



September 1998 - £3.50

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



## No half measures

A look at nine hole golf courses

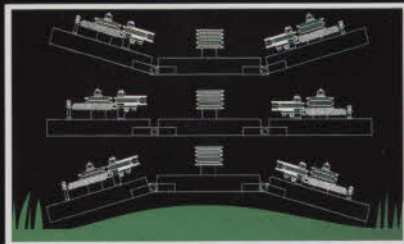
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# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of  
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Greenkeepers Association

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## September 1998

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by October 8

## Regulars

### News

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

### 8 Assistant Profile

George Mitchell, Newmacher GC

### 15 The Learning Experience

Doing it right. Nigel Mansell's philosophy at Woodbury Park

### 20 Education

Education and Training Manager Ken Richardson reveals the finals in the two Toro competitions to be held in October

### 21 Letters

### 37-42 Around the Green

### 48 Health & Safety

Tony Rees explains some of the H&S requirements for maintenance buildings

### 49 Money Matters

Advice on house buying

### 50-51 Golden Key Mini profiles

Ocmis and Mommersteeg

### 64 Just one careful owner

Sandy McDivot looks at buying golf clubs... the things you play on, not with

### 66 Features listing

Helping you track down Greenkeeper International articles over the last two years

### 66 As I see it...

BIGGA National Chairman praises those involved in a successful Open Championship

## Reader Reply Card

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

Advertiser	Ad Ref	Page
ADAS	289	10
Amenity Technology	431	68
Bathgate Silica Sand	543	16
Charterhouse	130	38-39
Cleveland Sitesafe	56	10
Durasport	548	16
Eagle Promotions	549	63
Eric Hunter Grinders	73	17
Fairfield Turf	18	45
Green Pride	598	34
Green-Release™	563	67
Greensward	312	50
Hi-Chem UK	510	28
Hydroscapes	475	27
ILS	525	21
John Deere	103	6
Kawasaki	544	19, 53
Lely	61	40-41
Marlwood	501	2
MJT	382	63
Mommersteeg	171	24-25
Multi-Core Aerators	347	51
North Staffs Irrigation	217	21
Ocmis	360	13
Olivers' Seeds	571	31
Pattisons	35	45
Plasticisers Fibres	597	43
Rainbird	443	5
Rhône-Poulenc	59	32, 36
Rufford	5	35
Sharpes International	453	18
Sovereign Turf	435	34
Sportsground Irrigation	491	31
Stihl	230	11
Tarmac	576	30
Textron	9	14
Tonick Watering	503	22
Wessex Farm Machinery	210	50

## Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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



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Will you be at BTME99?  
Look out for your pre-registration card appearing in Greenkeeper International, or contact the BTME hotline on 01347 838581 for more details



66 As I see it...

64 Sandy McDivot



# Let's hear it for the Nine Holers

I have a great affection for nine hole golf courses. I learned my own golf on one, and not just any one. Established in 1855 Cupar Golf Club is the oldest existing nine hole golf course in the world.

Built on the side of a hill and only around 2500 yards long it was a great place to start the game... At least I thought so at the time. While I became adept at playing shots with the ball either above or below my feet and punching in little chipped approaches to the par 4s I was horrified to discover when playing away from home that I might need 3 or 4 irons on par-4s!

Many happy summer holidays were spent going round and round Cupar, often playing four or five times in a day, always trying to beat my personal best score. I recall that 50 was a real physiological barrier. I once stood on the tee of the short downhill par-4 9th having played a mere 40 shots but took another 10 more to hole out. I was distraught.

However, once I had that particular monkey off my back - "The Best Player in the World not to have broken 50 round Cupar" my scores tumbled and it was not too many years before I was aiming for level fours. I do believe my PB does stand at 36. Not bad for someone whose handicap has never bettered the teens.

I also recall a super story told by the speaker at an Open Championship dinner about 12 years ago. He said that he was trying to get his own course accepted onto the Open Championship Rota and that 49 pieces of correspondence had been exchanged between himself and the R&A - 48 from him and one from St Andrews, but he was no nearer a satisfactory answer. He could only conclude that the R&A had something against nine hole courses.

It was a great joke, but like so many great jokes it had a grain of truth in it. Nine hole courses are seen as the poor relation.

I suspect that members of nine holers are thought of by others to be merely waiting until they're accepted at proper, grown up, 18 hole courses or, by a freak of geography, are unfortunate enough not to live in an area with any full size courses.

Nine hole courses deserve more credit. There are some superb nine hole tests of golf in this country and many towns and villages would be without golf at all if it wasn't for their nine hole course.

This month we feature two nine hole courses - Tolladine and Fingle Glen. Both are superb golf courses expertly maintained.

And they need to be. With twice as much traffic nine holers require supremely skilled greenkeepers and many are fortunate enough to have just that.

Let's give credit where credit is due to the courses and the people who look after them.



Editor:  
Scott MacCallum

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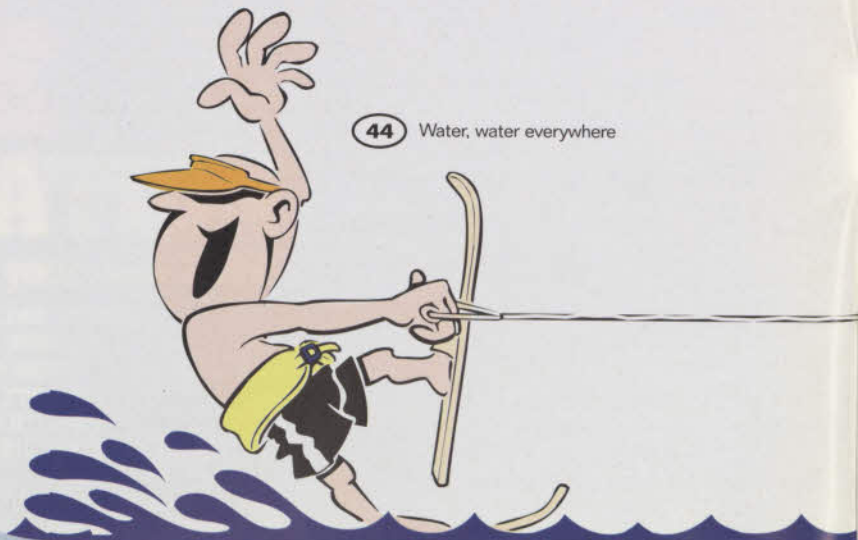


## Features

- 18 A week to remember**  
Marcus Hamon's diary of his BIGGA Open Support Team experiences
- 23-26 Done up to the nines**  
Greenkeeper International visits two nine hole courses and uncovers two gems
- 23 One hundred not out**  
Bruce Stanley visits Tolladine GC in Worcester during the middle of the club's centenary celebrations
- 25 The course that Bill built**  
Scott MacCallum meets Bill Pile who designed, built and now maintains Fingle Glen GC in Devon
- 29 Hey, big spender**  
Steve Clements, of Whitbread's Marriott group, is in charge of a mighty big budget
- 33 The hit parade**  
Terry Ryan gives some advice for anyone thinking of purchasing turf
- 44 Water, water everywhere**  
The wet summer has uncovered the courses with insufficient drainage explains Barry Cooper
- 52 Talking golf**  
Dr Mike Canaway reports from the World Scientific Congress in St Andrews

23 No half measures

44 Water, water everywhere





## Facts

not

fiction

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The Turf Gator's unique combination of toughness and quietness make it perfect for the golf course. Toughness comes from uni-body 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.



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# Royal Opening for BIGGA HQ

The official opening of BIGGA's new headquarters by H.R.H. The Duke of York will take place at Aldwark Manor at 4.30pm on October 21. In addition to invited guests, members are welcome to attend the opening ceremony. However, it is essential that any member intending to be present notifies Headquarters in advance in order that appropriate arrangements can be made. Members will need to be present by 4pm and prior notification should be given to Sarah Sowerby.

Prince Andrew pictured here when he attended BTME in 1993.



The following golf clubs have helped ensure that the BIGGA Building Fund is now nearing the £40,000 mark.

The Association would like to thank all the golf clubs which have contributed towards the building of the new BIGGA Headquarters.

Addington Palace	Valley
Alton	Bush Hill Park
Alwoodley	Canterbury
Arcot Hall	Cardigan
Army	Chestfield
Ashton-in-Makerfield	Childwall
Baildon	Chipping Norton
Banchory	Chorlton-Cum-Hardy
Beaconsfield	Churston
Bedale	Clitheroe
Beeston Fields	Conwy
Berkhamstead	Cooden Beach
Bingley St Ives	Coombe Hill
Birchwood	Coombe Wood
Bishops Stortford	Copt Heath
Blackmoor	Coventry Hearsall
Brancepeth	Coxmoor
Castle	Crompton & Royton
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Bromborough	Edenmore
Bungay & Waveney	Enfield

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Glenbervie  
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North Oxford  
North Wilts  
Northenden  
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Peterborough  
Milton  
Pollok  
Potters Bar  
Purley Downs  
Pyle and Kenfig  
Ranfurly Castle  
Ravelston  
Ravensthorpe  
Roehampton  
Royal Birkdale  
Royal Burgess Golf Society  
Royal Cinque Ports  
Royal Guernsey  
Royal Liverpool  
Royal Mid-Surrey  
Royal Porthcawl  
Royal Portrush  
Royal St Georges  
Royal West Norfolk  
Royal Wimbledon  
Sandy Lodge  
Scarcroft  
Seacroft

Seaton Carew  
Sedburgh  
Sherwood Forest  
Sitwell Park  
Sonning  
St Andrews  
St Austell  
St Bees  
St Enodoc  
Stand  
Stanmore  
Sundridge Park  
Sunningdale  
Sutton Coldfield  
Swinley Forest  
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Tandridge  
Taunton & Pickering  
Temple  
Tenby Golf  
Tenterden  
Thorpeness  
Tidworth Garrison  
Tulliallan  
Turnberry  
Tynemouth  
Tyrrells Wood  
Uttoxeter  
Wakefield  
Walmley  
Walton Heath  
Wentworth  
West Byfleet  
West End Halifax  
West Essex  
West Sussex  
Whitchurch (Cardiff)  
Whitley Bay  
Whittington Heath  
Willingdon  
Wisley  
Woburn Golf & Country Club  
Woking  
Woodbridge  
Worcestershire  
Worksop  
Wortley  
York

## Johnsons Seeds sold

Perryfield Holdings Ltd has expanded its business with the purchase of Johnsons Seeds, less than two weeks after the Boston-based company was forced to call in the receiver.

"We worked all week and occasionally through the night to complete this purchase which shows how keen we were and how pleased we are," said Perryfield Managing Director Roy Harris.

"Johnsons is a household name whose retail and amenity seed strengths fit neatly alongside our existing seed operations," he added.

Mark Shires, of Price Waterhouse Coopers, the official receiver, expressed his delight that the business had been bought as a going concern.

"As expected there was considerable interest because of Johnsons' reputation and market share - both of which were at risk if a sale could not be agreed quickly. I now wish every success to the 70 staff who remain and thank them for their support in a difficult time," said Mr Shires, who had been forced to make considerable redundancies from within the original Johnsons' workforce.

It is anticipated that the Johnsons' name and the company's brands will continue to be marketed by Perryfield Holdings.

## Ernest Doe & Sons become Silver Key supporters

The south east based Textron dealership Ernest Doe and Sons have become Silver Key supporters of BIGGA.

"We are delighted to become Silver Key Supporters of BIGGA in what is our Centenary Year," said Field Sales Manager, Adrian Kersley.

"We have always supported BIGGA at a local level but we are pleased to be extending that support nationally as the only machinery dealership which are Silver Key supporters," he added.

BIGGA's Sales and Marketing Manager, James McEvoy, was pleased to welcome Ernest Doe into the fold.

"We are delighted that Ernest Doe have chosen to become Silver Key Supporters of the Association and boost the Education and Development Fund.

"Money raised by the Fund is used to assist with the education and training of the country's greenkeepers and it says much for Ernest Doe's desire to support the industry that they have decided to become a Silver Key company," said James.



ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER 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:** George Mitchell

**Club:** Newmachar GC

**Position:** Deputy Head Greenkeeper

**Age:** 26

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

11 years

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

None

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

Cutting Greens

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

Strimming ditches

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

Professional golfer

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

Dale Robertson, Head Greenkeeper at Newmachar and Sam Morrison, formerly of Royal Aberdeen but now of Bothwell Castle

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

I would make a club rule to penalise golfers who don't repair their divots or pitch marks.

**8. What are your hobbies?**

Golf, darts and gardening

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

Golf outings, magazine and meeting other BIGGA members

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

Head Greenkeeper

# John Deere in Wonderland

In an age when international companies supply equipment all over the world it is easy for dealers and customers to feel that they are a very small cog in a large wheel. This is often compounded when the brand name has a very high profile in another field.

One would suspect that John Deere might have been sensitive to this fact when they elected, for the first time, to introduce a new range of products in Europe - Disneyland Paris to be precise - prior to their launch in the United States. In addition, their latest LX and LTR lawn tractors have been specifically designed for Europe where Deere claim that 15% of their commercial and consumer equipment sales are made.

An interesting aspect of Deere's presentation was the company's willingness to show machines that will be launched within the next two of years. Three of these prototypes are of interest to the golf market.

When it came to designing the new 2500 professional triplex greens mower it was back to the drawing board. This type of machine is generally used for long periods at a time and requires a high degree of concentration by the operator. In this situation fatigue has to be kept to a minimum and this would appear to be a major factor in the design-brief for this mower.

Deere has incorporated an new command arm which is attached directly to the seat, so is automatically adjusted to suit each individual operator. All controls are within easy reach and a lever with an option of foot pedals controls the cutting units if preferred.

The mower configuration is offset with the rear unit to the left because research showed that operators could see it better in this position. This feature is designed to help cut down wear on the turf. By travelling in opposite directions each time a green is mown the tyres are in a different position thus giving the turf a chance to recover between cuts.

There will be the option of either 20hp John Deere 220 diesel, or 18.7hp Kawasaki liquid-cooled petrol engine. Other features include on-board diagnostics as standard and an optional hydraulic leakage detection system. The 2500 will be available during 1999.

In recent years, there has been an influx of utility vehicles for golf course applications and the new Turf General 2000 series is being introduced to cater for this market.

This heavy-duty unit carries two people plus load carrier and will have a 23.5hp diesel engine plus option of two or four wheel drive. Synchronised transmission provides five speeds up to 19mph and front and rear suspension



smooths out the ride.

In addition, there is the facility for unitising the unit's hydraulic and mechanical take-off systems to operate a wide range of attachments. These include sprayers; fertiliser spreaders, top dressers and other turf care equipment. A cab can also be fitted to provide all year round operator comfort.

Cutting up to 76 acres a day is what Deere are claiming their WF1655 wide-area rotary mower can achieve. Powered by a 51hp Yanmar diesel, the three heavy-duty rear discharge mowers have a cutting width of 3.35 metres and it is claimed that the unit has a top cutting speed of 8.5mph.

The WF1655 will be available commercially within the next two years.

For 1998, Deere is launching their 4000 series of compact tractors with Yanmar diesel engine from 20hp to 43hp.

There is a choice of gear or hydrostatic transmission on most models and standard features include oil cooled disc brakes hydrostatic power steering front wheel drive and differential lock. The dual gear pumps are said to ensure excellent hydraulic performance.

For operator comfort there is a contoured deluxe suspension seat and a choice of Roll guard protection or optional cab

The tractors will be available this autumn

In addition to the new products, Deere demonstrated a satellite (GPS) system they are working on for selective spraying of golf and turf applications.

All products shown are the result of a \$334million capital and R&D investment the company has made over the last three years.

For further information Tel: 01949 860491



# Devon hotel calls upon Alliss

Peter Alliss Golf Design Ltd has just completed an 18 hole putting course for Gidleigh Park Hotel in Devon.

The course is 1,100 feet long, a par-52 and, unlike most putting greens, each hole has an identity of its own. It actually has two par-2s and one par-4 on each nine and is laid out around 150 year old oak and beech trees, four ponds and a stream.

The longest hole is the 90 foot 6th while the course opens with the relatively gentle par-2, 30 foot 1st.

Those playing the course are presented with their own score card which list the local rules among them being "A ball in a pond or flower bed is to be replaced on the fairway, one yard from the hazard, with a one stroke penalty".

The course was the idea of, Kay and Paul Henderson, owners of Gidleigh Park Hotel, who were impressed with the "Executive" putting green the found at a hotel while on holiday in Hawaii.

They called in Peter Alliss, who has been a client of the hotel since it opened in 1978, and he designed a nine hole course. Such was its popularity among visitors it has now been extended.



Paul Henderson, Peter Alliss and Head Gardener, Keith Mansfield

# Huxley launch Campbell Greens

Following the introduction last year of Campbell Turf for tees, pathways and practice grounds, Huxleys are now launching Campbell Turf Greens as a premium quality, minimal maintenance

alternative to natural turf on golf greens.

Designed primarily for use on pay-and-play courses, hotel and leisure resort installations and chipping and putting practice greens,

the sand-filled, multi-fibre material duplicates the look, feel and density of precision-mown grass on a traditional golf green.

However, unlike normal turf, the only regular attention required by a properly installed Campbell Turf Green is a light brushing and rolling to maintain its appearance and to vary surface speed to suit the standard and demands of golfers.

The British launch of Campbell Turf Greens represents a further development of the close partnership between Huxleys and well-known former Irish amateur golfer, Tommie Campbell, which led to the introduction in 1997 of the original Campbell Turf from Huxleys.

For more information Tel: 01962 733222.



## Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



# Jeans for Genes Day

The third National Jeans for Genes Day is being held on Friday, October 9. A national appeal led by Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity, all proceeds go to projects around the country carrying out research into genetic disorders which affect children.



The staff at BIGGA HQ will once again be supporting Jeans for Genes Day by paying just £1 each and wearing their Jeans to work.

If you, your staff or your club wish to participate please phone the Jeans for Genes Hotline on 0800 980 4800 for your free information pack. Alternatively if you wish to make a donation through BIGGA, please send them for the attention of Sami Collins, Jeans for Genes Co-ordinator, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York, YO61 1UF. Please make any cheques payable to BIGGA.

# Rain bird to land on Southport

Southport and Ainsdale has chosen Rain Bird to supply its new irrigation system. The former Ryder Cup venue and Open qualifying course has opted for Rain Bird Eagle valve-in-head sprinklers for greens, approaches and fairways with Falcon sprinklers on the tees. The system will be controlled by a Rain Bird Nimbus Windows operated Control System. The irrigation system will be installed by Arden Lea Irrigation.

# Am Tech gobble up new range

Amenity Technology has launched the Sustane range of organic fertilisers and thatch control.

The products from the Sustane range are derived from aerobically composted turkey litter which undergoes a specialised 26 week composting process. This ensures that all the litter is fully composted, destroying harmful pathogens and providing a rich stabilised nutrient source which is highly biologically active and has little or no odour.

The range offers products for greens, tees and fairways and all the products claim to give a rapid sustained green-up without excessive flushes of top growth and with a very low scorch potential.

For further information Tel: 0118 951 0033.

# Rotoknife gets a slice of the action

A new machine designed to reduce thatch and blacklayer is about to be launched.

The RotoKnife is based on flat metal discs of high quality tensile steel, which slice into the soil producing a continuous slit.

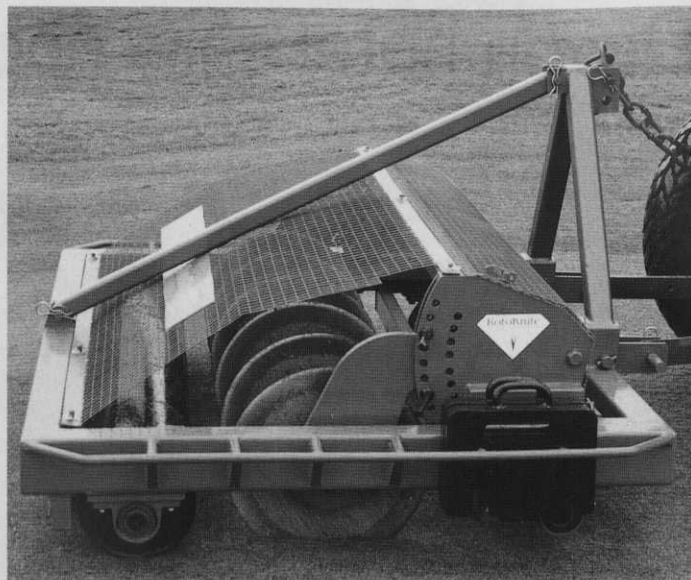
It is calculated that at 4" depth the RotoKnife allows over 600 litres of air per 500m<sup>2</sup> into the soil, which is over 13,000 litres per hectare. The RotoKnife can be set from 25mm down to 1.75mm without tools.

