

Award-winning magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association



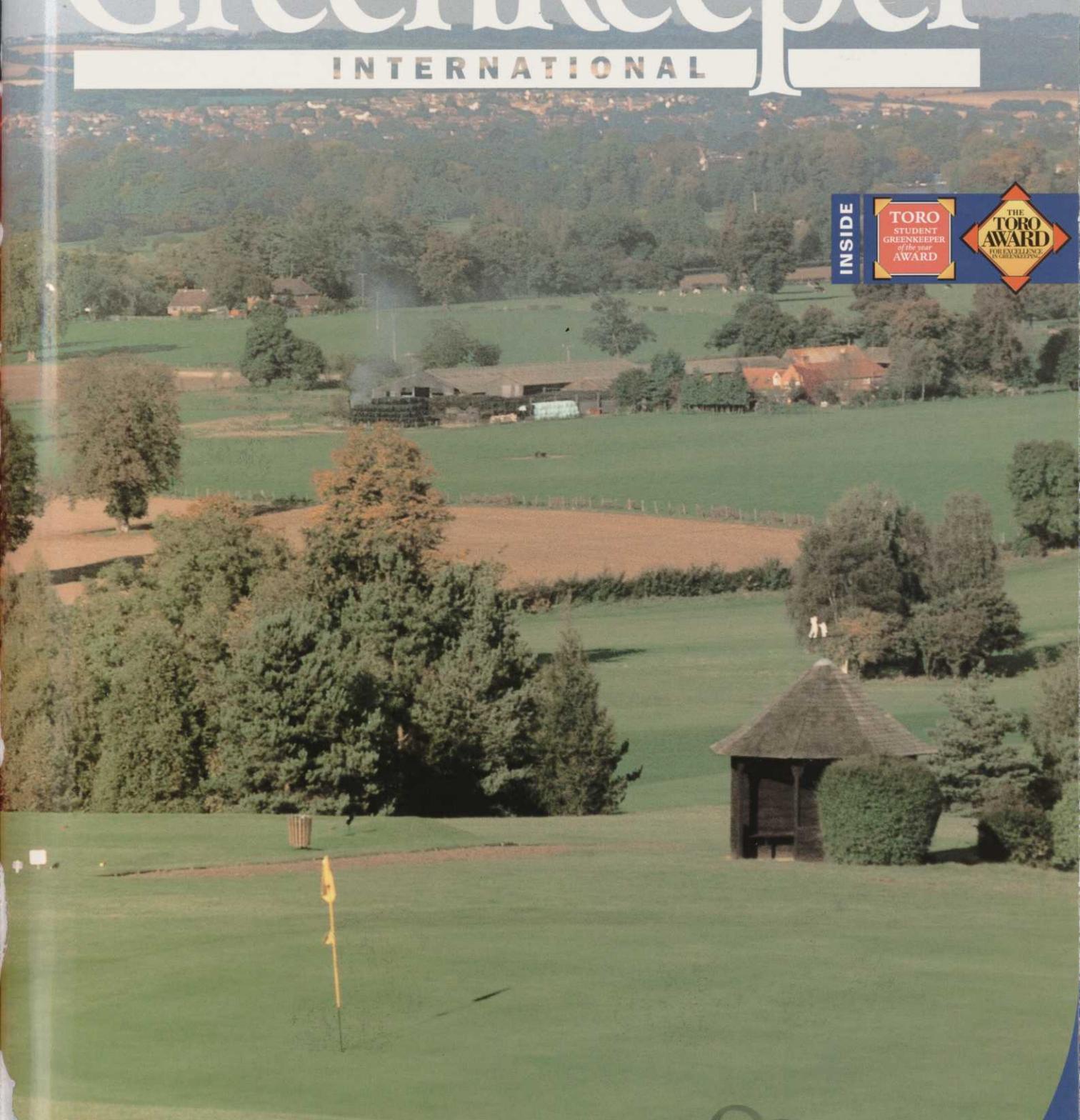
December 1999 - £3.50

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

INSIDE

TORO
STUDENT
GREENKEEPER
of the year
AWARD



1999 Environment Award winner

Temple



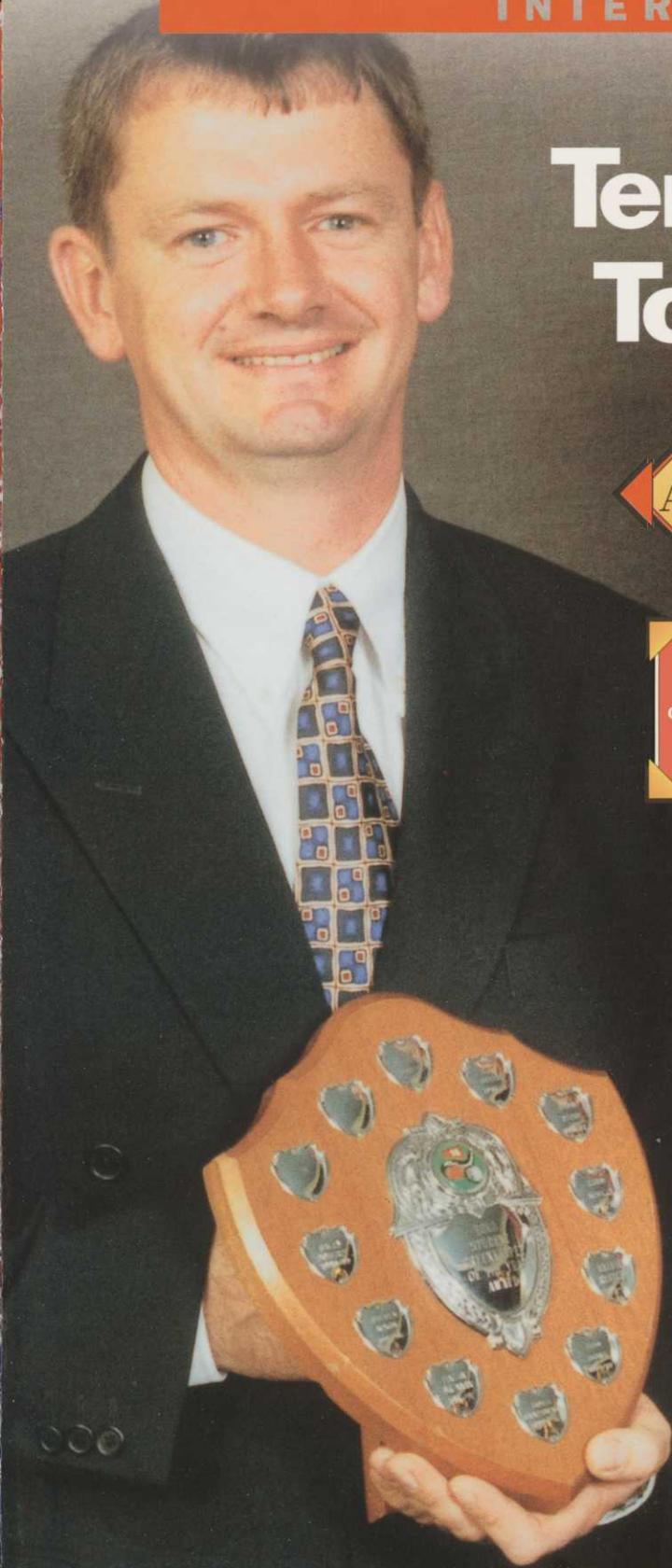
Environment Competition | Toro Awards | Security | BTME Preview | Agronomy

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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

Terrific Toros





For over 70 years Toro has had a reputation for superior performance in golf course turf maintenance.

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management needs – from the Greensmaster® 3200 ride-on with low noise, high power and superb quality of cut, to a

For innovation, unriv

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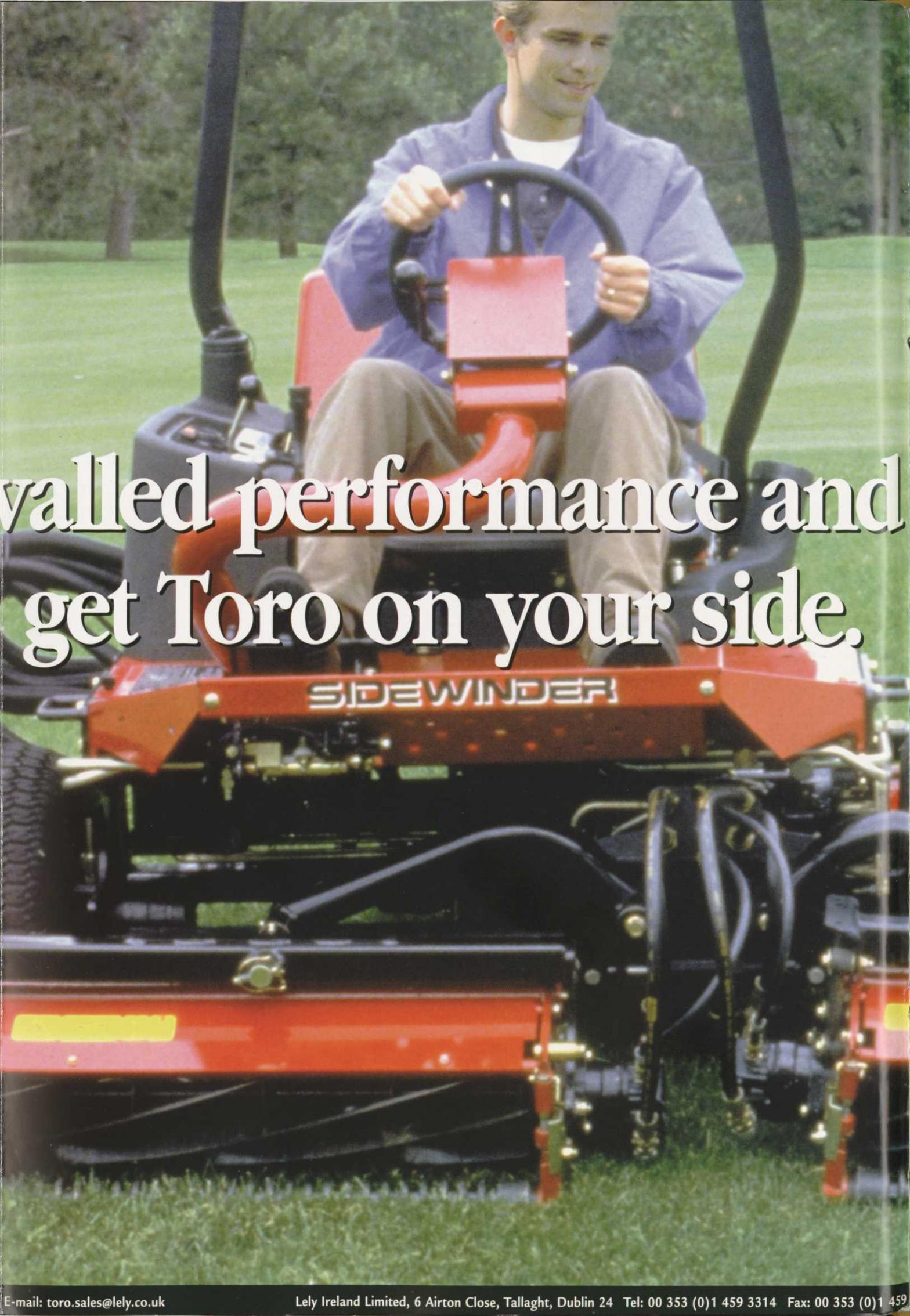


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A man in a blue jacket is driving a red Toro Sidewinder riding lawn mower on a green lawn. The mower has a red deck with the word "SIDEWINDER" printed on it. The man is smiling and looking down at the controls. The background shows a grassy field with trees.

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get Toro on your side.

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outstanding quality,





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Sir Michael
Bonallack

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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December 1999

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by January 6, 2000

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Reader Reply Card

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

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Bernhard & Co	23	535
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British Seed Houses	21 & 35	87
Driving Force Leisure	33	624
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Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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



Golden Key Circle Company Members

Amazone Ground Care, Amenity Technology Products Ltd, Barenbrug, Bernhard and Company Ltd, Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd, Hayter Ltd, John Deere Ltd, Kubota UK Ltd, Mommersteeg International, Ocmis Irrigation UK Ltd, PGA European Tour, Rainbird, Rolawn, Rhone-Poulenc, Amenity, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Scotts Turf and Amenity, Supaturf Products Ltd, Stylo Matchmakers, Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, The Grass Roots Trading Company, The Toro Company

Silver Key Circle Company Members

Avoncrop Amenity Products, Ernest Doe & Sons, Lambert/Fenchurch UK Group Ltd, Sisis Equipment Ltd, Weed Free



For exhibitor details on BTME2000, call Jenny Panton on 01347 833800

For educational details on BTME2000, call Sami Collins on 01347 833833



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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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26 Toro Awards



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Seasons Greetings from BIGGA

It has become fashionable among some to send a circular letter instead of a Christmas Card. I thought I'd give it a go as well.

Dear Friends,

As we draw towards the end of another year it is a wonderful opportunity to look back at the the last 12 months

BTME '99 was a resounding success. It just never fails to top the year before and this one was no exception. I'll certainly remember Frank Dick's inspirational motivational talk which I still watch on the video when I'm in need of a bit of a boost. Also who will ever forget the sight of everyone dancing the night away to Under the Moon of Love and Showaddywaddy at the BTME Banquet? I hope the Bootleg Beetles are just as successful next month.

BIGGA's annual Golf Day was on June 21st - the longest day of the year and the height of summer. Why then were we struck by a hail storm? But I think everyone enjoyed themselves and Aldwark Manor did us proud.

Weather seemed to follow the Association around this year and Andy Campbell had to replace his 4x4 with an arc to get around Carden Park when the National Championship took place in October. He did a great job to get the courses playable though and the restyled event looks set for a long and prosperous future.

Talking about competitions, praise must go to Brian Turner and Tommy Givnan, who won the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping and Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards, while Temple Golf Club in Maidenhead won the Environment Competition. All three will represent the Association well in the forthcoming year.

A good many of us were at Carnoustie for The Open Championship. John Philp did an outstanding job in preparing the course - although many of the players thought he'd got out of bed on the wrong side when he decided on the height of the rough and width of the fairways - and we were blessed with a ring side seat for one of the most memorable finish in the Championship's history. Jean Van de Velde nearly left a lasting impression on a few of us with his fateful approach to the final green while the Greenkeeping Support Team orchestrated the Mexican wave while everyone waited to greet the local hero, Paul Lawrie, up the final play-off hole.

Perhaps the saddest moment of '99 came with the death of BIGGA's President Viscount Whitelaw who had been such an instrumental figure in the Association's formative years. He will be a hard act to follow but in our new President, Sir Michael Bonallack, we have a man whose pedigree in golf is unsurpassed and he will be a huge asset to BIGGA in the years to come.

So that was our year. I hope your preparations for Christmas are well advanced and your dreams of seeing in the new millennium in style are still intact.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Millennium.

Editor:
Scott MacCallum



BE FIRST IN THE

BTME COMPETITION WINNERS

FIRST PRIZE

3 nights accommodation

Garry Suddaby, Brigg
North Lincolnshire
(Elsham GC, Brigg)

SECOND PRIZE

2 nights accommodation

Nigel John Buxton, High
Peak, Derbyshire
(Chapel en le Frith GC)

THIRD PRIZE

1 night accommodation

Dave Leatherland
Derbyshire
(Kedleston Park GC)

BTME 2000 HAMPER WINNER

Richard O'Hara
West Bridgeford
Nottingham
(Radcliffe on Trent GC)



19-21 JANUARY, 2000

EDUCATION PROGRAMME STARTS JANUARY 17
HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, HARROGATE, ENGLAND

BTME VISITOR HOTLINE 01347 833833 BTME EXHIBITOR HOTLINE 01347 833800

Lord Whitelaw: Thanksgiving Service

So it was, together with our wives and Past Chairman Pat Murphy, that on a beautiful late autumn day in keeping with the occasion we walked past Buckingham Palace to the Guards Chapel of the Scots Guards at Wellington Barracks. The occasion was the Service of Thanksgiving for our late President, Viscount Whitelaw.

On entering the chapel and being ushered to our pew there was a quickening sense that we were in auspicious company and that those normally viewed at a distance through the medium of press and television were suddenly in close proximity. To name names would be invidious on such an occasion other than to simply say that the congregation truly represented the whole spectrum of Viscount Whitelaw's life and times.

It is difficult to convey through the medium of our magazine the aura of such an occasion. Most certainly it was a celebration of a notable life with, at times, humorous anecdotes from those paying tribute. Indeed a former Foreign Secretary was overheard saying how much our late President would have enjoyed the occasion. Essentially it was an emotional occasion with Lady Whitelaw and their large family present, together with so many who had enjoyed his company and friendship irrespective of their political allegiance.

As you would expect the service, headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, was in exact keeping with the occasion and there were exemplary tributes from Sir Brian Hayes on behalf of the Police Service, together with tributes to his political life from Lord Carrington and John Major. The fourth tribute, in respect of Viscount Whitelaw's golfing life, was given by our incoming President and Captain of the R&A Golf Club, Sir Michael Bonallack.

As Sir Michael drew towards the conclusion of his tribute he turned towards Viscount Whitelaw's role as President of BIGGA from 1988 to 1998, how the approach had been made for him to take up the



Presidency more in hope than expectation and of how, once accepted, he had insisted on being an active President. Sir Michael spoke of his influence in the growth and development of BIGGA and pointed out that the last occasion on which he had seen Viscount Whitelaw was when Lady Whitelaw had brought him last year to the opening of BIGGA HOUSE, a building described to the congregation as the greenkeepers' magnificent new headquarters near York. Sir Michael concluded his tribute in the hope that the building would forever be viewed as a lasting memorial to Viscount Whitelaw.

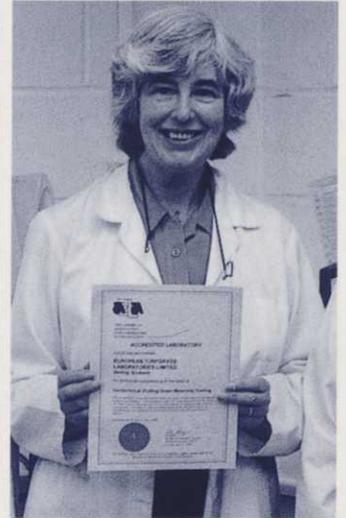
For the Association to be so elevated on such a stage was something very special for us as representatives of BIGGA and a particularly emotional experience when the years since 1987 seemed to flash before the

eyes and one realised just how far BIGGA has progressed in that time, in no small measure due to the influence and support of our late President.

There can be no better way for us to conclude than through the service itself and particularly the Commendation which spoke of the vast number of people whose lives were enriched and touched by William Whitelaw for, wherever he was, he bore with him an immense zest for life. We most certainly include ourselves among that vast number of people as do so many BIGGA members who met him, enjoyed his company through the years and who will have their own lasting memories of an essentially kind, wise and inspiring man.

Gordon and Neil

ETL awarded accreditation certificate



Ann Murray, Laboratory Director, holds the accreditation certificate

Following European Turfgrass Laboratories move to Stirling Enterprise Park earlier this year, the new laboratories were re-assessed by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA).

"The requirement for biennial re-assessment fitted in well to the relocation of the lab enabling the premises to be reaccredited this year. We are committed to providing a quality service to the Golf Course and Sportsturf Industries," said Laboratory Chairman, John Hacker.

European Turfgrass Laboratories remain the only A2LA Accredited laboratory outside the USA approved by the USGA for putting green materials analyses.

Top honours



Philip (left) and Derrick (right)

Two young men have reason to feel proud following their academic achievements.

Philip Gilbank, Deputy Course Manager at Meltham Golf Course in Huddersfield, has achieved his NVQ Level 3 and 4 Amenity Horticultural Management Diploma at Askham Bryan. He has since applied to London City and Guilds where he received his Licentiate Horticulture.

Derrick Johnstone, of Langside College, Glasgow, featured in his local Fife newspaper following his success in achieving an Award for Excellence in his HNC - Golf Course Management.

Textron appoints PA Turney as dealership

P.A. Turney Limited of Bicester, Oxon, has been appointed Textron dealer for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Milton Keynes and Northamptonshire.

"We are delighted to be representing Textron in the Home Counties. We shall be distributing the complete range of equipment that includes the Ransomes, Jacobsen, Cushman, Ryan, E-Z-GO and Iseki ranges," said Paul Turney.

"We are delighted to welcome P.A. Turney into the Textron fold. They are an established company, professionally managed with all the right credentials that we look for in a dealer. We look forward to many years of mutual benefits for both parties," said David Withers, Textron's National Sales Manager.



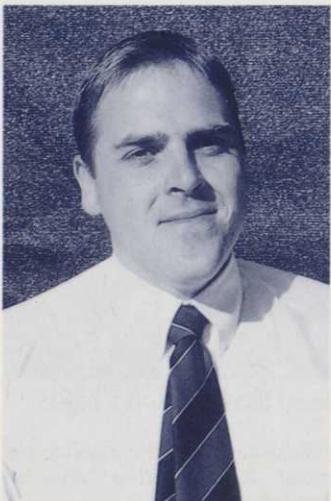
Mark lands new role at Avoncrop



Avoncrop Amenity Products has appointed Mark Rayner as Technical Sales Regional Manager covering the Midlands region, to call on golf, sports and bowls clubs, Local Authorities and landscapers.

