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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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Greenkeeper

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November 1998

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

Regulars

News

Pages 7, 8, 9, 10

8 Assistant Profile

16-17 Letters

19 The Learning Experience

Nuts and Bolts. Laurence Pithie extolls the benefits of having a dedicated golf course mechanic

33-39 Around the Green

44 Money Matters

44 Education

45 Health & Safety

58 Features Listing

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

58 As I see it...

BIGGA National Chairman, Gordon Child, currently clocking up more miles than Alan Whicker, reports from Belfast and Atlanta among others.

Reader Reply Card

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

Advertiser	Ad Ref	Page
AF Trenchers Ltd	203	32
Amenity Technology	431	60
Cargills Plc	566	5
Cleveland Sitesafe	56	16
Charterhouse	130	34-35
Eagle One Golf Products	593	32
Evergreens UK	526	39
Green-Relief™	563	37
Greensward Engineering	312	31
John Deere	103	2
Kawasaki	544	27, 39
Lely (UK) Ltd	61	59
Lloyds & Co, Letchworth	603	32
Marlwood	501	31
Ocmis	360	21
Par 4 Irrigation Ltd	27	27
Pattissons	35	16
Plasticisers Fibres	597	43
Rainbird	443	15
Rhône-Poulenc	59	6, 28
Sandblast Sign Co	608	27
Textron	9	18
Wessex Farm Machinery	210	37

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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



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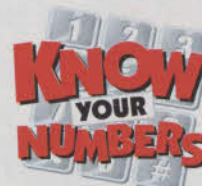
Will you be at BTME99?
Do you need more pre-registration cards?
Call the BTME hotline on 01347 833834 now!



58 As I see it...



19 The Learning Experience: Nuts & Bolts



49 Win £50 with our new Buyers' Guide quiz

The hustle and bustle of life at BIGGA

Who said life at BIGGA would ever be boring? Well no-one actually but I had to start this column somehow and it has been a particularly eventful few weeks since I last penned an Editorial.

In that time we have seen the successful culmination of three major events each of which has involved months of detailed planning.

I'm referring to the move from the old BIGGA Headquarters to BIGGA HOUSE; the second Hayter International Cup in Atlanta, Georgia, and, finally, the official Royal opening of BIGGA HOUSE. All fell within a mad two and a half weeks for everyone involved in the Association.

To the uninitiated a move of a mere 50 yards from a cramped old building to one custom built with space and a place for everyone and everything seems a piece of cake, but I can assure you that it takes weeks of preparation, and the commitment and endeavour of everyone, to make it work smoothly. And I can tell you that anyone watching from the outside would have witnessed the entire BIGGA staff showing all the precision of a good quality Swiss watch coupled with brute strength honed through hours in the gym, for two days of the actual move. The very next day the office was fully functioning again, even although it was another week and a half before the builders completed their work.

Those lucky enough, and I was one of them, to attend the Hayter International Cup in Atlanta found another event where thorough planning - by BIGGA, the GCSAA and, in particular, Kim Macfie of Hayter - ensured an occasion that will not be forgotten.

Five golf clubs were visited in all, each ranking among the finest in the country and at every one the 24 players, two non-playing Captains and various officials were made to feel welcome.

It was a wonderful week, only made possible by the magnificent commitment and sponsorship of Hayter, with the only downside the fact that it was the Americas team which retained the trophy and not the Rest of the World team which brought it back over the Atlantic.

Finally, it is not every day that you get a chance to mix with Royalty but the opening of BIGGA HOUSE gave a remarkable number of people just that. HRH The Duke of York put everyone at his or her ease during his visit. He spoke warmly of the work of the Association and its members and took time to speak with as many of the invited guests and members of BIGGA's staff as he could. Other special guests were BIGGA President, Viscount Whitelaw and Lady Whitelaw and R&A Secretary Sir Michael Bonallack who also spoke well of the Association.

BIGGA HOUSE itself proved a big hit with everyone who had a chance to look round and, indeed, there can be no better symbol as to how far the Association has come in its short 11 year existence.

It will also act as a springboard for the next phase in BIGGA's development and the next few years should prove exciting.

Editor:
Scott MacCallum



Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

Features

- 11 Open for business**
BIGGA's Royal Occasion was a huge success. See it in pictures
- 23 Back from the brink**
Scott MacCallum reports from Ramside Hall in the North East and hears a great tale of recovery
- 29 Do you wanna be in my gang?**
Roland Taylor reports on the gang mowers and how they appears to be drawing towards their retirement
- 40 Sweet Georgia Greens**
Americas retained the Hayter International Cup but all 24 players counted themselves winners just to be in Atlanta
- 31 Can you dig it?**
Roger Davey examines the intricacies of installing irrigation systems



31 Can you dig it?



11 Open for business



40 Sweet Georgia Greens

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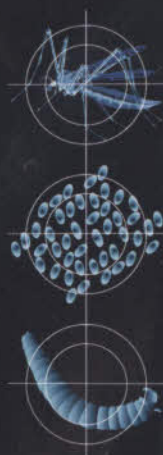



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Honorary Membership for Jim Fry

At the September meeting of the Board of Management, Jim Fry was awarded only the second Honorary Membership in BIGGA's history. The first was awarded to Viscount Whitelaw in April this year.

BIGGA's Constitution enables the BIGGA Board of Management to recognise as an Honorary Member any person recognised as having contributed in an outstanding manner to the Association or profession.

Jim has served as President of the South Coast Section for many years as well as giving tremendous support to the Association at Region and National level. In his own unassuming way he has helped many greenkeepers on a personal level.

Neil Thomas, BIGGA's Executive Director, commented, "Honorary Membership of BIGGA has not and will not be awarded lightly by the Board of Management. In Jim Fry's case it is a much deserved award recognising the outstanding service he has given to the Association and the regard in which he is held by a large number of our members for his support and guidance which is always so readily available.

"He is a true friend of greenkeepers and much respected within the profession."



Jim Fry pictured here at last year's BTME

Rewarded with a view of top class golf

Students from Elmwood College had the chance to have a close up view of some of the world's finest golfers play the world's most famous golf course during this year's Dunhill Cup at St Andrews.

This year was the second time that the St Andrews Links Trust has asked the one year National Certificate students to carry out bunker raking duties during the event and it gave them a first hand opportunity to watch top quality golf as well as see the work that goes into producing The Old Course for a top tournament.



Subscription rates valid from January 1999

Job Title	1999 rates
Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£73
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£59
All other greenkeeping staff aged 21 years and over	£50
Green staff aged 20 years and under	£30
Full-time Students	£15
International Greenkeeper	£59
Associate Member (inc. 'Company' Membership)	£59

Midland Region offers stress helpline

The Midland Region Support Group is available to help 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," explained 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 Amenity Land Services for their financial support of this worthy cause.

For further details contact 0116 2739189 or 01480 437507.

New seeds score top marks for Barenbrug

The 1999 Turfgrass Seed, published by the STRI, produced some good news for Barenbrug.

Recent cultivar, Bareine achieved impressive scores in the perennial ryegrass for lawns, landscaping and crickets fields.

Bargreen chewing fescue scored seven points or more in each category assessed. Another chewing fescue, Baroxi, was given a score of 8 for shoot density.

Slender creeping red fescue, Barcrown, scored highly for golf fairways, golf and bowling greens, while also scoring well was Heriot browntop bent, Barcampsia tufted hair grass and the new cultivar Barifera.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Profile

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

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



Name: Ralph Proverbs

Club: Lilleybrook GC

Position: First Assistant

Age: 32

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
8 years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
NVQ Level III at Cannington College

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
Construction

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
Painting

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

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
John Lowe, Hartpury College

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
More First Aid training in case of accidents at work!

8. What are your hobbies?
Triathlon, tennis, weights and golf

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
Education, excellent magazine and BTME

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
General Manager of a golf complex

Ian goes for an early bath – almost!

You never know what's around the corner. One minute Ian Toop, an assistant at Donnington Grove GC, was happily cutting the 14th green on his Toro greens mower, the next he was sliding down the hill toward the lake which guards the green.

"He tried to right the mower but wisely decided to jump off just before it plummeted over the sleeper wall and into the lake," said Course Manager, Ross Wilson.

"It is just as well he jumped off because the machine turned over and had he stayed on, he may well have drowned.

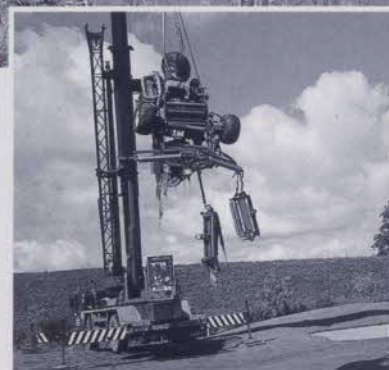
"The main thing was that he wasn't injured other than a white face one minute and a red face the next!" said Ross.

The machine wasn't quite so lucky and after being pulled from the lake - they hired a 35 tonne crane to do the job - it is now at the local Toro dealer having the damage assessed for insurance purposes.

"If these photographs and indeed this incident serve as a warning to young greenkeepers about the dangers involved in the simplest of tasks, then it may have served some purpose," said Ross.



Above: Thankfully, Ian jumped to safety before the Greensmower entered the lake.



Right: A new hazard on the 14th, as a 35 tonne crane rescues the mower from the lake.

New post for Michael



Etesia has appointed Michael Vjestica, right, as Head of Parts & Service for their UK headquarters in Warwick.

Mike has many years hands-on experience of the industry and until recently worked for Jacobsen Division of Textron as IT/Parts Manager. His new duties will include co-ordination of the day-to-day operation of the parts warehouse; dealing with technical and service matters; and liaison with dealers on replacement parts stocking. Preparation for his new

role will include a fortnight's in depth training at Etesia's factory in France.

This appointment is part of Etesia's policy of improving and expanding the company's back up service for dealers and customers in the UK, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

In addition, as part of the company's planned growth programme, Robin Taylor has been appointed UK Sales/General Manager, and is setting up a new Sales Department at Warwick.

Scotts unveil new distribution network

Scotts has reorganised its distribution network in the turfcare and amenity sector.

The changes are a result of a thorough review of the business' distribution needs, following the purchase of Levington Horticulture by Scotts in December 1997, and come into effect this month.

The Scotts Master Distributors appointed to serve the turfcare and amenity market in mainland Britain comprise: Avoncrop Amenity Products Bristol and Bracknell, Richard Aitken (Seedsmen) Ltd Scotland and Aitken Sportsturf Ltd Northern England, E T Breakwell Ltd and R E Rushbrook & Son. In Ireland, John Lindsay Professional Sportsturf and National Agrochemical Distributors Ltd are located North and South respectively and the Channel Islands are covered by Stan Brouard Ltd on Guernsey and David Dumosch on Jersey.

Commenting on the improved network, Scotts UK Professional Vice President Europe, Middle East and Africa, Louis de Kort, said: "The products needed to service the requirements of our professional customers are becoming ever more technical. The new network of Master Distributors ensures that we can provide the higher levels of advice and service that will be needed today and in the future."

Lullingstone win Kubota Challenge

Lullingstone Park Golf Club, Orpington, Kent is the winner of the first Kubota Golf Club Challenge, held at The National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire.

The Lullingstone Park team of Brian Seymour-Vallance and Paul Bennett amassed an aggregate total of 125 points in the Stableford competition played over 36 holes of golf - 18 on each of the two days of the Grand Final.

Their combined scores gave Lullingstone Park a winning margin of seven points over second-placed Clayton Golf Club, Bradford, West Yorkshire, represented by John Marriott and Richard Smith.

In third place with 117 points - just one point behind the second-placed team - was Rawdon Golf Club, also of West Yorkshire, represented by Steven Clark and Alan Armitage.

At a dinner following the final day's golf, the Kubota Trophy was presented to Lullingstone Park Golf Club with individual prizes of cut glass awarded to the team members representing the first, second and third placed clubs.

Starting off with an initial entry of 480 golf clubs from all over the United Kingdom, the Kubota Golf Club Challenge saw 15 golf clubs winning through to the Grand Final at Woodhall Spa. The 15 had secured their place following a series of five carded matchplay rounds played between pairs of randomly-drawn clubs on a knockout basis from April through to August.

1998 is the first year of the Kubota Golf Club Challenge. Organised by Sporting Concepts, the event



Lullingstone Park Golf Club receive their trophy

succeeded the Kubota Golf Challenge which had been sponsored since 1982 by Kubota, Britain's number one supplier of compact tractors. The new event invited individual golf clubs to enter teams of two players comprising the club's Secretary and the Head Greenkeeper to provide continuity to Kubota's long-standing relationships with the Association of Golf Club Secretaries and BIGGA.

"Kubota is delighted with the success of the inaugural Golf

Club Challenge and congratulates Lullingstone Park Golf Club on becoming the very first winner," commented Kubota UK's Marketing Manager, Tom Barnes.

"We also thank the 14 other finalists and all of the participating clubs and their team members for getting our new event off to such a resounding start. A warm thank you goes also to The National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa, for providing a superb location for a memorable final."

Tree grants branch out

As a supplementary to last month's article by John Nicholson on tree grants, John has called to say that the Locational Supplement has now been re-introduced into areas of community forest at a rate of £600/ha for new planting. Extra funding is also available from European Union sources in certain areas.

For additional information contact John at Eamonn Wall & Co Tel: 0191 384 2556.

Westurf moves to Westpoint

After a successful 10 year spell at Long Ashton Golf Club in Bristol Westurf has moved to the new purpose built - under cover venue of Westpoint in Exeter.

The Show which is run by BIGGA's South West and South Wales Region is scheduled for Tuesday April 27.

The new look Westurf will include;

- A new larger enclosed venue
- Machinery demonstration area
- Central display and entertainment area
- Free visitors database to all exhibitors
- Meet the experts for advice and top tips
- Free seminars on water management
- Free bus for spouses to sightsee/shop in Exeter

"I believe that Westurf's new venue will be a huge boost to Westurf and herald the start of a new era for the show," said organiser and BIGGA's South West and South Wales Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries.

Further information can be obtained from Paula, Tel: 01363 82777

JCB visit planned

A factory visit to JCB, Staffordshire is currently being organised. The visit will be hosted by Holt JCB of Avonmouth, Bristol, and the trip will be accompanied by Nick Chard (formerly of T.H White, now Holt JCB).

The visit will include a factory tour, lunch, demonstration and possible hands-on experience and is open to all greenkeepers in the South West and South Wales Region.

The date has yet to be finalised but the cost will be approximately £12 and anyone interested should contact Paul Jenkins on 07771 925315.

Added Value is theme for SGM Seminar

Scottish Grass Machinery, Textron Turf Care dealers, celebrated the opening of a new head office with its seventh annual two day Turf Care Seminar.

The Annual Turf Care Seminar is seen by SGM MD David McInroy as part of the ongoing initiative to work with customers and lift the market as a whole. This year the Seminar, consisting of Golf Club

and Local Authority Days, had as its theme "adding value" to give SGM and its customers an edge' in the marketplace.

Jimmy Kidd, Director of Turf Grass Management at Gleneagles Golf Developments, spoke at the Seminar on the subject of Golf Course Maintenance and the Environment.

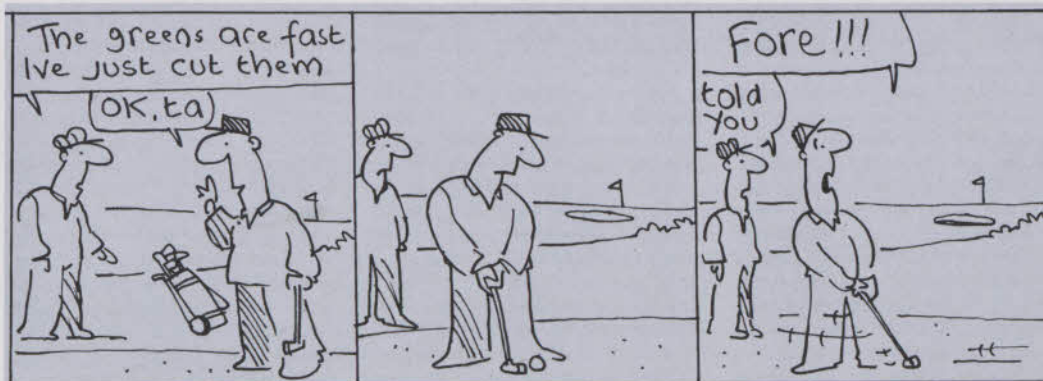
"I believe that superintendents

and greenkeepers - are the best people to police the environment because they genuinely care about the land and its future for their grandchildren," said Jimmy.

SGM has invested over £500,000 in the office at Belleknoves, Inverkeithing, set in 3.5 acres and it includes an innovative demonstration green to test and develop machines.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



Top soccer honours for Ferguson

The IOG Football Groundsman of the Year for 1998 is a former greenkeeper. Alan Ferguson, of Ipswich Town, began his career as an apprentice greenkeeper under Walter Woods, at St Andrews.

Alan, 37, has been at Portman Road since 1996, having previously been with Glasgow Rangers at Ibrox.

