

Address your letters to the Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York YO61 1UF. You can also fax them to 01347 833801, or e-mail them to reception@bigga.co.uk

QQuest for perfect spelling

Being involved in the Computer business as we are, it is always a pleasure to see people spreading the gospel in terms of trying to convince doubters that computers are not just for kids or rocket scientists.

Pleasure aside, I do have one main criticism of Ken Richardson's "A second byte" article in the February issue of Greenkeeper International and this is that he seems to be having trouble with the spelling of QQUEST - not one misspelling but two!

While writing, I should like to point out that information on the QQUEST Maintenance Management Software can also be found on, and a demo programme can be downloaded from, our Internet site, <http://www.wessexsoftware.com>.

Guy R W Coleman, Partner,
 Wessex Software Systems
 Pulborough, West Sussex

A Toro thank you

May I take this opportunity to thank all those concerned with organising my Toro sponsored trip to America. The organisation by Neil Thomas and his team at BIGGA Headquarters was second to none and all aspects of my trip ran smoothly and according to plan. I know from speaking with British Greenkeeper delegates who did not book through the association that most of them

experienced problems regarding seminars they had self booked.

Toro's organisation of the factory visitations and general hospitality was also fantastic and I feel I must thank Both Pete Mansfield and Darren Wennen for the part they played in making sure my stay was as interesting and enjoyable as possible, it certainly was.

Overall I had a great time and came

home with a much better appreciation of what's involved in the manufacturing industry of golf course equipment and will definitely be attending next years GCSAA Show in Orlando.

Again, many thanks and hope to see you all soon,

John Coleman
 Abbeydale Golf Club

Spanish help required

I am writing with regard to possible employment on Spanish golf courses.

Currently I am studying the Higher National Diploma in Golf Course Management at Elmwood College. From April to October I will be taking up employment as a seasonal greenkeeper at the Kildare Hotel and Country Club, Ireland. I also intend returning to Germany in April 2000 for full time employment.

I am seeking employment from

October 99 to April 2000 and will be grateful if you could put me in contact with Spanish golf courses. My Spanish is only basic and therefore it would be ideal if I could work together with English or German speaking greenkeepers.

I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Dirk Thelen, Roesrathersrt. 543A
 51107, Cologne, Germany or
 through Elmwood College

Bettina Schrickel

Greenkeeper International would like to apologise to Bettina Schrickel, author of the "Course Closed" feature last month, for spelling her name incorrectly in the content's page. The error was compounded by the appearance of the words (Check Spelling) beside her name which was not removed at the production stage of the page. Sorry Bettina!

Just the job.

Greenkeeper
 INTERNATIONAL

To place an advertisement in the Recruitment Section, call Cheryl or Jenny now on 01347 833800

Rubigan warning

I am writing in response to a letter from Stephen Okula, of Tenerife, published on page 12 of your February edition headed 'McDivot1', as I don't want any greenkeepers in the UK and Ireland getting themselves into bother over the advice given.

The letter to which I refer concerns the legalities of applying agricultural products in sports and amenity turf. The letter recommends applying Rubigan for the control of Take All Patch. I have to stress that Rubigan has NO APPROVAL for either use on turf or for the control of Take All Patch in the UK or Ireland. This means that it would be illegal to apply Rubigan to sports turf.

If a greenkeeper did apply this product, not only would he/she be in breach of the Pesticides Legislation, but also if something 'went wrong', liability would rest with the user. It is also against the Pesticides Legislation to recommend or supply a product for use in a situation where that product is not approved.

Research based pesticide manufacturers spend many millions of pounds discovering and developing pesticides for a range of uses, including use on turf grass. Products undergo rigorous tests to ensure that they are effective and

present minimum risk. The data produced in product development are subjected to critical examination by Regulatory Authorities before approval is granted. Dow AgroSciences does manufacture the fungicide Rimidin which has Full Approval for the control of Fusarium Patch, Dollar Spot and Red Thread on turf grass. There is no approval for Take-All Patch.

This brings me onto a second letter that I would like to reply on page 13 of the same issue. The letter 'McDivot 3' suggests that fungicides kill useful bacteria. As part of the extensive and exacting development work on the environmental fate of Rimidin, it was demonstrated that Rimidin is safe to beneficial soil bacteria. Trials not only looked at overall populations of bacteria, but also at the activity of specific bacteria such as Nitrobacter and Nitrosomonas.

In summary, please ensure that when using a pesticide the label is read and follow it carefully. If you follow these rules you will not only be keeping yourself on the right side of the law, but you will ensure that you have a valuable tool for modern greenkeeping in the future.

Andy Cawley
 Country Manager, UK & Eire
 Dow AgroSciences.