Mark is a qualified landscape architect gaining his diploma from Thames Poly in 1980. He then worked for P61 for six years as Product Development Officer. Moving to Scotland to work for Stewarts Seedsmen as sales representative to the amenity sector. He gained further experience with Mommersteeg and prior to joining Avoncrop Amenity Products, worked for Rigby Taylor calling on local authorities.

John gets new territory role with Sisis



SISIS has appointed John Welling as Territory Manager for Kent, Sussex and Surrey, working from the SISIS South East Depot at Merrist Wood College. Jon has come full circle as he spent three years at Merrist Wood studying for a Diploma in Countryside Management.

Prior to joining SISIS John worked for three years at a Kubota dealer.

He is married with a three and a half year old son.

Shield2000 offers Y2K bug fix

By now Action 2000's Last Chance Guide will have dropped on everyone's door mat. Few people understand that the Bug lies more in the applications software and how it is written, rather than just in the PC itself.

The hardware is relatively simple to fix, but conflicts embedded in the software will lock up the computer, disabling critical programmes such as geo-mapping, irrigation systems, fire, security and safety systems as well as programmes that run in DOS or use Windows such as Microsoft Office.

Shield2000 is available off-the-shelf tool and repairs Millennium Bug conflicts without the necessity to change your computer or your software.

Shield2000 scans every file, line by line, in machine code and then repairs problematic date calls between the applications software and the operating system without changing the way in which the computer or the software



works. Available on CD or floppy, this powerful hardware and software fix is easy to install.

For more information call Shield2000 Europe on 01932 269495

Glyn Abbey appoints new Head Greenkeeper

Glyn Abbey Golf Club, in Carmarthenshire, Wales, has appointed John Rogers as their new Head Greenkeeper. John, the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member assigned to Paul Lawrie's final round match at this year's Open, will assist the Glyn Abbey

Management though to the spring of next year with their plans for continuing improvements to the course, protecting it though the winter and preparing for a busy season in 2000. He will be training staff and setting work programmes and routines throughout.

Mini-Ryder Cup at Cumberwell Park

Recently a group of South West Greenkeepers valiantly redressed the balance following the Ryder Cup by welcoming a group of USA visitors to Cumberwell Park Golf Club near Bath.

The occasion was the annual visit to the UK of the top Turf Equipment Salesmen from the American and Canadian Distributors for Express Dual and Anglemaster Reel Grinders, manufactured by Bernhard & Co (Atterton & Ellis) of Rugby.

The meeting was a new idea to foster relationships between people in a similar business, many US Golf Course Equipment Salesmen are ex golf course Superintendents.

Thirty people played golf including eight local BIGGA members, nine Bernhard staff and the USA contingent. Many wives and partners were present for dinner, enjoying each other's company enormously and having a great time during the evening making the event a must for all future Distributor visits.

During their visit to England the group also visited Bath, Wells, The Cotswolds, Stratford upon Avon and Windsor Castle.

Bernhard & Co Ltd wish to extend their thanks to Marc Haring, Course Manager, at Cumberwell Park and all the UK Greenkeepers who made the visitors from across the Atlantic so very welcome.



New labelling aids leatherjacket control



Leatherjacket insecticide Lorsban T is now approved for use beyond the end of March on amenity turf.

The product label now states that Lorsban T may be applied at 1.5 litres/ha in 200 - 1000 litres of water at any time from the beginning of November where high larval populations are detected or damage is first

seen. However, early treatment is advised in order to prevent leatherjackets feeding on turf over the winter.

Commenting on the label change, Andy Cawley, of Dow Agro Sciences said, "With leatherjacket control, earlier is definitely better. Turf managers and greenkeepers should conduct a

risk assessment in November when leatherjackets are young and treat early before any root damage occurs to the turfgrass.

"However, this label change also gives turf managers the extra flexibility to control leatherjackets later in the season if weather conditions have prevented earlier application."

New roots planted at Eamonn Wall

Eamonn Wall & Co, who specialise in trees in the golfing landscape, has appointed two consultants based in the South of England.

Mark Boulton, 33, joins the firm based at Lindford on the Surrey/



Mark Boulton and Charles Dutton

Hampshire border and brings with him ten years experience of woodland management in the South East of England. He has particular experience of woodland improvement grant schemes which will be of great relevance to the firm's clients in the South East. He is also a keen deer stalker and deer management specialist.

Charles Dutton, 42, joins the firm based near Sherborne in Dorset and brings with him 20 years of experience in the management of broadleaved trees and conifers. He is the national expert on grey squirrel control and this will be of particular relevance in the management of new tree planting schemes on golf courses where grey squirrels can cause many problems. Charles enjoys golf and combined with his knowledge of designed landscapes he will be assisting Eamonn Wall run a series of seminars for golf courses over the coming years.

Eamonn Wall & Co will be at BIGGA, Harrogate this year on Stand 38 Hall Q and are always pleased to meet with new and existing clients.

New LasTec role for John

John Millen has been appointed UK Operations Manager to organise the sales of LasTec Articulator Rotary Mowers throughout its dealership in the UK.

Clarification

Last month's magazine contained reference to the Pesticide Safety Directorate completing its evaluation of Rhône Poulenc's product Castaway Plus. While the piece was accurate it appeared under the heading "Rhône Poulenc issues safety warnings for Castaway Plus" which was not accurate.

Castaway Plus was revoked due to physical properties of the formulation. The product is still safe, when used as recommended on the label. Distributors and users have a two year wind-down period (to the end of July 2001 to sell or use existing stocks).



Paul moves on to BSH

British Seed Houses has appointed landscape specialist Paul Hadley as technical sales advisor for South Wales and South West England.

Holder of a Diploma in Landscape Technology, Paul Hadley brings 14 years of horticultural and landscape industry experience to the post. He joins the company after six years with Pershore College of Horticulture where he was Landscape Unit

Manager. Prior to that he spent four years as a self-employed landscape design and build contractor.

Paul brings additional client-side perspective to British Seed Houses and its Seeds, Service, Solutions initiative. He will be responsible for technical advice and direct-to-market sales of the Grade A amenity grass seed range, as well as the company's UK provenance wild flora mixtures.

Scotts move for Simon

Simon Barnaby has joined Scotts UK Professional as Technical Advisor - Turf and Amenity. A newly created post, Simon's role will be to work alongside the Scotts Turf and Amenity sales team - providing customers with expert, up-to-date guidance on their turf nutrition and pest control needs.

Simon is a qualified Turf Grass Agronomist with over 15 years experience

in the fine turf maintenance industry. He has a BSc in Amenity Horticulture and is currently studying for an MSc in Landscape and Amenity Management.

Simon has previously held positions in Golf Course Management with several UK clubs, has worked at the Sports Turf Research Institute and has also worked as an independent consultant on turfcare.



Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



Please address your letters to **Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF.** You can also fax them to **01347 833801** or email them to **scott@bigga.co.uk**

Favourable feedback from finalists



Congratulations on the 1999 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, sponsored by Amazon and Grass Roots - an event well organised and well run - unlike my train from Scotland which was so late I missed some of the speeches.

Well done to Temple GC on winning the national award. The judges had a difficult task in selecting an outright winner and my original thoughts were - do we need a national winner? - but having played Temple it was easy to justify their selection. Please pass on my heart felt thanks to them.

Ronnie Bunting, Head Greenkeeper, Kilmacolm GC

I would like to express my appreciation to yourself, Jim Paton and everyone at BIGGA for the warmest hospitality we received while visiting for the Toro competition. My wife Dawn and I enjoyed the visit enormously, and, given the circumstances of the visit, we managed to relax in the beautiful hotel and its surroundings.

The feedback I have received at the golf course since my return has been

overwhelming, from the local golfers and from my colleagues, and I would like to take this opportunity to say that I intend to represent both Toro and BIGGA to the very best of my ability in the coming year.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future, and a warm welcome awaits you at Bowring Park.

Tommy Givnan, Head Greenkeeper, Bowring Park

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, all the staff at BIGGA and the people connected with the sponsors Toro for everything that made the occasion at Aldwark Manor a memorable one. A big thank you must also go to all the hotel staff who made sure our stay was enjoyable and relaxed.

The camaraderie and friendship from all the finalists involved in the awards proved, if proof was needed, that BIGGA is an association that all greenkeepers must be associated with. The help and back up that you provide is second to none, with facilities at the new BIGGA HOUSE to

be envied. As you know, I had not been involved with BIGGA for a few years, but I can tell you that my membership will be renewed every year from now on, without fail.

It is a great shame that I will not be able to take part in the student awards again, as it was some adventure, but I do so hope to be able one day to follow in the footsteps of all the finalists in the Excellence in Greenkeeping and once again experience these awards.

Many thanks to everyone.

Andrew Wood, Brighton, East Sussex

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and all involved at BIGGA and Toro for the excellent hospitality and organisation which was apparent during my stay.

I am very proud to have been a finalist in this event and found the whole experience at Aldwark very educational and enjoyable.

Matt Maryon, Course Manager Yeovil GC

I'm writing to thank all the people involved with the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award, especially the judges of the competition, Ken and Sami of BIGGA, also Toro for their sponsorship.

Also thanks for the hospitality at Aldwark Manor during which time I made some new friends.

Steven Hogg, Head Greenkeeper Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC

G'day John

We have just got our computer unpacked although we've been in Australia since March.

I got a job at the Australian Golf Club in the centre of Sydney and then landed on my feet by getting a job at Terrey Hills Golf and Country Club just 10 minutes up the road. I am learning all about Creeping Bent greens and Couch tees and fairways. It is a fantastic layout with bags of potential cared for by a crew of 16.

I've also joined a golf club, Long Reef GC and I still enjoy Greenkeeper International - keep up the good work.

John Berry, Formerly Penrith GC Course Manager, Now Sydney Australia

Letter from America

I just joined BIGGA this year and have enjoyed reading the Greenkeeper International magazine, especially the "Talking Heads" and Sandy McDivot.

My wife and I plan to visit England and Scotland this coming February. I would very much like to visit some golf courses that might be open that time of year, particularly if they were a "traditional" course where more "old-fashioned" maintenance practices might be found. I would also like to find some golf clubs with more traditional approaches to the game of golf.

Here in the USA it seems even course is competing for the greenest turf, the fastest greens and even

faster golf carts. I know there is more to the game of golf than that, or at least I hope there is.

Perhaps you could suggest some courses or areas of the country I might visit. Thank you for your help.

Jim Hillier, GC Superintendent Pine Grove Springs CC, New Hampshire, USA

Jim, British clubs don't close down in winter but courses do close if weather is particularly bad. Any BIGGA members who'd like to invite you to look at his course should contact BIGGA HOUSE and we'll pass on the messages. Enjoy your visit... and I hope the weather is kind!

Mycorrhizal structures associated with turf roots

Intelligent disease control

Harmless to beneficial turf fungi



Fusarium



Dollar Spot

Still effective against disease

Amazingly, some species of fungus are hugely beneficial to your turf.

Mycorrhizal fungi develop a mutually beneficial relationship with turf roots for effective nutrient exchange, and increased resistance to drought, insect pests and disease.

As a result, turf associated with Mycorrhiza tends to be healthier.

You'll be pleased to hear then, that Rovral Green leaves these 'friendly' fungi completely unharmed.

You'll also be glad to know that Rovral Green is still as effective as ever at controlling the harmful species like Fusarium, Red Thread and Dollar Spot. No wonder it's still the UK's No 1.

Rovral Green - it thinks for itself.



Scott MacCallum speaks to Jimmy MacDonald about his life, loves and his MBE...

PAST

As Jimmy MacDonald MBE looks both forward to his retirement and back on his career, from the comfort of his favourite armchair, he can do so with justifiable pride and satisfaction.

Few, if any, men have packed as much into their careers as Jimmy, until a few weeks ago Head Greenkeeper at Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club, and the retirement he is now settling into couldn't be any more well deserved.

Take a look at the list of events Jimmy and his hard working team presided over and you'll agree not only must he have gathered a fund of knowledge on tournament preparation he is also in need of a rest!

Four Open Championships - five if you count one as Deputy - a Ryder Cup; a Curtis Cup; four British Senior Opens; a Women's British Open and both British Amateur Championships ladies and gents... not to mention any number of other events, each one of which would be the highlight of most club's history.

Indeed, it was the fact that Lytham was a recognised venue for so many R&A and Tour events that drew Jimmy back to the club in 1973 after spending three years as head man at Fomby.

"While Fomby is a beautiful course, and still my favourite next to Lytham, what really got me was that I'd been at Lytham in the 60s when we had several big events including The Open and, believe me, it was like a drug. The draw of The Open coming up in '74 was so strong I had to go back," explained Jimmy.

Having prepared the course for Open Champions, Gary Player ('74), Seve Ballesteros ('79 and '88) and Tom Lehman ('96), not to mention being Deputy for Tony Jacklin's famous victory in '69, Jimmy is well placed to trace the progression of the Championship over the years.

"In '69 the club organised the tented village and pegged it and the car parking out. We also found local plumbers to do the pipe work and install toilets," he recalled.

"In '74 the R&A were organising and had someone to oversee it all...although there was still a lot of local labour involved. Then, in '79, there was a formal plan and joiners, electricians and plumbers came down from Scotland and there was an engineer to oversee everything. Nowadays it is enormous, a big, big difference to when we started," said Jimmy.

As you would have expected he has also seen many changes out on the golf course as well.

"Now we cut fairways every day but in '69 we probably cut them on the first day and cut them for the last. Then someone had a lot of grass one year because of the weather and decided that they couldn't leave it and we got the message back that fairways were being cut every day so we followed suit," he gave as an example of the change.

Jimmy singles out the '74 Open for special mention because it was his first but he freely admits to having enjoyed them all.

"That surprises some people who think it must be a nightmare but it isn't. One of the greatest thrills you can have, and you can ask other greenkeepers who have had Opens, is the very first morning.

"You work for two years getting everything ready, working through the winter to build bunkers and tees and rope off crucial areas where you're going to need rough. Then, on the first morning, you've changed the holes, the greens are cut, the fairways are cut and you're back in the workshops. You hear the first big cheer and you know the first players are on the 1st tee. That's when it starts

rolling and you get a rush of adrenalin. It's a bit special and there is nothing like it."

In fact, he admits that he also got that same feeling twice in 1988. Once at the start of the week and again after the resumption of play on the Sunday after rain had brought play to a halt on the Saturday and The Open experienced its first, and only,

Monday finish.

"If I were to have one greenkeeping highlight it would be the '88 Open and getting it back on the road after the flooding. In the end we made more friends than enemies and the 65 by Seve on the Monday in his duel with Nick Price made it one of the great finishes. What could have been a disaster turned out to be wonderful day's golf."

Lytham's Ryder Cup, in 1977, was the final match in which the United States faced a team comprising just British and Irish players while it was the last match played over a links course.

"That was quite stressful because we'd had The Open in '74, the English Amateur in '75 the Curtis Cup in '76 then had to repair fairways which had been very badly damaged by the drought of '75-'76," he explained.

"I knew I wasn't going to get it at its best because of the drought but it turned out to be a nice event. The greens were excellent - cut by triplex and not hand mower - the fairways were respectable and we didn't get any criticism," said Jimmy, who still possesses a flag signed by the players of both sides.

Remarkably for someone who has enjoyed such a full greenkeeping life it was not his first career.

"I was teaching ceramics at Preston College and was doing five half days and five evenings. It meant I had two and a half spare days and as I enjoyed golf and the timings fitted in nicely I began working on the golf course."

REFLECTIONS

Despite all his undoubted successes down the years Jimmy feels that his final season at Lytham has seen the course at its best.

"Now the weather can obviously play a part but I feel I've always adopted old fashioned sound greenkeeping principles. I think Jim Arthur is a brilliant man - before his time. People criticise him but he was a friend of mine and I learned a lot from him - all sound principles that have been proved over the years and I've left the course in the state it is by not doing anything fancy."

Looking at the greenkeeping profession as a whole Jimmy expresses himself to be happy with its progression although he does pass on a cautionary note.

"The profession is now promoting some nice fat salaries and while I'm not decrying that I know of some students who have come out of college with an HND and achieved salaries of around £35,000 in their fourth year...and they can't wheel a barrow," exclaimed Jimmy, who added that at Lytham all of his apprentices did a full year on the course first before going to college.

"You know then that at least they can jump in a tractor and drive it and they know how to use a spade.

"From my lecturing days I know that once you break down the holidays you are only at college for 28-29 weeks a year and the time spent on each subject is not the equivalent of a six month apprenticeship. It worries me that people are not prepared to put the miles on the clock before looking for the highly paid jobs."

He has worked for many years with Myerscough College students and he has known Martyn Jones for many years.

"Martyn and I have many healthy debates and we get on very well. There

isn't as much difference in our approaches to greenkeeping as people think."

Having selected the '88 Open as his greenkeeping highlight there can be no doubting that being presented with his MBE by the Queen at Buckingham Palace in 1997 was another occasion he treasures.

"I didn't really want to go but having done so I wouldn't have missed it for anything. It was brilliant."

His distinguished service and retirement was also recognised by the golf club with a vast array of gifts and life membership of the golf club.

"I was invited to the Council Dinner and informed that they had decided to make me a member while I was given letters from among others Seve, Gary Player, Nick Faldo and Sir Michael Bonallack congratulating me on my retirement."

He hands over to one of his old boys, Paul Smith, who has returned from Barrow in Furness Golf Club to take over a couple of years in advance of Lytham's next Open Championship.

"Paul was one of my apprentices, as was Chris Whittle at Birkdale, so I've got two head men out of the eight Open venues, while I've also got three of those on the 30 senior qualifying courses. Walter (Woods) is the same. He's got Eddie Adams, at St Andrews, and John Philp at Carnoustie."

Jimmy speaks with pride about this greenkeeping legacy and spending time in his company shows how he could have inspired so many people to such lofty heights.

Enjoy your retirement, Jimmy. And may it be a long one.

Jimmy at home - his MBE certificate on the wall behind



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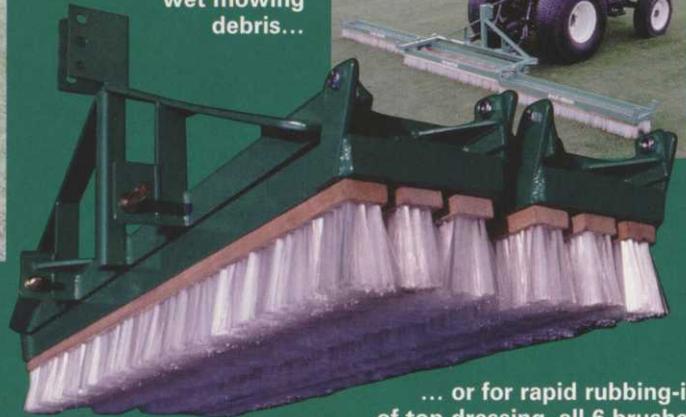
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Ad Ref 31

As we move into the next millennium the turf care industry will face ever-greater challenges. In this article, Steve Chicken, the Engineering Director of Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, reviews where the technology behind the mower may be going



Fantastic voyage



Metals

Various forms of sheet and tubular steel have been the main structural materials for turf care equipment for very many years. Metal has many advantages including ready availability and ease of repair, but suffers from corrosion and is difficult to form into complex curvatures. For the hidden, load-bearing structure of heavy duty mowers it is difficult to foresee metal being replaced in all but the longest

terms, but increased use of cost-effective data recording and analysis will allow designers to optimise metal structure far more closely to the actual operational environment than ever before. The data capture initiative currently being undertaken by Textron Turf Care world-wide will produce an accurate loading pattern for every representative turf care environment from the smoothest competition green to the most aggres-

sive inner-city contract. This data, alongside levels of computer use which until recently was only seen in the aerospace industry, is being used to design structures which are strong enough to give a lifetime's service at minimum weight and cost.

Lightweight aluminium alloys may also feature more strongly in mower structures but material and tooling costs are likely to limit their use to applications requiring very light

Right: Plastic panels, with aesthetically pleasing lines, will be used more extensively as seen on the recently introduced Jacobsen HR-4600 rotary mower.

weight. The great advantage of metal structures is their ability to be recycled, as forthcoming European legislation is likely to specify that a large proportion of future machines be recyclable.

Composites and Plastics

High strength structural composites such as carbon fibre replaced metal in many applications in the aircraft and automotive industries. However, their high cost and problematic repair options make it unlikely that more load bearing structures will be constructed of this material. It is in the area of non-load bearing panels and covers where lower-cost composites such as glass fibre and plastics come into their own, with pleasing aesthetic and operator-friendly shapes becoming available to the designer.

Composites and plastic are still difficult to repair compared to metal and the designer must take care to reinforce or protect those areas, which are likely to get knocked or damaged in normal use.

Previous page and below:
The new Ransomes Highway 2130 will be available in the near future with LPG or CNG as a fuel source.



Operator comfort and safety

Improving the operator's environment has been a major design thrust over the past few years. New designs such as the Jacobsen LF and HR range not only feature highly comfortable seats but have all the controls laid out to ease operation of the machine over extended periods. Joysticks and electrical switches have replaced directly linked hydraulic levers. Cabs are now becoming more common in all turf care applications and heating, air conditioning and radios are available - at a cost! Operator safety is also very much in the forefront of mower design with legislation such as the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations and the Machinery Directive insisting on positive action for machine users and suppliers alike.

