

# Greenkeeper

March 1998 – £3.50

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INTERNATIONAL



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# Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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

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Golf Greenkeepers Association

# March 1998

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

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

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## Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details 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, Ritefeed, Supaturf Products Ltd, The Toro Company, Watermaton

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



66 As I see it...



65 Sandy McDivot



## Why Pick on Lawnmowers?

You haven't by any chance been following the debate about the admission by the manufacturer that faulty replacement hips have been fitted to unwitting patients over the last few years and how these poor people are going to have to go through the pain and stress of having them removed and replaced?

Now you may be wondering what on earth I'm doing using your magazine to talk about hip replacements. I wouldn't blame you and, believe me, I wouldn't have chosen to open with such a subject if it hadn't been for something I read in a paper recently.

A health spokesman was quoted as saying that there was more quality assurance involved in the manufacture of a lawnmower than there was in the production of a new hip.

My first thought was to think what good publicity it was for all the makers of grass guzzlers among our friends in the industry - at long last a bit of recognition.

Then I thought a bit longer. Why were lawnmowers chosen to make such a comparison? Surely they could have said the same about television sets, or washing machines, or even bicycles.

Then it dawned on me. To the general public the comparison, "there is more quality assurance involved in the manufacture of a Rolls Royce than there is in the production of a new hip" would have carried no weight. "So what" would have been the cry. It needed to be something deemed frivolous to make the analogy work.

Why was a lawnmower used? Because, obviously by some, it is perceived to be a mundane, bog standard, piece of garden machinery with no real importance in the scheme of things whatever. That's why.

I'll put money on the fact that the person who brought lawnmowers into the debate about hip replacements knows nothing about what it takes to produce the machines which cut late 20th century grass. If he did, he would have chosen something else with which to make his perfectly valid health safety point.

The sophistication now employed in even the most basic of mowers would leave John Logie Baird and Isambard Kingdom Brunel gasping in admiration while, if the idea for hydrostatic drive had popped into Archimedes' brain while in the bath, he may have leapt out and charged through the town, dripping and naked, shouting "Eureka!" for a totally different reason. The lawns of Syracuse would have been the most manicured in Sicily. Who says I don't do any research!

Additionally, isn't the fact that you can have seven or eleven blade reels spinning at blurring speed on modern mowers reason enough to ensure that quality assurance and health and safety is uppermost in the production process?

The domestic and amenity machinery industry, a multi-million contributor to Britain's economy, deserves more than to be used as the stooge in an unrelated argument.

Pick on something really pointless next time, like roller blades or virtual reality games.

Editor: Scott MacCallum

# Greenkeeper

## INTERNATIONAL

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45 Icing on the cake



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39. 0 . 0

28. 5 . 5

PLUS IRON

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PLUS IRON

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PLUS IRON

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21. 0 . 20

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40. 0 . 0

22. 5 . 10

PLUS TRACE ELEMENTS

0 . 0 . 45

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18. 9 . 18

PLUS IRON

16. 0 . 15

PLUS IRON

15. 0 . 30

28. 5 . 18

PLUS TRACE ELEMENTS

20. 5 . 30

PLUS TRACE ELEMENTS

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PLUS TRACE ELEMENTS &amp; SEAWEED

34. 0 . 11

PLUS TRACE ELEMENTS &amp; SEAWEED

STEP

# Whatever your type of course

## Scotts can figure it out

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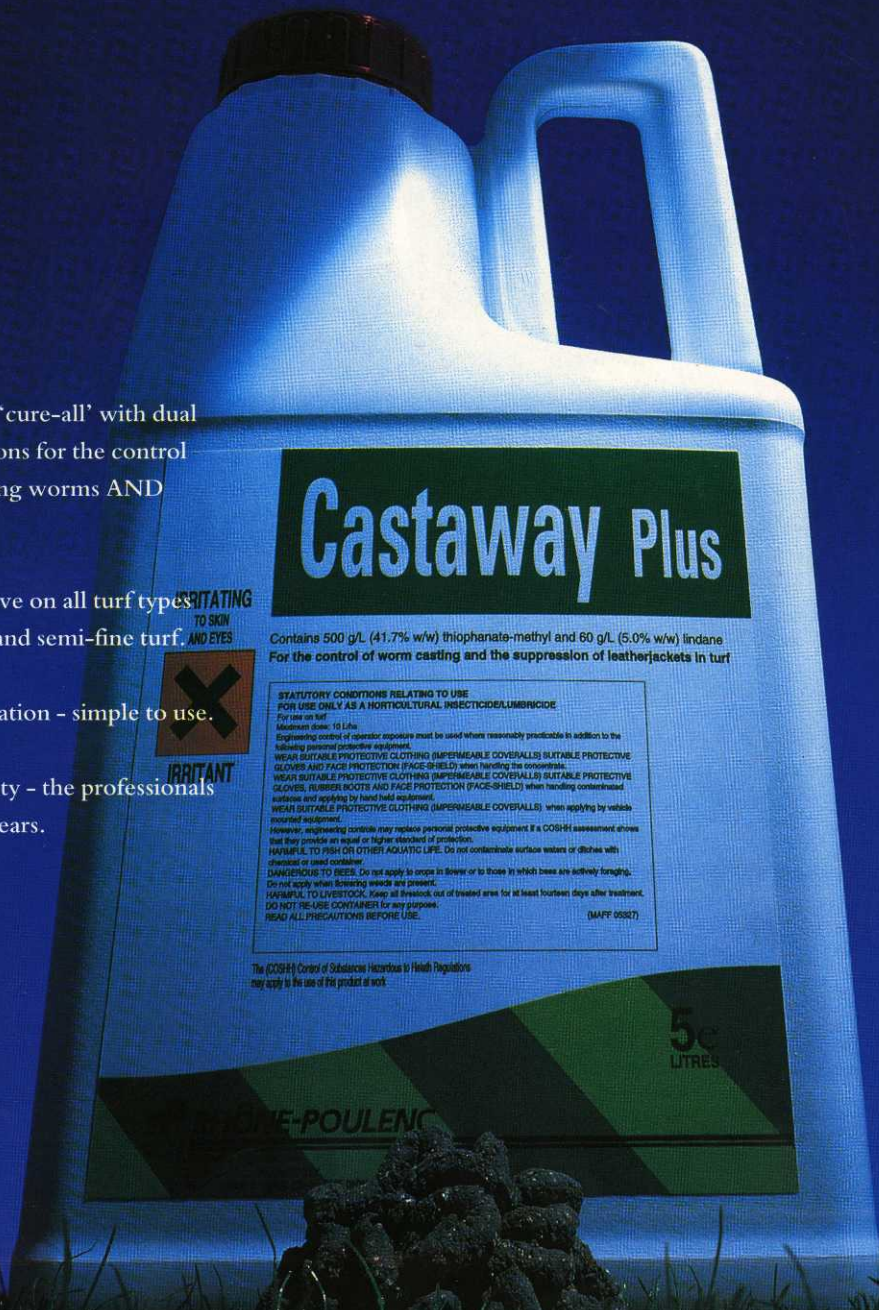
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# Lasting memory for the BIGGA library

BIGGA's library was further enhanced when Gerry Wilkins, Chairman of the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association (BTLIA), presented two copies of the 'Turf Irrigation Manual' to BIGGA Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, during BTME. BTLIA make an annual award to selected organisations, each year, in memory of John Shildrick, who had a great influence on the development of the Association, the Turfgrass Industry and on the development of formal education within the Industry.

In thanking Gerry, Ken stated that the books would do much to help in the education and training of greenkeepers, help to develop the links between BIGGA and BTLIA and to ensure that John's name would be long remembered into the future.



Norman Robb, National Chairman of the IOG, is pictured (left) with Ken Richardson, (right) and Gerry Wilkins.

## Parker Hart acquired by Rigby Taylor

Rigby Taylor has acquired the sales operations of its sister company, Parker Hart of Worcester Park, and will fully integrate the business in the South of England. The combined business will trade as Rigby Taylor with immediate effect under the direction of David Morgan, Regional Managing Director of Rigby Taylor Limited.

Parker Hart will continue its sportsground contracting and turf machinery repair activities from its existing premises at Worcester Park, Surrey.

Various changes in management responsibilities within the Southern region of Rigby Taylor take place as part of this reorganisation. Bernard Tomlin is promoted to the position of Regional Sales Director and Rodger Bowles to Regional Field Sales Manager. Mike Ring and Chris Sharp are promoted to the position of Area Manager. Clive Williams, having tendered his resignation, has left the Company to pursue other interests.

Commenting on the moves

Bernard Hedley, Chairman of Rigby Taylor said "We are confident that by combining the sales and distribution operations of Parker Hart with those of Rigby Taylor we can further improve the already excellent service we offer to customers in the South of England and further strengthen our ability to bring innovative products to the market for both amenity turf use and industrial weed control through our relationships with the world's leading chemical companies."

## Outstanding efforts rewarded at Hayter Awards dinner

The fifth Hayter Awards dinner was held on Tuesday 20th January, the eve of BTME, at the St George Hotel in Harrogate.

This popular event has fast become one of the highlights on the dealer calendar with Hayter dealerships being represented from throughout the world.

Overseas guests were welcomed from Italy, Holland, Sweden and USA, and various guests from BIGGA. Executive Director of the Association, Neil Thomas, accompanied by his wife, Elaine, took time out of a busy week to attend, together with Gordon and Marion Child.

Gordon, as incoming Chairman of BIGGA presented the awards.

UK Top Dealer of the Year award went, for the second time running, to Gibson Machinery Sales, with Stuart Mercer accepting the award on behalf of his company. Runner up in this category was Douglas Ewan of Powershift.

The Overseas Award for 1997 was presented to John O'Flynn and Pat Geaney in recognition of their considerable success in Ireland with the Hayter product.

The Outstanding Dealer award is always widely contested, and is presented to dealers whom

Hayter feel should be recognised for their work on our behalf over the year. This opens the category up to all sizes of companies and is not judged purely on sales. This year's award went to Geo. Brown Implements, of Leighton Buzzard, with special mention to their representative, Steve Lee.

Further awards were made during the ceremony in recognition of the work and dedication on our behalf by several individuals during 1997. These were Steve George of BS Mowers in Bristol, Michael Smith from Irish Farm & Garden and Ernst Myer based in Germany.

## STRI join forces with Robin Hume

STRI Ltd have formed an alliance with Robin Hume Associates to provide a comprehensive irrigation consultancy to complement their existing turf agronomy services.

Irrigation has always been an important aspect of managing sports turf but with the droughts and water restrictions in recent years coupled with rising water costs, it has become a major issue for many golf clubs. The new irrigation consultancy service is particularly appropriate for golf clubs contemplating expansion or improvements to their existing systems but it will also be applicable to other sports facilities. STRI Ltd and Robin Hume Associates can provide a full appraisal of irrigation needs and the associated agronomic factors to ensure efficient and cost effective use of the water available.

## Dick's Bourne free

Dick Reid, Director of Bourne Amenity, is going it alone.

He explained that he has learnt a great deal about the industry over the last seven years and he believes that has enabled him to offer the range of quality products and services that the industry demand.

The trading address for Reid Amenity is: Sherne Cottage, Kildown, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2RT. Tel/Fax 01892 890666

## Congratulations!

Derrick Johnstone, of Cardross Golf Club, has been named Student of the Year at Langside College. Derrick, 20, is currently doing his HNC in Golf Course Management at the college.

## Back together...

All companies within the Inturf Group have been amalgamated and now trade as Turfgrass Services International Ltd. For more information contact Inturf, Regent Street, Pocklington, YO4 2QN Tel: 01759 304101.

I use **RiteFeed** because



It's tailor-made to suit my needs

Steve Dixon, Kingsknowe GC



# Rain won't stop play

The Duke's Course at St Andrews has released information about how it improved the drainage on the course.

The site is at an altitude of 200 feet, north-east facing with a South-west prevailing wind. Formerly arable land, the soil is predominately clay with low infiltration rates. Existing drains were dug by hand, well over 60 years ago.

The challenge posed by the conditions was to collect non-travelling surface water and to intercept sub-surface water resulting from collapsed original drains.

Involving an investment of £235,000, designer Peter Thomson's two-stage solution was the installation of perforated drainage and sand-banding. Work was scheduled for the end of the second season of play, to allow time for observation and to prevent contamination of the sand and gravel by clay particles. Only fairways and surrounds of greens and tees required attention: greens and tees are constructed to USGA standards - free draining, sand based.

Stage One intercepted sub-surface water and prevented water travelling into areas of play. The Duke's received hole by hole analysis and treatment: 100mm pipe was installed at a depth of 350mm, covered by 250mm of pea gravel and 100mm of choker sand. Additional areas were drained with 60mm of pipe at a depth of 300mm with 200mm of pea gravel and 100mm of choker sand.

Stage Two involved the digging of trenches 30mm wide and 225mm deep filled with choker sand. These "Sand-Bands" are positioned between one and two metres apart and have maximum length of 10 metres before they are intercepted by 60 - 100mm perforated drains.

The combined result: 12 month play on a course which previously would have faced significant closures due to rain. Indeed, during Winter '97 (the wettest for many years) not a single day's play was lost.

I use **RiteFeed** because



It satisfies the needs of both myself and the course

Fraser Ross, Renfrew GC

# An award with a silver lining

AT BTME Allen Power Equipment Ltd was presented with a plaque by the National Mower Company, USA, in recognition of 25 year's of National/Allen association in the UK.

National design durable grass cutting machines specifically for the golf course market and their range includes National 84 powered by a Briggs & Stratton 16hp twin "Vanguard" engine and National 68DL with a 7.5hp Kawasaki 4 cycle engine.

Peter Jefferis, Managing Director of, Allen Power Equipment Ltd (Left), and Lance Bassett, Sales Director (Centre) receive a plaque from Stan Rinkead, General Manager, National Mowers, USA, (Right). The plaque marks 25 years of distribution of National mowers in the UK through Allen's national network of dealers.



# New company launched

A new company name, but with familiar faces, was introduced for the first time to the Amenity industry at BTME. Twose Turf & Spray Limited (TTS) is a venture between Twose of Tiverton and the previous management and staff of Hardi Limited, Colin Gregory, Bill Oliver and Richard Tyas.

TTS has already attracted exclusive distributorships of the Greencare range of aerators, the Rogers Windfoil, drift control spray booms and Root Zone Injectors and, from Woodbay, the GreensIron greens roller.

In addition, the company has entered into agreement with the Italian sprayer manufacturer Gambetti Barre to develop a range

of specialist sprayers for the Amenity market.

Operating from a central location in the East Midlands, TTS will also be distributing the range of Twose Amenity products which have built up an enviable reputation over many years.

Commenting on this new venture, Colin Gregory, Managing Director stated, "The Amenity industry demands a better service than it has been given by companies who see it as a 'Cinderella' relation of the Agricultural market. TTS has a strategy to develop and introduce, through its network of specialist dealers, an exciting range of new products for the UK and Ireland Amenity industry."

# Computer controlled?

Merrist Wood Golf Club has just taken delivery of the newly-released Qquest Maintenance Management Software for Windows. Installation and system setup was carried out by Wessex Software Systems, the Qquest Authorised UK Dealer.

The Qquest system, which can be found at a significant number of golf clubs throughout North America and other parts of the world, was developed as a computer based system to simplify and speed up many of the facets of maintaining both equipment and facilities on a golf course.

Managing and scheduling regular maintenance tasks one of the benefits afforded by the programme. Integral with the system is both the control of inventories of spare parts and consumables and also labour costs. Other features include chemical application tracking, departmental budget management and access to electronic parts imaging systems such as Powercom, PartSmart and Plus!

"We intend to use the Qquest system not only for running our maintenance operations at the club, but the College's greenkeeping students, by using the Qquest programme, will gain greater exposure to the necessary administrative aspects of greenkeeping" say Tom Smith, Head Greenkeeper at Merrist Wood.

Guy Coleman of Wessex reports that Wessex is developing a special educational establishment pricing package for Qquest Maintenance Management Software.

For further information Tel: 01798 831020

# Training initiative for Wales

A new training initiative from the Welsh College of Horticulture combines training agency skills with the academic excellence provided by the College tutorial staff.

SDA Training limited became an integral part of the College during 1997. This partnership delivers their unparalleled expertise in training, counselling, support and assessment to form a unique link between the Welsh college of horticulture and commercial operators in their NVQ programmes.

Heading the land-based industry section is Phil Davies N.D.T. who joins the Company from Mommersteeg International, where he was Amenity Product Manager.

Phil's experience spans more



than 20 years both as Head Greenkeeper and in the turf Management industry. His primary responsibility will be for Greenkeeper training and support, but will also encompass Landscaping, Commercial Horticulture, Floristry and BAGMA Engineering.



# Are you over the limit?

Paul Bishop, Course Manager at Manor House GC, in Castle Combe, telephoned the magazine to pass on a cautionary tale which resulted from his run-in with the local constabulary.

Paul was stopped by the police as he returned to the course after filling 10 jerrycans with petrol.

"I was told that the maximum amount of petrol you are legally allowed to carry, without having

'Hazchem' signs at the front and back of the vehicle, is one gallon," said Paul. "And these signs have to be removed when you are not carrying petrol.

"You also have to carry a fire extinguisher in the cab and have another larger one fixed to the back of the truck," he added.

Paul was allowed to carry on with no more than a warning but he has since been on a course in Petrol and

Handling Petrol, while his mechanic has built a special frame for the truck which will safely hold up to 10 jerrycans and which allows them to be strapped down securely.

"We have 40 buggies at our club which all require fuel but at most golf clubs the staff often have to fill three or four jerrycans," said Paul.

"If they have been unaware of the regulations I hope that my tale will be of interest to them."

## All change at Hardi UK

Nick Tremlett has been appointed as Managing Director of Hardi Limited.

"Nick will have responsibility for our UK operation and has been appointed to Hardi's Strategic Planning Executive to continue to ensure that all our UK customer requirements are integrated into our current and future product development plans, strategies and initiatives - we could not have wished for a better start for 1998," said Sten Kjelstrup, Sales and Marketing Director for Hardi International A/S.

Nick worked for Massey Ferguson for 11 years where he held Sales and Marketing positions both in the UK and overseas. Prior to leaving he was their Business Operations Manager responsible for AGCO's interests in Southern Africa.

For the past two years Nick has been working for UFB Humberclyde (the French based European Financier UFB Lacabail's subsidiary), developing their manufacturing relationships in the UK.

Summing up his reasons for joining Hardi, he said, "The opportunity of heading up Hardi Ltd is an exciting and challenging prospect, the company has established an enviable global reputation with its products and in its commitment to meet customers requirements."

## Multi-core aerator opens up the market



Multi-core has added a two metre wide model to its range of tractor-mounted aerators.

Developed to enable greenkeepers, groundstaff and contractors to carry out fast, effective aeration of large, open turf areas, the British-built MC 20 aerator complements the existing one metre and one and a half metre wide machines in the Multi Core range.

All three aerators can be equipped with a choice of solid, coring, slicing or chisel tines to suit specific

turf needs and seasonal aeration requirements.

Aeration pattern is variable depending on the specific tine head and forward speed selected.

The MC 20 is able to aerate from the surface down to a maximum 125mm deep, quickly and easily adjusted without tools on a large diameter fill width front roller. Indicator markings on the machine assist with accurate depth setting.

For further information Tel: 01937 843281

## New Midland Help Line

The Midland Region has set up a support group on a six month trial basis. Because of the many factors involved in forming such a project, it was thought advisable to begin with a trial which would serve as a learning time, allowing us to assess demand and costs before embarking upon further training for support group (members) for other regions.

"The formation of this project comes from the many concerns we have about the high percentage of greenkeepers who are suffering from stress as a result of pressure at work. This often has a knock-on effect, leading to more serious illness, thus affecting families and also places of work," said BIGGA Past Chairman Paddy McCarron.

"We are also aware that the demands on today's greenkeepers are many and varied and ever-increasing with all-year-round golf. People's expectations at times are too high for the greenkeeper to deal with and because of financial constraints and course limitations and/or poor communications, difficulties build up. It may be that the golf club and the greenkeeper are just not compatible," explained Paddy.

"It is also a concern that too many greenkeepers are looking to change their jobs, often for the wrong reasons as many may be suffering from stress during the time that their grievances are developing. What we are saying is: Talk to us first.

"Our desire is to see more greenkeepers happy in their work and more golf clubs happy with their greenkeepers. We do not promise success - that depends on you, but we are there to talk to," said Paddy.

The service will be totally confidential and the only cost to the caller will be that of the telephone call. Appointments will be necessary if someone wishes to talk in person.

"Thanks to A.L.S. Amenity Land Services for their financial support of this worthy cause," said Paddy.

Telephone: 0116 2739189 or 01480 437507

## Go West this April

Westurf '98, on April 29, at Long Ashton Golf Club is offering the opportunity to meet and chat with experts in many industry fields.

The "Meet the Experts" Marquee will have representatives from Symbio, Astara, Scotts, Supaturf, EBA, STRI, Avoncrop, Breton Precast, BIGGA as well as Sparsholt, Hartpury, Pencoed and Cannington colleges.

The show, will also boast a wide range of machinery and equipment, a pitch and putt competition while for the first time there will be full catering and a licensed bar.

Jim Arthur will also be at the show to sign copies of his book "Practical Greenkeeping" to be sold at a special exhibition price.

The show starts at 10am and runs until 4pm.

