.

The AGM was supposed to follow the golf but unfortunately had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. It is planned to send out a Chairman's report in the coming weeks with a balance of our account to date. In the meantime if anybody has any comments please put pen to paper to phone me on 01491 578147.

I would like to thank all on the committee for their continued support this past year, all of whom have given up their valuable time to attend various meetings.

Finally we would like to spread the golf days around the Section so if you fancy hosting one of these prestigious events then please let me know as soon as possible.

Lindsay T Anderson

#### SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

#### Sussex

Well, Christmas is over and the lucky ones are looking forward to a week in Harrogate, which if it is anything like last year, it will be a week to remember.



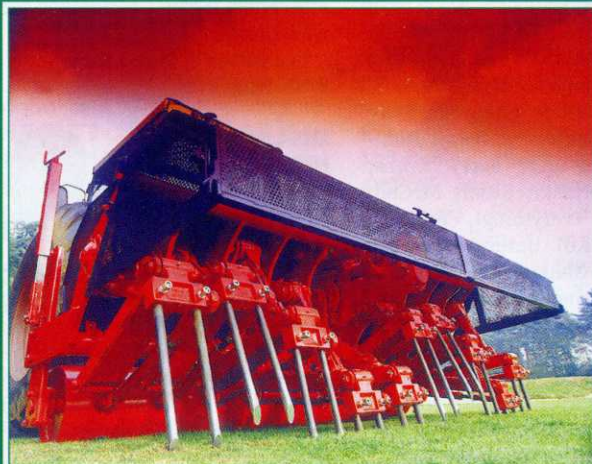
The AGM was held at Haywards Heath GC again on Wednesday, November 19. A total of 29 members attended which is an improvement on last year but still low considering there are 190 members. As stated in the last write up there are a few changes to the committee. Regretably, Chris Allen has decided to step down as Vice Chairman due to ill health. Raymond Day has also asked to be replaced after six years as Secretary. Stefan Antolik has vacated the position of minute/match secretary.

Members voted in are Jon Hill as Vice Chairman, Stefan Antolik as Secretary and Neil Cleverley as Match Secretary. There have been other members voted on to the committee and I will let you know their names next time. Can I pass on our thanks to committee members past and present for all their efforts and hard work. Special thanks to Sue Antolik for all the work and support she has given to Stefan and the Section over the past years.

There were some interesting discussions during the meeting including ideas for different types of social events to include non-golfing members of the Section, plus a possible open forum on education to be attended by representatives of local colleges. You will be notified of these when they are arranged. Hopefully we can attract some new faces to these events.

During the meeting Daniel Negus, of Wellington GC, informed us of the tragic death of Ben Deacon in a road accident. Ben, who was only 21, had worked at Singing Hills and Hassocks. Can I pass on our sympathy to Ben's family and friends, he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

By the time you read this article, the Turkey Trot at Littlehampton will have been held. The results will be printed next month. The two best eclectic scores for the season, qualifying for free



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entry to the competition are Jon Hill and Chris Reed.

If there are any Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers not at the AGM who are interested in gaining their D32/33 Assessor Training Award they can get more information by ringing 01323 763817.

The Spring meeting will be held at the Dyke GC and Slinfold Park GC will host the Summer meeting. We still need a venue for the Autumn meeting. If you can help us with this or have anything you want included in this column, please contact me on 01403 731567 (home) or 0589 531630 (mobile).

Colin Cathie

## Essex

The Essex Section held their golf day and AGM on December 3, at Orsett GC. Thanks to Carl for the course and the golf club for allowing us to play – after snow the day before the course was in good condition. Thanks to Banks Amenity for the prizes for the day. Richard Price won first prize on a countback from Andy Sheehan, both having 39 points, but every player won a prize including: Guest Prize – John Taylor; Trade Prize – Edward Clarkson; Longest Drive – Richard Pride; Nearest the Pin – Lee Adams; Booby Prize (1 point!) – Andrew Wharton. Thanks to the trade who donated raffle prizes namely Rigby Taylor, Avoncrop Amenity, Tuckwells, Parker Hart, Grass Roots Trading, Edward Clarkson, Bourne Amenity, CMW and the Greenkeeping Supply Company. After the golf and prize giving we had a splendid dinner thanks to the caterers.

The AGM started at 6 pm. It was a very well organised affair and thanks go to the Chairman. A new committee was formed which is:- President – David Wells, Vice President – Andy Sheehan, Chairman – Carl Crocher, Secretary – Martin Forrester, Treasurer – Richard Pride, Education Officer –

Reg Hooker, Handicap Secretary – Mick Fance, Scribe – David Wells, Committee members – John Selwood and Steve Cox.

With a healthy bank balance we should have a good year. The golf days for next year are:- April – Burnham-on-Crouch GC; June 2 – Channels GC; August 7 – Thorpe Hall GC; August 26 – Stoke-by-Nayland GC (with East Anglian Section); October 7 – Maylands GC; December – Orsett GC and AGM. Our four major winners for last year were Richard Pride, Chris Ward, Andy Sheehan and Andy Toomes. The Golfer of the Year was John Selwood – well played you lot!

Just a few words about education in the Essex Section. Writtle College held its second meeting of the Sportsturf and Greenkeeping Industrial Advisory Panel on December 1 1997. The set up of the Panel has given vital feedback to Writtle College from us, the industry, on how we would like to see education progress. Topics for discussion included improvements to increase the success of the NVQ Level Two and the new HNC Sportsturf Science which can include NVQ 3 Sports Turf Maintenance.

For those who are looking to widen and increase their knowledge in grass science the HNC is ideal. You can join at any time as it is broken up into modules. For more details phone Stewart Brown, at Writtle College, on 01245 420705.

The education dates for 1998 are Tuesday February 3, Tuesday March 27 and Wednesday November 4, all at Writtle College in the main building, room L60 commencing at 7.30 pm.

There is also a one day supervisory course with Frank Newberry (limited to 12 places) on Tuesday March 10 at Stock Brook Manor GC.

That's about all for 1997. Hope you all had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dave Wells

## London

Our Turkey Trot and AGM was held at Porters Park GC in November. The course was in excellent condition and I would like to thank Martin Smith and his staff for preparing the course. The rainfall did however cause a few problems for some of us! The overall winner for the event was Darren Jones with 39 points. In second place with 37 points was David Badham and in third spot with 35 points was Roger Mace. The result of the King Pin Challenge was Paul Burnham in first place with Peter Creeber in second and Roger Mace in third. I would like to thank Kings for their support throughout the year and for all their help at our events. The management at Porters Park GC must be congratulated for their hospitality and excellent catering and bar facilities. The golf events have all gone well this year with excellent support from the trade and indeed our members. Our fixtures for the coming year will be posted as soon as possible.

