

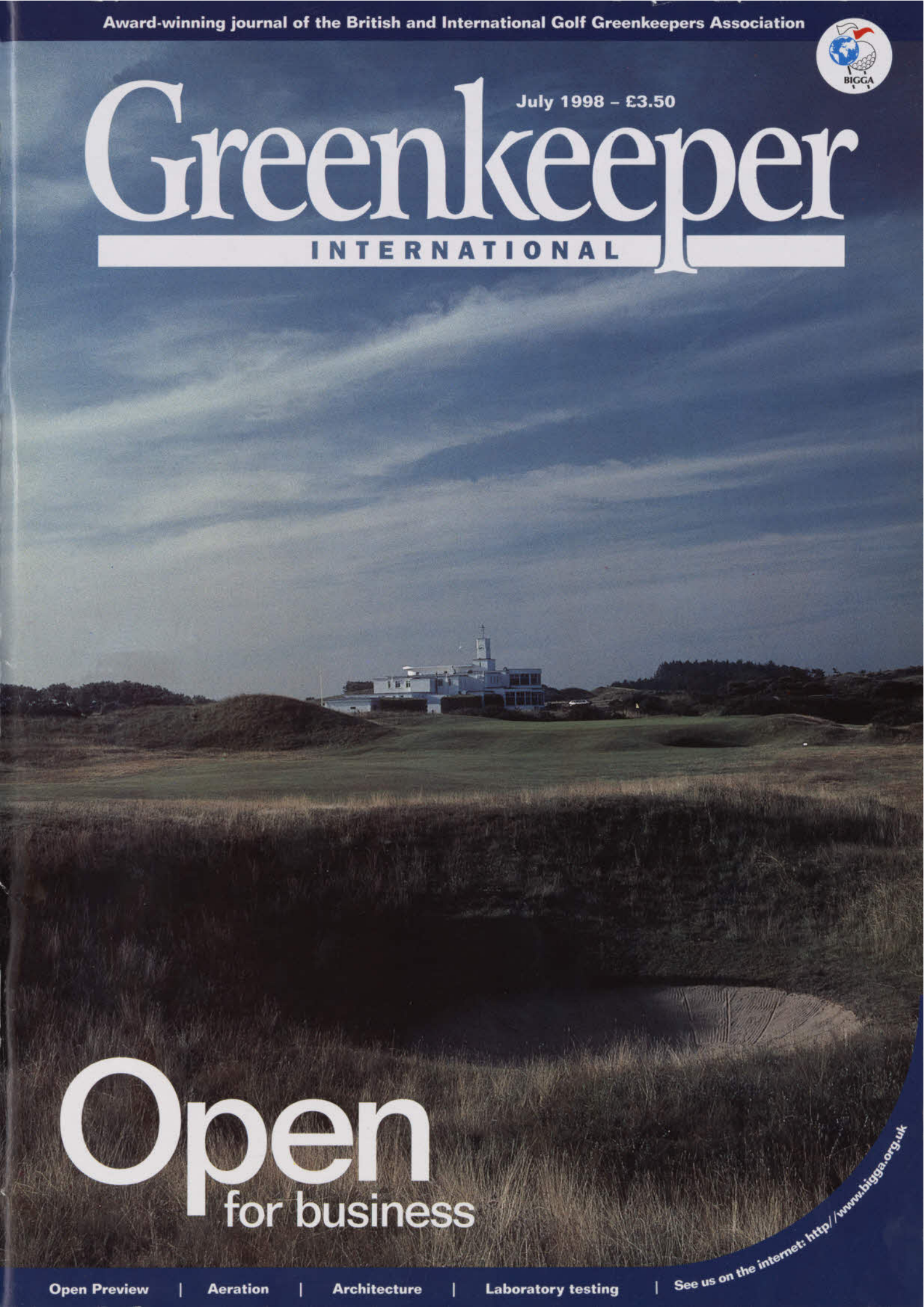
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July 1998

Your next issue of
Greenkeeper International
will be with you by August 10

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58 As I see it...



14 The Learning Experience

Let the only news be good news

As I write the television is on in the background and Italy are playing Cameroon. Yes, there's no getting away from it, the World Cup features in the Editor's Column.

The reason I've picked this as my topic for the month is not the quality of the play, excellent though it has been - particularly from my countrymen who despite this will no doubt have long since returned to these shores - but the quality of the playing surfaces.

Although it is the end of football season in France, and you might expect the pitches to look a little tired, they have been universally excellent.

But this is the one skill on display during the greatest show on earth which is taken for granted. There are no pundit's plaudits for, or special profiles on, the people who ensure that the best players in the world have the stage to perform their tricks.

How different it would be had the pitches not been up to standard. Managers, players, television experts and Prime Ministers would no doubt have lined up to give the benefit of their agronomic expertise. The poor groundsmen would have been lambasted.

It is exactly the same for the Course Managers at the top golf events. Heaven forbid if a big name player finds a bad lie or misses a putt. The papers would be full of it and a greenkeeper's professional reputation casually smeared.

For groundsmen and greenkeepers you can fully understand it when they say, "No news is good news".

In many ways you can equate the job of groundsman and greenkeeper with that of the goalkeeper. The last line of defence can produce miracles, mopping up the mistakes of others, and keeping a clean sheet but as soon as he makes one mistake and the ball ends up in the net all the good that has gone before is forgotten and he's the villain.

You don't know it before you start but one of the prerequisites of the job of greenkeeper, groundsman or goalkeeper is to have no desire to be credited for all the great work you might do, and a thick skin to cope with the flak when it occasionally goes wrong.

One man hoping not to be in the news this month is Chris Whittle, who becomes the first man to prepare two different Open venues. He says in The Open preview in this magazine that he hopes all the headlines are made by the golf rather than the golf course.

Surely, however, he and his team, deserve credit for the outstanding job they have done at Birkdale, and a comforting silence is the very least they should expect for the miracles they have routinely carried out.

Let's all hope for the sake of the World Cup groundsmen, and Chris Whittle and his team at Royal Birkdale, that there is a slight change and "The Only News is Good News".

They should be recognised for the great work they do.

Editor:
Scott MacCallum

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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23 Cover: Royal Birkdale

Photography by Brian Morgan, 0141 221 6296



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Building Fund grows!

Over 100 golf clubs have to date responded positively to the letter sent by BIGGA President Viscount Whitelaw asking for a contribution towards the building of BIGGA's new Headquarters and Training Facility.

Among the golf clubs to donate to the fund this month is the recently opened Merrist Wood Golf Club based at Merrist Wood College in Guildford, Surrey. College Principle John Riddle presented the cheque to BIGGA's Education and Training Manager Ken Richardson (right) during a recent open day at the college. Merrist Wood is the first college in the country to make a donation.

The Association would like to thank the following golf clubs for their donations.

Clubs who donate £250 or more will each receive a plaque in recognition of their generosity, while each golf club which makes a donation will appear on a Roll of Honour within the new building.



Thank you for support

This year for the first time BIGGA members were asked to assist with the Volvo PGA Championship held at Wentworth Golf Club at the end of May. A team of 80 members drawn from nearby clubs were on hand over the final two days of play. The main role of each member was to accompany a game, from start to finish, and rake any bunkers found by the players, a task normally carried out by the caddy. There are several benefits arising from this course of action:-

1. The caddy is left free to concentrate on the game and the player's next stroke.
2. It helps keep play continuous and thereby reduces delays.
3. While walking the course the support team member is able to keep a watch for any divots, litter etc which may have found their way into a bunker and thereby pose a potential problem for subsequent games.
4. The support team members were on hand to help the Wentworth greenkeepers in the event of bad weather.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who took part and we have been invited by the PGA European Tour to look at providing a similar team for 1999.

Congratulations to Edward Kitson and his colleagues at the PGA European Tour and to Chris Kennedy and his greenkeeping staff at Wentworth for a well organised, well presented tournament.

Thank you to the Scotts Company who provided each BIGGA member with a shirt, jacket and baseball cap as well as the catering in the BIGGA marquee.



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BIGGA elect Howard Swan as new President

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects has elected Howard Swan as its President for the forthcoming year.

At its Annual General Meeting, Swan's confirmation at the head of the Institute was accompanied by Jeremy Pern being made Vice President, and Neil Coles, Ken Moodie and Bruno Steensels, from

Belgium, joining the Committee.

Martin Hawtree stepped down as President, after 18 years of service to the Institute.

"I am privileged to have become President of what is Europe's leading professional body in the field, and look forward to a busy and productive year. We have much to do to bring together all Europe's

architects and to advance our own educational efforts for our members and students alike," said Howard.

In the Autumn the Institute will stage its International Conference at Wentworth on November 17 and 18, together with the Barenbrug European Architects' Trophy.

David heads towards the Deep South

Rigby Taylor has appointed David Rogers as Technical Sales Representative covering the south coast of England from Dorset to Hampshire including Wiltshire.

David is well known to greenkeepers and Course Managers throughout the area having had extensive experience during the past 15 years most recently with Gem Professional (Sta-brite Supplies) prior to joining Rigby Taylor.

Video firm hires new director

After eight years working on the development and operation of the Buckinghamshire Golf Club, Kevin Munt has moved into a new role as a Director of Plexus Projects Ltd.

Plexus Projects is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Lanyfax Group a leading design and installation company in the audio visual and video conferencing market.

"I felt that after 25 years working at all levels within the golf business it was time to pull all my experience together and offer it to people who are working to further develop the game," said Kevin.

The company has been formed to provide a high quality project management and consultancy service to developers, architects and commercial operators within the leisure industry. Through the Lanyfax Group's computer generated design capability Plexus is able to offer a visually lead approach to the design and management services currently available to the leisure industry.

One of Plexus Projects first moves in the leisure market has been to form a division in the golf industry, this has been achieved by the acquisition Project Golf Ltd the owners and operators of the 1997 Senior Tournament of Champions.

Kevin has developed a vast field of experience within the golf industry, encompassing course maintenance, design, construction and facilities management through to tournament promotion and staging.

His previous employers include Royal Dornoch Golf Club, the Wentworth Club, John Jacobs Golf Associates and Kajima (UK) Engineering with whom he help to create the Buckinghamshire Golf Club, one of the country's most successful new golf facilities.

Kevin was also instrumental in bringing tournaments such as the Andersen Consulting World Championship of Golf and the Senior Tournament of Champions to Buckinghamshire Golf Club.

Sir Michael...

Michael Bonallack, Secretary of the R&A, has been awarded a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

The 63 year-old five time Amateur Champion who was already a holder of the OBE has been at the helm of the R&A since 1983 and this latest honour comes on top of host of accolades he has received from the game itself.

Colin Montgomerie was also honoured in the same list with an MBE.

Lord Whitelaw in the frame



Having reached his 80th Birthday in June the Association's President, Lord Whitelaw, has been reviewing his personal commitments. He has decided to step down from his position with BIGGA after this year. In recognition and thanks for his support to the Association since its inception in 1987 Gordon Child presented Viscount and Lady Whitelaw with a framed print of the 13th hole at Nairn, the course where he spent many of his early golfing years.

Watch the birdie!

The largest single day birdwatching exercise on golf courses produced a remarkable score of 272 species from the 116 golf clubs in 18 European countries which took part.

Country	Number of clubs	Different species	Best site count
Ireland	21	102	Bandon (57)
England	20	108	Corehampton (62)
Scotland	13	96	Hilton Park (64)
Wales	12	88	Woodlake Park (52)
Denmark	1	65	Faaborg
Estonia	1	75	Niitvaija
Finland	3	84	Virvik (61)
Iceland	6	46	Ness (28)
Norway	1	37	Meland
Sweden	2	97	Falsterbo (87)
Austria	4	71	Waldviertel (41)
Germany	4	82	Nordkirchen (56)
Hungary	1	50	Hencse National
Netherlands	7	104	De Heemskerkse (58)
Switzerland	1	41	Club de Bonmont
Italy	8	137	Fiordalisi (79)
Portugal	4	80	San Lorenzo (61)
Spain	7	142	Ulzama (93)
Total	116	272	

New project beckons for Phil

Phil Langdon has joined Wardle Consulting Engineers as Projects Director, having worked for Watermation since 1988. Phil will be responsible for project management and inspection of works by contractors on behalf of our clients in addition to undertaking site survey and appraisals of existing irrigation systems in order to make recommendations as to system upgrade and extensions.

A BTLIA committee member, Phil's practical experience and knowledge of irrigation installation ensures that our expertise extends right across the board from survey, feasibility study, design, specification to installations supervision and inspection of the contractor's works.

"With Phil based in Scotland, Bill Hawthorn based in the South and head office the Midlands the company now has true nationwide coverage giving our clients a quality service," said Giles Wardle.

New signings at St Andrews for Millennium Open

St Andrews Links Trust has signed two exclusive agreements aimed at ensuring that the Millennium Open will see the Old Course looking at its majestic best while the town's other courses are also kept in tip top condition.

The two contacts are with The Toro Company for its irrigation systems for all five championship courses and Barenbrug for its grass seed and related products such as wild flowers.

Toro sprinklers are currently being installed on the fairways of the Old Course in preparation for the Millennium Open but other work includes irrigation to the walk-offs from the tees on the Jubilee Course.

"Our selection committee liked the broad range of products and flexibility that Toro offered," explained Links Manager, Ian Forbes.

"Using a total irrigation system is new for us. Working with Toro we know we have found the system to keep our links courses in the beautiful and natural state that has typified St Andrews throughout its 600 year history."

The agreement was warmly welcomed by The Toro Company.

"It highlights our commitment to create solutions to manage the world's landscapes. As water resources become increasingly valuable, our ability to provide flexible systems that meet the needs of our customers is important," said Phil Burkart, Toro's International Director of Marketing.

The agreement with Barenbrug will see the company's grass varieties being used for the continued enhancement of the playing surfaces of all the St Andrews Links Trust courses.

"We are impressed by Barenbrug's research and development facilities and are confident that they will supply the quality products and technical support we here at St Andrews look for," said Ian Forbes.



Clinching the deal. Above: Barenbrug and below, Toro



Michel Mulder, Managing Director of Barenbrug UK, said "Given that St Andrews is insistent that its suppliers live up to its own world-class reputation, it

is a pleasure and an honour to join up with them. St Andrews can rest assured that they will receive our total commitment to service in the years ahead."

New Recruit at BIGGA HQ



Rebecca Watson has joined the Association Headquarters' staff as Membership Services Assistant.

A native of York Rebecca (24) arrives at Aldwark Manor having worked in the membership department of a York-based Health Care company. She is also a graduate of Modern American History from Liverpool University.

Keen on sports, particularly athletics and tennis, her other interests include travel - she spent six months as an au pair in Switzerland.

"I am really looking forward to working for the Association and getting to know the BIGGA members," said Rebecca, who will be working alongside Tracey Maddison, the Membership Services Officer.

Duncan's new challenge

Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager at Letchworth Golf Club for the last 11 years, has been appointed Course Manager at Potters Bar GC succeeding John Adamson, who will shortly be retiring.

"While I have had a long and enjoyable spell at Letchworth I'm looking forward to my new challenge," said Duncan, who is a well known speaker on the seminar circuit and an occasional contributor to Greenkeeper International.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



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World Cup fever?

While Scotland were tackling Brazil in the opener to the World Cup in Paris another big event was taking place in London.

Remarkably the result was similar with the London Scots coming up short and losing bravely to the London English. Carl Crocher, of Orsett GC, and Steve Lee, from Browns, are pictured being presented with the winning shield.



Course Ranger: Out for the count

It is a paradox that the simplest question to ask of a golf club is often the most difficult to answer.

"How busy is your course?" on the face of it should be straightforward enough but coming up with an answer, which is anything more than an approximate may prove trickier than you might think.

Yet knowing the amount of traffic a course copes with, and its busy and quiet times would be extremely valuable information for both greenkeeper and secretary alike.

Course Ranger is an infra-red detector beam which monitors the number of rounds played on a golf course. The Course Ranger can work even in isolated parts of the course, owing to its independent power supply.

It makes it possible to count how many rounds are played in any one day, week or year. The count is activated when an individual golfer interrupts an invisible beam between two discrete points, one a receiver the other a transmitter. The system is suitable for use over any distance up to 15 metres which may be extended under favourable operating conditions.

The benefits it can produce are wide ranging. Which part of the day, week and month are the quietest? Course maintenance can be carried out more efficiently and cause less intrusion to the playing membership.



Which are the quieter days to book societies etc? On Pay & Play courses - do green fees tie up with

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New appointments at Kubota

Kubota (UK) Ltd has made two important appointments within its agricultural and grass machinery sales division,



Newly appointed Marketing Manager is Tom Barnes (above) who has been with Kubota for 13 years, most recently in the position of sales manager responsible for Kubota's south east region. Prior to joining Kubota in 1985, Tom worked for an agricultural and horticultural machinery dealer in the eastern counties.

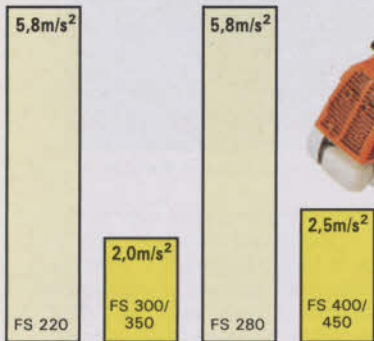
In his new position, Tom takes on responsibility for all of the marketing activities carried out to promote and support Kubota's agricultural and grass machinery sales

throughout the UK. In addition to researching and identifying new market and product opportunities, Tom is responsible for co-ordinating sales promotion, new product introductions, demonstrations, exhibitions and shows, ensuring that the company's marketing activities comply with the quality procedures required under ISO 9002, gained by Kubota in 1996.

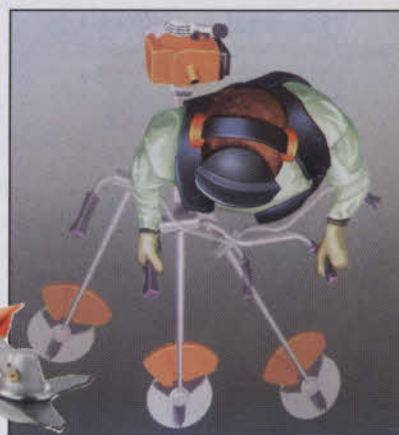
The second new appointment at



Kubota (UK) Ltd sees the company's former Agricultural and Grass Machinery Distribution Manager, David Roberts, (above), become Regional Sales Manager for the south east, taking over the position vacated by Tom Barnes.



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Incredible journey for Joseph

Lady members of Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club thought they were doing the decent thing when they found a new home for Joseph the Cat who had adopted the golf club as his base for the last 18 months.

Looked after by the members who carried biscuits in their golf bags for him Joseph was in fine fettle until he was injured while out on the course.

Member Pam Lane took him to the vet and began to look for a more permanent, and safer, home for him.

As luck would have it a woman in a village ten miles away was looking for a cat and the match was made.

Unfortunately, though a few days later Joseph went missing and ten days later he turned up... back at Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club, a little thinner but in good health.

Members are now organising for a special house to be made for him and are holding raffles to raise money for his food.

