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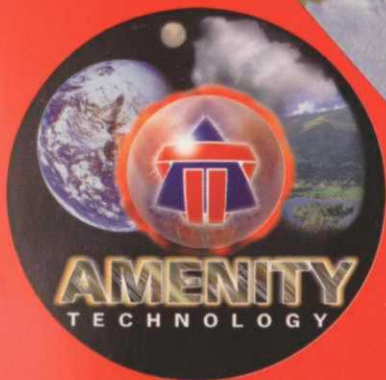


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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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## July 1999

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by August 9, 1999

## Regulars

### News

Pages 7, 8, 9

### 10 New Products

### 12 Education

Ken Richardson gives some good news for 16 and 17 year olds; about the Learning Experience 2000 and continuing professional development

### 15 The Learning Experience

Pesting Times. Steve Jones, of The London Club, discusses integrated pest management

### 17 Membership Update

### 36-43 Around the Green

### 48 Talking Heads

Tournament Preparation

### 58 Features Listing

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

### 58 As I see it...

Gordon Child discusses one of the biggest problems facing the modern greenkeeper

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Advertiser	Ad Ref	Page
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Charterhouse	130	38-39
Clubcar	583	20
Eagle Promotions	549	29
Evenproducts	609	17
Flowtronex	610	20
G & AE Wilson	632	30
Greensward	312	43
H2O Group Pte	619	35
Heron Electric	628	33
Hydroscape	475	59
IOG	558	2
ILS Irrigation	525	33
Lely UK	61	36-37
Marlwood	501	40-41
McDivot Ltd	633	17
North Staffs Irrigation	217	11
Ocmis Irrigation	360	13
Rhone Poulenc	59	5
Textron	9	14
Weed Free	504	43

## Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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



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18 The BIGGA Silent Auction: What's all the noise about?



50 Win £50 with our Buyers' Guide quiz

## Nostalgic visit

In 1975, aged 12, I was given my first real experience of live professional golf when my dad took me to Carnoustie to watch The Open. I had a wonderful day. We sat by the side of a green watching the great players play through and I filled an autograph book with names, some of which were household and some of which weren't.

I'd already started playing the game, after a fashion, and could recall Gary Player winning The Open at Royal Lytham the previous year but it would be fair to say that my appreciation for the game of golf started with that day out at Carnoustie. That appreciation has been quite significant in my life as I've spent the last 13 years working in the golf business.

With that in mind, together with the fact that my brother and his family now live in the town, you can perhaps see how much I'm looking forward to The Open's return to Carnoustie later this month.

But however delighted I am it barely registers on the claqueter if measured against the pleasure Links Superintendent John Philp and his team will derive from it.

The Mission, that John chose to accept, when he arrived at Carnoustie from St Andrews in 1986, was to return the course to a condition that would enable the Championship to come back.

He achieved that several years ago but the frustrating additional delay was brought about by other factors outwith his control... including the lack of a quality hotel.

If you look at the cover of this issue you will see that the hotel has arrived, just in time. Together with the superb course conditioning supplied by the greenkeeping team, it should ensure that Carnoustie doesn't have such a long wait for its next Championship.

And that's exactly as it should be because the famous five who have won at Carnoustie have all been, or become, legends in the game. There was the Silver Scot, Tommy Armour; Sir Henry Cotton; the "Wee Ice Mon", Ben Hogan, whose one out of one Open record ensured Carnoustie's legendary status; Gary Player; and Tom Watson, whose play-off win against Jack Newton kicked off his magnificent Open record.

Talking with John Philp you can't help but become wrapped up in his enthusiasm for the business and the genuine love he has for his own links. He knows every blade of grass, every nuance, every problem past present and potentially future, while his thoughts on influencing golfer's strategy would be enough for a magazine all of their own.

He deserves a successful week. One where the top players play to their best and hog the top of the leader boards and the weather shows off the course to its best advantage.

The week will also see the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team in action and with 115 bunkers to attend, in addition to their divotting duties it could be as busy as it is enjoyable for those lucky enough to be on the team.