The AGM went very well with the committee being voted back en bloc. Our Regional Administrator, Derek Farrington, was present and I would like to thank him for attending. This year I will be handling over the Around the Green Section report to Peter Hopkinson, from Browns. He has kindly come forward to take over this duty.

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year from the committee and look forward to seeing you all in the coming year. Tony Dunstan

## SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

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## Devon and Cornwall

A happy new year to you all.

I hope you have had an enjoyable festive season which has recharged your batteries for another challenging year ahead.

The Section's first meeting of



the new year will be the Barenbrug Seeds meeting and will be held at Bude & North Cornwall GC, on Wednesday, February 4. The day will be sponsored by Barenbrug and hopefully the day will have something for you all. In the morning there will be a choice of 18 hole golf competition with the format being St Andrews foursomes or a workshop on Business Planning for Greenkeeping. Our afternoon seminar will continue on the theme of the morning's workshop.

Our Devon Garden Machinery sponsored meeting was held at Woodbury Park GC, on Wednesday, November 12. This meeting was also the Section's AGM. As always the day started with our golfing members competing for the Toro Trophy which was played in a foursome format. Our non-golfing members were treated to an excellent guided tour of the course by Course Manager, Jeff Mills, nice to see you again Jeff!

After an excellent lunch Alan Dommett, from Devon Garden Machinery, presented the prizes on behalf of Toro and DGM and gave a short presentation on his Company. The results were:- 1. Richard Parker, Ilfracombe, & Andy Parker, Crediton, 36 pts; 2. Jonathan Mansell & Chenery, Woodbury, 34 pts; 3. Eric Barber & Nick Rourke, Warren, 34 pts.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsors, Devon Garden Machinery, for their support and to Mr Mansell for allowing our Section use of his excellent facilities and to all the staff at Woodbury for making the Section so welcome. Special thanks must go to my old friend, Jeff Mills, and his crew who had the course in superb condition.

The Section's AGM followed the presentation. The Secretary opened his report with the balance sheet for the year ending September 30 1997 and advised member present that the Section had made a slight profit over the

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*Comment From Walter Woods*

*St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor*

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financial year of £116.16. The Secretary felt that the balance sheet was self explanatory and invited any questions from members present, there were none.

The approval of the balance sheet was proposed by A. Parker and seconded by C. Gadsby and approved by those present.

The Secretary continued his report by informing members that he had resigned as Chairman of the Region with effect from November 11 1997. He also informed members present that he did not wish to hold any political position within BIGGA for the foreseeable future, but if the membership present wished he would like to continue to administer the Section affairs. He continued by thanking Section Chairman, Bill Mitchell, for his support over those difficult months and for his shoulder to cry on and to the many members who have supported him.

The Secretary felt that the Association must continue to go forward to achieve its main aim, which is education for all greenkeepers from Course Manager to trainee. This can only help greenkeeping to continue to become more professional and he pleaded with members present not to allow our Association to become just a golfing society as we would quickly lose our credibility.

The Secretary welcomed the Region's Administrator to the meeting. He explained that Paula had taken on the difficult task of continuing the excellent work Gordon and Marion Child had achieved over the last ten years but was glad to say that Paula has continued the good work and with her part-time appointment Paula has had more time to visit golf clubs to meet members at their place of work. He hoped Paula would receive the support that members had shown to Gordon and Marion.

The Chairman opened his report by congratulating T. Pipe on representing the Section in

## Around the Green



this year's Kubota competition at The Belfry. He expressed his disappointment that no summer meetings took place and with the input of the Section Committee.

The Chairman moved on to the Section Administrator and recommended to members present that they should vote R. Whyman back into office. The Chairman informed members that R. Whyman is without doubt the finest Section Administrator and is held in high esteem by HQ. The Chairman then turned to the sad part of the report for him as he informed members present that he had resigned from his position on the Regional Board and as Chairman of Section due to the dispute which the Secretary had mentioned in his report. It had been a great honour for him to hold these positions within BIGGA. He wished BIGGA and the Section the very best of luck for the future and hoped that his successor will gain the same satisfaction he had. The Chairman informed members that he had always tried to represent the Section's membership and hoped he had done some good along the way.

Section Committee elected:- S. Evans, Chairman; T. Farkins, Vice Chairman; R. Wisdom, Regional Board member; C. Rawlings, C. Gadsby, S. Getson, A. Parker, Reserve Regional Board member, J. Palfrey, President 1 year term, R. Guntrip, Trade member two year term, M. Samuel, Trade member three year term, R. Whyman, Section Administrator. Richard Whyman

### South Coast

Here we are again at the start of yet another year. I would like to

wish all our members and all at Head Office a happy and prosperous New Year.

Last year was quite a good year for the Section. We had a good attendance at our Section seminar which was held at Sparsholt in February. The golf meetings have been well attended and the winter lectures were quite successful and attendance was up on last year. I would like to say thank you to all our sponsors and all the golf clubs who have allowed us the use of their facilities over the past year. Without these people the Section could not have been as successful as it has. Unfortunately I was not able to attend the Turkey Trot and AGM. I will give a full report of the proceedings in the February report.

Unfortunately after the up-side there has got to be a down-side. I am referring to Westurf. Our support of Westurf is not as good as it should be. Westurf is the one event of the year that keeps our Region one of the most stable Regions within BIGGA. If we do not give Westurf our full support things could change quite rapidly. Some of you are saying it's the wrong time of year, others it's too far to travel. The travelling part is no problem - a coach can be arranged. The time of year - whether this can be changed or not I don't know. A lot of things have to be taken into consideration. There are a lot of other events that have to be considered when a date for Westurf is being made. If you have any constructive ideas please let one of your committee members know. The whole object of the exercise is to get as many people to Westurf as possible. By more of you attending it is hoped to attract more members of the trade. We would also like you to bring along members of your committees, secretaries/managers and golf club owners. Please make a note in red in your diaries for Westurf on April 29 at Long Ashton.

