



January 1999 - £3.50

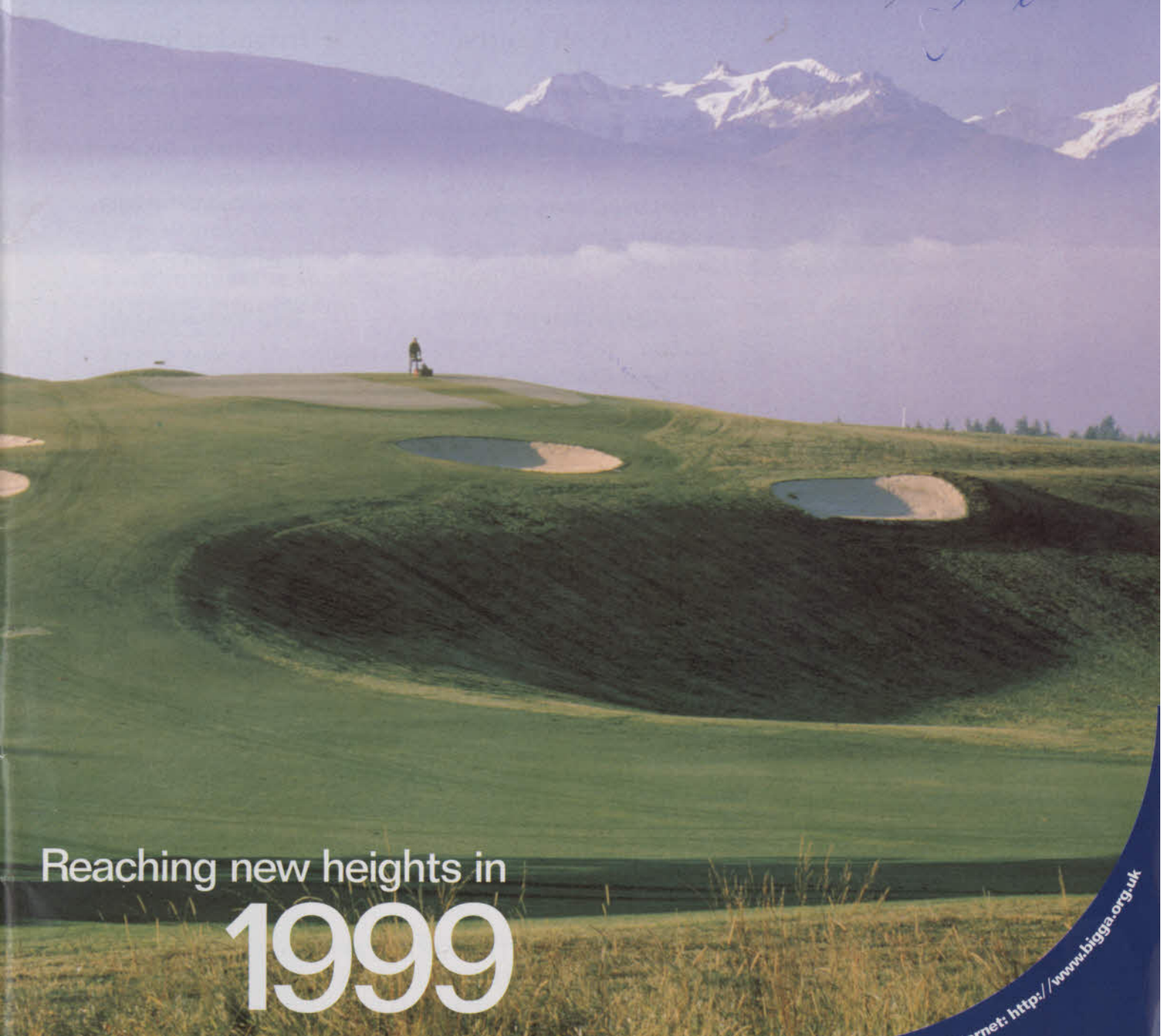
Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



CATALOGUE
INSIDE

SJK



Reaching new heights in
1999



Rain Bird® Golf in the United Kingdom and Ireland



Golf Course

Irrigation System



MAXI® Nimbus™ Central Control System designed for golf course irrigation

Royal Wimbledon Golf Club,
Surrey, England

Royal St George's Golf Club,
Kent, England

Royal Cinque Ports, Kent,
England

Reading Golf Club, Berkshire,
England

Sunningdale Golf Club, Surrey,
England

St. Enedoc Golf Club, Cornwall,
England

Southport & Ainsdale Golf Club,
Merseyside, England

The London Golf Club, Kent,
England

**The Honourable Company of Endinburgh
Golfers**

Muirfield, Scotland

The Belfry - Brabazon & PGA Course,
West Midlands, England

The Wynyard Golf Club, Cleveland,
England

Weymouth Golf Club, Dorset,
England

Woburn Golf Club - Marquess Course,
Buckinghamshire, England

Yeovil Golf Club, Somerset,
England

**Maxi Nimbus Decoder &
Freedom**

**Maxi Nimbus Decoder &
Freedom**

Maxi Nimbus Decoder

Maxi Nimbus Decoder

Maxi Nimbus Decoder

Maxi Nimbus Decoder

**Maxi Nimbus Decoder &
Freedom**

Maxi V - Satellite SBM

**Maxi Nimbus Decoder &
Freedom**

Maxi Nimbus Decoder

Maxi Nimbus Decoder

Maxi Nimbus Decoder

Maxi Nimbus Decoder

Maxi Nimbus Decoder



Rain Bird Europe S.A.R.L.

535, Rue Georges Claude
B.P. 72000
13792 Aix-en-Provence, Cedex 3
FRANCE
Tél.: (33) 4 42 24 44 61
Fax: (33) 4 42 24 24 72

Rain Bird U.K. Office

Phone: (44) 1273. 891. 326
Fax: (44) 1273. 891. 327

Rain Bird. Conserving More than Water.

®Registered Trademark of Rain Bird
Sprinkler Mfg. Corp.

RBE - 99 - GE - 03

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, APPROXIMATELY 40 RAIN BIRD MASTER 3 COMPUTER CONTROL SYSTEMS ARE IN OPERATION IN THE UK AND IRELAND TODAY.



Rain Bird® Golf in the United Kingdom and Ireland



Golf Course

Irrigation System

Rain Bird Golf's mission is to meet or exceed customers' expectations in the worldwide golf market with a long term commitment to profitably provide and support defect-free, environmentally sound, irrigation management products and practices. Among others, the following courses in the UK and Ireland benefit from the reliability of a Rain Bird Maxi computer based control system and Rain Bird sprinklers :

The Eagle™ rotors are designed specially to withstand the rigors of golf course irrigation applications



Ballybunion Golf Club , Co Kerry, Ireland	Maxi Nimbus Decoder & Freedom
Celtic Manor - The Championship Course , Gwent, Wales	Maxi Nimbus Decoder
Coombe Hill Golf Club , Surrey, England	Maxi Nimbus Decoder
Carden Park - The Championship Course , Cheshire, England	Maxi Nimbus Decoder & Freedom
Enmore Park Golf Club , Somerset, England	Maxi Nimbus Decoder
Fota Island Golf Course , Co. Cork, Ireland	Maxi Nimbus Decoder
Forest of Arden Hotel G & C Club , West Midlands, England	Maxi Nimbus Decoder
Farnham Golf Club , Hampshire, England	Maxi Nimbus Decoder
Glen Eagles - King's & Queen's Course , Tayside, Scotland	Maxi Cirrus Decoder & Freedom
Happy Valley Golf Club , Surrey, England	Maxi Nimbus Decoder
Killarney Golf & Fishing Club , Co. Kerry, Ireland	Maxi Nimbus Decoder
Magnolia Golf Club , Oxfordshire, England	Maxi Nimbus Decoder
Merrist Wood Golf Club , Surrey, England	Maxi Nimbus Decoder
Ring of Kerry Golf and Country Club , Co. Kerry, Ireland	Maxi Nimbus Decoder
Richmond Golf Club , Surrey, England	Maxi Cirrus Decoder & Freedom



President
The Rt Hon.
Viscount Whitelaw
K.T., C.H., M.C., D.I.

BIGGA Board of Management
Chairman - Gordon Child
Vice Chairman - Elliott Small
Past Chairman - Patrick Murphy

Board Members
Richard Barker
George Barr
Robin Greaves
Jim Paton
Ian Holoran

Executive Director
Neil Thomas B.A.

Administration Manager
John Pemberton

Education Officer
Ken Richardson

Sales & Marketing Manager
James McEvoy

Membership Services Officer
Tracey Maddison

Contact us

You can contact The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association in any number of ways:

Post: BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF

Tel: 01347 833800

Fax: 01347 833801

E-mail: bigga@btinternet.com

Internet: www.bigga.org.uk

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

Editorial

Editor: Scott MacCallum
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801

Advertising

Sales & Marketing Manager:
James McEvoy

Sales & Marketing Assistants:
Jenny Pantou, Cheryl Broomhead
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802
E-mail: sales.bigga@btinternet.com

Design

Design & Production Editor: David Emery
Tel: 01347 833800 ISDN: 01347 830020

Printing

Hi-Tec Print, Units 9-10, Houghton Road,
North Anston Trading Estate, North
Anston, Sheffield S25 4JJ
Tel: 01909 568533 Fax: 01909 568206
ISDN: 01909 550561

Greenkeeper International:

Winner of Certificate of Merit in Magazine of the Year category, Editing for Industry Awards 1994 and 1995.

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission. Return postage must accompany all materials submitted if return is requested.

No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication.

Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear.

Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £36 per year, Europe and Eire £46. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.

ISSN: 0961-6977

© 1999 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

January 1999

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by February 14, 1999

Regulars

News

Pages 7, 8, 9, 10

8 Assistant Profile

10 Letters

13 The Learning Experience

Spray Away. Keith McKee 'of Scotts' discusses pesticide usage

17 Money Matters

19 Letters

21 Education

Ken Richardson updates you on education matters within the greenkeeping industry

30 Talking Heads

A new bi-monthly feature which this month looks at Temporary Greens

33-38 Around the Green

55 Sand Green Destruction

Sandy McDivot tears his hair out after a battle with Take All Patch

58 Features Listing

Helping you track down some of Greenkeeper International's previous articles

58 As I see it...

National Chairman, Gordon Child, keeps bumping into the McMillan clan

Reader Reply Card

Use our post-paid reader reply card to obtain further information on the products and services advertised in this issue.

January 1999 Greenkeeper International

Advertiser	Ad Ref	Page
AF Trenchers Ltd	203	42
Amenity Technology	431	60
Barenbrug UK Ltd	172	29
Cargills	566	6
Charterhouse	130	34-35
Cleveland Sitesafe	56	41
Clubcar UK	583	21
Eagle Promotions	549	15
Even Products	609	57
Evergreens UK	526	26
Fineturf Agronomy	584	22
Firbank Recycling	611	42
Flowtronex	610	39
Green-Release™	583	11
Greensward Engineering	312	37
Hepworth Minerals Ltd	514	22
Hi-Chem UK	510	18
Irrigation Scotland	283	20
JD Greasley	461	10
John Deere Ltd	103	45
Lely UK Ltd	61	16-17
Marlwood	501	59
Martin Brothers	12	42
Multi-Core	347	42
North Staffs Irrigation	217	41
Rainbird	443	2-3
Sharpes International	453	32
Textron	9	12
Ultra Plant	473	32
Weed Free	504	39
Whitemoss Amenities	606	37
Wiedenmann UK Ltd	326	39

BTME99 brochure

Advertiser	Ad Ref	Page
Allen Power Equipment	126	2
BLEC Landscape	98	29
British Seed Houses Ltd	87	23
Club Car	583	14
Eric Hunter	73	35
FAF	197	22
Fairfield Turf	18	26
Flowtronex	610	25
Greensward Engineering	312	26
Hepworth Minerals Ltd	514	31
Kawasaki	544	31
Lely	61	36
Major Equipment	419	29
Maxicrop	174	4
Ocmis	360	7
Rhône-Poulenc	59	9
Rigby Taylor	127	10
Tarmac	576	26
Tonick Watering	503	24

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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



Golden Key Circle Company Members

Amazone Ground Care, Barenbrug, Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd, Hayter Ltd, Jacobsen E-Z-Go Textron, John Deere Ltd, Kubota UK Ltd, Levington Horticulture Ltd, Scotts Turf & Amenity, Mommersteeg International, Ocmis Irrigation UK Ltd, PGA European Tour, Rainbird, Ransomes, Rhône-Poulenc Amenity, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Supaturf Products Ltd, The Toro Company

Silver Key Circle Company Members

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

BTME is almost here!

Check out your education, conference and exhibitor information with your free BTME catalogue!



58 As I see it...

46 Win £50 in our Buyers' Guide quiz



Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

Beware of these pesky bugs

Cran ear Stone: Photo by Brian Morgan 0141 221 0238



Features

- 23 Tiara. Crowning glory**
English Greenkeeper Paul Davies is now working in Colorado at Tiara Rado and keeping out of the way of lizards!
- 27 Where there's a Will...**
Will Sutherland built Lyshott Heath Golf Club and now masterminds its organically based management practices
- 40 Has the worm turned?**
Dr Steve Baker and Daniel Binns, of the STRI, discuss progress on the worm research
- 43 Putting on the Stylo**
Stylo Matchmaker are the latest Golden Key Company and are about to launch BIGGA's new workwear range



43 Putting on the Stylo



23 Tiara. Crowning glory

I can vividly recall an occasion when I thought about the new millennium - although I don't think we called it that then - and worked out that I would be 38 years old when it arrived. To be quite frank I couldn't envisage being that ancient.

Now we are so close to 2K, as the more trendy have chosen to describe the next thousand years, that we are less than 12 months away.

However, rather than getting ready to celebrate a once in a lifetime experience, much of the talk is of the potential doom and despondency which might be caused by a new threat to mankind.

In Biblical times it was plagues of locusts which caused populations to quake but we've got something different - Millennium Bugs. Although no-one has actually seen one of these creatures I suspect they're a little like Gremlins and, like Gremlins, they are threatening to wreak havoc right across the globe. Then, so rumour has it, they are going to leave just as fast as they arrived, certainly before Rentokil has had time to come up with a deterrent.

We have been told to avoid flying as the clock ticks past midnight on the 31st of December; advised to stock up with food; avoid being in lifts at the crucial moment... the list is endless, because quite frankly no-one really knows what to expect.

After all there isn't anyone still around from the time we last entered a new Millennium to ask.

With the smooth running of so many golf clubs now reliant on computers it is important to discover whether you are Millennium Compliant otherwise you might show up in early January, having shaken off a Millennium Dome-sized hangover, just in time to develop another headache when you discover that all your records and feeding programmes for the year ahead have been lost.

Before all that though we have the final BTME of this Millennium and Harrogate is gearing itself up for the influx of greenkeepers and other familiar faces who provide the mix that makes the week such a memorable one for all who attend.

The signs are all good, pre-registrations are up on last year, the workshops and seminar sessions which make up the Learning Experience, in association with Textron, are full or filling up fast and the quality of speaker attracted to Harrogate is setting new standards of excellence.

One in particular to look out for is well known athletic coach, Frank Dick OBE, who is delivering a free-to-attend speech on Wednesday at 11am. Frank is at the top of the tree when it comes to motivational speaking and we are delighted that he has found time in his busy schedule to attend BTME.

I am certainly going to be there and I'm also looking forward to meeting up with many of you during the course of the week. It'll help take my mind off these horrible bugs.

Happy New Year to you all.

Editor:
Scott MacCallum



THE ENERGY DRINK FOR TURF™

**BTME
STAND
G74**

80% more root mass
than competitor
product

9 fold increase in
mycorrhiza levels

Increases of up to
300% in nutrient
absorption



Blade™ is a totally new generation supplement for your turf, based on the advanced technology of carbohydrate nutrition. Developed by one of the world's largest fertiliser companies, this new technology works by supplying the naturally occurring mycorrhiza in the soil with a readily available source of energy. Blade™ is one of the most cost effective and natural ways of optimising the performance of your turf.

Please consult one of our distributors for details or contact Cargill on Freephone 0800 919187.



AD
REF
566

Blade

CSC AMENITY

NOVOKEM

SHEERWATER
LEISURE

WILLMOT
PERTWEE



Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

More than just a magazine – let Greenkeeper International help you find the right products or services for your golf course – for free! When you see an advertisement which interests you, simply make a note of the Ad Ref number in the panel below, send the card back to us, and we'll pass on your enquiry and more details will be rushed straight to you. It's as easy as that and what's more, it won't even cost you a penny!

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Name

Position

Company/Course

Address

Postcode

Work Tel:

Because we deal with the issues which affect you, you can't afford to miss a single copy of the award-winning Greenkeeper International magazine. Subscription rates are; £36 for 12 issues (Europe £46). All you have to do is tick this box then complete your details above, and post this card back to us. We'll then add your name to our ever-increasing list of satisfied readers.

An invoice will be sent in due course.

See us on the internet: <http://www.bigga.org.uk>

Gi. 1.99

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

MEMBERSHIP REQUEST CARD

If you are employed as a greenkeeper, at college studying greenkeeping, or involved in any way with the fine turf industry, then BIGGA membership could benefit you. To find out more about membership, fill in this card and send it to us today.

Yes, I'm interested in joining BIGGA. Please send me details of:

- Greenkeeper Membership
- Associate/Company Membership
- Student Membership



Name

Mailing address

Postcode

Work Tel:

Golf Club/Company/College

Position at Club/Company/College

Gi. 1.99

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE
Licence No. YO 331

2

Membership
BIGGA HOUSE
Aldwark
Alne
York
YO61 1UF

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE
Licence No. YO 331

2

Subscriptions
BIGGA HOUSE
Aldwark
Alne
York
YO61 1UF

EGU withdraw GTC funding

BIGGA is printing in full a recent Press Release from the English Golf Union which is likely to have wide-ranging effects on the future of greenkeeper training. Following this Press Release, the STRI issued a Press Release outlining its position in this matter and this is also included for readers' information.

**EGU Press Release Dated
November 12**

The English Golf Union's new initiative for Greenkeeper Training

The English Golf Union Executive Committee have endorsed the recommendation of its Golf Course Committee for the future training of golf greenkeepers in England.

The recommendation follows the re-appraisal of the current training and funding programme and will involve the introduction of a dual structure approach to instruction.

The curriculum will be designed to achieve the improvement and maintenance of golf courses through the improved quality of better educated and informed greenkeeping staff. The Union are convinced that this innovative approach will ensure that all of its funding will be specifically directed to the actual training of greenkeepers.

It has been established that the vast majority of junior greenkeeping staff receive their training from their on-course work and through the management and ministrations of their Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper. Support for the Government funded modern apprenticeship scheme is endorsed by the Union who will ensure its continuance by providing administrative support and additional monies where they consider this is appropriate. The English Golf Union recognise that Clubs may wish to

exercise their prerogative to decide whether or not to send trainees to educational institutions.

For senior greenkeeping staff wishing to continue a recognised programme of on-going training and education it is envisaged that a series of lectures will be held at the National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa during the winter period between October and March each year. These lectures will be highly intensive, culminating in an examination and with levels of success being recognised by Certificates of Achievement. It is proposed that the full series of lectures will comprise of around 20 subjects and that the programme will be made available to senior greenkeepers employed at Clubs affiliated to the Union. On behalf of its affiliated Clubs the Union intend to ensure that the funds for training provided by its members are used to the best possible advantage and benefit of the greenkeeping industry.

Support for this initiative from the fine turf industry has been most encouraging as has the endorsement by the Sports Turf Research Institute whose technical expertise, educational and instructional skills will be incorporated within the training syllabus.

The administration of the scheme will be centred at The National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa and an English Golf Union Training Committee will be established to ensure the essential quality of the introduction and maintenance of the syllabus.

**STRI Press Release Dated
November 23**

Greenkeeper Training Committee

STRI has received a number of enquiries regarding its collaboration

with the English Golf Union over new initiatives in greenkeeper training. This coincided with a decision by the English Golf Union to withdraw its support from the Greenkeepers Training Committee. The STRI wishes to make it clear that there is no linkage between these events as far as STRI is concerned. STRI did not know about the English Golf Union decision to withdraw funding from the GTC until after the event. The decision was made by the English Golf Union alone. The STRI has expressed general support for educational initiatives by the English Golf Union, which is one of STRI's founder Members, for the good of the game of golf in England, as it would for the other Home Unions.

It should be noted that the EGU Press Release does not mention the fact that the EGU has written to the Greenkeepers Training Committee to advise that EGU membership of the GTC will cease as of 31 March 1999. Consequently after that date, the EGU will no longer be providing funding towards GTC expenditure in support of greenkeeper training.

Commenting on developments, BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child who represents the Association on the GTC said, "This is a serious matter with considerable implications for the future of greenkeeper training. The GTC has since met and asked for an urgent meeting with the EGU's Golf Course Committee. BIGGA will be closely monitoring the situation but will await the outcome of that meeting and the subsequent deliberations of the GTC before determining its own position on behalf of its members."

Greenkeeper International will continue to follow developments and report further in future issues.

ISO 9001 for Textron

Textron Turf Care & Specialty Products has achieved ISO 9001 Certification for their manufacturing facility at Ipswich in the UK. Spokesman, Kevin Forrest, Quality Manager said 'We are delighted to have achieved ISO 9001 Certification as this is a result of many months of hard work by all departments in the Company and gaining ISO 9001 has considerably improved both employee motivation and commitment to quality. It has resulted in a significant improvement in internal quality standards.'

"Our intention as a business is to be a company that is easy to do business with and ISO 9001 has certainly had a significant part to play in the achievement of this objective."

The Textron Turf Care Group already has two other facilities carrying ISO 9001 Certification. They are the Racine facility and the Johnson Creek manufacturing plant in the USA.

ISO 9002 for Supaturf

Supaturf Products Ltd is celebrating the recent award of the ISO 9002 quality standard.

Supaturf has been a leading force in the industry for 35 years offering innovative products, but can now also claim to be among that small group of suppliers who lead the way in quality of production and service to their customers.

"We regard this award as the start of a new phase of development for Supaturf. Now we don't just think that we do what we say we do, we know we do, and have the system to back us up and the award to prove it. An outstanding result for everybody at Supaturf and good news for our customers" said Marcus Palmer, Managing Director.

Ronnie cleans up at Gleneagles

This year's Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award Scheme winner was Ronnie Lumsden, who, after 23 years working for a life assurance company, chose an altogether different career.

Ronnie moved to Elmwood College to study for a National Certificate in Greenkeeping and an HNC in Golf Course Management. Alongside his Elmwood studies, he also chose to further his passion for golf course design by securing a place on the BIGCA Professional Diploma in Golf Course Architecture at Merrist Wood.

Of his year at Gleneagles, Ronnie said: "The students enjoyed working with the golf course management team at Gleneagles. Everyone put in an amazing amount of work and all the stu-



dents feel that the year has given them an excellent base upon which to launch their course management careers."

The second place position went to Susan Rothwell. Susan arrived at Gleneagles from Myerscough College after deciding to extend her knowledge of turf manage-

ment, following three and a half years managing and maintaining the nine hole golf course at Hoddon Castle Caravan Park. Both Ronnie and Susan were presented with bursary cheques to include a trip to the GCSAA conference and show in Orlando, Florida, next February.

Top post for Catherine

Spaldings has appointed Catherine Locking to the board of Spaldings UK as Sales Director of their Grasscare division.

Catherine joined the division from its start up in 1993 after previously gaining wide experience of the industry with a manufacturer of replacement grass cutting spares and has worked in the industry for over 10 years.

Since start up the division has grown from a standing start in 1993 to become market leader in the replacement grass cutting spares, tools and accessories market by 1998. Supplying many leading grounds maintenance professionals, local authorities and contractors in both the UK and mainland Europe.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Profile

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club.

Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star.



Name: Antony Bindley

Club: Kirby Muxloe

Position: First Assistant

Age: 35

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
Eight years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
None

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
Setting up the course for a big competition

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

5. What job other than green-keeping might you have ended up doing?
Groundsperson/gardener

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
Richard Barker, Head Greenkeeper at Kirby Muxloe

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
Improve relations between the greenkeeper and the members

8. What are your hobbies?
Golf, cricket and fishing

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
Friendship and education

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
Still enjoying life

Curse of big name designers

You wouldn't be too thrilled if your airline pilot announced that it was his debut flight or your surgeon told you that it was the first time he had performed the particular operation that had resulted in you being flat on your back in theatre.

That was the analogy used by golf course architect, David Williams, when he bemoaned the fact that big name golfer/designers had their first work trumpeted by the press and media.

He was delivering a paper at the biennial British Institute of Golf Course Architects Conference sponsored by Barenbrug, Toro and Club Car at The Wentworth Club.

David continued by saying that people wouldn't have too much faith in the new Ford if you knew it was designed by Damon Hill or Nigel Mansell but that we are happy for a top golfer to design a golf course.

On the other side of the coin David, who has designed a number of 18 hole courses including Merrist Wood and Reigate Hill, said that during the last Open Championship there was much praise on the BBC for the redesigned and reconstructed greens but now once was Martin Hawtree mentioned.

"The media is not interested unless it is a big name," said David.

He added that it was different in



America where club golfers regularly knew who had designed particular courses and they could discuss the various styles of Robert Trent Jones, Pete Dye and Tom Fazio.

David Williams also talked about the fashion of inflating the cost of particular projects in the press which lured the public into thinking that the more spent the better the course.

He urged the media to name the architect in reviews of golf courses, if it was a big name to ask who was the real architect also to ask the cost of construction.

Among the other speakers at the one-day conference was Bob Taylor and Mike Canaway of the STRI; architect Peter Harradine; Jimmy Kidd of Gleneagles Golf Developments; Parker Smith, of Sports Opportunity; David Clarke, of Golf World; Trevor Homer, of the Golf Foundation, and David Wright, of the PGA.

The day before the Seminar the West Course hosted the traditional golf tournament and this was won by Calum Todd and Parker Smith. Bob Buckingham, of Toro, presented the prizes.

New team recruited at Barenbrug



Paul Johnson has been promoted to Managing Director of Barenbrug UK, following in the footsteps of Michel Mulder, who has been handed the task of running Barenbrug's North American division.

Paul was previously in charge of the agricultural side of the Barenbrug UK but his love and golfing ability should make him ideally suited to his new role.

Alan Lomas has joined the Bury St Edmunds-based company as Sales And Marketing Manager. His depth of experience is seen as a great asset to the grass seed company's continued growth.

After graduation, Alan's working life began in the Middle East, principally Saudi Arabia. On his return to the UK, Alan joined Fisons Horticulture Division and remained with the company during its transition, in 1994, to Levington Horticulture. He subse-

quently became Export Manager, responsible for several new product releases.

Despite extensive experience in turf-care, Alan's golf is at beginner's level and he will look to his new colleagues at Barenbrug for handy tips. Not surprisingly green-fingered considering his pedigree, Alan is also a keen walker and cinema-goer.

Darren Wilding is Barenbrug's new Area Manager for South Wales and southern England. A Turfgrass Science graduate of Myerscough College, he joins the company from Amenity Land Services, where he was a Technical Sales Advisor.

Darren has also had two spells at The Royal Lytham and St Anne's Golf Club. Before college there was three years part-time work for the Senior Tour; after, Darren spent a year as full-time greenkeeper, helping to prepare the course for the Open.

Southern dealership for John Deere

Bristol based BS Mowers has been appointed to sell John Deere's full range of professional and golf and turf equipment to golf clubs, local authorities and contractors in Bristol, Bath, north west and north east Somerset, south Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.



New 1999 Golf Championship

Eco-Unit for STRI



The Charterhouse/Scotts Golf Championship is an exciting new event open to all members of the Association the final of which will be played at Carden Park Hotel Golf Resort and Spa, near Chester on 3 to 5 October.

The overall winner will receive the coveted BIGGA Challenge Trophy while there will also be a Regional trophy competed for by the Section qualifiers in each Region.

The agreement was finally struck at The Reform Club in London's Pall Mall between David Jenkins, of Redexim Charterhouse, Richard Minton, of Scotts Turf and Amenity, and Neil Thomas, of BIGGA.

To ensure the event is representative of the Association nationally, the winning gross and net players from each of BIGGA's 28 Section Spring Outings will win a free place in the final, which will include accommodation, meals and golf fees. Places are also available to anyone wishing to pay an entry fee of £95 which will

include accommodation at the four star Carden Park Hotel, meals and golf fees

Neil Thomas said, "The Association is delighted that it once again has a high profile golf tournament for its members. Charterhouse and Scotts are both Golden Key sponsors and long term supporters of the Association and we look forward to working closely with two such well established companies."

BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, commented, "This will be a festival of golf played among members of the Association from far afield at a venue fit to host such a prestigious event."

Richard Minton, who was involved for many years with the Association's National Tournament, said, "Scotts are delighted to be sponsoring this Championship. BIGGA has needed an event that brings together the best players in the Association to play for the ultimate prize of being the Association's Champion golfer."

David Jenkins, Managing Director

of Charterhouse, said, "Charterhouse view this as a wonderful opportunity to support the Association and receive national coverage in the most positive light. We look forward to meeting greenkeepers at Section events as well as at Carden Park."

Carden Park recently opened The Nicklaus course to complement its already well established Cheshire Course and the venue, magnificently managed by Master Greenkeeper Andy Campbell, is one of an increasing number of British courses which has gone "spikeless". This fits nicely with BIGGA's other supporting sponsor for the Tournament, Softspikes, who will be providing cleats to all of the players playing in the final and offering their services at the qualifying section events as required.

The Championship will be launched officially at BTME 99.

Further details are available on request from the tournament administrator who will be Sarah Sowerby at BIGGA HOUSE, tel: 01347 833800.

STRI have established an Ecology Research Unit in response to the growing need for research into areas where sports and amenity turf science and golf in particular overlap with ecological interests.

The new unit will form part of the Turfgrass Biology and Environmental Science Division led by Dr Andy Newell. STRI's senior Ecologist, Bob Taylor will act as consultant and a member of the cultivar research team, Jonathan Hart-Wood, will be responsible for the day to day running of the unit as Research Co-ordinator.