**Editor:**  
Scott MacCallum



# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

## Features

- 21 Many Happy Returns**  
Carnoustie welcomes The Open back after 24 years and, as Scott MacCallum found out when he met up with John Philp, the great links is more than ready
- 27 Bridge the Gap**  
Roland Taylor takes a look at the latest golf course furniture
- 31 The Write Stuff**  
As BIGGA launches its essay writing competition we look back at the wonderful piece which won the first such event, back in 1913. It's amazing how much of what Mr Kirkpatrick, of Rye, says, is still relevant today
- 46 T-time**  
Have you ever thought what goes into producing the new products BIGGA Golden Key Supporter, Toro, produces? Scott MacCallum went to investigate
- 56 Wear and Tear**  
Dr Stephen Baker, of the STRI, examines golf shoe design and the wear on golf courses



21 Many Happy Returns



**BIGGA  
ESSAY  
COMPETITION**

- 31 Do you have the Write Stuff?



27 Golf Course Furniture

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# Subscribe!

The Association's high quality colour magazine, Greenkeeper International, is the vital title for golf course maintenance professionals - and anyone involved in any way with the fine turf industry.

The award winning magazine brings you the news and views from experts across the globe, presented in a bright and easy to read format.

We tackle the issues of the moment, whilst keeping an eye on new developments which point the way for the future. A strong education element makes the magazine essential reading for practitioners of the greenkeeping profession.

Greenkeeper International is the natural choice for readers and advertisers alike. BIGGA members receive a copy as a benefit of membership, or you can take out a subscription.

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# BIGGA practises what it preaches

BIGGA's achievement of attaining the Investor in People standard, which came just nine months after making the commitment to aim for it, was formally recognised by the official presentation of its plaque.

"That we achieved the Standard so quickly is a tribute to the systems in place and the quality of the staff who operate them and, coupled with our impressive new headquarters, shows that BIGGA is growing in stature," said Executive Director Neil Thomas.

The Investor in People plaque was presented to BIGGA by Roland Harris, Chief Executive of York and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce, at a lunch attended by BIGGA staff and Averil Jenkins, of North Yorkshire Training and Enterprise Council, who assisted in BIGGA's progress towards the Standard.



# Charity trek a whizz for Stephen

A Senior Greenkeeper at The Buckinghamshire is about to face a challenge that would have all but the most energetic feeling guilty about how little they do with their time.

This November 24-year-old Stephen Jack is to trek 100 kilometres through the Himalayas of Nepal to raise money for Whizz Kidz, a charity which supports children who cannot walk unaided.

"I will be in a group of 60 trekkers and the route takes us through rarely visited hillside villages in the foothills of the mountain range close to the border with Tibet and reaching a height of 13,500 feet," explained Stephen, who has pledged to raise £3,500, the average cost of a specially adapted child's wheelchair.

Stephen has been at The Buckinghamshire for about 18 months having previously worked at Loch Lomond and St Andrews.

"In preparation I'm cycling to and from work which works out at 80 miles a week while in the weeks before I leave I'll do some more intense work including swimming gym work, Tae-Kwon-do and trekking," said Stephen who, with some spare time on his hands after his move south, decided to do something positive.



Stephen is training hard for his 100km trek through the Nepal Himalaya

The Himalayan Challenge is headed by Doug Scott CBE, the first Briton to conquer Everest.

"I've always had a strong desire to visit different countries and the Nepal Himalaya has the most spectacular mountains on earth.

"There are many positive factors resulting from this challenge but

more importantly are the benefits of freedom and independence that the children get from the specialist equipment the money is used for."

Anyone wishing to support Stephen in raising money for Whizz Kidz should contact him at The Buckinghamshire Tel: 01895 835727 Fax: 018895 834723.

# Great response to Heather questionnaire

The heather questionnaire sent out by the STRI Ecology Research Unit has prompted a flood of response from UK golf clubs.

The questionnaire is part of an R&A sponsored research initiative to assess the distribution and status of heather on UK golf courses.

The STRI is delighted with the rapid response rate and encouraged by the number of people phoning to express their support and willingness to participate in the survey. A num-

ber of enthusiastic club secretaries have already volunteered their golf course for the detailed survey work planned for the second year of the project.

The heather questionnaire is part of a two year project that it is hoped will eventually help to safeguard a nationally important habitat that is currently in decline. The project also provides the golf industry with the opportunity to demonstrate their environment and conservation cre-

dentials to a wider audience. Many people outside the industry are unaware of the levels of commitment to environmental and ecological management of many of the UK's golf courses. This project will help to heighten awareness.

For those golf clubs who have not yet received a questionnaire, a copy can be obtained from the STRI Ecology Research Unit. Please contact Jonathan Hart-Woods for further assistance or information.

