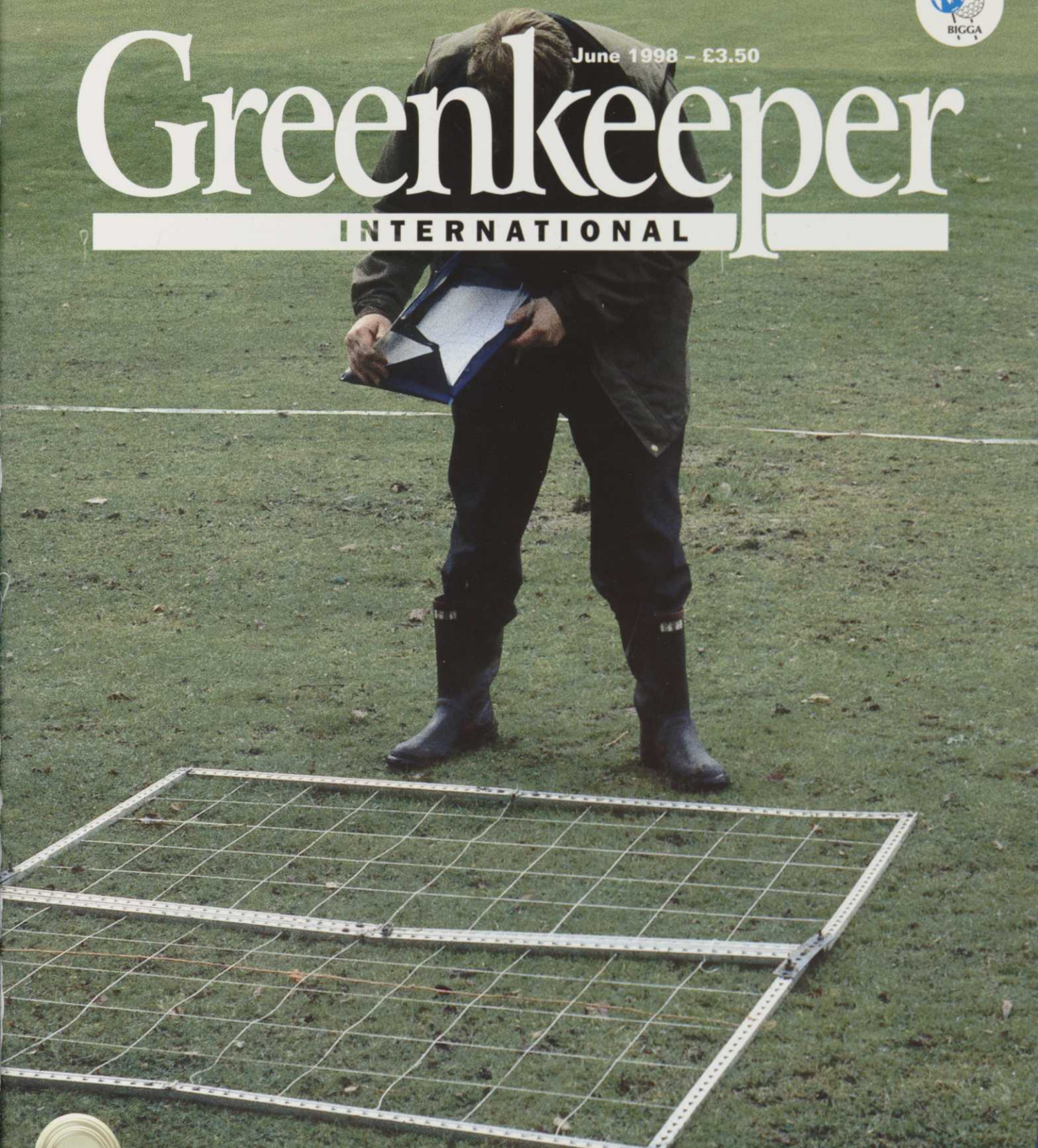




June 1998 - £3.50

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



Opening a can of worms

Tough on turf disease

- Rapid contact action.
- Immediately effective against a wide range of turf diseases including Fusarium patch, Red thread, and Dollar spot.
- Will not scorch or damage turf.
- Unique rainfast formulation allows application all year round but especially useful during the cooler months.
- Available in 1 litre and new 5 litre containers.
- The No 1. choice for turf professionals for over 11 years.



NOW
AVAILABLE
IN 5L
CANS



*Tender on
turf*

Ad Ref 59

 **RHÔNE-POULENC**

Rhône-Poulenc Amenity, Fyfield Road, Ongar, Essex CM5 0HW. Telephone 01277 301114 Fax 01277 301119.
ROVRAL GREEN CONTAINS IPRDIONE. READ THE LABEL BEFORE YOU BUY: USE PESTICIDES SAFELY. (MAFF 05702)



For details of your nearest Rhône-Poulenc distributor, call 01277 301116



President
The Rt Hon.
Viscount Whitelaw
K.T., C.H., M.C., D.I.

BIGGA Board of Management
Chairman - Gordon Child
Vice Chairman - George Brown
Past Chairman - Patrick Murphy

Board Members
Richard Barker
George Barr
Robin Greaves
Jim Paton
Ian Holoran

Executive Director
Neil Thomas B.A.

Administration Manager
John Pemberton

Education Officer
Ken Richardson

Sales & Marketing Manager
James McEvoy

Membership Services Officer
Tracey Maddison

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

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission. Return postage must accompany all materials submitted if return is requested.

No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication.

Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork.

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

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

ISSN: 0961-6977

© 1998 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

Editorial

Editor: Scott MacCallum

Advertising

Sales & Marketing Manager:
James McEvoy

Sales & Marketing Assistants:
Jenny Pantou, Cheryl Broomhead

Tel: 01347 838581 Fax: 01347 838864
E-mail: bigga@btinternet.com

Design

Design & Production Editor: David Emery

Printing

Hi-Tec Print, Units 9-10, Houghton Road,
North Anston Trading Estate, North
Anston, Sheffield S25 4JJ

Tel: 01909 568533 Fax: 01909 568206

Origination

R C Bailey & Sons, Half, White Cross
Road, Haxby Road, York YO3 7JR

Tel: 01904 658480

Contact us

You can contact The British and
International Golf Greenkeepers
Association in any number of ways.

Post: BIGGA, Aldwark Manor,
Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF

Tel: 01347 838581

Fax: 01347 838864

E-mail: bigga@btinternet.com

Internet: www.bigga.org.uk

June 1998

Your next issue of
Greenkeeper International
will be with you by July 3

Regulars

News

Pages 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13

14 The Learning Experience

The Daily Grind. Ensuring a fine putting surface should be top of everyone's priority list, so making sure that green's mowers are well maintained is of paramount importance

34-41 Around the Green

44 Money Matters

Geoff Steel takes a look at PEPs

44 Health & Safety

Tony Rees gives some valuable information about assessing risk

45 Education

Ken Richardson answers some much-asked questions about assessment and assessors

58 Features Listing

Helping you track down some of Greenkeeper International's previous articles

58 As I see it...

BIGGA National Chairman, Gordon Child, takes on London's answer to a Big Dipper, and survives just...

Reader Reply Card

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

Advertiser	Ad Ref	Page
Agriland	84	29
Amenity Technology	431	39, 60
Anchor Industries	588	25
Richard Campey	496	34
Charterhouse	130	36-37
Dixon & Holliday	214	10
Green Releaf	563	15, 41
Greensward	312	25
Hydroscape	475	59
Lely	61	20-21
Marlwood	501	34
Oomis	360	33
Pattisons	35	12
Rhône-Poulenc	59	2, 30
Sisis	176	18
Stihl	230	5
SupaTurf	164	9
Symbio	510	26
TIS	153	35
Twose Turf & Spray	586	11
Wyles, Hardy & Co	589	10

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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



Golden Key Circle Company Members

Amazone Ground Care, Barenbrug, Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd, Hayter Ltd, Jacobsen E-Z-Go Textron, John Deere Ltd, Kubota UK Ltd, Levington Horticulture Ltd, Scotts Turf & Amenity, Mommersteeg International, Ocmis Irrigation UK Ltd, PGA European Tour, Rainbird, Ransomes, Rhône-Poulenc Amenity, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Supaturf Products Ltd, The Toro Company, Watermatation

Silver Key Circle Company Members

Avoncrop Amenity Products, Lambert/Fenchurch UK Group Ltd, Rolawn Ltd, Sisis Equipment Ltd, Weed Free

We're already taking orders for exhibition space at BTME99! To make your booking or for further information call 01347 838581 now!



58 As I see it...



45 Education: Assessors



44 Money Matters: PEPs

A potential cast of thousands

In last year's June magazine we had a special report on the drought being experienced at the time and examined water conservation and what was being done by the irrigation companies to ensure that maximum use was made of the little water that was available to us.

Since then it has barely stopped raining and, outside of the south east, water levels are now back to where they should be.

While not expecting Greenkeeper International to be credited with another dramatic major success, this year's June magazine is taking an extended look at the earthworm problem. With the increasing likelihood of bans being imposed on the existing deterrents, earthworms could become the major headache for greenkeepers over the next few years.

The spur for this in-depth Greenkeeper International Investigation came from a meeting with Nick Park, Vice Chairman of the R&A's Advisory Panel and Chairman of its Research and Advisory Working Party, which has already directed substantial sums of money into researching the earthworm situation.

Nick, whose interview also appears in this issue, has singled out earthworms as an area which could have a catastrophic effect on the game of golf in this country.

"I have a horror that we could at some point head back to the sort of mayhem we saw in the 1920s when fairways became muddy footpaths for much of the year," said Nick, adding that as a consequence it could shut golf down for a substantial portion of the year.

With that in mind in this magazine Dr Stephen Baker gives an update on the work the STRI is doing into the problem while three of the big chemical companies, Rigby Taylor, Rhône-Poulenc and Scotts, have reported on what they plan to do to combat the problem, when at any given moment they know their best weaponry might just be taken away from them.

The R&A Advisory Panel, which incidentally includes Walter Woods and George Brown, must be applauded as it does a power of, often unheralded, work all for the good of the game.

With that in mind, please take a few minutes to assist the Panel by filling in the tear-off freepost card which appears in this magazine. By doing so you will be assisting in the formulation of a database which will give an invaluable insight into which problems cause you, the people who have to face them on a daily basis, the most grief. As a consequence the panel will be able to identify the areas which are in most need of research funding.

Only through research will solutions be found for some of the more common golf course problems and, although usually long term, the benefits are potentially significant.

Obviously the more people who fill in the card, which you can be assured protects the identity of the individual sender totally, the more accurate this database will be.

It is a great chance to assist the R&A and do some good for the industry.

Editor:
Scott MacCallum

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

Features

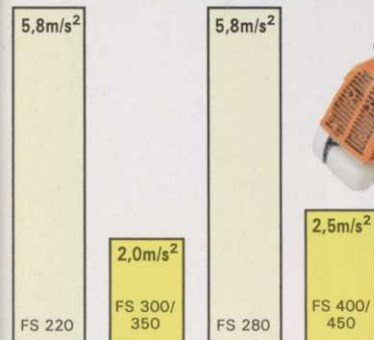
- 16 Nick Park Q & A**
Scott MacCallum meets Nick Park, Vice Chairman of the R&A Advisory Panel, and discusses its work, earthworms and how greenkeepers can help with the gathering of research information
- 19 Access All Areas**
Roland Taylor takes the mystery out of All Terrain Vehicles - ATVs
- 23 Braving The Elements**
Royal Porthcawl is one of the finest links courses in the country. Michael Bird went to visit Course Manager, David Ward, and his team
- 27 Opening a Can of Worms**
Dr Stephen Baker and Daniel Binns, of the STRI, reveal some of the results of a survey conducted into the earthworm problem
- 31 A Cast of Thousands**
Rhone Poulenc, Rigby Taylor and Scotts UK Professional are trying to come up with new ways to combat the earthworm problem
- 43 Scotts Support the National Tournament**
The National Tournament at the Letham Grange Resort has a new sponsor but a familiar face at the helm. Scotts UK Professional, and Richard Minton, aim to make it a superb event
- 46 Better than Ever**
The BIGGA Golf Day, sponsored by BT Mobile, has attracted some celebrity guests and should prove to be one of June's highlights



28 Opening a Can of Worms



19 Access All Areas: ATVs



*The vibration values of the clearing saws FS 400/450 are 57% lower than those of the previous-generation models. The values for the FS 300/350 clearing saws are roughly 60% lower.



STIHL...the best is always getting better!

The new generation of STIHL clearing saws take another giant step in proving the ongoing superiority of Stihl design and engineering.

A new and completely unrivalled range offering exactly the power you need for your specific applications. Each model sets new standards for its class with vibration levels 60 per cent lower* than comparable old models. New STIHL deluxe harness design reduces fatigue by greatly improving comfort and completely freeing the chest area of straps that impair breathing and restrict movement.

Ergonomically designed, fully adjustable mowing handles with integrated fingertip controls take user comfort into a new dimension with soft handles to reduce hand pressure even during prolonged use.

An 'Easy Start' system with decompression valve and fuel pump together with a 'long life' filter system are among many other STIHL innovations. Complete the FREEPOST coupon or FREEPHONE 0800 137574 for full details.

To Stihl Ltd., FREEPOST, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3BR
Please send me the new 16 page clearing saw brochure and catalogue

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____



GI.6.98

Ad Ref 230

S11

STIHL®

So you think you're the best?

Prove it.

Letham Grange.

August 3-5, 1998.

We'll be waiting...


THE
NATIONAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT

BIGGA IN ASSOCIATION WITH SCOTT'S

CONTACT SARAH ON 01347 838581 FOR MORE DETAILS

What's in a name?

With building work on the new BIGGA Headquarters and Training facility now past the half way mark, thoughts turn to the task of finding a suitable name for the new building.

With the Well of Inspiration running out after one lonely suggestion - Thomas Towers! - it was decided to throw the job over to the members.

A superb prize of B&B accommodation and entry to all seminars of the Learning Experienced in association with Ransomes at both the National Education Conference and BTME as well as a ticket to the banquet will be available to the person who comes up with the most appropriate name for the new building or, if there is one name which has proved overwhelmingly popular and is the one selected by the Board of Management, a draw will be made from all the winning selections.

To give you some information to go on:-

- The new Headquarters and Training Facility is sited 50 yards from the current offices at Aldwark Manor Hotel and Golf Club.

- The Association's long standing President, Viscount Whitelaw,

retires in the year the new building opens.

- While a proportion of the funding for the building came from an R&A grant, a significant amount was raised by members through the "Buy a Brick" raffle and a fund raising drive through the golf clubs.

- For anagram purposes the initial letters of Christian names of the current board of management are - G, G, P, J, I, R, G, R.

- For anagram purposes the initial letters of Christian names of the past Chairmen are - W, J, P, I, G, R, J, J, B, D, P.

- For anagram purposes the initial letter of Christian names of the staff members are - N, D, J, J, C, K, S, S, S, R, J, T, A, P.

Can I apologise for the lack of vowels!

While we all enjoy a good laugh, suggestions which you could actually see being used on a new building, of which we are all very proud, would be preferable.

Entries should be sent to the current BIGGA Headquarters at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, nr York YO61 1UF by Monday July 5, or via your Section Secretary or Regional Administrator.

A BIGGA thank you!

Over 60 golf clubs have so far 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.

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.



Banchory GC
Beaconsfield GC
Bedale GC
Birchwood GC
Bishop's Stortford GC
Blackmoor GC
Bromborough GC
Cardigan GC
Chestfield GC
Chorlton-Cum-Hardy GC
Clitheroe GC
Conwy GC
Cooden Beach GC
Coventry Hearsall GC
Crompton & Royton GC
Dore & Totley GC
Dunfermline GC
Goodwood GC
Habberley GC
Haggs Castle GC
Halifax GC
Ham Manor GC
Hampstead GC
Haywards Heath GC
Hindhead GC
Kilmarnock Barassie GC
Kirby Muxloe GC
Little Aston GC
Longniddry GC
Manchester GC
Moor Hall GC
Nairn GC

North Oxford GC
North Wilts GC
Potters Bar GC
Purley Downs GC
Pyle and Kenfig GC
Ranfurlly Castle GC
Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh
Royal Cinque Ports GC
Royal Guernsey GC
Royal Liverpool GC
Royal Porthcawl GC
Royal St Georges GC
Royal Wimbeldon GC
Stand GC
Sundridge Park GC
Sunningdale GC
Tandridge GC
Temple GC
Tenterden GC
The Wisley GC
Thorpeness GC
Tulliallan GC
Tynemouth GC
Tyrells Wood GC
Uttoxeter GC
Wakefield GC
Walton Heath GC
West Byfleet GC
Whitley Bay GC
Worcestershire GC



'Cool Britannia' assists sales for Huxleys

Huxley's new Greenstar, the only British manufactured ride-on Greens mower, is setting record sales for the Hampshire based company. Recent orders include those from Burnley Council, Southampton City Council, Wakefield Council, Ascot Authority, Newbury Racecourse, Newbury and Crook ham GC, Winter Hill GC (John Lewis), Torphin Hill GC, Goodwood GC, Langley Park GC, Vale of Leven GC, Pains wick GC, Ashton and Lea GC, Ashley Wood GC, Cook ridge Hall GC, Andover GC and Southwick Park Naval Recreation Centre.

"We took a lot of trouble to get the specification right for British conditions by asking British Greenkeepers what they wanted. Standard features include permanent all wheel drive, exceptionally quiet operation, 11 knife cutting reels, steering mowing units with quick detach facility and optional groomers, turf combs and rear roller brushes," said Director Paul Huxley. "We made sure that the price was very competitive. It's pleasing to find that a lot of customers prefer to 'Buy British' provided they are getting good value for money."



ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER
Profile
 ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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

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



Name: Iain Smith

Club: Drumpellier GC

Position: Apprentice

Age: 18

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?

Two years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?

Level 2 SVQ

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?

Cutting greens

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?

Strimming Bunkers

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

Assistant professional golfer

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

My big brother

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

Double the standard rate of pay for an apprentice greenkeeper

8. What are your hobbies?

Golf, football, running

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

Monthly magazine, finding out about new technology and meeting other greenkeepers at social functions

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

Course Manager at Drumpellier

New recruits at BIGGA

The two newest members of the BIGGA Headquarters Staff are Cheryl Broomhead and Sarah Sowerby.

Cheryl, who joins the Sales and Marketing team, would certainly give Mel C of the Spice Girls a run for her money when it comes to all things sporty.

She has represented North Yorkshire at netball and now plays both league tennis and badminton. When she's not doing that she's into aerobics and swimming and she takes every opportunity she can to enjoy the outdoor life.

"I must confess, however, that the one and only time I've played golf I managed to hit a car," revealed Cheryl (30).

Cheryl, who lives in York joins the Association with experience of both advertising sales and exhibition organising, having worked on the Peterborough Evening Telegraph for the former and a Harrogate based exhibition organiser for the latter.

Since leaving college, though, she has packed a lot into her life having been a Thomson's holiday rep working in Spain, Greece and the Canary Islands as well as managing an Arts and Crafts Gallery.

Her desire to see the world has also taken her to Australia and Hong Kong during which time, despite being afraid of heights, she experienced the thrill of a bungee jump from a bridge.



New recruits, Cheryl (left) and Sarah (right)

"I'm really looking forward to working for BIGGA. From what I've seen so far it's a growing Association and the job really attracted me," said Cheryl.

Sarah (24) is the new Secretary/Administrator and arrives at the Association after a spell working for Yorkshire Television in Leeds.

While acting as secretary to the Group Controller of Commercial Affairs she regularly bumped into familiar faces including Nick Berry, of Heartbeat fame, and those two legends of afternoon television Richard Whiteley and Carol Vorderman.

Sarah, who lives in Ripon, boasts an honours degree in Modern Languages (French and Spanish)

from Manchester Metropolitan University and she added to that by completing a secretarial course at Park Lane College in Leeds.

As part of her degree she spent five months studying in Murcia, in Spain, and a further five months in Dijon in the Burgundy region of France. While in Spain she acted as an au-pair in Marbella.

She is a regular in the gym while her interest in both playing and watching tennis takes her to Wimbledon at the end of this month where she is hoping to catch a glimpse of either Tim Henman or Pat Rafter.

"I am thoroughly looking forward to working at Aldwark Manor," said Sarah.

Who says that romance is dead?

Everyone who knows BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, must be aware of the fact that there can be few greater enthusiasts for the greenkeeping profession than him.

However, even Gordon can become a little carried away. Let his long suffering wife Marion take up the story.

"A couple of nights ago, after a hard day at work, my husband took me out to a romantic place for a candle lit dinner.

"I had just begun my starter when Gordon suddenly said, and I quote, 'What do you know about dry patch?' With fork poised, I froze, and I didn't know whether to laugh or cry," explained Marion.

"I told him what I knew, which isn't a great deal, but I'm not entirely ignorant of such matters - and anyway it makes a change from poa annua or fusarium.

"I have taken the incident as a compliment and I think that maybe my 'retired' husband looks upon me as one of his experienced greenkeeper friends after all these years and not just any old wife."

Hayter International Cup

BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, will have the tricky task of moulding the most international group of people ever to come together under the same banner in any sportin history when he captains the Rest of the World team which competes in the second Hayter International Cup match, to be held at Cherokee Town & Country Club in Atlanta, Georgia, in October.

Sounds a little over the top? Well you can't get more international than 12 different players representing 12 different countries from as far afield as Finland and Australia. So you might find Gordon attempting to enlist the services of Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, to act as Vice Captain!

Gordon will be attempting to win back the trophy which the Americas clinched in a closely fought inaugural match at West Lincs Golf Club, Liverpool, in 1996.

The countries represented are, in alphabetical order:-

Australia, England, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Wales.

Rest of the World Team.

Non-Playing Captain - Gordon Child, England

Australia - Peter Frewin

England - Andy Sheehan, Bentley GC, Essex

Finland - Jorma Eriksson

France - Remy Dorbeau

Germany - Andreas Kauler

Ireland - Nick Webber, Portstewart GC, Co Antrim

Norway - Atle Revheim Hansen

Scotland - Derek Wilson, Irvine Bogside GC

Spain - Eugenio Rezola

Sweden - Martin Sternberg

Switzerland - Pierre Ambrosin

Wales - Russell Lewis, Northop, Country Club, Flintshire.

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

The Americas team to defend the cup will be announced shortly.

Carnoustie links up with Toro for the 1999 Open

Toro and Carnoustie Golf Links have signed a three-year working partnership deal that includes the supply of Toro turf maintenance equipment and on-site support for the 1999 Open.

The preferred-supplier agreement will see Carnoustie taking delivery of a wide range of Toro turf care machinery for maintaining all three golf courses at the renowned Scottish "institution", which is owned by Angus Council and run by the Links Management Committee.

Carnoustie Golf Links' Superintendent John Philp, said "I chose Toro based on my past experience. I know the products and am particularly keen on the greens and fairways mowers. They give a superb quality of cut, are very reliable, well engineered and hard to beat.

The courses are supplied by Edinburgh Toro dealers A M Russell.

Under the agreement, John Philp's ever-expanding new Toro fleet will include seven GR3200-D greens mowers, one RM2300-



D utility mower, two GM5300-D fairway mowers, a GM3000-D for cutting semi-roughs and five of the new GR1600 pedestrian mowers for tees and greens collars.

There are also six GR500 pedestrian greens mowers on order for The Open.

In addition he is purchasing

three Workman utility vehicles - two provided with top dressing units and one with the hydroject 4000 water-injection aerator with on-board tank, which he says is an important aeration tool, not just on the greens and tees but on the high parts of fairways which are prone to drying out.

The Italian job for Peter



Peter Bradburn, former Courses Supervisor of The London Golf Club, Kent, has been appointed Assistant Superintendent of The Arzaga Hotel and Country Club, Italy.

Peter will be joining Sylvain Duval, Golf Courses Superintendent and formerly of Hanbury Manor, to aid the development of the project from growth to opening preparation of the Jack Nicklaus II and Gary Player courses, which are set in the magnificent hills surrounding Lake Garda. The Nicklaus course is scheduled to open in July this year and the first nine holes of The Player Course in Spring 1999.

Steve Jones, Golf Courses Superintendent of The London Golf Club said, "It is sad to lose Peter after five years at the Club, but we wish him well with this marvellous challenge."

Peter, a former Diploma Graduate of Myerscough College, previously worked in turf research and agronomy in New Zealand. He has also worked as a Contract Manager in Grounds Maintenance in the UK and as a Groundsman at The All England Lawn Tennis Club.

TGA appoint new Chief Executive

The Turfgrass Growers Association (TGA) has appointed David Clarke as its new Chief Executive.

David is a chartered management accountant who has served as a Finance Director and Company Secretary in the agricultural sector for over 30 years. His strong organisational and professional skills will enable the Association to move forward into the millennium and further develop benefits for Members.

At the Association's last All Members' Meeting Mr Clarke reported an exciting year ahead for the TGA. Forthcoming events, continued input from the Association's Members and

Turfgrass users is clearly underlining the value of the TGA and its quality standards.

The Association's Mission Statement, which in part states "the sharing of knowledge for the benefit of the customer" is continuing to bring growers much closer together for the regular exchange of information and ideas to achieve its goal of constantly improving standards in production and business practices.

The recent wet weather will not give a picture of complacency for the TGA - the next All Members' Meeting on July 8 will have a speaker from the Environment Agency to discuss



Water Management and how water users can benefit from forward planning and good management practices.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



The Ritefeed Classic, 1998

Please note the following official statement from the Association with regard to the Ritefeed Classic 1998.

With effect from May 5 1998, BIGGA is no longer associated with the Ritefeed Classic 1998.

THE FACTS
~
NOT THE HYPE

"I HAVE USED PRIMER 604 SINCE IT CAME ON THE MARKET - WITH GREAT RESULTS. IT WILL BE INCLUDED IN MY PROGRAMME FOR 1998"

MARK CHESMAN
COURSE MANAGER
SONNING GOLF CLUB

PRIMER
PRIMER 604 IS MANUFACTURED IN ENGLAND BY SUPATURF PRODUCTS LTD UNDER LICENSE FROM THE AUSTRALIA CORPORATION OF AMERICA. TEL: 01488 234677

Ad Ref 104

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

Dear Sir,
 I reply to Sandy McDivot's article "Field of Experience" Greenkeeper International - May 1998 which I read with interest - twice.

Before addressing the issues raised I would like to be up front and open about my own identity and assure you that I have no hidden agendas, just a desire to challenge and give balance to the content of the article.

I have been employed in the turf grass industry for some 25 years, have received education both in the UK and USA, worked with a number of consultants at the various golf courses where I was employed and since February this year have formed my own independent consultancy service - I also do not believe I fall into any of the four categories as described in the article.

Firstly, there are some points raised in the piece with which I wholeheartedly agree: Education is better now than ever before and there are some good and some not so good consultants currently working in our industry. I suppose it would also be fair to add that there are a good many clubs out there who have yet to really embrace and encourage training and development for their

staff who are, therefore, not accessing the education and also some Head Greenkeepers who feel that training and development no longer applies to them as they have been there, done that and got the certificate.

However, I would think there are few industries which have experienced so many changes both in terms of new products and work practices over the last decade which means the learning never really stops - something which the Chairman also referred to in his article - May issue.

May I also be bold enough to suggest that there are some good and not so good Head Greenkeepers out there who could really benefit from working with an experienced consultant and, given the right pairing, might even welcome the opportunity.

Just by changing the focus and being positive and optimistic rather than suspicious and somewhat defensive we can also change the perception of the role of the consultant from agitator to partner for, I believe, it is only through open and honest partnerships that progress can be made. There is little or nothing for

anyone to gain from an "us and them" scenario and I do not believe that any consultant would wish to work in such an atmosphere.