Another benefit of this approach is root pruning.

Because the RotoKnife operates at to 20mph and makes no mess, slitting can be carried out very frequently at different angles and depths, creating a completely homogeneous rootzone, which cannot open up. It is normal to slit 18 greens in two and a half hours and a whole course (100+ acres) in two days.

The Rotoknife was created and developed by agronomist Philip Harper and is priced at £4,600.

For further information Tel: 01722 716188.



## BIGCA 1998 International Conference to be held at Wentworth

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects will hold their 1998 International Conference at the Wentworth Club on November 17 and 18.

With a theme of "Our World of Golf - by design" the Institute anticipates up to 100 delegates at the Conference, with a gathering of architects from throughout the world, together with constructors,

agronomists, consultants as well as golf course developers and operators.

The Conference will be preceded by the Barenbrug Trophy and the Conference Dinner, to which a celebrity speaker has been invited to give the after dinner speech.

Both will be held on Tuesday, November 17.

Wednesday, November 18 is

Conference Day and speakers from Japan and America will present papers on their experiences in their parts of the world, together with those from Europe and the United Kingdom.

Gary Player, himself a highly successful architect as well as tournament player, has been asked to give the keynote speech.

Television and the media, and its

influence on golf and golf course design will feature also in the programme.

The Conference is sponsored by The Toro Company and Barenbrug.

Full details of the Conference and booking forms are available on request from: Kim Mercer Secretary BIGCA Merrist Wood House Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey, Tel: 01483 884036

## Problems with rabbits, moles and other pests?

ADAS will be delivering training courses on the management and control of rabbits, moles, other rodents and the safe use, handling and storage of pesticides for green-keepers and managers of sports turf. Courses will be held at Guildford, Letchworth, Berkeley, Manchester, Edinburgh and Wetherby from October '98 to March '99.

The training will cover the use of Strychnine, Aluminium Phosphide, Hydrogen Cyanide and non chemical methods. The legal requirements for the purchase, storage and use of these approved pesticides will also be addressed.

The training courses are all registered, certificated and attract BASIS points.

For further details and to register contact:

Jan Pullen on 01626 892639 or Ed Allan on 01303 863948

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## World Champion Chainsaw

Competitors from 28 countries including Great Britain recently took part in the 23rd World Foresters' Championship in Austria, to decide the supreme chainsaw champion. Competitors had to complete five demanding disciplines: felling, limbing, combination cutting, precision cutting and fast chain replacement. The results speak for themselves: the gold medal that goes with the world championship title and four of the five gold medals in the individual disciplines

and two silver medals went to contestants using STIHL chainsaws.

With 1,558 points, six points ahead of his nearest rival, John van Kampen with his STIHL 046 retained the world championship title he has held since 1996. This Dutch logging contractor went home with the gold medal that goes with the world championship title, another gold in precision felling and a silver in chain replacement. Stihl 046 76.5cc 5.6 Horsepower. Price from £590 ex.VAT.



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## Flying visit!

Members at Easingwold Golf Club, not far from BIGGA Headquarters at Aldwark Manor, York, had an unexpected hazard to contend with recently when a glider touched down on their practice ground.

The pilot had been taking part in the Northern Gliding Championship and was returning home when a storm forced him into making an unscheduled stop on the nearest area of flat land.

Remarkably, after some of the golfers had signed papers to verify when the glider had landed it transpired that the pilot had travelled the furthest in his category and has won a prize.

When help arrived the glider took off again leaving only a 30 metre skid mark on the grass.

## Minimum wage information

The UK's first national minimum wage has been set at £3.60 per hour before deductions and will be introduced from April of next year.

The figure was agreed by Parliament following a study by the Low Pay Commission whose recommendations included

- Exemption from the NMW for 16-17 year-olds, and all those on formal apprenticeships.

- A development rate of £0.20 available for 18-20 year-olds and for workers starting a new job with a new employer and receiving accredited training.

- Earnings that may count towards the NMW include pay for standard working - including piece rates, commissions, and tips paid through the payroll - but exclude most benefits and premium payments.

The development rate will be phased in over two stages and will initially apply to all 21 year-olds as well as those aged 18-20. An initial rate of £3 will be introduced in April 1999 rising to £3.20 in June 2000.

The Low Pay Commission will review the position of 21 year-olds again in 1999 following implementation of the £3 rate and provide a further report on whether, in the light of experience, it reconfirms its advice that 21 year-olds could safely be covered by the main rate.

## Luck of the Irish for Sisis

Sisis has extending its Sisis Direct initiative to include Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The SISIS Area Representative for Northern Ireland is Ian Mackay and for the Republic of Ireland Ewen Wilson, both of whom will be calling on customers old and new, very soon.

SISIS look forward to developing an even closer relationship with their Irish customers who will now be able to enjoy all the benefits of buying direct from the manufacturer.

# 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!

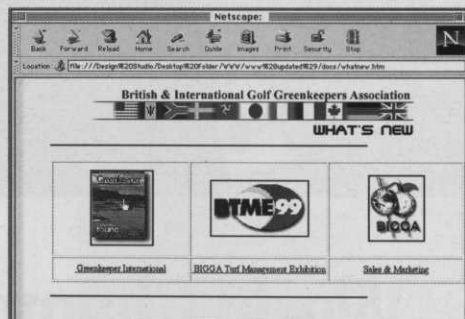
## wwwatching BIGGA on the web

**BIGGA's Website -**

<http://www.bigga.org.uk> - is currently listing information which is valuable and of interest to members.

- There is up to day information about all of BIGGA's Regional and National Training Courses and how to apply for them;
- Information about Membership benefits and how to join the Association if you are not yet a member;
- Magazine information including advertising rates
- What BIGGA currently offers by way of merchandise and prices
- Information about BTME 99.

The pages are updated every month



Mary	19.53	3.42	22.95	search
Steve	19.53	3.42	22.95	search
Blair (blair)	79.11	33.94	90.95	search
Valerie (blair)				
Mary	16.98	2.97	19.95	search
Tania	24.24	3.71	24.95	search
Management junior	66.81	8.19	55.00	search
Management senior	25.51	4.47	36.00	search
Management and (combined)	68.94	11.91	79.95	search
Tie	5.08	0.88	5.95	search
Cup	0.98	0.52	1.50	search
Blair's badge	18.17	1.76	11.95	search
Magazine (hard)	1.95	0.00	3.95	search
Magazine (softcover copy)	3.38	0.00	3.30	search
Valerie				
GC Preparation 1 number	12.72	2.25	14.95	view1
GC Preparation 2 number	25.40	4.46	29.95	view2
GC Preparation 3 number	12.72	2.25	14.95	view3
GC Preparation 4 number	25.40	4.46	29.95	view4
Magazine the monthly (hardcover)	12.72	2.25	14.95	view5
Magazine the monthly (softcover)	25.40	4.46	29.95	view6

## Spalding launches new brushcutter

Spalding has introduced a new 4-stroke technology to both the professional amenity management and agricultural markets.

The brushcutter features a state of the art, fuel efficient 31cc 4-stroke Honda engine which reduces both exhaust emissions and noise therefore improving operator comfort.

The engine crankshaft is carefully balanced to cut down vibration levels to a minimum increasing operator comfort and safety.

A larger 26mm diameter transmission shaft is fitted to cope with increased work loads and a larger 1 litre fuel tank is fitted to reduce the time needed for refuelling stops.

The brushcutter has all the standard features of the existing range such as electronic ignition, anti-vibration system, diaphragm carburettor system to ensure fuel reaches the engine in all working positions. Supplied with strimmer harness and interchangeable strimmer or brush



cutter heads, it can be ordered under product number 6823 and is priced at £423.00

For further information Tel: 01522 500600.

## Trojan trailer gallops ahead

The Trojan Trailer Greenkeepers' Caddy is a galvanised trailer which combines everything that is needed for carrying around the tools of the greenkeepers trade.

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The bolt on tool carrier is designed to accommodate all matter of ground care equipment safely and in secure compartments. Strimmers, rakes, flags, hole cutters etc are housed in one com-



partment while the other provides room for a wheely bin.

For further information Tel: 01749 850349.

## Date set for South West and South Wales Regional Seminar

The South West and South Wales Regional Seminar to be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 25 is year year being sponsored by Supaturf and Roffey.

The Seminar will be centred around Frank Newberry who will be talking and giving a workshop on "Making the Committee Work for You" Other speakers will include Ian McMillan, of Hankley Common, who will describe the work that went into winning both the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the BIGGA

Environment Competition in association with Amazone and Rhone Poulenc; Regular Greenkeeper International contributor, Tony Rees, who will talk about Health and Safety and Risk Assessments and Dave Philips, of Mommersteeg, who will talk on Seed Selection and its Implications. Supaturf and Roffey's will also have speakers.

The cost of the day is £15 for members and £22 for non-members inclusive of lunch. Applications forms can be obtained from Paula Humphries.

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In motor racing, Britain's Nigel Mansell was always the ultimate perfectionist. Now, as the owner of Woodbury Park Golf and Country Club, he is applying the self-same principles...



# Doing it right



Life in the fast lane? Nigel Mansell takes time out at Woodbury Park

In motor racing, Britain's Nigel Mansell was always the ultimate perfectionist. Furthermore, with 31 Grand Prix victories to his credit, few will argue that he "got it right" more often than his fellow competitors. Now, as the owner of Woodbury Park Golf and Country Club, he applies the self-same principles; his byword on course maintenance being: 'If you are going to do it, do it right, or don't bother doing it!'

There's a learning experience in that statement alone, one which is especially applicable to the golf course manager, for where machinery is concerned he must ensure that he has the right mowing equipment; allowing himself a head start in the race for superiority in golf course grooming.

To draw further from the motor racing analogy, had Mansell in his championship years enjoyed the racing cars used today by Schumacher or Hakkinen, the likelihood is that he would have won not 31 Grands Prix, but surpassed Prost's all-time record of 51 victories, for the racing car has evolved; far more sophisticated now than its counterpart of a decade or so earlier, yet surprisingly robust and infinitely more reliable. The same applies to grass cutting machinery.

So, do it right or don't bother doing it. Let's not forget that the golf game has evolved a great deal, and from early days of hickory and rams horn we've moved into boron spun fibres and space-age titanium. With this evolution, course conditions also have improved dramatically, so much so that today's level of maintenance is routinely equal to that which once was to be found only on a few very select courses.

Where to start is where smart thinking comes into play, for selecting a mower should begin by posing several questions concerning your own course conditions, your members' predilections and expectations, the type of terrain upon which you operate and the style of your greens, tees and fairways. In other words, assess the individual characteristics of your course and decide what you are trying to produce. If your members insist upon fast greens, only a mower that sits snugly upon the sward and glides effortlessly over the terrain will suffice, while if you're working with severe undulations, only light-weight machinery will meet your expectations and produce a smoother roll of the ball.

Machinery salesmen should be cultivated as a friend, indeed as your finest ally, for it is as much their responsibility to ensure that what you get is what you really want. Before assigning any order they should look thoroughly at all of your applications, knowing that if the mower doesn't deliver its promise they're unlikely to be around for a second chance.

Furthermore, a skilled salesman will look at the quality you've decided upon before applying his experience at selecting and demonstrating, weighing as carefully as you the challenge of finding a machine that, for instance, will cut wide areas of cultured turf yet still be efficient at grooming around the clubhouse, plus encircling trees and cutting banks without scalping.

Certainly a wide selection exists, with blade configurations and tournament bedknives, width of cut and thoughtful weight distribution now a matter of choice, while the



addition of turf-grooming fittings like verticutters, scientifically designed rollers, scraper rollers and guide wheels have all been introduced in recent years to make the grass cutter's task a more pleasurable one, and easier into the bargain.

Productivity has not been overlooked either, with many greenkeepers finding that wider cutting blades have not only increased their efficiency but produce a cleanness of cut that is unsurpassed. Trends in walk-behind machines have moved toward weight and weight distribution, the trend for slightly heavier machines meeting the demand for speedier and smoother greens without adding stress to the sward, while weight evenly distributed forward of the power unit removes any influence the operator might exert, while giving superior tracking. Fully

floating heads are another recent innovation, being easier to use and removing the weight variable of a fully loaded grass box.

Manoeuvrability in rough, trimming around immovable obstacles and long grass cutting is another factor that comes to the fore, thus the zero-turn machine has found an enthusiastic audience following the recent spell of unseasonably wet weather, which has tested the mettle of all grass cutters. As such galloping growth continues, those who put their trust in heavy-duty zero turn radius machines have had the last laugh.

Manufacturers today, acutely aware of labour costs and depreciation, are building many unseen and unsung benefits into their machinery which at first appear to be only a small part of the equation. If price is your main consideration, perhaps you should spare a



Woodbury Park boasts an impressive shedful of Ransomes equipment

moment to consider the inclusion today of many more sealed units, while preventative maintenance routines, the life blood of every working machine, have been made easier, in turn preventing premature failure, increasing the life of the unit and avoiding unnecessary down time. Operating comfort also is considered paramount, so noise levels are reduced by efficient dampening, controls fall more easily to hand, while access to engines and other components has become simplicity itself.

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Mr Roger Shaw, Course Manager, Ramside Hall Golf & Country Club, County Durham

"Our sole plates/bottom blades are now lasting between 2-3 times longer than when we were spin grinding".

Mr Philip Baldock, Head Greenkeeper, The Royal Portrush Golf Club, County Antrim, (now Course Manager, Ganton Golf Club, North Yorkshire)

"It is the best piece of machinery this course has ever invested in, a fine machine that I would recommend to anyone".

Mr John Bashford, Head Greenkeeper of the Green Hotel Golf Course, The Kinross Estate

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Mr Derek Green, Head Greenkeeper, Royal Liverpool Golf Club



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## Facts

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**Marcus Hamon was selected for BIGGA's Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open at Birkdale. It provided him with enough memories to last a lifetime.**

# A week to remember



## **8th May 1998**

The 8th of May arrives, along with my letter of acceptance. I am over the moon and can't quite believe this is happening. The 14th of July can't come quick enough.

## **Tuesday 14th July**

Eventually 14th of July arrives, the alarm goes off at 7.00am. I am set for a long day ahead. I have breakfast and set off for the Airport, my flight leaves at 10.20am - I'm now getting excited.

Arrive at Manchester Airport at 12noon and catch the 1.05pm train to Southport. Arrive at 2.30pm and find the hotel straight away at approximately 3pm. Check in and get unpacked. It starts to rain, but can't wait and I set off back to the

station for Hillside, the stop for Birkdale. Get to the Course at 4pm and start to savour the atmosphere - it's absolutely brilliant and it's only Tuesday. Have a good look around, a links course, not dissimilar to my own, at least my experience will be of benefit. Set off back to the hotel, get showered, changed and go down for dinner, meet some of the other guys who have arrived early.

## **Wednesday 15th July**

Back down to the Course it's official practice day and I follow Faldo, Els and young Justin Rose, it's only 13 months ago that Justin was playing my course at L'Ancrese in Guernsey in the Hampshire Championship. He looks a great talent for the future. (If only I had put that bet on!)

## **Wednesday Night**

Briefing at hotel where we were issued with all the gear, shirts, jackets and waterproofs. I volunteer for divotting in the evening - first chance to walk the course and I want to make the most of every minute. I was surprised that divotting included removal of all divots previously replaced and filling with a sand/soil/seed mixture to present the course and playing surface to best effect. As the fairways were cut in the evening if divots had dried out or the birds had turned them over before the morning the players could have been left with a poor lie.

## **Thursday 16th July**

Drawn a match at 10.35am Loren Roberts, Greg Chalmers and Santiago

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Luna. Loren Roberts is absolutely brilliant and talks all the way round while knocking it around in 66.

Coming off the 18th he gives me his glove - What a way to start.

#### Friday 17th July

Early start raking bunkers. We set off at 5.30am. The weather is terrible it is pouring down with rain, but spirits are high the thought of going out with Tom Lehman, Mark James and Ernie Els keep me going. The weather is expected to clear. The R&A started to get concerned about green flooding, but Chris Whittle, Head Greenkeeper, knows his Course and the preparation he has put in. He was right, the wetting agent and hollow tining worked, no squeegees were needed, although they were distributed to susceptible greens as a precaution.

Tee off times arrives, on the tee absolutely soaked through but forecast is still for an improvement. Halfway round the rain stops, the suns out and waterproofs are off - what a way to finish.

#### Saturday 18th July

I welcome the lie in. Bus leaves at 8am and my match isn't until 11am. Chance to do some shopping - must keep the wife happy. Arrive on the 1st tee and the atmosphere is electric - pity the golf isn't. Go out with American Mark Brooks and young Spanish Amateur Sergio Garcia. The wind spoils it. Very windy, never mind Sunday will be better.

Back at the hotel and hoping to get a match on Sunday - I am given match 37 at 2pm - someone in contention I can't believe it. I get showered and changed and pop into town for a few drinks, but must get back early to see the highlights and who match 37 might be.

Watching the highlights it becomes clear, it could be, Tiger Woods, I can't build my hopes up, will wait and see but will keep my fingers crossed.

Saturday night - can't sleep.

#### Sunday 19th July

Arrive at Course and check matches, can't believe it is Tiger Woods, just when I thought it couldn't get any better.

The morning drags, eventually 1.50pm arrives and I make my way to the 1st tee, still can't believe my luck.

2pm and off we go, Tiger, nine minders, three Policemen, dozens of cameramen, buggies and myself.

Tiger does not get off to a great start and three putts the 1st, but birdies the 2nd. The round goes on and is nothing special until we get to the 15th which he birdies. He is now only two shots behind. He pars 16, but chips in at 17 for birdie and also birdies the 18th. The atmosphere walking down the 18th with the World No.1 is electric and when he rolled the putt in it was deafening - it made the hairs on the back of my neck stand on end.

Tiger's caddie, Fluff, gave me the ball which I will treasure for the rest of my life.



Sat by the 18th and watched the few last matches and the play off come through. A perfect end to a brilliant week. The course had stood up well to the intensive play and ravages of both the weather and number of spectators all over the Course.

Sunday night after dinner and a couple of beers still can't get to sleep, head is still up in the clouds. Can't believe this has happened to me. Coming from a small Island like

Guernsey to Birkdale and The Open was a dream come true and to walk the fairways with the world's best golfers is something I will treasure for the rest of my life.

My thanks to everyone at BIGGA for an absolutely brilliant week.

Many thanks also go to my employer the States Works Department who are the contractors for maintaining the L'Ancrese Golf Course in Guernsey.

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**Ken Richardson gives details on competition progress and outlines a host of education opportunities available to greenkeepers...**

# ON WITH THE JUDGING...



**The BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition in Association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhône Poulenc Amenity**

This Competition is progressing well with Bob Taylor from STRI and Dr Keith Duff from English Nature reaching the final stages of judging. The Regional Winners and the National Winner will be informed as soon as possible. His Royal Highness the Duke of York has agreed to open the Askham Bryan Golden Jubilee Conference on Golf and the Environment on Wednesday, October 21, 1998, and, in addition, His Royal Highness has kindly agreed to present the prizes for this Competition.



## **TORO Student of the Year Competition 1998**

After six very difficult days of judging, the TORO Student of the Year Judging Panel comprising Peter Mansfield, from Lely, Pat Murphy, Immediate Past Chairman and myself, with David Cole, from Lely, deputising for Pete in the South East Region, finally selected the eight National Finalists. We had to make some difficult decisions as all students nominated for the Competition have been selected, from a large number of college students and the Standards were extremely high.