# Kerran moving on

Master Greenkeeper and member of the BIGGA Board of Management, Kerran Daly, is moving from Salisbury & South Wilts GC to Gog Magog in Cambridge.

"I take up my new position of Course Manager at The Gog Magog Golf Club in mid-July. The 36 holes will present an exciting challenge with the prestigious Old course now complimented by the opening of the Hawtree designed Wandlbury course in early June. The Club has much history and tradition, matched by a progressive outlook, necessary to satisfy a very busy 1300+ membership," said Kerran

"As I look forward to the move I must admit a little sadness to be leaving Wiltshire and the South West. I have had 12 marvellous years at Salisbury & South Wilts and would like to thank the staff and the members for making it such an enjoyable time. I have also made many friends in the South Coast Section and from the South West, South Wales and Devon and Cornwall Sections. I would like to thank them all for their friendship and support over the years."

# Promotion for John at RP

John Hall, of Rhone Poulenc Amenity, has been promoted to Amenity Market Development Manager based in the company's Ongar office having previously been Contractors and Public Utilities Customer Manager. In his new role he will be responsible for both the marketing of the company's existing pesticide brands and the development of new products.

# Practical Greenkeeping

The newly re-published Practical Greenkeeping by Jim Arthur is available to all greenkeepers and interested parties from BIGGA HOUSE. "It is an excellent book and we have agreed to a re-print and I wrote to all the colleges to let them know of its availability," explained R&A Secretary Sir Michael Bonallack, who wrote to all greenkeeping colleges explaining that the book promotes sensible greenkeeping practices and should be made available to students.

"Jim Arthur's book promotes sound greenkeeping practices and the colleges should use it as part of their teaching tools," he added.

While carrying Jim Arthur's name the book, in addition to containing Jim Arthur's philosophies on greenkeeping gathered and honed from a lifetime in the industry, is a collection of views and writing from acknowledged experts in many different fields of the game including Donald Steel, Neil Baldwin, Barry Cooper, John Allbut and Jim's own son, Richard Arthur.

Autographed copies of the book are available from BIGGA HOUSE priced £29.95 plus £3 p&p.

## 'Boro fan Kirstie is latest recruit



Kirstie Lamb is the newest member of the BIGGA HOUSE staff, filling the recently vacated post of Membership Services Assistant.

Kirstie has just finished an English degree course at Ripon and York St John College in Ripon having previously worked for a computerised labelling company in her native Cleveland.

Her north east roots account for her otherwise incomprehensible decision to support Middlesbrough, a fact she advertises through a sticker in the back of her car.

"My boyfriend is a huge Gazza fan but I quite like Dean Gordon and Brian Deane," she revealed, and she gets along to the Riverside whenever she can.

In her spare time, 27 year-old Kirstie enjoys walking her dog, Dena, while a couple of years ago she also donated some bone marrow through the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust.

"I'm looking forward to my time with BIGGA as it is a lovely place to work," she said.



### Contact us

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## Old Braid restoration programme

The Old Braid course at Tyrrells Wood, Surrey, is presently being restored to its traditional past, by the recreation of many of the original design features laid out by one of golf's greatest triumvirate, and with some help later from Harry Colt.

Howard Swan, President of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, is the man responsible for the restoration plan, along with the Club's Course Director and Course Manager. It is anticipated that the overall programme will take seven years and will include the redesign of teeing areas, as well as bunker restoration throughout the course, and improvements in presentation.

The par 4, 8th, one of the course's signature holes, was renovated this year, to great effect, with Braid's original five fairway bunkers, and the spectacle greenside bunkers restored.

Swan's work is extensive on the older courses, and programmes such as that at Tyrrells Wood are underway at Royal Wimbledon, Calcot Park, Workington, Wearside, West Essex and Reykjavik, Iceland, and Hubbelrath, Germany.



Swan adds "It is a great privilege to work on these old courses, bringing them up-to-date and setting out a future for them on a five or 10 year horizon, while respecting their tradi-

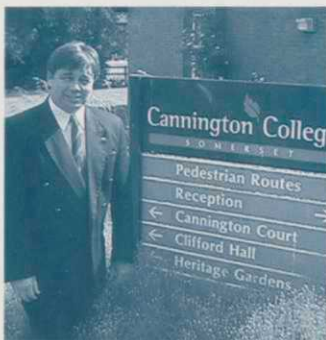
tion, history and the spirit of the original design. I hope that more of our Members' Clubs will look to such long term planning, put in professional hands."

