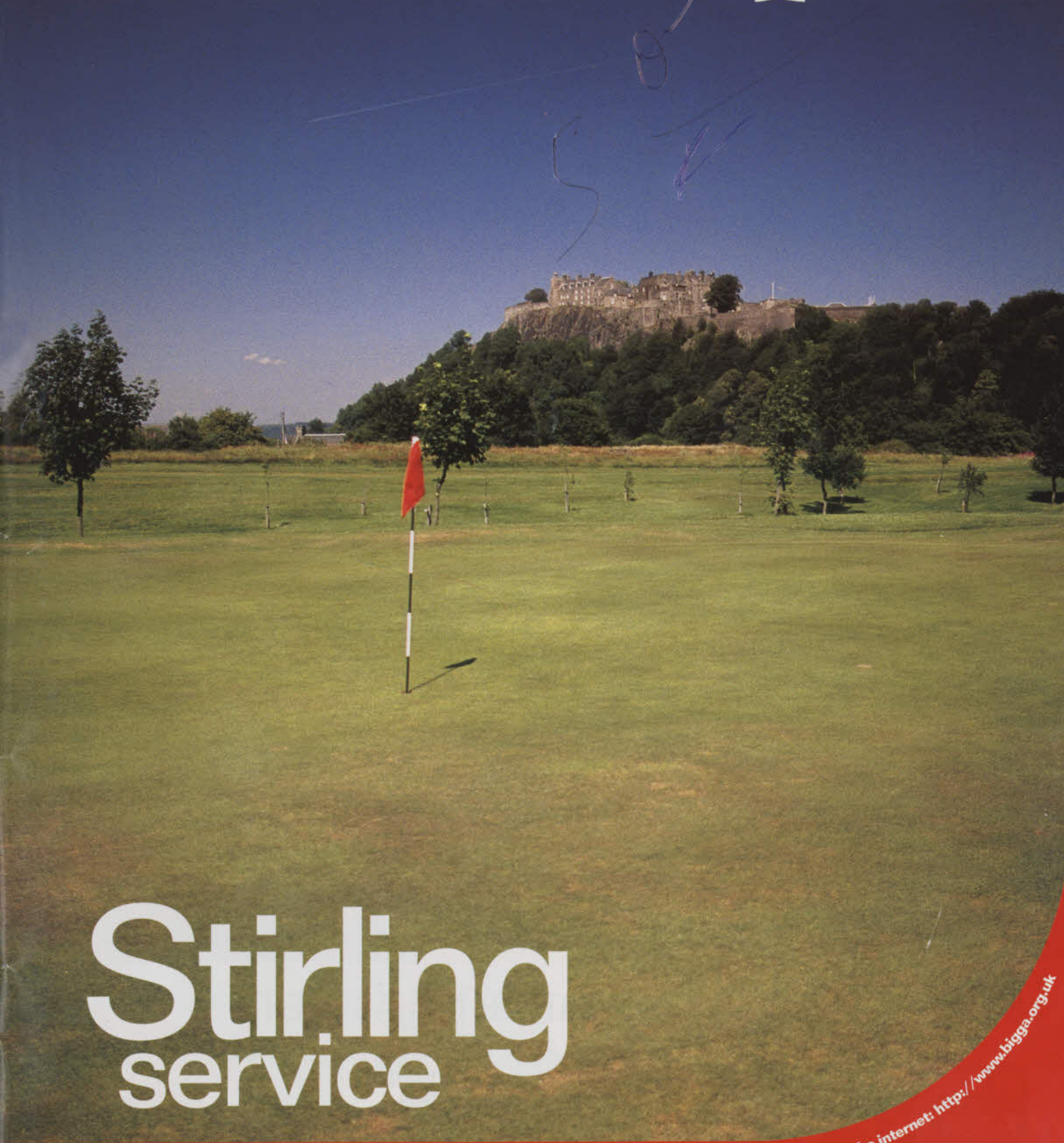




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# Greenkeeper

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# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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## Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, please contact BIGGA on 01347 833800



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Will you be at BTME99? Look out for your pre-registration card in this month's Greenkeeper International, or contact the BTME hotline on 01347 833833 for more details



74 As I see it...

# A potential cast of thousands

We have arrived at the time of the year when the "gongs" are handed out in the Association's top competitions - the BIGGA Environment Award, in association with Amazone and Rhône-Poulenc and the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping and Toro Student of the Year Awards.

These competitions have grown in stature over the years to the extent that - outside of the wonderful prizes which go along with winning - the prestige value is quite incalculable.

For a student, even to reach the final of the Toro is a significant achievement and one bound to open the eyes of any prospective employer while the Excellence Award, which was also once seen as also a great lift to a career, is now sought after by people who are already at the top of the tree.

It goes without saying that "BIGGA Environment Award Winner" is a badge any golf club in the country would be proud to wear.

I say these things because competitions are often seen as glorified back slapping exercises where winning comes because it happens to be your turn and not so much because an achievement has been judged to be greater than any other.

For example the Sports Personality of the Year is invariably the person who has been on the television most frequently - irrespective of achievement or, indeed, personality, and who happens to perform in a viewer friendly sport - usually motor racing, athletics or tennis. Put your money on Tim Henman this year!

Think of the Oscars, an old favourite who hasn't picked up one of the statuettes before is usually the favourite ahead of the young star who produces a stunning performance in a superb low budget film

It is a charge to which some Awards are open but we believe that the intensity and quality of the judging in all three of our competitions takes away the accusation of subjectivity and ensures that the winner is fully deserving of the prize.

In the Environment Competition this takes the form of written submissions from each of the clubs and, in the case of the finalists, two visits from Bob Taylor, the STRI Ecologist and one from a senior representative of English Nature.

In the Excellence Award those clubs entered receive a visit from a respected local greenkeeper and then, if successful Walter Woods, the Association's first Chairman and a man respected the world over, visits the finalists before they travel to York for the final interview before a panel of industry and Association experts. Only then with the winner be identified. Students also have to come through a rigorous process starting with their own college before a final interview singles out the winner.

You can be sure that the winners of our three main competitions will be out of the top drawer and that the successors to Ian McMillan (Toro Excellence), Steven Nixon (Toro Student) and Hankley Common with the ubiquitous Ian McMillan (BIGGA Environment Award) will reap the benefits of having entered.

You never know, I could be writing about your success next October.

**Editor:**  
Scott MacCallum

# Greenkeeper

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Photo: David J Whyte



16 Past, Present and Future



## COURSE CARD



HOLE	FRONT NINE	HOLE	BACK NINE
1	Ballybunion (Old)	10	Magnolia GC
2	The Belfry (Brabazon)	11	Merrist Wood GC
3	Carden Park GC	12	Reading GC
4	Celtic Manor (Championship)	13	Ring of Kerry G&CC
5	Coombe Hill GC	14	Royal Wimbledon GC
6	Forest of Arden Hotel G&C Club	15	St Enedoc GC
7	Happy Valley GC	16	Sunningdale Golf Club
8	The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers	17	The Wynyard GC
9	Killarney G&F Club (New)	18	Yeovil GC

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# Aldwark Manor invest in Textron

Aldwark Manor Hotel and Country Club, home of BIGGA's new... and old headquarters, has taken delivery of a new stableful of Ransomes/Textron machinery.

The investment was made by the new owner of Aldwark Manor, Newcastle-based businessman Brad Holbrook, who is keen to forge close relationships with his sitting tenants, BIGGA and the Greenkeeper's Training Committee.

"Initially I didn't know who BIGGA were but when I learned of their importance in the industry I wanted them to be here as long as I am, which is for the long run," explained Brad.

"Now that BIGGA have built their own headquarters we'll be promoting ourselves as Aldwark Manor Hotel Golf and Country Club - the home of BIGGA."

Head Greenkeeper Richard Gamble was at the heart of the decision to purchase the Ransomes machinery.

"Ransomes put a lot in so when Brad asked for my input regarding machinery there was no question in my mind it had to be Ransomes," explained Richard.

"I explained what I wanted and the reasons why and got everything I wanted," said Richard.

The new Ransomes-Textron machinery was supplied by Henton

& Chattell of Nottingham and includes one Ransomes CT 325 compact tractor; one Ransomes CT 445 compact tractor; one Ransomes CT 333 dedicated hydrostatic tractor with cruise control; one Cushman three wheel truckster; one Ransomes Fairway 305 mower; one Ransomes Greensplex 160 Diesel, two Ransomes T-Plex 185; one three trailed Ransomes Magga gang mower and a GA30 top dresser.

Right: Brad Holbrook, owner of Aldwark Manor tries out the new Ransomes kit

Below: Head Greenkeeper, Richard Gamble and his team



# A new name over the door

The Ransomes factory at Ipswich now has a new name over it. Ransomes was acquired in January by Textron, and joined with Jacobsen, Textron's American producer of golf course machinery to form Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products. The Mayor of Ipswich, Mr Hamil Clarke, unveiled a plaque to mark the launching of the new name on the factory.

The Ransomes and Jacobsen business, which also includes the Cushman and Ryan brands, has a combined world-wide turnover of \$650 million, will have its head office at Ipswich.

Ipswich will also be the manufacturing and central distribution point for the whole of Europe. Significant investment has already been made at the Europark site to gear up the company to meet the new needs of the Group.

This has involved new Cardex parts dispensing systems being installed and a large mezzanine floor being built for product storage to cope with the enlarged distribution aspect of the business. The main factory area has been reorganised to create additional space so that some of the Jacobsen product for the European market can be built at Ipswich.

"Ransomes and Jacobsen both have a proud history and an excel-



Above: Peter Wilson shows the Mayor, Mr Hamil Clarke, a Textron-Jacobsen ride-on mower outside the Ipswich headquarters.

lent reputation in the market, and we will continue to sell our products under these brands. Although we are now part of a large multi-industry company we will continue to stay very close to our customers and be a company that is easy to do business with," said Peter Wilson, President of Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products.

Ransomes and Jacobsen are now

the world's largest supplier of turf care equipment for the local authority and golf course market sectors and also supply people and burden carriers for a wide range of industrial applications.

The company is also responsible for the distribution of golf cars throughout Europe, which are produced by their sister company E-Z-GO.

# On the move!

The new address for the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association is:

**BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF.**

**Telephone: 01347 833800**

**Fax: 01347 833801**

**E-mail: bigga@btinternet.com**

**Internet: www.bigga.org.uk**

# Robin makes the grade

The benefit of the greenkeeper assessment programme has been highlighted again with the success of Robin Evans, an assistant at Whitby GC, who has passed his NVQ Level 2 after working closely with his assessor, Andrew Boyd, Head Greenkeeper at Bridlington GC.

After a two year period which involved between 30 and 40 meetings between 32 year-old Robin and Andrew he received notification from the controlling body that he had attained level 2.

"Everyone is delighted including myself," explained Andrew.

"Robin is like a dog with three tails while his own Head Greenkeeper, Ian Lavelle's comment was that 'Robin is now a man we never knew we had' such has been the motivation and enthusiasm with which Robin now works."

# Amenity Tech on the move

Amenity Technology has relocated to larger premises which offer better meeting facilities and a far larger warehousing capacity. The move coincides with the appointment of Amenity Technology as the exclusive European distributor of the Sustane fertiliser range and will allow better stocking capabilities of both the Sustane and the Andersons. The new address and contact numbers are Amenity Technology Products Ltd, 5 Arkwright Rd, Reading, Berks, RG2 0LU, Tel: 0118 931 1111.

# Melvyn joins Green Pride

Melvyn Guy has joined Green Pride, the Lincoln-based company specialising in grass related products to the sportsturf and landscaping industries.

Melvyn is well known in the golf course industry and brings to Green Pride a wealth of experience in sands, rootzones and top dressings to add to their existing ranges of seeds, fertilisers and chemicals.

He will be covering the Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire area.

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:** Colin Noble

**Club:** Cathcart Castle GC

**Position:** Assistant

**Age:** 20

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

3 years

**2. What education are you currently undertaking?**

SVQ III at Elmwood College

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

Cutting greens on competition days. (No golfers to hold us up!)

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

Emptying bins on a warm day

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

Greenkeeping is what I decided I wanted to do from high school but I would probably have become a student or tried to get an assistant pro's job at a golf course.

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

Robert Hogarth and Elmwood College

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

Educate members on how to recognise when a course is unplayable

**8. What are your hobbies?**

Golf, football

**9. What do you get out of BIGGA?**

Education, helplines, outings and magazine

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

In charge of a team of greenkeepers on a good quality course and working with a very good committee

# Norrie Whytock Trophy goes West

The Scottish Inter Section Tournament for the Norrie Whytock Memorial Trophy was played at Leven Links GC on one of the five best days of the summer.

The five Sections had their top players out for the challenge of winning the Trophy, which was being played for the third time, and the North Section were hoping to maintain their monopoly of it.

The tournament is run with teams of four playing Stableford with the three best scores counting. However at the end of the day two teams were locked together on 93 points and could not be separated despite various attempts so for the first time the two scores not used were taken into account.

This resulted in the West Section taking the Trophy by two points from the East Section. The difference may have been accounted for by the fact that the fourth member of the West team played all 18 holes while the fourth of the East packed in after 16 because he said he was playing badly.

Many thanks to tournament sponsors, Rhone Poulenc; organisers, McKenzie Munro, Rhone Poulenc's Scottish Area Sales Manager, Peter Boyd, and Andy O'Hara and his staff.



The victorious West Section receive their trophies

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Tain  
Tandridge  
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Temple  
Tenby Golf  
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The Wisley  
Thorpeness  
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Tullialan  
Turnberry  
Tynemouth  
Tyrrells Wood  
Uttoxeter  
Verulam

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Walmley  
Walsall  
Walton Heath  
Wentworth  
West Byfleet  
West End Halifax  
West Essex  
West Sussex  
Whitchurch (Cardiff)  
Whitley Bay  
Whittington Heath  
Willingdon  
Woburn  
Woking  
Woodbridge  
Worcestershire  
Worksop  
Wortley  
York





# A tribute to Jimmy Neilson

A retirement dinner was held recently at Kingsknowe Golf Club to celebrate the greenkeeping career of Jimmy Neilson, the Scottish Regional Chairman.

To us in the East of Scotland Jimmy has and always will be a legend.

Jimmy is by nature, and you might find this hard to believe, a shy person but give him a few brandies and American and he is great company.

He began his affliction with greenkeeping at Swanston Golf Club after serving many years as an agricultural mechanic with Alexander's, local the Ford Dealer.

He then made his move to Murrayfield Golf Club and spent the rest of his career there.

To mention all of the things which have made Jimmy a legend would be impossible. Jimmy was a stalwart in the old SIGGA Brigade and has been a front line soldier for greenkeepers rights and better conditions of employment. Education has always been top of Jimmy's agenda - the most important thing in making the greenkeeping profession a highly recognised and respected trade.

Jimmy has made a lot of friends on both sides of the Atlantic and in Europe in all aspects and corners of our trade.



I would like to apologise to anyone who did not get an invite to the dinner but we could have filled a hall ten times the size. But finally to Jimmy. Have a long and happy retirement. You are, and you have been, a credit and inspiration to us all.

**Steve Dixon, East Section Secretary**

Above: Just a few of the many guests at the party

Right: Jimmy in fine form



## Turfmech's Tornado

In the August edition Greenkeeper International the feature of leaf blowers and clearers omitted several types of machinery, some of which are produced by Turfmech Machinery.

Among these are the Tornado Blowers, the TM5 High-lift vacuum collector and the TurfVAC TM11 vacuum collector.

The Tornado Blower is available in versions suitable for mounting on tractors or on ride-on front mowers in place of the cutter deck. It produces a 150mph blast of air to blow leaves and debris rapidly and effectively into rows.

The TM5 High-lift vacuum is a high capacity, high-tip vacuum collector for use behind smaller tractors - 35hp-plus. It has a fully floating 1.5 metre wide suction head with a full-width powered agitation brush and a 2.2 m high unloading capability. The TurfVAC TM11 requires a tractor of 45hp plus and has a load volume of 11,000 litres. Trailed and pto powered it offers a choice of 2m, 2.2m and 2.5 m wide suction heads.

For further information Tel: 01889 271503.

## Celtic Manor hosts new Welsh event

The first of playing of a new competition for the South Wales Section took place at Celtic Manor on August 27.

Club teams, comprising Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, Club Captain, Club Secretary and Chairman of Green, played for prizes, donated by Scotts, with the winning club enjoying the sweet smell of success thanks to a tonne of fertiliser!

Played out in tremendous weather the 20 teams faced up the daunting task of the magnificently conditioned Roman Road Course which had been brought to a peak by Course Manager Jim McKenzie, Russell Anderson and the rest of the staff.

Celtic Manor, who granted courtesy of the course, have agreed to host the event next year on August 25 when there will be a maximum of 30 teams.

Results: 1. Llanwern, 127, 2. Celtic Manor, 129, 3. Dewstone 137.

Longest Drive, Russell Anderson, Celtic Manor. Nearest the Pin, Jamie Probert, Pontardawe.

## G.I. Apology

Greenkeeper International would like to apologise to Woodbury Park GC for the appearance of a 'bogus' photograph in the article on the club in September's edition. The photograph, and accompanying caption gave the impression that Woodbury Park used Ransomes equipment while in fact it is another Textron brand, Jacobsen, which Woodbury uses. Greenkeeper International is happy to put the record straight.

# Kubota Golf Club Challenge Finalists

The 15 golf clubs which will compete in the final of the revamped Kubota Golf Club Challenge which will be played at The National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa has been confirmed.

A total of 480 golf clubs from throughout the UK set out of the course to the final, teams of the Club Secretary and the Head Greenkeeper playing head to head matches, with five rounds required to set up the final which is due to be played at the beginning of this month.

"It was decided that a new format was needed which would directly involve golf club secretaries and

Head Greenkeepers playing together as a team, furthering Kubota's long and close relationship with their respective Associations," said Tom Barnes, Kubota's Marketing Manager.

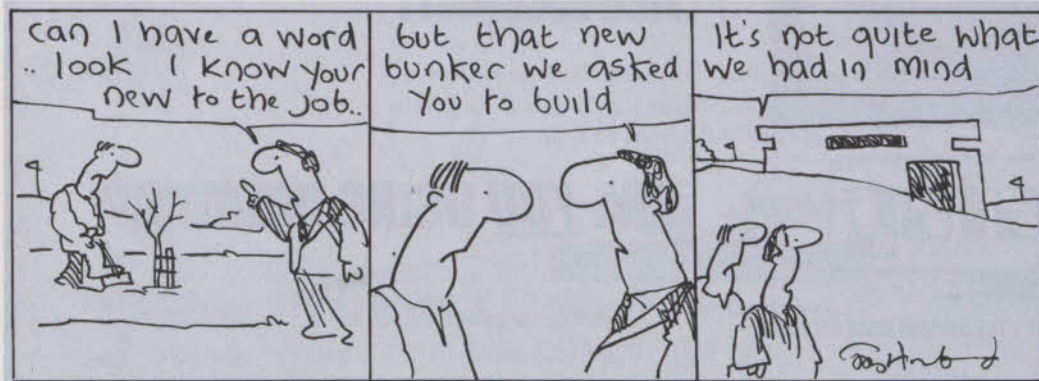
### Finalists

Bonar Bridge & Ardgay GC - H. Sutherland & J. Evans  
 Carluke GC - M.D. Black and A. Colquhoun  
 Chippenham GC - D. Maddison & C. Sealey  
 Clayton GC - D. Smith & R. Smith  
 Dainton Park GC - A. Ryland & C. Bland  
 Fynn Valley GC - T. Tyrrell & N. Hickford

Haverfordwest GC - J. Solly & A. Roach  
 Liphook GC - B. Morgan & D. Murdoch  
 Lullingstone Park PC - B.M. Seymour-Vallance & P. Bennett  
 Moor Park GC - J. Broome & S. Bertrum  
 New North Manchester GC - D. Parkinson & J. Cumiskey  
 Pines Golf Centre - B. Gray & D. Gray  
 Ramsdale Park Golf Centre - B. Jenkinson & M. Smith  
 Rawdon GC - S. Clark & A. Armitage  
 Welshpool GC - D. Lewis & T. Horsan

## Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



## 'Brand' new role for David



Rigby Taylor has expanded its specialist technical sales team in Scotland with the appointment of David Morrison as Brand Manager for the company's Mascot range of turf care products in Scotland.