## Make mine a Bailey's!

After the success of last year's golf competitions Bailey's of Norfolk have decided to hold two competitions this year. Both to be played at Royal Cromer G.C. on April 21 & August 11. Entry is free and includes a carvery meal at the evening prize giving. Each competition will be divided into 0-14 and 15 - 28 Handicap categories. Prizes for each event will be worth in excess of £500!

For further information call Bailey's on 01603 754607

I use **RiteFeed** because



It suits my course  
Alastair Tough, Muckhart GC



## Seaweed success for Maxicrop

Maxicrop launched ProGreen Spi, a formulation of Seaweed Extract, iron (6%), nitrogen (2%) and a Spray Pattern Indicator at BTME. This new product is recommended for use prior to tournaments to provide a rapid green-up response, or when long-term in-season greening is required.

Containing a non-staining Spray Pattern Indicator, ProGreen Spi ensures that the spray operator can apply an easily seen, uniform and consistent spray pattern on the turf.

As a Plant Growth Stimulant, Maxicrop ProGreen Spi will assist in restoring the natural microbial population balance in the soil and, when applied as part of a Plant Growth Management programme, will 'kick start' turf growth, boosting health and vigour, additionally, applications of ProGreen Spi will impart a natural 'green-up' appearance to the turf and promote the growth hardening process.

For further information Tel: 01536 402182

## Early bird set to fly down under

Ten years of unflinching service to Turfand was recognised on the retirement of George Slobon from the company.

Having never had a day of sick in his time at the company time cards prove that he clocked in at 7.02am every morning for his 7.30am start and he took a genuine pride in his work.

With daughter about to give birth to twins in New Zealand the retiring present of two return tickets Down Under, for himself and his wife Joan, could not have been more welcome.

The tickets along with other gifts were presented to George by Janet Watmore of Turfand.

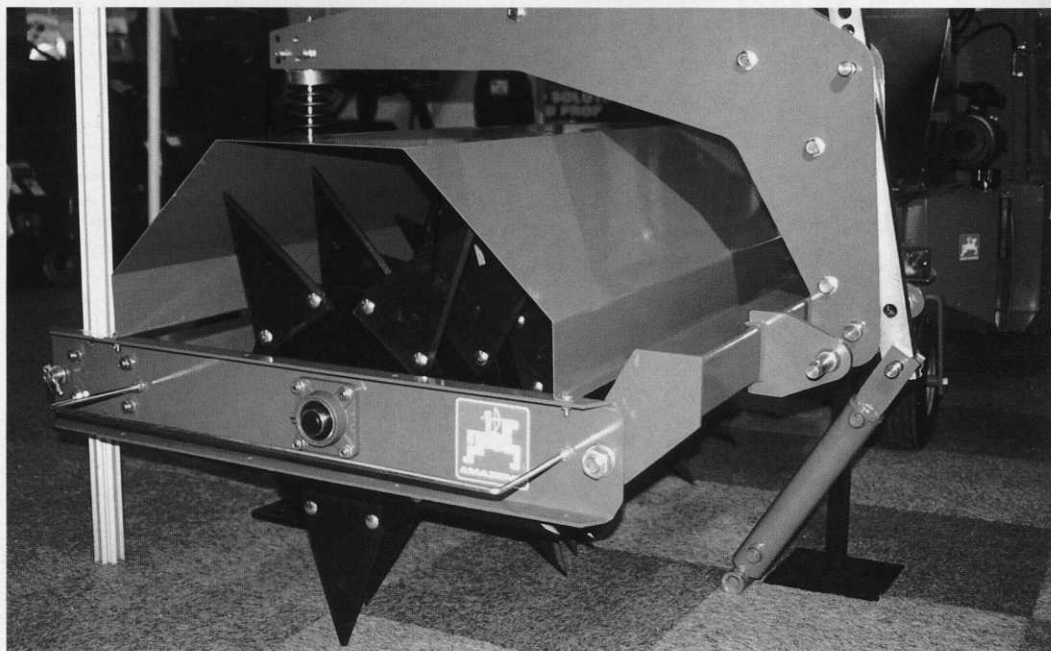
I use **RiteFeed** because



It's the right feed for my course

Chris Yeaman, Swanston GC

# The pressure point



Amazone Ground Care marked its return to BTME with the unveiling of the pre-production models of two of its new four-model range of slit/aerators. They incorporate a unique blade configuration that ensures high point pressure across the full width of the implement at high operating speeds, while exerting 91kg/point pressure for entry into the thickest thatch.

Designated the Amazone SL, SLC

and SLS series, all are three-point linkage mounted and will be available in working widths of 1.2 metres and 2.4 metres. SLS models also feature a new contour following system.

The SL forms the base of the new range and is intended for working on flat ground.

Its fully enclosed 1.2m-wide ground-driven rotor is fitted with 40 blades, each of which, uniquely,

is mounted with a 10 degree offset.

With that pattern all the points in contact with the surface penetrate the ground to an equal depth when the slit is driven forward - so eliminating the 'walking' effect associated with some blade layouts - and ensuring the implement remains level at high forward speeds.

For further information Tel: 01579 351155.

## New soil reliever from Huxley

Huxley's new Soil Reliever 72 makes vertical deep tine aeration a much faster and easier and more economical operation.

Like the successful Soil Reliever 60, the Model 72 requires a 35hp tractor, and yet its maximum output is 20,000 square foot per hour - almost 50% more than the Model 60.

The 72" operating width covers most tractor tyre tracks, and makes the Soil Reliever 72 an ideal aerator for larger areas such as sportsfields and golf course fairways - but without the need for a large tractor.

Although a heavy duty machine, the Soil Reliever 72 is also gentle enough to aerate greens, where a clean, immaculate finish can be achieved.

Easy adjustments and low maintenance requirements are important features of the machine. Even the tine operating depth is simple to adjust by control of the optional hydraulic top link from the driver's seat.

For further information Tel: 01962 733222.





# Saxon's launch floats away

Saxon Industries launched its their new, top of the range, 'Floating Head' greens mower at BTME

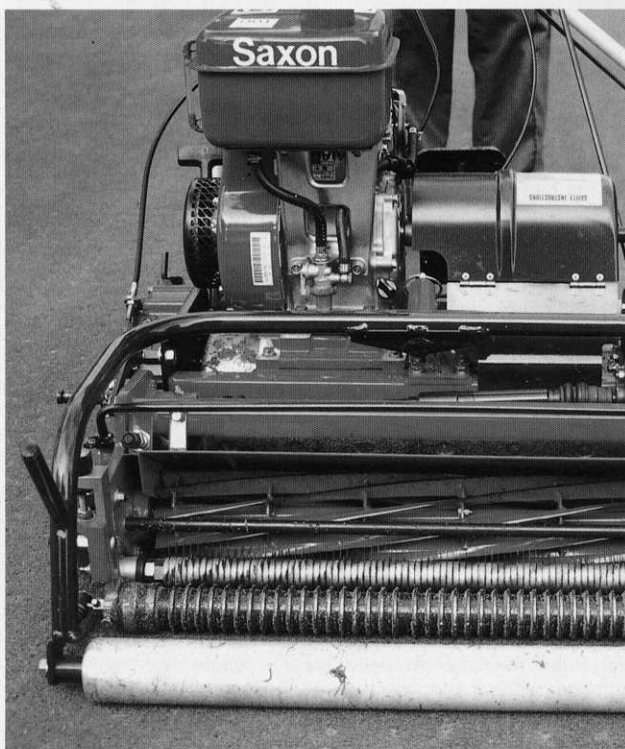
"The height of cut of the nine blade, 22-inch cutting cylinder of this top spec machine is continuously variable from as short as 2.5 millimetres up to 10 millimetres," claimed Richard Horn, Saxon's Horticulture Division Director.

"But the fully floating head provides the ultimate finesse, accurately following the contours of the slightest undulation to give a consistent height of cut over every green, including McKenzies."

Easily transported on quick release pneumatic tyres, the Floating Head mower is powered by a 3.5 hp Robin petrol engine, linked to an all gear drive transmission, which gives a speed of 3 - 5 mph.

Electronic ignition and hand operated drum brakes make control simple and a Light plastic, quick fit and- release grass box handles cuttings.

For further information Tel: 01488 684545



## Pumped up!

Recently introduced into Spalding's range of workshop equipment is a high performance 30cc petrol driven 7-stroke clean water pump.

The unit say Spaldings, is ideal for the fast movement of water around many farm applications including emptying tanks and supplying emergency water supplies to stock.

The high performance electronic ignition petrol engine has a forged steel crankshaft and control for strength and reliability. The pump has a 150l/min capacity and is capable of pumping water up to a maximum head of 35 metres and drawing water a maximum of seven metres.

The pump unit features a large plastic base with rubber shock absorbers for maximum stability whilst still maintaining the pumps lightweight and compact design.

For further information Tel: 01522 500600



## College gets boost from NTC

The National Turfgrass Council is donating £16,000 to Myerscough College to enhance its comprehensive library of turfgrass resources. The money will be used to supplement the John Shildrick Memorial Collection of books and slides, already held at the college.

The Memorial Collection was donated to the college following the death of Mr Shildrick, the first NTC Chief Executive, in 1994. This new bequest will enable the college to further develop the collection, providing sportsturf students, researchers and academics with one of the

most comprehensive turfgrass reference points in Europe.

Myerscough was selected ahead of a number of other colleges and research institutions, because of its high standards of education and the excellent facilities it possesses to support the turfgrass industry.

## Going up?

The London Golf Club has installed a Rotary TL07E turf maintenance equipment lift, designed for service and maintenance work on grass cutting and golf cart equipment.

The Rotary TL07E is extremely easy to load and operate - wheels are automatically chocked and engaged for safety. Twin hydraulic cylinders with minimum moving parts give smooth lifting operation. Robust 'double S'-shaped columns provide a smooth bearing surface for extended column life. It has a lifting capacity of 1,100kg for three wheel machines and 2300kg for four-wheel plant.

A key benefit is the baseless construction which affords excellent access and a floor area clear of hazards. Checking and adjusting roller height for optimum efficiency is quick and simple. Clear access to the mowers' facing front plates on the bottom blades means they can be cleaned, sharpened, adjusted and measurably improves grass cutting performance. Access to areas such as linkages, hoses and previously inaccessible grease nipples, means planned maintenance is more comprehensive.

For further information Tel: 01322 294949.

## Movement at Rhône-Poulenc

Following the promotion of Jonathan Hill to the European Zone Headquarters in Dusseldorf Rhône-Poulenc Amenity is pleased to announce the appointment of David Agar to the post of Market Development Manager.

David has been promoted from the Rhône-Poulenc Agriculture team where he managed a group of herbicide products that included Asulox. Having joined the company eight years ago as a graduate entrant, David has held several positions including a successful period in Customer Services.

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# Kubota event gets a new look

Kubota, is sponsoring a new knockout golf tournament for teams of two players representing golf clubs from throughout the United Kingdom. Known as the Kubota Golf Club Challenge, the event succeeds the Kubota Golf Challenge which had been sponsored by the Thame based company over the past 15 years.

Organised by Sporting Concepts Ltd, the Kubota Golf Club Challenge is open to the first 500 clubs to accept the entry invitation by the closing date of 31 March 1998.

Ideally, the team representing the

invited golf clubs will comprise the Secretary and the Head Greenkeeper to provide continuity to Kubota's long-term relationship with the Association of Golf Club Secretaries and BIGGA.

The Kubota Golf Club Challenge is to be staged in two parts. First will be a series of carded match play rounds played between pairs of randomly drawn clubs on a knockout basis from April through to August. Following the knockout stage, the 15 remaining clubs will contest a Grand Final at Woodhall Spa Golf Club in Lincolnshire.

The winning club will be decided on the aggregate scores of the two team members over 36 holes, on October 5 and 6.

"Kubota recognises the close association being forged between golf club Secretaries and Head Greenkeepers and is delighted to be sponsoring a tournament which brings the two together to represent their club," commented Rene Orban, Kubota's Director of Agricultural and Grass Machinery Sales.

"Instead of competing against each other as previously in the Kubota Golf Challenge, they will now be

playing as a team, better reflecting their day to day relationship at their own golf course."

Director of the Kubota Golf Club Challenge, Peter McEvoy, pointed out that the event's predecessor had proved tremendously successful over 15 years. "However, we felt that the time was right to move to a new format where secretaries and greenkeepers played together as a club team," he said.

"The final at Woodhall Spa, the home of the EGU, promises to be a memorable occasion for all those taking part."

## The Building Fund needs you!

The Building Fund Needs You! BIGGA is looking for volunteers to build on the magnificent launch given to the "Buy a Brick" raffle in aid of the Association's new Headquarters and Training facility at BTME.

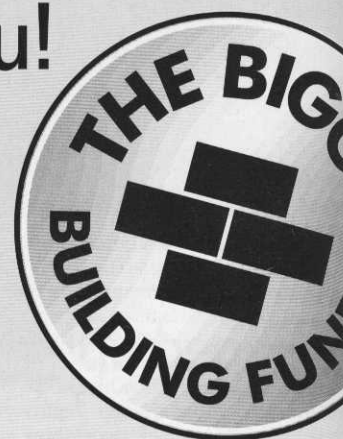
During Harrogate week Board of Management Members proved themselves to be superb salesmen when it came to selling raffle tickets and the number of Gold Brick Badges on lapels showed just how

many people had bought £50 worth of tickets. Silver and bronze badges, at £25 and £5 respectively, also found their way on to various items of clothing and the money raised during this one event alone reached many thousands.

Since then Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries have been issued with packs of tickets and badges to sell at various events throughout the next few months but if anyone would wish to lend

his or her support to the Building Fund by selling tickets and badges we would be delighted to hear from you.

The campaign will end at BIGGA's annual golf day in June with the drawing of the raffle prizes. Please contact Tony Cocker at BIGGA Headquarters Tel: 01347 838581.



## NORTH STAFFS IRRIGATION

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## THE RiteFeed CLASSIC

The chance to represent your Region at Gleneagles is incentive enough to spend more time on the practice range in preparation for the Ritefeed Classic Sectional and Regional Qualifiers.

As was the case with the previous Hayter Challenges three qualifiers from each of the three handicap sections 0-9, 10-18 and 19-28 will win a place in the Regional Finals which are also being played at superb venues with the same three groups of three making up the team for the final.

**June 11**

Scottish Region - Royal Dornoch GC

**June 29**

Northern Region - Mere Golf & CC

**June 24**

Midland Region - Stoke Poges GC

**June 29**

South East Region - Wildernesse GC

**June 4**

South West and South Wales Region  
St Mellion Golf and Country Club

**Oct 7**

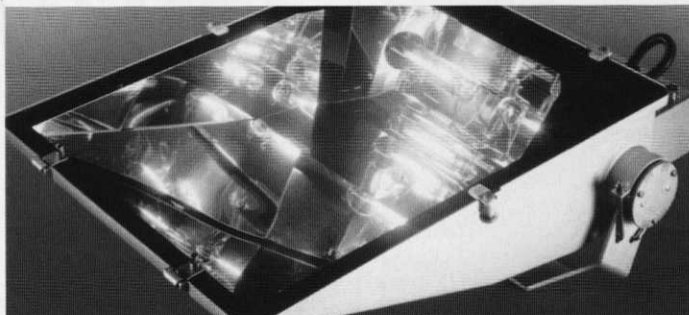
Ritefeed Classic National Final -  
The Gleneagles Hotel

## Management lead buy-out at Rolawn

Rolawn has been the subject of a successful £3.35 million management buy-out following a complex agreement with the company's 475 shareholders.

The buy-out was led by the company's Managing Director, Ken Dawson, and Finance Director, Paul Hopewell and was funded by Lloyd's Development Capital.

"We can now concentrate on the business 100% without any of the distractions that a diverse shareholder base brings," explained Ken Dawson, who co-founded the company 23 years ago.



Design enhancements to one of Sill Lighting's most popular floodlights, have resulted in a luminaire of even greater efficiency.

The precision engineered Sill 400 series floodlight, made in high pressure diecast aluminium and has a computer calculated and designed reflector, which is made of super-purified aluminium, produces a 66

degree beam and makes for an outstanding 87% efficiency.

The lighting technology allows the floodlight to be mounted parallel to the illuminated area - with no upward tilt commonplace with other luminaires - so completely eliminating glare and lightspill.

For further information Tel: 01844 260006.

## Even when it pours...

Amenity Technology has launched a new digital rain gauge which can be easily fastened outside and has a digital display which is mounted inside which displays daily and cumulative rainfall.

The gauge does not require to be emptied and provides precise rainfall information at a glance with the minimum of effort.

For further information Tel: 0118 951 0033.



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This month, Tim Kirk looks at the protective clothing issues connected with chainsaw use...

# Sharp dresser

Last month we looked at the Health and Safety issues involved in the training of chain saw operators. This month we will look at the requirements of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

As from July 1, 1995 manufacturers are not permitted to produce leg protection (trousers and leggings), foot protection or head and ear protection that does not comply with the relevant European Standards and CE requirements that apply to them. All items of chainsaw protective clothing must have its relevant EN number on the article and packaging. This does not apply to PPE that had entered the chainsaw prior to July 1 therefore there will be a natural overlap until the 'old' equipment has worked through the system.

All items of chainsaw PPE do not protect by utilising the same method. There are three main functional principles involved; to provide a surface that the chainsaw will not readily bite into; by using fibres that have a high resistance to cutting and absorb rotational energy which reduces chain speed; and the use of long loosely woven fibres that will be pulled into the cutting train and clog the chain rotation.

All operators of chainsaws must wear PPE which consists of a safety helmet, suitable eye protection, ear defenders, gloves with protective guarding on the back of the left hand, leg protection incorporating clogging material, safety boots with protective guarding at the front vamp and instep with a good grip and non snag outer clothing. They should also have with them a first aid kit including a large wound dressing and hand cleaning materials waterless skin cleanser or soap and water.

Any item of chainsaw PPE that is damaged, worn or no longer serviceable should be replaced immediately. The worn piece of equipment should be discarded so that there is no danger of it being 're-issued'.

chainsaw PPE only acts to mitigate against injury and does not prevent accidents occurring. Operators should be trained in its correct use and care.

Routes to certification - The first chainsaw Certificates of Competence appeared as a direct result of the Health & Safety Executive Guidance Note GS48 and were issued by the NPTC (National Proficiency Test Council). At the time it was thought that the relevant Vocational Qualifications (VQ) units would have equal recognition.

Various problems arose and trainees wishing to claim the NPTC Certificate paid twice for confirmation of the same competence. The Forestry & Arboriculture Safety & Training Council then took the decision to partner the Business

and Technology Education Council in England and Wales. BTEC was happy to take on board FASTCo's ideas to improve the VQ units and at the same time issue competence certification based on the new VQ units.

In effect there are now three different routes to certification, the first by way of a stand-alone competence test administered by the NPTC, the second by a BTEC/SCOTVEC competence certification derived from a VQ achievement and finally by NPTC competence certification derived from a NPTC VQ achievement.

In the next issue we will look at the safe working practices when using a petrol powered chainsaw.

For further information on training courses and consultancy contact Agenda Training Limited (Jean John on 01282 831973) or Tim Kirk of T. Kirk Forestry on 01484 685114.

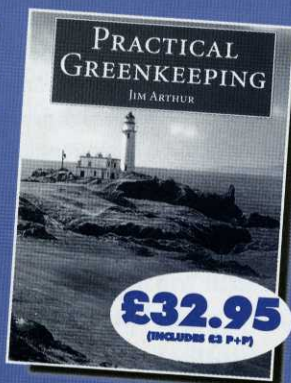
## ON COURSE WITH BIGGA EDUCATION

### Practical Greenkeeping by Jim Arthur

No one knows more about golf greenkeeping than Jim Arthur, who with a career spanning six decades has given priceless guidance and advice to over 350 golf clubs throughout the U.K. and Europe, while also acting as consultant agronomist to the Championship Committee of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews. Now, in *Practical Greenkeeping*, Jim Arthur reveals how golf courses can flourish by following traditional methods, which the reader will soon discover are not only the most simple but also the most effective.

For the new generation of student and trainee greenkeepers, *Practical Greenkeeping* will be indispensable, providing a valuable insight into the nuts and bolts of traditional golf course management, while it should be required reading for all golfers who seek a greater understanding of what goes on behind the scenes. Seasoned golf course managers also will be inspired by Jim Arthur's championing of their cause, while prizing the confirmation that they are firmly on the right lines; his words their finest ally.

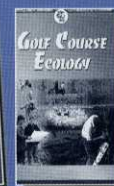
Finally, every chairman and member of a golf club green committee, clutching their copy of *Practical Greenkeeping*, should beat a path down Jim Arthur's well-proven route. It could well lead to the salvation of their golf courses, while making them look awfully clever into the bargain!



### Golf Course Presentation

"This booklet is a must for all course managers because when a tournament player, or even an amateur golfer, leaves a golf course they remember how it looked, not how fast it played." Mike Merrick, Course Manager, Penina Golf Complex, Algarve, Portugal.

"Presentation is one of the most important features for the staff to devote their time to and this booklet is full of valuable advice." Jack McMillan, ex-Course Manager, Sunningdale and Course and Consultant.