Current projects being undertaken by the new unit include an ecological lawn research study for DLF Trifolium (Danish Plant Breeding), which is monitoring the effects of clover on the appearance and persistence of grass species managed for low input lawn uses.

Also, scheduled will be a study of heather on UK golf courses. Emphasis will be given to evaluating the distribution of heather and golfers perceptions to heather as a feature or hazard on golf courses. Management practices will also be investigated. This major project is being funded by the R&A. Golf Clubs wishing to be included should contact Jonathan Hart-Woods, Research Co-ordinator for the new Ecology Research Unit.

Jonathan Hart-Woods has taken over the new role of Research Co-ordinator for STRI's new Ecology Research Unit. Jonathan will be responsible for the day to day running and co-ordination of the new unit.

Jonathan joined STRI in April 1996 as a research officer for the Cultivar Evaluation programme. However more recently his enthusiasm and interest in natural science have involved him working more closely with Bob Taylor in STRI's Ecology Section.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



Colour blind apology

Despite what it may have appeared from the college listings which appeared in last month's issue of Greenkeeper International we would like to point out that Merrist Wood is a GTC approved college.

Unfortunately the Surrey College appeared in the wrong colour, and we can assure all potential students that the College is GTC approved to offer Craft, Supervisory and Management Levels.

We apologise to the College for any embarrassment caused by the error.

South West/ South Wales seminar success

Over 120 people attended the South West and South Wales Regional Seminar at Cannington College sponsored by Roffey Bros and Supaturf recently.

The speakers included Ian McMillan, of Hankley Common, who spoke on his year of achievement in '97; John Mullins, of Supaturf, who delivered a paper of water management; Tony Rees, on Health and Safety; Phil Greenway, of Roffeys, spoke on top dressings while Dave Phillips gave a talk on seed selection and its implications. Frank Newberry gave an inspirational talk and workshop on "Making the committee work for you".

The day was chaired by Ivor Scoones.

Honours for Brian Gilbert

At the December meeting of the Board of Management members were informed of Brian Gilbert's decision to step down as a Guardian of the Association. Mr Gilbert has served on the BIGGA Board of Management as the R&A representative, and provided advice and guidance to BIGGA on finance and administration matters, since 1990. BIGGA's Constitution enables the Board of Management to award Honorary Membership to any person recognised as having contributed in an outstanding manner to the Association or profession. The Board of Management has

therefore awarded only the third Honorary Membership in BIGGA's history to Mr Gilbert, following awards to Viscount Whitelaw and Mr Jim Fry.

Neil Thomas, BIGGA's Executive Director commented: "This is a much merited award. Brian's advice on many aspects of BIGGA's affairs and development has been instrumental in the progress we have made as an Association.

"It has always been given in his quiet, unobtrusive manner and he has gained the respect of all who have consulted with him on BIGGA matters.

"He has been BIGGA's link with the R&A and the excellent relationship between the two bodies owes much to his influence. He has been a guiding light in the financing and building of BIGGA HOUSE and his decision to step down comes at a time when this major project has come to fruition.

"At a personal level he has been a great help to me with his business and financial expertise which has greatly advanced the Association.

"I am delighted with this award to a most deserving recipient," said Neil.

A BIGGA Building Fund thank you

BIGGA would like to take this final opportunity to thank the many golf clubs who contributed to the Association's Building Fund.

Abbeylea GC	Cawder GC	Frilford Heath	Lees Hall GC	Old Fold Manor GC	Royston GC	Tenterden GC	West Sussex GC
Addington Palace GC	Chestfield GC	Gerrards Cross GC	Letchworth GC	Penrith GC	Rugby GC	The Wisley GC	Whitchurch (Cardiff) GC
Alton GC	Chigwell GC	Glenbervie GC	Lincoln GC	Peterborough Milton GC	Sandy Lodge GC	Thorpe GC	Whitley Bay GC
Alwoodley GC	Childwall GC	Goodwood GC	Lindrick GC	Plassey GC	Scarcroft GC	Tidworth Garrison GC	Whittington Heath GC
Arcot Hall GC	Chipping Norton	Goring & Streatley GC	Little Aston GC	Pleasington GC	Seacroft GC	Tulliallan GC	Willingdon GC
Army GC	Chorlton-Cum-Hardy GC	Haberley GC	Littlestone GC	Pollok GC	Seaton Carew GC	Turnberry GC	Woburn
Ashton-in-Makerfield GC	Churston GC	Hags Castle GC	Loch Lomond GC	Potters Bar GC	Sedburgh GC	Tynemouth GC	Woking GC
Baldon GC	Clitheroe GC	Halifax GC	Long Ashton GC	Purley Downs GC	Sheringham GC	Tyrrells Wood GC	Woodbridge GC
Banchory GC	Conwy GC	Hallamshire GC	Longniddry GC	Puttenham GC	Sherwood Forest GC	Uttoxeter GC	Worcestershire GC
Beaconsfield GC	Cooden Beach GC	Haltwhistle GC	Macclesfield GC	Pyle and Kenfig GC	Shipleigh GC	Verulam GC	Worksop GC
Bedale GC	Coombe Hill GC	Ham Manor GC	Malone GC	Ranfurly Castle GC	Sitwell Park GC	Wakefield GC	Wortley GC
Beeston Fields GC	Coombe Wood GC	Hampshire, Isle of	Manchester GC	Ravelston GC	Skipton GC	Walmley GC	York GC
Berkhamsted	Copt Heath GC	Wight & Channel	Mapperley GC	Ravensworth GC	Sleaford GC	Walsall GC	
Bingley St Ives GC	Cotswold Hills GC	Islands Golf Union	Masham GC	Reigate Heath GC	Sonning GC	Walton Heath GC	
Birchwood GC	Coventry Hearsall GC	Hampstead GC	Maxstoke Park GC	Ringway GC	Southport & Ainsdale GC	Wentworth GC	
Bishops Stortford GC	Coxmoor GC	Handsworth GC	Meltham GC	Roehampton GC	Spalding GC	West Byfleet GC	
Blackmoor	Cradoc GC	Hankley Common GC	Mendip GC	Romsey GC	St Andrews	West Derby GC	
Blackwood GC	Croham Hurst GC	Harpden GC	Merrist Wood GC	Ross-on-Wye GC	St Austell GC	West End Halifax	
Blyth GC	Crompton & Royton GC	Hawkstone Park GC	Moffat GC	Royal Ashdown	St Bees GC	West Essex GC	
Brancepeth Castle GC	Denbigh GC	Haywards Heath GC	Moor Hall GC	Forest GC	St Enodoc GC	West Hill GC	
Bristol & Clifton GC	Doncaster GC	Henley GC	Moorstown GC	Royal Birkdale GC	Stafford Castle GC		
Brokenhurst Manor GC	Dore & Totley GC	Heswall GC	Moray GC	Royal Burgess Golf Society	Stand GC		
Bromborough GC	Drayton Park GC	Hickleton GC	Mullion GC	Royal Cinque Ports GC	Stanmore GC		
Brookmans Park GC	Dunfermline GC	Hillside GC	Murrayfield GC	Royal Guernsey GC	Stanton on the Wolds GC		
Bungay & Waveney Valley GC	Dyke GC	Hindhead GC	Newbury & Crookham GC	Royal Jersey GC	Stocksfield		
Burford GC	Eastwood GC	Huddersfield GC	Newcastle-Under-Lyme GC	Royal Liverpool GC	Sundridge Park GC		
Burhill Golf Centres	Edenmore GC	Ipswich GC	Normanby Hall GC	Royal Mid-Surrey GC	Sunningdale GC		
Burnham Beeches GC	Enfield GC	John O'Gaunt GC	North Hants GC	Royal St Georges GC	Sutton Coldfield		
Bury St Edmunds GC	Epsom GC	Kilmarnock (Barassie) GC	North Oxford GC	Royal Musselburgh GC	Swinley Forest GC		
Bush Hill Park GC	Erewash Valley GC	Kirby Muxloe GC	North Wilts GC	Royal Porthcawl GC	Tain GC		
Canterbury GC	Fairhaven GC	Knole Park GC	Northenden GC	Royal Portrush GC	Tandridge GC		
Cardigan GC	Fereneze GC	Knowle GC	Northumberland GC	Royal West Norfolk GC	Taunton & Pickeridge GC		
Cathcart Castle GC	Fishwick Hall GC	Knutsford GC		Royal Wimbledon GC	Temple GC		
	Flamborough Head GC				Tenby Golf GC		



JOHN GREASLEY LIMITED

1154 MELTON ROAD • "ASHFIELD HOUSE" • SYSTON • LEICESTER • LE7 2HB

John Greasley

SPECIALISTS IN • GOLF COURSE • CONSTRUCTION •
ROYAL BIRKDALE • RUDDING PARK • GOG MAGOG • DEESIDE • SPRINGS

Telephone: 0116 269 6766

Mobile: 0836 553899

Fax: 0116 269 6866



Less pressure, more action

Trelleborg is a world leader in the manufacture and supply of specialist low ground pressure tyres and matching rims for farm, forestry and industrial applications.

The company is now striving to achieve similar status within the turf and grounds maintenance industry where interest in wide, low ground pressure tyres is growing rapidly, reflecting the demand for surfaces of a consistently high standard to be provided throughout the year.

Recognising that prevention is always better and more cost-effective than the cure, those charged with looking after golf courses, sports grounds, stadia, parks, gardens and recreation areas are increasingly specifying purpose-designed wide section tyres for their tractors, trailers and wheeled equipment.

By spreading the load across a greater contact area, wide, low profile tyres exert far less downforce on the turf than standard tyres, reducing the risk of marking the surface and compacting the soil structure below. The benefits to the turf include improved movement of oxygen and water, better root growth and a reduced need for costly remedial action.

ADVANTAGE

There is another advantage to wide tyres. Having a greater internal volume than a standard tyre they hold more air and can be inflated to lower pressures to support the same weight.

This has an important bearing on tyre life. The higher the inflation pressure, the greater are the forces on the tyre and the shorter will be its life. This is particularly noticeable on standard tyres engaged on a large amount of road work.

The first extra-wide low ground pressure tyres used within the grounds and turf maintenance industry were developed initially for forestry and agriculture.

As demand has increased from turf professionals, so Trelleborg has responded by developing tyres which combine a wide contact area with high durability, and have tread patterns which deliver superb grip without damaging valuable turf (see back page for more details).

Growing end-user demand for specialist wide tyres has been recognised also by tractor and equipment suppliers, with many now specifying Trelleborgs as their preferred fitting on machines used for turf and grounds care.

So, why do they select Trelleborg? To the right are comments from four leading suppliers of turf machinery.



“Trelleborg tyres provide the capacity to maintain a consistently high mowing performance across all turf areas in all conditions. They ensure that the mower always has sufficient grip to work successfully and safely across flat or sloping ground in dry or damp conditions without marking of the turf. They are also hard wearing, making them ideal for use on and off road.”

Hayter

“To ensure optimum efficiency and minimal turf impact, tractors and associated grounds care machinery need to be fitted with tyres capable of handling the widest possible range of conditions and applications. For these reasons, John Deere UK has appointed Trelleborg as its official supplier of turf tyres. We can recommend Trelleborg tyres without reservation to all turf professionals.”

John Deere



“We fit Trelleborg tyres to the TM11 trailed vacuum collector because they enable the machine to keep working in most conditions without marking. An important application for the TM11 is on turf farms where it is used to collect and remove grass clippings. It is most important that the vacuum leaves no wheel marks. By fitting Trelleborgs, that requirement is virtually guaranteed.”

Turfmech Machinery

“Greenkeepers and groundstaff want grass-cutting equipment that performs effectively, reliably and economically without causing worries about turf damage or compaction. That is why we work closely with Trelleborg to ensure that our mowers are shod with the most effective tyres for the job and the conditions. They take pressure off turf and provide excellent grip without marking.”

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products



Spreading the load helps extend working season

Fitting Trelleborg tyres to all principal wheeled machinery has given White Horse Contractors the ability to continue working all-year-round on golf course, sportsfield and amenity construction and drainage projects throughout Britain.

Previously, the company's operating season normally ran from April to late October when the onset of wetter, colder weather prevented equipment from working comfortably on turf.

Philip Matchwick. "It gives good grip on muddy tracks and roads yet has minimum impact on fine turf. It used to be virtually impossible to take a backacter loader onto a golf course when the weather turned wet. Now, the JCBs can move to wherever they are needed and the greenkeepers rarely bat an eyelid."

To emphasise the importance of Trelleborg tyres within White Horse Contractors' operations, Philip said that the company has



Despite soft conditions underfoot, drainage works continue thanks to the fitting of Trelleborgs on all wheeled equipment.

"Conditions simply made it impossible for normal tyres to move across finer turf areas without causing damage," explained plant manager, Philip Matchwick. "The use of wide, low ground pressure Trelleborgs has transformed operations. Although there are still times when it is too wet or frosty to risk driving on turf, the tyres have extended the season significantly, enabling our drainage and construction teams to remain on site for more of the year. This has boosted cost efficiency and allowed contracts to be completed faster and more effectively."

First fitted in the early 1990s by White Horse Contractors to JCB dump trucks used on wetland projects and for lake and reservoir construction, Trelleborg tyres have been introduced steadily over the past seven years to other machines in the company's fleet.

Today, Trelleborg TWIN 404 tyres are fitted to three JCB 2CX backacter loaders, two Thwaites dumpers and three purpose-built self-propelled sand and gravel hoppers.

"We find this tyre ideal for all our applications," commented

bought a spare set of rims complete with TWIN 404 tyres. These are kept ready for fitting to any hired-in dumper which might be required on a sportsfield or golf course project.

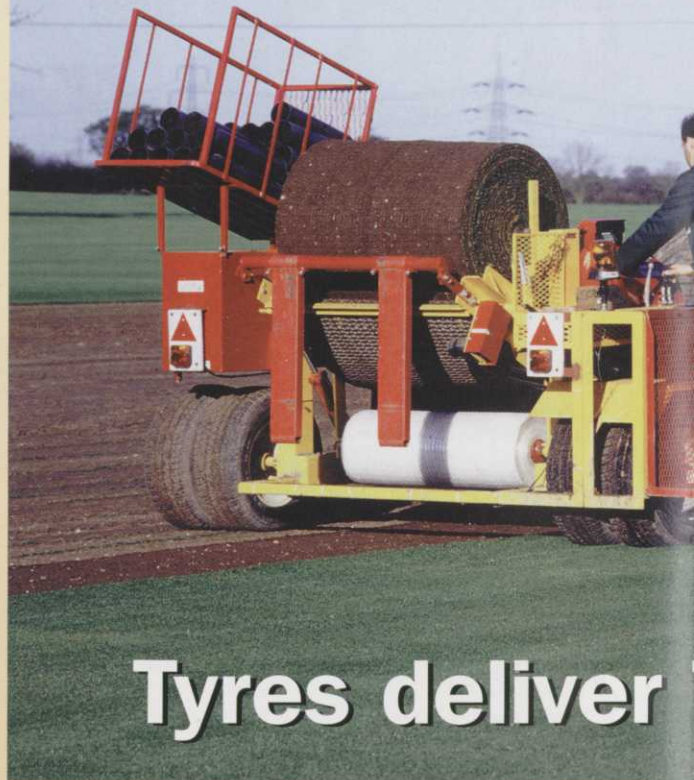
"It is important that all of our equipment is able to move freely on turf without marking or damage. Trelleborgs give us that capacity in virtually all conditions."



pitch reconstruction and installation of under-soil heating and drainage systems for a number of well-known Premier and 1st Division football clubs.

Hewitt Sportsturf also provides a full range of related services including sand slitting, overseeding, fertilising, top dressing, verti-draining, turf aeration and weed control - all tasks which demand a sure, yet light tread. The MF6130 two-wheel drive tractor shown at work above left is fitted with Trelleborg TWIN 404 tyres at the rear and TWIN 443 tyres on the front.

Now fitted to more than half of Rolawn's tractor fleet, Trelleborg tyres have proved ideal for jobs ranging from turf harvesting to seedbed cultivation.



Tyres deliver

Europe's largest producer of quality cultivated turf runs one of the biggest fleets of Trelleborg-equipped tractors in Britain.

In 1982, Rolawn used five tractors fitted with a variety of grassland and agricultural tyres on its turf farms. These tyres needed to be interchanged regularly to suit the different field operations within the turf production cycle.

Today, with some 2,000 acres in production at any one time, the company runs 50 tractors, of which approximately 30 are equipped with Trelleborg TWIN 404 tyres.

"This specific design combines low ground pressure with excellent grip, enabling tractors to be used successfully for

On top, on turf

Trelleborg low ground pressure tyres have been fitted to tractors used by Hewitt Sportsturf for sportsground construction, drainage, renovation and maintenance for almost 20 years.

Currently, the company runs 14 MF tractors in the 80 to 90hp class, the majority of which are fitted with Trelleborgs front and rear to minimise turf compaction and the risk of marking or damage to fine sports turf.

Among the major projects undertaken by Hewitt Sportsturf, which is based at Cosby, near Leicester, are



TWIN benefits

turf harvesting, mowing or cultivating without needing their tyres changed," commented Rolawn's general farm manager, Guy Barrett. "As a result, we are saving valuable time and maintaining production continuity."

Founded in 1975 and based at Elvington, near York, Rolawn is a family business which has become the largest and best-known turf supplier in Britain, if not Europe. The company currently produces five principal turf grades which are supplied from a nation-wide depot network to landscape architects and contractors, the golf course industry, local authorities, construction firms and home owners, either collected by customers or delivered direct to site.

The company's introduction to Trelleborg tyres followed a recommendation by a local tyre agent who said that they were the best in the industry.

Having taken the decision to switch to Trelleborgs, Guy Barrett said usage had increased steadily as the tractor fleet had expanded, mirroring the growth in the turf acreage being produced by Rolawn in the Vale of York.

"Wide low ground pressure tyres minimise turf damage and wheel markings, enabling production and harvesting to continue all-year-round to meet rising customer demand," commented Mr Barrett. "However, we also need good grip for operations such as ploughing and cultivating. Trelleborg TWIN 404 tyres give us that dual capability, allowing tractors to move straight from one job to another without stopping."

"Although the tyre may cost more, we have been very impressed with its durability and long life. They are an integral and important part of Rolawn's turf-growing operations."

Staying the course

Ask Gil Gilford, head groundsman at Ascot Racecourse, what he thinks about Trelleborg low ground pressure tyres and his response is immediate: "I wouldn't buy a tractor without them for use on a racecourse."

And his reasons? "They're long lasting, they stay on top of the ground and they allow work to continue for 52 weeks of the year without marking," he says. "There are very few occasions when the conditions are too wet or too soft for a tractor on Trelleborgs. In my opinion, they're essential on any tractor which needs to work on fine turf throughout the year."

Gil has been responsible for the whole of Ascot's outside estate since March 1996. The total area is around 300 acres and includes the world-renowned racecourse, the paddock and 200 stables, an 18 hole golf course, cricket ground and associated buildings, fences and roads. He has a team of 14 groundstaff to help look after the racecourse, plus three golf greenkeepers and a stable manager.

Racing takes place at Ascot from January to December. In 1998, the course hosted nine National Hunt and 15 flat meetings. The big week of the year - Royal Ascot - sees five continuous days of racing in mid June.

"Even then we can't guarantee the weather," commented Gil. "Coaches have been known to

become stuck in wet ground and that is one of the reasons I specified 95hp Renault Cergos tractors fitted with Trelleborg tyres when replacing our two main tractors in March 1998. You need plenty of power and grip when shifting a coach. We used to hire-in tractors for the job, but they had standard tyres which made quite a mess. No such problem with Trelleborgs."

Towing aside, the Renaults are used for virtually all of the maintenance work carried out on Ascot's flat, hurdle and steeplechase courses, which are laid out alongside one other, each measuring around a mile and six furlongs.

"In the summer months, we are mowing most days," explained Gil. "The tractors are used also for verti-draining, fertiliser spreading and for ring-rolling the race course after a meeting, helping firm back divots."

"Our policy now is to use the Renaults for every maintenance job which involves driving on turf. Quite simply, the Trelleborg tyres ensure that the tractors can keep working without damaging or marking the course, essential if we are to present a consistently firm, level and even surface for racing."

Below: Trelleborg TWIN 404 tyres keep big tractors on top of the course, even in soft going.





Trelleborg's new Industrial T459 tractor tyre is equally suited to work on grass or on the road.



Good on road and good on turf

Guildford Borough Council's Ground Maintenance Services division was the first contract organisation in Britain to invest in a full set of Trelleborg's newly-introduced industrial tractor tyres with their distinctive T459 tread pattern.

Specified by division manager, Chris Bruce, the tyres are fitted to a 75hp Ford New Holland 5635 tractor which is used for jobs such as flail mowing, trailer hauling, leaf collecting and side-arm flail cutting of

verges and ditches.

"Our contract covers a mix of urban and rural locations, some requiring a round trip of 20 miles or more from base," explained Mr Bruce. "This had caused high wear to the tyres fitted to the previous tractor and I wanted a more versatile, harder-wearing tyre on its replacement."

To match the new tractor's general-purpose role, Mr Bruce said that he also wanted a tyre which could be used with equal success on the road, on grass verges and, if

necessary, on playing fields, able to deliver good grip, yet with a lighter touch than cleated agricultural tyres.

"I asked dealer, Sussex Tractors, if such a tyre existed," recalled Chris Bruce. "They recommended Trelleborg's new 70-profile T459 tyre and we ordered the tractor with the tyres fitted all-round."

Suitable for use on standard rims, the tyre features Trelleborg's renowned bias belt design which combines the best features of radial and cross ply construction. It also has a polyester carcass to enhance ride comfort and highly durable rubber compound in the tread area.

"The tyres have greatly improved the tractor's flexibility," commented Mr Bruce. "They are hard wearing, are good on the road and have the grip to deal with slippery conditions. However, they are sufficiently gentle to be used where we would never have gone previously with normal agricultural tyres."

For detailed information on Trelleborg Industrial Tractor Tyres, please contact the sales department at the address given below.

Tyres matched to the job

Trelleborg produce low ground pressure tyres in three distinct patterns for use on sports and amenity turf and other green areas.

Known as TWIN GT EWR (Extra Wear Resistance), the tyres share a number of common characteristics despite having totally different tread patterns.

First is the EWR rating. This shows that it is the latest improved version of the original Trelleborg TWIN GT tyre, with new EWR rubber compound in the tread area to extend working life without sacrificing flexibility or gentleness on the ground.

All three tyres have an extra large ground contact area. This feature, combined with a soft, flexible carcass and low inflation pressure, enables the tyre to follow the ground closely leaving no marks and minimising soil compaction.

Despite their flexibility, Trelleborg TWIN tyres are built for long life. Their bias belt construction combines the best of radial and cross ply design, offering strength, lateral stability and driver comfort.

Customers can choose from three distinct TWIN GT EWR tread patterns to suit individual machines and applications:

TWIN 404

Ideal for work on all turf surfaces, this versatile low ground pressure tyre has rounded shoulders to prevent marking when turning and broad, yet closely-spaced tread bars to provide good grip with minimal surface impact, the latter enhanced by the 20mm tread depth. The T404 has very low rolling resistance and is intended primarily for use on tractor front and rear wheels.



TWIN 409

This familiar diamond-patterned tyre has a tread depth of just 18mm, making it ideal for use on all turf areas where a "soft" tread is essential. Round shouldered to minimise scuffing when turning, the T409 has a soft compound rubber and a very flexible carcass. It can be run at pressures as low as 6psi (0.4 bar) depending on application and load. Mainly used on tractor rear wheels and large trailers.



TWIN 478

A 10mm tread depth and closely-spaced, zig-zag tread give the T478 excellent non-marking properties when used on the front wheels of two-wheel drive tractors and trailers. The flat tread profile with rounded shoulders provide excellent lateral stability and a wide, load-spreading contact area. The tread design aids grip on and off road and provides resistance to sideslip.



Trelleborg Wheel Systems SpA

Maybrook Road
Castle Vale Industrial Estate
Minworth
Sutton Coldfield B76 1AX, UK
Tel: 0845 601 1084
Fax: 0121 352 3845

GREEN-RELEAF™

LIQUID MICROBIAL PROGRAM



Get your greens fighting fit next season
Call in the Professionals.

Green-Releaf Beneficial Microbes applied with a unique Food source...
Bringing Food and releaf to everyone in the front line

PROGRAM BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Rapidly improved plant root structure
- Enhanced nutrient uptake
- Increased natural resistance to disease
- Reverses anaerobic conditions [Black Layer]
- Controls Thatch build up

Join the Professionals now.

VISIT OUR RECRUITMENT OFFICES AT BTME

GREEN-RELEAF EUROPE
VISIT US AT OUR OWN STAND

BTME STAND
C11



EXCLUSIVE UK DISTRIBUTORS

BTME STAND
B7

AVONCROP AMENITY PRODUCTS
Tel: 01934 820868

BTME STAND
A30

RICHARD AITKEN LTD
Tel: 0141 4400033

Tel: 01782 373878 Fax: 01782 373763 Green Releaf Europe, 102a Longton Road, Barlaston, Staffs, England ST12 9AU The leader in liquid beneficial microbial products



What does it take to make a champion?

Competing and winning in an international arena requires special qualities, above all else success relies on The Power Of The Team.

Textron's world-class Turf Care and Specialty Product Group consists of the combined product muscle of Ransomes, Jacobsen, Cushman, Ryan, E-Z-GO and Iseki. This team relies on creative thought, engineering excellence and product endurance - qualities demanded by our customers.

From salesman to mechanic, we're a team. A team which includes you, demanding better products and higher standards of customer care.

Our goal is to make it easy for you to do business with us and offer you the best and most comprehensive range of products on the market.

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products. Good for the industry, good for business and good for you.

For more information on products please phone 0500 026208.



TEXTRON
TURF CARE AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

RANSOMES • JACOBSEN • CUSHMAN • RYAN • E-Z-GO • ISEKI

Ransomes Way, Ipswich, England IP3 9QG Telephone: (01473) 270000 Fax: (01473) 276300



Keith McKee, of Scotts, gives some advice on the use of pesticides on golf courses.

Spray Away



When thinking about using a pesticide the very first questions, as required under the COSH regulations and out of pure common sense, are "What is the problem?" and, "Do I need to use a pesticide to control it?" or, "Is there some other method?"

Identification of the pest or disease is crucial. Are you sure that you have made the correct identification?

One golf club was regularly treating to control Fusarium but achieving little or no control. Eventually the Head Greenkeeper asked a consultant for a second opinion.

A number of diseases can look very similar at certain stages of development but given the time of year and the weather conditions the Consultant thought it was not Fusarium and requested samples be sent to the laboratory for testing. At the laboratory Pythium was identified as being the problem. The cost of sending samples to the laboratory is very small indeed compared with, in this case, two years worth of the incorrect pesticide in an attempt to control the disease not to mention the waste of time and the frustration.

Just a few words in passing about Pythium which is a slowly increasing problem in the UK. Pythium foliar blight occurs mainly in hot humid weather conditions and can devastate large areas of bent grass within hours. It is also capable of infecting creeping bent grass under cool weather conditions. Pythium is a too large a subject to be covered in this article but a little news could be of help to those who suffer with the problem of Pythium on their courses. Until September 1998 there was no pesticide in the UK which had approval for use on turf. Thanks to the efforts of Mark Haver, Head Greenkeeper at Chelsfield Lakes Golf Club, who applied for and obtained OFF - LABEL Approval for the use of Aliette (80% Fosetyl Aluminium) MAFF No. 05648 there is now a control available to Greenkeepers in the UK. Details of time and amounts of application are stated on the approval and must be conformed with. Product literature from the USA gives a warning about compatibility - it states that Aliette should not be mixed with any sticker, extender or wetting agent and makes special mention



Spray away



that Aliette is not physically compatible with Daconil when used as a tank mix.

Of course the other question to be asked after the problem has been identified and a decision made as to the best method of treatment is "why have I got the problem" and "what could I have done to prevent it other than applying a pesticide?"

So often the reason is down to the weather being too hot, too dry, too wet, too much fertiliser, too little fertiliser or even the incorrect fertiliser, but these problems are more easily corrected next time around.

With golf courses taking more and more play the quality of construction and maintenance becomes even more important.

At one golf course which is about six years old and built by the local farmer where the greens are constructed from local soil, which has a clay content of 37% (more than satisfactory for a county cricket square) and therefore become water logged very easily. The greens have a Poa Annua content of approximately 40% and have been scarified and aerated approximately three times in the past year! The local water is high in pH. Most will already have guessed which prob-

lem is starting to show - yes - Take All Patch. Soon the pesticides will come out to try to control the Take All Patch which should not be there in the first place

Pesticides are good and at times work under some very difficult conditions but they can not work miracles. So when the greens at this particular course are taken out of play because the disease problem has developed, do not blame the pesticide for not working as the problem could have been avoided. Two sayings come to mind :

a) "As you sow so shall you reap" in other words good construction and good maintenance will produce a good result and lessen the need for pesticides.

b) "Time spent in reconnaissance is rarely wasted." An old Army saying but very true of greenkeeping. Walk the course daily to see what is going on. Your eyes are in the soles of your feet not under the tyres of a powerful machine.

You will see the start of problems and be able to react quickly to the situation. It is amazing how many sprinkler heads are seen not working by the greenkeeping staff.

Sprinkler heads not working in

hot weather puts the grass under great stress and therefore more vulnerable to attacks of disease.

Fortunately in recent years when it comes to actually applying a pesticide things have changed for the better. Things continue to change for not only are most greenkeepers fully qualified but application methods have also improved.

Pesticides and herbicides have developed and are designed to work at specific application rates and under particular conditions. No longer is it acceptable to apply pesticides by a "seat of the pants" type operation as in the past when the operator mixed a small amount of chemical into a large amount of water and tried to apply it uniformly to the turf. It was skill and experience of the operator who could position the boom at the correct height, maintain the correct pressure and flow through the nozzles. At the same time keeping tractor speed constant when going up or down hill

The entire operation was on the shoulders of one man - the operator. If he had a bad day with the brain not working well then a disaster was never far away. Pictures A+B show the result of using an



Picture A



Picture B



old sprayer without an agitator where the mixture had been allowed to stand over a lunch period. The pesticide had settled to the bottom of the tank so that when the sprayer was turned on neat pesticide was delivered on to the turf.

