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# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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## August 1999

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# Well done John and the team

John Philp was described as "a greenkeeper out of control" by David Duval. He was accused of fertilising the rough by several experienced pros and, if some rumours are to be believed, is a close relation of the Marquis de Sade.

In fact all John had done - in conjunction with his own Links Management Committee and the R&A - was to bring a fine old links back into tip top condition and provide a challenge few of the professionals had ever faced before. Sure the fairways were a little tighter than was perhaps comfortable and sure the rough was...well rough, but the Angus area has been particularly wet and grass tends to grow in those types of conditions.

The players had launched their media offensive against the course well before the week started. The winning total was by all accounts going to be around 300. Well, 29 players broke 300 and the winning total, matched by three players, was the equivalent of two 72 and two 73s. Not too outrageous.

But isn't the score irrelevant? Isn't the idea to identify the Champion? The man who mastered the conditions the best? What score did O'Meara shoot to win at Birkdale last year? I'm blown if I can remember, and frankly it doesn't matter.

Jean van de Velde played the best golf for 71 holes and would have been a deserving champion. Paul Lawrie was superb in the play-off and as a result is a deserving champion - someone who won The Open not just the beneficiary of someone's sad stumble.

So why the criticism?

You don't hear cyclists in the Tour de France, which was running at the same time as The Open, complaining to the organisers that a particular climb was too steep. They get on with it.

Skiers tackling the fearsome Hannenkann mountain in the annual downhill race take pride in completing the course. They don't look at their times and say we only averaged 55mph and not 65mph, as we usually do, so the spectators are being short changed.

Even Formula One drivers, who one might forgive for prima donnaish tendencies, usually blame the set up of their cars rather than the layout of the track for disappointing times.

Professional golfers get many advantages not open to club golfers. In The Open they have ball spotters on every hole. They get free drops, line of sight rulings, they get someone to carry their bag, cars to pick them up from their hotels...

The list goes on, yet still they moan.

John Philp and his team did a tremendous job at Carnoustie and the set-up of the course showed real imagination. Sure it was tight, but it was not unplayable, and in the end it produced an

Open which will be remembered for many years to come.

Coupled with the fine new hotel it surely has guaranteed Carnoustie a permanent place back on The Open rota...even if the very thought will cause some nightmares.

**Editor:**

Scott MacCallum



# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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**7** Viscount Whitelaw



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Cover photo: Scott MacCallum



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**Neil Thomas takes a personal look back at Viscount Whitelaw's involvement with BIGGA which started back in the early days of the Association.**

# Viscount Whitelaw 1918–1999

Much has been written and spoken recently of the life and times of Viscount Whitelaw. Naturally this has concentrated on his place in the political life of this country, not to mention his wartime service in the Scots Guards where he won the Military Cross in the Normandy campaign.

His career in Government was long and distinguished including service as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and as Deputy Prime Minister to Margaret Thatcher from 1975 to 1987. It was at Christmas 1987 that illness intervened, albeit one from which he fully recovered, and he stood down as Deputy Prime Minister. It was then that it was our exceedingly good fortune that he agreed to take on the Presidency of BIGGA.

The connection with BIGGA came directly from his love of golf and life-time interest in the game. An outstanding player in his younger days and a Cambridge blue in 1939, he regarded as one of his greatest honours being made Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club in 1969. Early in 1988, we made an approach through the R&A to ascertain whether Viscount Whitelaw would consider taking on the role of President of BIGGA at a time when he was relinquishing some of his parliamentary duties and responsibilities.

It was a great boost to our fledgling Association when he kindly agreed but this agreement came with a proviso. He indicated that he would only take up the Presidency on the basis that he would be active within the Association's affairs, not for him a passive, figurehead role. We could have wished for nothing more. During the decade of his Presidency through to the opening of BIGGA HOUSE in 1998 he remained forever ready to take up our cause and it was a source of great pleasure to him to see the development and progress of the Association.

Each year there were always occasions when he joined us on BIGGA's national stage, whether at the BTME,

the Open Championship or some other event and he was always noted wearing the BIGGA tie. At these events we all experienced his natural warmth and friendship - there was no confining himself to the BIGGA hierarchy. I recall that on each and every occasion he mingled with greenkeepers and talked knowledgeably with them of golf and greenkeeping.

Away from our national events his role in promoting BIGGA within the golfing world proved of inestimable benefit to the Association. A word here and a word there did much to send us in the right direction and to ensure that we received support and backing when most needed.

Within BIGGA, I was most privileged to be his main point of contact and this enabled me to meet with him and discuss BIGGA affairs on many occasions over a ten year period. I count myself very lucky. In 1988 I was in some awe of him for here was a man who has been described as a "towering figure" in politics and who was most certainly one of the foremost politicians of the last 50 years. I need not have worried as from the start he was steadfast in his support, giving strong backing during our early, difficult years.

Perhaps it was presumptuous on my part, but I came to regard him as a friend and a ready listener who would always provide wise and sound counsel from his standpoint as President. Occasionally as the years went by he was happy to touch on a current political issue with me, but essentially he wanted to talk of greenkeeping and greenkeepers and he never wavered in seeking the betterment of the Association. I well remember a visit to his room at the House of Lords and thinking just how fortunate BIGGA was to have such a staunch and influential figure as its President.

In the latter years he was delighted to learn of our plans for our own national headquarters at Aldwark Manor and saw this as a major landmark in BIGGA's short history. As the project neared completion, he began to drop one or two hints that perhaps the time had come for him to step down as President. Then in March of 1998, the Chairman and myself were invited to lunch with Viscount and Lady Whitelaw at the family seat in Penrith. Through the years we have come to know Lady Whitelaw well and she has always tak-



Addressing attendees at the Chairman's luncheon during BTME

Talking with greenkeepers at the 1995 Open Championship at St Andrews

en a keen interest in the Association.

It was with some sadness that we learnt during lunch of the decision to stand down - his view being that it was time for a younger man to succeed him. The Board of Management then decided to award the first Honorary Membership in the Association's history to Viscount Whitelaw and it seemed totally appropriate that he should be the first recipient of this award. We could think of no more fitting finale for Viscount Whitelaw on the BIGGA stage than for him to be present at the opening of BIGGA HOUSE and it was with the greatest of pleasure that we welcomed both him and Lady Whitelaw to the official opening last October.

Many members will have their own memories of having met with him and discussed greenkeeping matters. It may have been at the BTME, the Open Championship or even more locally through his attendance annually at the Cumbria Cup competition. I remember particularly one occasion when he came to our National Conference at the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College at Egham in 1990. His schedule had been completely disrupted but he insisted on finding time, however brief, to attend. He arrived, went to the platform and in true political style delivered a ten minute oration which was an inspiration to those members present. Until the moment he started speaking, I suspect that his mind was preoccu-



pied with matters of state and we could only admire his ability to switch focus and give a highly relevant and totally unscripted speech - the master politician's art in all its glory.

I can best conclude with some words of Viscount Whitelaw himself, again in an unscripted speech to his father's old school in 1982 when he spoke of the value in life of friendship and the comradeship that goes with it... "Indeed, in my experience of government, life without friends would be bleak, even unbearable, but friendships depend in themselves on the mutual sympathy, understanding and, above all, on that sometimes derided but crucial virtue, loyalty to others besides oneself. Loyalty to organisations, loyalty to a community, loyalty to a country and, in the final event, putting these loyalties above one's personal feelings sometimes, one's personal inclinations and one's personal aggrandisement in one way or another." BIGGA enjoyed and benefited from both his friendship and loyalty. We are a far better Association for it. If his passing marks the end of a political era, then it most surely marks also the end of an era for BIGGA.

Neil Thomas



Viscount Whitelaw and Neil Thomas discuss BIGGA matters in earlier times...



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:** John Ellis

**Club:** Denbigh GC

**Position:** Greenkeeper

**Age:** 27

**1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?**  
10 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?**  
Cleaning the out of bounds trenches

**5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?**  
Involved in the cycling or the music industry

**6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?**  
My Head Greenkeeper, Dave Goodridge

**7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?**  
The relationship between the golfers and the greenkeeper

**8. What are your hobbies?**  
Cycling, gym and music

**9. What do you get out of BIGGA?**  
Education and a magazine

**10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?**  
Carrying on greenkeeping, doing more mountain biking and hopefully winning the lottery

## Textron set to travel back in time

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products has stepped in to assist the organisers of a World War II Air Show, offering to prepare the airfield for the prestigious event which takes place next month.

Raydon Airfield, at Hadleigh in Suffolk, is a former wartime USAAF base that was once home to the Mustangs and Thunderbolts of the 353rd Fighter Group.

On September 4th the Raydon Wings Air Show will take place when the skies over Suffolk will once again be filled with the sound of over 30 classic wartime aircraft of yesteryear.

Textron has stepped in and offered to cut and prepare the 15-acre grass site including the maintenance of the 900 yard runway.

"Our involvement followed an appeal from the organisers and it was one that we could hardly refuse especially as the profits will be used for the benefit of local charities. We will



be preparing the runway and surrounding areas throughout the summer to ensure that Raydon

Airfield is in pristine condition for the show in September," said Peter Bell, of Textron.

## John Deere set record in Ireland

Where the Mountains of Mourne sweep down to the sea - that's the location of one of the most beautiful and challenging golf courses in the world.

Ranked four in Britain and seven in the world, The Royal County Down championship links course by the Irish Sea at Newcastle, Northern Ireland, was host to the prestigious British Amateur Championship at the end of May and will welcome the amateur home internationals in September.

Despite the extremes of weather during the Amateur the immaculate condition of the course was noted by players and commentators alike. This was due to the hard work of Course Manager Alan Strachan and his greenkeeping staff of 15, with the help of a recently extended fleet of John Deere golf course equipment.

The course has just added two 3235A fairway mowers, three 220A walk-behind greens mowers, a Turf Gator utility vehicle and a 1200A bunker rake worth nearly £70,000 to the existing fleet of two 6x4 Gators, three more walk-behind greens mowers and a tractor mounted Aercore aerator.

This is the biggest sale of John Deere equipment to a golf course in Northern



Ireland by local dealer Johnston Gilpin & Co of Lisburn.

"We hand cut all the greens and tees with the 220A greens mowers, which is why we now have six altogether," said Alan.

The picture shows Randal McConnell, of Johnston Gilpin & Co (far right) with Course Manager, Alan Strachan (second right) and some of the staff with the Mourne Mountains in the background.

## Stop press...Stop press...Stop

After over 10 years BIGGA has decided to change its logo from the distinctive world/golf ball spheres and flags, which have stood the Association in good stead, to something more appropriate for the new millennium...

No, no don't worry. The above is a joke designed to see the colour drain from the cheeks of Craig Pennycuik.

Craig, Head Greenkeeper at Winterfield GC, in Dunbar, is so delighted to be a member of BIGGA that he has had the logo tattooed on his left leg.

Unless he pulls his socks up he'll be seen as one of the Association's more committed members.

Can anyone else match Craig's devotion? Logo over a heart maybe!





# Honorary Membership for Fred

Revered golf course architect Fred Hawtree has become an Honorary Member of BIGGA, only the fourth time such an honour has been bestowed.

In doing so Fred, 83, joins the late Viscount Whitelaw, Jim Fry and Brian Gilbert.

It was Fred's father, also Fred, who was the founder of the first greenkeeper association, BGGA, in 1912 and, along with his wife Beatrice, he administered the Association from the Hawtree offices.

Fred's father, known as F.G. to his son's F.W., was also the second President of the BGGA succeeding the Chairman of the News of World newspaper, Lord Riddell.

"Lord Riddell was a very keen golfer who played with all the top golfers and wanted to help golf," recalled Fred, as he sat in his Woodstock study adorned with golfing books and artifacts.

Indeed the News of the World Trophy donated by Lord Riddell himself will be played for in the new BIGGA Golf Championship.

"I always got the feeling that my father, deep down, wanted to promote golf for the ordinary people because it was very restricted around his time," explained Fred, who edited one of the first greenkeeper magazines for a time and wrote a regular column in the BGGA magazine before BIGGA was formed.

He is delighted with the way BIGGA has developed from the merging of the three original associations.

"I think the association has progressed wonderfully. It is everything you could have hoped for."

His own recollections of greenkeepers go back to 1922 when he was just a young boy and a tournament at Sundridge Park.



"Charlie Prickett, the greenkeeper at Frilford Heath, was playing and he put half a crown in my hand. In 1922 that was a fortune and I thought these greenkeepers really are wonderful chaps."

It was fitting that the presentation of the Certificate should be made by Gordon Child, in whose house Fred was enjoying dinner when the call to say that

BIGGA had been formed came through.

"I am absolutely delighted to make this presentation as I've known Fred for so many years, Marion and I call him Uncle Fred," said Gordon.

The Hawtree practice continues under the leadership of son, Martin, a past President of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects.

## Course Management Trophy

These competitions for a team of four comprising of the Secretary/Manager, Head Greenkeeper, Course Manager, Chairman of Green and Club Captain have now been set up in each of the sections in the South West & South Wales Region.

Entry is by invitation only and any club who has not received an invitation and would like one should apply to Paula Humphries (Tel: 01288 352194).

The venues and dates are: South Coast Section at Salisbury & South Wilts 17 Aug; South West Section at Manor, Castle Coombe 24 Aug; South Wales Section Celtic Manor 25 Aug

Devon & Cornwall is at Exeter on 15 July (apply direct to Exeter Golf & Country Club)

## Size isn't a problem for Nigel



What do you get the greenkeeper who has everything?

That was the question posed to Clive Tilbury of Darenth Valley GC, when deciding what to get his boss, Nigel Stapley, to commemorate 22 years at the club - 12 as Course Manager.

One thing Clive knew he didn't have was a mini mower so that's exactly what was presented to Nigel.

"You can imagine how long it would take to do 18 greens with that! Mind you it doesn't use much fuel," said Nigel.

## New MD for Scotts UK Professional

The Scotts Company has appointed Bernie Ford to the position of Managing Director of Scotts Professional Business Group UK and Ireland.

The company was created following the acquisition of Levington Horticulture and Miracle Garden Care by the Scotts Company in 1997 and markets key brands such as Sierrablen, Sierraform and Greenmaster turf fertilisers and the pioneering new turf growth regulator Shortcut.

Bernie Ford has held a number of international Sales and Marketing positions with The Scotts Company over the past 21 years, covering consumer and professional markets.

He has extensive experience with Osmocote controlled release fertilisers and established major markets for this brand in South America, Malaysia and the Caribbean.

He is married with two children and will be relocating from Ohio to the UK.



## Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



## New Chairman at BAGCC

The British Association of Golf Course Constructors have elected Nigel Ely as their new chairman.

Nigel is a director of J & E Ely Ltd., whose recent construction work includes the new 18-hole Palmerstone course at Bocket Hall, designed by Donald Steel.



## Personal goal leaves Peter triumphant

Retired Kent Section member Peter Biscoe put a recent heart bypass operation behind him to win his Club Championship.

Peter, 64 year-old whose handicap is now 12, shot rounds of nett 65 and 71 to tie for first place in the Eltham Warren GC Championship and, under the rules of the event, had to endure an 18-hole play-off before coming out on top.

"I'm surprised, elated and, understandably, knackered," said Peter, who also won the Kent Seniors Championship a few years ago.

## New chairman of SGA elected

The newly elected chairman of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association is Rolf Lowgren who replaces Roland Andersson who has moved from his Course Manager's job to become Toro rep for the Southern Sweden dealer.

Rolf is Course Manager of Bro-Balsta Golf course West of Stockholm, and is very well known in Sweden with his background as an agronomist in Swedish Golf Federation 1977-1989 and then, more recently becoming a Course Manager.

The rest of the board was reelected and SGAs 1200 members can look forward for another interesting year with a highlight coming up in September with a Conference and Trade Show in Jonkoping in mid-south Sweden.

This show is a biannual arrangement in cooperation with Swedish Golf Federation, Golf Administrators and also PGA. The conference programme contains topics for everyone and it's possible for greenkeepers to listen to the pro's day and vice versa. Also programme for Greens Chairmen, all to try to find a good cooperation within the whole golfing World.

## Colin moves to Charterhouse

Colin Gregory, previously with Hardi and Twose has joined Charterhouse Turf Machinery.

Colin joins the company to head up the new Tractor Division which has been formed following the announcement of Charterhouse Turf Machinery's appointment as the exclusive Distributor for Antonio Carraro in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Bire.

Colin said he is looking forward to working with a dynamic marketing Company, particularly as they have been able to obtain one of the most advanced tractor franchises in the world. Colin is already well known in the industry and will be pleased to hear from any of his old Dealer or customer friends to discuss future business prospects.

## Charterhouse expand their horizons

Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd and Antonio Carraro Spa have signed an exclusive distribution contract for Charterhouse Turf Machinery to distribute their range of tractors throughout England, Wales, Northern Ireland and The Irish Republic.

Antonio Carraro Spa have been manufacturing tractors in Padova since 1901 and employ 400 staff. They have over 118 tractors in their range and Charterhouse Turf Machinery have selected the most appropriate for the UK markets. These are niche products which have been selected in particular for golf, local authority, contracting forestry and nursery markets. Charterhouse Turf Machinery will also be importing a full range of ancillary equipment which dovetails with the tractors in question.

Many of these tractors have a unique features including reverse seat, steering wheels and controls can be operated with 'finger tip' control. This enables the operator to operate equipment on the rear mounted linkages in a forward direction. In this context, the operator has a panoramic view of work being undertaken.

Another feature of the equipment is that they are all articulated in the horizontal plain and some models are also



David Jenkins and Dr Marcello Carraro jointly signing their contract at the Reform Club, which among other things, is renowned for being the start and finish for the epic journey "Around the World in 80 days".

pivoted about a centre point.

"I am pleased to welcome Charterhouse Turf Machinery into our worldwide family of distributors and feel they will be able to expand sales throughout their territory," said Dr Marcello Carraro, Managing Director of Antonio Carraro Spa.

David Jenkins, Managing Director

of Charterhouse Turf Machinery said he was delighted to have such a high performance range of tractors to 'market'.

"I feel sure that the marketing skills contained within Charterhouse Turf Machinery would enable the company to achieve a significant percentage of the UK tractor sales."

## Scottish Golf Course Advisory Group has it in the bag

The Scottish Golf Course Advisory Group has been working hard over a number of years to improve the environmental quality of Scottish Golf Courses. This important objective has been supported by the introduction of 'Golf Bags' to more than 50 sites throughout Scotland. The Golf Bags do not contain clubs, balls or clothing, rather they contain a wealth of information on environmental management and environmentally aware golf course design, including books, videos, leaflets and case studies.

Each Golf Bag is looked after by a Bag Manager who is responsible for the dispatch and return of all items in the bag. Golf Clubs may borrow items from the bag or may buy items if they wish to hold

onto them permanently. Golf Bags contain information on birds, bird boxes, nests, bracken, walls, hedges, dunes, heathland, moorland, lowlands, woodlands and waterways, to name but a few, giving information that greenkeepers, club officials, golf club members, architects and constructors could all find useful.

In his foreword to the Golf Bag Handbook, Colin Montgomerie says that a golf course that has been sensitively designed and managed in a way that works with nature is normally more interesting and challenging. The information provided in the Golf Bag proves that golf and the environment can work together providing a respite from outside pressures

and ensuring that golf courses and the areas that surround them will be available for our descendants to enjoy.

The Golf Bag is an excellent idea giving a mass of easy to follow information on golf course ecological management. It would be pleasing to see such Golf Bags available to all golf clubs in Britain and throughout Europe.

More information on the Golf Bags, including the location of your nearest Golf Bag Manager and general advice on all aspects of conservation on golf courses can be obtained from the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Advisor, c/o Scottish Natural Heritage, 2 Anderson Place, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 5NP, 0131 5549797.

## New UK Sales Manager at Toro Turf Maintenance

Toro Commercial Products' distributor Lely UK, in St Neots, has appointed Jeff Anguige as the new UK Sales Manager for Toro Turf Maintenance Machinery.

Jeff, 42, has wide experience of the industry, having spent his entire 24 year career in the turf equipment business.

His experience includes, unusually, spells working both for the dealer and manufacturer sides of the industry. This is something he sees as especially valuable in his new role for Toro, where his responsibility for the entire sales operation covers retail business and sales through dealers as well.

Therefore his wide-ranging responsibilities include managing Lely UK's retail sales team, as well as the sales force of business managers working closely with the national network of dealers and service centres. It is an all-

encompassing brief that sees him also in charge of overseeing its business with Toro key accounts.

In the year before joining up with Toro, Jeff Anguige worked for Textron on sales of Ransomes Jacobsen and Iseki.

A man with a thorough grounding and wide knowledge of turf machinery and the machinery business, he began his career 24 years ago as an apprentice in the workshops of a leading local Ransomes' dealership in Morley, near Leeds, before moving on to become a sales representative with the firm. He later worked his way up to become sales director with another Yorkshire dealership before taking up a two-year appointment with a machinery manufacturer prior to joining Ransomes.

Jeff Anguige, his wife Julie and their daughter Carly, 16, and son Ryan, 14, live near Wakefield, in Yorkshire.





The BIGGA Silent Auction was given a boost with its first Masters Club donation, a Sisis Hydraulic Veemo tractor mounted scarifier



# Have you heard?



The Sisis Hydraulic Veemo tractor mounted scarifier

Sisis has donated its Hydraulic Veemo tractor mounted scarifier to BIGGA's Silent Auction.

"Sisis sees the Silent Auction as an interesting idea to spice up BTME and we shall be watching its promotion on BIGGA's Website with great interest," said Publicity Manager Lynn Hilton.

Sisis' decision to take part in the Auction was welcomed by BIGGA's Executive Director Neil Thomas.

"We are delighted to welcome Sisis on board and are sure that there will be much interest in the piece of equipment donated," said Neil.

"It is pleasing that so many companies from within the industry and beyond have warmed to the concept of the Auction," he added.

The Veemo is a purpose designed scarifier, ideal for fairway use, featuring sharp, strong cutting blades for

maximum thatch removal with minimum disturbance. The double-ended blades are reversible to increase their working life.

It works well on undulating ground as it has three independently mounted, fully floating heads which follow

ground contours without scalping'. Depth of cut is infinitely variable by means of a micro-adjuster on each unit. This patented feature is unique to SISIS machines

Valued at £6,684 the Veemo is the first donation to The Masters Club.

Is your club thinking of purchasing a scarifier? Why not bid for one, and stand a chance of getting it for half the normal retail price? Make your bid by either:

Phone: 01347 833800  
 Fax: 01347 833801  
 E-mail: reception@bigga.co.uk  
 Post: BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF  
 or in person at BTME2000

Lot No.	Item description	Item value	Start bid
001	Bernhard grinder A	£6,000	
002	Bernhard grinder B	£6,000	
003	Sisis Veemo scarifier	£6,684	

## What is the Silent Auction?

It is a novel and exciting new feature which gives the opportunity to bid confidentially for a varied array of donations kindly provided by members of the trade. From October '99 anyone can then 'bid for a bargain', so don't worry if you're not a Greenkeeper, there's something for everyone.

## If I donate an item, how will I benefit?

- Greenkeeper International
- Initial profile on donated item
  - Monthly publicity July to January 2000

## The Internet

- Profile of the donated item on the Silent Auction site

- Direct link to your own website

## Catalogue

- Profile of donated item and colour picture

Press Reception & Buffet at BTME2000

## I'm a member of BIGGA, how do I benefit?

Well, there's the opportunity to bid for a bargain, and be the envy of your friends and colleagues with the possibility of acquiring a new piece of kit, a collectors item or a well deserved break, for a fraction of the retail price. Not to mention 'lots' more fun at Harrogate.

## Where does the money go?

The funds raised will go towards:

- The BIGGA Building Fund
- The continuing development of Greenkeeper education through training programmes and facilities
- The active promotion of BIGGA

## How do I find out up to the minute information on the Silent Auction?

By 'surfing the net' - and at the touch of a button. The site is updated every time someone makes a bid and the site itself highlights all that you need to know such as details of the last bid, new donations and progress so far.

## How do I bid?

Well that's up to you, but you can choose from;

- by post
- by phone
- by fax
- by email
- in person at BTME 2000

## Any other questions?

Just call Jenny Panton on 01347 833800 and she'll deal with all of your Silent Auction questions personally.



## Bailey's peat-free topdressing

In response to Greenkeepers concerns Bailey's of Norfolk have developed a peat-free USGA specification topdressing in which the organic amendment is supplied from a sustainable source. As with all their topdressings Eco-BJD1 is continually monitored for quality through their 'in-house' soil analysis laboratory and is delivered with an up-to-date analysis sheet.

"As concern about the environment continues to grow golf clubs must demonstrate wherever possible ecologically sound management. Traditionally peat or fen soils have been used to improve the organic matter content of nutrient poor root-zones, however, Peatlands are now becoming endangered ecosystems," said John Farrell, of Bailey's.

Telephone John Farrell on 01603 754607 for further details.

## Allister earns Perpetual Cup

John Lindsay (left), of John Lindsay Professional Sportsturf, continued his support for Greenkeeper education by presenting his Perpetual Cup and Travel Award to Allister McEwen, of Spa Golf Club.



## A Ryder Cup home from home

Anyone with tickets for September's Ryder Cup at The Country Club, Brookline Massachusetts, and who is still seeking accommodation might be interested in a four bedroom house a mere three minutes from the course.

The house has two double and two single rooms as well as a large basement if required and the owner is prepared to cook and ferry the tenants to and from the course if requested.

For further information contact Ailsa Wade Tel: 01577 865607 (after 4pm).

## Kubota opens new showroom

A brand new machinery showroom, parts store and workshop facility dedicated to the supply and support of Kubota compact tractors, ride-on mowers and professional and domestic garden machinery was opened last month.