I make no excuses for the fact that, as a consultant, I question and challenge work methods, look over machinery and equipment, review staff training and request copies of budgets, records and reports in order to gain a better understanding of each organisation I work with. In return, I will offer independent advice, guidance, support, suggestions and recommendations which will all be given without prejudice and within a no blame framework - for it is all too easy to point the finger and neither party should fall into this trap.

A well chosen consultant will increase confidence and motivation just by reinforcing what is already known and by offering guidance and support through times of change and development if, or when, this is required to achieve higher standards and better quality for this would be the only reason to suggest change.

There will, undoubtedly, be the occasions when the not so good consultant gets it wrong and Sandy McDivot gave examples of this.

However, is this reason enough to alienate an outside influence and risking a missed opportunity for the times when the consultant gets it right!

All clubs should spend time in researching and selecting the right consultant for their course and have some way of measuring the impact of that consultant on the goals which have been set. However, I do not agree with the suggestion that the best consultant is one who will not question the Head Greenkeeper's actions, as this assumes that, in all instances, there is no room for change, progress or improvement - this shows no respect for the integrity or intellect of either parties.

As an individual I believe I have much to offer today's progressive Head Greenkeepers, both in terms of knowledge and experience, but also support and I have yet to work with any fellow professionals where this has been rejected.

Perhaps, therefore, the challenge is to try to establish a network of tried, tested and trusted consultants who really can offer a service to the industry.

Ken Barber
 On Course Consultants

'PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES'

WITH A KNAPSACK MOWER FROM DIXON & HOLLIDAY

THE SAFE AND EASY WAY TO MOW BANKS, SLOPES AND SMALL CONFINED AREAS

ALLOWS THE OPERATOR TO HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL, MANOEUVRABILITY AND BALANCE

TRIMS, MOWS, HEDGE CUTS, CULTIVATES AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

DIXON & HOLLIDAY LTD

UNIT 2, SHEPPARDS FARM, DRAYCOTT FOLIAT, SWINDON, WILTSHIRE SN4 0HX TEL: 01793 741173 (works)

SALES: 01462 700547 FAX: 01793 741020

On instructions received from the Directors of T. Parker & Sons (Turf Management) Ltd. T/A Parker Hart Due to Re-organisation of their Continuing Business

FOR SALE BY AUCTION

of
 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE, GRASS CUTTING, TURF CARE MACHINERY & WORKSHOP EQUIPMENT, ETC.

To include

New, Recondition and Ex-Hire Equipment comprising of ISEKI and SHIBAURA Compact Tractors; JCB Loadall 520 HL; FERGUSSON 35X Tractor; Tractor mounted implements by GREENCARE, "VERTIDRAIN'S", CHARTERHOUSE, WESSEX, HOWARD; JACOBSEN T422 Turfcut Flail Head Ride On Mower; Range of SISSIS Trailed & Mounted Equipment.

JACOBSEN 154 Sweeper/Collector; Self Propelled Equipment by TASKI, GREENCARE, RYAN, RANSOMES, PATTINSON, SISSIS, HAYTER, SABO, etc., etc.

Three IFOR WILLIAMS Twin Axle Beavertail Platform Trailers; Workshop Equipment; Grinders, Compressors, Sheet Metal Fabrication Equipment, Welders, Engine Cranes, PUMA 75KVA Generator, etc., etc.

On Tuesday 23rd June 1998, commencing at 11.00 a.m.

At T. Parker & Son (Turf Management) Ltd., Malden Green Farm, Worcester Park, Surrey

On view Monday 22nd June 1998, From 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and Day of Sale from 9.00 a.m.

Catalogues, Etc., Contact Matt Hardy & Terry Madden

WYLES HARDY & CO

Ley Hill Road, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3

Tel: (01442) 832234 Fax: (01442) 834342



Masterpieces from Twose

Superior performance provides an exhibition finish.

Produce a smoother, more consistent playing surface *without causing compaction* or having to lower the height of cut.

Used immediately after aeration or top dressing applications, turf recovery time will be increased allowing greens to be brought back into play more quickly.

Powered by a 5.5 hp Honda engine, the greensIRON 3000 operates at a speed of up to 7 mph and is easily moved between sites on its own Transport Trailer.

The Connoisseur Collection

For further exhibitions of our work,
call Sheila **01536 511243**



Gambetti & Rogers: The classic combination of precision sprayer and drift control boom.

Shattermaster: Provides sub-soil aeration and relieves surface compaction without disrupting play.

CoreMaster ECO: Ecologically friendly turf aerator with high levels of productivity.

Twose: Innovative range of flail hedgecutter and boom mowers.



Twose Turf and Spray Limited,
6 Torridge Close, Henson Way,
Telford Way Industrial Estate, Kettering,
Northants. NN16 8PY Fax: 01536 511675

Duke to present Environment Award

His Royal Highness the Duke of York has accepted an invitation to open officially the Askham Bryan College Golf and Environment Conference on Wednesday October 21.

As part of his visit to York His Royal Highness has also agreed to present the winning golf club with the 1998 BIGGA Golf Environment Award, in association with Amazone and Rhone Poulenc.

"We are delighted that the presentation to the winning golf club will be held during the Conference and the fact that the Award will be presented by the Duke of York will be an extra incentive to golf clubs to do well in the competition," said BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson.

Last year, Hankley Common GC, in Surrey, won the award as a result of the extensive work carried out by Course Manager, Ian McMillan, and his team.

The two day conference includes papers from Dr Roger Bennett, Principal of the College, David Stubbs, Executive Director of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit, golf ecologists Bob Taylor and Jonathan Smith, architect Jeremy Pern and Chief Scientist of English Nature, Dr Keith Duff.

Princess Royal opens new John Deere headquarters

The opening of the new John Deere £2.5 million British Headquarters and Training Centre was a Royal occasion with the day being graced by a visit from the Princess Royal.

Fog delayed the Princess' arrival as her helicopter had to divert to East Midlands airport but she spent time viewing the new building, admired the range of old and new John Deere machinery on display, watched some students in action in a training room before unveiling a plaque to mark the occasion.

The offices, which are a short distance from the previous building, are "state-of-the-art" with five training rooms - four with adjoining workshops - and all with the most up to date equipment. The new facility will be used to assist the company with its 5000 training days covering 40 different courses per annum.

The administration department and restaurant for the 98 staff is found on the first floor with a huge open plan format with glass fronted individual offices around the perimeter.

Before leaving The Princess Royal was presented with a gift of two model tractors mounted on a plinth



by the company's longest serving employee, Marjorie Watchorn.

Around 500 people attended the event and were treated to an excellent buffet lunch and had the opportunity of also being shown round the new building.

"We are very honoured that Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal agreed to officially open our new premises," said John Deere Ltd

Managing Director, Alec McKee, who has just been elected President of the Agricultural Engineers Association.

Picture shows Her Royal Highness with John Deere Ltd Managing Director, Alec McKee (extreme right); Senior Vice President and Managing Director of Deere & Co, Robert Lane, and Director of Marketing of Deere and Co, Paul Enz.

Pattisson's fantastic summer PROMOTIONS

Tel: 01494 79 46 46

Fax: 01494 79 47 47

1. Pattisson's 'Aqua Pack'

Hydrotine - £145

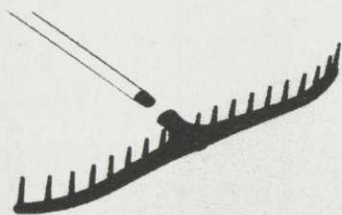
Set of replacement tines - £20

Tricoflex 3/4" 50m hose - £68

2 Snap fast hose tails - £5.90

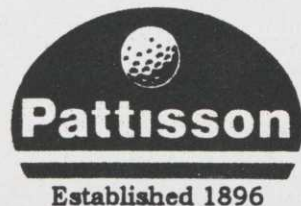
TOTAL VALUE -
£238.90

Promotional
price - £160!!!



2. Pattisson's are selling their Bunker Rake with black screw in head and white fibre glass handle

for just £5.95.



Westurf celebrates 10th birthday in style

By Paula Humphries

On the Saturday before the big day I arrived to look at the site and began marking out but rain which fell as stair rods and mud that sucked in my wellies drove me quickly back to my hotel for a rethink.

On Sunday morning the rain was still falling but more gently and Ivor Scoones, Peter Baynton, Robin Greaves and I got busy with measuring machines, white lines and marker posts. During the morning the first of the lorries bringing the marquees arrived, pulled through the gate and immediately got stuck! What a start to the week!

"I thought that would happen," said Ivor, matter-of-factly and went off to get a tractor to drag him out.

Tuesday came reasonably dry and pretty windy, which helped no end, but still vehicle after vehicle became bogged in the heavy ground. Much of the traffic had to be redirected to the club car park and the equipment transported to the showground by tractor. Ivor and his staff were magnificent with their help. I cannot thank them enough.

On Wednesday the sun shone, the sky cleared and although it was a bit chilly, generally it was all that could be hoped for. Visitors from all directions told me of torrential rain they had come through but it did seem as though someone "up there" was holding back the rain clouds from the exhibition.

We were honoured with the presence of the Chairman, Gordon Child, together with Marion, and John Cox, the Captain of Long Ashton. The three of them very kindly judged the best stand prizes.

The day started with the Chairman officially opening the exhibition by cutting the red tape...well he tried to but the scissors were blunt and the tape a bit tough! He managed eventually but the photographer missed it and he had to hold it together and pretend for a retake.

There were a lot of changes this



Gordon & Paula cut the cake, flanked by Ivor Scoones and Robin Greaves

year - new marquee suppliers and a catering marquee complete with licensed bar. The BIGGA marquee, too, was much larger and provided courtesy wine and also a slice of 10th anniversary birthday cake which was officially cut by the Chairman and the Regional Administrator. When you see the photos - No, we were not getting married!

Traders really seemed to have pulled out all the stops to make their stands really attractive and to complement the day there were competitions of putting and pitching plus a special "Spot the Thing" competition to encourage visitors to visit each of the stands.

In the BIGGA marquee you could also "Meet the Experts." A panel of experts from all fields of the industry were there to answer your questions and give advice. My special thanks to all of them for being there especially Jim Arthur, who seemed to be conducting his own

personal fan club as he signed many copies of his book.

Neil Thomas, Ken Richardson and Jenny Panton came down from HQ and many members had the opportunity to meet them and talk over queries and educational needs and purchase merchandise.

When the rain eventually arrived at around 3pm it brought the exhibition to a natural close but filled the beer tent and BIGGA marquee and anyone else offering free food and drink!

All in all it was a successful day and has raised enough money to be able to offer members in our Region a truly remarkable package to BTME '99. Together with Amenity Technology, who are generously sponsoring the coach(es), delegates can go for £95 which includes three nights B&B, coach travel and entry to all seminars. A second delegate accompanying his Head Greenkeeper is £85 and we have 20 places for greenkeepers

under 21 to go at £45 (Details and application forms from Paula).

It was both nerve wracking and challenging organising this event for the first time and a daunting exercise trying to emulate Gordon and Marion's previously wonderful successes.

I hope I did you justice, Gordon.

Competition Winners

"Spot the Thing" - Paul Williams, Salisbury & S. Wilts

Putting - Sponsored by Vitax. 1. N. Powell, Belmont Golf and Leisure Club; 2. M. Todd; 3. R. Neale, Taunton Vale.

Chipping - Sponsored by Amenity Technology. 1. T. Glover, Axe Cliffe GC; 2. A. Chant, Farrington GC; 3. G. Higgins, Vivary Park GC.

Best Covered Stand - Pencoed College; Best Uncovered Stand, Pro-Seed Equipment

Amenity Technology and Pipewise were very close runners-up.

New products launched at Iseki conference

Jacobsen held a Conference recently at Highgate House, Creton, Northamptonshire for their Iseki Dealer Principals and their Sales Managers. The event was well attended by Iseki Dealers both existing and new and Mr Hamada, Managing Director, Mr Takemoto, Manager of Planning and Administration, and Mr Debar, Product Manager, from Iseki Europe also made a major contribution to the event.

After global overviews on Textron from Peter Bell and an Iseki global

overview on Iseki from Mr Hamada, future plans for improving parts and warranty procedures were outlined. This was followed by an outdoor session where the new products along with modified existing products were demonstrated to the Dealers.

The TM 223, a 23HP compact tractor complete with 54" side discharge deck made its first appearance as did the SF230, a 23HP out front mower complete with 54" side discharge deck and 500 litre high lift collector.



The ● daily grind

"The fun of the game only begins when you can see the hole, and the real sport when you are on the putting green; it is after the cards are dealt that the excitement commences."
 John L. Low,
 "Concerning Golf", 1903

Make no mistake about it, Mr Low summed up the situation perfectly in speaking of cards being dealt, yet with the best will in the world the greenkeeper, as croupier, cannot deal four aces to every player, every single time.

While it isn't possible, it doesn't entirely matter, the game of golf being something of a lottery anyway, though the greenkeeper who disregards the fact that over 50% of golf is played on the putting green is dicing with danger.

It cannot be over-emphasised, regardless of all other architectural golfing niceties, that your putting surfaces will be the most remembered aspect of your course after the round is done. Reputations are won and lost upon them, so before a single blade of grass comes under attack make certain that your mowing units are given VIP (Very Important for Putting) treatment, not just occasionally but on a routine, regular basis.

While not every club afford themselves the services of a full-time mechanic, (though the practice is growing), it is upon the shoulders of such an individual – in-house or dealer provided – that a great deal rests.

Competence goes without saying; the best mechanics being those whose empathy for the job is a mixture of understanding grass, the agronomics of growing and mowing, and the eye of a golfer in realising the premium placed on the putting surface. Above all, they should understand the machinery and be able to explain its use and care to others.

In the field, each operator should be tutored in the specific use of each item of grass-cutting machinery, be it walk-behind or triplex unit, such that any risk of second-rate results is minimised. Not every trainee greenkeeper will feel confident the first time he is set to the task of cutting greens, thus it is important that tuition be taken at a

pace which permits minimal error.

Being accompanied by a seasoned operator; one who is willing to explain the difference between a good or mediocre cut and how potential mistakes may be avoided will prove profitable. In the very beginning such tasks are best learnt on temporary greens or upon nursery turf.

The formula for obtaining good results every time a mower is used is easy in the extreme, yet so often is overlooked. Understanding first that any cutting unit in daily use will eventually wear out, every operator, no matter how pressed, should follow a routine of stop, look and listen.

Stop

In practice this means not starting the machine unless it's proven fit to the job. A daily visual check should include inspection of cutting knives and bottom blades, checking for nicks, dull spots or signs of a blade having been bent, indeed any damage that may have occurred from previous mowing or off-course transportation.

Look

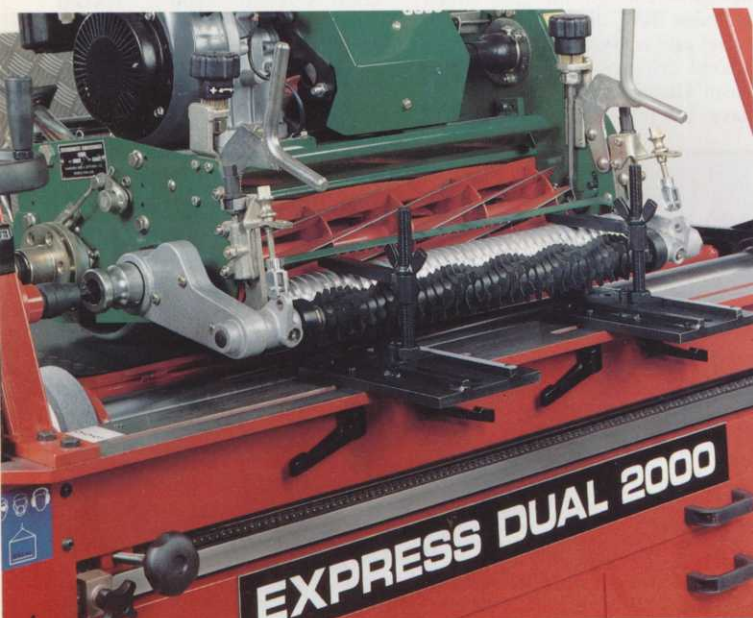
While the machine is stationary, check fuel lines, grasp each cutting blade unit and try to wriggle it, checking for anything that may have worked loose. Excess grease or dripping oil/fuel lines are tell-tail signs that all is not well. Do not allow any machine that is below par to be used.

Look again

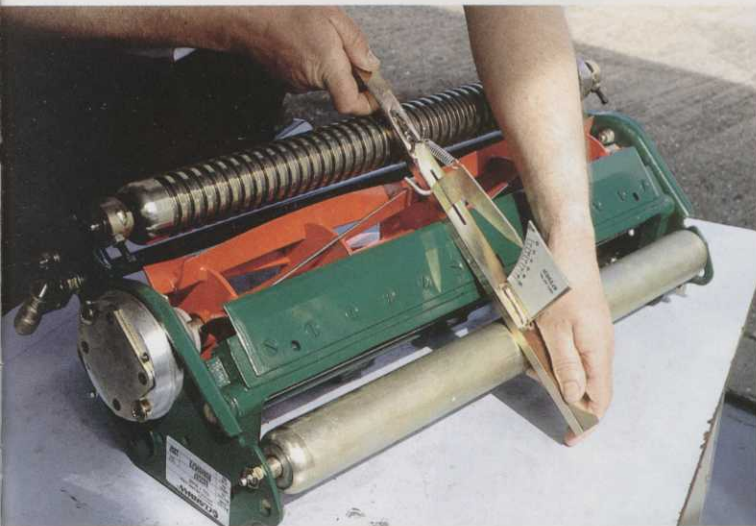
On the green this time, be vigilant concerning debris, stones, discarded shoe spikes (the greenkeepers' curse), or coins used as ball markers. Switch the surface with a suitable nylon pole.

Listen

The motor will tell you if something is wrong, as will the cutting unit. If an engine's purr becomes a growl, be suspicious; there might be bearing problems, worn bushes, or worse. If the cutting unit sounds 'off', (a different pitch, perhaps),



A Ransomes Greens Super set up on an Express Dual cylinder grinding machine.



The levelling bar, used here on a Ransomes Greens unit, provides spot-on accuracy when setting height of cut.

this will indicate an inferior contact between top and bottom blades. While your ears are doing their work, your eyes also should be scanning for any irregularity of cut either high spots left or low spots scalped, all an indication that something is amiss. While cutting greens, observe the grass box and empty it before it becomes necessary. A weighty box of grass clippings can seriously affect mowing height.

Reference to handbooks will reveal the importance placed upon replacement of filters with OEM (original equipment manufacturer) equivalents, also the vital part clean oil plays. It is dicing with disaster to prolong such vital work. The manufacturer also will tell of an equal priority, that of ensuring each bottom blade matches and mates perfectly with the top blade.

Perfect mating of blades calls for expert grinding and sharpening, with grinding of the bottom blade necessary each time a refit is called, often after topdressing or as a routine fortnightly schedule. Current thinking suggests that backlapping – using a fine, emery-based compound to lap against both mated blades while they spin – still provides the keenest edge while avoiding shearing the grass.

Selection of the bottom blade is all important, dependent always upon cutting requirements. In general, the lower the cut, the thinner the blade, with regular, thin, or even a championship blade. OEM blades are best, made to factory specifications and with specially hardened steel. Checks for accuracy (no bends) will ensure the bottom blade is properly matched to the mower, a perfect fit (no dragging) being another essential in the quest for cutting perfection.

If bottom blades are the key to success, the fine tuning of reel blades by grinding and sharpening is an equal. These blades begin life in perfect shape, yet in time and

with rigorous work over a season a cylinder may become slightly tapered, effectively shrinking the unit. Help is at hand, however, for by sharpening the unit, especially on an automatic spin grinder, the blades take on a new lease of life. A blessing for the turf professional, spin grinding virtually eliminates human error. Modern thinking again suggests backlapping after a spin, removal of high spots or burrs to produce the desired effect.

If all this appears routine, that's exactly what it is. Consistent cutting quality comes only with perfect matchmaking, this vital adjustment of blade to blade alone determining the quality of cut. Many greenkeepers swear by a method of checking accuracy know, as the DT (or Daily Telegraph) method. A page of newspaper folded in two and placed between top and bottom blade should produce a cut to the top and a fold to the bottom. Nothing else is acceptable. A little fine-tuning of machinery, along with implementing this foolproof method, will produce perfect results every time.

The greenkeeper or mechanic should check daily the cutting height settings, having first established that rollers and drums are undamaged and free from end play. These must be aligned before setting takes place. Height should be uniform at each end of the bottom blade, checked before tightening and checked again to ensure that such tightening has not caused movement. Be sure to check height settings when the blades are cold, not immediately after grinding.

Bernard Darwin, greatest of all golf writers, once wrote: "We ought not to regard the putting green as a kind of lucky bag out of which we may draw a good or bad putt by mere chance." With modern technology and good greenkeeping sense, the element of chance now rests in the hands of experts, dealing aces galore.

THATCHLESS LIQUID

Get nature to work for you

Easy to apply, **THATCHLESS** liquid

Visible results in just 30 days

Thatch reduction, the natural way

Complete programme costs only

£585

per hectare



GREEN-RELEASE.

TEL: 01782 373878 FAX: 01782 373763

Green Release Europe, 102a Longton Road, Barlaston, Staffs, England ST12 8AU

CONTACT YOUR EXCLUSIVE UK DISTRIBUTOR NOW:

Midlands, North and Scotland

RICHARD RITKEN LTD

Glasgow depot: 0141 4400033

Yorkshire depot: 01977 681155

South, London and South West

AVONCROP AMENITY PRODUCTS

Bracknell depot: 01344 426600

Bristol depot: 01934 820868

The US leader in liquid beneficial microbial products

E-mail: microbes@green-release.com



Scott MacCallum sat down with Nick Park, Vice Chairman of the R&A Golf Course Advisory Panel, and discussed its work – and how greenkeepers can assist by providing research data.

What exactly is the Advisory Panel and what are its aims?

The Panel has evolved from the original Greenkeeping Panel, set up by the R&A in 1985. Tim Taylor has been Chairman since 1988 and has provided the continuity so badly needed in this whole area. We now have a wide brief to work with interested authorities and organisations to facilitate improvements on our courses. The R&A is keen to ensure that profits which flow from the Open Championship are put to the best possible use - within the Panel itself are four Working Parties which take a closer look at specific areas.

Which one are you involved with?

I am Chairman of the Research and Advisory Working Party, a bit of a mouthful, which covers a great deal. Luckily I have a formidable team to help in both practical and theoretical matters. Walter Woods

and George Brown represent the best of what has happened with greenkeeping in the last 20 years. They have so much experience and it is now being put to use at the highest levels in the game. It is interesting to reflect that when I was first asked to sit on the Greenkeeping Panel in 1986 there wasn't a greenkeeper on it! We also have Mike Canaway, Chief Executive of the STRI, David Stansfield, of PSD Agronomy, and Mike Schofield, former Assistant Director of English Nature.

What about the others?

The other Working Parties deal with three areas: European and ecology issues, chaired by Jaime Ortiz-Patino, President (and Head Greenkeeper!) of Valderamma Golf Club; Construction and Design, headed by Donald Steel, and the most recently introduced, Communications, chaired by David Marsh.

How often do you meet?

The working Parties are in constant touch and meet at least twice a year. Also the full Advisory Panel meets twice a year.

What sort of issues do you look into?

As an example, the R&A continues to grant some £35,000 per annum for research into the earth worm problem and ways in which to combat the menace if (more probably when) our chemical weapons are banned. I have a horror that we could at some point head back to

the sort of mayhem we saw in the 1920's when fairways became muddy pathways for much of the year.

You obviously see this as potentially a huge problem.

I don't want to exaggerate it but on the other hand I don't want to underplay it. This is something we must prepare for because I can tell you, if it got really bad it could shut

The R&A Golf Course Advisory Panel

a substantial portion of the game down for four to five months of the year. However, it is one thing to see the problem coming; quite another to resolve it.

What have you discovered so far?

It seems clear from what the STRI has already done that there will be no "one-shot" answer but there may be a variety of methods which will have some effect. Our findings to date are contained elsewhere in this issue of Greenkeeper International - to clubs already experiencing problems I would say to take independent, specialist advice before embarking on a long term strategy of control. But don't ignore it! Remember, there are few alive today who can remember what it was like in the 20's and 30's. Go and read the journals of the period if you want to see what it was like.

We define two types of research: strategic and demand-led. Strategic research refers to broad brush areas like water conservation and usage. This is often pure research where you are not looking for a specific answer to a specific question but want to improve your stock of knowledge in an area. This does not necessarily mean we commission it ourselves - research useful to the game may be done by other industries (eg the water utilities but we have to be alert and organised enough to tap into it.

Demand-led research is the area in which I would ask BIGGA members to play a major role. We need to get a better picture of problems throughout the country and the best way is to fill in the questionnaire which is included in this issue of Greenkeeper International. I can assure all greenkeepers that the answers will be totally anonymous

and cannot be tracked back to their clubs - I would be most grateful for a few minutes of their time - and at least the postage is free! By analysing what comes back it will enable us to direct research funding into the areas which cause greenkeepers the greatest headaches. In turn this will get best value for money invested - the governing body would much appreciate support from BIGGA members in this matter.

You mentioned water, what are your feelings about that?

The questions coming to golf clubs from the regulatory bodies are getting louder, especially in the south east. I cannot see how, in the longer term, clubs will be allowed to use the amounts of water they currently use. I have watched this happen in the USA: No matter what you are prepared to pay for water, the rest of the water-using community will not allow you to have it. Clubs could waste a lot of money installing redundant systems, especially on fairways. I think we will head back to drier, firmer, faster golf courses - a different form of golf to what we are used to but certainly the sort of golf I prefer to play. A good golf course, in my definition, is intrinsically environmentally responsible. Whether you can still use broad-soled, cavity back irons and solid balls on such courses is another matter!

These are all technical problems - what about the golfers?

I know what you're driving at and I agree, in far too many cases courses have problems imposed on them by individuals or committees acting with a lack of expertise. It is ten years since "The Way Forward"

identified this as perhaps the biggest problem facing our courses. I have to say that ten years on, progress in reforming club structures has been painfully slow. A few clubs have shown the way but it remains to me a great source of frustration that the cycle of mistakes is still repeated at so many clubs. This is an area to be pursued by David Marsh's Communications Working Party. It is really a parallel process with the technical problems which occupy my time.

How does UK research fit into the world-wide situation?

A very good question. The ability to reinvent the wheel is enormous and we are trying to stop the game wasting precious resources. I think it is perfectly natural that some countries would want to replicate research that has already been done, simply to prove its validity in their situation. But we must try to stop duplication of work; to this end we commissioned the STRI to pull together a database of research around the world, excluding the USA and Canada. They came up with a weighty file which we now plan to update continuously. I hope it will shortly be available on the Internet - and national golfing federations will receive a copy to see if a subject is being covered, before deciding to invest money in research. All this will be a useful adjunct to the USGA's Turfgrass Information File at Michigan.

What happens in the United States?

The USGA has a different approach from the R&A, though they tend to work on strategic issues - not surprisingly water conservation is a big one for them. They put the work out to tender for an Institute or University to bid for the money to carry out the research. Their whole research effort

has been admirable for many years and has brought benefits to the game way beyond the boundaries of the USA. I think we will see greater co-operation between the two bodies in this area in years to come - we already have a link through Jaime Ortiz-Patino, who sits on the USGA Turfgrass Research Committee.