Picture A is at the start of spraying and picture B is taken from the other end of the field as the water is starting to work its way through.

Today things are a little different, for with the use of computers the gauges have been turned into electronic sprayer control systems. In these situations a microprocessor rather than an operator opens and closes valves to control the single application of mixed chemical in response to changes in ground conditions. Without doubt things will advance a lot further yet. Root zone injection is already available for the application of pesticides to control some pests and diseases.

On show at SALTEX this year was a spray machine which, admittedly, is currently for use on pavements and total weedkill areas, this employs optic sensors to spot treat weed growth by using computerised technology. How long before a similar system is available for use on turf? May be there already is such a system and possibly you already know about it.

The aim must be to reduce the amount of pesticide used as much as possible but make what Pesticide is used perform as efficiently as possible.

We can not reasonably expect pesticides to work well for us if we are not using the correct pesticide to control a specific target nor if they are being applied incorrectly.

Question. Do we need pesticides?

Answer. Yes most definitely for they are a major part of the greenkeepers armoury but this could well change when biological and other control methods are developed further.

Question. How can we minimise the use of pesticides?

Answer. 1. Daily inspection of the turf so that disease can be treated early and not allowed to develop.

2. Keep the turf healthy and strong.

3. Regular aeration to assist surface drainage and develop stronger root systems.

4. Regular scarification/verticutting to remove the dead and unwanted grasses and allow the movement of air through the grass plants.

5. Do not maintain low mowing heights for prolonged periods - it puts grass plant under great stress.

6. Try to avoid heavy traffic on the greens and have as large a green as possible (only possible at time of construction or reconstruction)

7. Avoid compacted soil, so often caused by over play in wet conditions.

8. Avoid over irrigation, which could cause saturated greens.

9. Improve poor surface and sub surface drainage often caused by poor construction or lack of aeration.

Question. How can we get the best out of our pesticides?

Answer. 1. By accurate identification of the problem.

2. By use of the correct pesticide.

3. By using the correct application rate.

The powers that be throughout Europe are looking very closely at the use of Pesticides. We must use pesticides safely and wisely or their use could well be banned.

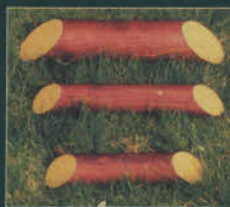
PHOTOCAST TEE SIGNS



By
EAGLE PROMOTIONS

Scorecards • Course Measurement • Yardage Books • Tee Signs • Event Boards • Leaderboards • Notice Boards • Bag Tags • Green Fee Tickets • Call Philip McInley on : 01883 344244

Call Philip McInley on 01883 344244





Golden Key Mini Profile

Rigby Taylor



Rigby Tayloe House, Garside Street,
Bolton, Lancs BL1 4AE

Tel: 01204 394888
Fax: 01204 398379

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

Established in 1919 (80th anniversary in 1999) Rigby Taylor has since the 1930's been a producer and supplier of turf management products to the sports and amenity sectors. We are a direct sell organisation operating throughout the UK and parts of Europe. Initially specialising in fertilizers our Mascot range now covers all the major turf requirements including chemicals for weed and disease control and specialties like wetting agents, iron tonics and microbial stimulants. We supply grass seeds and growing medium/top dressing and we also supply line-marking materials and sporting equipment for golf courses and sports fields generally. We also specialise in weed control for hard surfaces and amenity areas to councils and contractors.

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

In our view the key change in our sector has been the growth of technically advanced products reflecting greater research into soil and turf science. This has been largely driven by the commercial opportunities offered by the growth sports generally. Secondly would be the increased regulatory requirements.

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

The turf management industry is now seen as more of a cohesive trade rather than a collection of separate niches. It has become much more high profile with the general public driven largely in our view by the impact of television which has increasingly promoted sports such as golf and football. This has created major commercial impetus into bringing a far more scientific base to soil and turf management.

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

We envisage increasing research into products, particularly chemicals. For instance turf is no longer regarded as a "Cinderella" industry by the major chemical companies who would previously have considered possible applications for existing agricultural products on turf. Nowadays they are building turf into initial screening activities during the development phase. We certainly envisage an increasing amount of regulation and probably fewer companies supplying because of the difficulty of complying with an increasing regulatory load. We also envisage that the relationship

between distributors and their customers will become more and more advisory based. We intend as a Company to remain at the forefront of developments in our sector. Over the last eighty years we have seen many changes and this year (1999) sees us adopt a new logo designed to portray our view of ourselves as forward thinking and modern but with a strong tradition.

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

We imagine that TV will continue to exert a major influence on the development of sport as entertainment, leading to an increased commercialisation of the sporting industry. Not having a crystal ball it is difficult to know the answer but an interesting question would be "will the balance between private and commercial golf clubs change in the UK in the future?" Will members clubs increasingly find themselves selling out to commercial operations? We imagine that customers will become fewer but larger and the profit motive will become an increasingly important factor in their management.

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

BIGGA has played a major part in raising the profile of the turf industry as a whole by successfully focusing attention on the vital

input of greenkeepers to the quality of the game of golf. In terms of greenkeepers specifically, BIGGA has largely been responsible for building a career structure with professional status.

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

Because our association with BIGGA allows us to support our customers in a visible and effective way. By contributing to the Education Fund through the Golden Key we are able to contribute to development of greenkeeping standards and ultimately to support golf clubs as a result.

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

Undoubtedly we have broadened customer choice. In our view, we have successfully introduced innovative products to the market place by our policy of direct sell. We work extremely closely with our customers and are therefore well placed to understand the products they need. We also have strong relationship with innovative research companies and are able to assist them in developing their products specifically for this market place. A good example is our partnership with Dow AgroSciences in introducing Rimidin Fungicide.

REELMASTER® 2300-D & 2600-D MADE PRECISELY FOR ALL TYPES OF GRASS AND TERRAIN

Toro's all-purpose Reelmaster trim mowers offer the total solution for a matchless performance around bunkers, tees, collars and approaches, and over sports fields and amenity areas too.

Featuring the exclusive L-I-N-K-S™ suspension system for enhanced ground contour following, both the 2300-D and 2600-D are ideal to give a superb quality of cut and will tackle most kinds of turf and terrain, even early morning wet grass.

Highly advanced in design, engine, drive and main-frame, they also boast high torque, customised cutting units with variable speeds.

You can trust Toro to give precisely the result you require.

Simply telephone 01480 476971 and we'll arrange for a local dealer to contact you.



TOTAL SOLUTIONS

TORO distributed by: Lely (UK) Limited, Station Road, St Neots, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE19 1QH
Tel: 01480 476971 Fax: 01480 216167 E-mail: toro.sales@lely.co.uk
Lely Ireland Limited, 6 Airton Close, Tallaght, Dublin 24.
Tel: 00 353 1 459 3314 Fax: 00 353 1 459 3320 E-mail: info@lely.ie



This month, Geoff Steel gives advice on mortgages and how to choose the best lender for you...

CHOOSING A MORTGAGE LENDER

Most people when looking to purchase a house are guided by the estate agent to a suitable mortgage lender. Many agents, however, are tied or belong to a building society or bank. For example, I have recently seen lenders offering fixed rates for up to 10 years, when there is every likelihood that interest rates may be reduced over the next few years.

Everyone should shop around to find out what else is available. For example, the building societies which have converted to banks, in the main are now charging 8.2% as a standard range, whereas traditional building societies and some of the new direct telephone banks, are charging as low as 7.7%.

On a £50,000 mortgage, the difference in repayments can be up to £21 per month.

There are also many attractive incentives available, including reduced interest rates for the first few years, fixed rates and capped

rates. While one of the offers will be suitable to you, ensure that you check the conditions first. A good initial offer for two or three years is not in anyone's interests if the borrower has to pay additional amounts for the remaining term of the mortgage.

The usual conditions that can apply are:-

1. **Large penalties if the loan is repaid in the first few years.**
2. **Buildings, contents and other insurance must be taken with the lender. The cost can be up to double that available from a more competitive source.**
3. **High initial fee required by the lender. This may be obscured by the fact that it is added to the loan.**

There are mortgages available which provide a reduced initial cost and do not have any of the above restrictions. Shop around until you find the right one, or ask an

Independent Financial Advisor for the best mortgage for you.

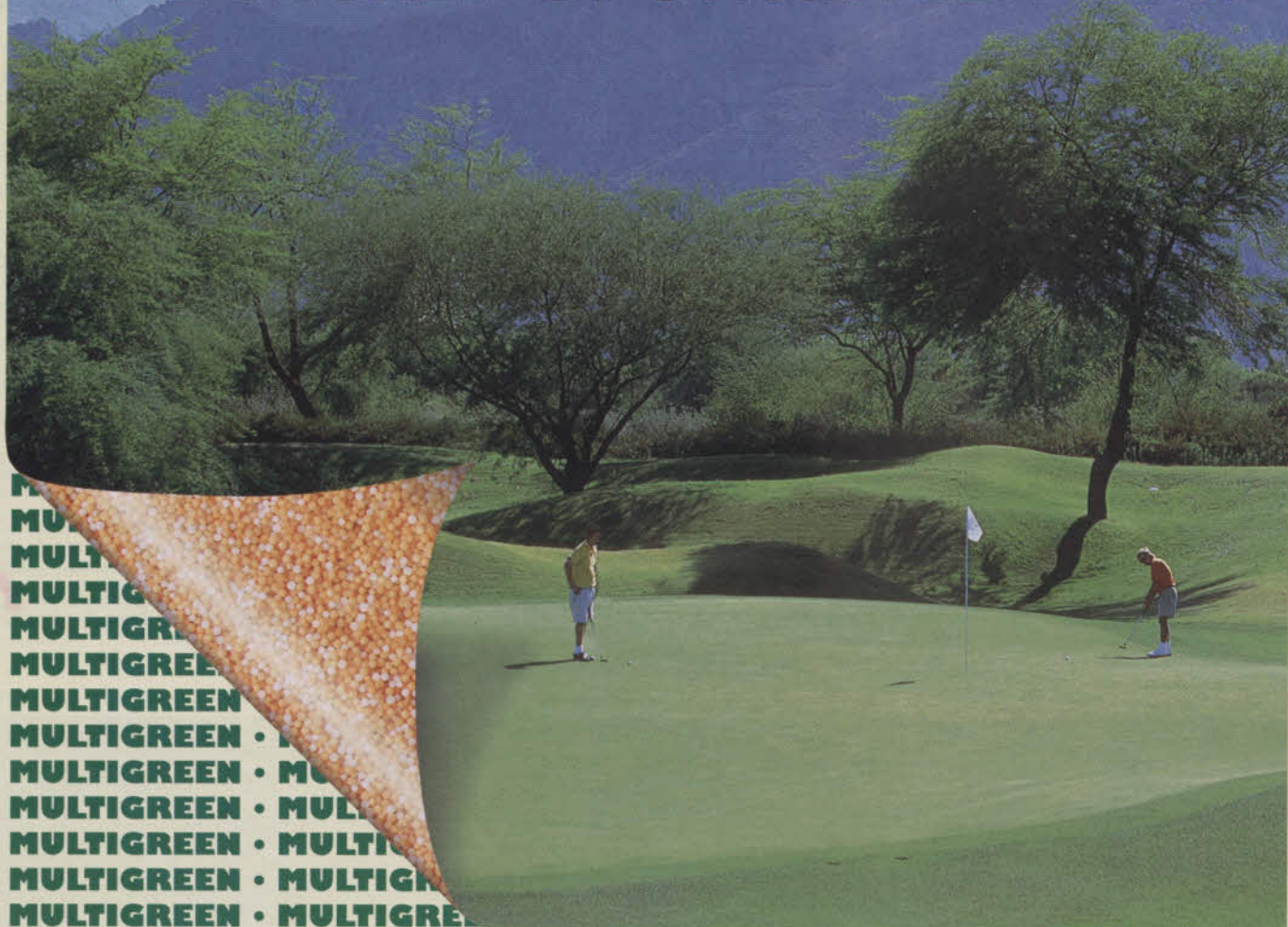
Traditionally, interest on mortgages is charged at the year end, which means that any additional payments made by the borrower do not have any effect until the next date of interest calculation. Some lenders have now introduced mortgages where interest is charged on the balance of the loan each day. Additional payments to this kind of mortgage can significantly reduce the total amount of interest paid over the term of the mortgage. The direct telephone banks usually offer mortgages charged on a daily balance and can have lower interest rates than High Street banks.

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



multigreen

THE SECRET OF STRONGER TURF



Multigreen controlled release fertilisers have been specifically formulated to give you stronger and healthier turf all the year round while saving you time, materials and labour.

- ◆ One application provides continuous nutrition for a whole season
- ◆ Polymer coating ensures steady release and reduced leaching
- ◆ Potassium is derived from potassium

nitrate, the preferred source for fast uptake and prevention of 'black layer'

- ◆ Choice of formulations for greens and fairways



Fertilisers and Turf Maintenance Products

Haifa Chemicals Ltd



Horticulture Division

Leaders in Plant Nutrition

Hi-Chem (UK) Ltd Tel: 0181 952 2552 Fax: 0181 952 0551

Distributed by *Headland Amenity Products* Tel: 01799 530146 Fax: 01799 530229

Winner takes all?

Following an article in the November issue of Greenkeeper International, I would like to offer the following letter for publication. Although brief I feel that it highlights a point which has no doubt caused interest among many in the turfgrass industry. If there are any problems with the draft please give me a call.

Having read with great interest the story of Ramside Golf Club

in the November edition of Greenkeeper International, I'm sure that I will not be alone in my surprise at one point raised in the article. It mentions, towards the end of the article, that after developing such a severe outbreak of take-all patch disease, Roger was apparently told that there was a chemical control option available to him.

I would be extremely interested to

know which product was recommended for use against take-all patch since, as far as I am aware, there are no chemicals which are legally approved for use against this turf disease in the UK.

Catherine Entwistle (nee York)
 Pathologist, STRI

Trying to worm out an answer

Thank you for your article on Fingle Glen in September's magazine but I would like to point out two things in relation to it.

Firstly, I would like to say publicly that I was aided in the construction of Fingle Glen by my son, Bill, and my friend, Brian Ridgeway, who both had considerable input.

Secondly it is Dartmoor, not Dartmouth, that can be seen from the course. Indeed if you could see Dartmouth from Fingle Glen you would need a light on your head for low flying aircraft!

The main reason I have written is that I wrote a letter earlier in the year concerning chlordane and worm control to which there were two replies through the magazine. I would like to say to those people who write letters in reply to be

more specific. You would not expect a doctor writing in reply to a letter in the Lancet to say "put a couple of leeches on - we were doing this years ago"!

To return to the original question about worms. If sulphur is the answer - How much? Which type? When? etc etc. What pH is optimum to stop casting worms? My course has fairways of 5 to 5.5 pH. How much lower should I go? My last course had a Ph of 4.4 to 4.8 on the greens and we still had some worm casts. Also acidity of the soil reduced bacterial activity with the result that thatch forms. What is the dividing line between beneficial and detrimental acidity? What about links courses? I have seen some lovely fine grass fairways and greens plastered in worm casts.

Would they consider acidity as an answer? I think not.

Perhaps Mr Arthur would be kind enough to give us some case histories of the transformations he has seen and the names of the clubs so we can seek out the greenkeepers and ask advice.

Mr Fletcher gave the answer to worm control in the PS to his letter in October's magazine. The R&A and the STRI are, I understand, spending vast sums of money on research for a suitable solution. Would Mr Fletcher like to expand on his letter by giving us facts, figures, methods etc so that we may all learn from him.

Bill Pile, Fingle Glen GC
 Devon

Recommended salary scale debate

There must be a tremendous number of disgruntled 21 year olds and other greenkeepers disappointed that their salary falls short of the BIGGA's minimum recommended wage scale.

The Surrey Section is probably the best area for greenkeepers salaries. However having made enquiries myself with other courses I have found the BIGGA figures slightly inflated. Although I acknowledge that some courses are

paying these salaries they have only recently adjusted to the BIGGA recommendations.

The Association has obviously arrived at these figures in a constructive manner.

However I feel the Regions should have an input and that Course Managers and secretaries should be advised much earlier in the season as to the proposed recommended increases to allow them to adjust their budgets.

Brian Turner, Course Manager,
 Sunningdale GC

Note: They are not BIGGA's recommended pay scales but those of the Standing Committee on Pay and Conditions which comprises representatives of the Golf Club Secretaries and the Golf Club Owners as well as those from BIGGA's Board of Management. Also see the Education column on page 21.

Dealing out a rewarding relationship

I write in response to Kim Blake's letter concerning relationships in your December issue.

Relationships matter in all walks of life and Kim Blake's letter makes very refreshing reading. We too, believe in the benefits of those direct

relationships between customer and manufacturer, as it is from these contacts that most of our product and service development ideas come. SISIS Direct was formed to further deepen the already established customer/company relation-

ships that our 12 direct salesmen have developed, but we are always looking for ideas and ways to further these.

Ian D Camp, General Sales
 Manager, Sisis Equipment Ltd

Dubious dictionary definitions?

My reaction on reading the article (Dec 98) on the Application of Science was one of incredulity in view of the drive towards more understandable teaching by approved colleges in greenkeeping education.

I put myself in the position of an experienced Head Greenkeeper when reading the piece. First I checked on good dictionaries, then on scientific glossaries. Virtually nothing emerged. Then I consulted my American text-books and found some with difficulty (because of mis-spellings) but their definitions left me little wiser.

The first decision any writer must make is to identify his potential readers. Certainly in this case the article cannot have been intended for greenkeepers, agronomists, committees or trainers. Perhaps it was aimed at a few fellow lecturers?

All that this article does is to pose endless questions put provides few answers, and most of those are arguable.

We are treated to statements that seeds need water to germinate. I bet that was based on several years of underpinning research! Then followed a dissertation on how seeds imbibe water which is irrelevant and inadequate and of no interest to anyone save a plant pathologist.

The aim of all education must surely be beyond argument: to first teach the basic principles and only when students have a firm grounding in these should they go on to discuss the finer points of opposing philosophies and they should never be confused by techno-babble.

I am more than willing to enter into good natured debate either through these pages or personally with anyone from student to lecturer who wish to argue their views and I am the first to admit that after well over 50 years in education I am still learning and willing to do so.

Jim Arthur,
 Budleigh Salterton, East Devon

Kenneth Arnold has had more demands on him than most yet still found time to devote to the game of golf...



Kenneth Arnold is 85, a retired solicitor, a former Chairman of Green and President of Abbeydale Golf Club and has been President of the Sheffield Section since 1965. He is also a former Lord Mayor of Sheffield yet he would appear to have shared quite a bit of the time he might otherwise have spent in County Hall with greenkeepers and discussing greenkeeping matters.

"When I was told that I was to be Chairman of Green at Abbeydale by the previous holder of the position I was a keen gardener but didn't know anything about greenkeeping," confessed Kenneth.

He recalled those days back in the 60s as being completely different for golf clubs and everyone associated with them.

"In those days you might get two or three cars in the car park on weekdays," he recalled.

He is quick to appreciate how beneficial such low demand was on the greenkeepers.

"Staff could come in at 8am and start cutting greens. If someone was playing a hole they just stood

aside. If they did that nowadays they would never finish!"

Kenneth is a man of strong opinions. His first point of view delivered not long after the conversation had started was that the Americans were ruining the game.

"They are making greens faster and faster. I don't know why they don't just dig up the greens and put down linoleum."

Another view emerged when talking about the role he first undertook in the golf club - Chairman of Green.

"Chairmen of Green should be done away with. They are not required. The Head Greenkeeper should report to the Board, or the committee, on what is happening on the course and what he intends to do. It should be just like a managerial role in industry."

He is a man full of anecdotes.

"When I was Mayor I used to travel to Sheffield Wednesday matches with the team and I once asked the manager how he coped with so many people calling for his blood. He said that he had 30,000 critics each of whom knew all the answers.

But none of them knew the problems. Golf clubs are just the same."

When thrust into the Chairman of Green role that he now considers to be anachronistic he threw himself into the role attending Sheffield Section lectures on a regular basis.

It is a policy which has been continued for Abbeydale's subsequent Chairmen of Green including the current incumbent, Jack Copeland, who brought newly crowned Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award winner, John Coleman, to the club.

"We had some superb speakers, like old man Hawtree, the architect, and I would learn a lot from him," he said.

"The opportunities are there for greenkeepers to increase their knowledge and many more are doing so nowadays that when I started attending the lectures."

It is a positive, forward thinking attitude which would shame many people half his age as does his lasting ability on the golf course itself.

He still plays two or three times a week, always carries his bag and is one of those rare people who can beat his age.

There is a man in the Sheffield Section whose knowledge of the industry is second to none. His opinions are sought by greenkeepers young and old, far and wide and he has been a regular attendee at Section lectures for over 30 years. Last year in fact he was presented with a plaque from BIGGA Past Chairman and fellow Sheffield Section member, Barry Heaney.

Yet he has never worked on a golf course.

New Year. Renew Year.

The Membership Department would like to wish all members new, and renewing a very Happy New Year.

If you haven't received your renewal form yet, or would like more information on how BIGGA Membership could benefit you, then call Tracey Maddison, Membership Services Officer on 01347 833800.



IRRIGATION SCOTLAND ...raising the standard



TEL: 0131 333 5495 FAX: 0131 333 5209
 e-mail: <irr-scot@irrigation.uk.com>

EDUCATION UPDATE

Sami and I would like to wish all our readers a very Happy, Prosperous and Educational New Year

English Golf Union Press Release

The Press Release from the English Golf Union, reference greenkeeper training is published elsewhere in this magazine. I have had many calls from greenkeepers expressing their concern at the changes which may occur in greenkeeper training following the EGU's decision to withdraw from the Greenkeepers Training Committee. Unfortunately, there are, currently, few details on how the directive should be interpreted or what effects it may have on the future training of greenkeepers.

On a personal level, I feel that the greenkeeping industry now has a full set of qualifications to suit, not only trainees and assistants but those in positions of management and those wishing to pursue a more academic route.

The current system of qualifications, which are recognised by the Government, attract funding and meet National Standards are working and are producing quality greenkeepers. Employers also gain significant benefits by sending their staff on recognised training courses.

Greenkeepers Pay and Conditions of Service

I have had several calls from greenkeepers expressing concern at the "BIGGA" pay rates for 1999. Some suggesting that BIGGA should seek inputs from golf club secretaries and golf owners and some that are concerned that they are not "qualified" and, are not receiving the higher level of salary.

I can give only general answers in this column but if anybody has a specific query then please give me a call.

1. The Standing Committee for Greenkeepers Pay and Conditions of Service comprises representatives from the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, the Golf Club Owners and from BIGGA. Therefore, the recommendations are not BIGGA recommendations and inputs are received from secretaries and owners.

2. The Recommendations are, as

the name suggests, recommendations of the minimum starting salary that should be paid depending on qualifications and experience.

The Standing Committee do not expect every assistant greenkeeper, first assistant, head greenkeeper or course manager to be on the same salary, as they realise that there are regional variations and that some people have more qualifications and experience than others.

The Committee feel that no greenkeeper should get less than the recommended minimum rate and that levels above the rate are open to negotiation between employee and employer.

3. The Standing Committee believe that all greenkeepers should be qualified to do their job or be working towards a qualification. It introduced a qualified rate for assistant greenkeepers in its 1998 recommendations and a qualified rate for all other levels of greenkeeper in its 1999 recommendations.

Qualified means that the person holds a formal qualification which relates to the job being done, eg. work based qualifications such as National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications and work related qualifications such as National Certificate and National Diploma, City and Guilds Phases 1,2,3 and 4 plus relevant experience.

Competent means that the person can do and, perhaps has been doing the job for a number of years, but may not hold a certificate.

Therefore, to gain the "extra" 10% recommended by the Standing Committee, these people need to become "qualified".

They can achieve a vocational qualification by proving to an assessor (usually an experienced greenkeeper) that they are competent to do the job. The key words here are "competence" and "proof".

The majority, if not all, of proof of competence ie skills and knowledge can be shown by providing evidence to book a place on the National Education Conference or Workshops.

However, you can book places on Seminars, on the day, at Harrogate. Anyone wishing to book a place on their choice of Seminar, should contact Sami Collins on the Seminar Registration Desk in the Royal Hall. Thanks to the continued support of

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, the Learning Experience 1999 has something for everyone at very affordable prices. Don't forget to attend Remember, training and education should continue throughout your career. Better trained greenkeepers leads to better golf courses and to an improvement in the Status of the Industry.

Don't forget that Frank Dick OBE, the world renowned athletics coach and motivational speaker will be given a keynote speech on Wednesday 20 January at 11.00 am. Admission is free for this not-to-be-missed talk.

Working Time Directive

The Working Time Directive came into force from 1 October 1998. Most employers will need to keep some form of records to show that they comply with the Law, whether employees work for more than 48 hours per week or not.

The key points of the directive are:

The average working time is 48 hours per week

(Unless individuals opt to work for longer periods)

The average night working limit is eight hours per day.

A rest period of 11 consecutive hours, between shifts, for day workers.

A daily rest period of 20 minutes when daily working time is more than six hours.

Paid annual leave of at least three weeks.

For further details contact HQ or contact the Workright hotline on 0845 6000925.

Safety Signs

Golf Clubs had until 24 December 1998 to ensure that all safety signs conform to the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996.

Risk Assessment

The HSE has published a leaflet "Five Steps to Risk Assessment" which is available free from HSE Books 01787 881165 ref INDG163 (rev1).

Fine Turf Agronomy Ltd

Sports Turf and Landscape Consultants

Company Information

We have over 15 years experience in the turf maintenance and construction industry. We offer the highest quality technical advice from a qualified agronomist and are also supported by an Internationally renowned laboratory. We work with: golf courses, bowling greens, cricket grounds, football, hockey and rugby pitches, local authorities, colleges, private lawns etc.

We offer the following services:

- Independent and Unbiased agronomic advice and Information.
- The latest worldwide research and Information via the Internet.
- Soil and Plant tissue analysis with remedial action plans.
- IPM (Integrated pest management) programs.
- Drainage advice / plans / specifications.
- Research projects in various sports turf situations.
- Management and Maintenance programmes, long or short term.
- Budgeting, specifications, machinery etc.
- Design and ecological advice.
- Lectures / Presentations.
- Irrigation, water quality - testing and advice.
- Tree (other flora) planting plans and recommendations.

For more information please contact Simon Barnaby B.Sc.

Telephone/Fax: 01245 227797 Mobile: 0585 620740

E-Mail: S.J.Barnaby@btinternet.com

Ad Ref 564



Sands,
Root zones,
Top dressings,
EcoZone
and EcoDress

SPORTS AND
LEISURE
products

✓ nationwide availability ✓ immediate delivery ✓ technical know-how

The only range of sands, rootzones and top dressings you'll ever need for the construction and maintenance of your golf courses, sports pitches and leisure facilities.

Produced to BS EN ISO 9002:1994

For further information on any of our products please visit us on **Stand B15 BTME '99** or contact our sales team on **Tel: 01270 752 700 or Fax: 01270 752 701**

HEPWORTH MINERALS AND CHEMICALS LTD

Brookside Hall, Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 4TF.
Tel: +44 (0)1270 752 752 Fax: +44 (0)1270 752 753



Ad Ref 514

British greenkeeper Paul Davies shares his
experience of working in Colorado, USA

Tiara.

Crowning glory.



“So, Paul, do you work out at Tiara Rado golf course?” asked Bill, an acquaintance whom I had recently met.

“Yes I do, Bill, why do you ask?” I enquired.

“Well, my three foot long Iguana lizard has escaped and was seen down on the 2nd fairway. If you see him, he answers to the name of ‘Buddy.’ Okay?”

“Yeah, and I came into town on a stagecoach last night with Butch Cassidy!” I thought to myself.

In fact, my arrival was well over a year ago, on August 16, 1997, aboard a 747 out of Gatwick Airport, on a wet and windy 15 degree Celsius summer day. Sixteen hours and seven time zones later I was greeted by my fiancée, Kelly, at Denver International Airport, at the base of the Rocky Mountains.

Tiara.

Crowning glory.



I had twice previously been to Colorado and crossed the Rockies but the drive west to Grand Junction still did not fail to impress me. Driving among the stunning snow capped peaks at an elevation of 12,000 feet through alpine valleys and past some strangely named places such as, 'Arapaho, Genesee, Sunlight, Arrowhead and Buffalo Bill's grave' was something so far removed from where I had just left. Stamford, in Lincolnshire, doesn't have many mountains or ski slopes. However, as I have come to discover, it does have much better pubs and beer!

August 18th came around much too quickly - my first day at work and back to reality. I had been to America four months earlier and met with Doug Jones, Superintendent of the two golf courses owned by the City of Grand Junction, Lincoln Park and Tiara Rado. Doug had put to rest one of my main concerns about moving to the US, namely, the question of what I was going to do for work. At an informal lunch meeting, he told me that there was a job for me when I was ready to move over.

Great! Although only a seasonal position, it gave me more confidence to go back to England and tackle the nightmarish immigration process with the US Embassy in London. Coincidentally, when I returned to England after that trip, the sun was shining at Gatwick with a forecast high of a pleasant 27 degrees Celsius and no rain!

Day one at Tiara Rado, located in the high desert on the western slope of the Rockies, was pretty interest-

ing. This was the run-up week to the Rocky Mountain Open, Colorado's oldest professional golf tournament. Holy smoke! This was the big time for a greenkeeper who had just come from a 9 hole course with a budget that was stretched to do something special for Captain's day! Also, being overdressed for the 41 degree Celsius heat, feeling the effect of working at an altitude of 4,700 feet, and suffering from jet-lag made me start to wonder if I had done the right thing. Paul Greene, of Brooksby College, had definitely not prepared me for this during my greenkeeping training.

Day two was easier. The guys were opening up a bit more and taking an interest in this new crew member. Comments such as, "Hey, come listen to this guy talk!" and "Is it true it rains every day in Britain?" were common. "Well, we have about 85 inches a year," I replied. "85 inches, huh? Well how come, when we see the British Open on television, the grass is dead?" There then followed a lengthy explanation that the 'British Open' is simply 'The Open' and quite a few words about the tradition of links courses and the merits of bent grasses and drought resistance, etc.