Mower noise was recently a heavily publicised issue due to the release of European legislation. This is largely a concern of those manufacturing the smaller machines, but it is undoubtedly a challenge for all producers of turf care equipment for sale in Europe. Vibration is a similar issue with challenging limits being set by European legislation for hand/arm and whole body levels. All recently produced Textron Turf Care equipment has been designed to comfortably exceed these safety rules and more mature designs are being updated to conform. Textron enthusi-

astically supports this safety drive and will wholeheartedly support the various European enforcement agencies in ensuring that only the safest of products are available to the industry.

Propulsion

For many years diesel and, more commonly in America, petrol engines have been the sources of power for turf care equipment. Environmental laws are rapidly influencing the design of these core components and all the main manufacturers are either now or will shortly be supplying engines to clean CARB (California Air Regulation Board) or Euro emissions regulations.

A growingly popular fuel in the municipal environment is LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) and CNG (Compressed Natural Gas). The new Ransomes Highway and Parkway range will shortly be available with this fuel source as an option. July's article described in detail the current level of battery-driven turf care equipment, but it is worth repeating the significant and wide-spread environmental improvements an electric mower can bring due to its almost silent operation and total lack of emissions.

Much work is being done worldwide on alternatives to the conventional lead-acid battery and it is only a matter of time before advanced sources of electric power

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such as fuel cells will become available in the turf care industry. Despite the British weather, solar power is a frequently discussed source of power in the turf care industry. A purely solar powered mower is unlikely, as the power generating capacity of existing solar cells is far too low compared to that required by power-hungry cylinder and traction systems.

Cutting Method

The actual method of cutting the grass has changed little over very many years. Cylinders still give unmatched finish on fine turf and the results of a properly adjusted and maintained cylinder mower and a skilled greenkeeper are wonderful to behold. High quality finish is also available using rolered articulated rotary mowers such as the Ransomes AR250 where, in addition to gaining a high quality finish on semi-roughs, a mulching action is also gained. Mulching or conventional rotary mowers will continue to dominate the rougher cut market with greater emphasis being given over to terrain-following abilities. Flails will continue to be used for extremely rough work wherever municipal rotaries "fear to tread".

Looking further into the future, exotic possibilities such as laser cutting may be developed but, as long as safety and ease of maintenance remain the priority, it is unlikely that

the existing means of cutting the grass will significantly change.

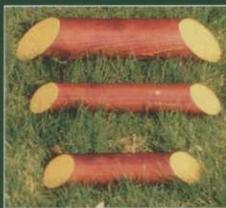
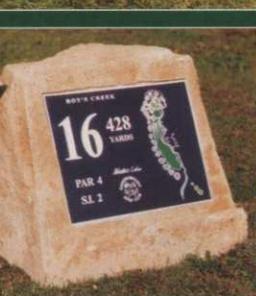
Automation

Probably the most contentious potential future for turf care is robotic mowing. Consumer robot mowers are already available using semi-buried lines or pre-programmed routes to define their area of operation. GPS (Ground Position System) technology is now available in both golf cars and agricultural equipment (especially sprayers) and could form the basis of an "intelligent" mower, which was aware of its position. However, it is extremely unlikely that an unmanned machine, which can merely trundle up and down a fairway, will replace professional greenkeepers with their overall awareness of the course environment they achieve while operating a mower.

It will prove interesting to look back in the year 2010, on this final Learning Experience editorial of this millennium, and see what has, and what has not, come to pass.

One thing will remain constant; the need for experienced Course Managers and greenkeeping teams to keep abreast of the latest developments in this ever fascinating and ever changing industry.

Dr Steve Chicken, Engineering Director, Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products (International)



BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson signs off the year by answering the questions he set last month, and posing yet another...

UPDATE

The Learning Experience 2000

Remember that the deadline for applications for the Learning Experience 2000, sponsored by Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, is 31 December 1999. There are still a few places left on the 'New Look' National Education Conference and Workshops and Seminar sessions are filling up fast. Make sure of your place by sending in your entry NOW. Extra copies of the Learning Experience brochure and application form are available from BIGGA HOUSE.

TORO Competitions

The Finals of the TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping and Student of the Year Competitions were held at BIGGA House at the end of October. Full details are printed elsewhere in this magazine but I would like to congratulate all finalist, especially Brian Turner, the Excellence Award winner and Tommy Givnan the Student of the Year. These two competitions get better every year and it was a difficult job to separate the finalists and select the winners. Thanks to the continued sponsorship by TORO these competitions should continue into the next Millennium.

BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

Congratulations to Temple Golf Club on winning this year's Golf Environment Competition held in association with Amazone Ground Care and the Grass Roots Trading Company. Full results of this successful competition are given on page 22 of this magazine.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

My article in last month's magazine included a section on Training and Development where I posed five questions and promised that I would print the answers in this edition. There is only one answer and it is The Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager.

The Role of the Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager in Education, Training and Development

What are Education, Training and Development?

Education is learning that expands knowledge and intellectual capacity. However, completing an educational course will not guarantee that any learning can be transferred to the workplace.

Training delivers the information necessary to develop skills or behaviour. It does not ensure that those skills can be transferred to the workplace. Competence can be shown, however, by assessment in the workplace.

Development is a broader ongoing process. It includes both education and training although the key activity is learning from experience and applying any learning to future activities.

The days when a greenkeeper could learn how to do a job and then continue to do it indefinitely have gone. Demands on golf courses and therefore, greenkeepers will continue, change and increase and they will have to learn new skills and adapt old skills and knowledge to improve and develop their potential.

Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers will have to become competent in a new range of skills at a time when they are fully stretched meeting the demands of tomorrow's golfers.

Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers are responsible for two main areas of staff development. These are:

1. Managing the process of training and development, which is a key element of people management.
2. Active involvement in training and development activities, which involves a range of skills used in formal and informal settings.

Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers are best placed to manage the training and development of their staff because:

1. They are responsible for the performance of their greenkeeping team(s).
2. They should know what standards should be met.
3. They should know what skill and knowledge is required to ensure that standards are met.
4. They should know the strengths and weaknesses of team members.
5. They should know team training and development needs.
6. They should be able to assess the impact of time taken for training and assess the most efficient methods of training and development.
7. They should be able to assess the success (or failure) of any training and development activity.

What are the benefits of ensuring that teams are trained to the maximum level of competence?

Competent greenkeepers set up successful golf courses which reflects well on Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers.

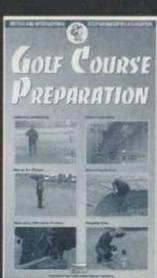
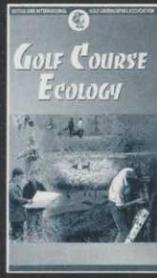
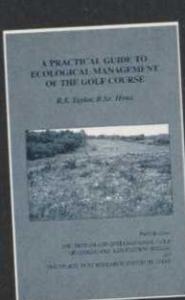
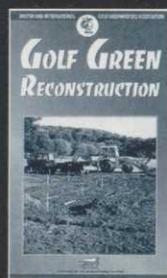
Confident, successful staff will be better motivated, will work harder and remain longer in the job.

Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers with successful teams will suffer from less stress.

In general, the job of Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers is made easier, more enjoyable and less stressful if their teams are competent and well motivated. Conversely, Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers who do not train and develop their staff are more likely to lose the 'high flyers' and retain those who cannot move on. This is likely to result in a team that under performs, sets lower standards and is de motivated. Moreover, if a greenkeeper is dismissed for poor performance without having had the opportunity for training and development, the club runs the risk of being held responsible for unfair dismissal.

Getting the education and training process right can make the Head Greenkeeper / Course Managers job enjoyable and satisfying. Getting it wrong can have disastrous consequences. Watch out for more information on the role of Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers in education training and development in future editions of Greenkeeper International.

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In October, over 75 new members joined BIGGA, and began to take advantage of the many cost effective savings and benefits available to them. Tracey Maddison, BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, gives details on just a few of them.

Renew your membership for increased benefits!

Many of you will be due to renew your membership at the end of this month or January 2000. Don't forget if you pay for your own subscriptions, you can take advantage of paying by direct debit and spreading the cost over 10 equal monthly payments. 25% of members are already taking advantage of this service, why don't you?

If you are retiring from greenkeeping at the end of this

month, congratulations! However, your BIGGA membership doesn't have to retire with you, why not apply for retired membership of BIGGA and keep in touch with your friends and the industry? Contact Tracey or Kirstie in the membership department for further details.

Once you have returned your completed renewal form, together with payment, we will send you a new 2000 Membership Renewal Pack, containing useful information and telephone numbers regarding the many benefits and services available to you as a valued member of BIGGA. Read it and keep it for future reference - one day you may be glad you did!

If you have any queries or any general enquiries regarding membership services or benefits, please contact Tracey or Kirstie on 01347 833800.



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Mark J Logan, Ayrshire
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Iain McIntosh, Central
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John F Sim, North
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Alexander Haefele, Austria
Simon Augustsson, Norway
Anders Karlsson, Norway

Associate Members

Graeme M Cooper, Ayrshire
David Drummond, Ayrshire
Wayne Falloon, Scottish North

Check out the January 2000 edition for the 1999 November new members!



Trevor Downing, of J. Rothschild Assurance, examines the various options available when purchasing an annuity

How to stay flexible in your retirement

These are strange times! Inflation seems dead, or a least comatose. But every silver lining has a cloud and in this particular case, some people are becoming concerned that persistently low interest rates will seriously damage the income they can purchase in retirement.

History shows that when an economic problem or opportunity presents itself, a solution is not far behind. This focus on retirement benefits has therefore inevitably led to the development of a new facility called 'income drawdown'. The idea of drawing down income is not a new concept and, for example, is used as a means of financing business school fees. However, it is relatively new in providing retirement benefits.

How does it work?

Conventionally, when benefits are taken from a personal pension and some types of company scheme, the accumulated fund buys a guaranteed 'annuity' or annual income from an

insurance company. The cost of this income (the rate) is determined at the time of purchase, so the pension will not benefit from the future rate increases or suffer from later reductions.

The cost of an annuity is calculated by reference to many factors including expenses and investment returns. However, a very important element is the 'profit' to the fund (for the benefit of surviving pensioners) from those who died earlier than expected.

Income drawdown allows you to postpone the purchase of the annuity to a maximum age of 75 and in the meantime draw income from the accumulated fund. The amounts you can take are limited in each year by the Government.

What is key, however, is that within Government determined limits, the amount and timing can be varied from year to year. So your whole future is not subject to interest rates on one particular day.

What are the advantages?

There are many advantages of income drawdown but also a few dangers. As one of the more complicated decisions in financial services, it requires clear financial advice. The main advantages are:

Tax-free capital can be maximised when benefits are taken but income can initially be minimised

The purchase of the annuity can be deferred until the annuity rate or cost improves

On death, you can leave a capital sum to a wide range of beneficiaries (unlike a conventional annuity)

Payments need only be taken when required (subject to Inland Revenue rules)

Amounts can be varied from year to year (subject to Inland Revenue rules)

Amounts can be varied from year to year (subject to Inland Revenue rules)

There are dangers, however. The fund can go up or down in value and will not

enjoy the boost from funds of those who die earlier than expected.

Who should benefit?

Income drawdown is ideally suited to many larger retirement funds (typically those in excess of £200,000). It requires a fairly tolerant attitude to investment risk and ideally, you should have another source of income to avoid the risk of having all your 'eggs in one basket'.

But income drawdown is an imaginative solution to an old problem. It is now an established part of many of our futures.

If you require any further assistance please contact Trevor Downing on 01959 500427 if you would like to find out more about income drawdown.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL GREENKEEPER MEMBERS

If you are a Greenkeeper Member of BIGGA, then as part of your membership, you can take advantage of the 24 hour, 365 day a year Legal Helpline, as can any member of your family who live with you.

Please note that from January 1, 1999 a new **freephone** number will be in operation

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The presentation to the winners of the 1999 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Groundcare and the Grass Roots Trading Company, was hosted by the National Winner – Temple Golf Club in Maidenhead. The club's pride in winning the competition for the first time was obvious, and they delighted in the opportunity to show off their course to the five regional winners who attended.

An environmental temple

The first part of the day was held at neighbouring Berkshire College where the guests were welcomed by John Lambert, Captain of Temple Golf Club, who was performing his first duty since taking over the role three days earlier.

He described just how pleased the club was with the award and added that a booklet celebrating 20th Century Temple had been held back from the printers to ensure that mention of the award could be made.

He then outlined the history of the club and its prestigious past - it was designed by Willie Park Jr, was owned by the Oppenheimer family and boasted Henry Cotton as its professional.

He also explained how it had fallen victim of the "Green is Great" mentality in the 70s and 80s before, thanks to the sterling work of Chairman of Green, Malcolm Peake, and Course Manager, Martin Gunn, the pendulum swung back and the course returned to its natural roots.

John was followed to the lectern by Bob Taylor and Jonathan Hart-Woods, of the STRI, and two of the competition judges.

Bob said that all of the entries deserved to win but that Temple did stand out for the level of commitment that was apparent and the amount of outreach to other golf clubs and conservation groups.

Jonathan admitted that coming from a conservation background he had been a little bit cynical about golf course ecology and that initially he had been embarrassed to talk to his fellow conservationists about the competition.

However, he is now a convert and gets indignant when others scoff about golf's contribution to conservation and found something at every club he visited to get excited about.

The other judge, Dr Keith Duff, Chief Scientist at English Nature, said that the golf industry should be braver about blowing its own trumpet about the good work that is done.

He ended by saying that nature conservation and golf do go together.

Martin Gunn then gave a talk on the conservation management that is carried out at Temple while Kevin

Hazelhurst, Course Manager at last year's winning course, Lindrick, spoke on the benefits winning the award had had for the club.

"For the last 10 years the club has been returning the course to its original architecture while improving it agronomically. This gives golfers at Temple the opportunity to enjoy the traditional British game of golf which is played along the ground as well as in the air, and is part of our golfing heritage.

"I cannot improve on a quote from the BIGGA Judge, Dr Keith Duff, of English Nature, who said, "Temple provides the elusive feel good factor (often intangibly) when you play a course which both challenges the skills of the golfer, and at the same time, inspires you with its setting," said Malcolm Peake, speaking before the presentation.

"Temple has long been associated with good environmental practice and it is fitting that the club should be the recipient of the main award in this the third year that BIGGA has run the competition," said BIGGA's National Chairman, Gordon Child.

"We are deeply indebted to Rod Baker, of Amazone, who inaugurated the competition five years ago and who

has continued to joint sponsor it for the last three years, and to The Grass Roots Trading

Company, who joined as a sponsor this year," said Gordon.

"As the founder of the Golf Environmental Competition it is particularly pleasing for me to see the interest in, and impact of, the event growing year on year. It is obvious from the standard of the entrants that the possibility for environmental enhancement of golf courses has struck a cord with greenkeepers and club committees and it is only fitting that their efforts be recognised and encouraged," said Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone.

"The achievement of Temple in securing first place in 1999 against this level of competition cannot be overestimated. To all those who have exercised the skill, dedication and sheer hard work necessary to produce results such as those at Temple and the other entrants I offer my sincere congratulations.

"To those preparing to enter the competition in 2000, a daunting standard has been set," added Rod.

"We are delighted that this influential and prestigious competition carries our name. The caring and environmental approach adopted by all the entrants at

present is undoubtedly the path every golf club will be taking in the future," said Jamie Bennett, Managing Director of Grass Roots.

After the formal morning presentations everyone moved on to Temple for lunch and a course walk or game of golf.

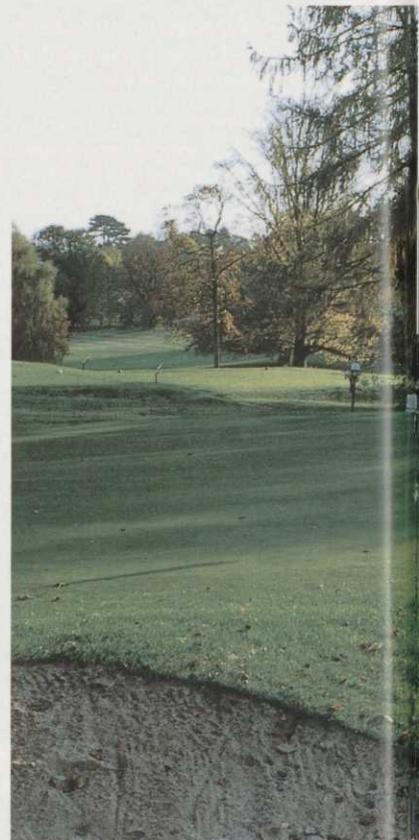
As winning golf club Temple receives a plaque, a trophy and a cheque for £5000 for use on environmental projects on the golf course.

Regional Winners

Scotland - Kilmacollm GC
North - Wilmslow GC
Midlands - Temple GC (National Winner)
South East - The Dyke GC
South West - Broadstone GC
Wales - Cardiff GC

Each Regional Winner receives a plaque and a cheque for £250

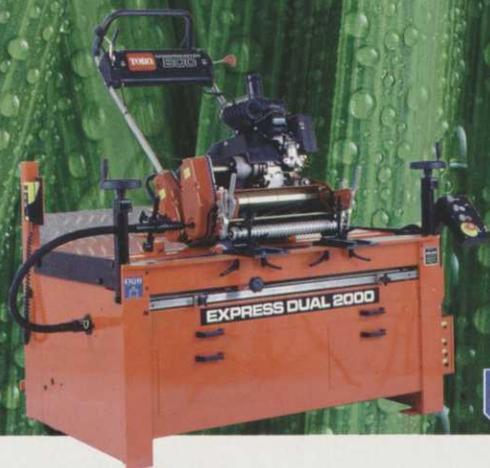
Below: Bob Taylor, Rod Baker, John Lambert, Gordon Child, Martin Gunn, Keith Duff and Jonathon Hart-Woods





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One of the judges of the 1999 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, BOB Taylor, Senior Ecologist for the STRI, gives some thoughts on this year's competition



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Environmentally aware

Possibly one of the greatest challenges within the golf industry today is the need to focus our attention on raising the environmental profile of golf. We need to show that with the appropriate management golf can contribute positively towards bio-diversity and play a part in the conservation of our wider countryside. This is clearly an issue that I over the past 10 years have been developing and it is one that Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone UK Ltd, was keen to pursue when he introduced the Amazone Environment Competition for Golf back in 1995.

The competition, has grown since then and three years ago became the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone and, this year, The Grass Roots Trading Company, and is an excellent forum from which environmental good practice can be recognised, encouraged and promoted.

It also clearly highlights to the Statutory Conservation Bodies such as English Nature, Scottish Natural

Heritage, the Countryside Commission for Wales and others like the RSFB, that golf can be an acceptable land use providing valuable wildlife corridor (linking) habitat throughout the countryside. Being of general interest the competition provides an ideal platform, in which to educate non participating golf clubs and possibly more importantly the players.

I am extremely grateful to BIGGA, for organising and administering the competition as well as to Amazone and Grass Roots for the level and interest behind their sponsorship and this clearly shows that even commercial companies are aware of the need to demonstrate golf's environmental good practice and image, particularly in light of the increasing level of European legislation which I am sure will be adopted in the UK in the near future. Such interest also shows that commercial companies, often thought of as insensitive towards environmental matters, are both aware and keen to enforce their standing.

This year (1999) a total of 53 entries were received from throughout the UK, 22 of which had not previously entered. As in previous years the level of entry was very high indeed with several very comprehensive and detailed applications being forwarded. The level of entries always makes judging extremely difficult but it is the role of Jonathan Hart-Woods and myself to narrow the field to a workable level.

Of the 53, 30 golf clubs were chosen and assessed and it would be fair to say that every entrant visited and possibly most of those not this year receiving any visit, would be worthy winners in their own right. Indeed the time taken to complete the application form and compile any additional information does show in itself a degree of commitment and interest.

Judging the competition is possibly one of the most difficult duties that we perform. Every club has its own areas of intrinsic interest, some have a greater level of financial help, others are more educated in ecological matters and several golf clubs do benefit from SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) status and thus receive varying degrees of help from the statutory conservation bodies. It is difficult when visiting clubs in the late summer/early autumn not to be seduced by the very impressive nature of the heathland sites as it would be the case throughout the earlier summer period with the downland and botanically rich parkland courses. Given these problems a scoring system has been devised to address the level of interest shown throughout the whole of the club, the quality of the work being undertaken and the way in which the message is being spread through the club and beyond.

From the 30 clubs visited six finalists were chosen and it was from these that an overall winner was decided.

The clubs reaching the regional finalist stage included Kilmacollm Golf Club (Scotland), Wilmslow Golf Club (North), Cardiff Golf Club (Wales), Temple Golf Club (Midlands), The Dyke Golf Club (South) and

Broadstone Golf Club (South West).

Having selected the regional finalist it was time to bring in the Chief Scientist of English Nature Dr Keith Duff to assist the STRI in choosing an overall winner. Although the level of environmental enthusiasm and commitment is clear at all of these clubs it was eventually decided to give the first prize of £5,000 to Temple Golf Club.

One of the outstanding features of Temple is the level of outreach being shown. Golf clubs are regularly visited and often contact Temple to discuss environmental management. The level of enthusiasm is clearly shown at all levels within the club management structure including the whole of the greenkeeping work force. In terms of good environmental practice Temple had through their own initiative improved the golfing environment considerably and as Dr Duff was keen to point out the extent of rough grassland now being managed must be over 50 acres in total. This may be one of the largest areas of chalk grassland in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire outside existing nature reserves.