This not only makes them all win-

ners, but it also makes the final selection even more difficult. The National Finalists are; Gary Gruber and Stephen Myers, both representing Elmwood College; Richard Atkin, representing Myerscough College; Mark Allen and Sally Doherty, both representing Warwickshire College; Paul Shelley, representing Oaklands College; Jeff Mills, representing Cannington College, and Nicholas Webber representing Greenmount College.

Congratulations to all eight National Finalists and commiserations to all those not selected.

The National Finals will take place at Aldwark Manor on Monday October 26.



## **TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition**

Following a meeting of the judges, in York, six finalists were selected for the National Final which will take place on Monday 26 October, alongside the Student of the Year Competition. The six judges, Jimmy Nielsen, Barry Heaney, Bill Lawson, Paddy McCarron, Eric James and Gordon Child had a very difficult job selecting six finalists as the standards, this year, were extremely high. The six finalists are John Quinn, from Elmwood College Golf Course; Andy Campbell, from Carden Park Golf Resort, Hotel and Spa; John Coleman, from Abbeydale Golf Club; Peter Wisbey, from the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa; Allan McDougall, from Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, and Richard Whyman, from Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club.

Congratulations to all six candidates and thank you to all those who took part or nominated candidates, helping to make the Competition a success.

# TOP OF THE CLASS?

## **The Learning Experience sponsored by Textron Turfcare and Speciality Products**

Following BTME 1998, Ransomes became part of the Textron Company and sponsorship of the Learning Experience is now provided by Textron Turfcare and Speciality Products. Thanks to Textron's generosity, the Learning Experience 1999 will provide an incredible range of training for every category of greenkeeper, at the National Education Conference, Workshops and BTME Seminars, at a very low price. Watch out for full details appearing in the October Edition of Greenkeeper International.

## **Aldwark Manor and Local Training Courses**

Applications for both Local and Aldwark Manor Courses are arriving at HQ at a steady rate. However, some courses do not have any delegates registered and the deadline for deciding if and when to cancel courses is fast approaching. Send your application to HQ today. Courses with insufficient delegates are:

**Golf Course Design in Northern Ireland, Plymouth and Swansea.**

**Project Management in Northampton.**

**Pesticide Management in Falkirk.**

**Interviewing Skills in Falkirk.**

**Report Writing at Aldwark Manor, Maidstone and Hemel Hempstead.**

**Employment Contracts at Taunton.**

**Health and Safety at Taunton, Nottingham, Bournemouth and Aldwark Manor.**

That was the bad news.

The good news is that we have had a such a demand for the Essential Management Skills Course at Chester on 3 and 4 December 1998, that we have arranged another course at the same hotel on 1 and 2 December 1998. Additionally, the Irrigation Workshop, at Walsall is now full. An Irrigation Workshop will, however, be held as part of the Learning Experience, at Harrogate in January 1999.

Please note that the date given in the August edition of Greenkeeper International for the Chester Essential Management Skills Course was incorrect.

As outlined above, these courses will take place on 1-2 and 3-4 December 1998. Additionally, the date for the

Golf Course Design Construction and Establishment at Newcastle, Co Down will take place on 24-25 November, and not as previously stated in the magazine.

## **Managing Effectively**

This two-day course enables delegates to understand and practise the basics of managing their staff. Subjects include; management style, team building, communications and motivation.

**Cost £570 + VAT including lunch on both days.**

No, this is not a BIGGA course but a nationally advertised course available this Autumn. However, BIGGA does run a course that covers similar topics and includes accommodation, for a mere £30 + VAT. Moreover, BIGGA offers a wide range of courses designed to meet the needs of all greenkeepers, all at low prices. This does not mean that we reduce the quality of training, we subsidise the costs of local courses from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund to make the Courses as widely available as possible. As I wrote in last month's magazine, use them or lose them.

## **Vocational Qualifications**

New vocational qualifications for golf greenkeepers were introduced in September 1997.

This meant that the old qualifications i.e. the Level 2 NVQ in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) award number 0326-02 and the Level 3 NVQ in Amenity Horticulture (Sportsturf) award number 0326-03, would be phased out. City and Guilds have stated that the last date of certification for the old Level 2 award will be 31 May 1999 and that the last date of certification for the old Level 3 award will be 31 May 2000.

For candidates in Scotland, the Scottish Qualifications Authority have stated that the last date of certification for the old Level 2 award will be 30 October 1999 and that the last date of certification for the old Level 3 award will be 30 October 2000. Therefore any candidate registered on the old awards should ensure that they provide evidence of competence for all units of the awards before the cut off dates. The new qualifications are not affected by this ruling. Further information may be obtained from BIGGA HQ, or, from the Greenkeepers Training Committee.

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

## Old ways are often the best...

Referring to Bill Pile's letter on earthworm control the banning of Chlordane, (with an appeal against the original decision being dismissed) is irreversible. Those who are not already aware of the insidious invasion and control of all aspects of the U.K., not just greenkeeping, by Brussels should remember that if we ever do have a referendum on eg. a common currency, once the pound is lost it is lost for ever. Think on when opting for

change - the pound is rather more important than Chlordane. It is accepted that Brussels' decision on Chlordane was swayed because it was not used at all widely in Europe so a ban would affect virtually only the UK.

But there are alternatives, even on a big scale, namely to acidify the soil with eg. sulphur or its derivatives. Anyone who has seen muddy open weedy worm-casted 'agricultural' fair-

ways transformed in a year to fine wiry *Agrostis* turf, with better drainage and especially winter play, will need no convincing. Trials to determine optimum rates before mass application are sensible. We were doing this over 60 years ago - the old ways should never be despised or overlooked.

J.H. Arthur  
 Budleigh Salterton  
 East Devon

## Open thanks

On behalf of the Championship Committee, the members of Royal Birkdale and, also personally, I would like to thank all the BIGGA members who helped at the recent Open Championship. Their contribution was invaluable and helped to ensure a successful Open. The course presented during the week was immaculate.

I hope to see you all again at another Open at Royal Birkdale in the not too distant future.

P.K.M. Rostron  
 Captain

## High praise for Scottish entrants in Excellence Award

As an Assessor for the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping I would like to take this opportunity to thank the greenkeepers I visited for their organisation and hospitality which I received on my tour of the Scottish Region golf clubs.

I found that the golf courses were of a very high standard and facili-

ties for the staff were amazing at some of the clubs. Having said that, there are still some clubs which require to move into the Millennium with updated facilities. No doubt this will happen.

While there can be only one winner I have to say there were no losers in this competition. Head

Greenkeepers who entered are all winners in my opinion. They opened their clubs for inspection, accepted me as an equal and I enjoyed every visit I made.

I hope I get the opportunity to do a similar exercise in the future. It gave me great pleasure to be asked by the Association - through

Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson - to do the assessments for the Scottish Region and I thank Ken and Sami for their assistance and hospitality during our meeting in York.

Jimmy Neilson  
 Scottish Region Chairman



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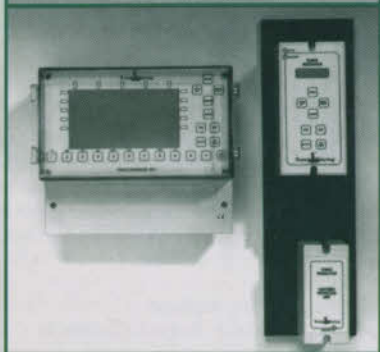
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This month Greenkeeper International has visited two excellent courses which are different in so many ways. One is a members club, the other proprietary owned; one is 100 years old the other less than 10, while one has a Head Greenkeeper who has been at the club for less than a year, the other designed and built the golf course on which he now works. The one thing that Tolladine and Fingle Glen have in common is that they are both nine holers...



Done Up  
to the Nines

# One hundred not out

**Bruce Stanley visits Tolladine Golf Club near Worcester, which is celebrating its centenary this year, and finds a club with a great deal going on.**

On a clear day, the locals reckon that five counties can be seen from the combined 5th and 14th tees perched close to the highest point of Tolladine Golf Club, some 500ft above sea level.

However, when the clouds are low and rain is sweeping in from the Malvern Hills to the south-west, you will be lucky to make out the square-set tower of Worcester Cathedral, standing high above the city less than one mile away.

Not that Head Greenkeeper, Tim Davies, is too concerned. For looking at the scenery is one thing for which he has had little time since taking up his new position in October 1997.

"Although a number of holes enjoy spectacular views, the principal objective over the past year has been to raise standards and get the course into the best possible condition for its centenary year," commented Tim.

Founded in December 1898 by a group of Worcester dignitaries, the club has never had more than 14 holes. The present nine hole layout at Tolladine has been in existence since the late 1930s when almost 30 acres of land were claimed by the War Office for the building of a hospital.

Today, the course has 14 tees and nine fairways laid out on just 31.5 acres. An additional 14.5 acres rented from the Severn Trent Water

Authority provides alternative tees and fairways on the 4th and 15th holes for those golfers wishing to stretch their legs and play a different shot towards the combined 4th/13th and 6th/15th greens.

Although there is obviously very little spare land available, the undulating meadowland course still provides an excellent test of golf over its 5,432 yards - requiring 33 shots on the outward nine and 34 on the return to make par.

Tim Davies was one of three applicants short listed for the Head Greenkeeper's position at Tolladine when it was advertised in summer 1997.

Previously First Assistant at the nearby Ombersley club, Tim was delighted when his appointment was confirmed.

"However, I was concerned at the untidy condition of the course on my first proper inspection," he recalls.

"The sand in all 31 bunkers had become compacted and the grass had been allowed to grow to fairway length or longer around every green. The ball rarely moved from its landing place if it had been chipped in a little too hard or soft. There was also excessive wear on the approaches to tees and between tees and fairways where trolleys and feet had eroded the turf, causing a muddy mess in wet weather."

The club's machinery fleet also gave Tim cause for concern.

"Although two new Jacobsen walk-behind greens mowers had recently been purchased, my heart sank when I saw the age and condition of the other equipment," commented Tim.

"I realised that there was little chance of reaching an acceptable standard during our centenary year with the existing machines. Ground-driven gangs are simply not suitable for cutting fairways in the 1990s."

Fortunately, the club's members

Crushed brick has been laid on five high-wear pathways around the course. This path links the 5th and 7th tees to their respective fairways.



# One hundred not out

agreed to a proposal by the committee that a refund of VAT should go towards the purchase of a new fairway mower and tractor.

"We looked at just about every fairway mower on the market before settling on a John Deere 3235A," said Tim.

"Although all the machines performed really well when mowing, the feature which swayed the decision is the ease with which cutting height can be altered on the John Deere. Moving from 15mm or 19mm on the fairways to 27mm or 35mm for the semi-rough simply involves relocating two pins. Assistant greenkeeper and operator, Trevor Dawson, is now cutting all the fairways in five hours instead of two days."

The new tractor with mid-mount mower is used principally by assistant Wayne Kings to maintain the rougher grass and to trim among the

many trees lining the fairways. Engaged on mowing for up to three days a week, it has transformed the appearance of previously untidy areas which had been causing problems for the slightly wayward golf shot.

Having created a clear definition along the edges of the fairways, Tim has been using a pair of hand mowers to produce two different grass heights around all nine greens.

"The approaches are now cut at 15mm, the same height as the tees," he explained.

"I have also introduced an 8mm step around every green. The greens are cut no lower than 4.5mm, using the new pedestrian green mowers. The result has been a notable improvement in the overall appearance of the course, generating good response from members and visitors."

Thanks to the speed of cutting the fairways and semi-rough, the maximum 18 hours a week now required to "step" the greens' aprons and surrounds has not eaten into the time required for other course maintenance work.

Apart from introducing a regular grass-cutting schedule, Tim has also managed to renovate many of the club's existing tees and complete the rebuilding of two new tees.

Renovation started in March and involved thorough slit and tine aeration, followed by scarifying, overseeding and top dressing. A 12:4:6 granular fertiliser application ensured a good flush of growth when soil temperatures rose.

The tee building project was one of the first jobs undertaken by Tim when he arrived at Tolladine.

"The old 3rd and 12th tee was suffering from very high wear so we have constructed a brand new larger tee a short distance away and levelled off the existing 3rd tee," he commented.

"The 1st and 10th are now completely separate tees at two different levels, created by levelling a large quantity of soil adjacent to the original combined tee."

Last autumn and winter also saw Tolladine's greenkeeping team build or upgrade five important pathways and carry out repairs to walls and banking within and around the club's car park.

Using compacted crushed brick, the improvement to the paths and former walk ways has been a major success, halting erosion damage and eliminating the quagmire and mud slides which previously followed heavy rain.

"I believe the changes seen on the course over the past year fully vindicate the members' decision to direct the VAT refund towards new equipment," commented out Tim Davies.

"However, there is still plenty of work to do to maintain and improve standards."

One such out-of-season project involves installing plastic pipe from a storage tank beside the 14th tee to the only green on the course not yet irrigated - the combined 9th and 18th. As this will involve traversing one of the steepest slopes at Tolladine, Tim envisages a fair amount of awkward manual labour.

"We would also like to lay crushed brick in the car park. First appearances are very important at any golf club," he said.

"No doubt, there will be new tees to work on and bunkers to improve, all of which now contain fresh sand."

"As far as machinery goes, it will soon be housed in brand new greens sheds which should be ready before the winter. The money for this project was earmarked by the members at last December's annual general meeting."

The Tolladine greenkeeping team. From left to right, assistant Wayne Kings, Head Greenkeeper, Tim Davies, and assistant, Trevor Dawson.



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**Bill Pile has every right to call Fingle Glen his golf course. As Scott MacCallum found out, he only designed, built and now maintains it.**



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# The course that Bill built



While Tim Davies is hard at work in the middle of Tolladine's centenary season in Worcestershire, Bill Pile, a good few miles further down the M5 at Fingle Glen Golf Club, in Devon, can rest easy in the knowledge that he won't have to cope with a similar situation... At least if he does he will also have an entry in the Guinness Book of Records. Why?

Well Fingle Glen, a marvellous nine holer with views over Dartmouth, is the course that Bill built, and if he were to be around when it hits its 100th birthday in 2089 he'd be a very old Head Greenkeeper indeed!

Bill, whose real roots are betrayed by a strong Midland accent, was given the almost unique opportunity for a greenkeeper of designing, building and then maintaining his own golf course and he performed, and is still performing, the last of these jobs with a passion and zeal which borders on the fanatical.

The fact that Bill is well known in the South West and South Wales Region for his forthright views on greenkeeping put him under extra pressure when just over ten years ago he accepted the challenge from a consortium of local businessmen who had bought the land with the aim of opening their own golf club.

"I really put myself on the line because if I'd built the course and it

was poor my reputation would have been shot," explained Bill, as he took me on a guided tour of his pride and joy.

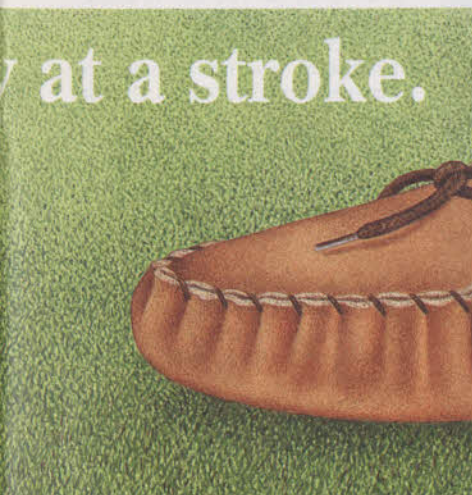
He needn't have worried because Fingle Glen is a little gem which tests all the skills of the golfer, not least their stamina, as the land over which the nine holes are laid out is decidedly hilly. Rather than have that as a handicap however, the hills are used to its advantage with views which could bring a smile even on a day when the putts aren't dropping.

Amazingly for a man who'd give you the impression that greenkeeping was coursing through his veins Bill had to be lured back to the challenge of Fingle Glen from a rep's job he'd taken when he had become a little disillusioned with the industry.

He was recommended to the consortium by the pro at CREDITON Golf Club where he had worked previously.

"I had redesigned the 15th at CREDITON and it was one hole which was singled out by Fred Hawtree as being an excellent hole when he had once visited the club," explained Bill, who takes pride in what he achieved at CREDITON.

Together with the CREDITON pro Bill studied the land and decided upon a layout taking into account the need for a substantial driving range which,



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# The course that **Bill** built

as a potential money maker, had to be given a key location on the site.

While not especially long Fingle Glen is no pushover as pros have discovered to their cost when they have paid a visit. Among the holes which stand out are the 5th, which requires supreme bravery off the tee or a long tough second shot and the 8th which is a down-hill par-3 to a small green which bears comparison with the short 11th at another course in the same part of the country - the Jack Nicklaus course at St Mellion.

Greens are cut into the hill side but to prevent golfers benefiting from shots played above the green and allowed to roll on swails have been built in the side of the slope to prevent this and offer instead a tricky little pitch. Thus the brave shot to the heart of the green is rewarded.

"I was very artistic at school and I suppose that was what gave me the ability to design a golf course," he says, by way of an explanation.

While not underestimating the challenge involved in designing the course perhaps it was in the building of it that Bill really earned his stripes.

Other than a week's holiday which had been booked before the project had begun Bill spent a year building

the course without a single day off.

"By the end of it I was so fit, I'd lost two stones, and I could have jumped over a house," said Bill, who at 51 still looks as though he could give Linford Christie a run for his money.

It was very much a hands-on affair with members of the consortium lending a hand with the work while Bill also found himself assisting with the construction of the clubhouse-hotel complex.

"When the builders arrived I'd make sure that everything they needed was in place for them as it saved time and therefore money," said Bill, who also turned his hand to fitting the huge Fingle Glen lettering to the side of the building and erecting flagpoles.

"I pretty much did everything except the wiring and I shudder to think of some of the things I got up to. If I'd sat a bit longer before getting stuck in I'd surely have thought better of it on many occasions."

On of the benefits of constructing his own course was that Bill was able to make sure that time and effort was put into the things that might otherwise cause problems in the long run.

"The greens were all built properly with herring bone drainage and

The Fingle Glen greenkeeping team; Bill Pile (centre), his son, (left) and Brian Ridgeway (right).

Below; This magnificent bridge was single-handedly built by Brian Ridgeway.



sometimes with the main drain on the low side with the others feeding in.

"The bunkers are also drained properly so water never lies in them."

That said the course isn't as totally maintenance friendly as you might suspect.

"If I felt that a hole would be a better one from the playing point of view I did it at the expense of maintenance because ultimately we are there for the benefit of the golfers after all," said Bill, and evidence of this comes in the shape of a huge bunker which guards the right hand side of the 9th green.

To create the base material for the greens Bill dug two huge ponds which themselves have become integral parts of the course with their fair share of wildlife to distract the golfer. One of them, on the right side of the 9th is a real ball magnet - ideally placed as it is for the educated slice.

The greens were all turfed in the October and the course opened on the 4th of July the following year, making it a real Independence Day for Bill. The entire golf course plus

the equipping of the maintenance shed was completed for the princely sum of £120,000 which even giving allowances for a decade of inflation shows what can be done with a degree of commitment, sweat, tears and a shrewd business brain - the maintenance equipment was bought predominately second hand.

"By the end of the year I was extremely tired but also immensely satisfied," explained Bill, who has been asked to offer advice on other projects.

His efforts were recognised by the owners who erected a plaque on a tree at the back of the 9th green crediting Bill for all the work he did on the course.

Unfortunately, however, the consortium was still finding its feet when the recession hit and interest rates rocketed and Fingle Glen went into receivership but the new owners have just as much faith in Bill's ability to maintain the course as his original employers had in his designing and building it.

He doesn't think it's an easy option maintaining a nine hole course a task he carries out with the help of his son, Bill, and Brian Ridgeway. Each of the holes has two tees to enable golfers to play 18 slightly different holes but he believes the problems of managing a nine holer are greater than those experienced on 18 hole courses.

"It is much harder to maintain a nine hole course than an 18 holer because each green is played twice so has around 80,000 rounds on them each. That gives severe wear problems."

You can bet that those problems provide just the sort of incentive Bill needs to get himself going in the morning as he laps up every moment on his own golf course.

"I'm delighted when people come, play and enjoy the course. It makes all the work worthwhile," he says, with true feeling.