So, point explained and it's time to leave the maintenance shop. It's pouring with rain, and I mean bouncing off the fairways I express my surprise to a native Coloradan with an expletive remark describing the intensity of this deluge. Without even looking outside, he says with a hint of ridicule, "It never rains in the desert." Actually, it does, and we

have an enormous eight inches per year, which is the reason that every square inch of turf needs to be irrigated during the hot months of summer, in order to survive.

I was stunned when told that, if the wind picks up at all when the temperatures are high, the course requires 900,000 gallons of irrigation per day. The aridity and lack of humidity is actually a welcome factor when working outdoors here, high humidity would be very difficult to handle with the heat. The afternoon summer showers that we occasionally receive have very little or no effect on the humidity levels.

The heat and aridity make it necessary to carry a chapstick (wait for this!) to moisturise the inside of your nose to avoid cracking and bleeding. Sunscreen is provided by the employer, with the standard protection factor of 46 being the most popular. Also, UV protective sunglasses are recommended and available as PPE. A gallon of water will just about see you through the working day, even if you don't feel thirsty. Luckily, we are off the course by 1pm in the summer months. The nights feel cool, but even at 4.45 am, when I'm leaving the freeway and heading to the course, the temperature is around the 25 degree Celsius mark.

The winters here are quite adverse, too. With irrigation systems shut down and very little precipitation, the grasses go into a state of dormancy and gradually turn a patchy light green; some areas go totally brown. This is a different picture from what you see of the American courses on television in Europe.



However, the transition in spring-time is very interesting when witnessed for the first time, as I did this season.

During July it was hard to believe that in March, when I returned to work from winter break, the course was covered with 3 inches of snow and the temperatures had been running at around freezing point for about two months. Some of the higher mountain courses, which are only a few hours from Tiara Rado, have only 30 frost free days per year. On a recent visit to one of the most exclusive clubs in America, the Country Club of the Rockies, Superintendent Kevin Ross told me that he had a few years where he had seen snow during each and every month of the year! Kevin, by the way, is the first American employed in greenkeeping, who I have met, that is a member of BIGGA.

Some of the mountain courses change over to winter activities when the snows arrive. Snow falls commonly accumulate to a depth of four to eight feet and stay for five months. Courses such as Telluride and Vail turn over to cross country skiing, with groomed trails. I can only imagine what is going through the Superintendent's head when the melt starts and the disease damage to the turf is revealed.

To quote one Superintendent, whom I asked as to his course of preventative action against snow mould, "During September and October you spray, spray and spray until your brain drops out." I think I understand.

The coming of winter brings a few unique problems to the high courses. As the snow line gets lower, so do the elk and deer, which can be a serious threat to greens and other surfaces, when

you consider a herd of elk can number around a 100 and a full grown bull elk can weigh a 1000 pounds.

At Tiara Rado, we have the occasional visit by a pair of deer, the odd coyote, skunks and raccoons who love to dig in the fairways and, in the summer time, bull snakes, which look alarmingly similar to rattle snakes, without the rattle. I, personally, don't want to hang about to check if it rattles at the safe end!

Each morning starts with five of the 20 man crew (Yes, 20 greens staff for 18 holes!), going straight out to walk mow greens with Toro GM1000s set at a super low height of 3mm. We have no need to dew whip, owing to the dryness, dew point temperatures and little threat from disease. Walk mowing really is a great way to start the day here, watching the sunrise over the world's largest table top mountain, the Grand Mesa, at the far end of the valley. The course is located directly below the towering 1000 feet red sandstone cliffs of the Colorado National Monument, which glow a deep reddish brown in the first light of day, like some sort of geological backcloth. Colorado, incidently, means "colour red" in Spanish.

To talk further about the amount of greens staff employed, most courses in Colorado have a few year round employees. The rest of the crew is made up of seasonal staff who work for about eight months and summer help who work during their summer break. The crews are usually headed by a Superintendent possessing a four year turf science degree, with the rest of the crew, apart from the mechanic and irrigation technicians, being totally unqualified. This is an area where, I believe, Britain is far more advanced than the US. The crews here learn almost entirely from the Superintendents, be that teaching good, or not so good. Greenkeepers here are surprised at the multi-level education available in Britain for greenkeepers and one has even shown an interest in the same HNC distance learning course



(very distant!) that I am currently undertaking through the highly recognised Elmwood College, in Cupar, Scotland.

The types of grass we are managing here are those found in the cool season zones of the USA. These are, typically, very similar to those found on courses in Britain. Our main species are perennial rye, smooth stalked meadow, some creeping bent, plenty of poa annua and, in our region, the unwelcome and highly invasive Bermuda grass.

Next season will see a major overseeding programme of the greens using a new variety of *Agrostis palustris* - Penn A4. Converting Poa greens to a monostand of *Agrostis* will be a major success story, when taking into account the seven days a week mowing programme, height of cut, enormous watering requirements, stressful weather conditions and high player traffic - good luck boss!

The cultural practices here are virtually the same as those applied in Britain with the exception of certain types of aeration. Deep slitting is not known among the Superintendents I have met and most have said they would not even consider it. In my experience, I have achieved only good results in improving the rooting of Poa greens. I wonder if any of the UK manufacturers supply slitters to the US?

Overall, I have been very impressed by the greenkeeping standards in a somewhat less than hospitable environment. Approximately

90,000 nine hole rounds a year are played at Tiara Rado, so keeping pace with that is quite a challenge. The crew knows what to do and they get on with it. There are always plenty of ideas from the crew on how to improve the course, which are usually listened to by the Superintendent - he even let me rebuild a bunker face using the Scottish revetted turf face method, probably the only one in Colorado!

My experience of working with Americans is that they are hard working, diligent, say what they mean and respect the profession. I will be rehired after this winter break, so I take that as a compliment to British greenkeeping standards.

Meanwhile, 'Buddy' didn't show up again. Maybe I should call Bill. What the heck! The sun is shining, there is snow on the ski slopes and I need some exercise. I like America. I think I'll stay!

Paul is a former Head Greenkeeper at Cottesmore Golf Club, Leicestershire and owner of Rutland Golf Services, a greenkeeping contracting and supply company. Prior to that he was Head Greenkeeper at Laarbruch GC in Germany having arrived in Germany as a civil servant for British Forces Education Services. He is 41 married to Kelly Jo and they have a six month old baby girl called Rio.



XRT ARRIVES TO CONQUER ALL TERRAINS



**THE OFF ROAD, OFF THE BEATEN TRACK,
GO WHERE YOU NEED TO GO VEHICLE.**

- 11 HP, 351cc Engine with Pedal Start
- 4-Wheel Brakes
- 6.4" Ground Clearance under Differential
- Independent Front Suspension
- Rear Suspension with Heavy-Duty Stabilizer Bar
- Brush Guard
- Differential Guard
- Aluminium Frame, Chassis and Cargo Bed
- Heavy-Duty All-Terrain or Turf Tyres
- Light Bar, Winch and Many Other Accessories Available

A COMBINATION OF POWER & VERSATILE PERFORMANCE.

Club Car
TRANSPORTATION
& UTILITY VEHICLES



TO UNLOCK THE PRICE...

CALL 01235 537575 NOW!



INNOVATION BY EVERGREENS UK

SUPPLIERS OF SYNTHETIC GRASS TO DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL SPORTS & LEISURE MARKETS

NEW INFO TEES



To compliment our existing range of winter tee mats and frames, incorporate your club name, logo or tee details

SUPERB SURFACES



Available in our FORTUS and GOLF TWIST surfaces. 1.5m x 1.5m, 2m x 1m, 2m x 1.5m and 1.22m x 1.83m

FAIRWAY MATS



New lightweight design, with carry handle and ball locators

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM EVERGREENS UK:

EVER ROLL, PATH GUARD, PATH GUARD PLUS, TILES AND BLOCKETTS, ALL SPIKE RESISTANT SURFACES

TEL: 01572 768208 FAX: 01572 768261

No.2 EXTON'S UNITS, MARKET OVERTON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, OAKHAM, RUTLAND LE15 7PP

Will Sutherland's father talked of chemicals as the "Devil's Dust" so when Will built his own golf course he carried on his father's philosophies...

Where there's a Will...



Put any group of greenkeepers, agronomists or golf course architects into the same room and eventually the conversation will turn to the doomsday scenario... the day when chemical usage is banned on golf courses.

A few years ago this may have been discussed in terms of "if" but now it is very much in the "when" category and some of the best brains in the fine turf industry are examining the implications for the great game of golf.

Where there's a Will...

There are a number who do not see it as necessarily as a bad thing but there are others who predict major headaches for the game in the next few years.

One man who doesn't have to stare into a crystal ball to foretell what might happen, but has first hand experience of what can be expected when the moratorium does arrive, is Will Sutherland.

Will built his own golf course in the late 1970's and has managed it using methods which are likely to become the modus operandi if current chemical products are unable to be used. Lyshott Heath, in Bedfordshire, is a living example of what can be achieved and shows that, far from being the potential

death of the game, the future may welcome a more naturally healthy nation of golf courses.

"My father was a very traditional organic farmer who, even in those days after the war, spent a lot of time worrying about the use of chemical fertilisers," explained Will.

"He said it was all going to end in tears with so many people putting on the Devil's Dust. My philosophy was basically coloured by my father but then, subsequently working in politics, I became very concerned. You just need to look at statistics all over the world to see that the levels of poisons in the soil correlates with the levels of cancer," said Will, who also attended the famous Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro and published their Alternative Treaties.

"I'm very active in green politics and have an acute awareness that mankind urgently needs stewardship if we are to create a future which is worth having."

It is this harnessed to his genuine love of golf - he was a Cambridge Blue - that has seen the unique work at Lyshott Heath being carried out.

He also learned the game from the ground up working as a teenager in the summer holidays at Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club on the north east coast close to the family estate.

"The Head Greenkeeper was a very traditional Scotsman and we used bone and blood and were putting the grass cuttings back on to the greens. It was a very traditional set-up," recalled Will, of the time around 1960.

That experience planted a seed in Will, whose ambition it became, to design and build his own golf course and the opportunity presented itself

in the mid 70s.

"I decided to leave the farm partnership I was involved with at the age of 28 and that gave me money to invest in a site to build my golf course."

At the time he was working as a Whitehall civil servant and he set himself the task of finding a site within an hour of London.

"Having represented Cambridge University I'd played all over the world and picked up many ideas but I had a dream of a sort of typical English heathland like Woodhall Spa, combining elements of Saunton Sands with a little St Andrews thrown in," he explained, and if you look around the finished creation you'll find double greens and flavours of those others mentioned.

"I wanted a fairly wild, natural course, not a highly manicured parkland and I was fortunate in 1975, after three years of constant looking, to find this green field site which had nine acres of barley and planning permission for a golf course.

"In those days there were very few golf courses being built - it was before the boom in the 80s. I was keen to build it myself so I knew I was going to take a long time over it. It was basically a hobby and I generated cash from cash flow rather than borrowing money," explained Will.

He commissioned the STRI who did a report of the site, tested the soil and specified a very high fescue mixture for the greens.

"It is a very sandy soil here. If you dig down for about a foot you'll find white sand so it means the entire course is very free draining," explained Will.

That was no coincidence because,

along with being within an hour of London, sandy soil was one of the principle pre-requisites.

"I think it's mad to build a golf course on heavy clay soil. Many have done but it would break my heart to play on such a course, and try to look after it, because it is just not suitable.

"I've played on a lot of heavy clay parkland courses and it is pretty murderous. You are battling against the elements the whole time instead of nature being on your side," he said.

There were no trees on the site so the first thing Will did was plant them, and not just a few. Over 100,000 have been planted since the project started.

"We created fairways by planting the trees and it is wonderful now 20 years on to see what we had imagined on some holes having become a reality. We played shots off the stubble to see how it was going to work," said Will who used the experience he had built up while running a golf course on the edge of the family estate in Northumberland since he was 20.

"I wasn't a novice as I'd built new greens and tees and I knew the sorts of things to avoid."

Even his major mistake is something which hints at someone who is used to working at a sophisticated level.

"It was silly in retrospect but I just assumed the wind would be from the west and put all my irrigation on the west side of the greens but in a drought you've got anti cyclones - easterlies and north easterlies. It was an obvious error."

In total it took five years to complete the course - which was then known as Millbrook after the local village - and it opened in 1980.

During the construction Will had to make several important career decisions.

"We reached a crucial point when I had to decide whether I was going to stay with my career, working for the Department of the Environment, or take a couple of years off to make sure the course got started and the cutting regimes were established."

As you may have guessed the golf course won and he took the time required before returning to Westminster to become a Management Consultant...at least for another four years before he was lured back to the golf club.

"In 1989 I left my career in the city again to come out here and build the clubhouse and Ron Mills, my Head Greenkeeper, and I managed the project and did all the electrics and the plumbing.

"I've never gone back to my job in the city. This place has become like a great big mushroom. It has just grown and took over my life."





Will now lives in Ireland where he grows all his own food and teaches self sufficiency to students who travel from all over the world to attend.

Will, Ron and the staff of three continue to use traditional green-keeping methods on the course and they have been rewarded by a course which rarely offers up disease problems.

"We get a little Fusarium but it's very small and goes away immediately and that's because we manage the microclimate, keeping the soil healthy and full of good bacteria the whole time," said Will, who, like a good wine expert, uses his nose to detect the sweetness in the soil or, alternatively if the dankness which indicates a bad fungus or organic substance which has not broken down.

"Our biggest operation every year is the hollow tining programme which is done in the autumn to rub sharp sand into the greens and otherwise we scarify regularly to keep the thatch down. By avoiding large amounts of any sort of fertiliser we don't have the tremendous ups and downs and imbalances caused by chemical application.

The one thing which Will hasn't found an answer for yet, is the feeding of the greens.

"At the moment I'm using a slow release fertiliser because I feel it is the least damaging but I'd like to get a composting technique that perhaps used sawdust and grass clippings and various additives to create a top dressing material that could be used to replace the fertility in the greens. But I must confess we haven't sorted that out yet."

One benefit of the Lyshott Heath's approach is that the land produces so much food.

"We've got crab apples, sweet chestnuts, walnuts, masses of cherries and mushrooms. We've got cowslips, newts in the pond, frogs, toads, dragonflies butterflies, hedgehogs, badgers, deer, foxes and any number of little furry things all due to 20 years of no poison or fertiliser. People don't realise that butterflies are killed by sprays," he explained.

"I believe absolutely that the golf course should be a wonderful feature of the countryside for people to enjoy as countryside. It is a disaster that so many modern golf courses are so sterile. I feel very strongly that golf offers a wonderful opportunity for city people, particularly to see the countryside as it should be. We don't have to kill every bramble and broadleaf thing."

He is aware of the need to educate the golfer away from the desire for the Augusta approach to golf course management.

"We are up against that problem that some people are looking for something that is highly manicured whereas here we do have dandelions and clover can be a problem. You can spray these things and they're gone in a flash but we don't do that. Golfers have to learn that this is the downside which they have to accept to be able to see all the lovely birds and wildlife and be able to lick their balls."

So as Will Sutherland and his team at Lyshott Heath have proved, you can produce and manage a golf course without recourse to chemicals. At the moment it is a more than acceptable alternative but in future Lyshott Heath may be seen as a trail blazer on the road down the only route available to golf courses.

BTME99
COME AND SEE
US ON STAND
A20

COME ALONG TO THE BARENBRUG STAND AT BTME99 AND ENTER OUR LUCKY DIP COMPETITION.

THE PRIZES WILL BE BARENBRUG GOODIES INCLUDING MUGS, BODYWARMERS AND A GREENSWORTH OF TOP BARENBRUG SEED



YOU'LL FIND US ON STAND A20 - SO BRING ALONG THIS FORM AND TRY YOUR LUCK!

BARENBRUG

GREAT IN GRASS

33 PERKINS ROAD, ROUGHAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK IP30 9NW
TEL: 01359 272000 TEL: 01359 272001



G.I. 1.99

PLEASE INCLUDE ME IN THE BARENBRUG GOODIES LUCKY DIP

NAME _____

CLUB ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

TEL _____ **FAX** _____

PRESENT SUPPLIER OF GRASS SEED _____

Ad Ref 172

TALKING

Greenkeeper International's new bi-monthly series featuring Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers from every Region this month starts with Temporary Greens.

Temporary Greens

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE



Name: Huw Morgan,
Wilderness Club Park
Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent
Type of Golf Course:
Woodland and heathland
Number of holes: 18
Staff: Course manager
plus six



Head: Graeme Macdonald
Club: Newark Golf Club,
Coddington, Newark.
Type of golf course:
Heathland
Number of holes: 18
Staff: Head Greenkeeper,
plus five, plus gardener.



David Goodridge
Club: Denbigh Golf Club,
Denbigh.
Type of golf course:
Parkland
Number of holes: 18
Staff: Head greenkeeper
plus three



Robin Greaves,
Club: Thornbury Golf Centre,
Thornbury, Bristol
Type of golf course: Parkland
Number of holes: 36
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus
five, plus gardeners and
wardens. Student help in the
summer months



Chris Yeaman,
Club: Swanston Golf
Club, Edinburgh,
Type of golf course:
Heathland
Number of holes: 18
Staff: Course Manager,
plus three.

1

1. Do you use temporary or alternative greens and if so do you use them in exceptional circumstances or as a matter of course?

2

2. How much time do you spend in preparation?

We have alternative greens but only in extreme weather. For example we used four temporary greens on one day in November following heavy rain.

We cut the temporary greens in September and keep them at the correct height. They are verti-drained, top dressed and fertilised and we normally cut them weekly. We move holes occasionally to relieve wear and tear.

We have temporary greens only in exceptional circumstances. The course drains well and we try to keep on normal greens as long as possible, hopefully all the year round

Temporary greens are cut into the fairway and are cut once a week. We also change holes once weekly and the greens are treated just like the normal greens with a dressing of iron sulphate, weedkiller, and aeration.

I like to stay on normal greens all the year round and use temporaries only in exceptional circumstances. That might cover a total of two weeks in any one year.

We cut the alternative greens out in September, but we have a lot of work to do keeping the course cut down with a small staff, so we don't do very much on the temporaries.

We try to stay on usual greens all the year round, but we do have some temporary frost holes. We are lucky in that the course drains quickly.

The temporary greens are cut out in September when the mowing slows down. They are then cut when necessary depending on rate of growth given some winter fertiliser.

We are lucky in the sense that our course is on the side of a hill 1,200 feet above sea level and higher than Edinburgh Castle from the 14th green, so we only use temporary greens when it is absolutely necessary due to frost or wet conditions. We had snow recently so we had to go on to them then as well.

The temporary greens are in place all the year round and we treat exactly the same as the normal greens except that we cut to seven mil rather than four.



GRASS ROOTS
— TRADING COMPANY —

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

STANDARD GOLF



£500,000

WORTH OF
**GOLF COURSE
ACCESSORIES**

ARE NOW
AVAILABLE

FREE!



**OUTRAGEOUS
BUT TRUE!**

VISIT STANDS B30 OR G76 AT BTME99 TO FIND OUT MORE

**WE WANT TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER
THAT YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY REFUSE!**



GRASS ROOTS TRADING COMPANY LTD
UNIT 8, CARLO COURT, MARINO WAY, FINCHAMPSTEAD,
WOKINGHAM, BERKSHIRE RG40 4RF
Tel: 0118 973 6600 Fax: 0118 973 6677



STANDARD GOLF

STANDARD GOLF UK LTD
UNIT 8, CARLO COURT, MARINO WAY, FINCHAMPSTEAD,
WOKINGHAM, BERKSHIRE RG40 4RF
Tel: 01189 736303 Fax: 01189 736677



GRASS ROOTS
— TRADING COMPANY —

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
STANDARD GOLF

£500,000 OF GOLF COURSE ACCESSORIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FREE!

Why?



Standard Golf is committed in 1999 to increase their market share and raise the awareness of the quality offered by this exceptional range of products. With this in mind, we have formed an alliance with Standard Golf UK for what, can only be described as the, most amazing promotional package devised.

Is this package for you?



We aim to offer this package to all clubs in the country, together with Standard Golf UK to mark the launch of our new GENESIS range of natural products.

What do you need to do differently?



Actually, nothing!
Your purchasing need not change. It will not blow your budget.
In fact, you will probably save money. BUT, you will also have your course accessories FREE.



GRASS ROOTS TRADING COMPANY LTD
UNIT 8, CARLO COURT, MARINO WAY, FINCHAMPSTEAD,
WOKINGHAM, BERKSHIRE RG40 4RF
Tel: 0118 973 6600 Fax: 0118 973 6677

FOR ALL YOUR


✓ QUALITY ✓ VALUE ✓ CHOICE



STANDARD GOLF

The list below shows what you could receive for FREE!
This offer covers all Standard Golf manufactured products as shown in our NEW 1999 catalogue. Please realise that this is NOT an 'end of line' promotion! This offer is only available DIRECT through;

GRASS ROOTS TRADING COMPANY IN ASSOCIATION WITH STANDARD GOLF UK LTD



Quantity	Sample package available	Standard list price
18	7' Black and White Tournament Flagpins	323.11
36	ST2000 NEW Holecups	178.20
36	Nylon, plain tubelock flags	142.20
1	Cup setter	12.00
1	Cup hook	4.85
18	PRO11 Ball Washers, colour of your choice	1,960.20
18	46" Pipe stands in black for above	469.26
18	9 gallon litter caddies c/w spike	689.04
108	Dimple tee markers, plain or personalised	847.80
18	Seed and Soil Butlers, divot bins	1,589.40
36	Chix cotton tee towels	110.05
2	Kooler Aid Stations complete	590.00
1	Cone water cups per 5,000	89.75
15	Brass fairway distance markers	449.25
60	Tour/Duo Rakes c/w fibreglass handles	837.00
15	Direction 15" aluminium signs	404.25
15	Fairway information signs	295.18
100	PVC Hazard markers	539.00
100	Ground anchors	215.00
1	Driving tool, for above	64.69
1	Set Practice Green markers and flags 1-9	129.95
9	Practice Green cups	29.25
1	Turfmaster hole cutter	108.90

TOTAL

£10,000

DON'T HESITATE ANY LONGER!
CALL 0118 973 6303 OR 0118 973 6600 NOW!

TURFCARE NEEDS

✓ AVAILABILITY ✓ SERVICE



GRASS ROOTS TRADING COMPANY LTD
UNIT 8, CARLO COURT, MARINO WAY, FINCHAMPSTEAD,
WOKINGHAM, BERKSHIRE RG40 4RF
Tel: 0118 973 6600 Fax: 0118 973 6677



STANDARD GOLF

Furthermore for 1999,

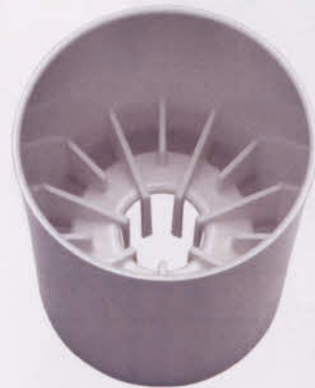
Our prices for Flags, Pins and Hole Cups are without doubt, the **lowest** price you will find.

Compare our prices with any other manufacturer and we will guarantee that if you can find that same quality item, from any other supplier at a cheaper price, **we will beat it!**



STANDARD GOLF UK

'SETTING THE STANDARD'



Compare this price...

18 each	Royaline 7ft fibreglass flagpins
18 each	Tubelock, nylon 20"x14" plain flags
18 each	US Riji Holecups

Total cost £299.70

Prices are exclusive of VAT and carriage at cost

**Our pricing for this complete product range
can only be described as unbelievable!**

Upgrade your equipment this year and notice the difference!

These prices are only available **DIRECT** from Standard Golf UK



GRASS ROOTS TRADING COMPANY LTD
UNIT 8, CARLO COURT, MARINO WAY, FINCHAMPSTEAD,
WOKINGHAM, BERKSHIRE RG40 4RF
Tel: 0118 973 6600 Fax: 0118 973 6677



STANDARD GOLF

STANDARD GOLF UK LTD
UNIT 8, CARLO COURT, MARINO WAY, FINCHAMPSTEAD,
WOKINGHAM, BERKSHIRE RG40 4RF
Tel: 01189 736303 Fax: 01189 736677

HEADS

3

3. Are they permanently positioned, or do you choose the site on an annual basis?

We use the same site every year and keep the holes all the year round, covering them in summer.

We cut them out on an annual basis, not necessarily in the same spot but within a certain area near the normal greens

They are permanently positioned because we have only 85 acres on a par 69 course so there is not much room to manoeuvre.

The temporary green sites are chosen on an annual basis and not set in stone. But they are usually in approximately the same place adjacent to the normal greens.

Our course only covers 90 acres so there is not a lot of room to play with. This means they are on the same site each year.

4

4. What is the general view of them within the membership?

Our members are very supportive and there are no complaints or problem. I am very lucky to work for such a superb golf club.

No complaints. Our members see a need for them and we protect our normal greens for the members' good. Once the frost has gone we go back. Members would rather play on temporary greens than have us close the course.

Certainly a mixed bag of views, but it is very much depending on the weather. We have a very well supported winter league which is run throughout the week rather than just Saturdays and Sundays as at most clubs.

We don't have too many problems, although the members naturally prefer the proper greens. However, they understand the reasons when we have to move members off the normal greens occasionally.

We get a few moans and groans, but it's not too bad. When we explain to our members why we have to move on to temporaries - after all it's for their own good in the long run - they are quite good about it.

5

5. What is your view of the larger size cups in the winter?

In my view there is no need to use larger cups. In any case we have club competitions which are run throughout winter and the members play a lot of medals and Stablefords, in addition to knock-out events, so larger cups wouldn't be appropriate.

We never use larger size cups on our course, nor have I used them elsewhere. What we do use in winter, however, are fairway mats and the last two years they have been mandatory. They are a big help heavy conditions in saving the course from divots.

I am not keen on winter cups and we never use them. We may get a few complaints, but of course in our profession we cannot do right by everyone

We never use larger sized cups at this club, although I have used them at other clubs where I have worked. I had ten years at Bristol and Clifton and the six-inch holes looked as big as buckets'

We don't have larger cups and when I have attended meetings with other greenkeepers I haven't heard of any in Scotland. However, I believe they are quite common in the North East of England in winter. We are perfectly happy with normal size holes.

6

6. Do you ban trolleys and buggies when necessary due to weather?

I cannot justify a trolley ban because we move over the course with a truck with three tonnes of soil in it which would obviously do more damage than a trolley. However, I am lucky in that although the course hardly has a drain on it, the course drains extremely well.

We allow trolleys and buggies. We have a "yes and no" box and if it is 'no' then it is total with no allowances for bad backs etc. If we did have an allowance I could see about 300 people with sudden bad backs!

A trolley ban has been talked about, twice in recent years, but we have never brought a ban in. I find that a white line system in front of greens which we move from time to time as the line wears out is very effective. We don't have ropes. I would like to add that the banning of chlordane for worms is one of my biggest regrets because worms are back and we haven't anyone who can breed worms that don't cast.

We don't have buggies, but we try to keep trolleys as long as possible and try never to ban them completely. A thought for the future. I can see machinery improving along with better computerised watering systems and also more attention being to computerised budgets.

We never ban trolleys and we don't have buggies because it would be too dangerous owing to the fact we are situated on a hillside. There are one or two more electric trolleys these days, but many prefer to carry. Our average age of member is perhaps slightly lower than many - probably 47-50.

SHARPES INTERNATIONAL

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE IN SEED FROM TEE TO GREEN



IMPROVE DISEASE RESISTANCE

IMPROVE SUMMER COLOUR

REDUCE MOWING NEEDS

Sharpes International Seeds Limited, Sleaford, Lincs. NG34 7HA. Tel: 01529 304511. Fax: 01529 303908. e-mail: sharpes@dial.pipex.com

EXPERTS RECOMMEND REGULAR LIGHT DRESSINGS
OF GREENS, TEES AND FAIRWAYS

ULTRA PLANT

HAVE THE MACHINES TO DO IT



**UB30S
Spinner Top Dresser.**
Spreads to 5 metres.
Ideal for regular light
dressings of Greens
and Tees.



**HL40
Highlift Trailer.**
For loading top dressers,
gravel/sand hoppers,
bunkers, etc.

**UB50
Precision Spreader.**
Truck mounted or
tractor towed for
greens and tees.



**UB60S
Spinner/Loader
Fairway Dresser.**
The ultimate dual
purpose machine.
Spreads to 11
metres. For loading
top dressers etc.



FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT:

**TEL: 01868 747582
FAX: 01868 746387**

ULTRA PLANT



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Scotland

The Scottish Region is pleased to announce that we are returning to the Dunfermline Conference Centre for our annual one day Conference on Tuesday 2 March 1999. Since last year the College has undertaken a facelift and the new building is tailor made for our needs.

This year's speakers cover a wide spectrum and we are delighted that they are able to present their papers at our Conference.

We have Simon Gidman who is well known to BIGGA members for his various talks throughout the country, who will be speaking on "Safety: A Golf course Architect's point of view". From Hankley Common Golf Club we have Ian McMillan, Course Manager, who is returning North to speak to us on "Preparing for Golf in the 21st Century". The R&A Secretary, Sir Michael Bonallack, with his vast experience of Open Golf, will talk about "How the Open Championship Benefits Golf". From CSC Amenity we have Gordon Holmes whose title talk will be "Risky Business (Risk awareness and Golf Course Management)". Dr Iain Young from the Scottish Crop Research Institute at Dundee will try and give us an idea of what really goes on under a golf green with a talk entitled "Golf Greens - a micro-organisms view". Also from Dundee we have Liz Thomas, a qualified archaeologist, who will give us an insight into what treasures may be hidden below your greens, 'Above and below the Turf'. Finally from Supatuff we have John Mullins who will give us his talk "Water Management on the Golf Course".

As in previous years, the Scottish Conference has always been well supported by all in the greenkeeping industry and we look forward to seeing everyone at Dunfermline for what will be a most interesting and enjoyable day.