## Huw's on the move to Elmwood College

Huw Parry, Section Manager Golf Course Management at Cannington College, Somerset will shortly be leaving to take up a new post as the Deputy Head within the School of Greenkeeping and Sport at Elmwood College.

Huw has been at Cannington since 1994 and during that time the Golf Course Management Team have established Cannington as not only the regional centre for Greenkeeper training, which has been endorsed by the GTC, but one which is recognised both nationally and internationally.

"I am delighted at my appointment and I am looking forward immensely to taking up my new position. This



will allow me the opportunity to further develop my educational and training experiences by working

with the team at Elmwood and within the SQA system," said Huw.

"I feel confident that with the present Golf Course Management team, I am leaving Cannington in a strong position, which will see their positive commitment to Greenkeeper education and training continue to grow in the future," he added.

Principal Richard Hinxman commented "We are very pleased for Huw that he has achieved such a good career move. The purpose of the college is to develop people and that goes for staff as well as students.

"We will now be looking for an able successor to build on the impressive achievements to date."

## Mark lands new role at Weed Free

Mark Anderson has joined Weed Free as Contracts Manager as the company prepares to expand, following major new investment.

An ex-Estates Manager at Selsdon Park Hotel where he was responsible for over 84 hectares of amenity turf including an 18 hole golf course, grass tennis courts and croquet lawns, Mark brings business knowledge as well as turf care experience to the company.

At Newbury Racecourse golf club where he was Head Greenkeeper, Club Manager, Secretary and Barman, rolled into one, and was in charge of everything including the budget. Mark, 38, has had first hand experience of Weed Free's contract spraying services from the customer's point of view.

Having just returned from three



months in Europe, Mark is excited by the large potential market across the Channel, where he observed that due to the laws surrounding the application of pesticides, many Greenkeepers are afraid to spray.

Keen to be part of a young, growing business, Mark's arrival is in line with Weed Free's preference for staffing the company with turf professionals, as the Proprietor, Mike Seaton is himself an ex-Groundsman.

# New MD receives Future Leaders Award

Harold C Pinto, Managing Director of Ipswich based Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, has been named a winner in the Future Leaders of Wisconsin StarStream Award scheme. The programme recognises outstanding business achievement and honours those individuals destined to be the top leaders of tomorrow.

Commenting upon the accolade he said, "I'm very proud to receive this award as it supports my belief that leadership and success come from teamwork. You can accomplish much when you enlist the help of others."

Mr. Pinto won the award in the category of 'companies with over 500 employees.' Winners were also named in the categories of 'compa-



nies with less than 500 employees' and 'governmental/non-profit organisations.' There were eleven finalists in all, selected from 120 nominations.

Each nominee was required to fill out an extensive questionnaire and submit it with supporting documents and reference letters. The questions probed how nominees exhibit leadership within their organisations and their community.

"Harold has played a key role in developing our future strategic direction," said Philip J Tralies, President of Textron Turf Care And Specialty Products - Americas.

Harold's award represented a double for Textron as they also joined BIGGA in achieving the Investors in People standard.

# Craig aims for Local Authorities



Craig Brisley has joined the UAP Amenity team of turf specialists. Craig who has been with UAP for some time working in the 'Special Products' division has been appointed as Amenity Local Authority Specialist covering the south of England. He will be responsible for developing both the Local Authority and contractor sections of this very important specialised amenity market.

# 1999 Volvo PGA Championship

BIGGA were pleased to have been invited by the PGA European Tour to help out for the second year at the prestigious Volvo PGA Championship held at Wentworth at the end of May. Organised by John Pemberton who is based at BIGGA Headquarters the BIGGA Support Team consisted of 80 members whose ages ranged from a 19 year-old apprentice greenkeeper to those who have retired from greenkeeping.

Over the final two days of play the BIGGA team members were each allotted a game which they walked round the course with, raking any bunkers found by the players. Undaunted by the prospect of rain on Sunday, and at one point carrying not only a rake but also a squeegee just in case, the team provided a valuable service which was greatly appreciated by



the PGA European Tour, the Course Manager, Chris Kennedy, and also the players. The involvement of the BIGGA support team helps keep play continuous by leaving the caddie free to concentrate on the game. The team members were also on hand to help the resident greenkeeping staff in the event of bad weather such as that

which caused a delay in play on the Saturday evening. Although giving up a day off those who took part were rewarded with the opportunity to see some exciting golf at very close range and experience the thrill of walking up the 18th fairway inside the ropes not to mention the odd mention on TV!