His IOG trophy is his second award of the year having been judged as having the best pitch in Nationwide Division 1.

Criteria for the national award includes maintenance and the use of machinery, use of materials, presentation and housekeeping, technical knowledge, management or compromise, scope of operations and management skills.

"I am deeply honoured to receive this award and am delighted by the recognition of fellow professionals in the IOG," said Alan, who pushed Steve Braddock, of Arsenal, into second place.

New members for BIGCA

Two new Associates have joined the membership of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, based at Merrist Wood in Surrey.

Ross McMurray, Principal Designer at European Golf Design and Bruce Weller, working at Peter Alliss Clive Clark Golf Designs, have qualified for Associateship of the Institute, which now represents over 50 of Europe's leading professional architects in the golf course field.

Howard Swan, President BIGCA said, "I am delighted to welcome our two new Associates and look forward to their contribution to the Institute and the profession. It is encouraging that BIGCA continues to strengthen with greater numbers of qualified architects joining our ranks."

Fred Hawtree, one of the founder members of the Institute in 1971, has been invited to become an Honorary Member, in recognition of his great services to golf and golf course architecture over so many years.

He joins Geoffrey Cornish as the most celebrated members of the Institute and the profession.

'99, '99, '99!

The Greenkeeper International offices have sounded like a doctor's consulting room since the last magazine came out. That was the one where we were a year out with the date for the next BTME.

Ever since that, we have been drumming it into our heads that the next BTME is in 1999!

Be there first, and save a life

It is a chilling thought but golf courses are ranked the fifth most likely place for a member of the public to have a heart attack, and 250 people in Britain die each day from sudden cardiac arrest before they get to the hospital.

But the figure would not be so high if more victims received earlier treatment.

Time is the critical factor: 90% of victims survive if treated a minute after the attack, 50% after five minutes. So while waiting for an ambulance you could be using a defibrillator, the only first-aid device that will resuscitate a cardiac arrest victim. A defibrillator delivers a controlled electric shock to a patient's chest to stop the aphasard activity of the heart.

Physio Control LIFEPAK 500 automated external defibrillator has been designed for non medical occasional users, including greenkeepers, to offer them every chance to save the life of club member.

The first aid device is about the size of a laptop computer, weighing around 6.1lb.

It is protected by robust packaging for outdoor exposure, and is easy to use with only three buttons, plus oral and visual messages.

The LIFEPAK 500 has built-in safety features which do not allow any accidental shocks, and a five year battery ensures that it is virtually free from maintenance.



Physio control offers all golf clubs the opportunity to have the LIFEPAK 500 on a six month free trial. This allows the clubs to discuss the benefits with staff and members.

Physio control will also participate in BIGGA training courses and during the Health and Safety one-day courses taking place in the weeks between November 3 and December 6, will organise a presentation on "defibrillation on golf courses."

If you want more information,

attend your local BIGGA course or alternatively contact Physio Control UK Ltd, Leamington Court, Andover Road, Newfound, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG23 7HE Tel: 01256 782727 Fax: 01256 782728.

The British Heart Foundation, the Government and medical authorities are promoting the introduction of early defibrillators into public places.

More than 50 clubs have already taken up the offer.

Cutting the cost of your insurance

When it comes to protecting your home, valued possessions and car it is vital to ensure that you have the best possible insurance protection, backed up by the right level of service and support. Yet buying the protection you need can be a costly and uncertain process.

All this is about to change, thanks to a special new arrangement which is exclusively available to BIGGA members. From November 1, 1998, you will be able to save at least 10% off the cost of arranging or renewing your household and motor insurance.

Working with Lambert Fenchurch, one of Britain's leading firms of insurance brokers - who already look after our members' Personal Accident and Legal Expenses arrangements - we have put into place a facility for you which combines the benefit of guaranteed savings on your premiums, together with first class cover and support.

There are two reasons why we are able to do this. Firstly, Lambert Fenchurch have harnessed the collective purchasing power of your Association. Secondly, as an individual member, you represent a potential source of excellent, long term business for the Insurers with whom they have negotiated. Because of this, underwriters are prepared to offer a special deal which, in turn, means

you benefit from real savings when you arrange or renew the household and motor protection you need.

Taking advantage of these savings couldn't be easier. When you next receive a renewal notice from your present Insurer (for either your home or car insurance), find the best possible alternative quote you can, for the same level of cover, obtain written confirmation from the Insurer concerned and call Lambert Fenchurch on 0845 0765672 for household insurance, or 0845 0765673 for motor insurance.

The number is a special low call service, so wherever you call from in the UK, you will pay no more than the cost of a local call. Lambert Fenchurch will then beat the best quotation for which you have written documentation by at least 10% - and that's guaranteed.

When you need cover for the first time, simply obtain the best written quotation you can, ring the low call number, and again, you'll save a guaranteed minimum of 10%.

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In addition to the new household and motor facilities, we are currently finalising scheme arrangements for a new high quality and competitive annual travel insurance cover. The growth in annual travel cover means that today, arranging cover for you and your whole family on an annual basis, is almost certainly going to work out cheaper than cover for a single trip - often by a significant sum of money. Plus, having an annual policy in force means that you don't have to worry about arranging cover prior to every trip - a useful advantage when you are busy sorting out all the other things you have to do before taking a trip or a holiday.

We are pleased to announce that this important cover will be available to you from February 1999.

Quite simply, we believe that the new household and motor facilities, with their guaranteed savings and high level of service and support, represent a significant benefit for BIGGA members. So, whether you are arranging cover for the first time or just want to save on the cost of your next renewal, remember to call 0845 0765672 for household insurance, or 0845 0765673 for motor insurance, and find out just how much money using Lambert Fenchurch could save you.

At 3.20pm on Wednesday, October 21, His Royal Highness The Duke of York unveiled a plaque in the foyer of the new Association headquarters and BIGGA HOUSE was officially christened.

Open for business



HRH, The Duke of York officially opens BIGGA HOUSE

It was an occasion for which many people had waited for a very long time, and a few never thought they would see, and it certainly didn't disappoint the members, dignitaries and industry representatives who attended.

The warmth generated by the Duke, and his genuine affection for BIGGA, and the game of golf in general, was obvious and quite infectious and he made the assembled gathering over around 120 feel as comfortable as they were welcome.

The ceremony was started by a few well chosen words from BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, during which he outlined just how far the Association had come in its short 11 year existence. The Duke then made his own personal contribution before the clicking of cameras heralded the

drawing of the cord to unveil the engraved slate plaque.

The Duke was followed by R&A Secretary, Sir Michael Bonallack, who thanked His Royal Highness for finding time in his busy schedule to perform the opening ceremony and, on behalf of the R&A, paid tribute to the work and development of the Association.

The whole ceremony had taken less than 10 minutes but in that time BIGGA had grown up and will face the future with its reputation, as a body highly regarded and respected within the game of golf, enhanced and as solid as the foundations which hold up its impressive new building.

After the official element of the visit The Duke toured the building in the company of the Chairman and Executive Director Neil Thomas, and

assisted with the production of a page of this magazine, before retiring to Aldwark Manor Hotel for a reception.

"This was a historic day in the life of the Association and I was extremely proud to be here to see BIGGA HOUSE opened by His Royal Highness," said Gordon Child, later.

"I'm also pleased by the reaction of those people who have had a chance to visit BIGGA HOUSE. To a man they have been delighted by what they have seen," he added.

Neil Thomas reflected on BIGGA's progress since 1987, "From a room in the STRI at Bingley, a Portakabin and then rented offices at Aldwark Manor and finally to BIGGA HOUSE - the Association has come a long way and now has the facilities to enhance further its services to its members and the greenkeeping profession."

A huge thank you to all the Golf Clubs who have contributed to the building of BIGGA HOUSE, without whose help and support, this momentous occasion could not have taken place. Our appreciation is shown here on these pages, with the listing of all contributors, among a selection of poignant photos of the official opening.

- Addington Palace Golf Club
- Alton Golf Club
- Atwoodley Golf Club
- Aroot Hall Golf Club
- Army Golf Club
- Ashton-in-Makerfield
- Baldon Golf Club
- Banchory Golf Club
- Beaconsfield Golf Club
- Bedale Golf Club
- Beeston Fields Golf Club
- Berkhamsted
- Bingley St Ives Golf Club
- Birchwood Golf Club
- Bishops Stortford Golf Club
- Blackmoor
- Blackwood Golf Club
- Blyth Golf Club
- Brancepeth Castle Golf Club
- Bristol & Clifton Golf Club
- Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club
- Bromborough Golf Club
- Brookmans Park Golf Club
- Bungay & Waveney Valley Golf Club
- Burford Golf Club
- Burhill Golf Centres
- Burnham Beeches Golf Club
- Bury St Edmunds Golf Club
- Bush Hill Park Golf Club
- Canterbury Golf Club
- Cardigan Golf Club
- Cathcart Castle Golf Club
- Cawder Golf Club
- Chestfield Golf Club
- Chigwell Golf Club
- Chipping Norton
- Chorlton-Cum-Hardy Golf Club
- Ghurston Golf Club Ltd
- Clitheroe Golf Club
- Conwy Golf Club
- Cooden Beach Golf Club
- Coombe Hill Golf Club
- Coombe Wood Golf Club
- Coventry Hearsall Golf Club
- Coxmoor Golf Club
- Graham Hurst Golf Club
- Crompton & Royton Golf Club
- Denbigh Golf Club
- Doncaster Golf Club
- Dore & Totley Golf Club
- Drayton Park Golf Club
- Dunfermline Golf Club
- Edenmore Golf Club
- Enfield Golf Club
- Epsom Golf Club
- Fairhaven Golf Club
- Fereneze Golf Club
- Fishwick Hall Golf Club
- Flamborough Head Golf Club
- Gerrards Cross Golf Club
- Glenbervie Golf Club
- Goodwood Golf Club
- Goring & Streatley Golf Club
- Habberley Golf Club
- Haggs Castle Golf Club
- Halifax Golf Club
- Hallamshire Golf Club
- Haltwhistle Golf Club
- Ham Manor Golf Club
- Hampstead Golf Club
- Handsworth Golf Club
- Hankley Common Golf Club
- Harpندن Golf Club
- Hawkstone Park Golf Club
- Haywards Heath Golf Club
- Henley Golf Club
- Heswall Golf Club
- Hickleton Golf Club
- Hillside Golf Club
- Hindhead Golf Club
- Huddersfield Golf Club
- Ipswich Golf Club
- John O'Gaunt Golf Club
- Kilmarnock (Barassie) Golf Club
- Kirby Muxloe Golf Club
- Knole Park Golf Club
- Knowle Golf Club
- Letchworth Golf Club
- Lincoln Golf Club
- Lindrick Golf Club
- Little Aston Golf Club
- Littlestone Golf Club
- Loch Lomond Golf Club
- Longniddry Golf Club
- Macclesfield Golf Club
- Malone Golf Club
- Manchester Golf Club
- Mapperley Golf Club
- Masham Golf Club
- Maxstoke Park Golf Club
- Meltham Golf Club
- Mendip Golf Club
- Merrist Wood Golf Club
- Moor Hall Golf Club
- Moortown Golf Club



Above: Past and Present Chairmen, Pat Murphy and Gordon Child

Left: BIGGA HOUSE in all its splendour

Below: Sir Michael Bonallack addresses the invited guests

Bottom: The Duke greets Viscount and Lady Whitelaw





Top: Design Editor, David Emery, and Editor, Scott MacCallum, explain the production processes involved in publishing Greenkeeper International

Above: The Duke leafs through the finished magazine

Left: Neil Thomas and Gordon Child explain the naming of The Key Room to the Duke

- Moray Golf Club
- Mullion Golf Club
- Murrayfield Golf Club
- Royal Musselburgh Golf Club
- Newbury & Crookham Golf Club
- Newcastle-Under-Lyme Golf Club
- Normanby Hall Golf Club
- North Hants Golf Club
- North Oxford Golf Club
- North Wilts Golf Club
- Northenden Golf Club
- Old Fold Manor Golf Club
- Cradoc Golf Club
- Penrith Golf Club
- Peterborough Milton Golf Club
- Pleasington Golf Club
- Pollok Golf Club
- Potters Bar Golf Club
- Purley Downs Golf Club
- Puttenham Golf Club
- Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club
- Ranfurly Castle Golf Club
- Ravelston Golf Club
- Ravensworth Golf Club
- Reigate Heath Golf Club
- Ringway Golf Club
- Roehampton Golf Club
- Romsey Golf Club
- Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club
- Royal Burgess Golf Society
- Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club
- Royal Guernsey Golf Club
- Royal Jersey Golf Club
- Royal Liverpool Golf Club
- Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club
- Royal Porthcawl Golf Club
- Royal Portrush Golf Club
- Royal West Norfolk Golf Club
- Royal Wimbledon Golf Club
- Rugby Golf Club
- Sandy Lodge Golf Club
- Scarcroft Golf Club
- Seacroft Golf Club
- Seaton Carew Golf Club
- Sedbergh Golf Club
- Sherwood Forest Golf Club
- Shipleigh Golf Club
- Sitwell Park Golf Club
- Skipton Golf Club
- Sleaford Golf Club
- Sonning Golf Club
- Spalding Golf Club
- St Andrews
- St Austell Golf Club
- St Bees Golf Club
- St Enodoc Golf Club
- Stafford Castle Golf Club
- Stand Golf Club
- Stanmore Golf Club
- Stanton on the Wolds Golf Club
- Stocksfield Golf Club
- Sundridge Park Golf Club
- Sunningdale Golf Club
- Sutton Coldfield
- Swinley Forest Golf Club
- Tain Golf Club
- Tandridge Golf Club
- Taunton & Pickering Golf Club
- Temple Golf Club
- Tenby Golf Club
- Tenterden Golf Club
- The Childwall Golf Club
- Copt Heath Golf Club
- Dyke Golf Club
- Eastwood Golf Club
- Erewash Valley Golf Club
- Knutsford Golf Club
- Lees Hall Golf Club
- Long Ashton Golf Club
- Moffat Golf Club
- Nairn Golf Club
- Northumberland Golf Club Ltd
- Plassey Golf Club
- Ross-on-Wye Golf Club
- Royal Birkdale Golf Club
- Royal St Georges Golf Club
- Southport & Ainsdale Golf Club
- West Derby Golf Club
- Sussex Golf Club
- The Wisley Golf Club
- Worcestershire Golf Club
- Worksop Golf Club
- York Golf Club
- Thorpeness Golf Club
- Tidworth Garrison Golf Club
- Tulliallan Golf Club
- Turnberry Golf Club
- Tynemouth Golf Club
- Tyrrells Wood Golf Club
- Uttoxeter Golf Club
- Verulam Golf Club
- Wakefield Golf Club
- Walmley Golf Club
- Walsall Golf Club
- Walton Heath Golf Club
- Wentworth Golf Club
- West Byfleet Golf Club
- West End Golf Club Halifax Ltd
- West Essex Golf Club
- West Hill Golf Club
- Whitchurch (Cardiff) Golf Club
- Whitley Bay Golf Club
- Whittington Heath Golf Club
- Willingdon Golf Club
- Woburn Golf & Country Club
- Woking Golf Club
- Woodbridge Golf Club
- Wortley Golf Club

Open for business

BIGGA is also indebted to the many companies and individuals who donated money to The Building Fund and in particular the Golden and Silver Key supporters whose donations helped to fund the new state-of-the-art training room. In addition Rolawn supplied the turf for the surrounds of the building and many many thanks must go to the Elvington-based company.



Above: Mrs Betsy Walkington, Chair of Hambleton District Council, with her Consort, Mrs B. Kendrew, and Sales & Marketing Assistant, Cheryl Broomhead, enjoy the reception buffet

Above right: A delighted Elaine Thomas after meeting the Duke of York

Right: The Duke takes time out to chat with Board of Management members, Richard Barker and Robin Greaves





Facts

not

fiction

More than 100 Golf Courses have chosen a Rain Bird Central Decoder Control System in the last three years in the United Kingdom alone to insure reliability.

More than 20'000 Rain Bird rotors have been installed in the last two and a half years on Golf Courses in the United Kingdom to insure optimum performance.

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Uncertain Future

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Rain Bird Decoders currently operate more than 300'000 electric valves on Golf Courses worldwide.

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An argument? Define your terms

I always read your publication from cover to cover and it is with great interest that I read the letters, sometimes with great frustration. Often when reading or listening to other peoples views and opinions I am reminded of my high school physics teacher who quoted a famous philosopher who once said, "Define your terms, then we will argue." All too often we are guilty of speaking in gross and often misleading generalities. We have come to accept this with our politicians, but we should not accept it within our industry if we are hoping to gain the respect of our peers, our employers and the public at large.

How often do we hear people talk about "soil greens", "sand greens", "U.S.G.A. type greens" or the one that as an American drives me mad "American type greens"! These generalisations conjure up all sorts of thoughts and images, but they mean absolutely nothing!

I have been maintaining golf courses for the past 32 years - 18 years in America and 14 years in the U.K. and I know that greenkeeping is an art. But as an agronomist, I know that science is there to "define

our terms". The art lies in how best to apply scientifically proven principles to your specific and unique problems.