### Golf Course Preparation Video

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### Raising the Standards of Mowing Management Video

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# Avoiding creepy crawlies

## Destructive Turfgrass Insects

by Daniel A Potter

Published by Ann Arbor Press  
ISBN 1575040239  
Price £45

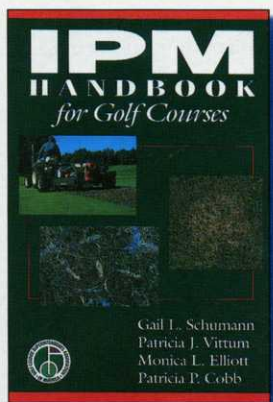
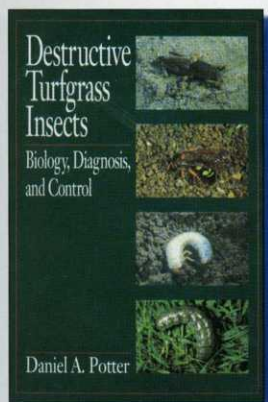
Designed primarily for the American market, this book never the less contains some useful, general information on the management and eradication of turf grass pests, including a general chapter on Turfgrass and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Some of the references to insects, and mammals are of little concern to British greenkeepers eg. I have yet to hear of a nine banded armadillo damaging turf in this country. However, it does look at many pests which cause damage or threaten golfers, eg. wasps, on British golf courses. Care should be taken when considering chemicals to control pests as chemicals registered in the US may not be available here and vice versa. In general, this book, would be useful as a general reference book and a source of some very useful information if care is taken to ensure that the advice conforms with British Regulations. (The nine banded armadillo is found in the South Western States of the US and creates problems when digging for worms and grubs).

## IPM Handbook for Golf Courses

by Gail Schumann, Patricia J Vittum, Monica L Elliott  
Patricia P Cobb

Published Ann Arbor Press for the GCSAA  
Price £37

The joint authors of this book are all academics who have been involved in research on turfgrass diseases, insects, biological controls and pesticide application. The book originated from the ideas presented at a GCSAA seminar on IPM, which has been presented across the US. The book suggests that as more controls are introduced on the use of chemicals, greenkeepers need to introduce a system of pest and disease management which takes full advantage of natural checks and balances to keep turfgrass healthy. Each chapter gives detailed procedures for Site Assessment, Monitoring, Cultural Controls, Chemical Controls, Pest Management, New Technologies and How to Introduce an IPM Strategy. As in the previous book, some of the pests, diseases and control methods may not be familiar to British Greenkeepers, however, the general ideas and procedures are of value and this book would be a very good guide to anyone wishing to introduce an IPM plan or, indeed, anyone wishing to compare their methods to some used in the US.



Both books are available by mail order from; Cassell Plc,  
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**Trevor Smith, Superintendent at Predator Ridge, in Canada, talks about the need to produce more than an excellent golf course to enjoy a prosperous career...**

# If the cap fits...

As superintendents (greenkeepers) there are a number of situations where, although your golf course is in good shape and you're doing all the right things agronomically, you can find yourselves out of work.

Why is that? Well, it doesn't have anything to do with agronomics, but it has a lot to do with politics and economics.

How many of us are willing to listen to someone tell us that we're wrong? That is something that we have to be able to do if we are to keep our jobs and be competitive in the job world. We have got to be able to sit down and listen objectively.

Another question would be. How many of you are happy working just where you are right now and don't want to move and how many of you would like to move into higher management positions?

Being a superintendent is what I started doing, but because the game is so diverse, and the business is so diverse, I find myself being

involved in a number of different areas. It's my feeling that you don't have to stay just with being a superintendent. There's a lot of opportunity out there, and it's important for you to take advantage of it.

It's about realising your potential, because you are an untapped source. It's not going to cost the club any more money to have you think than they're already paying right now, and I think that we can control our situation a lot better than we do right now.

One of the little techniques to help you understand what you're doing and what your value is to your employer is to do your CV. Look at all the things that you've done for your club, all your accomplishments and list them. If it's only one thing, it's better than no things. But if there's nothing down on that CV then maybe you should look at yourself.

We can all sit down at our golf course and say, "I hope it doesn't rain tomorrow, because I've put the fertiliser on... and if this works, and this works and this works, then you know, I'll maybe have Saturday and Sunday off." Well, Saturday and Sunday, whether you're at work or not, you're at work.

It's a matter of how you use your ideas, take a chance, do



something different - try a new way to apply fertilisers - if you've been using granulars all your life, work out an opportunity to spray. If you stay the same, that's where you're going to be, and it's important.

You want to invent something. When you wake up in the morning there's this little guy inside you who says "Why don't you try doing this?" and 20 minutes later you think "No, no, no, people will think I'm foolish or I'll make a mistake. I'll get fired." Well nine times out of ten that guy is right, but we don't take the opportunity. Listen to him, make calculated risks because if you take that chance, then something's definitely going to happen for you.

What was the last golf course

management innovation you saw which took your breath away? When was the last time you saw something amazing? I haven't seen anything in a long time. We've chugged along, improving certain things, but there's nobody out there just jumping in with their great outstanding new management tool. And I think that that's the kind of thing that we can do.

There are several main issues that face greenkeepers today, and this was a study that was done through the GCSAA and these came to a head. One of them is job security, there's a lot of very, very uncomfortable golf superintendents out there.

Replacement by lower salaried employees was identified as one of the problems.

Basically the issues amount to one and the same. How can you show your employer that you're worthy of your remuneration? Well, it's down to you and whether you're going to sit back and worry about someone taking your job, or whether you're going to be proactive and make sure that your job security is based on the value that you give your employer.

The key to success is attitude and how you relate that attitude to those around you, especially your employers. Growing grass just isn't going to be enough. It takes people



## Three leading MM golf mixtures, quality







to do it, and how you manipulate those people or how you get those people to do the job for you is probably just as important as the technology that you have to apply.

As greenkeepers, if we sit back and allow the world to push us around and dictate what it is that we're going to do, then we're powerless. We don't have that ability to make an impact or to control the destiny in our lives. What we have to do is just take advantage of every little opportunity that's out there.

You have to understand yourself. What do you want? If you want to stay in one place all the time, that's fine, but do a little bit. A little more value added business will keep you in that position for longer. Don't sit still because powerlessness is basically a state of mind and it's up to you to improve it.

As a greenkeeper do you have anything to do with sales, revenue, marketing, accounting or customer satisfaction? Well, you actually have everything to do with all four of those things. If you don't think having a golf course in good condition doesn't generate sales, you're crazy.

I like to think about many different ideas. Lots of golf clubs have Starters who get the people off on time. Well, why not

have a Finisher?

Why not have a person who goes to the 18th hole and says "Gee, Joe, did you have a good game? Well let me write that down, and I'll take note of it." Why don't we give that Finisher an opportunity to make that person's day good, even if he's had 17 bad holes.

That's coming from a greenkeeper. That's not the Clubhouse Manager having that idea, that's my idea. Those can be your ideas, and those are the things that don't have to cost the golf club very much money. If they don't work, it doesn't really matter, but they might and it will make the difference once again in your security.

Being a greenkeeper is really a "wow" job.

I've had great opportunities.

It's such a diverse industry, that it's no wonder everyone and their dog wants to be involved in the golf business. But take advantage of it.

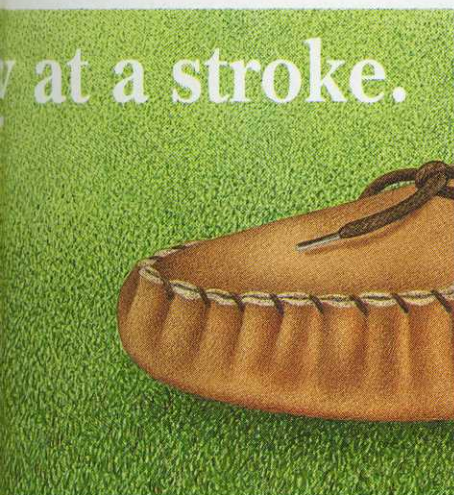


your systems up so that you have probationary periods for new employees. Watch them work.

Or you see a waiter who does a great job. He hustles, he watches his manners, he's there when he should be, he's not there when he shouldn't be. What would be wrong with hiring someone like that? Look for talent in other areas as well because if they've got the attitude, you can train them to run that greens mower. What you want is attitude.

But be fairly certain about what it is that you want once you get them through the door, because there's very few bad dogs, there's just lots of bad owners. We train them how to be bad.

Edited extracts from Trevor Smith's, paper "Golf Course Economics and Politics (When Turf is Not Enough)" at this year's National Education Conference in Harrogate. Trevor is a Past President of the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents' Association.



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Leamington & County Golf Club green staff have been busy over the winter months as Scott MacCallum found out...

# Cold comfort



There was once a perception among some golf club members that as soon as the final putt was downed by the final threeball in the final summer medal of the year that the greens staff went into hibernation. Not the conventional sort of hibernation we read about in nature books or which all of my generation can remember Blue Peter's tortoise enjoying.



# Cold comfort

We thirtysomethings are bound to recall the world's first transsexual pet - Fred becoming Freda with nothing more than the simple addition of a non toxic painted vowel. No, apparently greenkeepers enjoyed a different type of hibernation. With grass growing, at worst, slowly and without the number of golfers braving the elements winter months were spent painting out-of-bounds and lateral water hazard markers, revarnishing benches, sending machinery out to be serviced, tidying the mess room, oh yes, and playing cards. Every so often, so rumour had it, they would look up from an unpromising hand of three card brag, gaze out of the window, and depending on the weather, decide to move the pins either off or on the temporary greens.

To some club members the greenkeeper's job appeared as seasonal as that of the lifeguard on Blackpool beach.

If that was what club members might have thought in the past there is certainly no excuse for thinking that fewer pints of blood, sweat and tears are spilt in the bleak mid winter than at any other time of the year. Certainly not if you were to visit Leamington & County Golf Club where so much has been achieved over the winter months the staff should, by rights, be tested for performance enhancing steroids.

Head Greenkeeper, Des Compton, and his five man team have been busy and when the fair weather members dust down their Calloways for their seasonal debuts later this month they will see some significant developments to their course.

Not only will they find a brand new 11th tee to go with a brand

new 11th green, they will be able to see the green from the clubhouse window for the first time in living memory due to the extensive scrub clearance which has been done. In addition, preparation work for the new greenkeeper maintenance facility has been completed while the team has had to keep on top of the additional winter mowing brought about by the unusually mild conditions.

"The first major job was the 11th green. It had deteriorated very quickly over the summer with the annual meadow grass dying off and we couldn't bring it back," explained Des, of the short tree lined par-3 which is one of the feature holes on the course.

Des works extremely closely with his Deputy, Robin Wilcox.

"Originally we had looked at redoing our two putting greens first as an experiment so as not to disturb the course and then, on the back of that, start of the course," explained Rob.

In the end the 11th's downturn made the decision for them but the fact that Leamington boasts 19 greens anyway meant that there was no disruption to play.

"Our proper 1st in the summer becomes the winter 11th and our spare green becomes the 1st. At the end of the summer we mow out a fairway to the practice green and move the fairway over.

"What it meant was that even if the 11th green hadn't gone it would have been the perfect one to have started with as it is out of commission in the winter anyway," explained Des.

Having taken the decision to go ahead last September the club com-



missioned John Greasley to build the new green and Andy Cole, of the STRI, to oversee the work.

"I met with them at the beginning of November when we did the ground work - assessing how the machinery was going to get in, the actual design and what trees we would have to remove. Andy Cole then went away and did a report on the agronomy. We were doing it to the USGA guidelines," said Des.

The green was completed the day before Christmas Eve, taking around four weeks in all, and Andy





Cole spent quite a bit of time on site testing all the materials before they were used at each stage.

The new green is 150 square metres bigger than its predecessor was, and on Andy's advice, washed turf supplied by Rolawn was used.

"We didn't consider seeding because we wanted to get the green in play as soon as we could and while it is more expensive initially to turf it is far cheaper in the long run," explained Rob.

While still considering the time factor Leamington's extra green

meant there was no real pressure from the club to force the green into action quickly.

"It will be a decision between Andy and myself and we both need to agree," said Des, who estimated that while it may be ready in June he would be happy to keep play off until July.

The benefits of the new green have already been witnessed. While the wettest spell in five years flooded many of the other greens, closing the course, the new 11th drained well.

By the beginning of February they had also mown the new green once and taken away ten boxes of clippings.

"We are delighted with the results and with the work of the contractor who also put in a path for us to the left of the green which had we done it ourselves would have been a huge

job," added Des.

The success of the 11th should lead to inroads into the remaining greens which look likely to be done in batches.

"If we decided to do three or four a year we would also do the tees and the bunkers at the same time," revealed Des.

The new 11th tee was built by Rob and another member of the team, Mike Wyatt.

"We didn't want to change the shape or the distance of the hole to avoid the need for the card to be amended but what we wanted to do was level the tee, as they had tended to be quite uneven and we were losing teeing space," said Rob.

"We hired the surveying equipment, took levels from all over the tee and got an average. By working to that it meant we were not left with much excess soil and disrup-

tion was minimal," he explained and the small pile of soil to the right hand side of the tee borne testimony to their work.

Once the tee, which is 50 square metres larger than the original, was levelled the entire team got together and turfed it in half a day.

Alongside the construction work the scrub clearance was in full swing turning a wooded area of dense growth into something in which members would have a better than even chance of finding a ball.

"The membership can now sit in the clubhouse and see the new 11th green that they've paid for whereas before the view was blocked by the growth," said Des.

Another benefit of the work, which is on-going was highlighted by Rob.

"The wind comes from the west and will blow through and dry out the green. It will get much more light and air."

With the bulk of the winter work completed the green's team are looking forward to August when they can move into the new custom-built maintenance facility which will boast everything the modern team could possibly need as well as a much needed doubling in floor space to cope with the existing machinery as well as the new equipment which has been ordered but put on hold until the storage become available.

"We are having a disabled shower put in as, although we don't have any disabled staff at the moment, we don't know in the future," explained Des, who along with Rob, put forward their recommendations for the new facility.



# Cold comfort

## Staff

Head Greenkeeper  
Des Compton

Deputy Head Greenkeeper  
Robin Wilcox

Mechanic - Brian James

Assistants - Mike Wyatt,  
Shane Wilton and Keith  
Hawtin

## Equipment Inventory

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Toro 216 Reelmaster

Jacobsen Handmower

Jacobsen Tri-King

Husqvana Ride-On

Massey Ferguson Tractor

Iseki Tractor plus Loader

Verti-drain

Huxley's Scarifier

Flymo

Allman Sprayer

Knapsack

John Deere Fairway  
Gangs

Ransomes Semi-Rough  
Gangs

Strimmers

## Equipment on Order

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Litamizer

Massey Ferguson 4000  
Series Tractor

Husqvana Ride-On Rotary  
Mower



Above: Scrub clearance work continuing    Below: Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Robin Wilcox

That forward thinking - admirable at a 90 year-old course which had the rare privilege of witnessing a match between two members of the Great Triumvirate, James Braid and Harry Vardon, to commemorate its opening - extended to last year Des having the cabling for the new TIL irrigation system being laid to the new site as well as the existing.

Des and Rob are fortunate that an excellent staff membership relationship exists at Leamington to the extent that members known as "Grey Nags" and Warwickshire senior players money for tree planting and also water the trees on the course in the summer months.

Des also operates a system whereby he leaves messages on his answer machine in the mornings giving information on the course.

"I give the date and say whether

the course is open, whether we have any winter greens and if we have a trolley ban in place. I also say if I am currently doing a course inspection."

The work which the Leamington & County staff shows that while they may not be the greatest card players in the world they certainly make full use of the winter period.

For the last year the Green Staff has been sponsoring the education of an 11-year-old girl from Ecuador named Mery.

"I heard about an organisation World Vision UK, which sponsors children's education all over the world and got in touch with them," explained Rob.

"I collect money from the staff every month and send off a cheque.



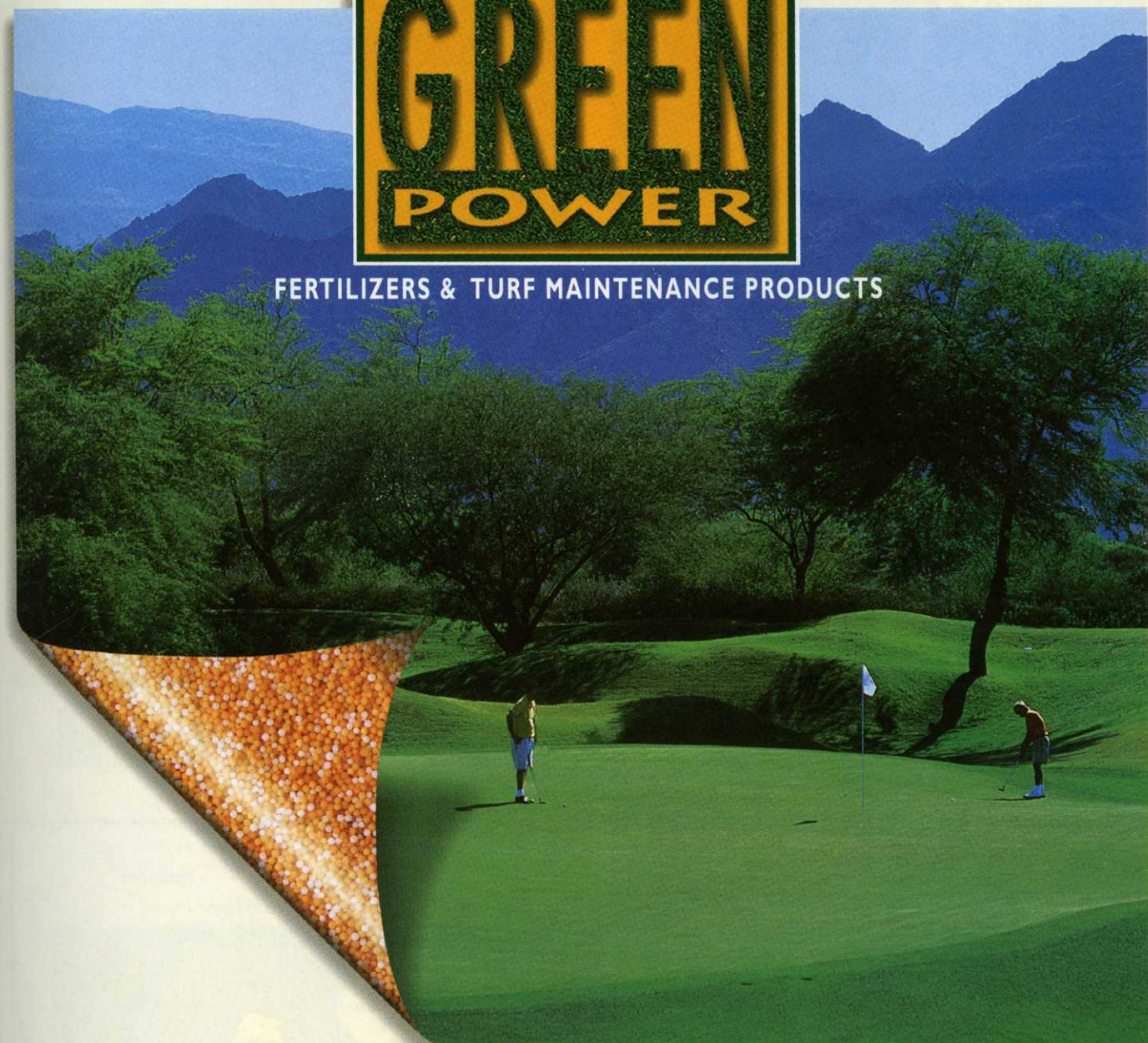
We also send small presents, pictures of us mowing and tell her about the golf course while we get letters and Christmas cards from her," explained Rob, who pointed out Mery's photograph which hangs in the office.

"She'll probably be Ecuador's first female greenkeeper," added Des. "We could even give her a job here!"





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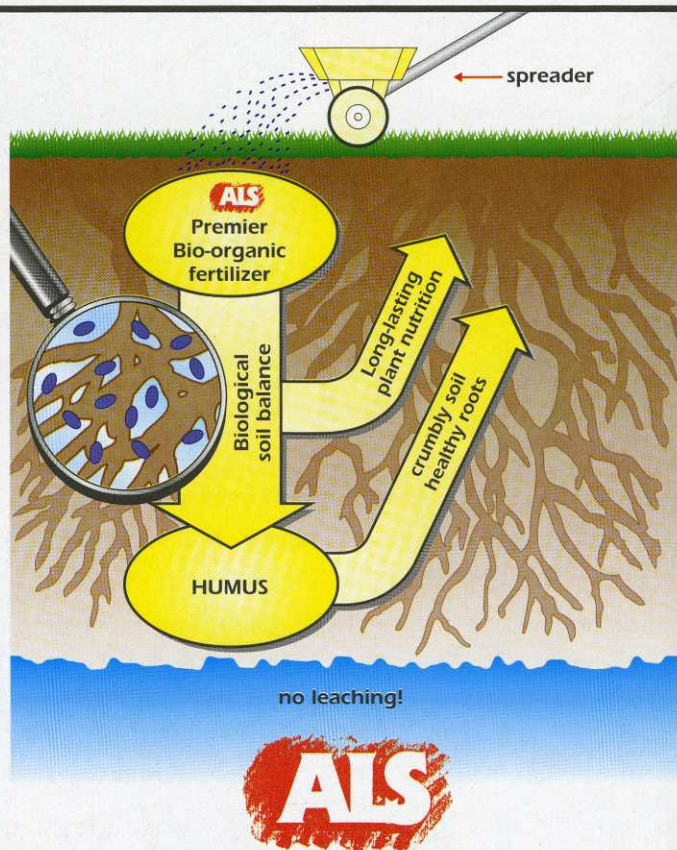


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## Subsidised courses a winner

Late last year I attended the BIGGA Regional Course at Airth Castle Hotel on Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment and would like to congratulate the Education and Training Department on an excellent two day course.