Located in Christchurch, the all-new Procure Kubota Centre is scheduled to be opened by Mr Massey Miyake, Managing Director of Kubota (UK) Ltd, accompanied by James and Julian Macklin, co-directors of CPT Procure.

The Procure Kubota Centre represents a joint investment by Kubota (UK) Ltd and CPT Procure, Kubota's appointed area dealer. It has been designed from the ground up to provide domestic and professional customers with a dedicated one-stop shop for the complete Kubota product range, encompassing top quality garden machinery, market-leading compact tractors with matching implements, and high performance professional and domestic ride-on mowers.



"The new Procure Kubota Centre represents a major investment by Kubota and CPT Procure. "It is extremely well situated and dedicated 100 per cent to the demonstration and sale of Kubota products, supporting customers with genuine parts, first class service and individually-tailored

financial packages. We look forward to welcoming past, present and future Kubota owners at the new Procure Kubota Centre and signing them up as members of the Kubota Owner's Club," commented Tom Barnes, Marketing Manager of Kubota (UK) Ltd.

## Keith is new lecturer at Merrist Wood College

Merrist Wood College has added Keith Harrison to its expanding team in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Keith, who took up his position at the beginning of June, will have special responsibility for developing and co-ordinating a programme of work-based assessment and training for employees in the Sports Turf, Greenkeeping and Grounds Maintenance sectors.

Keith comes to Merrist Wood from Brinsbury College in West Sussex, where he spent 14 years in a number of roles, including Head of Horticulture and latterly, as Head of Faculty. During his time at Brinsbury, Keith was involved with the development of work-based programmes,

among other responsibilities.

Keith is ideally placed to forge further industry links for the College, through his extensive network of contacts, developed over the last 23 years.

Returning to his specific interest of Sports Turf Management, Keith is enthusiastic about his new role.

"I am pleased to be joining Merrist Wood. The excellent facilities and the very positive outlook of my new colleagues will help to facilitate the bringing together of students, employers and the College, for the benefit of the industry as a whole," said Keith, a former Lancashire League cricket groundsman, Head Greenkeeper and Head Groundsman at an independent school.



## A veritable army of greenkeepers at Wentwood Hills

Jim McKenzie, Director of Golf at Celtic Manor, was so determined to ensure the new Robert Trent Jones Jnr-designed Wentwood Hills course was in pristine condition for its first professional tournament, the PGA Mastercard Tour event, that he used 46 greenkeepers every day.

The staff worked for three hours from 4.30am. Fairways, greens and even fringes were stripe-cut every morning and eight men raked the bunkers.

"We used this as a dry run for The Welsh Open being staged here next year and have learned a lot. The kind comments were a tribute to the hard work of our staff," said Jim.

The course, which it is hoped will host the 2009 Ryder Cup, had been opened the previous month with a special match between local hero Ian Woosnam and this year's Ryder Cup Captain, Mark James.

Jim is pictured with MasterCard winner Lee James.







Dear Neil,

I greatly appreciate your writing to me about my husband. It has been extremely comforting for me and my family to receive so many wonderful letters.

I am grateful for your sympathy and perhaps you could convey our thanks to all your members.

Willie was always proud of his association with BIGGA.

Lady Whitelaw, Penrith, Cumbria

## Velvet comments 'unfortunate'

Jim Arthur's comments on the properties of velvet bents (June 1999) are generalisations and unfortunate in their tone. The April article from IGER's forward thinking Danny Thorogood was specifically discussing how far the species has developed since the poor-performing pioneering variety Kingstown.

To say that Avalon is "only an improved strain" of Kingstown is to dismiss all plant breeding successes in creating better turf grasses - of any species - in recent years. Unfortunately, long gone are the days when courses only dealt with a select membership. The golfing boom has led to a huge increase in the pressures put on the course itself. In reaction to this, all courses are now benefiting from the

modern, much improved varieties made available through today's breeding programmes.

Avalon offers significant improvements over previous velvet bents in disease resistance wear tolerance and establishment. Regarding Jim's specific reference to *Poa annua* competitiveness, Avalon will out-compete *Poa* as its high shoot density makes it very difficult for weed species to establish.

It may well be that velvet bents are 'not the answer' for every course in the UK, but our advice - backed up by the experience of European and UK greenkeepers - is to try Avalon on one or two greens first and assess its performance.

Simon Taylor  
Director, British Seed Houses

## Is there anybody out there?

As a greenkeeper of more than ten years standing I feel compelled to write to highlight some of the reasons why more and more greenkeepers are leaving this country to work abroad.

I have worked hard to get to the level of Head Greenkeeper, spending a lot of time and money to pass exams to do so.

Having been advised to go for a Head Greenkeeper job at a club that was subsequently found to be in financial difficulties I was made redundant after just eight months.

But I was determined to stay in the profession and applied for a post in the

Republic of Ireland which cost me over £300... for a 20 minute interview.

Since then I have applied for more than ten posts advertised in Greenkeeper International and have had just one reply. A young lad I had training under me in my last job has also applied for lots of jobs and every application letter he wrote has been ignored.

Is this any way to treat hard working professionals. No wonder so many are leaving to work abroad and I am seriously considering leaving the profession.

Stuart Lusty, Gloucester

## Honorary Membership thanks

May I express through your columns my gratitude for the Association's invitation to Honorary Membership, for the Chairman's kind visit with his wife and yourself to my home in Woodstock and for the beautifully framed Certificate of Honorary Membership which he presented to me. My wife wants me to say how much she appreciated and is enjoying the bouquet of flowers which Mrs Marion Child gave her.

It was a particular pleasure to receive this distinction from your Chairman,

Gordon Child, whose friendship I have valued for many years and whose work on behalf of the greenkeeping profession I have admired for even longer. I feel confident in a bright future for the Association when I consider how far the Executive and Board have brought the profession in the relatively short time since the 'I' was put in 'BIGGA'; but if they still have any mountains to climb, I am sure that we shall only find them at the top.

Fred Hawtree

## What service!

I - or rather my wife for me - placed an order for some Stylo rain gear on a Monday. It arrived the following Saturday and everything fits like it

should. I'm very happy with the quality, and nothing less than amazed at the service.

Thanks very much and keep up the good work.

Craig Smith, Golfclub Glashofen-Neusass, Germany

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**Bruce Stanley takes a look at the past, present and future development of electrically-powered machines within the turf maintenance industry**



# On a charge



The application of electric motive power for turf maintenance has not travelled too far over the past 70 years.

Those who welcomed the introduction of the E-Plex battery-powered greens mower in 1994 may be surprised to learn that the name on the side of that machine is the same as that found on the world's first mains electric lawn mower, built and patented by Ransomes in 1926.

Produced in 14in, 16in and 20in versions, the Bowlic, as it was known, proved popular both for cutting bowling greens and domestic lawns. The major drawbacks, as with hand-held power tools later on, were the working restrictions imposed by the length of the lead and the ready availability of a suitable electric supply point, plus the constant danger of inadvertently snipping the cord in two.

Thirty or so years later, Ransomes, and others, attempted to overcome all three problems with the introduction of a battery-powered pedestrian lawn mower.

Although Ransomes continued manufacture of 14in and 16in machines until 1970, the mower never became a world beater due to the fairly basic lead-acid battery technology of the time. Arriving straight from the motor industry, the battery had to be large and heavy to hold sufficient power to cover a reasonable area of grass. If the sward became too long or thick, battery life was dramatically reduced.

Another problem was the need for frequent battery maintenance and recharging, tasks all too often neglected by the average homeowner, especially over the winter months. The



result? Costly expense on a replacement battery much sooner than the mower's salesman had forecast.

However, it is a different story when batteries are used throughout the year to provide motive power for commercial or professional operations. In such conditions, it is in the economic interest of the owner, manager or operator to make sure that the power source is properly maintained and regularly re-charged.

Demand for a battery capable of delivering and maintaining its rated output over a continuous, extended operating period led to the development of the 'deep cycle' battery which has thicker plates than the normal 'starting' battery found in road vehicles and tractors.

In the case of the deep cycle battery, both discharging and recharging take place over extended periods while the alternative starting battery is designed to deliver a high current over a short period, vital when cranking a petrol or diesel engine.

The major design characteristic of the deep cycle battery is its ability to discharge up to 80% of its stored power over a very high number of cycles. The final number will depend on its rated capacity and the operat-

ing conditions, temperature and maintenance schedule, but should not be less than 450 cycles for a six volt battery.

The first electric vehicles used on golf courses appeared in the USA in the early 1960s. Derived from industrial work trucks, these golf carts or "buggies" rapidly achieved great popularity, transporting golfers quickly, conveniently and quietly between shots.

This last point was very important on the many new courses being constructed as part of residential and resort developments, close to private houses, hotels and holiday homes.

The status of the buggy was soon confirmed by the installation of purpose-designed cart tracks adjacent to fairways on many of the new courses built in the USA from the 1960s onwards. As a result, 80% of the courses "over there" now have electric golf carts, with North America taking the lion's share of a total annual world market put at 150,000-plus vehicles.

In the UK it is a totally different story, with electric carts currently available on less than 10% of courses. The reasons include a lack of suitable and dedicated track ways on

which the buggies can run and an apparent ingrained resistance to the use of battery motive power. And it's been a similar tale when it comes to grass-cutting machinery.

The world's first ride-on electric greens mower made its debut at the GCSAA show in Dallas in early 1994.

Coming from the same stable as Cushman, the Ransomes E-Plex made use of Cushman's long experience in the manufacture of industrial electric work vehicles. In fact, the E-Plex's electrical technology and major components - batteries, drive motors and switch gear - were all derived directly from the Cushman development programme. Ransomes concentrated on the cutting units, operating platform and novel features such as the swing-out centre unit, facilitated by the absence of any hydraulic pipes.

The silent, pollution-free operation of the E-Plex proved an immediate attraction in the USA, particularly on courses within residential and holiday complexes. Sales were led initially by the E-Plex's environmental features, but users quickly discovered a further benefit in dramatically reduced maintenance requirements and running costs compared with an equivalent petrol or diesel-engined machine.

Annual savings of 50 per cent are not uncommon, with one public authority in the UK recording total maintenance and running costs of just over £1,000 in three years, making the E-Plex one of the most economical machines in its fleet. This machine has also proved the doubters wrong by cutting 19 greens on a hilly course without faltering, always returning safely to the shed for overnight recharging.

The technology used by Ransomes and Cushman in the original E-Plex and E-Plex II greens mowers has since appeared in the Jacobsen Greens King Electric, launched in 1997.

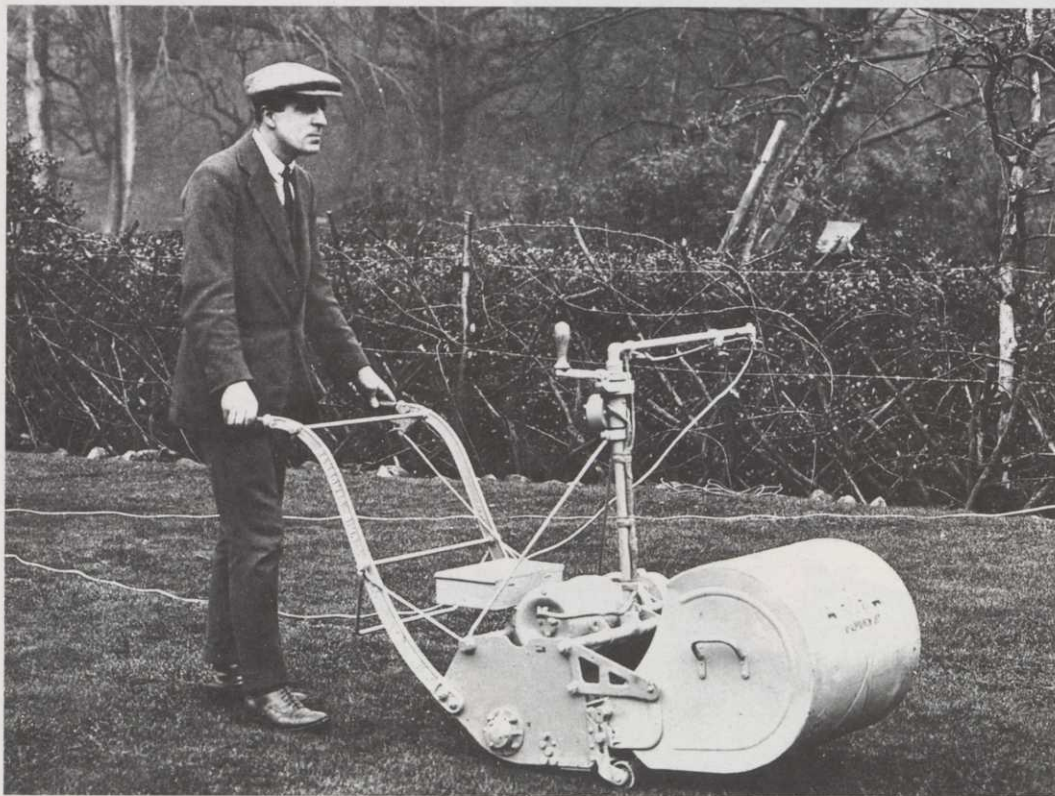
Any machine which works on or close to golf greens or tees at any time of the day needs to be as quiet as possible. So the next logical development following the electric greens mower was the self-propelled bunker rake, answered by Jacobsen in 1998 with the Sand Scorpion, which uses the same battery pack and wheel drive motors as its greens mower.

At the 1999 GCSAA show in Orlando, Ransomes unveiled a prototype electric walk-behind greens mower equipped with a single 12-volt battery, bringing back memories of

Previous page: Cushman's expertise in the manufacture of battery-powered industrial trucks and work vehicles was used in the development of the E-Plex electric greensmower.

Below: The Ransomes Bowlic - a mains electric-powered lawnmower from 1926.

Facing page: The E-Plex offers economical, virtually silent operation with no pollution or concerns over oil leaks.







the original battery-powered mower first produced by the firm back in the 1950s. Today's battery pack is somewhat smaller.

Yet, as in the motor industry, it is the number, size and capacity of the currently-available batteries which is limiting the development of electric power within golf course maintenance.

It is one thing turning the wheels, but it is quite another to drive cylinders, groomers, verti-cut units and other attachments and never quite knowing how long the batteries will last before the machine comes to a halt. To avoid this, both Ransomes' and Jacobsen's electric mowers have circuitry which automatically cuts out drive to the cylinders when the batteries fall to a 30% charge level, leaving sufficient power to return to the sheds.

The introduction of the deep cycle battery helped extend working life greatly, but it is still a lead-acid battery. Although its capabilities have improved significantly over the past 20 years, such batteries remain bulky and weighty in comparison with a petrol or diesel tank.

There has been talk of battery-powered fairway mowers, but battery technology is not yet sufficiently advanced to provide enough power to mow all the fairways, and travel between them, and provide a mower which is not too heavy or cumbersome.

The alternative is likely to be a hybrid combining an internal com-

bustion engine and battery power, switching from one to the other depending on the proximity of golfers or buildings.

As for turf maintenance vehicles, the diversity of their tasks makes it virtually impossible to estimate how long the batteries will last before they need recharging. The same goes for other machines for which electric power would be acceptable, simply because of the unpredictability of the load. It is therefore unlikely that lead-acid batteries will be used on their own to power on-course vehicles other than personnel transporters, greens mowers and bunker rakes.

But what of the future? There is growing excitement over the development by American company, Metallic Power, of zinc/air fuel cells as an alternative to lead-acid batteries.

Fuelled by zinc pellets which combine with oxygen to produce electricity, the system is said to have three times the energy efficiency of a petrol engine. There are no emissions, the fuel source is totally recycled and recharging takes only five minutes. In tests, zinc/air fuel cells have delivered four to seven times more energy per pound weight than traditional lead-acid batteries.

Leading companies within the turf industry, including Textron, are now working closely with Metallic Power to maximise the performance and efficiency of this new power source in practical applications. As the saying goes - watch this space!

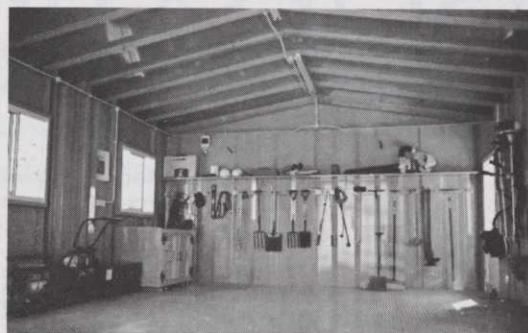
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**BIGGA Education & Training Manager, Ken Richardson looks at the educational opportunities available to members, and also gives details of the BIGGA Essay Competition.**

# EDUCATION UPDATE

## **BIGGA House Supervisory Management Courses and Regional Training Courses**

The deadline for applications to attend the BIGGA HOUSE and/or Regional Supervisory Management Courses is fast approaching. With a total of 33 courses, covering 14 different subjects in 17 locations, these courses have something for everyone.

Thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund we keep costs to a minimum with prices from £30 for a two day residential course. Two day Essential Supervisory Management Courses, covering the same subject matter as the BIGGA course are regularly advertised at £750. These prices do not include accommodation or food.

The message is simple. Use these courses or lose them. The BIGGA HOUSE Supervisory Management Courses are recognised for their high quality and value. All five weekly courses will be held in the new BIGGA HQ offering vastly improved training facilities, which, coupled with the improved facilities at Aldwark Manor, offer even better value for money. No wonder that delegates to previous courses keep returning, expressing amazement that more golf clubs do not send their staff. Full details of all courses are available from BIGGA HOUSE and were included in the June edition of this magazine. A full list of local train-

ing courses, together with an application form is included with this magazine and further copies are available from BIGGA HOUSE.

Details of both BIGGA HOUSE and Regional Courses are also available on the BIGGA Internet site (<http://www.bigga.org.uk>)

## **The Learning Experience 2000**

The Learning Experience 2000, in association with Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, is less than 160 days, and final adjustments are being made to the National Education Conference, Workshop and Seminar Programme. The full programme together with a booking form will be included in the September edition of this magazine. Make sure that you return your application form as soon as possible. Places have been booked already for the BTME Banquet, for the National Education Conference and for the Seminar programme.

## **The BIGGA Essay Competition**

I am sure that the winning essay from the 1913 Greenkeepers Essay Competition must have given many of ideas for the 1999 BIGGA Essay Competition. Remember that your entry should reach BIGGA HOUSE by 29 October so you do not have much time left to plan and write your 2000 word entry. Full rules are available from BIGGA HOUSE.

## **Pesticide Safety**

The British Agrochemicals Association (BAA), the trade association for companies engaged in the production, formulation and manufacture of pesticide products aims to:

**Represent the industry.**

**Explain its role and the benefits of its products.**

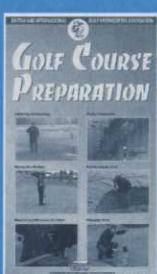
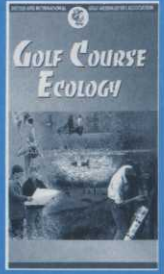
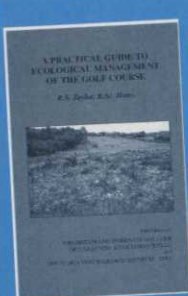
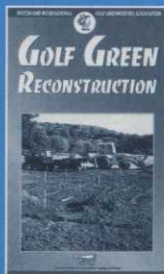
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**Place the Industry's views before Government, associated industries and the general public.**

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The BAA also produces a wide range of publications, including leaflets on sprayer cleaning, How to avoid spray drift, hand protection, disposal, training, protective clothing etc, the BAA Amenity Handbook and COSHH Assessments to name but a few. All of the publications, mentioned, are available free of charge from: British Agrochemicals Association, 4 Lincoln Court, Lincoln Road, Peterborough, PE1 2RP.

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**During the 'summer' month of June BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, Tracey Maddison was pleased to welcome over 55 new members who joined the Association. Read on to find out how BIGGA greenkeeping membership benefits you...**

## BIGGA welcomes...

Did you know...

If you find yourself off work because you have had an accident, as a full greenkeeping member your membership automatically covers you under a personal accident insurance policy?

I know at least one of our members who does! I had a call recently from a member who had broken his arm, he had an accident out of work and was consequently signed off, he wasn't sure if he could still claim because the accident happened in his own leisure time, so he rang me at headquarters, I was pleased to be able to tell him he was covered and gave him the claims line telephone number, although he did have a spot of trouble writing the number down, he broke his writing arm!

I certainly don't want to tempt fate, but if you do find yourself in a position similar to our member above, even if the accident happens on holiday, you are covered! Maximum cover is £7,500 and there is also a weekly payment of £35 payable (after the first week, for the first 12 weeks of benefit) and then £45 per week thereafter for up to two years if the member is partially or temporarily disabled as a result of an accident.

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Stephen John Dale, Northern  
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M I Gent, Northern  
William Horsewood, Sheffield  
Thomas Ince, North West  
James Leeming, North West  
Robin Lingard, Sheffield  
Peter Lloyd-Jones, North West  
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Stephen Norton, Sheffield  
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GS Brown, Mid Anglia

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Midland  
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Christopher Marc Notley, Mid  
Anglia  
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Midland  
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AW Sharman, Surrey  
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David Kelly, South Wales  
Samuel Lindsay, South West  
PJ Morgan, South Wales  
Tim Needham, South West

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ID Wylie, Devon & Cornwall

### Northern Ireland

Edward McKeever, South East

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Richard Kinsey, South West  
Conrad Raymond Mielczusny,  
South Wales  
Philip Salter, South Wales  
B Stephens, South Coast

### International Members

David Sinclair Bagg, Germany  
Paul Evans, Germany  
Karl Neville Waddell, Germany

Check out  
September's  
edition for July's  
new members!

**BIGGA has a total of 205 international members situated throughout the world in as many as 31 different countries. Each month we will be highlighting one of those countries providing some general and maybe even useful information and introduce our colleagues who are International members.**

### Spotlight on Sweden - Hej!

Location: Sweden is a country in northern Europe, bounded on the West by Norway, North East by Finland and the Gulf of Bothnia, South East by the Baltic Sea and South West by the Kattegat.



Currency: Swedish krona (SEK)

Population: (1996 est) 8,819,000

Official languages: Swedish

Time zone: GMT + 1

Capital: Stockholm

Weather: Summer June - September, with warm weather, light balmy evenings and the odd shower. Average temp is 18c  
Autumn October - November, cool and the nights are frosty

Winter December - February, with an abundance of snow, frozen waterways

Spring March - May, warm and the days grow longer

Golf Clubs: There are 134 Golf Clubs listed in the R&A Handbook 1999

### Did you know...

- There are more than 20,000 islands off the Stockholm Coast?
- There are some 90,000 lakes?

- Sweden has more leading ladies in James Bond films than any other country in the world?
- Sweden has more cellular phones than any other country? (according to the size of the population)
- Some famous Swedish inventions: zipper, safety match, safety belt, dynamite and cinnamon rolls

### Meet the members:

Samuel Af Ugglas, Bedinge  
Fredrik Bahlgren, Mariestads  
Alrik Bernstrom, Abbekas  
Paul Boyle, Chalmers  
Nanne Brodjegard, Nynashamn  
Michael Dohlon, Bisslinge-Svartinge  
Mikael Frisk, Vaxjo  
John Fredrik, Goa Ljunghusen  
Hans Gribbling, Rungsted  
Joakim Gustavsson, Ronneby  
Claes Haglund, Lyckorna  
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Next month: USA

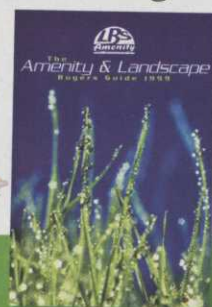
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Merrist Wood's golf course has added another dimension to the college's armoury and David Rhodes and Tom Smith are making the most of it.

# Par excellence



It is the dread of many establishments which decide to hold an Open Day that the expected numbers fail to turn up and the specially invited VIP guest is left making a speech to an embarrassingly small audience and little impression is made on the mountain of sandwiches.

Well, Merrist Wood College, in Guildford, certainly didn't have that problem. An Open Day held recently attracted a massive 10,000 visitors and one of the biggest draws was the College's own recently built golf course.



# Par excellence



Previous Page: One of the orchids to be found in Minty's Paddock, alongside the course.

Above: Swans are a regular site on Merrist Wood's man made lake.

Right: An area of natural grasses which may soon house sheep.



"The golf course meant that we had more things to show people. Stick a kid on a big tractor or show someone how to move a hole and they think it is wonderful," said David Rhodes, Senior Lecturer in Sportsturf and Agronomy at the College.

The original idea for the golf course came about ten years ago and belonged to George Shields, who was Vice Principal of the College before becoming a full time agronomist, and this was carried forward by the current Principal, John Riddle, who took the conscious decision to move away from agriculture into other landbased disciplines.

"Initially, the driving force was golf rather than greenkeeping as it was seen as a centre of golfing excellence but we have become more involved in the training and education of greenkeepers in recent years," explained David, whose accent betrays the fact that he is not a natural born southerner having moved to Merrist Wood from Myerscough about two years ago.

The course, laid out over 240 acres of college land, which now, incidentally, also incorporates an equestrian centre next door to the maintenance facility, and costing around £2.5 million, was designed by David Williams

and constructed by Lionel Whitnell.

"We have 500 members and also accept pay and play visitors. There are 120 greenkeeping students and of these 20 are full time with the rest day or block release. We also have 80 full time National Diploma Golfers Studies students who study the golf industry hoping to become either professionals or find other jobs within the golf industry," explained David.

One of the main conditions of the planning approval for the new golf course was that the site be used as a training facility.

"It is now an integral part in the management of training within the college not just for golfers or greenkeepers but we have land managers who use it for flora and fauna identification, arboriculture students who carry out tree auditing every year then we also work with the external agencies on planting schemes etc."





said David, who also uses the course to promote the greenkeeping profession among the younger fraternity.