The USGA Greens Section has been providing our industry with scientific data from its research for over 75 years. Of all their research, their recommendation for a method of putting green construction - the "U.S.G.A. Green" - is arguably their single most important contribution to our industry worldwide and definitely its most talked or "argued" about. If I may be so bold as to borrow a phrase from Jim Arthur's last letter where he talks of advising the use of fensoil and fenpeat "with invariably excellent results, provided all other management was equally correct". Excellent results can be achieved with most things including USGA greens "provided all other management is equally correct".

Mr Fletcher failed to "define his terms" in his letter in the October issue. He said that "a high percentage of the expensive fertilisers will find its way very quickly into the drains from where it goes into the stream or pond or even nearby lake. Times this by 18 or even more

greens and I think you must agree the amount of fertiliser finding its way into our waterways is frightening". He is of course referring to that well "defined term" - American type green!

Well, Mr. Fletcher, what you say is frightening - frightening in its bias, its ignorance and in its potential damage to our industry if believed by the wrong people. I am not advocating that everyone rush out and rebuild their greens according to the USGA recommendations - build what you like - I am just asking for reasoned "argument" based on fact.

The art of greenkeeping is alive and well and practised better in the UK than anywhere else in the world and you have taught me a great deal in the last 14 years. But art and science must work in harmony. Let us stop this narrow minded "gossip" and work together toward the common good of our great industry.

Debate and 'argument' can be healthy and good for any organisation or industry, but let us first remember to "define our terms".

Joseph E. Paulin
 Club Secretary, London GC

Fensoil update, Fensoil update, Fensoil update

I write with reference to the recent dialogue within your magazine in relation to the relative use of fensoil.

While many of the issues raised are legitimate, we believe there are several factual inaccuracies contained within the comments made by the correspondent Mr Arthur, a former consultant to Whitbread, which we would wish to address.

It is firstly important to recognise that the Marriott Forest of Arden Hotel & Country Club has successfully staged six European Tour events in its six years of life, four English Opens and two British Masters. As a consequence of this, its course management has been agreed jointly each year by Whitbread, the PGA European Tour and our own agronomist.

Secondly, in response to the statement by the correspondent that gross overwatering was practised, we

write our greens independently of our green surrounds and therefore green watering does not impact on greenside bunkers.

Thirdly, it is quite untrue to claim that "management banned routine aeration" at any time. In fact hollow coring has taken place on at least four occasions during the summer months, supplemented by intensive slitting at all other times.

Finally, our current top dressing policy is based on decisions taken between ourselves and our own accredited agronomist.

In conclusion, may I take this opportunity to update your readers about recent and current developments at the Marriott Forest of Arden. Over the last 12 months Whitbread has continued to invest significantly in our golf courses, improve drainage with a considerable new system, installing a quality

irrigation system and rebuilding and relocating three new greens with a fourth now being planned for this winter. All of this action has taken place in six years after the original rebuild back in 1992.

This course of action has been taken because we are running a commercial concern and have over the last six years, succeeded in satisfying the expectations of our members, visitors and guests and Europe's premier professional golfers.

In order to succeed in the modern golfing world, the modern manager and business has to move with the times, something all of our best agronomists surely also practice.

Raymond Hunt
 Golf Estates Manager
 Marriott Forest of Arden Hotel
 and Country Club

clear the points which Messrs Arthur, Banks and Steel do not seem to acknowledge.

Bunkers which do not drain, usually mean that no drainage is installed or it is blocked. In the case of the Forest of Arden, it was the former. Our strategy for top-dressing has proved successful, the delivery of successful tournament putting surfaces and an overall improvement in the condition of our greens across the

Whitbread estate, has been seen as a result of our policies. Our decisions are all based on the advice of our agronomist, and the expertise and experience of our ten golf Course Managers, who rate among the best in the UK.

It is interesting to read that Mr Arthur feels that my opinion is dogmatic, as opposed to encouraging open discussion on a subject which any client or customer is entitled to, before deciding how to

Ghostly problem at Nuneaton

I wish to write regarding a disorder that appears to be affecting Poa Annua greens during this very damp and humid season.

The only way to describe this disorder is to say that it looks like Ghost Grass. White or yellow etiolated shoots that do not seem to contain any chlorophyll. It grows a centimetre in one night and the condition is worst after a heavy downpour.

I actually experienced this condition seven years ago in Switzerland and an agronomist thought that it might be a Magnesium deficiency.

On a recent trip to Switzerland I talked to a plant pathologist about this disorder and he asked me if I had been applying Potash to my greens.

I replied that I had, as I took over the greens at Nuneaton only 12 months ago and found them to be lacking nutrients.

He explained that there is a four to one ratio between Potash and Magnesium.

Outside of this ratio and the Magnesium could be blocked so the plant cannot take this up although there may be sufficient reserves in the soil.

Thinking this could be a problem I had some soil tests done only to discover that I was low on Potash and that Magnesium levels were correct.

That blew my theory out of the window.

I have talked with an agronomist from the STRI about this disorder and unfortunately they cannot throw any light on it at the moment.

Through talking with other Course Managers some thought it was an excessive take up of nutrients while others who spoon feed their greens were experiencing the same Ghost Grass disorder.

I would very much like to hear from anybody who has come across this disorder and if they have found a solution to it.

Ian Tomlinson
 Course Manager, Nuneaton GC

plan, design, construct and maintain their golf course.

As a developer of golf courses, I am entitled to court the views of as many designer, constructors, greenkeepers and agronomists as I chose. I expect a free choice based upon, impartial, practical and contemporary best practices within the industry.

Steve Clement, Golf Development
 Manager, Whitbread Hotel Company

Before I comment on three letters published recently in Greenkeeper International, I must draw your attention to the fact that I was not given a chance to see the article entitled "Hey Big Spender" prior to its publication - and by the way you misspelt my name.

Had I been given the opportunity to read the article prior to publication I would have only made minor changes. These minor changes would have made



Ever notice how more fans always follow **One** foursome?

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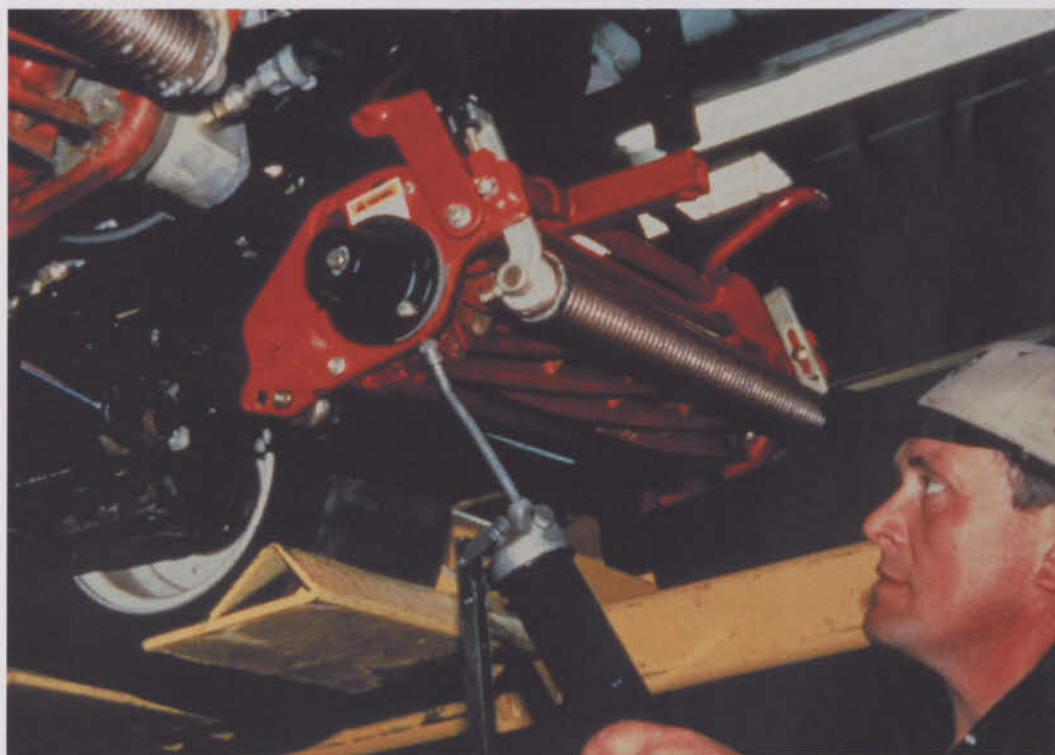
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Appointing an equipment mechanic is a trend which has been on the increase in recent years. Laurence Pithie, Director of Maintenance at American Golf investigates...

Nuts and bolts



The expectations as regards golf course condition and presentation have reached a level where no club can afford to have broken down equipment, eagerly awaiting the arrival of the local service engineer to put it right.

Even the average 18 hole golf club is likely to have equipment with a replacement value of at least £170,000. This has to be maintained in a responsible manner to achieve the machine's maximum life span and make certain of good investment.

The need to keep this equipment fully operational is paramount. It will operate better and more efficiently and contribute greatly to the successful management of the golf course.

Nuts and bolts

First steps towards appointing a golf course mechanic

When considering the appointment of a golf course mechanic, it is essential to weigh up the pros and cons involved in such an undertaking and investigate the implications.

On the plus side, the obvious benefits are that the equipment will receive regular preventative maintenance and will be serviced according to the manufacturers guidelines. Machinery will last well beyond the length of any lease term, repairs can be made almost instantly - assuming of course that the relevant parts are held in stock - reducing down-time. Last but not least, the cost of repairs will be considerably less than if charged for by the local dealer.

Naturally, there are many other hidden advantages to employing a skilled mechanic, such as innovative

The importance of mechanics for American Golf

American Golf views the appointment of a mechanic as one of the key roles within the staffing structure. This is why one is employed at each of the 12 sites in the UK. Our parent company in the United States, the American Golf Corporation, shares our view.

The role of the equipment mechanic is defined in our Job Description as follows:

"An equipment mechanic is primarily engaged with the servicing and repairs of all golf course equipment and golf cars and, if necessary, the daily requirements on the golf course where this position is regarded as being one of a dual appointment."

The mechanic will also ensure that all equipment is maintained within the manufacturers guidelines and that it is in accordance with current safety legislation. Safety switches, guards and covers all need to be regularly checked and made good if required.

Other responsibilities include the ability to deal with hydraulic systems, cutting units, both petrol and diesel engines, welding and cylinder reel grinding.

The need for maintaining servicing schedules and maintenance records is also part of the mechanic's role as well as ordering parts as required within budgetary limitations and to approved company procedures. In some instances, the mechanic may also be involved with the maintenance of the irrigation system but another person is usually entrusted with this work.

In general, the mechanic plays a dual role on an 18 hole course and must be flexible in accommodating the needs of both equipment and golf course, whereas full-time machinery maintenance work is the order of the day on 36 hole golf courses.

It is also an advantage if the mechanic periodically operates the equipment in order to ensure satisfactory performance and to understand what is required from the perspective of an operator. This also serves as a break from routine servicing.

Finding your mechanic

Enlisting the services of an

experienced and qualified person is not always an easy task since few mechanics are trained in this type of work. However, this is not really seen as a disadvantage since our mechanics have quickly adapted to their new environment.

Our experience is that most of the mechanics employed within American Golf have come from a background of mechanical engineering, plant hire fitting or from the motor trade, usually following an advertisement for the position in the local paper. Almost without exception, each appointed mechanic has quickly developed the necessary skills since much of the work involving engines, gear boxes, clutches and drive shafts is only a matter of different sizes.

The intricacies of maintaining and repairing moving cylinders, rotary decks and other items relative to this type of equipment have usually offered a different challenge but new skills are quickly learned and it is here that equipment vendors have played an important role.

Training your mechanic

Training is an important part of American Golf's policy and many of our mechanics have benefited from a day or two spent at the local dealer's workshop, gaining first hand experience of the many problems occurring with much more frequency than usual when dealing with larger volumes of equipment.

The real benefit is that, within a short space of time, the mechanic can learn how to deal with and react to many different situations which may only arise once in a lifetime on any one course.

Companies such as Textron have also worked to create better understanding by providing several intensive training days created especially for American Golf's equipment mechanics. These were initially held at Kettering but have moved to the company's Ipswich complex where all future courses are to be run.

This type of training is viewed by American Golf as absolutely essential. It gives the mechanics an excellent opportunity to go into more detail on specific issues regarding individual machines. Experts are on hand to guide and give instruction as to the key areas to identify regarding future wear, servicing and on-going maintenance.

Aimed exclusively at small groups, training of this kind is essential as it



ideas for equipment improvements which greatly increase efficiency and productivity on the golf course. Cylinder grinding is an example of a task which is both necessary and costly but if carried out in-house can be done quickly and efficiently with minimal down-time and at a greatly reduced cost.

The only possible negative side to appointing a mechanic lies with the setting up of a workshop and the additional payroll cost. Having said this, if a mechanic is not appointed, another member of staff will still have to deal with repair work when their time could well be better spent on other maintenance work.



helps form close working relationships between club and company, with the mechanic benefiting from having a friendly contact to help with any ordering or technical queries regarding specific items.

Other aids to training are workshops manuals, parts catalogues and highly informative training videos.

These are the hidden benefits to be gained from appointing a mechanic and they help to keep the wheels in motion.

In-house training

With the building of a larger and improved workshop area at one of our clubs, we are taking the opportunity to design this area not just with all types of maintenance needs in mind but with the intention for the area to function as a training centre within American Golf.

Since this particular site is fairly centrally located, there is an opportunity to train newly recruited mechanics within the group and for an experienced mechanic or fitter to visit the centre and help with training.

American Golf see this as a further opportunity for the mechanic to work closely with the dealer. Learning is best as a two-way process and since we have a number of similar machines operating on different courses then what better way of providing feedback to the manufacturers?

The mechanic's input is vital to co-ordinate this information and pass on relevant details since many potential problems often only come to light well after the launch of a new machine.

The example of St. Mellion

St. Mellion International, which was purchased by American Golf this year, operated without the services of an in-house mechanic. Robert Brewer, course superintendent at this resort complex, was quick to hire a mechanic and this has made a significant impact on not only the improved performance of equipment, cost savings and quicker turnaround of repairs. It has also allowed other staff to concentrate on

the numerous different tasks involved in maintaining such a prestigious venue.

Working with the rest of the team

The mechanic's role at any of our clubs is to work closely with the superintendent by scheduling the timing and frequency of service work.

Involvement with the weekly work programme helps to determine when each item of equipment is being used and when it is available for servicing. Large wipe boards with a timetable format work well and help in the smooth running of each course.

Equipment breakdowns are inevitable but these can be worked into the routine depending on the degree of urgency.

Within American Golf as a whole, there is much operating similarity and one benefit of this is that as soon as a particular problem is discovered, information is rapidly disseminated to other users within the company via our voice mail system.

Networking within the group also helps us locate parts for machines which may not be standard items.

One recent example is that a mechanic found that glow plugs for a certain diesel powered mower were the same as those used in a well-known car but a fraction of the cost.

This information was passed on, with the result that all clubs using this piece of equipment have the part noted within their card index system. It is examples such as this which indicate how much time and expense a good mechanic can save a club by being resourceful and maintaining good records.

The future - mechanics are essential

The dependence on sophisticated equipment and a small but well-trained labour force is a vital element in the operation of the successful modern golf course.

Today's golfer is not just used to high standards but has plenty of playing options available.

A good mechanic is essential to achieve the necessary standard of excellence and we can expect to see more well-trained mechanics on the UK's golf courses.

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Membership benefits

Membership has experienced tremendous growth since 1987 when the amalgamated membership figure from the three associations stood at 1,200. Eleven years later, in 1998, membership had exploded to a record breaking 6,300 members and is still recording year on year growth.

Membership is not just for greenkeepers, it is open to anyone connected with the fine turf industry and BIGGA now has three membership categories:

Greenkeeper membership - for anyone who is employed on a full-time basis as a greenkeeper at a golf club.

Associate membership - for anyone who is not employed as a greenkeeper but is involved or works within the fine turf industry.

Student membership - for people studying full-time at college for a qualification in greenkeeping.

These categories ensure that everyone can contribute to the profession and benefit from the many services BIGGA has to offer.

Each membership category benefits from:-

A monthly copy of of BIGGA's award winning magazine 'Greenkeeper International' full of news, views, reviews, updates, section information, recruitment advertisements and editorial features. With a circulation of over 9,000, this is THE magazine for anyone working in the fine turf industry.

Social activities and networking:-

Members of BIGGA also become members of their local section. Each section organises events throughout the year varying from seminars and lectures in winter to golfing days and outings in summer. This is an excellent way to establish your own contacts and network.



For more information on the many other benefits that BIGGA membership can offer you, and for an application form, contact Tracey Maddison, Membership Services Officer on 01347 833800

It was all going so well, then it started to go wrong. The story of Ramside Golf Club is a gripping tale, as told to Scott MacCallum by Course Director, Roger Shaw...