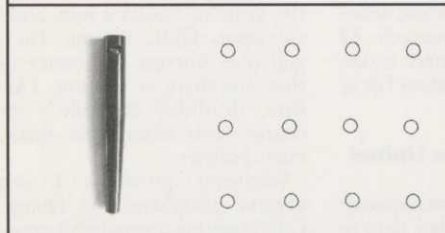
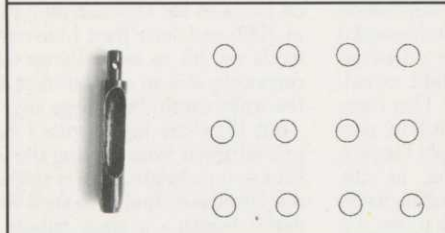
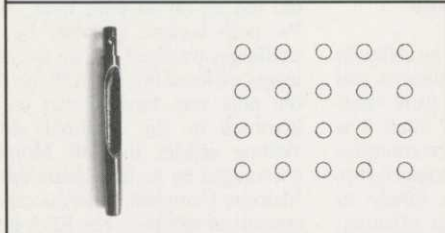
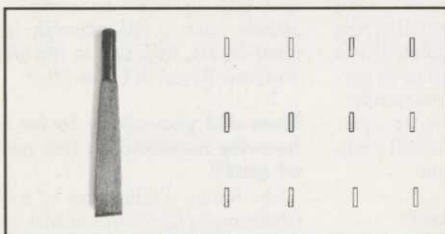
How did you come to be so heavily involved in the game of golf?

My father, Eddie, was a former Chairman of Green at Lindrick and I did the job for six years from 1977. We both became absorbed by the challenges we faced but by the challenges we faced but by 1983 felt that the only way forward was to get involved in the national scene. Writing articles in *Golf Monthly*, encouraged by its far-sighted Editor, Malcolm Campbell, caused a certain amount of mischief. The R&A invited me onto the Greenkeeping Panel in 1986 and since then I have tried to do my bit to move things on. I cannot say it is an easy business, but few really worthwhile things are.

But there are high spots: I have just returned from playing the Old Course on a bright, breezy day and was thrilled to find it in such wonderful health - a great tribute to the years of Walter's rule, and his successor, Eddie Adams. For me golf does not get any better than this, anywhere at anytime. Quick, firm, devilishly difficult - on a course with sustainable management policies.

Whatever problems I might observe elsewhere, the Home of Golf is setting a wonderful example for all to see. Getting the lessons we learn there applied across the game is still the ultimate challenge for all of us. Please get your pens out for that questionnaire and many thanks for your help!

Any which way you choose



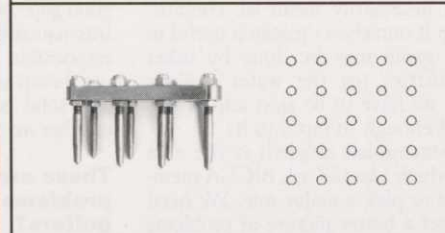
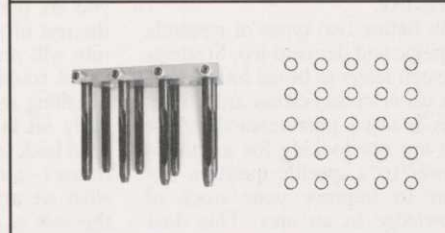
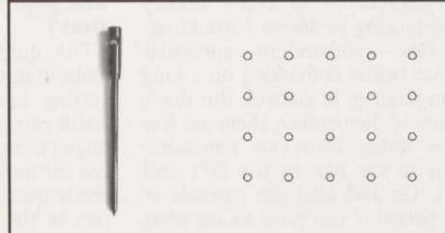
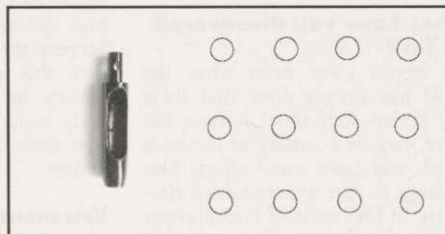
THE VERSATILE
sisis
TECHNICORE

PTO OPERATED
VERTICAL AERATOR

*choice of eight
interchangeable
tines*

*choice of hole
patterns*

*choice of depth
to a true 5ins (127mm)*



Ad Ref 176

SISIS EQUIPMENT (Macclesfield) LTD, Hurdsfield, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 2LZ
Tel: 01625 503030 Fax: 427426

An ATV is unique – it will go where other vehicles fail to tread. Mountainsides, moorland and sand dunes. It takes it in its stride. Roland Taylor investigates...

Access all areas



A mobile servicing unit for greens, tees and bunkers saves time. Cost effectiveness and productivity are two of the most important sectors of modern management. A major contributor to achieving these is the use of time – something that for most of us in today's fast moving environment quickly runs out. Bearing this in mind, it is always worth investigating the possibilities that can save time and increase productivity by releasing staff or equipment for other jobs. One piece of machinery that could fall into this category is the All Terrain Vehicle (ATV), a prime mover that one suspects many greenkeepers dismiss, yet on closer examination they would discover a workhorse that could be of considerable benefit around a course.

Access all areas



However, getting the okay to buy one past a greens committee might prove no easy task as some members may well have preconceived ideas. These are largely a result of the image created by the consumer media of a cross between a scramble bike and a racing buggy. In the commercial world this is far from the truth, as users quickly discover. An ATV is unique - it will go where other vehicles fail to tread. Mountainsides, moorland and sand dunes it takes in its stride. While there are few golf courses in these types of location, the majority of readers are not faced with this situation and could be forgiven for asking the question, "What benefit would one of these vehicles be to me?" The answer is that they are

light on their wheels and so are ideal on turf, especially where the problems of compaction are a constant headache. In addition these compact workhorses have much more to offer and it is these qualities we now investigate.

Since the ATVs introduction just over two decades ago, manufacturers have developed its role from being a simple go-anywhere passenger vehicle to a power source for towing a range of attachments or transporting staff and equipment between sites. It is these features that will be of most benefit in saving time and costs on a golf course.

Travelling between greens can absorb a lot of unproductive time in a year. The reasons may be the

actual layout of the course or the fact that to drive a tractor and trailer over certain parts adds to the problem of compaction. The low ground pressure tyres on an ATV are inflated at between 2 and 5psi. This means the vehicle can cover areas of water-logged ground without sinking or over delicate turf without damage. This is especially important during winter or a wet spring such as we have experienced this year. From this it can be seen that there is the opportunity to take a direct route, thus reducing travelling time.

Another area where savings are likely to be made is fuel. This is due to the engine sizes used on ATVs compared to those of a conventional tractor. It should also be

remembered that it would also release these larger pieces of equipment for other work.

The following scenario illustrates how an ATV would fit into a golf course application.

Known as the greens, tees and bunkers servicing unit, the ATV, is either fitted with a cargo bed or a more specialist model is used that will take two people plus tools chemicals and fertiliser. It carries all the necessary equipment required to carry out maintenance operations on these three playing areas. Within a few minutes the unit can be on site and the work carried out.

Having this type of mobile unit means that should a problem develop out on the course, it can

REELMASTER® 2300-D & 2600-D MADE PRECISELY FOR ALL TYPES OF GRASS AND TERRAIN

Toro's all-purpose Reelmaster trim mowers offer the total solution for a matchless performance around bunkers, tees, collars and approaches, and over sports fields and amenity areas too.

Featuring the exclusive L-I-N-K-S™ suspension system for enhanced ground contour following, both the 2300-D and 2600-D are ideal to give a superb quality of cut and will tackle most kinds of turf and terrain, even early morning wet grass.

Highly advanced in design, engine, drive and main-frame, they also boast high torque, customised cutting units with variable speeds.

You can trust Toro to give precisely the result you require. Simply telephone 01480 476971 and we'll arrange for a local dealer to contact you.

TORO

TOTAL SOLUTIONS

TORO distributed by Lely (UK) Limited, Station Road, St Neots, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE19 1QH
Telephone 01480 476971 Facsimile 01480 216167





be dealt with quickly. This is especially true in a situation where a mower has broken down. Portable welders, compressors, batteries and tools can be transported to the site within minutes. The same applies to pumps, irrigation equipment and generators. From this it can be seen how versatile this type of vehicle can be when used to its full capacity.

ATVs fall into two categories - the single person unit or the type that has the facility to carry more than one person plus equipment. There is a wide choice of models with or without cargo beds and engines come in all sizes including diesel-powered units. To get the necessary traction, not all models have a differential, so this tends to

make turning circles fairly large if the possibility of damaging turf is to be avoided. It is worth checking out if the particular model you are interested in has a differential; especially if it is likely to be used in confined areas.

Two applications where the ATV has proved to be highly successful are spraying and fertiliser distribution. Because of their design the units can often go on turf when other machinery would mark or damage it.

Since their introduction, a whole range of attachments including sweepers, and trailers have been developed specifically for them, so there are a wide range of jobs they can be adapted to carry out.

As stated before, getting an ATV

through committee might be difficult. For this reason it is important to gather as much information as possible. Talk to your local suppliers; ask them to give details of other courses where the vehicles are being used. Contact these and find out their views. Gather as many facts and figures as possible on running costs, time saved and any other details that help to make a good case.

ATV's have not always enjoyed good press coverage - as a result people have become very sceptical; so you need to have answers to overcome their objections.

The fact that an ATV is designed to travel over relatively hostile terrain means that over confidence sets in and the vehicle may be

pushed beyond its limits. The resulting accident becomes headline news. In this situation the question needs to be asked, "Was the unit being driven safely and within its limitations?" All machinery used on any golf course is dangerous if used incorrectly.

Looking at the overall introduction and development of machinery usage on golf courses over the years, the ATV after just two decades is still very much in its infancy. There is a good case for its introduction into a fleet as a highly mobile greens, tees and bunkers servicing unit.

Saving of time is something we are always looking for in today's hectic work environment - an ATV is a step in the right direction.



The Articulator[®]

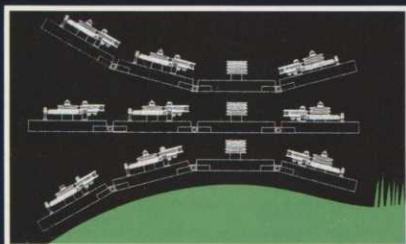
"Quality rotary mowers for a world that isn't flat"



96" low HP requirement



High output 124" precise height of cut



Four 25" articulating cutting decks duplicate the cut quality of four individual push mowers



Deck will fit a wide range of out front tractor units



Powerful 38hp diesel 96" cut. Height of cut from seat.

FREE **DEMONSTRATION**

Call for a free demonstration in your area NOW!

Scotland: Double A Trading: Sandy 01382 330556

North/Midlands: MGM: Dean 0116 289 2595

Wales: Major Owen: Andy 01766 770261

South West: PJ Flegg: Paul 01404 815666

South East: Marlwood Ltd: Keith 01622 728718

Low cost finance

Low maintenance costs

Minimum arisings

Solve your leaf problem with a mulching kit

Contours your turf instead of scalping

Bring fairway presentation to your semi-rough/rough

Marlwood Limited

Court Lodge Farm, Forge Lane, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent ME15 0HQ
Tel: 01622 728718 Fax: 01622 728720

AD
REF
501

**Michael Bird discovers a course where
the weather is less than kind when he
pays a visit to Royal Porthcawl...**



Braving the elements

**Recognised as one of the finest links courses in the
British Isles, Royal Porthcawl Golf Club's location on
the South Wales coast places it in the front line of a
virtually continuous battle against the elements.**

Founded in 1891, the club has hosted many notable tournaments during its distinguished 107 year history.

These include the Amateur Championship, held five times between 1951 and 1988, the Home Internationals, British Boys' Championship, Dunlop Masters and Coral Welsh Classic.

However, it was the preparations for the club's centenary year in 1991 and the Walker Cup in 1995 which posed probably the greatest challenge on the links, triggering a series of events which have occupied Course Manager, David Ward, and his greenkeeping team for the whole of the present decade.

"The course is laid out on a coast which faces directly into the prevailing south-westerly winds," commented David.

"As a result, course management decisions and actions are influenced greatly by the weather and the sea. The close proximity of the shoreline means that we are under constant threat of flooding. At the same time, the wind is continually drying and eroding the natural dunes and grasses.

"Our rainfall is also well below the average for Wales. Instead of dropping their contents as they cross the coast, the storm clouds that sweep in from the Atlantic tend to wait until they reach the Welsh mountains. Average yearly rainfall in Brecon, 40 miles away, is four times that of Porthcawl."

These annually recurring problems were exacerbated by the exceptionally dry years during the late

1980s. So, when David was appointed Head Greenkeeper in August 1990, his immediate task was to restore a parched course to the best possible condition for the club's forthcoming centenary year. At the same time, he put in place a five year plan to renovate and improve the course ready for the Walker Cup in 1995.

"Although it was evident that the irrigation system needed upgrading and extending beyond solely the tees and greens, this was not my only concern," David pointed out.

"Over the years, conditions had taken their toll on the whole course and there was pressing work to do on the greens, tees, bunkers and rough.

Improvements were also required to the sea defences and drainage, principally alongside and on the second and third fairways. During the winter storms of 1990, we suffered salt water flooding to a depth of 12 feet on the 3rd fairway, which played havoc with grass growth and soil conditions."

The programme instigated by David in the autumn of 1990 commenced with intensive hollow coring and sand top dressing of all the greens to eliminate the thatch that had become established. The treatment was accompanied by a scarifying action followed by overseeding with a fescue/bents mix.

"The response was excellent and we have continued to verti-drain, hollow core, top dress and overseed every year since," said David.

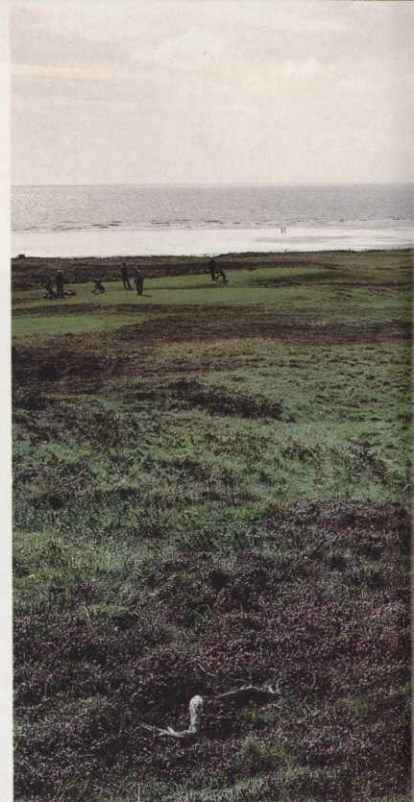
"Nothing fancy, simply regular treatment during the late summer and autumn applying plenty of sand which is brushed mechanically into the core holes."

To assist the renovation of the greens, work began on upgrading the adjacent sprinkler heads to provide better and more even distribution of irrigation water.

The essential works carried out during late 1990 and early 1991 by David and his staff ensured that Royal Porthcawl's centenary year is remembered for the right reasons by club members and the many visitors from Britain and overseas who played the course during 1991.

However, there was plenty still to do to get the course ready for the Walker Cup four years ahead.

Working in conjunction with the greens committee and specialists



appointed by the R&A, David started on a programme of rebuilding tees and bunkers, renovating fairways and controlling bracken in the rougher areas.

Between 1992 and 1994, every one of the 96 bunkers on the course received some attention, ranging from complete revetting of the front and sides to the installation of drainage systems and bunker sand renewal.

A particular problem had been created by the use of fine dune sand which had become compacted over the years by feet and rain, restricting the free downward movement of water. As well as laying pipe drains and constructing drainage sumps in many of the bunkers, the club decided to replace the dune sand with locally dredged sand from the Bristol Channel.

Slightly coarser than the original, it provides the stroke-making characteristics of a good bunker sand, yet drains freely and does not blow so easily.

At the same time, around half of the tees on the course were either being rebuilt and reseeded, or renovated using a similar aerating, top dressing and overseeding programme to that employed for the greens.

To improve drainage and grass growth, regular verti-draining and slit or spoon tining was introduced for the fairways. These treatments were accompanied by application of a green mulch compost to the thinner areas to add body and reduce erosion, encouraging re-establishment of the native bents and fescue grasses.

With the co-operation of Mid Glamorgan County Council, a formidable barricade of huge boulders and shingle banking was placed along the foreshore in strategic positions between the first tee and third green. This has since been complemented by a soil and sand flood



Above: David Ward, Head Greenkeeper at Royal Porthcawl GC

Below: The greenkeeping team at Royal Porthcawl GC





bunding on the course to protect the low-lying parts of the third fairway.

"The course was in pretty good all-round condition as the Walker Cup approached," commented David.

"However, 1995 was a very dry and difficult year, highlighting the urgent need for controlled irrigation across the whole course. Although we fared better than many other clubs, the fairways and tees suffered badly prior to and during the tournament."

The decision was taken to carry out a complete upgrade of the irrigation system over the next three years, with completion of the main work planned in good time for the Home Internationals being held at Royal Porthcawl this September.

As most of the greens' pop-up sprinklers had been renewed between 1990 and 1995, top priority was given to laying new pipework and providing new sprinklers for the tees. There was also an urgent need to improve the storage capacity and the quality of the water being applied, as David explained:

"Prior to the Walker Cup, we had relied on two 12,000 gallon tanks supplied by a bore hole on the course," he said.

"To prevent the irrigation pumps running dry, a control system had been installed which switched off the water long before the tanks were empty, giving us a total available capacity closer to 16,000 gallons. It was clear that this was a long way short of the actual requirement which would be needed for watering all the greens, tees and fairways.

The second problem was the quality of the water being pumped onto the course. Because the borehole is only 170 yards from the beach, the water had always been slightly brackish. However, it was analysed monthly and had not caused any real concerns until the drought of 1995. Measured a week or two before the Walker Cup, the sodium

level had risen from a normal reading of 200 milligrammes per litre to almost 600 milligrammes per litre, causing tremendous stress to the grass."

To overcome the water supply difficulties, David arranged for the installation of a new above-ground butyl-lined store with a total capacity of 63,000 gallons. Water is supplied from the bore hole via a smaller capacity pump with a lower extraction rate. Although taking longer to fill the store, sodium and calcium concentrations are reduced.

As a safeguard in drier periods, the club also budgeted £7,000 a year for a mains water feed to the store. A conductivity monitor constantly measures the chemical composition of the water supply from the bore hole, turning it off the moment salt concentrations rise above a pre-set level. The mains water feed is then switched on, automatically, to replenish the store until the bore hole monitor allows the flow of water from below ground to be restored.

A second conductivity monitor fitted within the pipe between the store and the pumps ensures that calcium or sodium concentrations in the irrigation water never approach danger levels. As a result, water quality and quantity are now of a consistently high standard.

Maximum water usage on the course over 24 hours has been estimated at 35,000 gallons, although David said this was a worst case situation in the most trying of conditions.

"However, we can refill the new store from empty in 15 hours and can still call on the two existing 12,000 gallon tanks if needed.

The new store and pumps feed a pair of water pipes running out to two different parts of the course to supply the various sprinkler heads," he explained.

"We have two small jockey pumps to maintain an equal and

ARE YOUR WATER HAZARDS REALLY HAZARDOUS?

Prevent algae bloom • Remove surface scum
• Get rid of suspended solids and bottom sludge • Eliminate odours

ALL THESE BY APPLYING ONLY ONE PRODUCT

Aqua-Vive™
Biological Water Clarifier



A natural, biological process for converting organic wastes into water and harmless, odourless gases.

Completely safe for humans, animals, birds, fish, aquatic life, plants and the environment.

Takes minutes to apply using water soluble sachets directly into the body of water



Anchor Industries Europe

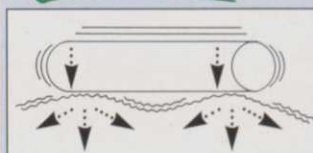
Unit 1, Airport Executive Park, President Way, Luton, Bedfordshire LU2 9NY

Tel: 01582 400630 Fax: 01582 401939

Ad Ref 588

SCARED OF HEAVY ROLLERS?

Then you need
LIGHTWEIGHT VIBRATORY ROLLERS



AMAZING VIBRATORY ACTION



TRUE SURFACE rollers weigh no more than your standard mowing units. Their unique vibratory action energises the surface particles and transforms the green back to its original shape without using a heavyweight roller!

The faster way to roll that follows contours!

ORDER YOURS NOW!

14 DAY MONEY BACK TRIAL FLEXIBLE PAYMENTS
£400 DISCOUNT OR 0% FINANCE phone for details

TRUE-SURFACE®
Patented



...makes true greens!™

Direct from the Exclusive European Distributor
GREENSWARD DIRECT
Manor Farm, Otley Road, Adel, Leeds LS16 7AL
0113 267 6000

Ad Ref 312

Braving the elements



consistent pressure in the system. If needed, a third pump kicks in. We also have a fourth pump in the shed ready for the day that the irrigation system covers the whole course, including all of the fairways."

The complete Watermation system is controlled by an automatic timer in David's office. It also has a remote control unit enabling individual sprinkler heads to be

stopped and started from out on the course.

Having reached a position from which he can exercise precise control over the fresh water being pumped onto Royal Porthcawl's turf, David is now looking to achieve a similar status with sea water and drainage run-off.

A new green has been built on a higher-lying area behind the existing second green to minimise the

risk of flooding, with the adjacent dune system providing additional protection against stones or water being blown from the beach. Currently growing in, the new green will be assessed by members this season.

The 3rd fairway, notorious for flooding from both the sea and the surrounding higher ground, now features a 1,000 gallon underground collection chamber with

pump. All water finding its way into the chamber is quickly pumped out to sea.

"The course will be all the better for the improvements being made," concluded David.

"Although we are situated in a very harsh environment, it is most important to work with the elements. After all, it is the weather and location which give Royal Porthcawl its truly great character."

SYMBIO

Faster Greens - Better Drainage - Less Disease - Fixed Budget

SYMBIO

Thatch Reduction Guaranteed!

Use Symbio Thatch Eater as part of your thatch reduction and cultural programme. If you do not see a reduction in thatch we will supply SYMBIO's biotech solutions free of charge for up to a year, until the thatch layer starts to disappear.

TO FIND OUT HOW BIOTECHNOLOGY CAN WORK FOR YOU
call 01372 456 101


SYMBIO

38 Bookham Industrial Park, Bookham, Surrey. KT23 3EU.

Fax: 01372 456 099 Email: Fineturf.Symbio@btinternet.com

SYMBIO

Dr. Stephen Baker and Daniel Binns of the STRI, give an insight into the results of the questionnaire which was completed by greenkeepers last year on the earthworm problem



Opening

a can of worms

The cost to UK
golf courses per
year due to
earthworms...

£2m

Moderate to
serious earthworm
cast problems
on fairways...

49%

Moderate to
serious earthworm
cast problems
on tees...

42%



When the use of chlordane was revoked in December 1992, we anticipated that the problems of earthworm casting on golf courses would increase substantially because of the withdrawal of this effective (but environmentally unacceptable) form of chemical control. Fortunately, R&A also recognised that extensive casting would have substantial effects on the quality of golf courses (a problem that had bedevilled greenkeepers in the first part of this century) and were prepared to fund an extensive programme of research at the STRI to examine alternative strategies for earthworm control. This is the first of a number of articles that we plan to publish in *Greenkeeper International* this year detailing some of the main findings so far from this work. This month we intend to examine the severity of earthworm casting and to consider some of the factors associated with high rates of casting activity.

How bad is the problem of casting?

Problems associated with casting are easy to list; surface smearing, unevenness, water retention, slipperiness and weed invasion. It is perhaps more difficult to get information of the severity of the problem, so this was the subject of a questionnaire survey sent to golf clubs in April 1997 to coincide with the end of the main period of casting activity. In total, 297 clubs (nearly always the Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager) kindly completed a very detailed questionnaire.

The first main message from the results was indeed that there was a major problem with casting on UK golf courses and, more importantly, the problem was increasing. The situation was worst on tees and fairways. Of the questionnaire returns 49% indicated moderate to severe problems on fairways and for tees the corresponding figure was 42%. Casting was lower on greens and only 9% of clubs indicated moderate to severe problems on the putting surface.

In the period shortly before the use of chlordane was banned, many courses were treated with this persistent organochlorine compound and this undoubtedly had residual effects. This was coupled with the fact that both 1995 and 1996 were abnormally dry years which probably affected earthworm populations

and certainly reduced the amount of casting activity. However by April 1997 when the questionnaire was sent out, nearly two-thirds of respondents suggested that rates of casting had increased compared with the period before December 1992 when chlordane was available and 22% of responses suggested that casting was a much greater problem. The autumn and winter of 1997/98 were very wet and, judging from visits to courses during this period to monitor earthworm activity, we suspect that had the questionnaire been sent out a year later the number of courses reporting severe problems would have been substantially higher.

In 1996 the average expenditure by a golf club on pesticides for earthworm control was estimated to be £525 and 14% of clubs were spending more than £1000 per year

prisingly, the relationship between casting activity and acidity was not statistically significant.

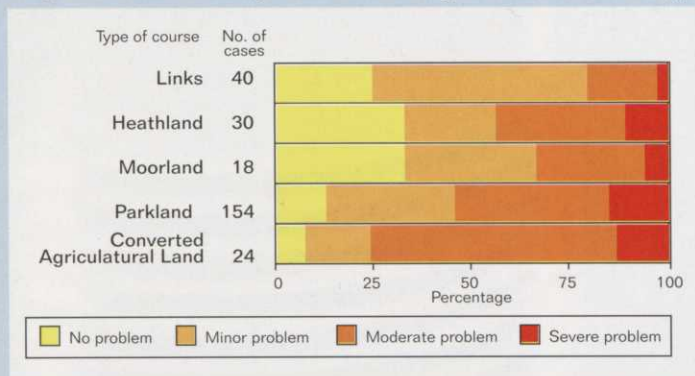
On many courses casting activity was greater on certain holes and the main reasons for this, listed in order of the number of responses in the questionnaire data, were higher moisture contents (poor drainage), heavier soils, imported topsoil or turf, higher pH/lime application and low-lying areas.

These relationships were examined in much more detail in the second phase of the work which consisted of visits to 32 golf clubs to carry out detailed measurement of soil factors that might be related to earthworm activity.

Earthworm Ecology Survey

In response to the questionnaire survey, 32 golf courses were targeted to assess the severity of casting

Fig 1: Earthworm casting on tees and fairways in relation to course type



on pesticides. When the costs of labour and spraying equipment are also included, the humble earthworm must cost UK golf courses well over £2 million per year and this figure appears to be increasing.

Environmental factors influencing earthworm casting activity

The questionnaire returns also provided useful information on soil and management factors that may influence earthworm populations and casting activity. Course type had a major influence on earthworm casting and, for example, Fig 1 shows that for fairways far more problems were reported on converted agricultural land and parkland courses than on links courses. The effects of casting was also greater on heavier soils but, perhaps sur-

activity and factors influencing earthworm populations. Due to ease of access from STRI Headquarters in Bingley, 19 of these courses were located in northern England, five in southern England and the Midlands, six in Scotland and two in Wales. By analysing soil samples for texture, pH and compaction and most importantly identifying the species of earthworms present, our aim has been to gain a greater understanding of the biology of earthworm populations. This in turn will help to target earthworm control strategies in the future.

In most cases data was collected from two fairways on each course, one an area of high casting activity and the other area selected was usually the second fairway.

Soil physical measurements

included a full particle size analysis, soil pH, organic matter content, thatch depth, bulk density (an indication of soil compaction) and moisture content. Most of these measurements were taken at more than one depth between 0-300 mm which helps us understand the variations in soil profile.

Measurements of earthworm activity included the number of earthworm casts per square metre and a measurement of the mean dry weight of soil per earthworm cast. The number of earthworms per square metre was also measured using an expellant method.