On Wednesday, February 4, at

7pm we are holding our Quiz Night at Bramshaw GC. It was quite successful last year. Having said that we would like to see a few more faces there as there are quite a lot of new members in the Section. What better time to meet everybody! It should be a good evening so bring along your wives, girlfriends etc. If you can produce a team from your golf club, great. If you come on your own, don't worry, we will soon fix you up. You don't have to be mas-termined - it's just a good night out. By the way, to put your minds at rest the questions will not be on greenkeeping!

On November 6 we went on our visit to The London GC which was quite an experience. The coach started off from Bournemouth, travelled through the Section and on to the notorious M25. Then it was on to Sevenoaks in Kent and our first introduction was the security at the gate, not the place where you drive in and pay your green fee. The coach then made its way along the road through the golf courses, the International and the Heritage, both long courses. There are 179 bunkers on the International and 79 on the Heritage. They are all steeply mounded and call for a lot of Flymo work. We were met by Steve Jones, the Golf Course Superintendent, who gave us an introductory chat while we had our coffee. This included a brief history of the courses and introduction of his staff of 29 in the winter and increasing to 40 in the summer. We then had a tour of the greenkeeping complex and when I say greenkeeping complex that's what I mean. A far cry from the greenkeepers sheds that we all know so well. The machinery complex was so vast that they could play basketball in there! We then moved on to the mechanics workshop and store where there was all the up-to-date equipment plus two apprentices. Next was the irrigation mechanics workshop and store. When we saw the irri-



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gation system and the pump house we realised just why an irrigation mechanic is required. Also in this complex was a laboratory where a young lady was employed carrying out soil tests and various experiments. We then visited the offices, all part of this vast complex. Here were the Golf Course Superintendant, two Head Greenkeepers and the golf courses Foreman. All the offices had up-to-date equipment for keeping accurate records.

We then moved out on to the Heritage course. The greens were sown with Providence Bent and were doing very well. Steve has two men for two hours every day Poa Picking to keep the Poa at bay! Two different men each day I hasten to add – nice if you have the staff to do it though I must admit it was paying dividends. It was very hard to find any Poa on the greens as they were in excellent condition. We then broke for lunch at the clubhouse which we virtually had to ourselves. After lunch we had a grand tour of the clubhouse including restaurants, card rooms, sauna, locker rooms, private function rooms and a whole host of other attractions too numerous to mention. We left the clubhouse and donned our wellies and ventured on to the International course. The greens were once again in excellent con-

## Around the Green



dition. I could go on and on but there just isn't the space so it was back to the rest room for a chat and coffee. We then boarded the coach and were homeward bound. Everybody who went on the trip said what an excellent day out it was. Firstly I must thank Joe Paulin for inviting us there in the first place and also thanks to Steve Jones who spent the whole day giving the guided tour. Last, but not least, thanks to Huxleys Grass Machinery who sponsored the cost of the coach.

Just a last reminder for our Section Seminar to be held at Sparsholt College, on Thursday, February 26. Those of you who have not booked in it's not too late. Send your cheques and booking forms to:- Jeff Drake, 10 Coldharbour Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 7PN, telephone 01722 503938. The cost for the day is £15 for members and £20 for non-members. If you have not received your booking forms contact Jeff who will post one off to you. Try to persuade your Secretaries, members of committee and golf

club owners to come along.  
Ken Lodge

### South West

November saw the South West Greenkeepers visit Shirehampton GC in Bristol for our Autumn tournament and AGM. Shirehampton is a delightful course that has cleverly been shoe horned into a very small area. It especially suited my form of golf as I found I could drive with my usual military precision (ie left, right, left, right) and could not only find my ball but actually find myself on another fairway with a shot onto a distant green. Not that it made much difference to my final tally as I was, as usual well off the mark.

The scores were as follows:- 1. Michael Fawcett, 38 pts; 2. P Godwin, 35 pts (on the last 6); 3. P Garland, 35 pts, 4. M. Hillman, 34 pts (on the back 9); 5. K. Green, 34 pts who was making a welcome comeback to the greenkeepers tour. Nearest the pin was Niel King. The nearest the pin prize managed to raise £34.00 for our sponsor Rigby Taylor's charity. Our thanks to Martin Samuel for representing them. Our thanks also go the rest of the trade for their support, to Club Secretary Jeff Reece, to the Cornelius caterers and to the Steward, Harry Roberts. Also well done Head Greenkeeper, Chris King, and his staff for providing us with such excellent conditions on the day.

Chairman, Ivor, then gathered us all together for the AGM. This was a very quick and efficient affair. After the usual readings we were given our annual talk by Robin Greaves on what's been happening at Headquarters and there followed a small discussion on how we can save or even raise some funds to try and keep our finances in their present healthy condition. We then went on to the election of officers and unlike last year most of the committee was re-elected. However with Matthew Hawker taking over as Team Captain, Vice Captain was taken by Dave Bougen. Also, our Secretary, Peter Baynton, decided to relinquish his regional duties and so Ivor had decided to take on these but has had to step down from his position as Section Chairman. His spot was filled by Vice Chairman Chris Sealey and Chris's position was filled by the election of James Braithwaite. Confused? Well if you are then the new fixture cards will reveal all.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of all the Section on thanking Ivor for all he has done for us in his role as Chairman over the years. Well done Ivor, we all owe you a great debt of thanks. Don't let's all panic though. Ivor will still be with us in his regional role and

who knows we may yet see him re-elected to something when he has finished his NVQ studies.

A quick note now on the superb seminar at Cannington. Thanks to Paula on her organisation of this and also to Huw Parry of Cannington for chairing the seminar. There were some great talks, especially from Jack McMillan and his son Cameron with some slides on how to build a rubbish tip and call it a golf course and in the case of Cameron, how to take a rubbish tip and build a golf course.  
Marc Haring

### NORTHERN IRELAND

#### North East

Our first joint section meeting held at Greenmount College went extremely well last month. We had an excellent turnout of 107 attending the Fine Turf Management seminar sponsored by John Lindsay Professional Sports Turf.

We had a very enjoyable afternoon listening to Robin Blackford, Technical Support Manager, Hayter speaking on Safe Mowing Practices, Philip Baldock, Head Greenkeeper at Royal Portrush GC and North East Section Chairman speaking on Pests, Problems and Diseases, Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education Officer speaking on Reasons for Education and David Garland, Director of Operations at the PGA European Tour speaking about Life on the Tour and also having a look at some of the rulings that he and his colleagues have been involved with. I must say that everyone found this most informative and entertaining. I would like to thank on behalf of both BIGGA Sections in Northern Ireland all the speakers for giving their time to speak to us and making the day an enjoyable one. I would also like to thank Pat Murphy, BIGGA Chairman and Janet Adamson, Membership Services Officer for helping us to organise our first ever Seminar. Finally I would like to thank John Lindsay for sponsoring the event helping to make it such a success.