"I teach National Curriculum science to primary school kids of six and seven and we do pond dipping and use grasses to examine the function of plants. It was a conscious effort to integrate greenkeeping as an industry skill."

"It is breaking the barrier down between greenkeeping and the perception of what greenkeeping is because I want people to see greenkeeping as an industry to which they might be attracted and not a last resort option," said David.

Another of the ways to change people's ideas about greenkeeping is through the careers offices.

"I bring careers officers in from Surrey and take them on tours of the golf course and show them what greenkeeping is all about because they've got no idea."

David chairs the colleges Golf Club Environment Committee and a year ago wrote an intensive management statement of intent.

"On that committee we have a wealth of experience of extensive grassland management provided by other lecturers and we question how we should manage in an environmentally friendly way. We also spoke to the likes of Anna Maria Brennan, Mike Schofield and David Stubbs."

That preparation and research has resulted in an all encompassing environmentally friendly approach to the course.

"We use either slow release or composted turkey litter and I'm proud to say we've never used fungicides while we decided that we'd only use natural or indigenous grasses," said David.

The Barenbrug mixes currently being used are Bar All Bent (60% Heriot 40% Bardot, Brown top Bents) on the greens and Bar 2 (1998) (40%

Barcrown, slender creeping red fescue) 40% Bargreen (chewings fescue), 10% Heriot and 10% Bardot) on the tees and approaches.

Another practice which David preaches is that of overseeding.

"My view is that if you're not introducing competition to the dreaded poa annua you will get what you're given. I remember visiting a fine golf course which had just been hollow tined around May and was just white with poa. The reason was he was hollow tining and top dressing but not overseeding and the little pockets that were being created were just ideal for poa annua."

"That's why I've always advocated that if you've got a hundred quid to spare buy a bag of grass seed."

When disease does strike, and like many new courses Take-All Patch is a problem, the temptation is resisted to reach for the bottle.

"We've got cultural management

policies in place to reduce the symptoms of pathogenic organisms and I'm actually using sulphate of ammonia for Take All Patch Control at the moment."

Another benefit of the Golf Club Environment Committee is the elements which are brought to the table by the lecturers in other subjects.

"The grassland lecturers come out with students and birch whip the bracken using handmade birch whips. We'd never have thought about that in a million years. There is a tremendous amount of information that others have but which we can use on our side of things. We are managing an estate in effect."

Course Manager at Merrist Wood is Tom Smith, coincidentally a former student of David's at Myerscough.

"We have statements of intent for everything that Tom does. For example we have a justification sheet for





Despite being only a couple of years old the course looks well established

purchasing machinery which is not based on cost or design but on environmental impact - noise level, fuel tank etc. If the ideal machine is more expensive we can use the environmental argument to justify the cost."

David and Tom are well aware that at Merrist Wood they can attempt things which other courses can't.

"On the back of an educational argument I can muscle things through but it is a calculated risk and a compromise between the commercialism of the golf course coupled with the need to train and test for educational purposes," revealed David.

As well as his responsibility to the golf course Tom does his fair share of teaching and has to manage students working on the course every day.

"It's almost a unique job that Tom has with his through put of students," said David.

"I have my own HNC class every

Monday and the students work as greenkeepers. They start at six and finish at three and they do all the jobs that full time greenkeepers do. It is like having another 10 pairs of hands. In machinery terms we have at least two of everything so if students are going out to cut greens they will be 'buddied' at the beginning. On their third time they might be set off on their own and watched."

It is at the early stages that Tom can see who is developing the genuine love of greenkeeping that is needed if they are to be successful.

"On their Wednesday free day some of them come down to see what needs to be done and normally they are the better students," said Tom, who has his D32 and D33 and is currently doing a certificate of management.

The golf course itself is a challenge for the Golfers Studies students who play regularly as they attempt to improve

and bring their handicaps down.

Such is their dedication that a second driving range has just been built because the students spent so much time on the original one members struggled to find slots to warm up for their own games.

Boasting many mature trees, the course also has some unique features - including Minty's Paddock which is a haven for orchids while the resident ecologist also has plans to have sheep grazing in a field within the confines of the course.

"We want this to be a good golf course one which if you can't be a member of the likes of Sunningdale and Wentworth you might consider joining," said Tom, whose comments were added to by David.

"If we can achieve that sort of quality and it also remains an educational establishment for greenkeepers what a wonderful facility it will be."



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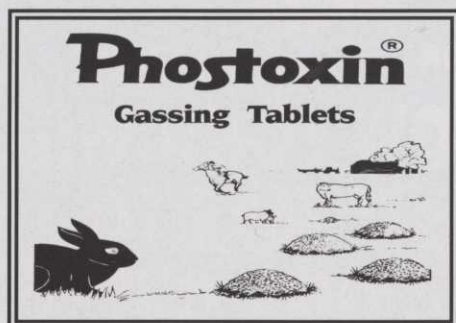
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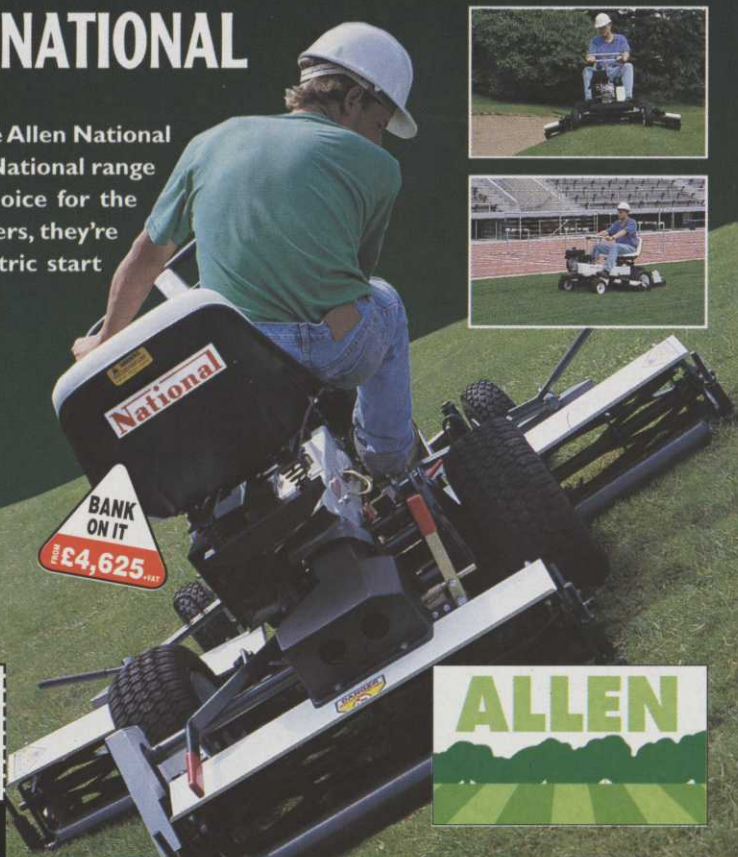
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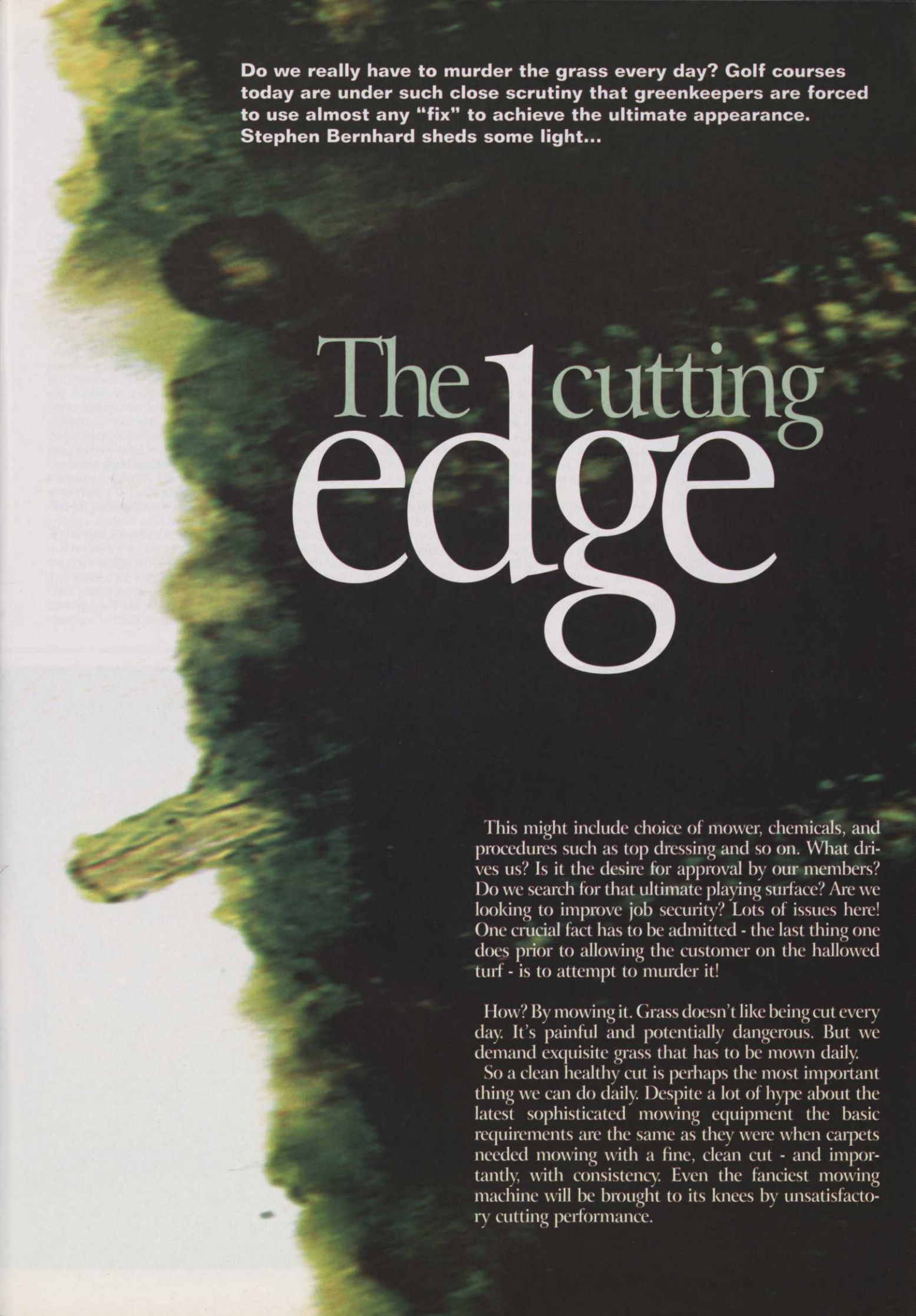
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GI/NAT/2/98







**Do we really have to murder the grass every day? Golf courses today are under such close scrutiny that greenkeepers are forced to use almost any "fix" to achieve the ultimate appearance. Stephen Bernhard sheds some light...**

# The cutting edge

This might include choice of mower, chemicals, and procedures such as top dressing and so on. What drives us? Is it the desire for approval by our members? Do we search for that ultimate playing surface? Are we looking to improve job security? Lots of issues here! One crucial fact has to be admitted - the last thing one does prior to allowing the customer on the hallowed turf - is to attempt to murder it!

How? By mowing it. Grass doesn't like being cut every day. It's painful and potentially dangerous. But we demand exquisite grass that has to be mown daily.

So a clean healthy cut is perhaps the most important thing we can do daily. Despite a lot of hype about the latest sophisticated mowing equipment the basic requirements are the same as they were when carpets needed mowing with a fine, clean cut - and importantly, with consistency. Even the fanciest mowing machine will be brought to its knees by unsatisfactory cutting performance.



# The cutting edge

## A little history...

Cylinder mowers were first developed by Edwin Budding for shearing the nap of carpets around 1830. Using only straight blades, a threshing action of those first prototypes produced an uneven cut as the material was fanned about.

So, to resolve this, a helix was created by twisting the blades into a spiral. Bottom blades were added to hold the carpet fibers in place, positioning them for uniformity of cut. The helical blades caused the cutting point to be drawn horizontally across the bottom blade creating a scything action. Budding applied his textile shearing concept to mowing grass, patenting his first cylinder mower in 1830 replacing the manual scythe to mow grass.

Johnny Atterton produced griss mill grinders and modified these machines to help create a true cylinder for these early mowing machines. Responding to the growing demand, he soon supplied grinders to Ransomes, Shanks and Lloyds, the three major mower manufacturers of the day.

Atterton also developed and patented the first commercial mower grinder. As small repair shops proliferated, he developed a range and by 1870, Atterton and Ellis, Ltd. (which is owned by Bernhard & Co. today) had four steam or hand driven spin grinders on the market.

"In situ" spin grinding - meaning the cylinder is ground "in the same situation" as the cylinder is used during mowing, rather than removing it and grinding separately - came about the turn of the century. With this method, a grinding stone was positioned where the grass would normally be. Single-blade grinding was initiated in the USA by an Ohio Company called SIP with a machine they called a "hook grinder" around 1935. The concept of lapping was developed because of the need to make single-blade-ground cylinders truly cylindrical. This was the same problem Budding ran into one hundred years earlier, solved then by the use of the Atterton cylindrical grinder. Relief grinding, or blade thinning, was then created to reduce the braking effect of lapped cylinders.

## The cylinder mowing process

Despite the fact that manufacturers have continued to improve designs, much of the original cylinder geometry pioneered by Budding and Atterton remains valid today.

The function of cylinder mowers is simple. As it rotates, the cylinder blade draws the grass blades against the front face of the bottom blade, which positions them for a uniform cut. This also controls the height of cut. The leaf tissue is sheared as the blades pass across the top face of the bottom blade. The cut material is compressed momentarily, then rapidly decompresses and is ejected from the cylinder/bottom blade interface.

The helix of a cylinder is designed to produce the effect of a succession of razor blades passing along the bottom blade without contact, creating the horizontal scything action so critical to a clean cut of the leaf tissue. The flatter the helix angle of the cylinder blade, the higher the velocity with which the point of cut passes along the bottom blade. The bottom blade positions the grass blade at the prop-

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**Overleaf:** A highly magnified section of grass which has been cut cleanly, and right, a section which has not

er angle for mowing. The front face of the bottom blade is the positioning face, while the top face is the ejection face. A correct front face angle must always be acute ( $< 90^\circ$ ).

Many greenkeepers perceive the problem of "rifling" after noticing streaking on the surface of the turf. This usually points to excessive tightening of cylinder to bottom blade.

Inevitably, this causes the leaf tissue to be cut in a mechanical scissors-like fashion, often in the middle of the cylinder blade surface, rather than at the cutting edge of the cylinder and bottom blade. Instead of the clean cut achieved by scything, the leaf tissue becomes pinched. It is then literally pulled apart and ruptured during the scissoring process, rendering the grass blade vulnerable to many potential problems.

#### **Scissors vs scythe**

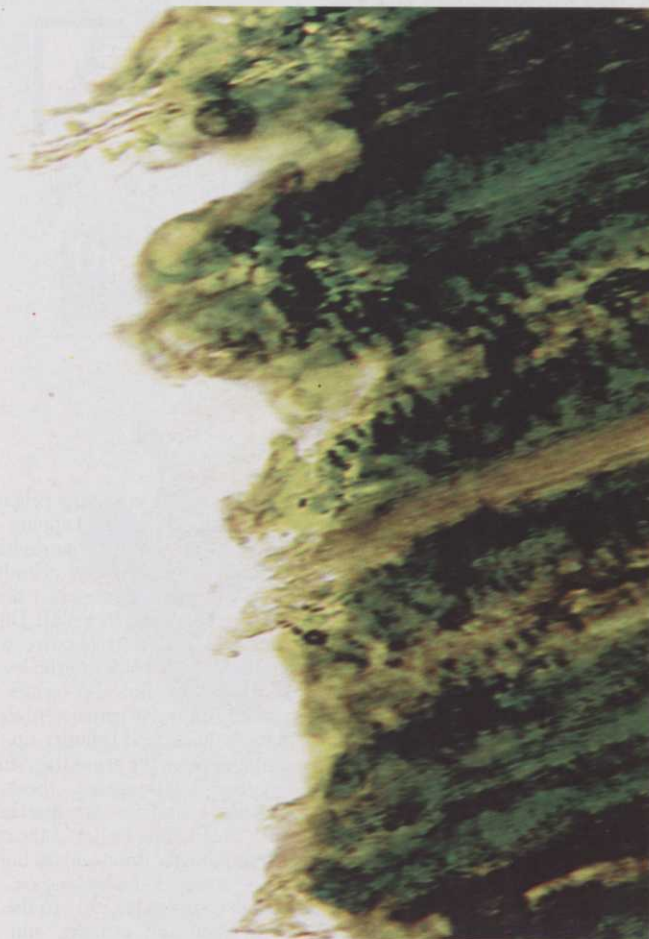
This difference between a scissors-cut and a scything action is important to understand. Scissors require two blades moving toward one another in opposing directions. Scissors cut adequately if there is sufficient light

contact. Scythes consist of a single cutting blade being drawn obliquely across the leaf tissue, damaging fewer cells in the process. Scissors will, of course, cut but a scythe cuts soft tissue much better. This is precisely why a surgeon uses a single-blade scalpel (which is drawn through the flesh) instead of scissors.

He looks for a surgical clean cut that will heal quickly. In a cylinder mower, one difference between a scythe and scissors action is the velocity of the cutting edge. A properly ground and adjusted mower will operate in a scything action at much greater velocity than one functioning as scissors. Think of the analogy of razor blades shooting along the length of the bottom blade edge.

#### **So what does lapping do?**

Even the most precise angles and adjustments can go awry if not maintained properly once the cylinder and bottom blade start to wear. This is where all the contention about relief vs. no relief, lapping vs. no lapping, and contact vs. no contact adjustment come into play. Inaccurate





# The cutting edge

grinding results in varying heights of each cylinder blade. Lapping was invented to make a single-blade-ground cylinder truly cylindrical again even though the exact diameter may vary along its length. During the lapping process abrasive wears down the high blades to the level of the low ones, but also creates two curved, mirrored surfaces from the bottom blade and cylinder tip. The curve assumes the arc of the cylinder rotation. Unfortunately, these two mirrored surfaces act as a drum brake, with the rotating blades of the cylinder forming the drum and the bottom blade acting as the brake shoe. This causes considerable wear to the bottom blade and cylinder, and also requires more power to rotate the cylinder due to the drag factors

lapped blade certainly produces a far better finish than a rounded and dull blade, but is a temporary fix until the cylinder can be properly ground and adjusted again.

Grinder technology exists today, allowing a complete regrind of a greens-mower cylinder in less than ten minutes, floor-to-floor, without even dismantling any component nor adjusting any roller or bottom blade.

## The need for relief grinding

To minimise braking effect of lapped surfaces, relief grinding (also called "backing off" or "blade thinning") was invented in the USA during the mid 1930's.

When this relief wears off from lapping and/or excessive blade contact, the cylinder blade tip gets "fat" again. It should then be either lapped to produce a temporarily sharp edge or reground to original angles and dimensions. Very few mowers still have functional relief six months into the season so the drag is massive. Reducing the blade thickness by 3/4 reduces the torque required to turn the cylinder by a factor of 16. But it also increases the vertical (upward) thrust on the cylinder bearings by a factor of 16. Cylinder bearings are not normally designed to absorb vertical loading causing bearings to oval over time and resulting in a fine vibration. This tends to round off the cylinder and bottom blade tips.

More lapping is then required, which in turn causes more vertical thrust, wear, and vibration. And so the vicious circle continues. The need to lap becomes greater as the season advances and many people believe that relief grinding produces a better cut. Actually, relief grinding has no effect whatsoever on the quality of cut, since on lapped cylinders there is no relief at the actual point where the grass is cut. Relief reduces the torque required to turn a lapped cylinder and the subsequent load on the engine and hydraulics of the mower. The best relief is obtained from a properly ground, non-lapped cylinder adjusted for "no contact at all". No contact is ultimate relief.

## Equipment considerations

If you can think of your mower as a horse, regardless of its configuration - and if you appreciate that the real impact upon the turf is where the

mower actually cuts the grass - that is the cylinder and bottom blade - it becomes easier to disentangle the complex arguments. The braking effect of wrongly adjusted or over-tightened cylinders often causes undue system load, resulting in engine wear, higher fuel consumption, heat gain to hydraulic systems, overload to seals and hoses, and otherwise unsatisfactory performance. For this reason, many manufacturers insist (quite rightly) upon maintaining relief on their cutting units.

Now it is easy to understand the benefits if NO CONTACT - the ultimate relief.

## The agronomic viewpoint

The way a mower leaves a leaf blade has significant impact on overall plant health. We tend not to think much about what is going on at the microscopic level, where grass is cut. Plant pathology research demonstrates how damaging the use of lapped (or otherwise improperly sharpened) cylinders can be.

Poorly ground mowers tend to flail at the grass, leaving bleeding rough edges. A microscopic inspection of the leaf tip area reveals that a clean, scything cut made by a properly sharpened, non-lapped cylinder results in less leaf surface area exposed to pathogenic infection, and lower transpiration rates. The plant can use more of its nutrients for root growth rather than damage repair.

Moving the maintenance programme up a notch, avoiding "the mower doesn't cut so we need to tighten it down a bit more" syndrome, can yield dramatic improvements (and savings) in several areas. Simply touching up the front face of the bottom blade every week on greens-mowers, every two weeks on tees, maybe monthly on fairway units - whatever works for you - will go a long way toward extending the functional life of a quality grind and save time by forestalling the need to lap.

Investing one hour every two months in sharpening - however you do it, with whatever machine you use - vs. spending four hours lapping over that two months (15 minutes twice per week) will yield even greater benefits to your overall agronomic and turf equipment maintenance programs.



Above: Examining the quality of cut

involved. By effectively wearing away the sharp leading edges of the cylinder blade and bottom blade, lapping also turns a scythe into a scissors cut (requiring light-to-moderate contact between the two surfaces).

Lapping is essentially "any wearing process", even that of cylinder and bottom blades during normal use of the mower. Normal wear and tear produces curved, mirrored surfaces just as intentional "paste" lapping does, but the surfaces are rounded and irregular - thus requiring greater and greater contact via tighter adjustment to maintain functionality.

Paste lapping can restore some of the cutting ability of worn cylinder tips and bottom blade edges. A well-



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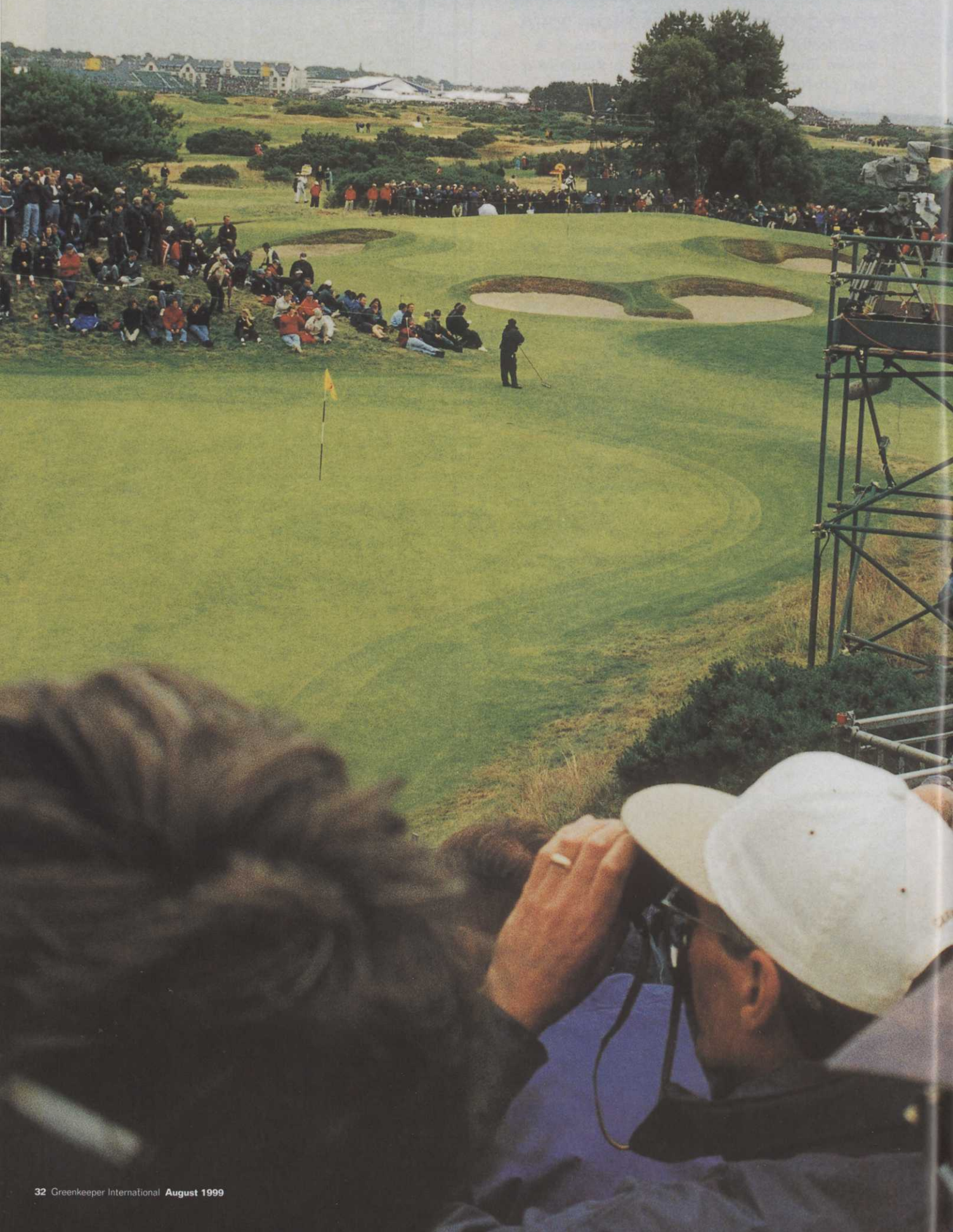
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**Scott MacCallum will never forget The Open Championship's return to Carnoustie. Indeed he very nearly had a nasty bump on the head to take home with him...**

# Open glory

The 1999 Open was another occasion which gave BIGGA's Greenkeeping Support Team members the opportunity to say "I was there". And by "there" I mean the 18th green because it has been the scene of some amazing scenes over the last few years

Remember Costantino Rocca's exploits at St Andrews in '95 and Justin Rose's holed chip at Birkdale last year. Astonishingly both of those pale into insignificance when measured against Carnoustie's contribution.