John would like to thank all those who were involved for their enthusiasm and support and in particular Mark Ellis and Neil Whitaker who patiently manned the 1st tee check point for the two days. Thank you is also due to the PGA European Tour for providing the BIGGA team with luncheon vouchers, season tickets, a Cutter & Buck shirt and a baseball cap.

# Chris receives unexpected presentation

Chris Kennedy, Courses Superintendent at The Wentworth Club had star billing during the prize presentation for the Volvo PGA Championship.

Just before the trophy was presented to Champion Colin Montgomerie, David Garland, European Tour

Director of Tour Operations, announced that The Wentworth Club wished to make a presentation to Chris in recognition of his 10 years at the club and the 10 Volvo PGA Championships and 10 World Match-Play Championships for which he had

prepared the West Course and that he was probably the best Course Manager in the country

Chris was then presented with a Cup, in front of the huge galleries by Elliott Bernard, Chairman of The Wentworth Club.

# New post Flows toward Ian



Hampshire based pump manufacturer Flowtronex Europe has appointed Ian Hazleton as regional Sales Engineer for the North of England and Scotland.

Ian, who lives in Buckinghamshire, brings with him a wealth of experience honed from 10 years working in the industry.

Sales Manager Adam Booker said: "He will be a valuable addition to the team, working closely with existing customers and supporting new business."

"The new appointment is an exciting development in the expansion of Flowtronex as it is the first time we have had a permanent representative in this region. Customers will have the benefit of a personal service as well as advice and information when they need it."

Flowtronex Europe specialises in the design and manufacture of water pump systems for the turf irrigation, water and building industries.



## Spray away - the safer way

In response to the new enforcement of the Ground Water directive G & AE Wilson who supply and manufacture sprayers and related products for the amenity sector have developed a kit for fitting to sprayers to enable greenkeepers/groundsmen and sprayer operators keep within the law.

The Groundwater directive removes the right for the sprayer to be cleaned out in the yard - unless the yard has been registered as a washings disposal site, which will involve paperwork and a registration cost and also a yearly cost. The directive has been developed to reduce the contamination of groundwater and will be enforced by the Environment Agency.

The cleaning kit, which is an alternative to land registration, enables the sprayer to be cleaned inside with an internal rinsing nozzle, and also externally around the nozzle bodies where chemical residue may also be. This means the sprayer can be washed down in an area where the sprayer has been working - which is acceptable with the Environment Agency, and means you don't have to register your land or yard. The kit also gives visual reassurance that you are looking after the environment and are taking steps to eliminate groundwater contamination.

The wash down kit comes complete with a 30ltr clean water container, two 3 way valves, internal cleaning nozzle, external washdown pistol, and all the fittings for fitment, at a price including fitting for £890.00 + VAT.

For further details, Tel: (01904) 738533 or 0966 520057.

## If you want to get ahead, then get a mat

The Isoplant Tree Mulching Mat has been launched into the amenity market by PG Horticulture Ltd.

The mats, which suppress weeds, retain moisture and give an ideal environment for three to four years, are made from wood fibre and are totally degradable.

Available in different shapes, dimensions and thicknesses, the mats are fixed in place using bamboo pegs and once wet they become bonded to the ground taking the shape of the soil surface.

For further information Tel: 01379 678515.

## Fairway to spot weeds from Vitax

Weedfree aerosols from Vitax have crossed over from the retail to the amenity market, thanks to the ingenuity of greenkeepers. Commonly used on greens and tees, the product, which has always been considered too labour intensive for use on fairways, has now been combined with divotting.

Ian McMillan, who as Course Manager at Hankley Common prepared the club for its win in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone and Rhone Poulenc and who was the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping winner the same year has six members of staff who divot the fairways once a month from April to September.

"We always, as far as is reasonably possible, hand weed our greens. However, this would be far too laborious on tees and fairways. Basically the weed population generally does not justify an overall spray which would cost money. By using Weedfree aerosols as we divot, we know what we're hitting, and essentially, we are not using herbicides unnecessarily."