Back from the brink



If I were a screen writer I reckon I would be sorely tempted to turn the tale of Ramside Golf Club, near Durham, into a blockbusting movie, something that would knock Caddieshack, Tin Cup, even Follow the Sun, into a cocked hat when it came to golf in the cinema.

It has everything. A story of hope and aspiration, an apparent success, a fall from grace, a mystery, a long torturous climb back, defying all odds, with a few more knocks along the way and, finally, a happy ending. What more could you want? Shakespeare couldn't have wished for a better storyline, and Spielberg? Well, you never know...

Back from the brink

Right: A view of how the course used to look

Below: Roger Shaw, right, with his Head Greenkeeper Harry Lees

Bottom: One of the mighty tee markers for which The Ramside is known



I don't know who you'd get to play Roger Shaw. He would have to be able to play the full gamut of emotions and cope with the north east accent. Gazza could produce the required water works, but he hasn't given up kicking a ball about a field yet, while Roger's a lot better looking than Jimmy Nail.

The story begins in earnest in '93 when Roger, then Course Manager at Brancepeth Castle, decided that after 10 years in the job the time was ripe for a change. He was in his mid 30s and had started to question where he was going with his career.

Taking the bull by the horns he telephoned Michael Adamson, a Brancepeth member, hotel owner and businessman.

"I'd known him from when I was a kid in Sedgefield. He owned a hotel and a couple of pubs and was a big character in the area," recalled Roger.

"I used to see him at Brancepeth and recognised him from my younger days in the pubs in Sedgefield. In the late 80s he had told me that he'd got land around Ramside Hotel - which the Adamson family owns along with

another family - and that he'd bought a neighbouring farm, which gave him about 240 acres, and that he was thinking about building a golf course."

At that time Roger advised him against going down his intended route, that of employing an American architect, on grounds of cost and around the same time the money market took a dive and the project was shelved.

Five years later and in '93, having decided on a change, Roger called Michael and asked if he could come and talk to him.

"He said, 'No problem. What about?' and I said I'd like to come and work for you. Then I asked if he was still interested in building his golf course. He said he was but that he didn't have a clue how to go about it. I said I had a bit of a clue and could we have the talk."

During that initial meeting Michael said that he was prepared to have a go but questioned Roger's decision to give up his job at Brancepeth.

"I told him that I was prepared to do that and he said that if that were the case we'd stand shoulder to



shoulder through thick and thin and that he'd back me if I backed him. Then we shook hands and that was that," recalled Roger.

He started in September of '93 and spent from then until the following February costing the entire project, selecting contractors and examining every single element of building a golf course.

"Michael and I looked at a number of architects and their work before selecting Jonathan Gaunt. Along with Jonathan we then visited The Oxfordshire and I pointed out the things Michael and I liked and wanted at Ramside. Complexes of tees, not aircraft carrier tees; bold undulating greens, but not over the top; fairly large greens and nicely shaped bunkers.

"I also wanted it to be maintenance friendly because, with 27 holes and a staff of eight or nine we didn't want to be fly mowing all day."

"Jonathan and I spent what seemed days and weeks plotting out the golf course ensuring that we had three looks of nine and then he went away and designed it and came back with detailed sketches."

Jonathan was their first major appointment and he was followed by Project Managers, Bob Horngold and Ian Martin; drainage contractors, MJ Abbott, and Par 4 Irrigation of Ripon to install the Toro irrigation system. They were joined by two shapers, a team of local lads for raking and a local firm to dig out lakes.

Roger also appointed Harry Lees, who had been his own boss at Billingham Golf Club, as his Head Greenkeeper.

"I ordered the materials and we had everything tested to meet USGA Guidelines. Just before work commenced we all had a site meeting and I asked everyone if they were happy with the whole situation and they all said that they felt they were getting a fair deal," explained Roger, 41.

Work started in March '94 and they finished the development on September 19 having built and seeded all 27 holes.

"We actually finished seeding in the dark, using car headlights, because the forecast for the following day was heavy rain and I didn't want to run out of time and risk going into the

following year."

They'd seeded in June '94 but they still decided that '95 would be a growing in year. However, as it developed so well it was decided to open for limited play in July '95.

Up until this stage everything had been copybook, and while credit must be given for this, it doesn't add up to a tale that would have got Quentin Tarantino licking his lips. However, what then befell Ramside might have done.

"It was all going so well we felt it was too good to be true, but no sooner had we thought that, then the wheels started falling off.

"We've got 14 lakes on the course but we wanted to keep them cosmetic so we decided to sink a borehole. At great expense we went down 140 metres and found enough water to meet our requirements for tees and greens. This was analysed and approved before we pumped it into a tank to be put through our irrigation system.

"It wasn't too long before we began to notice that greens were becoming a sick yellow colour. We looked at everything from our fertiliser

treatments, our rootzone but these were all quality products. We just couldn't put our finger on it.

"Eventually we thought we'd better check the water again but this time I sent it down to Scotts Fertilisers and asked if they would analyse it.

"I got an urgent fax back saying not to use the water as we'd scorch our greens. It was very high in salt, which hadn't been revealed by the original analysis, and we'd been watering our greens with one third solution sea water from a flooded mine shaft."

The bore hole was shut down immediately and they went on to mains water.

"But the damage was done and it was to take a long time to recover," recalled Roger, as he sat in his office.

"We'd gone from having a fantastic course at growing-in to one which was literally disintegrating in front of us."

Then because the greens were weak they were hit by Take-All which absolutely ravaged them.

"We lost 90% of the grass on them so I called in Neil Baldwin, of Service Chemicals, and he was brilliant. He took one look and put his hands in the air and said that it as the best



Right: From farmland to golf course in just six short months

Below: Take-all patch took advantage of the greens' weakened state

Take-All he'd ever seen - as though it was a great credit to us.

"He explained that we had two options, to use chemicals, which I didn't want to do, or to let it run its course and burn itself out. So that was our approach and we let it go into decline.

"That took two years and we had a hellish time in '95 and '96. We lost 70% of our greens completely, although we stayed on them, tried to present them as well as we could and informed people of the problem."

Just when they thought it couldn't get any worse it did, when they had a problem with a dosing system which had been installed to try and get rid of the water problems.

"It leaked acid through the mains and this was pumped onto about half a dozen greens around the pump

house. I would say that three of the greens were literally burnt to a cinder," said Roger.

"We were then at our lowest ebb, but really the only way was up and we agreed to work like hell to get things back on the rails.

"After two years of Take-All we got poa annua coming in, so the greens looked pretty ragged even then.

"We overseeded with creeping bent because we had seen how fast the poa encroached and the *Agrostis tenuis* bent just couldn't compete."

Ramsdale is always keen to try new ideas and be a little different - the tee markers for example, are huge engraved rocks from a quarry in the Lake District which range in size from four and a half tonnes to a mighty ten and a half tonnes - so when Roger heard about a new carbohydrate food

source he decided to give it a chance.

"We wanted to get the living bacteria in the soil so I spoke with Steve Lucas, of Cargill's, about Fulcrum Blade. He told me he was confident it would do the job. We gave it the full treatment in '97 and we have been pleasantly surprised by the results and from being able to pull the plant out of the rootzone we now have root growth right down the tine holes into the stone carpet."

The course is now back on track, an extension to the hotel and a superb new clubhouse should be completed by Christmas and the course is rebuilding its reputation.

Looking back at last three years Roger is convinced he has come out of the experience a better Course Manager.

"I feel that I can now grow my hair again. It's been one hell of a learning curve. I've been here from day one, I've planned it, I've costed it, worked on it, grown it in then seen it die in front of me," said Roger, before adding, remarkably, that he wouldn't change anything that had happened.

"It brought the staff and me down to earth. We've taken big steps backwards and questioned what we've been doing. The guys, Harry, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Craig Hardy, who did much of the growing-in and the rest of the team have been absolutely fantastic and supported me 100%.

"Our members have also been absolutely superb. They've been through it all with us and know that we've been working hard to get it back. A lot of them knew Michael Adamson and myself, and were confident that they had the right people running the job."

But seriously would he do it again?
"Yes, I'd certainly do it again but only for the same man."

Just like all the top movies. A possible sequel tantalisingly dangled in front of us before the first film has even been made.





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Roland Taylor looks at the place gang mowers have in modern greenkeeping, and asks the question...

Do you wanna be in my gang?



The high profile that golf now enjoys has bought with it many changes – none more so than the way the course is presented. Modern landscaping has resulted in the introduction of sweeping vistas with, in some cases, almost aesthetic qualities.

Increased television coverage of golf has greatly influenced the appearance of the course especially the fairways and rough. One suspects that any media coverage places a great deal of pressure on all concerned to present an immaculate picture without a blade of grass out of place.

Do you wanna be in my
gang?



Previous page: Huxley's HD138TR Hydraulic Reelmower cutting Alresford Golf Club's fairways

Above: Ride-ons similar to the Hayter pictured, have meant that gang mowers are beginning to be phased out

All this visual hype has led to significant changes in the way fairways and the rough are now mown.

When one turns the clock back, the scene was a great deal different; the players of yesteryear must have been faced with a veritable jungle between tee and green. This often stopped play completely as the fairways turned into hay meadows. On links courses there was less of a problem as growth of grass throughout the summers was likely to be sparse. Hundreds of balls must have been lost and considerable time wasted searching for them. Sheep were often used as natural mowers. This begs the question as to whether mutton or lamb occasionally appeared on someone's table as the result of a stray golf ball.

The introduction in 1914 of Worthington's horse drawn mowers certainly changed all this. Suddenly there was machinery available that would control the growth so play could continue were once it had had to be abandoned to nature. There were, however, minor

drawbacks - these triple units were slow and on an eighteen hole course it must have been a continuous job throughout the growing season.

By the early 1920's the tractor had replaced the horse and the number of mower units in a configuration was between three and nine, thus speeding up the operation considerably.

While these units could handle semi-rough there was virtually nothing to deal with the rough - that was until the early 50's when Douglas Hayter launched his 6/14 tractor-drawn rotary mower.

Designed initially for orchards it soon found its way onto the golf course where it tackled the dense lush grass at the sides of the fairways. Once again the course landscape changed with neatly mown areas which had previously been left uncut.

Progress was marching on and inventive minds were coming up with new ideas. Hydraulic drives had been introduced on agricultural machinery and mower designers soon recognised the

benefits these systems offered. Up until this point, gang mowers had relied on ground traction to drive the cylinders; the new units took their power directly from the tractor. The mowing operation was once again speeded-up and because of the hydraulic lifting action the new units were much more manoeuvrable. This was a period that saw the introduction of tractor mounted PTO gang mowers and hydraulically driven units.

The next stage was to provide a complete machine with its own power source and the introduction of small diesel engines and hydrostatic transmission and drive systems proved to be ideal for this application.

This, plus the development of electronics over the last decade means some sophisticated pieces of equipment have been introduced.

Today's Course Managers and greenkeepers are faced with a different set of demands and standards to their counterpart of 20 years ago. As a result, an increasing number are turning to this type of mower for their fairways, which has meant a gradual decline in the numbers of gang mowers used.

From a manufacturers point of view every product has a life cycle. This can cover a short period time or span several years. At some point sales and economics will dictate that it is no longer viable to continue to produce a particular line. Some suppliers have reached this point, but at present there are still a number of well-established manufacturers offering trailed or mounted gang mowers - for how much longer, is anyone's guess.

For the rough the rotary mower is still the answer for most areas. In recent years there has been the introduction of flexible multi-unit rotaries these closely follow the ground contours and are designed to work on undulating terrain. Recycling rotary mowers have also begun to appear and these finely chop up the cuttings before returning them to the sward. Also

on the rotary front, there are high productivity ride-on mowers with collection facilities and extra wide tractor-powered units.

For anyone faced with buying new mowers whether they are gang mowers, ride-on fairway mowers, or rotaries, there are a number of factors that need to be taken into consideration before deciding on which one to purchase.

Each situation will have its own specific requirements but there are common elements to all.

Performance

This must be high on the priority list. How much work are you expecting to achieve with the unit in a given time scale. In addition the quality of finish is important.

Over-all weight

This is critical to minimise compaction and damage to the turf.

Power

In the case of gang mowers and trailed rotaries, the tractor will need to produce enough output to ensure that the mowers give optimum performance. With ride-on fairway units, if the engine has limited power reserves. There will be excessive fuel consumption, higher noise levels and the unit's life is likely to be shortened.

Greater stress will also be placed on all the machine's other components.

Traction

Where there is a wide variation in terrain, adequate traction is required to achieve a consistent finish, and limit turf damage.

Manoeuvrability

These machines are generally large and have wide working widths, so in areas where access is limited they need to be checked out.

Operator comfort

The mowers are going to be used for long periods at a time, so operator fatigue needs to be kept at a minimum. Most manufacturers recognise the importance of this

when designing a machine, so a close look at all these facilities is needed.

Access for maintenance

Low level maintenance routines and limited downtime are critical to an efficient operation. Check out access to cutting units, engines or transmissions.

If these are restricted, unnecessary delays in carrying out repairs or sharpening cutting systems can occur.

Replacement parts availability

These need to be readily available to minimise any downtime.

After-sales back-up

If there is no in-house service department then the question needs to be raised of what facilities are available locally and an indication of how quickly a service unit can be on site should a breakdown occur.

Finance

It is a highly competitive market so most suppliers offer finance packages that spread the load and make the acquisition of equipment easier. Ask for details.

The modern course manager and greenkeeper are faced with providing the public with high quality playing surfaces and at the same time they have to run a cost-effective operation. This means adopting new work practices and looking towards building a fleet of equipment that will give the best results.

Each piece of machinery has its place in time and, in their hey-day gang mowers were (and for some still are) the answer.

They produced results that at the time were considered far in advance of what had gone before and predictably, challengers came onto the market that were designed to match modern requirements and trends. This is progress.

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Scottish

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North

Five more new members to welcome this month. David Mathie, Stuart Griffiths and Jordan Fairweather all from Letham Grange, Richard Aitken from Carnegie Club, Skibo and Steven Myers from Glenisla GC Alyth. At the other end of the scale so to speak, we wish Peter Tait a long and happy retirement. Peter has just left Inverurie after many years service, although a non golfer he was a regular at our outings. I have had quite a few comments about Dougal Duguids amazing score at our Autumn outing at Alford. It was his first victory after 31 years of attending outings in fact! One or two people were asking about a dope test, but rest assured we don't need a test! It's demo season again and some Aberdeen members were transported down to Central England by Barclay, Ross and Hutchinson for a look around the John Deere factory. There was a big turnout of North members at the SGM Open Day in Inverkiething, their new premises.

Martin Cameron, Buckpool, won the prize for nearest the pin on their par three hole. A hole in one would have won a greens mower, Martin got a signed Newcastle Rugby shirt from Doddie Weir. Members might not know that our Section is 50 years old next year, having been formed in a tea room in Dundee in 1949. Looking back in the minutes we find that the first golf outing was held in 1961 and two outings a year were introduced in 1967. We hope to mark our anniversary with an outing to a major venue. Watch this space! Finally, a reminder that the Section One Day Conference takes place on the 25th of this month, and we are hoping for a big turnout. All members should have received their application forms long ago. Anyone who has not, or people from outwith the Section who wish to go, please phone Dougal on 01224 740329 for an application form.

Tickets are £16.00 each or £12.00 for students in full time greenkeeper education, remember the venue is the

SAC Craibstone, Aberdeen and I am sure you will have a very worthwhile day. Everyone with an interest in golf and greenkeeping is welcome.
Iain Macleod

Ayrshire

Thanks to Chairman Jim Paton for deputising last month. As I pen these notes the October magazine has not yet arrived so I am oblivious to the contents. I'm sure Jim was able to deliver some points of interest. I had an enjoyable holiday and with only one 9 hole course on Menorca I was able to give the sun, sea and San Miguel my utmost attention. It was nice to return to some predominantly dry weather which I'm sure all of us are extremely grateful for after the excessive rainfall during July and August. The Autumn outing was played on September 22 at the one and only Golf in the world at Louden. A good turnout of over 40 enjoyed the day with the prizewinners as follows; Morning Scramble; Winners, Gordon Naughey, Roland Blackburn, Lee Blackburn and Neil Shuttleworth all Southernness. Runners up, Jim Smith, (Ardeer), Derek Duthie, (Aitkens), Martin Kay, (Irvine Bogside) and David McGlinchey, (Barassie). Afternoon Medal, Scratch, Lee Blackburn, (Southernness). Cat 1; 1. Andy Clark, (Louden), 2. Martin Kay, (Irvine Bogside), 3. Brian Finlayson, (Barassie), 4. Derek Wilson, (Irvine Bogside). Cat 2; 1. John McLaughlan, (Prestwick St Nicholas), 2. Jim Smith, (Ardeer), 3. George Morrison, (West Kilbride), 4. Gordon Haughey, (Southernness). Trade, Kenny Hunter, (Huxleys). The section would like to thank the captain and committee of Louden Golf Club for courtesy of the course, Head Greenkeeper, David Armstrong and his staff for presentation of the course and the Clubmaster/Mistress for the catering and refreshments service. The sound of wedding bells are ringing loudly again, so the grapevine informs me with the latest recruit to the ranks being one Mr Harry Diamond who tied the knot in Las Vegas. Congratulations from the Section. Scotsturf is yet upon us which gives the trade an opportunity to display their wares and also us a chance to meet old and new acquaintances. Maybe I'll see you there. Any news, call me on 01505 683278.