Having worked for over 30 years in the amenity sector in Scotland, David is well known and his appointment will utilise his wealth of knowledge and experience.

Based at Newbridge, Mr Morrison will also have responsibility for direct sales in the central, Tayside, Grampian and the Highlands region to provide greater support for Rigby Taylor's existing customers. He will deal directly with local authorities, landscapers and contractors.

David worked for 10 years as Area Sales Manager with ICI/Zeneca and more recently with Scotts Miracle. In his new role, he will be responsible for new product launches throughout Scotland.

## Turner sketches out winning round

Sunningdale Course Manager, Brian Turner, put his local knowledge to good use during The Gerald Micklem Cup at the famous Berkshire course.

While former Amateur Champion and Walker Cup player, Gary Wolstenholme, was winning the main prize with two rounds of 68, Brian won the Over 50s prize.

Brian has been at the club since 1996 and is a member of Sunningdale Artisans Golf Club.

Right: Brian is pictured receiving his prize from Sunningdale Captain, Christopher Needham.



## Royal appointment at Askham Bryan

Tickets are still available for the Golf and the Environment Conference to be held at Askham Bryan College, York on October 21 - 23.

The Conference, which is to be opened officially by HRH The Duke of York has assembled a top quality list of speakers for the three days and will cover a wide range of environmental related issues.

### Programme highlights.

#### Wednesday, Session One

- Official Opening by HRH The Duke of York
- Golf Courses - Their Amenity and

Environmental Impact - Dr Roger Bennett.

- Securing Planning Permission - Avoiding the Bunkers - Mr D.M Rolison
- Wildlife of the Golf Course - Is Management Necessary - Dr. Gordon McKillop.

#### Thursday - Session 2

- Is Golf Committed to Green - David Stubbs
- Golf Course Management - An Ecological Perspective - Bob Taylor
- The Use of Pesticides on Golf Courses - David Garthwaite

#### Session 3

- The Scottish Golf Course Wildlife

Initiative - Jonathan Smith

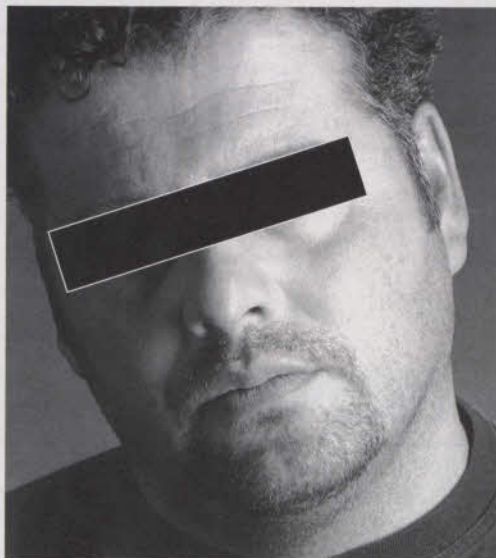
- Golf Environmental Management. Gain of Pain - Rod Baker
- Golf and Landscape - Jeremy Pern

#### Friday - Session 4

- Keynote - Dr Keith Duff
- The Latest Developments in cultivating turf production and turfgrass systems - Derek Edwards
- The Ridding Experience - Mark Mackaness
- Plenary Session led by Dr Roger Bennett

Ticket Information can be obtained from Kate Eckett, at Askham Bryan College Tel: 01904 772277.

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# Going Stateside!

GCSAA Conference and Show,  
Orlando, February 8-14, 1999

GCSAA's 70th International Golf Course Conference and Show will be held in the Orange County Convention Centre, Orlando from 8th - 14th February 1999.

As in previous years BIGGA is offering you the opportunity to travel on the trip to Orlando.

The BIGGA party will meet at Gatwick Airport on Sunday 7th February for departure to Orlando at 12.30 pm.

BIGGA will be able to arrange accommodation for any member wishing to stay overnight before the flight at competitive rates.

The Omni Rosen Hotel, chosen by BIGGA to accommodate our party, offers excellent facilities and is located on International Drive next to the Convention Centre.

The GCSAA Conference and Show takes place from February 8 - 14 with the trade show on February 12 - 14. You will be able to attend the conference seminars and education programmes as well as take in the latest golf course equipment, products and services at the trade show.

## Itinerary

### Sunday, February 7

All members will assemble at Gatwick Airport and will take the 12.30 pm Virgin Atlantic flight to Orlando with onward transfer to the Omni Rosen Hotel for an eight-night stay on a room only basis inclusive of private facilities.

### Monday, February 15

You will be transferred to the airport for your return overnight flight to London, departing Orlando at 19.10 pm arriving at London Gatwick at 8.15 am, on February 16.

## Prices

£775 per person based on a twin share. £1188 per person based on single occupancy.

Plus comprehensive travel insurance for the duration at £30.

## Included are:

Return Economy class flights London Gatwick/Orlando; UK and US taxes; Transfer to and from the airport to the Omni Rosen Hotel; Eight nights accommodation on a room only basis and US accommodation taxes.

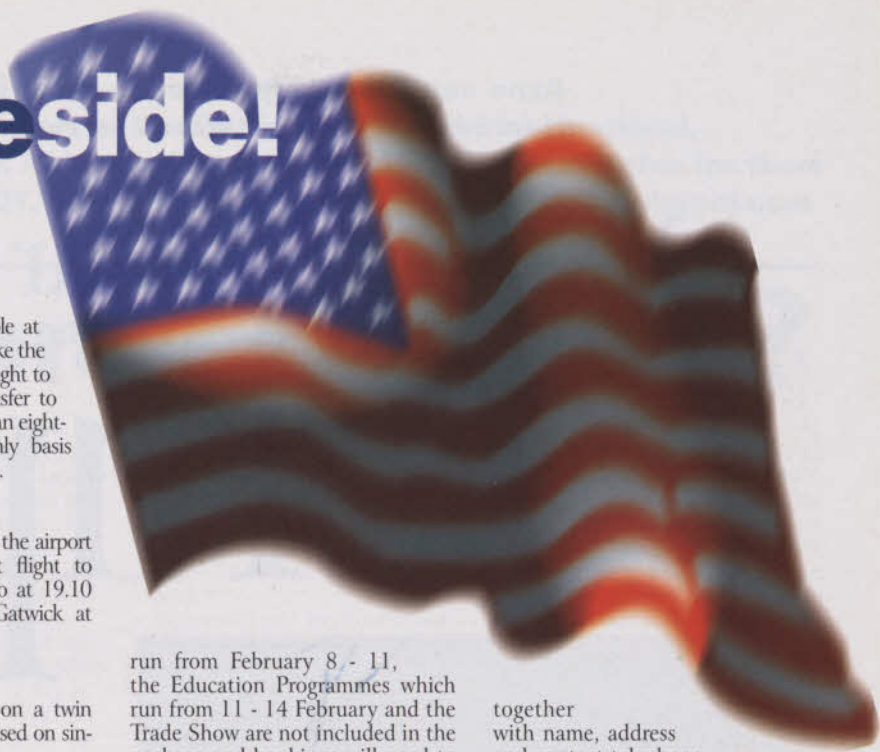
Please note: Registration costs for the Pre-Conference seminars which

run from February 8 - 11, the Education Programmes which run from 11 - 14 February and the Trade Show are not included in the package and bookings will need to be made directly with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Details are available from BIGGA upon request.

Please forward full payment of £805 or £1218 (unless travel insurance is not required) to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF to arrive no later than Friday 13th November;

together with name, address and contact telephone number. If accommodation is required for the night of 6th February please advise in order for the hotel rooms to be booked. Payment will be made on checking out of the hotel.

N.B. Places are limited on this trip and demand will be high - book early!



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**Arne van Amerongen, supervisor for the Golf Course Architect Peter Harradine, gives his views on the use of wood chips on golf courses...**

# You've had your Chips



One of the worst innovations in recent years has been the use of wood chippings to combat mud on paths, walk-offs from tees and between green and tees.

Wood chips are a menace to both greenkeeping and play. They damage mowers, become trapped in between spikes and delay play while golfers dislodge them.

They also get carried round the course and even onto greens, especially where they are used around seats, bins, etc.

It is not as if there are no alternatives ranging from crushed shell, where available, to gravel and crushed stone (if retained between edging timber) and even to sphagnum peat (not without its own problems).

A far better method than trying to improve muddy paths once the damage is done, is to create alternative paths from greens to the next tee, so that when wear starts to create mud, one path is closed and the other opened.

This also spreads wear on the green, especially if two trolley parks are provided, one at each side of the green, each clearly marked when closed, with an appropriate notice to the side of the approach.

Players will then hopefully leave their trolleys in the appropriate park (not covered in wood chippings) and walk

to their ball, thus avoiding traffic to and from across the front of the green.

Turfing to repair damage will not solve the problem on its own, but good wiry fibrous turf, if periodically rested by alternate closure should survive the winter.

One tip in looking after them is not to mow too closely eg. keep at semi-rough height 32-35 mm and of course aerate them regularly with the fairways and approaches.

Quite apart from being an unacceptable nuisance and irritation, wood chippings are aesthetically unattractive.

One big problem with paths is to decide between making them wide enough to take two trolleys line abreast against creating conspicuous scars.

If surfacing materials are disapproved of by golfers they merely walk on the grass alongside, so some barrier to pulling trolleys along verges if not walking on them must be devised. This can be done by contouring, by planting scrub or even constructing cross barriers (traffic calmers!) at intervals.

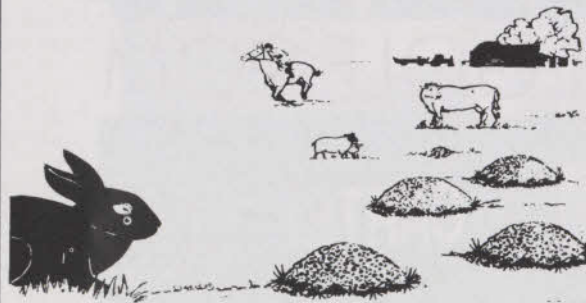
**Above: Wood chips can create an untidy appearance**

**Below: Those chips again, this time making a mess around signage systems**



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## Fensoil 1

With reference to the article "Hey Big Spender" in the September issue.

It is somewhat surprising to read that the personal opinions of someone should be expressed in dogmatic terms, especially in criticising something which is so widely used with great success on so many courses and in new constructions.

Perhaps one should not blame Mr Clement but statements that Forest of Arden "bunkers became swimming pools when the irrigation was on" indicates to any greenkeeper that gross overwatering was practised.

Perhaps it was this that caused the greens "not to take heavy play". Certainly it is common knowledge, firstly, that management banned routine aeration between spring and autumn to avoid upsetting the guests and secondly that the current top dressing is "pure" sand - and any greenkeeper worth his salt knows what this does eventually in terms of root breaks.

In no way can sand-only top dressing meet Mr Clement's statement about "being duty bound to top dress with the same material that the greens were built with in the first place". The root zone was in fact fen soil and an approved sand.

It should be made clear that top dressings based on fen soil and approved sand (or with fen dress premixed from the same top quality basic materials) is the choice of most of our best greenkeepers - and also is the material used on most of our championship courses as well as literally hundreds of others.

Alternatives with sphagnum peat (often with too fine a sand) are not only ecologically unacceptable, but the peat separates out after rain or irrigation - leaving black 'ripples' over putting surfaces, with the sand left behind.

May I stress that I have absolutely no interest, save technical and academic ones, in any top dressing - but Banks (father and son) and I "discovered" fen soil and fen peat and promoted its use well over 30 years ago and I have advised its use ever since - with invariably excellent results, provided all other management was equally correct.

**J H Arthur,  
 Agronomist  
 Budleigh Salterton,  
 Devon**

# Short changed?

The Association has recently contacted me, asking my club to donate to the Building Fund for the new headquarters. This, I am sure, is a noble and worthy cause, after all, the growth and prosperity of the Association is something which all in the industry should welcome.

On the subject of noble and worthy we at Laleham are having a fund raising day for SCOPE (a real charity, Mr Thomas). As luck would have it I attended a meeting with the charity at about the same time as I was deciding whether to ask the club to support the Building Fund.

Surely BIGGA could spare us a few quid for such a worthy cause. After all, the rumours that Lee Hurst was paid a princely sum by

the Association does suggest that we (yes, that was ~~we~~ Mr Thomas), are rather flush with cash at the moment. Confident in the Association's generosity I suggested that we ask BIGGA to donate to the charity.

Apparently not! You have refused to donate even a token amount to a charity that is truly in need of funding. That's fine Mr Thomas, you save BIGGA funds for new offices and third rate comedians (as well as the fourth rate singer WOW).

Laleham golf course shall concentrate its limited funds on projects of true worth.

Finally looking down the list of contributing clubs proudly published in the magazine, I see two

that I know of where the club does not encourage BIGGA membership by paying their staff's subscriptions, (unlike Laleham where all the greenstaff have their membership paid). One of these clubs, whom you have taken money from does not even pay for greenstaff to attend college. Strange way of supporting the profession that. Unlike Laleham where we encourage all staff to attend college, and pay them to do so. Funny how people's principles will shift at the prospect of some publicity, don't you think?

On that subject how about publishing this letter?

**John Ross, Course Manager  
 Laleham GC, Chertsey, Surrey**

## Fensoil 2

For over 30 years now my company has been involved with the supply and marketing of Fensoil. It is therefore with some dismay and extreme annoyance that I read the article about Steve Clement in the September issue of your magazine - "Hey Big Spender" - which referred to Fensoil as being a "smeary wet material that doesn't take heavy play when wet, so we have moved away from fen soil".

Banks Amenity Products Ltd pioneered the use of Fensoil during the 1960s and is now a major supplier, so much so that it has its own high quality resources specifically supplying Fensoil for incorporating into Rootzones and Topdressings (particularly Fendress (TM) for golf greens and tees).

Our track record in supplying Fensoil for Rootzone materials is without question the most impres-

sive of any company in this business today. We have supplied Fensoil for the construction of over 170 new courses and countless individual greens - too numerous to mention. In addition, Fensoil is used in the manufacture of our Fendress (TM) topdressing which is recognised nationally as one of the top two leading brands.

I am extremely surprised that the Editor of Greenkeeper International should publish an opinion which publicly pillories a product and which is something I have not seen previously. The opinion in this article is not based on fact and is totally without foundation and as a major supplier of this product we take great exception to this article.

**T.J. Banks, Managing Director  
 Banks Amenity Products Ltd  
 Market Harborough, Leics**

## Fensoil 3

My offer to show Steve Clement many examples of first class greens built and top dressed with fen soil, backed up by sound management, fell on deaf ears. Had he accepted, his contention that greens topdressed using fen soil "will not take heavy play when wet" would have been blown to smithereens.

It would be interesting to know the name of the author in question. Anonymous pieces never carry the same weight.

**Donald Steel, Donald Steel and  
 Company Ltd, Chichester, West  
 Sussex**

Editor's note: The article in question was written by Greenkeeper International Editor, Scott MacCallum, following a comprehensive and wide-ranging interview with Steve Clement.

## The grass isn't always greener

Making a new green for an experienced greenkeeper should be a very simple matter. Select the site for the new green, improve the drainage if necessary, take the top off and rotovate, you can then add extra soil, sand etc and then get the levels right. The beauty of all soil greens is the fact that all the nutrients required to grow grass are naturally there. Add to these occasionally and you have a green for life.

I cannot understand why so many clubs change their established greens for these new American type greens where the soil content is almost nil.

To make grass grow on these kinds of

surfaces requires lots of fertilisers added at regular intervals. To stop them drying out a regular supply of water is also required.

With the drainage being so good, leaching must take place ensuring 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 the waterways is frightening.

Our organisation, BIGGA, is rightfully proud of our commitment to pro-

tect the environment and the question must be asked, has enough thought gone into what we are doing? Or has keeping up with the Jones's (Americans) once again over-ridden all else, including common sense.

**FL. Fletcher, Chapel-en-le-Firth GC,  
 Derbyshire**

PS. Last month's letter from Jim Arthur was another reminder of old ideas being the best. The simple method of reducing the pH levels of the soil with sulphur is more than adequate to remove the problem of worms without the use of expensive chemical.

**The latest FEGGA Board Meeting was held in Iceland.  
Neil Thomas reports from the distant North...**

# A warm welcome

Iceland conjures up many images, most I suspect being those of snow, ice and cold. Well, the news is that, in fact, it is a green and pleasant land set among the lava plains formed from volcanic eruptions and featuring geysirs, waterfalls and the soothing hot springs of the Blue Lagoon. One does not automatically associate Iceland with golf. However golf is second only to soccer in Iceland and when the FEGGA Board descended on Reykjavik, the capital, for its autumn Board meeting the members were soon made aware that they were indeed in golfing territory.

Iceland has enjoyed a warm and dry summer but the arrival of FEGGA had produced a gale force wind with a chill factor not previously experienced by the newly arrived, inadequately clothed FEGGA Board members. Nevertheless, the welcome from the Chairman of the Icelandic Greenkeepers Association, Margeir Vilhjalmsón and the Vice Chairman/Treasurer Olafur Thor Agustsson, was warm and hospitable. The intrepid travellers set off on a tour of Keilir Golf Club, built in a lava field, and then thawed out in the clubhouse to which the planned barbecue had quickly been transferred. A visit to a Viking pub later in the evening was

highlighted by an induction ceremony whereby FEGGA Vice Chairman Per-Olof Ljung was made an Honorary Viking.

Next day FEGGA held a lengthy Board meeting which reflected the progress of FEGGA since its formation in 1996. Among many other matters, the Board finalised its plans for the second FEGGA Conference to be held this coming November. Later in the day the FEGGA Board had the opportunity to see some of scenic Iceland in the company of enthusiastic greenkeeper guides Björn Olason, Gudmundur Gunnarsson and Ellert Thorarinnsson. On the final day in Iceland, Dean Cleaver and myself were able to spend some time with Margeir visiting the Sudurnesja Golf Club and his own club, Reykjavik Golf Club, formerly the Golf Club of Iceland. It was at this club that golf had started in Iceland in 1934, having been introduced, in all probability, from Sweden.

Iceland has 57 golf courses including nine 18 hole courses with the rest 9 holes. The Icelandic Greenkeepers Association was formed in 1994 and is run by a committee of five. It has some 50 members. On average, a golf course will have one to two full time staff with the remainder seasonal. It was indicative of misconceptions of Iceland, to learn that to a large extent golf is played all year round using winter greens and tees, and that the most is made of the limited daylight hours in winter. Where there is snow it is concentrated in the north.

It is clear that greenkeepers in Iceland value their links with both BIGGA and FEGGA. These links arose originally through educational contacts, and it was Olafur who initiated contacts when he attended Elmwood College in 1992. He was followed by Margeir in 1993. Margeir went on to attend the School of Excellence at Gleneagles for 10 months in 1994 before taking up his position at Reykjavik Golf Club. He is currently studying for an HNC through distance learning. Margeir was joint runner-up in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition in 1994. Educational links were strengthened when Carol Borthwick from Elmwood College visited Iceland in 1994 and some 17

Icelandic greenkeepers have attended at Elmwood. Another visitor has been George Brown from Turnberry. While the FEGGA Board was in Iceland Howard Swan was undertaking a design school for 16 greenkeepers. The contacts with the United Kingdom are therefore ongoing and can only benefit the young, enthusiastic greenkeepers making their way in the profession in Iceland.

In commenting on the FEGGA visit Margeir said, "It is a great thing for Iceland. It is recognition of what we are doing and that we are going in the right direction. Our members are keen to be involved and they will get to feel more a part of FEGGA. The Association tries each year to come to Harrogate with a group to be part of the European scene. We have greatly enjoyed having FEGGA with us. We are a small Association trying to introduce the techniques of greenkeeping to greenkeepers on smaller golf courses. The full-time greenkeepers are the core for spreading knowledge and giving experience. Conditions may be different but the basics are the same as the rest of the world".