Although it was intense, it was most enjoyable and held in very pleasant surroundings. I find it difficult to understand why so few greenkeepers attend these courses,

they are great value for money at only £75 per head - surely not out of reach of most club's budgets.

These courses are subsidised by the BIGGA Education Fund so that most greenkeepers can afford to attend, so let's not lose these excellent education opportunities due to lack of support.

Robert Hogarth  
Head Greenkeeper  
Cathcart Castle GC

## High praise from Denmark

Chris Haspell, a young Englishman working as a Head Greenkeeper at Falster Golf Club, in Denmark, took the initiative to arrange a study tour to his motherland with a group of Danish greenkeepers. Apart from visiting BTME in Harrogate we had the chance to visit three golf courses. Our group was thoroughly impressed by the beauty and the standards of these courses and particularly by the methods and the skills that were behind their maintenance.

On behalf of the group I would like to say thank you to Anthony Davies, of Prestbury GC; Derek Green, of Royal Liverpool GC and Chris Whittle, of Birkdale GC, for letting us visit and passing on their enormous knowledge with such generosity.

A special thanks also to Keith Kent, of Old Trafford. Obviously class goes hand in hand on that pitch. Thank you to Richard Campey, Peter Cobalt and all the other lads we met for showing

and sharing your wit and knowledge.

On behalf of the Danish Greenkeepers Association (DGF), I would like to express my admiration of BTME and the Learning Experience at Harrogate arranged by BIGGA. The organisation is truly setting a high standard to be followed and it is our wish for the future that we in Denmark will put more work and effort into FEGGA and thereby learn as well as to contribute to fellow European standards and activities.

Cheers Chris. It was a marvellous tour, you're a great ambassador for your country and you reflect what we met in England - warmth, wit, skill and knowledge. Never mind that you support Leeds United. After all, nobody is perfect.

Per Rasmussen  
Head Greenkeeper  
Copenhagen Pay and Play  
Denmark

## Thanks for a priceless trip

I am writing to thank everyone from Toro and BIGGA for the outstanding trip to the GCSAA show in Anaheim. It truly was a trip of a lifetime, broadening my horizons to the industry of greenkeeping. The trip was priceless and although it was my first ever visit to the USA, which was an eye opener in itself, the knowledge gained from the show and senior greenkeepers was second to none. The whole occasion was something I'll never forget as we really were 'mixing with the best.'

There were so many highlights it is difficult to name them all, I was totally overwhelmed by the enormity of the whole event. It was really encouraging to see Toro and BIGGA working closely together as through both organisations I have met so many interesting people and I will definitely be participating in more

BIGGA organised events.

Finally, the lasting memory of America to myself will be all the many friends I have now met from the Toro/BIGGA representatives who gave us five star treatment for the whole trip, to my fellow greenkeepers who share with me the desire to continue learning about the industry; Eddie Adams, Mick Wells, Ian McMillan and Alan Owen deserve special mention.

It is a credit to our profession that so many people can mix and strike a friendship in such a short time.

Thanks once again for the memories and I look forward to seeing you all again, as I'm sure we will.

Chris Rawlings  
Rodway Hill GC Gloucester  
Runner-up in the '97 Toro Student of the Year Competition

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**Arnie van Amerongen examines some of the difficulties new continental courses face and some of the pitfalls they must avoid...**

# Testing. times

Whoever believes that they can make money with golf courses believes in fairy tales. To plan a golf course or even get planning permission is certainly not easy and to make a profit with a golf course these days is very difficult, if not impossible.

With economic crises on the continent, more than half of the courses are losing money or, at most, are very happy just to break even each year.

Every club investor and member would obviously like to have a superb course but this can only be realistic if the financial backing is healthy.

It must be made clear from the start that it is extremely difficult to make a profit in the first three to five years of a club's existence.

Present costs of building a golf course are extremely high and this varies depending upon how much earth the design of the course requires to be moved. Other factors include specifications of greens, tees and fairways and in some cases the level of irrigation required for the course. There are, of course, many other localised factors which influence cost such as land contours, drainage etc.

In the beginning, everyone is enthusiastic about the development of a new course. But inevitably, improvements are necessary in the first couple

of years, due mainly to repositioning/relevelling tees, reshaping greens and more commonly secondary drainage, surface and subsurface. The need for refinements to the golf course are often over-looked in the initial budgeting process and the financial constraints imposed on most projects lead to conflict at post-opening stage, improvements verses green fee income and happy members.

Then financial experts are brought in to make an advisory report on how the course could run with less money and, of course, poorer quality which, as we all know, is false economy.

Golf Course Maintenance companies then come in to tender for the maintenance of the course for one year. They operate in this way. They say how much it will cost to use a greens mower per hour; they work out that cutting 18 greens will take four hours which gives a price for 18 greens. With a previous cutting regime of six times a week for greens they will cut back to as little as three times per week, or 90 cuts a year, or raking bunkers from twice a week to once a month. This all reduces costs but the result is low quality and membership numbers start to fall and visitors cease.

The logical conclusion is that the number of greenkeepers will be

reduced perhaps from six to as few as three, which is like going back to the 1900s.

When I visit a course and talk to the General Manager, he often says that the course is not in very good condition. I then ask why he doesn't employ someone with the knowledge to present the course in better condition to be told that he can't afford anyone.

I hear these ridiculous answers all too often. Of course this is the wrong way to proceed, but I'm afraid this is the way we are going, and it will not improve in the future.

I am a great believer in high quality but unfortunately I have come to the conclusion that prices are rising, wages are dropping and the greenkeepers are blamed for poor maintenance when there is too little money to work with.

Often everything is compounded with a white elephant clubhouse with only results in higher project costs and more financial problems.

I really hope before investors of clubs consider building a golf course that they will be sound enough financially to survive the first three to five years even if green fees and memberships are not going as well as expected.

If this is not the case, don't even start to think about getting the project off the ground.



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## Profile

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

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



**Name:** Andy Wilson

**Club:** Camoustie Golf Links

**Position:** Assistant Greenkeeper

**Age:** 34

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

**2. What education are you currently undertaking?**  
None

**3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?**  
Cutting Greens

**4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?**  
Verti-draining

**5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?**  
None

**6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?**  
John Philp, with his enthusiasm for improving greenkeeper standards

**7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?**  
Administer laws forbidding members from criticising the greenkeeper

**8. What are your hobbies?**  
Football, golf and most other sports

**9. What do you get out of BIGGA?**  
Meeting people and exchanging ideas

**10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?**  
Sitting on a warm beach spending my lottery winnings!

## Education

# The winning way

Although we are still dealing with queries about this year's Learning Experience, which, thanks to Ransomes, gets better each year, we are planning the Learning Experience 1999. Some speakers have come forward already and I will be writing to others shortly, however, if there is a subject that you would like to see presented/discussed or a particular speaker that you would like to hear or if you would like to speak yourself, then please contact me as soon as possible. This month also sees planning commence for the 1998/99 series of Regional Courses and the 1998 Aldwark Manor Courses. Details will appear soon but if you have ideas on subjects and/or speakers that you would like to see presenting courses in the Regions then, again, contact me as soon as possible.



### The BIGGA Golf Course Ecology Award

Following last year's successful competition, won by Hankley Common Golf Club, Amazone Ground Care and Rhône-Poulenc Amenity are joining us again to run the BIGGA Golf Course Ecology Competition. This competition is designed to reward those clubs that integrate ecological management with normal golf course management practices to ensure that golf and the environment are compatible. Full details have been sent to all golf clubs and head greenkeepers, however if you have not received your copy then contact BIGGA HQ and we will send out full details by return of post. Entries must be returned to BIGGA by 1 May 1998. Why not enter and your club could win the first prize of £5000. All clubs visited by the judges will be offered the chance to

**This month, Ken Richardson gives details on how you could win £5,000, a trip to Orlando and a Toro Greensmaster**

purchase a copy of the detailed report on their course, which will also include an action plan.

### The TORO Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping

With prizes like a TORO Greensmaster triplex ride on mower, a two week trip to the USA, prizes for the winners greenkeeping team and for the runners up, this competition proved to be popular with both greenkeepers and their golf clubs in 1997, especially, Ian McMillan, from Hankley Common, last year's winner. Nomination forms have been sent out to golf clubs and Head Greenkeepers but if you need a copy then contact BIGGA HQ. Get your nominations off as soon as possible and we will send out entry forms to all nominees. All entry forms must be returned to BIGGA HQ by 29 May 1998. The National Final will take place, in Harrogate, on 25 and 26 October. Please note that Master Greenkeepers and winners of the ICI/Zeneca/Miracle Premier Greenkeeper Competition are now eligible to enter.



### The TORO Student of the Year Competition

Now in its tenth year, the search to find the TORO Student of the Year has begun. Competition details and entry forms have been sent to colleges and training providers and all entries should reach BIGGA HQ by 29 May 1998. The main points of the competition are:

1. The winner receives the TORO scholarship to the USA and visits the TORO factories and the GCSAA conference and show in Orlando, Florida.

2. The winner's greenkeeping lecturer wins a visit to the GCSAA conference and show in Orlando, Florida.

3. The two runners-up win an all expenses paid visit to the 1999 Learning Experience, at Harrogate.

4. Regional finals will be held in six locations during late July and, up to eight students will be selected for the National Final which will take place on 25 and 26 October 1998.

### National Education Conference and Seminar Programmes

Videos and written transcriptions for the Learning Experiences 1998 are still available. Contact Sami at BIGGA HQ for more details or to ask for an order form.

### Refund of education/training fees

Applications for a refund of education and/or training fees are beginning to arrive at BIGGA HQ. However, funds are still available for those wishing to claim a refund. To be eligible for a refund, you must meet the following criteria:

a. You must be a member of BIGGA and have been a member for at least two years.

b. You must have paid your own fees and be able to provide proof of payment eg. receipt/credit card slip or statement.

c. You must have completed a course or component part of a course and be able to provide evidence of completion eg. certificate/end of course report etc.

d. If you are starting a course in 1998, you may apply for a refund to be paid on course completion as in c.

e. The Course must not be subsidised, already, by BIGGA.

f. The Course must be relevant to your job as a greenkeeper.

Members will be able to claim 80% of fees paid up to a maximum of £200. Contact BIGGA HQ for an application form.





In the first of our new monthly finance columns, Geoff Steel offers help to those with pension problems...

# Brass facts

Over the forthcoming months I will be offering you some thoughts and ideas on what to look for when considering aspects of financial planning.

Nowadays, there does not seem to be anywhere you can go for advice without someone trying to sell you something. As most people you speak to are tied to one company, so how do you know you are getting a good deal?

I intend to explode the myths surrounding financial matters, to explain the basics of terms you may often hear but not understand. I will be considering all aspects of your money from mortgages, loans and credit cards, through to savings, investments, pensions, life insurance and healthcare. I will advise you of the pitfalls to watch out for when looking after your money and the advantages of seeking out the right product for you.

If there are any concerns that may be of interest to you which you think may also affect your colleagues, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will provide guidance on the issue.

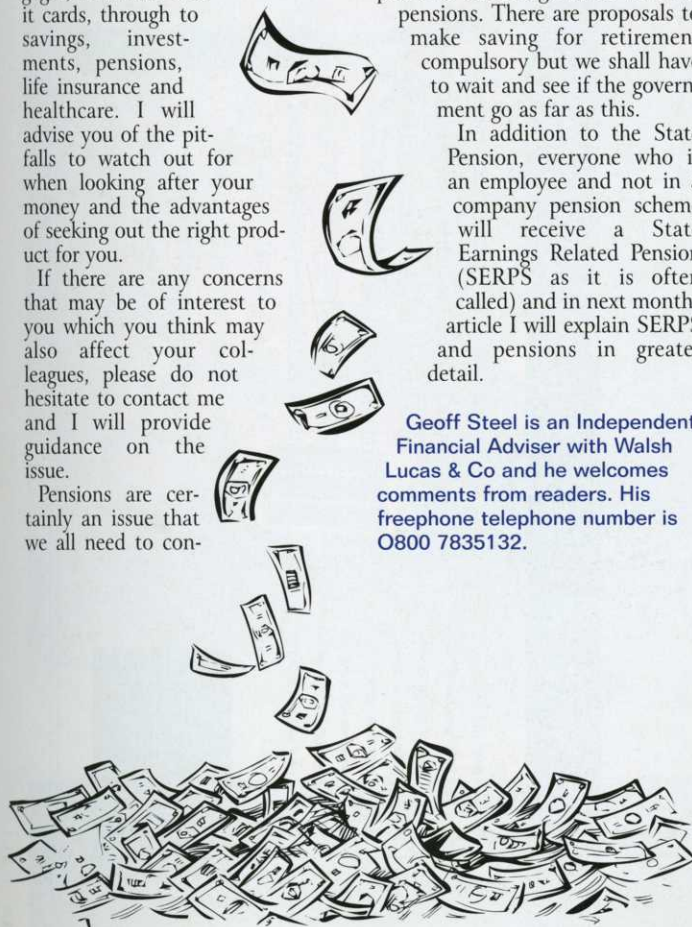
Pensions are certainly an issue that we all need to con-

cern ourselves with. The basic state pension was worth about third of the average wage in 1984. The government then changed the way the State Pension increased and it is now worth less than a fifth of the average wage. If you were to retire today with no other benefit, you would receive £62.45 per week or £99.80 per week as a married couple. The present government have no intention of increasing the value of the State Pension and its value will gradually deteriorate in relation to wages.

The emphasis is now that we all need to provide for ourselves in retirement and plans are being prepared to encourage us to save for pensions. There are proposals to make saving for retirement compulsory but we shall have to wait and see if the government go as far as this.

In addition to the State Pension, everyone who is an employee and not in a company pension scheme will receive a State Earnings Related Pension (SERPS as it is often called) and in next months article I will explain SERPS and pensions in greater detail.

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



1998 Volvo PGA Championship: Wentworth

# Bunker Rakers required!

The PGA European Tour have invited BIGGA to organise a bunker raking team on a daily basis, for the final two days of play of the 1998 Volvo PGA Championship.

If you are a Full Greenkeeper member of the Association and would like to be considered for either Sunday, May 24, or Monday, May 25 (or both days), then contact John Pemberton at BIGGA HQ on 01347 838581 as soon as possible.

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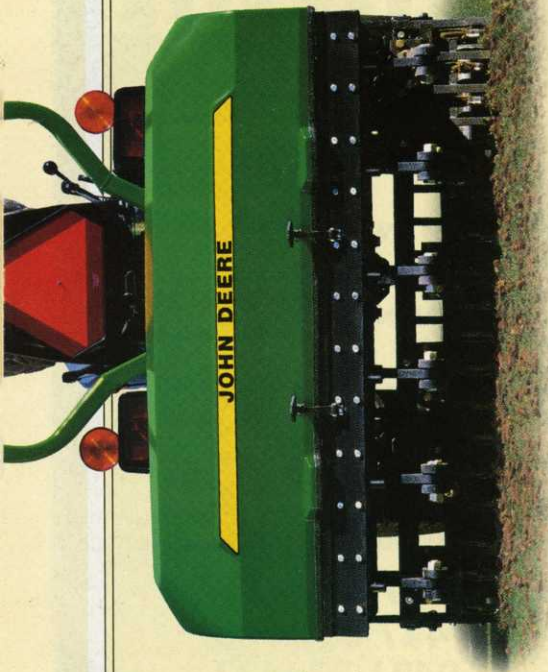
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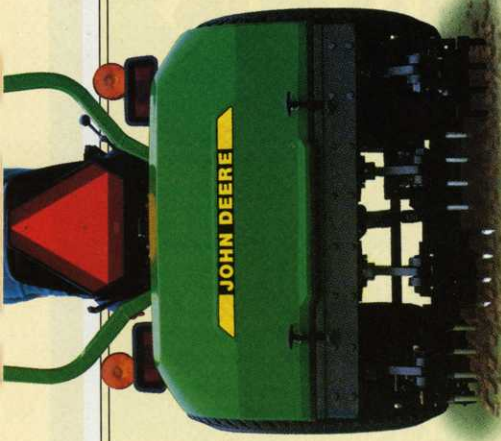


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forgiving, and easier to maintain. Plus, mounting geometry and "flexi-link" supporting arms ensure the tines stay perpendicular to the ground longer for a cleaner hole. The bottom line – the Aercore 1500 can punch up to 900,000 high-quality 10-cm (4-in.) holes an hour. The Aercore 1000 – right behind at 600,000. They just get on with the work.

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# Around the green

## Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections



**Scottish Region**  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

### North

Nothing new on the membership front to report this month. Membership currently stands at 229, a number we must maintain and hopefully build on during the current year. The new Head Greenkeeper at Royal Dornoch is Bobby Mackay who returns to Dornoch after a 16 year stay at one or two other courses, the last of which was Prestwick St Nicholas in Ayrshire. We look forward to welcoming him back to the Section.

BTME was another resounding success, it seems to get better every year. I had the honour of presenting

a cheque from our Section to the BIGGA Building Fund for £1000 as unfortunately our Chairman, Hugh McLatchie, was unable to make it down this year. The Sunday night football match was a close affair with the Exiles coming out on top by 6-5. However, the evening was spoiled a bit by the bad injury that Robert Bruce, of RiteFeed, suffered. He ended up in hospital having an operation, we wish him a speedy recovery. Well done BIGGA for an excellent week! The banquet on the Thursday night was attended by 650 people and we were well entertained by Lee Hurst and Linda Nolan.

Apologies to Ian Gunn for printing the wrong phone number in the January report, he can be contacted on 01997 421718.

This month we have the Scottish Region Conference at Dunfermline Conference Centre on the 3rd, a day well worth attending I am sure.

Talking of Conferences, the Section one planned for November is beginning to take shape with a venue and several speakers in the offing, but not yet confirmed. I did not get any ideas from anyone so the sub-committee will try our best to put on a programme to please you all.

Have you returned your 200 Club money or do you require extra tickets? If so contact Stewart McBain as soon as possible.

Finally the proposed four ball better ball competition which Stephen Sullivan was hoping to organise this year has been abandoned due to insufficient entries.

Iain Macleod

### Central

Well, I have no news of events at Harrogate this year as unfortunately I was unable to attend due to being in hospital at the time where, believe it or not, surgeons found

that I do actually have a heart! I bet that surprises a few people! Seriously though I would like to thank everyone who sent good wishes, cards etc during the past few weeks. I can assure you they all are very much appreciated and hopefully it won't be too long before I am back to work.

As part of their Patrons Award Stuart Sime, from Leven Links, and Kenny Duncan, from Dunfermline, attended BTME. and I have no doubt that they enjoyed themselves during their time spent in Harrogate. You never know, they might even write and let me know how they got on!

Another seven members have joined the Section in the past month and we extend a warm welcome to James Henderson, Bishopshire; Steve McOuan, Dunfermline; David Gray, Thornton and Kevin Black, Ian



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## Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

Dye, Scott Lee and Mark Leitch, all from St Andrews Links. Hopefully with the increase in membership we will start having better attendances at Section events.

As we head towards another season on the course we are also coming up to the first golf tournament of '98 which is the Spring Tournament/Ritefeed Classic qualifier at Ladybank GC, on Tuesday, April 28. Entries are flooding in for this event so if you wish to compete please get your forms (complete with the exact entry fee) to me as soon as possible as spaces will be limited.

I will give you an update on the visits to Scottish Grass Machinery's premises in Inverkeithing and Stewarts top dressing plant etc at Dalkeith next month.

In last month's report I touched on the subject of cutting down on Section running costs. As the biggest percentage of members do not participate in any of the events which are organised on their behalf, one way of saving a considerable amount would be to circulate any information regarding the Section to only those who take part in the events with the remainder having to read about them in the magazine. This would certainly reduce our costs considerably, but is this the way to communicate with each other? How would you feel if this were to happen, or don't you really care? You can let me know how you feel regarding this subject on 01577 865607 or write to me at the usual address.

John Crawford

### West

This month will be short and sweet with only the basics covered. Firstly, the BTME, as a patron nominee I thoroughly enjoyed my trip and would recommend future visits to everybody, even if just to meet old

acquaintances. The size of the outlay is quite unbelievable but justifiable with regard to our profession. One day was spent just touring round talking and looking at what was on offer. I couldn't believe there were so many irrigation companies, all the big names for machinery, fertilisers and top dressings. The next day was spent at seminars and in between meeting old friends with the occasional refreshment plus a shot on the longest drive machine (which was definitely out of order!). The final conclusion - a must for everybody.

New members of the Association - David Hutton, Strathaven; Garry Swan, Mount Ellen; Kevin McGuire, Mount Ellen, and Simon Rothwell, Myerscough College. Welcome to the Section, we look forward to seeing you at future events.

Things to bear in mind for the coming months:- March 3 - Education Conference, Dunfermline College, price £25; March 17 - SGM day visit to Gleneagles. A talk will be given by Jim Kidd along with a tour of Gleneagles followed by lunch at SGMs new headquarters. A bus will be provided; March 25 - Head Greenkeepers /Conveners day at East Kilbride. All of these will be notified in the events diary which you should have received, if not then contact me on 0141 942 5554.