Iain Barr

Central

It appears that the "Boys", and I use that word loosely, from the Leven Links Sporting Club, are off in search of new sports/pastimes. This time they have taken to caravanning, with the man in charge being Stuart Sime, I don't know if this is before or after he has competed in the stock car racing at Cowdenbeath, but as far as I can gather, the first try at life in a caravan proved pretty good. Stuart

can vouch for the comfort of the beds, and they assure me that their next trip will include getting the caravan out of the sheds and onto the open road, if they can find someone to tow it! We extend a warm welcome to the section to Alistair MacFadyen from Crieff Hydro Golf Centre and also to Andrew Crawford from the Green Hotel Golf Courses at Kinross, who is rejoining. I keep saying that we hope to see new members at some of our section events but very few bother attending, and yet if a trade company has an open day or such like there are plenty Section members in attendance. Is this because there are "freebies" on offer and Section events have to be paid for? Roy Auld, formerly of SGM, is back on the road again with Geo. Henderson and it's nice to see his cheery face again (huh!), even if it does cost me for the coffee and biscuits every time he calls in. The entry forms for the 1999 Inter Club Tournament have already been circulated, so if you intend to enter a team, please return them as soon as possible in order that the draw can be made and the tournament started earlier than in previous years, probably in March. As I am writing this I have just received a phone call from former Section member Brian Inglis. Brian was at Callander Golf Club before moving abroad and is now in Germany, where he is on the look out for two enthusiastic assistants who fancy working abroad. If this appeals to you, Brian can be contacted on 00 49 2238 44664 and he will give you full details of what seems a pretty good package. With the Autumn Tournament not being held until the first week in October I have missed the deadline for the results appearing in this issue, so I will update you next month, along with a report from the AGM, for which five members have returned their forms intimating their intentions to attend. Not bad out of 212 members! Still we live in hope.

John Crawford

West

Winter has now come and I would hope it is far better than summer, surely it can't be wetter. Most people will have already completed their course and verti-draining. It will be interesting to see how places stand up to the winter play. A few things have happened recently. As stated last month, the five a side report. In all, nine teams turned out with three no shows. Names will not be mentioned. Needless to say this doesn't reflect very well on greenkeeping in general. A lot of work goes into these days, and plans made only to have them snookered at the last minute. Never mind, let's get on with the report.

From the Sections, Loch Lomond 1, Balmone, Deumpellier and Clydebank/Windyhill came out as semi-finalist.

Baltimore cruised past Clydebank/

Windyhill while Drumpellier and Loch Lomond had a penalty shoot out, Loch Lomond came out on top.

The final really became a poor example with no real excitement.

Loch Lomond eventually winning. The question was where did Glasgow come in. My team obviously missed my contribution of skill and stamina otherwise they would have won and that's fighting talk folks, wait till next year. The day appeared to go well other than the initial hiccups. As usual the referees did a fine job with a few red cards being shown.

Thanks are due to Brian Hillan for organising the day and Peter Boyd for presenting the prizes and helping out. Finally thanks to all who took part for their continued support.

Next on the agenda was the Autumn outing held at Cathcart Castle on September 10, and what a day that was. Before the Tournament started Robert must have been worried whether or not the day would even go ahead, I certainly was, phoning on a few occasions to see what the situation was. Courses all over were closed. I then tried to think when the last time was when an outing had been cancelled, but were my worries justified? No way. Robert had the course in great condition and very dry considering the previous days, weeks of rain. Congratulations to him and his staff for all their work, and well done. On the day of the tournament, I left Killermont where heavy rain was falling. On my travels I reached Hags Castle and the sun shine came out, that was the story for the remainder of the day. Now for the results; Scratch Prize, S. Taylor, Killermont, 74; 1st Class; 1. G. Beven, East Kilbride, 75-5-70; 2. C. Goodhall, Balmore, 75-4-71; 3. S. Ballantyne, Cowglen, 77-6-71; 2nd Class; 1. J. Brown, Beasden, 80-13-67; 2. M. Kelly, Lenzie, 82-12-70; 3. I. Nieol, Cathcart Castle, 85-14-71; 3rd Class; 1. A. Jack, Cathcart Castle, 102-24-78; 2. J. Bell, Kilmalcolm, 103-20-83; 3. N. Gibb, Brucefields, 102-18-84; Trade Prize, K. Hunter, Huxleys, 77-13-64; Visitors Prize, A. Peace, Cowder, 83-4-79; Hackers Prize, M. Carey, Balmore, too bad to mention. Poor Martin after all the glory times, but as was said on the day at least he was brave enough to hand in his card. Well done all the winners and thanks to all who played for such a successful day. Thanks also to the members for courtesy of the course, the captain for presenting the prizes, the catering staff for their food and services and finally my own committee for running everything nice and smoothly. Peter Boyd needs to be thanked for his starting skills, ushering people on to the 1st tee, well done to all. May I now convey a couple of congratulations to members in our Section. Firstly, Gary Kenny formally of Kirkhill GC now at Wentworth, well done on your new position; and all the best for the

future. Secondly my own Assistant head Craig Wylie who recently got married to Anna, all the best for the future. New members to the Section, Grant Peters and Paul McLearn, both of Loch Lomond Golf Club, David Wylie, Cawder Golf Club, and Christopher Chalmers, Campsie Golf Club, welcome to the Section, may you have a good association with BIGGA. James Mayhew, Michael Hamilton both Campsie. Finally on a note of thanks, the Autumn outing 2nd class prized winner was presented with a brand new trophy and this was due to Naim Brown Ltd supplying the West Section with a handsome piece of silver. Thanks to Naim Brown, Rigby Taylor and Daval Products this year three new trophies have been supplied, the west Section is extremely grateful for your continued help and appreciative of your contributions. Thank you.

Stuart Taylor



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Northern

The growing season is just about over, thank goodness as machines need a rest just like humans. I'm sure the machinery companies will be rubbing their hands at the thought of repairing or even replacing all that worn out tackle!

This years Invitation Day Tournament was held at Aldwark Manor Golf Club. May I thank Dennis Cockburn and Richard Gamble for sorting things out on the day in my absence. Many thanks also to the greens and catering staff. The results for the day were as follows; 1. Robin Smith, J Wilson; 2. Tito Arana, Richard Simpson; 3. Ken Christie, L Scasse; 4. Alan Baxter, Ian Summersgill; 5. Andrew Clarke, Chris Crossland. Finally, a big thanks to Rigby Taylor for their kind and ongoing support of this and other Northern Section events and to Norman Schofield for attending on their behalf. I hope Bernard, Peter, Andrew and all the lads are doing fine. Next year we have arranged another ten pin bowling evening on May 11 1999 at Keighley. More details will follow in subsequent issues. Anyone wishing to put their names down for the Christmas Golf at Keighley Golf Club on Wednesday, December 9, please contact me in good time as numbers are likely to be limited. Even if you cannot attend the golf please come along for the AGM, which will commence at around 5.30pm. If there is anyone from around the Section with any news, please contact me at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA or phone on either 01484-317813 or 0411-601420.

Simon Heppenstall

North East

The Autumn competition was recently played at Consett GC, our thanks to the committee for giving us courtesy of their course and to Head Greenkeeper, John Devlin and his staff, for presenting the course in great shape. On behalf of the Section we would like to thank Rite-Feed on sponsoring the competition and also the following; Shorts of Whitburn, Aitkens, Greenlay, Border Turf Services on sponsoring the lowest nett score on the par3's. Best Gross, D Cuthbertson, 71, Slaley Hall; Ransome Cup Best nett, B. Hughes, 89-20=69 Whickham; Greenlay Cup, S Cram, 76-5=71, Slaley Hall on back nine; Fewsters Shield, S. Pope; Leading scores; C. Parkinson, 73-2=71, Matfen Hall; I. Hutton, 76-5=71, Slaley Hall; G. Baxter, 78-6=72, So Shields; A. Mclure, 72-0=72, Whickham; M. Lathan, 75-2=73, Hexham; J. Redhead, 85-12=73, City of Newcastle.

The next match is against SE Scotland at Slaley Hall on October 6 and all players have been notified.

Best of luck lads.

Jimmy Richardson

Cleveland

Well done to Wearside Head Greenkeeper, Barry Walker and his club pro, Doug Brolls, who went to the finals of the Lombard Trophy which was played in Portugal and won. This is a great achievement as it's the biggest Pro Am in Europe.

Very well done. Once again the greenkeeper v groundsman Christmas quiz is nearly on us once again. This quiz is run by Terry Charlton of Turfcare, and I must say he puts on a great night out. It would be nice if a few more greenkeepers would turn up every year as we are heavily outnumbered by the groundsman. That is why we never win! The date for this great event is December 16 at Mount Oswald GC, starting at 7.30pm. Be there, or be square.

Also well done to Richmond's Head Greenkeeper Tong Burge who won the Cleveland Section knockout. In 2nd place was Brancepeth Castle Assistant Greenkeeper Mark Brown.

Don't forget to wrap up warm when you go out one these nasty cold mornings - it's sheer hell out there.

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop

Sheffield

On September 29, we held our Autumn Competition at Gainsborough Golf Club.

It was a cloudy but dry day which makes a change this year. Our thanks go to Gainsborough Golf Club for giving us the courtesy of their course and to John Evison and his staff for the excellent condition of Gainsborough. Well done John. Thanks also to the catering staff for providing an excellent meal which was enjoyed by everyone. Also a big thank you to the trade members who once again

provided some excellent prizes for the prize table and raffle. Thanks go to Henton and Chattells, Pete Temp, Steve Burroughs, Purdys, Aitkens and also to Ping who provided some prizes. There was some excellent golf played and I think the day was enjoyed by everyone who played. The overall winner was Adrian Rhodes who played some excellent golf and

finished with 39 points. Well done Adrian! Results; 1. A. Rhodes, 39pts; 2. R. Ullathore, 37pts; 3. M. Coltan, 37pts; 4. K. Kirkham, 36pts; 5. J. Dorach, 36pts; 6. S. Currie, 36pts. The trade prize was won by Tony Dobson with 39 pts. Well done Tony! Nearest the pin was won by Kim Kirkham. Well done Kim, I think it's your speciality. Once again our winter

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lectures will be held at Rotherham Golf Club starting at 2.30 pm; November 5, Twose Turf followed by AGM; December 3, Richard Walton, Scotts; February 4, David Stansfield, PSD Agronomy; March 4, A J Wallis, Force Limmograin. Please support your Section and try to attend as many lectures as possible.

John Lax

North West

I am writing these Section notes in the last week of September, and I am sure you will all be enjoying the break in the weather from the persistent rain we have had for some months. September is usually the last opportunity to Hollow tine and top dress, especially if you incorporate overseeding, before the possibility of

winter frosts, so at least the dry spell has given you the start needed. If you have managed to carry out this work, a good idea is to go on holiday, so that you do not have to listen to the members' moans about uneven putting surfaces. The "Autumn" competition at Dean Wood GC on September 17 was a great day, with 42 playing and a perfect day weather

wise. The course was in lovely condition thanks to Chris Watson and his staff. Incidentally Chris had hollowtined and top dressed the first week in September, making sure he beat the frosts, and soon enough to have good fast greens for us to play on. I would like to thank Dean Wood GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course and for their generous

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welcome. Many thanks also to the caterers for a great meal, the bar staff for keeping the bar open all day, until the last went home (me). Thanks once again to the trade companies who helped to swell the prize table.

A final reminder that we have the Christmas competition and Annual General Meeting at Wilmslow GC on Thursday, November 26. We will also include the competition for the "Presidents Cup" which has been donated by John Walker, N/W Section President. All you need to enter is; send a cheque to Bill Merritt 225 Utting Avenue, Walton, Liverpool, L4 9RB and everybody bring a bottle, so that we all go away with a prize. The Tee is available from 10am. Richard Corless has moved from Sandbach GC to Mottram Hall as First Assistant. Any news, views, or enquiries contact me on 0151 724 5412. Bert Cross

North Wales

Well, hello, I'm back again. Firstly can I quash all rumours, it definitely wasn't my backside seen on TV on a beach in Ibiza. I'm 42 not 24, the British Consul did not leave because I arrived. The World in Action crew were not looking for me! Jeez, next time I go on holiday I'll keep my eye out for Kate Adie. One thing I noted was the local delicacy of squid for a plateful! As you can tell, nowt much to write about 'cause again, no one's got in touch, except the college. Once again they are running a series of short courses which I know from experience are excellent, and superb value for money. The dates are Monday, November 16, Engines 4+2 stroke; Monday November 23, Diesel Systems; Monday, November 30, Brakes and clutches; Monday, December 7, Blade Sharpening and Monday, December 14, Abrasive Wheels. The days start at 10am and finish at 3pm and the total cost for all five modules is £50. Contact either Phil Davies or Graham Wright on 01352 841055. Here's to a dry crisp winter season with enough snow to keep the course closed, enough frost to move material round the course, no fusarium, no moans, no groans, everything you've set out in your winter programme completed on time with no delay. Oh, look at that pig flying over the course. See ya,

Dave Goodridge



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

Midland

Midland Region Seminar 1998 - support your Region and attend the Midland Region Seminar at Mentmore Golf Club on Wednesday, November 18, 1998. Application forms for attendance were in the

September issue of Greenkeeper International. If you need a form contact the Regional Administrator.

The inaugural Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Competition was held at Cold Ashby Golf Club on September 24, 1998. The Region is extremely grateful to David Croxton and his staff at Cold Ashby Golf Club for extending the courtesy of the course and for their help in making the day successful and enjoyable for all. The competition was sponsored by Scotts Turf & Amenity and the Region's thanks go to Richard Minton for his support in getting this event off the ground. Twenty one golf clubs entered as four man teams comprising of the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper, the Secretary, Captain and Chairman of Green. The prize was a tonne of fertiliser to the winning club, plus individual prizes to the leading teams. Lutterworth Golf Club, led by their Head Greenkeeper Gary Jukes, won first prize closely followed by Lingdale Golf Club in second place and South Staffordshire Golf Club in third place. The Region thanks all of the golf clubs for taking part and looks forward to holding a similar event next year.

Peter Larter

East of England

The fifth annual match between our Section and the Association of Secretaries took place at Toft Hotel Golf Club (near Bourne). The Chandlers Cup was retained, once again, by the Secretaries 5 1/2 to 2 1/2. Thanks to our team for all playing what was the secretaries home fixture. The talk, was, hopefully to play the secretaries at Stoke Rochford next year if it can be arranged. The Secretaries Association Secretary, Brian Harris, stood down this year and I wish him all the best in his retirement. The Head Greenkeeper, Barry Anderson, and his staff were thanked by both Associations for the excellent state of the course, and the catering was first class. One player who could not make it was Tony Fox, of Blankney. He was taken in to Hospital, and we wish Tony a speedy recovery. East of England scores; G. Macdonald + L. Siddon, Halved; K. Hodges + J. Hewson, Lost; R. Hewitt + F. Cobb, Won; J. Scotney + P. Wilkinson, Lost; B. Anderson + A. Thomas, Won; G. Ogden + R. Harrison, Lost; P. Fell + A. Clarke, Lost; L. Purdy, Lost. Last bit of news from around the region is that Kevin Hodges wife is to have a baby the day before we visit his course for our Section meeting. I will keep you posted to whether its a boy or girl or if Kevin made it to the golf meeting.

Graeme Macdonald

East Midlands

I would like to thank the following golf clubs in our Section all of whom have kindly contributed to the BIGGA Building Fund. Beeston Fields G.C.,

Erewash Valley G.C., Mapperley G.C. and Kirby Muxloe G.C. Your support is greatly appreciated. This year's Autumn Tournament was held at Scraftoft GC on September 2, with 30 competitors taking part. The winners were as follows; Category 1; 1. A. Thomas, Manor, 69-5-64; 2. J. Dickinson, Leen Valley, 79-7-72; 3. A. Foulds, Manor, 80-8-72. Category 2; 1. A. Porter, Greatham Valley, 83-12-71; 2. J. Bedford, Birstall, 88-16-72; 3. D. Mitchell, Springwater, 84-11-75; Category 3; 1. M. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 90-21-69; 2. F. Kempster, Glen Gorse, 90-19-71; 3. G. Robson, Lingdale, 98-24-74. Trade & Associate Winner, P. Larter, Regional Administrator, 82-8-74. Nearest the Pin, P. Larter; Longest Drive, D. James. I would like to thank Scraftoft GC for allowing us courtesy of their course and to the steward & stewardess for a really great meal, not forgetting Carl Chamberlain and the rest of the green staff for preparing a challenging test of golf.

Finally a special thank you to Banks Amenity Products for their sponsorship of this event.