Margeir and Olafur are now looking forward to attending the second FEGGA Conference in Spain from 12th to the 15th November as their Association's representatives.

They see this as an opportunity to meet European colleagues and discuss greenkeeping. This year's theme, "Water Management", is of particular interest to them.

FEGGA Chairman Dean Cleaver commented that, "The visit was another step forward in FEGGA becoming closer to a member Association in a country with a lot of commitment to greenkeeping. We are seeing the benefits of that in the maintenance of their golf courses. We have been well received and strengthened relationships for the future. I am impressed with the enthusiasm shown towards us and look forward to ongoing close contacts".

If you get the chance to visit Iceland take it - you will receive a warm and friendly welcome. If you aim to play golf you will find some well-maintained and challenging courses. Look up the greenkeepers they will be pleased to see you.



Above: Margeir Vilhjalmsón, Chairman of the Icelandic Greenkeepers Association, and FEGGA Chairman, Dean Cleaver

Below: A spectacular par 3 at Sudurnesja Golf Club



# Countdown well underway to BTME '98

It seems like only yesterday that everyone was leaving Harrogate having enjoyed a successful BTME '98 so it will come as a shock to many that BTME '99 is only three months way.

Preparations for the final BTME and Learning Experience, in association with Textron of the millennium, are well advanced - to be truthful they began as soon as the previous show had finished - and visitors to Harrogate on the week of January 18-22 will find all their old friends among the exhibitors as well as many

new ones.

Companies exhibiting for the first time include Petroleum Products and Services, Gannon Oils, True Surface Rollers, Angus Horticulture, Bowley Hinton Associates, Garden Master, Eamonn Wall & Co, Fargo, Trelleborg, Algisure Products, Cooper Clarke, Vitagrow, Heron Electric, Club Car, Countax and Soft Spikes UK. All are welcome and join the many other established exhibitors bringing the total to 166.

With the same four halls - three

permanent and the enormous marquee which made its debut at BTME '98 - space is at a premium but several companies have increased the size of their stands, among them Kawasaki and Wiedenman, which has doubled the size of its stand.

Since last year Textron has purchased Ransomes, the sponsor of the Learning Experience which encompasses the National Education Conference and workshops held in the Majestic Hotel during the Monday and Tuesday and the seminar programme held in conjunction the show itself.

Textron, now know as Textron Turf and Specialty Products, possesses an enviable stable of fine turf machinery including Jacobsen, Ransomes, Iseki and Cushman has an exciting new stand to visit.

As ever the education programme put together by BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, is without compare on this side of the Atlantic and includes some of the finest brains in their respective fields.

They include David Oatis, of the USGA; Pelino Senna, of the CGSA; Dr Stephen Baker of the STRI and Dr Richard Hurley, of Lofts Seeds Inc.

For more information on BTME '99 and the Learning Experience in association with Textron Tel; BIGGA Headquarters on 01347 833800.

## Second FEGGA conference venue named

The second FEGGA conference will be held at the Hotel Mijas, Fuengirola, Spain from 12 - 15 November. This follows the successful inaugural conference at the same location last year.

Toro will again be sponsoring the conference and will be joined this year by Supaturf/Aquatrols with the conference adopting the theme of 'Water Management'. One session will be devoted to 'Theory and Reality' and the other to 'Strategies for Effective Management'. The conference will also incorporate a FEGGA summit with the coming together of member Associations.

Each member Association has been asked to nominate two delegates to attend the conference and the conference papers will be published in English, French and German.

Further details from Neil Thomas at BIGGA or Tommy Lindelof at PO Box 42, S-139 21 VARMDO, Sweden tel. 468 570 196 10 fax. 468 570 198 10 - E-mail - sga.sweden@swipnet.se



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**Neil Thomas, Executive Director of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association gives his personal view on the Association, where it has come from, and perhaps more importantly, where it is going...**

# Past, present and future

## **The early days**

If I can presume upon the reader's time for a few minutes, come back with me to 3rd of August 1987, a day which marked my entrance to what for me was the twilight world of greenkeeping. In May of that year I had been appointed to head up a new organisation with an imposing title, quickly to be known by the acronym of BIGGA.

I had no pretensions to know anything about greenkeeping, indeed my tenuous connection was as an average club golfer who that summer managed to get down to a handicap of 12 whereupon employment by BIGGA sounded the death knell to any future golfing ambitions. I guess I was one of those whose view of greenkeepers depended on the merits or otherwise of my current round of golf.

So on that day in 1987 I descended from Wales upon a building known as the STRI and located in Bingley - not exactly the centre of the world. Here I was informed learned men spent their days looking at grass. I was suitably impressed. Within the confines of this somewhat intimidating establishment the headquarters of BIGGA would be based for the immediate future. It would be untrue to say that I was totally unaware of what awaited me. For the previous three months I had received regular communications both written and verbal from a Mr Woods, of St Andrews, a Mr McMillan, of Sunningdale (which sounded a nice place), and a Mr Lawson, of Heswall, who all seemed very knowledgeable on the subject of greenkeeping.

At this point I was not aware that the aforesaid gentlemen were in fact icons within the profession. Mr McMillan kindly arranged to meet me during a major golf tournament at St Pierre Golf and Country Club - I remember nothing of the golf but by the end of the day I seriously questioned my sanity in entering the world of greenkeeping! I was informed that his five sons also plied this trade so I decided that it must have something going for it!

On that first day I entered a small, empty office inheriting some 1200 members from the three previous greenkeeping associations with a brief to collect the membership subscriptions which had been set at £15 a year. My main guideline was the 'Constitution and Rules' established on the 1st of January 1987.

The icons had suggested that they would like a computer system installed, a major turf management exhibition set up and a new magazine introduced, while I was enrolling up to 12,000 greenkeepers into membership. With some temerity I suggested that all this might not be possible within the first month or two.

So BIGGA was on its way and off on a roller coaster ride. Those first eighteen months at Bingley were a tremendous learning exercise as I struggled along with just a Personal Assistant to help (remember Caroline!). By May of 1989 having long since outgrown our accommodation (though not I hasten to add our welcome) at the STRI we were on our way to Aldwark Manor, first to a portakabin and then in December of that year to our cur-

rent rented offices (long since expanded). By this time I also had an Education Officer and a Membership Services Officer so I concluded that the icons must be pleased and that I was doing something right.

Progress meanwhile was rapid. The first Turf Management Exhibition had been held in Harrogate in 1989, a year which had also seen the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award introduced. 1990 marked the inception of the Miracle Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award. This was also the year which saw the introduction of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate scheme with eighteen members now holding the cherished certificate and many others are at various stages within the scheme. I hope that in the future many more will aspire to reach the high standards of this scheme and achieve the Certificate. In January 1991, after some false dawns, 'Greenkeeper International' first saw the light of day since when it has continued on a successful path. 1992 saw the establishment of the Education and Development Fund from which so many greenkeepers have subsequently benefited. BIGGA was therefore moving in many directions but some difficult days lay ahead.

## **Troubles in store**

As the fledgling organisation moved forward dangers lurked ahead and there were traumas on the way. Without doubt 1990 in many ways marked the nadir of BIGGA's existence from which much was learnt. As the reader will be aware, the game of golf is viewed





Above: The early days: BIGGA started life in the STRI building at Bingley, West Yorkshire

by many as a means of making a quick buck and in our naivety we did not see at first sight appearing on the scene those who would exploit us. This happened particularly with our magazine prior to 1991 and with the exhibition in its first two years. By 1991 on both fronts we were in control of our own destiny with salutary lessons being learnt. Running your own organisation and services is a far better option than contracting out to third parties who are motivated by commercial gain rather than the altruistic interests of the membership.

#### **Education and Training as a priority**

In the space available some random thoughts on our progress to the present day. From the beginning education and training were foremost in our considerations and this continues to be the case. When I started, City and Guilds were on the way out, NVQs on the way in. This has represented a fundamental shift in the training philosophy and resources available to greenkeepers. Alongside this major change has come increasing evidence of clubs providing training budgets for their greenkeeping staffs. Through the auspices of the Education and Development Fund BIGGA ensures the provision of a comprehensive range of supervisory and management courses (heavily subsidised) as well as training aids in the form of booklets and videos. Many Course Managers now utilise their training budgets to send their staff on BIGGA courses and purchase training aids. However, far too many greenkeepers are still ambiva-

lent regarding education and training. I urge them to take advantage of the opportunities available. Times have changed and those greenkeepers not prepared to move with the times put their very futures at risk. A word here of appreciation for those companies within the industry who, as Golden and Silver Key members, provide outstanding support for the Education and Development Fund and a very real sense of partnership with Greenkeepers. Internally I would suggest training to be in good shape, externally it is a more worrying scenario.

BIGGA continues to work closely with the Greenkeepers Training Committee in seeking effective implementation of NVQs. There is clear evidence that we are ahead of many other industries in this regard but funding is a key issue. Many clubs now appreciate the need for qualified, competent greenkeeping staff if their members are to have the quality of golf course increasingly demanded. Many are pointing their staff in the direction of NVQs but the system to train and assess these staff has to be funded. Back in 1987 the contribution of each golf club member to greenkeeper training was 2p. It is now 8p. I well remember early meetings of the GTC discussing the need for 50p. Enough said. It is the Home Unions who collect the monies for greenkeeper training as part of their general levy on golf club members, for onward transmission to the GTC. It is my hope that within the near future the GTC, golf clubs, county and national unions will open a meaningful dialogue which

will lead to enhanced funding for greenkeeper training, subject of course to accountability by those charged with spending the monies and administering the training system. This funding is long overdue and without it the training aspirations of many greenkeepers seeking recognised national qualifications will most surely be stifled.

#### **Membership issues**

Membership remains the key to a successful Association. BIGGA is engaged on a rapid growth curve which has taken us to 6,400 members today. No complacency here though for this probably represents around 50% of potential membership. Undoubtedly the appointment of part-time Regional Administrators over the last two years will bring long term benefits in membership recruitment. Their visit reports indicate how pleased greenkeepers are to receive a visit from a BIGGA representative and while first contact will not always have a positive result, follow-up visits are quite likely to produce success through new recruits. The Board of Management recently adopted a five year plan and this targets a membership of 8,000 by 2003. This will take some doing but with our recently restructured membership services section and the input of the Regional Administrators much can be achieved. Best of all, however, will be a commitment within the current membership to seek out new members. Just look at the impact if each current member brought in one new recruit. This is not the occasion to extol the benefits of membership although I would sug-

gest that our services for members are exceptional amongst professional associations with subscription rates comparing more than favourably with those of other such associations. It goes without saying, of course, that the prime beneficiaries of membership are those members who take an active part whether that be at section, regional or national level - better still at all three!

#### **Double aces**

Two of BIGGA's aces are unquestionably 'Greenkeeper International' magazine and the BTME. The magazine has long been a successful product after the early difficult days. However, it cannot stand still and the reader will have noticed that it has moved on apace in recent months both in improved design and production techniques. It must reflect the wishes of members while remaining commercially sound.

Constructive criticism is welcomed and particularly ideas and copy. BTME - the 'Greenkeepers Week' - is the focal point of BIGGA's year. It is quite simply a great occasion and BIGGA can be proud of organising and running Europe's premier indoor turf exhibition. Our partnership with the industry is its strength and around it runs a comprehensive "learning experience".

Greenkeepers return home from Harrogate enthused and invigorated for the challenges of the year ahead (at least after a week's recovery!). I would urge each and every member to target attendance at the BTME as a priority. It will be an experience to remember.

# Past, present and future



Above: Inspecting the building work on 'BIGGA HOUSE'

Below: A fond farewell to the old BIGGA headquarters building

## The new headquarters

So much to cover and so much regrettably to be left unsaid. BIGGA's history is short and it is not perhaps out of place to describe those involved, and to whom much gratitude is due, in bringing the three previous associations together in 1987 as the "founding fathers" of BIGGA. As they looked ahead at that time did they envisage the progress that would have been made by 1998? Most certainly their own headquarters building was not on the agenda at that time. As I write,

we are approaching what will surely be a defining day in BIGGA's history with the official opening of purpose built headquarters. It is good to see golf clubs supporting our Building Fund, surely just recognition of BIGGA's contribution to the education and training of greenkeepers. For 11 years BIGGA, through no-one's fault but as part of the growing process, has been unable to adequately house its staff in the manner it would wish as a professional body. Now with the backing of the R & A, the industry and golf clubs, together with the efforts of staff and members and support from both individuals and organisations this has become possible and will be for the benefit of all concerned. However, let me say quite categorically that the new headquarters is not some edifice purely for the benefit of staff. It is also very much a members building which I hope and trust members will use. There is a modern training facility from which we will run a broad spectrum of courses and which will be available for use by companies within and without the industry. I hope many members will take advantage of these courses and the increasingly comprehensive BIGGA library. Members should take great pride in their new building which will prove to the golf world that we have come of age as an Association. It says much about the permanence of BIGGA and that is important. Long after the staff and myself have gone our separate ways and are in

our dotage, the building will be there to serve future generations of greenkeepers. The opening is a time for celebration of BIGGA's progress, its professionalism and the many benefits it has brought to greenkeepers.

## In conclusion

I look back today not purely through rose tinted glasses and aware of the difficult times along the way. Tomorrow will bring its own problems no doubt and, I hope, many more benefits for members. I have enjoyed the journey so far if on occasions it seems to have been "a hard day's night". The journey continues and will take us in many directions, occasionally down the low road from which we will turn back but more often I trust along the happy highway to a successful future. Our professionalism will stand us in good stead and I am committed in a members' association to continually work for the betterment of members. The fellowship and sense of belonging within BIGGA is something special and should be treasured by all members. It is at the very heart and soul of our Association and will assuredly serve us well in the future. I hope that we have achieved some at least of the aspirations of the founding fathers since that day in August 1987.

As H.R.H. The Duke of York officially opens our new headquarters on 21st October, we can perhaps reflect that BIGGA may be short in timespan but is increasingly long in achievement.





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**Providing properly for maintenance should be a club's number-one priority, though too often budgets allow more cash for other departments of the club. This month, The Learning Experience advises on how you can cut costs without cutting corners.**

# Cutting remarks

Today's Course Manager on occasions has good reason to wear a salesman's hat, since he must compete for the machinery, staffing levels and materials to do his job effectively. If your course is in great shape, revenue generated will greatly benefit the overall health of the facility and its income, simply because members bring more guests, while visiting societies – a vital source of income for most clubs – will continue to impact favourably on the overall spend, especially in bar consumption and food revenue.

Providing properly for maintenance should be a club's number-one priority, though too often budgets allow more cash for other departments of the club. It's a fact that where capital machinery purchases are a priority, at least in your view, you will often have a battle on

your hands unless you are well prepared with facts and figures and can present a wholly convincing case.

So, like boy scouts, being prepared must be your first priority if you are to get the machinery you need. The case of fairway mowing is one example, since the purchase price of a multiple reel mower is only one part of its lifetime cost. Every season your budget must include operational costs for fuel, manpower and maintenance.

When the time comes to add a new mower to your inventory, by looking further than the factory price and calculating all related operational costs you can arrive at an annual cost for different types of mowers. This will assist in making wiser selections between, say, triplexes, 5-gang or 7-gang units. Indeed, by calculating in advance

you may have a strong case for purchasing larger yet more productive units if your presentation shows operating reductions for each year.

Since each course has its own profile, for the purpose of this exercise we will concentrate on the costs of purchasing, operating and maintaining triplexes and multiplexes. Once a true cost is determined, a decision can then be made to determine whether your course profile warrants the added expense of a different type of unit.

Some important assumptions must be made in order to establish the life-time cost of any cutting unit, for example its anticipated productive life under normal golf course conditions. Reliable calculations backed by experience suggest that a 7-reel mower will last about nine years; a 5-reel unit about seven years, while a triplex will be productive for five years. By using these realistic averages a depreciation figure can be arrived at, given that a mower is worth on average about 10% of its purchase price at the end of its productive life. By taking 10% from the purchase price and dividing the remainder by the number of productive years you will arrive at a realistic depreciation figure.

As an exercise, take the cost of a triplex at £17,000; its life span five years. Ten percent of £17,000 is £1,700, which is its worth after five years. Dividing the balance of £15,300 by five will give an approximate annual depreciation of £3,060.

Such simple calculations will provide useful information; for example the depreciation annually of a 5-unit mower is about the same as a 7-gang unit, for though the 7-gang is more expensive it has a longer productive life. Of course, purchase price is just one of the calculations

A Bat wing rotary mower at work.





A pair of lightweight fairway mowers, working together

that must be made; others being maintenance, the cost and consumption of fuel and the cost of manpower.

Maintenance is dependent upon the number of cutting reels on the unit. Generally reels need to be ground annually, with bottom blades replaced at the same time. Reels should be checked for adjustment each day and readjusted a least every week. The practice of backlapping will help keep blades keen.

Maintenance should be calculated by following recommended schedules based on hours worked. Though it is difficult to generalise, assuming your mower is operating for about 300 hours annually an average first year contract maintenance cost is around £1300 for a triplex, increasing to upwards of double that figure over five years (as the machine gets older), while for a 5-reel fairway unit the costs are close to £2000 annually, again increasing with age.

Manpower costs can accurately be linked with a mower's productivity. A rule of thumb is that a 30-inch reel cutting at five miles per hour will cut one acre each hour, allowing for overlapping, turning and getting to the site but excluding collection and disposal of clippings. A triplex will mow three acres per hour while a 5-reel unit will tackle five acres in the same time, a 7-reel unit seven acres.

The larger the area the more apparent the advantages of larger units becomes. For example, if you were to cut 30 acres twice each week with a triplex your operator would spend 20 hours on the job each week. Switching to a 5-reel unit reduces this time to 12 hours; a 7-unit to just nine hours each week.

From this you will see that increased unit size impacts favourably on man-hours worked. For example, a switch from triplex to 5-unit cutters will reduce man-hours by one third. Assuming labour costs at around £10 an hour, the savings would be considerable at £6,240 for the 5-unit against £10,400 for the triplex.

Clippings removal can add as much as double to the man-hours worked, thus a larger unit will allow more frequent cutting and the elimination or reduction of clippings removal.

Of course, larger units require more horsepower and fuel as the width of cut is increased, yet fuel consumption per acre is lower due to higher productivity. Favourable comparisons can be made by calculating the number of gallons of fuel consumed each hour. A petrol-powered triplex will consume an average 0.7 gallons per hour; a diesel engine on a 5-reel unit marginally more and a 7-gang unit with a diesel-powered water-cooled engine about 1.2 gallons per hour. Calculating the area to be mowed per hour per unit, figures will reveal that 5-and 7-units consume roughly one third less fuel per acre.

Total costs can therefore be arrived at by adding maintenance, man-hours, fuel and purchase costs, these providing a more accurate figure for the true cost of buying and operating a larger unit. While no two golf courses are the same, the lower costs of operating larger units can often provide you with justification for a larger unit. Your case will look healthier when you back it with facts and figures, providing sound reasoning for not only reducing overheads but, in many cases, adding improvements in overall course conditioning.

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Past Chairman, John Crawford, is now Head Greenkeeper at Stirling Golf Club and is still enjoying some great success.

# Stirling service



It is rare in these modern times, for the top professional or amateur events ever to venture away from new high profile golf courses, or even those few traditional clubs which have gathered reputations throughout the history of the game. Having said that, outside of The Open, the top pros now don't seem to even get a chance of visiting the traditional favourites. Think about it. It wasn't so long ago that the European Tour visited the likes of Sunningdale, Walton Heath or Fulford in York, but now it's modern venues like The Oxfordshire, Loch Lomond, Hanbury Manor, the Forest of Arden and huge venues like Wentworth which hold the big events.

# Stirling service



Right: A magnificent view of Stirling from the course

Below: John Crawford watched over by Stirling Castle



Most of the top amateur events visit the likes of Ganton, Royal Porthcawl, and Hollinwell, which simply drip with tradition and history so that's why it was so refreshing to see a top British amateur event being staged at a fine members' club making its debut in the top echelons of Championship golf. Stirling GC, in Braveheart country, is almost equidistant from Edinburgh and Glasgow and last month Europe's top amateur women converged on the parkland course, watched over by the famous castle, for the British Ladies' Stroke-play Championship.