Just a point to note. Bobby Granger, Cawder GC, has just come out of hospital after a triple heart bypass operation and is looking to start back to work sometime in March. The Section wishes him well and that everything runs hopefully to plan.

Also if there is interesting information out there then please inform me. Thank you John Robertson for your information regarding a conservation talk at Hilton Park.

Stuart Taylor



**Northern Region**  
Douglas Bell  
Tel: 0151 431 0433

### North West

I have just returned from the BTME show in Harrogate and once again it was a great show. This year even more companies were exhibiting and I do believe we had record attendance. The exhibition does not just happen and I must commend the BIGGA staff for their hard work and excellent organisation in putting together what must be the finest exhibition of its kind, certainly in this country.

The Mere seminar starts our year off on Thursday, March 19, so if you have not already registered contact me as soon as possible. In April we have the annual golf tournament against the North Wales Section and I will require a team of 16. By the time you read this the venue will have been confirmed so if you wish to be part of the winning team contact me.

People on the move - David Milbourne has been appointed Course Manager at Birchwood GC and Adrian Holt, as Deputy Head. Another greenkeeper on the move will be Antony Davies at Prestbury GC who will hopefully be moving the full 26 miles in the London Marathon to raise money to send a child to America for specialist treatment. If you would like to sponsor him call him on 01625 430724.

Any news, views or if you want to play in the match against North Wales ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

### Sheffield

On December 4 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC. The lecture was given by Nick Lawson, from OCMIS Irrigation. Our thanks go to Nick who gave a very interesting lecture on irrigation which was enjoyed by around 40 of our mem-

bers.

May I, on behalf of the Section, convey our thanks to BIGGA on an excellent exhibition at Harrogate, BTME 98. Well done, I think everyone who attended enjoyed the exhibition once again.

Congratulations go to David Milbourne on his appointment as Course Manager at Birchwood GC. Unfortunately David will be leaving the Section and I would like to thank him for everything he has done. Good luck David!

New members this month include Simon Brown, Worksop; Shane Williams, Renishaw; Joel France, Hillsborough; Arthur Ward, Brough; John Davis and Alan Sampson, both Dore and Totley; Paul Hague, Hallowes; Craig Bentley, Silkstone; Jason Williams, Sitwell, and Ian Benson, Rother Valley.

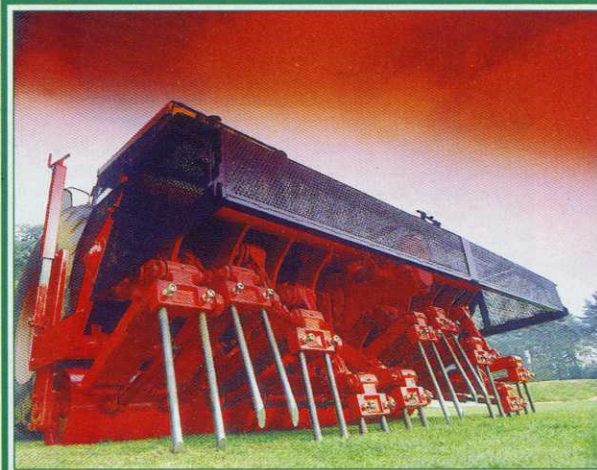
John Lax

### North Wales

I hope everyone who attended the BTME enjoyed themselves. Again it was excellent and we also had a good turnout from our Section at the AGM. Unfortunately I believe some over enjoyed it and caused a problem on the coach. I am led to believe they weren't greenkeepers but from what I can gather it was unacceptable behaviour. I will keep you informed on the matter.

Bill Lawson has retired from Heswall and also been made a life member of the Association, a fitting tribute to a man that was instrumental in the setting up of BIGGA. I have known Bill for over 20 years and can tell you all that without him and a few other dedicated greenkeepers we wouldn't be where we are today. Thanks again Bill, somehow I think we'll still see you about. His position at Heswall has been filled by Guy Cannings who has been with Bill for many years. Good luck Guy!

Congratulations are in order to Andy Campbell, of Carden Park, on becoming a Master Greenkeeper. You've gone a long way since your



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## Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

apprenticeship at Chester, Andy. Well done mate!

There is a trip to the Mommersteeg factory in Holland around June 18, also taking in the new Ajax Stadium. I went on the last one which was excellent. If anyone is interested they should contact Terry Adamson.

The Spring Tournament which is also the RiteFeed qualifier is to be held at Porthmadog on April 21.

Finally I attended a meeting of the golf liaison panel at the Welsh College of Horticulture. It was a very positive and interesting gathering of every aspect of the industry including the GTC, WGU, SDA, BIGGA, Greens Chairman, Club Secretary, College Principal and trade. This is a fine example of all the various branches of the business working together for the one aim of raising standards throughout the whole industry.

The courses in the pipeline at the College and the proposed golf course auger well for golf in Wales. Watch this space.

Dave Goodridge

### Northern

Another BTME flashes by and as always it was an excellent exhibition. I was pleased to see some old faces that I hadn't seen for some time.

Many thanks to Telford Jarvis, Dennis Cockburn and Ian Thompson for helping me out on the Northern Region stand. I think we probably had the quietest 'stint' on the stand due to being the first on the Wednesday morning.

Anyone still wishing to book places for this year's Annual Dinner Dance on March 14 must have their payment (£16 per person) in at least two weeks before the event. This will enable seating plans to be drawn up and the numbers to be sent to the fire officer so that in the unlikely event of a fire they are aware of how many are present.

At present I haven't many names booked in for this year's RiteFeed

Spring qualifier. The event is to be held on Tuesday April 14 at Bradley Hall GC - tee off from 10.30 am. Again, if you are intending playing in this event please send your name and £15 to me at the address below as soon as possible.

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

Simon Heppenstall



Midland Region  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01480 437507

### East of England

I hope as I am writing this that Spring is not all that far away and we have a good start to the season.

I hope everyone from the East of England Section enjoyed their trip to the BTME which was even better than last year which takes some beating. Congratulations go to everyone at HQ who organised it and anyone else who assisted in the show, it just keeps getting better. Another pleasing aspect was meeting up with so many friends from other regions and hearing how they are all doing. It is good to hear college friend Tony McLure from the North East has taken an active role in BIGGA.

A welcome to new members of the Section - Karl Westen, Peter Murphy, David Burgess, Christopher Tuck and Simon Winters.

While speaking to the Area Manager, Ben Petitjean of Barenbrug, at BTME he told me he would be pleased to play a more active role in our sections. This was to include sponsorship of a golf day but also discussed was for the Section to organise a trip to Holland with a programme to include a visit to the Barenbrug Group

Headquarters to see the latest trial and breeding grounds and then on into Amsterdam for a meal. Anyone interested then please let me know so as to organise transport.

Graeme Macdonald

### Mid Anglia

The Section will be visiting Brocket Hall GC on the 17th of this month for a course visit to see the initial stages of the construction for a further 18 holes. John Wells, the Course Manager, will be showing us around. Those who wish to attend please meet in the main golf club car park at 1.30 pm and please bring outdoor footwear.

I am sure that most people by now are aware that Chas Ayres is leaving Lodgeways to pursue a new career working for Richard Long. On behalf of the Section I would like to wish Chas every success in the future and to thank him for his support of the Section over a number of years.

Chris Rook, from Lodgeway, has expressed his desire to keep the four ball competition running. To this end Steve Mason, of Mount Pleasant GC, will be administering the event (Steve was elected to the Section Committee at the AGM). Entry forms will be sent out in due course and the closing date for entries is Monday 20th April. The full draw will then take place and members will have the relevant information at the Spring meeting at Lamerwood GC on April 23. The Spring meeting will be the Section qualifier for the RiteFeed National Competition (previously the Hayter).

It is likely that the format for the golf events this year will change slightly for the afternoon rounds playing greensome and Texas scramble competitions rather than all day Stableford/medals. Members should, by now, have received a full fixture card for 1998. Leighton Buzzard, Mill Green and Ashridge are the golf clubs being used to stage our summer, autumn and winter

events respectively. Neil Whittaker, who was also recently elected onto the committee has kindly accepted the role of Handicap Secretary for the Section.

Numbers of entries for golf events in 1997 were significantly lower than in the previous year.

While we all appreciate that it is not always possible for all staff members to play at events due to work commitments we rely on Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers to encourage this whenever possible in order to ensure the success of our golf days. It is expected that entry fees for all golf events during 1998 will remain at 1997 prices.

Paul Lockett

### Midland

Last month I said I would in this month's report give you all the news and information that I have regarding competitions and the committee for this year. To start with the competition we now have dates and venues and these are as follows:- Spring Tournament - Ingestre Park (27 holes) Thursday May 27; Summer - Wrekin (18 holes) Thursday July 9; Autumn - Edgbaston (27 holes) Monday September 28; Winter - Copt Heath (Texas Scramble) Thursday December 10.

The serving committee for this year will be as follows:- Rhys Thomas, Eddie Stant, Peter Richmond, Trafford Stonebridge (Chairman), Jonathan Wood, Peter Holtham, Andrew Smith, Kim Blake and Tony Cheese.

During '98 we hope to arrange more visits to championship courses as those people who attended the trip to Sunningdale and Wentworth felt that it was very enjoyable and informative. There is a possibility that a trip can be arranged to Turnberry which will involve an overnight stop but we can get sponsorship for this and expect the cost to be around £30. It is expected to take place during April or May. If anyone is interested in attending

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Comment From Walter Woods

St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

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## COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



please get in touch with me on 01384 292396 and we can get some idea of the interest. I have to point out that those members who supported last years trip will have priority.

I would like to point out on behalf of the committee that it is your Section so you should make the most of these events but if there is anything you think that we could arrange please give us your ideas as we can only do what we think the membership wants. If you have any ideas please call any member of the committee or me on 01384 292396.

Finally I would like to introduce some more new members - they are Karl Lans, James Boddington, David Couls, Anthony Hardy and Andrew Davies.

Jonathan Wood

### East Midlands

This year's BTME was attended by several Section members with a good percentage staying for several days. Although I missed most of the first day because I was confined to bed with the flu it once again turned out to be another great BTME show. Three excellent workshops were on offer as well as the National

Education Conference for the first two days. The next three days produced some excellent seminars plus a great display of machinery, fertilisers, top-dressings etc at the Show. The social evenings provided great entertainment for everybody and it is a credit to all the staff at Headquarters for providing a very enjoyable and memorable week for everyone lucky enough to attend. Next year however it would be nice to see the support of more members.

The Section's next event will be the Spring Tournament and the RiteFeed qualifier at Beeston Fields on May 13. This year's Christmas Tournament will be held on Thursday, December 10, and not the 3rd as previously stated.

Anthony Bindley

### B B & O

The first committee meeting of the year was held at Harleyford on February 4. This traditionally is always a busy meeting with the forthcoming golf events to organise. The venues have been confirmed with only one date to finalise: Spring - Reading GC, April 16; Summer - The Oxfordshire GC, August 3; Autumn - Harleyford GC,

no date; Turkey Trot - Whiteleaf GC, November 26. I am sure you will agree that the above venues are quite impressive. There are a lot of clubs in the area that we would like to hold an event at in the coming seasons but at present there are not too many volunteers. If you would like to host one of the events for next year then please get in touch as soon as possible so as to pick the prime slots! Along with your first invite of the season you will receive a report by our Chairman, Ray Clark, explaining several issues including the AGM and sponsorship.

I have mentioned on several occasions in the past about trying to organise some alternatives to the golf days ie go-karting or bowling. This unfortunately has never got off the ground, that was until recently when in conjunction with T. H. Whites, Rob Weir, from Wokefield Park, organised a go-karting night at the Woodley Centre in Reading. This proved very successful with about 35 people taking part. Despite some wreckless driving nobody was seriously injured!

It was great fun despite the lads from Wokefield being ringers and taking over the podium with a clean

sweep. I believe Rob and his team are planning the next social event (bowling) soon so if you want to swell the numbers get in touch as soon as possible.

Finally, David Gower, from The Oxfordshire, is looking for some volunteers to assist with course preparation during the week of the Benson and Hedges Tournament in May. If you can help out then please contact me. There will be free tickets on offer for the volunteers plus a goodie bag of sorts.

Lindsay Anderson



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

### London

After attending the AGM at Porters Park I found myself volunteered to take over writing this column for the London Section. First of all I would like, on behalf of the Section, to thank Tony Dunstan for all the time he has devoted to this task over the last few years. The hardest part of writing this is, of course, to have something worth writing about and as we all like to know what is going on in

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## Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

Around  
the green

the area please let me have your news so that it can be included here in the future.

Excellent news from Moor Park Course Manager, John Edwards. After some years, mutual agreement has now been reached between English Heritage, Three Rivers Council, Moor Park 1958 Residents Association and Moor Park GC on the design and construction site of a new greenkeepers' complex. The new site will be situated further away from the Mansion on the access road known as Watford Road. The work started in December 1997 by main contractors Leominster Construction will incorporate the machinery garage, maintenance workshop, chemical and fertiliser store and chemical washdown tank as well as the Course Manager's office and male and female cloakrooms. Completion is due Easter 1998.

A new appointment in the area is Gavin Kyle as Course Manager at Hendon GC. A good Scottish name disguises the fact that Gavin originates from South Africa although he has been in the UK for 17 years and was previously working at Sutton Green GC near Woking, where Laura Davies is the Touring Professional. A warm welcome to the area to Gavin, his partner, Marnie, and young

daughter, Katie.

Dates for your diary - Gentleman's Dinner at Walton Heath GC on March 6; London Section Spring Tournament - the RiteFeed Challenge will be held at Highgate GC, date to be announced.

Last but by no means least is the news that Chris Carpenter, Course Manager of Brookmans Park GC, is the latest recipient of the Master Greenkeeper Award. Chris was one of two greenkeepers to be presented with his award and Master Greenkeeper's Jacket at BTME 98 in Harrogate. Chris tells me that there are now five Master Greenkeepers in the USA and eleven in the UK. Congratulations on a magnificent achievement from all in the London Section.

Peter Hopkinson

### Essex

New members this month include Ivan Chadwick, Three Rivers; Gary Coxall, Paul Gatland, Jeffrey Foulger, John Harston, Alan Cornell and Andrew Cook, Chigwell; Terry Edmonds, Braintree, and William Galway, of the Greenkeeping Supply Company.

Our next lecture will be held on March 17 at Writtle College, Main

Building, Room Y57 starting at 7.30 pm. Dr Alan Gange, of the Royal Holloway University of London, will give a talk entitled "The hidden truth beneath the soil".

Please note that the new date for the South East Regional Seminar at Hadlow College will be May 19.

We are holding a pairs knockout competition open to all Essex Section members. The cost will be £5 per pair and entries and cheques should be sent to Michael Fance, 235 Linnet Drive, Tile Kiln, Chelmsford CM2 8AZ (telephone 01245 6020980 by March 27. If you have not got a partner send in your entry and Michael will try to accommodate you!

I spent a very interesting evening recently in the company of Frank Newberry who gave a talk on "Essential management skills in greenkeeping." Anyone who hasn't been to one of Frank's courses should as they would find them very useful. 36 people attended and we thank Martin for his organisation and Writtle College for the use of the room. The main sponsors were Tuckwells and our thanks go to Neil. After the talk we retired to the College bar for the raffle and thanks go to Rigby Taylor, Avoncrop Amenity Products, Grass Roots and Kings

Horticulture for the prizes.

At the last count the Essex Section had 156 members so let's see more of you at the golf days and lectures.

Congratulations go out to Michael Oakes, Assistant Greenkeeper at Rochford Hundred GC, who recently became a father of a baby daughter, Hannah. Congratulations to Becky.

Please let me know if anything interesting is happening at your club call Dave Wells on 01702 522202.

Dave Wells



South West  
and South Wales  
Paula Humphries  
Tel: 01363 82777

### South West and South Wales Region

On Friday, January 9, I posted (first class) the travel arrangements to the delegates on the BTME Express to Harrogate then sat back and relaxed as all the arrangements had been completed and there was nothing else to do.

Some days later I received a telephone call asking about the travel arrangements, pick up times etc, then another, then another...





After roasting the Royal Mail alive for their inefficiency I then received a telephone call to say that the details had arrived at last but without a stamp and it had to be collected from the Post Office and 40p paid. Then I received another call, and another and another... How long before I live that one down!

However on January 20 the coach turned up on time, all the delegates turned up at their allotted pick-ups (even Robin!) and we made record time to Harrogate, where we were welcomed by our friendly hotel staff.

It was my first experience of BTME and I was very impressed with the whole organisation and the wonderful atmosphere in the halls. The banquet was most impressive and I thought the caterers dealt with 650 people in exemplary manner. Hats off to the organisers of the whole show.

On the way home in the coach the Regional Chairman, Ivor Scoones, presented an engraved barometer to Richard Whyman, who has just stood down after serving on the Regional Board for eight years. Ivor expressed everyone's thanks to him for his hard and dedicated work over the years and also to Bill Mitchell, who has also stood down this year but who has also been a very valued member of the Board.

I was very touched also to receive a bouquet of flowers from the lads on the coach as a thank you for organising the trip and tucking them up into bed with their hot chocolate and Enid Blyton stories (This is becoming a habit!).

Thank you it was a lovely gesture. You were great fun to be with.

Paula Humphries

#### **South Coast**

We had our first committee meeting of 1998 at Bramshaw GC. The main task of our meeting was to elect the various officers and the outcome was: Vice Chairman - Trevor Smith; Tournament Organiser - Trevor Smith; Regional Reps - Kerran Daly & Jeff Drake; Standby Regional Rep - Tony Gadd; Magazine - Ken Lodge. Trevor Smith is organising the First Aid courses. For those of you who are interested contact Trevor on 0410 835242. He needs at least 8 names for each course.

Trevor has arranged a match against the Secretaries at Highcliff GC. This is to be held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday April 7 and anyone interested in playing should contact Trevor. Last years competition was held at Alresford GC and was a great success.

Our Spring Tournament will be held at Knighton Heath GC on Thursday

April 23, not Wednesday 22 as in your programmes. The cost for the day is £15 which includes lunch and evening meal. The competition will consist of a 27 hole medal and will also be the qualifier for the RiteFeed Regional final. The National final this year is being held at Gleneagles. Trevor tells me there will be some very good prizes on the table however numbers are limited to get your entry forms in early. You should send your entry forms, including a cheque for £15, current handicap and your name and address to:- Fred Deamon, Golf Club Bungalow, Alton GC, Old Odiham Road, Alton GU34 4BU, telephone 01420 86679.

One thing I must stress is that all trophies are at Knighton Heath GC for presentation. If any of last year's winners have difficulties in returning your trophy please contact Trevor Smith as soon as possible.

Just another quick reminder for Westurf which is fast approaching. Make a note of the date - April 29. It will be a fine sunny day this year - see you all there on the day.

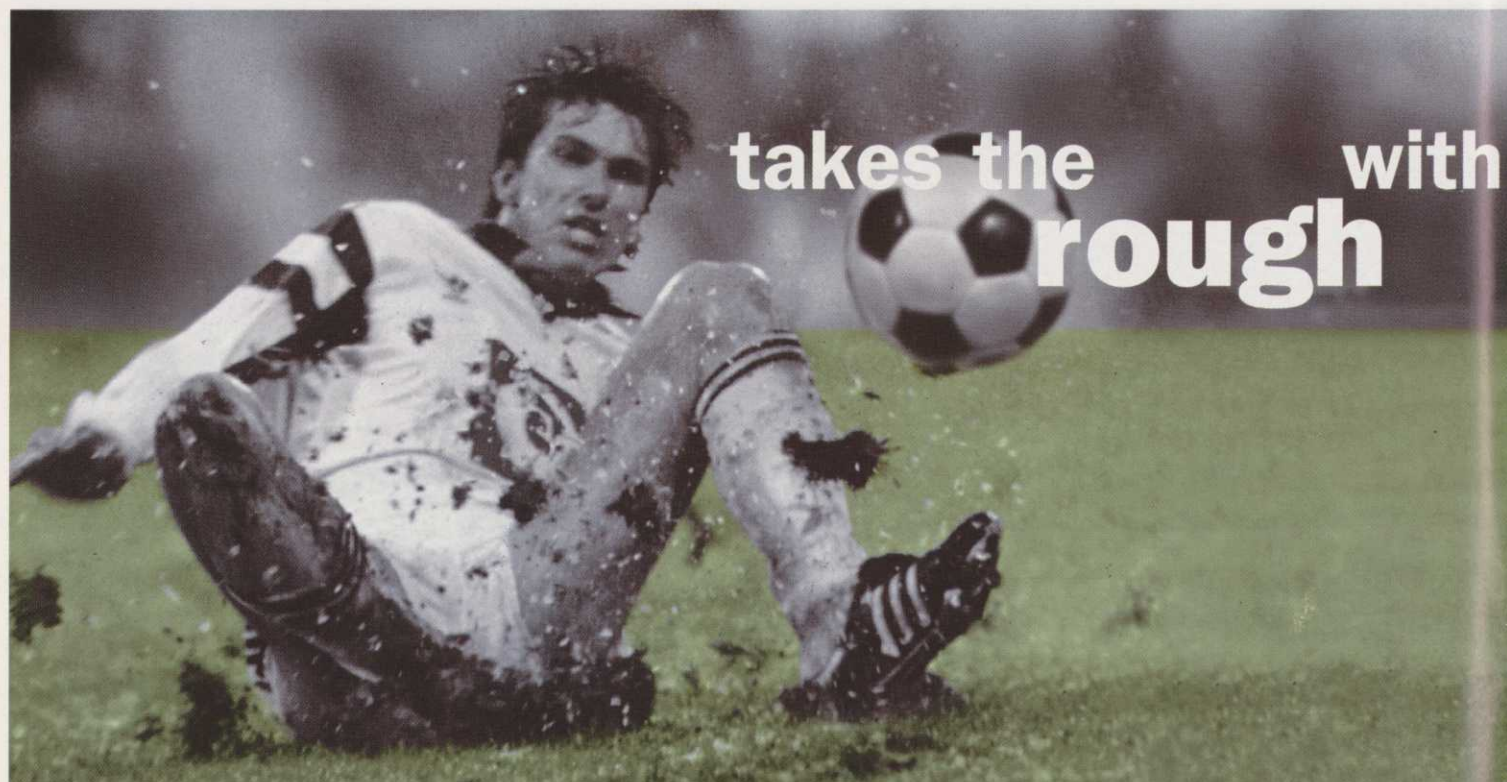
Our immediate Past Chairman, Alan Mitchell, has been at home with pneumonia for the last few weeks. June, his wife said that he is slowly improving. I am sure the Section

would like to wish him all the best and a speedy recovery.