The finish to the Championship was something that any script editor would dismiss as far to fanciful to be remotely believable.

First Jean Van de Velde, whose golf through 71 holes - plus the 36 holes of qualifying at Monifieth - made him more than deserving of the title, threw it all away on the final hole by taking

seven when a double bogey six would have seen him the winner.

Then another outsider, this time the man in the field born closest to the Carnoustie links, played the fiendishly difficult final two holes of the play-off birdie birdie to become the first home grown, home based Scot to win an Open since James Braid. Paul Lawrie also became the first qualifier to win since the present qualifying system came into being in 1963 and only did so at Downfield by shooting four under par on the back nine of the final round.

In addition there can rarely have been an Open when the spotlight fell so firmly on the man charged with the responsibility of preparing the links and if John Philp felt some stabbing pains on various parts of his anatomy it must surely have been as a result of superstar golfers sticking pins in curly headed John Philp lookalike dolls.

Not that John took the comments lying down. He was widely quoted in the press - including the back page of The Sun - defending the set-up of the course and by the end of the week he had more or less won the propaganda war with the public attacking pampered whingeing golfers.

Sure the course was tough and perhaps the rain had caused the rough to grow a little more than was ideal but, as John himself said during the week, the players don't question taking a penalty drop if they go into water or having to play three off the tee if they go out-of-bounds but they think they should be able to still make the green after they'd hit into the rough. The rough is meant to be a hazard.

He was also adamant that the course was set up strategically and not penally and that had the players attacked it more on certain holes they may have found more reward in the shape of wider landing areas.

## He Didn't Want to Do That

Jean Van de Velde's fateful approach to the final green in regulation play was the start of his demise.

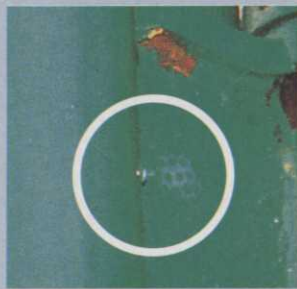
With the gallery by the green waiting to greet the unexpected but well deserving Champion the Frenchman had played his tee shot wide out on the 17th fairway. All he had to do was reach the green in at most four and two putt to be Champion but he decided to go for the green.

His long iron veered right and just missed the heads of your Chairman, his wife and your Editor by no more than two feet. Had the ball, in conventional fashion, merely clattered into the stand he would have faced a relatively easy shot from the dropping zone, the same if it had bounced off the front of the stand and into the trampled rough beside the green. But it hit the one thing capable of propelling the ball into real trouble - a metal plate, no more than three inches square (see pics), attached to the pole which joined the wooden bottom portion of the stand to the upper fenced element. This was at a right angle to the rest of the structure and hitting it flush caused the ball to fly back over the burn and into thick rough.

Even if it had gone back into the burn he would still have had a shot to spare after he'd taken a drop and played to the green but it could not have turned out worse for him.

The rest is history, he plopped the next in the burn then having taken his penalty shot played the next into the bunker and made a brave seven footer to make the play-off but he'd missed his golden opportunity.

However, despite the folly of the shot selection it just shows how unlucky he was. Even if he'd hit Gordon or myself we might have gone to hospital but he would certainly have gone on to be Open Champion.



Above (top): The shot Van de Velde was faced with after his unfortunate rebound

Above and right: The mark of failure. How close Van de Velde came to success and certain heads





At one point early on Friday morning, a member of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team raked the 5,000 bunker in the five Opens since records began. In total since St Andrews in 1995 the Support team, in addition to their other duties during the week, have raked 5,792 bunkers.

The press competition was won by Kay Smart, of the Mid Glamorgan Press Agency, whose four round estimate was 1398. The daily prizes were won by Paul Kiddie, of the Edinburgh Evening News; Dermot Gilleece, of the Irish Times; Neil Mulligan, of the Scottish Sports International (Tayside) and Kay Smart.

Kay wins a £700 Hayter Harrier lawn mower courtesy of Hayter Ltd and the prize will be presented to Kay by Kim Macfie later in the year.

The Support Team winner was Anthony Davies, of Prestbury Park, with the daily winners, Steve Oultram; John Selwood; Robert Hogarth and Tom Glover.

### Open Notes

Justin Rose obviously had energy to spare during his first round. Lining up a putt in his inimitable style he carried on to do a couple of press ups. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team Member, James Braithwaite, of Long Ashton GC.

The Craig Spence, Raymond Russell, Scott Verplank Friday match had some expert local knowledge within their ranks...if only they knew. Their lady scorer was an eight time Carnoustie Club Champion, a former runner-up in the British Girls and a lady who once beat Laura Davies as a junior. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team Member Andy Sheehan of Bentley GC.

Greg Turner lightened the mood on the 1st tee on Friday when he went up to the scoreboard carrier assigned to his match pulled out some of his red numbers turned to Jose Maria Olazabal and Phil Mickleson and said "What are these?" Olazabal said that they wouldn't be needing any of them. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team Member Chris Sheehan, of West Derby GC.

HRH The Duke of York took an interest in the work of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team when he asked Alex Robertson, of Grangemouth, how much sand he had raked in the Bernhard Langer/Steve Pate match.

Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team Member, Alex Robertson, of Grangemouth GC.

Nick Price offered a beer to the person who could find his ball when he went astray during the third round. It was found by playing partner Santiago Luna and Price was as good as his word getting a beer for the Spaniard. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team Member, Stig Persson, of Sweden.

During the final round Sven Struver broke his 8-iron in a bunker on the 7th and was told by the rules official that it could be repaired. Struver said that he would need it for the 13th and it was taken off to be repaired. When he got it back he was told the glue would need half an hour to set but as he didn't have the time he went ahead and used it anyway. Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team Member, Chris Sheehan, of West Derby GC.

### Open Championship bunker history

	St Andrews (95) 112 bunkers	Lytham (96) 185 bunkers	Troon (97) 84 bunkers	Birkdale (98) 117 bunkers	Carnoustie (99) 115 bunkers
Rd 1	214	501	344	355	539
Rd 2	201	577	272	406	468
Rd 3	130	269	107	226	202
Rd 4	156	271	136	153	265
<b>Total</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>1618</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>1140</b>	<b>1474</b>

One of the boys.  
Paul Lawrie shares  
his moment of glory  
with the BIGGA  
Greenkeeping  
Support Team



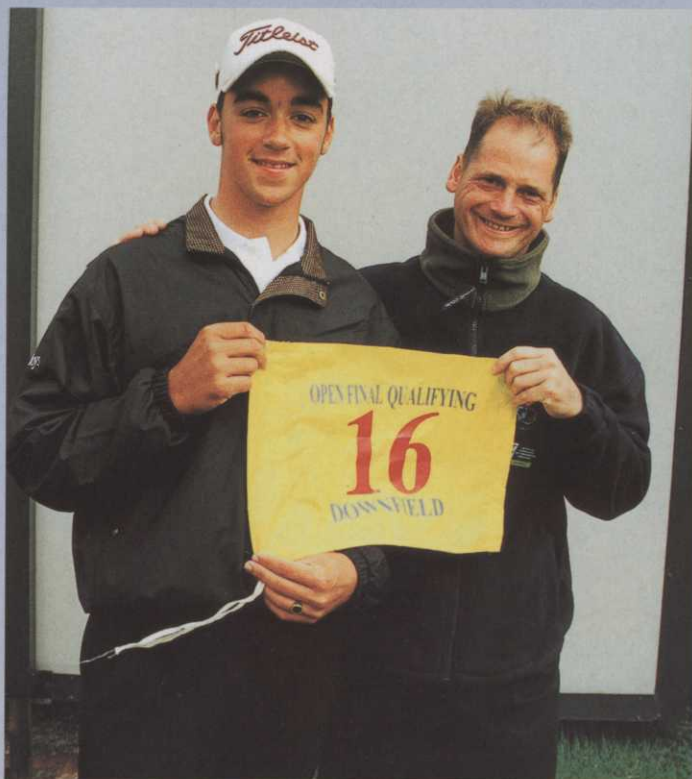








Right: Paul Lawrie enjoys the moment in the company of Carnoustie's greenkeeping team



### The Youngest Player

Downfield Course Manager, Paul Murphy, presented qualifier Zane Scotland, of Surrey, with the flag from the 16th hole of the Dundee final qualifying course.

Zane, at 16, was the youngest qualifier for years and the flag will be a permanent memento of his achievement.

"Everyone at the club was extremely impressed with Zane and delighted with his success and we wanted to mark it with something," explained Paul, who was also thrilled when another Downfield qualifier lifted the Claret Jug at the end of the week.



Above: Three members of the Support team prepare one of the 18th's greenside bunkers for the play-off



Above: Ian Sample, of Old Fold Manor, puts his back into it



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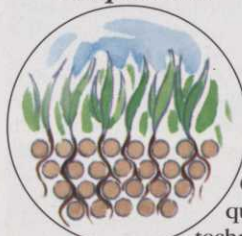
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Ad Ref 5



**Roland Taylor looks at the development of the turf industry and how quality turf virtually can now be bought "off the shelf"**

# What a sod

Turf is at the centre of most readers' every waking hour and for many, one suspects, part of their sleep. After all, it is the core of what greenkeeping is all about - trying to achieve the ultimate playing surface. A lot rides on what one is given to work with. As the saying goes "you cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." The quality of turf is vital, especially where it is being renewed. This is a time when there is an opportunity to put down exactly what is needed and, like the artist, start with a new canvas. By beginning with quality, the chances of success are greatly increased.

One suspects that, in the early days of greenkeeping, some well-known courses decided to set up their own turf nurseries - they needed to have a ready supply of turf with the cultivars they wanted, grown under their conditions. This would have seemed a logical step three decades ago when a supply of top quality turf was not always readily available and orders for small batches were not entertained. Times have changed and today turf containing the latest pre-blended mixtures can be virtually bought off the shelf, in any quantity. A whole industry has grown up to serve this market and to find out more we visited Europe's biggest turf growers - Rolawn.

Their policy regarding seed mixtures is different because they buy in the best cultivars from individual seed houses. In short, they choose the

best each seed house has and then blend their own mixture. This takes more time and adds cost, however the company believes this provides better turf quality than buying mixtures off the shelf.

The company was originally started on the Aberdeenshire estate of Lord Forbes, primarily to supply turf to golf courses. While the original locality initially served its purpose, a new site was sought. The Vale of York proved to be ideal - flat, light sandy soil with deep bore holes for irrigation. In addition there are good road links - an important factor when time is of the essence in getting freshly lifted turf on site, fast.

Over 2000 acres are under cultivation and this is being increased annually by about ten per cent.

Growing turf commercially is not the same as managing it on a golf course. Whilst related they are separate skills. Between 8 to 12 weeks are required to bring freshly laid turf into play. The company has considered supplying ready-to-play turf, but decided against it feeling that the market is unlikely to pay the extra price and that in any case, bringing turf in to play is a skill best left to the individual greenkeeper in his own course environment.

The sandy soil on which the mixtures are grown is compatible with most other soil types but there are some greenkeepers who would prefer soil-free turf. To accommodate them, the company has recently installed a



new turf washing plant. This latest equipment deals with big rolls, as well as the standard one square metre roll and small quantities can be supplied any time throughout the year. In its washed condition the turf is a mat of living plants with little support, so it is highly perishable and needs laying as fast as possible. It will also require plenty of irrigation once down.





Rolawn is a commercial operation and therefore very conscious of market trends and requirements. The final product has to be what is wanted and for this reason they work very closely with the top seed breeders and the STRI. A field of turf takes between eight and twelve months to be ready for harvesting, so decisions on which cultivars to include in the

mix are important. Get it wrong and very few, if any, want the product. The company blends its selected seeds and the process of producing top quality turf begins. Once sown and established, the young turf is mown regularly throughout the year at a height, which has been found to be an ideal length for producing sufficient roots

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Ad Ref 31



# What a sod

to support a strong healthy sward. The very fine clippings are generally not collected as these return nutrients to the growing plants. There are occasions when it is necessary to collect the cut grass and this is carried out using a vacuum type collector. Weeds and disease are eliminated by spraying as and when required and the establishment of strong healthy grass plants are encouraged by a number of other management techniques.

To ensure that buyers can be confident in what is in the actual turf mixture being grown, the STRI is asked to carry out testing of a large part of the crop. Rolawn then make the STRI's findings available to anyone who asks for a copy of their report.

The day of harvesting finally arrives and, depending on the area to be lifted and weather conditions, work can start as early as 4 o'clock in the morning. Dealing with a perishable product means it needs to be cut and transported to its destination as quickly as possible. It can be a big

operation. On the day we were there, 23 articulated lorries were loaded and sent on their way.

Immediately after the turf has been removed, the plough moves in and the growing process begins again.

There are two other methods of obtaining turf. Setting up your own nursery or by seeding appropriate areas. While both have their merits, time in establishing them and time taken in managing them have to be given careful consideration.

A nursery site will have to be of sufficient size to meet the estimated requirements for a two-year period plus contingencies. Irrigation needs to be readily available. How the soil is prepared is important, as it needs to be well drained and of a depth that allows strong root development. Some bought-in turf can be included, but the main objective is to grow mixtures to match the existing areas on the course. A first class maintenance programme similar to the one used on existing playing areas is necessary to ensure good quality

replacement turf is available at short notice.

The other alternative is seeding worn or damaged areas - and again there are plusses and minuses with time being one of the major considerations. This is illustrated in the difference between an autumn seeded green and a turfed one. The former would not be playable for over 20 months while the latter could be open in about seven. Another factor to take into account is the limited period during which seed can be sown, whilst turf can be laid virtually all-year-round. Seed is initially less costly and the precise mixture of cultivars is available.

However, pre-blended mixtures are generally only available in pre-determined form. With seed there is also the risk of "washout" owing to heavy rains.

Most readers are under considerable pressure to meet the increasing demands of players. Playing surfaces have to be more resilient plus disease and wear resistant and seed breeders



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are continually seeking new cultivars. Turf suppliers are well aware of this and as a result are continually looking at the product range they offer. In addition, they take into account developing patterns. Fewer golf courses are at present being constructed, so less turf is required. Because of the increased wear and tear on courses more renovation work has to be carried out. To meet this situation, Rolawn has a no minimum order policy.

A great deal relies on getting it right so the top turf companies work closely with the STRI. They also offer advice and arrange visits for greenkeepers to inspect the turf on site before purchase.

Turf management is a science which, when done well, looks 'easy' to the layman. We live in a television age when the public has come to expect turf to be visually perfect and players want to tee off on something as good as Carnoustie or Augusta. Under this sort of pressure, the turf growing and seed industry is more

than happy to work closely with greenkeepers in order to meet their requirements. In a country that is regarded as the University of the World on turf, the UK has all the

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In sports turf, mycorrhiza fungi populations are very low or non-existent due to sterile rootzones, pesticide use and modern seed and sod production methods. The result is a weakened sward which suffers more from drought stress, nutrient leaching and disease and is quickly dominated by *Poa annua* which relies less on mycorrhiza for its survival in sportsturf environments than perennial grasses such as Bent, Fescue and Rye.

Symbio Mycorrhiza Seed Coat contains live spores of several species of beneficial VA endomycorrhizal fungi, growth promoting bacteria and organic soil nutrients. Mixed with seed, mycorrhizal colonisation of the new seedling occurs upon germination which improves establishment of fine grasses, root growth, and stress recovery of the turf.

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- Introduces specific beneficial Mycorrhiza fungi and bacteria.
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# Play your next shot with a wood



Trees have become an integral part of the armoury of many inland golf courses and on several occasions have played a major role in some of the games more historic moments.

Who will forget a young Bernhard Langer clambering up one of Fulford's trees during the Benson & Hedges International or, during the Volvo Masters, Seve frantically trying to persuade the referee that his ball, wedged between the roots at the foot of one of Valderrama's famous cork trees, was actually in a rabbit scrape and that he deserved a free drop.

On another occasion, during the '79 US Open at the Inverness Club, a short cut down another fairway which was being exploited by Lon Hinkle was plugged when a full size tree appeared overnight courtesy of the USGA.

The value of trees on certain types of golf courses has not always been taken as read. In the early days of golf trees were considered unfair and not worthy of a place on a golf course at all.



# Play your next shot with a wood



Above: John Nicholson admires the clearance work carried out at Coombe Hill

Overleaf: David Stanton examines some of the planting work at Hartsbourne

Below: Murray Long and Ken Moodie walk the Coombe Hill course



They are three dimensional hazards and with the equipment around when the game was born a skilful player, one who could hit the ball in the air, was penalised more by a tree and its ability to snare airborne shots than a poor player who could much more easily avoid the narrower trunks.

Since then equipment has improved and most players are now skilful enough to hit their ball into the air and the better players are rewarded for their ability to shape a ball.

But, unlike other hazards, like bunkers, trees don't stay the same. They are living beings which change shape and grow. As a result they must be managed.

Golf courses change gradually over the years and it can be almost imperceptible to those who play regularly. It is only those who visit occasionally who can see a difference. It's a little like when you're growing up and your great aunt says "My how you've grown" because she hasn't seen you since last Christmas.

"I believe too many clubs forget how a course changes over the years so they should really have a photographic record of the course so it can compare situations and see how it changes," said Golf Course Architect Ken Moodie.



"We should be encouraging proactive green management rather than reactive," he added.

"I try to look at old plans when I visit a club and you can see where courses do change through bad management or just lack of management and you can see trees or bushes pushing onto tees."

John Nicholson, of Eamonn Wall & Co, works with Ken on several projects, and has also seen many examples of poor tree planting on golf courses.

"People often see golf courses as an extension of their garden. But they aren't. It is a big landscape and big landscapes need big trees. People don't pay enough attention to scale and you often see a hawthorn or a rowan which would look fine in a garden but which just becomes lost and is out of scale with the rest of the landscape."

The style of the terrain should also have a bearing on what type of tree is planted.

Talking during a course visit to Hartsbourne GC, managed by David Stanton, John explained some of the tree planting dos and don'ts.

"Hartsbourne is set in rolling English landscape so you wouldn't plant angular dark trees like pine or spruce but in Switzerland or Austria the land forms are very angular, the mountains have sharp edges and that type of tree looks natural," he said.

David explained the background to the club calling in an arborist to give specialist advice.

"We called John in, not because we felt we had any inherent problems

but because we have some big mature trees which we were thinking about replacing and also because we wanted to fill up some empty areas as well as create more definition on some holes," he said.

The tree planting programme has not been in place long but already David can see benefits.

"Areas we've filled in are now in leaf and you can imagine what they are going to be like in 10 year's time. They are already having an effect so it's fair to say it's working well."

To give the trees a chance of establishing it is important that a maintenance programme is followed through as it can increase the trees survival and growth rate by times five.

"You must remember that a tree is just a cylinder with pipes on the outside. The middle of tree is dead so if you strim or damage the outside bark of the tree you are reducing the tree's potential to produce sugars etc and it is immediately under stress," said John.

Occasionally a Course Manager will decide to carry out the weeding in-house but often the man hours it involves makes for a minimal saving at best," said John, and this point was reinforced by David

"The two man team came in with knapsacks and sprayed around 5,000 trees and it only took them a morning. It was quite unbelievable," he said.

One area in which there was a little bit of debate was John's advice that the grass should be left to grow around the trees. However, the membership felt that they would rather





have this grass cut short to assist in the recovery of balls.

"We took on board the golfers and their particular abilities and felt that we should agree to their wishes," said David.

At Coombe Hill, West Kingston, Head Greenkeeper, Murray Long, has worked with John on the thinning out of the rhododendron bushes which lined much of the course.

"Because they were so dense I knew we weren't getting any regeneration so I explained the situation to the committee. I showed the Chairman of Green exactly what I was talking about, and we agreed to bring in John. That was about about two years ago,"

said Murray, who added that as the club emblem is a rhododendron bush care had to be taken to preserve the distinctive character of the course.

"What came across when I met the committee was the fact that it was a very mature, progressive golf club who had grasped the need to carry out the work," said John.

"There is a big difference between preservation and conservation and many golf clubs have a vocal minority who want to preserve everything... pickle it. They don't realise that they are not preserving what was there before because it's ever changing - it is a living entity," said John.

At Coombe Hill a strategy plan was

Above: Well defined fairways following the line of the trees make for an attractive finish.

Below: Magnificent Redwoods now visible from the 12th tee



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# Play your next shot with a wood

## Key points to remember

Mowers and strimmers are the biggest killer of trees on golf courses

Trees should to reflect the scale and style of the landscape.

It is often better to remove inappropriate trees when they are small to avoid club politics and reduce cost.

It is better to buy and plant small trees and watch them grow than buy 15 footers.

When clearing areas be aware that it takes twice as long to clear up as it does to cut down as the debris created is much more than you would think.

If you must plant larger trees for impact it is also better to plant a few small ones alongside as an insurance.

One year guarantees on larger trees can be worthless as trees can live off their own sap for up to five years

Tree planting should be accompanied by a maintenance programme as having a good weeding programme can increase both growth and survival rates by up to five times.

Fast growing trees do not live as long as those which are slower growing.

When planting avoid straight edges wherever possible.

Take shapes from what is growing outwith the confines of the golf course itself.

Avoid species such as poplar and willow as they are surface rooting and will invade drainage systems causing unnecessary blockages.



Above: An impressive view of Barnard Castle in Northumberland

Inset right: The exact same view some 12 years later, blocked by the growth of trees



instigated which look at the management of the trees as well as the way they affected the aesthetics of the holes.

"We looked to see if all the canopies were at the same height because that indicates whether the trees would be dying around the same time," explained John.

One of the major plus points a golf club should take on board when considering tree work is the fact that there are valuable grants available for woodland improvement.

"You can get 50% of the agreed cost for woodland improvement to a maximum of £10,000 in grant," said John, who investigates these on behalf of the club.

Often potential grant aid is lost because work is started before applying for the money. Extra grants may be applicable when the land is still in agriculture but not when work has started on a new course. It is the same when a golf course is being extended. You can get 30% more grant if the

land is still agriculture when the grant is applied for," warned John, who added that you have five years to plant once approval is given.

At Coombe Hill the work has been divided into three phases with each stage being priced accordingly.

"Before we started I put up pictures in the clubhouse from other clubs up to show what was going to happen and informed them when the work was going to start. I expected some reaction from the membership but after a few weeks it died down and when we cleared an area around the 12th tee which revealed some Redwoods that the club didn't even know we had the feedback was very positive.

"They were the biggest trees the club owned but they couldn't be seen until we cleared the path in front of them," said Murray.

Fortunately the clearing work, which also took in some birch and sycamore, didn't interfere with play because the majority of it was well

into the woods and the rhododendrons closest to the fairways were left.

The stump produced by a cut down rhododendron are huge and such is the extensive roots which feed the remainder of the bush it regenerates extremely quickly so return visits to spray any regeneration are necessary in order to maintain the desired environment.

Despite the fact that trees perform a major role at many golf clubs they do tend to be taken for granted. To ensure the best results clubs should have a management programme which takes account of the trees in and around the course and plans for their future. That way we ensure that they will continue to be involved in many of the more memorable moments the game has to offer.

John Nicholson can be contacted on 0191 384 2556 and Ken Moodie on 01244 659265.



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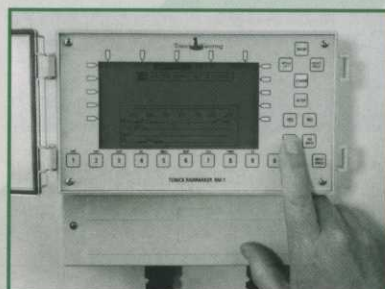
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## North

I think I should start this report with an apology for the weather. During a dry spell in April I fitted a rain gauge at Tain and, only some two and a half months later, it has a reading of 170mm which is not far off half the average rainfall for our area! Apparently we are going to have a great summer. We shall see.

Tain boys flew the flag for the section at the Scottish Championships at East Kilbride in June. Gavin Neill won the trophy for the best nett score of the day and Iain Cowper won the third class trophy. Jocky Urquhart, who recently joined the Section, pitched in with a third place in class one. Congratulations to the West Section who won nearly everything else.

At the end of the month we have the Norrie Whytock Trophy and the North Section team hoping to win it this year are, Iain Macleod, Tain (who?), Scott Williams, Peterculter, Iain Cowper, Iain and George Aitken, Peterculter. Apologies to Colin Mackay, Elmwood, who was told he had qualified at the Section outing, but our Sections are different to the ones for this competition. If you are wondering how I qualified, I didn't, but as Section Chairman I get to go to make up the numbers.

Finally, next month we have our 50th Anniversary outing at Downfield in Dundee, a fine parkland course under the stewardship of Paul Murphy. Paul has hosted The Open qualifying this year and now faces the daunting prospect of hosting 80 or so greenkeepers! As this is a special occasion the fee for the day has been reduced to £10 per member so get your entries back quickly. Any past Committee men no longer in the Section who would like to attend would be most welcome. Please phone Dougal on 01224 740329 for details. Andy Wilson left Carnoustie after The Open to become Head Greenkeeper at Brechin GC - his home town.