Simon leads the way

Simon Ridland an assistant at Canford Magna Golf Club in Wimborne, Dorset, has become the first man to achieve NVQ Level 2 through his prior experience and knowledge without going to college and by being assessed at his own Golf Club.

The assessments were carried out initially by Canford Magna Deputy Course Manager, Matt Maryon, who subsequently moved to become Course Manager at Yeovil Golf Club. The assessments were then completed by his own Course Manager, Trevor Smith.

"I'm absolutely delighted to be the first to achieve the qualification and the club have rewarded my success with a pay rise," said Simon, who initially worked on the construction of the Canford Magna's 36 hole construction before being retained on the greenkeeping staff to carry on the maintenance.

"I'm now thinking of doing Elmwood College's HNC distance learning package which will hopefully lead on to my NVQ Level 3 in Sportsturf Maintenance as I still want to further my qualifications but can't afford the time to go to college," said 35 year old Simon.

"The assessments were initially carried out over a six to eight month period and the GTC Training Manual was used as the training programme and



Matt Maryon and Trevor Smith congratulate Simon Ridland (centre)

the vehicle towards the City and Guilds Level 2 Sportsturf. The practical assessments were planned to be done by observation on the Golf Course within the normal work schedule and the knowledge evidence was checked by oral questioning from the questions prepared from the underpinning knowledge in the Training Manual and everything was logged," explained Matt.

Trevor added that they also gathered a lot of prior evidence of work Simon had carried out during the construction of the course using photographs.

"We at the GTC are delighted that Simon has achieved his NVQ Level 2 in Sportsturf with the support of Matt

& Trevor who we trained to be work based trainers and assessors. The concept of NVQ's have made it possible to release the potential of employees who have not previously had the opportunity to prove their competence and value in the workforce to gain nationally recognised qualifications and to receive reward. Their appetite for self-improvement then goes on," said GTC's N/SVQ Co-ordinator Sue Gudgeon.

"I'm sure that Simon fully appreciates the support that was given by Matt and Trevor and it will hopefully encourage more experienced greenkeepers to become qualified," said Sue.

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Dean Cleaver, the Chairman of FEGGA, gives an overview into the aims of the Federation...

EuroUNITED

It does not seem two years ago since many of us gathered in Amsterdam and made that unique decision to form the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association (FEGGA).

For many years we had discussed whether there was a need to form an umbrella Association to represent National Associations on a European level. Many discussions and decisions were being made with no greenkeeping input. For this to continue we felt would be damaging to the industry and indeed the game of golf.

For some time, some of the National Associations had applied for a place on the EGA's Ecology Management Committee. With the formation of FEGGA a place was granted for one person to represent all Associations. We were obviously delighted with this decision and felt this would only benefit the progress of the Ecology Management Committee.

Education is something all Associations have been working very hard on for many years, and in most cases with much success. There was a definite need for all Associations to get together and learn from each other's education, and then to aim for a minimum level within Europe.

There are many other aspects that affect our business in maintaining golf courses in Europe. It must be good to pool our resources, so we may learn from each other and benefit from each other's experiences and resources.

This was the main basis for forming FEGGA in the short term; in the long term there are many more ambitions to fulfill.

At this point I must stress that FEGGA has no wish to interfere with the running of National Associations, supporting their individual activities and representing them at European level.

Following the initial meeting in Amsterdam an interim Board of five members was elected with their main job to prepare a Constitution ready



FEGGA has a policy of holding meetings around Europe and this picture shows the Board on a recent visit to Estonia and the country's only golf club - the Estonian Golf Club. L-R: Board Members, Roland Favrat, of Spain; Per-Olof Ljung, of Sweden; Claus-Detlef Ratjen, of Germany; Dean Cleaver, of the UK, and Elise Jarvenen of Finland. Also in the picture are the Federation's two administrators, Neil Thomas and Tommy Lindelof, as well as, on the extreme right, Rein Paalberg, the Course Manager of the Estonian Golf Club.

for the first AGM in January 1997 held in Harrogate, England. This was approved along with the election of the interim Board.

During last year (1997) FEGGA started to establish quite well and was beginning to be recognised for the work it was doing, and the role it was beginning to play.

We now have 16 Member Associations, representing some 10,500 greenkeeping members.

The Board meetings we held served two purposes, one to obviously carry out Association business, and secondly to take FEGGA to National Association events. We feel that it is very important to support these events and so build up a closer relationship. During 1997, we visited Germany, Switzerland, Sweden and Spain, all very worthwhile visits.

We started 1997 by taking our place on the Ecology Management Committee. Like any new committee member, there has to be a settling in period, but now three meetings later feel that we are making a good contribution. "Committed to Green" is something the Ecology committee has been working toward for some time, and is something we are keen to support and be part of. It is so

important that greenkeepers are involved in decision making, as without their support, success will be limited. It is also vital that Federations encourage golf clubs to be part of "Committed to Green", to show that Golf and Ecology can go together.

FEGGA's main activity for 1997 was to be our first conference, and this was held in Spain during November. The theme for the conference was 'Education and Ecology' followed by time for open discussion. The papers were presented by each Association, with two delegates representing each National Association. All the papers presented were excellent and indeed we learned so much from each other. As I mentioned earlier, one of our aims from the beginning was to have a minimum level of education, something that despite what education was being used could be used as a benchmark.

This indeed was achieved at the conference with everyone agreeing to set their minimum level of education on the equivalent of NVQ Level 2. It is fair to say there are Associations that have surpassed this level already. This minimum level will be reviewed as time goes on.

The papers on Ecology proved to be

most enlightening. We all have different rules and regulations that we have to work to. It did prove how little we know about each other's environmental affairs. FEGGA will help in this matter, as will our involvement in the Ecology Committee. Good communication is vital.

The conclusion of the conference was that there was a great need for FEGGA and we had all witnessed FEGGA working during the conference. We would now hope that the conference will be an annual event picking out different themes each year.

Looking ahead we would like to recruit more members, and help some of the countries that as yet do not have an Association, therefore we plan to visit some of these countries this year. It's also important that we consolidate on what we have achieved already and not try to do everything at once.

I would like to thank the European Golf Association for their support of FEGGA, and I hope I have given you all a brief insight into the role of FEGGA, and its ambitions for the future. I certainly hope we can continue to work closely together in the future.



• Just a trim?

In this magazine dedicated to good turf maintenance practices, one word certain to cause an outbreak of apoplexy is aesthetics. By dictionary definition, aesthetic means "relating to beauty rather than to other considerations", though in golf terminology it has come to mean making the course look as good as it plays, or even better. A few still denigrate the process completely and regard aesthetics as nothing more than 'pretified gardening'.

Of course, in dealing with a living

entity and the vagaries of Mother Nature, practical considerations must come first, thus it would never do to impose aesthetic demands if they run contrary to good agronomic practice.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that today's golfers have come to insist on visual niceties of a higher level than, say, 25 or 30 years ago.

Televised golf must take some share of the blame (or credit) for player sophistication, though who among us, hand on heart, would not admit admiration and envy at the stunning appearance of, say, Gleneagles, Pebble Beach, or Augusta National - as shown on T.V. The thought lingers that save for the extensive budgets that go hand in glove with these verdant cathedrals, there goes every greenkeeper worth his salt.

Pride in your golf course will be an additional driving force; that satisfying though brief moment of egoism a reminder of a job well done, especially when a member saunters across and comments, "The course is looking marvellous today."

One particular practice, aesthetically pleasing yet available to all, thanks to the advances made in lightweight fairway mowers, is contour mowing and striping. It all started in the mid 1970s, when a US Tour event promised a wash-out after days of downpour prevented a tractor and seven gang trailed unit from working. In desperation, a Tour official asked if they would try using a greens triplex with higher blade settings. They did, the compaction was minimal, and the neatly striped fairways looked great on T.V. The

players loved it and the rest is history.

Swiftly adopted, this new fairway cutting technology really took off in the 1980s, for triplex cutting brought not only improved aesthetics, but with a markedly lighter weight machine came minimal compaction and a noted improvement in fairway turf quality.

Trendy it was, and the practice certainly worked, yet now there is hardly a triplex to be seen working on fairways. The reason is simple, for manufacturers responded by introducing lightweight multi-plex mowers, purpose-built for fairway cutting and grooming, coupled with the ability to closely follow ground contours without scalping.

The original thinking behind triplex cutting had not been overlooked, for with multi-plex mowers the beauty (and gain) is to be found in units that work at speeds well in excess of triplexes, while maintaining those same aesthetic qualities that first started the ball rolling - less compaction, a reduction in turf damage, a sharper demarcation between fairway and semi-rough, distinctive and improved cutting qualities and a marked upgrading in fine turf species. All this plus great striping effects into the bargain.

The whole business of striping and patterning brings out the best in greenkeeper innovation, with upwards of seventy percent of course managers now following some form of patterning. Most popular, while probably also the least complicated to perform, is striping by sequential direction, back and forth along the fairways yet following rigidly the contours

An enhanced visual effect is attained with eye-catching striping continued into the fringes



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Lightweight fairway mowers provide a noted improvement in turf, both in quality and appearance.

of each hole. Regimented straight up and down mowing, it seems, is buried alongside the horse-drawn gang and the scythe.

For reasons of variety, others have taken to cutting at cross angles; alternating and varying a 45-degree angle, usually twice during the week, with just an occasional back and forth and returning to follow strict contours at weekends. All agree that wide, sweeping turns at the end of fairways produce visually pleasing half-moon or peanut-waisted effects rather than boring straight lines. If there is a single secret, it is to conjure infinite variety in routing by experimenting freely, thereby ensuring that the mower doesn't cover the exact same ground as it did the time before. Quite apart from the beauty of it all, this is a great compaction saver.

Summer is typically the time of major tournaments, thus it seems appropriate to list some advisory notes on fairway mowing for a championship:

- A course should be set up to require accuracy as well as length. The narrowing or widening of fairways, which necessitates a change in mowing height, should be undertaken as long in advance of the competition as possible. Fairways should be maintained to provide a firm and tight turf. Fluffiness results in 'fliers,' or shots without much backspin.

- To decrease grain and playing against a mowing stripe, mow fairways at an angle against the direction of play.

- Locate the centre of the landing zone from the tee, and repair all unplayable areas from that point

going 45 yards forward to the green and 45 yards back toward the tee.

- Overwatering landing areas and approaches to greens will be perceived as tricking up the course.

- When mowing, use flags as directional markers for straight lines.

- Dew drag before mowing with a heavy hose to reduce bouncing and decrease the formation of clipping piles.

- When using two lightweight mowers, start mowing in the middle of the fairway landing zone and work in the opposite direction.

- Mow fairways as you would paint a floor. Start near the 1st tee and mow away from play to keep noise and interference away from the competition.*

Finally, a few words on fairway mower selection. A first priority must be to ensure the mower has ample horsepower, sufficient to cope adequately with your requirements, and if your course is a hilly one, plump for an on-demand 4-wheel drive option, which will eliminate wheel spin in damp conditions. Power steering, hand adjustments, fully floating cutting heads, verti-groom conditioning attachments; all will add to make fairway mowing a creative joy.

* tournament guidelines compliments of USGA Green Section Record.



This month, Ken Richardson gives details on the various BIGGA training courses available, and wraps up the entries for our three main competitions...

TORO Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping

The deadline for entries to this prestigious competition has now passed with entries well up on 1997. The panel of judges met in York early last month to confirm their methods of assessing each candidate before visiting their courses. The Judges have a vast depth of knowledge and experience and include the current Chairman of BIGGA, two Past Chairmen, the current Scottish Chairman of BIGGA, a Past Chairman of BIGGA and an ex BIGGA National Board Member. The Chairman of Judges is Walter Woods, first Chairman of BIGGA. Candidates will be judged during June and July prior to the National Finals in October where the winner will win a TORO Greens Mower for his club and a trip to the GCSAA Show and Conference for himself, while his team all win a set of BIGGA Waterproofs.



Toro Student of the Year

The closing date for this competition has now passed and 34 students have been nominated for the

Regional Finals which take place during the week commencing July 20 except in Ireland when judging will take place on August 4.

The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

Judging for this competition which is held in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhône Poulenc Amenity has commenced and Bob Taylor, from STRI, is slowly sifting through a record number of entries. Those courses selected for the next stage will be notified as soon as possible.

The Learning Experience 1999

Following recent changes of ownership, the Learning Experience is now sponsored by Textron Turf Care. Thanks to their sponsorship, BIGGA will be able to offer the full range of quality training at the National Education Conference, Workshops and BTME Seminars at special low rates for BIGGA members. From January 1999, onwards full time student members of BIGGA will be able to attend all seminars free of charge,

a saving of £60. Watch out for full details of the Learning Experience 1999 in future editions of Greenkeeper International.

Aldwark Manor Supervisory Courses 1998

Full details of this years Aldwark Manor Supervisory Management Courses were included with the June edition of this magazine. For further information, contact Sami or me at HQ.

Regional Courses 1998/1999

Full details of this year's Regional Courses are included with this magazine. This year sees a mixture of one and two day courses, all heavily subsidised by the contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund. Each course requires a minimum of 6 delegates so use them or lose them.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Irrigation workshop due to be held at the Barons Court Hotel, Walsall on 24-25 November, will now be held on 17-18 November.

This month, Geoff Steel gives advice on how to get the best deal for your savings...

Banks and Building Societies make the most out of the apathy of savers. They make billions of pounds in profit because customers do not try and get the best out of their savings. It is well recorded that accounts are initially publicised offering high interest rates, but then the interest rate is reduced over the years with higher rates only being offered to new savers.

Too many people think there is not a lot of difference between accounts and it is not worth shopping around. Just

consider that £1,000 at 2% interest, which is not uncommon, will be worth £1,268 after 12 years, whereas £1,000 at 7% will be worth £2,252 after 12 years. The extra interest alone has made up the £1,000 initial savings.

Looking for the best interest rates does not only apply to individuals, it applies to clubs and businesses. When I took over being treasurer of a local club, I found that we had a current account that paid no interest and a deposit account paying 0.9% interest.

We now have a current account paying interest of 3% and a deposit account paying 7.2%.

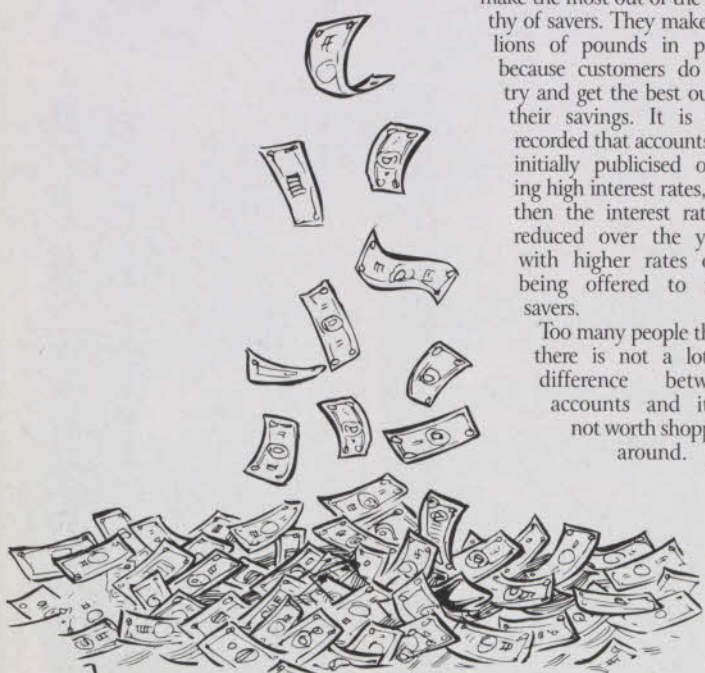
There is still a prevailing attitude that the bank knows best; we have been customers for a long time so we trust them and I'm sure my bank will do the best for me as a customer. By taking this attitude, customers only have themselves to blame when they find out the bank is acting in its own interest in preference to the customer.

The best interest rates are often obtained from Telephone banking accounts can offer the best interest

rates and are much easier to use than many people think. It is quite easy to transfer money between accounts on a telephone call to the bank. Well-known organisations are establishing themselves as banks and are offering bank accounts with good interest rates; Tesco; Sainsbury; Scottish Widows and Standard Life are a few of the better known ones. I can provide a list of current interest rates, for all banks and building societies, if required.

There are still too many customers who trust the bank or building society to act on their behalf. Unfortunately, the world is such that large institutions are continually under pressure to make the maximum profit, which means making the most they can out of each customer. As their customers, we can only obtain the best by shopping around.

Geoff Steel is an Independent Financial Adviser with Walsh Lucas & Co and he welcomes comments from readers. His freephone telephone number is 0800 7835132.



Address your letters to the Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF. You can also fax them to 01347 838864, or e-mail them to bigga@btinternet.com

A sad loss

Steve Devlin lost his battle for life against cancer at the age of 31 in May after being diagnosed just four weeks earlier.

Steve started in greenkeeping while still at school when he worked at Downfield for work experience. He fell in love with the job and such was his enthusiasm that he spent all his free time at Downfield even bunking off school. When he was offered an apprenticeship he jumped at the chance and never looked back.

At that time he was under the watchful eye of Head Greenkeeper, Bill Milton (now retired) and when he attended Kingsway College in Dundee he passed all his exams with flying colours. Steve was a keen golfer and footballer winning many medals and trophies.

When Bill retired Steve served under Ian Menzies and Paul Murphy at Downfield before joining me as Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Drumoig Golf Club at the start of 1996 where he will be sadly missed by all staff.

Our thoughts go out to his family and fiancée, Hayley. I have lost a good friend and workmate.

Malcolm Hall
 Head Greenkeeper
 Drumoig GC



Thanks to Volvo PGA Support team

On behalf of the European Tour, please pass on our thanks to all the Golf Course Managers for all their time and assistance put into the upkeep of the bunkers around the course during the event.

Considering the hectic final day on Monday, from what I gather there were no problems and the whole operation was run very smoothly. I know that Chris Kennedy and his team very much appreciated the help and support; it took a considerable burden off their shoulders.

Edward Kitson
 PGA European Tour

Left: Ross Wilson (Donnington Grove Country Club) 'does the business' for Tony Johnstone and Andy Sherbourne at the greenside bunker on the first at Wentworth

Can't get no satisfaction...

I have been an avid follower of your monthly magazine and in particular the recruitment section. I feel that by advertising a job in a national and international basis the company advertising has every chance to obtain the desired appli-

cant and by using Greenkeeper international they should achieve this.

My gripe is that if a company is going to the trouble of advertising in such a professional magazine, seeking the desired applicant, then should the applicant fail, he at least deserves the decency to receive a knock back letter.

I have applied for several posi-

tions in your magazine over the past few months and after discussions with a few colleagues they have found the same, that they never receive a letter in reply, not even just saying "thanks but no thanks".

I just wonder if this is common place in the UK, not to let the applicant know where he stands. I realise I have only eight years expe-

rience, on "Top 100" golf courses in three different continents, one of which being America, in which case this would not happen.

With so many trying to emulate the American standards, maybe a few should start with their recruitment techniques.