Despite a summerful of lousy weather, which didn't offer up any concessions to the ladies the course was a credit to the club and to the Head Greenkeeper, former BIGGA National Chairman John Crawford, and his team.

"We'd been working seriously towards the Championship for at least the last year and the boys certainly enjoyed preparing the course for them and definitely wanted to impress," explained John.

"We had the greens stimping about nine or nine and a half which isn't bad for an inland course in the summer. If the weather had been better we would have been able to top dress the greens and have a drier cut which would have allowed us to present the course a little tidier," he added, before revealing that the work was done by a staff of four including himself, one YTS trainee and one summer worker.

Their achievement is all the more laudable as the course was not closed at all in the run up the Championship.

The entire club lapped up the





week with members offering to caddie and ball spot while one of the pre-Championship favourites was local member and former British Champion Alison Rose.

"It is undoubtedly the biggest event the club has ever hosted," said John.

The club, while not as old as the castle which overlooks the course, has a fine and long standing pedigree. Having said that, there is a record of golf balls being bought for King James IV in 1505, to play on the land, which now forms the golf course. Young Tom Morris was its first professional and it was the four-time Open Champion who turned the original seven hole design which had opened in 1869 to a nine holer. Another legendary name responsible for extending it to 18 holes was five-time Open Champion James Braid, of the

Great Triumvirate, who undertook the work in 1938.

So that's two huge names in the history of the game. Anyone else? Well, how about three-time Open winner Sir Henry Cotton, who redesigned the course in 1968 in readiness for the Club's centenary? He also said that irrigation for the greens was a top priority and on this recommendation it was installed at the same time as the other alterations.

There can't be many golf courses around which have been designed and altered by the winners of a grand total of 12 Open Championships.

The golf course itself offers some interesting posers for its green-keeping staff.

"Probably two thirds of the course is built on rock, and on the higher parts, the rock actually

comes through the surface and has become a feature of the course" explained John.

The 3rd hole is actually called Rocking Stone after the stone which sits behind the green.

To the uninitiated, that would seem to be a recipe for jarred wrists and broken Calloways but the real problems are caused to John and his staff, with John finding this out in spectacular fashion not long after he started.

"I decided to vertidrain the greens but little did I know that around the aprons of the green some of the irrigation pipes were only about three inches below the surface. When I put the irrigation system on in the spring it was frightening. I certainly found out where the shallow pipes were," he said laughing at the memory although probably not at the time.

Outside of three of the greens the other 15 were all constructed out of the existing land.

"We have every maintenance characteristic included in the greens. The 1st was reconstructed 25 years ago and is a pure sand green, the 9th and 13th were reconstructed about seven years ago, similar to the USGA spec, but the remainder are local soil, which was just scrapped into a pile and levelled out."

The piece de resistance however is the 14th green which must have about three different types of construction in it alone.

"They must have kept adding to the green using a different construction method each time. When you shift the hole sometimes you are in pure sand, sometimes sand and loam and on other occasions pure loam."

## Equipment Inventory

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- Huxtruk + Top Dresser
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- Allett Gang Mowers
- 2 Sisis Spikers
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- 2 Trailers
- 4 Stimmers
- 2 Flymos
- Cushman Dumpbox
- 3 Knapsack Sprayers



Photo: David J. Whyte

While it must have him tearing his hair out John hasn't lost his sense of humour. To the question "How do you ensure that the playing characteristics are the same?" he just laughs and says "I could say 'With great skill' but a lot of the time it is more luck than judgement."

"We have to treat each one as a separate entity with the two newest greens being treated completely different from the rest...except the 1st. It keeps the job interesting."

John, who is a native of Aberdour, in Fife, was BIGGA's National Chairman in '93-'94 and has nothing but fond memories of his year in office.

His career has taken him from Aberdour where he served his apprenticeship before moving first to Glenrothes and then on to Dunfermline GC where he was Head Greenkeeper from 1975 to 1990. During the early part of his year as Chairman he was Course Manager at Hagg's Castle in Glasgow, before arriving in the his-

toric town of Stirling.

"I would say that my year as Chairman was the highlight of my greenkeeping career. It must be as it is a great honour to be representing all this country's greenkeepers. You certainly do feel that and not just BIGGA members but all greenkeepers in the country, especially when you visit other countries."

"The one and only time I ever wore a kilt was at the GCSAA Banquet during the Conference and Show in Dallas. Wear a kilt there, and you're made!"

He also feels that he came out of his year a better greenkeeper having attended any number of education seminars regionally, nationally and internationally.

"Anyone who didn't improve as a greenkeeper would have had to have missed something. You are mixing with so many people from this country and abroad and the exchange of practical knowledge was superb."

While he is convinced that the standard of greenkeeping is

improving all the time he does feel that the fun has gone out of the industry.

"It is much more serious now and greenkeepers are under much more pressure from their employers with golf much more popular and clubs wanting their courses open 365 days a year."

You get the impression that despite this John, who his friends will be delighted to know has now recovered to full rude health, will always have time to share a laugh.

Just like the one he left me with.

"During my year as Chairman the Scottish Hayter Final was played, by coincidence, at Stirling. We decided to stop off, me still in my Chairman's red blazer, at the Granada Service Station in Stirling on the way home for something to eat. When I got to the head of the queue the guy on the till said 'It's OK, bus drivers get it for nothing'."

"So if you want a free meal wear a red jacket to a Granada Service Station," he laughs again.

# 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

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Scotsturf is an annual event which Scottish greenkeepers have "ring fenced" in their diaries from very early on indeed and only a dire emergency would keep them away from keeping the date. Coming at the end of the growing season - although the seasonal element of the British weather seems to have been consigned to history if the last two years are any measure - the show is an ideal opportunity to assess new or replacement machinery or take a look at the seed, fertiliser or chemical products which are currently on the market.

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# Why go to Scotsturf?

Two of Edinburgh's best known Course Managers were put on the spot and asked Why Do You Attend Scotsturf? There answers were quite illuminating!



**Steve Dixon, Course Manager, Kingsknowe GC, Edinburgh.**

\* To discuss new contracts and budget prices for the following year.

\* To allow my staff a day out at the Show - a wee thanks for the hard work during the season. This is our equivalent of the Highland Show.

\* To view any new products for turf maintenance - fungicides, fertilisers etc

\* To meet friends who you might not see for one year to another.

\* To view any new machinery products and discuss with dealers any problems on existing products.

\* To check out which stand has the best promotions girls - although I must say BTME is slightly ahead in this department!

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**Chris Yeaman, Course Manager, Swanston GC, Edinburgh**

- \* To catch up on all the latest technology and products used in our profession.
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- \* To hopefully find a bargain through promotions by companies who are launching new products or ranges.
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under one roof, from local fertiliser, chemical, top dressing and machinery dealers.

- \* I am beginning to plan my budgets and programmes for the forthcoming season so it allows me to speak to various companies about my requires for the new season.
- \* To help out on the BIGGA stand and to speak to prospective new members about the benefits of joining the Association.
- \* Attending the show whets my appetite of BTME in Harrogate a couple of months later.
- \* To let my staff look at any new machinery we are thinking about buying and let them have their say about these proposals.
- \* It also gives us a chance to put a face to the voice of many people with whom I only ever speak on the phone.
- \* Last but not least to compete with Steve Dixon to see how many free drinks we can get - Yes I agree it is a tall order but I shall give it a try!

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Ad Ref 592



**Ultra Plant**

Ultra Plant have launched a new breed of spinner type Top Dresser which will cut the time on the green by up to 75%.

These new dressers will complement the conventional spreaders which are already being used on top courses like The Belfry, Sunningdale, Royal Portrush and Mount Juliet.

The UB50 greens dresser can be truck mounted or tractor towed with the facility for conversion from one to the other within 30 minutes which many greenkeepers appreciate when their truck is loader with sprayers etc.

The UP60 Bulk Dresser is for golf fairways, sports pitches and racecourses.

The UP60 is pto driven and can spread up to 112 tonnes in two hours at depths of up to four inches.

See us at the ALBA stand at Scotsturf.

**British Seed Houses - Stand GF8**

British Seed Houses adds Raisa chewing fescue to its marketing leading "A" grade golf mixtures for greens, fairways and tees which also feature the top-rated Avalon velvet bent and Providence creeping bent. New Raisa provides excellent shoot density, short growth and mowing tolerance in both fine turf and fairway applications. With unprecedented shoot density and its close mowing tolerance, Avalon delivers playing surfaces whose quality and durability is beyond those achieved with browntop bents, at the same or lower cost levels without changing the sward management regime.

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### Scottish Grass Machinery

Ransomes, E-Z-GO, Iseki, Ryan, Cushman and Jacobsen will be displayed by Scottish Grass Machinery, the very first public showing in Scotland under the Textron Turf Care & Specialty Products banner.

Scottish Grass Machinery will unveil the new Ransomes Turf Truckster; the first work vehicle in the industry to offer automatic transmission and the new Greensplex 160 with swing-out centre reel for easy access and interchangeable cylinders. Look also for the reintroduction of Ransomes highly favoured T-Plex 180, which now boasts improved performance and economy.

### Green Releaf - Stand 42

Green Releaf, the US leaders in liquid microbial products are exhibiting a range of microbial products at the show. The Green Releaf liquid beneficial microbes applied with their own unique food source rapidly improve root structure, enhance nutrient uptake and increase natural resistance to disease. Other products at the show include Thatchless liquid which will reduce your Thatch in only 30 days. And for faster, hard wearing greens why not try KCS 0-0-14 Liquid which is used for tournament preparation. Also new for 1999 is the US organic granular fertiliser inoculated with beneficial microbes. Visit us on Richard Aitkens Ltd stand.

### Eagle Promotions -Stand P2

Eagle Promotions provide an extensive range of services to golf clubs from the initial course measure through to scorecards, yardage books and other points of play accessories. This exhibition enables us to show our exciting choice of signage for the golf industry. Our signage is developed around our ability to create an image etched into zinc plate. These mounted on stone, moulded rock and wood create truly spectacular sign systems.

### Wiedenmann and Sportsgrounds Ltd

Family businesses Wiedenmann UK Ltd and Sportsgrounds Ltd will exhibit together at this year's show.

Wiedenmann will launch the new Greens 135 Terra Spike which is specifically designed for use on golf courses. Greens Terra Spikes are lighter and faster than existing machines and feature a new heave adjustment system. Other exhibits include the new Terra Top mounted on trailed top dresser, the 4.2 m cutting width tractor mounted Rotary Triplex mower and the new Mini Clean pedestrian brush and collector. To view our exhibits and chat through your machinery requirements all are welcome to visit our stand or visit our local dealer, Scottish Grass Machinery. Sportsgrounds who are participating in their fourth Scotsturf will display photographs of recently completed construction works. Current projects include sand slitting playing fields for South Lanarkshire Council,

construction of rugby, shinty and hockey pitches for Glasgow University and the construction of a synthetic five-a-side complex for Glasgow company, GOALS.

A range of Edel Synthetic turf will also be exhibited together with photographs of recently completed synthetic turf path and golf tee installation.

Sportsgrounds' staff will be happy to meet all visitors and discuss their construction and maintenance requirements. A warm welcome will be extended to all who can enjoy our teas, coffees and hot dogs.

Contact Wiedenmann UK Ltd, David Rae or Gordon McMurdo, Tel: 0141 884 2552 Fax: 0141 884 6252.

Contact Sportsgrounds Ltd, Alistair Rae or David Rae, Tel: 0141 884 7525 Fax: 0141 884 6252.

### Sports Turf Research Institute

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### Fraser C. Robb

This year we will be displaying a selection of products from the Kawasaki range of All Terrain Vehicles and the Dennis range of cylinder mowers including the versatile cassette system. We will be exhibiting for the first time the new Toro 5 Series diesel tractor with recycling deck.

We have also been appointed the main Scag Service dealers and are now carrying an extensive range of parts stock.

### Geo Henderson Ltd

Geo Henderson Ltd will have on show the new Charterhouse Mustang vertidrain machine. this machine has been developed for the purpose of carrying out spiking and coring up to a depth of six inches and be able to maintain a fast forward speed at the same time.

We will also have the popular new Honda four-stroke brushcutter which has been well received by the professional user for its quiet running and ease of operation. Also on display we will have a selection from the work wear range that we hold at all our depots. This is proving very popular with all our customers. Should you have a specific requirement which you are struggling to locate why not give us a chance to prize the item. You might be surprised!

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Ad Ref 603

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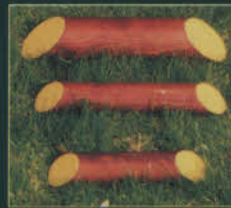


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Ad Ref 509



# Barenbrug

**What is the nature of the business?**

Plant breeder, Producer and Merchant of grasses for amenity and agriculture use.

**What major changes have you seen in your sector of the industry over the last ten years?**

Through more education and information available from companies like ourselves, a better awareness of using quality varieties in grasses to obtain a better playing surface. Introduction of revolutionary new species/varieties like BARKOËL, crested hairgrass and BARCAMPsia, tufted hairgrass and the continued success of the traditional grasses like Red Fescue and Browntop Bent, BARCROWN, BARGREEN and HERIOT.

**How do you believe the industry as a whole has changed over the same period?**

From supplier to end user has seen an increased awareness of changes in political, environmental and liability issues.

Upgraded profile of the Head Greenkeeper in general and at the

same time the suppliers have improved their communication/education programmes towards the market.

**Looking into your crystal ball, what major developments do you envisage over the next 10 years in your sector?**

Through legislation and environmental changes, an increased awareness of using suitable species/varieties for specific use. We are more into target breeding, for example specific Red Fescues for Greens, fairways and Tees who can cope with the different management regimes.

New species/varieties for low maintenance, drought and disease resistant varieties.

**And the industry as a whole?**

Through more of a global influence from manufacturers/producers and an increase in specialisation.

**What contribution do you believe BIGGA has made to the industry since the Association was formed?**

BIGGA has been able to create a positive image of the profession of a Greenkeeper in general and in particu-

lar contributed to the education and professionalism of the individual.

**Why are you pleased to be associated with BIGGA?**

Through BIGGA we are able to be at the forefront of our customers and in front of our competitors.

**What do you believe to have been your company's greatest contribution to the fine turf industry?**

Barenbrug has been able to supply, over the past ten years, over 120 new golf course developments (either through Turf or grass seed), our quality products and, through our distributor network, we can justifiably claim to have supplied and increased the quality of the playing surfaces of the total golf courses in the United Kingdom over 50%

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14 greenkeepers will discover their fate when they face their respective judges in the finals of the 1998 Toros - the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award and the Toro Student of the Year Award

# Let the battle commence



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The cream of the country's greenkeepers and students converge on North Yorkshire this month for the 1998 finals of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student of the Year Award.

The excitement will be heightened by the fact that it will be the first event to be staged in the new BIGGA Headquarters which will have been opened officially by HRH Duke of York only the week before.

Last year was the first that saw the two competitions join together and it made for a dramatic occasion which saw Ian McMillan, of Hankley Common GC, and Steven Nixon, of Wortley GC and Askham Bryan College, clinching the top awards.

With trips to the States, and in the case of the Excellence Award, a valuable Toro triple machine, at stake it is sure to be a tense occasion but the camaraderie which is engendered by the finalists over both competitions is

strong enough to last many a year.

In reaching the finals, the 14 who travel to BIGGA Headquarters, have done exceptionally well.

In the case of the students each is a top student at their own college and each has qualified at one of the regional finals judged by Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, a representative from Toro and Pat Murphy, Past BIGGA Chairman and Chairman of the Education Sub-Committee.

For the Excellence Award finalists they have come through a rigorous process beginning at Section level and then from a visit from a respected senior greenkeeper.

The six have also been visited by Walter Woods, BIGGA First Chairman, to take a look at their golf courses, maintenance facilities and working practices. Walter's report on these visits forms a key part of the final judging.



## Excellence in Greenkeeping finalists



Name: Richard Whyman  
Age: 39  
Golf Club: Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club

Richard has been at Bude and North Cornwall as Head Greenkeeper for 14 years. He has been Section Administrator of the Devon and Cornwall Section since 1989 and was South West and South Wales Regional Chairman from '95 to '97. He has been married for 17 years and lists his hobbies as golf which he plays to a handicap of 9, football where he supports and watches Leeds United and enjoys most sports.



Name: Allan McDougall  
Age: 40  
Golf Club: Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club

Allan was born on the Isle of Bute and comes from greenkeeping stock - his father was Head Greenkeeper at Hilton Park in Glasgow and Allan worked under him for a time. He has been at Royal Mid Surrey in Richmond since '95 managing both courses. Married with two children he is a former 1 handicapper although he now plays off 10 and he plays football in what he describes as a geriatric league. He is also a keen follower of speedway and National Hunt racing.



Name: John Quinn  
Age: 33  
Golf Club: Elmwood College Golf Club

John has been involved in the development of the new Elmwood College course since before it opened as his remit was to oversee the planning, construction, grow-in and development of the Cupar course. He is currently studying towards a BSc with the Open University and has recently passed Stage 2 towards the Master Greenkeeper Certificate.



Name: John Coleman  
Age: 27  
Golf Club: Abbeydale Golf Club

John was appointed head man at the Sheffield club at the age of 22 and since then, as well as on-course work, has been responsible for the development of a new maintenance facility at the course and conceived and designed a new 4mm tine which in partnership with a major company, has seen into production. He is a former finalist in the Toro Student of the Year Award.



Name: Andy Campbell  
Age: 38  
Golf Club: Carden Park Hotel Golf Resort and Spa

Andy, who at BTME '98, was presented with his Master Greenkeeper blazer and plaque is responsible for the maintenance of 45 golf holes including the newly opened Nicklaus-designed course and the general maintenance of the 750 acre estate which includes four acres of formal gardens, a vineyard and a herd of red deer. He has been at Carden Park, just outside Chester, since '92, and manages a staff of 36 including six modern apprentices.



Name: Peter Wisbey  
Age: 51  
Golf Club: National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa.

Peter was appointed Courses Manager at the National Golf Centre in 1996 and has overseen the on-going maintenance programme on the world-famous Hotchkin course as well as the successful growing in of the new Bracken course opened earlier this year. Peter worked initially at North Foreland in Kent before moving to Portugal where he worked on San Lorenzo, Penina and Pinheiros Altos finally becoming Technical Director of the original Quinta do Lago courses.



# Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists



Name: Nicholas Webber  
Age: 35  
College: Greenmount  
Golf Club: Portstewart  
GC

Nicholas is a former professional golfer whose feats include playing all four rounds in the European Open at Sunningdale and winning the Regional Qualifying Round at Camberley Heath for the 1984 Open at St Andrews. He twice just failed to win his Tour card and so reapplied for his amateur status. He was a successful car salesman before deciding to move into greenkeeping and is currently studying for his Level 2 as well as doing a Distance Learning package for an HNC from Elmwood. He has qualified to represent Northern Ireland in the Hayter International Cup in Atlanta later this month and his handicap is currently 5.



Name: Steven Myres  
Age: 34  
College: Elmwood  
Golf Club: Glenisla Golf  
Course

Steven combines his role as greenkeeper at Glenisla with that of Head of Ski Patrol in the area which is one of Scotland's most popular ski resorts. The course was built by the Glenshee Chairlift Company in 1994 to offer a summer sport and Steven, who has been employed by the company for 12 years, was involved in its construction. He is a 9 handicap golfer and is also a keen squash player and curler as well as a skier.



Name: Gary Gruber  
Age: 19  
College: Elmwood  
Golf Club: Royal Dornoch  
Golf Club

Gary has just completed his SVQ Level II and is soon to start his HNC. He is a 4 handicap golfer and a former Junior County Champion and Club Champion at Strathpeffer Spa GC. His love of golf inspired him towards a career in greenkeeping and he has been at Royal Dornoch for two and a half years. He would like to move to an inland course at some stage to add to his greenkeeping knowledge.