Iain Macleod

## West

Welcome to another round up of Section news. Just a few items to inform you of this month. Firstly, the PC basic user training course, funded by BIGGA, will be taking place at GOSTA HQ on 4 and 5 August. Six places have been reserved for the two day training. Similarly, a course will be taking place on 10 and 11 of August, if you are interested please contact Sandy Bulloch.

A challenge match, Greenkeepers v Club Stewards has been arranged and will take place at Lenzie GC on

Tuesday 24 August. It is anticipated that there will be two teams of 14 and the format will be four ball better ball.

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this I will have some confirmation on the venue for the annual dinner. It is hoped that we can book Victoria's again as this was by all accounts a great success last year.

Stuart Taylor and Kevin Brunton are trying to arrange an 11 a side game against the Central section. If you are interested in taking part contact Stuart on 0141 956 5554.

And finally, welcome to some new members this month. A. Mcleod, P. Hamilton and D. McMillan all from Raiston GC. C. Gordon, Lenzie GC, C. Maxton, Cathcart Castle, Francis Gallagher, Loch Lomond, and last but not least N. M. Stevenson. We look forward to seeing you all at future outings.

Once again if you have any news to offer, please contact me on 0141



Have you heard?

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G V Jarvis

## East

Well, here we are, August already. Where has all the year gone. We'll soon be thinking of end of season work, hollow coring, venti draining etc, so only a couple of months left of the season. What a quick year this has been. Time fairly flies by the older you get!

The Section Committee held its Annual Committee Day out at the Hirsell Golf Club, Coldstream, recently and a great day was had by all the committee members who attended. Thanks go to the Captain and Council of the Hirsell for courtesy of the course, the greenstaff for the great condition of the course and also the clubhouse staff for looking after us superbly on a nice day so vast amounts of liquid had to be consumed, that's my excuse and I'm sticking to it! Also a big thanks to local Toro dealer A M Russell for sponsoring the event again this year. It was also good to have along for the day Brian Goudie and Dougie Jeffery of A M Russell and, as a guest of the sponsors, Dave Kerr, of East Lothian Council. This year we had a new name on the individual winners trophy, that was Graham Wood, Dunbar GC. Craig did not win the trophy this year for the third time as he had to play blindfolded, just joking! Well done Graham and we look forward to you defending it next

year, wherever it may be. We are looking forward to it already.

The team event was won by the Chairman's team, so well done to Stuart Greenwood, Chairman, and the rest of his team. Stuart has got his name on this trophy so many times that if he wins again we might have to let him keep it. Well done to everyone for a great day.

The East Section held its summer tournament in early June at Murrayfield Golf Club. As usual it was teams of three playing a Texas Scramble format which always goes down well. Some excellent scoring was seen on an excellent day with no rain until the last few holes, so we were very lucky. A big thanks to the captain and his directors for courtesy of the course, the clubhouse staff for the food and refreshments which made the day even better. Also thanks to Stuart Townsend, Head Greenkeeper, and his staff for the superb condition of the course and also thanks to Craig Pennycuik for looking after the cards and starting duties on the 1st tee.

The results for the summer tournament at Murrayfield are as follows. 1. The three amigos, bandits or something along those lines with a score like this. J. Neilson, retired Murrayfield Scottish Chairman, P. Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, J. Walker, Managing Director Ritefeed. Score 57.5, par of course 69; 2. G. Thompson, Goswick, D. Wilkinson, Goswick, C. Pennycuik, Winterfield. Score 61, best last 6 holes. 3. C. Gilholm, Muirfield, R. Mullen, Swanston, D. McGinley, Swanston. Score 61. Once again a great day was had by all who attended.

Hope to see you all back again next year for the new Millennium Summer Tournament 2000.

The Section's best wishes go out to John Geddes, Stewarts & Co. and his wife Jackie on the birth of their son Scott who was born on 16 May. Mum and baby are doing well, but if you see John coming into the course looking a bit tired and bleary-eyed, the reason was not a best of 21 ends at Pilrig Bowling Club, as John likes his bowls, but an addition to the family keeping him awake at night. Well done to you both and best wishes from the Section to all the family.



What's all the noise about?

Through this column I would like to thank Ocmis (Scotland) Ltd, especially Nick Lawson and Piers Walsh for inviting myself, Graham Wood and Kenny Anderson to play for the Ocmis Scotland team recently in the BIGGA Tournament at Aldwark Manor. We were extremely well looked after for the entire three days and offer our thanks once again. It is the first time I have been down to HQ at Aldwark Manor and I was thoroughly impressed by the new offices which will benefit all members of the Association.

The tournament was superb, well organised and thoroughly enjoyable to play in. The barbecue at night was superb, but alas our golf was not as good and we finished well down the field. None of us played to our best, especially me, as I lost 12 golf balls and a total of 24 between the four of us. If anybody has any spare ones, stick them in the post, they will be much appreciated. Thanks again for a great time chaps. It was excellent.

Well, that's it until next time around. Next on the Agenda is the Willie Woods Invitational at Glencourse at the beginning of September, so get asking your captains, secretaries or committee members along to this great tournament and let them see what BIGGA and the East Section are all about. Entry forms will be with you soon so we hope to see you there.

Chris Yeaman



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

## Cleveland

The season is flying over. Most of our big competitions are over. Like most other courses in our area we are turning into a wetland trust with oyster-catcher, cublous and ducks ever present. We have even put the watering system on to suck it is that wet. However, enough about my course, everything in the Section seems calm.

We have a new member from the Northern Section, Darren McGee, Head Greenkeeper from Crook GC. Fellow Head Greenkeeper Tony McClure won the Durham County Championship here at Brancepeth GC in very hard conditions. Very well done. Once again, any news, give me a call.

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop.

## North West

I was just about to start the Section notes 1.7.99 with the radio on in the background when the news came through that BIGGA President Lord Whitelaw had just died. He had been ill for some time but when the news came through it was still quite a shock. Lord Whitelaw had, during his



time as President, been a great asset to the association and, I am sure, will be sadly missed. Over the last few years he never refused an invitation to join us at Penrith GC and present the prizes for the Cumbria Cup tournament sponsored by Course Care. Also at Keswick GC for the N/West tournament. He will be a hard act to follow.



**BIGGA's got something to shout about!**

The summer tournament at Longridge GC was a great day. 44 competitors enjoyed good weather, good food and drink and a great course produced by John Nicholson and his staff. The "Reg Vickers Trophy" was won by Tom Wilkinson with a 67 nett. We must do something about Tom's handicap. The longest drive and nearest the pin were donated once again by Rufford Top Dress. Richard Atkin won the nearest the pin and Mike Davie had the longest drive. The prizes went as far as 11th place, thanks to donations from the trade and the N/W patrons.

The N/W patrons are Burrows GM, Cheshire Light Machinery, Acorn Equipment and Rigby Taylor. Other companies donating prizes were Cheshire Sand and Top Dressing, SISIS, Bathgate Silica Sands, White Moss Amenity, Ritefeed. Many thanks to Longridge Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course and for their

hospitality. John Nicholson and his staff for a great course, Ray and Pauline for a great meal and Bill Merrit for his hard work and the members for making a great day.

Keep checking your fixture list for golf dates and I still require players for the "Roses Match" on Wednesday 18 August at Howley Hall. Any news or views would be welcome and you can contact me on 0151 724 5412. The North West Section would like to thank The Grass Roots Trading Company for the support given to seminar at Mere Golf and Country Club in April. Such support is always valued.

Bert Cross

## North East

On 22 April we held our Spring competition at Seahouses GC. On behalf of the section I would like to thank the committee for the use of the course and thank the stewardess and Alistair Holmes, Head Greenkeeper, who went out of their way to ensure we had an enjoyable day. Best Gross, David Cuthbertson, 72. Slaley Hall. Best Nett, Ken Rutherford, 67, City of Newcastle. Best Nett for Assistants, Neil Irvin, Slaley Hall.

We would like to thank Terry Charlton, of Turf Care, for his prize of a colour portable TV for nearest the pin at the 10th hole. This was won by Russ Black of Westerhope GC. Thanks also to the secretary of Seahouses for donating free golf for four people. This was won by Malcolm Lathan who had the longest drive at the 5th hole. Thanks also to Aitkens, Border Turf Services and Ritefeed for their kind donations.

Qualifiers for the Northern Region Competition are as follows. Cat 1. R Black, N Irvin. Cat 2, G Wright, R Williams. Cat 3. A Parkin, R White. All will be notified in due course.

Congratulations to Brian McArdle and his wife Lynn on the arrival of a baby boy. Guy Melvin recently moved from Parklands to Hexham as assistant greenkeeper.

The Section would like to welcome the following new members. D. McLean, Longhirst Hall; B. McArdle, Slaley Hall; J. Rippon and S. Richardson, both Birtley; M. Watson, Stocksfield; I. Rourke and A. Gunn, both Matfen Hall; G. Martin, Elemore; J. McKenna, Tyneside; T. Foggin, Rothbury; D. Jennings and J. Hutton, both Whickham and G. Gray, Tyneside.

By now the Carburul knock-out will be in full swing. Good luck to all.

The qualifiers for the National Championship are as follows. Best Gross, David Cuthbertson of Slaley Hall and Ken Rutherford of City of Newcastle.

If any member would like to see any of the BIGGA workwear, give me a ring as I have several samples for viewing.

Jimmy Richardson

## Northern

This year's President's Day Tournament was held at South Leeds Golf Club. As usual, the weather was not in our favour. Part way around the heavens opened and people were trudging up the 18th like drowned rats! Thankfully this did not seem to spoil the day for the majority. Thanks to the greens staff for providing us with a South Leeds track which is the best I personally have seen it. Thank you also for the excellent food and the warm welcome, as always, from the steward and stewardess.

A big thanks to our President, Mel Guy, for his efforts in helping to organise the day and the welcome 'bevy' at the half way point.

The main prize table was sponsored by Greenpride and PBI. Many thanks for the excellent prizes on show and also to all trade contributors to the raffle prizes. Results for the days golf were as follows:-

Division 1. A. Court, winner of the

Bill Mountain Trophy. D. Collins, J. Platt.

Division 2. K. Purdy, A. Baxter, T. Arana. Division 3. R. Armitage, L. Kirkbright, J. Brown. Trade Prize: A. Cordingley (Ritefeed).

I would like to wish Roy Armitage, of Scarthingwell Golf Club, all the best on his recent retirement. I am sure Roy will keep in close touch with the Club, as he has been with them since the time of construction. I hope you will continue to support the golfing events in the future as much as you have done in the past.

Finally, but by no means least, I am delighted to announce the safe arrival of my daughter Aemilia Beth on the 21 June. Anyone free for a little baby sitting please contact me at the address below!

Anyone with any news from within the section please contact me on 01484 317813 or 07788 442755 or at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield HD5 0LA.

Simon Heppenstall



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

## East Anglia

On 16 June, 45 members of the Section descended on Ufford Park Golf Club for our summer meeting. Under Colin Aldaus the Hotel and Course owner's watchful eye, Gary Cunningham and his staff had prepared an excellent course. The photographer for the Evening Star took a group picture for Neil Manning, Sports Editor, to write an article about BIGGA on the sport pages. The weather was great with temperatures in the high 70's and a cooling breeze. I must thank the hotel for giving us a wonderful welcome and an excellent meal.

The main sponsor for the day was Bartram Mowers Ltd. The winners were: Handicap category 1—9, 1.

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Robert Whiting 36 points; 2. Alan Carter 35 points; 3. Matthew Gill 34 points. Handicap category 10-18, 1. Greg McHugh 37 points; 2. Ian Willett 35 points; 3. Keith Titshall 27 points. Trade and Guest prize, 1. Colin Aldaus 36 points; 2. James Wright 34 points; 3. Mark Damant 34 points. Nearest the pin 5th hole Tim Russell. Nearest the pin 14th hole Peter Bevin. Longest Drive Peter Owens. Toilet seat won by James Holliday. Overall winner of the day Steven Davidson.

I would like to thank Colin Rushbrook and Brian Richardson for looking after the raffle and all the sponsors who were; Bartram Mowers Ltd., Rushbrooks & Sons, Rhône-Poulenc, Pattisons, Grass Roots, Turf Care, Rigby Taylor and Collier Turf Care.

Our next meeting will be at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club on the 10 August. See you all at the next meeting.

Ian Willett

#### East Midlands

On behalf of the Section I would like to congratulate our Section Chairman, Dave Leatherland, of Kedleston Park, on completing 25 years of service at Kedleston Park GC and 21 as Head Greenkeeper. I would also like to wish Dave many more happy years at Kedleston Park.

This year's Cosby GC Men's Invitation was won by Alan Roberts, who is a member of the Midland Section and myself with a Better-Ball Medal score of 64 on countback. There were many scores below par which was rather surprising in such windy conditions. Also playing on the day as guests were Ian Needham and Gary Thurman. On the same day Alan and I travelled to Radcliffe-on-Trent GC for the Open and finished second with a nett 66. Then on the 19 June, with a nett score of 143 over 36 holes, I won the Burghley Park Open. If any other members have any golf stories or anything of interest they would like



### Have you heard?

to see in this article please let me know.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Paul Norton, of Longcliffe GC, a quick and speedy recovery after his recent setback.

All members should have by now received entry forms for the East of England Pairs Tournament and Autumn Tournament Golf matches. If any member has not, please call me and I will gladly send you an entry form.

Antony Bindley

#### Mid Anglia

The Summer Tournament will be held on Tuesday 31 August at Veralum Golf Club in St Albans, Herts. The format for the golf will be confirmed on the day, although it is likely that a 18 hole Stableford in the morning will be followed by a 9 hole Texas Scramble in the afternoon.

Please get your entries in early so that Richard Saunders has enough notice to confirm numbers to the golf club.

All Lodgeway 4 ball group matches should be completed by the end of this month, with the semi finals being played in September and the final in October.

Paul Lockett

#### East of England

The Rigby Taylor Cup was played at Seacroft GC, Skegness. Mike Love, the new Head Greenkeeper, had the course in excellent condition. Mike is a new member of the

Section, coming from a links background in Kent and is working wonders at Seacroft. Apologies were sent by Stuart Jeffs the sponsor, but he managed to send some great prizes. Other trade prizes were donated by UAP, Greenpride, Aitkens, Tower Chemicals, Lambs and Roy Harrison. The Rigby Taylor Cup went to Barry Anderson, 34 points, from Toft Hotel GC. Second on countback, Alick McKay, 34 points, from Woodhall Spa, and third on countback, Russ Moody, 34 points, from Lincoln GC. The Lambs Cup for Nearest the Pin also went to Alick McKay. Guest Prize went to Alan Bishop, 32 points from Belton Park GC.

People on the move - Karl Weston has accepted the position of Head Greenkeeper at Stapleford Park, a new Donald Steel project near Melton Mowbray, and is leaving the National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa. Sam Rhodes has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper of the Bracken Course and Graham Bontoft takes up the position of Deputy Head Greenkeeper of the Hotchkin Course.

Computer courses are being run in the autumn. Some names are already in, anybody interested, please phone G. A. Macdonald. Telephone 01636 626564.

G A Macdonald.



South East  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

#### Essex

Our Summer Golf Competition was held north of the county on 23 June at Colchester Golf Club sponsored by P. Tuckwell Limited. Thanks as always to Neil Peachey. This time around, the weather conditions were much kinder to us than at our last outing in April. The course at Colchester was in excellent condition

as usual and congratulations to Keith and his staff. We thank Colchester GC for providing the venue along with Richard Jarvis who was our starter for the day, club captain Nigel Hilliard, Liza Chinnery and Bar staff, the catering staff for providing an excellent meal.

Now on to the prize giving. This time around our Chairman tried a different approach. After an exhausting day's golf and to save your energy carrying prizes to the car, he added the personal touch by delivering them personally some time in the future. In other words he left the prizes at home. Only joking Carl!

Overall winner: Tony Kirwan, 38 pts. 0 - 9. 1. Jeff Robinson, 32 pts; 2. Steve Cox, 32 pts; 3. Richard Pride, 31 pts. 10 - 18. 1. James Morgan, 34 pts; 2. Chris Ward, 31 pts; 3. Barry Speller, 31 pts. 19 - 28. 1. Martin Howard, 32 pts; 2. Keith Chinnery, 32 pts; 3. Martin Forrester, 29 pts.

Guest: - Nigel Hillard, 37 pts. Trade: Doug Smith, 38 pts. Longest Drive, Chris Ward. Nearest to Pin, Neil Peachey. Both sponsored by Greenkeepers Supply Company. Thanks to Bill, Liam and Mick.

We would also like to thank the following companies for their support. Rigby Taylor, GEM, Driving Force Leisure, Banks, Pattisons, CMW, Grass Roots Trading Company, Avoncrop, Does and UAP.

New members to the Section have dried up over the last couple of months but this month we would like to welcome Shaun Logan, from Fairlop Waters.

We finish on a sad note with the death of Reg Hooker's wife. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Reg and his family.

Dave Wells.

#### Surrey

Effingham Golf Club played host on the 2 July when an impressive field of 80 members turned out to do battle for the Cresta Cup. The day was sponsored by Gem Professional

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who not only supplied the prizes but also arranged the glorious, cloudless and very hot weather. Teeing off commenced at 1.30pm giving all members an opportunity to see to their own course work before arriving at Effingham. The course was in supreme condition, beautifully manicured and with greens that must make Peter Broadbent and his team proud to be greenkeepers. Following the 18 holes and cold showers we relaxed on the sun drenched terrace drinking the odd pint or two and then to finish an exceptional day we were provided with a delicious Barbecue. Thank you Effingham Golf Club. The results were 1. T. Edwards, 2. A. Locke, 3. M. McLoughlin. Nearest the pin J. Russell, J. Ross and R. Tydoman.

Please put in your diaries that on 14 September we have a golf day at Royal Mid Surrey on 30 September at the Richmond Golf Club and the Turkey Trot will be played at West Hill so that we can all see what Terry has been up to over the past few months.

Unhappily I have to report that one of our members at Abbeymoor Golf club, Chertsey, James Drennan has had a very serious motor cycle accident and is at the moment in a paralysed condition. James, we all pray for your recovery.

Brian Willmott



What's all the  
noise about?

#### Kent

I'm afraid I don't have a great deal of news for you this month but I will start by telling you about the next golf event, which is a Stableford event at Brokehill GC on 26 July. Coffee and bacon rolls at 11.30am for a 1pm tee time. Don't forget, soft spikes only. Whilst I'm on the subject of Brokehill I'd like to say that there has been an improvement with regard to Trevor Hindmarsh. I don't have any other details but as soon as I receive any, I will let you all know.

There are several people on the move that I am aware of. Firstly Bill Farnham has recently taken over the position of Course Manager at the London Beach GC and secondly, Don Clark has taken up the position of Assistant Greenkeeper at Chart Hills GC. I would like to wish them both the best of luck in their new positions and look forward to seeing

you both at future golf events.

You should all have received your Regional Training Programmes for 1999/2000 which I hope you will all agree look very interesting. I know that, previously, some of the courses haven't been supported as well as we would have liked, so hopefully we might see an improvement, and I look forward to meeting more of you there this year.

Any news, views, moves or any other gossip, then please contact me on 01474 879200.

Kneale Diamond



South West  
and South Wales  
Paula Humphries  
Tel: 01363 82777

#### South West

Enmore Park was the venue for the match against the secretaries which was held on 16 June. Without being biased, the South West greenkeepers gave the secretaries a hell of a good beating, with the final victorious score being 5-0. The match was sponsored by Avoncrop and team shirts were sponsored by Rolawn. We would like to thank the Head Greenkeeper, Gary Cook, for an excellent course and also the caterers for the meal. Thanks also go to the secretary, Mr Weston, for allowing us to play the match against the secretaries.

The next official event is a regional team event against the South Wales Section at St Pierre on 6 October. This event is sure to attract a lot of interest. The National Championship also takes place in October at Carden Park. I will be able to give you the results and qualifiers from this region in next month's Greenkeeper International.

Turning to education and training, there may still be time to book a place on the First Aid course being held at Cumberwell Park on 17 August. Spraying courses have also been arranged for September with the Kendleshire a likely venue. If you are considering a PA2 course, contact Noel Stevens direct to arrange a time and venue. Noel can also arrange tractor driving courses. His telephone number is 01452 526111. By next month I hope to have some dates for Chainsaw and Abrasive Wheel courses.

If you would like me to pass on any bits of information that you feel other members in the region would like to know about, please contact me on 01249 783382.

Paul Cunningham

#### South Wales

Sorry folks not much to report on again, although it gives me the role on behalf of the South Wales Section to mark the retirement of Peter Gillard. During the years we all knew

Peter to be very supportive of our friends in the IOG and to us in BIGGA. Many of his working days were spent lecturing at Pencoed College where they will obviously miss his knowledge and experience. Peter, you're still welcome to come along to any of our meetings, so hopefully I'm sure it's not the last we will see of you and your mine of information. On behalf of the section, thank you for all your help and encouragement in the past. Have a happy retirement.

Alan Walker, Head Greenkeeper from Carmarthen GC, has finished and we wish him every success for the future.

Richard Hatcher

#### Devon & Cornwall

As in previous years the section will be holding six meetings during the winter which are listed: The Roffeys meeting, 20 October, Trethorne GC. The Devon Garden Machinery meeting, 17 November, Manor House GC. The P.J. Flegg meeting, 8 December, Okehampton GC. The Barenbrug meeting, 26 January, The Warren GC. The Avoncrop meeting, 24 February, Trevoze GC. The Rhone Poulenc & Supaturf meeting, 28 March, Yelverton GC.

Please note the following booking terms and information listed below for Section meetings.

Golfing members to receive starting times before meeting with a draw for partners. For our foursome & greensome events you may enter with a partner with your opponents being drawn. Company & golf presentation to conclude the day. A levy of £2 will be added to each entry received after the closing date. 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.

For information on booking your place on the regions trip to BTME at Harrogate and the region's seminar, please contact Paula Humphries on 01288 352194.

Richard Whyman.

#### South Coast

You may think me a little premature when I mention the Section AGM which will be held in December. The reason I mention it now is that Kerran Daly has moved out of the Section and is no longer on the committee. At the AGM I will also be standing down. There will be notification of the AGM in a later report. All we ask at the moment is for anyone who would like to serve on the committee to give it some thought and put your name forward. I have been on the committee for 13 years and have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. Any interested

parties contact Tony Gadd or Jef Drake.

Our Regional Seminar will be held at Cannington on Wednesday 24 November 1999. The speakers have yet to be finalised, however, I'm sure that Paula will soon have all the information that you required. Looking at the possible topics and speakers that have been suggested, it looks like being a good day. Don't miss it.

Your committee would like to organise a get-together for the Millennium. We have come up with some ideas but we need your input as well. This is my own personal suggestion. 18 holes of golf followed by a dinner and dance. Whilst the golf is taking place, a coach trip be organised for wives, girlfriends and non-playing guests. On completion of the dinner dance, an overnight stay at a hotel B&B etc. The big question is how many of you would support this type of function. We really do need your input and suggestions as soon as possible so that the necessary arrangements can be made. We also need to see how much support we have got.

Our Autumn Golf Tournament this year will be held at Shanklin and Sandown Golf Club on the Isle of Wight. The date, Thursday 14 October. Play will consist of 18 holes Stableford. The cost of the day, to include evening meal, will be £16.00. All entries complete with current handicaps, names, addresses and cheques for £16.00 to be sent to: Fred Deamen, Golf Club Bungalow, Alton Golf Club, Old Odiham Road, Alton, Hants. GU34 4BU. Please get your entries into Fred as soon as possible. Don't leave it to the last minute. The venue being on the Isle of Wight means Fred will have the extra task of arranging transport.

While writing this report I have just heard the sad news that our President, the Right Honourable Viscount William Whitelaw has passed away. It is a sad loss to the country, to golf and in particular to BIGGA. He became our President when BIGGA



The BIGGA  
Silent Auction

Have you heard?



## Around the green

was first formed. During that time he has given us his total support and was always in attendance at BTME to meet everyone. The Section sends their heartfelt sympathy to his wife and family at this sad time.

Ken Lodge

## Northern Ireland

### North-East

I would like to begin this month by wishing Sammy Malcolmson a very speedy recovery after his unfortunate accident. Through no fault of his own Sammy has to spend the next few months recovering from a broken leg.

On June 23rd Greenmount College held their prize day and it was good to see so many Greenkeepers achieving their qualifications on both level II and level III. The college and BIG-

GA in Northern Ireland would like to thank John Lindsay Professional Sportsturf for supporting the level III course by putting up The Perpetual Cup and Travel Award.

Congratulations to the winner, Allister McEwen of Spa GC. Allister said that his club had been very supportive towards himself while achieving this award.

Congratulations also to Samuel Hall of Massereene GC who was the winner of the Institute of Groundsmanship Perpetual Award for Greenkeeping. Finally, well done to all the Greenkeepers who achieved their respective qualifications.

Eamonn Farrell

## Around the green

See you all next month!

## THE CHARTERHOUSE/SCOTTS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE BIGGA CHALLENGE TROPHY



Congratulations to all the winners in the regional play-offs.

Below is a list of qualifiers for the 1999

Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship for the BIGGA Challenge Trophy

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William McMeikan  
Kenneth Stirling  
Shaun McMillan  
Kenneth Mail  
Craig Pennycuik  
Mike Wilson  
Scott Williams  
Tony Bremer  
George Barr  
Kenneth Rutherford  
Dave Cuthbertson  
Michael Nolan  
Richard Castle  
Roger Bielby  
Dave Collins  
Anthony Burge  
Andrew Wood

Paul Neve  
Andrew Lomas  
Robert Lewis  
John Humphreys  
Stephen Tolley  
Dave Leatherland  
Paul Loffman  
Graham Wallace  
Robert White  
Graeme Macdonald  
Tony French  
Ross Wilson  
Simon Clark  
Mark Whittle  
Gareth Rogers  
Brian Turner  
Duncan Kelso  
Neil Gilham

George Barr  
Tony Bremer  
Larry Eden  
Ian Semple  
Nicholas Brewster  
Terry Moreton  
Chris Ward  
Steve Cox  
Mark Grogan  
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## What has a goat got to do with the BTME2000 Banquet?