The BTME at Harrogate proved to be a terrific success. The reports of the National Conference were of high quality speeches to packed audiences. The workshops were fully booked and greatly appreciated by all who attended. The AGM went off relatively smoothly and the Section sends its congratulations and best wishes for a successful year to Gordon Child, the new BIGGA Chairman.

The exhibition was hot and hectic. It had expanded into yet another hall but still retained the friendly atmosphere for which it is renowned. The seminar programme was well balanced and the facilities were a big improvement on last year. Among some excellent papers presented my special congratulations should go to Mark Jones, of Preston GC. Mark's talk on greens reconstruction at his course proved of great interest to many.

Although the South Coast Section were few in number on the coach there was good representation in Harrogate. It was pleasing to see so many friendly faces during the exhibition and out and about the town. The banquet was the social highlight of the week. The entertainment was



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## Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

not to everyone's liking but with 650 people sitting down for a meal and cabaret you are unlikely to please everyone.

The whole trip was a great success thanks mainly to the organisation and energy of the Regional Administrator Paula Humphries. Everything ran smoothly and there was always a smile and even cake for all aboard the coach. Congratulations Paula on an excellent trip, I can't wait for next year!

The BTME report was forwarded by Kerran Daly. It would seem that once again a great success for BTME and for BIGGA.

Ken Lodge

### Devon and Cornwall

With no Section meeting in January it was nice to see so many of the Section's membership take advantage of the Region's Westurf sponsored trip to this year's BTME at Harrogate. On arrival at our hotel we were greeted with the usual warm welcome from the hotel's staff and after a few ales and a lot of discussions that night we awoke the next morning to the now accustomed snow as we walked to the exhibition halls. On arrival at the BTME show all our expectations were met and

past as the show was the biggest and best to date with the seminars running though the day giving us all an excellent educational opportunity. One of the speakers at the seminar programme was Section member Robert Brewer, Course Manager/Director of Golf at St Mellion International, who gave an excellent presentation on "Business Planning for Greenkeeping".

The long eight-hour journey home began on Friday at 12.30 with the coach leaving on time and arriving slightly ahead of schedule at Exeter services and even Mr Mole who suffers from travel sickness looked remarkably well after the journey! Congratulations must go to our Regional Administrator, Paula, who had organised the superb trip. Also I would like to congratulate all the staff at head office for organising the best ever BTME and seminar programme.

Our last meeting of the winter programme will be the Rhône-Poulenc and Supaturf meeting which will be held at West Cornwall GC on Wednesday April 1. The day will start as always with golfing members competing for the Supaturf Trophy (Head Greenkeepers) and the Rhône-Poulenc Trophy

(Assistants). As always non-golfing members will have a guided tour of the course and sheds. After lunch our sponsors Rhône-Poulenc and Supaturf will give members a presentation on their companies before we move to our educational talk which will be presented by Cornwall Wildlife Trust.

Westurf is now just around the corner and hopefully the weather will be as good as last year. This will be Paula's first Westurf so let's see a big attendance from you to show your support to our Region - without it the region can't help you.

REMEMBER - 29th April 1998 at Long Ashton GC, Bristol.

Richard Whyman

### South Wales

New writer - same old info! The Christmas Golf Day and AGM was again a great success with 55 golfers and 75 sampling excellent catering at Pyle and Kenfig GC. The attendance is a reflection on the excellent condition we find the course in each year. A special thanks must go out to Mr P. Robinson and his staff for all their efforts and also to the Secretary Mr Rodger Thomas who we all wish a happy retirement to! Also thanks goes to the Caterers and the Club Captain,

Mr John Cattle.

A big thumbs up also goes to the trade for all their support, especially the sponsors Alan Stow, Vitax, and Kim Davies, Celtic Mowers. We were also graced with the attendance of BIGGA Vice Chairman, Gordon Child, his wife, Marion, and our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries. The results for the day were as follows:- 1. A. Hatcher, 37; 2. J. Probert, 36; 3. P. Williams, 35. Well done to all three.

The evening lectures programme at Pencoed College is well under way now with some excellent speakers giving up their time to pass on some of their expertise. December was Duncan Stewart, Managing Director of Envirogreen, who gave an insight into special "Waste Regulations 96" which our whole region must be very up-to-date with as only five people attended.

Bruce Jamieson also gave up some of his time to bring us up-to-date on the latest improvements in Golf Course Management and we had a great evening with 26 in attendance. Bruce has an excellent background, he started out in '73 at Turnberry; from '83 to '88 he was at Royal Porthcawl and later became the European Tour Director of Agronomy. In 1995 he started a consultancy business. The 1998 Committee is:- Chairman - David

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## Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

Ward; Vice Chairman - Mike Jones; Golf/Social Sub Committee - M Jones (Chairman), A Panks, Peter Lacey (Secretary), J B Jones, A Hatcher, J Probert, C Solman; Education Sub-Committee - M Davies, A Macleod, R Hatcher, R Patterson, D Ward; Regional Board - D Ward, D Jenkins.

Movers and Shakers - Mr Tony lafrate has returned from over the bridge back to the homeland to take up the Deputy Head post at Cardiff GC, good luck.

Not to be Missed - Westurf is only a month away and its success relies on our support, please make a big effort to attend.

Any information for Movers and Shakers or Not to be Missed call me on 0976 307884 or 01222 549327.

Chris Solman

### South West

January has come and gone and several of the South West greenkeepers are getting over the headaches brought on by the annual trip to Harrogate. When I say headaches I am of course referring to the information overload that one often seems to get at the BTME as opposed to ones brought on through alcoholic poisoning. Is it me or do we all go from one stand to the next convinced that we have just received free information on

miracle cures to all turf problems only then to be told at the next stand that the product we have just ordered is in fact an elaborate confidence trick and that they themselves have the product that will solve problems till eternity. To cap it all we then go to one of the excellent seminars and are told by some scientist from one of the American Universities that neither product has ever or will ever work. Very frustrating isn't it, but I suppose that is what is meant by the "Learning Experience".

Despite all this Harrogate was, as ever, brilliant. The show was the most popular yet and the speakers superb. Congratulations to Gordon on taking over as Chairman, you've certainly deserved it. I am sure it's going to be quite a year not only for yourself but for Marion as well. Also congratulations to Paula for her organisation of the South West coach, she did us proud and it was as usual the bargain of the year.

Not a lot coming up at the moment on the golfing front but if anyone would like to do a short education course in the future just give me a ring. Since having the pleasure of organising these courses we seem to have added an abrasive wheel course to the usual spraying, first aid and chainsaw and can now offer

manual handling and tractor proficiency to the list. So if anyone wants to have a go at the above or for that matter anything else you can think of (greenkeeper related that is) then give me a ring on 01380 828380 and I will try and sort it out for you.

Marc Haring



### South East

The Section will have had its first Section meeting in early February so we will be able to notify everyone concerned of our plans regarding events for this year, hopefully during March when dates have been confirmed.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our Section to give our sincere thanks to Janet Adamson, Membership Services Officer, Ken Richardson, Education and Training Manager, John Pemberton, Administration Manager, and Past Chairman, Pat Murphy, for their tremendous support and encouragement we received during our formation last year. They really are a credit to the Association.

On behalf of the Section I would like to congratulate our Chairman, Graham Wylie, on his new appointment of Course Manager at Malone GC. It is one of Ireland's finest parkland courses having hosted Irish amateur championships as well as professional tournaments including the Irish Senior Masters. We all wish him the very best.

I would like to welcome James Logan and Lyndon Idull, of Ledenmore GC, and Wolsey White, of Portadown GC, as new members to the Section. I have also just heard that William Smith of Bangor GC has just become the proud father of a baby son. Best wishes go out to William and his wife on their happy event.

Finally if anyone has any news from within the Section please do not hesitate to contact me, including greenkeepers in Fermanagh and Tyrone.

If there are any greenkeepers interested in joining the Section feel free to ring me at home on 01762 323348 any evening.

Ken Henderson



See you all next month!

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**Attention to weed control and vegetation management is the key to successful tree establishment. Woodland Consultant Eamonn Wall considers some of the management options available.**

Turn over a new

leaf

Cost effective tree establishment depends on many factors such as site conditions and the size of the area being planted. Over the past ten years the UK has experienced a large increase in the amount of tree planting on lowland ex-agricultural land, much of it now golf courses. These planting schemes once composed just the odd field corner and small shelter belts and have grown with the aid of the Farm Woodland Schemes to the point where a 100 acre scheme or larger is not now unusual.

Many of the smaller schemes utilised tree shelters with an after care herbicide regime consisting of propyzamide (eg Kerb granules or liquid) or glyphosate (eg Roundup). This is still a fairly robust and common practice as long as other pests have been taken into account such as hares and deer, either by correct choice of shelter size, fencing or shooting control. If the tubes haven't been pushed a wee bit into the ground, voles can gain access and kill trees by bark removal and shoot nibbling. However, usually tubes will provide adequate protection on the whole from voles. Care must be taken to remove tubes if they start to restrict tree girth and to screef all vegetation from the base of the tube before planting to prevent grass smothering the trees within the tubes.

Spiral guards with or without the support of bamboo canes reduce the cost of protection by about half. Again it is advisable to remove canes when their support is no longer required and check that the spirals are unravelling as the tree grows.

As planting schemes become larger, the use of individual tree protection is no longer cost effective and bare planting takes over. The skilled use of chemical herbicides becomes a greater issue and this also applies to the establishment of hedges now being greatly encouraged by such grant schemes as the Countryside Premium Scheme in Scotland.

When establishing trees into grass sward, spot weeding with a graminicide (ie grass herbicide) can turn the

field of grass into a field of nasty weeds. The removal of grass provides broad leaved weed seeds the opportunity to germinate, such as thistle, nettle, willowherb, docks and ragwort. Even though these generally don't provide trees with too much competition, they are disliked by farmers and their neighbours. However on arable sites, these weeds can overcome and smother trees and also provide stiff competition to the establishment of hedges.

Ground cultivation such as mounding provides the tree with an elevated planting position and a weed free space for the first growing season. This elevation can sometimes deter voles. When voles are a problem the use of tree shelters or simple 300mm vole guards are required. On larger ex-arable sites and Christmas tree plantations, a bare ground regime is usually successful in deterring voles as they have no cover from predation. Often one hears that it is preferable to sow a slow growing grass mix into the field prior to planting to exclude the influx of farm weeds. This is good idea but doesn't deal with the vole problem and would necessitate the use of vole guards. The annoying thing about voles is that some sites are much worse affected than others.

The effective use of chemical herbicides to (1) promote tree growth, (2) provide a bare ground space around each tree or throughout the entire planting scheme to deter voles, and (3) to keep noxious weeds under control, is best attained by the use of a small number of herbicides whose application is fully understood.

#### Types of herbicides

Herbicides can be divided into three broad groups:

1. Residual herbicides. These products act via the soil where they are taken up through the roots of weeds. It is important that these herbicides are applied to damp soil and that rain allows application to move them into the top 2-3cm of the soil. If these products are applied to dry soil and little or no rainfall follows

application, weed control will be poor. Residual herbicides must be applied to a firm fine tilth; if large clods are present at the time of herbicide application, these will weather and crumble, exposing untreated soil allowing prolific weed growth.

2. Foliar acting herbicides. These are absorbed through the point of contact on the leaf and stem and are independent of the condition of the soil. The timing of application will be determined by the growth stage of the target weed. Foliar acting herbicides give best results when they are applied to actively growing weeds.

3. Residual and foliar acting herbicides. These are herbicides which have a combination of the two modes of action listed here.

#### Pre and post planting use

Herbicides can be used effectively before or after planting. There may be opportunities to control perennial weeds in the previous crop, eg use of selective herbicides in pasture or the use of glyphosate pre-harvest in cereals and other arable crops. Such treatments can reduce the subsequent vigour of weeds such as creeping thistle or couch grass. Foliar acting herbicides can be used to clean up undisturbed stubbles before planting.

Where long-term weed control is required after planting the use of residual herbicides is the best option. It is vital to match the weed control spectrum of the herbicide to that of the weed species on the site. Many residual herbicides generally only control weeds pre-emergence and must therefore be applied to bare earth. If bare soil is to be maintained all year round, treatment may be repeated in the autumn and the spring. However, in practice, weeds resistant to the residual herbicides may require the use of foliar acting herbicides (sometimes applied as a tank mixture). As an alternative to a year-round bare-soil system, some vegetation cover may be allowed to develop in the autumn and winter when it is not competitive and then be killed by a spring applied foliar-acting herbicide. A spring applied

residual treatment will then delay reinvasion.

#### Chemical update

Some useful chemicals are as follows:

Glyphosate (foliar contact herbicide) which was originally only available as Roundup is now available in about 40 formulations. However with prices reducing, it now seems wise to use Roundup Biactive for best results and safety to those using it. The Forestry Commission has carried out trials overspraying conifers and broadleaves with glyphosate and can now recommend the practice. Such practice is common among Christmas tree growers as part of their regime for a year-round bare-soil treatment. During the growing season when spot weeding near birch extra care must be taken as it is very susceptible to glyphosate. As glyphosate is a contact herbicide, it should be noted that grasses treated in early April will invade and re-establish themselves by May/June if it is a warm moist spring. If this occurs, a second application will be required.

Propyzamide (such as Kerb granules or flo liquid) is a soil acting herbicide which slowly volatilises in cold soil and is taken up by germinating weeds and through the roots of existing weeds especially grasses. A limited range of herbaceous broad leaved weeds are also susceptible from germination to the true leaf stages particularly grasses. Such weeds which emerge late in the season, however, will only be partially controlled.

Propyzamide slowly breaks down in the soil, lasting for three-six months. All commonly planted forest trees are tolerant. Application via granules (using pepper spots) and liquids (using knapsack sprayer, spot gun, etc) can take place any time between 1 October to 31 January north of a line from Aberystwyth to London and to 31 December south of this line. In practice it appears that few extra weeks make little odds, presumably depending on sea-



son.

A winter application of Kerb followed by a glyphosate application during the summer to treat subsequent broad leaved weed invasions is a useful programme to consider for broad leaved/conifer planting schemes.

Isoxaben (Flexidor 125 or Gallery 125). This is a pre-emergent liquid herbicide sprayed on bare soil to control broad leaved weeds. It is useful when applied mixed with kerb (ie liquid) when treating dense grass as the kerb kills the existing invading grass for three-six months and the Isoxaben prevents colonisation of the broad leaved weeds. Their action in the tank-mix is complementary leading to effective control of grasses and broad leaved weeds. Expensive, though Flexidor is cheaper than Gallery. It is also one of the few herbicides that control willowherb.

Atrazine has both foliar contact and residual soil action and is an old favourite among some foresters though its safety is under question. It is most useful on soft grasses but will give some control of broad leaved species and the coarse grasses. Its timing of application follows on after that of Kerb, from February and March up to May. Though all broadleaves are sensitive while in leaf and should only be treated before the start of bud burst in the spring.

#### Hedges

The control of weed in hedges is difficult and some of the following chemicals and regimes can work well.

Heavy grass sites - Prespray planting strip with glyphosate and post treat with Kerb granules or better still Kerb/Flexidor mix. A summer spray of glyphosate along the outside on each side will help keep back invading weeds but doesn't help much within the rows.

Bare - Ex arable sites - When planting into a bare soil site (either as a result of screening or ex arable), the use of Premier Granules is available. This is a mixture of

Trifluralin and Isoxaben and while not a very strong chemical, is quite useful, applied at the rate of 100kg/ha during February/March. Also useful as a top-up later in the year to Kerb treated hedges. A liquid alternative would be Atrazine and Stomp at the rate of three litres/five litres/ha respectively. Atrazine used as Stomp not good on all grasses. Alternatively Butisan could be used where cleavers not a problem.

After two growing seasons, the use of Casoron G granules is available at the rate of 100kg/ha. This chemical controls a very wide spectrum of grasses and broad leaved weeds including grasses, thistle, nettle, dock, willowherb and cleavers. The active ingredient is Dichlobenil, a soil acting residual herbicide best applied February/March.

One further chemical sometimes used is Cyanazine (eg Fortrol), which is a liquid applied soil and foliar acting herbicide for the control of annual dicotyledons and annual grasses in farm forestry and is often recommended as a tank mix with Atrazine.

#### Conclusion

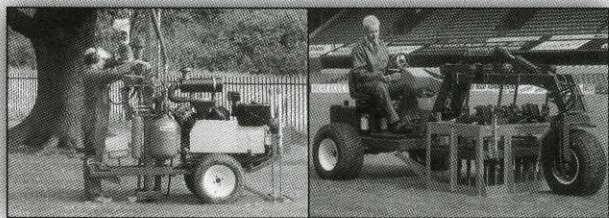
Successful tree establishment depends on the correct species choice, followed by good planning, planting, weeding and maintenance.

Chemical herbicides are a great aid to the woodland manager and their correct use is both an economical and effective means of ensuring that the trees we plant today will be the quality woods of tomorrow. However, on lowland sites the removal of grasses leaves ground open to colonisation by all sorts of unwanted weeds. Care must be taken to prevent the spread of ragwort and the like and to control voles where often the use of 300mm vole guards is the best protection.

Eamonn Wall can be contacted at Eamonn Wall Associates Tel: 01259 743212.



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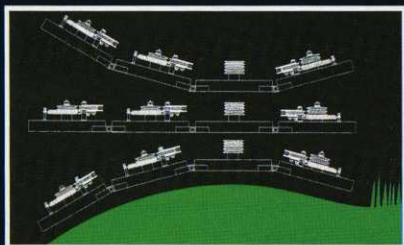


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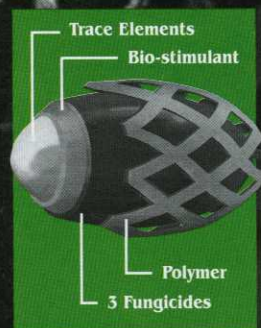
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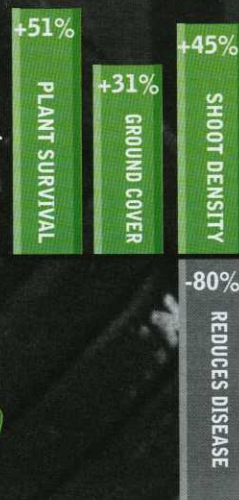
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It is the 10th birthday of WESTURF - come and have a glass of wine and a piece of anniversary cake and meet your Regional Board, Regional Administrator and National Chairman who will be delighted to meet you.

Westurf will have a whole new look this year - put the date in your diary -

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**LONG ASHTON GOLF CLUB 10AM - 4PM**

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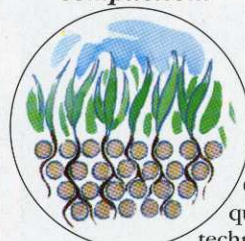
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Hugh Tilley casts his eye over the items which can make such a difference on any golf course

# Icing on the cake

The multitude of accessories and furniture such as hole cups, signs, markers, flags and the like are a necessity on any course and although they may appear trivial they are very important to the smooth and satisfactory operation of the course, furthermore they do add considerably to the cost.

While many courses do not use tee mats, nor have a driving range, these items also come within the description of accessories and for those clubs which use them they are important. Nor are most of these items inexpensive – and some areas find themselves with a considerable bill each year for



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# Icing on the cake

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replacing vandalised and stolen items.

Simple things such as bunker rakes are more complex than perhaps appears at first sight, and not all rakes are equal. One greenkeeper told of the club which is being sued because a golfer got a splinter in his hand from a wooden handle. Needless to say that club has changed to glass reinforced plastic (grp) handles for their rakes. Another club found that each autumn several rakes got "borrowed" for someone's garden leaves, but there are models which are not suitable for raking leaves.

Tee mats, once mainly the prerogative of a driving range, are finding favour on an ever increasing number of courses, particularly to save the grass tee areas in winter. In addition players are favouring them because they provide a cleaner and more stable surface from which to drive. Winter tee mats are usually supplied complete with a base, steel with mesh bottom and adjustable legs, or perhaps wood. They can be

expected to cost several hundreds of pounds if bought as a complete ready made item, however, Course Manager, Paul Bishop, of Combe Manor near Bath, said they make their own in treated timber which they bed on sand and peg down – and this has proved to be much cheaper than buying proprietary units. He also commented that it has the advantage that they can trim the mat to fit exactly. Catalogues list a wide variety of mats, of differing materials and sizes, to suit differing needs and locations. Some allow the golfer to insert their own tee pegs, others require a flat based ball tee.