At the Seminar, Greenmount College took the opportunity to award the NVQ Level II and GTC Supervisory Management certificates which were presented by Pat Murphy. This has been the first time that Greenmount College has run this course. Students study one day a week on day release for two years. "It was a demanding course and required the student to input a lot of his own time, but it was very enjoyable to do. All of us built up a good rapport with each other and made lasting friendships. The college lecturers are dedicated to the students and were prepared to do anything to help" said Eamonn Farrell.  
E Farrell

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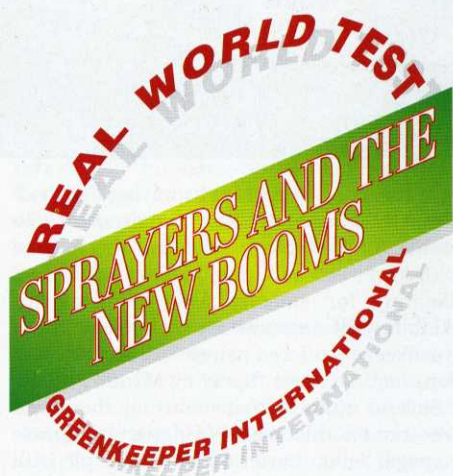
The AMK 600 and Rogers

# Let us spray

by HUGH TILLEY

**S**praying tends to be a non-preferred task – probably made so by hype about environmental and safety concerns and the need for operator training. This is not to say that these concerns are not real simply that they worry the greenkeeper and as a result he tends to use a sprayer as little as possible. And because a sprayer is used infrequently it has a low priority for replacement upgrading or maintenance which exacerbates the position. Nor are most clubs prepared to justify or pay for high specification machines.

While agriculture has a number of specialist sprayer manufacturers the position in the amenity field is totally different with just one main player and several other smaller ones although there are signs that several companies are looking more seriously at the golf market. Nevertheless current suppliers provide sprayers to suit most needs especially as sprayers are largely modular in design so that it is relatively easy to add sophistication or upgrades. It is also possible that an old



machine can be upgraded with new components although it needs a specialist to undertake this and often the cost makes it uneconomic.

Spraying tends to separate into two types of area, relatively small areas such as greens

and tees and the more extensive areas such as fairways, rough or semi-rough. There is also often a need to apply spot or localised treatments. For the latter a small pedestrian operated or even knapsack sprayer may be ideal, however, larger machines have the option to fit a hose and hand lance which can be used for spot treatment perhaps more conveniently – except that it requires putting a larger volume in the tank. Most greenkeepers seem to prefer a turf maintenance vehicle mounted sprayer for greens surrounds and tees although many use a small mounted machines behind a compact tractor. Such machines will work well enough on fairways although the task may be spread over several days thus a significant number of clubs now employ a contractor with larger equipment who will complete the task in a few hours. Using a contractor also has the advantage that you do not have key staff tied up at what is inevitably a critical time, especially as it is normally senior staff who are trained.

A growing number of Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers realise the importance of



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accuracy and now use some form of bout marking. Adding a colourant to the spray is one method of seeing where you have sprayed, however reports of the success of this method vary. More generally acceptable is the use of a foam bout marker which leaves a line of foam blobs from the boom end – this may produce strange (even ‘worried’) comments from players – but they can be assured that the foam is less harmful than washing up liquid.

There are several important criteria to be met before spraying, weather is prime – minimal wind and no rain! and for many herbicides! warm growing conditions, this limits the time available for spraying very considerably.

Wind – and the resultant spray drift – is a problem which has been addressed by two manufacturers. Hardi import the Rogers Airfoil from Canada while Sisis have, with significant technical input from Cranfield University and others, designed their own. Both designs are shrouds which cover the boom/s so that the spray is enclosed and thus isolated or semi isolated from any wind. This has been portrayed as simple and very effective against high velocities of wind! However, it is not quite as simple as this and the booms are not cheap which may mean that multi course clubs and contractors are likely to be the first customers. As anyone who has waited for suitable conditions knows, the number of days available for spraying with a conventional boom is severely limited.

Most sprayers are remarkably tolerant to variations in forward speed – so long as there is a constant relationship between engine and forward speed, ie you always use the same gear – hydrostatic transmission prevents this. However, there are electronic controls which can be fitted which will relate forward speed to required output and match them for even, accurate coverage. Although such devices are not cheap, they are not expensive when related to the savings in time and effort offered. For hilly courses where it is almost impossible to maintain a constant speed they may be vital.

## Weed Free of Bracknell – contractor

Founded in 1991 by Mike Seaton, and now employed by a large number of golf clubs, as well as other turf, amenity and industrial businesses, across the country, Weed Free has recently invested in a self propelled spraying unit to which Mike has fitted Hardi Windfoil booms. This has considerably extended his window of usage, and it also means greater certainty of being able to spray on the day specified. He can now spray almost irrespective of wind, although he still needs dry non-freezing weather, although he admitted that in higher wind conditions the foam blobs marks could get blown away.

The 5.5m windfoil booms are fitted to a purpose made ‘Spray Ranger’ vehicle – pur-

within a single day has great appeal, furthermore Adam believes that being able to apply in wind or even in light rain, and at night is a breakthrough and an invaluable commitment to the golf scene. Although he had not checked it out, it was Adam’s belief that the Spraying Mantis with its wide low pressure tyres was no heavier in terms of p.s.i. on the ground than a TMV sprayer.

But perhaps the most important aspect is that the unit allows Weed Free to agree a schedule with the Head Greenkeeper and be reasonably sure that they can keep to it.