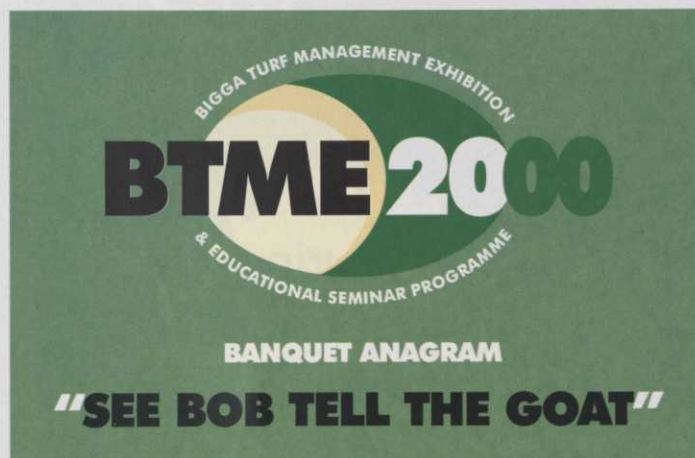
How well did you fair with last month's clue to the special guests at the BTME 2000 Banquet?

The clue was - One of the songs for which the band became famous includes in its title the first name of one of BIGGA's Golden Key Supporters.

The band is still a mystery how about an anagram of their name:-

It would be fair to say that these words have never appeared in this order ever before but if you sit down and work it out you should come up with the name of our special guests.

Add this new information to the picture below, and you may be closer to discovering who will be providing the night to remember next January.



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**The annual outdoor Saltext Show, at Windsor, in September, is the ideal complement to our own indoor BTME Show, at Harrogate in January. It will again be a case of all roads heading to Windsor on September 7-9 for the annual Saltext Show and this year the emphasis is very much on special working features.**

# time again Saltext

The organisers of this year's SALTEXT have negotiated additional space at the show's venue - Windsor Racecourse - in order to satisfy the demand for stands at the show.

With over 380 companies already confirmed as exhibitors at SALTEXT '99, the show was faced with problem of no space left but many more companies wanting to take a stand at the show.

Through discussions with Windsor Racecourse, SALTEXT has solved this problem and negotiated an additional 7000sqm available for exhibitors' stands. This increase in space for SALTEXT '99 has enabled the shows organisers, Independent Exhibitions, to accommodate an even greater body of exhibiting companies. On display at SALTEXT '99 will be an even wider range of industry suppliers, from mowers to mulchers, fertilisers and

agrochemicals to trees shrubs and nursery products.

"This year we have incorporated even more new companies and products alongside our regular exhibitors, making SALTEXT '99 the most comprehensive display of industry," said newly-appointed SALTEXT Show Manager, Nigel Cox,

Among those confirmed as exhibitors at this year's show include Amazone, Base Leisure, Charterhouse, Countex, John Deere, Eibe Play, Etesia, Kubota, Playdale, SISIS, Turfmech, Textron, Turfland and Wicksteed. Many of these companies are regular exhibitors at the show, but new companies for SALTEXT '99 include Avant Techno, Bomag, JCB, Massey Ferguson and Valtra.

As well as keeping abreast of the latest industry developments, visitors to SALTEXT '99 can also obtain advice on

improving their open spaces, through a programme of free educational seminars presented by some of the key personalities, organisations and suppliers in the industry. These include Eddie Seaward, Head Groundsman at the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet club and Tony Home, Head Groundsman at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, the venue for the forthcoming Rugby World Cup finals.

The working demonstration area will once again be a dominant feature of the show, providing the professionals responsible for outdoor spaces who visit SALTEXT with the opportunity to see the equipment they use everyday put through its working paces.

SALTEXT '99 takes place at Windsor Racecourse from 7-9 September. For free tickets to the show just call the SALTEXT Ticket Hotline on +44 (0)1203 426428.



## How to get to Saltext

SALTEXT is held at Windsor Racecourse. About 20 miles west of Central London, Windsor is easy to reach by rail, road and air. Heathrow is only a 15 minute drive away; Gatwick and Luton are within an hour's drive.

## By road

From the M25. Leave the motorway at Junction 15, where you'll join the M4, heading west. From the M4: Westbound - leave M4 at junction 6. Eastbound - leave M4 at junction 8/9. Then follow brown and white signs for Windsor racecourse.

## By rail

From London Paddington: Leave the train at Slough and join the local service to Windsor and Eton Central Station. Approximate journey time is 35 minutes. From London Waterloo: Leave the train at Windsor and Eton Riverside Station. Approximate journey time is 45 minutes.



## **ADVANTA SEEDS AT SALTEX Stand Number F22 - F24**

The full range of Mommersteeg 'MM' and Sharpes 'Designer' grass seed mixtures will be on the Advanta Stand. Both companies now operate within the Advanta Seeds UK umbrella and benefit from being part of one of the world's leading seed companies. The group has access to multi-million pound breeding, research, trialling and production resources, here and in Holland, keeping them at the forefront of the development of new grass cultivars.

"Our product portfolio which includes the MM and Designer ranges, is one of the strongest in the market" says Advanta's David Phillips. "It features many leading varieties like the dwarf perennial ryegrass, Amadeus, and the slender creeping red fescue Mocassin."

## **AMAZONE AT SALTEX 99 Stand Number B11**

The Amazone Groundkeeper range of mower/scarifier/collectors has an enviable reputation for durability and reliability in addition to its versatile and effective performance. The task of improving the range for the '2' Series has, therefore, been a difficult one. Although basic concept and running order of the machines remain unaltered we have made 18 modifications to the range that we believe now makes the Groundkeeper models unbeatable for value, longevity and performance. See the improvements for yourself.

## **AMENITY TECHNOLOGY AT SALTEX Stand Number D71**

What have 'Vertigo', 'Indicator Green', 'The Sustane Organic Fertiliser Range' and 'Crystal Clear' all got in common? They are all leading products in the Amenity market first launched at the Saltext show by Amenity Technology. What is new for 99? One stand holds all the answers. Can you really afford to miss a visit to Amenity Technology on Stand D71?

## **AVONCROP AMENITY AT SALTEX Stand Number H70-H72**

AVONCROP AMENITY PRODUCTS will be unveiling the new look product catalogue for the millennium, packed with all the latest information on the range of products and services offered to our customers. We will be announcing that we are main distributors for Barenbrug Amenity Grass Seed and will be showing their range, as well as the brand new range of Classic Grass Seed which feature a lot of Barenbrug cultivars.

Also on show will be the Scotts range of fertilisers & chemicals, along with Rhone Poulenc, Supaturf, Green Releaf, Terralift, Surf to Turf, Roots and others. There will be a selection of golf course/sports equipment and signs demonstrated along with line marking and pedestrian spraying equipment. Come and discuss your requirements from premier grass seed through to market leading fertilisers, chemicals and wetting agents. We aim to give independent advice and deliver quality products from top manufacturers.

## **BARENBRUG AT SALTEX Stand Number I12**

Turf Managers visiting the Barenbrug stand at Saltext '99 not only have the chance to put our technical advisors through their paces - they can also test their own knowledge in a unique competition. On display for visitors will be several new cultivars which have been developed to keep problem areas in tip-top condition. Many recently built stadia suffering from shade or low light will benefit from Barenbrug's ongoing research in this area. In addition, there is a whole generation of cultivars which have been bred specifically to withstand the most intense wear. Barenbrug's experts will welcome questions on these cultivars as well as the array of quality mixtures available. In fact, Barenbrug is confident it can make turf managers' lives easier in all sectors of the amenity market. Just consider some of the mixtures that have been improved during 1999. BAR 2 is ideal on golf and bowling greens; BAR EXTREME offers supreme wear tolerance on golf

tees and cricket wickets, while BAR7 and BAR STADIA are both ideally suited to rugby/football pitches. In short, Barenbrug has the experience to offer immediate solutions to turf managers' problems. And while you are on stand No. 112 testing this assertion, why not show off your own knowledge and possibly win a prize. The Barenbrug stand will be featuring a special competition to test seed identification skills. So with advanced technical expertise AND special prizes on offer, make stand No. 112 your first stop at Saltext '99.

## **BERNHARD AND COMPANY LTD AT SALTEX Stand Number S51**

**PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE**  
'Preventative medicine' is this year's message to the discerning greenkeeper and golf course manager! Bernhard & Co are able to offer the solution to blade sharpening requirements with their outstanding range of grinding equipment. Incorporated within the famous Atterton & Ellis grinder range are the Express Dual and Anglemaster, the Blade Rite 2000, Gear Rite, Rota Rite, Rapid Relief 1000 and Rapid Facer. All these individual grinders ensure that courses enjoy an improved cut and playing surface. As world leaders in grinding equipment for cylinder and rotary mowers we also offer greenkeepers the opportunity of a free demonstration at their course! Sharper Solutions from the company that knows how!

## **BIOTAL AT SALTEX Stand Number H49/50**

A new three-product biological treatment programme to help keep turf in perfect condition, will be launched on the Driving Force Leisure stand (H49/50) at the Saltext Exhibition at Windsor Racecourse. Developed by Biotol specifically for the UK fine turf market, the revolutionary treatments will be sold under the 'Restore the Balance' programme. Combining three products, Microbalance, Biofeed and Microbooster the natural solution programme reintroduces feeds and boosts beneficial microbial concentrations in turf, and balances the soil profile against

diseases such as Fusarium, Take-all patch and Anthracnose. Biotol 'Restore the Balance' is available through Driving Force Leisure and other selected distributors throughout the UK. Enquiries to Biotol on: +44 (0) 1222 747414

## **CHARTERHOUSE AT SALTEX Stand Number W28**

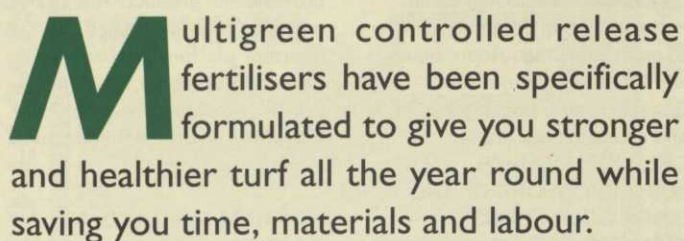
Charterhouse Turf Machinery will welcome visitors to their extended stand so that they may enjoy products from any of their four operating Divisions. The Tractor Division will introduce for the first time a representative range of Carraro Tractors including reversible tractors, articulated tractors and Local Authority multi-purpose carrying units. Also on show will be our range of ancillary Carraro equipment. The Richmond Division will be presented in force showing their wide range of hand tools, forestry equipment and tree surgery equipment. All these items and many more are displayed in their catalogue which will be available free to any visitors. The Turf Machinery Division will be showing its full range of Verti-Drain, Aeration, Seeding, Top Dressing and Scarifying Sweeping machinery. The Connoisseur Division will have on display its range of DR Trimmer/Mowers, All Terrain Mowers, and Powerwagons, together with all their latest introductions.

## **CLEVELAND SITESAFE LIMITED AT SALTEX Stand Number D67**

Cleveland Sitesafe Limited manufacture and supply a wide range of purpose built all steel movable storage and accommodation units for chemicals, tools, fuel, equipment and personnel. At 'Saltext 99' we will be featuring a three module Garage/Workshop unit - Size 18' (5.48m) x 27'6" (8.38m) x 11'6" (3.5m)Ht, and a Wooden Clad 18' (5.48m) x 9'6" (2.89m) Pavilion unit complete with verandah. Alongside these will be examples of Top-Opening 'Bin' type storage units and Walk-In storage facilities. We are pleased to manufacture to your own design and look forward to meeting customers old and new.



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August 1999 Greenkeeper International 59



## **CLUB CAR AT SALTEXT Stand Number S8**

Club Car UK of Abingdon in Oxfordshire, will be showing the CLUB CAR CARRYALL range of transportation and utility vehicles covering a wide range of applications from people carrying to grounds maintenance work. The new XRT 272 rough terrain vehicle will be shown for the first time at the Saltext Exhibition and is designed for construction, greenkeeper and general maintenance applications on golf courses and other leisure facilities.

Based on extensive input from golf industry customers, the versatile XRT 272 model features a strong, durable design combining excellent load-pulling and hill-climbing power with superior stopping ability, enhanced stability and increased traction via a differential-lock system.

## **EAGLE PROMOTIONS AT SALTEXT Stand Number D24**

Eagle Promotions provide an extensive range of services to Golf Clubs from the initial Course Measure through to Scorecards, Yardage Books and other Point of Play Accessories. This exhibition enables us to show our exciting choice of signage for the Golf Industry. Our signage is developing around our ability to create any image etched into zinc plate. These mounted on Stone, Moulded Rock and Wood, create truly spectacular sign systems. For more information please contact Philip McNley on Stand D24 or call on Mobile No. 0860 239354, we look forward to seeing you at the 1999 Saltext Exhibition. Office No. 01883 344244

## **EPIC AT SALTEXT Stand Number H49 - 51**

Driving Force Leisure and Epic Equipment will this year be exhibiting together. Apart from our own wide range of Amenity and turf care products on display, we will be launching items from the Pentagon brand of exclusive products. One of these premier brands is Biotol's 'Microbooster' 'Microbalance' and 'Biofeed' forming part of the 'Restore the

Balance' programme. These products offer a Microbial approach to combating disease on turf.

Also on display will be the latest examples of work recently undertaken by our Surfaces Division. These contracts include artificial grass pathways, putting greens, carpeting and indoor Practice Academies.

For further details please contact our office on 01795 427333.

## **ERIC HUNTER GRINDERS AT SALTEXT Stand Number Q12**

Manufacturers of the Jupiter & Juno Cylinder grinding machines and the Orion Bottom Blade grinder. The Jupiter machine spins and relief angle grinds cylinders and grinds both edges of the bottom blade. It will spin grind in fully automatic mode. The Juno will relief angle grind cylinders and grind both edges of the bottom blade. The Jupiter has a 42" capacity and the Juno 36". The Orion is a bottom blade grinder. All machines are water cooled. All your grinding requirements can be carried out on one machine with the Jupiter and Juno including 'in-situ' grinding.

## **EVENPRODUCTS AT SALTEXT Stand Number CP 11/12**

Evenproducts Ltd are the sole U.K. distributors of Hunter Industries' range of pop-up sprinklers, valves and controllers for turf, landscape and amenity. Evenproducts also manufacture large volume water storage tanks and roofs in galvanised steel for this market. When you buy Hunter Industries or Legacy by Hunter equipment from Evenproducts, you will receive an Internationally recognised product that can be installed to a high standard by your local Hunter dealership and backed by Evenproducts Ltd., a company that has been in U.K. irrigation for nearly 50 years. For more details of Hunter Industries' products, or your local Hunter dealer/installer, please contact: Evenproducts Ltd., The Oxstalls, Blayneys Lane, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 4TS. Telephone No.: 01386 41212. Fax: 01386 423769.

## **FLOWTRONEX AT SALTEXT Stand Number M05**

A dynamic range of the latest constant and variable speed packaged pumpsets designed to enhance fairways and greens on golf courses across the globe will be displayed by Flowtronex Europe.

Engineers will be available to advise on how to specify a reliable pumping station and give practical demonstrations of the company's advanced pump station monitoring systems and diagnostic software.

Flowtronex Europe is a member of the USA based Flowtronex Group - the world's largest manufacturer of pumping systems for the golf industry. The European headquarters, housing advanced manufacturing facilities, is located in Hampshire, UK, with further sales offices in Hamburg, Germany and Dubai, United Emirates.

## **GRASS ROOTS AT SALTEXT Stand Number P30**

The Grass Roots Trading Company is proud to boast the most qualified and experienced team in the industry covering agronomy, soil biology, environmental management and product development. Our 'Genesis' range of products, researched, developed and tested with the long-term future in mind have been specially formulated to solve problems by offering alternative solutions in a natural and environmentally friendly manner adding value without costing "the earth." To meet the Grass Roots team and learn more about the Genesis range, pop in for a drink and a chat on our stand.

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## **GREEN RELEAF (EUROPE) AT SALTEXT Stand Number H70-H72**

GREEN RELEAF, the US leaders in liquid microbial products are exhibiting an exciting new range of microbial products at Saltext. The Green Releaf liquid beneficial microbes rapidly improve root structure, enhance nutrient uptake and increase natural resistance to disease. Other products at the show include THATCHLESS liquid which will reduce your thatch in

only 30 days. And for faster, harder wearing greens, why not try KCS 0-0-14 Liquid - perfect to harden the greens off for the winter. Also new for 1999 are our highly successful US organic granular fertilisers inoculated with beneficial microbes. Visit us at our exclusive South & South West distributor, Avoncrop Amenity Products.

## **HAYTER LIMITED - AT SALTEXT Stand Number W15**

Hayter are delighted to announce the launch of the new T424-5 gang ride-on cylinder mower which will replace the highly successful T44 in time for the new millennium.

Many of the excellent features of the T44 have been retained in this exciting new product. The T424 has a cutting width of 3.5 metres and is powered by a 51hp Kubota V2203-B diesel engine. It can be operated with any configuration of cutting units making it one of the most versatile cylinder mowers in its class. The T424 is a compact machine with a low centre of gravity and low seating position. In 4WD the transmission system, coupled with an effective differential lock, ensures excellent performance on slopes. In 2WD the T424 is capable of a maximum speed of 14mph (22kph) for efficient transportation between sites. Ease of servicing is always important with any Hayter professional product. The T424 is no exception. The stylish operator platform and engine cover can be easily tilted to provide excellent access along the whole length of the machine.

## **HI-CHEM (UK) LTD AT SALTEXT Stand Number F34/35**

**GREENPOWER SPECIALISED TURF FERTILISERS**  
The Greenpower range of fertilisers has been specially developed by Haifa Chemicals for sport and amenity turf. Multigreen controlled release fertilisers are produced in several formulations and prill sizes to suit all types of turf through the year. Greenpower water soluble fertilisers are high-quality straight formulations which can be used alone or in combination. Haifa Chemicals is one of the world's leading manufacturers of



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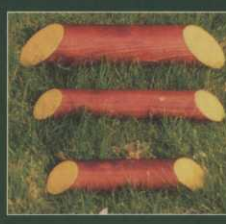
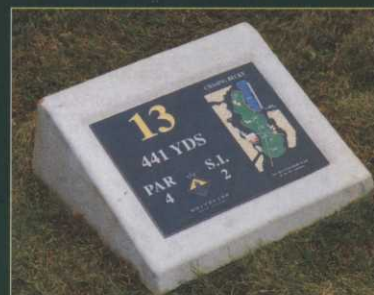
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potassium nitrate and other speciality fertilisers. All Haifa fertilisers are the result of extensive development programmes backed by trials in field conditions.

The Greenpower range is distributed in the UK and Irish Republic through Headland Amenity Products.

## **ING TURFCARE FINANCE AT SALTEXT**

Think cost, not price when considering whether to use cash or credit to acquire a new item of turf machinery.

That is the advice of Sean Jones, manager of ING Lease's Turf Care Division, which, in addition to providing funding to golf course, contractor and public authority equipment users, operates some of the leading own-brand finance marques in the industry, including Kubota Credit, Toro Finance and Charterhouse Finance.

"At a time when interest rates are at their lowest levels for 30 years, there is a great temptation to think cash instead of credit," commented Mr Jones. "However, larger more specialised machinery rarely pays for itself in its first season. Working life and payback period is usually far longer. It makes economic sense, therefore, to fund the item over the number of years which match actual use rather than pay for it completely before it has earned a penny for you."

## **INTURF AT SALTEXT Stand Number CA26**

Visitors to the Inturf stand will as usual be able to see a huge variety of turf types and turfing systems. From their standard range of sports amenity turf to their specials that include Fibre Reinforced Turf and Millennium Turf (for sensitive landscaping sites).

From the turf system point of view, Inturf will be exhibiting the ITM Integrated Turf Module System, their Lay 'n' Play Turf Tiles and the original Big Roll Turf Laying System.

Custom or Prescription Growing has become increasingly popular and Inturf are currently growing turf to order for several clients where extremely high specification turf is called for. Please come and visit us on Stand CA26 and find out a lot more!

Inturf, The Chestnuts,  
Wilberfoss, York YO41 5NT  
Telephone: 01759 321000  
Facsimile: 01759 380130  
e-mail: info@inturf.co.uk

## **JOHN DEERE LIMITED AT SALTEXT Stand Number V4-V14**

John Deere offers a comprehensive range of reliable equipment for the professional, golf and turf and domestic markets, backed by an unrivalled level of parts and dealer service support.

Among several new machines on display at Windsor, the Pro Gator utility vehicle can be used as a general materials transporter or with specialist turf maintenance equipment for a wide range of applications, while the operator-friendly 2500 triplex greensmower features easy to use controls and the optimum quality of cut.

These are in addition to the latest tees, greens and fairway mowers, ride-on front mowers, compact tractors, aerators and injectors, materials collection systems and walk-behind lawnmowers.

## **JOHNSON SPORT & AMENITY AT SALTEXT Stand Number F19**

The new J Range represents excellence in turf grass and was designed specifically for groundsmen and greenkeepers who are not looking to compromise on quality. It incorporates the top rated cultivars from every section of the turfgrass seed booklet. For example, for renovation of cricket wickets the new "J6" mixture is ideal because it combines the top rated cultivars "Merci" and "Dali" perennial ryegrass. Dali is particularly successful on the modern day loams due to its high tolerance of close mowing high shoot density and rapid re-growth rate.

J Range customers are assured of the highest levels of service from a newly appointed national network of distributors.

For more information on the Johnsons' Sport and Amenity range and details of your local distributor contact.

Guy Jenkins,  
Johnsons Sport and Amenity  
Telephone: 01386 793135  
Fax: 01386 792715

## **KUBOTA AT SALTEXT Stand Number W40**

There will be plenty to see and talk about on Kubota's stand where all of the products being displayed are making their first-ever appearance at the Saltext Show.

New from Kubota during 1999 are compact tractor models, triple cylinder and rotary ride-on mowers, tractor implements and garden machinery. Visitors will also be able to speak with helpful and knowledgeable staff from Kubota's sales, service and parts departments and discuss with Kubota Credit the range of flexible finance options available on Kubota equipment.

Spearheading Kubota's first-ever range of cylinder mowers are the 33hp AM3300 and 18hp AM1800 ride-on triple cylinder mowers with mowing widths of 2.03m (80") and 1.72m (68") respectively.

Another all-new mower from Kubota is the G18 GlideCut ride-on mid rotary mower with "straight-path" integral grass collector. Power for this professional standard mower comes from an 18hp water-cooled diesel engine.

New compact tractors from Kubota include the latest 35hp, 38hp and 45hp Grandel models with a choice of cab or roll bar and two newcomers to Kubota's B Series range - the 14hp B1410 and 16hp B1610 compact tractors.

## **LBS AMENITY AT SALTEXT Stand Number H16**

LBS Amenity are exhibiting for the first time at SALTEXT. They will be distributing copies of their new 200 page Buyers Guide containing thousands of Amenity Sundries of interest to Greenkeepers & Groundsmen. A Wide range of sundries will be on display, including Irrigation Spares and the 'TUFF-LINK' range of chain & posts manufactured at one of their Lancashire factories. LBS have submitted 'FIXPOINT' into the 'BEST NEW SPORTSTURF PRODUCT AWARD' This is a new marking peg system for sports pitches designed to save the Groundsman time. Greenkeepers looking for something different from their Amenity Distributor should pay a visit.

## **LINDUM SEEDED TURF AT SALTEXT Stand Number G14**

Lindum Seeded Turf Ltd embrace the individual soil conditions under their client's care by displaying their new service, Lindum Plant Nutrition. Tested at the Lindum Turf nurseries in Yorkshire, the concept of extensive soil analysis as a prelude to a tailor made nutritional programme was pioneered in the USA and introduced here by Lindum at the beginning of the year. Managing Director Stephen Fell and Sales Manager David Snowden will be available on the stand, supported by technical advisers John Stannard and Stuart Green, ready to give details of the new service, and information on the company's extensive range of conventional and BAyr Root Wash turf, which is available in both large and standard rolls. StrathAyr SquAyr, the one metre slabs of turf grown into reinforced root-zone, designed for areas of particularly heavy wear, will also be on show. The product has proved its worth by withstanding the pressure of many famous goal mouths, since its conception.

Visit Lindum Seeded Turf on the stand, or call the company on 01904 448675.

Contact: Carol Dutton (editorial enquiries only) Tel: 01904 644449

Stephen Fell (Lindum) Tel: 01904 448675

## **MARLWOOD LTD AT SALTEXT Articulator Stand A37-A38**

Marlwood Ltd. is launching the latest addition to the Articulator range at Saltext '99. The 621ER Articulator is a low cost, 10'6" width of cut, rear discharge rotary mower for customers with less extreme terrain, who need a simple, tough, wide area finish machine.

Also exhibiting is the 425D Ride-On Articulator. The 425D has an 8' cutting width, an instant change of cutting height from 1" to 4.1/2", a low centre of gravity and coupled with a zero turning circle, the 425D cuts undulating terrain with ease.

The 721X, 325 Series Articulator and the Graden Scarifier will also be on the stand.



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## OCMIS IRRIGATION AT SALTEX Stand Number Q06

Ocmis are UK Distributors for Rain Bird Irrigation products and specialise in design and installation of irrigation systems for all golf courses, sports turf and landscape areas.