Name: Paul Shelley  
Age: 29  
College: Oaklands  
Golf Club: Chesfield  
Downs Golf Club

Paul arrived in greenkeeping following a career change - he had previously worked in the food retail industry. He enrolled in a National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management course and then did voluntary work at Chesfield Downs to gain practical experience. A 7 handicap golfer and member of Stevenage GC, Paul's other interests include football, skiing and travelling.



Name: Sally Doherty  
Age: 24  
College: Warwickshire  
College  
Golf Club: The Belfry

Sally is First Assistant on the the world famous Brabazon Course which is currently being prepared to host the 2001 Ryder Cup. She has nearly completed her NVQ Level 2. Her interests include yoga and reading while she has just started to have golf lessons. She is also studying sign language.



Name: Richard Aitken  
Age: 49  
College: Myerscough  
Golf Club: Royal Lytham  
St Annes Golf Club

Richard has been an assistant at the famous Open venue for 12 years, working under Jimmy MacDonald, and made the decision to through himself into education late in life. He is currently studying for his NVQ Level III. He has a handicap of 12 and is also a keen photographer.



Name: Mark Allen  
Age: 24  
College: Warwickshire College  
Golf Club: Marriott Forest of Arden - now Fulford Heath

Mark arrived at greenkeeping from the world of crown green bowling (he was part of the '97 British Team Championship winning team) when he took on the role of greenkeeper at a green in the Midlands on a part-time basis - and is still there. Having initially begun studying for a degree in psychology he changed course to turf management and joined the Forest of Arden. He has since worked on some of the top European Tour events held at the course.



Name: Geoff Mills  
Age: 41  
College: Cannington College  
Golf Club: Woodbury Park G&CC

Geoff has been the head man at the Nigel Mansell-owned Woodbury Park for eight years and is responsible for the 27 holes as well as the extensive estate lands. He has completed his NVQ Level 3 and is looking forward to moving on to Level 4. He was awarded the Best Student prize at Cannington College. His interests include golf where he has been a 6 handicapper - currently 13 - horses, dog training and rugby - he is an ex-Captain of Exmouth Rugby Club. He is also a former National Board of Manager Member of BIGGA

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Scottish Region  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

**Central**

I hope you enjoyed last month's news as I thought I would give Andy O'Hara the big chance he has been craving for and let him write the Section report. (At least I think I told him it was his one and only chance!) Seriously though there hasn't been a great deal happening Section wise lately, hence the reason for missing last month.

Section committee member, Steve Ewing, is leaving the Dukes Course, at St Andrews, to become Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Letham Grange, in Angus, and Craig Stafford has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper at Balbirnie Park, at Markinch, taking over from Ian MacMillan. Our best wishes go to them all for a successful future.

The Leven Links Sporting Club is adding another sport to its long list of activities, this time it is Stuart Sime who is having a go at stock car racing. A. O'H. says that he shouldn't have to change from the way he drives the tractor around Leven Links so if you fancy sponsoring Stuart, or lending him your car for the weekend, you can get in touch with him c/o Leven Links Sporting Club.

The AGM will be held on the 28th of this month at Kinross Golf Club, forms for which have already been circulated. The reason for this is that we intend to have the first round played earlier in the year, which will, hopefully, make it easier for everyone during the busy summer months.

Here are some future dates for your diaries, in 1999 the Golf Tournaments will be held at Lundin Golf Club in the Spring and Balbirnie Park in the Autumn (Tuesday September 21), for the year 2000 I am awaiting confirmation of the venue for the Spring Tournament while the Autumn tournament will be held at Stirling Golf Club, in September. It's been a while since I was able to welcome any new members to the Section, so we must be slipping up somewhere, there are still a great number of greenkeepers who are not members and also a fair number of lapsed members, WHY? If you know anyone who hasn't joined or rejoined please find out the reasons and we will try and rectify the situation if it is at all possible.

Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, has visited a number of clubs in the Central Section lately, encouraging potential new members to join, so if you think a visit from Peter would be beneficial to your staff or committee just get in touch with him and he will be more than happy to oblige.

John Crawford

**North**

The Autumn outing at Alford took place in typical weather for this year. We arrived at the course in pouring rain, but the decision was taken to play. We are indebted to Wilson Morrison and his staff for keeping the greens playable throughout the morning. Luckily the rain stopped around noon and the wind got up a bit, so we were able to all get round.

Not surprisingly most of the prize winners, listed below, were late starters. Scratch & Hampton Cup; 1. Kevin Peace, Inverurie, 70; 2. Colin Forbes, Tarland, 71. Class One; 1. Arthur Williamson, retired, 74-5-69 (also Veteran Toro Cup Winner); 2. Stephen Sullivan, Craigiehill, 73-3-70; 3. Gordon Moir, St Andrews, 75-4-71 bih. Class Two; 1. Andrew Shade, Peterculter, 79-7-72 bih; 2. Stewart McBain, Hazlehead, 80-8-72; 3. Stuart Robertson, Craigiehill, 82-10-72. Class Three; 1. Dougal Duguid (no this is not a mistake), Westhill, 90-25-65; Brian Cocker, Alyth, 82-14-68; 3. Keith Wood, Kings Links, 86-16-70. Veterans 2. Allan Grant, retired, 82-10-72. Apprentice; 1. Ross Macleod, Tain, 75-6-69; 2. Gavin Neill, Tain, 83-11-72. Trade; Mike Dennis, Rigby Taylor, 81-12-69. Guest, R Stewart, Alford, 85-15-70. Nearest the pin Stuart Hogg, Fortrose. Longest Drives, Class One, Robert Roy, Garmouth; Class Two, Trevor Harris, Cupar; Class Three, Ian Cowper, Tain. Aggregate Winners SGM (Head Greenkeeper) and Meldrum Nurseries Cup, Kevin Peace, 139. M&M Cup Veterans, George Aitken, Peterculter, 145. Committee Trophy, Dougal Duguid. The blazer was won by David Marnoch, Peterculter.

A very big thanks to all at Alford, especially the green staff, what could have been a disaster turned out to be a very successful day with about 60 people present. The five lucky 200 Club winners were as follows, March £30 no.57 David Inglis, Balnagask; May £30 no. 123 John Geddes and Hugh Maclatchie (last ticket bought!), June £30 no. 196 Bradley Wood, Westhill, July £30 no. 188 Arthur Williamson, Perth, and August £100 no. 157 Brian Strachan, Auchmill. Well done to Stewart McBain for selling all the tickets this year and thank you to all who bought one.

Iain MacLeod

**East**

Since I last spoke to you we have had events in the Section. Firstly we had a surprise dinner in honour of Jimmy Neilson, Murrayfield Golf Club, who retired recently. We invited along a lot of his friends from all aspects of the trade and a great night was had by all, especially Jimmy himself. So on behalf of the East Section Committee, Members, Patrons, Trade Reps etc we would like to wish you all the best in your retirement and hope to see you

around the courses as you are always welcome and, of course, we will see you at all BIGGA events etc.

PS. Jimmy if you fancy a game at Swanston Go Club just give me a call as you will be welcome, at any other club as well. (Pictures of the Dinner and report can be found in this issue of Greenkeeper International).

We have also had our annual Willie Woods Tournament at Glencorse Golf Club as they were worthy winners last year they got to host it this year. We would like to thank the captain - Mr B. Lawrie and his committee for the courtesy of the course, the clubhouse/catering staff for looking after us so well on the day. Also thanks to Head Greenkeeper Ian Bell and his team for having the course in great condition, considering the torrential rain the day before, we were really lucky to play the tournament on the Wednesday so thanks again lads, a job well done.

We had 21 teams comprising of captains, secretaries, greens chairman and a variety of other committee members who all enjoyed a great day out as the scoring on the day will show you. So if you haven't played before ask a member of your club committee and enter next year and have a good day and show your committee what BIGGA is all about, so come on get asking and we'll see you next year. Results: 1. K. Mail/R. Lawrie, Glencorse G C, 62+1=63; 2. D. Mcleod/T. Keenan, Craigentenny GC, BiH 68; 3. D. Dugan/D. Young, Glencorse GC, 68

So as Glencorse retained the Willie Woods Memorial Trophy we shall return to Glencorse Golf Club next year, so we hope to see you all there. As a result of the winners score and the way they played on the day, next year they will be playing with left handed clubs to give the rest of us a chance.

Tickets for the Annual Dance are now on sale and are selling well. There is only a few hotel rooms left at this time so call me now on 01620 842037 or 0131 445 7165 or fax on the same number or call or fax S Dixon Secretary on 0131 443 0235 ASAP as this year is looking to be a sell out well before the big night, so call now to avoid disappointment. The Dance is on Saturday 5 December 1998 at The Kilspindie House Hotel, Aberlady.

Next event on the fixture list is the Autumn Tournament by kind permission of the Captain and Council of Peebles GC so a full report in an upcoming issue of Greenkeeper International. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Roy Auld (Formerly SGM) back into the trade as Sales Representative for George Henderson & Co Ltd Edinburgh. Welcome back Roy we look forward to seeing you around the section and wish you all the best for the future. PS. I hope I have got your title right, if not let me know!

Roy will be taking over from Hugh Millar who is due to retire at the end of the year.

From earlier in the column the Section and various other donations we gave Jimmy Neilson an Electric Caddy Car, Golf Bag, Head Covers as a present for his retirement.

Chris Yeaman

**West**

Has it stopped raining yet, or am I just dreaming? What a summer or so called, rain, rain and wait a minute more rain. Winter is just around the corner and if the weather doesn't improve then pity help us.

So has anything happened recently? Well the only thing to mention is that the West team won the Norrie Whittock Trophy held at Leven Links. The team consisted of Robert Hogarth, Ian Smith, Paul Yate and Thomas Nisbet. Well done lads a good performance.

Now, to let you know what's happening soon. Firstly, the AGM at Clarendon Bowling Club on October 22. This once again will be combined with a games night. Secondly the annual dinner has been arranged for the Victoria's night club on November 13. Tickets to cost £15 and will be moving fast so make sure to book a seat. Last but not least the football. A Section Challenge Match is being organised for November so those interested would contact Brian Hillen on 01236 434323.

A report on the Autumn outing and the five a side tournament will be included next month. Sorry Neil for nearly forgetting about conveying your thanks to John Robertson at Hilton Park for all his help. Neil has just been appointed Assistant Head at Brucefields Centre and the Section's best wishes go with him in his new position. New members to the Section, Iain Forbes, East Renfrewshire GC; Ross McLeish, Vale of Leven GC; and Frank McAvoy, Linn Park GC. Welcome to the Section and, as I say all the time, I hope to see you at future events.

Stuart Taylor

**Ayrshire**

I write this month in a jealous mood. It must be great to start a new job, with which we all wish Iain Barr well, and then go on holiday. I must check the expenses going through the Section. I jest, I hope Iain is having a great time in Minorca.

It is becoming a bit of a Beith month in the news. After congratulating Iain on his new position I would also like to add my best wishes to his successor, Marshall, in his new job a Beith GC. As if this was not enough, congratulations to Marshall again, but this time with his better half Nikki, on the birth of their daughter, Emily, a sister for Kelsey.

As I said earlier I was jealous of our scribe on his holiday but I am even more marked by the fact that our

Secretary is off next month to Atlanta to represent the Scottish Region in the Hayter International Cup. I knew I should have stuck in at this golf game! Good luck to you Derek, I say through gritted teeth. You will be a great ambassador for Scotland, and I say this not through gritted teeth. Derek should just about have sobered up by this time after his wedding on September 25 to his lovely Colleen, Jacinta. They're taking the US trip as their honeymoon. That'll keep him on his toes!

I am sure everyone in the Section joins me in wishing them both a happy married life. I am sure the day will be great and I am looking forward to it as I have the pleasure of being Derek's best man. I really must introduce this guy to some other people as he must have been hard up to have had to ask me. I am honoured.

Thanks to our Section representatives at the Norrie Whytock Trophy held recently at Leven Links in keeping up the Section's abject failure to win this trophy. We really must stop being so sporting in letting all the other Sections win this trophy. We will work hard for next year. Training starts soon.

One small point which has been mentioned to me already by Iain. He is not getting any information to put in the magazine. Please give him a phone or write to him as it is difficult when you have to keep making things up yourself. Hope the year has been good to you and you have a dry Autumn to get on with the work.

Jim Paton



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

#### North West

This month (August) the N/W Section won two magnificent trophies to be held for 12 months. The first is the "Greenkeepers Vs Golf Club Stewards". This trophy was won at Warrington GC on August 24, and the team of 16 had a great day. I suppose it is fair to mention that the match ended four games each allowing us to retain the cup as last year's winners.

The most amazing happening on the day was the return of the Cup which has been missing since 1991. The winners since 1991 have been promised the Cup once found. We were once presented, as winners, with a potato head with grass seed sown for hair, because at that stage it was still lost. However, the Steward at Warrington GC opened a cupboard in the clubhouse, and amazingly the cup fell out and hit him on the head. That is their story and they are sticking to it.

We had an excellent day as always

and the weather was great as was the result. Many thanks to Warrington GC for courtesy of the course which was in great condition, the golf club stewards for organising the venue, and of course Gary Worrall Ground Care for once again sponsoring the greenkeepers as Gary has for many years now.

Two days later we had the 'Battle of the Roses' at Swinton Park GC where we snatched the Patisson Cup back from the Northern Section. Unfortunately although both Sections had 16 players each the day before, we were both let down at the last minute and we finished with 14 players and the Northern Section with 12 players. The match was played with six games instead of eight, and the N/W section won by three and half, to two and half. The course was in lovely condition considering that 24 hours earlier we had heavy rain all day. Alan Jones and his staff had done a great job.

The one sour note was that the members who let us down the day before, giving us no time to get replacements, did not have to travel far, but Mike Hinch, Managing Director of Patissons, travelled up from Brighton early morning, stayed all day, had a meal with us and presented the Patisson Cup to the winning team before driving back to London. I would like to thank Mike and Patissons for sponsoring this competition for the last 20 years and especially Mike for joining us on the day.

Bring your clubs next time Mike.

I have just been informed that Thomas Byrne, a retired member from Ellesmere Port, has passed away in his seventieth year. Our thoughts are with his family.

The next golf will be The Christmas Competition on Thursday, November 26, at Wilmslow GC. We will also be playing for the new "Presidents Cup". The golf will be followed by the Annual General Meeting. All you need to do to enter is, send a cheque for £10 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. That's it for now, but any news or views contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

#### Northern

This year's Roses match was held at Swinton Park Golf Club. The previous day saw plenty of rain, leaving puddles around the course in addition to the "legitimate" water hazards! Disappointingly both sides were down in numbers. I cannot understand why people are only too willing to put their names down but then pull out at the last minute, or do not even have the courtesy to say they will not be attending. Everyone who played seemed to enjoy them-

selves and on this occasion the North West team were victorious by 3.5 games to 2.5. Thanks to Bert Cross for organising the event and to the North West boys for their hospitality. Patissons once again sponsored the day, with Mike Hinch their Managing Director doing a mammoth round trip to attend the event and make the presentation after the meal. I hope this event continues,

but it would be nice to see a little more support from our golfing members to raise a full team for next year.

Another ten pin bowling evening has been arranged on Thursday November 12, at the LA Bowl in Leeds. Anyone wishing to put his name down please contact Phil Mitchell at 5 Well Street, Keighley, BD21 2DU or phone 01535-681933. The cost of the evening is

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£10 per person to include food and two games. Places are again limited so send your names and money in as soon as possible. Partners and friends are all welcome.

The only other event left in this year's calendar is the winter golf. This is to be held at Keighley Golf Club on Wednesday, December 9. The Section AGM will follow the golf and meal at approximately

5.30pm. Even if you cannot attend the golf, please try and support the AGM. Congratulations to Jim Brown on his new appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Cookridge Hall GC. Jim moved from Crow Nest Park in Brighouse, where I believe Bob Gee is taking over.

Anyone with any news from within the Section please contact me at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton,

Huddersfield, HD5 0LA or phone on either 01484-317813 or 0411-601420.

Simon Heppenstall

#### Cleveland

A little bit of news this month supplied by Bill Thompson of Border Sports Services. Barry Walker, Head Greenkeeper at Wearside Golf Club and his Club Pro won a trip to

Portugal. Very well done.

Graham Boarder, Course Manager at Castle Edon Golf Club, won the Durham match played at Billingham plus he has been picked for the county. Good luck.

If I am to keep putting a news letter in to the magazine I must have something to write about. Please if you have any news do let me know.

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop



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**Midland Region**  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01480 437507

**Midland**

Firstly, I would like to thank everybody on behalf of the Section who attended the funeral service for Trafford Stonebridge. There was great support from many greenkeepers on this very sad day and this goes to show what great respect and appreciation Trafford had with in the greenkeeping industry.

On a lighter note I would like to congratulate Paul Woodham on his recent wedding announcement and all the best for your future together. As a committee we have decided to cancel the proposed trip to Turnberry until the spring of '99 because there has been insufficient interest in the trip.

The Autumn tournament will have been played at Edgbaston by the time you read this report so I will give you all the results in my next report. The same will happen with the results of the Rigby Taylor doubles which is also due to be completed in the next few months. With winter fast approaching can I

remind you that you need to get your entries in early for the Christmas tournament which is to be played at Copt Heath on December 10 and entries need to be in by November 9. May I remind you that the AGM will also take place on the evening of December 10.

Finally, I would like to introduce you to some more new members - Daniel Jones, Jamie Wilson, Jamie Griffin and Mark Allen.

Jonathan Wood

**B,B&O**

Once again summer slips into Autumn and the never ending job of clearing leaves is upon us. It really is the only time I wish I was back on a Links Course. Despite the miserable weather that awaits us there are some things to look forward to especially on the Education front. I have been informed that Berkshire College are to continue with their Winter Lectures possibly structured as a Seminar. At present there are no confirmed dates but if you contact Steve Gingell at the College he will be able to assist.

By the time this goes to print the New Training Academy at the College will be finished, this will prove beneficial to all students

attending courses in the future. Those of you who have travelled to Aldwark Manor over the years to attend various courses will be pleased to note that the much awaited Headquarters of the Association will be officially opening at the end of this month. This is a huge step forward for the Association and we as members are indebted to those people who have pushed this project through. I for one look forward to my first visit at the Official Opening.

The next event in the Section is the Turkey Trot and AGM which will be held at Whiteleaf on November 26. I hope for once the weather is kind to all competitors. Entry forms will be posted soon. Please ensure that your membership is up-to-date, as the mailing list comes directly from HQ.

Lindsay T Anderson

**East Anglia**

Fifty odd members turned up at the Norfolk in August. Not 50 odd members well not all of them. Perhaps 50 plus members sounds better. Not that they are over 50 years old just more than 50 in number. Anyway there was a lot and a jolly good time we had too, thank you. The whole thing went like

clockwork only it was a long clock four and a half rounds in searing Norfolk heat. Luvly Bubbly. There is a new old face there now. The gaffer at the Norfolk is Michael Peters, good to see him doing his stuff. Our thanks to him and his men on presenting a good course for us to hack up.

The Harry Hacker score board is as follows; Overall winner was Greg McHugh (Alias John Wayne) 40 Points. 0-9 cat; 1. R. Witing, 35pts; 2. A. Carter, 34pts; 3. A. Kirwan, 33pts. 0-18 cat; 1. G. McHugh, 40pts; 2. G. Bird, 36pts; 3. G. Nash, 35pts. 19-28 cat; 1. D. Farrington, 30pts; 2. D. Ireson, 30pts; 3. T. Russell, 29pts. Guest/Trade; 1. T. Reynolds, 38pts; 2. J. Earl, 34pts; 3. K. Timms, 33pts. Bringing up the rear so to speak A Arbon whose name is added to the toilet seat. Prizes were donated by Rhône-Polenc (Main Sponsors), TORO, SISIS, Rigby Taylor, Moorfoot Ltd and one of the guests, Mr Reynolds, donated a Toyota jacket. The prizes were presented by the Club Captain, Mr Fletcher.

Our thanks to Ian, Brian and the BBC for seeing after us and thanks to all at the Norfolk for a splendid day.

Mick Lathrope

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### East Midlands

This year's AGM will take place at Lutterworth G.C. on November 12 at 4.30pm all members should have received their letter, if you have not please contact me and I will send you your form. This year's Section golf match against the East of England Section as held on August 20 courtesy of Oundle G.C. After a very hard fought match in difficult windy conditions, the East of England Section were victorious by 3 games to 2.