Steve Johnson
 Auchterarder

Gala Opening ceremony at Woodhall Spa

The new Donald Steel-designed Bracken Course at the National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa was opened officially by the English Golf Union President John Scrivener at the end of May. The ribbon cutting had followed an Opening Day Invitation tournament during which the delights of the new course, which adjoins the world renowned Hotchkin Course, were experienced. Significantly different from its older neighbour the Bracken is a fine addition to a

Centre which also boasts state-of-the-art training facilities and practice ground which are regarded as the best around. The opening was graced by the presence of Neil Hotchkin, who sold the land to the English Golf Union, and the Bracken Course architects, Donald Steel and Tom McKenzie. Picture shows EGU President John Scrivener cutting the ribbon flanked by John Flanders, the EGU Honorary Treasurer and Neil Hotchkin.



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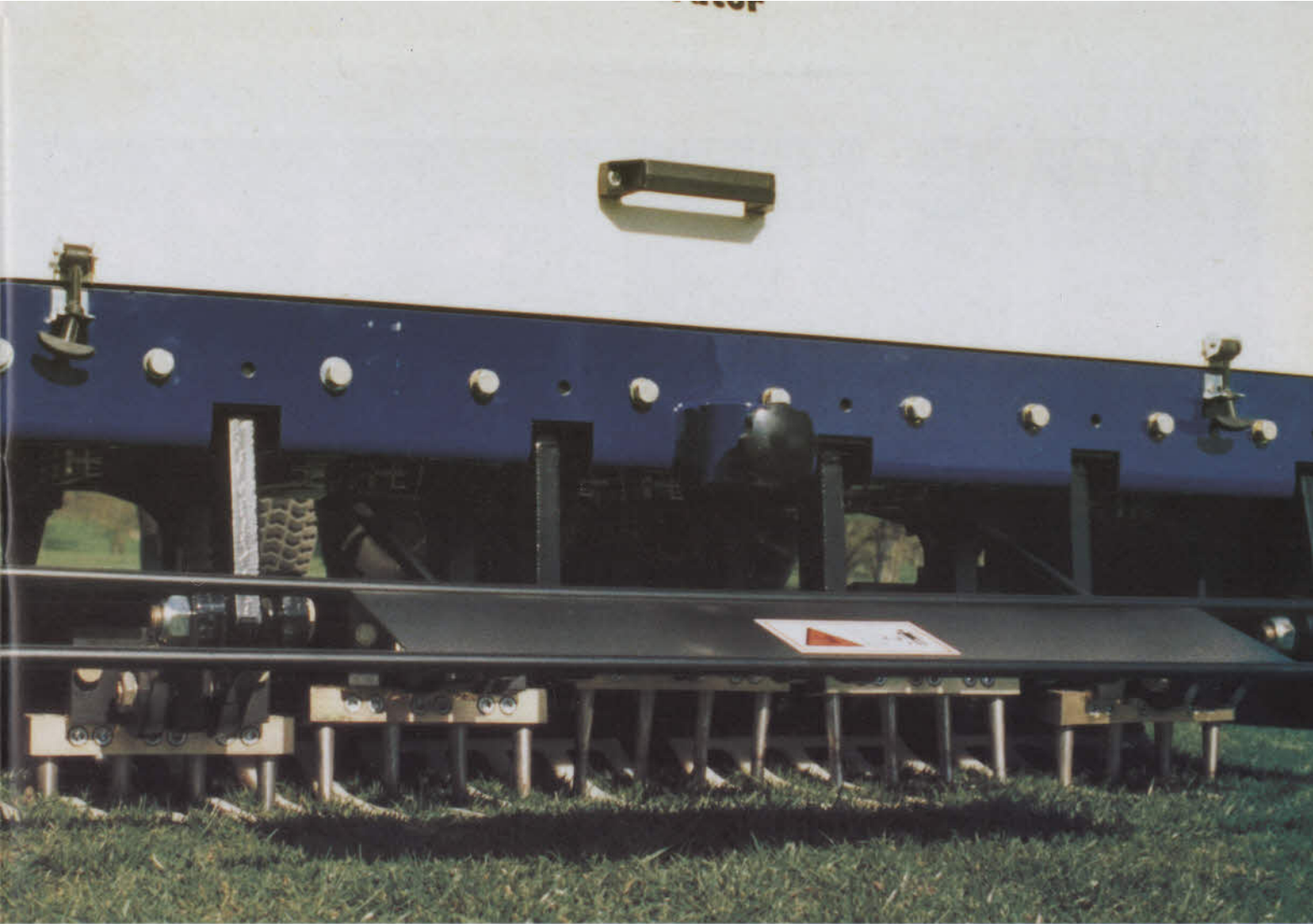
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Roland Taylor takes a look at aeration and the developments which have made it such a technically advanced operation...

Making the earth move

Aeration – the dictionary defines this as “to supply or impregnate the soil with air”, but traditionally this is not what is actually done by most equipment that carries the title of ‘aerator’. What in fact is carried out, is the opening up of the soil to allow for the passage of vital elements to create healthy growth.

Soil basically only provides a support and anchor for plants, the important part in its structure is the gap between each particle. This determines how much water, air and nutrient reaches the roots and thus controls their development. Tightly packed particles restrict growth, cause drainage problems and minimise the amount of air and nutrients that reach the plant.

Making the earth move



The result is poor turf that is highly susceptible to disease and which cannot sustain heavy traffic.

The free movement of water is vital. Where soil has become compacted the flow is drastically reduced and in severe cases water runs off the surface and is completely wasted. In these situations the plants quickly become

starved. Alternatively, saturation occurs leaving the plants standing in stagnant water which is far from conducive to healthy growth.

In an ideal world, the answer would be a friable soil structure that allows the root systems to develop freely and has a constant supply of all the plants' requirements. In addition, it needs to con-

tain plenty of micro-organisms to deal with the rotting down process of organic material.

Unfortunately, there are many outside influences that affect this balance, a major one being compaction. To help alleviate this problem, engineers have devised a wide range of machinery that is now readily available.

Somewhere at some time a greenkeeper discovered that by periodically sinking a fork into a green there was an improvement in the turf - aerating had been discovered to be beneficial.

Throughout their development and use the one underlying factor is the amount of disruption they cause to the golfer and no doubt

over the years some heated discussions have taken place between golfers and greenkeepers.

Needless to say, manufacturers have addressed this problem and introduced machines to minimise the affects on the playing surface. This has led to some interesting developments in recent years, more of which later.

Tines

There are basically three types of tines: solid, hollow and chisel. It is their depth of penetration and how they are propelled introduced into the ground that will vary between each piece of aerating equipment. These machines also fall into three categories: pedestrian, tractor-

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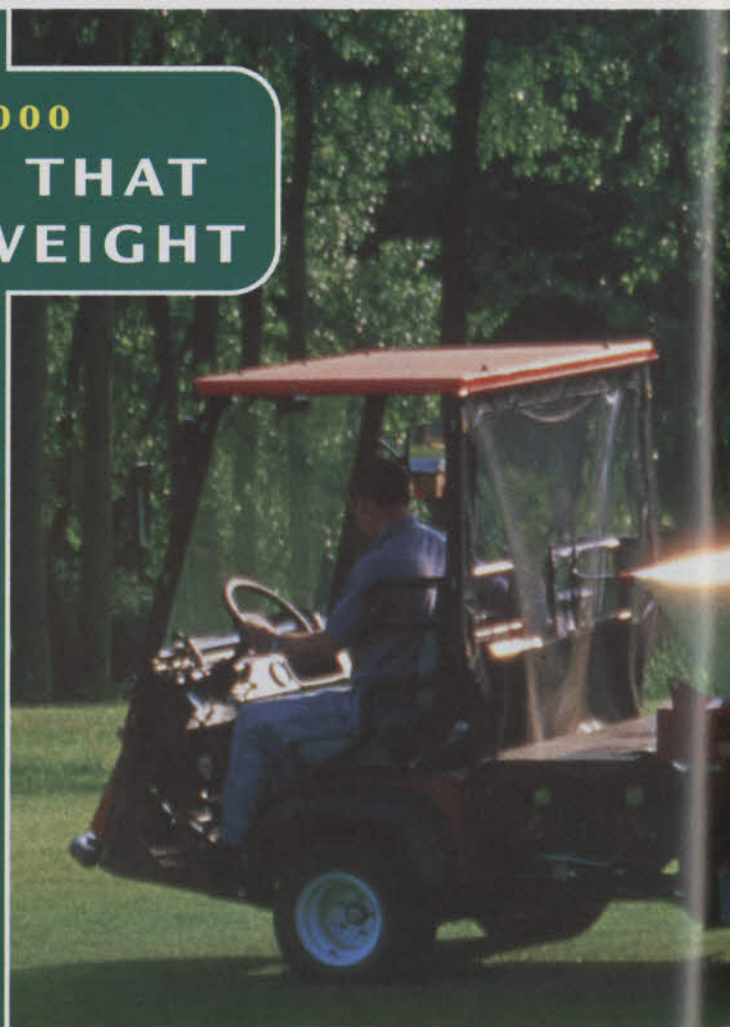
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mounted and self-propelled units. Initially, and still on many models today the penetration is achieved simply by weight, but during the '70s a new concept was launched. This consisted of tines mounted on a series of arms that were power-driven by a crankshaft. It was found that it worked on hard compacted soil, which had previously been virtually impenetrable.

Hollow tines

These are mainly used where it is necessary to change the soil composition or to help with the removal of thatch. The frequency of treatment has to be carefully monitored as soft playing surfaces can result from excessive use. Mini

tines are available for dealing with thatch and also re-seeding. The biggest problem when using hollow tines is clearing up the resulting cores, although there are machines available to speed up this operation.

Dig deep

When hand digging the earth is lifted before being turned over. This process effectively opens up the soil and was the principle used in the development of the Verti-Drain. The system had some distinct advantages over what had previously been available. Using a heave and lift action meant minimum surface disturbance and it worked down to a maximum depth of 40cm. This

machine continues to play an important role in modern turf management practices.

Air Pressure

Getting closer to the true definition of aeration is the use of compressed air. This is best suited to selected problem areas such as wet or dry spots. Air under pressure creates a mini earthquake loosening the soil and opening up fissures and cracks. Small polystyrene beads can be injected into the soil to provide support to aeration and the help the percolation of water, oxygen and fertiliser. The probes can be used at any depth down to 1 metre, although above 250mm there is a possibility of surface damage. This type of unit

is fairly specialised so is usually hired complete with operator. There are, however, some pedestrian models available which may be worth considering if one has this type of persistent problem.

Water Pressure

In recent years we have seen the introduction of high-velocity water injection systems. The water droplets travel like minute bullets into the soil and fan out to maximise their affect. The units operate to a depth of 10cm to 15cm and down beyond 51cm if required. They leave virtually no mark on the surface, so play is not interrupted. Chemicals can also be introduced into the root area using this method.



Making the earth move

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Especially during long dry spells a hard crust forms beneath the turf and stops the ingress of water, air, fertiliser and top dressing. This can be kept open by regular use of a spiked roller to gently break up the surface.

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Suck or blow

A system that may be the way forward for many courses uses the existing drainage system to either blow air into the root zone, or suck water and air down from the surface. Developed by a Course Superintendent at Augusta National, this greens management system could have distinct advantages.

One drawback is that not all greens have a suitable drainage system and it also has to be borne in mind that, while it may help with the compaction problem, it is

still necessary to use other equipment to alleviate it.

Conclusion

The advent of more people taking up golf plus, in many cases the commercial aspect (minimal loss of green fees) has placed increasing pressure on both the playing surfaces and greenkeepers.

For many, compaction is a major problem that will not go away and regular aerating is necessary as part of a turf management programme if it is to be kept in check. In recent years there have been some significant changes (suck or blow) in the approach to the problem which may prove to be the answer for some courses. The quest to find the ultimate answer continues.

In the meantime greenkeepers will find plenty of equipment available that will help them to have some control over the situation and benefit the turf.

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The 1998 Open sees Royal Birkdale Head Greenkeeper, Chris Whittle, becoming the sole member of an exclusive club. He spoke with Scott MacCallum...

Record breaker



The dream of many young greenkeepers is to be the head man at an Open venue. It is a laudable ambition but one which only a very few will ever realise. There is, after all, only one Open a year, on a very select rota and Head Greenkeepers at Open venues don't tend to move too often.

This year, however, a man creates a new record when he becomes the first man to have prepared two different courses for Open Championships. Chris Whittle was the Head Greenkeeper at Muirfield when Nick Faldo won The Open in 1992 and this year he will be the man at the helm at Royal Birkdale when the world's best descend on Southport.

Record breaker



Royal Birkdale
Head Greenkeeper,
Chris Whittle

In fact, Chris can take it one stage further when you take into account that he was Jimmy MacDonald's Deputy at Royal Lytham in 1979 when Seve Ballesteros won The Open for the first time.

"I must confess that I hadn't really given it a thought. I've been too busy to think about things like that," said Chris, whose full CV includes Formby, when he was an apprentice under Jimmy MacDonald; then following Jimmy to Royal Lytham, where he also worked on both Ryder and Curtis Cups; St Annes Old Links which was his first headship; Muirfield and now Royal Birkdale.

He admits that it could only have been Birkdale, where he has been for three and a half years, that lured him away from Muirfield.

"I loved Muirfield and think of it as a very special place but Birkdale has always been my favourite golf course, bar none. I used to caddie here as a youngster and this was the course on which I always wanted to work. Being Head Greenkeeper here is my dream job," said Chris.

That said, he was so content at Muirfield that he agonised for three months before finally sending in his Birkdale application, and admits that when he visited the course he almost had second thoughts.

"The greens were a problem, the irrigation system was defunct, there

was dry patch on the fairways and remedying the tree problem was probably the biggest task of the lot. But I felt that if I hadn't taken the job I'd always have wondered... so you have to go for it then, don't you?" he said, before adding, "But I'm glad I did."

Birkdale's difficulties had been exposed in the most public and cruelest of fashions when Ian Baker-Finch won the 1991 Open on greens which were universally vilified, forcing then Head Greenkeeper, Tom O'Brien, to endure an experience no-one would wish on their worst enemy.

A combination of long standing degeneration which caused the greens to be slow and soft, compounded by an error on a grimmer height setting, which killed the annual meadow grass, meant that the '91 Open will always be remembered for its bad greens.

"I walked on a few of them in '91 and they tended to look worse than they were. They were far from perfect but it was very much a visual thing," recalled Chris, whose own Open at Muirfield was, by coincidence, the following year.

"It's not fair what happened to Tom O'Brien and I don't think I would have coped with the situation as well as he did," he added.

The severity of the situation, and inherent admission that Birkdale

had been sitting on a long term problem, was apparent when the decision was taken to rebuild totally the greens under the guidance of the STRI.

Chris arrived at the club after the new greens had already been laid, some of them twice, and quickly realised that it was not the end of the problems.

"It was clear that the grass was only living in the top layer because what was below was very sandy. It was pretty much thatch in a lot of places and we had to encourage the roots to go down, which meant diluting and removing some of the rich top layers.

"Some greens were 100% poa while the best were 90% poa, 10% bent and we wanted to change to bent-fescue greens. We hollow tined regularly and topped dressed but this in itself caused problems because there was no rooting and the turf was plucking. In the first year I think we put 200 tonnes of top dressing on and most of the greens had been hollow tined at two inch centres at least 12 or 13 times.

"The members were very good and let me close the greens from September to Easter a couple of years ago. It did help that The Open was coming as we all knew it had to be right by then," said Chris (44), who returned to Royal



Lytham two years ago to help his old boss during Open week.

"At least now we have a mixed sward of bent, a little fescue and poa. It's just a matter of tipping the balance in favour of bent-fescue. That's going to take a long time."

As well as the extensive work Chris and his team have carried out they have had to cope with the inevitable grindings of the rumour mill which suggested that the R&A might just replace Birkdale in 1998 as the Open venue.

"Some of the rumours were just ridiculous. What I can say is that no-one once came to me and said if this doesn't succeed you'll lose The Open. That pressure was never put on us," said Chris.

While it was the greens which commanded the most attention at Birkdale it was the trees which caused the greatest headaches.

"The white poplars were virtually choking the golf course. There were even tree roots underneath the new greens which we had to dig out. The roots were round drains and sprinklers. On the new 16th green a root had even gone underneath a bunker, up through the bunker face and underneath the green."

In addition to the practical dif-

ficulties of getting the roots out of the ground the project had to be sold to the membership. Fortunately that didn't prove to be as difficult as they feared.

"The course was actually changing from a links to an inland course so we did a presentation to the members about what we were going to do and why. We expected to be bombarded by questions but those we got were very sensible and very few.

"A lot of trees were small suckers, spreading off other trees and over the last three years we have cleared trees ranging in height from 40 feet down to about 30 inches over an area totalling at least 60,000 square yards."

It was this clearance work which led to the club's entry in BIGGA's Golf Environment Award, in association with Amazone and Rhone Poulenc being the Regional winner.

"We got a lot of help from the Sefton Life Project with regard to advice and practical help," explained Chris.

Removing the roots proved to be a complicated business.

"We tried grubbing them out, pulling them out, cutting to ground level, stump grinding, but eventually found that the best way was to cut to ground level.

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Record breaker

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2 Jacobsen Mk1V greens triplex
Toro GM3 triplex
5 Ransomes Certes
5 Lloyds Paladins
6 Flymo
2 strimmers
2 Reciprocators
Ryan Turf Cutter

stump treat, to prevent regrowth, and then wait until the summer when some suckers came up and then spray those off. When we got a unit cost worked out we put the work out to a contractor."

A lot of the tees have been discovered to be full of roots and Chris is already planning to rebuild many of them.

As we spoke the final touches to the revamped watering system were being carried out with 63 well points hopefully ending a situation when a dependence on the mains supply resulted in Chris scaling everything down by 40%.

To the question "At what stage did you feel you had everything under control?" Chris laughed.

"I don't think I have yet. Ask me after The Open. I only felt I was beginning to get to grips with it this spring but I'm still not happy because the greens are not of the quality that I'm used to having...but I will get there."

Being in the unique situation of having been in charge of two of the best golf courses in the world Chris is able to compare Muirfield and Birkdale.

"Birkdale is laid out between the hills while Muirfield just rolls over the ground generally. They are different but both great golf courses. In maintenance terms, Muirfield had very little rainfall and when I was there there wasn't an irrigation system as such so most of the summer was spent pulling hose pipes



round. It was predominately fescue and the greens were no problem at all. The big bonus was that it wasn't overplayed, especially in the non growing season so you got maximum benefit from your work. Really it was so easy you could leave it alone and it could look after itself. Whereas Birkdale doesn't look after itself. It goes the opposite way and it is a very busy golf course."

The Open itself will see Chris

utilising some of the club's artisan golfers as well some students.

"My brother, Geoff, who's now Head Greenkeeper at St Annes Old Links is coming over for the week and the other local Head Greenkeepers have offered their services. I'm also delighted that the BIGGA Open Support Team will be here because you just couldn't manage without them."

It will undoubtedly be an exciting week, played out over a wonderful golf course where each hole is as superb as the one before and the one which follows but you can fully appreciate Chris when he says he hopes for a low key week.

"I will just be happy to have a quiet Open where all the headlines are made by golf rather than the golf course. If no-one makes a comment about Birkdale all week, then, that'll be fine by me."