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## PRESTIGE SPORTS SUR- FACES LTD AT SALTEX Stand Number A45

Prestige Sports Surfaces Ltd, a joint venture company with the combined experience and expertise of Hepworth Minerals and Chemicals Ltd (HMC) and Tarmac Quarry Products Ltd (TQP), are specialists in the marketing and sale of sands, gravels, pre-blended rootzones and top dressings for sports, leisure and horticultural applications.

Both the Pro-Sport and TopSport product ranges are available from Prestige Sports Surfaces Ltd making the company unique in being able to offer the broadest range of consistently high quality products from one supplier.

The dedicated specialist sales team is supported by a central sales office who are available to deal with all your enquiries including transport and technical queries.

The entire product range is available anywhere in the UK supplied from the extensive number of quarries operated by both HMC and TQP and benefiting from their established distribution systems.

For further information, please join us on our stand at Saltext '99.

## Q-LAWNS AT SALTEX Stand Number F30-31

Q Lawns turf growers have once again seen an increase on sales compared to last year. Chris Carr Sales & Marketing Manager said the wet winter and spring has maintained demand during the early summer months. Popularity for Q Lawns turf products and service has increased with nation-wide deliveries. This years highlight for Q Lawns was to become official suppliers to The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. Carr also reports the newly formed turf nursery at Manchester has taken off well, further evidence that the market is accepting better quality lawns and paying fair money for them. A new Big Roll laying trolley will be launched at SALTEX where the design enables turf to be laid quickly and cheaply. The unique design enables 25 square metre Big Roll to gain access through garden gates and passage ways to the garden requiring a new lawn. Q Lawns will loan the QBR Garden Layer to customers free of charge.

For more information visit their stand or visit their web site,  
[www.qlawns.co.uk](http://www.qlawns.co.uk)

## RAIN BIRD EUROPE SARL - AT SALTEX Stand Number CP8-9

The importance of efficient water management has never been greater and, as the industry leader in the manufacturing of irrigation equipment, Rain Bird is committed to the continuing development of more reliable and efficient irrigation products. Rain Bird will be showing the Maxi Cirrus Decoder computer control system with its enhanced graphics, smart weather and superior monitoring features; "Freedom for Europe", radio control for Maxi Stratus, Nimbus and Cirrus Systems; Rain Bird's "Top Serviceable Rock Screen" for golf sprinklers; TG-25 non valve-in-head sprinkler and our new low friction loss swing joints.

Visit the stand of a leader.

## RHÔNE POULENC AT SALTEX Stand Number P2

Do you have problems with your weed, disease or pest control in turf? At Rhône-Poulenc Amenity we can help you find the

answers, with new exciting chemistry in the turf selective market. This includes New Supertox 30® and Clovotox® with the added benefit of mecoprop-P, plus other novel developments in this area. Come and talk to us on Stand P2 about your hard surface and shrub bed weed control, where we have a number of solutions, including a new five litre pack for CDA Vanquish®, the only available ready mixed glyphosate biactive based CDA herbicide. This is available in a new backpack, with a unique dry break connector which enables it to be compatible with all CDA lances. Also featured will be Zapper®, which is a revolutionary new barrier, contact and translocated total herbicide, giving season long weed control. Rhône-Poulenc now have a Website, which you can access at [www.rpal.co.uk](http://www.rpal.co.uk).

## RIGBY TAYLOR AT SALTEX Stand Number M01

Rigby Taylor will be displaying their products and services on Stand M01 at Saltext '99.

Particular emphasis will be given to their 'MASCOT' brands including their Chemical (eg 'Rimidin' Fertiliser (e.g. 'Polymax') and Grass Seed ranges.

Also featured will be their 'MASCOT' speciality range including the recent additions 'Blockade', 'Amino-Sorb', and 'Integrate'. Other products on show will include 'Profile', an inorganic soil modifier, 'Roundup Pro' Biactive and the pre and post emergent herbicide 'Casoron' G. Other marketing initiatives are planned to be unveiled at the show. Rigby Taylor staff will be on hand to answer any queries.

## ROLAWN AT SALTEX Stand Number CA11

Rolawn will be exhibiting its NEW, UNIQUE '1066' roll of turf. Trials have shown that the new rolls 1,066 millimetres (42 inch) width enables the ground to be covered rapidly with far fewer joints allowing remarkable stability.

All grades of Rolawn turf will be on display including washed turf for those specialised projects. All Rolawn turf can be supplied in large or small roll format. Visit our stand where our expert

staff will be on hand to help and advise you.

## RUFFORD SOIL TECHNOLOGY AT SALTEX Stand Number A19

RUFFORD SOIL TECHNOLOGY is renowned as a leader in the Sports Turf Industry for supplying golf courses, winter sports pitches and bowling greens nationwide with a superior range of top dressings, construction root-zones, sands and soils. We have recently seen an increase in awareness of the technical aspects required for sands and soils which we meet and develop in our modern laboratories. Higher standards for materials are now the main consideration for the user. We look forward to seeing you on our stand where our Technical Staff will be only too pleased to discuss requirements and help solve problems.

## SCOTTS UK PROFESSIONAL AT SALTEX Stand Number E01

Scotts UK Professional will be displaying the benefits of the new turf growth regulator Shortcut, which can halve the amount of time grounds and greenkeeping staff need to spend on mowing grass. Shortcut can free up valuable man-hours for deployment on more meaningful tasks through its unique action in reducing grass growth rate without sacrificing sward vigour and appearance. Shortcut contains the new active ingredient trinexapac-ethyl, has successfully reduced mowing requirements by 50 per cent on fairways and tees, freeing up labour at times of peak demand for mowing and other cultural activity. Crucially, turf responds positively to treatment with Shortcut, with trial sites also report enhanced colour, thickening of the sward and improved root development following application. Scotts has just launched its comprehensive new Product Guide to Scotts fertilisers and chemicals for the turf and amenity markets. Call on the stand for a free copy.



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## SISIS AT SALTEXT Stand Number B27

SISIS EQUIPMENT (Macclesfield) LTD, long established manufacturer of golf course maintenance machinery, now offers a range of high quality grass cutters, designed and manufactured in Britain. The Greenstar greens mower was introduced two years ago and has built up a firm base of very satisfied users. The only British designed and manufactured ride-on greens mower, the Greenstar, incorporates features specifically requested by greenkeepers including - automatic fixed mowing speed for consistent quality of cut; 11- knife cutting cylinders as standard for competition quality finish; permanent all-wheel drive as standard for superior performance. The Teestar provides a high quality finish and is ideal for tees, aprons and approaches and is well established as a market leader. The Teestar features ribbed tyres as standard to reduce surface marking; permanent all-wheel drive for superior traction; 6-knife cutting reels for quality cutting finish; automatic fixed mowing speed as standard, for consistent clip rate. Also on the SISIS stand, will be a large number of machines from the extensive SISIS range of golf course aerators, scarifiers, top-dressers, sweepers, seeders, sprayers, etc.

## SUPATURF PRODUCTS AT SALTEXT Stand Number E18

**NEW PRODUCTS FROM SUPATURF**  
Supaturf will be displaying their full range of market leading water management products including Primer 604 the world favourite wetter. New for 1999, Supaturf will be demonstrating the new SupaMark aerosol applicator and the SUPALINER, their new ride on line marking system. Based on the John Deer Gator or the Kawasaki Mule, the SupaLiner is a simple bolt on hydraulic based unit that ensures the fastest line possible with all the quality and ease of use that you have come to expect from Supaturf. Perfect for GUR marking or other grounds maintenance jobs. Simple and versatile.

## TEXTRON AT SALTEXT Stand Number V15

In little over 18 months the name of Textron has been indelibly etched into the minds of turf care professionals around the globe. New products include: Jacobsen HR 9016 The new Jacobsen HR 9016 rotary mower represents a major advance in the maintenance of large areas of amenity turf and offers exceptional productivity of up to 16 acres per hour. Power, productivity, operator comfort and ease of maintenance have been the prime considerations in the design of this machine. Jacobsens Greens King V Plus The Greens King V has, quite simply, just got better! This proven greens triple mower is now built at Textron's international head office and manufacturing base in Ipswich, specifically for the European market. Ransomes Highway 2130 Meeting the demand for high performance with a low cost of ownership, the new Highway 2130 triple mower features a powerful 33hp diesel engine, a rugged hydrostatic system all combined within a sturdy steel chassis. Ransomes Parkway 2250 Plus Building on the success of the Parkway 2250, the new PLUS derivative has many upgraded features including new hydrostatic transmission. But it's not only turf care. A new product for the municipal sector will be launched at the show demonstrating Textron's commitment to expanding their product range in new, but related markets.

## TONICK WATERING AT SALTEXT Stand Number CP1

New, Tonick Rainmaker RM-1 Irrigation Controller A wall-mounted irrigation controller with a graphics display that does the job of a PC based system. This means the latest features in performance are available with a massive saving in cost. Unlike other makes of PC based controllers, the RM-1 is compatible with most existing decoder types and there is no need to scrap any serviceable wiring or decoders, even partial refits are possible. It runs existing Watermation, TORO, CIC, Wright Rain, Primetime,

Robydome, ISS and Tonick decoders, up to 511 named stations are available over 36 holes and putting greens. Other Tonick products include the growing range of reliable, replacement decoders. For more information contact Tony Ware or Rod Padwick. Tel: 01243 554060

## TORO AT SALTEXT Stand Number W50

Toro is applying its distinctive 'Red Iron' livery to its newly-acquired range of Multi-Core aerators and the first example can be seen at Saltext '99. Also being spotlighted on the Commercial Products' part of the Toro stand is its revolutionary Reelmaster 3100-D Sidewinder triple mower, which is receiving high praise from greenkeepers in its first season in action on Britain's golf courses. All three large turf aeration units in the Multi-Core range are mounted to a compact tractor by three-point linkage for fast, optimum core aeration. Toro claims to be on to a winner with its unique Reelmaster 3100-D triple mower with optional Sidewinder, which is proving highly popular with first customers using it this year. The Sidewinder is an industry first because its three cutting units can be hydraulically moved to the left and right to increase their overhang up to 22in. Another product currently finding increasing favour with users and being exhibited by Toro, is the Contour 82 Deck for producing an even cut without scalping on heavily-contoured ground. Fitted to the company's Groundsmaster 3000-D out-front rotary mower, the unit comprises four independent, 22-inch wide cutting chambers that are linked together to form a complete deck. Each section can flex up and down by 20 degrees to 'float' over bumps and drop into hollows to hug the ground contours for a smooth consistent cut. The Contour 82 Deck has a cutting width of 82in and height of cut is adjustable from 1in to 4in. Toro Sitework Systems, a separate division, is showing the Dingo. This superb machine will do in hours what used to take days. A rugged hydraulic power-

plant-on-wheels, this versatile, compact utility loader with a 4cu ft steel bucket and 30 easy-to-fit labour saving attachments, is the ideal tool for general landscaping and construction work on sports, amenity and leisure sites as well as golf courses. Toro commercial turf maintenance products and the Dingo are distributed in mainland UK by Lely (UK) Limited, Station Road, St Neots, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE19 1QH.

## ULTRA PLANT AT SALTEXT Stand Number A7-8, 21-22

Ultra Plant will be exhibiting their very successful range of top dressing equipment which are tried and tested on some of the top clubs. We will be exhibiting some brand new products including the Buffalo Turbine Blower and the Kwik Trench Garth saw. So come along if you require any advice or friendly chat with us or Charles Chance of Surrey Grasscare at stand number A7/8/21/22.

## WEED FREE AT SALTEXT STAND CA15

**MEET THE FAMILY**  
Weed Free introduce two new off-spring from the Spraying Mantis and invite visitors to view the whole, shrouded, spraying family on Stand CA 15. Baby Mantis, a redesigned, smaller version of the parent machine, has a 60hp engine, a tank capacity of 800 litres and the ability to accommodate an additional 2 metre, shrouded, pedestrian boom which can be used for greens and tees, in addition to its main boom of 5.5 metres. Mini Mantis, a completely new design, is the first machine of its type to incorporate shrouded booms into pedestrian spraying. It is battery operated and can cover approx. 100 square metres per minute. Proprietor Mike Seaton and Contracts Manager, Mark Anderson will be on hand with information on the company's spraying courses as well as the Mantis Machines. Contact Weed Free on FREE PHONE 0800 068 08 78 Contact: Carol Dutton (editorial enquiries only) Tel: 01904 644449



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"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

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

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The BIGGA Golf Day, sponsored by J. Rothschild Assurance, took place on the longest day of the year but for those who attended the time just flew by...

# The longest day

## Golf Day 99

### First

Ocmis England, 65-6-59  
(Better inward half)  
Nick Lawson  
Mark Kirby  
Dave Dwight  
Graham Wallace

### Second

Hi-Tec, 65-6-59  
Lee Ware  
Grant Hutchison  
Richard Smith  
Andy Taylor

### Third

Rothschild 2 62-2.8 - 59.2  
Richard Minton  
Ian Semple  
Nigel Illingworth  
Alan Greaves

Putting Competition winner -  
Graham Wallace

Nearest the Pin -  
Mark Grant

Longest Drive & Pitching  
competitions winner -  
Alistair Beggs



Rothchilds have been in the news lately on two counts.

The art collection owned by Rothchilds raised the eye popping sum of £56 million when sold at auction while the BIGGA Golf Day, sponsored by J. Rothschild Assurance, was a stunning success.

There is no doubting which event caused the bigger stir in greenkeeping circles. Just who would be interested in an illuminated manuscript anyway? No, Aldwark Manor was where it was at on the longest day of 1999 and by sheer coincidence it also turned out to be one of the most enjoyable.

It was BIGGA's third golf day and in that short

time has established itself as a regular event in the diaries of many well known names and faces in the industry... and a few from outwith our industry as well.

Among them this year was England international footballer Lee Clark who kindly took time out from his seven figure transfer from Sunderland to Fulham to present the prizes.

It may have been exactly mid summer but it didn't stop half the field being pelted by hail stones in a freak storm in the afternoon. It certainly didn't dampen the spirits and the scoring suggested that some serious golf was being played.



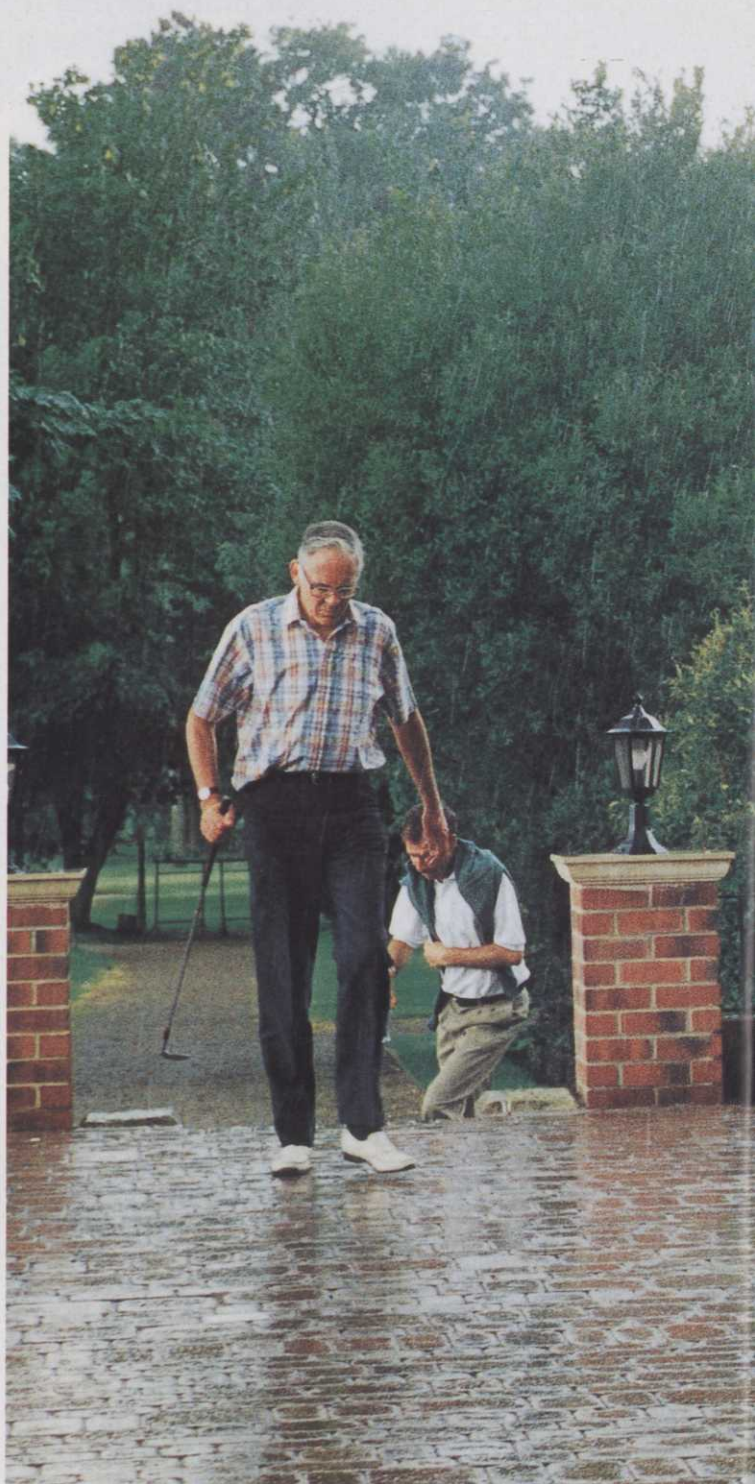
# The longest day



Above: Regional Administrators Doug Bell, Peter Larter and Peter Boyd ensured it ran to time

Previous Page: The victorious Ocmis England team with Mike Blunt, Director of J Rothschild Assurance, Lee Clark and Gordon Child

Below: Aldwark Manor's own Bobby Moncur spot a flat on his nearside rear



Everyone's a winner...

Below: Hi Tec grabbed a well deserved second place only losing out on countback



Below: Rothschild 2 were the best placed sponsor's team in third







Above: Andy Russell, of Headland Amenity, and Richard Minton, of Scotts, share a joke with Gordon Child

Below: The eventual winners before the off looking confident. And why shouldn't they with Dave Dwight, of Aldwark Manor amid their ranks?



Left: Cheryl Broomhead takes little account of the slippery conditions as she rounds the corner at high speed

Below: Birdies weren't only being seen out on the course! These ducks came to Bunkers Bar to see what all the fuss was about!



Below: Alistair Beggs of STRI collected both the longest drive and chipping prizes



Below: Nearest the Pin winner, Mark Grant



Below: Putting Competition winner, Graham Wallace





# The longest day



Above: To the winners go the spoils

Below: Vice Chairman, Elliott Small turns on the style in the chipping competition



In addition to providing four teams and some fine golfers to the day the event's new sponsor J. Rothchild Assurance specialises in financial planning for the medium to long term, providing a wide range of financial solutions which include investment, protection and retirement products. BIGGA has entered into discussions with JRA to become an Introducer, so making the financial products and services of the company available to BIGGA members.

"First and foremost we are in the business of providing relevant, expert and realistic advice. We know that most people find the whole subject of financial planning difficult and even daunting and we aim to make the whole process as intelligible and accessible as we can," explained Trevor Downing, a Partner of The J. Rothchild Partnership.

"Our approach to investment is typical of our overall philosophy. We aim to provide investment choices via top quality investment managers who are constantly seeking to maximise returns for clients. You certainly don't have to be a millionaire to be a client of J. Rothchild Assurance but I would like to think that we will great you as if you are."

If you would like to hear more about the company and what it can offer BIGGA members call Trevor on 01959 500405.



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Bryan Moor of OCM has recently completed the design and assisted construction of an eighteen hole golf course at Rutherford Castle, West Linton, an extension to Easingwold Golf club, and is currently working on an extension to Haggerston Castle, a new nine hole course at Cleethorpes and a new eighteen hole course in Yorkshire.

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**Redexim were the company which developed the Vertidrain and together with partners Charterhouse are making an impression on clubs all over the world. Scott MacCallum travelled to Holland to meet Redexim's President.**

# Making the earth move



I hadn't been working long in the golf business when I had the great fortune to be sitting in a caravan during The Open Championship at Turnberry in 1986 listening to Karsten Solheim describe to Sir Henry Cotton how he had invented the first Ping putter.

I really did feel in a privileged position to be able to sit and listen in to history being recounted by the very people who had helped to shape it. I got a similar feeling when I sat in an office in Zeist, Holland, listening to Ceese de Bree talk about how a friend, Arie-Jan de Ridder, and he came up with the antidote to one of the greatest problems in greenkeeping - compaction.

Ceese de Bree is the President of Redexim International Trading, the

parent company of Charterhouse, and the piece of machinery which owes its existence to the two Dutchmen was the Vertidrain.

"In Holland we suffered from a lot of compaction partly because of the low lying nature of the land and we spent a long time looking for a solution," explained Ceese.

At the time, in the early 80s, there was a great deal of cheap foreign labour in Holland and to give football pitches some relief it was not unusual to have 60-70 workers out with garden forks spiking.

"We wondered how we could replace the people with a machine and eventually realised that it might be possible to modify a cultivating machine."

Arie-Jan and one of his engineers dis-

appeared into his workshop and emerged sometime later with the very first Vertidrain, which provided a solution to a problem people had been wrestling with since the 60s.

"It was the first anti compaction machine built anywhere in the world," recalled Ceese.

Having produced a machine which could, and subsequently did, make a huge impression on the turf management world the next step was to protect the idea and maximise the potential of it. And this was where Ceese's legal training came into its own.

"I'm a farmer's son but I have been and still am a lawyer so I'm always thinking about contracts and how you should protect what you have. We founded Redexim together, patented the idea and came up with the name Vertidrain. We had originally named it the Verti Soil Drain but soon agreed on the shortened version. Verti comes from vertical action and the drain bit is obvious.

"It has become a famous name all over the world as has the act of it which has become known as vertidrain," said Ceese, which hauled me back to my school days and the conjugation of verbs - I vertidrain, you vertidrain, we vertidrain...

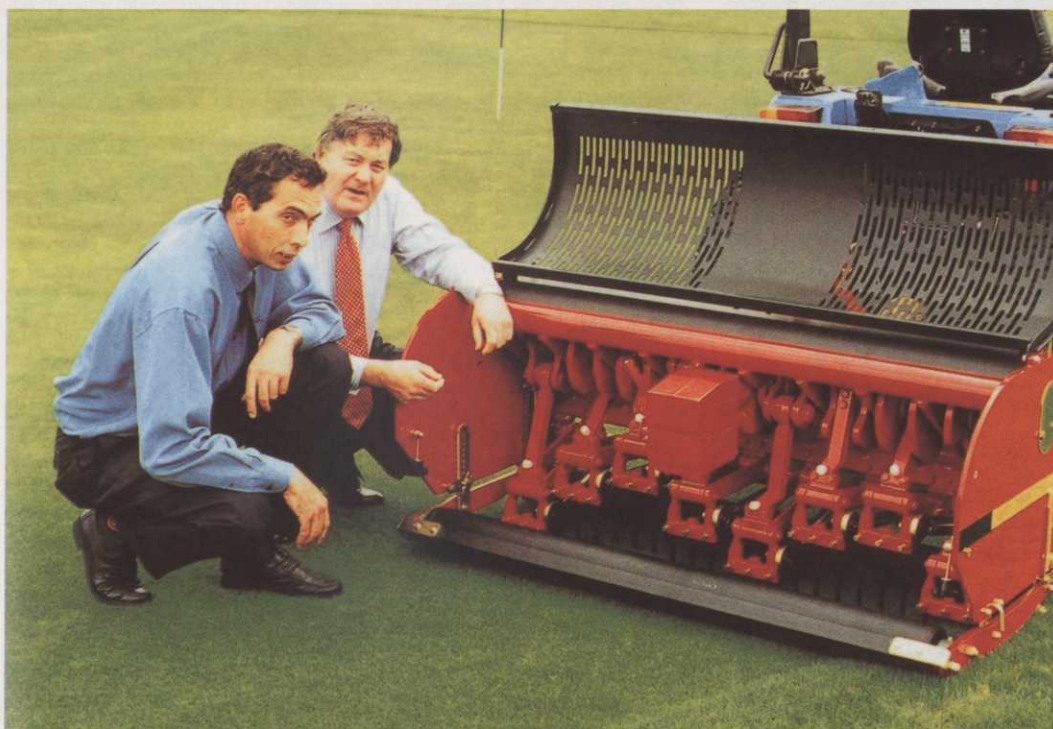
Initially the Vertidrain was seen as a tool specifically for sports fields and football pitches and it was only later that golf was seen as a potential market.

"People didn't appreciate the revolutionary nature of the Vertidrain at the beginning and part of the marketing was the education of people about its use. The first golf club to use it was Utrechts' "De Pan" Holland's equivalent to St Andrews but that was only on the fairways, not the greens."

Around this time Redexim contacted David Jenkins, of Charterhouse, with a view to enlisting the Hazlemere company to tackle the lucrative British market.

"Two people came over from

David Jenkins with Marinus Reincke examine a new piece of machinery





# Making the earth move

Redexim and we demonstrated it at some courses in the London area. Jack McMillan, at Sunningdale, went ahead and bought one and was, to my knowledge, the first Course Manager to use a Vertidrain on his greens," said David. "I think that was one of the major breakthroughs," he added.

The Vertidrain began to sell very well but all the time improvements were being made.

The first machines were very unstable really because of the movement that was required to make holes in the ground down to a depth of 16 inches but every step the company made was carried out in a careful prudent manner.

"My philosophy was not to get too big at the beginning and take things step by step. We had to finance the prototypes and the improvements and secure patents all over the world. We do things slowly but do them well. We save money, own our own buildings and don't have to pay out to the banks," said Ceese.

He operates a flat management style which ensures costs are kept under control while at the same time giving key staff and distributors, a lot of whom have stayed with the company for many many years, the flexibility to do their jobs.