Ray Malt, Head Greenkeeper at The Ridge Golf Club, has taken the idea one step further. With four



greenstaff, spot weeding the fairways is out of the question, which led him to employ the members.

"We have two divotting evenings a year and it usually takes 15 members two and a half hours to do all the fairways. Because the Weedfree aerosol is available on the retail market I knew it was safe to give them a can each, and during our first session last

month (May) they seemed to cover the ground in the same time. We obviously won't have been 100% effective, but if we have got 50% or 60% of the weeds that marks a huge improvement. Afterwards, we all had a beer and a sandwich," Ray commented.

For further information: Tel: 01530 510060.

## New cylinder mowers from Kubota

Kubota has announced the launch of its very first range of ride-on cylinder mowers.

Known as the AM Series, the all-new triple cylinder machines are the result of worldwide customer research and evaluation carried out by Kubota over the past decade. The initial two machines in the new AM Series now being introduced in the United Kingdom and Ireland are manufactured totally by Kubota and represent the first in a new generation of technically-advanced ride-on cylinder mowers designed from the ground up to meet the demands of professionals into the 21st century.

Both models have a number of exciting design elements which will make them serious contenders within their respective market areas. They also share the safety features, build quality, user-friendly design, reliability, performance and value for money that have been the hallmark of Kubota's products since 1922, when the first Kubota engine was produced.

Introduced commercially in Japan in 1998, the AM3300 is a rugged ride-on triple cylinder mower with an

optional rear hopper grass collection and emptying facility.

This system makes the Kubota AM3300 the only ride-on cylinder mower in Europe able to collect and dispose of cut grass without the operator having to leave the driving seat.

Powered by a low noise, low emission 33hp four cylinder Kubota diesel engine, the AM3300 has single pedal hydrostatic transmission, automatic, self-selecting four-wheel drive and a flat floor operating platform laid out and equipped to provide exceptional comfort, convenience and ease of use.

All mowing functions are actuated by a combination of push buttons and single-lever joy stick control. Customers can choose from five or seven bladed 200mm (8in) diameter cylinders giving an overall mowing width of 2.03m (80in).

Other features of the self-steering, fully-floating cutting units include individual lowering, in-situ backlapping, hydraulic weight transfer and a choice of full width grooved or side-offset front rollers, the latter being ideal when cutting longer grass.

AM3300 operators wanting the convenience of grass collection with single lever hydraulic emptying from the driving seat can specify a 420 litre capacity high-dump rear hopper, force-filled via flexible pipes and grass collection manifolds connected directly to the three cutting units.

This collection and emptying system provides fast, fatigue-free mowing, collection and emptying for areas where a high workrate and visual appearance are equally important. It also reduces long-term scarifying requirements and the risk of yellowing, disease and moss build-up beneath uncollected clippings.

The second machine in Kubota's new AM Series is the AM1800 - a compact ride-on triple cylinder mower ideal for regular maintenance of open and more confined areas of grass.

The AM3300 ride-on cylinder mower is available for demonstrations and sale from 1 July, to be followed by the AM1800 in August. Both the AM3300 and AM1800 machines will be exhibited on the Kubota stand at Saltex 99.

## Can you guess the guests at Banquet 2000?

BTME 2000 is guaranteed to be a magnificent occasion, one which will be talked about well into the next millennium, but that in itself gave BIGGA HOUSE staff a real headache.

Who would we get to headline the Banquet and expand on the success of an occasion which has witnessed some wonderful entertainment over the last few years? Who will forget Tom O'Connor, Stan Boardman, Bobby Davro, Lee Hurst and, last year, Showaddywaddy, who had everyone on their feet?

Well, we are confident that next year's headliners will certainly not let the side down and that BTME 2000 will have another feather in its cap.

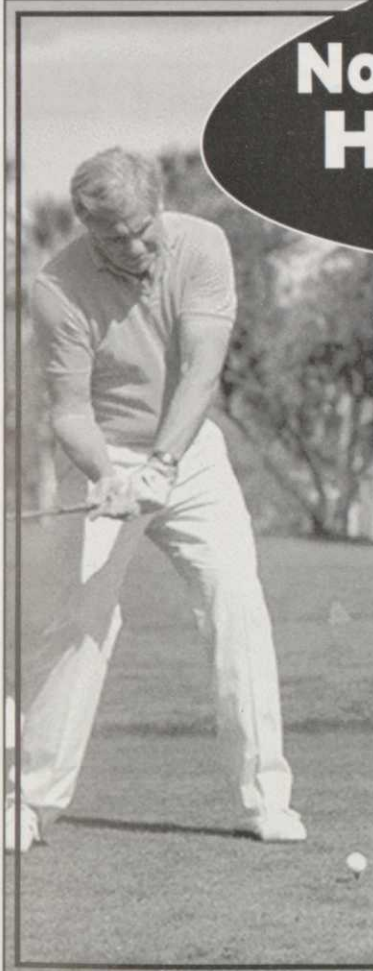
A Clue?