## Spraying Mantis at London Golf Club

Weed Free used the machine last spring to apply herbicides and insecticides on a considerable area of fairway, semi-rough and jungle rough at London Golf Club. Steve Jones – Superintendent at the 36 hole facility, estimated wind speeds as being over 10mph and this caused no sign of spray drift, and he was quite happy that it would work in considerably higher wind speeds. The club has its own ‘walk’ Wind Foil booms with a self-propelled Spray King for greens, tees and similar smaller areas thus the principle was not new to them. Powered by a 1800cc Ford diesel engine the machine had no problems in coping with the undulations on the course, the LH Agro



computer ensuring a constant spray output. As the machine was effectively a prototype there were some teething problem such as the boom skids marking the turf, and spraying commenced before the machine started forward, however, he is happy that these problems have been easily solved. He commented that the machine was extremely manoeuvrable, and that the ability to change rates and forward speed was very easy. Such abilities made it simple to match application to the conditions prevailing, and he believed that the machine was spraying at speeds of 7mph where ground conditions permitted this. Some spraying has been carried out at night using the ample working lights fitted to the sprayer. The electronic controls coped well with undulations and other speed

pose made for agricultural spraying but modified to Mike’s specific requirement. In particular this meant lowering the outline with lower cab and tank, making it look less daunting for amenity use. Following his exhibiting at Saltex many groundsmen and greenkeepers offered names for this combination – and he chose “Spraying Mantis”. Several clubs anticipate using the Weed Free service this year – in particular course manager Adam Carter of Clubhouse plc with Duke’s Dene and Nigels Golf Club courses, has been impressed by the concept and equipment although in the past he has been able to undertake most of his spraying using TMV mounted Hardi 300 sprayers. He commented that the ability to apply chemical to larger areas such as fairways and roughs





restricting factors. There was no criticism of the results and no sign of damage to trees or other surrounding vegetation.

#### **Sisis Ecospray – pre-production**

First seen at Saltex and then around the country at the Sisis Direct road show, the Ecospray is likely to be available this year in a variety of forms, all of which will be based on the five gang mesh shrouded boom from Spring 98. Each section encloses three 'bubble' nozzles and floats over the ground on small wheels. Overall spraying width is 4.03m. Outside units are lifted and folded in – and locked for transport.

Ecospray units are to be produced in trailed and mounted form, both with a PTO driven diaphragm pump, but are also expected to be available as 'boom only' to fit to existing sprayers and spraying systems, and suitable to fit behind turf maintenance vehicles such as Cushman, Workman or Huxtrik.

The original idea was conceived by Complete Weed Control of Stafford and Roger Turner who actually holds the patent. Roger's view was that today's amenity spraying did not allow for any drift, and he added that previous sprayers were based on agricultural design – where a limited amount of drift was not too serious. He took his ideas to Dr Steve Parkin at Cranfield University who, via computer modelling and a wind tunnel, proved the parameters for the design.

The prototypes produced as trailed machines with 320 litre tanks are due for several modifications in the light of greenkeeper and groundsman's comments. Typical modifications are to the filling arrangements which will make the top filler more accessible and new wider wheels on the booms.

Plumbing includes a simple sightglass/ball monitor to indicate if any nozzles become

blocked as well as individual control valves. COSHH requirements are met with a clean water tank and dirty clothes locker. A hand lance is also standard to allow hand work around areas where the boom cannot reach, such as around trees and buildings.

Demonstrated at Sandford Springs Golf Club in Hampshire on the Sisis road show in a high wind – using just water and a colorant before a large number of greenkeepers and groundsman the machine attracted favourable comment. There was no sign of any spray drift, nor even of any significant amount of staining on the shrouds which would indicate vortex, turbulence or spray build-up inside.

Complete Weed Control are spraying contractors with considerable experience of applying in a wide range of conditions and locations. Roger said that in his experience the public have become very alarmed about all spraying. Using the Ecospray has allayed many of their fears, perhaps because they do not see it as a sprayer (and they don't see spray), and this view was borne out at Sandford Springs by one watching greenkeeper who commented, "you wouldn't have to put up the 'spraying boards' notice on the greens if you used one of those."

#### **Hardi Windfoil at St George's Hill – Weybridge, Surrey**

One of the first clubs in the country to use the Windfoil, St George's Hill is on extremely undulating heathland with 27 holes in a very sensitive environment surrounded by very exclusive residential property. In addition trees and woodland make for uncertain wind eddies and directions – thus the Windfoil boom was a 'natural'. It is fitted behind a Hardi 300 litre sprayer on a Cushman.

Andy Hall, Head Greenkeeper at St George's, said the boom which is in three sec-

tions and has 9 nozzles adapts to the contours very well. He considered it for its ability to extend the spraying window and he has used it with both herbicides and insecticides and found that it has given all the flexibility he was expecting. No drift has been experienced and the machine has been used in some very breezy conditions.

Electric controls make for easy operation and the sprayer has been fitted with an inductor which takes the chemical direct from the container, rinsing it too, thus further reducing the hazard to the operator.

He used the term "flexibility" in several contexts, for not only has the boom given him flexibility in timing, but it has also given him greater control and accuracy in application. The three sections run on small coaster wheels and keep the nozzles at a predetermined height above the turf, in contrast to a conventional boom which can dig in or fly high on undulations, resulting in inaccurate application and greater drift.

Andy commented that because there is no drift, there is no smell nor pollution evident – and this is noticeable to the operator, golfers and anyone else in the area. It is his belief that such booms will become compulsory in future. The club is particularly concerned about health and safety and the environment. Andy admitted that spraying is a least favoured task on the course.

No problems in construction have been found, maintenance is rigidly adhered to with a thorough wash after use and a complete grease round the wheels, which, Andy has been informed, can seize up on their axles.

Both Andy and the club are happy about the investment, accepting that it is higher than for a basic sprayer, but Andy said, "we only got what we paid for – and I think we've got a 'Rolls Royce' in sprayers."



# An environmental

Over the past 18 months a number of Scottish Golf Clubs have made use of the advice of the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Adviser.

One of the main roles of the post, which is funded by The Scottish Golf Union, The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, Scottish National Heritage and The Scottish Greenbelt Foundation, is to encourage and advise golf clubs to consider their contribution to the environment.

Of the 70-80 clubs to have contacted the Adviser, a number joined up to the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Initiative. To do this they have made a commitment to produce an Environmental Plan based on the structure outlined in our recently revised publication, "Golf's Natural Heritage". The production of the

management plan essentially follows the following process:

1. Gathering information about the golf course environment, auditing current practices, identifying species and habitats, assessing historical and landscape qualities and features.
2. Evaluating and understanding the relevance of that information – and the interactive between environmental quality and golf course management.
3. Detailing future objectives aimed at maintaining and enhancing environmental quality. Most objectives also enhance golfing quality.
4. Implementing the objectives – possibly over a three year period.
5. Monitoring and Reviewing the management plans, and planning to the next three year period.