Next year's Autumn Tournament will be held at Erewash Valley on September 6. Finally on behalf of the Section, I would like to wish Martin Smith and his family, our best wishes for the future. Martin has been a keen member of the Section, and has now moved from Ramsdale Park to Burhill GC and will rejoin the Surrey Section.

Antony Bindley

B, B&O

The Autumn Invitational golf day was held at Harleyford last month and for once the weather was kind to all competitors. There's only one snag with regards to playing on a nice day and that is the scoring can be blistering! This certainly was the case with some amazing scores at the top of the leader board. Normally if you manage to finish with 40+ pts you would expect to make a visit to the Trophy table, however not on this day. 43pts (-7 par) was not even good enough! I felt my partner Peter Larter and myself played some good golf but our 37pts fell well short of the target. 1. J. Scoones & J. Coyle, 47pts; 2. A. Cooper & D. Herd, 46pts; 3. D. Goodchild & K. Benton, 44pts; LD, J. Scoones; NP, J. Coyle. I had the pleasure of sitting next to John Coyle at dinner and this gave me the opportunity to find out exactly how he managed to tear the course apart. They managed to score 26pts on the back nine alone the highlight coming on the 17th when he made Eagle which meant 5pts! I believe that when John finished his round, he was seen taking his putter into the shower, just to cool it down! Many thanks to GEM for sponsoring the day. This was appreciated by all who took part. Well done Bernie! Ray Clark and his staff are to be congratulated on presenting a first class course, also all the catering

staff are to be thanked for laying on a superb feast which was a welcome sight at the end of a long day. The next golf day takes place at Whiteleaf on November 26, and doubles as our AGM as well so if you have any thoughts for improving the Section then please come along and air your views. Finally the Regional Seminar takes place at Mentmore Golf Club on Wednesday, November 18, and your support is essential to make this a success. Lindsay Anderson

Mid Anglia

The Section's summer tournament was held this year in late August at Leighton Buzzard Golf Club; a lovely, compact Bedfordshire course. Bearing in mind this summer's weather, a fine day for golf was, luckily for us, enjoyed to the full. Thirty two members turned up for the day's golf, seven of whom were trade members. A Stableford was played in the morning, followed by a nine hole Texas Scramble, after lunch.

The results from the Stableford competition were as follows: 1. Steve Mason, Mount Pleasant Golf Club, 38pts; 2. Darren Brown, Stocks Golf Club, 37pts; 3. John Moorhouse, Brocket Hall Golf Club, 37pts. The trade prize was won by Tim Webb, from Tacit, with 45 points.

Our thanks to Jim Burton for running the Kingpin "nearest the pin" competition once again, which was won by Neil Pestle of Mid Herts. John Wells was second, Russell Housen third and Colin White of Avoncrop picked up the Trade prize. Neil Pestle also won the longest drive. A superb lunch was enjoyed, with everyone looking forward to the afternoon Texas Scramble over nine holes. The results of this were: 1. P. Judd, I. Jones, A. Males, 28.1; 2. J. Donaldson, B. Butfoy, L. Rance, 31.3; 3. R. Tarbox, A. Barker, D. Coleman, 31.8. Our thanks go to Leighton Buzzard Golf Club for the courtesy of the course and the superb hospitality shown to us; also to John Burchell, the Secretary, who attended our meal and presentation in the evening. Dave Piggot, the Head Greenkeeper and all his staff, must be commended on the excellent standard of the course.

Boughton Loam, represented by Mike Franklin, kindly sponsored the day and donated all the prizes, so many thanks to them and to all other trade members for supporting the Section so ably.

I would personally like to thank John Wells for stepping in to say a few words in the absence of our Chairman and Vice, and to Richard Saunders for his organisational prowess.

I would like to congratulate John Moorhouse on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper of the Melbourne Course at Brocket Hall.

The final of the Lodgeway Four

**Around
the green**

Ball Tournament was played in early October at John O'Gaunt Golf Club over 36 holes. Steve Hesk and Darren Mugford of Aldwickbury came out winners.

It was unfortunate that one of their opponents, Mark Hendry, was injured and Neil Robson therefore had to compete on his own. Our thanks to John O'Gaunt for staging the final, and to Chris Rook of Lodgeway for sponsoring the event.

Steve Mason has done an excellent job in his first year of running the event. We all look forward eagerly to next year's event! The Regional Seminar is being held in our Section this year, at Mentmore Golf and Country Club, on November 18.

Please support the event; there are a wide variety of speakers lined up for the day. Our last golf event of the year, the Christmas Texas Scramble, will be held on December 4 at Ashridge Golf Club. Early team entries are vital, as this event is always extremely popular and is often over-subscribed.

Paul Lockett

Midland

On Monday, September 28, the Autumn Tournament was played at Edgebaston Golf Club.

The day was a great success considering the torrential thunder storms that occurred throughout the previous weekend. It was a great credit to Mike Hughes and his staff for presenting the course in such trying circumstances.

Many thanks on behalf of the Midland Committee.

The results are as follows; 1. M. Gash, 2. Clayton Lee, 3. Alan Cutler, 4. Dave Gibbons, 5. Jon Wood. 1st gross went to Tony Chesse. Longest drive was won by A Corns of Acorn Equipment.

I would also like to thank on behalf of the Section all our sponsors for the day who were Tacit, Acorn Equipment and Ruffords Topdressing. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Tacit for sponsoring the summer tournament, as I forgot to mention them in last months report.

The final of the Rigby Taylor doubles, will be played by the time you receive the next report so I will keep you informed. The finalists are Mark Cutler and Alan Cutler against Paul Loffman and Trevor Morris. Briefly I would like to remind you of the Christmas tournament at Copt Heath Golf Club on Thursday, December 10, the AGM will be held after the golf so those of you who are not playing in the golf please come to the AGM. Finally I would like to introduce some new members; Daniel Jones, Jamie Wilson, Jamie Griffin, Mark Allen, Francesco Polino, John Hughes, Andrew Dalton and Steven Harvey.

Jonathan Wood

East Anglia

With the onset of Autumn our Nomadic band decided to go to Sheringham. Not a wise choice at that time of year you may think. Well, you would be wrong, only just mind, as it was a bad day the day before and a day you wouldn't send a dog out the day after, but our day with a slight breeze, well dry anyway. About 40 turned up as it was a restricted field, so the privileged few finally got to play Sheringham. I don't think many of us had played there before judging by the scores either, however someone has got to win. The scores were as follows. Are you sitting comfortably then I shall begin. 0-9 Section; 1. R. Whiting, 39pts (overall winner); 2. P. Howard, 37pts; 3. R. Plummer, 36pts. 10-18 Section; 1. M. Broughton, 33pts; 2. J. Willitt, 32pts; 3. D. Childs, 32pts. 19-28 Section; 1. S. Crab, 38pts; 2. T. Russell, 35pts; 3. M. Mison, 33pts. Guest prizes were won by Messrs Bray and Carr, Captain and Chairman of Greens respectively. The loo seat was won by yours truly not for the least points I might add, far from it. No, the loo seat has returned to Lathrope after many years not for poor golf as in the past but for the most bizarre event of the day; I was playing one of several bunker shots when I was hit smack on the top of the head with a ball. The Anglo Saxon was about to flow when I noticed my so called friend and playing partner Brian Lemon rolling around in fits of laughter. It was then that I realised it was my ball that had caught the top of the bunker, shot straight in the air and wallop, straight on the nut.

Of course, once this tale had spread around the clubhouse, afterwards, I was presented with the seat to remind me of the day, long after the headache has gone. Thanks lads. The main sponsors for the day were Bartram Mowers. Other prizes were donated by Colliers, Barenbrug, Rushbrooks, SISIS, Rhone-Poulenc, Willmot Pertwee, Lely, Consultant Clarkson and Tomlinson Ground Care. Our thanks to Sheringham GC for a great day. The course was in super nick apart from the face of that bunker on the fourth fairway.

Mick Lathrope



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Essex

Well, November already, when signs and fencing of some type will be shortly set in place for the coming winter months to keep the wandering sheep off! Now on to our next social event. For the first time we will be

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holding an indoor Go-Karting endurance race along with the help of Grass Roots Trading Company. The venue, Indikart Racing Club, Colchester, Friday, November 20, arrival 1.30pm. There will be eight teams of four, £20 per man, with the race lasting 31/2 hours. For further details contact Richard Pride 01268 752281. An important date for your diary is your AGM to be held at Orsett GC on Tuesday, December 1. There will be a golf competition in the morning followed by lunch with the AGM after. Details will be sent out soon. Any enquiries please contact Richard or Martin Forester (01245 603131). One or two positions need to be filled on the committee. Anyone interested please ring Martin. The 1998 SE Region Education Conference will be on Tuesday, November 24, 7pm, Stock Brook Manor GC. Anyone interested to help please just turn up on the night or better still ring our Secretary Martin 01245 603131, who will let you have further information.

On to our latest new members. Adding to our ever growing Section, we would like to welcome both Graham Hipkin and Alan Smith from Clacton-on-Sea GC. From the Mardyke Valley Golf Centre Daniel Farrer and Joe Broderick from Stapleford Abbots GC.

Our last event of the year and a very pleasant one, was at Maylands Golf Club where I haven't played for years. Can I thank Phillip Taylor for letting us use the course. Paul Farrow, Head Greenkeeper and his staff for getting the course ready. Pauline and staff, catering and bar. Our sponsor for the event Avoncrop, thanks Wayne.

The winners were; Cat 1, Andy Sheehan, 36pts; Mick Fahce, 34pts; Carl Croucher, 31pts. Cat 2, Ray Clark, 33pts; Chris Ward, 32pts; Danny Farrow, 32pts; Cat 3, Jack Shelton, 35pts; Ian Mitchell, 30pts; Malcolm Smith, 28pts. Trade prize, Richard Lewis; Guest Prize, Phil Terry. Thanks to the Greenkeeping Supply Company who sponsored, Nearest the Pin, Neil Peachey; Longest Drive, Richard Pride.

The overall winner for the Autumn Trophy is Andy Sheehan. Thanks to these firms for the raffle prizes; Rigby Taylor, Tuckwells, Banks, Grass Roots, CMW, Bourne, Driving Force Leisure, Willmot Pertwee. Our AGM and Golf Day is on December 2 at Orsett Golf Club. Please, please make every effort to attend, yes attend, your AGM. Where we all can help to continue our success. Dave Wells

Surrey

Welcome, everyone, to this months compilation of news and useful information. Firstly our congratulations to some new parents; from the Drift Golf Club Mark Sutcliffe whose wife Deborah gave birth on September 1 to their daughter, Hannah, 8lbs 6ozs and from Worplesdon Golf Club, Ken Harding, and his wife Tracy, are celebrating the arrival of their son, Charley.

Effingham Golf Club will be running a Chain Saw Course in December and would welcome members from other Surrey clubs to participate and gain a Certificate of Competence. Please contact Peter Broadbent for full details.

The annual clash between golfers from England and Scotland took place at Epsom Golf Club on September 18. The course was in magnificent condition and the greens having been rolled with a turf iron were very testing. Unfortunately Surrey Section seems to have very few Scottish members at present as only three from North of the Border turned up. Still never mind the English contingent made up their numbers and the final result was a draw. The Parker Salver was played for at Reigate Heath Golf Club on October 1 and it was a pleasure to see the course in such excellent condition. Our thanks to Derek and Grant for the condition and our thanks to the club for the delicious food and hospitality. The results were 1. Derek Cunliffe, 30pts, 2. Michael McLoughlin, 38pts; 3. John Mathis, 37pts.

And now sadly the contents of a fax sent to me by Paul Crouch, Head Greenkeeper at Puttenham Golf Club. We are sorry to have to report the sad loss of one of our members of staff; 28 year old Patrick Boyd, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Puttenham Golf Club, who died in tragic circumstances during a charity mountain bike ride. He leaves his wife Sara and 3 year old son, Callum, and will be sadly missed by all his colleagues at Puttenham.

Brian Willmott



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01363 82777

South West & South Wales

Regional Seminar - Cannington College, November 25, £15 per head.

Book your places quickly as spaces limited. Frank Newberry is speaking, don't miss hearing him. Why not bring along your Secretary or Chairman of Green as well?

BTME - Coach places filling up fast. Reserve your places quickly - £95, 3 nights B&B, coach travel and entrance to seminars. Application forms from Paula Humphries, 01363 82777.

South West

November, what a delightful time of the year. The golden colour of the leaves as they fall to the greens, the fresh clear air, the sight of our native fauna foraging for food in readiness for the winter, the chronic outbreak of fusarium. Actually at the moment I am enjoying a little visit from our old friend Take All Patch. Can anyone tell me the best method of getting rid of this? Come to think of it, can someone tell me any method of getting rid of it? I have read all the books and they say that I am stuffed basically.

The members, despite patient explanation from staff and me are convinced we have a particularly virulent form of ringworm, and all the greens will have to be dug up and incinerated on sight. But enough of my problems, what has been happening within the Section. Not a great deal, as far as I can tell, which brings me to the conclusion that all members within the Section are going to have to give me a ring and let me know what has been happening within their lives. Has anyone out there recently joined the matrimonial institution? Are sprogs imminent or recently materialised? Is anyone about to leave employment elsewhere and so require good wishes?

Or maybe there are people out there who have finally reached the period of their lives when they can sit back and take it easy. No I'm not talking about getting a Course Managers job, I mean retiring. Please, please let me know the latest news so I can keep the Section informed. Coming up on December 10, we have the Christmas comp at Chipping Sodbury. Included in your details of the AGM at Saltford from Peter, will be five raffle tickets for the bargain price of £1.00 each. Send these back before December 1, and you may be up for winning a place to the BTME at Harrogate. This prize has been donated by HW to help the Section funds so please enter the raffle. The draw will take place at Chipping Sodbury so be there as this is always a great tournament to play in.

Marc Haring

South Wales

Thanks to Creigiau GC for their hospitality in granting courtesy of the course on September 2 for our annual match against the secretaries. The results were as follows; D Bray / R Patterson beat J Graham/D Fellowes, J B Jones/R Frater beat D Richard/H Edmond, A Abel/A Hatcher beat M Hughes/D Roderick, D Jenkins/A Cosh beat E Tose/B Player, P Lacey/A Panks Halved with R Bradley/R Howells. An outstanding 4 1/2 - 1/2 win for the "Greenkeepers".

Thanks to Bill Malcolm and Ken Jones who represented Creigiau GC, to the Secretaries who participated in the day and to Alan Abel the sponsor of the day from Complete Weed Control. The prize winners were; Longest Drive on the 12th P Lacey; Nearest the Pin Eric Tose on the 2nd / Andrew Hatcher 6th / Ken Jones 10th / Jim Graham 16th, an excellent day was had by all.

Again we sprung into action at Alice Springs GC for the autumn Tournament, on September 9, albeit blowing a gale with cold heavy showers. Again a good day was had by all. Our thanks to the sponsors John & Ben Morgan for providing the wine and to Keith Morgan for his kind words and courtesy of the course. The changes that have been made to the course Keith since our visit in 1993 are for the better. Winner of the day was Adrian Panks who received the Jacobsen Cup

and a Golf bag for the best nett of 69 on the back 9, second best nett 69 on back 9 Andy Cosh winning a golf shirt. Best Gross of 75 Andy Roach winning the Presidents Cup and Golf shoes, winner of the Waycott Cup was Gareth Evans with a 74 on the back 9 from D Morgan. Thanks to our President Colin Murphy for making the presentations. Rigby Taylor match play singles update; R Frater beat D Gladwin, Kerry Jones beat D Bray, Mike Norfolk beat A Phillips, G Johnstone beat J B Jones, Mike Jones beat P Lacey. Next round; R Frater v M Jones, G Johnstone v M Norfolk, and a bye for K Jones.

Our congratulations to David Ward for becoming the Regional Winner for the BIGGA/Amazone Environment Competition, (I might have a gold star for writing this) and for the majestic condition of the Royal Porthcawl GC during the Home Internationals in September. The Golf Management Trophy held at the Celtic Manor was a huge success with 20 teams attending, course in great condition, looking forward to next year.

Up and coming fixtures;

This year's AGM is to be held on Wednesday December 9. As always, at the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club. See you there. There are still spaces available if you wish to attend the 1999 BTME so give Paula Humphries or P. Lacey a ring to book your place.

Richard Hatcher

Devon & Cornwall

My report starts this month with the news that Jeff Mills has just started his new job as Course Manager at Taunton & Pickenridge Golf Club. Our congratulations and best wishes are extended to Jeff. Also belated congratulations to Wyndham Potter on reaching retirement. We look forward to seeing you at our events Wyndham. Once again Christmas is approaching fast, so what better way to start the festive season than by attending our P J Flegg sponsored Christmas meeting which will be held at Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 9. As in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members, so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible, and before the closing date.

