

## 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 chlordan 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