Many clubs have a practice bay or similar enclosure, Tildenet has been pre-eminent in this field although there are other well established net makers. Tildenet is able to supply the complete unit including poles, guy ropes and pegs. Like most of these items which tend to stay out all year round, in wind,



rain and sun, it is important that they are fully protected from these elements, or if not rot proofed, then they must be cheap and easy enough to replace regularly. Steel is usually painted, but may be better galvanised while timber is best tanalised to B.S. standard rather than just surface treated. Degradation occurs with most types of plastic, including glass reinforced plastic (grp) unless sufficient u.v. stabiliser is included in the compound. However, excess stabiliser can cause other life reducing effects such as brittleness and loss of plasticity. With the correct

stabilisation little more than surface discolouring should occur but such bleaching does detract from the visual appeal and visual appeal is important on many golf courses – so it may be more necessary to budget for regular replacement.

Hole cups come in various styles – each maker has his own form of lifter, and usually their own cutter, and there may be accessories such as covers, trimming scissors and cutting board to be considered. Flags and flag pins are integral to greens and the hole. The range of options allows for differing views of what is best. Fibreglass is now the most popular material for construction, and all suppliers offer a range of lengths and colours. The pin should be clearly visible, thus contrast with the background is important. It the background is entirely trees or grass, or even sky a single

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colour pin may be acceptable, but if backgrounds change according to the approach then two colour banded pins will be essential. On most courses each hole is different, but having differing types or colours of pins is likely to be unacceptable – and impractical. Pins are also now expected to stand upright, thus a well fitting wear resistant ferrule at the bottom extends the life of cup and pin, most flags now swivel at the top. Swivel top pins are more expensive, but can be expected to last longer. Bottom wear is exacerbated by the fact that sand and water forms a good grinding medium. Exceptionally exposed sites may need a flag pin with greater rigidity – there are available.

Vandalism on some courses is a major cause of loss, and the option some clubs have taken is to use inexpensive alternatives, such as a length of standard pvc. pipe. (Waste overflow pipe from B & Q etc). Greenkeepers talk about having their flag pins used as javelins and of having them thrown into a lake. Similar can occur to any easily movable course furniture – such as signs, seats and rakes. Perhaps

the feature of the Tacit Tufftex solid ball type tee marker will float is of vital importance to some greenkeepers.

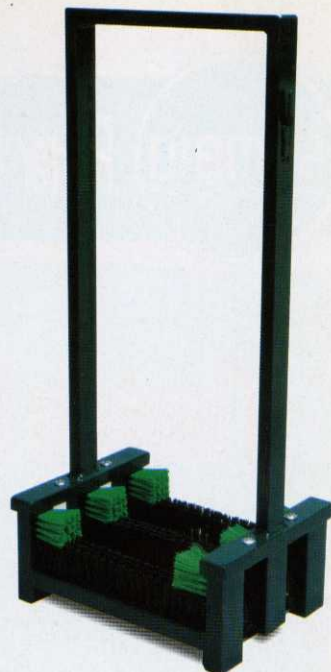
While flags are freely available in various colours with numbers on them, there are other options, including having sponsors or club names on them. Nylon and polyester are the usual materials used, but these may be knitted or woven, with number or logo etc. either printed or sewn on. The important point in getting value for money is longevity – some styles will last longer and look smarter, the main flag 'killer' being wind, and nothing looks worse than a tattered flag. The chances are that expensive club and sponsor flags will be put out for specific gala days and then rapidly replaced with less expensive flags. For clubs with frequent match days perhaps the ability to change flags quickly and easily becomes important – this facility can be found.

A wide variety of signs is available, from temporary usage signs such as

"Ground Under Repair" and "Spraying in Progress" to customised signs – you name it and it can be made. It looks better if all signs on the course are of the same format and type, and while most suppliers of course equipment offer both off the peg and customised signs it is also possible to use a local company/sign writer to produce them – and perhaps less expensively. The most preferred signage would appear to be of cast aluminium, however there are plastic or resin based alternatives which may be less expensive.

Another item increasingly being made available on courses is the ball cleaner, and naturally this must be frost resistant. Detergents and 'anti-freeze' are options but I suspect most clubs either empty or remove the unit for the winter. The brushes and paddles are considered to be wearing items, so the ease of replacement and cost needs considering.

Of course the range of accessories goes far beyond those items mentioned above, as do the suppliers. Seats and rubbish bins, divot boxes and boot cleaners, posts and chain,



and distance markers all fit within this category – and all are an integral part of the equipment the greenkeeper is expected to maintain. Furthermore adding up the cost on a normal 18 hole course probably equals several thousands of pounds – depending on how far up-market the club pitches itself. Nevertheless the appearance of these items is important to a club – and to the overall view of the club given to visitors.



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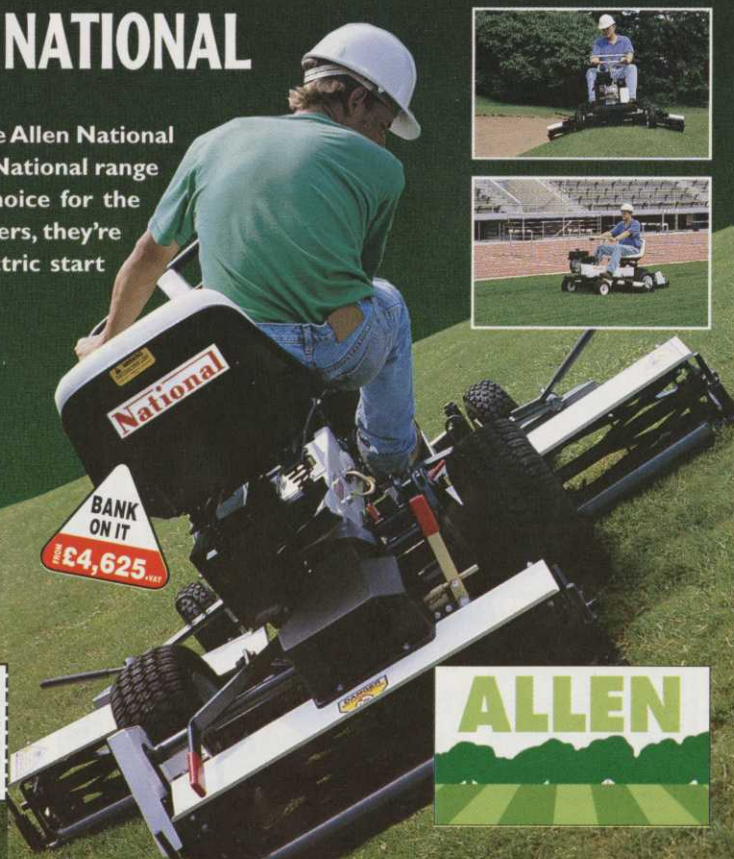
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Sales and Marketing Manager, James McEvoy, reports on his first visit to the GCSAA Conference and Show, and his first visit to the States.

# California dreaming



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# California dreaming

Having spent a year heavily involved in organising and marketing BTME '98, when Neil Thomas suggested that I travel with the BIGGA party to Anaheim, California, (home of Disneyland and Mickey Mouse) for the GCSAA's annual show, I was delighted to accept.

However, trying to explain to my partner, Julie, that the trip was purely business proved the most arduous task and with only a week between the two shows, it was also a hectic programme. But this provided an opportunity I found difficult to resist, and I would spend a great deal of my time comparing and contrasting the two very different, yet equally successful approaches.

Los Angeles, where the sun always shines, California dreams and all that. Well before we go any further let me tell you, we saw very little sun thanks to the unfriendly weather caused by the infamous El Nino.

Rain, and lots of it, along with storms. No chance of getting my legs tanned in the shorts I'd optimistically packed (I hope Julie doesn't read this). It could have been worse though, it could have snowed at the BTME. I had foolishly assumed that unlike our show which always has one eye on the weather, theirs would be guaranteed clear blue skies. Having said that, it was amusing to watch the CNN weather reports. Oh, how the Americans have a habit of overstating things.

LA is a sprawl, extending for miles in all directions and Anaheim is just one of its many suburbs. With no obvious centre, the area is dominated by Disneyland, and the Disneyland Hotel provides accommodation for visitors to the Magic Kingdom. This was where the BIGGA party stayed for the next eight nights and in fact was one of the designated hotels for the GCSAA's show. Many of the 1000

Neil Thomas, Jim Fry, Ian McMillan, Gordon Child, James McEvoy and Marion Child



bedrooms in the hotel were occupied by show attendees. Buses relayed visitors to and from the show on a ten minute rota at peak times. Considering the "awesome" weather (gotta use the lingo), the buses were a major blessing. The charm of Harrogate and the peace of North Yorkshire in comparison seemed more than a million miles away.

The Anaheim Hilton Hotel, just a few minutes walk from the exhibition centre, was the official exhibition hotel and was used for all the

Gala evenings and celebration dinners that were held over the week. The Americans are big on speeches and love to present every last family detail on video in their own inimitable style. Small wonder Jeremy Beadle is in possession of so much hilarious material!

Harrogate, by comparison, is a Conference town. All the hotels are within walking distance; the Majestic Hotel, which is the nerve centre for the BTME, has 156 rooms and is one the largest hotels in Harrogate. Little more than a

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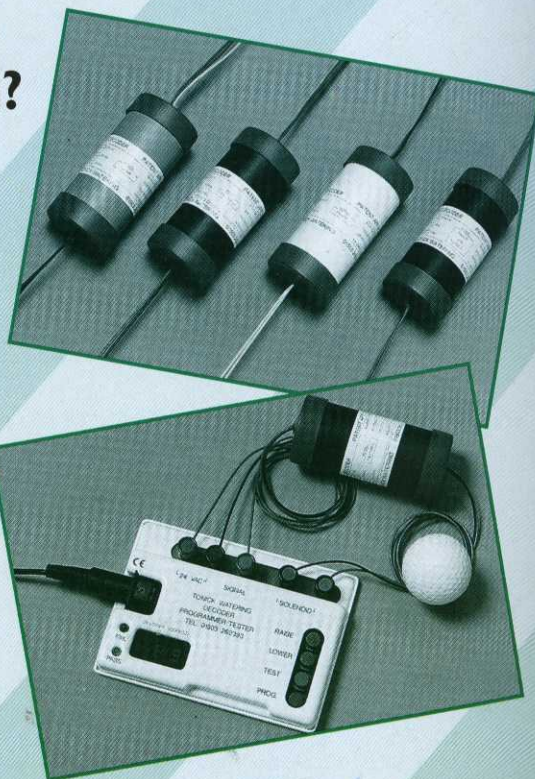
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The BIGGA stand drew plenty of visitors

Travel Lodge in comparison.

The composition of the show was similar to the BTME only bigger, a lot bigger... While GCSAA 98 had approximately 18,000 visitors and 680 exhibitors, BTME had nearly 6,000 visitors and 168 exhibitors which means that the GCSAA show is approximately three times the size of the BTME. Interestingly, the GCSAA has around 18,000 members to BIGGA's 6,500 which again is a ratio of approximately three to one.

The show lasted for two and a half days - the same as the BTME in Harrogate. The main difference is that the GCSAA vary their location each year. Next year the show moves to Orlando and then on to New Orleans for the year 2000. In total there are five different venues visited

never tire of. The success of BTME is partly due to its consistency and professionalism. We work with contractors and organisations who understand our industry, are knowledgeable and well respected by us which provides a continuity I find reassuring. Conversely it could be argued that The GCSAA show has more variety with its different location and cultures and is more dynamic as a consequence.

I had to rely on the experts within our team for their impressions of the technical quality of exhibitor products on demonstration at the show. These were this year's winner of the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping award, Ian McMillan, the Toro student winner Steven Nixon and runners-up Alan Owen and Christopher Rawlings. They were openly

impressed with what the show had to offer and in particular, Ian McMillan was complementary about the sheer size and variety of the exhibiting companies.

Also in our party was Gordon Child, BIGGA Chairman, and equally important his hard working and supportive wife, Marion, who is well known among our members. Having been unwell for part of the time at our own BTME, it was a delight having Marion in top form organising us all in Anaheim. I was amazed at how well informed she is on greenkeeping issues and I must express my thanks to both Gordon and Marion for their help and support on the BIGGA stand and for contributing their wealth of knowledge of the Association wherever possible.

At Harrogate this year, the BIGGA stand was 55 metres square and was resourced by a staff of 14 plus the Regional Administrators and Board members. At Anaheim we had a stand measuring three metres square staffed mainly by Neil, myself and Pauline Thompson. Our time was spent responding to questions on all

aspects of the Association including education, membership and sales. Pauline noted a great deal of interest being shown in The Master Greenkeeper Certificate. The stand was also used as a meeting place for many of the "ex-pats" who attended the show, all keen to come and chat over old times and ask after mutual acquaintances. It was interesting to chat with Association Officials from worldwide. It's reassuring to know that despite differing cultures, climates and so on, many similar problems arise in providing for the needs of the membership and it was enlightening to hear their solutions and remedies.

On a personal level, the show enabled me to search out US companies who showed an interest in utilising BIGGA as a marketing vehicle for their own export activities. Many



Gordon Child and Neil Thomas manning the stand

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# California dreaming

leads were obtained at the show and these are now being followed up back at Headquarters. BIGGA is the second largest greenkeeping association in the world and our presence at the show is an indication of our commitment, as an international body, to the Fine Turf industry. Hopefully, we can build on the relationships that we have cultivated with our colleagues world-wide as we strive to become a truly International Association.

Peter Jacobsen's speech was, for me, the highlight of the week's evening programme of entertainment. I came away wondering who from the PGA European Tour contingent could articulate with the same eloquence and charisma while maintaining interesting and intelligent conversation as this man. Peter Jacobsen's support of the GCSAA was also admirable and I was left considering how BIGGA might nurture its relationship with the professional playing fraternity.

Watching how the GCSAA organised their show and marketed their Association left me a little bewil-

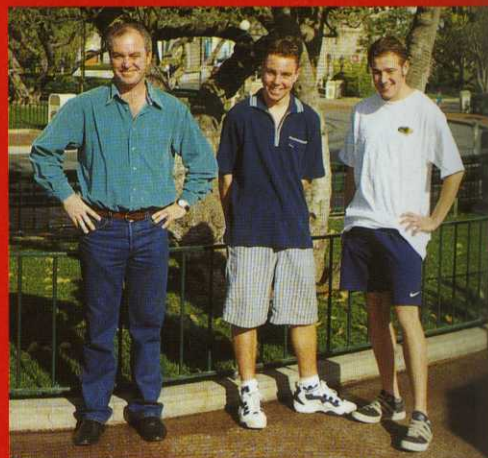
dered initially. That is, until I realised that they have 105 full time staff, compared to BIGGA who have 14 full time staff. Inevitably, one is left with a greater impression of what they can offer as a consequence. One example of the comparatively huge GCSAA resource available to stage an event was the banquet on the final evening of the show. This is a major event in the GCSAA's calendar (where have I heard that before?). The turn out was excellent (mainly members) and the organisation impressive. The evening is a drawn out affair in comparison to that staged in Harrogate with many more speeches and videos. However, there was a grandeur and professionalism about the evening that was to be admired. For approximately £75 per head, attendees received a pre-show bar and nibbles (perhaps nibbles is the wrong terminology for what seemed to me like a mountainous feast) followed by two hours of speeches from the past, present and the future Chairmen of the GCSAA together with the sponsor. A dinner

with wine followed before finally the night was rounded off with the entertainment for the evening which this year was provided by top Country singer, Trisha Yearwood.

Incidentally, the banquet was sponsored by the Textron group, who have recently acquired Ransomes to add to a portfolio which also includes Jacobsen, E-Z-Go and Iseki.

Finally, who could go to Los Angeles and not find time to visit the array of attractions and entertainment that is on offer. With Disneyland on our door step it was an obvious place to visit, as was Universal Studios which was one of the official trips organised by the GCSAA. It is amazing to see how (mature?) grown men behave when they are put into their natural environment - a playground! Picture the Executive Director, Neil Thomas and Chairman, Gordon Child sitting inside the 'Back to the Future' simulator screaming for their mothers!

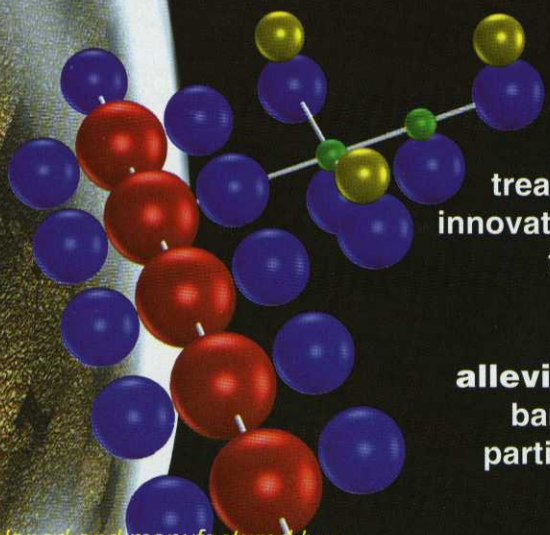
Toro Winners  
Ian McMillan,  
Alan Owen and  
Chris Rawlings



Pauline Thompson who can usually be found in the Accounts department at Aldwark was the only casualty of the trip, pulling a neck muscle on the 'Indiana Jones' ride. Pauline recovered quickly enough and was later seen around the shops canoodling with Mickey Mouse. I don't think it was a dream, but I'm certain I saw the Chairman himself being snapped with Spiderman. After Neil's recent rendition of "My ding-a-ling" with Linda Nolan at the BTME Banquet, one could be forgiven for thinking a normal day at the Association is like something from Alice in Wonderland.

Yes, the Americans certainly know how to stage a show, whether it be the GCSAA or Mickey and his friends.

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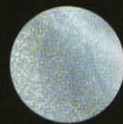


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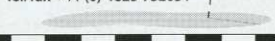
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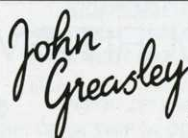
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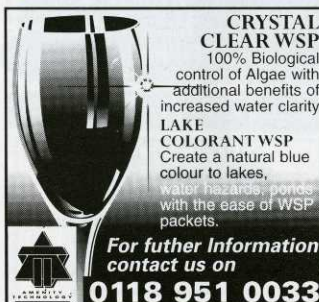
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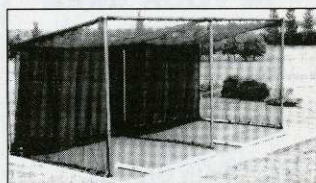
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## PETERBOROUGH MILTON GOLF CLUB

### COURSE MANAGER

Peterborough Milton Golf Club is a fine 18 hole parkland course designed by James Braid and opened in 1938. It is recognised as one of the premier Golf Courses in the area.

Applications are invited for this post which will become available on 4th January, 1999, following the retirement of the present Head Greenkeeper.

The key responsibilities of this position are as follows;

- To contribute to the formulation of policy and oversee the short, medium and long term maintenance of the golf course dictated by the policy.
- To present and implement work schedules, machinery replacement and machinery maintenance programmes, keep accurate records and be aware of modern methods, materials and equipment.
- To formulate, present and control agreed budgets including making reasoned decisions when buying materials and equipment.
- To lead, supervise, motivate, delegate as appropriate, develop, train and assist in the recruitment of staff.
- To endeavour to continually improve communication at all levels including staff, management and membership.
- To ensure safety of the staff and the environment.

Minimum qualifications for this position are NVQ Level 4, although applicants having obtained levels 1 to 3 and currently studying for level 4 will be considered.

Salary is negotiable, but will reflect the importance of the role. Accommodation is not provided.

Please reply in writing enclosing a full CV to:

The Secretary,  
Peterborough Milton Golf Club,  
Milton Ferry, Peterborough, PE6 7AG.

Closing date for applications is 17th April, 1998.

## STAND GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

We require a Head Greenkeeper who is in possession of recognised greenkeeping qualifications to maintain our 18 hole course to the highest possible standards.

The successful candidate must be able to manage and motivate staff; organise and participate in work programmes; operate within a planned budget; have practical knowledge of automatic irrigation systems and all greenkeeping machinery. A sound knowledge of Health & Safety at Work Regulations is essential.

Salary negotiable.

No accommodation provided, but re-location expenses will be considered.

Apply in writing with full CV to;

The Secretary,  
Stand Golf Club,  
Ashbourne Grove,  
Whitefield,  
Manchester  
M45 7NL

## Copt Heath Golf Club

Applications are invited for the position of

### COURSE MANAGER

This renowned Midlands course, currently a regional qualifying venue for the Open Championship, was built in 1907 to a Harry Vardon design and later improved by HS Colt. Whilst only occupying some 120 acres it is nevertheless a challenging 18 holes with a par of 71 and measuring 6517 yards.

The person appointed will take full responsibility and budgetary control. Key areas 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 budgetary control

The successful applicant requires the following attributes:

- Recognised qualifications in greenkeeping and golf course management
- Strong working knowledge of all modern golf course management practices with the ability to train, motivate and direct staff
- An ability to prepare and monitor budgets, inventories and expenditure

This is an opportunity for a highly competent person to enhance their career and work with an established committed team.

Remuneration package commensurate with experience.