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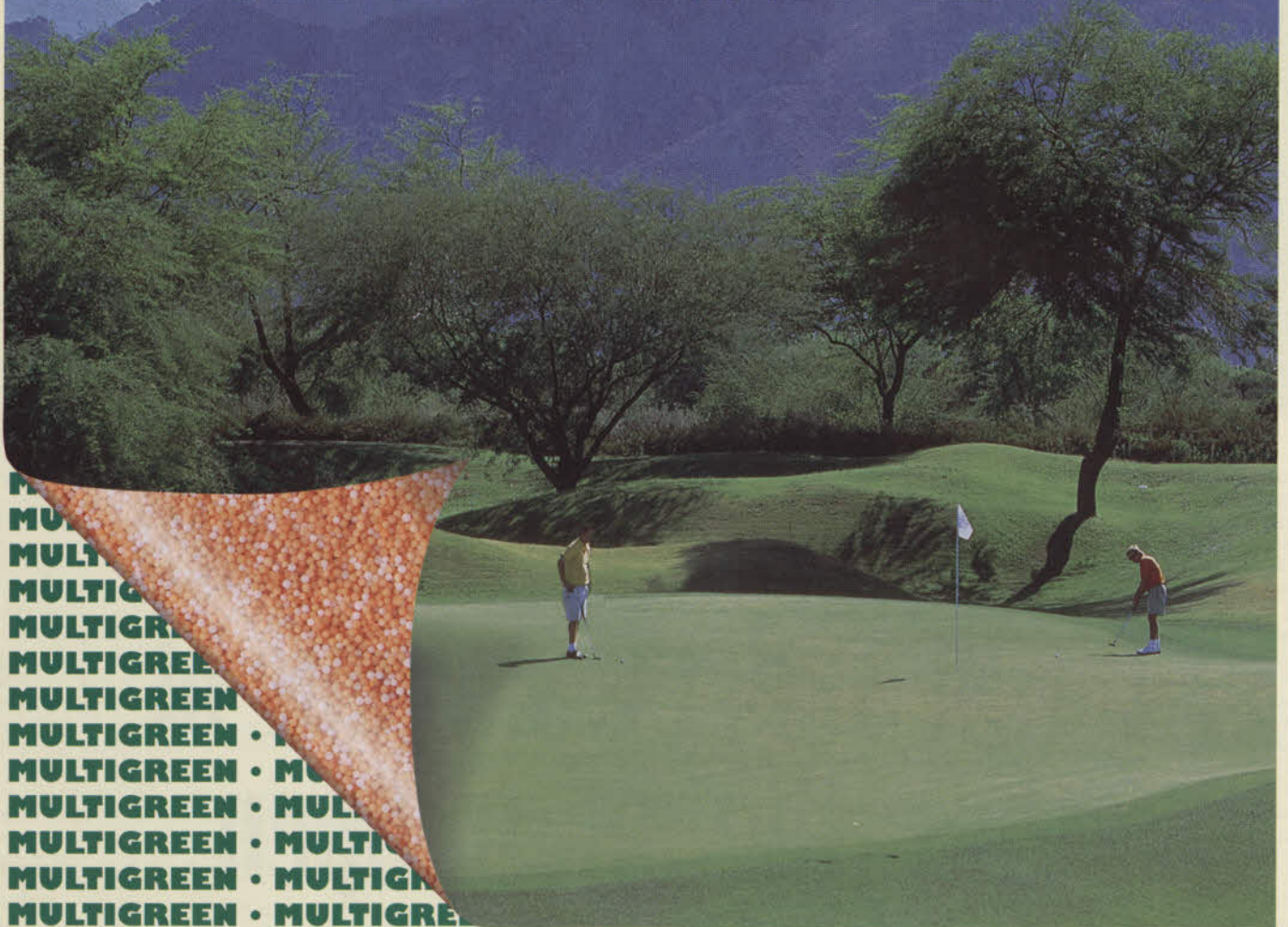


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**Is this the man with the country's biggest budget? Steve Clements ensures that Whitbread's Marriot stable of courses are up to scratch.**

# Hey, big spender



How would you like to be managing a budget of £7 million? Great! You'd be able to fulfil every dream, acquire every conceivable piece of new kit and get enough staff to ensure that all the regular jobs were carried out by 7am. Or would you be a tiny wincy bit intimidated by that sum of money and all the expectation of perfection that went along with it?

Well, Steve Clements, Golf Course Development Manager for Whitbread Plc, has just that sort of budget to ensure that the the company's four 36 hole developments, one 27, three 18 together with two new 18 courses, at Hollins Hall and Worsley, are each of the best possible quality.

With a background in golf course construction Steve is well placed to ensure that the new courses currently being built by Marriott, Whitbread's golf hotel arm, and the many other projects which are being carried out are done satisfactorily... and to budget.

Among the courses he's worked on are Hanbury Manor, where he was Construction Manager, Collingtree Park, The Warwickshire, Gerona, in Spain, for the PGA European Tour, and Quietwaters, now known as Five Lakes.

"I do believe that you should know more about an operation than the contractor. Not having that knowledge puts you in a very dangerous position and leaves you open to paying for extras you don't need.

"We don't have extras it is that simple... We don't have extras. We work out the budget beforehand and we do not go over budget.

Marriott owns the equivalent of 13 18 hole courses, each with a Course Manager or Golf Estates Manager, a Head Greenkeeper, First Assistant and full staff.

"We have a minimum of 100 greenstaff overall and I'm keen to look after them because I want them to stay with us and not go off because someone offers them more money. We would also like to encourage more good people to join us," explained Steve, during a stop off at Marriott Forest of Arden Golf and Country Club.

Steve's role involves him driving 1000 miles a week - he did 46,000 miles last year - leaving at 6am each morning and rarely being home before 7pm.



"I live in Solihull and our Head Office is in Luton but I spend a great deal of time travelling to our various properties. I just plan my day around avoiding the worst of the traffic black spots - north of Birmingham on the M6 at 4pm on a Friday or any time on the M25."

Once at one of the Marriott venues Steve meets up with the Course Manager and discuss the issues of the day and any problems he might be encountering.

"I like to meet on the hoof. The best way to see a golf course is to be on it so I like to walk and talk and look," explained Steve.

Ray Hunt, Golf Estates Manager at Forest of Arden, and the man responsible for preparing the course for this month's One 2 One British Masters, is delighted to have Steve in his camp.

"Having a guy like Steve in his position is a real change for us as Course Managers. He has great experience and knows his side of the business inside out. He can see things that we probably wouldn't," he explained.

"In the past we were always the Project Manager on site now we have an ally who knows all the nuts and bolts of the job," he added.

The money that Whitbread as a whole has spent in the last two years is simply staggering. Including its new projects at Heathrow; the new Travel Inn at County Hall in Central London and the two new courses, it is estimated at around £100 million.

"Last year my budget for the golf, including the two new courses, was £7 million," revealed Steve.

Each Course Manager is responsible for his own operational budget and sets these with the General Manager of the individual hotels.

"Around the same time I'll be working on the Capital expenditure budget. To do these I go around the courses with the Course Managers deciding where we need to inject money and make improvements. By the end of this year there will be a five year plan for each property in place and we'll know what has to be done," said Steve.

A tangible example of the benefits this can produce came at Forest of Arden when one of Steve's pet hates emerged from the wet winter.

"I particularly hate to see water in bunkers

# Hey, big spender

and there was no bunker drainage put in when the course was built. It is a clay site and the bunkers acted as swimming pools when the irrigation system was on let alone heavy rain. So we drained them all and we've had heavy rain this year and not one inch as stayed in the bunkers.

"Previously we would have had two or three guys in buggies with two inch pumps constantly working throughout a tournament pumping out water just for want of a properly draining bunker. Now that we've done it it's proved to be a great labour saving job."

One of the biggest frustrations at busy commercial operations like Marriott courses is the need to do the majority of construction work in the winter months.

"It is the quietest time for the hotel and the golf courses but when you get wet weather has we have done it can cost you a lot of money to spin wheels and burn diesel."

He is also well aware of the problems of trying to create an overall corporate identity for Marriott courses while at the same time retaining the individuality for the golf courses.

"I try to have continuity with the course furniture standardised tee markers etc but we allow for the fact that the courses are individual and we don't want to transport materials from Maidstone to Dalmaohy for example so pathways are locally derived. Similarly with top dressings. You are almost duty bound to top dress with the same material that the greens were built with in the first place."

One situation Steve has taken a corporate decision on is the use of fen soil.

"It is a smeary wet material and doesn't take heavy play when wet, and we have heavy play on our golf courses so we've moved away from fen soil."

"I identify the problem one year so I can budget for it the next," he explained.

He also highlights situations which may cause problems in the longer term.

"Greens which are too small

for the amount of play they are getting, greens in shaded areas, tees which are not big enough etc."

Steve meets with all the Course Managers, who include some of the most experienced men in the country, collectively three times a year.

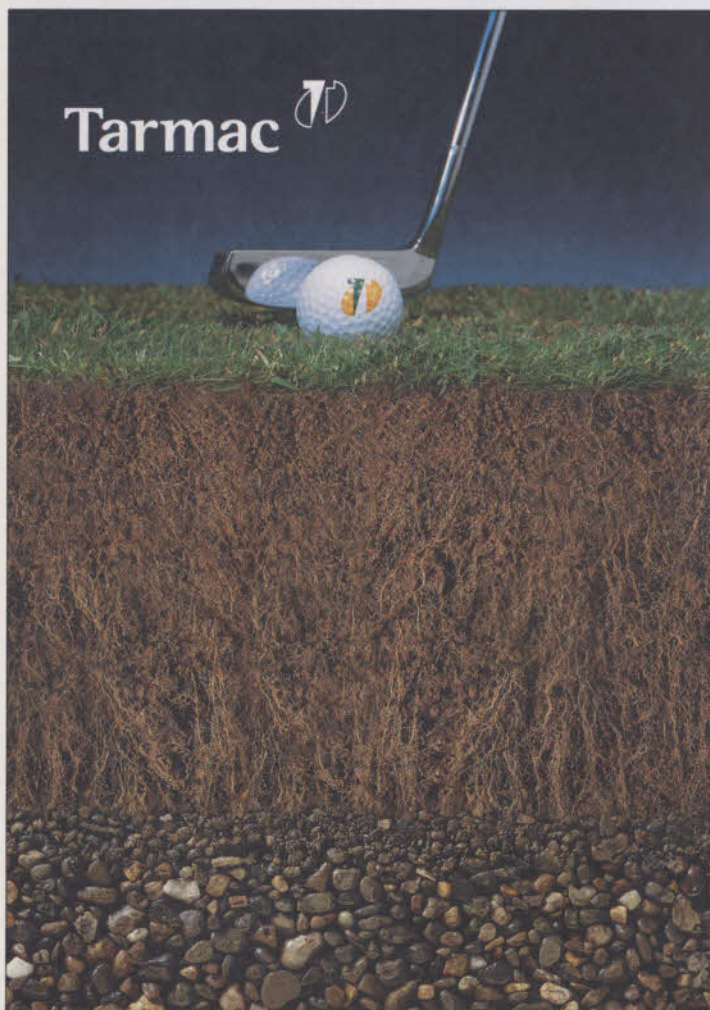
"We usually meet at one of their golf courses. We usually have a facilitator who is used to dealing with meetings and getting people to brainstorm. We end up with short, medium and long term improvements down on paper.

"What I'm trying to do is avoid the need for fire fighting and allow the Course Manager to focus on presentation. I want to take away the frustrating things from a Course Manager and enable him to deliver a quality golf course.

"There is a degree of expectation that we know a golfer has when he arrives at a Marriott golf course. That includes tees to be cut at 10-12 mm, moved every day and cut every three days and greens to be cut to a maximum of five mm and cut every day with the pins being moved every day as well," explained Steve.

Listening to Steve you hear a man who is relishing his job and the budgets he wields obviously doesn't weigh to heavily.

"Whitbread want to know why we want to spend the money so I have to do a lot of work explaining why things have to be done and whether they will get a return from every pound invested. But they do understand the need for it."



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**Terry Ryan, Sales and Marketing Director of Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd, charts a course to the top ten questions every turf grower must answer. Straight in at number ten...**

# The hit parade



British greenkeepers and Course Managers have always been an inventive and adaptable group. These days their broad based skills are being enhanced with improved training. This has led to the development of the professional greenkeeper/manager who is capable of tackling an increasing number of projects on the course.

It is now customary for Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers to have responsibility for controlling budgets which represent large amounts of expenditure for their individual clubs. Whether it's Wentworth or Worksop the principle is the same and the pressure is on to deliver value for money and a golf course that can take year round play in its stride.



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# The hit parade

**If you choose turf make sure of value for money and a result that will get you noticed by the greens committee and club members for all the right reasons**

To convey my idea of what constitutes value for money I invite you to invest five minutes and play a little game. You might learn something that will stand you in good stead for the rest of your career. Jot down on a piece of paper the names of ten famous companies. They can be from any industry from retailing to airlines. You decide. My only condition is that they must be famous and highly respected. Who is on your list? I put down Marks and Spencer, Virgin, BMW, Kentucky Fried Chicken (well I do spend a lot of time on the road), Tetleys (surprise, surprise), Shell, Ford, Sainsburys, Kodak and Sony.

Now ask yourself this... what stands out about these companies, what is it that they all have in common? Despite their very different backgrounds and industries, they have a common distinguishing feature. Of course they are all instantly recognisable, respected by their customers and they are profitable. So it's more than fame and fortune that links them.

If you are stumped the answer appears at the end of this article.

I have regularly been asked by greenkeepers what is the best way to identify good quality turf for use on greens and trees. Like most greenkeeping professionals the questioners usually have a copy of the current STRI turfgrass seed guide close at hand. This is because they recognise that it is an invaluable aid that makes an excellent starting point.

Sometimes even the obvious needs stating, so my first trip is to read the section on page two headed "using turfgrass seed 1998". This section states "cultivars at the top of each list may not be the best cultivars for every use". Bear in mind also that, whilst they do test individual cultivars extensively, even the STRI don't test mixtures made up of different seed types and that the turf you buy will usually contain at least two cultivars in the case of greens' turf, and usually at least four in the case of tees turf.

Having made these points it would be an unwise greenkeeper who did not actively seek out turf with seed types which are highly rated by the STRI. My point is that if you decide to use turf you will not be buying seed alone.

Whether to use seed or turf on a golf course depends on many variables such as application, the time available, the budget, and the best way to achieve your objective. As we all know top quality turf at the right price will get your green or tee back into play far sooner than seed. However poor quality turf that fails to perform is a highly visible and costly mistake. So you should certainly be price conscious but don't ever buy turf on price alone.

At first it may seem that there is no contest between seed and turf when it comes to price. In our industry no two situations are the same but you won't be surprised to learn that I strongly believe that cultivated turf has a strong case when it comes to cost. Getting a tee or green into play months (perhaps a year) sooner is a genuine and demonstrable benefit to any club competing for golfers green fees and especially to one where competitions and society days are a regular source of income. This may be obvious to you and me, but how often is this point actually discussed in committee?

As well as needing many months less time to come into play, turf also needs less water to get established than seed. Immediately after installation the water requirements of both options are much the same. However, in most cases (other than drought) turf only needs light watering for the subsequent three weeks or so. This is because grass blades shade bare soil from the sun thereby minimising evaporation which is considerable in warm (let alone hot) weather. This shading effect leaves much more of the water for its intended use. Cultivated turf can also win whatever the time of year because it offers the option of year round

# THE TOP TEN

**Terry Ryan,**  
Sales and Marketing  
Director of Rolawn  
(Turf Growers) Ltd

installation, even on frozen ground (however) this is not recommended when the ground is frozen to a depth of 50 millimetres or more).

It's also worth bearing in mind that cultivated turf is capable of accepting heavy rain without erosion or damage. This could be very important to those golf courses with a large number of raised tees. With up to 90% of the weight of a grass plant in its roots, turf is an efficient erosion prevention material. It seems odd to spend money on expensive root zone material and incur labour costs then take the risk of it being washed away by heavy rain. Especially when there are members waiting to play and societies wanting to part with cash.

Uniformity in the finished sward is also important. Turf has a head start here because you can visit the turf farm and see for yourself what the finished seed mixtures will look like. Most cultivated turf producers should be able to provide you with turf that has 99 to 100% uniformity. If you are considering spending hundreds, even thousands of pounds on turf, make it a golden rule to visit the turf farm, this is because just like wine makers turf growers are subject to the forces of nature and not every year is a vintage year. Samples are fine as a general indicator but there is no substitute for walking on a full field or two to evaluate what it is that you will actually be buying and living with for very many years.

If you choose turf make sure of value for money and a result that will get you noticed by the greens committee and club members for all the right reasons.

The answer to the famous names game? The one thing they all have in common is that none of them is renowned for being the cheapest company of their kind. Just one of the best.

So here they are, the ten key questions every turf grower must answer.

If they can't answer these think about spending that precious budget elsewhere.

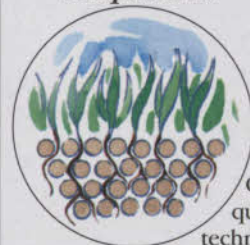
1. How old is the turf you are offering me? (the correct answer is 12 to 18 months - old turf is bad turf)
2. How can you prove to me what the age of your turf is?
3. Can you give me a certificate from an independent source to prove that the seeds you use have been tested for purity?
4. What are the names of the cultivars that you have sown in your turf and in what proportions have they been sown?
5. What is your estimate of the proportions of each grown species in the finished turf, how does this relate to what you have sown and how can you verify this?
6. What is the soil type that the turf has been grown on and what is its pH?
7. Can I have an independent analysis of both the soil type and the pH?
8. Can I visit your production fields at short notice? (The easy answer is "yes", if it is say "fine I will see you in the morning then").
9. When you arrive at the turf farm and walk on to the turf... ask on what date the turf was last fed and what with - important this - if you want to anticipate the turfs immediate requirements in its new location.
10. Can you take me through your quality control procedures? (Here you are looking for things like product traceability, detailed records of maintenance and feeding etc. and some form of independent testing).



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**Scottish Region**  
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**West of Scotland**

Well hello again, and after a few months of nothing, I'm back. Sorry about the absence but there wasn't a lot happening out there. There are a few things to bring to your attention this month though.

At the recent Scottish Outing over West Kilbride, the West Section tried in vain to retain their team trophy and although a reasonable turnout was evident, their performances were distinctly below par. Ayrshire came out easy winners, so maybe next year.

Jim Paton and his staff produced a very fine course, plenty of rough and out-of-bounds to which I fell foul. Thanks are extended to him for his efforts and the clubhouse staff for attending to our needs. Thanks also to the members of West Kilbride for extending courtesy of the course to the greenkeeping fellowship. Special mention must go to Peter Boyd for his hard work on the day completing the cards, starting and booking in. Well done Peter.

A new piece of news as well, my playing partner on the day was Elliot Small and we had an excellent game. I then discovered his new role due to the resignation of George Brown as Vice Chairman of BIGGA because of work commitments. Elliot is now the new Vice Chairman. Congratulations and I hope everything goes well for him. This year sees the retirement of another prominent member of the Association in Jim Nielson, Murrayfield Golf Club. Jim is at present the Chairman of the Scottish Region and has been Past Chairman and Secretary of the East Section. I hope he enjoys his retirement and his golf now. Best Wishes from the West Section.

Now for Section business. The outing at Cathcart may well have passed by the time this reaches you - if not it is September 10 and entries should be high as this is a new venue. I'm sure Robert Hogarth and his staff will be working all hours to have the course in trim, but it depends on the weather though, and I hope it is better than recently. The five-a-side tournament will have passed by now and a report will be in next month. Tickets for the Annual Dinner at Victoria's will be available at the Autumn outing - places are restricted to 60 and a £5 deposit is required. A different venue and format is planned so come along and enjoy yourself. The AGM for the section will be earlier this year although a date has not been set. Early October is likely. A game's night will follow as usual so be sure to come along as it is usually a good night. That's everything folks.