"I won't relax until I see the course go through a tournament successfully and it will wipe out the memory of the last Open which damaged Birkdale's reputation."



The Royal Birkdale team

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Dr Stephen Baker, Head of Soils and Sports Surface Science, STRI, Bingley assesses the value of laboratory testing of golf green rootzones...

Reasons for research

In recent years there has been considerable debate about the value of laboratory testing for the selection of materials for golf green construction. Much of the information that has been presented has been anecdotal and perhaps sometimes based on extreme cases. In addition, there is little evidence that detailed measurements have been carried out so that conclusions can be based on meaningful data. The objective of this article is to present the results of two major studies at the STRI where we addressed the issue of comparing laboratory and field measurements to see whether laboratory analysis can be used to predict subsequent performance in the field.

STRI field trial

Results of the first study were presented at the International Turfgrass Society Conference in Australia. This study had two parts, firstly the construction of a series of experimental plots at the STRI covering an area of 34m x 13m and secondly a laboratory programme in which the effects of different moisture levels and compaction procedures were examined.

If we consider first the field trial, this consisted of a suspended water

table construction of 250mm of rootzone material, 50mm of coarse sand blinding layer and a 150mm deep drainage carpet of 5-10mm gravel. It included 16 different rootzone materials in 2m by 2m plots each of which was repeated four times.

The rootzones were formed from blends of a sandy loam soil with four different sands in four mixing ratios i.e. 1:1, 1:2, 1:4 and 0:1 (soil:sand by volume). In other words mixing ratio ranged from 1 part soil to 1 part sand mixes to pure sand rootzones. The sands had contrasting grain size characteristics and they included three uniform sands (medium-fine, medium and medium-coarse) and one sand with a wide spread of particles which was therefore susceptible to interpacking. The experimental plots were sown with a fescue-bent seeds mixture in June 1988.

Subsequent management was typical of that for a good quality golf green and wear started in July 1989 using one of the STRI's differential slip wear machines. A vast number of properties of the turf were measured such as changes in grass species composition, ball roll characteristics and the stopping distance of golf balls fired with controlled conditions of velocity, angle and backspin. However, the most important characteristics as far as this study was concerned were water infiltration rates, soil porosity, air-filled pore space and water retention. Infiltration rates were assessed each spring by hammering concentric rings of 300mm and 500mm diameter into the plots and measuring how quickly water entered the turf surface. Porosity and water retention characteristics were assessed at the end of the trial in 1992 from undisturbed cores

taken at depths of 10-90mm and 100-180mm.

Samples of the different rootzone materials were submitted to the STRI's Soil Physics laboratory after blending. In the laboratory we examined the effects of two levels of compaction and four moisture contents at the time of compaction. The test procedure was very similar to that used in the USGA test methods except that the two levels of packing energy (18.9 and 47.3kJ per m²) were either side of the compaction energy used in the USGA test (30.3kJ per m²).

Compaction energy and moisture content at the time of compaction inevitably have some effect on the values obtained but the most important factor in the current debate is how well measurements in the laboratory compared with corresponding assessments on the turf plots.

Drainage rates into the field plots inevitably decreased with time because of a build-up of compaction, root blockage of the pore space and accumulation of organic fines but as Fig 1 shows there is a strong relationship between hydraulic conductivity measured in the laboratory and drainage performance in the field. Under United Kingdom conditions it is very rare for rainfall to exceed 15mm per hour and using equation for the data in April 1992 (four years after construction) a drainage rate in the laboratory of 148mm per hour would be required to ensure infiltration rates exceeding the 15mm per hour mark. This value agrees almost exactly with the lower limit of 150mm per hour given in the USGA recommendations for putting green construction.

Relationships between air-filled pore space and capillary porosity (water filled pore space) measured in the laboratory and field are shown in Fig 2. Again the relationships were strong, in other words the laboratory data are very useful for predicting which rootzone mixes are liable to be water retentive and which rootzone materials are likely to be droughty in nature therefore requiring more watering.

Golf greens with sand dominated rootzones

The trial on the STRI experimental plots had the advantage that all the rootzones had exactly the same management and exactly the same amount of wear. The second project examined relationships between laboratory measurements on real golf greens, generally 5-15 years old, which formed part of a survey of sand dominated golf greens financed by the R&A. Again physical properties of the greens were measured using double ring infiltrometers and undisturbed cores.

Figure 1: Relationships between laboratory hydraulic conductivity measurements and field values of infiltration rate measured at the beginning and end of the trial

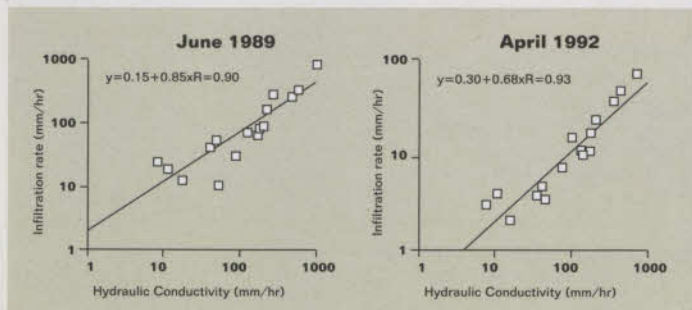
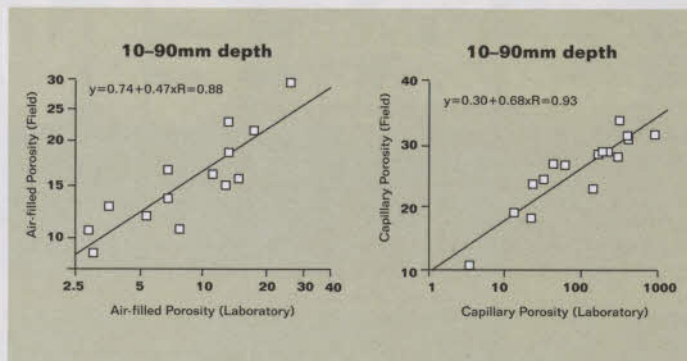


Figure 2: Relationships between laboratory measurements of air-filled pore space and water retention at 40cm tension and corresponding measurements made on undisturbed cores taken from a depth of 10-90mm in the field plots



This time the rootzone material for the laboratory study had to be collected from the established turf using large samples taken by a golf hole cutter.

In this study there were again significant relationships between laboratory and field measurements but compared to the earlier study the relationships were weaker for all parameters except total pore space. The stronger relationship for total porosity probably reflects the greater range of values that occurred in the golf green survey.

Studies elsewhere

The findings of relatively good relationships between laboratory and field measurements under the closely controlled conditions on field trials (where management and wear are standardised) but weaker relationships for real greens has also been found in a number of studies in the United States. This perhaps leads to the conclusion that laboratory measurements can be very valuable in assessing the potential performance of a rootzone for a golf green but variations in management have the capacity to affect performance in the field.

For example a well formulated rootzone mix with the potential to produce a free draining, high quality putting surface may give lower than expected drainage performance because of abuse during construction (eg working in wet conditions), a lack of aeration work or subsequent use of a much finer top dressing.

There are also undoubtedly cases where a rootzone has been tested and approved in a soil testing laboratory but poor quality control has meant that the material delivered to the site bears little resemblance to the material examined in the laboratory.

The quality of laboratory test results

The second main issue that is relevant is the standardisation of test methods and the reproducibility of results from laboratories. Some of alleged variability in test results may have resulted from the fact that soil properties can quite legitimately be measured using different test procedures. In reality this does not matter as long as results are interpreted taking account of the test method that was used, but it

does mean that people must be wary of comparing results from different laboratories. In addition it does provide ammunition for anyone wishing to criticise the whole concept of testing. In this respect the standardisation of methods for the testing of the physical properties of rootzones by the USGA must be welcomed. In the same manner the CEN standardisation procedure taking place within Europe, for which I head the task group on golf, may ultimately help with respect to chemical test methods and other test procedures.

Problems of reproducibility of test results are being addressed through the USGA's Laboratory Proficiency scheme of which the STRI have been members from the outset. Samples are sent to the participating laboratories on a quarterly basis and statistical analysis of the test results provides a mechanism to

identify the reliability of the laboratory and to identify if any errors are occurring. Use of a laboratory participating in this scheme is an important step to ensure reliable test results.

Final thoughts

In conclusion, an experienced scientist or agronomist may well have a pretty good idea of the potential performance of a rootzone material just by visual inspection but laboratory test results can be very useful in assessing the physical properties of more marginal materials. Furthermore many developers of new golf greens simply do not have the experience to compare the merits of different rootzones and therefore test results, and their interpreted by a suitably qualified agronomist, is an essential part of ensuring that a good quality product is obtained.

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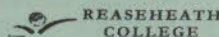
The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of colleges offering greenkeeper training courses. This guide shows colleges offering courses to craft, supervisory and management levels, but it must be stated that until the GTC review is completed only the green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

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

NORTH



ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE Askham Bryan, York YO2 3PR. Contact: The Registry Tel: 01904 772211. National Certificate in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture (Turf Option), Higher National Diploma in Horticulture (Golf Management Option) all available full or part time. Block release courses: NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance, NVQ Level 4 Amenity Horticulture. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.



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



SHIPLEY COLLEGE Exhibition Road, Saltaire, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD18 3JW. Tel: 01274 757222. Full time courses: BTEC First Diploma Horticulture (Environment and Landscaping), BTEC National Diploma Horticulture, BTEC National Diploma Environmental Horticulture. Part time: Greenkeeping NVQ 2, Amenity Horticulture NVQ 2/3, Horticulture Skills Test, Pesticide Spraying, Royal Horticulture Society Certificate, City & Guilds Gardening Certificate.



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



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

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MOULTON COLLEGE, Moulton, Northampton, NN3 7RR Tel 01604 491131 Fax 01604 491127. Full time: BTEC First Diploma in Horticulture - 1 year. BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture - 2 years. National Certificate in Horticulture - 1 year. Part time: NVQ2 Amenity Horticulture with Sports Turf Care. NVQ3 Sports Turf Maintenance. Both NVQs - 1 day per week over 2 years Short Courses: FEPA - 2 days. Chainsaw Operators Certificate - 1 week



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



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



BROOKSBY COLLEGE Brooksby, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE14 2LJ situated on the A607 between Leicester and Melton Mowbray Contact Ann Hurt / Jo Lees Tel: 01664 434291. Day release NVQ Level 2/3 Greenkeeping, includes GTC training manual (2 years). Short courses available in arboriculture/chainsaw work, FEPA spraying and machinery maintenance.



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



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



PLUMPTON COLLEGE Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE. Contact David Blackmur. Tel: 01273 890454. Full time courses: National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture (options in Landscape and Sportsturf); National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture; First Diploma; A11 BTEC. Part time courses: NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture in Arboriculture, Interior Landscaping, Hard Landscaping and Greenkeeping, Sportsturf and Sportsground Management; Decorative Horticulture, NVQ Level III Amenity Horticulture; Phase IV Business Management.



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



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

MIDLANDS

SOUTH EAST

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KEY TO COLOURS

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Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Supervisory level

Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Craft level only

Pending GTC approval for all courses

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

SOUTH EAST



OAKLANDS COLLEGE Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0JA. Contact Ian Merrick. Tel: 01727 850651. Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, Modern Apprenticeships. Evening courses: leading to NVQ Levels 3 and 4. Short courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw, Greenkeeper Mechanics.



WRITTLE COLLEGE, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR. Tel: 01245 420705 Fax: 01245 420456 **SPORTSTURF PROGRAMMES** (Contact - Stewart Brown) NVQ Level 2 - Sportsturf: [Options in Greenkeeping (GTC) or Groundsmanship (IOG) NVQ Level 3 - Sportsturf Maintenance. NVQ Level 4 - Amenity Horticulture. HNC - Sportsturf Science. HND - Sportsturf and Golf Course Management. Other Programmes; First Diploma. National Certificate. National Diploma (with Sportsturf Option). BSc (Hons) Horticulture. BSc (Hons) Landscape and Amenity Management. MSc Landscape and Amenity Management. NVQ 2 and 3 Service Engineering. FEPA. Chainsaw, Tractor Driving



BERKSHIRE COLLEGE Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 6QR. Tel 01628 824444 Fax 01628 824695. Full time courses: BTEC First Diploma and National Diploma. Part time courses: NVQ Level II. NVQ Level III Amenity, sports turf maintenance. Amenity, sports turf (day and block release - GTC manual) Full time courses: BTEC First and National Diploma; Part time courses: NVQ Level 2 Amenity, Sports Turf (day release of block release), NVQ Level 3 Amenity, Sports Turf Maintenance; short courses: PEPA, Machinery, Chainsaw. Regional Centre for Leisure and Land based Industries.



MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE. Contact David I Rhodes. Tel: 01483 884000 Fax: 01483 884000 E-mail: info@merristwood.ac.uk. Full time courses: National Diploma in Greenkeeping & Sports Turf Management, National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part time courses: NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 1, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 2, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Levels - 2 (block release), NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3 (night class), Higher National Certificate Turf Science (subject to approval) plus various short courses.



EASTON COLLEGE Easton Hall, Easton, Norwich, Norfolk NR9 5DX Tel: 01603 742105 Fax: 01603741438 From September 1998 Easton College will be offering the NVQ in Amenity Horticulture - Sports Turf at Level II. This qualification will be run in partnership with Golf Courses and will be offered in a modular format to allow candidates to feed into the modules they require College based training for, but allow for training and assessment in the work environment where applicable. Please contact the College for further information.

S WEST



CANNINGTON COLLEGE Cannington Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS. Contact Decland Gallagher: 01278 655083/Hugh Parry: 01278 655084. BTEC National Diploma Sports Science (Golf Studies), Higher National Certificate Golf Course Management, BTEC First Diploma, BTEC National Diploma in Golf Course Management, BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management (inc. European Studies) NVQ Level I and II Golf Greenkeeping, NVQ Level III Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management, NVQ Level IV Greenkeeping Management, FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Off-road Vehicle Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics.



SPARSHOLT COLLEGE Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2NF. Contact Ray Broughton. Tel: 01962 776441. NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase IV Management Studies, GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC: Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FEPA: Short courses, Chainsaws. All courses other than Phase IV are offered on block release. Full residential facilities available. Sparsholt college provides education and training in the land-based industries.

SCOTLAND



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



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



OATRIDGE COLLEGE, Ecclesmachan, Broxburn, West Lothian, EH52 6NH. Contact Steve Miller. Tel. 01506 854387 Fax. 01506 853373. Full-time certificate in Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship. Part-time courses (day and block release). SVQ Level II Sportsturf with IOG and GTC Training Manuals. SVQ Level III Sportsturf Maintenance. Also National Certificate in Horticulture Engineering. Short specialist courses - Safe use of pesticides. - Chainsaw operation. - Forklift driving



LANGSIDE COLLEGE, Glasgow School of Horticulture, Woodburn House, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen G73 3PF Contact Colin S Urquhart. Tel: 0141 647 6300. SQA National Certificate - 2 years day release or 1 year full time. Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management - 2 years day release. SVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with Greenkeeping options plus a range of NC and HNC Horticulture programmes including G SVQ Level III. Short courses on a range of subjects including Tractor Operations and the Safe Use of Pesticides.

IRELAND



GREENMOUNT COLLEGE Greenmount College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Antrim, BT41 4PU. Contact Henry Shaw. Tel: 01849 426666. Day release courses leading to (a) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management (b) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level III Golf Course Supervision.



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

WALES



WELSH COLLEGE OF HORTICULTURE / SDA TRAINING LIMITED, Northop, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6AA. Tel 01352 841000. Fax 01352 841031. Internet <http://www.wcoh.ac.uk>. Full-time Courses: BTEC HND Greenkeeping option. Part-time Courses: NVQ Levels 1-4 available in block weeks. NVQ Level 2 Home study. Short courses: Pesticide PA1, PA2, PA6. Machinery Maintenance. Health & Safety (C.I.E.H.). I.T Appreciation. Ecology. GTC Manual integrated into all NVQ Levels.

The Hayter International Cup will be played in the week beginning October 11, 1998. Scott MacCallum takes a closer look at the tournament, and the company behind it...

A return match to SAVOUR

If the second Hayter International Cup is anything like as exciting as the first it will be an occasion which will be remembered by all those lucky enough to be involved for many years to come.

Then, the Americas team emerged triumphant from a day, at West Lincs Golf Club, near Liverpool, which saw fortunes ebb and flow and the result in doubt until the very last green of the very last match.

Non-Playing Captain, Bruce Williams, eventually accepted the trophy in recognition of a 10-8 winning scoreline, but the occasion will be most remembered for the experiences off as well as on the golf course.

"I will never forget the electric atmosphere we all experienced on the balcony overlooking the 18th green that day as the match reached its dramatic conclusion," said Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter and the man whose original concept had become a thrilling reality.

"While the result was all important when the golf was going on, as soon

as the hand shakes were completed it was almost irrelevant as it was the forging friendships perhaps rather than the holing of putts that meant the most," said Kim.

It is a lot to expect that the second playing of the Hayter International Cup will live up to its predecessor but you can be sure that those who are preparing for the October date will not be disappointed.

Unlike the first match, the second Hayter International Cup will be played over three courses on three days in Atlanta, Georgia - Cherokee Town and Country Club, the Golf Club of Georgia and Peachtree GC, venue for the 1989 Walker Cup match - with the format close to that used in the Ryder Cup which without fail these days produces excitement by the barrel load.

"I am really looking forward to the return match and am sure that the memories I take away from Atlanta will complement those I treasure from two years ago," said Kim.

The Hayter International Cup was a natural follow-on from the Hayter Challenge which was such an inte-

gral part of BIGGA's members golfing season for five years from 1992.

The qualifying format of playing sectional and regional events to gain a place to represent the Region in a National Final ensured that the competition was a focal part of the year with the chance of visiting one of the best courses in the country for the final a real incentive to play well.

It was from the last Hayter Challenge final, held at the wonderful Ganton club, near Scarborough, last October, that the four UK-based qualifiers for the Rest of the World team were selected.

Andy Sheehan, Nick Webber, Derek Wilson and Russell Lewis will represent England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales respectively and all played out of their skins on behalf of their Region, in the knowledge that success would also win them a place on the plane to Georgia.

Next month we will take a closer look at the courses chosen for the Match.

52 Years Old - and in its Prime

Hayter celebrated its 50th birthday with a lavish dinner at the Ironmonger's Hall in the City of London two years ago at which the honoured guest was Doug Hayter, the man whose inspiration and name had launched the company.

In the 1940s Doug had designed a lawn mower for his own personal use which proved so successful that friends, impressed by the quality of the cut it was giving the Hayter lawns, asked Doug to make one for them as well.

From those little acorns has grown a company which has its own Bishops Stortford factory, a staff of over 200 and an annual turnover of around £20 million.