The level of commitment being shown at Temple should not however detract from the quality of management being shown at other courses. Without constant management attention The Dyke Golf Club would clearly change from a grassland dominated course to a hawthorn/scrub woodland. At both Cardiff and Wilmslow Golf Clubs an increasing level of commitment is being given to both tree management and grassland management which through regular communication is becoming much more widely accepted by the Clubs. Cardiff Golf Club has an ecological sub committee of over 20 enthusiastic representatives.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank BIGGA for running the 1999 Golf Environment Competition, and the sponsors for their obvious commitment and level of enthusiasm. But most of all, each of the Golf Clubs that have taken the time to complete the application forms. This clearly shows that the golfing industry does care about the wider environment.





Clockwise from right:

Teign Valley Golf Club are extremely committed to environmental good practice. The owner regularly collects flowers from the course and labels them for members within the Clubhouse

The level of enthusiasm towards rough management at The Dyke Golf Club is considerable

A very enthusiastic commitment to environmental management is given at Merrist Wood Golf Club

The judges discuss heathland management with the greenkeeping staff at Broadstone Golf Club

Improving the golfing interest within the woodland edge at Mid Herts Golf Club

Just one of the very attractive golfing features at Hamptworth Golf Club on the edge of the new Forest





Toro Fever

BIGGA HOUSE was alive to the sound of sharp answers to incisive questions when the third combined running of the Toros was held in October.

The six finalists of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the eight in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year were put under the spotlight by the two sets of judges and it would be fair to say that if any one of the 14 had taken the place of Brian Turner, of Sunningdale, and Tommy Givnan, of Bowring Golf Course and Myerscough College, there could have been no complaints.

To have even made the final each of the Excellence finalists had to impress a judge on a course visit at regional level - there was one wild card used at the judges' discretion - while the students had to be nominated by their college before surviving another regional interview.

It ensured a rich crop of talent arrived at BIGGA HOUSE to be put before the judges.

The Excellence judging panel was Walter Woods, who had also visited each of the finalist's courses; Graham Dale, Managing Director of Lely (UK); Bob Buckingham, Toro's European Sales Manager, and Neil Thomas, BIGGA's Executive Director. The Student judging panel comprised Andrew Brown, Toro's Corporate Accounts Manager for Europe, the Middle East and South Africa; Pete Mansfield, of Lely (UK); Jim Paton, BIGGA's Education Sub Committee Chairman, and Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager.

In the end after a full day of interviews and deliberations, at which Walter's assessment of the finalist's golf course and course management practices were built into the final marking, Brian Turner, emerged as the narrow winner.

Brian received a trophy, a trip to the GCSAA Show in New Orleans and visit to Toro's US Headquarters; Sunningdale wins a Toro 3000 triple and his team a set of BIGGA waterproofs each.

The five runners-up each received a crystal trophy to commemorate their achievement in reaching the National final.

The winner of the Student Award was announced as Tommy Givnan, with the two runners-up Michael Bush, of St Mellion G&CC and Cannington College and Andrew Wood, of Singing Hills GC and Plumpton College.

Tommy won a residential study course in the States while Michael and Andrew won all expenses paid trips to BTME.

Brian Turner has no doubt about what becoming Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award winner means to him as he told Scott MacCallum

Icing on the cake

When Sunningdale Course Manager, Brian Turner, was asked what becoming the third Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award winner meant to him he said "It's the icing on the cake."

And in Brian's case, when the cake in question means his own greenkeeping career, you can tell he is particularly proud of his achievement.

Sunningdale Golf Club has always played a huge part in his life. He is a native of the town, he'd caddied at the club, he was, and still is, an Artisan member and, when he started greenkeeping, it was as a 19 year-old member of the Sunningdale staff having shelved thoughts of becoming a professional golfer - his current handicap is 1 and he has been as low as +1.

That affection was the magnet that drew Brian back to the club three years ago when he had an excellent job at Worplesdon Golf Club.

"It was always my dream to return to Sunningdale as Course Manager and I was delighted when I got the job in '96," said Brian.

His CV contains the names of three prestigious golf clubs located within a radius that would be covered by very few number of Tiger Wood drives.

"I left Sunningdale to move to Wentworth. I was in my early 20s, about to get married and there was accommodation with the Wentworth job," explained Brian.

Over the next 12 years he rose to become Head Greenkeeper on the West Course before the job of Head Greenkeeper at Worplesdon came up. He spent 13 years at the club, even winning the famous Worplesdon Foursomes during his time there.

"Sunningdale was the only place I would have left Worplesdon for

as I had a really good job there - I could play golf with the members and had a very good relationship with everyone at the club. I thoroughly enjoyed my experiences," he said.

When the job became available in '96 Brian wasn't going to apply as, for him to get it, a tradition going back to when the club was founded, would have to be broken.



"All the club's Head Greenkeepers or Course Managers had been Scotsmen until I came along," explained Brian.

"But the club also broke with tradition when appointing its last club professional because when Keith Maxwell got the job he was the first not to have been a Ryder Cup player. They obviously don't mind breaking with tradition now and again... which was good for me."

"Finally I decided to give it a go as there was no harm in trying and I made the short list."

The fact that he felt he had nothing to lose relaxed him come the big day.

"I went in and it was a carefree interview for me. I've played here

all my life so I knew the courses inside out and when I was asked questions I gave totally honest answers," said Brian, who was 50 when he took the post.

Since taking on one of the most sought after jobs in greenkeeping, Brian has concentrated on the presentation of the Willie Park-designed Old Course and the Harry Colt-designed New while he has also worked hard to reduce the thatch build up in the greens.

"We do a tremendous amount of aeration which can be a nightmare for the golfer and, as a result, a nightmare for us...you know you're going to get flak but you just have to bite the bullet."

Should the golfing calendar oblige, Brian likes to do his major aeration in August, something he started while at Worplesdon.

"Hollow tining was always something that was done in spring and autumn but I never felt it was the right time of year because the recovery rate is slower and the greens are bobblier because they are softer. I thought August would be a great month to do it as the soil is warm and the grass is still growing, while you don't have to worry about smearing as the cores come out nice and cleanly."

"I said to Worplesdon that I'd like to do it, we tried it and within two weeks you wouldn't have known we'd hollow tined. You'd be surprised how many people now hollow tine in August," said Brian.

In addition he makes a point of combining his hollow tining with vertidrainage.

"The vertidrain does leave the surface a little bobbly and uneven but if you put the hollow tiner on it smooths out the vertidrain holes to the extent that you can't tell it's been vertidrainaged."

Brian has a team of 22 plus a gardener and this includes a full time mechanic and a mechanic/greenkeeper



and someone who handles the irrigation.

While Brian is overall Course Manager his Deputy and Head Greenkeeper on the Old Course is Mark Openshaw with Tony Bonnett, Head Greenkeeper on the New Course. Each course is maintained to the same high standard.

"One of the problems we have is that we have many more rounds over the Old than we do the New - 35,000 against 27,000. If members have a choice they would just play the Old so we have course order on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday with two balls on one course and three balls on the other and we change this around.

"Since '97 when Abbotts installed the new irrigation system we've closed the old for four days a week Monday to Thursday through January to give the course a rest and you can really see the difference on the strength of it."

In recent years Sunningdale has been the venue for several large events including the European Open and the Walker Cup while it hosted the Weetabix British Ladies in '97 and will do so again in 2001.

"During the biggest of the events the practice range was used as a car park and the 18th hole of the New Course became the practice range and it's not really big enough for European events now.

"We do miss them as they are a real buzz and I admire people like Chris Kennedy who cope with two a year."

That's not to say that big name players don't visit Sunningdale which is close to where many of Europe's top golfers base themselves.

"Darren Clarke and Paul McGinley play a lot, Paul actually walks his dog around the course, while Sam Torrance was at Sunningdale as an assistant, and often comes over for a game."

Others include Wayne Riley, Richard Boxall and Tony Johnstone, who often can be seen honing his renowned sand skills in the practice bunker.

Brian was entered for the Toro Excellence Award by his Secretary, Stuart Zeuill.

"I'd thought about entering before but there was always an element of fear that you're not going to do well and coming from a well known club puts on added pressure.

His regional course visit was conducted by Eric James and Brian wasn't 100% confident of getting through to the final.

"I didn't think I was going to get through, to tell you the truth, as Eric also had to see other people who entered before who must have had a very good chance."

This modesty continued to BIGGA HOUSE where Brian was genuinely surprised when his name was read out as the winner.

"It was a bit like being at the Oscars hearing 'And the winner is...' and I was really surprised when it was my name that followed. I'd spoken to the other five guys and any one of them



could have won it.

"The thing I was pleased about was the experience of taking part. It's all right reading about it in the magazine but until you do it you don't know what it's about and what you can gain from it," said Brian.

"I was self taught when I started as BIGGA wasn't around then. To learn about the grass plant I went to evening classes at Kingston College and had to pay for it myself."

The reaction within the club to Brian's triumph has been very positive.

"The Secretary is over the moon as are the lads here as it is not only a feather in my cap, but for them as well."

Above: Matt Maryon, Graham Dale, Bob Buckingham, Walter Woods, Neil Thomas, Stuart Hogg, Kim Blake, Brian Turner, Andy Campbell and Barrie Lee



Scott MacCallum meets the artist who is now painting a rosy future for himself as a greenkeeper

From canvas to turf

If life had taken a slightly different path Tommy Givnan may well have been collecting the Turner Prize rather than the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

Tommy, Head Greenkeeper at Bowring Golf Course in Knowsley, near Liverpool, has a Fine Arts degree and lectured in the subject before moving into greenkeeping.

"I was obsessed with painting, both studying it and producing work of my own," explained Tommy.

"My aim was to have exhibitions and make a living selling my work but I was asked to teach at St Helens College so, at the age of 21, that was what I was doing," he explained.

After a year Tommy moved south to Winchester when an opportunity of a job with house attached arose for his wife Dawn.

He tried to continue his teaching career in Wiltshire but his broad Liverpool accent proved a stumbling block.

"As soon as I opened my mouth and they could hear the Scouse accent I could see their eyes glaze over. So I knew straight away I had no chance," he recalled.

It was through a trawl of Winchester Job Centre that he spotted a position at Hockley Golf Club, in Twyford, just outside Winchester, and the seeds for rest of his career were planted.

"Head Greenkeeper, Terry Patchett, made me very welcome and I just thought what an ideal place to work. One morning I was taking a tractor through woodland and two deer jumped across the path just in front of me. I thought to myself that my dad had worked on a production line at Ford's for 33 years and this has just happened to me."

He worked on the course for six months before the need for a higher salary forced him to look around for something else.

"I loved the job and took to it so well that if the pay had been better I would have stayed but I just couldn't afford to."

"A friend put me in touch with a landscaper who took me on at weekends while I was still at the golf course and when he offered me a full time job I took it."

Tommy and Dawn moved back to Liverpool for family reasons a couple of years later and he got a job as a temporary gardener with Knowsley Council which soon became a full time position.

Then when the Council started its own full time landscaping team he became Charge Hand and such was its success the team won a BALI Award for work carried out on Kirby Town Centre.

"I missed golf but, at that stage, I didn't see a way of getting back into it as I didn't have the experience to earn what I could landscaping. I was married with two kids so money was essential."

At this stage fate lent a hand and around the same time as the Landscaping team was disbanded Knowsley Council took over the running of Bowring Munciple Golf Course from Liverpool Council who had been running it.

"It was the ideal opportunity for the Council to place me and I was rubbing my hands at the prospect," said Tommy, who explained that he was just one of a team of five gardeners who were put onto the course.

The course was in poor condition. People would lose their balls in the fairways due to the clover and nobody paid to play, feeling that it was not worth paying for.

"I'd just finished my Level 2 in landscaping and said that I'd like to carry

on to Level 3, but change over to Sportsturf as I needed information quickly to apply to the course."

He started Level 3 at Myerscough on day release and immediately found himself mixing with people with a great deal more knowledge and experience than himself.

"I thought I might have bitten off more than I could chew and worried that I might make a fool of myself, but on the second week the Tutor, Phil Sharples, gave us a test on turf diseases based on what we'd learned the previous week and I got 17 out of 20. I thought then that I might be able to pull it off," he said.

He threw himself into the work, studying each night and bought a computer so he could type up his course work.

Meanwhile the course was starting to get good feedback from golfers, despite the fact that they were having to make do with grounds maintenance machines not really suitable for many golf course duties.

After a few months, when the team had been sharing responsibility, the Council commissioned a report before putting in place amore traditional team. They advertised for a Head Greenkeeper and Tommy, applied for, and got the job.

He was operating under pressure as he was told by the Council that if the course didn't pay for itself it would be turned into a park.

"I was under pressure to get the place on its feet but because of what we've achieved it has a lot more credibility now," he explained.

"I won the Student of the Year for my first year at Myerscough which was a big boost as it was a talented class and that spurred me on. I began to think that I knew what I was doing as what I was learning each week I was applying to the course the next and it was working."

Such has been the success of Tommy and the team that the number of rounds has risen from 18,000 a year to over 50,000 a year and the golfers have been extremely appreciative.

"One of the golfers who plays regularly and is unemployed with four kids knocked on my door at home and pre-





sented me with a crate of ale for the lads and said we were doing a great job," said Tommy, who tells the story still with a degree of amazement.

The course is six miles from the centre of Liverpool and is surrounded by housing estates and does suffer from vandalism.

"We get a lot of stolen cars left burnt out on the course. One came over a mound and landed on the 18th green taking a load of turf out of the green. Fortunately I was doing renovation and repair NVQ 3 at the time and this provided good evidence.

"We planted a load of huge boulders around the entrances to stop cars getting onto the course and erected gates. These were rammed down in a Ford Escort so we've had to put a barrier in front of the gates," explained Tommy, who also introduced railway sleepers set in stone as tee markers as the pathing used previously kept being smashed.

"The Secretary of the club says that he sees something new every time he plays and it's comments like that that make you improve."

Tommy was flattered to be nominated by the college for the Award and shocked when he learned that he'd made the final.

"Before the first interview my palms were sweating and I was a bag of nerves but when I went in I was made to feel at home. I didn't expect to reach the final and my first thought was that I was in with the big boys now, guys with years of experience."

On the Sunday of the final, which he attended with Dawn, they took the chance to visit York Minster then, on the morning visited the city art gallery which relaxed him before his interview. "Panic started to set in as Dawn

waved me off as I walked from the hotel to BIGGA HOUSE. I was thinking this was my one chance and I've never felt so much pressure in all my life. I still felt it was a long shot as I'd met all the other students and was impressed by them all."

Once he'd finished he was able to enjoy a drink before the pressure again began to mount.

"When the announcement was made I was stunned. It was an unreal feeling as though it wasn't really happening but I must admit I celebrated well that night."

The opportunity to go to the States is an exciting one for Tommy who admits that he will miss Dawn and their two boys, Lee, 8, and Sean, 5.

"We've talked at length and Dawn reminds me that I said I'd never win and I truly believed I wouldn't. Being in the final was an accolade for me and I had loads of guys congratulating me on that achievement and wishing me well for the final - there was a piece about me in the Liverpool Echo," said Tommy, who has again featured in the press following his win.

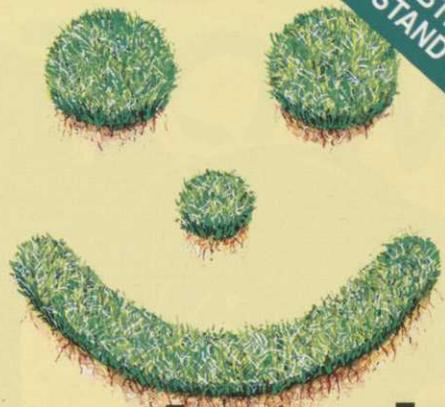
"This is an opportunity of a lifetime and it's up to me to make the most of it and enjoy it," he said.

Far left: Tommy Givnan left, with his Course Manager, Terry Hall

Top: Tommy with Michael Bush (right), Andrew Wood (left) with the Toro Student judging panel

Above: Back row; Vincent Gilroy, William Collins, Simon O'Hara, Kevin Scarce, Jim Gilchrist. Front row; Andrew Wood, Tommy Givnan and Michael Bush

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Joe Paulin gives some helpful advice that might just see you through the trauma of course vandalism

Criminal

I was recently called in to do some consulting work at The London Golf Club where, you may have read in the papers, nearly half of their 36 USGA greens have been criminally damaged not once but twice! The management and greenstaff have dealt with these blows in a very professional and efficient manner and are to be commended as well as commiserated with. This is every club's worst nightmare, but how many clubs are prepared for the worst?

Vandalism is too soft a word in most cases - it is a criminal act that should be treated and prepared for as such. Criminal damage can occur in many forms from graffiti on buildings, tee marker, ball washer, flag and flagpole damage or theft to the physical and or chemical damage to the turf. Criminal damage often takes place in the commission of a burglary as well.

Most clubs have security of some description. The clubhouse will certainly be alarmed along with the pro shop if it is in a separate building. These areas are probably fairly well lit and often will be protected by security cameras. But what about the maintenance buildings, pump house and other out-buildings? What about the biggest asset in the Club - Your turf?

You and the rest of the club's management need to ask yourself questions such as:

What does our insurance actually cover?

Are you covered for criminal damage to the greens and other fine turf areas?

Is the club covered for loss of earnings as a result of criminal damage?

Has the club's insurers given the club advice on security measures that will help prevent an incident from happening and reduce premiums? Such as:

- Check that all buildings are well lit
- Check that all possible access points are secure especially skylights
- Make sure all stock and machinery is properly inventoried (photographic records)
- Insure that all vehicle keys are kept secure
- Insure that petrol tank caps are locked
- Check that any and all security fencing is well maintained and checked regularly
- Introduce security cameras or additional security cameras and/or motion sensors
- Use vehicle immobilisers
- Use in-house security guards or a security company
- Know who has keys to what
- Change locks if keys cannot be accounted for
- Ensure that padlocks are high quality and difficult to get at with bolt cutters or hack saws.

Is our water supply as secure as possible from intentional contamination?

Do we have an emergency plan to deal with possible chemical and/or physical damage to greens and/or tees? Consider items such as:

- Call the police and the insurance company
- Notify club management and club officers
- Document any and all damage with photographs
- Inform the members as to what has happened and what actions are being taken

Dealing with the actual damage itself -

- If you don't have your own source of turf to repair the

damage, have a turf grower who can supply you at short notice.

- Have the name and address of a reputable laboratory in case of the need to identify chemicals or substances used
- Take samples of soil that may have been contaminated and try to germinate seed in them to try and determine if the substance has a residual effect
- If you have trouble identifying the substance used
- Have a supply of activated charcoal available which may help to nullify the effects of contamination
- Consider flooding the affected area (a wetting agent will usually aid in this operation) in order to wash off and/or dilute the substance used bearing in mind that the run-off could cause damage to other areas
- Be prepared to core, verticut, overseed (always have a supply of seed in stock) and topdress in order to repair any damage in conjunction with any turfing requirements as the circumstances dictate
- Be prepared to fence or rope off the damaged areas
- Along with the photographic evidence, you should accurately map any damaged areas for your historical records.

Can we use this negative incident in a positive way? Such as:

- If the green or tee is severely damaged, it gives you the opportunity to rebuild, turf or renovate an area that required improving anyway
- If a green is out of play for a period of time, it is an opportunity to carry out needed work in surrounding areas

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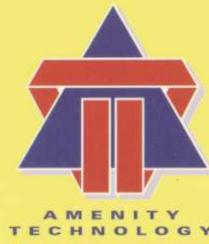


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damage

such as bunker renovations

- Every experience should be used as a learning experience and to see if any lessons can be learned for the future

What is our relationship with the local community and how can we improve our image?

- Involve the local schools in any environmental projects you may have
- Speak to local schools about greenkeeping as a career
- Write articles for the local paper or get on local radio to talk about the positive effects golf courses have on the environment avoiding controversial issues such as rabbit and squirrel control
- Use organisations such as the Guides and Scouts to carry out tasks around the course as a way for them to raise funds

Do we have replacement tee markers, flags, flag-poles and spare ball washers and benches?

- Show the perpetrator that you are prepared for as they will often become bored fighting a losing battle
- Show your members that you are prepared as well
- Consider bringing in these items each night if it is a persistent problem

Do we have a supply of graffiti remover?

The above ideas I hope will provide food for thought. No two clubs have the same problems or requirements, but the basics of being prepared should apply to all clubs. Golf courses are always going to be vulnerable to attack due to their sheer size and

general ease of access, but that doesn't mean that you can't be proactive in preparing and planning for the worst. Many times, those that are most prepared are those that are least affected



START THE NEXT 1000 YEARS WITH A BANG!



While the marketing men are frantically pushing the Millennium Dome as the place to visit as soon as we can find a slot in our busy diaries, we at BIGGA are confident that you will already have marked off the third week in January for your annual trip to Harrogate.

BTME 2000 is set to outstrip all others, with many new initiatives and a new hall which means even more stands to visit and bigger and better displays for some of your favourite companies.

The Learning Experience, in association with Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, carries the theme Past, Present and Future and will feature some in-depth papers by some of the leading experts in their respective fields. In addition the workshop programme has been extended to five covering a range of on and off the golf course matters.

After the success of Frank Dick OBE as the Key Note and Motivational Speaker last year Simon Weston OBE takes the stage on the Wednesday morning this year. It should be a memorable talk.