For a golf course to be included in the table shown below, there had to be a difference of 50% between fairways when counting the number of casts per square metre. This allows us to analyse data taken on different days in different conditions in a more controlled manner and more importantly it allows us to compare the differences between an area of high earthworm activity and one of "normal" activity. Data from areas treated with worm killers in the last three months were not used during analysis.

From the table on the right, we can see that a number of factors significantly affect earthworm casting rates. First of all, obvious though it may seem... the more earthworms that are found in the ground (in this case expelled to the surface), the greater the amount of

casting. Also as casting increases, so does the size of cast.

However, the results also show that casting activity is greatest in areas of high soil pH, high soil moisture content and where grass growth is, for a variety of possible reasons (e.g. moisture or fertility), more vigorous.

Relationships with organic matter content are interesting and casting is highest in areas of low organic matter content. In some respects, higher populations may be associated with more organic matter as this would give a greater food supply. However, it is likely that the higher organic matter contents and increased thatch depth in the areas with less casting activity result from lower rates of organic matter breakdown. This could be related to more acid soils, drier soils and the lack of earthworm activity which is an important first stage in the decomposition of organic material.

The results of this survey work have shown that many soil factors can affect earthworm populations and casting activity. This has many implications in the way we might manage golf courses to minimise casting activity with reduced pesticide application. This will be examined in a further article in the autumn and we also intend to provide an update on work based on chemical control methods examining the effectiveness of different materials as an alternative to chlor-dane.

	High casting fairway	Normal fairway
Number of earthworms expelled/m ²	54	24*
Mean cast weight (g)	1.1	0.7*
pH (50-130mm)	5.5	5.0*
pH (130-300mm)	5.8	5.2*
Volumetric moisture content (50-130mm) (%)	36.3	30.4*
Bulk density (g cm ³)	1.28	1.27
Organic matter content (0-50mm) (%)	17.2	28.8*
Organic matter content (0-300mm) (%)	10.4	15.0*
Thatch depth (mm)	8.6	13.3*
Vigour of grass growth (1-10 scale, 10=highest)	7.1	6.4*
Sand content (%)	54	50
Silt content (%)	27	30
Clay content (%)	19	20

* Statistically significant

Differences in soil physical properties for areas of high casting activity and more normal conditions

WHOLE IN ONE

"Tournament[®] has been used at Barton-on-Sea Golf Club for the past five years, with superb results. The density of the sward has greatly improved. We also use the product at half rate in early September to enhance colour and quality of sward for our traditionally late major competitions."

Tony Gadd, Course Manager
Barton-on-Sea Golf Club

"I have been using Tournament[®] for over two years and usually apply it to the greens two or three times between April and September. Major benefits include a rapid, consistent green-up, which lasts 4-6 weeks, and steady nitrogen release as opposed to a 'flush' of growth which quickly tapers off."

R. Thomson, Head Greenkeeper
Hoebriidge Golf Centre, Surrey

AGRILAND
Tournament[®]
total turf feed

This unique product, combining nutrition, conditioning and colour enhancement in one container, promotes robust rooting, even grass cover, microbial activity and a durable green-up in one operation. It enables the greenkeeper to get the whole job done in one go.

INTERNATIONAL LAWN TENNIS

"Agriland Tournament[®] was applied to the Show and Practice courts prior to the Direct Line International Championships, June 1996. The condition and appearance of the turf was considerably enhanced, and recovery of the most heavily used practice facilities was greatly assisted by the product."

Roy Charman, Turf Manager
Devonshire Park, Eastbourne

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

"I first used Tournament[®] just before the play offs in 1995. Since then I have used the product regularly and the pitch has continued to improve. I applied Tournament[®] just prior to the Euro'96 Cup Final because I knew I would get a quick green-up without the worry of any blackening of the turf."

Robert McCullagh, Head Groundsman
Wembley Stadium



EVERYTHING YOU NEED IN ONE FERTILIZER

AGRILAND LIMITED
01202 532291 Fax 01202 535224

Ever feel
the need for speed?



When turf disease strikes you have to get your foot down. And there's no faster way to react than with double action Vitesse.

A powerful concept in the fight against turf disease, Vitesse has a unique combination of two active ingredients - iprodione, a contact



fungicide which gets to work from the moment you spray, and carbendazim, a proven and effective systemic fungicide that carries on working for weeks.

Instantly effective against Fusarium patch, Red thread, Anthracnose, Pink patch and Timothy leaf spot, Vitesse is the faster way to fight turf disease in the growing season.

 **RHÔNE-POULENC**
AMENITY

Rhône-Poulenc Amenity, Fyfield Road, Ongar, Essex CM5 0HW. Tel: 01277 301115 Fax: 01277 301119.
VITESSE CONTAINS CARBENDAZIM AND IPRDIONE. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL : USE PESTICIDES SAFELY. (MAFF 06537)
VITESSE IS A REGISTERED TRADE MARK OF RHÔNE-POULENC AGROCHIMIE. © RHÔNE-POULENC AGRICULTURE 1998.

THE POWER SYSTEMIC THAT WORKS ON CONTACT



We spoke to three of the major chemical companies to find out how they are marshalling their resources to fight a battle with ever decreasing weaponry

Cast of thousands

David Agar, of Rhone Poulenc Amenity; Bernard Hedley of Rigby Taylor and Alan Shaw, of Scotts UK Professional, all gave their views on the worm problem...

Rhône-Poulenc Amenity – David Agar

The arguments for controlling casting worms in certain situations are well known and accepted. Not only do worm casts create a nuisance for both the golfer and greenkeeper by producing an uneven playing surface and affecting the roll of the balls but they also spoil grass surfaces in a number of ways. They are unsightly, prone to smearing and bring weed seeds to the surface where they provide ideal sites for weed establishment. Worm casts also encourage the spread of turf disease, and the presence of high worm populations in fine turf is likely to attract moles - with devastating effect.

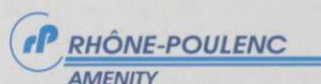
There are 25 species of earthworms commonly found in the UK, three of which are responsible for the majority of worm casting problems. One of the fundamental problems is that earthworms are encouraged by the conditions necessary to grow fine turf grasses and cultural control is therefore very difficult without affecting the health of the grass. Consequently, when worm casting reaches an unacceptable level, chemical control is the only reliable option for the greenkeeper.

The number of products available for the control of casting worms has recently been reduced with the

withdrawal of Camma-col from the market and there is no guarantee that the remaining products will not be placed under further pressure in the future. However, one thing that can be guaranteed is the fact that worm casts will continue to be a major problem for the greenkeeper regardless of the number of products available to control them.

So what is Rhone Poulenc Amenity doing to solve the problem both now and in the future? Well, not only do we have a number of existing products that we are actively supporting and defending but we are also investing in the development of new products. We have a number of exciting developments in the pipeline and have just been granted a new worm cast suppression recommendation for Mildothane Turf Liquid.

The existing product range



includes Castaway Plus and Cavalier which are both well known and widely used products. Castaway Plus is a leading brand containing the active ingredients thiophanate-methyl and lindane. Cavalier is based on carbaryl and is available only to contractors who

can prove that they have equipment that meets the conditions stated on the product label - that is a closed cab and low level induction-bowl.

Mildothane Turf Liquid which is well known to many greenkeepers as a reliable and effective product for controlling turf diseases, can now be used to suppress worm casts. In addition to the 20L/ha recommendation for the control of Fusarium, Dollar Spot and Red Thread it now has an economical 7.5L/ha recommendation for the control of casting worms. Based on thiophanate-methyl, Mildothane Turf Liquid offers selective suppression of the main species of casting worms leaving many of the other species unharmed. This is because the product does not work by direct contact with the worms but is taken up by the grass and the treated material is then ingested by the worms.

In summary, it appears that there may be fewer options available to the greenkeepers for the control of casting worms in the near future but we at Rhone Poulenc Amenity are confident that the investment and development we are currently undertaking will ensure that we will always be able to provide an effective and economical solution to what will continue to be a major problem for the greenkeeper.



Cast of thousands

Alan Shaw, of Levington Horticulture

Over the years, the industry has seen an ever shrinking range of options for the control of casting worms on golf greens. That they need to be controlled on the greens is undeniable - the trick is formulating a product to do it that doesn't also carry all sorts of unpleasant side effects.

One generation of greenkeepers will recall Chlordane - which was a highly effective worm killer - and its recall on safety grounds. A previous generation may have sworn by Mowrah Meal - equally effective and equally undesirable. Most greenkeepers today will also be aware of carbaryl - another worm killer which has been withdrawn because of health and safety issues.

That the approval for use of horticultural pesticides is regularly reviewed, has to be supported and

**Rigby Taylor -
Bernard Hedley**

There is a distinct possibility that in the future there will be few effective worm killers available for use by the Greenkeeper. This is already the case in some European countries such as Germany where there are no such products available and where Greenkeepers have had to learn to live with higher worm populations.

At present in the UK one of the most effective chemicals approved for this use is carbendazim, the active ingredient within Mascot Systemic, however, even this material is now under threat.

Any future development of products specifically for worm control in turf by agrochemical manufacturers is also unlikely as the initial screening procedure for potential products carried out by agrochemical companies rejects active ingredients that exhibit any harmful effects to earthworms. This is because in Agriculture, earthworms are quite rightly regarded as beneficial organisms and any such effect on worms would be a great disadvantage.

If new products are not going to be developed, what about using some of the old products that were used in the past, eg. Mowrah Meal, Derris Dust and Potassium Permanganate? These materials were used as expellants, they irritated the earthworms skin and brought the worms to the surface where they were collected. Unfortunately all of these materials had their drawbacks and their use

was very time consuming. Another treatment which has shown promise and which is currently being investigated is the use of Mustard as a worm expellant, however it can scorch and large amounts of water are required.

It is likely that the use of sulphur containing materials to acidify soil conditions will become one of the most important methods of minimising earthworm populations. It



may also be that machinery manufacturers will have to try to develop mechanical methods of earthworm control or equipment will be developed which can very effectively remove casts from the playing surface. Physical barriers to earthworm movement will also perhaps be included in the construction phase of greens.

Rigby Taylor Limited have always advocated the use of IMP (Integrated Pest Management) for the control of earthworms in turf, ie the use of all possible methods available to minimise cast formation without relying on chemical methods alone. Such methods include:

- The avoidance of pure organic fertilisers or top-dressings

on sites where there are high worm populations.

- Acidification of the soil by application of sulphur or ammonium sulphate.
- The avoidance of alkaline materials, e.g. top-dressing; and alkaline irrigation water.
- Boxing-off of clippings around approaches and surrounds of greens.
- Reduction of "thatch" build-up.
- Improvement of drainage.
- Brushing of casts off the surface if conditions allow.

Unfortunately, although these measures will help reduce worm activity, they will not produce the level of control that pesticide treatments can achieve and greenkeepers may have to learn to live with much higher populations of earthworms, unless new effective control measures are developed quickly.



applauded. If the Ministry did not do this we could still be flinging mercury and potassium cyanide around to control pests and diseases. However, the process has tended to result in more product withdrawals than there are launches. And in the case of worm cast control on the domestic market, has left the amateur gardener with no chemical control at all, following the withdrawal of carbaryl.

For the greenkeeper, however, Levington Turfclear (containing carbendazim), is specifically recommended for the control of the worm species which cause damaging and undesirable worm casts on the surface of the sward.

The non-casting worm species which are beneficial for drainage and soil aeration are largely unaffected.

As an added benefit, Turfclear is a proven fungicide which acts systemically against common turf diseases such as Dollar Spot and Fusarium Patch.

Its efficiency is unaffected by rain or irrigation, and no turf phytotoxicity problems have been noted when the product is used as recommended.

For the best results it should be applied as a preventative treatment in the Spring and Autumn to control casting worm species and diseases, or at the first sign of attack.



#1
OCM S

**British Turf & Landscape
Irrigation Association
Award of Excellence
Winner 1998**

**Rainbird International
Contractor of the Year
1998**

Irrigation Excellence

Head Office	01460 241939
Midlands	01789 414604
Northern	01924 453102
Scotland	0131 220 2102

Around the green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

North

Another new member to welcome this month with Keith Dinwoodie, from Invergordon GC, joining the Section. There is a drive on to increase the membership of all sections just now and our Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, should be in the area soon to visit clubs and try to recruit new members, while also speaking to existing members to find out ways we can improve our Association for the benefit of all.

The Scottish Greenkeepers' Championship at West Kilbride, Ayrshire is on the 23rd of this month. I know this is a long journey for our Section but hope there will

be a good turnout of North members. The trip will be worthwhile as West Kilbride is a lovely course and I am sure Jim Paton will have it in great condition. I hope to be there depending on the Board of Management Meeting I will be attending around about that time.

I was watching the football on Sky television recently and thought it was great to see the Groundsman for the home team being interviewed before the game, talking about the pitch and his preparation for matches etc. Wouldn't it be good to see Course Managers at European Tour events getting the same air time to raise the profile of Greenkeepers, who, after all, are among the most important people during the week.

It was also interesting that when asked if players came to complement him on the pitch at all, he said, no, they only speak to him if there is a problem and if the pitch is in good

condition, he knows because there will be no comments. Sound familiar?

Finally, I was looking through my Section notes for June last year and noticed that snow was reported to be falling at the time. Well we just had quite a bit of snow again this year, but the warm weather is back again as I write this year's report. Here's hoping it is here to stay.

Iain Macleod

Ayrshire

The Spring outing was held at Stranraer GC on April 28 and around 40 members enjoyed the good weather and avoided the torrential thunder showers which hit the north of the county. The course was in good condition and the hospitality was very well received in the impressive new clubhouse. Our grateful thanks go to the Stranraer committee and staff for a most

enjoyable outing.

The course proved a good test of golf as befits one which was, in 1952, the last James Braid ever designed.

The men on form were as follows:
The morning Texas Scramble was won by Ian McNab, William McMeechan, Martin Lothian and Steven Carmichael.

Afternoon Medal:
Scratch - W. McMeechan
Cat 1: 1. S. Gardener, 2. Wallace Mercer, 3. M. Kay.

Cat 2: 1. Neil Shuttleworth, 2. David Nelson, 3. Paul Tulloch.

Cat 3: 1. Marshall Sloss 2. Ian Donaldson 3. S. Carmichael.

Trade: Kenny Hunter.
Congratulations go to all prize winners.

Thanks go to our Secretary, Derek Wilson, for the organisation of the outing.

I've heard no news this month so if

Raycam Hi-Lift Trailer

Specially designed for easy loading by one person...

- Direct into all types of top dresser
- No hand loading
- Saves time
- Turf saver tyres
- Hydraulically operated controls
- Unrestricted operator viewing



...just some of the benefits, to know more contact:

Richard Campsey

Marton Hall Lane, Marton, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 9HG

Tel: +44 (0)1260 224568 Fax: +44 (0)1260 224791

The Articulator®

"Quality rotary mowers for a world that isn't flat"



High output 124" precise height of cut

Low cost finance • Low maintenance costs • Minimum arisings • Solve your leaf problem with a mulching kit • Contours your turf instead of scalping • Bring fairway presentation to your semi-rough/rough •

FREE DEMONSTRATION
Call for a free demonstration in your area NOW!

Scotland: Double A Trading: Sandy 01382 330556
North/Midlands: MGM: Dean 0116 289 2595
Wales: Major Owen: Andy 01766 770261
South West: PJ Flegg: Paul 01404 815666
South East: Marlwood Ltd: Keith 01622 728718

Four 25" articulating cutting decks duplicate the cut quality of four individual push mowers



Marlwood Limited Tel: 01622 728718 Fax: 01622 728720
Court Lodge Farm, Forge Lane, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent ME15 0HQ

Around the green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

you have anything to report call me on 01505 683278 evenings, or 0498 634122.

Iain Barr

Central

The first golf event of the season was held in April when Ladybank GC was the venue for our Spring Tournament. We couldn't have chosen a better day for the 58 members and guests who attended, with the course in excellent condition and the sun shining throughout the day, everyone was able to forget about the cold weather of the previous couple of weeks.

Prize winners were as follows;

Best Scratch: K. Stirling, The Dukes, 74 bh

Best Nett: D. Scott, Scoonie, 67

Cat 1: D. McAllister, Ladybank, 70; 2. E. Small, Tulliallan, 73

Cat 2: 1. S. Sime, Leven, 71; 2. A. Torrance, King James IV, 73

Cat 3: 1. A. Arnott, Dunnikier, 72. 2. G. McRae, Ratho Park, 84.

Stewart's Quaich E. Small/S. Raeburn, Tulliallan, 148.

Patron's: C. Horridge, MAC, 75

Guests: S.Herd, Leven, 76.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Ladybank, especially Head Greenkeeper, Ian Menzies and his staff, for their presentation of the course, the clubhouse staff, Secretary, Mr. Sproule, and to Club Captain, Joe Lonie, who joined us for the day and presented the prizes in the evening. Thanks also to the Scottish Patrons, Chris Langdon, for all his work in issuing and checking the score cards and to everyone who contributed to the raffle.

A member on the move recently is Scott Robertson. Scott has left Elmwood to start as an assistant at Strathmore, we wish him all the best for the future in his new employment and hope that he will still be

able to attend our events. Another two members we hope to see at our events are Fraser Wright, from Lundin Links, and Michael Lindsay, from Scoonie, who join us this month. Welcome to the Section lads!

I was hoping to have some news of the activities of the world famous Leven Links Sporting Club but unfortunately their player/chief coach, Andy Vialli? O'Hara sustained an injury in pre season training (I think there was a spirit involved!) so has been unable to get started this season, and he says that "If I can't play, nobody plays". So we will have to wait a bit longer for news. In the meantime though, his much sought after A.O'H. tee shirts are again available following their sell out at Harrogate. If you want to obtain a collector's item just get in touch with Andy on his usual 0898 mobile number.

John Crawford.

West

Recently the Section has been quite quiet with only really the outing to report... but boy what an outing. A multitude of weather conditions were experienced starting nice and sunny with us dressed in tee shirts; then light rain, hail and finally thunderstorms. Sorry to say, after losing my ball, plugged at the 16th, I succumbed to temptation by walking in to avoid the lightning. Within minutes the course was unplayable.

Never mind there's always next year.

On the day the results were:

Scratch: G. Bruen, East Kilbride, 73-5-68.

Cat 1: 1. Smith, Drumpellier, 75-5-70; 2. S. Richardson, Williamwood, 78-7-71; 3. C. Goodall, Balmore, 78-4-74.

Cat 2: P. Yates, Balmore, 86-14-72; 2. T. Hyndmarch, Erskine, 89-16-73; 3. M. Kelly, Lenzie, 87-12-75.

MAGNETISM*

You know how it is - when the attraction's so powerful, you simply can't drag your eyes away! Rather like when you experience the effect of a TIS irrigation and maintenance system on a pitch or green.

For love at first sight, call TIS today on **01477 500255**

*Magnetism.

Irresistible force pulling towards a better kind of turf irrigation and maintenance system.

TIS TORO
Focus on Quality

Turf Irrigation Services (Sandbach) Limited.
Brookvale, Love Lane, Betchton, Sandbach, CW11 0TS.

Cat 3: 1. T. Nisbet, Glasgow, 102-26-76; 2. D. Mowatt, Glasgow, 97-19-78; 3. G. Nisbet, Glasgow, 100-22-78.

Trade Prize: D. Duthie, Aitkens, 76-5-71; Visitors' Prize: J. McCulloch, Cawder, 77-4-73; Longest Drive: Cat 1: G. Bruen; Cat 2: J. Stokoe; Cat 3: No Winner; Nearest the Pin, J. McCulloch, Cawder; Putting Competition. I. Nicol.

Well done to all winners.

Now a few thanks. To Cowal GC for the courtesy extended to us on the day and to the Captain for putting up with my bad play. The green staff for the condition of the course considering all the heavy rain for days before. Well done Kenny. The catering staff for their service and attention, also for the refreshments. Then to Peter Boyd for his starting skills. Brian Hillen and Derek Duthie for the cards and presentation work (prize giving). To John Scott and Sandy for ferry work, cards, finances and other problems during the day. Robert Hogarth for prizes and helping out when needed, then Gary Burns for raffle ticket sales. Also Robert Bruce for delivering the flags for tournament display. The day went well because you all worked hard.

Finally to the prizes, of which many were donated by trade and committee. These events need support and we are all grateful for your continued help.

Now for special mention on the day two trophies were presented for Scratch Prizes and 2nd Class. Both trophies were donated and looked magnificent for which we are all delighted. The Scratch prize was a lovely Claret Jug which I'm sure will grace any mantelpiece beautifully. We have to thank Daval Industry Products for this and we are eternally grateful. David Happel, from Daval, said a few words of thanks.

The 2nd Class trophy is a lovely Rosebowl for which Paul Yates' wife will be very proud to show off. We thank Rigby Taylor for presenting

us with his delightful silverware. David Carson, of Rigby Taylor, apologised for being unable to attend.

The numbers were 55 and considering the trip this is excellent. Well done all those members.

Finally congratulations to Steven Hogg on his appointment as Course Manager of Crow Wood Golf Club. We wish him well and look forward to seeing him at future events.

Stuart Taylor



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

After a slow and fairly stressful (for me) start, we eventually received 90 applications for the Mere Seminar on March 19. People always seem to leave things until the last minute and 10 days before the seminar the numbers were 40. Please in future if you intend playing in any of the tournaments or attending any other Section events be early with your application so that I can keep my sanity. A total of 600 application forms for the seminar plus fixture lists were posted to N/W members and out of the 90 delegates there were only 53 greenkeepers, the remaining 37 being members of the trade and local authorities. Many hours hard work go into organising the seminar and members have requested more education, so please try to support your committee in future by attending organised events.

The seminar "Construction and Management of Sports Turf" by PDA Agronomy Ltd was of the highest quality with excellent speakers. David Stansfield started with "The Role of the Agronomist", and the scientific approach to the management of grass. He stressed the point that the agronomist is there to advise where there is a problem, not to query the green-

keeper's skills. John Hacker followed with "Golf Construction in the Middle East". This was an excellent talk with plenty of slides showing the problems of building a nine hole golf course in the desert of Saudi Arabia. David Stansfield spoke on "Traditional Golf Links Construction" once again with plenty of interesting slides of the various stages of construction work, showing the difficulty of germinations of seeds through the movement of the sand.

After an excellent lunch Mike Harbridge spoke on the "Construction of Sports Stadia". Once again the talk was highlighted with slides showing the construction of football pitches and how synthetic materials are inserted in the sward and are hardly visible. Jay Dobson covered "Management of Diseases in Turf". A subject close to all our hearts and one which haunts us all. A couple of interesting points were made, how physical damage to turf can also appear to be disease, and pH disorders likewise. The day was rounded off with Gary Owens talk on "Materials testing and Site Monitoring".

I would like to thank all the speakers for a very interesting and educational day. Also Mere G&CC for their hospitality and use of their excellent facilities, Sisis, Acorn Equipment, Rigby Taylor, Rufford Soil Technology and Cheshire Turf Machinery for their support. The National Chairman Gordon Child and the N/W President John Walker for taking time out to attend the seminar and all those who attended making the many hours worthwhile.

April, not much happening this month other than rain, rain, rain. According to the Met Office, this month has been the wettest April for many years and I am sure that many of you have had problems due to the conditions. I feel sorry for the boys in the Midlands who suffered with severe flooding, but at least it kept the courses closed for a decent length of time.

April 2 was a good day weather wise, but not a good day for the N/W Section golf wise. The annual golf tournament between the N/W and N Wales sections was played at Prestbury GC. The course as always was in excellent condition, thanks to Anthony Davies and his staff, and the day was completed with an excellent meal. However, the result was an outstanding win for the North Wales Section 6.5 to 1.5. The only winners for the N/W section were Bert Cross and Mike Bottomley who played out of their socks to win 3 & 2. Once again the N/W Section struggled for a team and we finished with 14 instead of 16. Well played N Wales. I would like to thank Prestbury for allowing us courtesy of the course and the use of their excellent facilities, also GEM Professional for sponsoring the day for the eighth time.

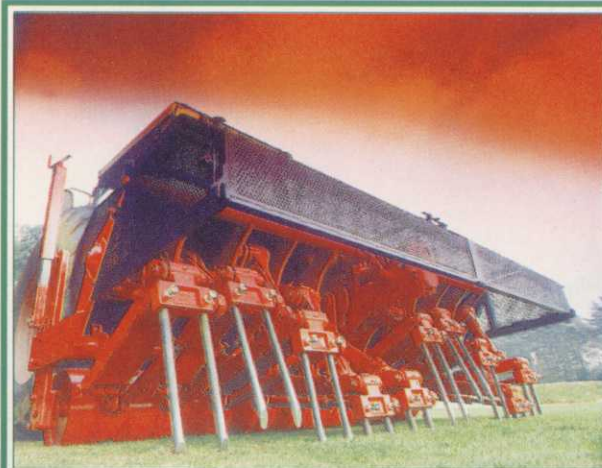
The next tournament will be the Summer Meeting, played at Haydock Park GC on Thursday, June 25, lunch will be between 12.30 pm and 1 pm. The first tee is reserved from 1.30 pm and starting times will be allocated on the day. The evening meal will be served around 7.30 pm followed by the prize presentation. Applications including a cheque for £15 to be sent to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Walton, Liverpool, L4 9RB. Tel: 0151 284 4416. No applications to be accepted after Friday, June 19.

Since the fixture list for the year's events have been sent out we have had a number of new members. Any members who do not have a fixture list please contact me on 0151 724 5412 and I will post one immediately. Any news or views ring me.

Bert Cross

North East

On April 24 we held our annual Spring competition at Warkworth GC. Our thanks to the committee for giving us courtesy of their course. A special thanks to Alan



THE UNIQUE VERTI-DRAINAGE

Redexim

- Unique patent adjustable parallelogram forced heave
- Simple tine design
- Leaves playing surface in superb condition



THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP COURSES



Dalby and his staff for the excellent condition of the course - perhaps we may get the chance to return there in the near future. Also thanks to the steward and stewardess for providing us with the superb meals. Doug Bell was also in attendance giving an insight in his role as the Northern Regional Administrator. I hope you enjoyed your day. Leading scores for the competition are as follows; Best Gross R. Black 71, Westerhope GC. Best Nett S. Quince 73-6-67 nett+cleek. Assistants' Best Nett D. Cuthbertson, Slaley Hall.

1. R. Bell, Slaley Hall, 87-17-70;
2. J. Storey, Alnwick, 77-6-71;
3. A. Ainscough, Whickham, 76- 4-72;
4. J. Richardson, Hexham, 78-6-72;
5. N. Parkin, Hexham, 78-5-73;
6. A. Mclure, Whickham, 72+1-73

Thirty two players took part in the above competition, such is that the Section has a strong golfing body that out of all the players no less than 21 people were entered in category 1.

The Section committee would like to thank the following sponsors; Ritefeed, Aitkens, Border Turf Services.

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

Our Spring meeting was held at Porthmadog GC, on April 21. Around 50 competitors took part. The weather stayed kind until the very end when the heavens opened. Everyone who played commented on the overall condition of the course, especially the greens which were exceptional and our thanks go to Bronco and his team for all their effort and also the Captain and the Club for allowing us to use their facilities. If I ate food like that every day it'd be Weight Watchers for me.

I would like to thank the sponsors, Ritefeed, Major Owen, Walker Engineering and John Osman. If I've forgotten anyone I'm sorry and please let me know.

The best gross went to Aled

Hughes and the best nett to Owain Aeron, both of Porthmadog (local knowledge I wonder!).