Doug Hayter, now in his 80s, is no longer at the helm as the company is now owned by Tomkins, one of the UK's biggest multi-nationals with

Below: The 1996 Hayter International teams together



HAYTER

The Americas Team

Non Playing Captain
George Renault, USA
Paul McGinniss
Alta Mesa Country Club,
USA

Dave Fearis
Blue Hills Country Club,
USA

Tommy D. Witt
Still Waters Resort, USA

Doug Meyer
Cedarbrook G&CC,
Canada

Dean Pillar
Cordova Bay GC,
Canada

Mike Baden
Cranbrook G&CC,
Canada

Ken Mangum
Atlanta Athletic Club,
USA

Al Pondel
Deerfield GC, USA

Jim Dusch, USA

Sylvain Alarie
Club de Golf St. Jerome,
Canada

Ricardo de Udaeta
Argentinean Golf
Association

Alejandro Young
Argentinean Golf
Association

Full Rest of the World Team

Non-Playing Captain
Gordon Child, England

Australia - Peter Frewin

England - Andy Sheehan,
Bentley GC, Essex

Finland - Jorma Eriksson

France - Remy Dorbeau

Germany - Andreas
Kauler

Ireland - Nick Webber,
Portstewart GC, Co
Antrim

Norway - Atle Revheim
Hansen

Scotland - Derek Wilson,
Irvine Bogside GC

Spain - Eugenio Rezola

Sweden - Martin
Sternberg

Switzerland - Pierre
Ambrosin

Wales - Russell Lewis,
Northop Country Club,
Flintshire

sales in excess of £4.6 billion last year alone. This ensures that when investment is needed, in either research and development or perhaps new tooling, the money is there to do it and that the company's Mission Statement of "Simply the Best" is not just an impossible dream.

A journey through the Hayter factory shows the fruits of this, with "3D" computer aided design equipment on the first floor as well as robot controlled machinery and a state-of-the-art powder paint plant on the shop floor. The latter of which ensures that every machine leaves the factory sporting the distinctive green livery in an immaculate finish.

The Hayter portfolio of equipment is highly regarded across the board in the domestic, where it is regarded as without peer, the local authority and in the golf markets.

"We have had a superb year in the domestic market so far and are having trouble keeping on top of the orders," explained Kim, while he recalls the '96 Hayter International Cup fondly as an occasion when he sold equipment to some of the Canadian competitors.

"That was not the purpose of the event. We are keen to facilitate the coming together of greenkeepers from throughout the world but if we can also sell some machines while we are there it's the icing on the cake," he smiled.

"The fact that the Canadians hadn't seen Hayter equipment until their visit to West Lincs says much for the impact it made on them," added Kim, whose name within the industry is as respected as the machinery he sells.

The Hayter International Cup will be played in the week beginning October 11, 1998. The Americas team to defend the cup will be announced shortly.

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Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
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Central

Regretfully, I begin this month with the sad news of the recent death of one of our members, Steve Devlin. Steve was assistant greenkeeper at Drumoig GC and died at the age of 31. (See Letters Page). Our sincere condolences go to Steve's family and fiancée, Hayley, at this very trying time.

Past Chairman, Jimmy Lees, was in hospital recently for an operation on his hip. Hopefully everything went well and he is now on the road to recovery. Best wishes from everyone in the Section Jimmy! The operation prevented him from competing in the final of the Inter Club Tournament, which meant that the team from Tulliallan were awarded a walk over. There's a joke in there somewhere, but with Jimmy recovering from a hip operation perhaps I had better kick it into touch.

This year's Inter Club tournament should now be into the second round, with ten teams competing. The plan is to have the final played

before the Autumn Tournament at Crieff in October.

The Autumn Tournament for '99 is provisionally booked for Tuesday, September 21, at Balbirnie Park GC. Confirmation is awaited on this as is the date for the '99 Spring Tournament. As soon as I have them I will let you know.

Another new member joins us from East of Fife this month and it's a warm welcome to the Section to Thomas Band, from Scoonie GC. Is this another member for the Leven Links Sporting Club? While I am on about this famous Club, their chief coach! Star man! you know who, has offered (actually he has threatened) to write the Section news sometime. As he is Section Vice Chairman at the moment, perhaps I had better agree to this, as life may be rather difficult when he becomes Chairman!

A man on the move is Abe Torrance. Abe is leaving King James GC in Perth and moving to the Green Hotel Golf Courses at Kinross, where he will be an assistant with Section committee member, John Bashford.

I had a visit recently from past BIGGA Chairman, Barry Heaney, and his wife Joan. You may recall they attended our Spring

Tournament at Aberdour, when Barry was Chairman in '95 and they send their regards to everyone in the Section.

The next main event will be the National Tournament at Letham Grange next month and hopefully I will have some favourable reports of Section members' exploits.

John Crawford

North

Four more new members to welcome to the Section this month. Paul Sharp joins us from Stonehaven and from Garmouth and Kingston come Andrew Shade, Richard Roy and Marcus Grant.

A lovely sunny day greeted us at Fortrose and Rosemarkie for our Spring outing in May.

Stuart Hogg and the boys had the course in superb condition to match the weather. Prize winners were as follows: Scratch. 1. Gary Tough, Carnoustie, 71; 2. Bradley Wood, Westhill, 72. Cat 1.1. Stephen Sullivan, Craighill, 73-3-70; 2. Kevin Peace, Inverurie, 76-4-72 (bih); 3. Neil Sadler, Grantown-on-Spey, 75-3-72. Cat 2. 1. Gordon Mckie, St Andrews, 81-11-70; 2. Doug Boyle, Tarland, 80-9-71 (bih); 3. Sean Jaffrey, Ellon, 81-10-71. Cat 3. 1. George Aitken, Peterculter, 89-

19-70; 2. Brian Cocker Jnr, Drumoig, 90-18-72; 3. Andy Wilson, Carnoustie, 90-18-72. Veteran. 1. George Asher, Kemney, 96-24-72; 2. George Hampton, Pitlochry, 74-scr-74. Apprentice. 1. Calum Faulkner, Strathpeffer, 83-14-69; 2. Alan Stewart, Royal Aberdeen, 77-5-72. Trade. Pat Allan, Stewarts 74-5-69. Guest G. Mckie 82-11-71. Nearest the pin, donated by Fortrose GC, Neil Kidd, Keith. Longest drives, Class 1. Neil Sadler, Grantown; Class 2. Gordon Leslie, Duff House Royal; Class 3 Michael Reid Montrose.

The Captain of Fortrose kindly picked Stuart Hogg's card out of the bag for the BIGGA blazer amid cries of "fix". The 200 club winners will be printed next month as will the reason why.

As if the weather, great course and great food wasn't enough some of us got to see the Moray Firth dolphins performing behind the 5th tee as well. The day finished off with an almighty thunderstorm, thankfully with all in the clubhouse safe and dry. Unfortunately the barman's car was surrounded by a lake in the car park after the rain had finished, he was last seen drowning his sorrows at the bar before walking home!

This month we have The Open

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Brian Turner, Course Manager,
Sunningdale Golf Club

DON'T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT — RING NOW FOR DETAILS OF A DELIGHTED GOLF CLUB NEAR YOU.

Championship at Royal Birkdale and along with myself, the Section will be represented by Stewart Hogg and Paul Murphy. Once again I will be driving one of the mini buses. Watch this space!

I A Macleod



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Cleveland

The new Cleveland Section Committee met on Wednesday, April 25, with a good turn-out. The golf committee are T. Burge, S. Jaques, B. Walker and M. Woods. Volunteers to attend regional meeting alongside Ian Holoran and Bob Lawton are T. Smith and I. Pemberton. (B. Walker will stand in should anyone become unavailable) Well Done - three volunteers are better than ten pressed men! Two of Brancepeth Castle GC greenkeepers, David Jobey, Deputy Head, and Andrew Welsh, assistant, attended a course on the use of strychnine for the control of moles and committee men. The course was run by ADAS in Edinburgh, both men found the

course very interesting and both passed exams to use the poison - Well done. The spring tournament was held at Eaglescliff GC which was in very good condition - Congratulations to Bruce and his staff. The winners were as follows: Cat 1. 1. A. Russell 2. R. Shaw 3. J. Thompson. Cat 2. 1. M. Woods. 2. B. Walker. 3. T. Smith. Cat 3. 1. T. Burge. 2. M. Brown. 3. S. Jaques.

The tournament was sponsored by Ritefeed and Alan Cordingley, Ritefeed's rep, was there to give out the prizes. Each player was given a ball marker and pitch repairer by Peter Marshall who has just joined Turfcare from Pattisons. Good Luck in the future Peter. The day's golf was enjoyed by all who played and for those of us who had to sit in the bar socialising we must thank the Cleveland Golf Committee for a very well run day, plus raffle. Poor Alan Cordingley was hit on the buttocks by David Jobey which resulted in David losing his ball - shudder to think where it went!

The golf day also concluded with Bruce Burnell's retirement as Head Greenkeeper at Eaglescliff GC after 34 years. The Cleveland members presented Bruce with a pair of bookends in the style of a shepherd beside a dry stone wall. This was

presented by Cleveland Chairman, Roger Shaw, who went on to thank Bruce for the many years given to the Section, being a founder member along with Roger Shaw and George Malcolm.

George then got up and thanked Bruce for his service and proposed a toast. Everyone stood and raised their glasses to Bruce wishing him the very best for the future. Then Bruce himself got to his feet and thanked everyone for attending. Even after 34 years his attention to detail from the first day at Eaglescliff was brilliant. Other speakers included Ian Holoran and Norman Shedden. Many thanks also to Norman for doing the cards. From the trade Bruce was wished the best by Terry Charlton, from Turfcare, Maurice, from Claytons, and Phil Newton, from Aitkens. Roger Shaw thanked the clubhouse staff for an excellent meal and good friendly service. Douglas Bell, Regional Administrator, turned out to play golf and everyone had a good day.

Moving on, congratulations are in order for Steven Jacques, First Assistant at Richmond GC, who married Tracy Metcalf on June 6 and then jetted off on honeymoon to the Dominican Republic. Also

thanks are in order to our new secretary, Bob Lawton, who is doing a really good job in keeping us up to date with the fixture list and news letters. It was nice to read in the news letter how young Bob is trying to get himself fit and in shape. Well Bob, you can borrow my diet sheet and rigorous training schedule anytime - the buggers are no good to me!

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop

North West

The spring tournament at Childwall GC, on May 14, was enjoyed by an almost record number of members for any N/W Section golf events with 56 playing. The course was in lovely condition, with slick greens, and presented beautifully. This, of course, was due to Dave McEvoy and his staff, who had their hands full trying to keep on top of the flush of growth due to the perfect growing conditions. Nevertheless the course was a credit to them. Some excellent scores were returned with Dave Cowhig a member of a tough course. The top results were: Best Gross. Sean Moon, 74-6-68, Best Nett. Dave Cowhig 70-5-65 (won gross & nett) nett competition. Over 55s Bill Shipley 90-12-78, Guest Prize

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...AFTER ALL, THERE ARE SOME THINGS EVEN YOUR BEST FRIEND WON'T TELL YOU!

John Walker, (must check his handicap)

There was a special result also, with Paul Bertenshaw scoring a hole-in-one on the par 3 6th. I believe this is the first hole-in-one in N/W Section tournaments, certainly in my 25 years, as far as I can remember. Paul needed a bit of luck as the week before he was made redundant as Course Manager from Delamere Forest GC, Paul had been there for a number of years, and, as I understand, it came as some surprise. This is not the only case I have heard of recently, and I think when applying for Head Greenkeeper jobs, applicants should insist on Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper being written into their contract, to protect them from employers making one or the other redundant at the whim of a disgruntled committee member. Back to the spring tournament, I would like to thank Childwall GC for allowing use the courtesy of the course, and their warm hospitality, the caterers for a lovely meal, the numerous companies who supported us and helped to swell the prize table, Dave McEvoy and his staff for an excellent course.

A reminder that in August we have two matches. Stewards match on August 24 and Roses match on August 26. I will require a team of 16 for each of these matches, both being played on great courses, and both sponsored so there is no cost. If you are interested, and you should all be, contact me on 0151 7245412.

Bert Cross.

North Wales

Recently I attended the ALS Barenbrug seminar at the Welsh college, it was another excellent day, very informative and thought provoking, however, it is only myself and the others who attended that know that, remember if you're not there you won't know.

While I was there I walked the three holes of the new course that

have been completed along with Phil Davies of SDA Training Limited. I was impressed and felt it showed the colleges commitment to getting it right and remain at the forefront of greenkeeper training in Wales.

This has further been further endorsed as on May 14 there was a visit from Dave Golding, of the GTC, and Mike Cole, of the WGU, which coincided with the opening of the holes. They were both very pleased with all aspects of the delivery of training, in particular the close liaison with the industry and the short course programme, which as mentioned before was superb. Remember when the short courses are next offered - get on them. Future courses will involve computers and environmental conservation, among others.

Future plans include the establishment of grass species and mixture trial grounds.

All greenkeepers are extended a warm welcome and courtesy of the golf course, but please contact Graham Wright before on 01352 84100.

At our last committee meeting on May 12, the Spring meeting at Porthmadog was discussed and a few issues were raised including dress code, punctuality and general etiquette. These events don't just happen, they have to be organised so please, help your committee to help you. Get forms back in plenty of time, reading them first and representing our association, arrive in plenty of time, enjoy your round, jacket, collar and tie afterwards, simple, perfect, you know the score.

Oh ay, the Autumn meetings at my place - Denbigh - Wednesday October 14.

Our next committee meeting is September 8 so if anyone has anything that needs discussing please contact me on 01824 710693 or Gary Edwards 01492 593646.

Now where's my silage bailer?

Dave Goodridge

Northern

Peter Thompson, from FG Adamson & Son, has recently moved to a smaller domestic machinery sales company to enjoy his last few working years at a more leisurely pace.

Peter Thompson (another one) has recently retired as assistant greenkeeper at Huddersfield GC. Knowing Peter he will probably be doing more in his retirement looking after Castlefields GC - the "jewel" of Brighouse!

Sam Wardill has moved from Outlane GC to become assistant greenkeeper at Huddersfield GC. Ben Turner also takes on his new role as Deputy Head Greenkeeper. Good luck to both lads in their new positions.

A recent ten pin bowling evening was well attended by Section members and friends. Held at Keighley Bowling Centre, 20 or so competitors battled it out for the booze. But, looking at the results, it seems the contest was a little one sided - winning the male prize was Gary Potter and the ladies' prize went to Beverly Potter! Prizes for the event were kindly sponsored by County Mowers of Leeds. Due to the interest in the event, similar evenings are being considered for the near future.

Anyone wishing to put their names down for the forthcoming Invitation Day Tournament at Aldwark Manor on Wednesday September 2 must send names and payment of £30 as soon as possible. This will cover both greenkeeper and guest. Places are limited so please book early.

Please contact me if you have any news from within our Section at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA or on 01484 317813 or 0411 601420.

Simon Heppenstall

North East

Ted Brachtvogel, a mechanic at Slaley Hall, died suddenly at the end of May. He had been a member of the Section for many years.

Jimmy Richardson



East of England

The Ritefeed/Purdys Cup was held at Sleaford Golf Club at short notice as Torksey had to reschedule the date to 1999.

Thanks to John Scotney, the EOE Treasurer, for accommodating the Section event at Sleaford as we did visit the course two years ago in a match against the Secretaries' Association. The fairways have come on great after our last visit, due to the past dry summers and the course was in excellent condition throughout. The turn out of members was the best for some time and the trade members kept us supported with the usual super prizes. Thanks to Les Purdy, the main sponsor of the day. Others were Ritefeed, Rigby Taylor, Aitkens, Colliers, Fieldcare, Chandlers, Roy Harrison, and Duncan Beale and Multi Core for the Machinery Demonstration.

The evening meal was graced for the first time by two ladies. Annie Purdy (Les's daughter) and Cath, from Multi Core, so the usual jokes were kept to a minimum.

The Purdy's Cup went to Kevin Hodges, who will be cut two shots for the rest of the year, the other scores were:

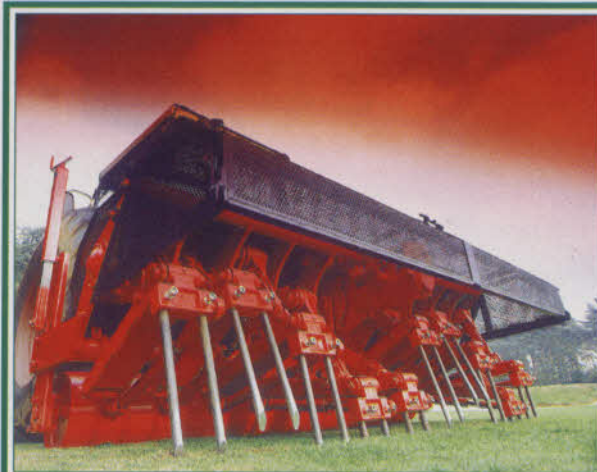
Cat 1. J. White, Belton Park, 72; G. Macdonald, Newark, 73; B. Anderson, Martin Moore, 74.

Cat 2. K. Hodges, Ryston Park, 70; D. Welberry, Kirton Holme, 74; T. Fox, Blankney, 75.

Cat 3. J. Scotney, Sleaford, 75; J. Hewson, Market Rasen, 75; N. Marshall, Belton Park, 75.

Longest Drive went to Tony Fox. Nearest the pin went to Josh White. Trade Prizes: 1. L. Siddon, 2. P. Larter, 3. P. Fell.

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East Midlands

This year's Spring tournament was held at the delightful venue of Beeston Fields GC. It was presented in its usual good condition by David Ellerby and his staff. The weather conditions were ideal for some good scoring, although surprisingly no-one posted a great score. However the scores were as follows.

Cat 1. 1. R. Barker, Kirby Muxloe, 77-3-74 and Best Gross; 2. M. Hume, Stanton, 83-9-74; 3. C. Chamberlain, Scraftoft, 82-7-75

Cat 2. 1. A. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 87-16-71; 2. A. Porter, Greatham Valley, 88-13-75; 3. K. Davis, Lutterworth, 90-15-75.

Cat 3. 1. F. Kempster, Glen Gorse, 87-19-68; 2. M. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 90-21-69; 3. G. Arnold, Erewash Valley, 94-19-74.

Trade and Associate winner Nick Webb, Tacit, 86-17-69

Our thanks go to ET Breakwells who for the fourth consecutive year sponsored the day. Also I would like to thank everybody at Beeston Fields GC for allowing us to stage our Tournament. The generosity of all golf clubs like Beeston Fields is appreciated by all BIGGA members. Finally I would like to thank the steward for an excellent meal. Next year's Spring tournament will be held at Longcliffe GC on Thursday May 13.

Hope to see all at the Autumn Tournament which will be held at Scraftoft GC on September 2.

This year's annual East Midlands v East of England golf match will be held at Oundle GC on Thursday August 20. Tee-off 3.45pm, the cost for the day is £9 which will include your evening meal. Any member who would like to represent the Section for this match can give me a ring and I will send them an entry form. After last year's tied match we will need to field a stronger side to enable us to retain the Toro Shield.

In the Cosby Men's Invitation Alan Roberts, of Handsworth GC, and I finished second on the day with a nett 66, and scored two 2s in the 2s sweep.

Finally if any member is interested in attending a Go-Kart evening to be arranged later in the Summer, Kevin Davis would be interested to hear from you. You can phone Kevin on 01203 691160 for further details.

Antony Bindley

Midland

The Autumn tournament proved to be a great success with everybody enjoying themselves, the course was in great condition and many thanks on behalf of the Midlands Committee to all the staff at Ingestre Golf Club.

