



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, Watermaton

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