I have been asked if it is possible to run a coach to the Windsor Show in September. Again I need feedback to see if this is viable. If you are interested phone me on 01824 710693.

I attended the Golf Liaison Panel meeting at the Northop College on April 27 and again it was a very interesting meeting of all the bodies involved in the business. The college golf course is still at the planning stages as not only is there an Ancient Monument called Llys Edwin but also an area where the habitat is ideal for endangered species of animals. So watch this space. I haven't got the room to inform you of all the other things which are in the offing. However, I can tell you things are starting to look good for golf and especially greenkeeping in Wales because of the commitment being shown by the WGU, the GTC and the colleges.

One last thing, sat on a shelf in my living room is a shield - it looks quite good actually but judging by what's written on it I think it's in the wrong language as it's to do with the North West Greenkeepers against North Wales Greenkeepers and seeing as it seems to spend most of its time in Cymru I think it's about time something was done about it. Well done lads. By the way any of the North West boys are welcome to come and have a look at it if they want to remember what it looks like.

Dave Goodridge

Northern

Unfortunately our Spring Tournament had to be cancelled part way through the day due to heavy snow. Only a few groups finished their rounds before the weather made it unfit to carry on. One player commented that his ball picked up so much snow when

he putted, that it would not fit in the hole! Thank you to Alan Court and his boys for turning the course out so well, especially when the weather had been so bad in the weeks prior to the event. Thanks also to the caterers and bar staff for feeding and watering everybody.

Our President's Day Tournament will be played at West Bradford G.C on Wednesday, June 3. Please book early as places will be limited. I can assure competitors that the trophies are well worth winning.

Congratulations to Mike and Ali Bussey on the arrival of their baby girl Jessica. Jessica makes up a trio with older brothers Robert and Alex. I think the trusted rusty Stanley knife and vice may be called upon shortly to do the honours!

Anyone with any news from around the Section please contact me on 01484 317813 or 0411 601420 or 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA.

Simon Heppenstall

Sheffield

On April 27 we held our first golf day of the year - the spring competition at Notts GC.

Our thanks go to Notts GC for giving us the courtesy of the course. It was in excellent condition and thanks to Phil Stain and his staff for the excellent work they have all done. Thanks also to the trade members who provided prizes once again.

I think everyone who played enjoyed their day, especially Andrew Lomas who won the competition. Well done, Andrew.

Results:

1. A. Lomas; 2. D. Chappell; 3. D. McJannet.

Guest Prize: 1. Alan Dyson - Well done Alan!

Congratulations to Derek McJannet and his wife on the birth of their baby boy recently.

Next golf is July 1st Worksop GC. Tee off 1pm.

J.V Lax



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

East of England

The first competition of the year was almost cancelled due to lack of numbers, but with days to go enough members replied to warrant a competition.

All who attended played a course of the highest standard, manicured down to the last detail. Thanks goes to David Salisbury and his staff who produced a testing course (hope you enjoyed the whisky Dave). The Burghley Park Course withstood quite a downpour, but John Scotney, Sleaford GC, came through the rain for first place. Second went to Graeme Macdonald, Newark GC, and third to Barry Anderson, Toft GC. Nearest the pins were won by Les Purdy and John Scotney. First prize for the trade member went to Peter Fell, Aitkens. Everybody who played went home with a prize. This can only go to show that we have the best sponsors in the area.

A big thanks to Alisdair Brown, of Peterborough Garden Machinery, and Ben Petitjean, of Barenbrug Seed, our main sponsors of the day, for the superb prizes. The prize table was actually embarrassing. It's probably the best turn out of prizes since I took over the secretary's job.

Other trade sponsors were: Greenpride; Aitkens; Rigby Taylor; Colliers; Fieldcare; Scotts; Tower Chemicals; Jacobsen; Purdys and Roy Harrison.

Thanks once again for courtesy to Howard Mulligan, Secretary, and the catering staff for a lovely meal. All of which made a great day out at Burghley Park GC.

Any news then please telephone Graeme Macdonald on 01636 626564.

G A Macdonald

ITS EFFECT IS SHATTERING

Charterhouse



Deep aeration on an intensively used golf course is vital if the grasses which we require are to survive.

We purchased our first Verti-Drain back in 1983 and very quickly bought a second. Both these machines have been working on a continuous basis providing excellent results and utilising only a minimum of spare parts.

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

COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

For your free guide to compaction relief send this coupon to Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd., FREEPOST, (GU2283), Haslemere, Surrey GU27 1DW.
Tel: 01428 661222 Fax: 01428 661218

Name: _____
Position: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____ GL 6 9B

Ad Ref 130

East Midlands

This year's annual Trade v Greenkeepers golf match will take place at Morley Hayes GC on Tuesday, June 16. We require ten players for each side. Anybody interested can give me a ring for an entry form. The cost of the day is £12.50 with a Tee-off time of 3.30 pm. On the same subject, the annual East Midlands v East of England golf match will be held at Oundle GC on Thursday, August 20. Tee off 3.45 pm, the cost for the day is £9 which will include your evening meal. Any member who would like to represent the Section in this match can give 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.

Two greenkeepers who have recently moved golf clubs are Matthew Chambers, Charnwood Forest to Kirby Muxloe GC, and Steven Heap, Rothley Park to Forest Hills GC. On behalf of the Section I would like to wish both members all the best in their new employment.

Antony Bindley

Mid Anglia

Back in March a Section visit to Brocket Hall GC took place to walk around the proposed layout for the new 18 holes.

A very informative afternoon ensued and thanks to all those members who took time out to attend. Thanks also to Course Manager, John Wells, for providing the relevant facts. If it turns out as good as the existing course I'm sure we'll all look forward to playing it in future.

Our first golf event of the year took place in late April at a fairly new course, Lamerwood. Fifty three members attended in what was our Spring Tournament. This was certainly one of the best turnouts we have had for a Spring event and the change in format in the afternoon to a Greensome Foursome event made for an enjoyable day's golf. Bearing in mind the five or so inches of rain we had prior to the event, the course was obviously very wet in places but the greens were in fine condition and our thanks go to Sandy Anderson and all his staff for their efforts. Our thanks go to Lamerwood for allowing us to stage the event and their hospitality shown throughout the day.

Rigby Taylor was the main sponsors, along with Willmot Pertwee who ran the "Kingpin" competition. Our thanks go to Mark Stigwell and James Burton who represented their respective companies on the day and to all the other trade members for their continued support. The results from the morning round were as follows:

1. Mark Ellis, Mentmore GC, 37 pts;
2. Chris Brook, Chesfield

Downs, 36 pts; 3. David Wright, Brocket Hall, 35 pts. Nearest the Pin (Kingpin), Adrian Dancer, Shendish Manor; Longest Drive, Glen Lyme, Stockwood Park.

The pm prizes were allocated as follows:

1. John Moorhouse/Dick Coogan 38 pts. Longest Drive, Steve Mason, Trade Prize, Mark Stigwell, Rigby Taylor.

Finally the Lodgeway Fourball competition is well under way by now, so please ensure that League Matches are completed within the required time scales. All results should go to Steve Mason, of Mount Pleasant GC.

Paul Lockett

Midland

I would like to start by informing you of the sad news that Alan Borraston passed away during the weekend of May 2. Alan had worked in greenkeeping and served the Section for some 40 years. Alan was a great man and was the kind of person with whom anyone could have a conversation. There are many greenkeepers who will be very saddened by this news as Alan had many long established friends within the trade. He has left behind many friends at Little Aston GC where he spent a long and happy period. It is on behalf of the Midlands section committee and members that I would like to send the greatest sympathy to Alan's family especially his loyal son, Andrew, who worked with Alan and the close friends he had in his staff including John Barsby and anyone who had the pleasure of meeting Alan.

On a lighter note I would like to congratulate Rhys Thomas on his move to South Staffs GC and Tony Cheese on his move to Penn GC and wish them the best of luck in the future. In my last report I reported on the new members of committee, in that report I did not name Barry Wood, of Walsall GC, as a member of Committee. Apologies to Barry and I hope you enjoy your period on committee.

The trip to Turnberry is still to go ahead but we have had very little response and would encourage people interested to contact me on 01384 292396. I will be working to get a date finalised shortly. Andrew Smith is currently arranging a visit to the Massey Ferguson factory. This will take place on July 1 and will be in the morning, take two to three hours and lunch will be provided. Anyone wishing to take part should contact me on the above number or Andrew direct.

I would like to send on behalf of the Midland Section our best wishes and get well wishes to Trafford Stonebridge, our Chairman, who has recently been ill. Get well soon Traff and let's see you at the next golf day.

On a final note I would like to introduce you to some more new members Jamie Askew, Joseph Wooley, Graeme Bagnall and Michael Webster.

Jonathan Wood

B, B & O

The first golf event of the season was held at Reading GC back in April. This was well attended with 36 competitors battling the elements as well as the course. It has to be said that we never have much luck with the weather, especially the Spring tournament. I hate playing in the rain but I felt I could cope with my guaranteed waterproofs to keep me dry. How wrong can you be? Despite getting wet through along with everybody else it was an enjoyable day. My two partners, Steve & Liam deserve a mention for putting up with my atrocious golf, at least it can only get better! Jim Sutherland and his team have to be congratulated on the condition of the course it was a credit to all concerned. Thanks to the Golf Club for making us welcome on the day, the evening meal provided was first class. A big thank you to Patissons (Phil Sharp) for sponsoring the day and providing the many prizes it really is much appreciated by all especially the lucky winners. 1. Dan Schillaci, 66; 2. John Bowness, 69; 3. Jim Sockett, 69.

Thank you to Walter Wilders for covering the cost of posting all the invites for the golf day. Finally I would like to thank Richard Haynes for all his support and help at many of the events over the past few seasons, even if he didn't play he would always come along to help out with the cards etc. Good luck from the Section in your new job.

Lindsay T Anderson



**South East
Derek Farrington**
Tel: 01903 260956

London

On Tuesday, April 21 we held the London Section Spring Tournament. Although three weeks into a very wet and difficult April, the course was in excellent condition and Course Manager, Derek Mason and his staff are to be congratulated on providing all the competitors with a first class venue. Results are as follows: 1. Richard Andrews, Highgate GC; 2. Simon Walley, Sandy Lodge GC; 3. Richard Elderfield, Sandy Lodge GC. The Guest Prize was won by our Regional Administrator, Derek Farrington, and the longest drive was won by Daryl Jones.

The King Pin Prize for Nearest the Pin, is this year sponsored by Willmot Pertwee Amenity (formerly Kings) and the prizes were awarded by Mark Pyrah. 1. Richard Andrews, 2. Craig Handyside, 3. Richard Elderfield.

Mark announced that there was to be a roll-over for the trade prize because on this occasion he did not have a tape measure long enough!

Thanks again to the General Manager, the Catering Staff and Derek Mason at Highgate GC for providing the venue for a most enjoyable day.

While still in North London, news of another sporting achievement. Highgate's Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Russell Ling, turns out regularly as first team goalkeeper for Potters Bar Town FC in the Spartan South Midlands League. Russell has been the Town's goalie for two and a half years and the team are reigning League Champions for the 1996/7 season. This year the team reached the Quarter Finals of the FA Vase but despite Russell's heroic efforts, which won him "Man of the Match" they lost by two goals to Stoke on Trent. The Season's Honours haven't eluded him though because the "Town" have won the South Midlands Challenge Trophy Cup winning both legs 2 - 1.

Two new appointments in the Section. A warm welcome to Matt Smith who joined Arkley Golf Club in February as Assistant to Neil Whitaker and congratulations to Jeff Donovan, formally of Bridgedown GC, on securing the position of Head Greenkeeper at Boxmoor GC.

Paul Cooper, Head Greenkeeper at Bushey G&CC, has had an extremely busy 18 months with a remodelling of the course taking place. The 9 Hole Course has had 18 new tees constructed by Contractor, John Griesley, they were seeded in November 1997 and should be in play by June or July this year. The land drainage on the Course has been enhanced by new swales being dug, which pick up the existing drainage network. Steve Tingley's firm, Premier Sports Turf Services, were brought into construct trolley paths and build bridges for access over the ditches and swales. SJS Irrigation carried out a complete revamp of the irrigation on the greens and tees. Paul's pride and joy is the renovated lake which will be stocked with fish for the new Angling Club and there is to be a bandstand on the opposite side of the lake to the grassed picnic area with a view to holding open air concerts. The main Clubhouse is being refurbished completely with new Bar, Restaurant and Grill Bar together with an 800-member Health Club. The Club has purchased a new fleet of machinery to maintain the Course and Paul is hoping for a new Greenkeeper's shed in the future.

In February, Barry Neville, Head Greenkeeper at Stanmore GC, had a bit of extra disruption at the 9th. Eastern Electricity which has a Sub-Station next to the Club had contractors laying a new power cable from the Sub-Station through to Kodak in Harrow and the straightest route was alongside the 9th fairway. The cable had to be laid in ducts and the trench

required was 340 metres long by 600mm wide. The chain trencher used was powered by a 260hp diesel engine and weighed 28 tons, so the trench excavation was completed in one and a half hours! The laying of the cable and initial backfill took a further week to complete. Once the Electricity Board moved out, Barry enlisted the aid of S & G Limited to construct a new medal tee, reconstruct a fairway bunker which had been flattened by the trencher, lay a new path from the new tee and turf the trench line with Rolawn turf. All the work was completed before the wet weather started and it all looks as good as new.

Dates for your Diary: The Buckinghamshire GC, July 7; Brookmans Park GC, 20 August 1998.

Peter Hopkinson

East Anglia

It was our privilege to play at RAF Lakenheath GC, on April 8. It is not everyday you get a private air display by F15 Fighter Planes, Screaming Eagles, their nickname. They gave one or two of us the Screaming Abdabbs but very impressive, unlike the golf.

Sixty two of us turned up for a very memorable day. All were greeted by Tim Russell who, along with Ian, worked tirelessly to make sure all went well as it did.

I actually played with Greg McHugh, the Greenskeeper (no it's not a spelling mistake) and his caddie, Art. The combination of American and Cockney expletives got quite colourful at times especially when he thought I was Australian!

Our football was going along nicely, sun was shining, birds (not eagles) were singing, then someone pulled us up for slow play. (I didn't know it was a race). Anyway he was told politely to go away & whistle Dixie. No pleasing some.

Then came the golf.

Cat 1: 1. Peter Howard nett 66; 2. Alan Carter, 70; 3. Euan Hunter, 71

Cat 2: 1. Ian Willett, 69; 2. Mike Virley, 73; 3. Steve Pigott, 71

Cat 3: 1. Toddy Huddleston, 69; 2. Tim Russell, 73; 3. Richard Mitchell, 73.

Longest was Roger's, sponsored by Barenbrug. Nearest was John Bidwell sponsored by Tomlins. John, incidentally has won the World Shotgun Championship three times so if he says he's nearest the pin, he's nearest the pin!

There were two guest prizes won by D. Keely, 71, and K. Taylor, 74. One trade prize won by L. Pearman, 74, and a bunch of flowers for our lady guests of which there were two and guess who won the loo seat (it wasn't me this time)? BBC, Big Bobby Chesham, the Play Better Golf video is his to keep. Mind you Bob Colin and Brian do enjoy themselves, don't moan about slow play and do a good job with the raffle. As does Greg McHugh with his collection for the Macmillan Fund from those of us not wearing a BIGGA tie he collected £49.

The prizes were presented by the Pro, John Anderson, and donated by Rigby Taylor, Rushbrooks, SISIS, Rhône-

Poulenc, Patissons, Atterton & Ellis, Toro, Colliers, and consultant Clarkson, whom, I am informed is no longer, Turf Acter as in a previous letter.

Derek Farrington tried to buy his raffle tickets with Dollars and Dimes. He must have thought he was in America, can't think why. Perhaps it was those burgers, steaks and cheesecake. Beautiful.

The course was in first rate condition thanks to Greg and his team. He wants us to go back late summer next time when the greens are like greased lightning (can't wait) especially if the pins are in the same place. The eagles won't be the only ones screaming.

We've all heard about American hospitality but when was the last time someone brought drinks to you on the course, ice cold at that on a buggy? When did you last see a hut on the course with two huge vending machines in? And when did you last visit a golf club with an armed guard at the gate and F15's making sure no one nicks the flags? That's what I call security. Greg, give me five man.

Mick Lathrope

Essex

Well, what a wet April, three and a half inches down my way so far.

The venue for our first Golf Day and Spring Tournament had to be changed owing to the weather and Burnham GC being unplayable. Step in Martin at Stapleford Abbots with the offer for us to play there, gratefully accepted.

So to the tournament sponsored by Doe's, thanks to Andy and Adrian for all their hard work, got under way with 42 playing in glorious sunny weather. Thanks to Jeremy Wright, the General Manager, for allowing us to use the course. Thanks also to the catering staff and the bar staff.

Results.

Cat 1: 1. R. Pride 73; 2. S. Cox 74; 3. A. Toomes 75.

Cat 2: 1. R. Clark 70; 2. M. Hucklegreg 73; 3. C. Ward, 74.

Cat 3: 1. N. Horgewell 71; 2. I. Mitchell 74; 3. J. Shelton 76.

R. Clarke, Spring Trophy; N. Peachey, Trade Prize; N. Brewster, Guest Prize; G. Speller, Nearest the Pin; M. Fance Longest Drive

Thanks to all the companies who donated raffle prizes:

Grass Hopper; Willmot Pertwee; Driving Force Leisure; Banks Amenity; Bourne Amenity; Grass Roots; Tuckwells; Avoncrop Amenity.

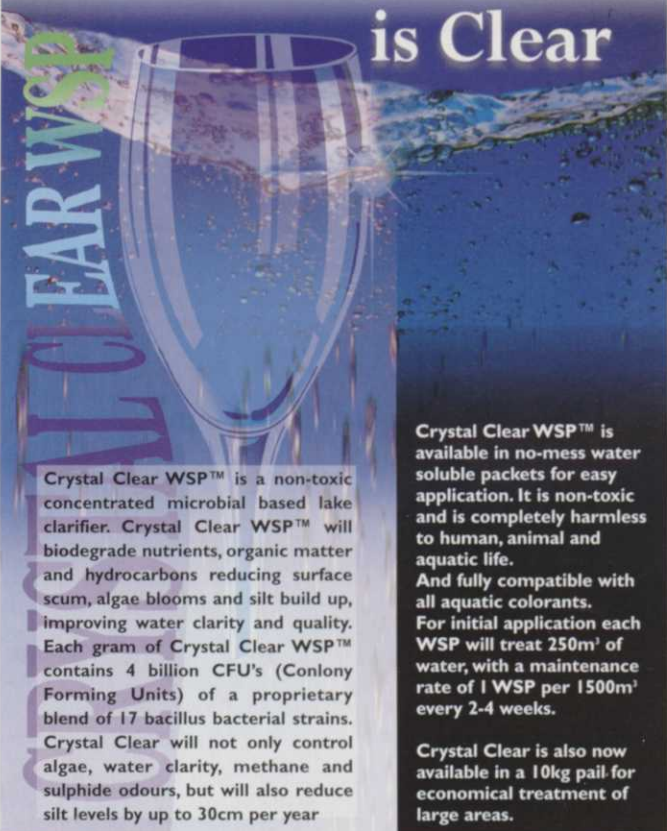
Nice to see some new faces at our first Golf Day. Our next one is at Channels Golf Club on June 2.

New Members: Ian Hutchinson, Thesdom Boig; Graham Milbank, Channels; Richard Dummow, Channels; Malcolm Smith, Regiment Way.

We wish David Hawkins, formally of Patisson, all the best in his retirement. New man at Greenkeeping Supply Company, Wayne Fearson, and moving to Driving Force Leisure, Richard Lewis. We wish them both all the best.

Algae...! The Answer

is Clear



Crystal Clear WSP™ is a non-toxic concentrated microbial based lake clarifier. Crystal Clear WSP™ will biodegrade nutrients, organic matter and hydrocarbons reducing surface scum, algae blooms and silt build up, improving water clarity and quality. Each gram of Crystal Clear WSP™ contains 4 billion CFU's (Conjony Forming Units) of a proprietary blend of 17 bacillus bacterial strains. Crystal Clear will not only control algae, water clarity, methane and sulphide odours, but will also reduce silt levels by up to 30cm per year

Crystal Clear WSP™ is available in no-mess water soluble packets for easy application. It is non-toxic and is completely harmless to human, animal and aquatic life. And fully compatible with all aquatic colorants. For initial application each WSP will treat 250m³ of water, with a maintenance rate of 1 WSP per 1500m³ every 2-4 weeks.

Crystal Clear is also now available in a 10kg pail for economical treatment of large areas.



COLOURANT WSP™

Lake Colourant WSP™ is both inexpensive and also the easiest way to create natural looking blue water. Available in no-mess water soluble packets, Lake Colourant WSP™ involves no pre-measuring, simply add the pack to the water feature for rapid colouring. Lake Colourant WSP™ is ideal for use in lakes, ponds, water hazards and large fountains. Lake Colourant reduces the amount of sunlight penetrating the water consequently reducing photosynthesis and thus acting as a non-toxic, natural suppressant of aquatic weeds. Lake Colourant WSP™ is available in cases of 6 WSP's. Each will treat 1500m³.

**For a full Range of Aquatic equipment
from Rakes, Thermometers and Meters
contact us at:**



Reading Business Centre, Weldale Street,
Reading, Berkshire RG1 7BX.
Telephone: +(44) 0118 951 0033
Fax: +(44) 0118 951 0044
<http://www.AmenityTechnology.com>

Knock out pairs competition. Seventeen pairs are entered in four ball better ball match play which is really good.

Our next committee meeting is July 7 at Thorndon Park GC. Captains v Greenkeepers is at Romford GC, on July 14. These are always very good days. Ask your captain for details.

Talking of Romford, The Open qualifier is to be held there on July 6. We wish Barrie Brown and his staff all the best.

Dave Wells

Sussex

The best day of the year seemed to be reserved for the Sussex Section Spring meeting held at Dyke GC high on the South Downs near Brighton. A beautiful spring morning on the downs is something to be valued and the condition of the course that Course Manager David Ansell had prepared for us just complemented the start of a beautiful day and 36 holes to look forward to.

Morning Results:

Cat 1: George Barr, Ray Day and Rowland Hughes

Cat 2: Neil Cleverly, Ian Stephens and Les Shrubbs

Cat 3: John Budd, John Luckhurst and Charlie Messenger

The highlight of the day, however, was saved for the afternoon Stableford. Ex-Secretary of the Section and present Regional Chairman, Raymond Day, playing off 2, returned a magnificent 41 points - a gross score of three under and came fourth! The winner of the afternoon competition being John Luckhurst on a countback from Charlie Messenger and Martin Broomfield, all with 42 points!

Bad luck to Raymond, what a great round that was and the Section is confident that he will be able to repeat it at the Summer meeting to be held at Slinfold Park on July 2.

Neil Cleverly

Surrey

The latest Surrey Section committee meeting took place at the Drift GC at the end of April. Your answers taken from the questionnaire sent to you all have been collated by Lee Strutt your assistant secretary. Four hundred and sixty two questionnaires were sent by post, only 38 members completed and returned them!

The information received showed that educational lectures on all aspects of greenkeeping would be most preferred, these to take place in the winter, with a 7pm start and at various venues throughout the Surrey section. Members would be prepared to pay between £5 to £10 each for professional speakers. Twelve members offered

their courses for a two to three hour visit by other greenkeepers with a number limit of 15-20, preferably during the summer. Members interested in an open forum numbered 28 and for this a winter meeting was recommended.

The next section regarding golf competitions proved that stablefords were enjoyed by most but that many would like to see more team events eg. Texas Scrambles. The consensus of opinion was that the number of competitions per year was about right but to include a four club competition and possibly an individual knockout on the Huxley Bowl principle. Friendly was the description of the atmosphere on competition days and an evening barbecue was preferred. A set meal was second choice.

More information was wanted in 'Around the Green' and this you humble servant will try to do. Any news and views will be gratefully received. Quiz nights also proved very popular with those who replied and so one will be arranged in November. Well that's what 38 of you think, I wonder if the remaining 424 agree with them?

The Spring Meeting was held on Friday, May 8 at the superbly presented Farnham Sands GC. We thank Peter McMorran and his staff for excellent afternoons golf and his club for the delicious evening meal. The results were as follows: Cat 1: 1. J Mathis, 2. R Christie, 3. R Glazier. Cat 2: 1. C Webb, 2. A Holehouse, 3. K Pinks. Cat 3: 1. S Johnson, 2. T Stiles, 3. L Strutt. Our thanks to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the Medal competition and congratulations to Dave Wall for having the lowest nett score in the trade section. The overall competition was won by Steve Johnson nett 66. 2nd was John Mathis nett 69 and 3rd but not least Ron Christie nett 71.

Brian Willmott.



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01363 82777

South West

As I write this we are just coming to the end of the wettest April since the world began. Cries of "Close the course" and "It's ruined, the whole course is ruined" are often heard among other highly intelligent comments such as "When are you going to drain the fairways?" Quite a difficult thing to do at the weekend when you have 200 acres of sodden clay. One man who I am sure can relate to this is Kevin Innals, the Course Manager at Isle of Wedmore GC, who had the unenviable task of preparing a golf course for about 40 greenkeepers in the very worst of this permanent downpour called spring. This he managed to do admirably

and despite the odd disappearing ball syndrome we all got round safely on his delightful course.

Many thanks to the owners, Ken and Geoff Abrahams, and Andrew Edwards for the use of their course and to Caroline the caterer for the apres golf gastronomic experience we enjoyed.

The results were as follows:

Cat 1: P. Worster, 72; G. Cook 74, M. Fawcett *74; S. Capen 78 and a highly consistent NR from M. Haring.

Cat 2: D. Bougen *67; A. Knight *67; J. Coverdale *69; R. Gorwill 70; M. Pearce *70. Cat 3: C. Sealey *71; J. Braithwaite 74; T. Humphrey 76; L. Johnson 80; P. Cox 84; (* denotes bandit).

Nearest the pin prize which raised £40 for the club's charity went to Bob Gorwill. Westurf took place at Long Ashton, on April 29, and despite a forecast of floods, pestilence and a plague of locusts, Paula's first show was a great success. The rain just about held off until the end and the attendance was good considering the metopological prophesies of doom. We must thank the many guests from headquarters and indeed it seemed from all over the country for attending. It seemed as though all the big names in greenkeeping were there, not just the stars of the south west. Congratulations to Paula, she did a tremendous job. Many thanks also to all the unsung helpers who donated their time and expertise to make this such a welcome annual fixture.

Mike Haring

South Wales

Westurf has again come and gone, thankfully this year we had some reasonable weather, which in turn, led to good attendances especially from our side of the bridge. Nice to see so many familiar faces.

Congratulations to Paula for organising such a good show. Also thanks to the trade for supporting it.

Congratulations also to Rob Freiter, from Creigiau GC, on his recent marriage. All the best!

The Cardiff Cup at Southerndown looks like being hotly contested this year with 35 entrants already.

And, finally a good luck in the future to Fred Smythe, from Cardiff GC, who has recently left to pursue another career.

Chris Solman

South Coast

On April 7 we had our annual match against the Secretaries. This was held at Highcliffe Castle GC. The Secretaries won 3.5 to 2.5. Trevor tells me that the weather was good, the course was good, the food was good and the company was good. You can't ask for anything more than that. Thanks must go to the Captain and Committee for allowing us the use of their course. Also thanks to the Greenkeeping and Catering staff who looked after everybody so well. Last,

but not least, thank you to Course Care in particular John Wood and Paul Dyter who sponsored the day's events.