The winners were as follows;

1. Paul Loffman 2. Alan Roberts 3. Alan Cutler 4. R Ganley 5. G Hunt. The best trade went to Richard Minton, of Scotts UK Professional. Well done to you all.

With regard to the remaining tournaments please get your entries in early as they seem to be very popular.

I have two new addresses to give to you, Rhys Thomas has now moved to South Staffs GC and his new address is Greenkeeper's Cottage, Dannes Court Road, Tetenhall, Wolverhampton WV6 9BH Tel 01902743391.

The other address change is mine, to 9 Manor Avenue, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 6EA. At this moment in time I have not got my new telephone number so you can contact me on my mobile which is 0370 956238.

Jonathan Wood

BB&O

The never ending rain through April and May created a few problems for everybody involved with maintaining turf. I know in the past I have moaned about the lack of rain but does it really

have to come all at once! I am sure most of you were in the same position, all geared up and ready to go and conditions were so wet at times the machinery was unable to get out of the yard (unless you had a boat). If anybody can recommend a quality waterproof that is guaranteed 100% then please let me know because my staff are getting fed up with getting drenched on a regular basis.

On a brighter note the much awaited golf day at The Oxfordshire approaches. The date is Monday, August 3, so pencil it in your diary now and remember if you want to play please return your entry form as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. I for one am looking forward to tearing the course apart (in my dreams!) Actually if I manage to break 100 I will be happy! I am sure the few volunteers who assisted David Gower and his team with bunker raking are relishing the prospect of playing the course. On this note thanks to all the staff at The Oxfordshire for making us welcome while assisting in course preparation.

I was one of the volunteers at Wentworth for the Volvo PGA Championship, and was fortunate to be allocated Bernard Langer and Darren Clarke. Neither player produced the fireworks but were still a joy to watch. It was a most enjoyable experience and would recommend anybody interested in golf to volunteer next season.

Moving away from golf there is going to be a few places up for grabs on the Committee at the end of this year so if anybody is interested in becoming involved with the running of the Section please contact myself as soon as possible. If the Section is to continue to flourish then a fresh injection of enthusiasm is required.

Lindsay T Anderson



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

London

As I write South Herts Golf Club is currently in the middle of a very busy period and a look at what went on might be of interest to members.

Last month the Herts County Championship was held over three days. The following Saturday/ Sunday Fixture was Captain's Weekend, and the following weekend is the Club Championship.

These important dates also signalled the run up to the most hectic week of the season for Course Manager, Colin Hamilton, as the course is made ready for what amounts to another three day tournament. Saturday July 4 is the date for the Vardon Rees Trophy held for Amateurs under 5 Handicap. Sunday, July 5, is the day for the Vardon Rees Mixed Trophy and Monday, July 6, the most nerve racking of all - the day of the Prequalifying Tournament for the 1998 Open. South Herts GC hosted this event for three years in the '70s and after a gap of some years, have held the Pre-Qualifier again since 1989.

Liaison between South Herts and the R&A begins in December, when the R&A confirm that the Club will host the Pre-Qualifier. A course inspection is held in May by a Member of the R&A Tournament Committee, when local rules are discussed and adjustments are made to those rules where required, in order to fall in line with the Tournament perception of rules, and therefore avoid any controversy on the day.

Six weeks before the Pre-Qualifier, the greens are given their last feed and weekly verticutting begins. A weekly light top dressing is also applied (about 12

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*Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor*

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COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

tonnes per week) weather permitting. Extra car parking is provided with an adjacent field hired and close mown to give parking for an additional 200 cars. The week leading up to the Tournament is non-stop mowing, with the staff working 12 hour days - fairways are cut at 14mm and the greens are gradually reduced to a height of 1/8th for the Tournament. The 9 hole course is completely taken over as a practice area, in fact all entries are extended courtesy of the course for two weeks before the day, but Tournament Tees are roped off to prevent use. All machinery to be used is duplicated to cover breakdowns and also to increase productivity, machines are loaned by local dealers and local neighbouring clubs (thanks to Finchley, North Middlesex Hadley Wood, Dyrham Park and Bush Hill Park). Thanks also to David Montgomery and Craig Handyside for the help over the last two years, - Colin promises you will get your "curry" this year!

Peace of mind is also helped by the fact that if there is heavy rainfall, the local Head Greenkeepers will loan staff to Colin to restore washed out bunkers to playable conditions in record time.

During the three day Tournament, the greens are cut once on Friday morning and twice in the evening; on Saturday, they are double cut both morning and evening, the same is repeated on Sunday with a final double cut on Monday morning. A turf iron is also employed three times during the weekend and all this will ensure a minimum stimpmeter reading of 10ft 6 ins and often more. On at least eight of the sloping greens at South Herts, this gives the players some frightening downhill putts. To complete this work schedule, the green staff work till 10pm and are back the following morning by 4pm and they will be either at work or on stand-by throughout the three days. Hole positions are picked by Colin and a Senior Tournament Official from the R&A on Sunday evening, with new flags, poles and cups installed. The teeing positions are also chosen and set up with markers right at the back so that the full length of the course is played. Sunday night also sees Colin and Senior Assistant, Mark Gray, patrol the

course to prevent any chance of vandalism.

The Pre-Qualifier entries start arriving on Monday morning by 3am with all the facilities at the Club already in full swing. A total of 150 players compete for 14 possible places for the final qualifying rounds - play starts at 7am and often continues until dusk.

Next day the work resumes to restore the 27 holes to top condition for the membership. Greens are fed and watered and all tees divoted and the 9 hole course, which has been subjected to the extra punishment of two weeks intensive practising, will be divoted using 8-10 tonnes of top dressing.

After the busiest month of the year, Colin would like to pass on his thanks to all his staff, Paul Byrnham, Mark Gray, Chris Little, Barry Jennings, young James Morris and very young, Ben Nurnham, for all the help given in order to make the event a very successful one.

Date for your Diary - Brookmans Park Golf Club, August 20, 1998.

Peter Hopkinson

Essex

With 60 of us turning up for our summer tournament held at Channels GC shows how successful the Section is growing day by day. Despite morning rain and strong winds for the golf the day was enjoyed by everyone.

Over the past few months we have all endured hard work and stress trying to keep our courses under control and it was some comfort talking to others with the same problems.

Now on to the day, first, congratulations to Ray Clark and his staff on how good condition the course was in. Thank you to Richard and Tony Stubbings for making their facilities available to us, the kitchen and bar staff on their hospitality and excellent meals., to our sponsors Toro and Grasshopper (Larry Pyromania and D.C. Barnard).

Andy Sheehan from category one with 38pts (on count back) was the overall winner and received the Rigby Taylor/Parker Hart Decanter.

Cat 1. 2. R. Pride, 38pts; 3. A. Toomey, 36pts; 4. S. Crosdale, 33pts

Cat 2. 1. J. Morgan, 34pts; 2.

R. Clark, 33pts; 3. J. Winters, 29pts

Cat 3. 1. M. Forrester, 38pts; 2. B. Brown, 30pts; 3. N. Horsewell, 29pts

Trade Larry Pearman 36pts; Guest J Wade 36pts; Longest Drive. R. Pride Nearest Pin, P. Chalk

Thanks to the following:

Bourne Amenity, Banks Amenity, Avoncrop, Hadley Tools, Tuckwells, Driving Force Leisure, Ernest Doe, Willmot Pertwee who also sent out the invitations.

Our next event is August 7 Thorpe Hall GC price for the day £18 Course Managers, guest and trade £15 assistants and trainees. Please phone Richard Pride for any enquiries 01268 752281.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Christopher Wood, Five Lakes Hotel Golf and Country Club, and Graham Gallimore, Benton Hall GC, as our newest members.

Finally, we would like to thank Trina Fance: No, not for putting up with Michael, but helping with the score cards for Channels on Monday night

By the time you read this, England will be on their way to winning the World Cup

Dave Wells

Editor's Note. If England win the World Cup I'll personally donate £20 to Essex Section funds!



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01363 82777

South West

Woodlands was the venue for the annual members/guests tournament. I am afraid I was not able to make this one myself but I have been reliably informed by Peter Baynton that it was very successful. Thanks are due to Cliff Chapman the course owner for allowing everyone courtesy of the course and also to Supaturf for sponsoring the event. The course that is managed by one person was in excellent condition which is bit worrying when you think about it. The scores were as follows:

1. C.Tozer and D. Reynolds 42pts; 2. W. Vincent and T. Smith 40pts; 3. M. Hawker and T.

Cubley 39pts.

Fitton GC is the venue for the Summer Tournament on July 22. I believe this is Nick Wilson's first greenkeeper tournament while at the helm of Fitton and the talk is he has got that course in very good condition. So come along and enjoy the delights of this superb parkland track and bring all of your colleagues if you can.

On a slightly different note I must point out how privileged we all are to be allowed to play other courses without having to part with any of our hard earned wads. My staff and I recently had the pleasure of travelling to Hankley Common to see Toro Excellence Winner, Ian McMillan's, handiwork. It really was a delight to be able to experience such a classic golf course in near perfect condition and we were made thoroughly welcome by everybody there as soon as we arrived. I am not suggesting everyone flee off to Hankley but there are so many other fascinating courses out there that are only too willing to welcome us. Personally speaking, I always believe it is one of the best ways to learn about the job and one can never stop learning.

Marc Haring

Devon and Cornwall

I start my report this month with details of the Region's now annual trip to BTME between 19-22 January 1999 the cost of the trip covers three night's B & B with coach travel to and from Harrogate and entry to all seminars for only £95 per person with an assistant from the same club paying £85, there will also be 20 places available to greenkeepers under 21 years of age at a special rate of £45. The Region has been able to reduce the cost of the package due to Amenity Technology kindly sponsoring the coach to the event. To make your booking or for more information call Paula Humphries.

As in previous years the Section will hold six meetings during the winter the dates and venues are nearly complete with dates and venues being printed in next month's article. The committee has decided for the winter's programme to introduce a few changes following problems encountered during are last programme of meetings which are as follows: Golfing members to



receive starting times before meeting with a draw for partners being introduced to avoid same old groups playing together, this will be done for all meetings include foursome competitions etc. Company and golf presentation to conclude the day. A levy of £2 will be added to each entry received after the closing date. As some members have problems paying before meetings, they will be able to continue to pay on the day without being levied as long as the entry has been received before the closing date, any member who doesn't attend after entering will be invoiced, if no payment is received the committee will take the necessary action.

Richard Whyman.

South Coast

For those of you who have not entered for the Summer Tournament there is still time if you hurry. To refresh your memories, it will be held at Bramshaw GC on July 23. Applications along with current handicaps and cheques for £15 per person should be forwarded to Trevor Smith, our Tournament Organiser.

While at Westury this year I was given the details for the Region's trip, three night's bed and breakfast, and entry to all seminars. If you are a Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager and take along one of your assistants, it will cost £85 for your assistant. On top of that there are 20 places for greenkeepers under 21 on December 31, 1998 on offer. The cost for the young greenkeepers is £45. You may say July is a bit early for BTME. At these ridiculously low prices the coach is going to fill up very quickly. All applications and queries to our Regional Administrator: Paula Humphries, Truant Cottage, Zeal, Monachorum, Crediton, Devon, EX17 6DF.

Due to the success of the visit to The London Golf Club in November 1997 it is hoped to arrange another visit to a top golf club as part of our Autumn/Winter programme. We are also trying where possible to arrange a golf fixture to coincide with our Educational Programme. It is hoped that this will be more attractive to you the member. One of the most important things is to get the right speakers. If there are any speakers you would wish to

hear, let one of your committee members know. Your input is invaluable to us. When the trip to one of the top golf clubs has been finalised, we will be asking for names so that the coach can be booked.

Ken Lodge



South East

Since the set-up of Northern Ireland Region, the South East Section has steadily grown. Nine new members have joined in the past two months, they include:

Emmett Curran has also affiliated to the South East Section and congratulations to both him, on his recent position as Head Greenkeeper at Down Patrick GC, and also to Ken Moore on his recent position as Head Greenkeeper at Scrabu GC.

May's event was a visit to the grass breeding station at Loughgall (Co. Armagh) where Davis Johnston showed us some of the differences between turf grass and forage grasses and how they grow, monitor and evaluate new cultivars.

After that we paid a visit to the new 18 hole golf course under construction in Loughgall, where they showed us some of the early stages of construction.

Following that we had lunch and 9 holes at Armagh GC. Many thank again to David Johnston and Sam McCausland (HAFFY'S) for an informative and enjoyable day.

Members will be notified about a golf day at Malone in July, following that will be out BBQ at Groomsport Golf Centre on Saturday, August 1, sponsored by Boyd Golf course accessories this will be at 6pm and again letters will go out. Hope to see you there!

Jonathan McCabe



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Ad Ref 32

Chris Stanton explains the differences between the two styles of golf design and gives some advice on the placing and use of hazards

The Dukes of hazard

It is the infinite variety in the golfing challenge and visual qualities of golf courses (and their individual golf holes), which sets golf apart from all other ball games, which are played on largely standardised "pitches".

A major appeal of playing golf comes from attempting to overcome the various obstacles encountered on each successive hole during a round of golf. It is the presence of these "hazards" which intensify the golfing challenge, defining more closely the varying levels of golfing skill, while ensuring the game is much more than one of merely yardage. Without hazards the game (irrespective of the level of a golfer's ability) would be much less dramatic, much less inspiring and ultimately becoming quite boring to play.

Given the almost limitless variation in the location and combinations of such hazards it may be surprising to some, the manner of their distribution can be categorised as, one of two alternative basic design philosophies, "penal" and "strategic". Not only does this apply to the placement of hazards, defined under the Rules of Golf (bunkers and water) but to all kinds of hazardous elements which can influence play or affect scoring, such as, trees, scrub, topographical features, even rough.

01 The Essence of Penal and Strategic Design Principles

While an individual hazard, may be penal in its effect upon a golfer's score, it is, however, the way in which it is located in relation to the route between tee and green and the way in which it influences the playing of a hole or individual shot, which determines whether it is penal or strategic in concept.

A penal hazard generally seeks to penalise a poorly played shot by providing a difficult lie for the next shot (ideally in proportion to the degree of error of the previous shot), whereas a strategic hazard seeks to influence the original shot before it is played (although if poorly played or judged, may penalise the next shot).

When a hazard intrudes onto, (or very close to) a direct line between tee and green but can be carried or otherwise avoided, (usually by a longer route) such a hazard has a strategic impact upon play. Alternatively where a hazard is located simply to catch an off-line or otherwise poorly played shot its impact on play is essentially penal.

02 Penal Golf Holes

A golf hole designed on penal design principles provides one ideal line between tee and green, (the fairway) while seeking to penalise a poor shot in increasing severity, in proportion to the degree of error in straying, from the from the ideal line. Although this is a laudable objective, in practice the difference between two very similar shots, one finishing in a hazard the other just missing, is often both marginal and arbitrary, yet the impact upon a score, is significant.

03 Strategic Golf Holes

A golf hole which is strategically designed does not have a specific "ideal" line between tee

and green but a range of alternative lines of varying difficulty.

Typically the most direct line between tee and green is the most difficult, involving either longer carries over hazards or playing as close to these as possible. Other alternative lines are progressively longer and proportionally less hazardous and can often require an extra shot to reach the green.

The golfer is encouraged to take risks, to cut-off as much distance as possible, with the reward of a shorter or easier next shot, but if over optimistic about his abilities or otherwise unsuccessful is punished.

The golfer is forced to think, to take realistic stock of the various options, depending upon the tee position, the prevailing weather conditions and the state of the golfer's game and nerve at that moment.

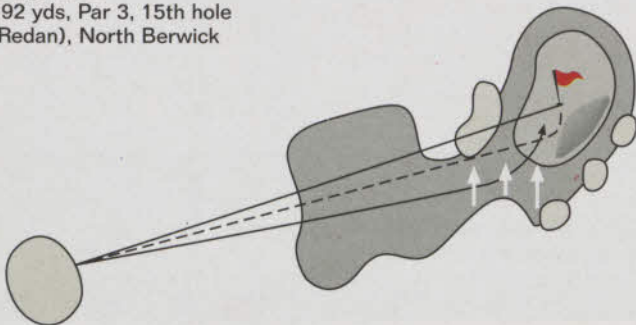
The golfer then has to make a decision on how to play the hole, on which line to choose from the tee, how much to risk cutting-off and balancing the risks and the rewards. Is the gamble worth it. The choices are not simply black and white but a range of varying greys, which may be different from day to day and from golfer to golfer.

The value of a strategic hazard, therefore, is not so much how many shots it catches, but the way it influences the golfer as he considers the tasks ahead and the effect it has on a golfer's mind, during the execution of the shot.

Arguably the ultimate expression of strategic golf course design is Augusta National. It is a testament to the virtues of these principles and the skilful way the course was designed, for a course which can be played satisfactorily day-in, day-out by ordinary club golfers, is capable of being set up to challenge the world's best during Masters week, simply by the use of back tees (although by no means a monster by today's standards) and the use of a number of difficult pin placements.

The course has no rough, only a few trees directly in play, water on

Diagram 2
192 yds, Par 3, 15th hole
(Redan), North Berwick





A fine example of strategically placed hazards

five holes and only 44 (originally just 29) bunkers. The key to Augusta's defences is for anyone looking to attack these awkward pin placements (not just to score well, but to avoid almost certain three-putting, on heavily contoured greens) a second shot needs to be played from close to a strategically located fairway hazard, at drive length. This simple strategy is truly effective, as usually only a few usually break par.

04

Improving Strategy on an Existing Golf Course

Every hole should have a discernible strategy, ideally one which is readily apparent from the tee, although on some holes it may be desirable to deliberately confuse the strategy in some way, to keep golfers on their metal, and provide increased variety.

Although bunkers are clearly the most common and arguably most effective elements for creating a positive strategy for a golf hole, consideration should be given to the use of all other existing and potential site features, particularly if these are effective substitutes and as a way of reducing maintenance costs.

Topography is probably the most under-rated element in promoting golfing challenge and interest. Subtle undulations around a green can add considerably to the complexities of the short game, demanding both imagination and a range of skills.

A hollow immediately in front of a green can often have a greater impact on scoring than a bunker in the same situation. A bunker, with its strong visual presence, assists both in judgment of distance and promotes taking enough club, whereas an innocuous looking hollow may leave a golfer undecided whether to positively carry, or to try and run the ball in. Uncertainty breeds mistakes.

The Valley of Sin immediately in

front of the 18th green on the Old Course St Andrews, is a good example, particularly as Out of Bounds lurk behind the green, thereby inhibiting taking more than enough club. In similar situations (and on built up greens), visible bunkers at the back of a green can provide a similar strategy.

Where heavy watering of greens and approaches is standard practice, the short-game options are much reduced, however, hopefully this is becoming less prevalent. Bunkers right across the green approach, provide only one option, the aerial route, thereby eliminating both choice and employment of short-game skills.

Separate Target Areas within a Green with variable degrees of accessibility (usually by a combination of separate levels, more complex plan shape and related bunkering), especially when co-ordinated with the overall strategy of the hole, can be exploited to set-up the hole differently for particular events. A hazard impinging on the approach from one side of the fairway and a hazard at drive-length from the opposite side provides a simple but effective strategy.