Some consolation for the section was John Barr winning nearest the pin on the 3rd and Mark Bindley and Frank Kempster winning by the highest margin of 7 and 6. Congratulations should go to the East of England section. The Section was represented by the following members, Jeff Dickinson, Gary Thurman, Ian Needham, Antony Bindley, Jamie Bedford, Rob Wall, Jonathon Barr, Frank Kempster and Mark Bindley. I would like to thank Oundle GC for allowing us courtesy of their fine course and to the steward and stewardess for a really great meal, not forgetting the greenstaff for preparing a challenging test of golf.

Finally a special thank you to Chandlers for their continued sponsorship of this event. This year's Singles final will again be contested

by Dave Leatherland, of Kedleston Park, who will play Carl Chamberlain, of Scraftoft G.C.

Next year's Autumn Tournament will be held at Erewash Valley on September 6.

Antony Bindley

### East of England

The annual match for the Toro Shield between the East of England Section and the East Midlands Section took place at Oundle Golf Club. The result was 3 - 2 to the home section (EOE). Thanks to Gary Nimmo and staff for presenting the course in good condition, especially having just vertidraind the greens a couple of days before our match. An excellent meal was had and I would like to thank Oundle Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of their testing course. Thanks also to Jim Carr, of Chandlers, for sponsoring the event and Leigh Siddon, Willmot Pertwee, and Duncan Beale, Greenpride, for donating some raffle prizes. Nearest the pin went to John Barr East Midlands. The results were as follows; 1. G. Macdonald, Newark, G. Nimmo, Oundle, - won; 2. J. Dair, Oundle, M. Francis, Oundle, won; 3. M. Wood, Thorpe Wood, J. Fox, Orton Meadows, lost; 4. K. Hodges, Ryston, J. Carr, Chandlers, won; 5. G. Ogden, Stoke Rochford, R. Harrison, Stoke

Rochford, lost. Result; 3 - 2 to the East of England Section.

### Essex and East Anglia

On August 26 the Essex and the East Anglia Sections got together for the first time since the formation of the new Essex Section at Stoke By Nayland GC. The two teams competed for the 'Tuckwell Cup' with the result very close, Essex 272pts, East Anglia 275pts. The Captain of the winning team, Ian Willett, was presented with the Cup by Neil Peachey of P Tuckwell Ltd.

Individual results; Handicap 0-9, 1. Antony Kirwin, 37pts; 2. Andy Toomey, 36pts 3. Mick Fance, 34pts; 10-18, 1. Richard Dunmow, 36pts, 2. Greg McHugh, 34pts; 3. Ray Clark, 32pts; 19-28, 1. Tony Tyrrell, 34pts 2. Tim Russell, 31pts 3. Steve Davidson, 28pts; Trade, Neil Peachey, 38pts; Guest, Richard Watson, 45pts. Longest Drive, Antony Kirwin, Sponsored by P. Tuckwell; Nearest Pin 7th, Steve Townsend, Sponsored by P. Tuckwell; Nearest Pin 18th, Graham Millbank, Sponsored by Consult Clarkson.

We would like to thank Stoke By Nayland GC and their staff, Kevin King, Head Greenkeeper and green staff, for having the course in excellent condition,

Neil Peachey for his hard work and P. Tuckwell Ltd for sponsoring the event and donating the trophy. To the following trade for their support, Consult Clarkson, The Greenkeeping Supply Company, Rigby Taylor, Willmot Pertwee and Grass Roots Trading. Next year's match, 1999, has been pencilled in for Lakenheath USAF Base, so the Essex boys can regain revenge. I would like to thank Dominic Rodgers and Steve Townsend for helping me on the day.

Michael Fance



South East  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

### Essex

The Essex Section held a golf day at Thorpe Hall Golf Club on August 7. The main sponsors were Rigby Taylor. Thanks to the club and John Sinclair for getting the course ready for the day. Thanks to the Manager for his help in presenting the prizes and the prizes were; Trade, Dennis Smith, 35pts; Guest, Mick Curran, 40pts. 0-9 handicaps, 1. Jeff Robinson, 40pts; 2. Steve Crosdale, 35pts; 3. Andy Toomey, 34pts. 10-18 handicaps, 1.

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Chris Ward, 36pts, 2. Dave Wells, 34pts, 3. Ray Clark, 33pts; 19-28 handicaps, 1. Barrie Brown, 44pts, 2. Sandy Anderson, 32pts, 3. Jack Shelton, 32pts. Nearest the pin, Eddie Cottage. Longest Drive, Mick Curran. Overall winner, Autumn Trophy, Barrie Brown.

Thanks to Tuckwells, Bourne Amenity, Avoncrop, Willmot Pertwee, Jem, Doeg for the raffle prizes and last but not least, Greenkeeping Supply Company for donating the prizes for the longest drive and nearest the pin.

We have a new member, Matthew Allen, Braintree Golf Club. There is an evening lecture on Wednesday, November 4 at Writtle College, 7.30 start, Main Building, Room 457. A talk by David Senior, of Vitax. Do you really understand how to get the best results from your fertiliser applications. We also have a regional training programme at Lakeside Moat House, Grays, November 10-11 on Golf Course Design. The second of two one day Management Seminar courses at Stock Brook Manor Golf Course on November 17. The next committee meeting is at Thorndon Park, on November 3, at 2pm. Lastly, all the Essex lads would like to wish Andy Sheehan all the best on his trip to America.

Dave Wells

**London**

The Autumn Tournament for the London Section was this year hosted with the kind permission of Brookmans Park Golf Club. During a period of changeable weather, we were lucky to have a warm, dry day, and the tee times started at 2.30pm.

The course was in excellent condition and although one of the two lakes on the course is in the process of being dredged, there was no noticeable interruption to the golf. The first lake was dredged in 1976 and work on the second started on August 10 this year. Approximately half a million gallons of water had to be drained before removal of the silt could start and an estimated 6000 cubic metres will have been moved over a period of 15-16 days. The project has been handled by Vic Wagland Contractors, with all the spoil dumped and levelled on an area of waste ground between the two lakes.

Some tree surgery will take place on the mature woodland surrounding the lake to try and reduce leaf drop into the refurbished area. The next project immediately following the lake will be a reconstruction of the 5th green also carried out by Vic Wagland.

The overall winner of the Stableford was Ian Semple, of Old Fold Manor, with 38 points with Kenny (plus two) Mackay, of Hanbury Manor, a close second on 37 points and A. Pipe, one point further back on 36 points in 3rd. Ian put together a round that included seven Birdies and reversed July's results at The Buckinghamshire, by piping Kenny to the post. Nearest the pin was sponsored by Willmot Pertwee and in the absence of Mark Pyrah, who had to leave early, Ian Semple was called on to say a few words and present the prizes. Results: 1. Ian Semple; 2. Roger Mace; 3. Craig Handyside. The trade were pretty disappointing again, as no-one managed to hit the Green! Come on Clive! Thanks again to Willmot Pertwee who sponsored the postage of all the entry forms for the event.

Finally thanks to Course Manager, Chris Carpenter, Darren Burdis and the rest of the team for all their hard work and also to Brookmans Park Greens Chairman Elect, John Wilkinson, for attending the function and also to the catering and bar staff for their courtesies.

Ian Semple would also like to congratulate BIGGA on securing a

deal with Stylo Matchmaker, who will be marketing golf wear and work wear, which will enable greenkeepers to order, via direct mail, jackets, boots, golf shoes, fleeces etc, at reduced rates.

The next Tournament will be at Hanbury Manor in November.

Peter Hopkinson

**Sussex**

Firstly let me apologise for a misprint in the account of the Sussex Section's day at Slinfold Park. The sponsors were Scatts Agricultural Machines! Now on to the last day at Mannings Heath Golf and Country Club, where we played the Waterfall Course in the morning and the newer Kingfisher Course in the afternoon.

Those Greenkeepers who know Mannings Heath and with the prospect of 36 holes in heat wave conditions very sensibly booked buggies for the day. The morning round over Mountain Goat country was an extreme test of golf with some very intimidating tee-shots. A most beautiful golf course with stunning views and of course in superb condition. Roy Jones, the Course Manager, and his Staff should be justifiably proud of both of these courses.

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The morning was sponsored by Farmura, represented on the day by Bob Cook, who provided some great prizes. Results: Category 1. 1. Shaun Sturrock; 2. Ray Day; Category 2. 1. Stefan Antolik; 2. Les Shrub; Category 3. 1. John Budd; 2. Carl Whyborne; Trade and Guests, Winner, Tony Englefield; Nearest the Pin, Winner, Roland Hughes; Longest Drive, Winner, Peter Beardmore.

For those without buggies and could make the long climb from the 18th green to the magnificent Clubhouse a superb lunch was made available and with sufficient liquid replacement taken on board the Section tackled the equally daunting Kingfisher Course, remarkably mature considering its newness and beautifully prepared by Michael Leggett. The afternoon was sponsored by Pattissons represented by Brian Willmott who provided the prizes. Results: 1. Tony Bremer, 2. John Budd, 3. Ronan McKeown; Trade and Guests, 1. Phil Grave, 2. Damion Simpson; Longest Drive, Ray Day; Nearest the Pin, Ronan McKeown.

I should add that for those who weren't lucky enough to have won anything or clever enough to have pre-booked a buggy the highlight of

the day was probably the magnificent Steam Room and Power Showers that enabled us to feel at least a little less than exhausted and able to drag ourselves to the dining room for the evening meal, the quality of which as well as the two golf courses, is a trademark of Mannings Heath.

At the meal the newest member of the section, Mark Shrub (son of Les) was welcomed and presented with his first prize in golf, that of The Longest Walk! We should warn him that we are not always treated to the George Barr Cabaret during the presentations as he doesn't always turn up!

Derek Farrington

### Surrey

Welcome back to all of you who have had a holiday in August or September and to those who have decided to take a late break in October and November please have a really great time.

As you may have guessed there is very little to write about at the moment except to remind all that as Bert Watson has at last said bon voyage to his son James. Anyone looking for good cheap digs should contact Bert ASAP. By the time you read this Surrey section will have

played for the Parker Salva at Reigate Heath Golf Club and will be looking forward to the Autumn Tournament at the Drift Golf Club on October 15. The results of both will appear in the November edition. Good news for Andy Pullen, North Hants Golf Club, whose wife Michelle recently gave birth to a bonny daughter and to whom they have given the unusual but charming name Amber.

From joy to sadness. Dave Dolderfield's wife died recently after a long illness and all from Surrey Section send their deepest sympathy.

Brian Willmott



South West  
and South Wales  
Paula Humphries  
Tel: 01363 82777

### South Coast

By now you should have received the details for our Regional Seminar at Cannington, on November 25, 1998. To refresh your memories, Ian McMillan will be talking on his "Achievements at Hankley Common".

John Mullins, of Superturf, will

be talking on "Water Management". We then have Frank Newbury who will be telling us "How to make the Committee work for you".

After lunch, Phil Greenaway, from Roffeys, will inform us about "What goes on Top".

We then have Dave Phillips, of Mommersteeg, on "Seed Selection and its Implications". To round off the day, Frank Newbury will be giving one of his not to be missed Workshops.

As you can see a very good selection of speakers has been organised for you.

If you have not received your programme, contact our Regional Administrator; Paula Humphries, Truants Cottage, Zeal Monachorum, Crediton, Devon, EX17 6DF, Tel 01363 82777.

For those of you who have made up your mind to attend, Paula requires your name, Club/Company, address and telephone number.

Oh yes, and a cheque made out to BIGGA South West and South Wales Region for £15 for members and £22 for non members.

There is something for everyone at this Seminar, so get those applications in as soon as possible.

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SHARPES



Each month is getting nearer to BTME. Don't go leaving your bookings to the last minute. If you do, you may be unlucky, as the coaches will be fully booked. Also Paula needs your names so that she can organise the accommodation. Remember a coach will be running from the South Coast. So get your names and deposits into Paula as soon as possible. Any queries don't hesitate to phone any of your committee members or Paula. We can then point you in the right direction.

As I am sure you are all aware the year 2000 is the start of another century "The Millennium". I would like you all to think about what we can do to celebrate the Millennium. So get your thinking caps on and let us have some ideas. Your committee has been discussing the subject, but we would like to hear from you the members with your suggestions. Ken Lodge

#### Devon & Cornwall

The Devon Garden Machinery meeting and Section AGM will be held at Lanhydrock Golf Club, on Wednesday, November 11. The morning's golf will be of

foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lely. As usual the non golfer's course walk will leave the club house at approximately 10.30am, lunch will be from 1pm onwards followed by the golf presentation and a short company presentation by Devon Garden Machinery our sponsor for the day. The Section's AGM will conclude the day. I would like to remind you that the Region's annual seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 25. Also, you should all have received details of the Region's package to Harrogate for the BTME show & seminar at the very low price of £95 per member, if you haven't already booked your place for the seminar of BTME package and wish to attend, please contact our Region Administrator Paula Humphries on 01363 82777 to reserve any places remaining.  
Richard Whyman

#### South West

Not too much to report on this month. I hope you have all had a good summer of mowing. At least the irrigation system has not

required too much maintenance. Looking ahead, we have the Autumn Tournament and AGM at the resplendent Saltford Golf Club. Please, please try and make this one if you can so as we can get a representative sample of the membership for voting purposes. Saltford, under the expert hands of Ian McFarlane and his team, will I am sure be in excellent condition and the course itself is a delightful parkland layout reminiscent of Augusta but without the flowers, or water, or white sand.

Remember also the Southwest seminar at Cannington. This will take place on November 25 and promises to be very informative and with speakers of the quality of Frank Newberry and Ian McMillan it should also be very entertaining. If anyone wishes to attend then please give Paula a ring; we need to see as many faces as possible for this one.

Now is the time when we may have a little bit of time on our hands and so please give a thought to the courses that the Section can run. There are a few people ready for a refresher first aid course, so if you think you may be one or would like to take it for the first time then please give me a ring on 01380 828380 and I will arrange everything for you. In addition we can arrange for spraying courses and chainsaw courses if required.

Talking of chainsaw courses, I recently had an enquiry on the setting up of a course on advanced chainsaw use, such as tree climbing and felling of larger diameter trees. Having made enquiries at colleges I was informed by the experts that unless you are involved in this work full time it is not worth taking the course as without constant practice in these techniques the skills that are gained in the course would be quickly lost. So the general advice would appear to be if in doubt, get the experts in.

If anyone has any information on the Section; appointments, weddings, new babies etc, then please, please let me know about them so as I can get them in this slot to keep everyone informed. For instance I recently read in the BB&O section of the impending retirement of my old friend John Nudds, from Gerrards Cross GC. John, a former BB&O county captain, was one of the old school, five minutes of water a week in a drought and one application of 8:0:0 a year. Marvellous, and he ended up with some of the best putting surfaces you can get. You couldn't pitch on the greens but the surfaces were superb.  
Marc Haring



#### North East

We were very disappointed by the number who attended our AGM at Allen Park at the end of August. A lot of time and effort by committee members went into organising this event. Members did not even take the time to fill in a small slip of paper out of common courtesy to say whether or not they would attend. This is no way for us to try and organise events. It's about time the members in Northern Ireland showed some consideration.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who took the time and effort to attend our AGM and golf competition at Allen Park, also to Allen Park for the use of their facilities. Members will be asked to come along twice yearly to a meeting in which they will be able to participate in a feed-back session, they will have a chance to have some input into what events they would like to see taking place.

If anyone has any ideas or there is something in particular they would like to see taking place please feel free to phone on 01574 276001. Members are reminded that they must not turn up at committee meetings and participate in committee decisions.

Eamonn Farrell

#### South East

BIGGA are holding a workshop seminar on November 24 & 25, on Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment, based on successful projects in the past including some golf courses in Northern Ireland. The seminar will be held in the Burndale Hotel, Newcastle, (Co Down), for two days including all meals and one night's accommodation with full use of hotel facilities. The information will be beneficial and of interest to a lot of us and we would encourage members from both sections to attend. For more details on the seminar contact BIGGA Education and Training or contact our Chairman, Graham Wylie at Malone Golf Club.  
Jonathan McCabe



See you all next month!

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# B THERE FREE!

Welcome to the third and final part of this exciting competition, which is your last chance to win an all expenses trip to Harrogate, the host of BTME'99.

Over 170 exhibitors are set to promote their products and services at next year's BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition featuring the Learning Experience. Judging by the response to this year's show, it looks as though visitor attendance figures are set to break all records once again!

Well what are you waiting for? Here are the final and most challenging of the six questions featured over the last couple of months. Simply complete the form below and return it to us no later than 31st October 1998.

#### October questions

1. Which Golf Club won two of BIGGA's major competitions in 1997?

2. Who sponsored the BIGGA Golf Day in June this year?

And just a reminder for the August questions:

1. What date does the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition start?

2. What date does then BIGGA National Education Conference start?

#### September Questions:

1. Name the new workshop for 1999

2. What is the name of BIGGA's Education & Training Assistant?

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# THERE



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# Branching Out



Trees often form an integral part of both the strategy and landscape of a golf course and yet both the management and planting of trees are frequently viewed by golf clubs as of minor importance.

Subsequently, new tree planting is often undertaken by one well-intentioned individual who views the golf course as an extension to his own garden.

The results of this are all too often evident when visiting courses. Flowerng cherries and other exotic species abound and once established it becomes very difficult to rectify such problems as club house politics dictate no tree should ever be removed, no matter how many replacements are planted.

It is therefore essential when undertaking tree planting schemes, of any size, to take advice and to plant in keeping with the existing landscape character of the course. Similarly, where courses have existing woodland, management will be required in order to create sustainable woodland and to protect the strategy of the golf course.

It is therefore advisable to take expert advice from the outset, this

course of action is however often curtailed as it is thought to be expensive. But to quote Dr Alister MacKenzie, 1920, *Golf Architecture* "Perhaps the most serious mistake made by golf committees is the fallacy that they will save money by neglecting to get expert advice."

This statement manifests itself in a number of ways regarding trees. Firstly, careful planning is required to avoid the future problems with turf management factors such as air circulation, sunlight penetration, water uptake and rooting habit have to be taken into account at design stage otherwise the trees which are planted and maintained for a number of years will then have to be removed.

Secondly, suitable species to suit the soil and climate of the area need to be used if successful establishment is to be achieved.

Finally, planting and management costs can often be offset by grants from various organisations. Listed below are guidelines to some of the grants available for both new planting and the management of existing woodland.

# Branching Out



## The Forestry Authority Woodland Grant Scheme

Planting Grants	Broadleaves	Conifers	Conditions
Up to 10ha	£1350/ha	£700/ha	Min spacing 3m*
More than 10ha	£1050/ha	£700/ha	70% paid after planting**

\* min area 0.1ha-0.25ha \* min width 15m \*\* 30% paid after five years

### New Planting

The basic new planting grant is paid in two instalments - 70% when planting is finished and 30% after five years once successful establishment is achieved (although your contractual agreement is over 10 years). Allied to this grant are a number of supplements which are aimed at encouraging planting in priority areas

### Better Land Supplement - £600/ha

This grant could apply to either new golf courses or courses which are extending onto new agricultural land. The land to be developed must be either "arable land" or "improved grassland" and must have been in agricultural use for the previous three years and be of that designation at the time of the initial inspection by the Forestry Authority.

### Community Woodland Supplement - £950/ha

This may be applicable to golf courses which have a public footpath or bridleway crossing through areas of potential new planting.

The aim of the grant is to encourage public access to new woodlands. This is, of course, in contradiction to most golf club's policies where safety dictates discouraging access. However, if the access is already there, then why not take advantage of the grants available, using the new planting to screen and protect the public right of way.

It may also be necessary to way-mark the route of the path with "Walkers Welcome" signs provided by the Forestry Authority or to offer the use of car parking facilities to the public. This grant may or may not be applicable to individual golf courses but at £950/ha is particularly lucrative.

To be eligible for CWS, the new planting must be within five miles of a conurbation where there are few other woodlands available for recreation.