As ever, tickets for the BTME Banquet are a rare commodity, particularly for BTME 2000 when the entertainment will be provided by The Bootleg Beetles, regarded as the world's leading Beetle tribute band, whose recreation of the Fab Four's music has been described as "fastidiously authentic".

In addition to those undoubted highlights, BTME 2000 will also boast a Careers Advice Clinic while there will be a chance to win some wonderful prizes and raise some money for Cancer Research at the same time.

HIGHLIGHTS

BIGGA NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 January, The Majestic Hotel
Delegates arrive and register at The Majestic Hotel, Conference Office between 4.30pm and 6.30pm on Sunday 16 January followed by dinner at 7.30pm (Jacket and Tie must be worn). The new look Conference is held over the next two days, when speakers will present in-depth papers on four topics of interest to all greenkeepers.

BIGGA WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 January, The Majestic Hotel
Delegates arrive and register at the Majestic between 4.30pm and 6.30pm on Sunday 16 January followed by dinner at 7.30pm (Jacket and Ties must be worn).
Workshop 1 will prepare delegates for the next stages of Golf Course Design. Workshop 2 is designed to give Assistant Greenkeepers guidance on Golf Course Presentation. Workshop 3 will give delegates instruction on Written and Verbal Communication. Workshop 4 will give greenkeepers the skills and knowledge to maintain Golf Course Machinery and, finally, Workshop 5 is designed to introduce Greenkeepers to the art of Computing.

BTME SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Wednesday 19, Thursday 20 and Friday 21 January, The Royal Hall
The Past, Present and Future is the theme for the BTME Seminar Programme. Speakers from the USA, Canada, Europe and the UK will be presenting papers on a variety of subjects, ranging from personal experiences and lessons learned to advances in machinery technology. The BTME Seminar Programme, runs alongside the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition.

RUNNING GOLF COURSES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 January, The Crown Hotel
Delegates arrive and register at The Crown Hotel between 8.30am and 9.00am on Tuesday 18 January. This two day course is for those who manage and administer golf courses. The course is presented by STRI experts in all aspects of golf course design, construction, management and maintenance and includes a presentation by a BIGGA Course Manager. These two days will enable you to maximise the agronomic and financial potential of your golf course. It also includes a visit to the STRI trial grounds and laboratories and a visit to the BTME exhibition.

CAREERS ADVICE CLINIC

New for 2000 is the BIGGA Careers Advice Clinic where Brin Bendon and Frank Newberry will be available to answer your questions on CV's, job application letters, interview techniques and negotiating your salary package, all helping you to get 'that job'.

BEATLEMANIA SET TO ROCK HARROGATE!



The Bootleg Beatles are one of Britain's most popular bands - quite an achievement for a group that never release records, but have achieved success through their immaculate re-creation of the sights and sounds of the Fab Four live on stage. Popular with all ages, the band are now in the forefront of the contemporary music scene. Their appearances with Oasis in 1996 at Earl's Court, Knebworth, Cork and Loch Lomond won them huge new audiences of young fans.

They have filled major venues all over the world, from the Royal Albert Hall to the Budokan in Tokyo, with their show containing Beatles music from 1964-1970. Recently described in the Daily Telegraph as "fastidiously authentic", the band members are self-confessed Beatles fanatics. Their proudest achievement is the often-heard comment after their shows, "It was just like watching the real thing". They have put in years of practice, studying records and video tapes, using all their skills as musicians and actors, to look and sound like the Beatles. Their hard work has paid off, as they are now acknowledged as the world's leading Beatles band.

THE GREAT BTME RAFFLE

Proceeds from the Great BIGGA BTME Raffle will go the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

The Charity is delighted to be involved with the project and has earmarked the money made to the White Rose Appeal which puts £1.5 million a year into two cancer research units at St James' University Hospital, Leeds - otherwise known as Jimmy's.

The first unit, headed by Professor Peter Selby, seeks to take basic knowledge acquired in the laboratory right through to the treatment of patients while the other, the Genetic Epidemiology Laboratory, headed by Professor Tim Bishop, is working to discover the hereditary element which is thought to play a role in about 5% of all cancers.

Such a worthy cause, together with some wonderful prizes, should be great incentive to give generously when you receive your raffle ticket form on arrival at the Show.

For further information on the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Tel: 0171 242 0200.






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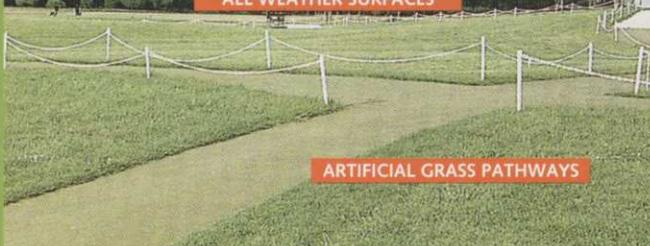
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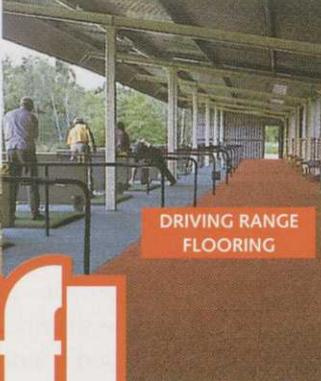
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EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

Advanta Stand - C3-4

Global grass seed breeder Advanta (formerly Mommersteeg and Sharpes International) is using BTME to launch its brand new portfolio of amenity grass seed mixtures. These are being presented to the market place as two distinct new brands - Advanta MM's, and Designer from Advanta.

Each branded mixture has been formulated to produce a top quality sward, which is long-lasting and easy to manage. There are mixtures for all sporting activities, including football, cricket, tennis and racing, and also for every landscaping and local authority requirement. Both ranges include the very latest cultivars to come out of Advanta's dedicated amenity grass seed breeding programme.

Amazone - B38

Amazone's new 02 series Groundkeeper will be exhibited with blade configurations suitable for scarifying and heather rejuvenation. Additional information on mowing, mulching and collecting will be available on our stand to ensure existing and future users maximise on the wide variety of work applications that the Ground keeper will happily tackle.

This season's Zero Turn Profil Hopper will also be on display with a 24.5HP, 3 cylinder diesel engine now being fitted as standard. This machine is capable of delivering high work rates in all weather conditions and is highly manoeuvrable.

Amenity Technology - Q16

Six reasons to visit the Amenity Technology stand:

1. The most innovative products in the Amenity industry on display
2. The best promotions and new products at BTME, without a doubt.
3. The Bayco range of golf course accessories with many exciting new additions.
4. A chance to pick up your free ticket to the Amtec BTME reception, the most sought after ticket in town.
5. Great hospitality and informative, friendly advice, guaranteed.
6. Industry leading products such as The Andersons Fertiliser, Vertigo, Sustane, The Drencher Range, Crystal Clear all on show.

Avoncrop Amenity Products - B6

Avoncrop Amenity Products have their latest catalogue available at BTME, demonstrating the unrivalled product range available to Course Managers. Our commitment is to offer choice and therefore the right solutions for each individual situation. Take a look at our new section on microbial, organic and Biostimulant products. We are able to carry out soil analysis and produce fertiliser programmes, give technical advice and highlight the right products and services to assist in keeping the course in tiptop condition. Some of our top selling ranges include Scotts, Barenbrug, Rhone-Poulenc, Green Releaf and numerous own brands, including the hugely successful Surf to Turf Seaweed range. Further details on 01934 820868

Bernhard & Co Ltd - B31

Bernhard and Company, makers of the world famous Atterton's EXPRESS DUAL and ANGLE-MASTER machines, introduce new exciting grinders & specialist Golf Course tools. Express Dual and Anglemaster grinders enable mechanics to sharpen mowers in less than twenty minutes without dismantling anything. Contact free cutting results without lapping, the Blade-Rite 2000 spins, relief grinds and sharpens bottom blades all on one machine. The Rota-Rite 1000 is a high precision rotary blade grinder with internal vacuum. See the handy Relief grinder, Lapping machine & Rapid Facer-book FREE GRINDING Demonstration Days by visiting stand B31.

Biotol - Q116

A revolutionary form of biological treatment for use in the professional turf and landscape market will be on display on the Pentagon Amenity Marketing stand (Q116) at BTME, Harrogate. Developed and manufactured by Biotol, these ecologically safe and highly effective products will be available through the Pentagon Group in the U.K. Biotol products have already been tried and tested on stadia and bowling greens as well as some of the leading golf courses, producing excellent results reliably and safely. Combining three products, the programme re-introduces, feeds and boosts beneficial microbia concentrations in turf. The three products, known as Microbalance Biofeed and Microbooster, are also available for application separately. Microbalance is a unique blend of microbes researched, developed and produced in the UK. Selected for its ability to rebalance the soil micro-flora, Microbalance replaces protective microbes destroyed by intensive use of toxic chemical treatments. Biofeed is a natural seaweed extract, soil and foliar feed, specifically selected for natural surfactant content. Microbooster is an organic plant extract which creates a suitable environment for the development of beneficial microbes within the soil profile.

British Seed Houses - Q20

Visit the British Seed Houses stand and go one up. Turfgrass professionals joining the new Grade A Club can gain special discounts on approved training courses, as well as access to developments coming out of the UK's only amenity grass breeding programme at the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) near Aberystwyth. Greenkeepers will be able to hear how Avalon velvet bent is outperforming all other bents in terms of shoot density and fineness of leaf. Avalon produces the highest quality turf of any species under close, frequent mowing and has a much better low temperature, shade and drought tolerance than other bents. British Seed House is also sponsoring the Golf Constructors' Association cocktail party which is being held on Wednesday evening 19 January 2000. Tel: 01925 654411 Fax: 01925 230682 E-mail: bshwarr.co.uk

Charterhouse - B32

Charterhouse Turf machinery welcomes visitors to their extended stand so that they may enjoy the various products from their four operating Divisions:
TRACTOR DIVISION
 Introducing for the first time a representative range of Carraro Tractors including reversible tractors, articulated tractors and Local Authority multi-purpose tool carrying units. Also on show will be our range of ancillary Carraro equipment.
THE RICHMOND DIVISION will be presented, showing their wide range of hand tools, forestry equipment and tree surgery management equipment. All these items and many more are displayed within their new catalogue which will be available free to any visitors.
THE TURF MACHINERY DIVISION will be exhibiting its full range of Verti-Drain, Aeration, Seeding, Top Dressing and Scarifying/Sweeping machinery.
THE CONNOISSEUR DIVISION will have on its display its range of DR Trimmer/Mowers and Powerwagons, together with their latest introductions.

Eagle Promotions - A19

EAGLE PROMOTIONS - Stand A19
 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 will enable 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. The versatility of the etched plate also allows it to be used as a flat pattern for bronze casting. Although the

cost is higher, the plaque is then virtually indestructible. These mounted on Stone, Moulded Rock and Wood create truly spectacular sign systems.

Etesia UK Ltd - C43

After ten years selling one of the best cutting and collecting systems on the market, Etesia's competitors have now recognised the considerable benefits this unique concept offers users. The Etesia through-cut and collection system was first introduced into the UK in 1989 and has proved to be a real winner on all types of grass conditions, regardless of length and wetness. Where most other machines clog up, Etesia's Hydro100 and Hydro124D keep going, making grass cutting operations highly cost effective and profitable. They certainly score when it comes to wild flower meadows and conservatory areas and their quietness makes them ideal for noise sensitive areas. Only Etesia offers you original through-cut ride on mowers - tried and tested for over ten years. "Seeing is believing" - before buying new machinery check out an Etesia by booking your free demonstration.

Greensward Direct - Q86

True-Surface have a free offer on their stand that you can't afford to miss! The first 50 visitors each day will receive deluxe conference folder, so make sure that stand No. 86 in Hall Q is your first call! On display will be the new True-Surface Power Roller. Just like the well proven triple mower attachments, this new self powered pedestrian version is a lightweight roller using high frequency vibrations to gently shake the surface particles of the green back into place, creating consistently fast and true playing surfaces. The triple mower roller attachments will also be on display including the new model to fit the John Deere 2500.

Hayter Ltd - 22+41

It is uncommon to approach a major exhibition with severe doubts concerning the availability of product to display. Following an exceptional season, Hayter hope they will be able to exhibit two new five unit mowers: the T424, a replacement for the highly respected T44 and, making its debut at BTME, the new FM 524 fairway machine. Both of these machines represent the policy of continual development which has helped to position Hayter at the forefront of the market sectors it serves. If the machines are not present, cardboard cut-outs will be used! What will be on show will be the very successful LT324 triple cylinder mower and the highly acclaimed R314 three unit rotary machine. These will be complemented by a Greensmower56 pedestrian mower, the evergreen Condor pedestrian rotary and reelcutter and other models from the Hayter range.

Headland Amenity - Q25

Multigreen controlled release fertilisers for turf, manufactured by Haifa Chemicals, will feature strongly at BTME as part of the comprehensive range of turf care products available from Headland Amenity Products. Now a proven market leader among turf fertilisers in the UK, the Multigreen range includes a choice of products which provide 5-6 month nutrition for coarse, close mown or fine turf. Headland has pioneered the use of the fine turf formulations (Multigreen Mini) as a season long 'base feed', used in combination with supplementary liquid feeding, allowing close control of turf response. Headland will also exhibit Multi-K Mini Prill from Haifa, along with its other ranges of liquid and granular feeds, seaweeds, wetters and turf chemicals.

John Deere - C32-33

Designed for easy servicing and increased productivity on golf courses and in parks and public areas, the new John Deere 1600 wide area

mower is the company's first commercial rotar machine to use hydraulic mower drive. This incorporates an Eaton axial piston pump, which transfers power more efficiently compare with gear type pumps and motors, especially in touch working conditions. John Deere's straightforward two pedal forward and reverse foot control combines with a three lever mower deck lift control for easy operation. Good traction is also provided by the two speed transaxle with standard differential lock and mechanical four wheel drive on demand.

Kubota - A35

Every product to be shown on Kubota's stand A 35 at BTME 2000 has been newly introduced over the past year. From the 35hp, 37hp and 45hp Grandel L Series tractors with their upgraded high visibility cabs to the revolutionary AM3300 ride-on triple cylinder mower with hopper grass collector, Kubota continues to bring important advances to turf management and mechanisation. The new B1410 14hp compact tractor will be at Harrogate as will Kubota's G18 GlideCut mower - the world's first triple through-cut mower with rear collector - and the T1760, a 1.2m cut ride-on mower with water-cooled petrol engine.

Marlwood - C40

The latest range of Articulator rotary mowers will be on display. The range gives a cost effective quality finish to turf cut from 1" to 6". New, launching at BTME, the trailed 7 deck Model 721XR is an innovative design. Boasting a cutting width of 132", with low-maintenance, high-efficiency deck design and streamline hydraulic lift system for easier maintenance and transportation. The 425D ride-on is already proving to be an enormous success. This 96" out-front 38hp ride-on has a low centre of gravity, zero turning and height of cut adjustment within a few seconds. To view the complete range including the new 621ER and the 325 series visit our stand.

Ocmis Irrigation - A5

Ocmis are experts in irrigation system design and installation for all golf course, sports turf and landscape areas. We are distributors for Rain Bird, Buckner and Hunter irrigation products and can supply/service equipment manufactured by other companies. Ocmis have unique in house design capabilities ensuring that the requirement of each client are individually met, this coupled with a marketing agreement with Textron provides the ultimate irrigation package. For more information or a no obligation survey and design, contact Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Ltd Head Office 01460 241939, Scotland Office 0131 220 2102, Ireland Office (00353) 1 23 4020.

Rhône-Poulenc - Q2

Rhone Poulenc Amenity is planning to exhibit as the newly formed 'Aventis'*. Come and talk to us about your problems with your weed, disease or pest control in turf. There is a new tank mix recommendation for Mildothane Turf Liquid, bringing a new active into the Amenity market and offering a wide spectrum of weed control and a very fast mode of action. Our 'number one' fungicide Rovral Green® has been found to be harmless to beneficial turf fungi (mycorrhiza) while still being as effective against pathogenic species, which leads to added benefits in turf, such as increased resistance to drought, pests and diseases. You will have the chance to use our new CD-Rom version of the product manual on the stand. There is also information on our new web site. *The formation of Aventis has been approved by the shareholders of Rhone-Poulenc and Hoechst, but is still subject to the approval by the various authorities concerned and to the successful completion of the exchange offer. Integration will be subject to information exchange and consultation of the workers' representatives.

AT BTME2000

Rigby Taylor - Q29

Rigby Taylor, a BIGGA Gold Key Member, will be displaying their wide range of products and services. Their new fungicide 'Fusonil' Turf will be featured along with their other chemical products including the turf selectives 'Bastion' T and 'Greenor', and the pre and post emergence herbicide 'Casoron' G. The fertiliser range will also be displayed along with their Grass Seed portfolio which includes new varieties for 2000. The MASCOT Specialities range will also be on show including 'Integrate', 'Blockade', 'Amino-sorb' and Profile.

The Scotts Company - B4+B33

Scotts launch new liquids at BTME. Scotts UK Professional will be launching a comprehensive new range of liquid fertilisers designed to give greenkeepers and groundsmen the option of fast, flexible turf growth control. Available in a range of nutrient formulations, new Greenmaster Liquids are easy to apply and can be used in combination to achieve precision in turf response. The benefits of the new turf growth management tool Shortcut, which have halve the amount of time grounds and greenkeeping staff need to spend on mowing grass, will also be demonstrated. 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, and has successfully reduced mowing requirements by 50 per cent on fairways and tees. Crucially, turf responds positively to treatment with Shortcut, with trial sites also reporting enhanced colour, thickening of the sward and improved root development following application. The comprehensive Scotts Product Guide to fertilisers and chemicals for the turf and amenity markets will be available. Call on the stand for a free copy.

Sisis Equipment - Q5

SISIS have moved to a much larger stand in Hall Q to accommodate their increased range of golf course maintenance machinery which now includes ride-on triples and gangmowers (designed and manufactured in the UK), Grainskeeper rotating brush, Soil Relievers and soil shredders. In fact, SISIS now offer around 120 different machines for all aspects of turf care. Come and talk to us on Stand Q5.

Sovereign Turf Ltd - Q55

Everybody has dreams and professional turf managers are no different. If you come to the new Sovereign Turf stand Q55 opposite the main registration desk in hall Q we will turn some of those dreams into reality. We can't do anything about your budgets but we can offer quality turf and grass seed second to none at realistic prices. We also provide advice and an excellent after sales service. If you dream of quality products delivered on time and at the right price, then come and talk to Steve Williams and Mac Bailey about the reality from Sovereign Turf Ltd.

Supaturf - A27

Supaturf celebrates 40 years of serving the industry at the Show 40 years ago Superturf Products Ltd was incorporated and immediately set about the task of serving the sports turf industry. Now, 40 years on, they are still at the forefront of the industry offering such world leading products as the unsurpassable Primer 604 through to the irreplaceable SS/D semi organic fine turf fertiliser. It is also 20 years since Supa turf introduced wetting agents to Europe with AquaGro and therefore 20 year anniversary of working closely with The Aquatrols Corporation of America who invented the whole science 45 years ago in the USA. Supaturf have a lot to celebrate at BTME in 2000 and look forward to meeting at the show with their clients from around the world, who will help to keep the celebrations going.

Textron - A23

Textron Turf Care and Speciality Products have become synonymous with a range of quality products for turf care management, and in particular the golf sector. Visit our stand and view the key products from such renowned brands as Cushman, E-Z-GO, Iseki, Jacobsen, Ransomes and Ryan. New products to be launched at BTME will include the new range of Ransomes Compact Tractors, the Iseki TK 456 tractor and the very latest E-Z-GO TXT golf car with the revolutionary Precision Drive System (PDS). Also on display will be the Ransomes Super Certes pedestrian cylinder mower featuring the new OPC system; the Jacobsen Tri-King with new ISO mounting; the Jacobsen LFD-3800 fairway mower with Mauser cab; and the Ransomes AR 250 rotary mower with side discharge. And finally, in this ever-changing industry where you need to keep up-to-date with best practice, don't forget to visit The Learning Experience Seminars, sponsored by Textron.

Toro - B35

Toro starts the new millennium as it left the old with the launch of a string of superb new innovative turf maintenance products sure to attract great interest from greenkeepers and groundsmen. Hot on the heels of its hugely successful revolutionary Reelmower 3100 Sidewinder triple cylinder mower, Toro is introducing a rotary version in which also all three cutting decks shift from side to side up to 24in for mowing bunker overhangs, aprons and other edges. It has a great ability to follow ground contours and cut without scalping. Also making its debut is the stylish new Workman 2100 mid-duty utility vehicle with unique 'twister' suspension for superior traction and stability. The new Greenmaster 3250-D joins it. This is the latest in the line of Toro's world-beating Greensmaster triplex mowers and has a powerful diesel engine and unique cutting unit suspension to follow ground contours smoothly. The new products are joined by a wide selection of other Toro equipment including fairway mowers and aerators.