Diagonal Orientation of Hazards and Target Areas create positive strategic design within a golf hole. Such principles are exemplified by the 192 yard Par 3, 15th Hole at North Berwick, (see Diagram 1), the most frequently copied hole in golf. With both its green and dominant front bunker being diagonally orientated to the line of play and the land form at the front right side of the approach, feeding the ball towards the putting surface, it is possible to play the tee-shot in a number of ways, giving the hole considerable golfing complexity and interest.

Shaping of Fairways to Promote Strategy is much more common now than it use to be, especially on courses used for televised events, but still often overlooked at many clubs. A good example is on the approach to the 17th at Wentworth,

by narrowing and swinging the fairway, here, further to the right and letting the grass grow thicker on the knoll, the "window" for being able to run the ball in has been considerably reduced, while only a ball carrying the knoll (requiring a much more positive and risky shot) will find the green.

05

Other Practical Design Issues

The value of a hazard is in the way it influences the playing of a hole or an individual shot and the psychological effect upon a golfer's mind immediately before and during the stroke. A provocatively located bunker clearly has much greater impact when visible. Ending up in a blind hazard is an extreme irritation to golfers.

On sloping sites a bunker if located on the high side of a green, especially if also just short and slightly impinging onto the line, will control the approach to a green. There is little need to locate bunkers on the low side of a green (unless to stop a shot running into worse trouble) as the shot as the shot has already missed the target and the golfer faced with a difficult next-shot. On many existing courses, limitations of space prevents the use of multiple bunkers and the provision of a wide range of lines. Also, such an approach could lead to an adjacent fairway becoming an attractive alternative route for the approach-shot for some. Care needs to be taken not to exacerbate safety problems especially at the boundaries of the course.

06

Golfing Skill

This comes in many forms. Long hitting is clearly a skill and brings obvious rewards, however, there are many other golfing skills, which should be equally valued. These include, having the ability to judge distances exactly and select the right club accordingly; to be able

to strike each club in a consistent manner (line and length); having the ability to be able to shape shots at will, to suit the strategy of the hole and prevailing wind conditions; being able to impart sufficient backspin, as is being able to judge run. An accomplished short-game can more than make up for deficiencies, elsewhere.

Because golfing skill comes in many forms, an objective of a golf course architect is to provide a wide variety of different examinations within the course of a round of golf. Some holes will clearly favour long hitters, while on some holes distance is not a significant factor, but accuracy and being able to hit a predictable line and distance, is.

Golf is a selfish game and there are many who believe hazards should be placed to catch others, but not themselves, (especially by long-hitters), thereby emphasising their particular prowess.

All golfers welcome a measure of challenge, providing it is within their abilities. Accomplished golfers, relish a searching examination of their golfing skills, but the novice, the inaccurate, or the weak hitter, need to find a way of playing the hole without having weakness exposed and punished on almost every shot, thereby allowing an enjoyable game (even if their scores are modest).

Strategically designed holes allow golfers of every level of ability to choose the most appropriate route between tee and green to suit their particular game. As a golfer's game improves or declines, it allows for adjustments to ambitions (and lines) to be made accordingly, ensuring the potential for maximum enjoyment from the game. Flexibility is the essence of strategic design, conversely a penalty designed hole is essentially inflexible.

Chris Stanton is a graduate of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects

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The National Tournament in association with Scotts at the Letham Grange Resort also gives competitors the opportunity of enjoying the delights of the area...

Get to know Angus

This year's National Tournament in association with Scotts UK Professional gives a unique chance to play Letham Grange, one of the finest inland courses in Scotland, with a view to becoming BIGGA's Champion golfer. At the same time, you can enjoy the delights of an area of the country many people will be visiting for the first time.

As the Tourist Board's publicity blurb says - Whether your preference is for sand castles or real castles, it is likely that you will find plenty to keep you entertained in Angus and Dundee.

The region has a number of star attractions including Glamis Castle, Arbroath Abbey, Frigate Unicorn and Discovery Point, featuring the ship which took Captain Scott to Antarctica.

For those seeking outdoor activity, the area has a number of country parks featuring a variety of wild life, as well as some of the most beautiful glens in Scotland. At the Montrose Basin Wildlife Centre you can take in the unparalleled view of Scotland's prolific wildlife using quality telescopes. In Glen Isla local beauty spots include the spectacular "smoking waters" of the Reekie Linn waterfall. In Glen Clova the road

peters out below the crags, but it's just the beginning of a great day out for geologists, bird watchers, botanists and mountain bikes. The Whisky Road once used by smugglers can still be seen at Glen Lethnot, and the Retreat Folk Museum in Glen Esk offers a tantalising glimpse of bygone days.

There are also plenty of facilities to keep the kids occupied, including one of the biggest and best equipped leisure centres in Scotland at the Olympia in Dundee, Peter Pan's "birthplace" in Kirriemuir and the Seafront Pleasureland in Arbroath. At Shaw's Dundee Sweet Factory you can see the sweets being made, and sample them afterwards too! Dundee's eight miles of picturesque waterfront includes more than three miles of safe sandy beaches - at Broughty Ferry and Monifieth.

Shopping is still a pleasure in Dundee and Angus, with excellent high-street shopping in Dundee on offer as well as boutiques and craft shops in smaller places like Broughty Ferry, and craft and antique fairs held regularly in Arbroath, Forfar, Dundee and Edzell.

If you would like to know more about the non-golfing attractions of

Carnoustie Country, call Angus & Dundee Tourist Board on 01241 872609 or Carnoustie Tourist Information Centre on 01241 852258 for a free brochure. But there is no better way to discover what's on offer than to come and experience it for yourself.

The tournament itself will be the usual blend of great golf, superb apres-golf topped off by a prize table which would put that which belonged to game show legend "Sale of the Century" to shame.

The now traditional barbecue will occupy the Monday night with sizzling magic, to complement the sizzling sausages, from a visiting magician. The banquet night will have a Scottish flavour and entertainment supplied by after dinner speaker Emil Tacholek who, in addition to being a superb Scrabble score, has a fine reputation as an entertainer.

Anyone wishing to enter the National Tournament in association with Scotts UK Professional should complete one an entry form or contact Sarah Sowerby at BIGGA Headquarters on 01347 838581.

So, you think you're the best?

Prove it.

Letham Grange. August 3-5, 1998. We'll be waiting...

**THE
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BIGGA IN ASSOCIATION WITH SCOTTS

Tony Rees looks at the Health & Safety requirements for tools, mowers, tractors and any other equipment that is used around the course and workshops.

On your guard

The legislation that covers these pieces of equipment that is the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1992. The regulations came into force from 1 January 1993 for new equipment and from 1 January 1997 for existing equipment already in use.

General duties for all equipment

Work equipment is widely defined and includes everything from simple hand tools to vehicles and complex installations ie a screwdriver, a tractor and an oil refinery are all work equipment at any workplace - not just factories.

The general duties require employers to: Select suitable equipment for use, and ensure it is only used where suitable.

Maintain all equipment in a safe condition and keep maintenance logs up to date where they are provided.

Restrict the use, modification and repair of equipment involving a specific risk to authorised persons.

Provide information, and where appropriate written instructions for use.

Ensure that users and their supervisors are adequately trained for the purpose of health and safety.

All work equipment provided for use for the first time after December 31, 1992 shall be manufactured in conformity with relevant EN standards, which replace existing British Standards.

Additional duties for machinery

Provision of Guards.

The Factories Act 1961 was for many years the basis of standards, summarised in the requirement that dangerous parts shall be securely fenced.

The equivalent requirement in the Work Equipment Regulations is that access to dangerous parts shall be prevented, or movement stopped before a person enters a danger zone. It applies to all work places and all machinery.

A hierarchy of prevention is listed including:

Fixed Guarding; Other Guards or devices; Jigs, work holders or protection devices; Information Instruction, Supervision and Training.

Case law has determined that:

"Machinery is dangerous if it is a reason-

ably foreseeable cause of injury to anyone acting in a way in which a human being may be reasonably be expected to act in the circumstances which may reasonably be expected to occur."

It is anticipated that case law from decisions made under the Factories Acts will ensure the new regulations are interpreted to require a similar standard of safe guarding in the future.

A series of Special regulations were introduced in the past to mitigate the full effect of the factories Act requirements, to allow certain pieces of machinery to operate that would otherwise be illegal. These include:

The Abrasive Wheels Regulations 1970; The Horizontal Milling Machines Regulations 1928; The Woodworking Machines Regulations 1974.

The guarding requirements of these Regulations have now been repealed, although sections related to training, noise etc remain in force at present.

Provision of other safeguards

The Work Equipment Regulations extend to all aspects of equipment safety. Other hazards, not previously covered by earlier legislation include:

Articles ejected or falling from the equipment (tools, Work-piece); Disintegration of the equipment (bursting grinding wheel); Hazards from fire, explosion or discharge of gases and dust (chemical reactions, operation of relief valves etc); Extreme temperatures (steam pipes, refrigeration plant); Controls for normal operation, emergency stops, readily accessible, all clearly visible and identified; Control Systems designed to minimise failure to danger; Provision of systems for isolation of power sources; Clamped or fixed to ensure stability of equipment when in use; Provision of adequate lighting for safe use (including maintenance); Maintenance to be arranged when equipment is shut down wherever reasonably practicable, or safe systems of work adopted; Provision of markings or warnings where appropriate.

Practical guarding of machinery

The current basis for design of machinery guarding systems is the British Standards BS 5304. This is being progressively replaced by a series of harmonised European standards which will cover different aspects of design.

There will eventually be three series of standards:

A Standards - basic principles of concepts common to all equipment

B Standards - relating to elements that may apply to certain equipment eg. for surface temperatures markings hydraulics etc.

C Standards - relating to a specific class of equipment or machine.

Classification of hazards

The British Standard BS 5304 classifies machinery hazards by the nature of the injury, or the way in which the harm is done.

Crushing injuries, between parts of machines or parts and fixed obstructions (such as walls); Contact injuries, with sharp cutting tools; Entanglement injuries on rotating equipment; Impact by ejected components or machining fragments; Burns by hot surfaces.

Types of guarding

Four main categories of guard can be identified:

Fixed guards, properly secured in place by means of a tool that is not readily available to the operator.

eg Any enclosure permanently fitted around machinery.

Interlocked guards, where the guard is secured by a means that is connected with the machine operation. A effective interlocked guard must meet two criteria:

The guard cannot open until the machine is at rest, and the machine cannot be started until the guard is secured.

The standard of interlock design must take into account the risk, that is, the nature of the hazard and the frequency of approach.

eg The normal guard for a power press; Many access panels into machine enclosures; Key exchange systems for interlocking different parts. Automatic guards are linked to the machine movement and operate to ensure there is no obstruction in the danger area often by a "sweeping" movement prior to closure of a press, eg. Guards for a large automotive panel presses.

Trip Devices serve to prevent danger by interrupting the dangerous motion before injury occurs eg. by shutting off power and applying a brake. eg. Instant stop for drilling machines, pressure mats. Photo-electric systems.

As part of a review into the best way to manage BIGGA Headquarters in the future, the Headquarter's Management Team decided to determine the relevance of Investors in People to the long term aims and objectives of the Association.

FUTURE INVESTMENTS

What is Investors in People?

Investors in People (IiP) is the National Standard for the effective investment in the people in a work place. IiP sets the framework for integrating people management with a business plan by creating a culture of continuous professional development. This, in turn, can lead to a better qualified, happier, better motivated work force, which leads to less staff turnover and better customer care. For BIGGA, a happier better trained, well motivated Headquarters Staff means improved performance, better response times, better productivity and improved service to members.

Why is BIGGA doing it?

As I intimated above, the BIGGA Headquarters Management Team have been looking at ways to improve the service to members through better customer care, increased sponsorship and maximisation of profit. This could be achieved by:

- Becoming more competitive.
- Managing staff in a way that improves flexibility and profitability.
- Investing in training and development of staff.
- Communicating the aims and objectives of the Association to all staff.
- Enhancing performance by having a 'winning' team.

What are the benefits?

Investors in People delivers genuine business benefits to organisations which reach the Standard. As the Standard is concerned with continuous development, the benefits continue to expand. Many companies have seen improvements in sales, productivity, profitability, cost reductions and increased customer care. Moreover, staff are better motivated, which in turn reduces sickness and absenteeism. Investors in People see a reduction in staff turnover and attract better people while saving on recruitment costs.

What does it involve?

For BIGGA Headquarters to become an Investor in People, it must meet 23 targets. These targets are

grouped into four areas ie, commitment, planning, action and evaluation. To meet the targets set in the first area, commitment, needs:

a. The full commitment from the Board of Management, Executive Director, Department Managers and all staff to train and develop all employees to meet the needs of the Business Plan.

b. Communication of the Business Plan's aims and objectives to all staff.

c. Consideration of what staff at all levels will contribute to the success of BIGGA and the effective communication of their contribution to them.

The second area, planning requires that:

a. BIGGA produces a written business plan setting down the aims and objectives of the Association.

b. BIGGA produces a written training and development plan, which specifies how the business aims and objectives needs will be met, including the identification of resources.

c. Objectives are set for training and development actions at organisation, team and individual level.

d. Training and development objectives are, where possible, linked to National Standards.

The third area, action, requires that:

a. All new employees are given an induction course.

b. Managers are effective in fulfilling their training and development responsibilities.

c. Managers support their staff and keep them aware of training and development opportunities.

d. Action is taken to meet training and development needs.

The fourth area, evaluation, requires that:

a. BIGGA evaluates the impact of training and development on skills, knowledge and performance, against the aims and objectives of the Business Plan.

b. The Board of Management understands the broad costs and benefits of training and development.

c. The Board of Management continues its commitment to training and development and to any improvements identified as a result of the evaluation.

How far has BIGGA gone towards Investors in People?

The Board of Management, the Executive Director, the Management Team and all BIGGA staff are fully committed to managing HQ in such a way as to meet the requirements of IiP. This commitment has been achieved by communicating, both up and down, at Board Meetings, Management Team Meetings, Bimonthly Staff Meetings and at "Brainstorming Meetings" attended by all staff. BIGGA is now ready to commit, formally to the Principles of Investors in People.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

As part of the process of reviewing the aims and objectives of the Association, the Management Team has reviewed all areas of membership services and benefits and how those services and benefits are provided. This process, which has involved all staff, has led to the production of a written business plan which sets out the main aims and objectives of the Association, over the next five years.

These objectives range from improving the profit margin, thereby improving membership benefits to ensuring that sufficient assessors are provided for N/SVQs in Turf Maintenance and Turf Management.

A formal induction programme is being developed, with input from all staff. This includes items such as Health and Safety, pay and conditions, working routine and telephone procedures.

A formal training plan, matched to the Business Plan is being developed. This plan will be linked to regular, biannual appraisals. Part of the plan includes training Sami Collins as a D32/33 assessor for Business Administration and setting a base line qualification of NVQ Level 2 for all office staff.

Communication of ideas, aims and

objectives is being improved. Staff meetings now take place twice each month, team meetings are being formalised and a staff newsletter will be produced each month.

What advantage will members gain?

Visitors to Aldwark Manor are already seeing positive benefits of the work done so far. "Staff seem happier and better motivated," said one recent visitor. "They seem to be contributing more," he continued. Better staff motivation should lead to better customer care ie members should get a better service. Improved productivity should allow the staff to do more work in the working day, again leading to a better service for members and to increased income. Increased income can then lead to more membership benefits and, hopefully, increased membership.

What does it all cost?

The North Yorkshire Training and Enterprise Council is providing support and advice at no cost to BIGGA. Assessment to the IiP Standards, by an independent assessor costs approximately £750. Staff training and development has been included in the Budget for several years and these costs should not increase in the short term. Any training and development that is identified through appraisal and regular monitoring will have to be resourced and budgeted. The only costs, therefore have been time and effort and the cost of assessment. A small price to pay in order to gain a better trained, better motivated, more productive work force, leading to a better service to all members.

Gaining Investors in People is not easy. It requires commitment by all members of staff, management team and Board of Management and a great deal of hard work. The IiP Standards are based on a common sense approach to people management and staff training and development. The benefits of working towards IiP can have a great impact on a company's business success and the success of BIGGA, as a company will be reflected in the increased benefits given to members.

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Locate the Logos, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Ane, York YO61 1UF

Entries to reach us no later than Tuesday, July 21, 1998. The first correct entry drawn will receive the Walrus jacket. Don't forget to tell us the size of jacket you will require!

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

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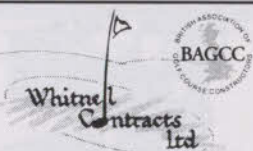
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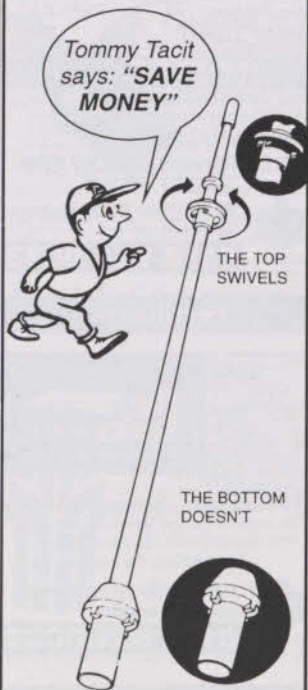


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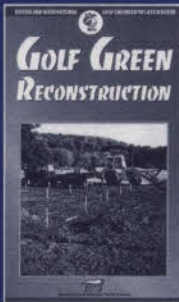

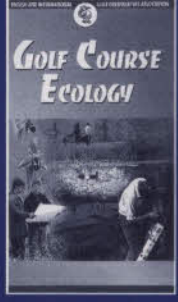
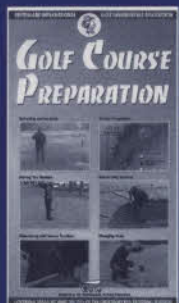


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 Four years experience in green-keeping.
 I hold an H.N.D. in Golf Course Management, NVQ level 2 and PA 1,2, and 6.
 Any position considered for commencement mid-September.
JS 80/98

Just the job

Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

To place an advertisement in the Recruitment Section, call Jenny or Cheryl now on 01347 838581

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



Elmwood Golf Course

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER/ INSTRUCTOR

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER/ MECHANIC

Do you have the skills to fill the above posts? The College has its own brand new golf course and is Europe's premier Greenkeeping training centre. We are looking for staff who are keen to carry out all associated tasks related to the operation and maintenance of the course and the training of greenkeeping students.

Assistant Greenkeeper/Instructor: All golf course maintenance tasks and instruction of greenkeeping students. NC/SVQ2 preferably working towards SVQ3/HNC. Spraying certificates preferred.

Assistant Greenkeeper/Mechanic: General course maintenance duties, including instruction of greenkeeping students, however, the bulk of duties will be to maintain our State of the Art Toro machinery fleet. You will have either a recognised qualification in machinery maintenance with an interest in greenkeeping, or an NC/SVQ2 in Greenkeeping with at least 3 years machinery maintenance experience.