Having broken into the European and British markets the next step was America and Redexim and Charterhouse jointly manned a booth at the GCSAA show while Walter Woods starred in a video highlighting the benefits of the machine.

"American superintendents are educated to university standard but our problem was that if a subject wasn't included in their list of core subjects they didn't believe it existed. We had to convince them that because they hadn't already heard about vertidrain that it wasn't something to be dismissed. It was quite an uphill battle," recalled David.

"We went out to the course and showed them it working and the physical evidence before their very eyes persuaded them."

Such was the developing relationship between Redexim and Charterhouse that a closer bond was forged in the early 90s and the benefits which have accrued from this marriage have enabled them to make a successful attack on the global market. It also led to the dual Redexim/Charterhouse logo which appears on the new BIGGA Golf Championship which they are co-sponsoring with Scotts.

"It is not so easy to explore the world on your own so together we have been able to do it much faster," explained Ceese.

To maximise this Ceese gave the



American business over to Charterhouse and in particular Marketing Director, Philip Threadgold, who has spent the last two years developing a distributor network across the length and breadth of the States.

"A lot of people said we were becoming an English company but I didn't say one word because I feel we are one company and whether it was English/Dutch or Dutch/English wasn't important.

"Likewise people wondered who was in power but my name is not important. What is important is what David is doing, what Philip is doing, what Geoffrey (Burgess, who sits on both the Charterhouse and Redexim Boards) is doing and what our engineers are doing.

"Let me stay in my office, lead a team of specialists and leave them to get on with it."

Among those specialists is Marinus Reincke, the son of the engineer with whom Arie-Jan de Ridder developed the Vertidrain and Redexim's Technical Manager.

"When we came together our first joint exercise was to design a Turf Tidy and we went to Marinus with a concept and he came up with drawings which were so detailed that we were able to take them straight to a manufacturer and say 'We want to build this,'" said David.

"From the moment we first spoke to having a running prototype was about

three months. I use this as an illustration, not because we are in the habit of rushing things, but because it shows our flexibility."

Speaking with Ceese, David, Marinus and Geoff you can sense the close bond between the two companies and the confidence that the union has brought.

"We are very good in the areas of vertidrain, seeding, top dressing and the turf tidy and there is nothing to stop us looking wider," said Geoff, the point is emphasised by both David and Marinus.

"Redexim has brought a strong financial backing as well as engineering expertise but Charterhouse has brought a range of products that has allowed Marinus to really start to look at a much wider range still," explained David.

"To my mind there was a lot of experience within Charterhouse in how to maintain golf courses particularly in the UK where the old established clubs have different soil structures to those in Holland," said Marinus, who joined Redexim in 1983 after his military service although he had worked as a contractor on a vertidrain during his school holidays.

Another long standing member of staff is Hessel Rozema. Hessel's business card carries his job title. But "Regional Manager" barely covers an area stretching from the Pacific Rim, through South

Africa and the Far East.

He has spent many years learning how to sell to the different countries and cultures within his patch and has seen compaction resulting from some unusual sources.

"In Thailand, for example, you often have a player accompanied by a caddie as well as an umbrella carrier which means you can get 12 pairs of feet with each fourball. That certainly adds to the compaction."

The future of Redexim/Charterhouse looks rosy but you won't get any outlandish predictions from the company's President.

The results of any crystal ball gazing Ceese de Bree does on behalf of Redexim is not something he publicises but he does know where his company sits in the scheme of the fine turf industry.

"We are not in the top league with the Textron's, John Deere's and the Toro's. We are at the top of the second league and we want to stay there."

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# BUYERS' GUIDE BUYERS' GUIDE BUYERS' GUIDE

## Buyers' Guide

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Entries to reach us no later than Friday, August 13, 1999. The first correct entry drawn will receive a cheque for £50!

The judges decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. This competition is not open to BIGGA staff or non-members.

Last month, Paul Young of Kirtlington GC, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

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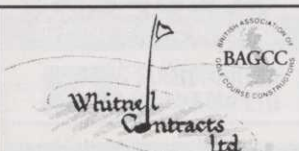
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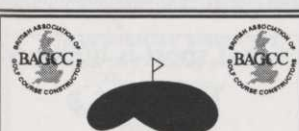


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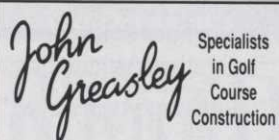
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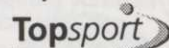
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ficates, supervisory course and  
qualified first aider.

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I am a 27 year old enthusiastic  
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locations considered.

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D32/D33 Assessor.

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machinery and irrigation sys-  
tems. Seeks new challenge, all  
locations considered.

**JS/104/99**

## Recruitment

**HENLEY GOLF CLUB**

*Applications are invited for the position of*

**HEAD  
GREENKEEPER**

*on this busy 18 hole private members club on the outskirts of Henley.*

The successful candidate for this working hands-on post will be  
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Applicants should possess qualifications to NVQ Level 3 as a  
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Salary and conditions are negotiable.

Accommodation may be available.

Please apply in writing with a full CV to:

The Secretary/Manager, Henley Golf Club,  
Harpsden, Henley-on-Thames, OXON RG9 4HG

**SHETLAND GOLF CLUB**

*requires*

**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

A challenging position to improve and maintain one of  
the UK's most northerly 18-hole courses.

An attractive salary package is offered.

*For further details and an application form, please tele-  
phone or fax (01595) 840369*

**Closing date for application: Friday, 27th August**

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*Require an*

**ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER**

*for their mature 18 hole parkland course*

Applicants should have a minimum of two years experience and have  
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Apply with full CV by August 31, 1999 to:

The Manager, Abridge Golf & Country Club, Epping Lane, Stapleford  
Tawney, Essex RM4 1ST



## GUARDS POLO CLUB

require a

# HEAD GROUNDSMAN

The Guards Polo Club, based in the grounds of Windsor Great Park, is now seeking to appoint a new Head Groundsman to take up this position at the end of the summer season. The job entails maintaining top class polo fields, associated club house gardens, horse exercise areas and grazing paddocks.

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The remuneration package, which will be available on application, includes accommodation.

Please apply in writing with full C.V. to;

**The Polo Office, Guards Polo Club, Smiths Lawn,  
Windsor Great Park, Egham, Surrey TW20 0HP.**

Further details may be obtained from the Polo Manager on 01784 434212.

## Filton Golf Club



Established 1909

*An old established Golf Club on the outskirts of Bristol  
invite applications for the post of*

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

The position requires an outstanding candidate, hard working and self motivated with the necessary supervisory skills to lead a team of six in the maintenance and development of an 18 hole golf course,

The successful candidate will be suitably qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent and have a minimum of five years experience on a course with high standards.

If you are interested in this opportunity and have the necessary qualifications and experience please apply in writing including a full CV to:

The Secretary, Filton Golf Club, Golf Course Lane, Bristol BS34 7QS

## Windermere Golf Club

requires a

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

A private members club established in 1891.

Located in the heart of the Lake District the 18 hole course enjoys a challenging climate.

### The Position:

A hands on working Head Greenkeeper who will lead by example, be hard working, self motivated and have a positive attitude. The successful applicant will be expected to possess the necessary management, supervisory skills and Health & Safety knowledge to lead a team of five whilst working to agreed standards and within the approved budgets.

### The Person:

The club is seeking the services of a Head Greenkeeper or 1st Assistant who is fully experienced/qualified. Conversant in all aspects of course preparation, maintenance and construction techniques.

### The Package:

A salary circa 20K, pension contribution and assistance with re-location expenses if appropriate.

Unfortunately accommodation is not available.

Applications in writing with full CV to;

The Secretary, Windermere Golf Club, Cleabarrow, Windermere, Cumbria LA23 3NB

Closing date for applications Monday 23 August 1999

## WARREN GOLF CLUB

*A mature 18 hole links course in South Devon –  
A Private Members Club invites applications  
for the vacant position of*

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

We are looking for a Head Greenkeeper with the proven technical organisational and supervisory skills to take this Golf Club into the Millennium.

The successful candidate will demonstrate a full understanding of golf course management and maintenance, supported by qualifications and relevant history.

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Applicants should apply with full CV to

The Secretary, Warren Golf Club,  
Dawlish Warren, Devon EX7 0NF



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- Sound knowledge of health and safety obligations and an ability to implement them.
- Experience in the grow-in establishment of a new golf course.

No accommodation available and salary negotiable, applicants should apply with a full C.V. to: Course Manager Position, Macdonald Hotels plc, Whiteside House, Bathgate, EH48 2RX

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### WORKING HEAD GREENKEEPER

to join the existing Greenkeeping team at an historic 18 hole course (Est 1872) situated on Walney Island off South Cumbria. The Club is committed to an ongoing improvement plan to enhance the aesthetic and playing qualities of the course.

Applicants must be self-motivated and well qualified with a practical knowledge of machinery operation and irrigation systems.

Experience of links courses preferred. No accommodation available.  
Applications should be addressed in writing with an accompanying CV to:

The Chairman of the Greens, Furness Golf Club, Central Drive  
Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA14 3LN

## OAKLAND PARK GOLF CLUB

*Requires an*

### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant must have a minimum of three years experience, qualified to NVQ 1 and 2, PA1 and PA2 spraying certificates an advantage.

Salary negotiable depending upon experience

No living accommodation

Apply in writing enclosing CV to:-

Perry Harvey, Head Greenkeeper, Oakland Park Golf Club,  
Threehouseholds, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks HP8 4LW

## ENVILLE GOLF CLUB LTD

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## CLEETHORPES GOLF CLUB LTD

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### HEAD GREENKEEPER

at this private members club.

The position requires a hands on working Head Greenkeeper leading by example and with supervisory skills leading a team of five and working to agreed budgets.

Applicants with appropriate qualifications and experience should forward a written application together with a curriculum vitae including two references to:

The Secretary, Cleethorpes Golf Club Limited,  
Kings Road, Cleethorpes, N.E. Lincs DN35 0PN. (Tel.01472 816110)  
Closing date 28th August 1999.

## ADDINGTON PALACE GOLF CLUB

*Requires a*

### 1<sup>ST</sup> ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have a minimum of 3 years experience, be qualified to NVQ Level 2 with spraying certificates.

£14,500 per annum + overtime. No accommodation.

Apply in writing to The Secretary, Addington Palace Golf Club,  
Gravel Hill, Croydon, Surrey CRO 5BB

## SEATON CAREW GOLF CLUB

*Established 1874*

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for the above position.

Our Head Greenkeeper for the past 37 years is retiring in October. Applicants to succeed him should be experienced and qualified in all aspects of greenkeeping, have good man-management skills, with the ability to prepare, implement and monitor work programmes. A practical knowledge of machinery and Toro irrigation systems is also required. Salary and Conditions are negotiable. There is no accommodation available.

Applications in writing enclosing full CV to:

The Honorary Secretary, Seaton Carew Golf Club, Tees Road, Hartlepool, TS25 1DE  
Telephone 01429 261040  
Closing date 3 September 1999



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# First time nerves

I have a dream. Well not really a dream, more your recurring nightmare actually. In this dream I have had the dubious honour of being picked to play for my club's 'A' team at a course I had not yet had the pleasure of playing.

I arrive at the venue with my teammates in good time and having donned my spikes I am pleased to hear the Captain suggest a couple of swift drinks as a kind of pre-match warming up strategy. Having found the bar I learn that I have been chosen to play first. This immediately fills me with that sickening feeling of trepidation one gets when one realises that the usual 1st tee out of control lunge is to be witnessed by a sizeable audience made up of one's peers.

Then to my horror I notice that the opposition is already climbing up onto the 1st tee. Such an action would not normally relegate a dream like this to the category of nightmare but in this case the 1st tee is the bar. Yes that's right, on the bar top, inside the clubhouse. A couple of the local members open up a window at the far end of the lounge and my opponent having mounted the top of the bar casually tees up a ball. Following a cursory glance at the seemingly impossible target he effortlessly dispatches a precision shot through the open window, through the car park, through an archway at the end of the car park and out onto the middle of the 1st fairway.

I am left totally stunned by his demonstration of complete mastery of what I always considered to be a painfully difficult game. As he then gracefully steps down from the bar I notice all the assembled masses including my team-mates turn to me in hushed expectation of a repeat performance. With a stomach churning sense of imminent and total humiliation I make my way to the so called 1st tee.

Amid disapproving leers from what now appears to be a packed clubhouse, I clumsily scramble up onto the top of the bar and skate along the polished surface leaving a series of irreparable scratches on the way with my spikes. Having made several

hopeless attempts to get the tee in the bar top I simply rest the ball on the polished surface and stand up to face the huge crowd which I now notice are rapidly losing confidence in my abilities and are running for cover.

I wait for the ball to stop rolling all over the surface of the bar and shakily place the clubhead behind the ball among the half-filled glasses and ashtrays. I then glance at the open window at the end of the lounge, the car park beyond and the distant archway with just a glimpse of the fairway beyond that. Having resolved to make some sort of an attempt at a golf swing I draw the club back only for it to immediately crash into the optics behind me.

At this point in the nightmare I wake up to find that the whisky and gin that is drenching me is in fact cold sweat.

Now from this account of what has become a regular nightmare especially during the playing season, you may conclude that I am a paranoid schizophrenic with sociopathic tendencies and I would not necessarily disagree with this diagnosis. But I suspect I am not alone in having an irrational fear of the 1st tee. In fact I could argue that such a phobia is positively endemic among your average golfer. We are not as confident as we would like to portray. Was it Adler or Jung who theorised that we all have a built in inferiority complex within us, a product of the total reliance for survival that we have on our parents during our formative years?

Personally I believe that this inherent repression is as much to do with one's name as any innate post birth defect. Take my name for instance. McDivot may at first glance appear to be a fairly innocuous tag to possess, but in the hands of your typical British classroom it becomes by some obscure schoolboy logic the basis for a lifetime of under achievement and repressed ambition.

McDivot is shortened to Div, which by coincidence just happens to be another word for a pleb. A pleb I later found out was a type of wazzock, which is a kind of contemptible low-

born such as a wally or an ilk. Armed with this dictionary of derivations, the average schoolboy can then go about slowly undermining their colleague's confidence over a prolonged period, until the recipient finally comes to accept that they have always and always will be, a wazzock. (I hope the spelling of this word is correct, as it does not appear to be listed in my spell check.)

Burdened by this deep rooted belief, is it any wonder that one finds it difficult to visualise the arrow straight power drive that we are supposed to have focused in our minds eye as the defeated hand attempts to balance a Commando on the tee peg with all the dexterity of a geriatric alcoholic.

To further backup my theory, may I suggest a brief look at the names of some of the more successful golfers that have graced our courses over the years. Arnold Palmer for instance. Surely this is a name that could only ever be shortened to a catchy Arnie by even the cruellest of schoolboys. The very thought of this name conjures up feelings of respect and friendliness. Is it any wonder that he was to possess not fans but his very own Arnie's Army?

Then there is Gary Player. With a handle like that it is hardly surprising the diminutive South African became one of the best players the world has yet known. Then there is Tiger Woods. Many may spend hours analysing the secrets of his success when the answer is right there in front of their noses. Being called Tiger all his life, of course he overflows with the confidence of the ultimate predator with the grace and agility that befits such a name. Even I could have had a few sub par masterpieces under my belt if I had spent my most impressionable years being called Tiger instead of Wazzock.

No, as far as I am aware, there has never been a superstar in the world of golf who has been called Cyril Ramsbottom or Kevin Pratt.

But what have my sad delvings into the human psyche got to do with greenkeeping I hear you say. Well the purpose of this essay of my resentful



thoughts is to try and create some awareness of the 1st tee and its location. Having explained how vast numbers of mere mortals have come to dread the thought of the 1st tee, how can we the greenkeeper, or maybe the course architect, make life that little bit more bearable for the inept hacker when he takes the long walk to what is seen as ritual embarrassment.

Now my idea of a good 1st tee is one that is found some distance from the clubhouse. A small putting green should be located 20 or 30 yards from it so as to keep waiting golfers away from the scene of potential unease. The tee should be located down a path and surrounded by trees. The 1st fairway must be totally free of any arboreal encumbrances, bunkers and water of any description and indeed anything that could in anyway, shape or form be seen as potentially hazardous. The fairway itself should be several hundred yards in width and any rough that is visible should be short and wispy. Now that is my idea of a relaxing 1st tee and as we are all aware the game of golf should be a form of relaxation.

The very worst 1st tee is where the architect has indulged in some form of warped sadism and located it right outside the clubhouse where one can sense the critical eyes of the assembled drunken multitude sneering down with a look of utter disdain.

The hole itself does not have to be exceptionally testing, as then incompetence could in some way be excused, but it does have to be in full view of the clubhouse. A classic example of this is St Andrews, where despite the fairway being one of the most generous in the world, it is overlooked by the most imposing of clubhouses and where there always appears to be a gallery of disconcerting proportions. Faced with this, even the likes of former champion Ian Baker-Finch crumbled under the pressure of it all and failed to find the golf course both left and right a few years ago in the Open. So what hope do the rest of us have.

At this point may I suggest another alternative if the total redesigning

of the 1st hole is not an option. My suggestion is that the governing bodies of this game get together and with an almighty show of sympathetic solidarity change the rules of golf to allow the optional 1st tee mulligan on all forms of competition.

As I admit this scenario is somewhat unlikely, then can I offer some advice to my fellow golfers who suffer from this cruel affliction. This advice let me assure you, is not based on any whim or hunch but is rather the product of some 30 years of experience of the game and the untiring study of many thousands of written words on the subject.

The strategy I have developed over the years is derived from a fusion of modern western know-how and that of ancient eastern Zen Buddhism.

The secret of conquering first tee nerves starts at home when you get into the car. Drive to the course slowly and deliberately while paying special attention to your breathing which should be steady and rhythmic and centred in the lower abdominal region. Chanting Buddhist mantras is optional at this point.

Arrive to the course early and change into the correct golfing attire. Green is deemed to have a calming influence so include it to some degree. Do not make the mistake of shrouding yourself from head to spoked shoe in luminous green garb as this may induce projectile vomiting among your playing partners. When you have changed, amble to the pro shop to sign in a full 30 minutes ahead of time. Having done that never and I repeat never, go to the practice range but instead and in a controlled leisurely manner, walk to the bar and partake in several large alcoholic beverages. Then having achieved a state of relaxation and inner harmony within yourself, and ensuring that your Ying and Yang are in balance, stagger

to the 1st tee. On getting there you will not be in any fit state to hit your tee shot but you won't give a monkey about the result.

**Sandy McDivot**  
Head Greenkeeper;  
Sludgcombe Pay & Play.





## Feature listing from August '97

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**November '98:** Royal Opening, Ramside Hall GC, Gang Mowers, Hayter International report, Irrigation Systems

**December '98:** Toro Awards, Environment Awards, The Appliance of Science, Engines, Architects, BTME Preview

**January '99:** Pesticide Usage, Life in Colorado, Lyshott Heath GC, Worm Research, Stylo Matchmaker profile, Temporary Greens

**February '99:** Westerham GC; R&A questionnaire results; Finland; grass cutting; BTME99 Review; Bernhard and Co

**March '99:** Loch Lomond, Worm update, GrassRoots, Softspikes, Maintenance facilities, Environment review, Architecture

**April '99:** Carden Park, Telecommunications, Water Management, Rolawn, Seeds

**May '99:** Security, Bude and North Cornwall GC, Spraying Regulations, Jim Arthur, The Acid Theory, Amenity Technology profile

**June '99:** Thorpeness GC, Millennium Bug Busting, Irrigation, Scotts profile, Company adaptability

**July '99:** Carnoustie GC, Golf Course Furniture, Spike Research, Toro profile, BIGGA Silent Auction



# Back to the future



I would like to start by thanking the Scottish Region for inviting me to their Championship at East Kilbride on June 16. The tournament was played in very windy and sometimes wet conditions, but the scoring was excellent with two gross rounds of 72 leading the way, and how nice it was to see Cecil George picking up a prize. The course was in first class condition and the clubhouse staff looked after us with a smile and cheerfulness all too rarely seen these days in service. Once again the hospitality of the Scottish Region boys was superb. They always make you feel you must return to Scotland as soon as possible, and in Peter Boyd they have a gem of an Administrator. Thanks again, I will remember the day for a long time.

My next engagement was our Golf Day at Aldwark on June 21. The day started in warm sunshine and yours truly was in the first match out, and escaped the heavy rain which fell later in the afternoon. It just goes to show that the sun shines on the righteous, but it was a great day enjoyed by all who took part.

My thanks go to J. Rothschild Assurance who supported the event and also took an active part. Aldwark Manor staff once again excelled themselves, the barbecue was superb, and the course prepared by Richard Gamble and his staff has never looked better. The presentation of prizes was carried out by international footballer

Lee Clark from Sunderland FC. Of course this day could never take place without the support of our company friends who entered teams. My thanks to them all, and finally to Sarah who organised the whole day so well.

On June 28 I travelled to Woodstock, near Oxford, with Marion and Scott to make a presentation of Honorary Life Membership of BIGGA to Fred Hawtree. Fred, and his father before him, have been great ambassadors of golf as architects. They were rightly recognised as the very best, a mantle carried on by Fred's son Martin. As an historian of the game it would be hard to find anyone with more knowledge than Fred, who has written many books and articles over the years on this very subject. However, it is their input into green-keeping which we greenkeepers should be most grateful for. Fred senior, was the founder of BGGG way back in 1912, and his wife Beatrice acted as unpaid secretary and worked from their own office. Fred junior, has always carried on that support. So it was a great honour for me to make this presentation as your Chairman.

On a personal note I count myself lucky to have known Fred for so long, and indeed I feel it was no coincidence that Fred and his wife Mary were having dinner at our home in Churston the night the three associations came together to form the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association. Fred has always been known as uncle Fred for many years in our house and I would like to think that the members of BIGGA can now look upon him with the same affection.

I would like to congratulate Kerran Daly MG on his appointment as Course Manager for Gog Magog Golf Club, Cambridge. It does, unfortunately, mean we lose him off the Board of Management, as he now moves out of the South West and South Wales Region which he represented.

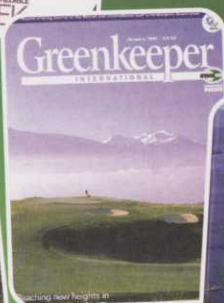
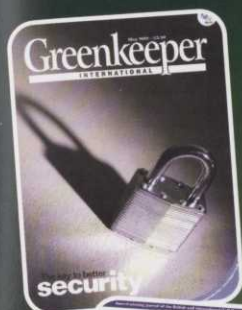
However, all is not lost as they say, Kerran was invited by the Board and

accepted the position as our representative on the GTC Technical Committee. We are grateful to his new club for giving him their support.

I was reading an old Golf Illustrated the other day, from 1936, and one article caught my eye. The leading topic in the world of golf was that modern golf balls were being blamed for the present day low scores. After much talk about the improvements of the golf ball, the writer went on to explain how conditions had changed. To quote from the article "who can deny that the conditions of courses today have improved out of all knowledge to what they were in pre-war days. The lies which are obtained through the fairways of today and the perfect putting surfaces on greens have taken the element of luck out of the game. When you do that and put alongside the improvements of the implements used now it's no wonder the scores have come down. I do, however, feel that the conditions have made the biggest impact". (What's changed?) He goes on to say "that the advent of the steel shaft was the beginning of the prodigious driving. If anyone doubts what the modern set of steel shafted clubs are capable of doing, then pick up a mixed bag of hickory shafted clubs and see if you can convince yourself that they are as effective." By the way, a top class golf ball costs 2/- each and top of the range deluxe woods were 21/- each with irons 17/6. So although much has changed in 63 years, it seems to me the same discussions go on today as then. You must wonder how they would see greens today if, as the writer said, the putting surfaces on the greens then were perfect. I just thought some of the older members would be interested.

Gordon Child





# Greenkeeper

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GREEN-RELEAF by SYBRON uses genetic fingerprinting to ensure that our products are consistent and always contain the 'right microbes'.

GREEN-RELEAF by SYBRON has applied for patents covering their unique method of culturing and application of specific micro-organisms.

**YOU KNOW** Some 'industry experts' suggest external applications of microbes is not effective.

**DID YOU KNOW** Externally applied microbes have been used in industry and consumer applications for decades. You are in contact with them daily through carpet and household odours removers, drain and pipe cleaners, septic tank treatments and water treatment plants.

Externally applied microbes have been successfully utilised in agricultural applications for more than 50 years with published data confirming the growth enhancing and disease resistant benefits of soil inoculation with microbes.

US Department of Agriculture has patented various microbes for external applications in the turfgrass industry and has offered these organisms to private industry for commercial applications.

Numerous Universities have received patents and EPA registrations for specific turfgrass microbial applications that are gaining acceptance in IPM and best managed practices.

Over 3,000 Golf Course Managers around the world are already utilising the benefits of externally applying beneficial microbes. Not to mention Sports Stadiums, Horticulture and Agriculture.

Over 300 golf courses in Europe are already using GREEN-RELEAF with great success.

**YOU KNOW** GREEN-RELEAF by SYBRON wants you to benefit from our products.

**DID YOU KNOW** It is so easy to try GREEN-RELEAF?

Your local GREEN-RELEAF distributor can provide you with full details.

Evaluate our products on your course and see the difference for yourself.



GREEN-RELEAF®

## Now you know!

TEL: 01782 373878

FAX: 01782 373763



# FREE

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## Slow-release liquid fertiliser

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**TRI-PHASE** High 'N' 30-0-0 with 85% SRN\*

**TRI-PHASE** 'NK' 15-0-15 with 50% SRN\*

**TRI-PHASE** 'NPK' 18-3-6 with 50% SRN\*

\*SRN - Slow release Nitrogen is derived from meth...

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