Stuart Taylor

**North**

Yet another three new members to the Section this month. We welcome Michael Carson, Caird Park; Ian Cowper, Tain, and George Clubb from Royal Dornoch. That is all five of my staff as members now, so anyone with non-members at their course get working on them as I did, they don't know what they are missing unless you tell them.

The two lucky winners of the Patron's Award this year are Stuart Hogg, Fortrose, and Ross Macleod, Tain. They win an expenses paid trip to BTME 1999 next January. All they had to do was attend more BIGGA events than other members, so next year it could be you if you attend events in the Section, Region and Nationwide. The first event to count was this month's Autumn outing at Alford, and the next one is the Section AGM at Moray GC, Lossiemouth on Thursday October 29 with golf laid on before hand, details will be sent out nearer the time. Another counting event will be the Section One-Day Conference, on Wednesday, November 25, at Craibstone, Aberdeen. Speakers lined up are Carol Borthwick, Elmwood College, on the role of the Assessor, Maurice Gray, SAC Craibstone, on the new golf course they have just built, Liz Thom an Archaeologist, a Representative from Envirogreen on the safe disposal of Pesticides etc, a Representative from Green-Release™ on beneficial microbes and how they can be utilised to assist the greenkeeper produce first class conditions, and, last but not least, one of our Scottish members is going to take us through the history of greenkeeper associations in Scotland. A wide and varied programme I am sure you will agree. The cost for the day, including lunch and coffee, has not been set yet but should be under £20 for BIGGA members, a bargain or what! We need a good turnout for this event to avoid losing money, so please come along and bring your Greens Convener, etc. Details will be in the post shortly or the programme and entry form will be in the October magazine, so let's make a great day of it. Finally, if anyone has seen the Summer, please tell it to come up North for a while!

Iain Macleod

**Ayrshire**

The Autumn outing has been confirmed for Loudoun Golf Club on Tuesday September 22 at a cost of £16.00. The day will consist of the usual format of morning coffee, Texas scramble, lunch, afternoon medal completed with high tea and presentation of prizes. Derek Wilson is on hand to accept your entry, he can be contacted on 01294 276177 so get your entry in for an enjoyable day.

As I pen these notes I am presently clearing out my desk at Beith Golf Club after enjoying a two week hand over period with my old colleague

from Routenburn Golf Club, Marshall Sloss.

I'm sure Marshall will continue to further develop the course at Beith and our best wishes go to him in his new position. I am moving back over the B760 road this time to the Kelburn course with Largs Golf Club. I am thoroughly looking forward to meeting some old and new acquaintances in Largs and the challenge that awaits me in my new position.

I send my apologies to Mark McBride at Beith Golf Club that I was unable to attend the Beith outing there due to my job move. I look forward to catching up with you soon Mark.

Next month's notes will be from our Chairman, Jim Paton. He can be contacted on 01294 823210. I shall be somewhere on the island of Minorca. What did you say! New job and foreign holiday as well. I'm glad my wife had it all booked prior to my appointment. See you soon.

Iain Barr.



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

**North West**

I can't let this month's news go by without mentioning The Open at Royal Birkdale. This must be one of the best Open venues for viewing and with the removal of many pine trees and scrub, this has improved the course immensely. The course was in perfect condition, with slick greens cut at 1/8th inch, firm but receptive. The fairways were exceptionally green for the time of the year, (due to the excessive amount of rain) and how nice it was to see them cut in traditional style, lengthwise, instead of looking like a patterned quilt. Chris Whittle, the Head Greenkeeper and his staff, worked hard on creating the rough which had been allowed to grow, creating a further hazard for the players and making the fairways look narrower than they were.

The course proved itself in more ways than one. Firstly, none of the players ran away with exceptional scores, which proved the difficulty of the course. Secondly, and most importantly, the course stood up to the heavy rain that we had for three of the days. The greens showed no signs of flooding, even though squeegees were at the ready and this can only reflect the great work done by Chris and his staff in preparing the course to perfection. I would like to thank the Greenkeeping Support Team for their help, especially the guys who turned out early for raking bunkers and the guys who stayed late for divoting.

Steve Hopkins is on the move from Knutsford GC. Steve will be taking over as Head Greenkeeper at Stand GC in September when Eric Palin retires after, I believe, about 35 years.

Just a reminder that we have the Autumn Tournament at Dean Wood GC, on Thursday September 17. You will need to register no later than September 10. Any entries after this date will not be accepted. All entries including a cheque for £15 must be sent to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Walton, Liverpool L4 9RB. Lunch will be served between 12noon-1pm. The tee is available from 1.30pm and tee times will be allocated on the day. That's it for now, any news or queries ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross.

**Cleveland**

Once again very little news for last month. Brancepeth GC Green keepers' shed was broken into and £9,000 of gear was stolen. The thieves stole the gear at 2.45pm on a very sunny afternoon. Of course, the police said you can forget about getting any of it back. Now there's faith in the system. Up here the police are still looking for Dick Turpin. On a much lighter note, congratulations to Roger Shaw, Course Manager at Ramside GC and his lovely wife Olwyn, on the birth of their second child, a little baby girl who is called Helen and is a healthy 7lb 14. She'll make a nice playmate for Andrew. Both mother and daughter are fine. Roger told me there will be no more now. Of course this was said in confidence but I know it will go no further. Just don't mention shears when he's there.

Well the next time you read my column we will have played our Autumn Tournament which is at Teesside GC on October 13, tee off time 10am. I hope some one will have some news for me, as its hard enough trying to find something to write about.

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop

**North Wales**

Summer, what's all that about then! It's now the beginning of August and I think we've all had drier winters, I think my mowers have done the equivalent of two seasons cutting this year, I haven't used the irrigation except to see if it still works. Wetting agents? I need drying agents! Fusarium on the greens in July and August, well there's a novelty, I mean I've been in the profession 25 years and never witnessed that before. The only "furse" I usually see on the greens at this time of year is ex-police on index-linked disability pension! Ooh er social comment!

As you can most probably tell, I ain't got much to write about this month, no one's been in touch with any information except the Welsh College. In line with GTC policy for personnel development the college will be offering guidance and support to mature experienced greenkeepers wishing to progress to Level 3 to enable a higher level of work place assessment. This course would be specifically designed for the individual greenkeeper to bring forward evi-

dence from the work place for accreditation of prior learning. Anyone interested should contact either Phil Davies or Graham Wright at the college on 01352 841000.

Well, I'm on holiday next month so don't expect any Section news, unless there is anything really important. As you read this I'll be in an alcoholic haze somewhere in Ibiza. Now where're my wellies. See ya.

Dave Goodridge

**Northern**

Due to the original President's Day Tournament having to be cancelled due to inclement weather, another date and venue was soon arranged by the Section's President, Mr Mel Guy. The competition was eventually played on July 29 at South Leeds. The weather once again started miserably with rain for the first few groups going out. Eventually the rain cleared up and the sun managed to show its face at times.

The results for the day were as follows; Division 1, 1. Richard Harris; 2. Dave Collins; 3. Glynn Hewitt. Division 2, 1. Robin Smith; 2. John Waite; 3. Alan Baxter. Division 3, 1. Richard Smith (winner of the Bill Mountain Trophy); 2. Andrew Smith; 3. Jim Brown. Trade Prize, 1. Andy Law. Many thanks to Mel for arranging the competition and also for sorting out the prize table. Thanks to everyone for playing at such short notice and making it into such an enjoyable day.

Only the Winter golf on December 9 at Keighley Golf Club remains to be played. This will be followed by our Annual General Meeting. Anyone wishing to book a place please contact me in good time, as these will be limited. Anyone with any information from within the section please contact me at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA or phone on 0411 601420 or 01484 317813.

Simon Heppenstall



Midland Region  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01480 437507

**Midland Region Seminar**

Midland Region Seminar, November 18, 1998 will be held at Mentmore Golf & Country Club, near Leighton Buzzard, commencing at 9am. The programme and attendance applications will be sent to BIGGA members in the Midland Region inside this issue of Greenkeeper International magazine.

If members want additional copies of the programme or do not get a copy, please advise the Midland Regional Administrator. The speakers and subjects will be; Eddie Seaward, Head Groundsman at Wimbledon Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, Preparing Wimbledon; Billy

McMillan, Course Manager - Wildwood Golf Club, A Golf Course from Seed to Play; John Farrington, Bailey's of Norfolk - Soil Analyst, Soil Analysis in relation to production of compatible turf dressing; John Westrope, Groundscare Manager - Farming & Agricultural Finance Ltd, Budgeting for New Machinery; John Mullins, Supaturf - Regional Sales Manager, Water Management; Steve Lucas, European Product Manager - Fulcrum, Bacteria in the soil; Jon Allbutt, Health & Safety Expert, Risk Assessment - Where did we go wrong?; Tracey Maddison, BIGGA Membership Services Officer, Membership Services Explained.

Peter Larter

**BB&O**

The summer golf day at the Oxfordshire sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity Products proved very successful despite our continued bad luck with the weather. Although David was kind enough to allow us to play from the normal tees of the day, Brian was not so forgiving with some of his pin placements causing me much embarrassment! Somebody once told me you should never laugh at another golfer's poor shots. Well obviously my playing partners, Adrian, Brett & Vincent don't abide by this unwritten law because they were almost crying with laughter as I attempted to finish out on the 10th. Having almost holed my second shot from the fairway a solid par looked odds on, however, four putts later a 6 was the outcome I actually three putted from inside a foot! Despite my own misfortune there were some great scores posted and the eventual winner shot 77 gross which was fantastic golf in the testing conditions; 1. Paul Young, 37pts, 2. David Gower, 36pts (last seen riding a horse & wearing a sombrero)! 3. John Scoones, 31pts, 4. Justin Lee (speaks fluent Mexican)? 5. Jim Payne, L.D Paul Young, NP 13th Peter Critchley (superb golf shot over the water), NP 18th Bob Woodward, Wooden Spoon, Matthew Pullen (Pts withheld to save blushes), Best Trade, Tim Webb.

Many thanks to the Oxfordshire for their hospitality shown on the day. The course was fantastic as always which is great credit to David Gower and his team. The food was second to none, thanks to Penny for organising the menu, it really was first class.

Finally, many thanks to Colin White from Avoncrop Amenity for providing all the fabulous prizes, not only to the winners but every competitor was given a keepsake to remember the day, that was a nice touch indeed. Next event is at Harleyford (Marlow) on October 1.

Lindsay Anderson

**Midland**

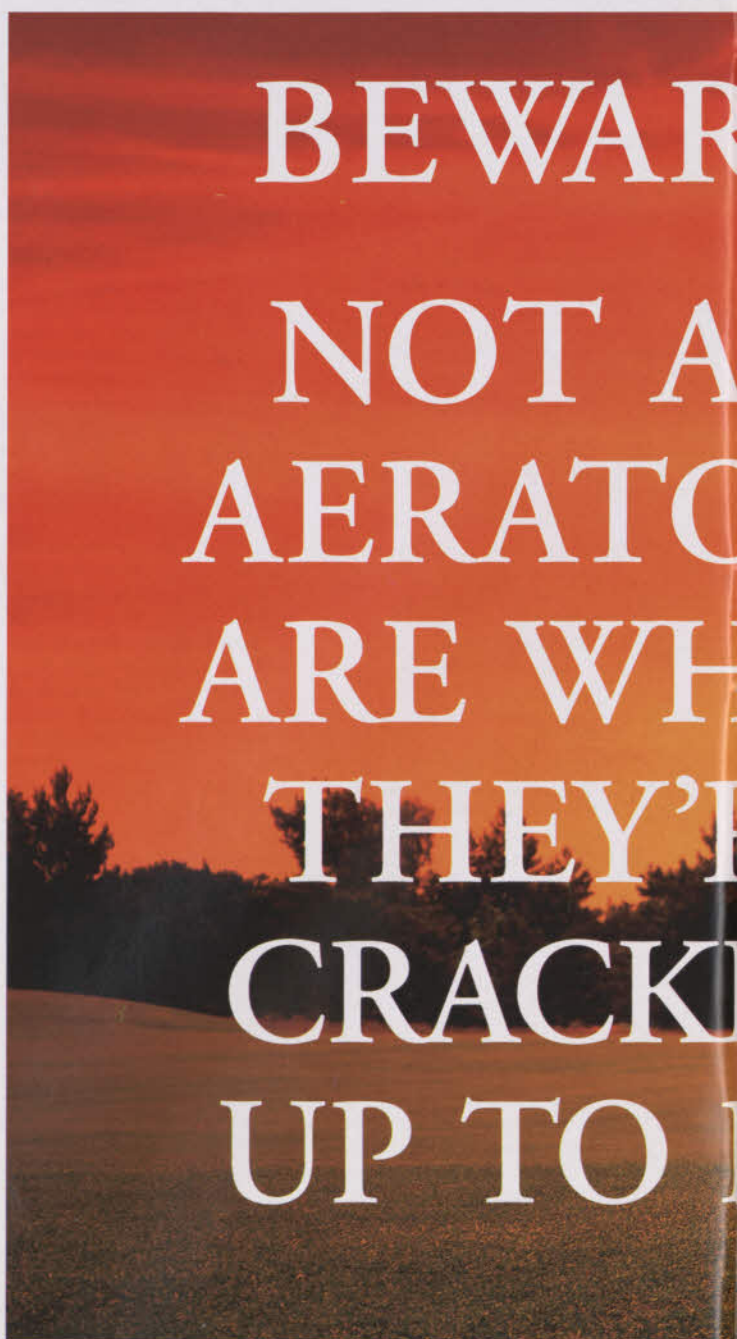
The summer tournament proved

to be a great success, held at the Wrekin Golf Club which was a very demanding course with, in some cases, amazing undulating countryside and views over Shropshire to match. The course was in great shape and many thanks go to all the greenkeeping staff. The evening meal was a real feast and I could safely say it was the best meal the Midland Section has received in a

very long time. Again many thanks to all the members of staff.

The results are as follows- 1. (Gross) Mike Hughes. 1. (Nett) Vince Lee; 2. Rod Hunter; 3. John Hooper; 4. Mike Gash. John Mullins, of Supaturf, won the nearest the pin - he was the only person to get the ball on the green!

The planned trip to the Massey Ferguson went ahead and 19 green-



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keepers went along and I am told a very good day was had by all. A big thanks to Mitchell's who sponsored the food at lunch time especially to John Fawkes and John Proffit. I will take this opportunity to remind you that anyone who wishes to play in the Christmas tournament on the 10th December must get their entries in by November 9. You may think this premature but there is

always a full entry very early for this tournament.

It is with great sadness that I have to inform all the members of the Midland Section and anyone who knew Trafford Stonebridge of his sad death on Saturday August 8. Trafford passed away in his sleep after a fight against cancer.

Trafford will be remembered as a great man with a massive sense of

humour to match. He was serving Chairman of the Section and had given many years of service to the Midland Section and to Maxstoke Park where he has left behind many dear friends. Everyone who knew him will find this news a great loss and on behalf of the Midland Section I would like to send our sympathy to his family and friends at this time. Thank you Trafford for

all the amusement and commitment you have given greenkeepers of the Midland Region.

Finally, I will introduce some more new members- Michael Milinczuk, Stephen Marsden, Michael James, Trevor Smith, Terence Finney, Shaun Sutton, Sally Doherty and Christopher Stilgoe.

Jonathan Wood

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**South West  
and South Wales**  
Paula Humphries  
Tel: 01363 82777

**Devon & Cornwall**

With the summer drawing to a close, our thoughts turn to our Autumn and Winter meeting programme which starts with the Roffey's meeting at Saunton Golf Club on Wednesday, October 14. The morning's golf competition will be a singles Stableford for the D.O. Hunt Trophy. For our non playing members there will be the usual course walk which will leave the club house at approximately 10.30am. Lunch will be from 1pm followed by our afternoon educational talk with the golf presentation and a short Company presentation by Roffeys, our day's sponsor, concluding the day.

As in previous years the Section will hold raffles at its October, December & March meetings with the first prize at our October raffle being a pair of Hi-Tec golf shoes. Please note the changes to our meeting programme listed below; 1. Golfing members to receive starting times before meeting with a draw for partners being introduced to avoid same old groups play-

ing together. This will be done for all meetings including foursome competitions etc. 2. Company & Golf presentation to conclude the day; 3. A levy of £2 will be added to each entry received after the closing date; 4. As some members have problems paying before meetings, they will be able to continue to pay on the day without being levied as long as the entry has been received before the closing date.

Any member who doesn't attend after entering will be invoiced if no payment is received.

Regional educational dates; November 25, Regional Seminar to be held at Cannington College. For more details contact Paula Humphries on 01363 82777.

December 8-9, Golf Course Design to be held at Borringdon Hall Hotel, Plymouth. For more details contact Ken Richardson, BIGGA HQ on 01347 838581. January 19-22, Region's trip to BTME at Harrogate. For more details contact Paula Humphries on 01363 82777. You should have received our new fixture card which has once again been kindly sponsored by P J Flegg. The fixture card has dates of all our forthcoming events.

If you haven't received yours yet please let me know.

Richard Whyman.

**South Coast**

Our Summer Tournament was held at Bramshaw on Thursday, July 23. The results were as follows; 1. Phil Wentworth and L Hopper; 2. John York and Joe Cooper; 3. Bill Davis and Steve Pellat. Thanks must go to Bramshaw Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course and granting us the use of all their facilities. The course was in excellent condition thanks to Adrian Wiltshire, the Course Manager. Also thanks to Clive Lovell the Head Greenkeeper of the Manor Course. His team did a superb job in preparing the course for us. Our main sponsors for the day were John Deere, New Forest Garden Machinery. They were represented by Nick Clarke. They presented us with an excellent prize table. To our sponsors we thank you for your support. Last but not least, a big thank you to Trevor Smith our tournament organiser. He did a great job in organising the event.

At the prize giving a presentation was made to Gordon Paine. Gordon has recently retired as Head Greenkeeper at Maidenhead Golf Club. Gordon has been a keen supporter of the South Coast Section for a great number of years. I think I can safely say he was one of the Founder members. We have received a letter

from Gordon thanking all members of the South Coast Section for the Tankard that was presented to him. On behalf of the South Coast Section I would like to wish Gordon a long and happy retirement.

Another reminder for the Regional Seminar to be held at Cannington on Wednesday November 25.

The main speaker will be Frank Newbury, who will be speaking on Communications, in particular "Making Committees Work For You." He will also be conducting a Workshop. All applications and enquiries to; Paula Humphries, Truants Cottage, Zeal Monachorum, Crediton, Devon, EX17 6DF, Tel: 01363 82777.

Paula would also like applications and deposits for BTME as soon as possible. As I said in last month's report, "If we can get the support we will run a coach from the South Coast Section."

Our Autumn Tournament will be held at Tidworth Garrison Golf Club on Thursday October 15. It will consist of an 18 hole Stableford. The price for the day will be £15 per head. This will include an evening meal. All applications along with current handicaps, cheques for £15, name and address and telephone number to our Tournament

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Organiser; Trevor Smith, Manet, Horton Road, Horton Heath, Wimbourne, Dorset, BH21 6SB, Tel: 0410 835242. Closing date will be 10 days before the Tournament date ie: Monday October 5. To finish with, I have news of another retirement. Bob Parsons of Barton on Sea Golf Club has decided to call it a day after 45 years. I hasten to add, that is, 45 years at Barton on Sea Golf Club. I wonder if that might be a record. Bob has been a staunch supporter of the Section for a number of years. Hopefully we will still see his friendly face at some of our meetings. On behalf of the section I would like to wish you a long and happy retirement Bob.

Ken Lodge.

### South West

Yet more wind and rain greeted the South West Greenkeepers for the summer tournament at Filton GC. This event was particularly well supported with nearly 50 of us turning up to indulge in the delights of this Bristol course which was in totally immaculate condition thanks to Nick Wilson and his team. We then had an especially fine meal and diverted our gaze from the young waitress long enough for Chairman Chris Sealey

to read out the winners. (Just for the record our team captain Matt Hawker tried to chat up the waitress but was unsuccessful).

The scores were as follows, Head Greenkeepers; 1. Gary Cook, 77; 2. Nick Wilson, 78; 3. Marc Haring, 79. Assistants; 1. James Braithwaite, 67; 2. Craig Fudge, 68; 3. Peter Baynton, 70.