For further details and application form, contact:
Elmwood college, Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB. Tel: 01334 658800
Closing date for applications, 22nd July, 1998

Course Manager

The Course:

Willesley Park Golf Club.

A private members club, located in the town of Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire. An attractive parkland course of 6,300yds, sss 70, it dates back over 75 years. Home of the Leicestershire Fox Trophy it is widely recognised as an excellent test of golfing ability.

The Position:

You will ensure the maintenance of our course to the highest standards.

You will oversee the changes we are currently making to the course, in conjunction with the Architects, to ensure it meets the latest standards of safety and overall design.

You will achieve this by the management of our team of greens staff including all recruitment, training and motivation. You will operate on a hands on basis leading by example.

The Person:

Currently a Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper who is fully qualified, conversant in all aspects of course preparation, maintenance and construction techniques. Your current course will reflect your values and efforts in it's presentation. Preferably, you will have a recognised golf handicap.

The Package:

An attractive salary, some assistance with re-location expenses, if appropriate, together with course membership are available to the right Applicant.

Send your c.v. to: **The Secretary**, Willesley Park Golf Club, Measham Road, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, LE65 2PF

SALARY NEGOTIABLE

SOUTH OF ENGLAND

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We wish to appoint an Area Manager to promote and support the penetration of our varieties and mixtures into the South of England.

Due to continued UK expansion we now wish to appoint an experienced person to satisfy five year targets and support our present market share for both our agricultural and amenity branded mixtures. The successful candidate will need to develop close working relationships with our distributors and dealers. Barenbrug also performs a wholesaling role supplying individual varieties and own brand mixtures to an existing distributor network across the South of England.

As the provision of technical backup is important, candidates should either have some knowledge of the Amenity and Forage markets or capable of acquiring it. Liaison with Barenbrug Holland and other subsidiaries on technical, sales and marketing matters will be a regular occurrence.

Key Areas

- Capable of operating successfully in all segments of the Amenity and Agricultural Markets.
- Capable of absorbing the technical requirements necessary to promote the products.

- Capable of communicating with all levels of management within both markets.
- Commitment and self motivation are two very important characteristics to ensure success in what is a thrilling and growing company.

Application details

Interviews will take place in the second half of July. If you feel you are suitably qualified please send your CV, in full confidence, to:

Mr Paul Johnson
Director Barenbrug UK Ltd.
33 Perkins Road
Rougham Industrial Estate
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Suffolk IP30 9NW

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A staff of 500 experts, all devoted to satisfying the demands of our clients. A company which aims at being the best and in doing so has become the leading company in grass breeding in the world.



THE WESTERWOOD HOTEL, GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB



- THE -
WESTERWOOD
HOTEL, GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

GOLF COURSE MANAGER

The Westerwood Course, situated between Glasgow and Stirling was designed by Seve Ballesteros and Dave Thomas and has been open for 10 years.

Our Golf Course Manager is moving on to fairways new and we are looking for a suitably qualified person to take over the running and development of the Course.

The successful applicant will be responsible for controlling budgets, setting winter & summer maintenance programmes and the ongoing training and development of the existing staff.

Applications are invited from existing Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers or Assistant Head Greenkeepers with at least 3 years experience.

Please apply in writing stating existing salary to
A M Thresh, General Manager, The Westerwood Hotel, Golf & Country Club, 1 St Andrews Drive, Cumbernauld, G68 0EW Tel: 01236 457171

BURHILL GOLF CLUB

Has a vacancy for a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

An excellent opportunity has arisen at this prestigious 18 hole golf club for an enthusiastic and ambitious greenkeeper seeking career progression.

The successful applicant, will be qualified to at least NVQ level 3 or equivalent, possess PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates, and have a minimum of 5 years experience on a course with high standards. They shall be familiar with the latest greenkeeping technology and be able to demonstrate an ability to lead, motivate and organise staff. A knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems would also be an advantage.

Burhill is situated within 2 miles of Walton on Thames, and has plans for further improvements both to the course and facilities.

The remuneration package would include:-

BIGGA rates of pay, accommodation, bonuses, clothing etc.

If you fit the bill and want to be part of a challenging and exciting future please write with your current C.V to:-

Gordon Hogg, Secretary/Manager, Burhill Golf Club, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 4BL
Closing date for applications 22.07.98

ROEHAMPTON CLUB

Invite applicants for the position of

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

To work on our 18 hole Parkland course situated 5 miles south from the centre of London.

The successful applicant will require:

- Greenkeeping Phase I & II
- Experience in the use of modern machinery
- Spraying Certificates PA1 & PA2 (desirable)
- Irrigation experience

Applications including current C.V to:
Ian Smith, Golf Course and Grounds Manager, Roehampton Club, Roehampton Lane, London, SW15 5LR

CHESTERFIELD GOLF CLUB

are planning to build a new workshop facility, and have a vacancy for a

MECHANIC/GREENKEEPER

to look after the day to day maintenance of Greenkeeping Equipment and to carry out Greenkeeping duties. The ideal candidate would be qualified in both aspects; however on - site Greenkeeping training would be given to a Mechanic who is interested in developing his/her skills.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation available.

Please apply in writing enclosing full CV no later than Friday 31st July, 1998, to:
D. A. Peacock, Secretary Manager, The Chesterfield Golf Club, Walton, Chesterfield, Derbyshire. S42 7LA.

BURGHILL VALLEY GOLF CLUB

Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We offer a great opportunity for a bright ambitious person to join an enthusiastic, hardworking team committed to provide a first class golf course.

The successful candidate will demonstrate the potential to achieve NVQ Level 3 in Sports Turf Management.

Applications in own handwriting to:
THE GENERAL MANAGER, BURGHILL VALLEY GOLF CLUB,
TILLINGTON ROAD, BURGHILL, HEREFORD HR4 7RW
TEL: 01432 760456

INGON MANOR GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of

2 GREENKEEPERS

Applicants should have a minimum qualification of NVQ level 2
Spraying licence PA1, PA2 and PA6
would be an advantage, but not essential.

Apply in writing to Mr James Mason, Ingon Manor Golf & Country Club
Ingon Lane, Snitterfield, Nr Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire CV37 0AQ

LETCWORTH GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

COURSE MANAGER

We require a well qualified (NVQ 3, working towards level 4) and competent Manager for this attractive, well established (1905), Harry Vardon designed, parkland course.

The successful candidate must not only be able to maintain the Course to its' current high standard but be capable of leading and motivating a well established team, preparing annual budgets and play an important role in the formulation of policy.

Salary is negotiable, but will be commensurate with the candidate's experience and qualifications. Accommodation is provided in a club owned house in Letchworth Garden City.

Apply in writing by 20th July 1998, enclosing a full CV to:

The Secretary, Letchworth Golf Club, Letchworth Lane,
Letchworth, Hertfordshire, SG6 3NQ

► Lecturer in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management (Salary and benefits negotiable)

Warwickshire College is a recently merged organisation and one of the largest in the UK, delightfully situated in the 'Heart of England' with superb communications.

We are currently seeking a committed and enthusiastic person to head up our Greenkeeping training provision.

We would like to hear from you if you have relevant teaching or industrial experience, and want to work at a GTC approved college.

Contact Personnel Department on 01926 318243.

Closing date: 20th July 1998

Warwickshire College is an equal opportunities employer.



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This prestigious firm of Landscape Contractors with several golf courses in the maintenance portfolio seeks

SECOND ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

for a high specification 18-hole private golf course recently constructed by Waterers Landscape, now playing, in the Reading area and for a similar but older course near Daventry, Northants.

Please apply with CV and telephone contact number to:
TOM BROOKE, WATERERS LANDSCAPE GROUP HEAD OFFICE,
LONDON ROAD, WINDLESHAM, SURREY GU20 6LQ
OR TELEPHONE 01344 628081.

(Asylum & Immigration Act 1996 - Proof of entitlement to work in UK will be required at interview)

ELLESBOROUGH GOLF CLUB

Has a vacancy for an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicant should have a minimum of two years experience in all aspects of golf course maintenance NVQ Level 2 or equivalent. PA1A, PA2 and PA6 preferred.

Apply in writing with full CV to:
A JOHNSON, COURSE MANAGER, ELLESBOROUGH GOLF CLUB,
BUTLERS CROSS, AYLESBURY, BUCKS HP17 0TZ

RETHMAR GOLF LINKS - GERMANY

Applications are invited for the positions of

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Salary and benefit package based on experience.

Please send CV to:
RETHMAR GOLF LINKS, VAHRENWALDER,
STRABE 75, 30165 HANNOVER, GERMANY

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Regret no accommodation.

Please apply in writing with CV to:
MR C ALLISON, WOODSIDE, CRIMP HILL,
OLD WINDSOR, BERKS, SL4 2HL

CHALFONT PARK GOLF CLUB

Requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant must have a minimum of three years experience, qualified to Phase 2 and PA1 and PA2 spraying certificates and hold a clean driving licence.

No living accommodation.

Apply in writing enclosing CV to:-
Perry Harvey, Head Greenkeeper, Chalfont Park Golf Club,
Threehouseholds, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks HP8 4LW

**Sandy McDivot, Head Greenkeeper at Sludgecombe
 Pay and Play recalls some of the comments directed
 at greenkeepers over the years...**

Often Over

Many years ago when I was a mere school leaver, I came to that inescapable situation where employment was required. Like many school leavers at the time it slowly dawned upon me that the vocations that I was pursuing were not often available to an acne ridden, streak of unmentionable liquid substance, that made Rodney Trotter look positively dynamic. Formula One motor racing driver, golf pro who could not play golf or one of those people that rub oil into the page three models before a photo shoot. These were all careers that I had informed my career adviser to

which I was well suited but he suggested I try being a waiter in the short term until one of the above jobs came my way. The job of waiter, like other dregs of the employment world is a job that involves constantly being nice to members of the public. This is a quality that did not come naturally to me and so after two years of teeth grinding and tongue biting I mutually agreed with my employer to terminate my employment so as to avoid possible physical injury.

I then found myself in the more fulfilling occupation of Greenkeeper. To my slight disappointment, however, I discovered that the greenkeeping industry also involves the task of dealing with members of the public. This is

made doubly difficult for us by the fact that our

members of the public are also members of a golf club. As we are all aware, golf club membership brings with it total wisdom in all matters relating to golf course management but also appears to give them certain rights that are not bestowed upon others that make up the general populace. These rights include being allowed without hindrance, to tell all golf club staff of their inherent short comings and to advise accordingly. It also gives them the right to exhume worn

out jokes at will and to receive ribald laughter from those unfortunate members of staff within earshot.

So we greenkeepers are burdened with an endless stream of witticisms and remarks that we are obliged to take in good humour. The first time I heard that classic remark when moving the tee markers; "Put them forward" it was almost amusing. But after 20 years of its continued use, forcing a grin becomes physically demanding.

The same applies to that constantly repeated one liner; "Couldn't you kick it back onto the fairway?" usually heard after nearly being decapitated by an errant golf ball while innocently working in the rough. Or that all time great of the past, present and no doubt future one so often hears when applying seed or fertiliser by hand; "Feeding the chickens?" Then there's the one that I am sure you will all recognise after top dressing a green; "Come and do my lawn next."

Now I have to apologise to any members that may be reading these lines but these remarks were never of side splitting proportions when it comes to their jocularity and when they are heard for that thousandth time they can be, to be quite frank, a trifle tedious if not down right irritating. But despite this, in the line of duty we all manage to raise a smile and even a slight snigger if pushed to do so. I often thought about falling about helplessly in uncontrolled hysterical guffawing as a response to these remarks, but felt the issuer may detect a hint of sarcasm and so take this reaction unkindly.

But I must not be so derogatory to our golfing friends, after all, as they are so quick to remind us, it is they who pay our wages. In fact when one really analyses the subject of golfer and greenkeeper interaction it becomes clear that it is the members who are often on the receiving end of our remarks. For example, at one club that engaged me many years ago during my formative years, we had one of the local lads working for us. He was mowing a green and had to wait for the Lady Captain to play through. He waited and waited until



heard

impatience got the better of pure thought and he eventually quietly muttered that familiar phrase that must of crossed all of our minds at one time; "Come on you stupid old battle axe."

Now one thing that all greenkeepers must recognise is that nature has a funny little peculiarity whereby it seems that if someone is working with a machine going, they think that no one could hear what they are saying, when in fact they can. Of course, if another person were to speak to them they couldn't hear a word, but it does not work the other way round. The advent of ear defenders has further exaggerated this phenomenon. It is all about proximity to engine noise or something. I am sure Newton or Einstein had a law for it but it is clear that this particular greenkeeper was unaware of its existence and so the Lady Captain was able to hear every word. Being a true Londoner he was able to bluff his way through her understandable objections to being called a battle axe, claiming that someone hidden in the bushes behind had used these well chosen words and not him.

What about the replies we give to some of those classic remarks we hear on a regular basis. Well at this same club the then Head Greenkeeper told me of a response he and his colleagues once gave to the perennial exclamation of horror from a member; "What are you doing to the greens?" following the annual hollow tine. "We are killing worms." came the reply from the greenkeepers. "What do you mean killing worms?" questioned the member. "Well, we make all these holes in the greens and then bang on it with a shovel, then when the worms poke their little heads out of one of the holes to see what is going on, we shoot the buggers." I was not informed of the response the member gave to this story but the beauty of this explanation to hollow tining, is the recipient has insufficient knowledge to know whether his leg is being pulled or not and so they go away with a slightly bemused look. Remember though, comments

like this can be a great source of irritation to the members.

Another good way of irritating members is with this comment. This was told to me by the same Head Greenkeeper from the above club and was the response given to that other remark perpetually given out by members as soon as spade meets ground, "Are you building a bunker?" Amazingly, on this occasion the greenkeepers in question were, actually building a bunker but they decided to give the member some alternative information. "No, we are building a nuclear fall out shelter for the committee," they replied. "What, a nuclear fall out shelter for the committee," said the alarmed member. "Yes," they said, "It has all been approved."

Incredible though it may seem, this member fell for it hook, line and sinker and hurried off to the clubhouse to try and insist he was included in the shelter when Leonid Brezhnev or whoever it was at the time, decided to go out with a blaze of glory. Personally, the thought of sharing a hole for several months with the golf club committee would make slow death by radiation poisoning seem positively inviting but obviously this member had other ideas.

But before anyone gets ideas that I am opposed to the average club committee I must just tell you of one of their little gems they once came up with. This concerns a particularly stuffy club in the Midlands that was still back in the dark ages when it came to sexual equality. At this club, there was a sign on the driveway that stated: NO WOMEN OR DOGS ALLOWED ON SUNDAYS.

Now somewhat understandably, the women were a

little concerned at this sign. It was not so much that they were not allowed to play on Sundays but more because the sign seemed to infer that they were of the same social standing as our four legged friends. So a sub committee was formed and the Lady Captain sent to the Secretary to make the relevant protestations.

The Secretary said that of course the sign would be changed and that it would be brought up at that evenings committee meeting. So the Lady Captain went away happy with the knowledge that the first inroads had been made and that the

walls of male chauvinism would soon be crumbling away. The following week she came up to the golf club eager to view the spoils of her good work and upon entering the driveway gazed upon the new sign. It read: NO WOMEN ALLOWED ON SUNDAYS. DOGS MUST BE KEPT ON A LEAD.

Well, you've got to admire their wit.



Feature listing from June '96

June '96; Compaction; Seacroft GC; Education; Health and Safety; Architecture - East Herts GC; Fighting Annual Meadow Grass

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

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

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

October '96; Drainage; The Wentworth Club

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Fitting tributes



As most of you are aware Viscount Whitelaw is standing down as our President after ten successful years. It was, therefore, a great honour for me to make a presentation to him on your behalf, at Penrith Golf Club, the venue of the Cumbria Cup run by the North West Section.

Lord Whitelaw has not just been a President in name, his support and guidance over the years have been immense, and we will certainly miss him. To my mind there is no doubt he has been a major factor of BIGGA's success from which greenkeepers everywhere have reaped the benefits. We can count ourselves very fortunate that Lord Whitelaw took time out from a very busy life to be our President for so long.

Much of his early life was spent at Nairn Golf Club in Scotland where he learned his golf. So it was fitting that we presented him with a picture of the 13th hole at Nairn. A gift which both he and Lady Whitelaw appreciated very much. I know I was speaking for you all when I wished both Lord and Lady Whitelaw the best of health and happiness in the years to come, and thanked them for all they have done on our behalf.

The Cumbria Cup was a big success. John Pemberton and I had the pleasure of playing with the Captain and Secretary of Penrith Golf Club who left us in no doubt about their

love for the club and the high esteem they held John Berry, who is Head Greenkeeper there. The course was extremely well presented. The food was excellent and the scenery out of this world. Anyone who has not played Penrith should put that right at the earliest opportunity. My thanks to the North West Section for inviting me and presenting me with a lovely glass vase for which I am told I have to buy a constant stream of flowers. Last but not least, many thanks to Course Care, the sponsors who made us so welcome and made it a day to remember.

I would like to personally thank all who have contributed to our Building Fund over the past few months. It's very encouraging to see those committed to greenkeeping and their own future within the industry, come forward to help. A special thank you must go to the Life members of our Association who in response to my appeal have sent in many donations, some from elderly retired members who have little enough cash to spare, but still feel they want to help. We are very grateful indeed and I intend to write and thank each one of them personally as soon as I can. Perhaps it's time to ask all Course Managers/ Head Greenkeepers, to see what they can collect from themselves and staff at their clubs. After all it's your future, and any amount large or small will indirectly benefit you all. Cheques should be made out to BIGGA Building Fund and sent to HQ or myself at Archways, Churston Road, Churston Ferrers, South Devon TQ5 0HU.

I am looking forward to meeting all the members who are on Greenkeeper Support duty at The Open, later this month. Hopefully the weather will be as good at Birkdale as it was last year at Troon, and we can all enjoy it as much. While on the subject of tournaments, thanks to all of you who turned out at Wentworth for the

Volvo PGA Championships, you did a fine job. The course at Wentworth looked excellent on television, and received high praise from commentators and players alike, which is always nice to hear. (Chris and his staff must be justly proud of their achievement. Presentation is so important on most inland courses and in particular parkland type.

There is much debate about how far we go in the pursuit of presentation, and I have no wish to get involved except to say that the quality of turf should never be sacrificed just for looks. We are the guardians of the turf on golf courses and the golfer play on it and hopefully enjoys it. Just like an artist who paints a picture, he or she is the creator and we enjoy the end product.

It is with sadness I have to report that your Vice Chairman George Brown, has had to stand down due to a change in work commitments. After a lot of heart searching and many long conversations George did not have any choice but to stand down. I know you will all join me in wishing him all the very best. On a personal note, I know George feels he has let me down, but I can assure you that is not the way I see it, and I look forward to seeing him and having a few jars later this year at Turnberry.

As the saying goes, every cloud has a silver lining and my new Vice Chairman is certainly that. So, it is a pleasure to inform you that Elliott Small has accepted the invitation to become Vice Chairman, and the National Board fully support his election. No one has done more for BIGGA than Elliott, and he fully deserves this honour. His work as the Regional Administrator for Scotland over more than eight years is only one part of his commitment to greenkeeping, and I look forward to working with him again.

Gordon Child



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