The day will start as usual with golfing members playing for the P J Flegg Trophy with the format being greensome. For those of you not wishing to play golf, the now customary course walk will start from the club house at approximately 10.30 with Head Greenkeeper, Richard Wisdom, showing members his fine work. Lunch will be followed by our afternoon cabaret and the day will conclude with the raffles. I like to remind you that the region's annual seminar will be held at Cannington College, on Wednesday, November 25. Places on the Regions package to BTME 99 which includes transport,



accommodation and entry to the BTME show and seminars are going fast to avoid disappointment you are advised to return your booking form as soon as possible. If you haven't already booked your place for the seminar or BTME Package don't delay call our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, today on 01363 82777. If you have any news, you would like me to include in the monthly reports please let me know in writing, my address is on the front of your fixture card. Reports have to be in one month beforehand (for January issue reports have to be in by December 1).

Richard Whyman



Northern Ireland

We had our Sportsturf show at the beginning of October in the Kings Hall in Belfast. This year we also held a seminar at the show. Those who attended enjoyed a variety of speakers including the IOG, BIGGA, Force Limagrain, Elmwood College, Texron/Ransomes, Frank Ainsworth and

David Jones. We would like to thank all the speakers for giving up their valuable time. It was a lively and highly entertaining session especially by some computer buff by the name of Fair Wanks North. We would like to remind all our members that the seminars like this count for credits towards their Master Greenkeeper Certificate.


We also held our AGM and the committee was voted in to carry on with its agenda. For any member who does not know it is Eamonn Farrell Chairman and Liaison Officer, Mark Farrell Secretary and Neil McLoughlin as Education Officer. Members wishing any information or who have any ideas please contact any of the committee members.

Eamonn Farrell



See you all next month!

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Atlanta, Georgia, setting for Gone with the Wind and the '96 Olympic Games, as well as home to Coca Cola and CNN, played host to the second Hayter International Cup and the occasion more than lived up to its surroundings...

Sweet Georgia greens

Below: With the water threatening, Al Pondel plays to the safe side of the green at Peachtree's picturesque par 3, 14th



The second Hayter International Cup proved to be almost as tight as the first - when the Americas won on the final green in the final match. Extended to three days, with a series of foursomes joining the fourball and single matches, the result was in doubt until a handshake on the 16th green in the final match signalled the Americas' second win.

While such a fine victory, by a score of 13.5 -10.5, was the cause for justified jubilation for the home team, losing was not a term which could easily be attached to the Rest of the World team. How could it when the 12 players had enjoyed the opportunity of playing over some of the finest, and most exclusive golf courses in all of America?

Under the non-playing Captaincy of BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, the 12 RoW players were drawn from 12 different countries but the way they gelled over the week says much for the power of greenkeeping as a bonding agent.

Players from Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales, Spain, France, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Finland, Australia and Germany joined the Americas team made up of Americans, Canadians and Argentinians bringing 15 countries together and none of the players were slow to make friends and discuss matters greenkeeping.

While the play was serious, and keenly contested, events off the course were just as important to the success of the occasion.

In addition to the three courses used for the competition two others were tackled - the exclusive Golf Club of Georgia and Cherokee Country Club which is about to open a wonderful new 18 holes. Also on the schedule were two fine dinners, including the final banquet at the majestic Cherokee Town and Country Club a short distance from the Governor of Georgia's mansion, as well as a traditional southern "cook-out". Fine southern hospitality indeed!

"I cannot recall a more enjoyable five days," said RoW Captain, Gordon Child.

"The golf courses were of the highest possible quality, the golf unforgettable and the friendships formed everlasting. Our very special thanks must go to Hayter, and in particular Tony Bourke and Kim Macfie, for making such an event possible," said Gordon.

Those sentiments were echoed by BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas, who paid tribute to

Hayter's contribution.

"Hayter's support of the International Cup, as well as their five year sponsorship of the Hayter Challenge, has ensured many opportunities for BIGGA members and indeed greenkeepers throughout the world to meet, enjoy their golf and experience the true benefits of the fraternity of greenkeeping."

"The spirit, the friendship, the golf courses, the competition, the organisation - were all of the highest order. I do hope, and believe, that everyone who participated will have very fond recollections lasting a very long time. I know I certainly will.

The 24 players competed with true professionalism and sportsmanship which enhanced and set the right tone for such an important international event. I thank them all," said Hayter Sales and Marketing Director, Kim Macfie.

Day 1

The first day was the fourball event and was played over the Highland Course of the Atlanta Athletic Club - the home club of the great Bobby Jones. A magnificent course it has hosted the 1963 Ryder Cup, the 1976 US Open, won by Jerry Pate in spectacular fashion, and is shortly to welcome the USPGA Championship.

Andy Sheehan, of England, played the first shot - a fine drive down the middle of a tight fairway - but it was the Americas who were to have the better of the opening exchanges. Americans Al Pondel and Tommy Witt and Argentina's Ricardo de Udaeta and Alejandro Young won the second and third matches comfortably while a slice of luck down the final hole saw Canada's Doug Meyer and Sylvain Alarie edge out Jorma Eriksson, of Finland and Andy Sheehan.

After such a disappointing start it was good to see Remy Dorbeau, of France, and Derek Wilson, of Scotland, clinch the fourth match.

The last two matches went down the final hole with Eugenio Rezola, of Spain, having played a magnificent 7-iron to eight feet, watched his putt



Above: RoW Captain, Gordon Child ponders his pairings



Right: The Americas Team

Below: The RoW Team

for a win slide agonisingly by.

Martin Sternberg, of Sweden, went one better in the final match when he did hole a 20 footer to win the match.

Fourball: Americas 3.5 RoW 2.5

Day 2

The second day foursomes were played at the wonderful Peachtree Club, one of the most prestigious clubs in all America and venue for the 1989 Walker Cup. Indeed the current Chairman of Green is Danny Yates, next year's American Walker Cup Captain and he joined the party for the post foursomes lunch.

The course was designed by Bobby Jones and Robert Trent Jones and

Things didn't look too good for Atle Hansen, of Norway, and Andy Sheehan going down the last. One up, they made heavy weather of the up hill par four before Andy played a wedge to 15 feet above the hole to lie four. Doug Meyer and Dean Piller secured their five and Atle was left with one of the slickest putts on the course to halve the hole and win the match.

On line all the way the ball hit the hole, spun round before stopping, tantalisingly on the lip for a fraction of a second before dropping in.

Poor old Atle was faced with the sight of an elated Andy charging across the green and Atle had only

designed by Tom Fazio, is a public golf club at the top end of the market. It says much for its quality that following on from the Atlanta Athletic Club and Peachtree that it was still listed by some of the players as the course they'd most enjoyed.

Gordon Child decided he needed a fast start and he was rewarded with three big wins in the first four games from Andreas Kauler (6&5), Martin Sternberg (5&4) and Andy Sheehan (3&1).

The Americas were not to be shaken out of their stride, however, and with wins in the second game, by Ken Magnum, and the middle order they kept their noses in front.

Among the highlights was the battle between Mike Seuss and Nick Webber. Nip and tuck all the way round the quality of golf was stunning, as highlighted on the beautiful 15th hole. From a perfect tee shot Nick played over the water to three feet before Mike, who had possibly hit his tee shot a little too long found the green. He then holed his curling 15 footer, to the cheers of team members who had already finished, before Nick held his nerve to halve the hole in birdies. Mike eventually won the last to win by a hole a result which ensured at least a tied match and a retention of the trophy for the Americas.

Peter Frewin won a nail biter with Alexandro Young on the final green and Pierre Ambresin, of Switzerland, who played superbly throughout won his game.

The overall match result was sealed on the 16th green when Doug Meyer hit a superb approach to two feet to defeat Derek Wilson after an epic battle.

Singles: Americas 6.5 RoW 5.5

Overall Result: Americas 13.5, RoW 10.5.



there are many similarities to his other great design a couple of hours drive away at Augusta.

The RoW had the better of most of the matches for most of the day but struggled to win the decisive closing holes.

Australian Peter Frewin and Nick Webber, of Ireland, lost the final hole to halve their game while Remy Dorbeau and Jorma Eriksson lost it to go down by two holes. Al Pondel and Ricardo De Udaeta clinched their match on the 17th to give the Americas two and a half points from the first three games.

just braced himself for the impact when Andy threw himself into his arms. For such moments the Hayter International Cup will be remembered.

The final two matches saw Paul McGinnis and Tommy Witt defeat Derek Wilson and Russell Lewis, of Wales, on the 17th and Andreas Kauler, of Germany, and Eugenio Rezola win 6&5.

Foursomes: Americas 3.5 RoW 2.5

Two day total Americas 7 RoW 5

Final Day

White Columns Golf Club,



Andy Sheehan gets rather excited after foursomes partner Atle Hansen holes a tricky downhill on the final green at Peachtree, to clinch a vital win

HAYTER

Sweet Georgia greens

Right: The two teams united, but only one has the Cup after three tough days of golf

Below: The match was clinched when Doug Meyer, right, defeated Derek Wilson in the bottom Singles Match at White Columns

Bottom: Americas Captain George Renault presents a dashing Kim Macfie and Tony Bourke of Hayters with a memento of a special occasion



Full Results

Fourball (Americas' Names First)

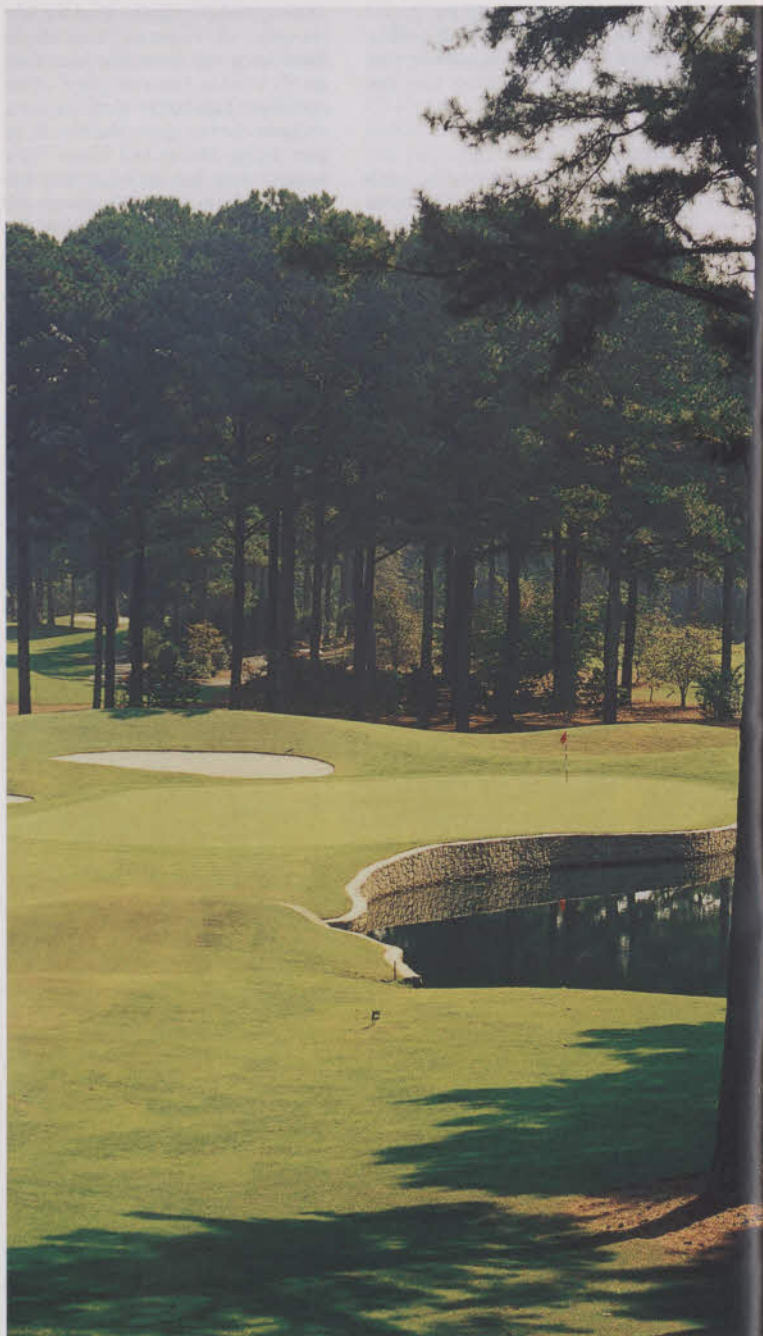
- Meyer & Alarie beat Eriksson & Sheehan 1 hole
- Pondel & Witt beat Hansen & Webber 3&2
- de Udaeta and Young beat Frewin & Lewis 5&4
- Fearis and McGinnis lost to Dorbeau & Wilson 3&1
- Piller & Suess halved with Kauler & Rezola
- Baden and Magnum lost to Ambresin & Sternberg 1 hole

Foursomes

- Seuss & Magnum halved with Frewin & Webber
- Pondel & de Udaeta beat Ambresin & Sternberg 2&1
- Baden & Alarie beat Dorbeau & Eriksson 2 holes
- Meyer & Piller lost to Hansen & Sheehan 1 hole
- McGinnis & Witt beat Wilson & Lewis 3&1
- Fearis & Young lost to Kauler & Rezola 6&5

Singles

- Piller lost to Kauler 6&5
- Magnum beat Lewis 2 holes
- Witt lost to Sternberg 5&4
- McGinnis lost to Sheehan 3&1
- Alarie beat Erriksson 8&6
- Baden beat Hansen 3&1
- Pondel beat Dorbeau 8&6
- Seuss beat Webber 1 hole
- Young lost to Frewin 1 hole
- Fearis lost to Ambresin 7&5
- de Udaeta halved with Rezola
- Meyer beat Wilson 4&2



The beautiful but deadly 11th hole at The Atlanta Athletic Club, confronted the players in the fourballs

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**Ken Richardson explains assessments,
 and how you can become an assessor...**

ON THE JOB TRAINING

Many Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers have become approved assessors for N/SVQ Sportsturf and others are working to become approved assessors at Level 3 Sportsturf Maintenance and most, if not all, Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers train their staff 'On the Job'. However, much of this training is not supported by sufficient emphasis on underpinning knowledge, those involved in On the Job Training (OJT) have had little or no formal training as trainers and much of the training is given to suit the manager's needs rather than those of the trainee. BIGGA is looking at introducing Training the Trainer Courses, jointly with the GTC, in 1999. Watch this column for further details and remember that learning from 'Nelly' can be effective method of training. Moreover, this training is even more effective if Nelly has been trained how to train others.

Computer Skills Training

Many greenkeepers use digital computers to control irrigation systems and for general administration. Many others would use computers if they had the skills. Computer skills can be acquired at local colleges, however, this training is general at not specific to greenkeepers. If you feel that BIGGA should run more courses on computing for greenkeepers than please contact me at HQ.

Essential Management Skills Course

We are running two Essential Management Skills Courses at Chester in December. Both courses are fully booked and we have a waiting list in case of cancellations. If there is sufficient demand, we will run a further course, in the Spring. Contact Sami or myself, at HQ if you or a member of your staff wishes to attend. The price for this

two day residential course will be held at £30 + VAT. This represents fantastic value and is only possible thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund.

The Learning Experience 1999 in association with Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products

The Learning Experience Brochure was distributed in the October edition of this magazine. Contact BIGGA HQ for further copies. Book now, to be sure of your place as many people were disappointed, in 1998, not to be able to book their choice of workshop, education conference or accommodation. For further information contact Sami on the BTME Hot Line on 01347 833833.

The Code of Practice for the use of Approved Pesticides in Amenity and

Industrial Areas

Following extensive consultation, the completely revised Code of Practice for the use of Approved Pesticides in Amenity and Industrial Areas, the 'Orange Code', was launched at Saltex in September. The updated edition which is a must for any greenkeeper involved in the use of pesticides on a golf course, includes information on:

Legislation - Training and Certification; Storage; Disposal; COSHH Assessments; Record Keeping; Controlling Exposure; Personal Protective Equipment; Environmental Protection.

Easy to read and packed with useful hints, guidance and references this booklet is available for £15 (plus P+P), from the National Association of Agricultural Contractors, 8 High Street, Maldon, Essex, CM9 8PJ (Telephone: 01621 841675).

This month, Geoff Steel continues his look into the various types of mortgages available, when you're considering buying a house...

INTEREST ONLY IN MORTGAGES?

When considering an interest only mortgage the borrower has to choose between endowment, PEP or pension for the savings to pay off the loan.

Endowments are the traditional method of paying off a mortgage and still popular. One advantage of an endowment policy is that insurance is included in the cost. Should either partner die during the term of the mortgage the loan is paid off leaving the survivor with a mortgage free house. It is also becoming common to include critical illness insurance in the package so that the mortgage is repaid in the event of the diagnosis of certain diseases.

Single persons should rarely have an endowment mortgage. They are paying for life insurance within the policy that is of no benefit unless they wish to leave a mortgage free house to their beneficiaries. Disability insurance is more

important to single persons as there is no partner to help with repayments in the event of illness.

Personal Equity Plans (PEPs) are now being actively sold as a means to pay off the advantage of being tax-free. In theory PEPs should provide better returns than an endowment because the endowment fund pays tax and the PEP fund is tax-free. PEPs, however, do not include insurance and a separate policy is required. Many banks and building societies are now providing packages of a PEP mortgage that includes life and critical illness insurance. Be very wary of these packages. They can be a means of hiding very expensive insurance premiums within the terms of a PEP savings plan.