You will notice that the assistants' scores are appreciably better than the Head Greenkeepers. I can only put this down to the extreme strain we Head Greenkeepers are under and also to the fact that we get no time to practice our golf compared to the assistants.

Special thanks are due to Scotts UK who sponsored the day's event and who provided all the prizes and of course to Filton Golf Club who allowed us the use of their course and facilities. Don't forget the coach trip to BTME. Paula tells me that with such an incredible deal on offer this year, the places are going quickly. If anyone is interested then give Paula a ring. There are two matches coming up. The first is at Yeovil against the South Coast Section on September 16 and the second at St Pierre against the South Welsh section on October 7. If you have put your name down for

either of these then please ensure your availability.

Marc Haring

### South Wales

Firstly thanks to Chris Solman for his around the green notes. Unfortunately Chris has other commitments so you now have me to bring you up to date. The Spring Competition results played at Southerndown GC:- The Cardiff Cup, Richard Patterson; Browns Shield, D. Gladwin; John O'Gorman Cup, David Jenkins.

Thanks also to Gary Johnstone and his team for the excellent course conditions.

The matchplay results so far; Kerry Jones beat Angus Macleod, Mike Jones beat Adrian Panks, Dave Gladwin beat Andrew Hatcher, Malcolm Davis beat Andrew Phillips, J. B. Jones beat Richard Patterson, Rob Frater beat David Morgan, Peter Lacey beat Idwall Morris, Daryl Bray beat John Borge, Russell Anderson beat Gary Johnstone, Mike Norfolk beat Peter Edwards.

Another excellent Open day was held at Pencoed College on Saturday June 27 with a large attendance. This also was a good opportunity to view one of the colleges latest ven-

tures, their newly constructed 9 hole Golf Course. Hopefully an annual match us versus the college is being arranged, watch this space.

Rain on June 24 decided that the match v Secretaries was postponed at Creigiau GC - a new date has been arranged on Wednesday September 2. Please phone Peter Lacey if you are available.

Sounds early but it may be in your interest to contact Paula Humphries on 01363 82777 to book your place on a coach to the BTME, at a cost of only £95 per person with an assistant from the same club going for £85. Cannot be bad for three nights B&B.

Up and coming events include, the Regional Seminar featuring Frank Newberry & Ian McMillan at Cannington College on November 25.

A Regional training course is to be held again at the Marriott Hotel Swansea on December 10/11, on Golf Course Design Construction & Establishment.

Last but not least congratulations are in order for Meryl and Neil Smith and D. Thomas on the arrival of their baby girls. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any information on 01656 742761.

Richard Hatcher





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

**Essex**

Date Tuesday November 16, 1999. Time 9am. Place Writtle College. No, I have not gone completely mad, well not quite yet. But this will be when we, the Essex Section, will have the honour of staging the 1999 South East Region Regional Seminar and the committee are looking for ideas, topics, helpers and sponsors for this important event in next year's diary. So anyone interested please contact Martin on 01245 603131. Over the last few months we have had two committee members stand down from their posts. Andy Sheehan and Reg Hooker. Vice Chairman and Education Officer. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their services, especially Andy who has held a number of positions for many a year. Anyone interested in helping on the committee please contact Martin (01245 603131). Next month we will have a total update on the outstanding golfing days (this due to cut off dates for publication). On to the pair's knock out competition. Michael Fance and Scott Reeves are into one semi final where they will play either Barry Brown/Stuart Jenkins or Lee Adams/Gary Speller. While Jon Selwood and Steve Cox wait in the other semi final for the winners of the Andy Sheehan Jack Sholton/Nick Horswell match.

The Essex Captains held their annual match against the Greenkeepers at Romford Golf Club with the Captains winning as usual. The individual winner of the Greenkeepers competition was Weald Park Golf Club's Doug Mackison. On behalf of all the Greenkeepers who played, we would like to thank Romford Golf Club, their staff and all the captains for their kind hospitality. To Barry Brown and his green staff for all their hard work and on the excellent condition of the course. If you did not receive an invite this year, why not drop a few hints to your Captain Elect for 1999, so you will not miss out on an excellent day out.

On the new members front welcome aboard to Richard Cook, Frinton Golf Club and Lee Squires, The Fairways, and hope to see you at Maylands Golf Club.

That reminds me, our next golfing outing will be on Wednesday, October 7, at Maylands Golf and Country Club. For further details ring Richard Pride 01268 752281. See you there, Dave Wells 01702 522202

**London**

No London Section Column last month, due to a lack of sufficient news to fill the space. After a very damp June, keeping the exceptional

grass growth under control and preparing the courses under difficult conditions seemed to keep everyone fully occupied. However, here is a brief round up of new appointments.

Firstly, congratulations to Duncan McGillvray on securing the post of Course Manager at Potters Bar Golf Club. I am sure Letchworth Golf Club will find Duncan's boots difficult to fill, but their loss is Potters Bar Golf Club's gain, and I am sure we all wish him well for the future. Simon Bolden has left Enfield Golf Club to take up the job as Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Crews Hill Golf Club - Simon had been at Enfield for nine years and his old boss John Kerr and the lads wish Simon good luck. Nick Heller and Tim Phillips, of Grimsdyke, have moved on to gain further experience. Tim to Bushy Golf & Country Club and Nick to Moor Park. Dave Knight, ex Aldenham, and Scott Walker have replaced them on Chris Gravestock's team at Grimsdyke. Kerry Jarman has moved from Sandy Lodge to Moor Park (watch out for grease everyone), and Steve Nicholson has moved from Old Fold Manor to Sandy Lodge.

News from Mervyn Downing - Head Greenkeeper at Aldenham. The car park improvements are complete - after a new entrance was constructed and landscaped last year, the whole area has been surfaced with tarmac, car parking bays permanently lined out and the erection of security lights completed the project.

A few years ago it was "Ally's Barmy Army," but during this summer's World Cup, it has been more like "Monty's Mad Marauders," as part of the North London Greenkeeping contingent became the "Tartan Hordes." Pubs in Barnet waited in fearful anticipation and anxiety to see whether it would be their turn to be invaded prior to the Scotland World Cup games. Landlords were not worried about violence, nor were they worried about profits (quite the reverse), no, it was Monty and Don's interpretation of Braveheart for which they waited in trepidation. I am told by a shocked survivor that the Highland holocaust washed over them in full regalia, kilts, claymores, flags, faces painted with the Cross of St Andrew, Tam O'Shanter's worn with ginger wigs - but it was those legs - those horrible scary legs - that was the worst bit.

The summer golf tournament this year was held at The Buckinghamshire on July 7 and after weeks of rain and grey skies, the sky turned blue and sun came out - a good start to a great afternoon. The Buckinghamshire was constructed in 1991 by Southern Golf with the project managed by Kajima. Designed by John Jacobs, the 'Bucks' is already rated in the top 100 Courses in the UK by Golf World Magazine. Situated next to the River Colne, the Clubhouse is the historic Grade II listed Denham Court Mansion, which has provided very elegant surroundings for some of the top stars of

professional golf. The Bucks hosts the European Championship of the Andersen Consulting World Championship of Golf and also the closing Tournament of the PGA European Senior's Tour, namely the Tournament of Champions, so we were sampling what the Pro's are offered and very nice it was too.

A good turn-out of 46 entries produced the following results from the format of 18 holes of Stableford Golf. 1. Kenny Mackay, Hanbury Manor, 38 Points; 2. Ian Semple, Old Fold Manor (not quite 38 points); 3. Mike Harper, West Herts, 28 points. The Guest Prize was won by Les Clarke and the longest drive was won by Steve Little, of South Herts. The results for nearest the pin, sponsored by Willmot Pertwee Amenity were as follows; 1. Dave Kirk, Hadley Wood, 2. David Ede, West Herts, 3. Kenny Mackay, of Hanbury Manor. The top score by the trade contingent was by Clive Parnell.

Thanks must be given to The Grass Roots Trading Company who helped, in part, to fund the day and who gave us a most interesting talk on new products at a pre-dinner presentation. Managing Director, Jamie Bennett also led everyone in singing an impromptu rendition of 'Happy Birthday to You' to help celebrate Course Manager, Phil Chiverton's birthday. I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate Phil on his marriage to Ann on April 15 this year, which took place in Australia and was followed by a five week honeymoon around 'Oz'. Thanks to Phil, his Head Greenkeeper, Steve Hook, for all their hard work preparing the course and to the management of the Buckinghamshire and all the catering staff for a marvellous day.

Late news just in. Well done to Lee Robinson, of Flackwell Heath, who is taking over from John Nudds as Head Greenkeeper at Gerrards Cross. John is retiring at the end of the year and Lee, who started his career at Gerrards Cross, is looking forward to his new appointment. Also congratulations to Trevor Smith, Course Manager of Welwyn Garden City GC who is the first Greenkeeper to achieve NVQ Level 4 through the Greenkeeping Training Committee. That's all folks - See you at Saltex, September 8, 9 and 10.

Peter Hopkinson.

**Surrey**

Congratulations to Ken Harding who is now in charge at Worplesdon Golf Club. We all wish him good luck, good weather and a co-operative Greens Committee.

Earnest Doe sponsored the Cresta Cup at Foxhills on June 16 and the prize winners were 1. Dave Wyborn; 2. Nigel Colley; 3. John Mathis. The McMillan Tankard was competed for at Sunningdale on August 5 and our thanks to Brian and his team for another excellent afternoon's golf. Thanks also to the Sunningdale arti-

sans for the use of their clubhouse. The results were; 1. Steve Johnston, 36pts; 2. John Mathis, 36pts; 3. Mike Yorston, 36pts.

Peter Broadbent and his team at Effingham Golf Club are still talking about an unwanted visitor who arrived with a bang at the end of May. A thunder bolt struck property within yards of the sheds at Effingham causing fire damage, shock and additional laundry expenses for the greens staff!

Stuart Dent, First Assistant at Croham Hurst, is leaving to take up his new position at Metro Golf Centre at Hendon as Head Greenkeeper. We all wish him the very best. Good luck Stuart. James Watson has told me of his intended move to warmer climes. Goodbye Clandon Regis Golf Club, Guildford, Hello Capderpera Golf Club, Majorca. Good luck James and if you need anything I'll arrange a visit immediately. Richard Evans from Addington Palace Golf Club and his partner Liz are celebrating the birth of their first born, a bouncing baby boy 8lbs 13oz. Congratulations Rick, very best wishes from us all, especially BW.

Brian Willmott.

Northern  
Ireland

**South East**

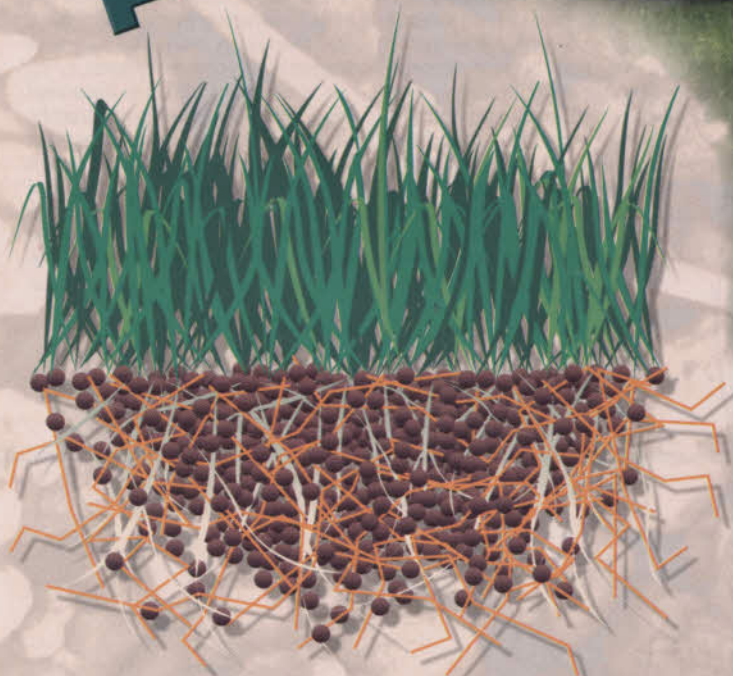
On August 1 we had our BBQ at Groomsport Golf Centre a great evening was had by all and winners of the chipping contest were, Terry Crawford, Jonathan McCabe and Ken Henderson. We feel it was beneficial to the Section to have a social event, along with educational and golfing events.

Many thanks go to Alan Boyd, (Boyd Golf Course Accessories) and to his wife Frances Boyd for preparing all the food and sponsoring the event. If there is anyone who has information within the section or would like anything mentioned they can contact me on 01247 472186

Jonathan McCabe.

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**Drainage expert Barry Cooper talks about a summer which has found out which courses have sufficient drainage. And more importantly which do not.**

# Water, water, everywhere

After a very wet winter and spring and a very unsettled summer many golf courses have been counting the cost of lost green fees and corporate revenue due to inadequate course drainage or in some cases no drainage at all.

Some of the most badly affected courses have been some of the most expensive to construct. I refer of course to the many American and Japanese designed golf courses where only surface water has been catered for and the only drains laid in the ground are non perforated solid pipes carrying water from a system of gully pots that have been placed to intercept swales that have been created. This system of drainage is totally inadequate in this country, and unless ground water is controlled by laying conventional perforated drain pipes to a depth of at least 750mm the

golf course will remain wet after heavy rain.

Many people believe that there is no such thing as a water table in clay land, but I can assure you that this is not true, and unless this water table is kept at least 750mm below the surface, the ground is not dry enough in the winter for the rains to fall on and percolate away. On most clay based courses a system of lateral drains laid across the steepest fall at 15 metre centres and 750 - 800mm deep will control and remove surplus sub-soil water.

It is difficult to believe, but many courses that have been constructed during dry summers and autumns have had no fairway drainage installed, because it did not seem necessary at the time. I do not need to dwell on the extra costs involved in draining a completed and seeded golf course, against draining the



same golf course during its construction.

Seasons such as the ones we have all recently experienced also bring to light drainage problems caused by certain trees having been planted on the golf course. These trees are mainly Poplars, Willows and Alders. All of these trees need water to thrive and during a "semi-drought" time such as 1995-96 the roots from these trees will have had to search harder for water, and any pipe within 20 metres of any of these trees is in grave danger of being penetrated and blocked by a mass of fibrous roots.

I have actually known these roots to travel as much as 50 metres along a pipe line. Drains that have been laid at a shallow depth ie:300mm to 500mm are also very prone to becoming blocked after a dry summer, because the ground cracks and this allows top soil to fall into the

cracks, which in turn gets washed into the pipes when the rains come.

I will end this article by again pleading with Green's Committee Chairmen and Course Managers who are contemplating having drainage work carried out on their course, please employ either a qualified drainage consultant or contractor to design your drainage scheme. This way you can always query the reason why, if the scheme does not work.

Finally, all drainage schemes work very much more efficiently if they are undertaken during the Summer months and not during Autumn and Winter.

Barry Cooper is a Drainage Consultant who boasts some of the country's finest golf clubs among his clients. He can be contacted on Tel: 01858 467684.