Applications in writing for a formal application form to:

The Secretary, Copt Heath Golf Club,  
1220 Warwick Road, Knowle, Solihull, B93 9LN

## Potters Bar Golf Club

require a

### COURSE MANAGER

We require a competent Manager who in addition to the relevant greenkeeping skills, will have particular strengths in team building, budgeting skills and machinery management. The successful applicant will be a self motivated person with care for detail and will be both resourceful and innovative. Applicants must have relevant experience and be able to produce strong references.

Salary will be commensurate with the position and accommodation will be available in 1999.

Please write in the first instance to the Secretary with details of qualifications and experience.

Potters Bar Golf Club,  
Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 1DE



**Golf Inns Ltd**

## Belmont Lodge & Golf Course

Applications are invited for the position of

## FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Belmont Lodge & Golf Course with its 18 Hole Parkland Course, 30 Bedroomed Lodge and other leisure facilities is renowned in the West Midlands for its hospitality and friendliness.

The position, reporting directly to the Head Greenkeeper, will ideally suit an experienced Greenkeeper, with PA 1, 2 and 6 and other recognised qualifications, now wishing to progress their career up the greenkeeping ladder.

Applications in writing with full CV should be addressed to:

**Alan Carver – Executive Manager  
Belmont Lodge & Golf Course  
Belmont, Hereford HR2 9SA**

*(Golf Inns Ltd are working towards achieving equal opportunity status)*



*Invites applications for the posts of*

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This prestigious 'Jack Nicklaus designed' 36 hole golf club seeks the services of a well organised, self-motivated individual to service, maintain and operate a Rainbird Maxi 5 system. The ideal candidate will demonstrate a strong working knowledge of modern irrigation systems coupled with a sound practical greenkeeping background.

## Deputy Head Greenkeeper & Senior Greenkeeper Positions

The successful applicants will possess relevant professional qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of golf course management.

This is an excellent career move for an ambitious and confident greenkeeper who can demonstrate sound and positive team management skills, self-motivation and a willingness to learn new methods and techniques.

Please apply in writing enclosing a current CV to;

Mr Steve Jones,  
Golf Courses Superintendent,  
The London Golf Club,  
South Ash Manor Estate,  
Ash, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent, TN 15 7EN

*Closing date: 31st March, 1998.*

## THE KURPFALZ AG GOLF COURSE

in Germany requires three trained and qualified Greenkeepers for our 27 hole Golf Course and driving range/Golfodrom during the main season (8 months from March until October 1998). Successful teamwork and a positive attitude will also guarantee for future requirements.

Applicants will be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping with appropriate qualifications, having practical knowledge of modern machinery and handyman abilities.

Accommodation is available.

Applications in writing including a current CV and salary expectation to:

**Golfplatz Kurpfalz AG, Birkenweg, 67117 Limburgerhof, Germany**

## Experienced & Qualified Greenkeeper

for an 18-hole course, situated west of London.

The successful candidate will be self-motivated, have a good working knowledge of the maintenance of a parkland course together with experience of irrigation, machine maintenance and preferably hold PA1 and PA2 Certificate.

No Accommodation.

Please apply in writing with current C.V. to

The Secretary/Manager,  
Wyke Green Golf Club (1996) Ltd.,  
Syon Lane, Isleworth, Middlesex. TW7 5PT.

## Woodbury Park GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

## ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Woodbury Park is a privately owned high class golf and leisure complex with two golf courses, 18 hole championship Oaks and 9 hole Acorns.

Applications are sought from highly motivated individuals who are able to work within a team environment to assist the Course Manager in the maintenance of both courses at their present high standards.

Applicants must have a minimum of 2 years Greenkeeping experience and have appropriate qualifications to NVQ level 2 or above. Spraying qualifications PA1, PA2 and PA6a, would also be an advantage.

**Please apply in writing by March 20, 1998,  
enclosing an up-to-date CV to;**

**Jeff Mills, Course Manager,  
Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club,  
Woodbury Castle, Woodbury, Exeter, EX5 1JJ**



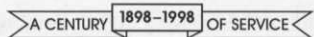
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We have a vacancy for a Service Technician with knowledge in Professional & Domestic Garden Machinery.

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## GATTON MANOR HOTEL, GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Invite applications for the position of

### Qualified Assistant Greenkeeper

To join the existing hard working team at the busy 18 hole members club.

The successful applicant will have the following qualifications:  
City and Guilds Phase 1 and 2 / NVQ equivalent, PA1 and PA2A spraying  
certificates, A minimum of 5 years experience.

The ability to self motivate and work successfully within a team is essential.

Apply in writing with current CV to:-

John Davidson, Course Manager, Gatton Manor Hotel, Golf and Country Club,  
Standon Lane, Ockley, Nr Dorking, Surrey, RH5 5PQ

## STOURBRIDGE GOLF CLUB LTD

Vacancy for

### DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER/ FIRST ASSISTANT

Must have relevant qualifications for post and practical experience.

Must be conversant with modern machinery and computerised  
irrigations systems.

Apply in writing with CV to:

Mrs M. A. Betts, Secretary,  
Stourbridge Golf Club Ltd, Worcester Lane,  
Pedmore, Stourbridge, DY8 2RB

## Stratford Oaks Golf Club

requires

### 2 ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

Applications are invited for these two new positions which have been  
created as part of a major upgrading programme for the course.

The successful candidates should have a minimum of two years  
experience in all aspects of golf course maintenance.

Qualifications preferable but not essential.

Apply in writing with full CV to

Golf Course Manager, Stratford Oaks Golf Club  
Bearly Rd, Snitterfield, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 0EZ

## Muswell Hill Golf Club

### TRAINEE GREENKEEPER

required for Muswell Hill Golf Club,  
situated 7 miles from central London.

18 hole course established in 1893.  
Good training and prospects are offered.  
Salary c£8,000 per annum.

Applications forms from The Secretary on 0181 888 1764

## CALDY GOLF CLUB

We require an

### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will have the following qualifications:

Phase 1 and 2 NVQ equivalent, PA1 and PA2a spraying certificate,  
three years greenkeeping experience, ability to show initiative and work  
effectively within a young team.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

Ian Farrall, Head Greenkeeper  
Caldy Golf Club, Links Hey Road, Caldy, Wirral, Merseyside, L48 1NB

## Three Rivers District Council

### INVITATION TO TENDER

### SELECT LIST OF CONTRACTORS

Construction of a Golf Academy and improvements to the 18 hole and Par 3 Courses

Applications are invited from suitably experienced contractors wishing to be considered for inclusion  
in the select list for the above project. It is currently anticipated that the contract will be let during the  
late summer with work commencing by the 1st October 1998.

The Contractor will need to be able to demonstrate that they have previous experience of this type of  
project. The scheme will be a Sports Council Lottery Funded one and will include the construction of  
new greens, bunkers, and fairways together with the associated earth works, landscaping, tree  
planting etc. The Contractor should also be a member of the British Association of Golf Course  
Constructors, or a similar professional body.

Contractors wishing to be considered for inclusion on the select list are required to  
complete a questionnaire which can be obtained from:

Director of Planning and Leisure, fao Mr J Wellman Contract Monitoring Officer,  
Three Rivers House, Northway, Richmansworth, Herts, WD3 1RL Tel 01923 776611 ext 1395

Completed questionnaires must be returned by the 1st May 1998

## COVENTRY HEARSALL GOLF CLUB

18 Hole Golf Course

Invites applications for the position of

### First Assistant Greenkeeper

The successful applicant will be qualified to NVQ 3 or equivalent, Possessing  
PA1, 2a and 6 spraying Certificates. With a sound knowledge of machinery and  
maintenance practices. Golfer preferred. No accommodation. Salary Negotiable.

Apply in writing with C.V. to:

The Secretary, Mrs M. E. Hudson, Coventry Hearsall Golf Club,  
Beechwood Avenue, Coventry CV5 6DF



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the application of ENVIGRO.

Wigan Athletic Training Ground 3 weeks  
after the application of ENVIGRO.

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ENVIGRO is the new organic fertiliser produced by the rapid composting of nitrogen-rich manures and other organic materials. ENVIGRO can be used when seeding areas of very poor soil such as shale, and sand, so avoiding the need to bring in topsoil. A fine grade of ENVIGRO is produced specifically for use on established turf on professional sports grounds.

### A TYPICAL ANALYSIS

N-3.5%	P-2.1%	K-3.4%
Organic matter		95%

### TRACE ELEMENTS (PPM)

occurring naturally

Mg-140	Zn-175	Mo-1.5	B-8.0	Cu-80
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### MICROBIAL CONTENT

Very large numbers of micro-organisms are present (more than 1,000,000,000 per gm of fertiliser)

### ADVANTAGES OF ENVIGRO

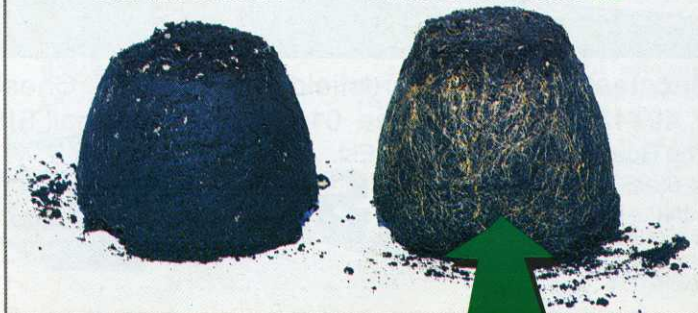
High humus, good water retention, no artificial chemicals, high microbial content, need only apply every 6 months, free-flowing, slow release, easy to use, available in various screen sizes, fantastic value.

## GROWING TRIALS PROVE THAT TURF TREATED WITH ENVIGRO OUTPERFORMS THE REST

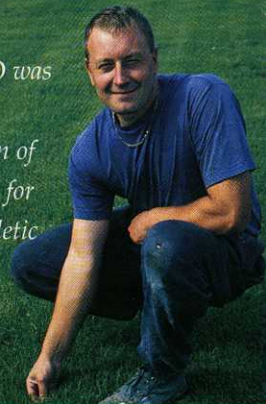
Enhanced root development increases natural water uptake and binds loose soil, producing a more stable playing surface. Lush growth appears ready for cutting within 3 weeks after seeding.

ROOT SYSTEM  
GROWN IN SOIL

ROOT SYSTEM GROWN  
IN SOIL: ENVIGRO 5:1



ENVIGRO was  
used in the  
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a new pitch for  
Wigan Athletic  
Training  
Ground.



Keith Porter, Head Groundsman, of  
Wigan Athletic Training Ground said:

" Within three weeks of using  
ENVIGRO, we had a visible sheen  
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ground was just left to the elements  
and there was no scorching and it  
kept its moisture."

### IDEAL FOR

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Sandy McDivot, Head Greenkeeper at Sludgecombe Pay and Play, outlines some of his thoughts on Golf Course Design in...

# Better by design

When it comes to golf course design it is difficult to say what type of play should be rewarded and what type punished. Should the course favour the long hitter or merely the more accurate among us. Or should it be a requirement to punish the golfer who can do neither. The general consensus would appear to be to reward the golfer who thinks but punish the more heavy handed. To lead one into temptation while always allowing an escape route for the weaker hitter. The game then becomes an exercise promoting the human qualities of self denial and courage while teaching us humility and the art of careful thought.

I recently had the very great pleasure of attending a BIGGA regional course on course design and construction. This was an excellent course in which we the students were taken into the world of the golf course architect and learnt some of the subtleties, and artistic touches that they use to reward the thinker while at the same time punishing the more wayward among us. A strategically placed fairway bunker could guard the side of the fairway that offers the more direct line of entry to the green, that sort of thing. Or perhaps a water hazard could be angled across a fairway so as to tempt the golfer into biting off more than he should in an effort to get closer to the target. Yes, it becomes a psychological art form in which the shrewd intelligent sportsman can plot his way round the course eventually picking off the weaknesses in a golf holes defence and bringing the course to its knees by dint of superior intellect. Well that's the theory but here at Sludgecombe Pay and Play, we have a different breed of golfer. You might recognise the one. He carefully selects the club and goes through his pre shot ritual before painstakingly taking his stance and lining himself up some 23 times. A barely perceptible forward press then paves the way to a power backswing at which point his club collides with his trolley that he has managed to place directly in his path. The offending object is hastily moved and is then proceeded by a long succession of hacks and duffs from one side of

the fairway to the other. Obviously the subtleties of the course designers craft are somewhat lost on this golfer.

There is another breed of golfer that is not so often seen here at Sludgecombe and that is the power golfer. The one that overcomes the designers well placed hazards by simply detonating the ball way over the top of them. Now the designer may argue that any course that leaves itself open to such bullying tactics is not a good or well designed one, but as we can all recall this is exactly what happened to the classically designed Augusta national last year. Even the hallowed turf of St Andrews came in for this demolition treatment at the hands of John Daly a couple of years ago. St Andrews is a very strategic course in that the accurately placed tee shot that skirts the out of bounds on the right hand side opens up the green for the second. The safe option of going left from the tee allows a longer shot over obstacles and so a penalty is taken. However at the hands of big John, it was a case of hitting everything half a mile forward and a quarter of a mile left into the vast expanse of adjacent fairway. A short iron with 3000 rpm of backspin from there over any intervening pot bunker, and the target was never in any shape to defend itself.

Now this is obviously golf that is not exactly taxing on the brain but there is one hole at the home of golf that although not being aesthetically pleasing to the eye due to the fact that the

tee shot is played over a hotel that owes its design influence to Strangeways, it is however one of the most strategic in golf. That hole of course is the 17th or Road Hole. Perhaps not surprisingly it is about the only hole at the venerable links with trouble in the form of heavy rough on the left. Then with the infamous Road Hole bunker guarding the front and left of the green and purgatory beyond the shallow putting surface it becomes the most classic of risk and reward holes. The closer one can hit the tee shot to the out of bounds and rooms on the fourth floor of the hotel, the easier the approach to the green. Take the safe option left from the tee and one is left with 180 yards of carry out of heavy rough over one of the world's toughest bunkers with about two foot of landing area beyond. Now this is a hole that gets a man thinking.

Personally such a hole would not affect my particular brand of golf as it would on this hole involve several involuntary lashes followed by a desperate search and so once again the subtleties of this classic risk and reward hole would go some distance over my head, but in the hands of anyone that has some control over the balls final destination, its a different matter.

So how can the course designer and, perhaps more pertinently, we the greenkeepers help in promoting strategic thinking from the golfer what ever his abilities or lack of them. Well, at the above mentioned course I remember the tutors, the renowned course architects Simon Gidman and Howard Swan saying how in the old days the game was much more strategic due to the fact that the old 1.62 inch ball which everyone used was difficult to elevate and difficult to stop on the putting surface. Add the modern balata covers, square grooves, greens that are watered automatically and rough that can be cut more than about three times a year or what ever was the norm in those days and any incompetent can fly greenside bunkers and stop the ball within the confines of the putting surface. In short the

approach shot that has to land short and run onto the green has become obsolete thereby negating the importance of tee shot placement.

Now I have been playing this game for a sufficient length of time to remember courses that had spasmodically watered clay greens that used to dry up something awful in the summer. Any tee shot that left an approach with an intervening hazard and even Seve Ballesteros in his Houdini mode would struggle to hit the green. Going back even further I remember a story Henry Cotton told, of how the parched greens were regularly rolled.

This created a surface with the texture of brick and the speed of lino so it became normal practice for golfers to purposely score the cover of a golf ball in an effort to stop it from continually rolling off the putting surface after any momentum had been imparted.

I am not necessarily advocating a return to those bad old days but maybe we greenkeepers could attempt to firm up our greens while at the same time trying to keep our jobs reasonably long term. Or perhaps fairways could be shaped a little with the original design concept in mind or maybe a tee could be resited as part of a rebuilding programme so as the green becomes slightly offset and thereby putting a greater emphasis on tee shot placement. Just the simple, albeit controversial placement of a small bunker in the middle of a fairway at about driving distance could have an amazing influence on the tee shot of an otherwise plain hole. Instead of an aimless thrash down the middle the golfer would be forced to think, do I go left or right of the bunker and if so which alternative leaves me with the best line in to the flag. Or should I lay up or even have a go at carrying it. In short, to try and create the type of hole so epitomised by the 17th at St Andrews.

Far be it for me a poor Head Greenkeeper to give advice to all you out there, but maybe we could try and introduce back into the game a little of what has been lost over the years. Who knows, maybe one day your members might even thank you for it.

**“A short iron with 3000 rpm of backspin, and the target was never in any shape to defend itself.”**





## Feature listing from February '96

**February '96:** Newbury Race Course GC; Health and Safety; Machinery Maintenance; Sprayers; Trees

**March '96:** Industrial Tribunals; Irrigation; Health and Safety; Seed Technology; The Dukes Course, St Andrews; Temple Golf Club; Grass Cutting Technology

**April '96:** Brush Cutters; Ear Defenders; Forest of Arden Golf & Country Club; Golf in Asia; Turf Production; Environment

**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 excavators; Royal Lytham GC; Protective Clothing; Modern Apprenticeships; Irrigation

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

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

**October '96:** Drainage; The Wentworth Club

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

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

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

**February '97:** Attending to the Details; Computers; Fertilisers; 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

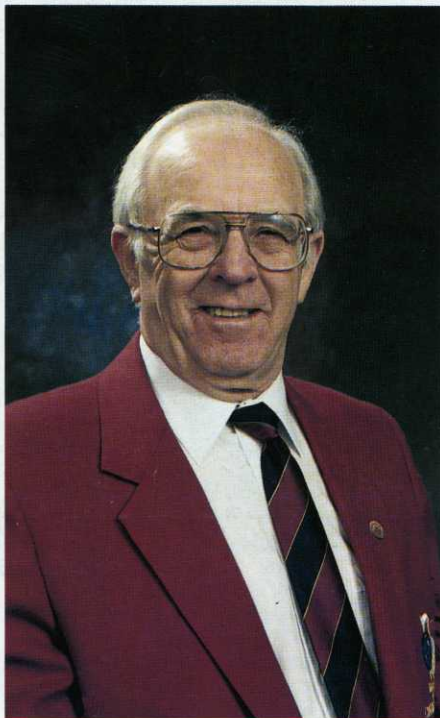
**December '97:** Seed Development; Longhirst Hall GC; Toro Awards; Fertiliser Spreaders; Communication

**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



# A view of America



One of the highlights of my visit to the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show in Anaheim was the refreshing comments on course construction and maintenance, along with the fact that in some ways greenkeeper education in the USA is behind that in Britain.

US PGA Tour veteran Peter Jacobsen in his keynote speech made it clear why in his opinion the American Ryder Cup team keep getting stuffed - his words not mine - by the Europeans. It's because in America they build courses that only call for the game to be played through the air, not on the ground. If golf were meant to be played in the air so that the ball stops dead as soon as it lands they would have made it like a bean bag.

He then turned his attention to design and maintenance with a call to build simpler courses with less water and hazards, returning to the more traditional golf courses. On the maintenance side he called for a halt in the never ending search for lightning fast greens. He believes that if you have to have fast greens they should be flat, and not full of

undulations which make putting almost impossible, and he called Augusta a joke, something the club golfer would do well to remember. Then he referred to over watering, which happens all too often, as a waste of money and good turf. It certainly made a change to hear a top Tour player saying what we have been saying for years.

On education, the BIGGA stand had a steady stream of Superintendents wanting to take up our Master Greenkeeper Certificate saying it is a step up from the top level of certification available in the United States. In Canada a media release on national validation

process is down the same lines as our NVQ and SNVQ. Also Australia are looking at the same sort of system for their greenkeepers. So when you look back over the week it was a big plus for BIGGA, our education and traditional British greenkeeping. How this week would have pleased my old friend Jim Arthur, had he been there, just to know all his practical advice over half a century has stood the test of time, and now coming back into fashion even on the other side of the pond. I just had to give him a call on my return.

The only damper on our time in Los Angeles was the rain. We were supposed to leave all that - behind, instead it was much wetter there than at home, but at least the worst of the rain fell at night or when we were in the show, which was quite lucky because many on the trip were without waterproofs. Talking about clothing I only wish more of our members took the same pride as the Americans in wearing their Association merchandise. There was a large warehouse full of clothing with the GCSAA logo and name on. It was almost sold out after the

three days. I know some will say "Yes, but the Americans get far more money than we do" That is not true. The average pay packet in the States is, in fact, very little more than in the UK. Sure, some of the top men earn more but they are in a minority. No, the reason is all down to pride, which is a pity when you consider what we get for our money. I doubt there is a single greenkeeper in the UK who can honestly say that BIGGA has done nothing for them.

Just stop and consider our profile, wages, and the opportunities available in education and comradeship, not to mention help lines, insurance and golf. Yes, we should all be proud of BIGGA. Even the hardest critics of five or 10 years ago must now give credit, even if grudgingly, to the Association's success. I believe we should all take a leaf out of the Americans book and instead of saying what's in it for me, we should be saying what can we do to help and at the same time help ourselves.

On the golf course greenkeepers will all be busy preparing for the coming season, taking every dry day opportunity to get as much mechanical work done as possible and finishing off their winter work programmes. This is the time of year I miss the practical side of greenkeeping more than any other. It always seemed to give me renewed interest and motivation for the year ahead. I must admit however, I have got used to getting out of bed a little later these days, but after 49 years working on golf courses you do tend to miss the satisfaction derived from preparing for the coming season.

Before you all start feeling sorry for me, I can assure you I am enjoying retirement and being your Chairman.

Gordon Child



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