PEPs are flexible in that the mortgage can be repaid as soon as there is enough money in the savings pot. Having said that most modern endowment policies offer

the same facility. Money can be withdrawn from a PEP at any time and as an adviser I am also coming across people who are withdrawing money from a PEP because they are temporarily short of cash. PEPs can be too flexible for some individuals.

It is possible to take up to 25% of a personal pension fund as tax free cash, and this can be used to pay off a mortgage. Great care should be taken, as it is more expensive than other mortgage repayment options. A pension mortgage is usually only suitable for someone whose long-term job prospects are known, can afford to fund for additional pension and whose retirement date coincides with paying off the mortgage.

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

THE RIGHT CHEMISTRY?

Chemicals play a big role in a Greenkeepers work, not only their use out on the course, but also their storage in and around the workshop or maintenance building. There is a set of Regulations that covers the use of chemicals in the workplace, which we should already be aware of, and they are the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1994 or COSHH as they have become known. These regulations have been covered in depth in previous editions, however, essentially they require employers to carry out an assessment of the risk that the substances or chemicals being used pose.

The risk assessment not only has to be done on the chemical itself but also it has to include information regarding how and when it will be used, who will use it and then put controls into place to reduce the risk. Control methods range from eliminating the substance and using another less hazardous one, isolating it or using it in a spray booth/fume cupboard, reducing exposure to it either by reducing the amount of fumes you are in contact with or using a ventilation/extraction system ie a welding extraction system. Personal Protective Equipment must always be used as a last resort if other methods of control cannot be

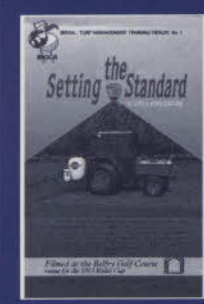
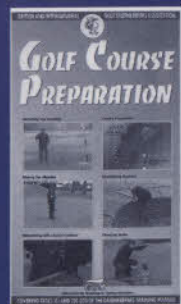
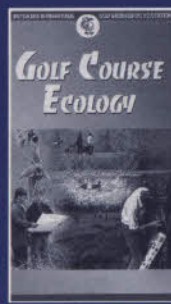
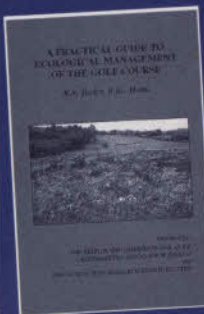
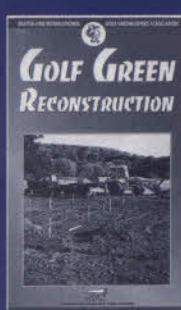
used, but common pieces of PPE that Greenkeepers will be in contact with include safety boots, chemical resistant gloves, aprons and chemical resistant suits, safety glasses or goggles and dust masks or respirators. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is also covered by its own set of Regulations, these being introduced in 1992. The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations (1992) again require the employer to make a formal assessment of the PPE needed for their employees and to provide ergonomically suitable equipment in relation to the foreseeable risks of work. For example, whilst cutting the greens the risk assessment would indicate the need to wear steel toe capped safety boots and not open toed sandals. Employers are also given duties to ensure that they provide PPE that is compatible with each other ie the hard hat and the ear defenders that you use whilst carrying out strimming operation have to fit together and offer the optimum level of safety ie the ear defenders are fitted to the side of the hard hat and they fit snugly over the ears to ensure that the noise levels reaching the ears is reduced. Other duties on employers include maintaining PPE in efficient

working order and a good state of repair, providing storage facilities for PPE not in use ie a storage locker in the Workshop and not just hanging the goggles, etc over the edge of machines. Employees also have to be provided with information, instruction and training as required to enable them to use the PPE provided in a safe manner. Employees are also given duties under the regulations, these being the need to use PPE in accordance with training and instructions and to report any defects or loss to their employers, these requirements enhance the employees duties contained in the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Three other pieces of legislation specifically covering the workplace are also relevant in this Maintenance building / Workshop scenario and they are the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992, the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997 and the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996. The Workplace regulations require employers to maintain it in an efficient state, keep it clean, segregate pedestrians and vehicles wherever possible, etc. The Safety Signs regulations also tie in here and are required where the risk cannot

be adequately controlled by other means. There are four basic colours for safety signs, each one having a different meaning. Prohibitory signs are usually round with red edging, warning signs are triangular with black and yellow, Mandatory signs are usually round and blue and white in colour, and finally Emergency Escape or First Aid signs are predominantly rectangular or square and are green and white. The last set of regulations that would effect the Maintenance buildings or Workshops would be the most recently introduced Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997. These require all non-fire certificated buildings to be assessed (same principle as the risk assessment that was highlighted before) for fire risk and controls to be put in place to reduce the risk down to its lowest level. This would necessitate the provision of fire fighting equipment, measures to detect and warn of fires and ensure safe evacuation of persons via emergency routes and exits.

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

ON COURSE WITH BIGGA EDUCATION



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Roger Davey, Senior Design Engineer of Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Limited, examines the procedures involved in installing a successful irrigation system, and asks...

Can you dig it?

Below: Varying stages of work as the Ditch Witch R100 – a 120 horsepower vibratory moleplough installs 125mm High Performance Polyethylene and Signal Cables

Factors influencing the choice of irrigation systems and companies that supply these systems often overlook the importance of the type of method used to actually place the product in the ground. After investing, or intending to invest, heavily in the irrigation equipment how many times has the golf club been let down by poor and shabby

installation techniques? The following is intended to give an overview of the various methods that can be employed whilst installing an irrigation system.

Ground conditions will bear the most influence, ie. sand or rock, clay or flint. However, the client must ensure that the supplying contractor has assessed his ground condition and is recommending a method which will leave his course in a state with minimal disturbance and disruption.

Pipe depth for installation should generally follow guidelines as laid down by local bylaws. Depths of installation, regardless of pipe diameter, should ensure a minimum of 600mm cover above the barrel of the installed pipe to natural finish grade for mainline and 450mm cover above barrel of the installed pipe for lateral pipelines sprinkler feeds.

Vibratory Moleplough

The vibratory moleplough is designed to install pipe causing minimal disturbance. Vibrating moleplough blades are available in various sizes & specifications. Depths of up to one metre can be achieved and pipe sizes of up to 225mm may be installed with larger specialist machinery such as the Ditch Witch R100.

The principal of operation is very simple, however the blade technology is fairly primitive and it has been the responsibility of individual companies to tailor blade design to suit different ground conditions encountered on each golf course, eg. a links course mole blade would be substantially different than an inland clay course, due to the thin fine turf (prevent ripping) and drag co-efficient.

The mole blade is shaped with a bullet at the bottom and this bullet is sized according to the pipe diameter. Vibrations from a

hydraulic shaker box located on the top of the blade cause the leg to move up and down at speed enlarging the hole formed by the bullet. The pipe is connected behind the bullet by a flexible connection and is drawn through the subsoil in the bullet hole without being under tension. Cable is laid into position through a chute at the rear of the blade just above the pipe.

The ability to mole large pipes, (110mm, 125mm, 160mm and 225mm diameter) ensures that minimal turf scarring occurs. The mole lines should be rolled soon after pipe installation to close the slot, and re-knit turf.

Older moleploughs did not have the vibrating feature; this action has two advantages:

- i) Dissipates heave.
- ii) Eases the sub soil and improves bullet penetration.

Basic moleplough technology is simple however, the craft of installing pipes effectively and efficiently lies with the company and individual key blade designs, and good mole blade design will guarantee consistent pipe depth.

Trenching

Possibly the quickest method of installing pipelines, although not necessarily the cleanest. However, the trenching option may be the only method of installing pipe, for example the ground may be excessively hard or contain sharp stones that would damage moled pipelines.

Turf removal prior to trenching is an option. Turf may be cut and lifted by mechanical means, thus ensuring that 'scar formation' is minimal, this is however fairly costly and time consuming and does not prevent the risk of trenchline subsidence.

Inevitably the excavation of a trenchline leads to large amounts of ground disturbance. Topsoil and



This page: Close ups of the mole blade on a Ditchwitch R100



subsoil become mixed together, grass cover is demolished and reinstatement becomes a 3-5 year project rather than immediate.

Trenchlines over a period of time will settle and may require dressing.

However, an excavated trenchline allows the inspection of the pipe and cable, ensuring that depth is uniform and jointing procedures are good. Trenches in general should be excavated to give a minimum of 50mm clearance either side of the pipe and cable snaked along the trench with approximately one metre of slack for every 100 metres.

It is imperative that the initial 150mm of backfill spoil is selected. If ground conditions are abrasive or rocky this initial backfill and indeed the trench bed, may need to be of imported sand or finings. Remaining soil should be placed back into the trenchlines in 150-200mm layers and compacted thoroughly, the trenchline being left slightly proud.

Trenchline compaction should be carried out by mechanical means;

ideally a vibrating trenchline compactor which can travel freely along the trenchline.

Boarding

Should conditions dictate, it may be necessary to carry out trenching or moling procedures whilst operating machinery on boards. These boards are usually one metre wide by approximately 3 metres long and prevent any tyre slip damage to the fine turf area. This operation is entirely optional, yet can give assurance in particularly sensitive turf areas.

Pipe Jointing Method

Pipes that may be installed fall into 2 basic classes, either Medium Density Polyethylene or UPVC. Jointing techniques for each differ immensely.

MDPE pipe may be jointed by either compression couplers or electrofusion equipment. It is common on pipe sizes up to 90mm to utilise compression fittings; sizes

above this will be jointed by electrofusion fittings. Compression fittings rely upon mechanical compression of rubber sealing rings to provide a watertight joint.

This type of joint is very simple and quick to install and also very reliable. Electrofusion fittings fit either onto or over the pipe, at which point they receive an electrical current which heats the coupling to form an 'as one' bond with the pipe.

UPVC pipes are generally coupled together with glue although larger pipes, 3" plus, may be jointed using mechanical 'O' ring seals. A glued PVC joint must be left to dry and cure before testing. Advances in pipe and jointing technology are outdated the traditional PVC pipes and the installation of MDPE is now the way ahead within the industry.

Flushing

It is imperative that as any work proceeds, installed irrigation pipes are flushed with clean water. This prevents the clogging and later failure of solenoid valves and sprinklers.

Isolation Valve and Solenoid Valve Boxes

Valve boxes should be installed on level ground, approximately 1-2 cm below grade and installed so as not to place pressure on underlying pipes or wires. Decoders where housed in solenoid valve chambers, should be clipped to the side of the chamber. Turf should be removed prior to excavation works and reinstated around the installed chamber.

Sprinkler Heads

The turf surrounding each sprinkler head should be removed and heads installed on triple swing joint risers. Backfill surrounding the sprinklers should be set in place by hand and turf reinstated, sprinklers should be installed just below grade. It may be desirable on a new build

project to leave the sprinklers 50mm proud and adjust the level to grade after a period of 6 - 12 months.

Signal Cable

Cable being either snaked at the bottom of the trench or laid in through the mole leg. At regular intervals the cable should be tested to ensure that damage has not occurred, tests used should include resistance to earth and continuity. It is recommended that cable joints are twisted, soldered and immersed in an approved joint containing a silicon based grease compound such as a DBY joint or equivalent.

Each joint should be housed in a chamber for future maintenance or identification purposes.

As Laid Plans

Pipe and cable routes should be clearly marked and identified on a set of as installed plans. All pipes should be clearly indicated together with sizes and cable joint positions identified. As Laid plans will be provided to the club at the end of the completed project.

All projects must conform to relevant Health & Safety policies and CDM Regulations. This is an area which must not be forgotten and a subject matter all of its own. However, any company of repute will be capable and able to produce full risk assessment, safety plan development and quality assurance necessary to comply with current legislation.

Quite clearly, the installation of the irrigation equipment is in itself as complex as the operation of the product. The quality of installation is very often reflected in the price offered, the overriding factor being damage limitation to both irrigation equipment and golf course. It is therefore just as important to study the type of proposed installation technique as it is the type of product offered.



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Salary above Standing Committee rates, no accommodation available.

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Mr G Simmons, Manager, Puttenham Golf Club,
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Applicants should apply with a full CV to:

The Secretary, West Hill Golf Club,
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No accommodation is provided.

Applications in writing, with CV to:

R Day, Course Manager, Sundridge Park Golf Club,
Garden Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 3NE

Closing date for applications Monday 11th January 1999

Dore & Topley Golf Club Ltd

This Club is set in South Yorkshire, was formed in 1913,
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HEAD GREENKEEPER

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Closing date for receipt of applications:-
Monday 16th November 1998



Lothian area

Quality 9 hole private golf course requires a

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The Secretary/Manager, Castle Golf Club,
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Apply in writing with full CV to;

E McCabe, Course Manager, Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club, Sway Road, Brokenhurst SO42 7SG. Closing Date: November 21st 1998.

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Specialised in maintenance of quality golf course machinery minimum 5 years experience.

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Feature listing from October '96

October '96; Drainage; The Wentworth Club

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

July '98; Aeration, Royal Birkdale preview, The importance of research, Architecture

August '98; Mill Ride, Fescue, Blowers, Texton, Open Review, Nematodes, Training

September '98; Nine holers - Tolladine and Fingle Glen, Turf, Steve Clement profile, Drainage, World Scientific Congress report

October '98; Saltex Review, BIGGA Retrospective, Stirling GC, Toro Awards Preview, Tree grants



Flying visits



Having just returned from Atlanta, the venue of the Hayter International Cup, I find myself running into a busy time starting with the opening of BIGGA HOUSE in a few days time.

I started my travelling with a trip to Belfast for the IOG Show and BIGGA Conference, where Tracey, our Membership Services Officer, and myself gave a talk about the benefits of membership and education within BIGGA. This was Tracey's first talk on behalf of the Association but you would have thought she had been doing it all her life. On my return from Belfast I was soon off to Gatwick for a flight to Atlanta.

We were all met at the Airport by Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director for Hayter Ltd. The flight itself had its own excitement. First Neil found himself sitting next to Derek Wilson, our Scottish team member, and his wife Jacinta who had recently married, and were on their honeymoon, but as the flight got under way one wondered if it was Derek or Neil who were on their honeymoon. It was all in good fun and even the air hostess joined in when she accidentally spilt some wine down Neil's slacks.

On our arrival in Atlanta we were met by a bus and taken to our hotel, where we had a good nights sleep.

On Sunday we travelled to the

Golf Club of Georgia for a game of golf, before going onto Cherokee County Club for the welcoming reception.

On the Monday it was down to the business of practice at the Cherokee course, followed by an excellent cookout in the evening.

Tuesday saw the start of the three day match at the Atlantic Athletic Club, the home of the late, great, Bobby Jones. The first day's play consisted of six fourball matches.

On Wednesday we played our six four-somes matches at Peachtree Golf Club, a former Walker Cup venue.

Thursday was the final day, and the 12 singles were played at White Columns Golf Club. The match results I will leave to Scott to report on along with some very interesting pictures. We closed the event with a dinner and presentation at the Cherokee Town Club.

The whole week was a wonderful experience which I was very lucky to be part of, as Captain of the Rest of the World team. The team came together from the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Australia and the Rest of Europe, and soon formed themselves into a team of friends.

The three days of matches were played very competitively, but at the same time with sportsmanship and great camaraderie from both sides.

They set an example which sportsmen and sportswomen would do well to follow. The social evenings were enjoyed in the same friendly manner, and the entire trip was a very enjoyable experience.

On Friday we all did our last minute shopping before leaving Atlanta on the overnight flight.

I would like to thank Hayter Ltd for the sponsorship of this event, especially Tony and Kim who have supported greenkeepers for many years, and are always a joy to be with. I am sure I speak for all the players and guests when I say that this week will live in our memories forever.

By the time you read these notes BIGGA HOUSE will be officially open, and bedded down, running smoothly towards the BTME in January, which I am sure will once again be a great week. It's time to get your bookings in if you have not already done so. If you are lucky enough to come from the South West & South Wales, or the Scottish Region, contact your Regional Administrators Paula and Peter to book your place on a coach before it's too late. I was told only this week, a party of 30 are coming over from Canada to be with us and take part in what must be the best week of the year for greenkeepers. If you are someone who has not been before, all I can say is, you don't know what you're missing. You can learn so much and at the same time make so many friends with people who have the same interests as yourselves. I believe any greenkeeper who does not attend the "greenkeepers week" do themselves and their profession a disservice.

I hope you have all had a successful season in what must have been the wettest for a long time. At least if we can get a dry winter it will help. We will be able to do plenty of aeration and break up the compaction which heavy rain and traffic always cause. I am told it has been so wet in many parts they have not been able to get tractors out on the course, never mind aerators, so it is very important to take every dry opportunity to catch up. I always think aeration at this time of year has a duel effect, it helps to keep courses in play throughout winter and gives a better start to the coming season.

I look forward to seeing many of you this month, in Edinburgh for Scotsturf; at Mentmore Golf Club for the Midland Region's seminar and Cannington for the South West and South Wales seminar.

See you soon.

Gordon Child



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