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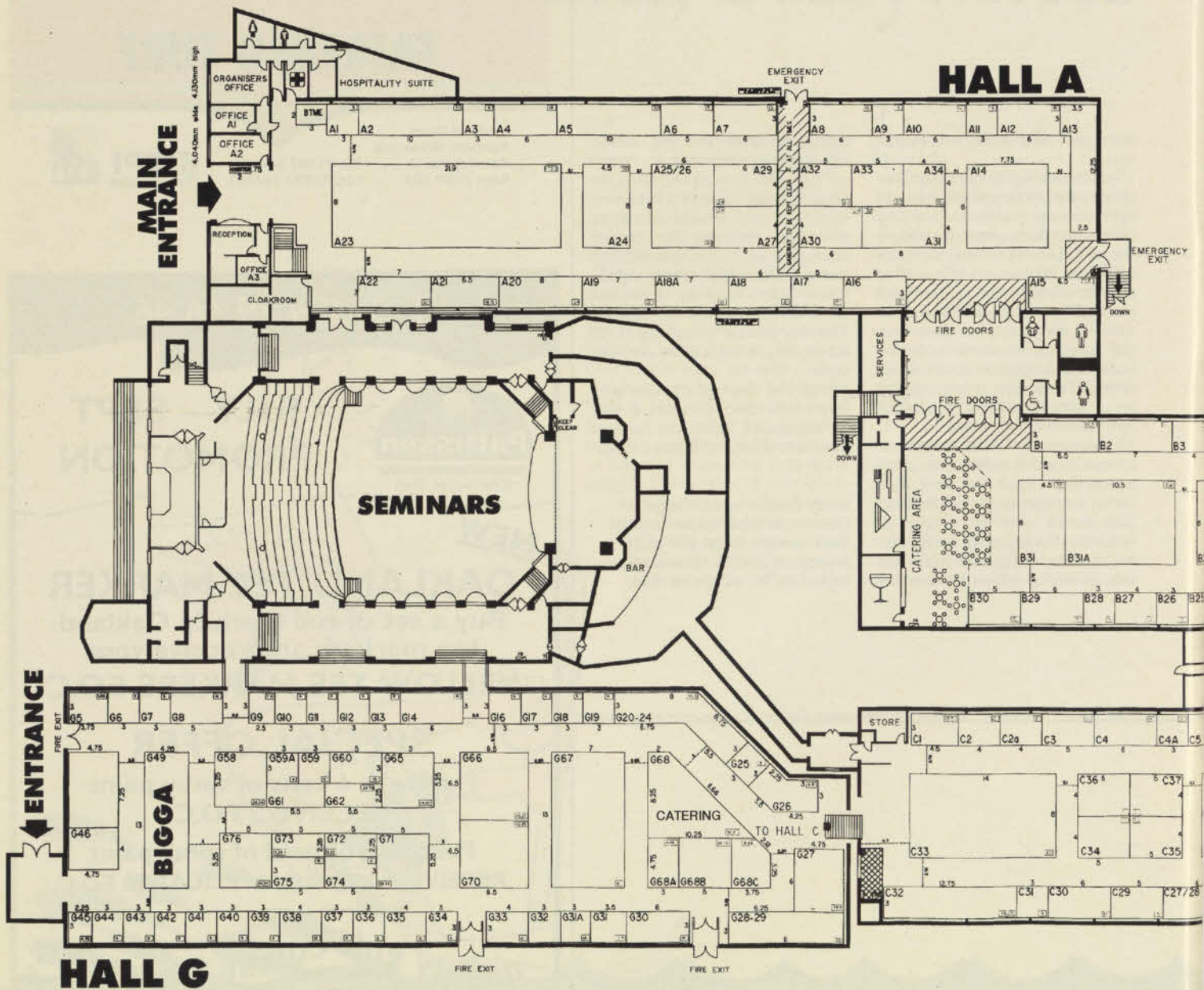
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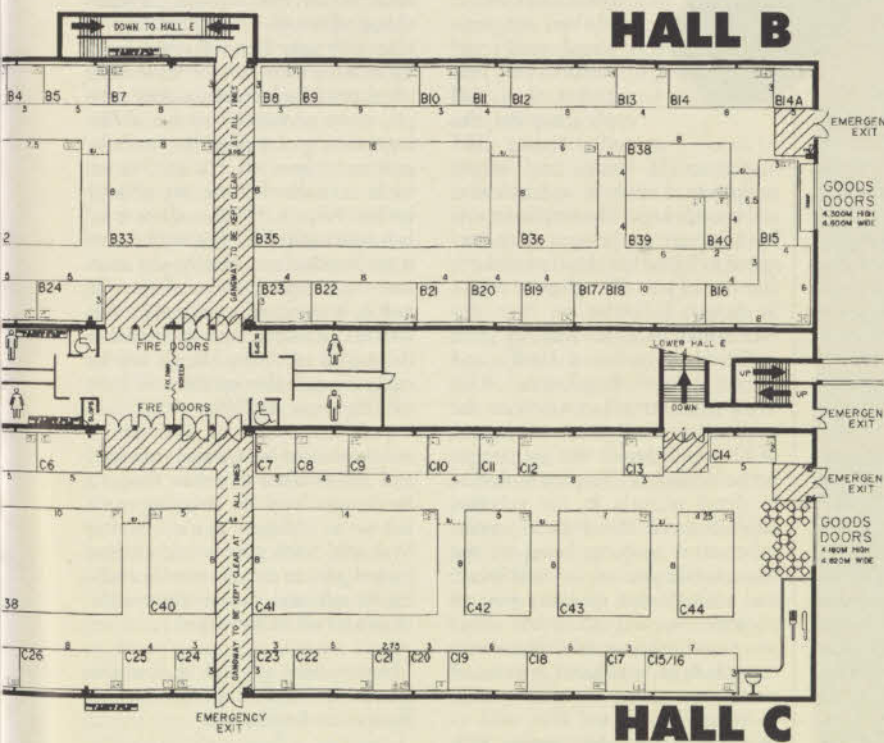
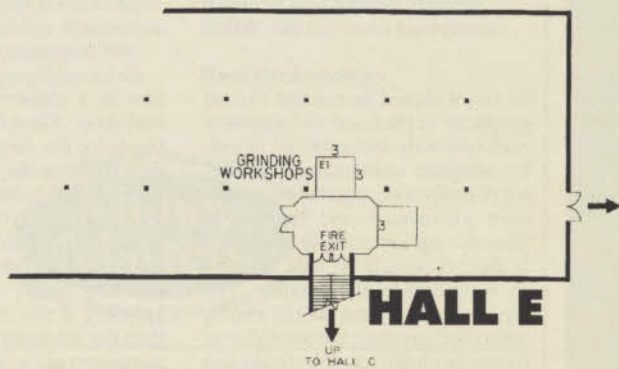
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| A2 Watermation                      | A19 Eagle Promotions            | B5 Lindum Seeded Turf        | B28 Better Methods Europe           | G7 Complete Weed Control                            |
| A3 Border Golf                      | A20 Barenbrug                   | B7 Avoncrop Amenity          | B29 Lloyds & Co                     | G8 STRI   |
| A4 Tower Chemicals                  | A21 Simon Tullett Machinery     | B8 York & Martin             | B29 Letchworth Ltd                  | G9 BIGGA Northern Region                            |
| A5 Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Ltd        | A22 Allen Power Equipment       | B9 King's Horticulture Ltd   | B30 Standard Golf                   | G10 British Association of Golf Course Constructors |
| A6 Countax                          | A23 Textron                     | B10 North Staffs Irrigation  | B31 Huxleys                         | G11 European Turf Grass Laboratories                |
| A7 Sportsground Irrigation          | A24 Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd   | B11 Green Tech               | B31a Hardi                          | G12 Fairway Credit                                  |
| A8 Amenity Land Services            | A25-26 Wiedenmann Ltd           | B12 Multi-Core Aerators Ltd  | B32 Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd | G13 Association of Golf Club Secretaries            |
| A9 PSD Agronomy                     | A27 Supaturf Products           | B13 Talbot                   | B33 Scotts Professional Products    | G14 Sovereign Turf                                  |
| A10 British Seed Houses Ltd         | A29 Marlwood Ltd                | B14 Major Equipment Ltd      | B35 Toro Commercial Products        | G16 Seminar Registration                            |
| A11 Totrax                          | A30 Aitkens                     | B14a Gannon Oils             | B36 Toro Irrigation Limited         | G17 Golf Course News                                |
| A12 County Crops Ltd                | A31 Inturf Ltd                  | B15 Hepworths                | B38 Amazone                         | G18 To be confirmed                                 |
| A13 Kubota (UK) Ltd                 | A32 Vitax Ltd                   | B16 Groundsman Industries    | B39 Par 4 Irrigation Ltd            | G19 GCSAA   |
| A14 Kubota (UK) Ltd                 | A33 Risboro Turf                | B17-18 Saxon Industries      | B40 Bowcom Ltd                      | G20-24 Amenity Technology                           |
| A15 Turfmach                        | A34 Boyd Golf Course Associates | B19 Symbio                   | C1 Swan Plant Services              | G25 Greenkeeping Supply Company                     |
| A16 Farmura (Environmental)         | B1 Tacit                        | B20 Cleveland Sitesafe Ltd   | C2 Fairfield Turf Ltd               | G26 Blazon  |
| A17 Johnsons Seeds                  | B2 Rufford Top Dressing         | B21 Garfitts                 | C2a Verde Sports                    | G27 English Golf Union/Welsh Golf Union             |
| A18 British Overhead Irrigation Ltd | B3 M J Abbott                   | B22 Sharpes International    | C3 Mommersteeg International        | G28-29 IOG  |
|                                     |                                 | B23 Martin Brothers (UK) Ltd | C4 Sub Air Systems (IPU)            | G30 Cooper Peglar                                   |
|                                     |                                 | B24 Logic Irrigation         | C4a Caprari Pumps                   | G31 Pro Turf  |
|                                     |                                 | B25 Irrigation Control       | C5 Perryfield Holdings              | G31a Bowley Hinton Associates                       |
|                                     |                                 | B26 Golf Sign Company        | C6 Olivers Seeds Ltd                | G32 Garden Master                                   |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C7 White Horse Contractors          | G33 City Irrigation Ltd                             |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C8 Wessex Water                     | G34 Welsh College                                   |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C9 Headland Amenity Products        | G35 Myerscough College                              |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C10 Links Leisure                   | G36 Warwickshire College                            |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C11 Green-Relief™                   | G37 Hadlow College - S/O                            |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C12 Kawasaki Motors (UK) Ltd        | G38 Elmwood College                                 |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C13 Bourne Amenity                  | G39 Cannington College                              |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C14 Tildenet                        | G40 Reaseheath College                              |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C15-16 Coursecare/Wear              | G41 Askham Bryan College                            |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C17 Banks Amenity                   | G42 Heron Electric                                  |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C18 Par Aide UK                     | G43 G T Group                                       |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C19 Mitchells                       | G44 Ultra Plant                                     |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C20 J D Greasley Ltd                | G45 Eamonn Wall & Co                                |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C21 Hayter Ltd                      | G46 GTC   |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C22 Farm & Garden Machinery Ltd     | G48 Catering  |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C23 Dennis                          | G49 BIGGA   |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C24 Nature First Ltd                | G58 Pan Britannica Industries                       |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C25 Maxicrop International Ltd      | G59 L S Systems                                     |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C26 Hydroscape                      | G59a E T Breakwell Ltd                              |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C27-28 Humate International         | G60 Vitagrow Fertilisers Ltd                        |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C29 Eric Hunter Grinders            | G61 Aligure Products                                |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C30 Club Car                        | G62 Cooper Clarke                                   |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C31 Tonick Watering                 | G65 Force Limograin                                 |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C32 John Deere Ltd                  | G66 Rhône-Poulenc                                   |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C33 John Deere Ltd                  | G67 Rigby Taylor                                    |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C34 Blec Ltd                        | G68 Catering  |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C35 D W Tomlin                      | G68b BT Mobile                                      |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C36 Boughton Loam                   | G68c Club House                                     |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C37 Tarmac                          | G70 Gem Professional                                |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C38 New Holland UK Ltd              | G71 Rain Bird                                       |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C40 Sisis Equipment                 | G72 British Institute of Golf Course Architects     |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C41 Hayter Ltd                      | G73 Fargo   |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C42 Pattison                        | G74 Cargill Plc                                     |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C43 Etesia UK Ltd                   | G75 Trelleborg                                      |
|                                     |                                 |                              | C44 Twose of Tiverton               | G76 Amenity Solutions Ltd                           |
|                                     |                                 |                              | E1 Eric Hunter Grinders             |   |



**SEE YOU THERE**



# Taking precautions



Over the next few months we are going to look at the general and more specific health and safety requirements for Maintenance Buildings. The buildings that on most golf courses are used for the storage and maintenance of equipment. We have so far looked at individual pieces of health and safety legislation. We will now look at how this legislation affects a working area of the golf course. Let's first look at the legislation involved:

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974; Specific sections of the Factories Act; The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations; The Manual Handling Regulations; Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations; Supply of Machinery Regulations; Electricity at Work Regulations; Noise at Work Regulations; Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH); Personal Protective Equipment Regulations; Fire Safety (Workplace) Regulations Safety Signs and Signals Regulations

The first one to look at is the Health and Safety at Work Act. As you will recall this places a general duty on the employer and employee. The employer must ensure that the equipment provided is safe to use. To

do this it should be ensured that all guards are in place and all equipment works correctly and safely, by providing adequate maintenance and testing of equipment, together with sufficient information and training to allow the equipment to be used safely. Records should be kept covering all maintenance and training. The use of the equipment should also be supervised to reduce the possibility of misuse or unsafe use. We should also have written systems and procedures for carrying out specifically hazardous jobs, for example sharpening of mower blades, lifting equipment using blocks and tackle.

Where we mentioned earlier the Factories Act, the section that still applies requires the periodic testing and inspection of chains and lifting equipment. This must be certificated and records kept. The employee also has a duty to use the equipment safely and to follow laid down procedures and not to put themselves or others in danger. Following on from the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 is the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992. These regulations place a duty on the employer to carry out an assessment of all risks to health that are present in the Workplace. This was looked at in detail recently in the previous issues, however in essence it requires information to be gathered on the hazards that are in the Workplace and address what risk they pose to persons exposed to them. This process of assessing risks then allows controls to be introduced, systems or procedures adopted or other means to reduce the risks and allow work to be carried out in a safer manner. Risk assessments would be needed for tasks such as mowing, grass/rough cutting, use of portable tools, use of grinding wheels and all other tasks that you would be required to under-

take in a maintenance building or workshop. Carrying on the same theme for the need to assess risk we then come to the Manual Handling Operations Regulation 1992. As with the previous Regulations these apply to all workplaces and place a duty on employers to, firstly, avoid Manual Handling totally if at all possible. Secondly, if this cannot be achieved then the employer is to carry out an assessment of the risk that each manual handling task poses. When carrying out a Manual Handling assessment, there are four main areas that need to be investigated, these being firstly, the task ie what is actually needed to be done? Secondly, you have to take into account the individual who will be required to perform this task. This will entail looking at whether or not the person has a history of back problems, for example, or are physically capable of lifting, pushing or pulling the items or equipment involved. The third factor to be considered is the actual load itself ie What is it? What shape is it? Is it rigid or flexible? Is it stable? Has it got handles? etc. Finally, you must take into consideration where this task or operation is to take place ie is it to be carried out in an open shed in the middle of winter when it will be cold/wet and the operator will be wearing extra clothing which may impede movements etc. The risks of injury need to be assessed, recorded and action taken to reduce them to the lowest level by providing such items as lifting tackle, hoists, hydraulic tables or workbenches, trailers, etc, or do you provide training in safe and correct lifting techniques for all staff involved.

Next month we will look at the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations.

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





### Turfgrass Diseases and Associated Disorders

By Catherine E York  
Published by the Sports Turf Research Institute  
Price £10.50  
ISBN 1 873431 39 2

Published in soft back, this 60 page book covers the identification and control of turfgrass diseases in cool season grasses. Written by Dr Kate York, Plant Pathologist at the STRI, it is written in an easy to understand style, with sufficient advice on how to control and avoid the various diseases. Each disease has its own section, giving alternative names, causes, symptoms, the type of grass susceptible, condi-

tions which favour the disease and methods which can be used for control. Each disease is also illustrated with a small, but adequate photograph. The book, finally, includes a set of tables which give a useful guide to the susceptibility of various grasses in the UK, Germany, France, Italy and the Netherlands.

The author has managed to fit a lot of information into a small book, without making it too complicated. A useful addition to any greenkeeper's library at a very affordable price.

The book is available from the STRI, St Ives Estate, Bingley, BD16 1AU or from bookshops.

**Ken Richardson**



### This month, Geoff Steel gives some very valuable advice to those about to dive into the property market...

Most of us at some time aspire to become property owners. For those who have made it they will probably agree it is one of the most traumatic times of their lives. I will try and offer a few simple ideas to assist any readers who are thinking of buying.

Before you find a house it is essential to know how much you can afford to pay, and how much you can borrow. Generally it is possible to have a mortgage for three times the main wage earner's annual income plus one times the second wage earner. However, some lenders will exceed this limit. A typical cost at current interest would be £73 per month for every £10,000 borrowed - a mortgage of £40,000 would typically cost £292 per month.

Ideally you will have some funds for a deposit and with this in mind you can now decide what you can afford to buy. Do not forget to allow for solicitor and survey fees, plus 101 other costs involved in moving house.

Many buyers like to purchase older properties but it can be very difficult to obtain a mortgage without strings attached. A mortgage will probably be conditional on certain works being carried out, or with some money retained until the work is completed. Without access to additional capital most buyers find themselves unable to complete the purchase as the seller will still want the full purchase price. The purchase of a new house is

often much easier. The builder may have made arrangements to provide mortgages at advantageous terms. Don't immediately accept what is on offer - check with other lenders or an Independent Financial Advisor to compare terms.

The process of buying a house in England and Wales\* is that a purchaser makes an offer. If the seller accepts the offer, the purchaser then applies for a mortgage. The purchaser's solicitor will then check that the owner is legally able to sell and that there are no other developments being planned which will affect the house. It is not until exchange of contracts that either side is committed to the transaction. On exchange it is normal for the seller to ask for a deposit and on completion the full balance of the purchase price must be paid.

Next month I will look at the different types of mortgage.

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

\*In Scotland it is customary for a seller to secure a mortgage first and then make an offer based on a survey which is then carried out on a prospective purchase by the mortgage lender. Once the offer has been accepted both sides are committed to going ahead.



# FREEBIE THREE FREE

Welcome to part two of the BTME'99 competition, which could be your chance as a Greenkeeper to attend this prestigious event absolutely free!

Together with BTME, the Learning Experience 1999 will provide a varied and informative education programme. The programme for 1999 includes the Golf Course Design Workshop, and NEW for '99, a Basic Machinery Maintenance Workshop. Contact Sami Collins for further details.

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of the freebiethreefree superb prizes is to answer six questions. There were two last month, two in this issue, shown below, and the final two plus the entry form will appear in the October edition.

**FIRST PRIZE:** Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three night's accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate and entry into all the education seminar sessions.

**SECOND PRIZE:** Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus two night's accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate and entry into all the education seminar sessions.

**THIRD PRIZE:** Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus one night's accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate and entry into all the education seminar sessions.

## SEPTEMBER QUESTIONS

1. Name the new workshop for 1999
2. What is the name of BIGGA's Education and Training Assistant?

Remember do not send in your entry until the October edition of Greenkeeper International arrives, containing the third, and final two questions.





# Ocmis Irrigation

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

Design, supply installation and service of irrigation systems for golf courses and sports pitches.

**What major changes have you seen in your sector of the industry over the last 10 years?**

The implementation of more precise control systems enabling the greenkeeper to manage application and use of water to a much higher degree. The use of Medium Density Polyethylene pipe as used by the Water Authorities available in 100 metre coils, replacing the traditional UPVC pipe which have many joints - one per six metres.

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

Far more aware of water costs - mains water now averages approximately 80p per cubic metre. Far more aware of water usage and application rates and how often to apply the required amount. Far

more aware of irrigation system operation and maintenance through training courses, college courses and the need for irrigation

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

The continuing upgrade of the old piping systems and control systems. Even more interest in precise application of water and reliable operation. More attention being paid to sprinkler positioning and nozzle performance.

**And in the industry as a whole?**

The industry will benefit from training given to greenkeepers ie they will enter into a market knowing what they want to buy and why they need it.

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

BIGGA has promoted the green-

keeper within their own profession. Other people within the golfing sector are now aware of the input and status of a good greenkeeper. BIGGA has promoted greenkeeper training and highlighted that better greenkeepers promote a better golf course.

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

Because BIGGA promotes an image awareness in the requirements and needs of a professional person doing a professional job,

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

The unique service backup and training offered by Ocmis, the advocacy and use of MDPE pip and compression fittings. Implementing and designing new standards for remedial works on golf courses - utilising machinery which with minimal disruption is capable of installing pipe up to 160 mm in diameter without significant scarring.

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| ● Slieve Russell Hotel          | ● Dale Hill          |
| ● Lamberhurst                   | ● Slinfold Park      |
| ● Chart Hills                   | ● Fairwood Park      |
| ● Birchgrove Estate             | ● Alwoodley          |
| ● Merrist Wood                  | ● Dalmahoy Hotel     |
| ● North Hants                   | ● Torino             |
| ● Skibo Castle                  | ● Minchinhampton     |
| ● Woking                        | ● Todmorden          |
| ● Parkwood                      | ● Ostswelzerischer   |
| ● Golfplatz Holsdorf            | ● Royal West Norfolk |
| ● Crail                         | ● Secret Valley      |
| ● Kobenhavn                     | ● Royal Dublin       |
| ● Club de Bonmont               |                      |
| ● Gollanlage Munzingen-Freiburg |                      |
| ● Golfpark Schloss Wilkendorf   |                      |
| ● Hamburger Falkenstein         |                      |

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# Mommersteeg

## What is the nature of your business?

Mommersteeg International supplies a comprehensive range of specialist MM grass seed mixtures and grass varieties, bred by its parent company Advanta, specifically for sports and amenity use. Mommersteeg also has a range of wildflower mixtures.

## What major changes have you seen in your sector of the industry over the last 10 years?

The move away from using agricultural grasses to specific amenity grasses for sports and amenity situations has been one of the major changes. A further change has been the breeding of grass varieties that offer hard wearing characteristics to provide greenkeepers and groundsmen with a surface that can withstand the increased levels of play that are now being encountered on golf courses and other sports grounds.

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

The industry has become more technical and education and training led and the quality of the products available has increased substantially.

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

Continued pressures on breeders to develop varieties that offer more than one benefit and have the characteristics of hard wearing, disease resistance, and levels of growth required for specific situations

## And in the industry as a whole?

Continued increase in the supply of quality materials and emphasis on better training and education levels of all industry personnel.

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

Enables the industry to focus on its requirements and encourage a higher level of participation in train-

ing. It has also raised the profile of the expertise of greenkeepers and the potential for a career within greenkeeping

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

The Association's commitment and enthusiasm for the continued prosperity and development of the golf industry as a whole is to be encouraged. We are very pleased to play our part in supporting such aims.

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

The breeding of such highly successful varieties such as Mocassin and Amadeus which have played major roles in improving fine turf. And our commitment, through our parent company Advanta's breeding programme, to producing varieties that will continue to provide greenkeepers with even more improvements in the future.

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**Dr Mike Canaway Chief Executive of the STRI, reports on the World Scientific Congress which took place at St Andrews just after The Open**

# Talking golf

Beyond the R&A Clubhouse young children play on the putting green enjoying their first golfing experience.

Further away, just past the superb new practice facilities, somewhat older children and keen parents play the 9-hole, par 60, Balgove course while the more serious play the Old, New, Eden, Jubilee or Strathtyrum courses. Together with the ancient University buildings, the sea and sand all make a visit to St. Andrews an uplifting experience for all interested in golf and its history. Where better a venue therefore for the World Scientific Congress of Golf held earlier this summer which attracted approaching 300 delegates from all over the world. Started tentatively by the University of St Andrews in 1990, the Congress has now established itself as a regular four-yearly gathering of individuals with widely disparate interests but all concerned with the science of golf, 1998 being the third Congress. The creation of the World Scientific Congress of Golf Trust, with support from the R & A and USGA, has given core funding to continue the Congress on a financially secure basis.