Our Spring Tournament was held at Knighton Heath GC on April 22. It was contested by 47 players. The results were as follows:

Best Overall Gross, Bernard Emberley; Best Overall Nett, Bernard Emberley

Cat 1: 1. Simon Ridland; 2. Tony Gadd; 3. Joe Newman

Cat 2: 1. Del Northway; 2. John York, 3. Neil Stevenson

Cat 3: 1. Allen Rideout; 2. Steve Pellet; 3. Keith Hill-Jones

Christopher Fry Under 25 Trophy: Neil Stevenson

Nita Stimpson Over 50s Trophy: Joe Newman

Trade Trophy: Phil Greenway

Longest Drive: Paul Jackson

Nearest The Pin: Tony Gadd

I am told that the course was in excellent condition and played very well. Thanks must go to Derek Cheetham and his team for all their hard work. Local knowledge seem to have a lot to do with the top prizes. Best gross and best nett to Bernard Emberley. Well done Bery. Our thanks to the Captain, Committee and Members of Knighton Heath for allowing us the courtesy of the course for the day. Congratulations to the catering staff who produced an excellent meal. At the evening meal we were honoured by the presence of the Club President, who also presented the prizes. I hear that Eddie Fox was looking after the score cards again. This seems to be a habit that you can't seem to get out of Eddie. A lot of the older members will remember that Eddie was our Tournament Organiser for a number of years.

Seriously, Eddie, thank you for all your help on the day. We must not forget John York who organised the raffle and managed to extract a few hard earned pounds from the members. The man who organised the day's events was Fred Deamon He was well assisted by a good team but overall he was the one who was at the helm. Congratulations Fred for a job well done. Last, but not least, where would we have been without our sponsors for the day. Our thanks to Roffeys, Sheerwater Leisure, Huxleys Grass Machinery and D J Scott. Between them all they provided us with an excellent Prize Table.

Our Summer Tournament will be held at Bramshaw GC on Thursday, July 23. All applications along with current handicaps and cheques for £15 per person should be sent to: Trevor Smith, Manet, Horton Road, Horton Heath, Wimbourne, Dorset, BH21 6SB, Tel: 0410 835242.

The format for this tournament will be a Fourball Better Ball 18 Hole

So you think you're the best?



Around
the green

Stableford. Members may play with another greenkeeping member from another course or he can bring a golf member from his own club ie. Captain, Committee member, Greens Chairman, Secretary, Club Owner etc. All entries to be with Trevor 10 days before the Tournament, ie first post Monday, July 13. The main sponsors for the day will be John Deere.

I have just got back from Westurf's 10th Anniversary. The weather wasn't bad but in the afternoon we did have some heavy showers. This sent everybody scuttling to the beer and refreshment tent and the BIGGA tent. Jim Arthur, along with our National Chairman, was on hand to sign his new book for those who had the foresight to purchase one. They were in great demand. There was a glass of wine for everyone in the BIGGA tent. Judging by the amount there it looked like more than a glass. The show went very well and was quite well supported. However, more support would not have gone amiss, especially from our own Section. On your first Westurf Paula you did a grand job. Thank you Paula and also thank you to all of your helpers.

Ken Lodge

Devon and Cornwall

The Rhône-Poulenc and Supaturf meeting was the last of our winter programme and was held at West Cornwall GC on Wednesday, April 1. With the sun on their backs our golfing members played over the excellently prepared course for the Supaturf and Rhône-Poulenc Trophies.

Our non golfing members were treated to an excellent course walk by Head Greenkeeper, Brian Trevena, before lunch.

After a superb lunch Peter Bridgewater, Supaturf, and Paul Clifton, Rhône Poulenc, representing our sponsors for the day both gave a short presentation on their respective companies before presenting the golf prizes.

Supaturf Trophy for Head Greenkeepers & Trade.

1. Gordon Tamblin, Mullion, 38 pts;
2. Tony Ramsden, Budock Vean, 37 pts;
3. Richard Shapland, China Fleet, 35 pts

Rhône-Poulenc Trophy for Assistants

1. Peter Rendell, West Cornwall, 3 7 pts on back 9;
2. Graham Fitzpatrick, Dainton, 37 pts on back 9;
3. Tony James, Tehidy, 37 pts

Our afternoon educational talk rounded off the day, with Sion Brackenbury, from the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, presenting an excellent talk on ecological management plan for golf courses. The Section would like to thank Sion for his superb presentation.

Also the Section would like to thank the day's sponsors, Supaturf and Rhône-

Poulenc, for their continued support and to West Cornwall GC and all their staff who made our day run so smoothly, with special thanks to Head Greenkeeper Brian Trevena and his crew who had this wonderful links course in superb condition.

Westurf was the place to be on Wednesday, April 29, if you wanted to keep in touch with all the latest technology. It was nice to see so many of you at Westurf to support the Region.

Westurf is an important event for all greenkeepers within the South West and South Wales Region as it not only gives us the opportunity to view all the latest products available to maintain courses in first class condition, it gives the Region the opportunity from the proceeds of Westurf to offer you, its members, subsidised Regional seminar and trip to the BTME show and educational seminars at Harrogate also the Region has given grants to all our GTC approved local Colleges and grants to members to complete their College course.

There was a big Westurf welcome for our Chairman, Gordon Child, and Executive Director, Neil Thomas, not forgetting Jenny and Ken who completed HQ's team.

Congratulations must go to our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, on organising an excellent show on her first time. On behalf of all the Section I would like to thank everyone who helped to make Westurf '98 such a success.

Richard Whyman

Northern
Ireland

North East

We held our first Golf event last month at Greenacres Golf Club. We would like to thank all those who attended, the owner, Stephen Crawford, for extending us the courtesy of the course and David Laird, of J.E. Coulter, for sponsoring the event. We had a very enjoyable day and an excellent meal after. The winners were 1. Adrain Lagan, 2. Ken Henderson and 3. Alison Sloan.

Congratulations to our Secretary, Mark Farrell, who has made it onto the BIGGA Support Team for the British Open. Finally we would like to welcome our latest new member Andrew Kerr from Galgorm Manor Golf Club.

Eamonn Farrell

Around
the green

See you all next month!

Prove it.

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

THATCHLESS LIQUID

Yes, you did read
it correctly!

Treat all your greens

**FOR
ONLY
£585***
* per hectare



GREEN-RELEASE.

TEL: 01782 373878 FAX: 01782 373763

Green Release Europe, 102a Longton Road, Barking, Essex, England SS12 9AU

CONTACT YOUR EXCLUSIVE UK DISTRIBUTOR NOW:

Midlands, North and Scotland
RICHARD RITKEN LTD
Glasgow depot: 0141 4400033
Yorkshire depot: 01977 681155

South, London and South West
AVONCROP AMENITY PRODUCTS
Bracknell depot: 01344 426600
Bristol depot: 01934 820868

The US leader in liquid beneficial microbial products

E-mail: microbes@green-release.com

HURRY! DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR OFFICIAL

BIGGA MERCHANDISE



Sizes:
Waterproof/Slipovers Med (36"), Lrg (38"-40"), X-Lrg (42"-44"), XX-Lrg (46")

Item	Colour	Size	Qty	Cost
Total Cost				

Gi 6.98

ORDER FORM

Please complete the following details:

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Daytime Telephone Number _____

Method of Payment:

Cheque Credit card: Access/Visa (please circle)

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Issue Number (if Switch Card): _____

Please allow 4-6 weeks for this order to be processed.

The completed form should be sent to:

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF Tel: 01347 838581 Fax: 01347 838864

- £79.95** Walrus jacket + trousers. 100% waterproof. M, L, XL, XXL.
- £30.00** Walrus trousers. 100% waterproof. M, L, XL, XXL.
- £55.00** Walrus jacket. 100% waterproof. M, L, XL, XXL.
- £19.95** Lined showerproof top. Navy Blue. M, L, XL.
- £24.95** Lined showerproof top. Tartan. M, L, XL.
- £32.95** Pringle v-neck jumper. 100% lambswool. M, L, XL, XXL. Available in navy blue, bottle green and wine.
- £22.95** Pringle polo shirts. 100% cotton. M, L, XL. Available in navy blue and stone.
- £3.50** Baseball cap. Navy.

TO PLACE YOUR ORDER
FILL OUT THE COUPON BELOW OR
CALL OUR MERCHANDISE HOTLINE NOW ON
01347 838581

The new name appears in the title of the National Tournament this year, and with Scotts UK Professional giving backing it will help to strengthen an already fine event...

National tournament

The fact that there is a change to the name of the sponsoring company for National Tournament will come as no surprise to the many regulars who play every year. In fact if the name had stayed the same for more than two consecutive years no doubt questions would have been asked.

In 1991 ICI Professional Products took over the role of main sponsor and since then that same company has undergone a series of identity changes - Zeneca and several forms of the Miracle name to name but a few. This year, however, the name change is there again but on this occasion it is slightly different.

Scotts UK Professional replaces Miracle in title of the competition for the first time as a result of the former's decision to buy the latter last year.

As well as the constant name changing two other constants remain in place at the National Tournament in association with Scotts UK Professional - the steadily improving prize table, surely one of the finest played for in any amateur golf event in the country, and the face of Richard Minton, who, while wearing a vast array of slightly differing logoed shirts, has organised the event since '91.

Now representing Scotts UK Professional, Richard will again be responsible for ensuring that this year's event, at the wonderful Letham Grange Resort, in Angus, will be a memorable occasion for all who take part.

"The aim of Scotts UK Professional is to reward the best golfers from within the greenkeeping industry with not only quality prizes, but to also build the prestige which should go with the title 'Greenkeepers Golf Champion'," said Richard.

"The event is the greenkeeper's



Richard Minton at the 1997 National Tournament

Open and open to all. The competition is certainly no less intense, but fun will always remain to the fore.

"It's a pleasure to sponsor and support such a long established and prestigious event in the greenkeepers' calendar," said Richard.

But what about Scotts UK Professional? It's always good to know a little about the company which is so generously supporting such a fine competition and enticing everyone with an amazing table of prizes.

Well if I tell you that the Scotts turnover exceeds \$1 billion you'll see that it is not exactly a bit player in the world's huge and ultra competitive fertiliser and chemical business.

As you may have gathered Scotts, although now truly a global company, has its roots in the States, Marysville, Ohio, to be exact, and it has grown at such a rate it is a great advert for many of its own fertilisers.

Founded in 1870 the company has expanded massively in the last 16 years with the help of an aggressive series of acquisitions and merg-

ers. It now boasts 2500 employees across the world and as well as factories across the length and breadth of the USA has divisions in the UK - with two major fertiliser manufacturing plants, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, the Benelux countries and eastern Europe.

Only late last year Scotts made its most recent acquisition when it bought Levington Horticulture giving the company a significant share of the British domestic and professional market.

The company started as a seed cleaner but by 1920 one out of five golf courses in the United States were using Scotts seed. Eight years later it introduced "Turf Builder" the first ever turf fertiliser and down the years the company has proved its self to be as keen to innovate as it has to expand.

With the Scotts name behind it the National Tournament in 1998 at the Letham Grange Resort is sure to be an event not to be missed. Those wishing to enter should contact Sarah at BIGGA Headquarters, or fill in the entry form which appeared in last month's magazine.



This month, Geoff Steel gives advice to those wishing to invest in a PEP...

A Personal Equity Plan (PEP) is an investment in shares or unit trusts in which both growth and income are exempt from any form of taxation. PEPs are attractive to investors because they are tax free. They are different from a TESSA in that the capital invested can go down in value as well as up. PEPs do not usually have a specified investment period, unlike a TESSA which must be for five years.

Introduced in 1987, PEPs have rapidly grown in popularity. Four and a half million investors now hold them. The annual sums invested have grown to about £6 billion, of which more than two thirds is in unit trust funds.

This is the last year in which a PEP can be taken out. Next year PEPs are to be replaced by the Individual Savings Account (ISA) which will be similar in the tax free status.

Anyone may invest up to a defined limit in a PEP in each tax year. The current limit is £6,000 for a PEP investing in a general fund of investments, plus £3,000 in a PEP in shares in a single company. The way in which the money is invested varies and each option has its own benefits.

Tracker PEPs are simply invested in the top companies listed on the Stock Market. These funds perform well while the stock market is increasing but will fall in value if there is a stock market crash.

Managed PEPs invest in companies chosen by the fund manager. Different managed PEPs have different criteria. Some aim for income while others aim for capital growth.

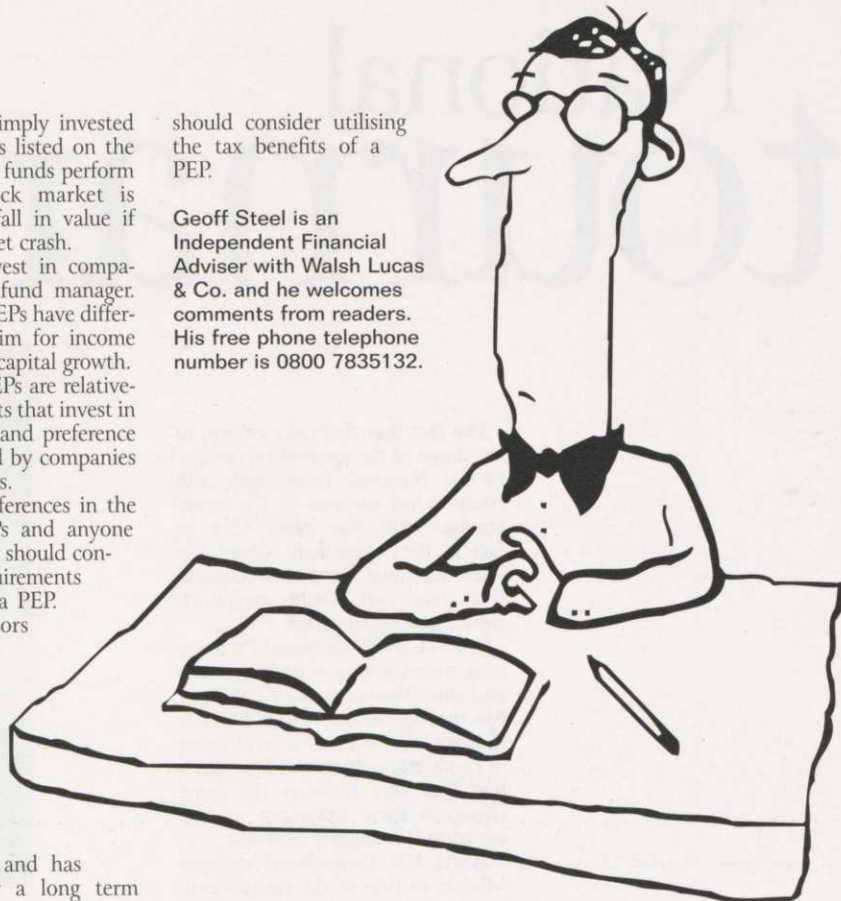
Corporate Bond PEPs are relatively low risk investments that invest in fixed interest shares and preference shares that are issued by companies when they raise funds.

There are huge differences in the performance of PEPs and anyone considering investing should consider what their requirements are before choosing a PEP.

For older investors requiring income, a Corporate Bond PEP is suitable, but for younger savers, a PEP aiming for growth maybe more appropriate. Almost anyone who is a taxpayer, and has money to save for a long term

should consider utilising the tax benefits of a PEP.

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



Tony Rees, Freelance Health & Safety Consultant & Senior Instructor with Lantra National Training Organisation continues his look into Risk Assessment

You may recall the first part of risk assessment, in which we looked at how to identify hazards within your work environment by performing a physical examination of the work area or activities and then breaking these down into stages to enable you to identify the hazards which you will encounter in your work.

Once these hazards have been identified, we can now move on to the second part of the risk assessment - that of assessing the risk.

Some hazards may present a small risk which may however occur frequently.

For example:
Hazard - wet grass on golf course

Risk of - slipping/falling
Potential outcome - little or no injury

Other hazards, however, may present a much greater risk which would be unlikely to happen.

For example:
Hazard - use of flammable liquid
Risk of - explosion/fire if lighted

Potential outcome - death of severe injury to many.

Risk = Probability x Consequence
 The greater the risk, the more time, money and inconvenience you would be expected to spend to reduce it.

Once the risk has been assessed, we are then able to develop control measures in order to reduce or eliminate the risk. This can be done by the following method:

Elimination of the risk - by getting rid of a process of activity.

Reducing the risk - by substitution with a safer process/safer machinery.

Isolating the risk - by use of physical segregation, eg. machine guarding.

Control of the risk - by introducing safe systems of work, by redesign to control hazards.

Personal Protective Equipment - this should be the last resort, all other control methods should be tried first.

Discipline of staff - all staff should be fully trained and competent. Supervision should be given

when necessary.

A practical example would be:

Hazard - use of hand operated mower

Risk of - injury/amputation of limbs to operator, injury from debris projecting from cutters

Control measures - Is the hand operated mower suitable for the work - a ride-on mower may be more suitable. The machine should be adequately guarded to prevent contact with moving parts. There should be a collection box for cuttings. A safe system on work may be required for the activity. Are all the operators fully trained, and are they aware of the dangers from operating the machine? The operator should wear suitable personal protective equipment, ie. goggles, safety boots and gloves. Adequate signs should be in place to inform other staff, golfers and public that grass cutting is in progress.

When control measures have been developed, they need to be put in place. This may involve training or retraining of staff, and will require co-operation and consultation with

safety representatives.

When the control measures are implemented, they should be monitored, to ensure that they are effective in controlling the hazards and to ensure that they are being used. The assessments should be recorded and reviewed at regular intervals. They may need to be amended at times, especially if new work processes are introduced, new staff employed, or if an accident occurs.

Written Risk Assessment are one of the duties imposed upon employers (with more than five employees) by The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992.

Tony Rees MIOSH is a Freelance Health & Safety Consultant & Senior Instructor with Lantra National Training Organisation Ltd

Further information on training courses and consultancy contact Lantra National Training Organisation Ltd (Jean John on 01282 831973 or Tony Rees on 01686 622799).

Who?

What?

Where?

When?

I am still receiving many questions about assessment and assessors and I thought that it would be useful to explain what assessment is, who can do it, where it should be done and how you can become an assessor

staff who have been trained and assessed as competent to assess assessors. The GTC does not assess the candidate's greenkeeping competence, this is proved by the candidate producing a CV and or job description.

Becoming an assessor means that all greenkeeping staff can be assessed to national standards, on the golf course, so ensuring higher standards of greenkeeping and better staff motivation which in turn means better golf courses leading to improved image and greater profitability. Moreover, the cost of training greenkeepers can be reduced if assessment is done "at work."

1. What is an assessor?

An assessor is a person qualified to judge if a candidate is competent at his or her job.

2. What is a greenkeeper assessor?

A greenkeeper assessor is a greenkeeper who is competent at the N/SVQ Level being assessed eg Level 2, 3 or 4 and who is competent at assessment.

3. Who can become greenkeeper assessors?

Any work based supervisor (Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager) at a golf club with an N/SVQ candidate registered on the scheme, either through the GTC or at one of its approved training providers, may apply to be trained as an assessor

4. How are assessors trained?

Assessors trained by the GTC, attend an intensive one day of training at regional venues. Following this training day, the trainee assessors spend time practising assessment techniques before returning, approximately six weeks later, to be assessed, by the GTC.

The Standards for assessors are set by the Training and Development Lead Body and lead to a D qualification eg. D32 is assessment by direct observation. The assessment process is carried out by GTC

5. Who pays for assessor training?

The GTC pays for all registration, training and certification costs for candidates trained and assessed by the GTC. Currently, training and assessment is available only for Level 2 assessors. However, to ensure that the N/SVQ system is successful, Level 3 and 4 greenkeeper assessors need to be identified, trained and assessed.

6. How are assessors used?

The GTC, currently, has trained in excess of 400 greenkeepers as its industry assessors. Many of these assessors are now assessing both GTC and college registered N/SVQ candidates on golf courses. Many are also assessing candidates at GTC approved colleges. These assessors are also available to golf clubs who, currently, do not have a trained assessor on their staff.

7. Who controls N/SVQ standards?

Awarding bodies such as City and Guilds, BTEC and SCOTVEC ensure that national standards are maintained by the use of internal and external verifiers and assessors. However, National Standards are set by Industry Lead Bodies, soon to be National Training Organisations.

8. What does my club get out of me becoming an assessor?

9. How do I find out more about assessor training?

Contact the GTC N/SVQ National Co-ordinator, Sue Gudgeon, on 01347 838640.

Many people in golf greenkeeping seem suspicious of the N/SVQ system, its standards and the method of assessment. However, if candidates are assessed at their place of work and show competence to National Standards then the Industry will be certain that those greenkeepers can "do their job."

Industry assessors have an important part to play in ensuring that standards are maintained and I can see a time when all head greenkeepers are industry assessors at Level 2, with a smaller number at Level 3 and a very small number at Level 4.

Only then will the Golf Greenkeeping (Sports Turf Maintenance/Management) N/SVQ system be operating correctly.

Remember, all of the above relates to N/SVQs only. Assessment of National Certificate and National Diploma candidates will continue to be done, by examination and continuous assessment, in colleges.



Improving on success is something which is never easy but, that said, it doesn't mean you should stop trying.

Last year's BIGGA's 10th Anniversary Golf Day was an outstanding triumph. The sun shone; Aldwark Manor looked its majestic best; the golf was scintillating; the food was superb and the company, provided by some of the best known personalities in the industry, was second to none.

The day had originally started out as a one-off occasion to celebrate the Association reaching the age of 10, but such was the response from both those who had attended and, indeed, those who heard how successful it had been, that a campaign was launched to make it an annual occasion.

And so it has come to pass that on Monday, June 22, the second BIGGA Golf Day, sponsored by BT Mobile will be held, and yes it will be improved on last year's superb day.

The field will be stronger than ever with 34 teams competing for the stunning crystal glass bowl won in marvellous fashion by the Watermation team last year.

The winning quartet, comprising Watermation Managing Director, Ray Lewis; Distribution Sales Manager, Joe Turner; George Brown, of Turnberry Hotel, and current BIGGA National Vice Chairman, and Ian McMillan, of Hankley Common and the holder of both the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award and the BIGGA Environment Award last year, was presented with the prize by former England and British Lion winger, Rory Underwood, who was the special guest for the day.

The Texas Scramble format, favours all levels of golfer, giving everyone a chance to be a hero at least once during the round, and that will be repeated this year.

Among the stars who have had the date ringed in their diaries for some time now are Coronation

The BIGGA Annual Golf Day now has a prestigious new sponsor, some special guests and is guaranteed to be a day to remember...



In association with



Better than ever!

Street legends Des Barnes and Gary Mallet, alias Phil Middlemiss and Ian Mercer, and former Leicester and England rugby forward Dean Richards. They will all be putting their golfing prowess under the microscope.

Aldwark Manor is under new ownership and, anyone who is making a first return visit since last year will see some major changes.

Aldwark Manor Head Greenkeeper, Richard Gamble, has recently obtained a stable full of new Ransomes kit so the course will be preened to new levels of excellence. The hotel has undergone a major renovation and Manager, Richard Harrison, will ensure that no-one will be left wanting when it comes to refreshment and nourishment - last year's barbecue set a high standard but this year's he is set to surpass it.

Another highlight of the day will be the drawing of the Buy a Brick raffle prizes, some 30 of them, for which tickets have been sold up and down the length and breadth of the country.

Those attending the day will also be able to gauge the progress of the new Headquarters and Training facility which is currently under

construction a mere 50 yards from the existing building.

Due for completion in September work is on schedule and well underway and everyone who has bought a raffle ticket or made a donation on some other form will be able to see that the money raising is being put to good use.

The training facility is being kitted out using money donated by BIGGA's Gold and Silver Key supporters.

BT Mobile, the UK's largest cellular service provider with over one million business customers, knows how important it is for businesses to operate with the very best back-up and conditions and is therefore pleased to be the sponsor for the 1998 BIGGA Golf Tournament.

The company has a long tradition of supporting corporate and community events such as the Institute of Directors annual dinner and the Leeds Rugby Union Youth Development Programme.

As a company with a strong commitment to the region, BT Mobile wanted to sponsor an event that would not only enhance our business relationships, but would also prove to be entertaining and "competitive". The tournament attracts



companies from across the country and will provide excellent opportunities for networking across the board - and, as it is claimed, more business is done on the golf course than in the boardroom.

As a solutions driven company, BT Mobile's product portfolio covers cellular paging, mobile data and voice messaging services. Most recent developments have included the enhancement of its Business Mobility solutions package, which incorporates the latest mobile data technology allowing businesses to become more productive and efficient.

BT Mobile connects its business cellular customers exclusively to the Cellnet network. It is a wholly owned division of BT and employs over 1,000 people at its headquarters in Leeds.



The companies which will be represented at the day are:

BT Mobile
BT Internet
The Toro Company
Scotts/Miracle
Ransomes
John Deere
Kubota
Hayter
Supaturf
Rigby Taylor
Watermation
Rainbird
Charterhouse
Ocmis
Hepworths
STRI
New Holland
Walrus Golf Ltd
British Seed Houses
Coursecare
Olivers Seeds
Turfmech
ING Farm Finance
Barclay's Bank
Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
Granada Studios
Harrogate
International Centre
Lambert Fenchurch
Aldwark Manor G&CC
Hi-Tec Print

Clockwise from left: The barbecue last year was a big draw; Last years champions, The Watermation team receives the trophy from Rory Underwood; Des Barnes and Gary Mallet alias Phil Middlemiss and Ian Mercer



The most cost effective way of reaching readers of Greenkeeper International. Simply ring Jenny Panton, Cheryl Broomhead or James McEvoy on 01347 838581 and ask about an alphabetical category listing; the cost starts from as little as £29.50 per month.

Be seen on the green!

Here's your chance to win an exclusive BIGGA 100% waterproof jacket designed by Walrus worth over £55!



Simply search through all the products and services in our guide and locate the 3 BIGGA logos hidden within the pages. Write down the names of the 3 advertisements where the BIGGA logo is hidden, and send your entries on a postcard to;

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

Entries to reach us no later than Tuesday, June 16, 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.

Congratulations to Geoff Wheeler of Lambourne GC, who spotted our three logos last month. Your exclusive Walrus jacket is on the way!

Aeration

KEITH DRIVER (SPORTSTURF CONTRACTOR)

HYDROJECT AERATION SERVICE

(WITH NO SURFACE DISTURBANCE)

A full range of expertly operated turfcare services also available

Tel: 01273 564015 Mobile: 0958 532008
 8 Morecombe Rd, Brighton, Sussex BN1 8TL



Agronomy

GRASS SCIENCE

GOLF COURSE CONSULTANTS

- ◆ COURSE MANAGEMENT
- ◆ IN-DEPTH AGRONOMY ADVICE
- ◆ MANAGEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION AND RE-CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
- ◆ FULL ANALYSIS SERVICE

For more details and a brochure contact:

Grass Science GRASS SCIENCE
 Garside Street Bolton BL1 4AE
 Tel: 01204 366036 Fax: 01204 385276

Gordon Jaaback

consulting agronomist

offers a practical and scientific approach to problem solving and an all-round service towards cost-effective golf course construction and maintenance

Introductory visits without obligation

25 Cheviot Close Tel/Fax
 Tonbridge TN9 1NH 01732 350351

B Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd

Bruce Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd, is an established company offering expert advice on:

- Golf Course maintenance
- Tournament preparation & presentation
- Machinery selection
- Budgeting
- Staff recruitment
- Soil & turf analysis
- Browntop

Contact: Bruce Jamieson
 17 Haywarden Place, Hartley Wintney, Hants, RG27 8UA
 Telephone: 01252 844847

ON COURSE GOLF COURSE CONSULTANTS



Complete agronomy service from problem solving to planned management and construction.

With over 25 years practical experience Ken Barber will get you back ON COURSE.