The payment is normally made with the first instalment of the new planting grant

### Locational Supplement - £600/ha

The aim of this grant is to encourage planting in target areas, particularly Community Forests.

Payments are made with the first instalment of the establishment grant.

The grants are awarded on a discretionary basis, with different criteria being used in different areas.

### Case Studies

- Balbirnie Park, Fife - Grant of £2950 for managing 14ha of small woods over five years.
- Roseberry Grange, Durham - 19,000 trees planted, 72% grant.
- Brookdale, Manchester - 6,000 trees planted, 47% grant
- Hadley Wood, London - 1,100 trees planted, 40% grant.
- Grant of £4125 for managing 23ha of woodland over five years.

## Existing Woodland

### Natural Regeneration Grant

Natural regeneration provides an alternative to new planting in areas of existing woodland. The grant falls into two categories.

- a discretionary payment of 50% of the agreed costs of work necessary to encourage natural regeneration (paid on completion of work).
- a fixed payment of £325/conifers, £525/broadleaves once restocking has occurred at the appropriate density.

### Annual Management Grant - £35/ha per annum for five years

Annual Management Grant is intended to help towards some of the costs of the work required to maintain and improve existing woodlands.

### Types of work eligible

• safeguard or enhance woodlands that are of high conservation or landscape value

\* improve woodlands which are currently below environmental standards - examples being clearing conifers from stream sides or improving the landscape value of woodland.

### Payment of Grant

For woods under five ha the payments is in a lump sum in year two once the work is complete.

For areas over five ha the grant is paid annually for a period of five years.

### Woodland Improvement Grant

WIG is available in specific areas of the country over a limited period of time. It is paid to bring certain types of woodland back into management or where work will improve the conservation, landscape or recreational value of the site. It is a discretionary payment of 50% of aged costs.

### Other Grants

Other grants may be available from sources such as MAFF, The Countryside Commission and local authorities.

### Summary

To date we have been able to secure grant aid for over 50 clubs ranging from Aberdeen to London. Net cost varying from £1,000 to £9,000.

Eamonn Wall & Co is a Woodland Design and Management firm with bases in Dollar, Durham and Reading, specialising in the management of trees in the golfing landscape. If you require further information, John Nicholson would be pleased to hear from Tel: 0191 384 2556

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Huxley TV36 fine turf scarifier collector,  
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**TRUE-SURFACE** rollers weigh no more than your standard mowing units. Their unique vibratory action energises the surface particles and transforms the green back to its original shape without using a heavyweight roller!

- Consistently fast and true greens without lowering cutting heights
- Raise cutting heights or miss a mowing to relieve stress without loss of speed
- Restore surface after aeration
- Vibrate topdressing into the surface
- The faster way to roll that follows contours just like your mower does

As used by: St Andrews, Gleneagles, Carnoustie, Royal Birkdale etc. **Phone for a Demo!**

# GREENSWARD DIRECT

Manor Farm, Otley Road, Adel, Leeds, LS16 7AL, England 0113 267 6000

**Ken Richardson gives a last minute run down of the courses and educational opportunities still available to you.**

# PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

There do not seem to be enough hours in the day to do all that is necessary to ensure that our move to the new offices goes smoothly, that arrangements have been made for the Finals of the TORO Student of the Year and Excellence in Greenkeeping Competitions, that arrangements have been finalised for the Aldwark Manor and Regional Training Courses and that the Learning Experience brochure, sponsored by Textron Turfcare and Speciality Products, is printed and ready for distribution. Additionally, we have, recently, published two new field guides and a new poster is in production. How I am finding time for a holiday is a mystery to me, perhaps I manage my time without realising.

Managing time is a theme which appears in several of the training courses both at Aldwark Manor and in the Regions and it must be a subject that is of interest to all greenkeepers. I know that making time for non-essential matters must be difficult when you have to manage a golf course in difficult conditions. However, what you may learn on a BIGGA course could help to make your job easier. Places are still available on several of our Autumn 98 and Spring 99 courses which I have listed below and, thanks to a reminder from Jim Arthur, I have remembered to include the name(s) of the presenter(s). Contact BIGGA HQ today to check the latest availability for you and your staff, and make sure that you are prepared for the management demands of 1999 and beyond.

**Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment**

Presented by Howard Swan and Simon Gidman

This two day workshop is based on the highly successful workshop at Harrogate and includes some theory but is largely 'hands on' with delegates producing a detailed design of greens, tees, irrigation and drainage.

*Places are still available for the incredibly low price of £80 +VAT (£94) at:*  
 Inchyra Grange, Falkirk on 13 & 14 October 1998

Lakeside Moat House, Grays, Essex on 10 & 11 November 1998  
 Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle, Co Down on 24 & 25 November 1998, not 24/25 October as printed in the August Edition of Greenkeeper International.  
 Borringdon Hall Hotel Plymouth on 8 & 9 November 1998  
 Swansea Marriot on 10 & 11 December 1998

**Project Management**

Presented by Brin Bendon from Vector Training

This two day course is a must for all greenkeeper involved in planning and controlling an on course project. The course includes information to help you plan, monitor, cost and control projects large or small.

*Places are still available for the incredibly low price of £80 +VAT (£94) at:*  
 Weston Hotel, Weston Flavell, Northampton on 8 & 9 December 1998

**Pesticide Management**

Presented by Douglas Shearer

Do you know how to select and specify the best pesticide for a particular task? Do you understand the requirements for storage, application and disposal? Are you a competent person? Find out by attending this two day course.

*Places are still available for the incredibly low price of £80 +VAT (£94) at:*

Inchyra Grange Hotel on 23 & 24 February 1998.

**Irrigation Workshop**

Presented by David Halford and members of the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association.

The workshop at Walsall on 24/25 November 1998 is now FULL. This workshop will be presented again in the Majestic Hotel at Harrogate on 18/19 January 1999. See the 'Learning Experience' brochure for full details.

**Essential Supervisory Management Skills**

Presented by Brin Bendon from Vector Training.

This two day workshop, which gives essential skills and knowledge for all greenkeepers who are or are about to become supervisors, has proved to be so popular that we have had to arrange a second course. Be sure to apply today if you want to make sure of your place.

*Places are still available for the incredibly low price of £30 +VAT (£35.75) at:*  
 Queens Hotel, Chester on 1 & 2 December 1998.

**Interviewing Skills**

Presented by Brin Bendon

This one day course will give you hints and techniques that you can use when interviewing new staff and prepare you to be interviewed for your next job.

*Places are still available for the incredibly low price of £30 +VAT (£35.75) at:*

Inchyra Grange Hotel Falkirk on 16 February 1999.

**Report Writing 1 and 2**

Presented by Frank Newberry or Brin Bendon.

Learn the techniques of business English, preparation and presentation methods on Report Writing 1 then return to see how to put the techniques into practice on Report Writing 2.

*Places are still available for the incredibly low price of £30 +VAT (£35.75) per day at:*  
 Aldwark Manor on 29 October 1998 and 10 February 1999 - Brin Bendon  
 Forte Posthouse Maidstone on 18 November 1998 and 23 February 1999 - Frank Newberry  
 Watermill Hotel, Hemel Hempstead on 3 December 1998 - Frank Newberry

**Employment Contracts**

Presented by Frank Newberry

Do you or your staff have contracts? Do you know what should be included? Do you know what your rights are? Find out by attending this one day course.

*Places are still available for the incredibly low price of £30 +VAT (£35.25) per day at:*  
 Castle Hotel Taunton on 11 November 1998

**Health and Safety 1 and 2**

Presented by Tony Rees

Find out how to assess hazards, conduct risk assessments, understand the Health and Safety at Work Act and how to stay within the Law on Health and Safety 1 then return and see how to produce the relevant documentation on Health and Safety 2.

*Places are still available for the incredibly low price of £30 +VAT (£35.25) per day at:*  
 Castle Hotel Taunton on 3 November 1998 and 23 February 1999  
 Nottingham Moat House on 10 November 1998 and 10 February 1999  
 Swallow Highcliff, Bournemouth on 24 November 1998 and 16 February 1999  
 Aldwark Manor on 8 December 1998 and 11 February 1999

Presented by Douglas Shearer at Inchyra Grange Hotel, Falkirk on 1 December 1998 and 9 February 1999.

**Aldwark Manor Supervisory Management Courses**

A limited number of places are still available on this year's Aldwark Manor Supervisory Management Courses. Weeks 1 to 4 introduce you to a wide range of supervisory management skills and Week 5 covers Irrigation and Drainage Management. All courses are linked to N/SVQ Level 3 Sportsturf Maintenance and N/SVQ Level 4 in Sportsturf Management. Presented for the fifth year by Brin Bendon and for the first time by members of the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association and Land Drainage Contractors Association. These courses are excellent value for money especially as all training will take place in the Training Room in BIGGA's new headquarters and accommodation will be in the newly refurbished Aldwark Manor Hotel.

*The cost for all training accommodation for four nights and all food is £500 +VAT (£587.50)*





SOVEREIGN TURF LIMITED

**FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONTACT  
STEVE WILLIAMS**

TEL: **01603 746229**  
FAX: **01603 746243**  
MOBILE: **0850 752744**



**T.G.A. APPROVED TURF QUALITY STANDARDS**

**DECLARATION OF TURF CHARACTERISTICS**

**Company Name :** Sovereign Turf

**Field Identification :** 121A

**Grade of Turf :**  
NEW CENTURY (2)

**Date of Harvest :**

**Date Sown :** 9.9.97

**Assessment Date :** 5.9.98

Details of seed mixture sown to produce the turf		
Species	Cultivar	% in mixture (by weight of seed)
1 CHEWINGS FESCUE	CENTER	40
2 SLENDER CREEPING RED FESCUE	JUPITER	40
3 BROWNTOP BENT	HIGHLAND	17.5
4 BROWNTOP BENT	LANCE	2.5
5		
6		
7		

Soil type :	SANDY LOAM	
Netting present in turf :	Yes	No
Weight of turf :	18	kg
% turf purity (assessed by quadrat) :	99	%.
Nominal size of turf piece :	16" X 81"	

This turf has passed the TGA assessments for:	Actual Values	Target Values
Soil thickness (mm)	12	5-15mm
Thatch thickness (mm)	3	less than 10 mm
Height of sward (mm)	25	less than 35 mm
Strength (Number of turves picked up without tearing)	18 out of 20	15 out of 20
General health of turf	HEALTHY AND VERY EVEN	

Approximate percentage cover of plant species found in turf (assessed using quadrats)	1 FESCUES	87 %.	5	%.
	2 BENTS	12 %.	6	%.
	3 POA ANNUA	1 %.	7	%.
	4	%.	8	%.

Notes:

*Available now!*

Signed:

*Mark Lusk  
PP Mac Bailey*

\*details of assessment methods available on request

**"All Year Round Quality Turf"**



220A



RZi 700



TURF GATOR



1500 AERATOR



3235A



2653A

# OUR QUALITY IS ON COURSE

No one can accuse John Deere of standing still. Since 1995, we've added 8 quality machines to our line. Another strong statement about our commitment to your business. New this year are the Turf Gator and 220A Walk-Behind Greens Mower.

The Turf Gator's unique combination of toughness and quietness make it perfect for the golf course. Toughness comes from unibody construction and one-piece forged axles. Quietness comes from a large volume silencer, internal sound absorbing material, and golf-car-style transmission.

The 220A is the latest addition to John Deere's quality line of walk-behind greens mowers. 220A improvements include an isolation-mounted engine for reduced vibration, improved operator-presence safety system, and an easier-filling grass box design.

Add superior parts support and our existing line of quality mowers, tractors, aerators, root zone injectors and utility vehicles and you see why John Deere is the fastest growing golf and turf equipment name in the world. Talk with us soon for a first-hand look.



NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE

John Deere Ltd., Harby Road, Langar, Nottingham NG 13 9HT, Telephone 01949 863299 (answerphone)

BY APPOINTMENT TO HER  
MAJESTY THE QUEEN  
SUPPLIERS OF AGRICULTURAL  
EQUIPMENT  
JOHN DEERE LIMITED,  
NOTTINGHAM

Saltex '98 as ever produced a variety of weather conditions which would keep even the most voracious meteorological student satisfied. If the more conventional use had been made Windsor Racecourse the going would have been classified as "heavy" but the occasionally torrential rain, coupled with the high winds, did nothing to blow away or dampen the enthusiasm of exhibitor and visitor alike and the number of new products unveiled was a healthy sign to gladden the hearts of industry watchers.

# Saltex REVIEW



## Watermation join forces with Toro



A union between two well known companies in the irrigation business was revealed the show when Watermation was appointed as an authorised installer of Toro irrigation products. It follows TIL Irrigation's decision to market its products and services under the Hydroscape name.

Aldershot-based Watermation has been installing irrigation systems on golf courses for almost 30 years and has a portfolio of over 1,000 courses, but recently decided that the design and manufacture of its own range of products would no longer be feasible. It decided, therefore to look at another option, that of sourcing products from another supplier.

"I see the partnership between Watermation and Hydroscape as a new chapter in Watermation's history," said Watermation Chairman, Ray Lewis (left).

"The combination of the Toro range and Watermation's design and installation skills will provide the market with the highest possible standard of irrigations systems."

Peter Roberts, Chairman and Managing Director of the Hydroscape Group, said.

"Watermation's Choice of Toro and Hydroscape re-emphasises the leading position all three companies hold in the UK amenity market.

"We know that the relationship will prove beneficial to all concerned."

## Alanco

Alanco, designer and manufacturer of Weed Free's Spraying Mantis has launched the Allrounder. Similar in concept but on a smaller scale the new all purpose utility vehicle can take a variety of attachments including top dresser, aeration unit, three gang mower and sprayers with a tank capacity of up to 1000 litres.

It has a 60 horse power dual fuel engine hydraulic take off, low pressure tyres and four wheel drive, and comes in three models.

For further information Tel: 01622 832830.

## Textron

Peter Wilson, President of Textron Turf and Specialty Products, missed the show after being caught up in an Air Canada strike which left him stranded on the wrong continent. His apologies were given at the annual Textron Reception on the Tuesday evening by Sales Director Andrew Sunaway.

## Bioseed

Bioseed Probiotics Ltd has introduced the Sustane range of soil buildings/fertilisers into the UK market and this will be distributed through Amenity Technology.

Sustane has been released following three seasons of trials which have provided information regarding the product's performance in tackling thatch reduction, disease suppression, Take All eradication, dormant winter feeding and black layer eradication.

For further information Tel: 01747 852771.

## Vitax

Vitax has introduced Twincarb, which contains carbendazim and acts as a systemic fungicide.

The product which comes in either one litre and five litre packs works on Fusarium and Dollar Spot while it also controls casting worms while systematic action prevents reinfection and has a non-irritant formulation.

For further information Tel: 01530 510060.

## The 'A' grade

British Seed Houses introduced new grass varieties Loretta Nova and Raisa to its "A" grade mixture.

Lorretta Nova ryegrass offers strong growth and low nutrient conditions, good shoot density and close mowing tolerance with excellent disease resistance.

Raisa chewings fescue delivers excellent shoot density, short growth and readily accepts close mowing.

For further information Tel: 01925 654411.

## London Club are Spray away winners



The London Club was this year's winner of the Blazon Spray Watch campaign and Courses Manager Steve Jones was on hand to receive the first prize of a Hardi AMK 300 Tractor Mounted Sprayer from BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child.

In addition to winning the sprayer for the club Steve, also won an expenses paid trip to the 1999 GCSAA Convention and Show in Orlando, Florida, next February.

## John Deere: Small is beautiful

A new generation of four wheel drive compact tractors was launched by John Deere. The 4000 Series models, from 20 to 423 hp, offer a host of big tractor features in a compact size.

The entire range features a new Yanmar clear and silent three or four cylinder diesel engine with low exhaust and emission levels and there is a choice of gear or infinite speed hydrostatic transmissions on all except the 4200 version which is only available in hydrostatic form and the 4500 which is gear only.

All the tractors can carry a loader, mower and backhoe at the same time while other attachments include rear and mid mounted mowers, front blades and brooms while the three point hitch for rear mounted equipment offers lift capacity of up to 1.4 tonnes matching the highest in the industry.

There is also a new range of dedicated front mounted loaders with joystick controls for materials handling



and heavy lifting jobs.

Also launched was the F735 compact diesel front mower which is particularly suitable for mowing open areas as well as trimming around trees, shrubs, flower beds, signs and fences.

It features a new vertical crankshaft, two cylinder Yanmar 20.5ph diesel engine with shaft drive to the mowing deck for greater reliability and a longer operating life.

For further information Tel: 01949 860491.

## Scotts on fastrack with Speedway



Scotts launched Maraud and Speedway 2 at the Show while it was announced that Greenshield has been cleared for use against worm casts.

Maraud is a contact and fumigant insecticide based on chlorpyrifos, which targets leatherjacket and frit fly and is sold in one litre packs sufficient to treat 6,666 square metres.

Speedway 2 is an amenity herbicide containing diquat and paraquat and has a fast contact action against most weed species. In warm weather it will kill weeds within two days by disrupting the plant's photosynthetic process. The product is manufactured as water dispersible granule formulation to give dust free mixing with water. It is also rain fast and inactivated by contact with the soil.

Greenshield targets fusarium, red thread, Anthracnose, Take All and leaf spot as well as now being cleared to reduce worm casts.

For further information Tel: 01473 830492.



## Toro launch new products at Saltex

Toro unveiled two pre-production versions of a new machine which will be available for delivery next spring.

The Toro Reelmaster 3100-D Sidewinder (top left) is the first mower which boasts cutting units which can be hydraulically moved to the left or right to increase overhang up to 22 inches. This is ideal for cutting around bunkers as well as aprons and obstacles such as trees or under overhanging branches.

By increasing the length of overhang operators can keep the wheels farther away from the bunker to prevent the edges collapsing.

The Sidewinder is available in cutting widths of 72 and 84 inches and a simple joystick movement shifts all three cutting units to one side of the machine or the other. The operator is seated in a forward position with the engine at the rear for maximum visibility. It also has a three wheel drive system which coupled with a low centre of gravity gives good hill climbing capability.

Toro also introduced its Toro Sitework Systems (bottom left) known as The Dingo hydraulic

power plant on wheels which has more than 35 attachments.

"This system offers productivity, manoeuvrability, versatility, convenience and power, which makes it perfect for anyone involved in landscape contracting, irrigation, fence installation, general construction or nursery activities," said Denise Koehn, International Marketing Manager, Professional Equipment.

It comes standard with a durable steel bucket and the attachment line includes adjustable forks, a backhoe, leveller, broom, cement bowl, tiller, hydraulic blade and a vibratory plough.

Toro has also produced a competitively priced and more simply-engineered fairway mower. Based on the Reelmaster 5300-D the Reelmaster 5200-D has a lower specification with fewer and less sophisticated components that rely more on manual operations.

The two wheel drive model sells at £24,430 ex vat with the four wheel drive version coming in at £27,420 ex vat.

For further information Tel: 01202 209281



## Kubota publish first magazine

Kubota launched the Kubota Owner's Club in the UK at the Show.

Marked by the publication of the debut issue of its own quarterly magazine the vent heralds the formation of an organisation which is inviting application for free membership from more than 20,000

owners of Kubota tractors, mowers and power products.

"We see the club as an important part of Kubota's Research and Development as it's a way for owners and users to tell us about their needs and how best we can meet them," said Tom Barnes, Marketing Manager of Kubota (UK) Ltd.

In addition to the magazine, membership card and official tie Kubota owners will be entitled to exclusive discounted offers on a range of Kubota products and receive answers to questions addressed to the readers' letters page.

For further information Tel: 01844 214500.

## Rigby Taylor's product launch struck by Lightning

Rigby Taylor launched a new adjuvant marker and a new plant and microbial stimulant.

Lightning, the first approved adjuvant marker for use with Roundup Pro Biactive via Controlled Droplet Application (CDA), leaves a clearly visible white deposit on treated weeds and surfaces.

Tests at the Imperial College - the International Pesticides Application Research Centre - have shown that mixing Roundup Pro Biactive with Lightning produces uniform-sized droplets which are less likely to shrink through evaporation and minimise the risk of potential drift.