Peter J Boyd

East

The East Section had our AGM in October and a very successful day it was; the day started off with a presentation on COSHH and Health and Safety by C.S.C. of Perth and we would like to thank them for their sponsoring of the day which was very informative.

The meeting went off very well, with everyone pleased with the way the Section is being run, and the financial position we have put ourselves in, which is down to a lot of hard work by all members of the committee. Jimmy Neilson finished his two years as Section Chairman, so we would like to thank Jimmy for all his hard work. We will see Jimmy at all Section events in his capacity as Scottish Chairman as he has just over one year to run; so thanks again Jimmy and all the best from all of the committee.

Our new Chairman (who is the past

Vice-Chairman) is Tom Murray, Ratho Park. Well done to you Tom, and all the best for the next two years. We have three new committee members: they are Ian Bell, Glencorse; Gordon Trotter, Glencorse; and Stuart Townsend, Murrayfield. So we hope you enjoy your time on the committee.

In December we held our annual dinner dance at the Kilspinde House Hotel Aberlady; everybody who attended the dance enjoyed yet again another great night. The meals and accommodation were once again first class; our thanks go to Mr and Mrs Binnie and the rest of the hotel staff. Our thanks also go to the patrons and members who donated raffle prizes for our raffle. The band had the dance floor rocking once more this year; thanks lads.

The social committee have some very good ideas in the pipeline, for social events in 1999; you will see them first in this column. You will be mailed of future events for this section in the coming year.

1999 looks a very good year for the Section, so if you know of any people that are not members or have let their membership lapse, tell them the benefits of the association and why they should join the association. They can also contact any member of the East Section committee.

If any of you are going to Harrogate BTME 1999, I will see you on the bus on the 19th of this month. If this is your first time you will not be disappointed.

Two people who will definitely be in Harrogate will be Craig Pennyquick, Winterfield GC, and George Thomson, Goswick GC, as they are the winners of the Patrons' Awards 1998. Well done to both of them. Thanks to all the patrons of the Scottish Region for providing us with this award to the members of the Sections of the Region.

The Section's congratulations go to Scott Corigan, Greenburn Golf Club, and his wife, Karen, on the birth of their son, Callum Innes. Mother and son are doing well. PS. Your handicap may be in single figures at this moment, but from this day onwards it will start rising.

Speak to any father and he will tell you the same.

Do not forget if you would like anything brought up in this column, drop me a line at: 74, Muirfield Drive, Gullane, East Lothian, EH31 2HJ, or by phone: (home) 01620 842 037 or (work) 0131 445 7165 (that is phone or fax), or you can contact any committee member - so come on we would like to hear from our section members about anything our members would be interested in.

Outings and dates for this season will be confirmed soon, so the information will be in next month's column. You will also be notified by mail.

We have arranged a football match against the West Section on Sunday 10 January. By the time you read this article the team will have been picked. This will be a home game for the East Section, with the return match to be arranged through in the West. So we are looking forward to this long awaited match. Result and pictures will be in next month's issue, venue to be arranged.

Well that's it for this month's feature, more news and reports next month. Last but not least, the Section would like to wish all our patrons and members all the best for the year, and we hope it is better than last year.

Hope to see you a Harrogate.

Chris Yeaman.

North

I open this report with the sad news that Jim MacGregor, Head Greenkeeper at Craigiehill GC, Perth, collapsed and died at his home at the end of November. Jim was just short of his 40th birthday and our condolences and thoughts are with his family at this terrible time.

The New Year is upon us and thoughts immediately turn to BTME at Harrogate later this month. Once again I look forward to an excellent week and meeting up with old friends, while making new ones. I am especially looking forward to seeing Rich Hurley again, as he is coming over the the States to talk this year. I have heard that my old friend Steve Cadenelli might also be coming over, which would be great. If Steve does not make it then I should see him next month at the GCSAA Show in Florida where I will be giving a talk to American Superintendents, which I am really looking forward to.

The Section Conference was a great success, despite the poor turnout. There were 62 delegates present to listen to six speakers talk about various subjects, all very interesting. Our thanks to all who helped to make the day go so well, especially Secretary, Dougal, who even had a clock on the table for me to time the speakers. It is such a shame that all the hard work that went into putting on the day was not rewarded by a good turnout from the Section. Anyone who has done this sort of thing before will know the time and money that has to be spent to run a Conference, and as a result of the poor numbers the Section will possibly lose money on the day. Ironically had we set the fee at £20 we probably would have had a similar turnout and not lost money; but we kept the cost down to try and raise the numbers and will suffer because of it. It seems that golf is all our members are looking for. One big plus at the conference was seeing Chris Cumming, Fortrose, again. Chris is back at work after recovering from a bad car accident earlier in the year.

Caroline Ross, from Royal Dornoch, has left work for a while to have a baby, we wish her all the best. Kevin Keith, formerly at Fortrose, has taken Caroline's place at Royal Dornoch for the time being.

I hope to see as many members at BTME as possible. I hope George Barr has recovered from his broken ankle to lead our attack in the Sunday night football game!

I.A. Macleod

Central

Well! that's another year come and gone, hopefully this one will be a bit drier than last year and we will have some sunshine for a change.

I hope everyone has sobered up and is in fine fettle for the next big event on the calendar, the BTME at Harrogate, if we keep going at this rate golf club members will get the impression that a greenkeeper's life is just a case of celebrating one event after the other, when in fact it is the pressure that some of them put us under that drives us to celebrate. (I was going to put drink but celebrate sounds better when club members read the magazine).

At the time of writing I don't have the exact date for the visit to Parkhead Stadium, this month, but you should have received notice of it by now, if not, and you want to attend, please contact me as soon as possible in order that numbers can be confirmed. This visit is being organised for the person who was brave enough to wear a Celtic scarf when we visited Ibrox Stadium a couple of years ago. (I won't tell you who it was as you will probably guess!)

The final member to join the Section in '98 was David Harrison, from St. Fillans Golf Club in Perthshire, and we extend a warm welcome to him.

The date for the Spring Tournament in 2000 is 13 April, this means that we now have confirmed dates for our golf tournaments for the next two years; so don't say you didn't get enough notice of them.

On a recent visit to Ipswich I had the pleasure of visiting Alan Ferguson, Alan is a past Vice Chairman of the Section and is now Stadium Manager at Ipswich Town Football Club, where his pitch was recently voted the best in the First Division, if the team can match the quality of the pitch then they will probably both be winners in the Premiership next season. Best of luck to Alan.

While I am on about former Section members I also had the pleasure of meeting David Murdoch recently; David worked with me at Dunfermline Golf Club before moving down south, where he is now Course Manager at Liphook Golf Club in Surrey and is back up at Elmwood studying for his HNC. He sends his regards to all his friends in Scotland.

As happened last year, forms for a number of Section events will all be circulated at the same time to save on costs, so please keep them in a safe place and return them for the appropriate event by the date stated on the relevant form.

John Crawford

Ayrshire

A guid New Year to all for 1999 and I hope everyone achieves their greenkeeping targets and ambitions. I'm sure most people's wishes will be like my own for better weather and a good growing season, surely it can't get any worse.

The AGM was held recently at the Parkstone Hotel, Prestwick with the usual turnout of the committee and a few. The meeting ran very smoothly with the only real change being Chairman, Jim Paton, stepping down in favour of his Vice Chairman, Duncan Gray, who duly accepted his promotion. Derek Wilson was re-elected as Secretary and the Vice Chairman's position was left vacant to allow the Chairman time to make his appointment. The following members

were elected to serve on the Committee. Jimmy Johnstone, William McMeikan, Robert Bruce, Harry Diamond, George Brown, Brian Finlayson, Iain Barr and Jim Paton.

There was a long general discussion on activities within the Section with some ideas being put forward for further assessment. The Committee would like to increase the amount and variety of the Section events, these, of course, will only be possible if they are supported, so tell us what you want and we will try our best to organise it.

We are also trying to plan our golf outings two years in advance. Some venues have been suggested with Derek Wilson inquiring as to their availability. We hope to confirm our meeting - Monday February 8 1999, Parkstone Hotel at 7.30 pm - any more suggestions, let us know.

BTME 99 at Harrogate is almost upon us again which I am looking forward to. I'm attending the Irrigation Workshop but somehow I feel a Drainage Workshop would be more appropriate, but you never know, maybe I'll get my New Year's wish. If there's anyone thinking of going, it's well worth the visit, even for a day or two. There should be a good few of our members going if you are looking for company or why not give Peter Boyd a call. He may have some late vacancies on the Scottish bus. Any news or views, give me a call - 01505 683278. Iain Barr.

West of Scotland

Happy New Year to everybody, I hope you weren't too drunk. If you were as good as me, then I'm sure nobody got into trouble. Can I wish all members good wishes for the new season, hoping the spring and summer are better than 1998.

Only a couple of things to mention. Firstly, the BTME: I hope everybody has booked their seats; if not then do try to attend at least one day as it is a great occasion. Secondly, the football match previously mentioned; I have been contacted from the Ayrshire Section for a game, so those folk interested please phone 0141 942 5554. Remember to phone me; that's one call, rather than me having to phone 15 people, otherwise no game will be the result.

Finally the annual dinner, or Victorios, as it became known. What was the result of this new venture? A resounding success as far as all those who attended are concerned. Sixty tickets were on offer and 59 were sold, and 56 attended. Everybody attending had a nice buffet, then Billy Porter came on to entertain all those expecting, butch greenkeepers. After that was finished with the serious business of drinking, talking, dancing and chasing started. Seriously folks, all in attendance enjoyed a great night until the late hours. One question, Gary, how is Victoria? Looks as if there could be quite a demand for tickets next year.

By the time this reaches you I hope Scott and Lynn Ballantyne will have had an addition to the family. Trust women to be late, only kidding. Can I wish both mother and child well. I hope everything

goes smoothly. Best wishes from all who know you.

Finally can I give the Section's good wishes to Ronnie Bunting, Kilmalcolm GC, I hope you recover quickly from your illness and hope to see you around soon.

Last but not least, anybody with information for the Section phone 0141 942 5554.

S. Taylor



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

I am sitting in front of my computer wondering how to start the Section notes, and finding it difficult because nobody has volunteered any information. So I will just report on the Christmas competition/Presidents day. The competition was played at Wilmslow GC, on 26 November and apart from the weather we had a great day.

The day previous had been one of the better days, no rain and a nice drying wind, so with the forecasters promising a similar day on the 26th, I felt happy we had the right day for the competition. Wrong! - the rain was hammering down, and it looked as though the day would have to be cancelled, but when we arrived at Wilmslow I was greeted with the sight of Steve Ultram, the Course Manager, just completing mowing the 11th green by hand. Steve and his men were soaked through but, being the dedicated crew they are, they had hand cut all the greens. The fairways were holding puddles of water, but all the greens were in good condition with no water lying on them. About an hour after play commenced the rain ceased, and the competition finished without any more rain.

I would like to thank Steve and his staff for all their hard work in having the course in great condition, and for all their efforts in keeping the course open. Many thanks also to Wilmslow GC, for allowing us courtesy of the course, and Gwen Chason, Catering Manageress, and her husband, David, for a lovely Christmas Dinner, and keeping us supplied with drinks.

The President's Cup was presented by the President, John Walker, to Andrew Bennett the first winner of the trophy. Andrew, one of the Wilmslow staff, had just about dried out by then, and then decided to give himself a good soaking inside. The longest drive, and nearest the pin prizes, donated by Rufford Topdress, were both won by John Berry. Everybody had brought a bottle along on the day, so we all left with a prize. I would like to thank the members of the trade who donated prizes for the table, which were taken before the bottles by the winners.

The AGM went smoothly and the committee decided to continue for a further year, except Alec Davies who stands down for personal reasons. I would like to thank Alec for being a good committee

member and he will be missed. That seems to be it, and I hope to see you at BTME. I will be on the Northern Region stand so pay me a visit. Happy New Year. Bert Cross.

North Wales

The Christmas golf meeting and AGM was held at Prestatyn Golf Club. Our thanks once again go to the Captain and Committee for allowing the use of their

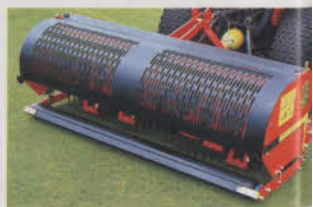
fine club. The course according to the players was excellent as was the weather, so praise must go to Dave Parry and his staff.

The results were 1. Shaun Pritchard 38 pts who was also nearest the pin, 2. Haydn Jones 37 pts, 3. D. Fitzgerald. Best aggregate for the years competitions went to Ian Buckley. Thanks go to our trade sponsor, Rigby Taylor, Amenity Technology, Acorn ALS, John Osman,

THE NEW
VERTI-DRAIN
MUSTARD
YOU'LL
QUICK
SEE THE
BENEFIT

Without doubt, the new Verti-Drain Mustard is the fastest, most effective aerator on the market today.

Whilst it still features the unique, patented 'heave' action, there are many new improvements, including single point arm adjustment, a stronger tine support system and fewer working parts.



Martin Bros and Walker Engineering - your support is much appreciated.

The AGM that followed was attended by 26 members including the committee and our Regional Administrator, Doug Bell. The committee will remain the same again this year, no-one else put themselves up for election so the status quo remains. The issues that were raised at the meeting will be discussed and acted upon, again if any of you out there

have any suggestions, criticisms, news etc please contact me on 01824 710693.

The Section has had 30 new members this year, bringing the membership up to 185, when I get the revised list I will welcome all of you and hope to meet you at various functions. As I write these notes on December 3rd I am attending the management course at the Queen Hotel in Chester, yet again it is another

superb benefit of being a member of BIGGA. However only three members of the North Wales section have attended. The same can be said of the short courses put on at the college, only six have attended.

I won't say anymore on the subject, please let me know the reasons why turnout is so poor. Still on the educational front I'm sorry about the lack of contact on the NVQ assessor front but

at the moment there is only what I can call a state of flux going on. However when I know you'll know, promise!

Again remember the coach trip to BTME, I hope to see you there I will be attending the liaison meeting at the College on December 8 so hopefully I will be able to give you the details of the seminar being held at the College in February in next month's column.

Dave Goodridge

NEW
RAIN
NG.
BE
TO
HE
TS.



Speed
camera



It can drive its 6" tines, solid or hollow, at a faster rate than any other aerator, which makes it the perfect machine for high speed runs down the fairway and for even shorter work on the greens.

The new Mustang joins the market-leading range of Verti-Drains that have

outsold and outperformed all competitors for the past 20 years.

And, with an aerator to suit virtually every application, it's the widest range available anywhere.

But one word of caution.

The new Mustang is fast; so fast that you may get done in a flash.

Contact us now for further information or a demonstration of the new Verti-Drain Mustang on 01428 661222.

Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd,
Weydown Industrial Estate, Weydown
Road, Haslemere, Surrey, GU27 1DW.
Tel: 01428 661222. Fax: 01428 661218.



E-Mail: ctm@dircon.co.uk
Web Site: <http://www.redexim.com>



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

business working as a landscape garden-er. I would just like to take this opportunity to wish Dave all the best in this project.

Antony Bindley.

Midland

I am writing this report the week before the Christmas Tournament as I have to work one month in advance and this does create some problems with the information I can give to you. The biggest problem being I have no information on the outcomes and news from the AGM which is to be held at the tournament next week. All this information will be contained in the February report along with all the official results in the various knockout competitions and our Christmas tournament.

I would like to on behalf of the Midland Section wish Harold Lewis, Head Greenkeeper from Copt Heath Golf Club, all the best in his retirement, also all the members of staff at Copt Heath would like to wish Harold the best and to enjoy his retirement after a long period of service to the club.

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and can enjoy a good new year, and the prospect of another BTME to look forward to in the not too distant future.

Finally I would like to introduce some more new members - Ian Bonser, Richard Edwards, Philip Gates and Paul Steel.

Jonathan Wood

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

The Regional Seminar took place at Mentmore Golf club back in November. This could have been better supported by members from our area but, despite the poor showing from our section, the day proved successful with quality speakers from various areas of expertise. Thanks to Peter Larter, our Regional Administrator, for putting it all together.

The last golf event took place at Whiteleaf Golf Club back in November. This actually proved too popular as several people had to be turned away. Please remember if you want to play in any future golf event, return your entry asap to avoid disappointment. The format was the same as previous, teams of three with the best two scores counting. Normally the scoring is blistering but Whiteleaf proved a tricky test of golf, straight tee shots required and accurate iron play into small greens. Unfortunately neither myself or my two hand picked partners could manage either! 1. T. French, G. Wheeler & J. Winslade 78pts (-6); 2. J. Lee, B. Hunter & N. Hamilton 77 pts (-5); 3rd: V. Riches, J. Hayward & N. Ely 71pts (+1). Thanks to our sponsor, Rigby Taylor, Mark Stidwell, for providing all the splendid trophies. The day would not be a success without the support of the trade, it really is much appreciated by all participants. Thanks also to Risboro Turf, Mark Barthelmie, for taking care of postage for this event. Thanks to Whiteleaf for allowing us courtesy of the course which was in fantastic condition thanks to the hard work of David Ward and Rodger Smith. Thanks also to Mrs Bowden and her staff for providing us with some excel-

lent food afterwards.

The AGM was held in the evening, there were no questions raised from the floor so the procedure was fairly straight forward. Ray Clark, Chairman, read the balance of accounts, these were approved by our members. There will be several changes on the committee next year, new Chairman Adrian Cooper, new Golf Administrator Tony French. Ross Wilson and Robert Woodward were voted on to the committee. Good luck to all of the above. Wishing you all a happy New Year.

Lindsay T Anderson.



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

Devon & Cornwall

A happy New Year to you all. I hope you have had an enjoyable festive season which has recharged your batteries for another challenging year ahead. The Section's first meeting of the New Year will be the Barenbrug Seeds meeting and will be held at Bude & North Cornwall Golf club on Wednesday January 27. The day will be sponsored by Barenbrug with the educational theme this year being on computers with Wessex Software and Watermatron providing the management software for you to try out.

Also there will be computer software from the BIGGA library. During the morning there will also be a singles Stableford golf competition with start times between 9.30 am - 10.30 am.

Our Devon Garden machinery-sponsored meeting was held at Lanhydrock Golf Club on Wednesday November 11. This meeting was also the Section's AGM. As always, the day started with our golfing members competing for the Toro Trophy, which was played in a four-some format. Our non-golfing members were treated to an excellent guided tour of the course by Head Greenkeeper, Martin Morgan. After an excellent lunch, Alan Dommett, from Devon Garden Machinery, presented the prizes on behalf of Toro and DGM and gave a short presentation on his company: 1. Michael Bush, St Mellion, and Alan Gawnan, St Mellion; 34 pts back 9. 2. Rod Hensby, Lanhydrock, and Martyn Paris, Holsworthy; 34 pts. 3. Richard Parker, Ilfracombe, & Andy Parker, Crediton; 31 pts.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsor, Devon Garden Machinery, for their support and to Graham Bond for allowing our Section use of his excellent facilities and to all the staff at Lanhydrock for making the Section so welcome. Special thanks must go to Martin Morgan and his crew who had the course in superb condition.

The Section's AGM followed the presentation, unfortunately the Chairman, Steve Evans, was unable to attend due to work commitments. He had also informed the administrator that he wouldn't be standing for re-election. The meeting was opened by Vice Chairman,

Terry Farkins.

The Section Administrator opened his report with the balance sheet for the year ending September 30 1998 and explained that during the financial year there had been one major change in the way the Section was funded, as the Section's subscription refunds from Head Office had been withdrawn to help finance the new part-time Regional Administrators post. After consideration the Section committee decided to offer the trade companies who had already sponsored the golfing prizes at the Section meetings first refusal on sponsoring the whole day. The Section committee were delighted when every company decided to take up the sponsorship. The administrator expressed the Section's thanks to all the companies who have generously sponsored the section meetings over the last year. These are: Avoncrop, Barenbrug, Devon Garden Machinery, P J Flegg, Rhone Poulenc, Roffeys, Supaturf. Also he expressed special thanks to P J Flegg who not only sponsored the Christmas meeting but also the fixture cards this year, completing the two year agreement. The administrator informed members present that the Section made a slight loss on the year of £89.53 compared with a slight profit of £116.16 on the previous year. Although the Section made a slight loss on the year he felt that with the continued sponsorship of Section meetings and fixture cards by the trade, the balance sheet can remain stable but the section must receive support at section meetings from the membership to make it succeed.

The Chairman's report was presented by Vice Chairman, Terry Farkins.

It opened by congratulating Richard Whyman on reaching the national finals of the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping award and for his tremendous achievement in finishing joint runner up. Also, the Chairman congratulated Jeff Mills on his tremendous achievement in reaching the national finals of the Toro Student of the year finals.

The Chairman considered that the Section is still one of the strongest in the country. This is due to the continued support of the trade without which we wouldn't be able to survive. He thanked all the trade who had generously sponsored the section meetings, although the section is one of the strongest in the country he felt that it was up to Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers to support Section meetings by attending and also by encouraging their staff to end. With all the work that goes on behind the scenes, it needs your support to make it work.

The Chairman, in his report, congratulated Gordon Child on becoming the first member from the Section to become our National Chairman and thanked him for all the hard work he had done over the years. He concluded his report with the information that next year's Westurf will be held at West Point near Exeter. This is an exciting venture for our Region and again needs the support of our members to make it succeed. Our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, has put a substantial amount of work into this

East Midlands

This year's AGM and Golf Tournament was hosted by Lutterworth G. C. on November 12. The AGM itself was nearly completed in the record time of 17 minutes but failed by the narrow margin of three minutes.

The Chairman, Dave Leatherland, was returned to office as was the Vice-Chairman, Gavin Robson. Treasurer, Richard Barker, and Secretary, Antony Bindley. Steven Heap and Adie Porter were returned as members of the committee.

I would also like to thank the three retiring committee members Graham Arnold, Tim Allard and Kevin Davis for all their hard work while serving on the committee. The Chairman did ask for more members to put themselves forward for next year's AGM, as all committees require new faces which bring in new ideas.

Moving on to the day's golf which consisted of a team of three, Texas Scramble format. There was only one Gross score under par which came as a surprise to everyone, this was achieved by Richard Barker, Gavin Robson and Kevin Kinzer. 66 Gross. 4.7 H/Cap. 61.3 Nett. 2. Antony Bindley, Steven Heap and Gary Thurman 69-4.8-64.2.

I would like to thank Lutterworth G.C. for courtesy of their fine course and also to congratulate Gary Jukes and his staff for presenting an excellent course in such wet conditions. Thanks should also go to the steward for a really great meal and to our very generous sponsors Vitax Ltd. Finally I would like to thank all committee members who help to run this day's event. May I take this opportunity to remind members that it is imperative to turn up on the day, ready to play before your start time. Those members who fail to do this are letting their playing partners down.

This year's Regional Seminar was held at Mentmore G.C. on Wednesday November 18. Unfortunately there was a poor turnout, but those who attended enjoyed some very informative lectures, and the chance to win a great prize of a golfing weekend in the raffle. We were also honoured on the day by the presence of our National Chairman, Gordon Child. I would like to thank all the speakers and trade members for their support to our Section, and also Mentmore for hosting this event. Also a special thank-you to our Regional Administrator for all his hard work in organising such a enjoyable day.

On behalf of the Section I would like to wish Gary Thurman, of Chamwood Forest GC, a successful 1999 season. Gary has just been named Captain of the club and has been a keen member of the Association for many years.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting an old friend of ours, Dave Sankey formerly of Cosby G.C. He has now set-up

project and wished it every success.

The Regional report was presented by Richard Wisdom who opened his report by congratulating Paula on her very successful first year in office which included the magnificent organisation of Westurf 1998, the BTME trip and regional seminar. If you haven't had a visit from Paula yet you should expect one shortly.

This year's Westurf was once again financially a success, but many exhibitors felt that the event was poorly attended. Because of this, the Regional Board have decided to change the venue to West Point near Exeter. This will provide a large undercover facility which will hopefully create a greater number of stands.

Richard concluded his report by informing members that the Region's accounts were in a very healthy state which has allowed the Region to offer an interest free loan to the association to help with the repayments on the new offices.

The retiring President, John Palfrey, spoke on behalf of the trade by thanking members for their support. He felt that the Section meetings had the right balance with golf and educational talks taking place. John moved on to Westurf which will be held in the Section at Westpoint next year. He suggested that members knew of other people who are involved within the turf industry and encouraged members to invite these people along to the show. The more people attending the show the greater the success. John concluded his report by thanking the section administrator Richard Whyman for all his hard work and support over his term in office which he had enjoyed.

Sections Committee elected. T. Farkins, Chairman & Regional Board member; C. Rawlings, Vice Chairman; R. Wisdom, Regional Board Member; C. Gadsby; S. Getson; M. Morgan; M. Samuel, President, (two year term); R. Guntrip, Trade Member three year term; A. Dommett, Trade Member three year term; R. Whyman, Section Administrator.

Richard Whyman.

South West

A very happy New Year to all members of the Section. I have taken over the running of Education and Monthly reports from Marc Haring. Marc's 'witty' style of writing developed a small but loyal fan club who will sorely miss him. However, I'm sure he will make the odd guest appearance in future editions of this magazine. Thirty six of the hardest members braved the stormy winds and dark rain clouds which descended on Saltford Golf Club for the Autumn Tournament. It was a remarkable feat by Head Greenkeeper, Ian McFarlane, and his loyal staff to get the course into a playable state. The winner of the event was K. James with 36 points. His better back nine beat Anthony Knight, who also had 36 points into second. Third went to J Byrne with 34 points.

Thanks go to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the event and also Saltford's Secretary and catering staff for their kindness and hospitality. The AGM then fol-

lowed. Most of the committee was re-elected although Peter Baynton announced that this would be his last year as secretary. Ivor Scoones then asked the floor if there were any volunteers who would be interested in taking over secretarial duties next year. An eerie silence fell on the room. Suddenly, a rather tentative member nervously raised his arm. He was pounced upon by a member of the committee carrying a wad of paperwork, and cries of "Well done" and "congratulations" followed. The poor fellow still looked shell shocked 20 minutes later.

There was also a little bit of drama at the Regional Seminar held at Cannington College on November 25. The legendary Jack MacMillan, donned his boxing gloves and began "sparring" with Dave Phillips, from Mommersteeg, about the "benefits" of sowing a green with bents and fescue seeds. Jack believed that poa greens were inevitable no matter what you sowed them with.

Anyone with a Masters Degree in Bio-chemical molecular structures, would have enjoyed John Mullins, from Supaturf talking about wetting agents. Other guest speakers included Ian McMillan, Tony Rees and Phil Greenway who all gave very informative talks. The star of the show was Frank Newberry, who made quite an impact on the audience. Thanks go to Paula Humphries for organising the event. Roffey Bros and Supaturf for sponsoring it and Cannington College for hosting it.

The Winter Tournament will take place at Lansdown Golf club in the last week of February. All members will receive a slip that will give them the choice for receiving future invitations or not. This should help reduce postal costs. A new and improved Westurf will take place at the new venue of Westpoint near Exeter on April 27. Anyone requiring further information should contact Paula Humphries on 01363 82777. With tougher European Health & Safety laws coming into effect shortly, the need for better trained staff is becoming more and more important. Demand for courses next year is expected to be extremely high and the costs of training are also likely to rise. It is therefore advisable to get onto a training course now while you still have time to spare. I am compiling lists for the following courses:- First Aid, Spraying (PA1, PA2 & PA3), Abrasive Wheel, and Chainsaws. Please contact me on 01249 783382 to add your name to the list. If you are considering a PA2, please state whether you want a tractor mounted spraying course or a Cushman one. If you want me to investigate the possibility of running any other course, please don't hesitate to ask.

Paul Cunningham.

South Coast

Here we are again, into yet another year. The one before the big one, when all the computers are supposed to go on the blink. A Happy New Year to you all. Let's hope it brings success to everyone.

To start with I must apologise for no Around the Green report for November of last year. It was sent in good time, but did not arrive at Headquarters. So it has

WHITEMOSS AMENITIES

THE PROFESSIONAL'S CHOICE

FOR

- TOP DRESSINGS • ROOT ZONES •
- BUNKER SANDS • PATHWAY GRAVELS •
- AGGREGATES •
- SCREENED SOIL & PEAT •



AND NOW AVAILABLE
DRIVING RANGE EQUIPMENT



Sales Office Tel: 01270 213456/211149
Sales Office Fax: 01270 253772
E-mail: whitemossa@aol.com
128 Crewe Road, Haslington,
Crewe, Cheshire CW1 5RQ

Southern Region: Adrian Masters: 07971 229068
Northern Region: Mike Crabtree: 07970 815146
Midland Region: Andy Law: 07970 752034

Whitemoss Quarry, Crewe Road, Radway Green,
Resager, Cheshire CW1 1W

Ad Ref 606

SEE THE

UNIQUE

TRUE-SURFACE[®]



...makes true greens![™]

VIBRATORY ROLLERS IN ACTION ON STAND G18

PLUS
FREE

DELUXE CONFERENCE FOLDER
FOR THE FIRST 25 VISITORS TO THE STAND

EACH DAY

MAKE IT YOUR FIRST CALL!

Ad Ref 312

to be down to the Postal Service.

Our trip to the Oxfordshire Golf Club went very well. A total of 25 members attended. We were met by David Gower, the Course Manager, and Brian, the Deputy Course Manager. We were then taken to the Clubhouse, where David and Brian gave us a talk on the history of the course, and the maintenance programmes that are used. This was then followed by a Question and Answer session. We were then given a guided tour of the golf course. The course was well maintained by David and his 25 staff. It was well laid out with some very interesting holes. But Oh My, those bunkers! We were told that one of them was 1.5 acres. Personally I felt there was no need for all these large bunkers. David told us that his budget for the bunkers was nearly as much as the greens. The course was wide open and very few trees. The rough was difficult to maintain as it consisted of a lot of mounds.

For the type of course it is, David requires all the staff he has, to maintain it to the high standard that is required. I would like to thank David and Brian for giving us the time to show us their American Style Golf Course. Also thanks to Peter the Mechanic who gave us a good insight into the maintenance of the machinery. Last but not least, thank you to the owners of the course who allowed us to visit The Oxfordshire.