Turfgrass Services - A31

The custom turf growing service that Inturf offer to greenkeepers has developed into a major department for the Company with a number of different types being grown at any one time, from traditional fescue/bent mixtures to straight creeping bent grass, all grown on USGA type rootzones. Usually the Company needs 12 months notice of requirement but any turf type on any rootzone can be ordered for supply only (small or big rolls) or fully installed. Also the ITM movable modular turf system is catching on fast for golf tee applications, where sections of a teeing area can be replaced or repositioned to minimise wear and tear. For more information please contact our Head Office at The Chestnuts, Wilberfoss, York, YO41 5NT, Telephone 01759 321000 Facsimile: 01759 380130 e-mail info@inturf.co.uk

Weed Free - Q33

Weed Free, first time exhibitors at BTME, will be using the show to launch major new expansion plans for the year 2,000. The company, which has enjoyed substantial growth since 1996 and pioneered the use of shrouded booms within the contract spraying sector, is poised to diversify in a new direction. Details will be announced at a PRESS PICNIC in the Kings Suite at 10.30 am on Wednesday 19 January and subsequently available on the Weed Free stand Q33. Information on the company's ever popular spraying courses, will also be available, along with full details of Weed Free's amenity spraying services. Contact the company on FREE PHONE 0800 068 0878

Barenbrug - A20

Barenbrug UK has some extra special attractions for BTME: a brand new cultivar; two new mixtures and an Open Championship 2000 competition



Join our Club...

Join the British Seed Houses' Grade A Club and go one up. Club members gain special discounts on approved training courses, as well as access to developments from the unique IGER amenity grass breeding programme. Find out more at BTME and help your staff make the grade.



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A WARM WELCOME AWAITS

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION

BTME 2000

& EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME

The name of which Yorkshire town is on the lips of every greenkeeper around the turn of the year? A. Scarborough B. Harrogate C. Ripon D. Wetherby.

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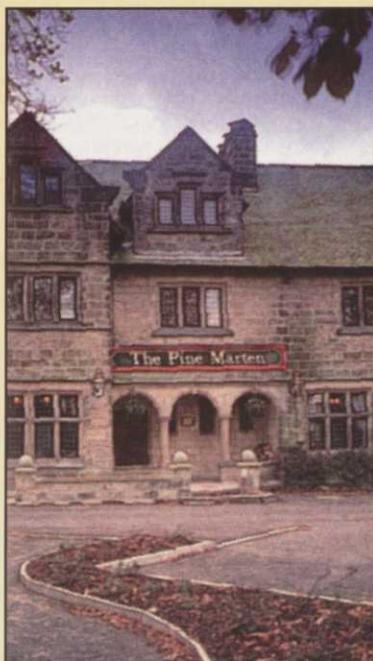
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Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

North

I open the final Section news of the year with another batch of new members to welcome. Dave McAvo and Peter Culter join us, and from Meldrum House we have Kenneth Harper, David Stephen, John Sim, Alan Tennant, Alexander Duguid and Roderick Mess. As we head into the Millennium the Section is as strong as ever and hopefully will go from strength to strength.

Our AGM was held recently at Huntly Golf Club. In the morning we had a talk on Health and Safety from Gordon Holmes of CSC, before we ventured out onto the golf course for the annual Daval Cup Challenge. The result was a resounding victory for Vice-Chairman, Wilson Morrison, and his team by 4 1/2 to a 1/2.

In defence all I can say is that my partner, Steve Sullivan, and I got the 1/2, and we had to finish eagle, birdie, par to get that. Thanks must go to Alex Cruickshank and Dennis Slater, of Daval, for providing the Cup, and a wee dram to go with it. The meeting followed and resulted in the Committee all being re-elected en bloc, details of their duties and contact numbers with be in my next report. The final four winners of the 200 Club were drawn and are as follows: September £30 no. 28 George Barr, Ham Manor; October £30 no. 28 George Barr, Ham Manor (no misprint!); November £30 no. 20 Brian Cocker Snr, Alyth; December £100 no. 193 Keith Wood, Aberdeen.

Once again thank you to all who bought tickets this year and supported the Section. Thank you to all at Huntly, who made us most welcome and especially to Derek Green and his staff for the course.

A big highlight of this year in the Section must have been the holding of the Walker Cup in our area at Nairn Golf Club. Around 14 of us local greenkeepers assisted Ian Carson and his staff

during the competition along similar lines to the Open Championship Support Team. Despite some awful weather Saturday night into Sunday morning, all went well with Ian, the coolest man in town.

It was great to see the Nairn course get the praise it deserves and the visitors should be flocking to the North in the future, which can only benefit us all.

The match was played in the best manner possible in front of a very sporting and knowledgeable crowd, a pity the professionals could not match it a couple of weeks later. Well done all involved at Nairn.

The Section was well represented at the BIGGA National Championships in October at Carden Park. Mike Wilson, Forres was our star man with two fine rounds, unfortunately the rest of us were not quite so good with yours truly bringing up the rear as I shot my two worst rounds for many years. However, it was a great two days and I will be back next year to do better and I recommend it to all interested.

Once again the Scottish Region is running a bus to BTME in Harrogate. The cost this time is £156 and covers the bus from Central Scotland to Harrogate on Tuesday 18 January, B&B at the Moat House Hotel for three nights, entry to all seminars and return bus on Friday afternoon. This is an excellent package and well worth considering. Closing date for applications is 8 December and anyone interested should phone Peter Boyd our RA on 0141 6163440.

Congratulations to Stuart Hogg on winning the Scottish Regional nomination for the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award. Having played his course at Fortrose and visited his sheds, I would say he was a worthy winner. Well done to Brian Turner, Sunningdale, for the overall award.

Last but not least I would just like to wish all Section members a happy Christmas and prosperous New Millennium, and the same to all my friends throughout the greenkeeping world. I hope 2000 brings you all you wish for.

Iain MacLeod

Ayrshire

Firstly I must apologise for omitting the trade result from our autumn outing at the Pines. Brian Inglis, of Greentech, was the main man with Jim Smith of Ruffords close behind.

On behalf of our Section I would like to wish Alastair McRoberts all the best with his new job of Sales Manager for Rickerby's of Carlisle. Alastair was formerly Sales Representative for A M Russell in the West of Scotland.

The Scottish Region is again running a subsidised bus trip to Harrogate 2000. This includes travel, three nights bed and breakfast at the Moat House Hotel and entry to all the seminars and exhibition. This is on offer at a total cost of £156. This is a fabulous trip for anyone thinking about it. I can't recommend it highly enough. The entire trip will be expertly organised by our Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, who will be able to supply any further information required. Peter can be contacted on 0141 616 3440.

Finally a Merry Christmas to all and remember any news, call me on 01505 683278

Iain Barr

Central

This month's news begins on a sad note with the recent death of Ann Strathearn. Ann, as you all know, worked for TIS Scotland and was a great supporter of the Section. You were always assured of a smile and a blether when you met her at our golf tournament and her cheery face will be sorely missed by us all. Our sincerest condolences go to Ann's family at this very sad time.

On the membership front we welcome five new members this month and they are John Brown from Dalmahoy Country Club, Alex Peggie and Hugh Davidson from Charleton GC and Iain McIntosh and John Jones from Gleneagles. This brings the total of new members for this year to 54, which beats our target of one per week, but there are still a number of non-members out there, so if you know any, encourage them to join.

Congratulations go to former committee member, Ian Ross, on his

appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Shetland Golf Club. Well done Ian and every success in the future. Will you still be coming to our golf tournaments?

Congratulations are also due to Derek Scott, from Scoonie Golf Course, who along with myself has been nominated for the Patrons Award. Well done Derek and thanks for all the hard work you put into supporting the Section.

At the moment there are still 228 of you with 'Club 2000' tickets in your possession. I sent out tickets to 260 members and only 32 have bought/sold theirs. I know you all intend to buy your tickets and that you have just forgotten to put your cheque in the post, well you have until the 18th of this month to do so before you miss out on the chance to win £50 per month plus a bonus in June and December. All this for less than 2p per day can't be bad! Just in case you have forgotten about your tickets, I'll remind you all next month by including a list in the Section report!

At the time of writing the final of the Inter-Club Tournament has not been played so it looks as though, once again, it will extend into another year. Hopefully it will be played in time to present the trophy at the Spring Tournament at St Andrews next year.

Once again the Scottish Region will be organising a coach to the BTME at Harrogate next month, so if you fancy attending this superb event, just get in touch with Peter Boyd on the usual number. The cost from Tuesday to Friday is £156 (excluding refreshments and entertainment) and is great value for money.

The section AGM, in conjunction with a presentation/talk by Richard Walton and Simon Barnaby, from Scotts, was held at the Scottish National Golf Centre at Drumoig last month and it was encouraging to see a number of new faces present. Your committee for the coming year is:

Chairman: A. Dunn, Auchterarder GC; V/Chairman: A. O'Hara, Leven Links GC; Committee: S. Mackie, Lochgelly GC; D. Scott, Scoonie; S. Sime, Leven Links GC; G. Mitchell,

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Piperdam GC; Sec/Treas. J. Crawford, Stirling GC; Patrons: P. Langdon, Wardle Consulting Engineers; K. Brunton, Greentech.

Following the talk and refreshments provided by Scotts, we were given a tour of the impressive facilities which are available at Drumoig and our thanks go to Richard and Simon, from Scotts, and Neil Simpson, from Drumoig, for an excellent day.

As we come to the end of another year/century/millennium I would like to thank everyone who has supported the Section over the years, with a special thanks to all the Patrons of the Scottish Region, without whose continued involvement we could not have achieved what we have.

Here's wishing everyone 'All the Best' for the year ahead and hope to see you all in the New Year.

John Crawford.



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

Last day of October, I wonder where the year has gone? It does not seem long since I was making arrangements for the golf fixtures for 1999, and now I am in the process of doing the same for the year 2000. Looking back on the year the Section had some great venues for the golf, even though the weather was not always kind to us. The courses we played were in lovely condition, and the hospitality at the clubs was second to none. The seminar at Mere was well attended and we had some great speakers.

We will have another seminar at Mere in March, and I hope once again you will support the Section by attending. A thought struck me that with all this modern equipment on golf courses, with parts controlled by mini computers, will they also have "bugs" in them. It would be strange if all the machinery ground to a halt at midnight on New Year's Eve. Just a thought!

The North West Section did well this

year in the three award schemes with one outright winner, and two regional finalists.

The winner of the "Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Competition" is Tommy Givnan, Myerscough College. Tommy works at Bowring GC on Merseyside.

Regional finalist in the Toro Excellence Award was Andy Campbell, Carden Park.

Regional finalist BIGGA Golf Environment competition, sponsored by Amazon Ground Care and Grass Roots, was Steve Oultram, Wilmslow GC, North West Section Chairman.

Congratulations to the three of you, you did our Section proud.

It has been suggested that I should include a Tip for the Month in the Section news, but nobody has come forward with one yet, so here is one I used to use in my greenkeeping days.

When repairing worn areas around greens and tees, hollow tine the areas several times. Once the cores are broken up, trodden and raked, oversow and tape off the area.

That seems to be it for now, so I will take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

See you at Harrogate.

Bert Cross.

North East

As the Autumn competition at Carlisle was cancelled due to heavy rain, it was played at Tyneside GC on October 14. Our thanks to the committee for coming to the rescue.

The best nett was won by B. Wilson and I. Rourke with a score of 61 on the front nine, putting D. Cuthbertson and C. Parkinson into second place.

The Section would like to thank the following sponsors: Terry Charlton, Greenlay and Bill Thompson.

The result of the final of the Carburetor Trophy were D. Cuthbertson and C. Parkinson, winning against B. Wilson and I. Rourke. Apparently a very good game of golf was played. As there is a lack of competitors playing in this competition we are dropping it from the fixture list and also going back to Spring and Summer competitions only.

The annual match against East Lothian was played at Eyemouth GC on October 6, resulting in the North East retaining the trophy as the match was drawn.

Congratulations are in order for Mark Bowman on his move from Ravensworth GC to Seaton Carew GC, and also to Craig Parkinson, Course Manager at Matfen Hall on his recent marriage.

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

The autumn meeting was held at Nefyn and what a glorious day it was. It was my first visit and I was astounded by the sheer beauty of the place. What a course! Our thanks go to the club for having us, to all the officials, members, and mostly to Pat and his team for the preparation of the course (I wouldn't want to be out there when the wind blows!).

The results were Bert Gross (member), Jeremy Hughes-Major Owen Shield, associate member, Adrian Ellis. Can I take this opportunity to firstly thank Andy Jones, of Major R Owen, for donating the shield at such short notice, and apologies for the misunderstanding and embarrassment caused to all parties after I had left the meeting. Alun Lewis won the Gem Shield for best net.

Can I also thank all the trade who contributed to the day: Aitkens Acorn, ALS, Barenbrug, Bathgate, Major Owen, Maxicrop, Rigby Taylor, Sportsworld, Walker Engineering, and finally our own Jeremy Hughes, who donated a pair of mitts.

The venue of the spring meeting has now changed from Oswestry to Frodsham on Wed. April 5. The autumn meeting will be at Vicars Cross, and Christmas 2000 at Royal Liverpool. Good eh?

At the Northern Region Board meeting attended by myself and Gary Edwards, Ian Holoran informed us that the Cumbria Cup has now been renamed the Whitelaw Bowl and will become a Regional meeting which will be held at Penrith GC either the 6th, 13th or 20th Sept. 2000. I will keep you informed.

The coach for Harrogate will again run on the Wednesday of the BTME, 19th Jan, free to members, £10 for guests. Pick up points are Slaters Abergele Northop College and Cheshire Oaks. Remember, no alcohol!

On Wednesday, January 12 starting at 2.30 at the college we have a lecture on soil and water management. If you weren't at the last one make sure you come this time, and if you did attend, I bet you'll be there again. It was brilliant!

At the Northern Region Meeting Doug Bell revealed the Section membership numbers. Since October '96 our Section's membership has increased by well over 30% and is still on the increase. The nearest to us was the North West with an 11% increase against a regional increase of 6.82% and a total BIGGA increase of 11.78%. So tell your colleagues.

I will take this opportunity to thank Doug Bell for all his work. He has one helluva area to cover, is always available, and has helped me no end - and all this on a part-time basis! Thanks go also to my fellow committee members for all the effort put in to make this THE up and coming Section (we will get it right one day); to all our trade members and sponsors; The Welsh College, especially Graham Wright, the WGU for their initiative and dedication to greenkeeping; and lastly but definitely not least, to you the members for your support. Here's to the next 1000 years. Have a great Christmas and a blinding new year.

Just one final credit, apologies to my old mate, Andy Campbell. We all make mistakes, but remember, worse things happen at sea. See ya.

Dave Goodridge

Sheffield

On November 4 we held our first winter lecture at Rotherham Golf Club, whom I would like to thank once again for letting us use their facilities.

The lecture had a good turnout - although not as many as usual - and was enjoyed by everyone present. Our thanks go to Chris Pye who gave a very interesting lecture on pesticides and their development.

Congratulations go to Paul Neve for

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finishing third in the second round at the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championships and for being part of the winning regional team. Well done Paul!

Our AGM will be held on December 9 at Rotherham Golf Club after our lecture at 2.30 pm. I hope as many people as possible will turn up for the AGM.

Finally, may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Millennium!

J.V. Lav

Midland Region

East Midlands

The 1999 Scotts/Charterhouse National Championship played at Carden Park on attracted nine Section members. Despite some very testing weather conditions the course was well presented by Andy Campbell and his staff, and at least the weather improved for the two days competition. Unfortunately none of our Section were on form with their golf. The best score being 153 from Richard Barker and myself. Our other six members present were Dave Leatherland, Gavin Robson, Ian Needham, Steve Tolley, Lee Hughes, James Tudor & Edward Daubrah. On behalf of all our Section members who attended the tournament I would like to thank Scotts, Charterhouse and Softspikes for their very generous sponsorship.

On October 7 in the Rigby Taylor East Midland v Midland Section golf match held at Copt Heath GC the Section after a hard fought match lost by the narrowest of margins - one point. Losing the morning Greensomes three games to two, we needed six points from the 10 singles matches. Unfortunately we won only three games and halved four. The team for the day consisted of the following members; Alex Hawkes, Jeff Dickinson, Russell Allen, Dave Leatherland, Adi Porter, Ian Needham, Steve Levers, Graham Arnold, Mark Bindley & Gavin Robson. Congratulations should go to our Section Chairman Dave Leatherland who was our only player to win both his matches. I would like to thank Copt Heath GC for courtesy of their fine course and a special thank you to our generous sponsors, Rigby Taylor for organising a great day.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Section to wish Peter Larter our best wishes for the future. Unfortunately, Peter will be leaving the Association at the end of November for another post.

This year's AGM tournament held at Radcliffe-on-Trent on November 3 has only attracted 21 members. We really do need more members to support the events, if we are to remain successful. Also please remember to return your forms before the closing date, as meals

and starting time have to be booked with the golf club. Results and information regarding the AGM itself will appear next month.

Finally I would like to thank all our sponsors for their generous support to the section throughout the year, especially our main sponsors; Spring tournament - E.T. Breakwells, Autumn tournament - Banks Amenity Products, AGM tournament - Vitax Ltd, Christmas tournament - Rigby Taylor, East Midlands v East of England golf match - Chandlers. Also, I would like to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and if you wish to make a new year's resolution, make sure it's to support more of your Section's events.

Antony Bindley - East Midlands Section Secretary.

East of England

The last golf event of the year took place at Rutland County Golf Club. The course was in excellent condition and thanks must go to Chris Squires and his team for making our day very enjoyable.

This year and for many more, the Texas Scramble will be sponsored by Lawn Mower Services, of Lincoln. Thanks to Chris Overtop and Dave Hampshire who have donated the LMS/Textron Shield. Other sponsors on the day were Aitkens, Tower Sports and GreenPride.

The winners of the inaugural Shield were John Scotney, Andy Thomas, Gil Ogden and Duncan Beall with 60.7 total, who all won Textron jackets. Second place went to Graeme MacDonald, George Venables and John Hewson with 61.3 total, who won Textron Umbrellas, and third place went to Barry Anderson, Russ Moody and Peter Fell with 62.1 total. They all won some wine.

"Nearest the pin" prizes went to John Hewson at the 13th and Andy Thomas at the 4th.

Straight after the meal the Section AGM took place and the Committee was unanimously voted in with no changes from last year.

The Order of Merit this year was won by D. Hornsey, of Woodhall Spa, who will receive a BIGGA blazer as his reward.

Forthcoming events are the computer course at Newark and an Education Seminar on 1 December, also at Newark, sponsored by County Crops.

Graeme MacDonald

Midland

The Rigby Taylor Foursomes Knockout final was held at Woburn Golf Club. The winners were Rod Hunter and Alan Roberts who defeated Paul Loffman and Trevor Morris in what I believe to have been a very enjoyable final. Many thanks on behalf of the finalist and the Midland Section to Rigby Taylor for supporting this event.

The other final that has been held recently was the Rite Feed Singles

Knockout. This was held at Stokes Poges Golf Club and was won by Mike Hughes who defeated Rod Hunter in the final. Many thanks to Rite Feed for their continued support of this event.

Back in the October report I gave information on a trip to the newly formed Advantage Seed Houses organised by Andy Smith. This went ahead and proved to be a great success, and on behalf of the Midland Section I would like to thank Andy Smith for organising the trip and Ivan Toon from ALS for the sponsorship of the day.

It just remains for me to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a fruitful New Year, and I will report again in the next millennium! I do hope to see the majority of you at the AGM or at Harrogate in January.

Jonathan Wood



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Mid Anglia

The Lodgeway Four Ball Competition reached its conclusion when the final was played over 36 holes at Woburn G&CC in October. Frank Scullion and Duncan Seiling, of Dunstable Downs GC, were victors over Darren Mugford and Stephen Hesk, of Aldwickbury Park, by a margin of 4 and 3. Our thanks to Woburn for allowing the final to take place and to Steve Mason for organising everything. Also thanks to Chris Rook, of Lodgeway, for sponsoring the event once again.

We were lucky to have a warm dry day for our autumn tournament, played at Knebworth GC, over 18 holes. It was a pleasure to play a wonderfully mature course in superb condition, with a colourful backdrop of autumnal trees. Thanks to Andrew Kennet and all his green staff for their efforts in making the day a memorable one for us all. The full results for the day were as follows: 1. Chris Brook, Chelieford Downs, 39 pts, 2. Paul Greenhalgh, Berkhamstead, 38 pts, 3. Neil Whittaker, Arkly, 37 pts (on a countback).

The Longest Drive was won by Gavin Simkins, of Mount Pleasant GC, and Nearest the Pin by Gerald Bruce, of Berkhamstead. Driving Force Leisure provided the prize table, so thanks to Dave Murphy for supporting the event so well. Sheriff's Amenity provided burgers and sausages by the 10th tee, which I'm sure was appreciated by all players during the break in their round. A final thank you to all other members of the trade for supporting us.

Knebworth Golf Club also accommodated our Annual General Meeting, following the golf and presentations. The following people were elected to serve the Section for the next year: Chairman - Colin Robinson; Secretary/Treasurer - Gerald Bruce; Regional Representative -

Paul Lockett; Handicap Secretary - Neil Whittaker; Match Secretary - Richard Saunders; other committee members - John Wells, Steven Mason, Mark Ellis.

Mark has resigned his post as Vice Chairman, but will continue as an active committee member. John has resigned his position as Treasurer and we welcome his continuing input to the Section.

The Secretary explained the role of the Committee, both at Section and Regional level, and reported that membership is currently at 248. In the Treasurer's absence, he also presented the balance sheet and explained the anticipated costs of golf events for the coming year.

Richard Saunders reported on the golf events of the past year and was pleased to announce Chris Brook as "Golfer of the Year". One motion from the floor was voted on, being the proposal to allow full handicap for competitions played from yellow tees. The motion was carried and will apply to the Summer and Autumn meetings.