Rigby Taylor has also developed a series of adaptor kits so operators can use the Slimflex backpack con-

tainers with their existing CDA equipment.

Activate is a concentrated plant extract and is released following work in plant and microbial stimulant technology. It supplies the grass with simple sugars, as a readily available food source while also getting essential trace elements right through to the root zone.

"Activate is based on the advanced and proved science of carbohydrate nutrition to produce healthier hard wearing playing surfaces, increasing the ground's resistance to drought and stress," explained Rigby Taylor's Technical Services Manager, Geoff Yelland.

For further information Tel: 01483 535657.



## Many happy returns to Lloyds and Co

Lloyds and Co celebrated its 120th birthday with a celebration party and a cake during a break from the hard business of selling machinery at Saltex.

The Letchworth based company was founded in 1878 as an agency for the import and sales of American Pennsylvania mowing machines.

The company began producing its own machines in 1934 and as design and manufacturing skills

developed the early machines were joined by motor mowers, gang mowers, lawn sweepers, lawn rakes, lawn sprinklers, mechanical scythes and electric hedge trimmers.

Today Lloyds still remains a privately owned company and is looking forward to the next 120 years.

Picture shows Managing Director Clive Nottingham toasting his company's birthday in the company of IOG President Robert Corbin and BIGGA Chairman Gordon Child.



## Textron new products

The Textron stable which includes Ransomes, Jacobsen and Iseki has been busy and introduced a number of new products and updated machines.

Ransomes-*Textron* launched a new engine-powered triplex greens mower, the Ransomes G-Plex II which supersedes the Greensplex which was first introduced in 1994. The G-Plex II is available with a choice of 18hp petrol or 18.8hp diesel engine.

Notable features include a patented centre reel which pivots sideways clear of the mower for convenient adjustment and servicing. In work, an automatic time delay lowers and raises the centre reel after the from two units to maintain an in-line finish and the edge of the green. It also boasts a stabiliser linkage which levels the cutting units parallel to the ground during lifting and lowering.

Jacobsen launched its new electrically powered SandScorpion bunker rake. Using a 48 volt electrical system with six eight volt deep-cycle batteries the Sand Scorpion will operate for up to six hours without recharging.

Long life steel blades with noise reducing bumpers move independently, avoiding the possibility of gouging, while the contoured rake can be matched to meet a variety of different conditions. Jacobsen has also added two lightweight fairway mowers to its range. Labelled the LF-3400/LF-3800, the five unit mowers combine, durability and productivity while retaining low ground pressure.

Available with two or four wheel hydrostatic drive the machines have power steering, tiltable steering column and hydraulic oil monitor with horn alarm.

Iseki has introduced two new ride-on rotary mowers, the SF200 and SF230 are powered by 20hp and 22.5hp water cooled diesel engines with two pedal hydrostatic transmission giving variable forward and reverse travel up to a maximum speed of 8.4 mph.

For further information Tel: 01473 270000.



## Sisis gain award with Autocare

SISIS received the Award for the Best New Sportsturf Machine at the show, for the second year running.

This year's award winner was the SISIS Autocare System, a budget priced, compact maintenance system for turf and artificial surfaces. The power unit has a 5hp engine and will operate a range of driven "heads" all fitted in seconds with-out tools. It will also operate a range of brushes, rakes, etc.

Once a user has acquired an AutoCare power unit, implements may be added over a period of time to build a comprehensive maintenance system.

The AutoCare will have all the flexibility of tractor mounted systems with the added advantage of being suitable for smaller areas or areas with limited access.

For further information Tel: 01625 503030.

## Amazone

Amazone's latest slitter/aerators the 1.2 metre wide SL and the SLS, and the SLC, available in 1.2 metre and 2.4 metre made their debuts at the show.

All are three point-linkage mounted machines and are fitted with a ground-driven rotor whose unique 10 degree offset blade configuration ensures high point pressure across the implement at high operating speeds, while exerting 91kg/point pressure for entry into the thickest thatch to a depth of 12cm.

The blade pattern also ensures that all the points in contact with the surface penetrate the ground to an equal depth when the slitter is driven forward, so eliminating the "walking" effect associated with some blade layouts.

For further information Tel: 01579 351155.

## Hi-Tec from Hydroscape

The Hydroscape Group has introduced a new range of state-of-the-art weather station technology to assist greenkeepers and groundsmen in their turf management practices. Currently three weather stations and systems packages are being made available that will record a range of weather and climatic data such as wind speed and direction, barometric pressure, rainfall measurement, solar intensity, humidity, temperature and evapotranspiration.



collector will measure daily and accumulated rainfall and, when connected to a computer through the WeatherLink, will provide a detailed, long-term analysis.

The Weather Monitor II will provide information on wind direction and speed and a quick check of the barometric trend arrow will show if pressure is rising, falling or holding steady.

The Weather Wizard III offers a professional package that monitors and stores data on a range of weather conditions including, inside and outside temperature, wind direction, speed and chill factor. The rain

The GroWeather, using information from the Evapotranspiration (ET) System, allows turf and landscape managers to conserve water resources, optimise irrigation requirements and monitor possible drought conditions.

For further information Tel: 01425 476261

## New waterproof spray grease from Course Care

Following requests from greenkeepers and groundsmen Course Care has introduced waterproof spray grease to their aerosol range. The grease is ideal for lubrication of pop-up sprinklers and other areas such as turnbuckles or swivels that are prone to failure in damp environments.

The Course Cap has been redesigned and re-launched at the show. The past six months has seen several changes to the style and design to meet the requirements of wearers. While the new Course Cap looks like a standard baseball cap it has a rigid shell in the construction

to give some protection.

The Abbeydale is a stainless steel cutter with laser-cut edges for the removal of small cores of fine turf, which have become damaged or diseased. It enables a healthy core of exactly the same size to be exchanged in a few seconds for the unhealthy one with an invisible finish. This has particular application on golf greens, bowling greens and cricket wickets and was developed by John Coleman, Course Manager at Abbeydale Golf Club.

For further information Tel: 01535 611103.

## Lance a lot better than before

The Cooper Pegler range of amenity sprayers - now owned by Hardi International - displayed a new telescopic hand lance and an addition to the Multipack sprayer range.

The hand lance has been developed to help operators reach into awkward places and also to adjust lance length to the job in hand.

Lightweight it is easily adjustable in the same way as a car radio aerial and has integral leakproof seal.

The multipack is a 50 litre replacement for the former 30 litre model and like the existing 100 and 250 litre versions has electric 12 volt operation of the Flojet pump.

For further information Tel: 01455 233811.

## Brushing up the course

Multi-Core introduced two purpose-built core collectors for use with the company's 1m and 1.5m fine turf aerators.

Designed to provide greenkeepers, groundstaff and other turf professionals with a truly one-pass system for hollow coring and core collection, the new Multi-Sweep MS 10 and MS 15 core collectors attach directly to the rear of their respective aerators on a

pivoting frame.

Collection of cores takes place less than a second after the cores are produced by the aerator. A hydraulically-driven revolving brush sweeps continuously over the turf, smoothly lifting the cores from the ground before flicking them into an integral hopper at the rear.

For further information Tel: 01937 843281

## TRILO'S GOT LEAF COLLECTING OFF TO A TEE



For years people scratched their heads looking for a speedy, efficient and economical way of collecting leaves and



grass cuttings. Then, in 1966, the engineers at Trilo came up with the perfect solution - an ingenious vacuum sweeper which they called the Trilo Grass

Collector. The idea was a huge success and the company's reputation for expertise and quality soon spread world-



wide. Thirty years on, Trilo is still leading the way with a wide range of machines that will not only vacuum, but also scarify, cut and collect.

Find out how a Trilo can make your greenkeeping job easier and more efficient by calling us direct today.



# TRILO

The first name in Vacuum Sweepers

3 YEAR WARRANTY ON SG400



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**Geoff Steel weighs up the pros and cons of mortgages, and gives advice on the types of mortgage which are available to you...**

# SAFE AS HOUSES?

There are two types of mortgage, repayment and interest only.

With the repayment mortgage the instalments pay for the interest and the capital borrowed. The amount owing to the lender reduces a little each year. After the agreed mortgage period the balance owing reduces to nil.

The monthly instalments on an interest only mortgage pay just for the interest being charged and the amount owing to the lender stays the same throughout the terms of the mortgage.

The loan is repaid at a pre-agreed date traditionally from the proceeds of an endowment policy. More recently Pension Plans and Personal Equity Plans (PEP) have become popular as a means of

repaying a mortgage. There are advantages and disadvantages to all types of savings plans and I will cover the various aspects in more detail next month.

There is no best way to repay a mortgage as the choice depends on individual circumstances. If you don't like any risk and wish to see your mortgage debt reducing each year then a repayment mortgage is for you. Also anyone who intends to live in the same property for the full period of a mortgage should consider a repayment mortgage as first choice.

Interest only mortgages used to be beneficial because of Mortgage Interest Tax Relief (MIRAS). Tax relief has now been reduced and interest only mortgages do not have

the advantage that they had in the past.

Anyone who is likely to move house regularly may be better served by an interest only mortgage. The balance owing on a repayment mortgage is reduced by very little over the first few years and moving house means that a new mortgage has to be taken with practically no benefit from the amount paid on the previous mortgage. With an interest only mortgage the borrower has the benefit of an endowment or PEP savings plan which is carried on to the next house. There is a continuity of the savings element of the mortgage and there is no need to extend the original mortgage period when taking out a new mortgage.

As with all purchases you should consider your own personal requirements and the options available. Ask for illustrations for each method being considered and do ensure that you compare different companies. An Independent Financial Advisor will offer you a choice of products and providers whereas many banks, building societies and estate agents are tied to one company which may not be the most competitive.

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



**Tony Rees MIOSH continues his look at the Health and Safety implications involved in running a safe maintenance facility**

# DON'T TAKE RISKS

One set of Regulations that will be particularly topical for Greenkeepers and staff will be the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations. This legislation applies to all pieces of equipment used at work and covers items ranging from simple screw drivers and hand tools all the way through to complex machinery such as grass cutting devices, tractors etc.

The Regulations places duties upon employers with regard to equipment that they provide for use at work. Employers must pay attention to the selection of equipment ie is the equipment suitable for the task involved or the conditions on which it is to be used. For example does the employer provide an electric strimmer or a petrol powered one. The employer has a duty to ensure that the work equipment is kept well maintained, there is also a duty that everyone who uses equipment or supervise or manages work equipment must have available to them health and safety information and if necessary comprehensible, written instructions.

These people are also to receive adequate training in its use and if necessary in its maintenance requirements. Employers also have a duty to ensure that work equipment conforms to EU requirements. These Regulations also deal with the guard-

ing of dangerous parts of machinery and the accompanying guidance notes issued by Health and Safety Executive give practical guidance on a hierarchy of guarding methods ie from fixed guards to interlocked guards all the way through to simple push sticks of jigs.

Other duties placed on employers by the Regulations concern temperatures, controls for starting and stopping, stability, lighting and marking and warning notices such as "Machine must not be operated until guards are in position" etc. The Supply of Machinery Regulations 1992 also apply in this situation and provide a framework for manufacturers supplying machinery to ensure that it is safe and CE marked to show conformity through European member states. Electrically powered tools and equipment are also subject to another set of Regulations, these being the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989, which cover controls over electrical hazards. The Electricity at Work Regulations apply to all workplaces and are aimed at users and not manufacturers and suppliers of electrical equipment. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 places a duty on employers to ensure that all equipment that they provide for use at work is safe and without risks to health, this is enhanced in the

Electricity at Work Regulations 1989. There is a general requirement for design, construction and maintenance of electrical systems and these should be constructed and maintained so as to prevent danger, so far as reasonably practicable. To aid compliance with this the IEE Wiring Regulations (16th edition) have issued guidelines on testing periods for fixed installations and portable electrical tools.

Another problem that Greenkeepers will encounter, not only in their workshop or maintenance building, but also in the course of their every day duties is noise.

Noise may be produced by a number of different means but ones likely to be encountered by Greenkeepers are associated with various types of machinery or portable tools ie from mowers, strimmers etc to grinding wheels and compressors and occasionally even the rogue shout of "fore" that follows an errant shot.

The legislation that covers noise is the Noise at Work Regulations 1989, these regulations requiring employers to take reasonably practicable measures to reduce employees' exposure to noise at work to the lowest possible level. The regulations place a duty on the employer to undertake a formal noise assessment where employees are likely to be exposed to 85dB(A).

There are three "action levels" indicated by the noise at Work Regulations, these being 85dB(a), 90dB(A) and above or the peak action level of 200 Pascal's and different duties are placed on employers at each of the levels. At 85 dB(A) if the employee asks for hearing protection then the employer is obliged to provide it, however the wearing of it is not mandatory. At the second action level of 90dB(A), then the employer must not only provide hearing protection but the employee now has a duty placed on him/her to wear it. An employer has deemed it necessary to wear hearing protection while using a strimmer (ie carried out an assessment of risk) then the employee must wear it while carrying out the task in order to enable the employer to fulfil his/her statutory duty.

There are other duties placed on employers such as the need to engineer solutions to lower the noise levels and a requirement to put up signs to indicate where hearing protection must be worn.

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



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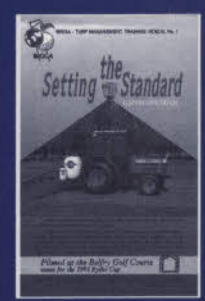
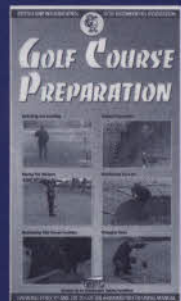
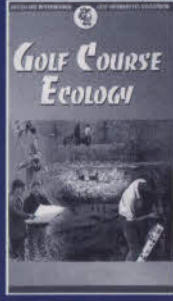
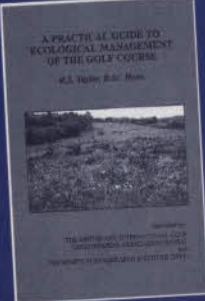
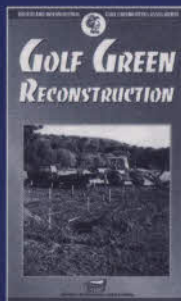
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The Secretary, Abridge Golf and Country Club, Epping Lane  
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## KEDLESTON PARK GOLF CLUB

Require a

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Applications in writing and in confidence, accompanied by full CV and details of two referees to:

The Managing Secretary, Kedleston Park Golf Club,  
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Mr P J Furness, Secretary/General Manager, West Middlesex Club Ltd,  
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## EFFINGHAM GOLF CLUB



Requires an

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If you have these, and are able to produce high standard quality work then please apply in writing with a full CV to:

Mr Peter Broadbent, Course Manager, Effingham Golf Club,  
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ESTABLISHED 1886

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Applicants should have recognised qualifications and experience:

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  - PA1, PA2A, PA6A spraying certificates
- Please reply in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary, Guildford Golf Club, High Path Road, Mew, Guildford,  
Surrey GU1 2HL

## UPTON-BY-CHESTER GOLF CLUB

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The successful applicant will possess an HNC level of qualification and be able to demonstrate an excellent record of greenkeeping. They must be familiar with modern practices and technologies, and have wide experience of equipment, machinery and irrigation systems.

They will also need to demonstrate an ability to lead, organise and motivate staff, working to agreed budgets.

Accommodation is not provided with this post and the pensionable salary will be commensurate with experience.

Applications in writing plus full C.V. to:

Manager/Secretary, Upton-by-Chester Golf Club, Upton Lane, Chester. CH2 1EE  
Closing date 26th October 1998.

## STAMFORD GOLF CLUB

Require a

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for a busy, well established 18 hole moorland course. The applicant must have at least five years experience, qualified to City & Guilds Phase 2 or equivalent. Must have PA1 and PA2A.

Salary negotiable depending on experience.

No accommodation available.

Written applications with CV to:-

Mr N Marnar, Course Manager, Stamford Golf Club, Oakfield House,  
Huddersfield Road, Stalybridge, Cheshire SK15 3PY

## Feature listing from September '96

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Keep them thirsty



The last few weeks have been on the quiet side. However, I did play at Celtic Manor in a Scotts sponsored day for Golf Club Management in South Wales. I was kindly invited to enter a Chairman's team, and just for once we were blessed with good weather. We had a very enjoyable day and it was nice to meet many old friends including Henry Fry, who was a B.G.G.A Board member for years and a member of my team, along with Richard Barker and Ken Richardson.

On September 8th Marion and I met up with the BIGGA team at Saltex, which proved once again how important it is for BIGGA to have a presence at such events. Our staff meet so many members who visit the stand, and the marketing team can talk and do business on the spot. Our Membership Services Officer also had a good few days signing up lots of new members. Our presence also strengthens the bond with the I.O.G.

The opening day of our new headquarters is fast approaching. A time for us to enjoy the efforts and take stock on the progress made since 1987. We have taken many big steps in that time, but I doubt if any means so much to the Association as having our own building. I, like other greenkeepers have at times been critical of the way some things were done, but I like to think that constructive criticism helps. The proof of the pudding however is in the eating, and this pudding tastes very sweet to me. I can only thank all of you who have helped in

any way to make this day possible. It is a great achievement and one we can all take pride in. I look forward to meeting those at the opening on October 21st, and hope over the next year or so most of you will find time to call and see your new home.

On the greenkeeping front I have noticed lots of written articles and papers lately advocating turning back to good old fashioned course management. Only a few weeks ago I read an excellent article in the S.T.R.I Turfgrass Bulletin by Alistair Beggs. He asked the question, "is golfing ignorance and media

glamorisation in danger of destroying the unique diversity and challenge of British golf?" He goes on to say that the time has come to provide a structure in which our heritage can be preserved and the traditions of the game restored. We should not allow young hopefuls to delude themselves into believing that good golf is a question of bashing a ball 300 yards down a fairway, hitting mechanically repeating wedges into pudding-like greens. Returning to traditional values will only be achieved slowly and with heart ache on the way. I also sat in on a paper a little time ago by Dr J R Hansen from Auburn University, Alabama, called The Passion for Green. The key words in the paper were; environment, golfer, psychology and aesthetics. The first and I quote, "hardly revolutionary, more environmental common sense." Then he turned to how passionate the golfer has become about ultra green carpet like playing conditions. He says, the amateur golfers who see tournaments played on lush golf courses, under artificial conditions develop unrealistic expectations. Dr Hansen argued, that golfers need to be educated in the fact that reduced chemical and water use may result in different turf appearance, but can produce fine playing conditions.

Scientists who explored the psychology of colour suggest that green is "soothing, peaceful and cool and has great healing power". On the negative side green represent selfishness and

laziness, (no points for recognising the golfer). You may ask - what has this to do with greenkeeping?, but it does offer us another reason for the passion of green and demonstrates the power of golf's primary colour over the mind.

For too long greenkeepers have been forced by the modern day golfer to sacrifice the quality of turf for looks and ease of play, believing everything that's green is good. As difficult as it may be for us to explain to the golfer that they must turn away from lush green playing conditions to ensure health of fine turf, and with it golf as we know it, we must also promote the basic principles of golf course maintenance to the young men coming into greenkeeping.

Water has not been an issue this summer, if we can call it summer, but you can rest assured it will be again soon. Some courses have unlimited supplies and think they have the answer, but we must recognise that water is an environmental concern and restrictions on its use will be imposed sooner or later no matter which source we use. So it is wise to take the necessary measures now, remembering fine turf does not need vast amounts of water to survive and allow proper golf to be played. It's the fine grasses such as bents and fine fescues which give the best playing condition, and they need very little water relatively speaking.

I suppose everything turns full circle given time, but I wonder how much the change of thinking can be put down to the changes in the pesticide laws and environmental issues. It may be that we have found an ally in the changing laws which could affect the attitude of the golfer. It could spell a return to the tried and tested methods which many old, and not so old, campaigners have preached for 50 years or more with great success.

Education is paving the way for young greenkeepers to be better managers, and more able to deal with the new golfer's demands to change traditional golf to the less skillful game, more akin to a game of darts.

Gordon Child

# BB

# THERE



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