This is definitely the last call for the Region's BTME coach. If there are any late comers please contact Paula without delay. There may be a chance of a seat.

Our Regional/Section Seminar will be held at Sparsholt on 23 February. Booking forms should be with you shortly. Some very good speakers have been arranged for you. Please return your slips and cheques to our Secretary as soon as possible: Jeff Drake, 6 Villiers Walk, Wash Common, Newbury, Berks, RG14 6SJ. Tel: 01635 846575.

Westurf is being held at Westpoint near Exeter on Tuesday, 27 April. It is hoped to up-grade Westurf and attract a lot more members and members of the trade. It will include a large enclosed indoor area. There will also be demonstration area. Seminars on water management will be taking place during the day. There will be a courtesy bus to take spouses into Exeter to shop or sightsee. Looking at the plans of the layout it does look very inviting. It could be seen as a smaller version of BTME.

Notes for your diaries: Thursday 4 March. Crane Valley Golf Club speaker from EnviroGreen and 9 holes of golf. Ken Lodge.

Surrey

Yes I'm back from the big orange 'Los Angeles' and with me came my new set of Callaway irons. If they don't reduce by handicap by at least two shots I'll sell them to Ted Stiles at a knock down price!

The Huxley Bowl competition is now completed and the proud winners are Derek Cunliffe and James Norris. They beat Bobby Rogers and Matthew Lovett in an exciting and nail biting final round. I must apologise for an error in the November issue for naming the proud

parents of Hannah Bellamy as Mr and Mrs Mark Sutcliffe. They are of course Mr and Mrs Mark Bellamy. Apparently Hannah, although only two months old at the time, saw the article and was most confused.

The Surrey Section Turkey Trot was played at Clandon Regis Golf club on the 10 December and the AGM followed. Details will appear in the February issue.

Lastly, goodbye to Mark Anderson who is leaving Selsdon Park Golf Course and will be found in the near future by anyone visiting Luxembourg at the Choto De Preisch Golf Complex. We wish Mark Bon Voyage and good luck. Now it's goodbye to him and it's goodbye from me.

Brian Willmott.



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Essex

It's AGM time again. Doesn't time fly. Another year gone. Golf Day and AGM was held at Orgett Golf Club and a good day was had by all. Thanks to the Golf Club and Carl for the course which was up to its usual high standard. Prizes went to: 0 - 9 Handicaps: A. Sheehan 41, J. Robinson 31, G. Cox 30, M. Fance 30; 10 - 18 Handicaps: D. Wells 38, J. Morgan 35, R. Dunmow 33, R. Clark 29; 19 - 28 Handicaps: M. Smith 38, M. Forrester 33, N. Horsewell 29, R. Goodgail 27. 1st overall, Andy Sheehan. Trade Prize: Peter Owens 36; Guest prize: Mike Pinner 34; Nearest the Pin on 12th, Ray Goodsell; Longest Drive on 18th: Peter Owens. Thanks to Banks Amenity who were the main sponsors of the event. Thanks also to Rigby Taylor, Consult Clarkson, Tuckewells, DFL, Avoncrop Amenity, Scotts UK, Grasshopper, Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd., Gem Professional, Willmot Pertwee for raffle prizes and Greenkeeping Supply Company for nearest the pin and longest drive. A fine meal followed the golf. Thanks to the catering staff.

And on to the AGM which went off with no problems. Thanks to Carl, Martin and Richard for producing a healthy bank balance. The new Committee shows one or two new faces. The Committee is: Chairman, Carl Croucher; Vice Chairman, Mick Fance; Treasurer, Richard Pride; Education Officers, John Sinclair; Competition Secretary - Handicaps, Dominic Rogers, Scribe, David Wells, Social Organisers, John Selwood and Steve Cox.

Some dates for your 1999 diary: Evening Lectures at Writtle College 4 February and 23 March. The Regional Seminar is in our Section this year on November 16. Also at Writtle College. Golf Dates for this year: April, Burnham on Crouch, TBC. June, Colchester. August, Thornton Park, October, Romford. TBC. December, Rochford Hundrey, TBC. Another date for your diary is the Gentleman's Dinner at

Walton Heath on March 12. Our very efficient Secretary informs me we have 175 members in our Section. We could do with a few more. Here are some new names. Colin Mumford, North Weald G.C., William Wingfield, The Burstead G. C., Neil Harman, Toot Hill G. C., Simon Pyett, Colchester G. C.

Steve Denton was telling me the other day that Lee Squires, from the Orchards Holiday Village, received Employee of the Year for 1998. Well done Lee.

Going back to prizewinners. Our four majors of the year. Winners were Spring, Ray Clark, at Stapleford Abbots; Summer, Andy Sheehan, at Channels; Autumn, Barry Brown, at Thorpe Hall, and Winter, Amos Sheehan at Maylands.

On November 20, the Section helped by Dougal of Grass Roots Trading, organised a Go Karting Day in Colchester. A good time was had by all. Yours truly couldn't go because of work but my staff enjoyed themselves. The winners were Stapleford Abbots. Well done to Peter Moss, Wayne Chapman, Barry Dowsett and Les Mogg.

That's about it for 1998 - I'd like to wish everyone in the golfing industry a happy New Year and see some of you in 1999.

Dave Wells.

Northern Ireland

South East

Happy new year! On November 17 we had our AGM for 98 at Belvoir Park G.C. The meeting was well attended and the following members were voted onto the committee for 1999. Graham Wylie; Chairman, Jonathan McCabe; Vice Chairman and Magazine Liaison Officer, Kenneth Henderson; Secretary, James McConnell; Assistant Secretary and Education Officer and Terry Crawford; Handicap Secretary. The nine hole golf competition was cancelled before the AGM due to the atrocious weather conditions. The sponsor, Scotts, will carry over the prizes to our Spring Golf day in 1999. The Section Committee would like to thank Belvoir Park G.C. for providing such a fine venue for our first AGM. An agenda is currently being drawn up for 1999 so members should be notified early in the new year; when dates and venues will be confirmed.

Our Regional Supervisory and Management Course was held at The Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle Co. Down on 24/25 November 1998. The course on Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment was presented by Golf Course Architects Howard Swan and Simon Gidman.

The course was a tremendous success and special praise must go to Howard and Simon for their professional approach. They made the course interesting in every way and a great learning experience. Their ideas on design and

construction were of great benefit for those attending. Thanks also go to the Burrendale Hotel who provided excellent food, accommodation and friendly service.

Section Secretary, Ken Henderson, would like to thank all the members who attended especially those who travelled up from Dublin, Co. Kildare and North East Section members from Portstewart GC and Royal Portrush GC.

Congratulations to Woolsey White on becoming Head Greenkeeper at Tandragee GC (Co. Armagh).

The Section during its first year has trebled its membership so the committee look forward to 1999 and hope to further promote the benefits of association membership to all greenkeepers.

Jonathan McCabe

North East

We would like to wish all our members and sponsors a happy new year and hope they had a very merry Christmas. Let's hope we get a drier one than last year.

It's been a quiet time for us here at the moment with only a few points to mention. Congratulations to Brian Boyle on his appointment to the Greenstaff at Stakis Park. We would like to thank Jeff Connell of Grass Roots for a very enjoyable day out at his plant showing us how his organic top-dressing was made. Jeff then treated us to lunch and a game of golf at Gracehill GC. There were 25 Greenkeepers in attendance and the small competition we held was won by G. O'Neill 1. S. McGure 2. and 3. N. Webber. We would like to thank Jim Gillan the course owner, for making us welcome, and John Kilgore the Course Manager for the excellent shape the course was in.

Finally an event which is coming up in the new year by John Lindsay Professional Sportsturf to be held at Stakis Park Templepatrick, January 7.

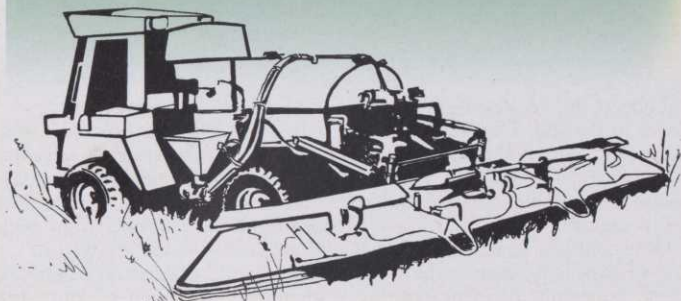
The topic of the seminar is Turf Management. The speakers are D. Philip of Mommersteeg, Dr J. Smith, of Scotts UK; R. Walton of Scotts UK; J. Mullans, of Supaturf Products, and F. Ainsworth, of Stakis Park. The seminar will run from 9.40 am to 1.00 pm - lunch will be provided. John Lindsay would also like to invite all BIGGA members.

Eamonn Farrell



The SPRAYING MANTIS

It's Big, Green, Sprays in the Wind
and Comes Out at Night...



★ Advice ★ Application ★ Supply ★ Training ★



WEED FREE

FREEPHONE 0800 068 08 78

Unit 14, Roundshed Drive, Warfield, Berks RG42 3RZ

Ad Ref 504

 **Wiedemann** 

Terra Spike Speed Link



Triplex Rotary Mower



NEW

Material Collection Systems



Superior German
engineering at work.
For information
regarding your near-
est professional dealer
contact: Wiedemann
(UK) Ltd

Wiedemann (UK) Ltd

Stoney Brae, Potterhill, Paisley PA2 7TG
Tel: 0141 884 2552 Fax: 0141 884 6252

Ad Ref 325

FLOWTRONEX

Q. WHY FLOWTRONEX?

ANSWER: *Industry Leadership*

FLOWTRONEX is the world's largest pump station manufacturer, with more installations than all of our competitors combined.

ANSWER: *Superior Control*

FLOWTRONEX variable speed pumping systems bring you savings of up to 50% on energy and reduced maintenance costs by integrating the latest in variable speed technology with the finest engineering, design and construction in the industry.

ANSWER: *UK Manufacturing*

Using advanced production techniques at our UK manufacturing facility in Waterlooville, Hampshire, every pump set is run-tested and pre-commissioned, ready for immediate operation.

ANSWER: *Worldwide Service*

Through the revolutionary FlowNet service network, FLOWTRONEX is able to provide fast and efficient service when you need it.

FLOWTRONEX



European Headquarters

Flowtronex Europe Ltd
2 Relay Road
Waterlooville
Hampshire PO7 7XA
England
Tel: +44 (0) 1705 268511
Fax: +44 (0) 1705 241263

German Office

Flowtronex Europe Ltd
Begonienweg 33
22047 Hamburg
Germany
Tel: +49 40 696 923 90
Fax: +49 40 696 923 91

Ad Ref 610

Has the worm turned?

Around this time every year it never ceases to amaze us how the earthworm, given the right conditions, can create such chaos on the golf course. Casting activity reaches a peak in damp, yet relatively mild, conditions and we have all seen, if not experienced, the problems earthworms can cause.

With financial support from the R&A, STRI have undertaken an extensive programme of research on earthworm control. Over recent years this research has adopted a more cultural and ecological approach as a response to tighter legislation on pesticide use. Work has focused on the biology of earthworm populations and changes in casting activity in response to soil characteristics and management operations. So at STRI we aim to be one step ahead of legislative change but at the same time we must also appreciate the immediate options available to greenkeepers.

In our last article (June 1998) we gave an insight into the severity of the earthworm problem first hand. This was based on the results of a questionnaire completed by greenkeepers last year. This month we provide an update on the few remaining chemical control methods available, examining

the effectiveness of different materials as an alternative to chlordane.

Since turfgrass research started in Bingley in 1929 a lot of time has been devoted to problems of earthworm control. Over the years many materials have been tried and tested to help reduce casting on the golf course. From the 1920s onwards, methods have included the application of copper sulphate, perchloride of mercury, Derris dust and lead arsenate. In the 1960s chlordane was introduced which gave effective control for three or four years if not longer.

Unfortunately some of the most effective worm killers were toxic to many other soil organisms and concerns grew about the environmen-

tal effects due to long term persistence in the soil. The final chapter came for these materials on 31 December 1992 when it became illegal to use chlordane for earthworm control.

Other options have included the use of expellants such as mowrah meal, potassium permanganate or formaldehyde. These materials can be effective by driving earthworms to the surface for collection but have relatively little persistence in the soil and problem areas are soon re-populated.

The three materials currently listed for earthworm control on turfgrass in the UK are carbaryl, carbendazim and gamma-HCH + thiophanate methyl (gamma-HCH + tm). Between 1993 and 1998 six trials examined the relative effectiveness and duration of control of these worm killers. The manufacturers' recommended rates applicable at the time of the trials are given in Table 1. All were tested at sites suffering from high rates of casting which were assessed on a monthly basis by counting the number of casts accumulating within a given area.

In all cases results are expressed as a percentage of casting on untreated areas. For example, an area that is 80% relative to untreated turf indicates that the area has 20% less casts than the untreated turf.

Three initial trials were established to compare the relative effectiveness of all three approved materials. The worm killers were applied in October 1994 and by November earthworm casting was significantly reduced for all three pesticides. However, the results showed that carbaryl was the least effective and after 12 months casting rates relative to untreated turf from all three trials averaged 88% for carbaryl compared to for example, 48% for gamma-HCH + tm. The rate of approval for carbaryl was subsequently lowered from 3.96 kg ha⁻¹ to 3.78 kg ha⁻¹, and its use is now only permitted by tractor sprayer with the operator in

a completely enclosed cabin.

In 1996 a further two trials were established at separate sites to compare the effectiveness of carbendazim and gamma-HCH + tm against untreated turf. Results from both trials are shown in Figure 1. Significant differences between chemical treatments and the untreated plots were recorded for 12 months at Site one (Nov 96-Oct 97) and 15 months at Site two (Nov 96-Jan 98). During this time casting rates relative to untreated plots given one single application of pesticide averaged 33% and 34% respectively for carbendazim and gamma-HCH + tm at Site one and at Site two, 40% for carbendazim and 42% for gamma-HCH + tm.

After all four trials were complete it was concluded that both carbendazim and gamma-HCH + tm significantly reduced casting for 12 to 15 months. Whereas carbaryl produced some reduction in earthworm casts five to 12 months after treatment but over this period not all reductions were significant.

It is also worth comparing our results to those found in last year's greenkeeper questionnaire survey. The questionnaire concentrated on problems of earthworm control four years after chlordane had been banned and at a time when its residual effects were diminishing. The survey allowed information to be gathered from nearly 300 golf courses across the UK.

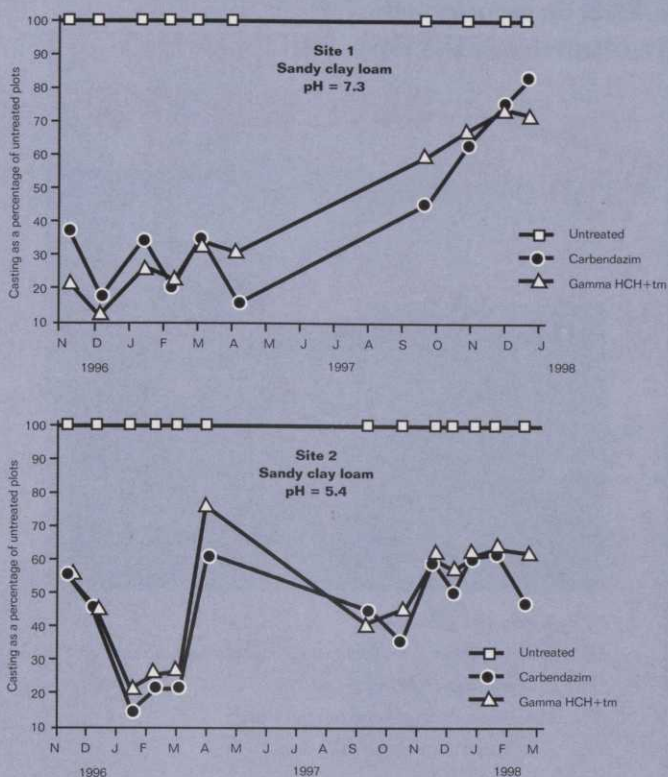
There is some indication that carbaryl gave less suppression than carbendazim or gamma-HCH + tm (Table 2), although strictly no statistically significant differences were found. Most greenkeepers reported casting suppression tended to last one to three months after chemical control and only about 30% of responses suggested reasonable suppression for three months or more. The differences between the questionnaire results and those found in our detailed monitoring may be one of definition. Our tests are looking for significant differences in the amount of casting between treated and untreated

TABLE 1
Application rate and concentration of the three worm killers

Material	Concentration (g l ⁻¹)	Application rate (l ha ⁻¹)
Carbendazim	500	4
Carbaryl	240*	16.5*
Gamma-HCH + thiophanate methyl	thiophanate methyl=500 lindane=60	10

* At this rate carbaryl no longer has approval for use as a lumbricide.

FIGURE 1
Rates of earthworm casting over time, expressed as a percentage on untreated plots



plots, whereas greenkeepers are possibly considering that control has stopped when one or two casts are seen on treated areas.

The questionnaire responses also suggested that annual expenditure on pesticides for earthworm control increased from an average of £400 per golf course in 1994 to £525 two years later. In 1996 14% of golf courses were spending over £1000 per year on pesticides and over one-fifth of respondents suggested that casting by earthworms is currently a much greater problem than in the years before 1992 when chlordane was available.

On turf areas, earthworm activity brings about many advantages, particularly in terms of soil structural development and the recycling of organic matter, which, in turn, controls the build up of thatch.

Careful consideration should, therefore, always be given as to whether earthworm control to reduce casting outweighs the loss of the benefits listed above.

Indeed management techniques

such as brushing or switching to disperse casts or heavier rates of top dressing to dilute fine material expelled at the surface must also be considered. However, severe casting will affect sward quality, playing quality and maintenance inputs and are therefore unacceptable.

When faced with this situation, intensity of casting is such that chemical control is almost essential.

Many of the methods of chemical control that have been used in the past have had important environmental consequences in terms of toxicity to non-target organisms and their persistency. Indeed traces of lead from the days when lead arsenate was used can still be found on some greens. This article has assessed the current chemical methods available to lower casting levels but further consideration of management strategies is still needed. In next month's issue we will focus on the cultural methods available to us for earthworm control.

TABLE 2
Greenkeepers' assessment of the effectiveness of three different pesticides used for casting control. The table shows the percentage of greenkeepers responding to a question on the effectiveness of chemical control on casting activity.

	Carbendazim		Gamma-HCH+tm		Carbaryl	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Little suppression	21	14.2	35	18.3	24	22
Reasonable suppression for less than 1 month	15	10.1	28	14.7	20	18.3
Reasonable suppression for 1-3 months	68	45.9	68	35.6	34	31.2
Reasonable suppression for 3-6 months	31	20.9	38	19.9	20	18.3
Reasonable suppression for 6 months or more	13	8.8	22	11.5	11	10.1
Totals	148	100	191	100	109	100

NEW SITESAFE

MODULAR SYSTEMS

...make all the difference to secure storage & accommodation units.



GARAGE



PAVILION



WORKSHOP



For further information please contact:

Irvine Weston on Tel: 01427 752058 or
Cleveland Sitesafe Ltd. Park Farm,
Dunsdale, Guisborough,
Cleveland. TS14 6RQ.
Tel: 01642 475009 or Fax: 01642 471036.

Ad Ref 56

North Staffs Irrigation



Your main supplier for

Hunter Sprinklers
Rolland Sprinklers (Cameron)
&
Vandal-proof Turf Top hydrant boxes

Still the best Irrigation Contractor
"Better by design"

Tel: 01785 812706
Fax: 01785 811747

North Staffs. Irrigation Co. Ivy Mill, Longton Road, Stone, Staffs. ST15 8TB

Ad Ref 217

AFT⁴⁵ MULTI-PURPOSE TRENCHER

FOR COMPACT TRACTORS FROM 20HP.

Specifically designed for use on sportsturf, it can be fitted with various digging chains or a high performance slitting wheel.

The optional soil clear-up system folds up for easy transport.

Neat and fast trenches from 4" wide and up to 4' deep or slits from less than 2" wide to 18" deep.



Affordable, perfect drainage, cable laying etc.

A.F.TRENCHERS LTD. Edgworth Road, SUDBURY, Suffolk CO10 6TG. Tel: 01787 311811. Fax: 310888

Ad Ref 203

LONG LASTING, COLOUR IMPREGNATED RECYCLED WOOD CHIP MULCH

Firbank's WOODCHIPS



- Suppresses the growth of weeds
- Gives a tidy appearance to flowerbeds and areas of uncultivated land
- Reduces landscape maintenance costs
- More durable and longer lasting than bark mulch
- Ideal for paths and heavy foot traffic areas

Agents required in all areas for this product

Firbank Recycling Ltd

Blackburn Road, Houghton Regis, Beds LU5 5BQ. Tel: 01582 475500

Ad Ref 611

multi-core

Aerators Ltd

MC10 • MC15 • MC20



From the aeration equipment specialists

Designed and built in Britain

Wembley™

©1997, Wembley Stadium Limited

OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS

Multi-Core Aerators Ltd
6 Chestnut End
Boston Spa, Wetherby,
West Yorkshire LS23 6JG

Tel: 01937 843281
Mobile: 0374 488508

Available in three working widths, able to carry out highly effective turf aeration to a maximum depth of 125mm (5in).

Choice of solid, hollow, slicing or chisel tines to suit all turf needs and seasonal aeration requirements. Exceptional workrate enables turf to be restored quickly to normal use.

First class design and build quality ensures years of productive operation. Easy to set and convenient to maintain – the ideal aerator for all you turf surfaces.

ASK TO SEE THE VIDEO

Ad Ref 347

• GOLF CLUBS

• RUGBY CLUBS •

• LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS • GOLF CLUBS • FOOTBALL CLUBS

• LOCAL AUTHORITIES • LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS • GOLF CLUBS •

BTME STAND B23

Martins

Exclusive **Pinnacle** Range of

- Top dressings
- Rootzones
- Sports Sands
- Distributors for **Moneystone Bunker Sand**
- **Par-Link™** ultimate path-way gravel

Cheshire Top Dressings and Rootzones
Manufactured under a quality system approved by BSI

For all year round quality and service call:

Sales office: **01625 614121**

Fax (office): **01625 618282**

Martin Brothers (UK) Ltd

Ad Ref 12



Stylo has become the latest Golden Key supporter and with a new range of BIGGA work wear and a new golf shoe carrying the BIGGA name the partnership has started with a bang...

Putting on the Stylo

A relationship which began at The Open Championship at Royal Birkdale last year has developed to the point where Stylo Matchmaker has become a Golden Key supporter of the Association.

Trevor Walker and Neil Thomas make the new relationship official



The partnership which has grown since last July - when Stylo kitted out the Greenkeeping Support Team in such splendour - to the extent that the company has produced a golf shoe which carries the BIGGA name and developed a range of BIGGA work wear which is competitively priced and designed to fulfil the needs of anyone working in the greenkeeping profession.

Stylo Matchmaker is headed by Trevor Walker, a well known face in the golf industry for many years, and it is his drive and vision which has brought his company and BIGGA together.

"I first worked with BIGGA during the Troon Open two years ago when I was Managing Director of Spalding and when I came here eight months ago it struck me as natural that we should work together. I felt it would be good for us and good for BIGGA," explained Trevor.

"I like what BIGGA is trying to do and I thought if we added some visibility we could be a hell of a partnership," he added.

Stylo Matchmaker International Ltd is made up of a number of companies - Stylo Golf; Harry Hall; Cottage Craft and Masta.

Stylo Matchmaker made its name as the football boot worn by George Best in his heyday and dominated the football boot market for a number of years. It is now equally dominant in the fashion side of the equestrian market and under its new management team it is rebuilding the golf side of its business.

Harry Hall was established in

Putting on the Stylo



1894 and is the oldest part of the company. Harry's father was a race horse trainer based in Newmarket and Harry made a name for himself as a painter of horses before developing a range of gentleman's clothing. For many years this formed the gentleman's clothing side of Austin Reed and at the top end of the market.

Cottage Craft makes anything you could put on a horse from the bridle and bit to the saddle itself and travel wear for horses to prevent injury in transit.

Masta is the major player in the horse blanket and under the saddle wear market.

"Stylo Golf is very well established but I believed we needed some credibility behind a brand that was seen as aimed at the mass market value for money end and BIGGA is playing a huge part in that credibility statement," explained Trevor.

"The kind of adverts we are going

to be running for the new BIGGA shoe are along the lines of the unsung heroes of golf and if it wasn't for them none of us would have a course to play on. They are out there for 6.30 until late in the day, particularly in the summer, in every conceivable condition you can imagine. So if we could produce a shoe that is suitable for those guys to wear then they have got to be suitable for someone who just wants to play 18 holes of golf."

Trevor sees the work wear as another opportunity to promote the image of the Association.

"In our opinion the greenkeepers need to be seen as professional. They are just as much a professional as the golf pro but I don't think they are given true credit for being so. The new work wear will provide the opportunity to look more professional and, with the corporate image, for BIGGA to be seen as a body."

Trevor was quick to see the cross

over potential of a great many items from their Harry Hall equestrian range.

"Effectively because of stable situations in the equestrian side we almost had a work wear range for greenkeepers already in place which, in many instances only needed slight alteration.

If a horse steps back on you it's quite a bit of tonnage so boots had to cope and it is the same for the heavy machinery that greenkeepers use regularly.

"At each stage in the development of the range we kept BIGGA informed and we even sat down with a group of greenkeepers during The Open and went through a number of our ideas with them.

"We are excited about our relationship with BIGGA and the new work wear range which we look forward to launching at BTME."

By linking Stylo Golf and Harry Hall Stylo is hoping that the mixture of mass market appeal and the more up market appeal of the respective brands will lead to the best of both worlds. Even if we don't sell an enormous amount it will be a statement from us as to where we want to go.

"When I arrived I knew that our clothing range was exceptionally strong but I want it to be more exciting and I want to get to the quality we have in the equestrian market.

"We see the Harry Hall range as aimed at the non sports specific but sport related market. It is almost apres golf. I think the days of guys standing around with logos blinding people are gone. People are into much more subtle logos now - tone on tone for example," said Trevor, whose infectious enthusiasm for the industry can't easily be hidden.

Stylo will also be using the BIGGA logo to help promote a series of Schools of Excellence which they are spon

Last year's Open Greenkeeping Support Team share Mark O'Meara's winning moment dressed from head to toe in Stylo gear.



The straight cut, the clean cut, the whole

cut.



The new 2500 Tri-Plex Greens Mower from John Deere.

Soon, greens everywhere will experience a tri-plex mower that not only delivers a superb straight cut but also excels at the cleanup cut. That's the essence of the new John Deere 2500 – a quality of cut that's second to none.

The 2500's John Deere designed and manufactured cutting units feature a new bedknife-to-reel

design. The superior offset cutting unit design provides the operator with a clear view of the centre cutting unit and helps reduce "tri-plex ring".

Operators have never had it so good. The operator station on the 2500 has convenient fingertip controls for the throttle, reel drive and cutting unit lift/lower.

The 2500 is also extremely ser-

vice friendly. Cutting units can be detached in seconds, with adjustments designed with the technician in mind. And daily service points can be checked from one side of the machine.

Let your green experience the unique cutting prowess of the John Deere 2500. Call your dealer for a demonstration soon. www.deere.com.

Official
Golf Course
Equipment
Supplier



Nothing runs
like a Deere



John Deere Ltd., Harby Road, Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HT, Telephone 01949 863213/863203/863205

628 E

Ad Ref 103

The most cost effective way of reaching readers of Greenkeeper International. Simply ring Jenny Panton, Cheryl Broomhead or James McEvoy on 01347 833800 and ask about an alphabetical category listing; the cost starts from as little as £29.50 per month.

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS

Here's your chance to win £50!

Simply look through all the products and services in our guide and name the companies which the following telephone numbers refer to;

- a. 01460 241939
- b. 01372 456101
- c. 01603 759701

Write down your three answers on a postcard and send your entries to:-

Know Your Numbers, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York YO61 1UF

Entries to reach us no later than Monday, January 27, 1999. The first correct entry drawn will receive a cheque for £50!

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

Last month, Mr J Attmere of Woodbridge, Suffolk, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

Our congratulations and a cheque for £50 are on their way to you!

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS

Aeration

SOILCARE
AERATING OR ROOT FEED REQUIRED? PROBLEM SOLVED!
 THE TERRALIFT & DEEP DRILL CAN SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH COMPACTED SOIL.
C+P SOILCARE LTD
 UNIT 3 BUSH FARM, HEDGING, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK, IP7 7BL.
 TEL/FAX: 01449 741012

KEITH DRIVER
 (SPORTSTURF CONTRACTOR)
HYDROJECT AERATION SERVICE
 (WITH NO SURFACE DISTURBANCE)
 A full range of expertly operated surfacare services also available
 Tel: 01273 564015 Mobile: 0958 532008
 8 Morecombe Rd, Brighton, Sussex BN1 8TL

Agronomy

B Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd
 Bruce Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd, is an established company offering expert advice on:
 ● Golf Course maintenance
 ● Tournament preparation & presentation
 ● Machinery selection
 ● Budgeting
 ● Staff recruitment
 ● Soil & turf analysis
 ● Brown top
 Contact: Bruce Jamieson
 17 Haywarden Place, Hartley Wintney, Hants, RG27 8UA
 Telephone: 01252 844847

ON COURSE GOLF COURSE CONSULTANTS
 Complete agronomy service from problem solving to planned management and construction.
 With over 25 years practical experience Ken Barber will get you back ON COURSE.
 For further information
 Tel/fax +44 (0) 1825 732031

Amenity Spraying

WEED FREE®
 PROFESSIONAL PESTICIDE APPLICATION AND ASSOCIATED TURF SERVICES
 DRIFT FREE CONTRACT SPRAYING UTILISING OUR PURPOSE BUILT MACHINE 'THE SPRAYING MANTIS'
 NEW FOR '98 - F.E.P.A TRAINING
 NEW FOR '98 - FREE CALL NUMBER
0800 068 08 78
 Tel: 07000 481011
 Fax: 07000 481022
 Car: 0850 300104
 Unit 14, Roundhead Drive, Warfield, Berkshire RG42 3RZ
 WEED FREE and Daisy Logo are Registered Trade Marks

Talk to the professionals first

Vertidrainage ♦ Aeration ♦ Seeding
 ♦ Fertilising ♦ Top dressing
 ♦ Contact Spraying ♦ All leading brands of seeds, fertilisers & chemicals
ALS Amenity Land Services Ltd
 Long Lane, Wellington Telford TF6 6HA
 Contact: Ivan Toon, Jonathon Carr, Duncan Burton
 Tel: (01952) 641949 Fax: (01952) 247369

Architects

Howard Swan MSc
 Nigel Henbury B.A. Dip. Arch
 Golf Course Architects
 Swan Golf Designs Limited
 Telfords Barn, Willingate, Ongar, Essex CM5 0QF, England
 Tel: 01277 896229 Fax: 01277 896300
 E-Mail: SwanGolfDesigns@btinternet.com
 A member of the BRITISH INSTITUTE OF GOLF ARCHITECTS

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

Representing the leading European Practices in golf course design, working worldwide and offering professional services from initial site appraisals and feasibilitys, conceptual designs, to detailed architecture, specifications and project management and construction design.
 Merrist Wood House, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE
 Tel: 01483 884036 Fax: 01483 884037

Artificial Grass

VERDE SPORTS LIMITED
 Gabbotts Farm Barn, Bury Lane, Withnell, Chorley, Lancashire PR6 8SW
 Tel: 01254 831666
 Fax: 01254 831066
 ● VERDE TEE FRAME
 Steel platform, woven grass top.
 ● VERDE WINTER TEE
 Generous size, self-install kit.
 ● VERDE DRIVING MATS
 Top quality - Long Life - Best Prices
 ● ARTIFICIAL GRASSES
 ● DRIVING BAYS AND NETS
 For club and home use.
 Available through most reputable course equipment suppliers
 Please call for samples & information

Do you 'Know Your Numbers' well enough to win £50?