In the past few weeks Torphin

Hill Golf Club in Edinburgh, and Balnagask Golf Club in Aberdeen have reached the stage where their initial plan is produced and the resultant actions are beginning to be implemented. For this reason they have been awarded the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Charter – a certificate of recognition for their effort to integrate environmental issues into their day-to-day management and longer term vision for the course. Following on from Linlithgow Golf Club's success, these two Clubs will hopefully pave the way for many others who are close to finalising their plans. These other courses include: Hilton Park, Haddington, Mouse Valley, Drummoig and Silverknowes (Edinburgh City Council), Dumbarton, Cochrane Castle, Kilmalcolm, The Dukes Course and Loch Lomond.

In the case of Torphin Hill, the management plan has been driven internally by a team of dedicated members from past and present committees. A wealth of advice and support has come from the Edinburgh Green Belt Trust who have facilitated many large scale projects by securing funding. Indeed, having coordinated the species and habitat survey work, the Trust are now enabling tree planting and pond creating schemes to go ahead. \*

Internal projects which will not require capital funding are being taken on by Head Greenkeeper, Rory Campbell. Grassland management for wildflowers, increasing the amount of rough grassland, sensitively disposing of cuttings and adoption of a policy for Integrated Pest Management are all being undertaken by the



An example of the threat to the heathland – gorse encroachment. Measures to control the spread of gorse and rank grasses are to be implemented. One of those measures involves reducing the amount of trolley damage to the heather stands.



# plan of action



Two or three water features are to be created utilising the existing ditch. These will be constructed to benefit wildlife and golfer by their gently contouring, strategic positioning and natural characteristics.

greenstaff at no extra cost. The environmental benefit of such steps will be, considerable.

These environmental improvements have been integrated into a wider general plan for all aspects of the course. This will ensure that whatever the Club's vision for the course, stewardship of the environment will remain an integral component.

"The club are delighted to work in partnership at a local level with the Edinburgh Greenbelt Trust and to participate in this national initiative," said Roddy MacGregor, member of the Green Committee and a driving force behind the Torphin Hill Management Plan.

Balnagask, a municipal course maintained by Aberdeen City Council is very different from Torphin Hill. However, although their management objectives are unique to the requirements of the course, the process of environmental planning is the same. By

assessing and evaluating the environmental qualities that currently exist the Council and the Club can appreciate what the best management would be for the site. Environmental Planning is all about making informed judgments.

The plan came about through discussions between the Council, the associated Club, Scottish Wildlife Trust and Golf Course Wildlife Adviser. An assessment of the landscape characteristics of the area and a habitat survey indicated the environmental qualities which could be conserved or enhanced. Much of this focuses on maintaining areas of highly valuable coastal heathland and grassland which also contribute so much to the golfing quality and challenge of the course.

The greenkeeper is Stuart McBain, winner of the second prize in last year's BIGGA Greenkeeping Awards. He will under-

take the works under the supervision of David Grant of the Council's Arts and Leisure Department. The open-mindedness of the club has done much to enable these golf related environmental improvements to take place.

It is hoped that the Council will apply the management planning process established at Balnagask to the other municipal courses under their control.

"The achievements of Torphin Hill and Balnagask demonstrate that golf courses can significantly enhance the environment through sensitive management," said Jonathan Smith, Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Adviser.

"Environmental improvements on a course create opportunities to add further interest, challenge and naturalness. Features which enhance the course for the golfer can also become valuable wildlife habitat and create a more natural landscape character," he added.

'The achievements of Torphin Hill and Balnagask demonstrate that golf courses can significantly enhance the environment through sensitive management'



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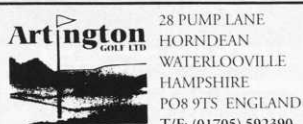
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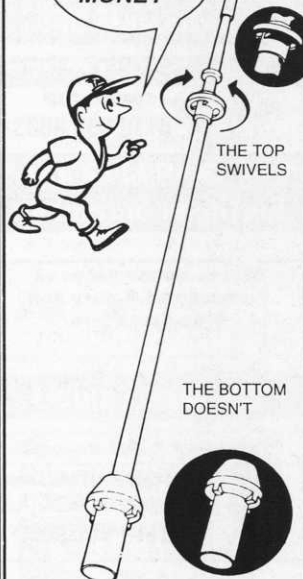
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Closing date for applicants will be January 31, 1998



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Nine hole seaside course, recently improved and rebuilt, in a beautiful part of the West Highlands.

The course is described on <http://www.traighgolf.co.uk>

Candidates should be thoroughly trained and experienced, with good mechanical knowledge, also general handyman abilities.

**Please apply in writing to: J Shaw-Stewart,  
Traigh, Arisaig, Invernesshire PH39 4NT**

## LEIGH GOLF CLUB LTD

invite applications for the position of

# DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will be a BIGGA member with a minimum of NVQ Level 3 and hold a PA1 and PA2 Certificate. At least five years greenkeeping experience and a good working knowledge of automatic irrigation, machine maintenance and golf course construction.

The position is available immediately and the salary will be based on BIGGA salary scales. There is no accommodation available.

Please apply in own handwriting and full CV to:

**The Secretary, Leigh Golf Club Ltd, Kenyon Hall,  
Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire. WA3 4BG**

## Roker Park Golf Course

require a

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

For our 9 hole par 36 golf course and driving range.

The position would suit a qualified First Assistant looking for promotion.

Applicants must possess a recognised qualification and be experienced in all aspects of course management.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

**The Secretary, Roker Park Golf Club,  
Aldershot Road, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE**

## Scraptoft Golf Club

Private 18 hole course (established 1930) situated in Leicestershire

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will possess relevant qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of modern course management.

The ability to lead and motivate staff, organise and control work programmes and maintain budgetary control is essential.

Salary negotiable; no accommodation available.

Applicants should have previous experience as a head greenkeeper or deputy and should apply in writing with CV to:

**The Secretary, Scraptoft Golf Club, Beeby Road,  
Scraptoft, Leicester LE7 9SJ**

## Romiley Golf Club

Applications are invited for the position of

# FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The position, reporting directly to the Head Greenkeeper, would suit a young greenkeeper with at least five years' practical experience now wishing to progress his career.

Applicants should be qualified to at least NVQ levels 1 and 2 and hold current spraying certificates PA1, 2 and 6. A thorough knowledge of COSHH and Health & Safety legislation and a good mechanical knowledge of greens machinery is also necessary.