For further information
 Tel/fax +44 (0) 1825 732031

Have you found all the logos yet?

Amenity Spraying

Talk to the professionals first

- Vertidrainage ♦ Aeration ♦ Seeding
- ♦ Fertilising ♦ Top dressing
- ♦ Contact Spraying ♦ All leading brands of seeds, fertilisers & chemicals



Amenity Land Services Ltd
 Long Lane, Wellington
 Telford TF6 6HA

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

WEED FREE®

PROFESSIONAL PESTICIDE APPLICATION AND ASSOCIATED TURF SERVICES

DRIFT FREE CONTRACT SPRAYING UTILISING OUR PURPOSE BUILT MACHINE 'THE SPRAYING MANTIS'

NEW FOR '98 - F.E.P.A TRAINING
 NEW FOR '98 - FREE CALL NUMBER
0800 068 08 78

Tel: 07000 481011
 Fax: 07000 481022
 Car: 0850 300104

Unit 14, Roundhead Drive, Warfield, Berkshire RG42 3RZ

WEED FREE and Daisy Logo are Registered-Trade Marks

Animal Repellents

ARE YOUR GREEN EATERS COSTING YOU MONEY?



FOR HUMANE RABBIT CONTROL



For further information contact us on
0118 951 0033

FAIRWAYS DISCREET CONTROL

CONSULTANCY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE & TRAINING

Rabbits & Moles...
 Our problem!

SPRINGER HOUSE • WINDMILL LANE
 KEMBLE • CIRENCESTER GLOS • GL7 6AN
 TEL: 01285 770919
 FAX: 01285 770910

Architects

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

Swan Golf Designs Limited
 Telfords Barn, Willingate, Ongar,
 Essex CM5 0QF, England
 Tel: 01277 896229 Fax: 01277 896300
 E-Mail: SwanGolfDesigns@btinternet.com

A member of the
 BRITISH INSTITUTE OF GOLF ARCHITECTS

Architects

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

Representing the leading European Practices in golf course design, working worldwide and offering professional services from initial site appraisals and feasibility, conceptual designs, to detailed architecture, specifications and project management and construction design.

Merrist Wood House, Worpleston,
 Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE

Tel: 01483 884036 Fax: 01483 884037

Artificial Grass

VERDE SPORTS LIMITED
 Gabbotts Farm Barn,
 Bury Lane, Withnell,
 Chorley, Lancashire
 PR6 8SW
 Tel: 01254 831666
 Fax: 01254 831066

- VERDE TEE FRAME
 Steel platform, woven grass top.
- VERDE WINTER TEE
 Generous size, self-install kit.
- VERDE DRIVING MATS
 Top quality - Long Life - Best Prices.
- ARTIFICIAL GRASSES
- DRIVING BAYS AND NETS
 For club and home use.

TWENTY YEARS EXPERIENCE SUPPLYING THE BEST SURFACES AT COMPETITIVE PRICES.
 Please call for samples & information

Have you found all the logos yet?

Bio Stimulants

STIMulate

- Water Soluble Biostimulant with live bacteria
- Humate & Humic Acids
- High % Natural Sugars



Contact us on
0118 951 0033

Bridges

TOTAL TIMBER ENGINEERING
H. L. D. LTD

BRIDGES
 Pedestrian and Vehicular
 REVETMENTS
 SHEET PILING
 SHELTERS
 HICKSON LEISURE DEVELOPMENTS
 THE SHIPYARD, GAINSBOROUGH,
 LINCOLNSHIRE DN21 1NG
 telephone (01427) 611800 fax (01427) 612867

Buildings



THE GREENKEEPER'S CHOICE



Secure sectional steel buildings in various sizes.

- Machinery & equipment storage
- Fertilizer, weedkiller & seed storage
- Workshops ● Tool sheds
- Trolley stores
- Temporary fencing & secure enclosures

For FREE design service, quotation, brochures and technical advice **PHONE NOW**

0121 553 5723 (24hrs)

Elwell Buildings Ltd, 204 Oldbury Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 9DE. Fax: 0121 580 1172

Greenkeepers' Stores Driving Ranges Club Houses

- ◆ Machinery Storage
 - ◆ Maintenance Workshops
 - ◆ Fertiliser and Weedkiller Storage
 - ◆ Offices and Staff Mess Rooms
- FREE initial designs and costings



Ivan J Cooper Ltd

Steel Framed Buildings
Moorside Works, Cauldon Lowe,
Stoke-on-Trent ST10 3ET
Tel: 01538 702282 Fax: 01538 702662

Bunker Rakes

MEMBERS BUNKER RAKES FROM ONLY £2.54 EACH

Strong construction complete with replaceable threaded handle
12 for £2.99 each
50 for £2.69 each
100 for £2.54 each
Prices are for complete rakes delivered free.

HEAD GREENKEEPER/
CHAIRMAN OF GREEN?
Send for a FREE SAMPLE

Rake support pegs 70p each.
Made in UK by MW Dyason Ltd,
6/10 Hitchmead Road,
Biggleswade, SG18 0NH.
Tel: 01767 317011 Fax: 01767 317186

Chemical Disposal

GRUNDON

Grundon can provide safe disposal for pesticides and herbicides and all chemical wastes. For more information on how Grundon can help with your "Duty of Care" telephone 01491 834311

Construction

J. & E. ELY GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

Reading, Berks
Tel/Fax 0118 972 2257



RD JONES & SONS GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

Design, Construction and Refurbishment Specialists
Cae Coch Farm, Whitford, Flintshire,
North Wales CH8 9EP
Tel: 01745 561761 Fax: 01745 561988
MEMBERS OF BIGGA

CONTOUR GOLF LIMITED

Construction of new golf development and upgrading of existing courses

Tel: 01327 879464

Mobile: 0385 272935

Head Office: 105 The Severn, Daventry,
Northants NN11 4QS
Irish Office: 026 471 83



CONTACT THE PROFESSIONALS

Jonathan Franks, Secretary,
BAGCC, 37 Five Mile Drive,
Wolvercote, Oxford OX2 8HT
Tel/Fax: (01865) 516927



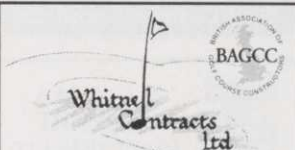
C.J. Collins Construction

Golf Course Contractors

Burgess Hill, West Sussex

Tel: 01444 242993

Fax: 01444 247318



GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

Woodlands, Ellis Road, Boxted,
Colchester, Essex CO4 5RN
Tel: (01206) 272834 Fax: (01206) 272104

TEE to GREEN CONSTRUCTION

The very best in the remodelling of existing golf courses.

Over 18 years experience.
Landscaping specialist

22 BURN CLOSE, VERWOOD,
DORSET BH31 6DN

PHONE: 01202 814045
MOBILE: 0410 483065



28 PUMP LANE
HORNDEN
WATERLOOVILLE
HAMPSHIRE
PO8 9TS ENGLAND
T/F: (01705) 592390

or Contact Ted Awoock on 0410 450454

Update Your Existing Course By:
TEE EXTENSIONS
GREEN RE-MODELLING
BUNKER ALTERATIONS
DRAINAGE
also NEW COURSE CONSTRUCTION

A New Company... For Your Golf Course

Renovations

Offering design and build remodels

- Experienced Designers
- Quality Construction
- Fixed Price

Philip House, Stamford Road, Bowden,
Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 2JU
Tel: 0161 929 8000
Fax: 0161 929 5060



John Greasley

Specialists
in Golf
Course
Construction

JOHN GREASLEY LIMITED

"Ashfield House" • 1154 Melton Road
Syston • Leicester • LE7 2HB

Tel: 0116 269 6766

Mobile: 0836 553899

Fax: 0116 269 6866

Course Equipment

Standard Golf are the largest supplier of quality course accessories worldwide

Place an order for £100 in May or June, and receive a £100 travel voucher in return. No catches! Please call for details

- Tee Data Signs
- Ball washers
- Rakes
- Tee Markers
- Flags, pin & hole cups
- Practice green accessories
- Personalised products

QUALITY
PRODUCTS
COMPETITIVE
PRICES

- Information signs
- Wooden Furniture

Tel: 01189 736303
Fax: 01189 736677

BOYD GOLF COURSE ACCESSORIES

IRELAND'S LEADING GOLF
COURSE EQUIPMENT &
ACCESSORY MANUFACTURER

FOR MORE INFORMATION
TEL: (01247) 271163
FAX: (01247) 471136

GET ON COURSE
WITH
BAYCO



call us Now! on

0118 951 0033

On Course with
ACORN
Equipment

UK & European distributors of
quality golf course equipment

For all your golf course requisites contact the specialists

Phone or fax: 01925 75 7005 24hrs

Website: <http://www.acornjkl.com>

TACIT

The best for less!

Tommy Tacit
says: "SAVE
MONEY"



THE TOP
SWIVELS

THE BOTTOM
DOESNT

Lockon to Tacit's new Flagstick with Anti-wear Ferrule.

When used in conjunction with Tacit's quality Holecups, it will prolong the life of the Flagsticks and so keep them upright longer.

For further details contact:

TACIT

Golf Course Equipment Manufacturers

Tel: 01788 568818

Fax: 01788 537485

Directional Drilling

CHILTERN THRUST BORE LTD

SPECIALISTS IN
UNDERGROUND CABLE
DUCTING AND PIPE
INSTALLATION

- STEEL PIPE DRIVING
- IMPACT MOLING
- DIRECTIONAL DRILLING SYSTEMS
- AUGER BORING
- PIPE (BURSTING)

84 LINCROFT, OAKLEY
BEDFORD MK43 7SS
TEL/FAX 01234 825948
MOBILE 0585 463439

Drainage

Drainage.
Sand Slitting.
Vertidrainage.

Established 42 years

ONGAR, ESSEX
01277 890274

PEARL

White Horse Contractors Limited



- Construction
- Renovation
- Drainage
- Irrigation

Tel: 01865 736 272
Fax: 01865 326 176

Lodge Hill, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2JD

Duncan Ross Land Drainage Limited

SPORTSTURF DRAINAGE SPECIALISTS

- ★ Latest Sportsturf Trenching Machine
- ★ Verti Draining ★ Sand Slitting
- ★ Gravel Banding ★ Top Dressing
- ★ Overseeding

Design Installation and Maintenance service
Tel/Fax: 01257 255321
Shevington, Wigan, Lancs

Turfdry

Golf Course Drainage Specialists

For fast and friendly UK service call:

Melvyn Taylor
on 01283 551417
or 0836 259133

STEVEN PASK
LIMMITEED

Drainage and Sandslitting
Verti-Draining 2.5 & 1.5 Metre
Ryan GA30 and Amazone sand
Spreader Hire
Tee, Green and Bunker
Construction/Re-Modelling
Tel: 01529 455757



**Specialists in land drainage,
golf course construction and
maintenance**

M J ABBOTT LIMITED
Bratch Lane, Dinton, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP3 5EB
Tel: 01722 716361 • Fax: 01722 716828

J. PUGH-LEWIS LTD

SPORTSTURF CONTRACTORS

**Specialists in the design,
construction, drainage and
renovation of all sportsturf.**

**Chesterfield,
Derbyshire.**

Tel: 01773 872362
Fax: 01773 874763



- ★ Vertidrain ★ Top-dressing
- ★ Land drainage ★ Overseeding
- ★ All types of construction

(0118) 979 5454
Winnersh, Reading, Berkshire

SLEATH & SON
SPORTSTURF DRAINAGE

Full range of modern equipment providing
UK and European service
Contact Geoff Sleath
Tel: (01709) 862109 Fax: (01709) 862075

Driving Range Equipment

RANGE SERVANT
UK Ltd

GOLF RANGE EQUIPMENT

**Ball Dispensers, Collectors
and Washers. Play Off Mats
and Winter Tee Mats**

AUTOMATIC TEE-UP UNIT

Tel/Fax: 01923 263777
at Abbott's Toolhire, Hempstead Road,
Hunton Bridge, Watford, Herts WD1 3NJ

Environmental Monitoring

If its to measure

- Soil/Water pH
- Wind Speed
- Soil/Water temperature
- Air Temperature & Pressure
- Relative Humidity



INSTRUMENTATION FOR EVERY NEED

For futher Information contact us on
0118 951 0033

Fertilisers

farmura
For natural and environmental solutions

FREE BROCHURE

Call now for details of our organic liquid fertilisers and specialist turf products

Tel: 01233 756241
Fax: 01233 756419

Stone Hill, Egerton, Ashford, Kent TN27 9DU



The Andersons. Uniformly the best.
The highest Quality Nitrogen source in the industry with the most uniform particle size available

For futher Information contact us on
0118 951 0033

Fertiliser Spreaders

If it needs spreading



Complete range of Professional Rotary Spreaders call us on

0118 951 0033

Fountains

FOUNTAINS

For all your floating fountain and aerator requirements, contact S.G.I. Sales. Ask for details of our large range for functional and decorative displays.

S.G.I. Sales

The Oxtalls, Evesham,
Worcestershire, WR11 4TS, England.
Tel: 01386 41212 Fax: 01386 423769
E-mail: <http://www.evenproducts.com>

Generators

GENERATING SETS
SERIES "FOX" FROM
10 TO 20 KVA

VISA presents the most innovative range of super-silent and highly reliable modular FOX-series generating sets. Silent and super silent generators



The difference is in the quality!

EUROPEAN POWER SERVICES
Telephone: (01327) 811112
Facsimile: (01327) 811113

Golf Course Supplies

M.C. & M.A. STEWART (HAULAGE) LTD

A family business established 1969
BS EN ISO 9002: 1992 Registered Company

**GRAVEL, SAND, SOIL,
ROOT ZONE, TOP DRESSING,
WOOD BARK, TRACK MATERIAL**

The independent supplier with the wide product range. For professional service nationwide contact Rachael

Tel: 01257 792536/792692 Mobile: 0973 426890

Woodlands, 31 Preston Road, Coppull,
Chorley, Lancashire PR7 5HS

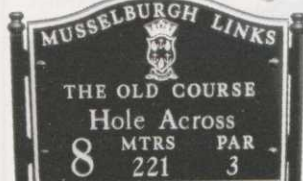
Golf Signs

GOLF SIGNS

- Made from durable & weatherproof GRC
- Available in standard or tailor-made designs
- Can include hole information, club name & motif
- Permanently installed on metal posts or free-standing
- Range includes yardage, G.P.F. entrance, directional & other signs

Finished in a range of colours

LINKS LEISURE



Links Leisure Limited
Unit 22, Civic Industrial Park,
Whitchurch Shropshire SY13 1TT
Tel: 01948 663002 Fax: 01948 666381

Grass Seed

BL BOUGHTON LOAM LTD

Telford Way, Kettering,
Northants

Tel: 01536 510515

for

- Turf Dressing**
- Root Zone Mixes**
- Screened Top Soils**
- Bunker Sands**
- Horticultural Composts**

- "Pre-germinated grass seed"
- "Liquid Sod" Spray-on grass
- Herbicides
- Grass Seed
- Fertilisers

Turf Management Systems

Dromagh Farm, Sevenhills Road,
Iverheath, Bucks, SL0 0PA

Tel: 01895 834411

Irrigation

MAGNETISM

When you

can't drag

your eyes

away from

a superb

TIS-irrigated

green.

TIS TORO
Focus on Quality

Turf Irrigation Services (Sandbach) Limited.

DECIDE AFTER TALKING TO US...

As Europe's most experienced independent consultants we are always ready to help you with advice on all aspects of irrigation related matters.

York & Martin
GOLF IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
Tel: (01425) 652087 Fax: (01425) 652476

PO BOX 1192
Fordingbridge
Hants SP6 1YD
England

PAR 4 TORO
(IRRIGATION) LTD
Installation Sales & Service
N.E. England, Yorkshire, S. Humber, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire
Contact:
EB & L SIMMS
Unit 18, Camp Hill Close, Dallamires Lane, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 1TT
Tel: (01765) 602175 or 690598 Fax: (01765) 603488

Brookvale, Love Lane, Bechtton, Sandbach, CW11 0TS. 01477 500255

T. & G. TURF IRRIGATION SERVICES

13 Castlegate, Knaresborough,
North Yorkshire HG5 0NS
Tel & Fax: (01423) 864963
Full member of B.T.L.I.A.

Logic Irrigation

Manufacturers & Distributors of
quality irrigation equipment

- EICON radio remote control for TW2-1 and TW2-4
- AQUARIUS 2 PC based control system, runs in Windows 95
- LOGIC decoders, compatible with TW1 or TW2, 3 year warranty, lightning protection included. Multiway outputs, up to 4 valves.

from £18.00 per station

Tel: 01491 837 455

A Nationwide Irrigation Service

A well designed and installed irrigation system is a vital component to a successful project.

OCMIS specialise in irrigation systems for sportsground, recreational, amenity and landscape areas.

We offer comprehensive expert consultations, designs, quotations, manufacture, supply, installation and service.

OCMIS are stockists of an extensive range of quality irrigation equipment for every requirement.

Regional offices throughout the UK
For further information contact
Head Office on 01460 241939

OCMIS

Buckner Hunter RAIN-BIRD

Design and service you can trust

Consult

Watermation IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

to discover how our total irrigation
service can benefit you

**Design Supply
Installation
Support**

01252 336838

M J ABBOTT LIMITED
Design, supply and installation of

RAIN-BIRD

Irrigation Systems
Tel: 01722 716361

TORO

IRRIGATION PRODUCTS

Design. Supply.
Installation.
Service.

Established 42 years

ONGAR, ESSEX
01277 890274

PEARL

BRITISH OVERHEAD IRRIGATION LIMITED

Tel: (01932) 788301
Fax: (01932) 780437

**INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS
FOR GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION
SYSTEMS, UPDATES AND
COMPLETE PROJECTS
BEST BUY B.O.I.L.**

**EXPERIENCE - EXPERTISE
CARE - SERVICE
since 1923**

Founder Member BTLIA



The most professional Design, Supply and
Installation service in the North.

Trained in Golf Course management, with real
knowledge of irrigation and Golf Course needs.
Effortless irrigation with minimum inconvenience.

Call now on: 01405 814889
Mobile: 0421 578828

You'll be amazed where we pop up!

AutoFlow Systems

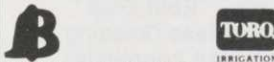
**CALL NOW FOR ALL YOUR
WATER REQUIREMENTS ON**

**SPORTS GROUNDS, GOLF COURSES,
BOWLING GREENS, COMMERCIAL
LANDSCAPING, PRIVATE GARDENS**

TEL: 01603 759701 FAX: 01603 758200

AUTO HOUSE, ASHREE WORKS, MILL ROAD,
BARNHAM BROOM, NORFOLK NR9 4DE

YOUR COMPLETE INDEPENDANT IRRIGATION SPECIALIST



BELL TURF & IRRIGATION SERVICES

East Midlands Area
Installation, Sales and
Service

Everton, Doncaster, DN10 5DR
Tel: (01777) 817410

Hunter®

The Irrigation Innovators

Phone or fax for your list of
Hunter® dealers
throughout the UK and Ireland

Sportsground Irrigation Co

Tel: 01386 41212 Fax: 01386 423769

Cameron IRRIGATION

Suppliers of Irrigation Equipment
to Golf Courses, Bowling Greens,
Landscapes, Horticulture.

*Manufacturers of Irrigation Equipment.
*Existing Systems renovated and upgraded.
DESIGN - INSTALLATION - SERVICE
Call now for your Irrigation needs.

Cameron — (Macpenny)

Unit 17-18 Highdown Industrial Estate,
Ringwood, Hants. BH24 1ND
Tel: (01425) 474614 Fax: (01425) 471296

DIVISION OF
M.I.S.C.

I.L.S. Irrigation Systems & Equipment

For all your irrigation
requirements, whether a new
installation or system
refurbishment - contact us now for
a free survey, design and
quotation.

**I.L.S. Irrigation Systems &
Equipment, Oundle Road,
Lutton, Peterborough PE8 5ND
Tel/Fax: 01832 272450**



WARDLE

Consulting Engineers, Ltd.

INDEPENDENT
IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
& PROJECT MANAGERS

8, Main St Barton-under-Needwood
STAFFS DE13 8DP

Main Office Tel/Fax: 01283 711 864
Area Office Tel/Fax: 01483 278 416



(Inc. MACPENNY-CAMERON IRRIGATION)

IRRIGATION

Suppliers of Irrigation Equipment to Golf Courses,
Bowling Greens, Landscapes, Horticulture.

★ Manufacturers of Irrigation Equipment
★ Existing Systems renovated and upgraded
DESIGN - INSTALLATION - SERVICE

Call now for all your Irrigation needs.
MISC LTD, Unit 18, Hightown Industrial Estate,
Ringwood, Hants BH24 1ND
Tel: (01425) 474614 Fax: (01425) 471296

HIGH RELIABILITY DECODERS

Equivalent to Watermation, CIC,
Wright Rain, Primitime, Robydone,
TORO and ISS

- ◆ No switches, more reliable
- ◆ 5 year warranty
- ◆ Multi-outputs available
- ◆ Low cost address programmer
- ◆ Competitively priced

TONICK WATERING
Tel: 01903 262393 Fax: 01903 694500
Associate Member of BTLIA



IRRIGATION
control

DESIGN • SUPPLY
INSTALL • SERVICE

New systems, system extensions
and system refurbishments

Call us for a FREE system survey

Yorkshire 01132 450414
Cheshire 01606 558927

Full members of the BTLIA

British Turf & Landscape Irrigation Association

"Quality by Association"



Our aim is to ensure
you have the best
possible irrigation
system so we
constantly monitor,
maintain and raise
the standards of our
members.

For a full list of
members contact
David Halford
Tel: 01995 640611 or
fax: 01995 640842

IRRIGATION

Supply, install, upgrade
and repair

Plows and trenchers for
sale/hire

**Irrigation and Drainage
Services Ltd**
Tel: 01633 893119

Automatic Watering Systems for Sports and Leisure Grounds

• Designed • Supplied • Installed

GLEN HEAT & IRRIGATION
Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs.

Gh Tel: (01775) 722327
Fax: (01775) 725444

Lake Construction/Liners



Liners for lakes, ponds and
storage lagoons from the
UK's leading contractor

Comprehensive advice
regarding design and
construction of water areas

GT Ltd, Wiston Road, Nayland,
Colchester, Essex CO6 4TL
Tel: 01206 262676 Fax: 01206 262998

MERIT Planning Supply Installation

Lining membranes and associated products for
ponds, lakes, water features and reservoirs.

Tel: 01594 529191 Fax: 01594 529413

Lake Management



CRYSTAL CLEAR WSP

100% Biological
control of Algae with
additional benefits of
increased water clarity

LAKE
COLORANT WSP
Create a natural blue
colour to lakes,
water cascades, ponds
with the ease of WSP
packets.

For further information
contact us on
0118 951 0033

Peat

**Superscreened Sphagnum Peat
for Golf Course Construction
and Maintenance**

- Conforms to BS4156
- Weed and Pathogen Free
- Provides quick and even establishment
- Excellent water retention during dry periods
- Reduced risk of dry patch
- Consistent quality for easy handling and mixing
- Quick and reliable deliveries nationwide

Finnfibre Horticulture Ltd
Gerrard Business Centre, Worthing Road,
East Preston, West Sussex BN16 1AW
Tel: 01903 859555 Fax: 01903 859666

Pest Control

PEST CONTROL SERVICES
Arch Cottage, Bulmer, York
RABBITS MOLES SQUIRRELS
Jess Yorkshire 01653-618 763
Les Humberstone 01652-659 308
Neil Newcastle 0191-489 0690

WHAT PEST?
with
SCUTTLE
NO PROBLEM!
Humane Rabbit Control



For further information contact us on
0118 951 0033

ph Control



ph control and dosing systems for your irrigation water, for improved turf quality. Nationwide installation and commissioning service and advice. Contact Brian Sykes

USF STRANCO

17 Apex Business Park, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3JU Telephone: 01323 441744 Fax: 01323 441611

ZEPHYR WATER TREATMENT LTD

ph and chlorine control for turf quality improvement. Individually designed and installed dosing systems for irrigation applications.

23 Brassmill Enterprise Centre,
Brassmill Lane, Bath, Avon BA1 3JN
Tel: 01225 334838 Fax: 01225 442028

Greenturf Systems

for pH Control using
"PHAIRWAY" solution contact:

S.G.I. Sales

The Oxstalls, Evesham,
Worcestershire, WR11 4TS, England.
Tel: 01386 41212 Fax: 01386 423769
E-mail: <http://www.evenproducts.com>

FREE SOIL AND WATER TESTING

Have you found all the logos yet?

Pond Maintenance

Aqua-Vive

Biological Water cleaner

Prevent algae bloom; Remove scum;
Suspended solids, Bottom sludge;
Simple to apply, completely safe for
fish, birds, animals and plants

Anchor Industries Europe, Airport Executive Park,
President Way, Luton, Bedfordshire LU2 9NY
Tel: (01582) 400630 Fax: (01582) 401939

Practice Nets

PRO-TEE GOLF DRIVING BAYS

- Robust & durable construction
- Single or multiple bay system
- Rust resistant frame
- Easily erected
- Long-life baffle nets
- Little or no maintenance
- Available with all-weather golf mats

LINKS LEISURE

Tel: 01948 663002
or Fax: 01948 666381
for details



Railway Sleepers

RAILWAY SLEEPERS
FIRST CLASS QUALITY
DELIVERY ANY AREA
Contact Sleeper Supplies
Tel/Fax: 01302 888676
Mobile: 0831 356710

A1 CONSTRUCTION GRADE SLEEPERS

Any quantity, delivered anywhere
also

COCKLESHELL PATH MEDIA

Bulk loads, discounted prices

FINETURF PRODUCTS
01375 361606

FAIRWAY
A1 RAILWAY SLEEPERS
1ST CLASS QUALITY ONLY
NOT CONSTRUCTION GRADE
FOR KEEN PRICES
CONTACT MR DAVID ROBINSON
TEL/FAX: 0161 456 7109
AT "STRIKE TOP TURF"

RAILWAY SLEEPERS
8'6" x 10" x 5"

CROSSING TIMBERS
12" x 6" up to 16' long
Price quoted for number required
Tel (01233) 625121 or 620277

Faggs Fleet

Whitfield Road,
Ashford, Kent

OAK SLEEPERS
ANY QUANTITY DELIVERED

PLEASE CALL/FAX MELVYN ON
01344 779155

Root Zone

BANKS AMENITY PRODUCTS LTD

Specialist Manufacturer and Supplier (for over 20 years) of Rootzones and Top Dressings - to all specifications including USGA. Supplied nationwide. Please phone for quotation.
Tel: (01858) 464346/433003
Fax: (01858) 434734

Sand/Silica Sand

Drinkwater Sabey Ltd

(EBENEZER MEARS)

KINGSLEY FINE WASHED SAND
for Tees · Greens · Bunkers
and drainage sands and shingles

Wintersells Road, Byfleet, KT14 7AZ

01932 345616

Have you found all the logos yet?