Bio-Technology for Turf

Thinking about a biological programme?
SYMBIO
First ask a biologist
 Contact Stella Inglethorpe BSc. or Janet Graystone BSc
 Tel: 01372 456101

Buildings

ELWELL THE GREENKEEPER'S CHOICE

 Secure sectional steel buildings in various sizes
 ● Machinery & equipment storage
 ● Fertilizer, weedkiller & seed storage
 ● Workshops ● Tool sheds
 ● Trolley stores
 ● Temporary fencing & secure enclosures
 For FREE design service, quotation, brochures and technical advice PHONE NOW
0121 553 5723 (24hrs)
 Elwell Buildings Ltd, 204 Oldbury Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 9DE. Fax: 0121 580 1172

Greenkeepers' Stores Driving Ranges Club Houses

◆ Machinery Storage
 ◆ Maintenance Workshops
 ◆ Fertiliser and Weedkiller Storage
 ◆ Offices and Staff Mess Rooms
 FREE initial designs and costings
Ivan J Cooper Ltd
 Steel Framed Buildings
 Moorside Works, Cauldon Lowe, Stoke-on-Trent ST10 3ET
 Tel: 01538 702282 Fax: 01538 702662

Construction

LAND UNIT CONSTRUCTION

 Hanslope, Milton Keynes MK19 7BX.
 Tel: 01908 510414 Fax: 01908 511056

RD JONES & SONS GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION
 Design, Construction and Refurbishment Specialists
 Cae Coch Farm, Whitford, Flintshire, North Wales CH8 9EP
 Tel: 01745 561761 Fax: 01745 561988
 MEMBERS OF BIGGA

Contact
Bryan Pearson
at
Edens Ltd.
for the
VERY BEST in

- ❖ Remodelling of existing golf courses
- ❖ Golf course construction
- ❖ Renovation

HEAD OFFICE: 18 COBHAM ROAD
FERNDOWN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
FERNDOWN, DORSET BH21 7PG

Phone (01202) 874545
Fax (01202) 870145

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF
BAGCC
GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTORS

CONTACT THE PROFESSIONALS

Jonathan Franks, Secretary,
BAGCC, 37 Five Mile Drive,
Wolvercote, Oxford OX2 8HT
Tel/Fax: (01865) 516927


**C.J. Collins
Construction**
Golf Course Contractors

Burgess Hill, West Sussex

Tel: 01444 242993
Fax: 01444 247318

**How well do
you 'Know Your
Numbers'?**

Artington Golf Ltd
28 PUMP LANE
HORNDEAN
WATERLOOVILLE
HAMPSHIRE
PO8 9TS ENGLAND
T/F: (01705) 592390
or Contact Ted Awcock on 0410 450454
Update Your Existing Course By:
TEE EXTENSIONS
GREEN RE-MODELLING
BUNKER ALTERATIONS
DRAINAGE
also NEW COURSE CONSTRUCTION


**Whitnel
Contracts Ltd**
GOLF COURSE
CONSTRUCTION

Woodlands, Ellis Road, Boxted,
Colchester, Essex CO4 5RN
Tel: (01206) 272834 Fax: (01206) 272104

J & E ELY
GOLF COURSE
CONSTRUCTION

Reading, Berks
Tel/Fax: 0118 9722257
E-mail: ely@btinternet.com

John Greasley Specialists
in Golf
Course
Construction

JOHN GREASLEY LIMITED
"Ashfield House" • 1154 Melton Road
Syston • Leicester • LE7 2HB

Tel: 0116 269 6766
Mobile: 0836 553899
Fax: 0116 269 6866


**CONTOUR
GOLF LIMITED**
Construction of new golf development
and upgrading of existing courses

Tel: 01327 879464
Mobile: 0385 272935
Head Office: 105 The Severn, Daventry,
Northants NN11 4QS
Irish Office: 026 471 83

Course Equipment

On Course with
ACORN
Equipment

UK & European distributors of
quality golf course equipment

For all your golf course requisites contact the specialists

Phone or fax: 01925 75 7005 24hrs
Website: [http://www.acorn\(uk\).com](http://www.acorn(uk).com)

Suppliers to, The Royal Birkdale Golf Club
British Open Championship 1998

 **Standard Golf** are
the largest supplier
of quality course
accessories worldwide

- Tee Data Signs
- Ball washers
- Rakes
- Tee Markers
- Flags, pin & hole cups
- Practice green accessories
- Personalised products
- Information signs
- Wooden Furniture

**QUALITY PRODUCTS
COMPETITIVE PRICES**

Tel: 01189 736303
Fax: 01189 736677

Directional Drilling

CHILTERN THRUST BORE LTD

SPECIALISTS IN
UNDERGROUND CABLE
DUCTING AND PIPE
INSTALLATION

- STEEL PIPE DRIVING
- IMPACT MOLING
- DIRECTIONAL DRILLING SYSTEMS
- AUGER BORING
- PIPE (BURSTING)

84 LINCROFT, OAKLEY
BEDFORD MK43 7SS
TEL/FAX 01234 825948
MOBILE 0585 463439

Drainage

Turfdry

Golf Course Drainage
Specialists

For fast and friendly UK
service call:

Melvyn Taylor
on 01283 551417
or 0836 259133

**White Horse Contractors
Limited**

• Construction
• Renovation
• Drainage
• Irrigation

Tel: 01865 736 272
Fax: 01865 326 176
Lodge Hill, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2JD


**STEVEN PASK
L I M I T E D**

Construction and laser grading of
all Natural Sportsturf surfaces
Drainage, sand slitting and gravel banding
Vertidrainning (2.5m and 1.5m)
Overseeding, sand spreading and de-stoning

Tel: 01529 455757

**Duncan Ross
Land Drainage
Limited**

SPORTSTURF DRAINAGE SPECIALISTS

- ★ Latest Sportsturf trenching machine
- ★ Verti Draining
- ★ Sand Slitting
- ★ Overseeding
- ★ Gravel Banding
- ★ Top dressing

Design, installation and maintenance service

Tel/Fax: 01257 255321
Appley Bridge, Wigan, Lancs

**SLEATH & SON
SPORTSTURF DRAINAGE**

Full range of modern equipment providing
UK and European service

Contact Geoff Sleath
Tel: (01709) 862109 Fax: (01709) 862075


M J ABBOTT LIMITED

Specialists in land drainage,
golf course construction and
maintenance

Bratch Lane, Dinton, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP3 5EB
Tel: 01722 716361 • Fax: 01722 716828

J. PUGH-LEWIS LTD
SPORTSTURF CONTRACTORS

Specialists in the design,
construction, drainage and
renovation of all sportsturf.

**Chesterfield,
Derbyshire.**

Tel: 01773 872362
Fax: 01773 874763

Drainage.
Sand Slitting.
Vertidrainning.

Established 42 years

ONGAR, ESSEX
01277 890274

PEARL

Driving Range Equipment

RANGE SERVANT
UK Ltd

GOLF RANGE EQUIPMENT
Ball Dispensers, Collectors
and Washers. Play Off Mats
and Winter Tee Mats

AUTOMATIC TEE-UP UNIT
Tel/Fax: 01923 263777
at Abbott's Toolhire, Hempstead Road,
Hunton Bridge, Watford, Herts WD1 3NJ

Environmental Products

farmura
For natural and environmental solutions

FREE BROCHURE
Call now for details of our organic liquid
fertilisers and specialist turf products

Tel: 01233 756241
Fax: 01233 756419
Stone Hill, Egerton, Ashford, Kent TN27 9DU

Fertilisers

Tailor made 

Liquids, solubles & granular.
Based on Soil & Tissue analysis
Call for a quote on
01372 456101

Golf Course Supplies


**M.C. & M.A.
STEWART
(HAULAGE) LTD**

A family business established 1969
BS EN ISO 9002: 1992 Registered Company

GRAVEL, SAND, SOIL,
ROOT ZONE, TOP DRESSING,
WOOD BARK, TRACK MATERIAL

The independent supplier with the wide product range
For professional service nationwide contact Rachael

Tel: 01257 792536/792692 Mobile: 0973 426890

Woodlands, 31 Preston Road, Coppull,
Chorley, Lancashire PR7 5HS

Hire Services

**PARKER
TRENCHING HIRE**

TRENCHERS • PLOUGHS
ROCKWHEELS



NATIONAL HIRE
TEL: (01554) 778666

Irrigation



MJM Services

Groundwork & Irrigation Contractor

Suppliers and installers of irrigation systems
Moleplough, trencher and digger hire
Drainage and ditch cleaning
7 day call out service for repairs

Tel: 0181 890 9172

British Turf & Landscape
Irrigation Association

"Quality by Association"



Our aim is to ensure you have the best possible irrigation system so we constantly monitor, maintain and raise the standards of BTLIA members.

For a full list of members contact David Halford
Tel: 01995 640611 or Fax: 01995 640842

IRRIGATION

Supply, install, upgrade and repair

Plows and trenchers for sale/hire

Irrigation and Drainage Services Ltd
Tel: 01633 893119

**OCMIS
IRRIGATION**

Design, Manufacture,
Supply, Installation
& Service.

Ocmis specialise in Irrigation Systems for Golf Courses, Sportsgrounds, Recreational, Amenity & Landscape Areas.

For further information contact:

HEAD OFFICE SCOTTISH OFFICE
01460 0131
241939 2202102



*DESIGN *INSTALLATION*
MAINTENANCE

TEL: 01785 812706

**Cameron
IRRIGATION**

Suppliers of Irrigation Equipment to Golf Courses, Bowling Greens, Landscapes, Horticulture
• Manufacturers of Irrigation Equipment
• Existing systems renovated and upgraded
DESIGN - INSTALLATION - SERVICE
Call now for your irrigation needs

Cameron Macpenney

Unit 17-18, Highdown Ind Est, Ringwood, Hants BH24 1ND
Tel: 01425 474614 Fax: 01425 471296

An independant Company



TORO
Design, Supply,
Installation,
Service & Sales

NE England, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Leicestershire

EB & L Simms

Unit 18, Camp Hill Close, Dallamire Lane,
Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 1TT
Tel: 01765 602175/690598 Fax: 01765 603488

Consult

**Watermation
IRRIGATION SYSTEMS**

to discover how our total irrigation
service can benefit you

**Design Supply
Installation
Support**

01252 336838

**DECIDE AFTER
TALKING TO US...**

As Europe's most experienced independent consultants we are always ready to help you with advice on all aspects of irrigation related matters.



PO BOX 1192
Fordingbridge
Hants SP6 1YD
England
Tel: (01425) 652087 Fax: (01425) 652476



The most professional Design, Supply and installation service in the North.
Trained in Golf Course management, with real knowledge of Irrigation and Golf Course needs. Effortless irrigation with minimum inconvenience.

Call now on: 01405 814889
Mobile: 0421 578828

You'll be amazed where we pop up!

**BRITISH OVERHEAD
IRRIGATION LIMITED**

Tel: (01932) 788301
Fax: (01932) 780437

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS
FOR GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION
SYSTEMS, UPDATES AND
COMPLETE PROJECTS
BEST BUY B.O.I.L.

EXPERIENCE - EXPERTISE
CARE - SERVICE
since 1923
Founder Member BTLIA

AutoFlow Systems

CALL NOW FOR ALL YOUR
WATER REQUIREMENTS ON

SPORTS GROUNDS, GOLF COURSES,
BOWLING GREENS, COMMERCIAL
LANDSCAPING, PRIVATE GARDENS

TEL: 01603 759701 FAX: 01603 758200

AUTO HOUSE, ASH TREE WORKS, MILL ROAD,
BARNHAM BROOM, NORFOLK NR9 4DE

YOUR COMPLETE INDEPENDANT IRRIGATION SPECIALIST

WARDLE

Consulting Engineers Ltd

INDEPENDENT IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
& PROJECT MANAGERS

Head Office: Tel/Fax: 01283 711864
Southern Office: 01483 278416
Scottish Office: 01259 742447
E-mail: wardle@avnet.co.uk

**Automatic Watering
Systems for Sports
and Leisure Grounds**
Designed • Supplied • Installed

**Glen Farrow
IRRIGATION**

Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs.
Tel: (01775) 722327
Fax: (01775) 725444

TORO

IRRIGATION PRODUCTS

Design. Supply.
Installation.
Service.

Established 42 years

ONGAR, ESSEX
01277 890274

PEARL

I.L.S Irrigation Systems
& Equipment

For all your irrigation
requirements, whether a new
installation or system
refurbishment - contact us now for
a free survey, design and
quotation.

I.L.S. Irrigation Systems &
Equipment, Oundle Road,
Lutton, Peterborough PE8 5ND
Tel/Fax: 01832 272450

T & G IRRIGATION

Design, installation and maintenance
175 Westgate Road, Belton,
Doncaster DN9 1QA

Tel: 01427 874200 Fax: 01427 875333
Full member of BTLIA

**DECODERS AND
CONTROLLERS**

Work with Watermation, CIC, Wright Rain,
PrimeTime, Robydom, TORO and ISS

- 5 year warranty on decoders
- Multi outputs available
- Free address programmer/tester
- Controller works with existing decoders
- Competitively priced

TONICK WATERING

TEL: 01903 262393 FAX: 01903 694500

Full member of BTLIA

M J ABBOTT LIMITED
Design, supply and installation of



Rain Bird Irrigation Systems

Tel: 01722 716361

Lake Construction/Liners



Liners for lakes, ponds and
storage lagoons from the
UK's leading contractor

Comprehensive advice
regarding design and
construction of water areas

Detailed brochure available on request

GT Ltd, Wiston Road, Nayland,
Colchester, Essex CO6 4TL
Tel: 01206 262676 Fax: 01206 262998

MERIT Planning
Supply
Installation

Lining membranes and associated products for
ponds, lakes, water features and reservoirs.

Tel: 01594 529191 Fax: 01594 529413

**Do you 'Know
Your Numbers'
well enough to
win £50?**

Pathway Materials



**TRACEY TIMBER
RECYCLING LTD**

PATHWAY/SPECTATOR GALLERY WALKCHIP

DECORATIVE COLOURED MULCH FOR
FLOWER BEDS AND PLANTED AREAS

CONSTRUCTION SLEEPERS AVAILABLE

CALL FOR FREE SAMPLES OF CHIP

TEL: 01505 333515
FAX: 01505 333516

49 BURNBRAE ROAD,
LINWOOD, SCOTLAND PA3 3BD

ph Control



ph control and dosing systems for your irrigation water, for improved turf quality. Nationwide installation and commissioning service and advice. Contact Brian Sykes

USF STRANCO

17 Apex Business Park, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3JU Telephone: 01323 441744 Fax: 01323 441611

Pond Maintenance

Aqua-Vive

Biological Water cleaner

Prevent algae bloom; Remove scum; Suspended solids, Bottom sludge; Simple to apply, completely safe for fish, birds, animals and plants

Anchor Industries Europe, Airport Executive Park, President Way, Luton, Bedfordshire LU2 9NY
Tel: (01582) 400630 Fax: (01582) 401939

Railway Sleepers

RAILWAY SLEEPERS
1ST CLASS QUALITY ONLY
NOT CONSTRUCTION GRADE FOR KEEN PRICES
CONTACT MR DAVID ROBINSON
TEL/FAX: 0161 456 7109
AT 'STRIKE TOP TURF'

OAK SLEEPERS

ANY QUANTITY DELIVERED

PLEASE CALL/FAX MELVYN ON
01344 779155

LANDSCAPING GRADE SLEEPERS

SELECTED HARDWOOD

BEST QUALITY PRICES

ALSO

COCKLESHELL PATH MEDIA
BULK LOADS - DISCOUNTED PRICES

FINETURF PRODUCTS

Tel: 01375 361606

RAILWAY SLEEPERS

We will beat any genuine quote
Delivery any area

SLEEPER SUPPLIES

TEL: 01302 888676
FAX: 01302 880547
MOBILE: 0831 356710

Root Zone

BANKS AMENITY PRODUCTS LTD

Specialist Manufacturer and Supplier (for over 20 years) of Rootzones and Top Dressings - to all specifications including USGA. Supplied nationwide. Please phone for quotation.
Tel: (01858) 464346/433003
Fax: (01858) 434734

Sports Netting

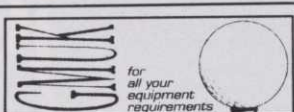
SPORTS NETTING



- PERIMETER NETTING
- TARGET NETS
- ANTI BALL PLUGGING
- GRASS GERMINATION
- ANTI DAZZLE NETTING
- PADDED/NET BAY DIVIDERS
- CHIPPING NET
- PRACTICE NETS
- 'EPIC' TARGET GREEN
- BALLSTOP FENCING

TEL: 01179 669684

Tee Mats



- Suppliers of The Dunlop Winter Tee & Practice Mat
- Golf Course Furniture
- Driving Range & Practice Ground Equipment
- Flooring & Pathways

Tel: 01704 571271

Fax: 01704 571272

TUFTURF

ARTIFICIAL GRASS
TEE MATS, CARRYMATS
AND PUTTING
SURFACES FROM
CARPETITION LTD

14 Kaffir Road, Edgerton,
Huddersfield HD2 2AN

Tel: (01484) 428777 Fax: (01484) 423251

Top Dressings

Pinnacle RANGE
TOP DRESSING • ROOT ZONE
MONEYSTONE BUNKER SAND
SPORTS SANDS
PAR-LINK PATHWAY GRAVEL

MARTIN BROTHERS
TEL: 01625 614121
FAX: 01625 618282

BOURNE

Supplying the
South of England

Manufacturers of Top
Dressings & Rootzones

Contracting Services

BOURNE AMENITY
FIRST FOR QUALITY OF
PRODUCT AND SERVICE
TEL: 01797 252298

HADLEY

ROOTZONES TOP DRESSINGS
DIVOT MIXES GRADED SOILS
DRAINAGE & SUB-BASE MATERIALS

0800 7317450

ALAN HADLEY Ltd

Fenton House, 102 Grazyly Rd,
Three Mile Cross, Berks. RG7 1BJ

How well do
you 'Know Your
Numbers'?

SOIL TECHNOLOGY RUFFORD

Britain's No 1 for

QUALITY • SERVICE •
SHEER VALUE FOR MONEY

Eaton Hall Quarry, Manchester Rd,
Congleton, Cheshire CW12 2LU

Tel: 01260 281801 Fax: 01260 278884

Turf

SALES HOTLINES
Tel: 01603 746229
Fax: 01603 746243
Mob: 0850 752744

"All year
round
quality turf"

1st for TGA
APPROVED
TURF

FIR TREE FARM • BLAXHALL • WOODBRIDGE IP12 2DX

INTURF

Turf Growers
and Innovators of
Turfgrass Systems

The Chestnuts, Wilberfoss,
York, YO41 5NT

Tel: 01759 321000

Fax: 01759 380130

e-mail: info@inturf.co.uk

TT ProTurf

GROWERS
AND SUPPLIERS
OF QUALITY CULTIVATED
TEES, GREENS AND AMENITY
TURF COUNTRYWIDE

TEL: 01427 890797

FAX: 01427 891785

TT ProTurf Ltd

NORTH CARR FARM, WEST STOCKWITH, NR
DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE DN10 4BD

Rolawn®

Check out
Britain's
Finest Turf

- ✓ ABSOLUTELY NO MINIMUM ORDER
- ✓ PRICE PLEDGE
- ✓ TWO GRADES OF GREENS TURF
- ✓ OLYMPIC RYE FREE TEES TURF - NEW FOR 1998
- ✓ INDEPENDENT TURF TESTING PROGRAMME BY THE STRI
- ✓ TOP STRI RATED CULTIVARS
- ✓ BRITAIN'S BEST TURF WASHING SERVICE
- ✓ FREE FORKLIFT OFF-LOADING
- ✓ LOCAL SERVICE FROM ROLAWN'S DEPOTS
- ✓ FREE LOAN OF LAYING EQUIPMENT
- ✓ FREE SAMPLES

CALL 01904 608661
and ask for
CUSTOMER SERVICES

Quality
of turf,
personal
Service and
outstanding
Value.



Q Lawns

Growers of Quality Turf

- ★ Uniquely cultivated on fine dark soils
- ★ Next day deliveries
- ★ Quality assured company ISO 9002

British Field Products Limited
Corkway Drive, Hockwold,
Thetford, Norfolk IP26 4JR
Office: 01842 828266 Fax: 01842 827911

How well do
you 'Know Your
Numbers'?

Turf Dressings

BAILEY'S OF NORFOLK

★ GOLF TURF DRESSINGS ★ SAND ★
★ SCREENED TOP SOIL ★ FEN SOIL
Deliveries Nationwide

BAILEY'S OF NORFOLK

Tel: 01603 754607

BANKS AMENITY PRODUCTS LTD

Manufacturer and distributor of FENDRESS Regular and FENDRESS GreenTop (Soil-Leas) Top Dressings. Fairway Dressing and Economy Mixes also available.

NATIONWIDE DELIVERIES - PLEASE PHONE FOR A QUOTATION

Tel: 01858 464346/433003
Fax: 01858 434734

Turf Dressings

BL BOUGHTON LOAM LTD

Telford Way, Kettering,
Northants
Tel: 01536 510515
for
Turf Dressing
Root Zone Mixes
Screened Top Soils
Bunker Sands
Horticultural Composts

"Pre-germinated grass seed"
"Liquid Sod" Spray-on grass
Herbicides
Grass Seed
Fertilisers

Turf Management Systems

Dromangh Farm, Sevenhills Road,
Iverheath, Bucks, SL0 0PA
Tel: 01895 834411

Tyres

FLOTATION TURF TYRES

- ★ Wide Flat Treads ★
- ★ Custom Made Wheels ★
- ★ New and Used available ★

ROSCO TYRE AND WHEEL LTD

Graveyard Lane, Ormskirk, Lancs
Tel: 01695 421100 Fax: 01695 424265

Vertidrain Hire

SEWARD TURF MAINTENANCE

Vertidrain 2.5 and 1.5 metre
Gravel Banding over seeding
Hollow Tining Fairway Grooming
and Top Dressing

Phone York: 01904 765949
Freephone: 0500 432120

CABOT SPORTS South West

Verti-draining Specialists

- Overseeding ●
- Stone Burying ●
- 4 Ton Top Dresser ●
(flotation tyres)

Competitive and Reliable

Telephone: (0117) 982 0054

Fax: (0117) 982 0052

Portview Rd, Avonmouth, Bristol BS11 9LQ

PETER MANNINGTON



Specialist Verti-Drain Contractor for the South
For greens, tees, fairways and sportsgrounds
Experienced operator, competitive prices and reliable service

Tel/Fax Peter on 01580 861211
or Mobile 0850 612061

1 White Horse Cottages, Silverhill, Hurst Green,
Etchingham, East Sussex TN19 7QA

WORTH DRAINING

VERTIDRAINING and HOLLOW CORING HIRE with the RYAN G.A. 30

Contact Peter Bloodworth
WORTH DRAINING
Cornbecks Farm, Irnham, Grantham,
Lincolnshire. Tel/Fax: 01476 550266

Keep looking, and you could win yourself £50!

Just the job.

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

Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

Classified Information

Do you have a machine that is surplus to your requirements? Or are you wanting to buy that specific piece of equipment, but don't quite know where to find it? Then why not advertise your Sales and/or Wants in Greenkeeper International's Classified section?

For as little as £57, your boxed advert will be seen by over 10,000 readers of this award winning publication. Simply complete the order form on the right (in block capitals please), not forgetting to include your name, address and telephone or fax number.

Upon receipt, your order will be acknowledged by telephone or fax, along with details of the cost and publication date of the next edition.

Remember, send no money now, an invoice will be raised after publication.

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Address
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Tel:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Fax:

Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

Send your completed order form to: Cheryl Broomhead, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or alternatively fax the form to us on 01347 833802

Machinery For Sale

19" JACOBSEN
 GREENMASTER TOURNAMENT HAND MOWERS
 5 WITH GROOMERS AT £1,750 EACH
 4 FLAT ROLLERS AT £950 EACH
 ALL FITTED WITH HONDA ENGINES

PETROL CUSHMAN £1,600

TEL: 01727 764961

Balmer's Garden  Machinery Centre

New and used
**Compact Tractors and
 Turf Care Machinery For Sale**

Balmer's, Burnley, Lancs

01282 453900/454848 After 5pm
Fax: 01282 459767 429307

**1 x GRUNDIG
 IRRIGATION PUMP**
 TYPE: CR16-60 MODEL: 8350

**1 X 12,000 GALLON
 BUTYL LINED STORAGE TANK**

OFFERS

TEL: 01707 325243

 **GRASS
 MACHINERY**

Large selection of new and second hand
 Turf Maintenance Machinery in stock.

Free delivery in UK. Warranty given. Also
 interested in purchasing surplus machines.

Tel/Fax: 01829 720280
 Mobile: 0378 063418

Trees

**FAST-GROWING
 HYBRID TREES**

Growth of 6-8 feet per year
 For rapid improvement to new
 and developing Golf Courses

Hybrid Poplars used for specimen and group plantings
 to make handsome trees and perimeter windbreaks.

Hybrid Willows used for screens, hedges, wind-
 breaks, and dense cover on course.

Both are tolerant of poor soils and sites
 and require little post-planting care.

All sizes available from 12 inch slips to
 8 foot well-rooted trees.

Prices including delivery from £42 per 100,
 or £380 per 1000

Free information sheet and advice without
 obligation Phone Gordon Hill on 01404
 812229 or Fax on 01404 815800
 Website: perso.club-internet.fr/bobol

Trees

LARGE TREES

Nursery seconds from £3.00 each.
 Ideal for golf courses.
 Also first grade trees available.

TEL: 01925 821002
 FAX: 01925 821022

**The telephone
 numbers are
 in here
 somewhere!**

**Keep looking,
 and you could
 win yourself
 £50!**

Job Shop

26 year old Scottish Head
 Greenkeeper with 10 years
 experience seeks employ-
 ment anywhere in UK.
 SVQ qualified, man man-
 agement skills and also
 experienced in irrigation.
 Anything considered.

JS/87/98

28 year old Head Greenkeeper
 seeks new challenging position. I
 have 10 years experience in all
 aspects of greenkeeping includ-
 ing managing staff / resources,
 administration and budgeting.
 Qualifications include City &
 Guilds phase 1 & 2, spraying cer-
 tificates pal & paza, chainsaw
 certificate, manual handling
 course, qualified first aider,
 BIGGA supervisory & manage-
 ment courses modules 1, 2 and
 5. All locations considered.

JS/86/98

Recruitment

BROCTON HALL GOLF CLUB
 ONE OF STAFFORDSHIRE'S PREMIER GOLF CLUBS

**HEAD
 GREENKEEPER**

Suitable applicants should have a good all-round experience in the
 methods and techniques required to maintain and present a golf course
 and ancillary areas to the highest standard.

They should possess a recognised greenkeeping qualification and be
 conversant with the use of up-to-date methods and use of resources.

This is an ideal opportunity for an ambitious and dedicated
 Greenkeeper to utilise his or her skills across the broad remit of
 course maintenance.

This will include the management and motivation of the Greenstaff and
 the scope to improve and enhance this vital area of a Members' Club.

Accommodation will not initially be available but an attractive package
 will be offered. The vacancy arises due to the retirement of the present
 incumbent after 44 years service with the Club.

Please apply in writing, enclosing a C.V. to:

G. Ashley, Manager, Brocton Hall Golf Club,
 Brocton Hall, Brocton, Stafford, ST17 0TR



**DEPUTY COURSE
 MANAGER**

Harpenden Golf club (Estd. 1894) is a private members' club based on an
 attractive 18 hole Hawtree & Taylor parkland course in one of
 Hertfordshire's most sought after locations.

As a result of promotion, the club is seeking to recruit a Deputy Course
 Manager to work directly with the Course Manager in the full range of
 managerial, practical and improvement areas.

This is a learning opportunity for an ambitious, forward thinking professional
 greenkeeper to join a club committed to medium/long term development and
 a high standard of maintenance.

You will have a proven track record in golf course maintenance and qualified
 to a minimum of NVQ Level 2. Above all, you will be enthusiastic, hard-
 working and committed to improving both our course and your career.

Salary and pension commensurate with position ➤
 no accommodation available.