Following the success of last year's Open Forum, it is planned to hold another during the winter. We are also planning to arrange a presentation by Mark Hunt, on understanding fertilisers. Watch this space for more details next month.

Finally, I would like to wish Phil Belton, of St. Neots, a speedy recovery from a recent illness.

A Happy Christmas and enjoyable millennium to you all!

Paul Lockett

Berks Bucks & Oxon

October saw the National Championship at Carden Park. Tony French, Lambourn, Ross Wilson, Donnington Grove, Barry Holt, Burford, and Sid Arrowsmith, Frilford Heath, were representing the BB&O. The team score was pretty poor and individual scores were no better. Carden Park took its toll on us and we struggled from the word go.

We shared the hotel with the Japanese Rugby Team who had somehow managed to recruit three Kiwis. Their captain is ex-Kiwi Jamie Joseph. One of the most frightening moments of the three days was when our own Tony French decided to have a go at Joseph for his stamping incident on Kieren Bracken a couple of years ago. Luckily we managed to escape without bruises!

Carden Park was mostly under water when we arrived and Andy Campbell had pumps going everywhere to get rid of the rainwater. The greenstaff did manage to get the Nicklaus Course ready for play on the Tuesday which was a great feat but our golf never really lived up to the designer's intentions. Perhaps whoever qualifies for the Section next year will put up a better show.

The Turkey Trot took place in November at the Lambourn. The results will be in January's edition.

There is still not much feedback for these articles from the Section, so any news would be much appreciated.

Ross Wilson

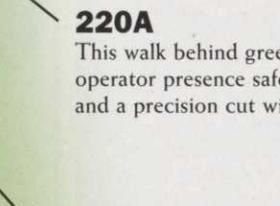
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Essex

In November we would have seen the last big football match of this century with England v Scotland fighting it out for a place in Euro 2000. The highly probable result will be a disaster for our friend Douglas (Mc)Smith, so the next time he pays your course a visit, "do not" mention where will he be spending his holidays this summer.

Now on to more serious matters, our winter golf tournament held at Wanstead GC, kindly sponsored by Gem Professional, with thanks to Richard Haynes.

Despite the strong winds, the weather was mild and the course was in excellent condition, as one would expect with Reg at the helm, and our thanks go to Reg and his staff for preparing the course. We would also like to thank Wanstead GC and their staff for their kind hospitality, and Ray Driver for an excellent meal.

Results: Overall winner: Ray Clark 37 pts, 0-14: 1. John Jackson 34 pts; 2. Matthew Allen 28pts; 3. Steve Crosdale 25pts; 4. Dominic Rodgers 24pts, 15-28: 1. Martin Forrester 32 pts (back 9); 2. Mark Stopps 32 pts; 3. Malcolm Smith 25 pts; 4. Jack Shelton 24 pts, Guest: Steve Thorogood 36 pts, Trade: Andy Church 32 pts, Longest drive: Steve Crosdale (bionic man), Nearest the Pin: John Jackson. Thank you to Greenkeeper Supply Company, Mick, Bill and Liam for the two marvellous prizes, a driver and putter.

Not forgetting the trade, Avoncrop, Bourne Amenity, Does, Driving Force Leisure, Grass Roots, Rigby Taylor and Bishop Brothers for their donations towards the raffle prizes.

Our next golf day is combined with the important AGM at yours truly, "Rochford Hundred", on 15 December. This is your Section so please come along and pass on your view. "We do not bite", promise. Details are in the post, any problems telephone Martin 01245 603131.

On to our new recruits, Perry Lowe, Ilford GC, and Malcolm Jervis, Chelmsford GC. We hope to see you both at one of our functions in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone, golf clubs, trade, guests, Writtle College, Derek, members and committee (and anyone I have forgotten, no offence) for their continuing support in making this section successful. Merry Christmas!

Dave Wells.

East Anglia

Rookery Park GC was the venue for our October meeting sponsored by Rhone Poulenc, with 48 members taking advantage of the glorious sunshine and the above average temperature. The course was in fine condition and had that Autumnal feel, little roll on the ball making each hole play long, and the greens putting on the tricky side. Many thanks must go to John Beamish and his staff for the presentation of the course, and the secretary and committee of Rookery Park for their hospitality. They certainly made everyone more than welcome.

Before the presentation the Club Captain, Mr Goldsmith, welcomed the association in the presence of Mr Rees, the Club President, Mr Fisher, Past Captain, and Mr Kelly, Rookery Park's Secretary.

The overall winner of the Rhone Poulenc sponsored competition, S. Curtis with 39 pts. Results: 1-9 handicap 1. R. Plummer 32, 2. P. Howard 30; 10-18 handicap 1. S. Curtis 39; 2. K. Bunn 35; 3. I. Willet 35; 19-28 handicap 1. J. Wright 34, 2. S. Davidson 30; 3. A. Hollins 26; Nearest the Pin P. Howard; Longest Drive C. Fisher; Toilet Seat M. Taylor (he wore it well!) low score.

Thanks to all the trade for their company and for their help with the prize table: Rhone Poulenc (main sponsor), Ben Burges, CMW Ltd., Colliers, Grass Roots, Rigby Taylor, Rushbrook & Sons, Sisis, Tomlinson Groundcare and Toro UK. Thanks to you all. A belated thanks to Colliers for the prize at the August meeting.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday December 8 at Bungay Golf Club, the format will be as in the past, three man team Texas scramble 1/10 combined handicap. Team entries are fine, all other members will be drawn to decide their playing partners. The golf will be followed by lunch and then the Section's AGM. All members are welcome, and if you do not receive an entry form by early December, do not hesitate to contact Ian Willet on 01728-452759, or me on 01284-725515. The Texas Scramble has shown to be a popular event, so get your entries in early.

Steve Millard

Surrey

Date: Friday 28 October. Venue: Epsom Golf Club, Code Name Royal Epsom, War. England, Code Name Seller's Southerners versus Scotland, code name Russell's Rangers. Weather conditions: dry, sunny spells and freshening wind. Time: 11am the first battle commences. Every eight minutes another four go over the top. Some later, somewhere in the Clubhouse, code name the 19th, concern and anxiety! Some of our golfers are missing.

What devious plan was afoot? Had the Southerners been nobbled. Had the Head Greenkeeper, Code Name Wee Dougie, spiked their cocoa? The next episode of this exciting saga will appear in the January edition of the Dandy but for those unable to contain their impatience, the result was another rare defeat for England, with Scotland four and a half points, England two and a half. Thank you Epsom GC for the courtesy of the course and the catering staff for a delicious meal. Thanks to Dougie Fernie and his team for the excellent condition of the course.

Chipstead Golf Club has had a number of break-ins and the Course Manager, Andy Davey, reminds all Clubs to regularly check their security and insurance. It is very easy to purchase expensive new equipment and then in the event of a claim find that

the club is under insured.

Update on the improvements to Cuddington Golf Club: The irrigation system is almost complete. The construction of all greens is now complete and they should be turfed by the second week in November. All haulage routes and tee banks have been seeded and the whole project has progressed in a smooth and satisfactory manner. For a visit contact Stewart Sheppard.

Brian Willmott



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

South West

Not a lot to report this month except to remind you that there may still be just enough time to book your place for the Christmas tournament taking place at Kingsdown GC on 8 December. The comedian has already been booked for this event, but I can assure that it will not be the same one which appeared a couple of years ago at a previous Christmas tournament.

Congratulations must go to Nobby Knight who finished third in the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championships at Carden Park in October. The South West and South Wales came second overall in the Regional Team Cup concluding an excellent tournament for this Region.

If you would like to go on a training course next year then take note because I have arranged a number of courses and dates to put in your diary.

Firstly we will be running a one day first aid course at the Southern Ambulance Training College in Chippenham on 5 February 2000. The overall cost of the course will be about £44. Incidentally, it may well be worth checking your present certificates because a number of these will expire in February.

I have also arranged a PA2 Tractor mounted spraying course for Thursday 2 March. I will also be running a PA6 Knapsack spraying course on Wednesday 8 March.

All these courses still have spaces that need filling, so if you haven't already put your name on the waiting list, just telephone me on 01249-783382 for more information.

Paul Cunningham

Devon & Cornwall

Seasons greetings to you all.

The Roffeys meeting was our first meeting of the autumn and winter programme which this year was held at Trethorne Golf club on Wednesday 20 October. The day started as usual with golfing members competing for the D O Hunt trophy. Our non golfing members were treated to an excellent guided tour of the course, after an excellent lunch. Joe Turner, of Bernhard & Company, presented our afternoon educational talk covering the subject of

"Keeping your Edge". After Joe's excellent talk, Don Hunt, on the behalf of Roffeys, presented the prizes for the singles Stableford golf competition for the D O Hunt trophy. 1. Mark Tucker, Saunton, 38 pts on back 6; 2. Tony Gooch, Torrington, 38 pts; 3. Harry Robberts, Crediton, 36 pts.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsors, Roffeys and Don Hunt, for their support and to Mike Davey the owner of Trethorne Golf Club for allowing the Section use of his excellent facilities and to all the staff at Trethorne for making the Section so welcome.

Our first meeting in the year 2000 will be held at The Warren Golf Club on Wednesday 26 January sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds. The morning will start with a singles Stableford golf competition with starting times between 8.30am-10am. The usual course walk for non golfers will leave the club house at approximately 10.30 am.

Have you booked your place on the Region's package to BTME 2000, which includes transport, accommodation and entry to the BTME show and seminars. There's only a few places left, so hurry.

Richard Whyman.

South Wales

The sun was shining and a great day was had by all at St Pierre G&CC for the match, S. Wales versus S. West. We shone by winning 4 points to 2. Many thanks to St Pierre for courtesy of the course and to all from BIGGA's West who made the day possible.

The Rigby Taylor Matchplay finals held at Royal Porthcawl GC had considerably better weather than last year. It was great to see a large support following the group which consisted of two teams being Daryll Bray and Leigh Jones who beat Mike Jones & Douge Donne 8 & 7. Despite the large win, both teams battled around the course which was in tip top condition. Well done David Ward and the lads and not forgetting myself of course. Thanks to Rigby Taylor for the prizes and their continued support.

Some movement in the Camp again with Neil Harris from the Royal Porthcawl being appointed First Assistant at Glyn Abbey GC. Kidwelly and Alan Walker becoming Head Greenkeeper at Caerphilly GC.

Our evening lectures beginning on 12 January at Pencoed College with guest speaker Tony Horne giving us an insight into the millennium stadium.

I'll bring you up to date with the gossip at Pyle & Kenfig with the winter tournament/Christmas Dinner in the New Year, so without further ado I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Richard Hatcher



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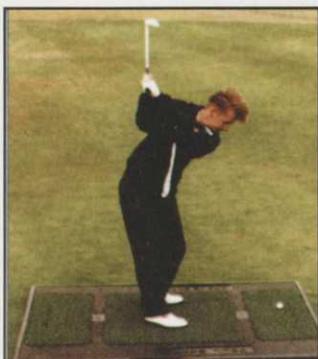
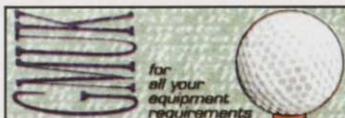
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GREENKEEPER TRAINING

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of colleges offering greenkeeper training courses. This guide shows colleges offering courses to craft, supervisory and management levels, but it must be stated that until the GTC review is completed only the green coded colleges are approved to train greenkeepers beyond craft level. The introduction of vocational qualifications into industries, has

caused the colleges to re-think their training policies and the GTC will be issuing guidelines for the golf greenkeeping industry as to which colleges employers and their staff should be supporting. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeeper Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, Tel: 01347 838640 or visit their website at http://www.the_gtc.co.uk

NORTH



ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE Askham Bryan, York YO23 3FR. Contact: Central Admissions Tel: 01904 772211. National Certificate in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture (Turf Option), Higher National Diploma in Horticulture (Golf Management Option) all available full or part time. Block release courses: NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance, NVQ Level 4 Amenity Horticulture. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.



REASEHEATH COLLEGE Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF. Tel 01270 625131 Fax 01270 625665 E-mail: rheath1@reaseheath.ac.uk. Website: www.reaseheath.ac.uk. Full time First Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 1 year National Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 2 years. BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management - 3 years. Part time: HNC Golf Course Management - Distance Learning NVQ Levels 1-4 Greenkeeping - Day Release, IOG National Intermediate Diploma in Turf Culture - Day Release. IOG National Diploma - Day Release. Short Courses: FEPA Chemical Safety; Safe Lifting; Chainsaws; Off-road Vehicle Driving; First Aid. NVQ2-4 Fastrack and HNC learning available.



EAST DURHAM AND HOUGHALL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Houghall, Durham DH1 3SG. Contact Tony Milan, Tel: 0191 386 1351. Full time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship - 1 year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option - 2/3 years. Part time courses: Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management Level 2 - Day release; NVQ Level 3 Amenity Horticulture - Afternoon-Evening. Short Courses: Health & Safety Legislation; Turfcare; Machinery & Mechanisation. All courses contribute towards NVQ Levels 1 and 2.



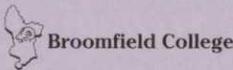
CITY COLLEGE MANCHESTER, Moor Road, Baguley, Manchester M23 9BQ. Contact Martin Webb. Tel: 0161 957 1527. College website <http://www.ccm.ac.uk> Part-time courses leading to NVQ L2 and L3 in Sports Turf Maintenance and Decorative Horticulture. Also RHS General and Diploma, Cert. Arboriculture and FEPA Spraying courses.



MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY. Tel: 01995 642211/642222 Fax: 01995 642333 Email: mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk, www.myerscough.ac.uk. Full time courses BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science; HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management; ND Turf Science & Sportsground Management; NC Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping. Part time courses NVQ Level 2 and 3 Greenkeeping and Sports turf Maintenance (day/block release or fast track work based training qualification) HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management; Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation; FEPA Short Courses. Myerscough Turf Club holds an Annual Conference and Regular Education Seminars.



RODBASTON COLLEGE Rodbaston, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5PH. Contact Nigel Foskett. Tel: 01785 712209. Courses offered: NVQ Level 1,2,3 and 4 by Day Release. FEPA and chainsaw training.



BROOMFIELD COLLEGE Morley, Ilkeston, Derby DE7 6DN. Contact Admissions Officer. Tel: 01332 836600. NVQ Level I and Level II. Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Block Release course. Two years duration presented in 12 one-week blocks following guidelines of GTC Training Manual. NVQ Level III gained by 9 x 3 day blocks or day release or APL service. Also available TDLB, Pesticides, Chainsaw and First Aid Training.



MOULTON COLLEGE, Moulton, Northampton, NN3 7RR Tel 01604 491131 Fax 01604 491127. Full time: BTEC First Diploma in Horticulture - 1 year. BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture - 2 years. National Certificate in Horticulture - 1 year. Part time: NVQ2 Amenity Horticulture with Sports Turf Care. NVQ3 Sports Turf Maintenance. Both NVQs - 1 day per week over 2 years Short Courses: FEPA - 2 days. Chainsaw Operators Certificate - 1 week



DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE, Caythorpe Court, Caythorpe, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG32 3EP. Contact Student Admissions Tel: 01400 272521, Fax 01400 272722. NVQ Levels 2 and 3. Sports Turf Management. National Certificate in Greenkeeping. National Diploma in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. GNVQ Advanced Leisure & Tourism (Golf). Higher National Diploma in Golf and Leisure Management. BSc (Hons) Outdoor Recreation Management (Golf Option). FEPA short courses. Full residential facilities available.



The College of West Anglia offers a range of programmes for Greenkeepers including NVQ Levels I, II and III. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact our Milton Campus on 01223 860701 or Student Support at King's Lynn on 01553 761144 Ext 271



BRINSBURY COLLEGE Brinsbury College, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1DL. Tel: 01798 877400, Fax: 01798 875222, Email: student-services@brinsbury.ac.uk Full-time courses: BTEC National Diploma Landscape Studies (Greenkeeping option), BTEC First Diploma New Entrant Horticulture (Greenkeeping or Landscaping options), City & Guilds National Certificate Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sportsground Management). Part-time courses: NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance (block or day release), NVQ level 2 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance option), Institute of Groundsmanship Intermediate Diploma; plus various short courses, including Chainsaw, Brushcutter/Strimmer, PA1/PA2A/PA6A/PA 9, etc.



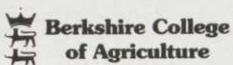
PLUMPTON COLLEGE, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 3AE. Contact: David Blackmur. Tel No: 01273 890454 Full time courses: National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture (options in Landscaping and Sportsturf); National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture; First Diploma in Horticulture. Part-time courses: NVQ Level 1, Level 2 Amenity Horticulture in Decorative, Nursery, Hard Landscape and Sportsturf, Level 3 Amenity in Decorative and Sportsturf, Level 4 Amenity. Also available are RHS General and Diploma and IOG National Technical and National Diploma (Int). Short courses are also available for FEPA spraying and chainsaw courses.



OTLEY COLLEGE Otley College, Otley, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 9EY. Contact Course Enquiries. Tel: 01473 785543. ESF Bursaries may be available for full-time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture, option in Sports Turf Technology. Part time NVQ 2 Golf Greenkeeping and NVQ 2 Groundsmanship, NVQ 3 Sports Turf Management. IOG Intermediate and Final Diplomas (Evenings). NVQ Horticultural Mechanics. FEPA Courses PA1, PA2, PA6. Otley College * Developing individuals * Achieving more.



OAKLANDS COLLEGE Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0JA. Contact Ian Merrick. Tel: 01727 737000 Fax: 01727 737752. Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, Modern Apprenticeships. Evening courses: leading to NVQ Levels 3 and 4. Short courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw, Greenkeeper Mechanics.



BERKSHIRE COLLEGE Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 6QR Tel: 01628 824444 Fax: 01628 824695 e-mail: enquiries@berks-coll-ag.ac.uk website: www.berks-coll-ag.ac.uk Full-time courses: BTEC First & National Diploma, Part-time courses: GTC Manual - NVQ2 and 3 Amenity, Sports Turf (day & block release); Short courses: FEPA Horticultural Machinery, Chainsaws, Greenkeeping for Golfers "Regional Centre for Leisure and Land based Industries & Professions"



WARREN FARM CENTRE is the base for West Oxfordshire College to offer education and training in Green Keeping, Sportsturf, Amenity horticulture and allied land based courses for the whole of Oxfordshire. Courses include:- NVQ Levels 2 & 3 in Sportsturf, Decorative Horticulture and Hard Landscape. We also offer a range of short courses for the Industry including Health & Safety, pesticide training and chainsaw operation. For more information contact either Alan Brown or John Revis on Tel. no: 01865 351794, Fax No. 01865 385931.

MIDLANDS

SOUTH EAST

A GUIDE TO THE COLLEGES AND COURSES AVAILABLE

KEY TO COLOURS

Currently GTC approved at Regional Training Centres, offering courses at Craft, Supervisory and Management levels

Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Supervisory level

Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Craft level only

Not GTC approved

Please note that all the college details published in this guide were supplied by the colleges themselves. Greenkeeper International takes no responsibility for accuracy of information provided. Contact the college directly for prospectuses and comprehensive information.

SOUTH EAST



MERRISTWOOD COLLEGE, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE. Contact D I Rhodes Tel: 01483 884003. Fax: 01483 884001. E-mail: info@merristwood.ac.uk. Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Greenkeeping & Sports Turf Management. Part time courses: NVQ Amenity Horticulture Level 2 and 3 in the work place - we come to you. Institute of Groundsmanship NID night class, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3 (afternoon/evening release). Various short courses throughout the year. Please contact us for up-to-date listings and information. We keep on growing!



HADLOW COLLEGE Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL. Contact Tony Leach Tel: 01732 850551. NVQ Level II and Level III Part-time Day Release with two periods of Block Release or evenings. Level II in Groundsmanship evenings. NVQ Level III Golf Greenkeeping. BTEC First Diploma Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Horticulture (Sports Turf option). Centres at Hadlow, Canterbury, Maidstone and Nottingham.



WRITTLE COLLEGE, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR. Tel: 01245 420705 Fax: 01245 424200 **SPORTSTURF PROGRAMMES** (Contact - Stewart Brown) NVQ Level 2 - Sportsturf: [Options in Greenkeeping (GTC) or Groundsmanship (IOG) NVQ Level 3 - Sportsturf Maintenance. NVQ Level 4 - Amenity Horticulture. HNC - Sportsturf Science. HND - Sportsturf and Golf Course Management. Other Programmes; First Diploma. National Certificate. National Diploma (with Sportsturf Option). BSc (Hons) Horticulture. BSc (Hons) Landscape and Amenity Management. MSc Landscape and Amenity Management. NVQ 2 and 3 Service Engineering. FEPA. Chainsaw. Tractor Driving



SPARSHOLT COLLEGE Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2NF. Contact Ray Broughton. Tel: 01962 776441. NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase IV Management Studies, National Diplomas in Golf Course Management and Golf Studies, GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC: Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FEPA: Short courses, Chainsaws. All courses other than Phase IV are offered on block release. Full residential facilities available. Sparsholt college provides education and training in the land-based industries.