GRUNDON

NOW SPREADING IN YOUR AREA

Top Dressing
Bunker Sand
Root Zone
Tees Dressing
All Aggregates
Path Gravels
Cockleshell

NEW HOTLINE NUMBER:
Contact Gordon
on **01367 244078**

Seats

Gloster
FINE TEAK FURNITURE



Seats, tables, chairs, benches, planters and litterbins made from plantation grown teak. Listed in the Good Wood Guide.
Send for brochure

D-Scan (UK) Ltd Concorde Road,
Patchway, Bristol BS12 5TB
Tel: 0117 931 5335 Fax: 0117 931 5334

Sports Netting

SPORTS NETTING



- PERIMETER NETTING
- TARGET NETS
- ANTI BALL PLUGGING
- GRASS GERMINATION
- ANTI DAZZLE NETTING
- PADDED/NET BAY DIVIDERS
- CHIPPING NET
- PRACTICE NETS
- 'EPIC' TARGET GREEN
- BALLSTOP FENCING

TEL: 01179 669684

Tee Mats



- Suppliers of The Dunlop Winter Tee & Practice Mat
- Golf Course Furniture
- Driving Range & Practice Ground Equipment
- Flooring & Pathways

Tel: 01704 571271
Fax: 01704 571272

TUFTURF ARTIFICIAL GRASS TEE MATS, CARRYMATS AND PUTTING SURFACES FROM CARPETITION LTD

14 Kaffir Road, Edgerton,
Huddersfield HD2 2AN

Tel: (01484) 428777 Fax: (01484) 423251

Top Dressings

BOURNE

Supplying the South of England

Manufacturers of Top Dressings & Rootzones

Contracting Services

BOURNE AMENITY
FIRST FOR QUALITY OF PRODUCT AND SERVICE
TEL: 01797 252298

HADLEY

- ♦ ROOTZONES ♦
- ♦ DIVOT MIXES ♦
- ♦ TOP-DRESSINGS ♦
- ♦ SCREENED SOILS ♦
- ♦ DRAINAGE & SUB-BASE MATERIALS ♦

Alan Hadley Limited, Fenton House,
102 Grazeley Road, Three Mile Cross,
Reading, Berkshire RG7 1BJ

Tel: 0118 988 3266
Fax: 0118 988 4538

Martins

Pinnacle RANGE

TOP DRESSING · ROOT ZONE
MONEYSTONE BUNKER SAND
PAR-LINK PATHWAY GRAVEL

MARTIN BROTHERS
TEL: 01625 614121
FAX: 01625 618282

TOP DRESSERS

DRESS WITH AMTEC!



For further information contact us on



0118 951 0033

Tree Planting

THORPE TREES

Thorpe Underwood, Ouseburn, York YO5 9SR



Top quality tree and hedge plants grown, supplied and planted

Woodland Grant Applications

FREE advisory visit and catalogue. Golf course planting a speciality



Tel: (01423) 330977
Fax: (01423) 331348



Eastcote Nurseries (Solihull) Ltd

- ★ Tree Spade hire
- ★ Tree moving
- ★ Semi mature trees

Nationwide service

Hampton Road, Barston, Solihull, West Midlands B92 0JL

Tel: 01675 442033
Fax: 01675 442324

Turf

Rolawn®

Check out
Britain's
Finest Turf

- ✓ ABSOLUTELY NO MINIMUM ORDER
- ✓ PRICE PLEDGE
- ✓ TWO GRADES OF GREENS TURF
- ✓ OLYMPIC RYE FREE TEES TURF - NEW FOR 1998
- ✓ INDEPENDENT TURF TESTING PROGRAMME BY THE STRI
- ✓ TOP STRI RATED CULTIVARS
- ✓ BRITAIN'S BEST TURF WASHING SERVICE
- ✓ FREE FORKLIFT OFF-LOADING
- ✓ LOCAL SERVICE FROM ROLAWN'S DEPOTS
- ✓ FREE LOAN OF LAYING EQUIPMENT
- ✓ FREE SAMPLES



CALL 01904 608661
and ask for
CUSTOMER SERVICES

Quality of turf, personal Service and outstanding Value.



SOVEREIGN TURF

ALL YEAR ROUND QUALITY TURF

SALES HOTLINES:
Tel: 01603 746229
Fax: 01603 746243
Mob: 0850 752744

for TGA APPROVED TURF

FIR TREE FARM • BLAXHALL • WOODBRIDGE IP12 2DX

IFL

Full range of services including:
USGA rootzone testing
Percolation rate testing
Particle size distribution
Nutrient Analyses and pH tests

An Independent Materials Testing Laboratory for Golf Greenkeepers

For further information call Ann Murray at European Turfgrass Laboratories Ltd.
Tel: 01786 449195 Fax: 01786 449688

INTURF™

GROWERS AND SUPPLIERS OF HIGH QUALITY CULTIVATED TURF FOR ALL APPLICATIONS AND APPOINTED OFFICIAL TURF PRODUCERS TO WEMBLEY STADIUM

Please contact Head Office for more information:
THE INTURF GROUP
Regent Street • Pocklington • York YO4 2QN
Telephone 01759 304101 • Fax 01759 305229

TT ProTurf

GROWERS AND SUPPLIERS OF QUALITY CULTIVATED TEES, GREENS AND AMENITY TURF COUNTRYWIDE

TEL: 01427 890797
FAX: 01427 891785

TT ProTurf Ltd

NORTH CARR FARM, WEST STOCKWITH, NR DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE DN10 4BD

Q Lawns

Growers of Quality Turf

- ★ Uniquely cultivated on fine dark soils
- ★ Next day deliveries
- ★ Quality assured company ISO 9002

British Field Products Limited
Corkway Drive, Hockwold, Thetford, Norfolk IP26 4JR
Office: 01842 828266 Fax: 01842 827911

Turf Dressings

BAILEY'S OF NORFOLK

★ GOLF TURF DRESSINGS ★ SAND ★
★ SCREENED TOP SOIL ★ FEN SOIL

Deliveries Nationwide

BAILEY'S OF NORFOLK

Tel: 01603 754607

Rufford

TOP-DRESS SUPPLIES

Britain's No. 1 for QUALITY • SERVICE • SHEER VALUE FOR MONEY

Fairway House, South Slage, Broadway, Salford Quays, Manchester M5 2UO
Tel: 0161 877 8550 Fax: 0161 877 8554

BANKS AMENITY PRODUCTS LTD

for Fendress Top Dressing
• Fendress Superfine
• Economy Dressing
• Rootzone Mixes
• Screened Fensoil • Screened Peat
• Screened Loam • Kiln Dried Sand
• Bunker Sands

Tel: (01858) 464346/433003
Fax: (01858) 434734

BL BOUGHTON LOAM LTD.

For
TURF DRESSINGS
ROOT ZONE MIXES
SCREENED TOP SOILS
BUNKER SANDS
HORTICULTURAL COMPOSTS

Telford Way, Kettering, Northants
Tel: 01536 510515

Tyres

FLOTATION TURF TYRES

- ★ Wide Flat Treads ★
- ★ Custom Made Wheels ★
- ★ New and Used available ★

ROSCO TYRE AND WHEEL LTD
Graveyard Lane, Ormskirk, Lancs
Tel: 01695 421100 Fax: 01695 424265

Vertidrainage Hire

Alder Root Golf Club

VERTIDRAINING

Competitive rates and prompt service offered throughout the North West

For details contact:
Ernie Lander on 01925 291919 or 0831 448817

CABOT SPORTS South West

Verti-draining Specialists

- Overseeding ●
- Stone Burying ●
- 4 Ton Top Dresser ●

(flotation tyres)
Competitive and Reliable

Telephone: (0117) 982 0054
Fax: (0117) 982 0052
Portview Rd, Avonmouth, Bristol BS11 9LQ

ROSS OLIVER

SPORTS GROUND CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

- VERTI-DRAIN for Greens and Sportsgrounds
- STONE PICKING ● RYAN HOLLOW TYNER
- SAND SPREADERS ● DIRECT DRILLS

C. eystones, Trebudannon, Cornwall TR8 4LP
Tel: (01841) 540222 Fax: (01637) 881057

SEWARD TURF MAINTENANCE

Vertidrainage 2.5 and 1.5 metre
Gravel Banding over seeding
Hollow Tining Fairway Grooming and Top Dressing

Phone York: 01904 765949
Freephone: 0500 432120

Have you found all the logos yet?

PETER MANNINGTON

Specialist Verti-Drain Contractor for the South
For greens, tees, fairways and sportsgrounds
Experienced operator, competitive prices and reliable service

Tel/Fax Peter on 01580 200205
or Mobile 0850 612061

Sheepwash Farm, Church Street, Ticehurst, Wadhurst, East Sussex TN3 7DL

Fairway Landscapes

GOLF COURSE & SPORTS GROUND CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

Overseeding • Top Dressing • Deep Hollowcoring
Greens • Tees • Bunkers • Drainage • Verti Draining
Machine Hire • Visual & Verbal References

Tel or Fax: 01726 843003 Mobile: 0468 633569

WORTH DRAINING

VERTIDRAINING and HOLLOW CORING HIRE with the RYAN G.A. 30

Contact Peter Bloodworth
WORTH DRAINING
Cornbecks Farm, Irnham, Grantham, Lincolnshire. Tel/Fax: 01476 550266

Wetting Agents

Enhance water penetration and aid the fight against dry patch, also stimulates soil microbes.

For details and information on our range of DRENCHER products & Wetting Agents call us on

0118 951 0033

This space could be working for you! Call Jenny now on 01347 838581

Classified

Machinery For Sale

**SUNNINGDALE GOLF CLUB
FOR SALE**

Secondhand Irrigation Spares.
A number of Watermation
sprinklers:
GR2s, K90s, GR3 Full circle,
GN1 & GN3. Full & part circle,
1.5" solinoid valves.

**Tel: Course Manager:
01344 624306.**

Machinery For Sale

SISIS DIRECT
turf maintenance machinery

Various S/H, SISIS aerators,
scarifiers, top-dressers,
sweepers, seeders, etc.
available as seen or fully
refurbished by manufacturer

Hire equipment also available
**Phone Douglas Boa on
01625 503030**

Machinery For Sale

**JOHN
SHAW
(MACHINERY) LTD**

Kubota G1900-S c/w 54" deck and turbo collector	£6,500
Toro Greensmaster 3000 petrol (x2) from	£1,750
Toro Groundsmaster 117 petrol up-front rotary mower c/w collector	£1,750
Jacobsen Greensking 4 Diesel P/S standard, 9 blade units	£2,500
Toro RM216 petrol triple mower c/w 8 blade reels	£2,500
Set of 3 Verti-cut units to fit Beaver gangs	£1,000
Kubota B1750 HST fitted with a mid mounted deck and cab	£4,500
Toro Groundsmaster 322-D c/w 88" Tri-Flex Deck	£3,500
Massey Ferguson 1020 G/Box, turf tyres	£3,500
Toro Greensmaster 300 (petrol) greens mower c/w cab	£1,500
Lloyds Paladin Pedestrian greensmowers (choice of 5)	£750
Toro Groundsmaster 223-D c/w a 62" Recycler deck V.G.C.	£5,500

All prices are plus VAT

**Sales: 01825 872070
Fax: 01825 872130**

Job Shop

First Assistant Greenkeeper with 8 years experience in fine turf management and construction. City & Guild phase 1 & 2 sports turf management qualified. Seeks challenging position abroad with any destination considered.

JS/77/98

Enthusiastic and motivated 56 year old working Head Greenkeeper, with 41 years experience in Greenkeeping, seeks challenging position. Responsible for prestigious course since its creation in 1975. Experience in all aspects of course management including budgetary control, staff, motivation, machinery and irrigation system maintenance, construction work, familiar with modern technology.

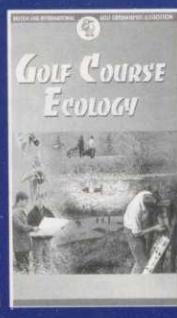
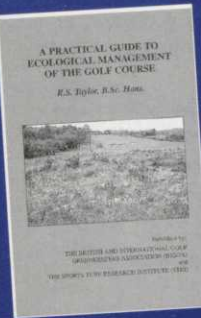
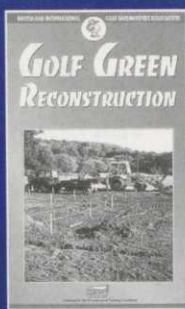
JS/78/98

Just the job

Greenkeeper
INTERNATIONAL

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

ON COURSE WITH BIGGA EDUCATION



Golf Course Preparation Video
£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

Golf Course Reconstruction Video
£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

Ecology Book
£3.00 to BIGGA members
£7.00 to non-members

Ecology Video
£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

Raising the Standards of Mowing Management Video
£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

Setting the Standard in Spraying Application Video
£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

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

The Fulwell Golf Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER/ COURSE MANAGER

for their 18 hole parkland course.

Fulwell is a private members club, established in 1904.

The successful applicant will possess the appropriate qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of golf course management, with the skills to supervise an established greenkeeping team.

Salary and conditions negotiable.

Excellent 3 bedroom accommodation is provided on site.

Applications in writing together with your CV should be addressed to:

Secretary, Fulwell Golf Club, Wellington Road,
Hampton Hill, Middx, TW12 1JY

Burhill Golf Club

Has a vacancy for a

DEPUTY 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 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 and weekend overtime on a rota basis.

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

Gordon Hogg, Secretary/Manager, Burhill Golf Club,
Burwood Road, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 4BL
Closing date for applications 30.06.98

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT & ESTATE MANAGER

required for

Drumoig, by St Andrews
and The Scottish National Golf Centre

Duties will include the overall control of:-
7000 yard championship golf course.

The extensive external practice facilities of
The Scottish National Golf Centre
All landscaping, trees, woods and grounds

The successful candidate will be fully qualified in all areas of greenkeeping including hands on experience of maintaining greens to USGA specification standards.

Applications will be welcomed for this unique career opportunity from those who have the highest personal standards with excellence in management and communication skills.

Please reply with full CV to The Board of Directors,
The Office, Craigie Farm, Leuchars, St Andrews, Fife,
KY16 0DT.

Sunningdale Golf Club

HEAD GREENKEEPER (NEW COURSE)

Applications are invited for a Head Greenkeeper,
New Course, to report to the Course Manager.

We require an experienced person who is looking to further his career by gaining experience on a championship course.

The position is a challenging one and a high degree of excellence and presentation skills will be expected.

The salary is negotiable.

Accommodation is provided.

Applications in writing to:

The Secretary, Sunningdale Golf Club, Ridgemount
Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire SL5 9RR.

TAUNTON & PICKERIDGE GC

Applications are invited for the position of

COURSE MANAGER

This long established 18 hole course is set in a superb corner of Somerset, crafted from the rolling landscape with views over the Vale of Taunton and the countryside beyond.

The key responsibilities of this new position are as follows:

Maintenance and presentation of the golf course to the highest standards. Supervision and development of all greenkeeping staff
Administration of work programme and machinery maintenance programmes

The successful applicant will require the following attributes:

Recognised qualification in greenkeeping and golf course management. Good working knowledge of all modern golf course management practices. An ability to prepare and monitor budgets, inventories and expenditure. Good working knowledge of Health and Safety regulations.

This is an opportunity for a highly competent person to enhance their career and lead an established committed team.

Remuneration negotiable and commensurate with experience.
Accommodation is not provided.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary, Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club, Corfe, Taunton, TA3 7BY.

HEAD GREENKEEPER

A unique opportunity on a magnificent new course

Set on gently rolling landscape that comprises both park and heathland, Craibstone Golf Course is scheduled to open in Autumn 1999. This substantial investment on the magnificent slopes of Brimmond Hill, just outside Aberdeen, boasts views of the sea on one side and an SSSI on another.

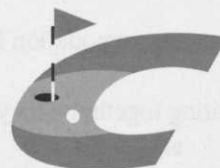
As Head Greenkeeper, you will bring the requisite knowledge and experience to establish Craibstone as a respected centre for golfers far and wide. Your skills in Course Management will include the ability to lead your team towards achieving set targets.

While a generous budget is assigned for this task, sensible allocation of resources will be expected.

You will also have a thorough understanding of modern greenkeeping machinery, automatic irrigation systems and health and safety regulations. Generous terms and conditions include compliance with BIGGA rates. Accommodation may be made available and could form part of the overall package.

Written applications by the 19th June to:

The Secretary, Craibstone Golf Centre, Scottish Agricultural College,
Ferguson Building, Craibstone Estate, Bucksburn, Aberdeen AB21 9YA.



CRAIBSTONE
GOLF CENTRE



DATCHET GOLF CLUB

Have a vacancy for a

HEAD GREENKEEPER and FIRST ASSISTANT

The successful applicant will be required to work a 40 hour week with occasional overtime, be keen and hard working and hold recognised qualifications with greenkeeping experience.

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

Please apply in writing with CV to: The Secretary, Datchet Golf Club,
Buccleuch Road, DATCHET, Berkshire, SL3 9BP.

BEARSTED GOLF CLUB

Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Must be experienced. NVQ Level 2

Apply in writing with CV to The Secretary, Bearsted Golf
Club, Ware Street, Bearsted, Kent, ME14 4PQ

Due to our current Head Greenkeeper taking up a position in Florida, USA,

IMMINGHAM GOLF CLUB

Invite applications for the position of

Head Greenkeeper

Applicants should be suitably qualified or have an appropriate level of experience. Essential qualities will be practical knowledge of modern greenkeeping methods, a high standard of equipment husbandry, good personnel management skills, and proven budgetary control. Salary is negotiable.

No accommodation is available.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

The Manager, Immingham Golf Club, St Andrews, Lane off Church Lane,
Immingham, North East Lincolnshire, DN40 2EU.

BURNHAM BEECHES GOLF CLUB

FOUNDED 1891

Vacancy for:

Experienced and Qualified Greenkeeper

Excellent Working Conditions
Competitive Salary
Modern 3-Bedroomed Accommodation

Please apply to:

The General Manager, Burnham Beeches Golf Club
Green Lane, Burnham, Slough, SL1 8EG. Telephone No. 01628 661448

YOUR SKILLS, PASS THEM ON

Education Lecturing Services (ELS), the UK's largest provider of lecturing services to colleges, with to recruit skilled, experienced individuals to deliver lecturing, instruction and training to others in colleges in Somerset and Hertfordshire in the following subject areas:-

BTEC HNC/D in Golf Course Management

Knowledge of Golf
Greenkeeping Mechanisation
Science
Surveying
Tournament Management

Turf Culture

Golf Course Construction & Design

Sports & Leisure

NVQ Agricultural/Horticultural Service Engineering

NVQ Golf Green Keeping

NVQ Sport Turf Maintenance

Safe Use of Pesticides

covering PA1/2 and 6

Business Studies

Marketing, accounts,
Management Skills



EDUCATION LECTURING SERVICES

Whilst a teaching/training qualification is not essential, you should have extensive experience. For an application form and information pack call, 0115 911 1199 quoting reference Gi.

Sales Representatives

Tarmac Quarry Products is a highly successful company within the Tarmac Group and a nationwide producer and supplier of aggregates and associated materials.

Committed to strengthening our market position we are expanding the product group, Topsport which supplies a range of sands, rootzones, top dressings, etc. to the sports and leisure industry.

To facilitate this expansion we are seeking to recruit first class sales professionals to make a major contribution to our commercial success, for the Southern, Midlands and Northern regions.

You will be responsible for maximising the potential of existing customers through a high level of sales service and personal contact and for developing new business opportunities.

Proven success in a sales role is essential and knowledge of the sports turf industry would be an advantage. Sound interpersonal skills will also be necessary to communicate effectively at all levels and build strong relationships with both internal and external customers.

Your drive and ambition will ensure you thrive in a challenging commercial environment.

If you feel that you have the skills, experience and enthusiasm to succeed in this role, please send your application, including your CV and current salary details to:

Mr C Ogden, Commercial Department, Tarmac Quarry Products
Headquarters, Millfields Road, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton WV4 6JP.
Please quote ref. 1800/10176.

Closing date: 19 June 1998.

Committed to Equality
of Opportunity

Tarmac

Melton Mowbray Golf Club

Private 18 hole course situated in Leicestershire.

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will possess relevant qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of modern course management. The ability to lead and motivate staff, organise and control work programmes and maintain budgetary control is essential.

Salary negotiable and accommodation available.

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

Mr Ray Elsome, Melton Mowbray Golf Club, Thorpe Arnold,
Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 4SD.

NORTHAMPTON GOLF CLUB

First Assistant Greenkeeper

The suitable applicant will have at least 5 years experience as a Greenkeeper, qualified to NVQ levels 1 & 2, holding current Spraying certificate PA1, 2 & 6 with a sound knowledge of course and man management, modern machinery, and irrigation systems.

Applications should be submitted in writing with a full CV and sent to:-

Mr RL Jones, Secretary/Manager, Northampton Golf Club,
Harlestone, Northampton, NN7 4EF

LEE-ON-THE-SOLENT GOLF CLUB

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

To commence duties in late JULY 1998.

Accommodation not provided, salary negotiable.

APPLICATIONS IN WRITING AND IN CONFIDENCE.

ACCOMPANIED BY FULL CV AND A MINIMUM OF TWO REFEREES TO:

THE MANAGER, LEE ON THE SOLENT GOLF CLUB
BRUNE LANE, LEE ON THE SOLENT, HAMPSHIRE, PO13 9PB

Applications close - 30 June 1998

PURLEY DOWNS GOLF CLUB

require

GREENSTAFF

Applicants should be qualified to Minimum NVQ2
with Spraying Certificates PA1A, PA2 & PA6

Salaries negotiable according to experience.

Applications in writing with CV to:

The Course Manager, Purley Downs Golf Club, 106, Purley Downs Road,
South Croydon, Surrey. CR2 0RB Telephone - 0181 657 8347

Feature listing from May '96

May '96; Aeration; Lingdale GC;
Pumps; Security and Vandalism;
Furniture and Fittings; Risk Assessment

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

July '96; Loaders, diggers and exca-
vators; 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 imbal-
ance in Sports Turf; Hiring Equipment

February '97; Attending to the
Details; Computers; Fertilisers;
Rudding 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



Watching the weather



On April 21 I attended the AFA Conference and Luncheon at the Savoy Hotel, London. I arrived in Paddington at 9.35 am and took a taxi to the Savoy. Once in the cab I made my first mistake by telling the driver I had to be there by 10 am, leaving him just 12 minutes. Now, I have been on the big dipper at Blackpool and the "Back to the Future" ride in Hollywood, but nothing prepared me for this. We squeezed through gaps you wouldn't believe, missing bodies, buses, lamp posts and cars by a coat of paint, all at a speed I dare not check. So when we reached Marble Arch and traffic was at a stand still, I sighed with relief, but not for long. The smallest gap appeared and we were through, going in and out of lanes like a scud missile, finally screaming to a halt outside the hotel on time.

As I went inside I must have looked a little white because I was immediately given a drink which went down without touching the sides, and my recovery was under-way. The conference speakers were very good and the luncheon excellent. I was, however, a bit confused by Elliot Morley MP's after dinner speech, but then that's nothing new as MPs and I often seem to be on a different wavelength. At the end of the day I hailed a taxi back to Paddington but this time made sure

to tell the driver I had plenty of time.

April 29 was the 10th anniversary of Westurf and it was an honour to be asked to open the show and cut the cake. Later Marion, John Cox - the Captain of Long Ashton Golf Club, and I did the stand judging which was very interesting, and allowed us to meet many supporters and friends. The covered stand winner was Pencoed College who had made a big effort and deserved to win.

The open stand winner was ProSeed Equipment again an excellent presentation. This year's show was Paula's first as the organiser and she should be proud of her success. She has changed the layout and made additions which I am sure will give it more impetus going into the next decade. The only losers were the greenkeepers in the region who chose to stay at home. On the subject of attendance it was nice to see Clive Osgood from Walton Heath and Gordon Irvine from Mill Ride there, along with many from the Midland Region. Westurf will go on from here. Most annual events need new ideas and Westurf has got them. The weather defied the forecasters and stayed fine until about 2 pm, which allowed most people the time to get round. There are many people to thank for the success of Westurf over the years but I must single out the traders who have given their support, some for every one of the ten shows. Well done to all concerned you did us proud.

I was sitting in the lounge at home looking out on a typical spring day of cold winds and rain thinking about reports and warnings from the past few Chairmen telling me how busy I would be. I am not quite sure whether they were trying to frighten me, or exaggerating a little, but up to now I haven't been rushed off my feet. It may be that I do not have a golf course to run and find it more leisurely, but I am taking life nice and easy. However, I find it hard not

to think of all you lucky greenkeepers out there worrying about the weather and the course, but in my experience all types of weather has some value, even cold and wet which must be worst of all, does tend to keep the volume of play down and allow a little time for recovery. Take the wet spring we have just had, it will have helped links courses particularly the fairways just so long as we have done enough aeration when it was dry. That's the story of greenkeeping, doing what we can when we can. Never put a job off when the weather is right for tomorrow it may change.

I am pleased to see that our new HQ building is coming along well, and the contractors are confident of finishing on time. Don't forget the draw for the "Buy a Brick" Fund started at the BTME will be made on June 2 so if you haven't got your tickets yet give your Section Secretary or Regional Administrator a call and get them now. The fund is doing well but could be better with a little effort. Your Board members have put a lot of work into it and deserve your support, so come on one last push!

It's competition time again with Toro's Greenkeeping Excellence Award and Student of the Year competitions, along with the Amazone Rhône-Poulenc sponsored Environment Competition. There will be a lot of greenkeepers and golf clubs trying to impress over the next few months. The judges again will have a tough job on their hands with more nominations and entries than ever. I am sure they will make the right judgments. I can only wish everyone the very best of luck and thank our sponsors for their continued support in running these events.

They give the motivated greenkeepers and golf clubs a great incentive.

Gordon Child

Do you want this much
confidence in an irrigation system...

or this much?

Trust, because more golf courses world-wide select Toro irrigation systems than all other brands combined.

Dependability, as Toro products are used on approximately 80% of the PGA European Tour golf courses.



Assurance, from the first manufacturer to achieve ISO 9000 certification on turf care equipment.

Reliability, with a network of qualified dealers trained to respond to your needs with quality service and support.

Total Solutions, from the ground up

Hydroscape is the UK and Ireland
Distributor for Toro Irrigation Products



For more information call 01425 476261

Hydroscape, Water House, 10 Carvers Industrial Estate,
Southampton Road, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 1JS.
Tel: 01425 476261 Fax: 01425 472380.

DRENCHER
100% ORGANIC
LIQUID

- ❖ Stimulates beneficial soil bacteria
- ❖ Contains high content of natural sugars
- ❖ Enhances water penetration of dry or compacted soil
- ❖ An essential weapon to combat dry patch
- ❖ Trial data available on request
- ❖ Low scorch potential



AMENITY
TECHNOLOGY

Reading Business Centre, Weldale Street,
Reading, Berkshire RG1 7BX
Tel: +(44) 0118 951 0033
Fax: +(44) 0118 951 0044
<http://www.AmenityTechnology.com>

THE DRENCHER

Wetting Agent RANGE

SPECIAL OFFER FOR A LIMITED PERIOD

GET YOUR FREE PRO-AP DRENCHER GUN when you order 4x10 litres of DRENCHER LIQUID or if you order 4 Boxes of DRENCHER PELLETS we will send you a DRENCHER GUN FREE of charge

OFFER CLOSSES END OF JULY 98



The Drencher Range of Wetting Agents offers a formulation for every situation and location. The Drencher Range contains wetting agents in liquid, granular and pellet form with Drencher Applicator Guns available for both Drencher Liquid and Drencher WA and Drencher 1-2-3 Pellets.

The **Pro-AP Drencher Gun** has a unique liquid siphoning action making this the perfect way to spot treat patches of hydrophobic soil and hard to reach areas such as banks and high spots.

DRENCHER GRANULES

- ❖ Easy to apply
- ❖ Stays on target
- ❖ Higher active content means less product is required consequently fewer refills are needed
- ❖ An easy way to treat hard to reach areas such as banks and high spots
- ❖ Perfect for use in horticulture
- ❖ Enhances water penetration of dry or compacted soil
- ❖ Small particle size allows for use on even very low cut turf
- ❖ Extremely cost effective, 5Kg per 500m² (100kg per Hectare)