The Congress comprised three main themes: The Golfer, Golf Equipment and The Golf Course. With a keynote speaker for each main theme, then dividing into parallel sessions so that around 100 speakers could all be allocated time for their presentations. Papers concerning The Golfer covered a wide range of subjects from the psychol-

ogy of putting, putting performance, issues concerned with women's golf, age and performance of golfers, fitness and conditioning, injuries, coaching, swing mechanics and finally a seminar entitled "The older I get, the better I was"! The sessions on equipment started with papers on the effects of golf ball construction on putting, ground reaction forces in golf shoes using regular and alternative spikes and a number of papers on golf ball spin and flight. However, the highlight of the equipment section was the keynote address by Walley Uihlein who is Chief Executive Officer of the Acushnet Company, the parent company of Titleist, Foot-Joy World-wide and Cobra Golf. This is a company, with a billion dollar turnover, and his presentation company was flown over from America to manage the slides! His subject was "Tradition and Technology - Preserving the Balance". This comprised a very interesting historical overview of the development of clubs and balls in relation to course design taking us through to modern oversized heads and graphite shafts etc. He was able to demonstrate that although the longest hitters are getting longer, part of this was due to increasing size and strength of professional golfers together with increased training and conditioning. He was also able to show that analysis of the figures from the PGA Tour over the last 20 years, had shown that although players may be hitting further and more accurately onto fairways the figures for greens in regulation had

changed little. Similarly average round scores on a USPGA Tour over the last 20 years had also barely changed. The cynic might suggest that, as the ball and equipment manufacturer, there might be some vested interest in preserving the status quo and it also does not take into account the ability to set up courses in a more difficult way which offsets the advantage gained by longer hitters. However, there is much truth in Lee Trevino's observation which Walley Uihlein concluded with where he said "Believe me when I tell you it is not the bow, it is not the arrow. It is the Indian." For those of us who have, for once, hit a nice long tee shot only to see it sneak into the rough we know exactly what he means.

There were three sessions on golf course agronomy, two of which I chaired and the third by Dr James Beard together with a session on golf course design and provision chaired by Howard Swan. STRI's Dr Amanda Cook and Dr Stephen Baker presented papers on results of two R & A funded projects at STRI - Organic Amendments for Sand-Dominated Golf Green Rootzones and The Effects of Soil Acidification and Pesticide Application to Control Earthworm Casting on Golf Courses. Some of our American colleagues presented papers on annual meadow grass control using growth regulators, effect of soft spikes, use of water release curves for evaluating golf green construction materials, long-term effects of different aeration methods and a study on American

# GREEN-RELEAF™ APOLOGY

Green-Releaf wishes to apologise unreservedly to the STRI for the advert which appeared on page 67 of last month's Greenkeeper International which mistakenly claimed the Green-Releaf products were STRI approved in addition to being tested.

This is not the case and Green-Releaf now accepts that the STRI does not approve specific products and apologises for making this erroneous claim.



golfers passion for green. David Stubbs, of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit, chaired a workshop on the golfing environment at which he, Jonathan Smith (Scotland's Golf Course Wildlife Adviser) and Alan Gange (Royal Holloway, University of London) put forward various aspects of the environmental management of golf courses for general debate.

One of the highlights of the golf course session was the keynote address by American Golf Course Architect Michael Hurdzan. He introduced a subject with a short overview of golf course architecture to date stating that the original game of golf was affordable, accessible and sustainable. He showed how, that as golf developed with the advent of the motor car, it became less accessible and started to depend on car access and during what he described as the "Robert Trent Jones era" from about 1940 to 1980, golf courses became viewed as landscapes and architects lost the whole plot. Where there was enough money and water it was possible to produce golf courses anywhere and the original concepts were lost. Within the last 20 years we had experienced what he described as the "celebrity designer era" with money no object and the main purpose was to gain worldwide recognition for a particular course. He again felt that architects or celebrities had lost the plot. This type of course created the impression that golf provided a playground for the idle rich, and created a bad impression to the environ-

mentalists leading, in some parts of the world, to pickets outside golf courses and environmental opposition. His main message was that the very science that allowed us to develop courses anywhere will allow us to get back to affordable accessible and sustainable golf courses once more. Despite this central message, which much of the audience found sympathy with, his talk also included what might be described as slightly unusual ideas for example having completed the construction of a golf course with six push up greens, six pure sand greens and six USGA construction greens. This might be an interesting experiment but I feel sorry for the poor superintendent who has to maintain them all. It will be interesting to see if they reconstruct them or rather when they reconstruct some of them!

As well as the scientific programme there was a well organised programme of social activities in the evenings including golf for those who wished to participate and some golf clinics conducted by a local professional.

Overall, I felt that the Congress was a successful event in bringing together people from different parts of the golf industry and promoting communications between them. If only for this aspect the R & A and the USGA should be commended for their continuing support of the Congress together with all the hard work put in by Congress Director Martin Farrally, the organising committee and their helpers and volunteers.

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Apply in writing with current C.V.

Course Manager, Prenton Golf Club, Golf Links Road  
Prenton, Birkenhead L42 8LW

**SEAHAM GOLF CLUB**

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Salary and conditions negotiable.

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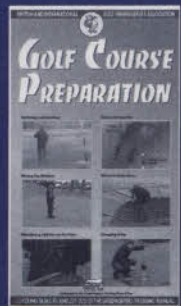
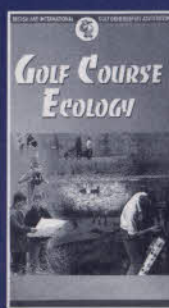
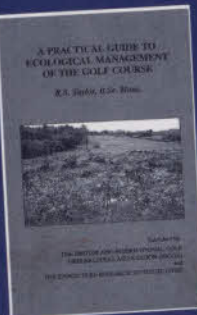
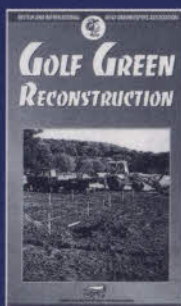
The Secretary, Seaham Golf Club, Shrewsbury Street, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 7RD.  
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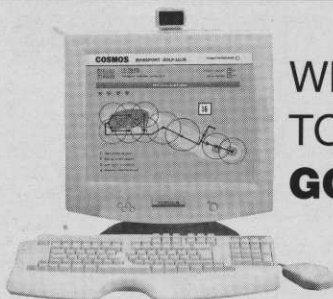
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The closing date for receipt of applications is 28th September



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John R Burns - Manager, Headingley Golf Club Ltd,  
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Applicants must be interested in all aspects of course maintenance.  
Wage is negotiable dependent upon age and experience.

Apply in writing enclosing a CV to:

Secretary, Flackwell Heath Golf Club Ltd, Treadaway Road,  
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Phillip Chiverton, Golf Course Manager, Buckinghamshire Golf Club,  
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Closing date for applicants 28th September 1998

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The Secretary, Burton on Trent Golf Club Ltd, 43, Ashby Road East  
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Closing date for applications is 30th Sept 1998

## HENDON GOLF CLUB

Have a vacancy for a

### MECHANIC/ GREENKEEPER

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Ashley Walk, Devonshire Road, Mill Hill, London NW7 1DG



## SHIRLEY GOLF CLUB

require a

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

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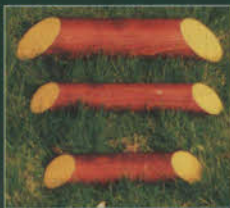


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# Just one careful owner...

There has been a great deal of discussion in the press and among people in general about the value of the National Lottery lately. Is it creating a nation of compulsive gamblers? Are we diverting funds from other charities? Should we give £50 million to Covent Garden so as they can feed Luciano? And, the most ridiculous of all, are we ruining people's lives when the poor unfortunates manage to win £10 million or so?

In my opinion all this is more than made up for in the fact that it has created a fantastic new pastime, that of dreaming of what we will all do when we win the big one. Many an hour has been spent in the partaking of this hobby. Obviously we all dream of the new cars and houses but I myself like to think in terms of a new golf course.

I remember a friend of mine telling me of a club professional who managed to do just that and built himself his very own course. As we all know club pros are not able to make as much money as they would like and so the course in question was not of the high budget, guaranteed bankruptcy type, with matching gin palace, but was of the worn out nine holer with

en suite wooden shed for a clubhouse. Apart from providing a very regular and lucrative source of income, the club pro in question derived an additional pleasure from his course when the occasional visiting golfer entered his shop to complain. They would pronounce his course appalling in condition and generally undeserving of their pres-

ence. They would then demand to see the manager so as suitable compensation could be arranged. At this point the club pro in question would take immense delight from informing them that he was the manager and would say, "You know what you can do don't you? You can ..!" There then followed a well known two word phrase that I could not possibly repeat on these pages except to tell you that the first word rhymed with what one would need a great deal of in order to win the above mentioned lottery.

Now this professional like many of his counterparts was an especially shrewd businessman. Sure, he would lose the odd customer by his personal indulgence of insulting them but, as he had located his course in the right spot, he knew there would be a steady stream of golfers not only desperate to utilise his excuse for a golf course but also keen to enter his shop where he could make an additional killing by selling them the latest in equipment.

I also remember another equally astute man who was a member of a club I was once employed at. He, so the story goes, was a modest working man that happened to notice an area of land that was up for sale. At this time in the early 70s land prices were low and so he re-mortgaged his house and made a successful bid for it. He then bought a couple of old auto certes and cut out nine tees and nine greens and asked his father to tow in his caravan to be used as some sort of clubhouse and a base in which to remove the punters' money. Incredible so it would seem in today's highly competitive market, they queued up to get to his undulating 1st tee with cash in hand. One must of course remember, in those days golf was coming out of its elitist past and was now attracting the working class.

Several years later and after building up his initial course into something quite respectable, the owner did the same thing again but this time and with the money he had made from his first course, managed to purchase enough land for 18

holes. On this course, however, he built a large clubhouse with a veritable superstore of a professional shop in which he employed a pro for teaching purposes but kept the sale profits for himself. This time it was a steady stream of golfers from the nearby rapidly developing new town that wanted to sample his equally shoddy golf course but now, during the early to mid 80s they came with wads of folding stuff eager to buy the wares he had on offer in his shop. A couple of years later he sold to the Japanese for what was reported to be something in the region of £6 million. He later built another course for cash, this time on prime golfing land and what's more he still has his original nine holer.

Those are a couple of success stories but as we all know, in this industry for every success there is a cataclysmic disaster. I am a great believer in learning from mistakes, preferably those of other people, and I am sometimes astounded at the naivete of some reputedly intelligent people. There are dozens of examples of this. I remember one that a speaker at Harrogate last year told. This was about a Japanese company that wanted to build a top of the range multi million pound golf course in the South of Spain. They located their land and got a top market research company to investigate its feasibility. They were obviously very thorough and noted that there were several other highly exclusive designer label developments in the area, all with their own Arnold Palmer/ Gary Player golf courses and all were empty and losing a fortune. So the market research company handed in their eight volume report together with a bill for £1 million yes £1 million and advised against going ahead. I mean £1 million just for market research, you could build a lovely course for that.

Still, having worked for the Japanese in life before Sludgecombe I can well believe it, but that's a different story. Maybe I am a simple greenkeeper but I could of gone over to Spain for a two week holiday, played the local courses a few times

**You know the type of thing, scenic land, lots of bunkers that looked like miniature versions of the Sahara Desert, ponds, lakes, waterfalls, buggy paths, the works and all designed by a household name**

**The course was so mountainous that Chris Bonnington would have had to set up base camp before tackling it**



and given them the same answer and would have done it all for a mere £500,000.

There is another golf club not far from me at Sludgecombe Pay and Play that has had a painful time of it in its short existence. Without going into too much detail as I could write a book on this disaster area, it was one of those clubs that originally had lofty expectations. You know the type of thing, scenic land, lots of bunkers that looked like miniature versions of the Sahara Desert, ponds, lakes, waterfalls, buggy paths, the works and all designed by a household name. As you can imagine there were the usual major problems associated with this type of £7 million project and the whole thing went into receivership quite early on in its history.

It was, after a few years sold for what seemed like a snip for I believe about £1.5 million but what the new owner didn't recognise was that this course was impossible to maintain. The greens were constructed using pure sand that contained something in the region of 70% fines. Some of them were located in amongst thick woodland, at the bottom of North facing hills and with a surface area of less than 200 square metres. On top of that the course was so mountainous that Chris Bonnington would have had to set up base camp before tackling it. No one wanted to spend around £30 to play it and it cost a fortune just to keep it in bad condition.

Now all the owner had to do was ask a greenkeeper what they thought of it and he would of been informed not to touch it with the proverbial barge pole. Anyone with an ounce of knowledge in the noble subject of greenkeeping could have seen that this place needed digging up and starting again.

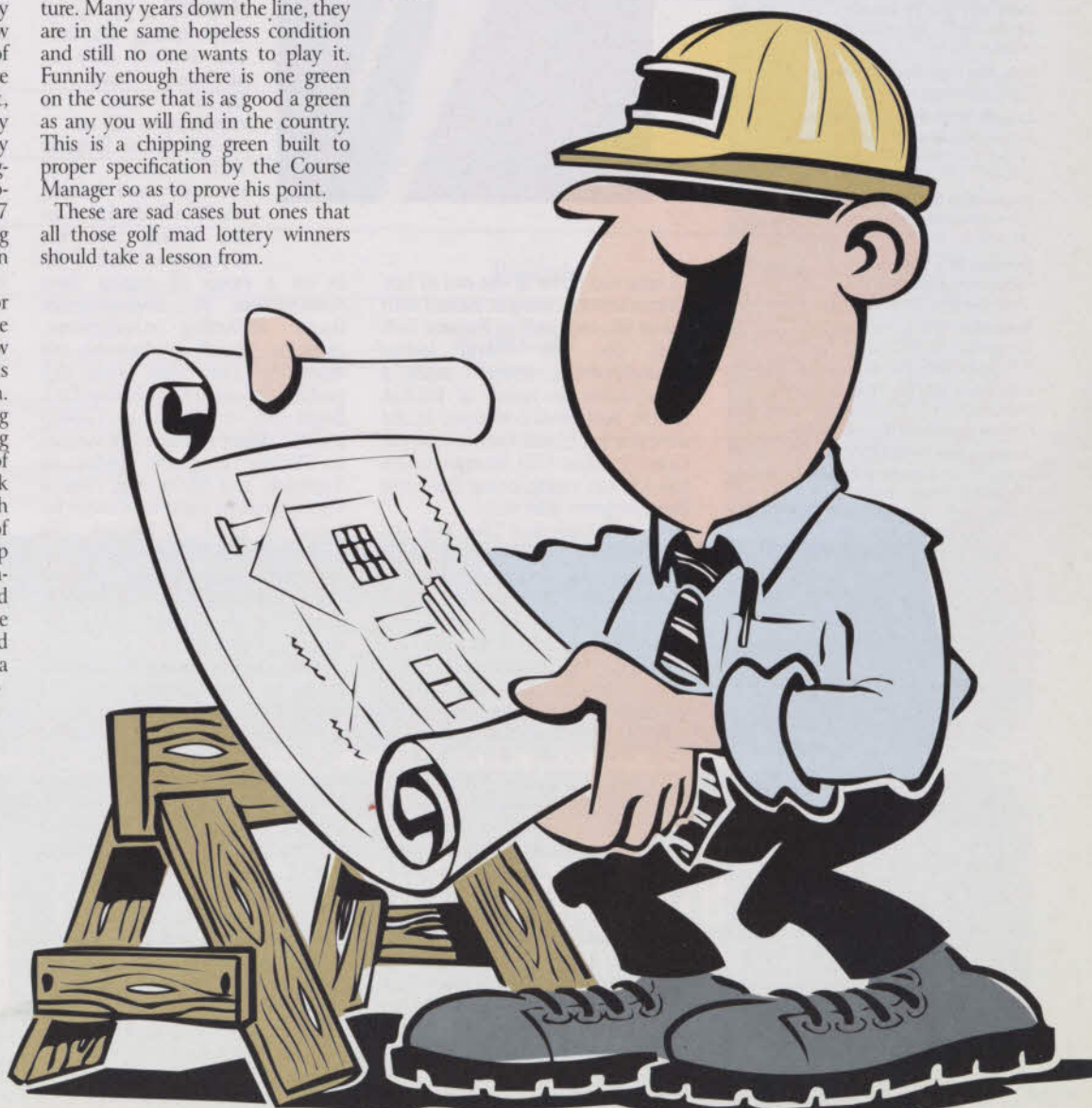
However, he went ahead and

purchased the lot and on top of that spent vast sums extending the clubhouse to cater for the hordes of golfers that were going to beat a path to his course. Now I don't have to tell you that this man has now spent several years banging his head against a brick wall or indeed one of his greens which are of a similar texture. Many years down the line, they are in the same hopeless condition and still no one wants to play it. Funnily enough there is one green on the course that is as good a green as any you will find in the country. This is a chipping green built to proper specification by the Course Manager so as to prove his point.

These are sad cases but ones that all those golf mad lottery winners should take a lesson from.

Before you embark on the project of your dreams ask a Greenkeeper. It could save you millions of your hard won money.

**Sandy McDivot.**  
Head Greenkeeper  
Sludgecombe Pay and  
Play.



## Feature listing from August '96

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

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

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

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

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

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

**February '97:** Attending to the Details; Computers; Fertilisers; 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; Longhurst Hall GC; Toro Awards; Fertiliser Spreaders; Communication

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# It's good to talk



I returned home at the end of July after two weeks away. It started with a very pleasant visit to Formby Golf Club for The World Junior Championships, where I made a presentation on behalf of BIGGA for the Best Nordic Winner. At the Presentation Lunch I sat next to the Guest Speaker, Cliff Morgan, which has left our rugby-loving Executive Director green with envy.

Royal Birkdale and The Open was my next stop, but before I talk about our team's part I must, on behalf of greenkeepers everywhere, thank Chris Whittle and his staff for the marvellous boost they gave our profession. Whatever I say here will seem inadequate but Royal Birkdale's links were in superb condition. No fancy frills, just a very good links course, well maintained and presented to the highest standard. Well done Chris!

The BIGGA Support Team was another success story. It was a great team effort in unpleasant weather conditions. Elliott and Bert had the cabin well organised, while Cecil and Jimmy kept the 1st tee running smoothly. I have already said this was a team effort and at The Open it is particularly pleasing to see members and staff working together for the benefit of the Association.

While it is impossible to name everyone, I would like to say a big

thank you to all who took part. We are proud of all the team.

In the marquee we had many visitors, but none was more welcome than Viscount and Lady Whitelaw, accompanied by their grand-daughter. How nice it was to see them taking the time and interest they so obviously have in BIGGA and its members, to visit us.

I left Royal Birkdale with many fond memories and headed north to St Andrews for the World Scientific Congress of Golf. I sat in on a range of papers from construction to environmental issues, including management, pesticides, thatch development and marketing. There were some high profile speakers too, including Dr J. Beard and M. Mocioni on Grasses and S. I. Sifers and Beard on Grasses for Putting Greens, W. Uihlein on Tradition and Technology, and a very interesting paper on Passion for Green by Dr J. R. Hansen. The STRI had talks from Amanda Cook and S. W. Baker. I did take time out from greenkeeping matters to enjoy a talk for the Ageing Golfer (no comments please).

In the evening there was a range of things to do, one was a visit to a nearby development at Kingsbarns, a new links course in which Walter Woods has an input. Walter had told me much about Kingsbarns the week before, so I was looking forward with interest to the visit. I was not disappointed, it is an exiting project. One very interesting and unusual find made during the landscaping, was the discovery of an old kondit - a channel or passage for conveying water - which had been buried for more than one hundred years, several metres underground. This has been uncovered with care and turned into a feature using two original bridges in remarkable condition, which span the kondit as

walkways. They remind you very much of the famous bridge over the Swilcan Burn on the 18th hole at St Andrews. Kingsbarns is a links I look forward to playing on completion.

I would like to thank Walter who one evening picked me up and took me on a tour of the city and his club before returning to his home for a bite of supper and to meet his good lady. The week ended with a game of golf on the Old Course and dinner before the long drive home. It had been a very enjoyable time meeting a lot of very nice people from all over the world.

It should have been back in Scotland the following week for the National Tournament which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to lack of support. It does, however, give us the opportunity to update and hopefully improve the event next year. One thing is certain, it will take place, that you can rest assured. Marion and I were going to take a holiday in Scotland including the tournament, so we lost out on that, but not to be out done, Marion booked a second holiday for us in Chester, and it made a very nice break.

At the time of writing the hot weather has arrived at last to test out the watering systems, and slow down the growth, but do beware of using too much water at this late stage in the season. It can be very dangerous and leave us with soggy greens to go into winter, exactly the opposite condition we would like. The more experienced greenkeepers will have gone through this sort of weather pattern before, but for some it will be new. So, if you are unsure, pick up the phone and talk to someone local, and remember the advert - It's good to talk.

Gordon Child

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