No accommodation provided. Apply in writing with CV to:

**Mr Tom Smith, Administrator, Romiley Golf Club,  
Goosehouse Green, Romiley, Stockport SK6 4LJ**

## Southern Golf

require

# HEAD GREENKEEPERS TRAINED GREENKEEPERS TRAINEE/STUDENT GREENKEEPERS

to work on two recently completed 18 hole golf courses, one in the Manchester area, and one in the Leeds area. An experience of growing-in new courses or USGA greens would be useful but not essential, as complete back-up and supervision will be provided by the company.

Please reply with your applications and CV by 20 January 1998 to:

**Southern Golf Ltd, 7 Old Square, Warwick CV34 4RA**



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- Dynamic and resolute with an out-going personality.
- Good communication skills.
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- Knowledge of Computers, Electronics and Hydraulics

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## **HARDI Ltd.**

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Telephone 01455 233811

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The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate good previous achievements as a Head Greenkeeper or Deputy Course Manager, an awareness of modern methods and the ability to motivate the existing greenstaff. Good communication skills are required to liaise with the membership through the Chairman of Course and be responsible for budgetary and management control.

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Please reply in writing with a full C.V. and copies of pertinent certificates and references to:-

**D. Wright, Secretary**  
**Ringway Golf Club, Hale Barns,**  
**Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 8SW**

## CONTACT THE PROFESSIONALS



Jonathan Franks, Secretary, BAGCC,  
37 Five Mile Drive, Wolvercote,  
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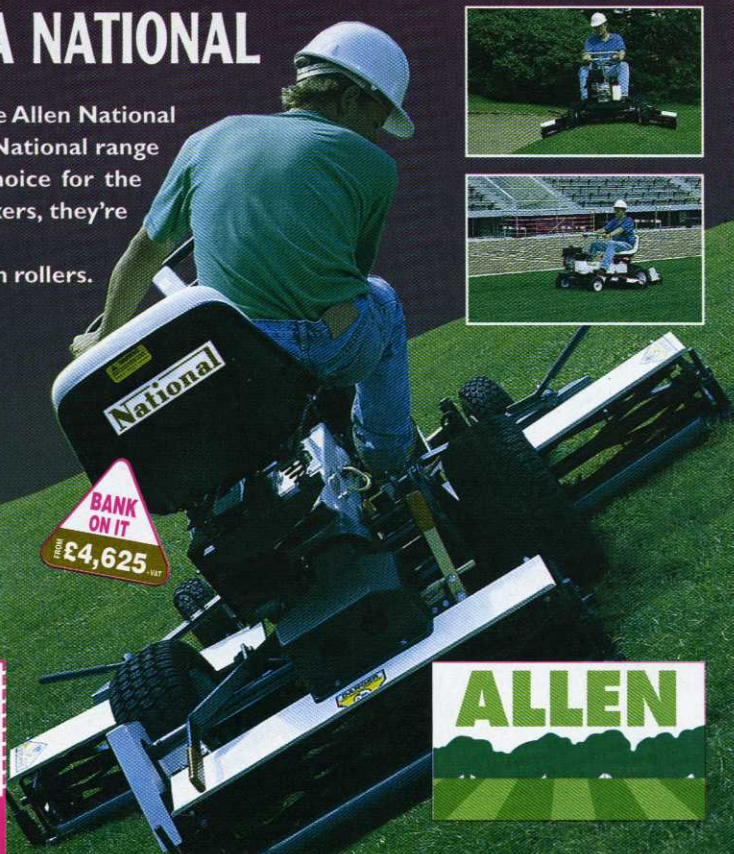
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# A temporary solution

By Sandy McDivot, Head Greenkeeper,  
Sludgcombe Pay and Play

**T**emporary greens. When any self respecting golf club member hears these two words its rather like Pavlov's dog, but instead of producing saliva they instead generate copious quantities of bile and venom ready to be used in describing the feelings they have for the resident Head Greenkeeper and the use of the above mentioned "temps" as they are now universally known. Now perhaps I am tarring them all with the same brush but I have to confess that for many years before I was in the noble profession I too was one of these members. I therefore feel I can write such a statement with some degree of inside knowledge of the unenlightened club member. Yes, shamed though I am of my torrid and despicable past, I was one of the uneducated masses generally referred to by greenkeepers as people without fathers. I thought nothing of giving the Greens Chairman of my local club the benefit of my wisdom on the above subject, after all I was seen as a better than average golfer and so was on my way to possessing total knowledge about all things concerning greenkeeping.

In my defence however, I have to say that the temps in use at this particular course were of the uniform circular type, cut out in early November and measuring about 30 square metres. Add to that a one in two slope, a standard size and overgrown hole and a surface so littered with frozen worm casts that putting on them became more akin to pin ball than golf and one could see my concern on their use.

As you can imagine my views on the subject have now taken on a different perspective and I feel I can write on the matter from both sides of the fence as it were. At Sludgcombe Pay and Play I am in the not uncommon position of having to cater for something in the region of 55,000 rounds a year. It is therefore desirable, during periods of inclement weather and zero growth that the greens are rested by way of the use of temporaries. As we are all aware, the vocation of Head Greenkeeper requires (above such other trivia as a knowledge of greenkeeping) the art of diplomacy and a gift for politics. So when the temporaries are required we, like all greenkeepers make an effort to: a) limit their use and b) ensure that they are in a reasonable condition and as much as possible approximating to that of the main greens. So we mow them at the same height of cut and at the same frequency, spray with worm killer, aerate, top dress, feed etc..

I thought that I was getting quite good at this until recently I and my assistant played a very busy and successful course within the vicinity of Sludgcombe and noted the aston-

ishing condition of its greens. Apart from learning that this course was even busier than my own in that it catered for some 60,000 rounds a year, it was like mine, about four or five-years-old with greens constructed of a sandy growing medium. But where as mine had already started on the slippery slope to poa annua dominance these were almost totally free of the wretched stuff. Desperate to find the secret that they were undoubtedly in possession of, I accosted a young greenkeeper who was innocently working nearby and subjected him to prolonged interrogation in an effort to learn the truth. Did they use some sort of chemical control? Were there armies of backup staff hand weeding the greens? Or were they employing some other unknown more sinister means?

**“Maybe course architects and course owners alike should think about leaving room for a large temporary green on every hole within their design of a new course”**

Well, to my disbelief, it was none of the above. It appeared it was all down to good greenkeeping. But as we continued on our way around the manicured turf we noticed their temporary green preparation was well under way, but these were no ordinary temps. These were huge great things equal in size to the main greens and generally placed in the regularly mown approach areas. They were all top dressed with sand and a large hole was already in place.