Please forward a brief C.V. to:

John Newton, General Manager, Harpenden Golf Club, Hammonds End,
 Redbourn Lane, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 2AX



DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER & EXPERIENCED MECHANIC/IRRIGATION ENGINEER

Kingsbarns Golf Links is a recently constructed 18 hole course situated along the beautiful east coast of Fife, with a target date for opening in July of 2000. We are a small, newly formed team who are extremely motivated and excited about this challenge ahead, but we still have vacancies for the above positions.

The requirements for the position of Deputy Course Manager are:-

- Minimum of 10 years links course experience
- Holder of relevant qualifications
- Able to manage and motivate staff to precise working practices
- Ability to work alongside junior staff, coaching and training to our set objectives
- To be able to produce work of a high standard
- Be an excellent team player
- Ability to deputise in the Course Manager's absence

The requirements for the Mechanics position are:-

- Able to maintain and service a large fleet of course maintenance equipment
- Able to work to strict servicing schedules
- Able to work unsupervised applying at all times current health & safety regulations
- Ability to work within set budgets
- Be an excellent team player
- Have a full understanding of Toro Automatic Irrigation System

If you think you have got these and more to offer and you are up for this exciting challenge, write to me enclosing your CV and a brief resume as to why you are the person for these positions. Send to:-

The Course Manager, Kingsbarns Golf Links, Kingsbarns, Fife, KY16 8QD
Closing date for applications 31 January 1999



WESTERN GAILES GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

at one of the foremost links courses (Open final qualifying venue) in the West of Scotland.

The successful applicant must have the appropriate greenkeeping qualifications together with a thorough knowledge of modern greenkeeping practices with a wide experience of equipment, machinery and computer controlled irrigation system.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Applications in writing with full CV by 21st January to:

Andrew McBean C.A.
Alexander Sloan & Co. C.A.
144 West George Street
Glasgow G2 2HG

NATIONAL SALES MANAGER

Lely (UK) Limited is the distributor of 'Toro Commercial Products' for the UK and Ireland.

Located at St Neots, Cambridgeshire, Lely distributes Turf Maintenance equipment to a wide range of users who include Golf Courses, Local Authorities, Contractors and Sports & Leisure facilities.

We are seeking to recruit for the position of 'National Sales Manager' for our 'Turf Products Division'.

Candidates will be highly motivated, self driven sales professionals with a history of responsibilities ranging from management of sales personnel to control of customer accounts on a national basis.

The ability to communicate at senior level with key account customers and business channel partners is essential.

Experience in 'fine turf equipment' would be an advantage.

If you feel this role is suited to you and you would like more details, please apply in confidence to:

Peter Mansfield, General Manager, Turf Division Lely (UK) Limited on Phone 01480 476971 or E-mail: peter.mansfield@lely.co.uk



Greenkeeper

Applicants are invited for the above post. The successful applicant will be responsible for developing and maintaining a 9 hole pay as you play golf course scheduled to open in the year 2000.

Applicants must be qualified and have extensive practical experience in the maintenance and presentation of a golf course and be interested in training young people.

For further details and an application form contact; Personnel Officer, Oatridge Agricultural College, Broxburn, West Lothian Tel (01506) 854387

OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE



Scotland's
Specialist
Landbased
College



requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

This prestigious 39 hole golf club is currently seeking an enthusiastic and highly motivated greenkeeper to join an existing staff of over 20 people. The successful applicant should be qualified to NVQ2 level and hold PA1, 2A ad 6A.

Apply in writing with full CV by Friday 29 January 1999 to:
Mike Wattam, Course Manager, East Sussex National Golf Club,
Little Horsted, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 5ES



Technical Sales Executive

Within our Sales Division we are seeking a highly ambitious and motivated executive to promote our product and contracting business throughout Scotland.

The successful candidate should have horticultural/agronomic knowledge, be a confident diplomatic communicator with a flair for opening and developing new business in all sections of our market.

The position carries a fixed salary with bonus scheme & company car.

Written applications with C.V. to

Mr Stewart Aird

Souters Sportsturf Limited,
3 Cunningham Road, Springkerse Industrial Estate
Stirling FK7 7SI

SOIL TECHNOLOGY
RUFFORD

TECHNICAL AREA MANAGERS

one for
SCOTLAND
and one for
SOUTHERN ENGLAND

Rufford Soil Technology is the country's leading manufacturer of sportsturf top-dressing and construction rootzones.

Applicants will ideally have a knowledge of the golf course/sportsturf industry, however full training will be given. You will be responsible for further developing our customer base and supporting our distributors.

Salary commensurate with experience. A company car and pension scheme will be provided to the two successful applicants.

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

Mr Peter Jefford
Rufford Soil Technology, Eaton Hall Quarry,
Manchester Road, Congleton,
Cheshire CW12 2LU

WILLIAMWOOD GOLF CLUB

Requires a

QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be qualified to NVQ Level 2.
A minimum of 5 years Golf Course experience is required.

Salary and conditions are negotiable but no accommodation.

Please reply in writing, enclosing a full CV to:

The Course Manager, Williamwood Golf Club,
690 Clarkson Road, Glasgow, G44 3YR

*LENSBURY -
a glorious Club owned
by Shell, with 75 years'
history of sporting
excellence - opens its
doors to Commercial
membership in 1999.*



LENSBURY
at Teddington Lock

Located in 25 acres of grounds and gardens on the banks of the Thames, this 160 bedroom club is developing new and exciting sports and leisure facilities, including a new short GOLF COURSE.

Responsibilities will include

- managing a department of 4 staff
- maintenance of existing fine turf areas such as tennis and bowls to the highest standards
- work with designers in the building of and subsequent maintenance of the new golf facility with greens and tees constructed to US GA standards.
- landscape gardening and estate management

Applicants will have full knowledge of groundsmanship to include modern golf course construction methods, some gardening experience, and relevant qualification.

**Ring LENSBURY Personnel for details of the post:
HEAD GROUNDS/GREENKEEPER
on 0181 977 8821**

KESWICK GOLF CLUB LTD

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

for an 18 hole golf course set in the lakeland hills.

Applicants must be suitably qualified and possess the necessary management and supervisory skills with appropriate Greenkeeping qualifications and detailed knowledge of the use and maintenance of modern machinery.

The candidate must have the ability to lead and motivate staff, works programming and a sound knowledge of health and safety requirements.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation available.

Please apply with full CV to: The Secretary, Keswick Golf Club Ltd,
Threlkeld Hall, Threlkeld, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4SX.

HEAD GREENKEEPER



Stockwood Vale Golf Club

BRISTOL, SOMERSET

A top quality candidate with a proven track record as a Head Greenkeeper is required to manage this busy and successful Golf Club. The selected candidate will be responsible for maintaining the golf course in pristine condition. We are looking for a strong team leader with a thorough understanding of golf course maintenance and the ability to produce good putting surfaces. Full spraying certification and NVQ or City and Guilds to at least level 3 is required.

The Championship length, golf course is superbly located on the edge of Bristol and is just three miles from the City centre. The Club is also only 8 miles from the beautiful and historic City of Bath. The golf course is full of interest; the fairways cross streams and stunning natural features and no two holes are alike.

The majority of the course has been built to full USGA specification and is complemented with a computerised irrigation system. The course has been fully and successfully drained. The greenkeeping budgets are substantial and the club has recently purchased all the latest quality green keeping machinery.

The existing five greenkeepers are all enthusiastic and have between two and ten years experience each.

The Golf Club is privately owned and, therefore, there are no Committees. The Head Greenkeeper will report to the Club's General Manager.

The salary package will be between £22,000 and £24,000.

Reply with full CV and any reference to: Mr M Ramsay, Managing Director, Stockwood Vale Golf Club, Stockwood Lane, Bristol, BS18 2ER

DUKINFIELD GOLF CLUB

Invite applications for the position of

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have a minimum of 5 years experience in Golf Course Maintenance and be able to use all Modern Day Golf Course Equipment.

Applicants should apply in writing together with their C.V. to:

Chairman of the Greens, Dukinfield Golf Club,
Lyne Edge, Yew Tree Lane, Dukinfield
Cheshire SK16 5DB

Golf and Country Club Blumisberg

Renomierter Golfclub an zentraler Lage in der Schweiz sucht auf Frühjar 1999 einen neuen

Head Greenkeeper

Der Bewerber wird von seinem Vorgänger eingearbeitet. Für diese anspruchsvolle Aufgabe suchen wir eine Persönlichkeit mit bestmöglicher Ausbildung und Erfahrung inkl. Führungsaufgaben.

Interessenten senden ihre Bewerbungsunterlagen an Fontana AG, Seminarstrasse 22, Postfach 247 CH-3000 Bern 16

ROWLANDS CASTLE GOLF CLUB

Requires

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

We require two greenkeepers, one of whom must be experienced and qualified with a minimum of NVQ Level 2/Phase 2. Also fully conversant with all aspects of course maintenance. Chainsaw and spraying certificate an advantage. The other applicant should preferably have golf course experience or be working towards the relevant qualifications.

Applications in writing with CV should be sent to:
The Secretary/Manager, Rowlands Castle Golf Club, Links Lane,
ROWLANDS CASTLE, Hants PO9 6AE

Inverurie Golf Club

Applications are invited for the position of

Deputy Head Greenkeeper

The suitable applicant will be experienced and qualified in all aspects of green keeping. A practical knowledge of turf management, machinery maintenance and irrigation systems are essential.

Good man management skills and experience in course improvements would be an advantage.

Salary and conditions are negotiable.

Please apply in writing enclosing a full CV by 8th February 1999 to:

The Secretary, Inverurie Golf Club,
Blackhall Road, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire AB51 5JB



TM



AMENITY TECHNOLOGY

**PLEASE RUSH ME
DETAILS OF VERTIGO
AND THE NEW YEAR
PROMOTION**

**THE NEW
REVOLUTIONARY
TURF TREATMENT
FROM AMENITY
TECHNOLOGY**

NAME

POSITION

CLUB

CLUB ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TEL/FAX

EMAIL

TICK HERE TO RECEIVE THE NEW AMENITY TECHNOLOGY CATALOGUE
 TICK HERE TO RECEIVE THE NEW BAYCO GOLF CATALOGUE



- **STRAIGHTENS LEAF BLADES TO INCREASE THE SPEED OF GREENS**
- **RAISES SEED HEADS TO ALLOW 'BOXING OFF'**
- **HELPS TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF POA ANNUA IN SPORTSTURF**
- **REDUCES SUSCEPTABILITY TO DISEASE**
- **SPEEDS THE RECOVERY FROM PITCH MARKS AND REDUCES THE DAMAGE FROM SPIKE MARKS**
- **ECONOMICAL AND EASY TO APPLY**

NEW YEAR PROMOTION

RECEIVE A **FREE** VERTIGO LAMBS WOOL WORKWEAR JUMPER WHEN YOU BUY 2x10lts OF VERTIGO

WRAP UP WARM AT WORK THIS WINTER WITH AMENITY TECHNOLOGY

OFFER RUNS UNTIL 31.03.99

2

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE
Licence No. YO 331

AMENITY TECHNOLOGY
c/o BIGGA HOUSE
ALDWARK
ALNE
YORK
YO61 1UF

COMING UP NEXT MONTH...

**FULL DETAILS OF
THE EXCLUSIVE**

BAYCO

SPRING OFFER



**AMENITY
TECHNOLOGY**

5 ARKWRIGHT ROAD, READING, BERKSHIRE RG2 0UL

TEL: +44 0118 931 1111

FAX: +44 0118 975 0344

email: amttec@btinternet.com

<http://www.amenitytechnology.com>

This month I would like to turn my attention to a greenkeeping matter. This is something I have always endeavoured to stay clear of. After all what do I know about greenkeeping? In fact what do any of us know about greenkeeping?

Sand Green. Destruction

I still wince at a memory I have of once playing golf at a course with the most perfect fescue greens the world has ever known. Desperate to meet the genius responsible for these greens I located him and started the interrogation. "What fertiliser do you use" I asked. "Is the N source derived from aerobically composted organic matter?" "Oh I don't know much about that," came the reply. "I'm sure we used some back in the spring but I'm not sure which." "But what about your aeration technique? Do you deploy the high pressure water injection method?" I enquired. "The what?" came the reply.

As my questions became more and more fevered in a desperate attempt to learn the secrets in his possession, so his answers became shorter and shorter until I was confronted with a series of incoherent grunting noises. At this point the truth dawned on me. Here I was attempting some sort of communication with the man that I was sure had information on the most advanced and detailed turf management methods in the known universe and yet in reality he was a couple of chromosomes from being the village idiot. Depressing, is it not?

But to get back to the greenkeeping matter in question. I recently played a course in my area, which had 17 excellent healthy greens and one green that looked close to giving up its battle with life. This

green although dominated with fine fescue grass was weak, patchy, full of pitch and spike marks, slow to putt on and generally not too well. It was the only green on the course, which was built to a sand based or USGA specification method, and this brings me to the greenkeeping matter I would like to discuss.

After decades of initial research, experimentation, fine tuning and quite literally thousands of working examples we have evolved a method of greens construction that one would expect to be about perfect. Having worked with such greens for several years now at Sludgecombe Pay and Play I have come to the conclusion that the people who invented them are having a laugh. Either that or I am a bigger idiot than I thought.

To start with, USGA spec greens perform brilliantly. The grass is quick to establish and drainage is incredible. You get a rapid poa annua free sward and the members believe you to be God. The problems start when golfers feel the time is right to start playing on them. I should have had my suspicions when the first ball landed on the 1st green and left a huge splat of a pitch mark that required several minutes of delicate surgery in which to repair. Then to my horror I noticed a mass of spike marks appearing around the hole. I was not used to this on my previous clubs 100 year old greens. But never mind I thought, recovery

would be quick and complete. How naive I was. Recovery came only after the application of what I considered to be obscene quantities of fertiliser and as we were now coming into the autumn this was against everything I had previously been taught.

So I was now left with the dilemma, do I feed those suckers as all the reps were telling me to do, or do I leave them to die under the mass of overweight golfers desperate to destroy my once beautiful greens. The problem was the speed in which all colour and growth disappears from them. One minute you have Florida in England, then the next it looks as though someone's gone out and sprayed growth retardant at quadruple rate. Eventually I bowed under the pressure coming at me from every angle and resorted to the fertiliser bag and the inevitable fusarium attack, which followed. So then I was out there spraying copious quantities of hugely expensive fungicides while still desperately trying to keep something resembling grass on the surface.

But there must be a plus side I hear you say. What about aeration, surely that is not required in such intensity? Don't you believe it. When do you come across black layer on those old established soil greens? You have got to do as much if not more of that operation that annoys golfers than any established greens. If you do not, they puddle

Sand Green. Destruction

up, turn a horrible brown colour and exude noxious fumes when ever you attempt a hole change which should be after every other fourball given the spike mark problems.

Now you may call me a whinging old git but I have not finished yet, not by a long shot. Further problems arise when you are forced to close the course due to the wear received on them. "But we have spent all this money on getting the very best construction so as to keep them open," say the owners. But grass does not grow in the winter whatever the soil underneath. To keep the course open, temporaries are hastily built so the seniors can get their daily inoculation of golf. Then the ladies complain to you through the February blizzard saying "Don't you know we've got our second mid week medal on today?" when you are forced to bring into play a temporary green or two. Then there is thatch build up. You may think this to be impossible given the free draining nature of the root zone but remember, for the first few years the sandy soil is devoid of those loveable little bugs that break thatch down, especially if you have been killing them off with fungicide.

Now given that

you come out of the winter with disease scarred, worn out, pitch marked, thatchy efforts masquerading as greens what grass do you think comes in to the gaping holes after the first application of spring fertiliser? Yes that's right annual meadow grass. But not the poa annua that we have come to accept with all its innocuous little faults. No, this is a huge, ugly, monstrous carbuncle type of poa annua that possesses several hundred permanent seed heads on every conspicuous tuft. You might as well plant flashing neon lights given the way it blends into the rest of the sward.

McDivot, you whinging old git I here you say again. But there is more, quite a lot more as it happens. Just when you think you are getting the hang of them, the poa is blending in a bit, the bugs are now starting to multiply and breaking down the thatch and you can actually get a reasonable amount of nutrient retention, suddenly you get a visit from the dreaded Take All Patch.

When I got this disease all over my greens I immediately buried myself in the textbooks and they all said the same thing; I was stuffed. Sure you could think about a hugely expensive acid injection system, or you could add phosphate, which encourages the poa, or you can throw on vast quantities of manganese which probably won't make any difference but basically you are well and truly stuffed.

The only thing to do is wait the two or three

years for it to go on its own. In the mean time the members think you are deliberately doing nothing about what they believe to be a virulent form of ringworm on their greens. Actually between you and me there is something you can do if you have Take All Patch. Go to one of those old clubs that still has a store of that highly illegal mercury based fungicide.

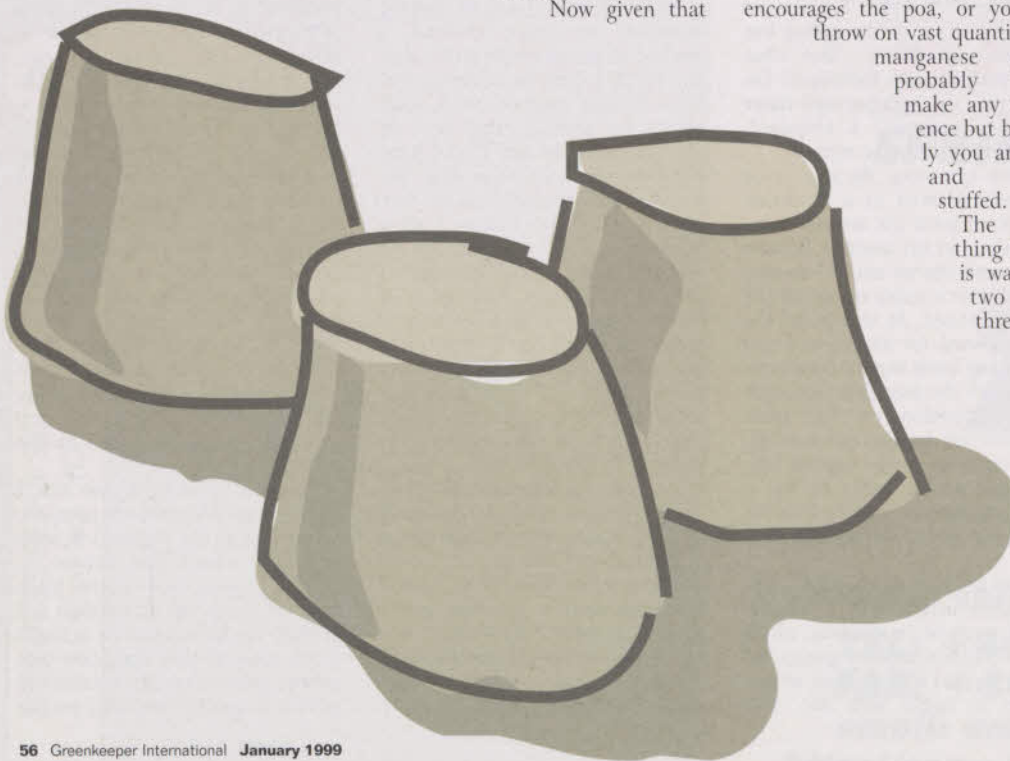
Having obtained some, don't bother spraying it on your greens, just drink it neat. At least it will put you out of your misery quickly. Either that or resort to that traditional old remedy - the bottle. Then when the disease goes by itself, you will only have chronic alcohol dependency to cure, which should be an absolute doddle, compared to Take All Patch.

You may say that I am a whinging old git but wait, let's look at how to cure some of these problems. Firstly there is the spike mark problem.

(Are the perpetrators of sand based greens in collusion with the soft spike manufacturers?) Do not think that this problem is still associated with creeping bent grass greens because mine are bent/fescue and I still have greens that are ridden with ruinous spiked up areas following the first swathe of daily fourballs.

In an effort to solve this problem of global proportions I rang up the STRI. What has their extensive research on the subject revealed? Well actually it appeared that no such research was being done (please correct me if I am wrong STRI). "It could be verticutting," they said to me. "Are you doing enough?" "Well I used to double verticut every other week and the spike marks were deplorable" I told them. "Are you doing too much they enquired?" "Well I now do no verticutting whatsoever and the spike marks are deplorable" I replied. So there is no answer there. But how about soft spikes, that will solve the problem. Well maybe, but I want to solve the problem on the surface of the green. After all links greens are effectively built on sand and they do not spike up so why do mine.

The question of soft spikes has even come up on TV's "Watchdog" programme; clubs are now banning people from their course without them. Well I don't



know about you but I would not like to be charged £6 for a round of golf and have all my spikes changed over. After all I'm a greenkeeper! No, it seems to me this whole matter is getting totally out of hand. Surely there is an answer.

In recent months we had a golf course on the telly with limited golf, highly expensive sand based greens, a very intelligent Course Manager that had access to the best information and he had greens that looked like they had been in a war zone. A short while later we went to The Open at Royal Birkdale only to be confronted with greens that were as perfect at the end of the day as at the beginning. Yes the greens were sand based and fairly newly constructed but the turf was re-laid from the old greens.

Perhaps that was the answer; it is the grass on top that counts. If that is the case, then why are seed companies not collecting this elixir of the turf world at our best courses and growing it on ready for wholesale distribution? I know a great deal of it was poa annua but at other heavily played links and even parkland courses the grass is dominated by bent and fescue species and spiking up is not a problem. Then look at Birkdale's Chris Whittle's account of his own greens in this magazine. He recognised that his new greens are a real headache compared to his old ones at Muirfield. It can't be that we are all idiots. Even Augusta with its frightening budget and the colossal expertise at its disposal has greens that at the end of the day, to be quite frank can look a bit spiked up, especially when they are compared to some of our better links and heathland tracks.

McDivot, you whinging old git you may well like to say, but wait, I have one other point to make. One of greenkeeping's greatest mysteries must be the STRI's handbook on turfgrass seed. Why on earth do they assess grass cultivars for such things as summer and winter colour or freedom from dollar spot, which nobody gets or freedom from red thread, which is never a problem? Who cares if it's free of red thread? Freedom of being totally knackered after the first 50,000 hackers have dragged their spiked clodhoppers over them would be a bit more appropriate.

No, no, there are times when I

can sometimes believe the best sand based greens come when they have been massively overplayed from day one and the man in charge has then responded to his rapidly dying fescue and bent by applying fertiliser with a size nine shovel. The consequence of this is a rapid take over from our old friend poa annua. Then within a couple of years all you have is uniform poa that still manages to drain pretty well. At that point, fertiliser levels are reduced dramatically and the bent and fescue is reintroduced at its own rate to create something similar to those old established greens that can produce such excellent all round surfaces.

At Sludgecombe I have members, bless them, that have excitedly told me about a relatively new course with the most superb surfaces. "It's all fine grass," they say. So I have paid a visit only to find a uniform 100% perennial poa surface that I have to admit does look good even though I know it isn't right. Then who am I to argue?

Now before I get publicly flogged to death by Jim Arthur's pen, I would like to point out that at Sludgecombe I have attempted to keep them lean and hungry as the books tell us. But you should see my greens after a full days golf has been through them. Somewhere between ghastly and hideous would sum them up. I am hoping that one day they will settle down and have a vague resemblance to those superb links greens that are fed just once a year. Sometimes in the morning just after they have been cut, in certain lights and if you squint slightly and lower your line of sight so as you can't see the pitch marks and use your imagination, they can look quite good. But I fear I could be in for a long wait before I reach my goal.

So, if you are looking to take on a new, heavily played course with sand based greens then all I can say is, I hope you like a challenge.

There, I've got it off my chest, now you can call me a whinging old git.

Sandy McDivot.
Head Greenkeeper:
Sludgecombe Pay and Play

see us on stand
 A7 at BTME

Hunter®
 The Irrigation Innovators

FROM TEE TO GREEN
 yet rarely seen



total
 irrigation
 systems

For your nearest **HUNTER** supplier and installer
 or to request literature and technical information
 please contact **EVENPRODUCTS LTD.**
 tel: 01386 41212. fax: 01386 423769
 web: www.evenproducts.uk e.mail: evenproducts@compuserve.com

Ad Ref 524

Feature listing from December '96

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



McMillan who?



Starting this month's notes I realise just how much time I have spent in the company of one or other of the McMillan family. But then as you go round the seminar circuit it's hard not to see at least one.

First I had just come back from the FEGGA Conference with Ian two days before the Midland seminar, and the very first speaker of the day was Billy. His paper was one of the best of a very good day of learning, well organised by Peter Larter and chaired by David Walden. The only disappointment was that more members did not support this excellent event. However, thanks must go to the trade for their support and stand displays, and I enjoyed talking to most of them at break times.

Then it was on to Cannington for the South West & South Wales seminar, and once again Ian McMillan was a speaker and how nice to see Jack and Rita there in support. The highlight of the seminar was Frank Newberry, and that is not taking anything away from the other speakers, but Frank is so good, and entertaining with it, that he will always be the star of the show.

The day was well run by Paula and Ivor, and once again I thank the members of the Region for their support. I believe 130 attended. The sponsors were Supaturf and Roffey Bros to whom we are all indebted for

their efforts. I was only sorry I had to leave a little early to catch a train to York for the GTC meeting.

My next trip is by invitation of the PGA European Tour to Dubai for the 1998 Greenkeeper Conference, which will be held in the Jebel Ali Hotel from 9th to 12th December. There are three days of lectures and practical demonstrations including a visit to the Emirates and Creek golf courses, hosts to the Dubai Desert Classic, so I am looking forward to that.

This year has passed by so quickly we are already looking the BTME 99 in the face. I have been to so many greenkeeper events over many years and particularly in my year as your Chairman, but I can honestly say that I look forward to the greenkeepers week in Harrogate more than any other on our calendar. The BTME has got better and better over the years.

The week begins with the National Conference and workshops, followed by the Exhibition and seminars, with the BIGGA AGM early evening on Wednesday, and the BIGGA Banquet on Thursday evening. The week takes in an educational experience you will not find anywhere else, an Exhibition which is the premier indoor show in Europe, and on top of that, it's in Harrogate where you will find a warm welcome wherever you go. Harrogate is also blessed with some of the finest restaurants to suit all tastes. This historic town with its elegant architecture offers you a week to remember. You can walk in the Valley Gardens by day if you want to take in the fresh air or visit the superb shops just a few minutes away. By night there is a variety of night clubs for your entertainment. Wherever you choose to go

you will meet greenkeepers and tradesmen to chat and socialise with, in fact even if you arrive on your own it won't be long before you will make lots of friends, and I can guarantee once you have been to Harrogate for the BTME, you will return time and again.

With Christmas and New Year gone we all tend to feel a bit flat and there is no better pick me up than the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition from the 20th to 22nd January. Make the time and come along. I'll see you there.

With 1998 at an end I would just like to thank you all for the warm welcome you have given me wherever I have been. I have tried to attend as many events as I could, but it's impossible to be at them all, so on a few occasions I have had to rely on Board members to help me out. Their support throughout the year has been great. I would also like to thank the staff who have given me and you excellent help and service all year, and I am sure they will continue to do so.

Last but not least to my wife, Marion, who has given me support and encouragement throughout a year in which she has had her own difficulties to cope with. I wish you all a happy New Year for 1999.

Gordon Child

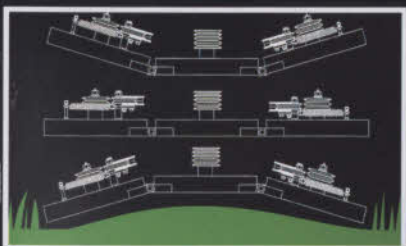
The Articulator[®]

SEE US AT
BTME
STAND
A29

"Quality rotary mowers for a world that isn't flat"



72" low HP requirement



Three 25" articulating cutting decks duplicate the cut quality of three individual push mowers



Deck will fit a wide range of out front tractor units



High output 124" precise height of cut



Powerful 38hp diesel 96" cut. Height of cut from seat.

FREE
DEMONSTRATION
Call for a free demonstration in your area NOW!

Scotland: Double A Trading: Sandy 01382 330556
North/Midlands: MGM: Dean 0116 289 2595
Wales: Major Owen: Andy 01766 770261
South West: PJ Flegg: Paul 01404 815666
South East: Marlwood Ltd: Keith 01622 728718

Low cost finance
Low maintenance costs
Minimum arisings
Solve your leaf problem with a mulching kit
Contours your turf instead of scalping
Bring fairway presentation to your semi-rough/rough

Marlwood Limited

Court Lodge Farm, Forge Lane, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent ME15 0HQ
Tel: 01622 728718 Fax: 01622 728720

AD
REF
501

Unique Turf Treatment



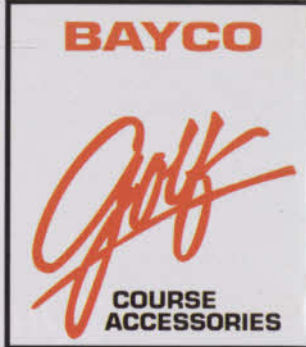
Straightens leaf blade to increase the speed of greens.

Raises seed heads to allow 'boxing off', thereby helping to control the spread of Poa Annua in fine turf.

Reduces the susceptibility to disease.

Speeds the recovery from ballmarks, and reduces the damage from spike marks.

Economical and easy to apply.



of
Course
it's the
Best

Contact us today for details of the **NEW BAYCO EUROPEAN RANGE**

The Andersons



THE PERFECT SPREAD



BECAUSE SIZE MATTERS

The Andersons fertiliser range is the market leader in particle size technology **BECAUSE SIZE MATTERS**. A well sized product gives greenkeepers and groundsmen additional flexibility in their fertility programs to use lighter rates of application while still maintaining a high particle count per square inch. The results of the uniform application and response of The Andersons speak for themselves, consistent turf colour and uniform response, without speckling or striping.



The Amtec Fertilizer Spreader Range

CONTACT US TODAY FOR YOUR COPIES OF THE NEW 1999 AMTEC AND BAYCO CATALOGUES

Amenity Technology Products Ltd.

5 Arkwright Road, Reading, Berkshire RG2 0LU
E-Mail: amtec@btinternet.com

Tel: +(44) 0118 931 1111 Fax: +(44) 0118 975 0344
<http://www.AmenityTechnology.com>