EASTON COLLEGE Norfolk's College of the Countryside. Sportsturf qualifications, Amenity Horticulture and Rural Resource Management. For details contact the registry on 01603 731200. Easton College, Easton, Norwich, Norfolk NR9 5DX Tel: 01603 731200 Fax: 01603 741438



EALING TERTIARY COLLEGE - Norwood Hall School of Horticulture, Norwood Green, Southall, Middlesex UB2 4LA. Contact Declan Gallagher. Tel 0181 231 6295; Fax 0181 571 9479; E-mail declan.gallagher@ealingcoll.ac.uk. Full Time courses National Certificate Sports Ground Management, National Diploma in Sports Ground Management. Part Time courses NVQ Levels 2 & 3 Sports Turf management and Maintenance; IOG Intermediate and National Diploma in Turfculture: FEPA PA1, PA2a, PA6a.

S WEST



CANNINGTON COLLEGE Cannington Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS. Contact Terry Horne: 01278 655083. <http://www.cannington.ac.uk> Email: hornet@cannington.ac.uk BTEC Higher National Diploma in Sports Science (Golf Option). BTEC National Diploma in Sports Science (Golf Studies), Higher National Certificate Golf Course Management, BTEC First Diploma, BTEC National Diploma in Golf Course Management, BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management (inc. European Studies) NVQ Level I and II Golf Greenkeeping, NVQ Level III Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management, NVQ Level IV Greenkeeping Management, FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Off-road Vehicle Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics.



HARTPURY COLLEGE Hartpury House, Gloucester GL19 3BE. Hartpury Marketing Tel: 01452 830065 Fax: 01452 700629. Courses available: First Diploma Horticulture, National Certificate Horticulture, National Diploma Landscaping, First Diploma Greenkeeping, Certificate in Greenkeeping, National Diploma Greenkeeping, National Diploma Golf Studies, Modern Apprenticeships, Route 2 Work. NVQs available in Amenity Horticulture, Commercial Horticulture, Amenity / Turf, Amenity / Sportsturf, Decorative Horticulture, plus RHS General Examination, City & Guilds Certificate in Gardening, TDLB Assessor Awards and a full programme of amateur, leisure and day release courses.

WALES



WELSH COLLEGE OF HORTICULTURE Contact the Registrar, Tel 01352 841000 Email Admin@wcoh.ac.uk Website www@wcoh.ac.uk NVQ Amenity Horticulture Levels 1-4 (Sports Turf Option) Full-time: BTEC Higher National Diploma in Landscape Science (Turf Management option) in conjunction with the University of Glamorgan. BTEC First Diploma in Horticulture (Sports Turf Option), Part-time: Higher National Certificate in Landscape Science (Turf Management option) - day release. Short Courses: FEPA, chainsaw Techniques & Maintenance, First Aid, Health & Safety, ATVs and TDLB Assessor courses



LANGSIDE COLLEGE Glasgow, Rutherglen Campus: Contact Colin S. Urquhart, Tel: 0141 647 6300; fax: 0141 647 5895; e-mail: CURQUHART@perseus.langside.ac.uk Full time and day release courses and programmes from SVQII to HND, Pesticides Training, Risk Assessment, Health and Safety etc., Sportsturf, Horticulture and Ecology.



GOSTA TRAINING LTD., Unit 5E, Clydeway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow G3 8JU Contact Chris Bothwell. Tel: 0141-248-2772. Fax: 0141-248-2453. SVQ II and III also Modern Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture for all options including Sportsturf and GTC Training Manual. Attendance Day /Block release from Nov-March. Short courses including Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Abrasive Wheels, Manual Handling. Consultancy covering Site Risk Audits. Machinery Permit to use, COSHH and Noise Assessment, Health & Safety Policy.



ELMWOOD COLLEGE Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB. Contact Carol Borthwick. Tel: 01334 658974. Fax: 01334 658888 Email: cborthwick@elmwood.ac.uk. Craft Level courses. Full time National Certificate, Block-release, following SVQ Level II and the GTC Training Manual. Six week specialist modular programme (January - February), including Golf Course Construction, Pesticide Application and Plant Protection Procedures. SVQ Level III Block Release and SVQ Level IV coming soon. HNC/HND Golf Course Management available as full-time, block/day release and distance learning. FEPA, COSHH and Health & Safety short courses also.



OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Broxburn, West Lothian, near Edinburgh, EH52 6NH. Contact Steve Miller - Tel: 01506 854387 Fax 01506 853373. HNC in Golf Course Management; full time Certificate in Greenkeeping, Block and Day Release SVQ Level II and III (GTC Manuals) and Modern Apprenticeship. SVQ in Ground Care Machinery, full range of Amenity Horticulture and Landscaping courses at HNC National Certificate and SVQ Level. Short Courses. FEPA, Chainsaw, Forklift.

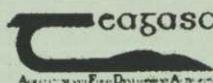
SCOTLAND



GREENMOUNT COLLEGE, Antrim BT41 4PU. Contact Neil McLaughlin Tel: 028 94 426676. Day release courses to (a) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Sports Turf (b) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level III Golf Course Supervision. A range of short courses.



COLAISTE STIOFAIN NAOFA, Tramora Road., Cork, Tel: 021-961029, Fax: 021-961320. Full time course in Greenkeeping leading to National Certificate in Greenkeeping Level III, NCVA and City and Guilds Certificate in Turfculture and Management 0220 - 04. Short term courses in Turfgrass Management, full time National Certificate courses in Amenity Horticulture and Landscaping.



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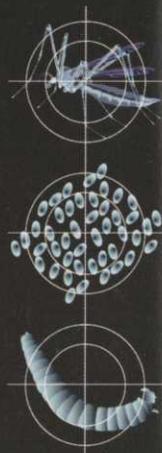


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Dr Stephen Baker, Head of Soils and Sports Surface Science at the STRI, Bingley, takes a retrospective look at one hundred years of research and progress in golf course agronomy

Past masters?



Above: Sowing trials at the Bingley experimental ground in August 1929

Introduction

This is the last issue of *Greenkeeper International* of the century, therefore it is perhaps worth stepping back to consider the progress that has been made in golf course agronomy over the last hundred years. Innovation has come about through many sources. Greenkeepers have been prepared to try new materials and methods and pass their experiences on to colleagues. Universities and research institutes were able to develop a deeper understanding of the

science of soils and turf grasses and to carry out controlled studies on management methods. Similarly grass breeders, the agrochemical industry and manufacturers of maintenance machinery and irrigation systems were able to improve the materials and equipment needed for modern greenkeeping.

The aim of this article is to look at changes in golf course agronomy in Britain over the last one hundred years. I will focus particularly on developments in research as this area

is usually well documented, with information being available from old books and journals.

The modern greenkeeping era probably started during the second half of the nineteenth century as mowing equipment improved and became more widely used. Golfers were no longer reliant on sheep or rabbits to keep closely-cropped turf or on the variable effects of men with scythes. Gradually multiple mowers dragged by tractors began to be introduced, making fairway cutting comparative-

Past masters?

ly rapid and less expensive. Similarly older practices of heavy rolling were replaced by the use of top dressing to maintain surface levels.

However, there were undoubtedly problems on many courses. In parts of the country golf had expanded away from traditional, low-fertility links and heathland soils, blessed with good drainage and fine-leaved fescue and bent grasses. Instead the newer courses tended to be developed on the heavier, more fertile soils of parkland sites. Furthermore, the application of lime and over-abundant amounts of fertiliser, especially after the First World War, had left a legacy of coarse grasses, weeds and earthworm casts.

Early Research

In the USA the need for scientific investigation of greenkeeping problems had been recognised before the end of the last century. Testing and selection of fine turf grasses was carried out by J B Olcott at South Manchester, Connecticut, from 1885 to 1910, under the auspices of the Connecticut Experiment Station. In 1890 turf plots were established at the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station and in 1917 Charles Piper and Russell Oakley published a pioneering book on Turf for Golf Courses, supported by the USGA.

In South Africa Dr C M Murray had carried out work at his own home and on the links of Royal Cape Golf Club from 1904 onwards and had shown that naturally acid soils or those receiving acidifying fertilisers generally favoured better quality turf with fewer weeds.

Research on greenkeeping matters began slightly later in Britain. Norman Hackett had started work on grass selection at Keighley Golf Club in West Yorkshire in the early 1920s and was to play a central role in expanding research on golf course turf. Getting started was not easy and an attempt to get up a research station in 1924 by the Green Committee of the R&A was abandoned because of the lack of financial support. However, the R&A Green Committee continued to work behind the scenes, eventually handing over the project to the Home Unions, whose Joint Advisory Committee was eventually responsible for establishing the Board of

Greenkeeping Research at Bingley in 1929. This was to be the forerunner of the Sports Turf Research Institute.

A fascinating booklet *Guide to the Experiments at St. Ives Research Station* published by the Board of Greenkeeping in the summer of 1931 gives a good indication of research and agronomic issues being addressed. At the time there were 11 main sets of trials plus a stolon nursery occupying a total area of about 350 square metres. The first cutting and rolling on pre-existing pasture turf had started in June 1929 and the first new sowings started in August 1929. A selection of trials underway in 1931 included:

- Response of different grasses to a management programme based on applications every four to six weeks in the growing season of a mixture of three parts ammonium sulphate, one part iron sulphate and 20 parts of compost at 140 grammes per square metre. A wide range of grasses was studied including hard fescue, sheep's fescue, fine leaved fescue, meadow foxtail, sweet vernal grass, wood meadow-grass, crested dogstail, annual meadow-grass and a brown-top bent from Rhode Island in the USA.

- A parallel study considered the effects of different fertiliser regimes on mixtures of these grasses. Fertiliser treatments included compost, nitrate of soda, iron sulphate, ammonium sulphate, superphosphate and lime applied at different combinations at various rates and frequencies.

- Trials on mature pasture turf to monitor species changes in relation to different fertiliser programmes. The range of fertiliser treatments was extended to include organic materials such as Peruvian guano, bone meal, rape meal, dried blood, fish meal, flue dust and sewage sludge.

- A further trial sown in 1930 examined improved strains of fescue and bent materials with Chewing's fescue and bent from New Zealand and a mixture of bentgrasses from South Germany.

- For weed control, one of the original trials from 1929 examined the effect of fertiliser treatments (ammonium sulphate, iron sulphate, superphosphate and potassium sulphate) on ribwort plantain, white clover, yarrow and broad-leaved plantain, with the range of weed species being extended in later years.

- Although there were no specific construction trials for golf, a small bowling green was laid with Cumberland sea-washed turf on a foundation of clinker, ashes and sand and this was top-dressed with either lime-rich sea sand or lime-free pit sand. Similarly, a further trial had Cumberland turf over both silty, sea-marsh soil and the local sandy loam soil.

- Other studies included experiments with lawn sand, work on lead arsenate for earthworm control, and establishment studies using seed and stolons.

Two other trials, established away from the main experimental ground, studied grass species and weeds on very acid moorland soils and work on grasses and weeds on heavily limed, woodland soil. Extension trials on grass selection and fertilisers were also set up on the links soils at Muirfield in Scotland and on heavy soils at Pollock Golf Club near Glasgow.

Financial support for the work of the Board of Greenkeeping Research was initially only guaranteed for five years until the end of December 1933. In the Spring of 1934 the director, R B Dawson, reported on the progress that had been made, while noting that a period of four and a half years was "almost negligible as regards the study of the subject and the experiments so far carried out cannot be regarded as having done more than scratch the surface and reveal its deeper nature below." Dawson was however able to report significant developments in many areas. For grass selection, Chewing's fescue, creeping red fescue and browntop bent had proved to be the best grasses for golf greens. Preliminary work was starting selecting British indigenous strains of the grasses with the intention of building up a stock of plants yielding seed capable of producing turf with improved density, colour, persistency and uniformity. Ultimately, this led to the slender creeping red fescue cultivar 'Dawson' which, at the end of the century, is still used on some courses.

For weed killing, trials using arsenic acid sprays had partial success but spot treatments with this acid proved entirely successful and economical. Trials on materials for earthworm control had been carried out and



Above: Installation of a trial for the R&A on construction, nutrition and irrigation of golf greens on virtually the same area (July 1988)

mowrah meal had been shown to be more effective than perchloride of mercury or copper sulphate. Trials on application rates of lead arsenate were also underway. The research station had also developed the St. Ives Leather Jacket Exterminator, an emulsion of orthodichlorobenzene blended with Jeyes' fluid, which was found to be particularly potent in bringing leatherjackets to the surface. Progress on turfgrass disease appeared to have been less successful. Work had been reported in 1931 from the Welsh Plant Breeding Station at Aberystwyth on the occurrence of *Fusarium* on golf greens in Britain, identifying the pathogens concerned. Only preliminary work on control had been carried out at Bingley with watering with iron sulphate giving partial success. Dawson suggested that the field on fungal diseases of turf remained unexplored and that the best methods of prevention and cure were not understood.

The importance of good drainage was recognised but had not been addressed by experimental work. Similarly, the need for research on mechanical treatments such as raking and hollow forking was mentioned in Dawson's report.

Results from many of the trials are reported in early volumes of the *Journal of the Board of Greenkeeping Research*, along with other papers on

such issues as irrigation of golf greens, the control of rabbits and moles, *Corticium* (red thread) disease and one strangely titled article, "The use of rubber in greenkeeping"! These pre-war studies provided a scientific underpinning of our knowledge of turfgrasses and their management and, as is the case today, advisory staff were able to pass on this information during visits to subscribing clubs.

The Post War Years

In an article of this length, it is clearly impossible to identify all areas of research affecting greenkeeping and I have therefore concentrated on developments in Britain in the first half of the century. After the Second World War the intensity of research in Britain for golf course agronomy appeared to decline, but work continued elsewhere, particularly in the United States. Through the late 1940s and early 1950s, the main issues covered in STRI research papers were the use of selective weed-killers, earthworm control, turf diseases and soil fertility and soil analysis. Especially in the 1960s, comparatively little research work was being carried out at the STRI that was specific to golf, but there were for example studies on the use of chlordane for earthworm control, slow-release fertilisers and the control

of annual meadow-grass.

So far, virtually no mention has been made of golf green construction and with relative low levels of use and less winter play, soil-based greens generally provided acceptable putting surfaces and were in many respects easier to manage. In 1960, the USGA Specification for a Method of Putting Green Construction was first published, and in the last 30 years several laboratory studies and field trials have been carried out in Britain, especially at the STRI and the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, improving our knowledge of sands and amendment materials for root-zone layers.

The move to more sand-dominated rootzones had implications for the management of golf greens. In consequence, in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the R&A funded STRI research on the nutrition of sand-dominated greens and irrigation studies.

Another main development in the last 30 years has been work on turf-grass wear and the development of techniques to evaluate the quality of new grass cultivars developed by plant breeders for use on the golf course. The annual publication of *Turfgrass Seed* by the STRI means that greenkeepers have guidance on the selection of grass cultivars for greens, tees and fairways through

detailed information on wear tolerance, freedom from disease, fineness of leaf, etc.

With improved funding, the amount of research for golf has increased substantially in the last 15 years and other more recent work has included the development of techniques to measure the playing quality of golf greens, work on dry-patch and wetting agents, and currently the R&A is supporting a major project on earthworm control on golf courses. It is perhaps ironic that research efforts should return to an issue that was being addressed in the 1920s and 1930s, but golf course agronomy must respond to many factors, in this case changes in pesticide legislation that have ruled out previously effective management techniques.

Although the amount of information available to the golf greenkeeper has increased enormously over the last 100 years, the example of earthworm control illustrates that there are always new challenges to be faced in relation to patterns of use, players' expectations, pesticide legislation, availability of irrigation water and even climatic change. Next month, we will be into the new millennium and in the January 2000 issue of *Greenkeeper International* I hope to consider current research problems and possible future trends.

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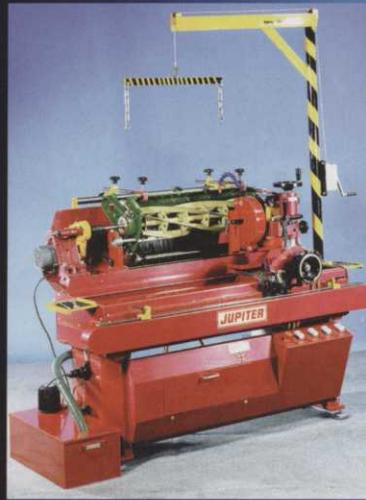
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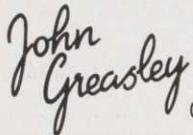


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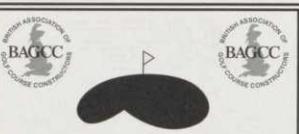


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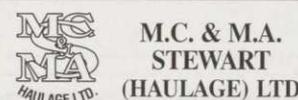
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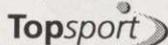
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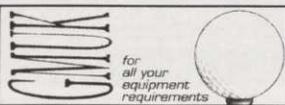
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Feature listing from December '97

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, Ramsdale 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, Golf Course Furniture, Spike Research, Toro profile, BIGGA Silent Auction

August '99: Viscount Whitelaw tribute; Open review; Merrist Wood; Saltex preview; Turf; Trees; Grass Cutting; BIGGA Golf Day review; Redexim profile

September '99: Slaley Hall; Tyres; Spotlight on Thatch; Elmwood College Awards; National Championship preview

October '99: The Manor House, Castle Combe; Aeration; Saltex review; Mycorrhizas; Toro Award preview

November '99: Sir Michael Bonallack interview; The Pines GC; Oil; Bunkers; National Championship review



Into the Millennium



The last month has seen the finals and presentations of the awards for Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping, the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and the Environment Award sponsored by Amazone Ground Care, Grass Roots Trading Company and BIGGA.

The Toro Award finals at Aldwark was a long and nerve racking day for all the finalists. Both competitions were very close but as the saying goes, there can only be one winner on the day and I am sure in Brian Turner and Tommy Givnan we have worthy winners. However, I do feel that the saying only one winner is a bit of a myth because, as I said at the presentations, all the finalists were winners in their own right. They had all won through at regional level and that's no mean achievement, so I would like to congratulate each and every one of them. I would also like to express my thanks to all the judges who once again had the task of marking, adding up and deliberating the final results.

The Environment presentations took place at the Royal Berkshire College, which is very close to the winning golf club, Temple, where Martin Gunn is Course Manager. The judges for the award were Bob Taylor and Jonathan Hart-Woods from the STRI and Dr Keith Duff from English Nature. After the awards presentation and speeches, we were taken to Temple Golf Club for lunch and photo session.

The day included representatives from all the golf clubs who had won through to the final stages - Sandmoor GC, in Leeds,

won a special award which will be presented at a later date.

The competition was started five years ago by Rod Baker of Amazone Ground Care. His enthusiasm remains as strong as ever for environmental issues and the industry as a whole are indebted to him for his continued input and support.

On 27 October Marion and I, along with Neil, Elaine and Pat, our immediate Past Chairman, attended a service of thanksgiving for Viscount Whitelaw in the Guards Chapel at Wellington Barracks, London. It was a very moving and emotional occasion and one we will never forget. It made us even more aware of how lucky we were as greenkeepers to have him as our President and friend for so long.

My next appointment was in Dublin for the GCSAI Show and a chance to meet with our BIGGA boys from Northern Ireland. We had a very productive meeting and agreed to help them to run a conference in late October or November in the year 2000. Later that day we had a chance to further cement our friendship with the Superintendents Association of Ireland in a dinner meeting with Iain Richie and Joe Bedford in the company of Bob Buckingham from Toro. The meeting again was very cordial and can only strengthen the relationship between our two associations. I would like to thank Bob, Iain and Joe for their hospitality.

Over the last few months I have had a lot of criticism from greenkeepers about fellow greenkeepers and the way they maintain their golf courses. While I understand the reasons for some of the comments, it concerns me that as greenkeepers we should not be criticising each other but looking at the reasons why.

I was always a traditional type greenkeeper, but I do understand that in the pressurised modern day golf climate we can be forced to prepare courses which we know deep down we are not acting strictly within the laws of agronomy. The modern golfer and even more so the professionals are dictating how the golf course should play and I agree that is sad, but we should understand the pressures some greenkeepers are under from big business, where play, must go on, no matter what the weather or time of year.

If a greenkeeper is in this situation and wants to keep his job he has to provide what the members and management want - lush green courses all year round.

So how do we change this way of thinking? I believe it must come from the top down. The high officers within golf must try and teach the modern golfer and the pros what real golf courses in Britain should be like and in turn the golfer will have to learn the skills which after all is tradition in our part of the world. If you want to be critical then aim your criticism at the controlling bodies, not at the greenkeeper, for he will know that long term he cannot maintain healthy turf by overfeeding and overwatering just to provide picture postcard looks. I'd like to remind members to read the BIGGA Code of Ethics, which they have agreed to, before criticising others.

My last visit of the month for this magazine was to Scotsturf in Edinburgh where I met up with Tracey, Diane and Steve from HQ and Peter Boyd the Scottish Administrator. Our stand was kept busy with a steady flow of greenkeepers and it was good to see so many new members joining. I enjoyed meeting many old friends and our Vice Chairman Elliott Small was one of the first to arrive on Wednesday morning. A visit to Scotland would not be the same if you did not have a drink with Jimmy Neilson and Cecil George and take in their friendly banter.

The show was well attended and proved to be a good meeting place for Scottish Greenkeepers. However, I did see one from England, Barry Heaney, who was with John Crawford, two Past Chairmen, together and both looked in good form. I would like to thank Peter Boyd who looks after our Scottish members so well and Tracey, Diane and Steve for a very pleasant two days in their company.

By the way, for all the people that have asked about Marion's ponies, they're doing fine.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity of wishing all our members, staff and supporters a joyous Christmas and successful seasons in the year 2000.

Gordon



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