Maybe that was the secret I had been searching for. In vulnerable times remove all play from the main greens and bung them on the temps. With such large and well prepared alternatives the golfers are kept happy while the owners are kept equally happy as play is allowed to continue. The main greens remain the best in the area free of that pernicious weed we have all learned to despise, because with such a dense turf it has no room in which to invade. As I indicated earlier, it all

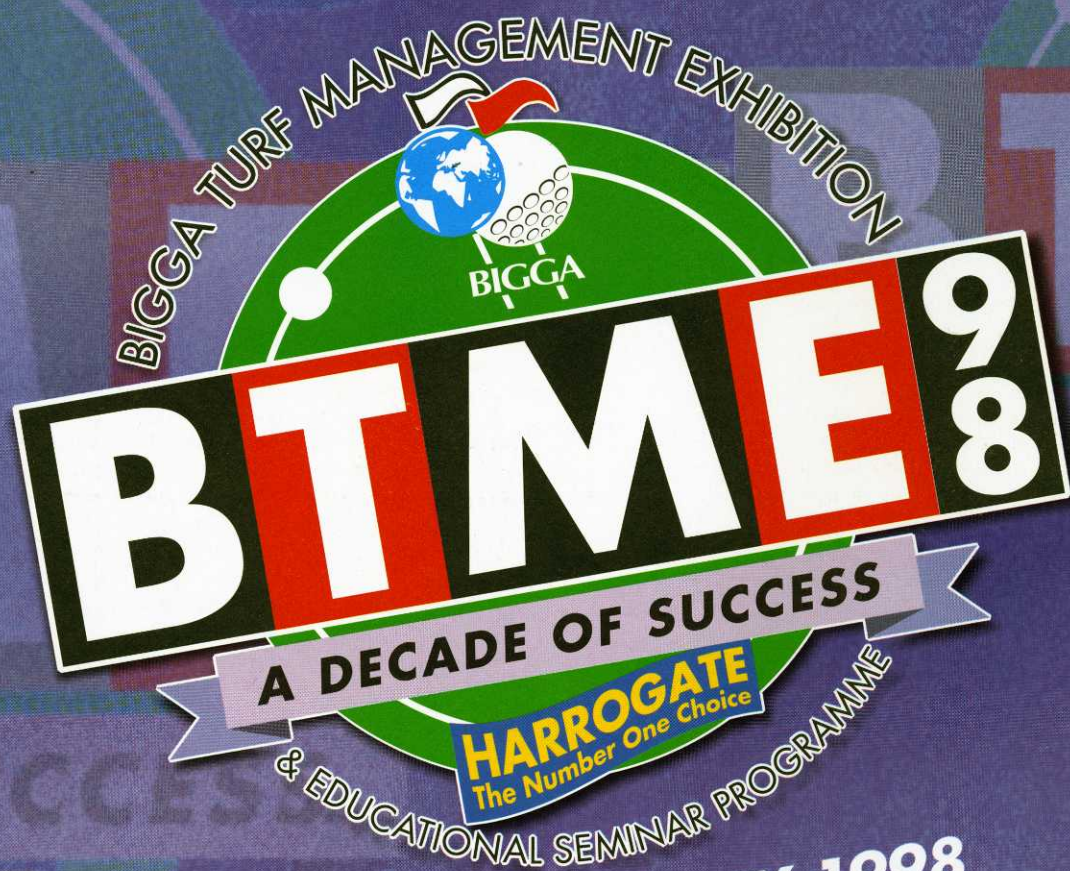
comes down to politics and keeping everyone happy.

Still on the subject of politics, how else can we give our greens the breather they so desperately need while at the same time avoiding the risk of a members revolution. After all there is nothing worse than revolting members. Well, one thing I have noticed over the years is how there is a breed of golfer that delights in playing every day, or as near as possible to it. They usually come in the guise of middle aged ladies or perhaps more commonly senior men. Their desperation in playing the game is totally lost on me as I have not taken a degree in psychiatry, but I have noticed they are not it would appear, in the slightest bit interested in the quality of the putting surface they are given. The only thing they require is that the course remains open. Give them the choice of eleven months of excellent greens but with the course closed for one month, or 12 months of diabolical greens and they will choose the latter every time. So I utilise the years of diplomatic experience I have developed and mid week when the above mentioned desperado's like to frequent the course, I shove them all on temps or as many as I can get away with. Any hint of complaint from them and I mention the other alternative ie the course closed situation. This is normally followed by hushed tones and a fevered rush to the 1st tee. This leaves the greens in a reasonably rested condition for when the more discerning and politically more powerful arrive at the weekend.

Maybe course architects and course owners alike should think about leaving room for a large temporary green on every hole within their design of a new course. This green could be fairly adjacent to the main green so as the length of the hole is not altered. It could incorporate a subtle slope to shed water. In fact maybe all of us should think not in terms of temporary greens but of a two green system such as they used to have in Japan, before the widespread use of creeping bent grass. Here they had two greens, one for the winter and one for summer use. I am not suggesting a purpose built USGA spec affair but just a simple low maintenance green that is prepared sometime in October and kept topped with a tees triple during the summer. I know this may sound like a lot of extra work but think of the benefits. Less play on the main greens means less aeration work and when aeration work is carried out we can all stay off them and allow them to breath for a good three or four months. The main greens go into the playing season in excellent condition while the secondary greens can enjoy eight or nine months of rest before the next winter. In fact it could be the answer to all our problems! Well, there again...



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## DRENCHER LIQUID

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TREATMENT	1	2	3	4	5	Treatment means (seconds)
UNTREATED CONTROL	>600	>600	>600	>600	>600	>600 <sup>c</sup>
DRENCHER LIQUID	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9 <sup>a</sup>
PRIMER 604	1.6	0.9	0.4	1.0	0.5	0.9 <sup>a</sup>
ULTRAFLU	1.6	4.3	2.5	4.0	1.8	2.8 <sup>b</sup>
PERMATE	>600	>600	>600	>600	>600	>600 <sup>c</sup>

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# Young Green with

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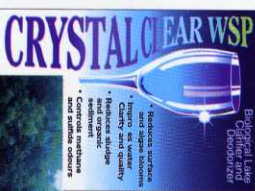
## on the green



## in the bunker



## on the tee



## in the lake