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

To help you even further, we've also printed part of a photo of the guesting band. If you still haven't got it, don't worry. There'll be another clue next month!



## North Staffs Irrigation HAVE DONE IT AGAIN!



We were the first to standardise on five sprinklers per green for our irrigation installations and now we have developed an automatic drainage system (patent applied for).

The UK has suffered from greater than usual rainfall during recent golfing seasons and this has resulted in many courses being closed because they were waterlogged.

We have the solution. Our systems are able to remove the casual water which is then redirected to the nearest suitable escape route. The operation is automatically controlled in a similar way to an irrigation system.

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Fax: 01785 811747.

**Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, examines the new law governing the payment of study time taken by 16-18 year-olds.**

# TIME out

Young people aged 16 and 17 will be given the right to take time off, during their working hours, to undertake study or training, according to the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998, which has been confirmed by the Government as coming into force as from 1 September 1999.

The Act states that 16 and 17-year-old employees are entitled to take paid time off work to study for a qualification which would contribute to the attainment of, for example, a National/Scottish Vocational Qualification, which would be likely to enhance the employees employment prospects (whether with the current employer or otherwise). The amount of time of which an employee is allowed to take depends on the requirements of the study or training.

An employee aged 18 who is undertaking a course of study and began such study before attaining the age of eighteen is also covered by the Act.

The Act also states that an employee who is permitted to take time off, is entitled to be paid at the appropriate hourly rate.

## The Learning Experience 2000

The Learning Experience 2000, in association with Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, will take place, in Harrogate, from January 16 to January 21. Planning is almost complete and full details will be published in September.

Details already agreed are a new style National Education Conference, which will take a detailed look at Grasses for Golf Courses, Water Management, Golf Green Construction and Performance Management. The extended Workshop Programme introduces Golf Design II, the next step for those delegates who have attended a Golf Course Design I workshop, Golf Course Presentation which is aimed at Assistant and First Assistant Greenkeepers, presented by Walter Woods and George Brown, Written and Verbal Communication presented by Brin Bendon and Frank Newberry, Machinery Maintenance, presented by Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products and Computing for Greenkeepers.

The BTME Seminars, taking place in the Royal Hall on 19, 20 and 21 January look at the Past, Present and Future of Golf Greenkeeping with confirmed speakers from the USA, including Dr Joe Vargas, Canada and Europe.

The National Education Conference Dinner, on Monday January 17, at the Majestic Hotel, features after dinner speaker Dusty Young. The BTME Banquet will be held once again in Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre, on Thursday 20 January.

Further details of The Learning Experience 2000 will appear in this column in August.

## Continuing Professional Development

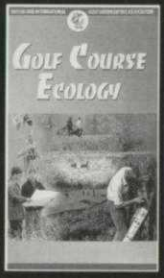
BIGGA's commitment to ongoing education and training is well known. Thanks to contributors to the Education and Development Fund, BIGGA has shown this commitment by spending £1,000,000 on education and training since 1994.

October 11 sees the start of this year's BIGGA House Supervisory and Management Courses, which cover Managing People, Managing Operations and Resources, Managing Information and Managing Golf Course Development. A leaflet containing full details of these courses was included in the June Edition of this magazine. Further copies are available from BIGGA House.

This year's programme of Regional Training Courses, covers Essential Supervisory Management Skills, Health and Safety, Soil Science, Golf Course Design, Budgeting and Finance. A leaflet containing detailed information on all of these courses is included in this magazine. For further copies please contact BIGGA HOUSE.

Please note: The booking form for the BIGGA HOUSE training courses contained an error. The date for the Managing Operations and Resources should have read 25-29 October and not 22-29 October.

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**Ecology Video**  
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**Raising the Standards of Mowing Management Video**  
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Steve Jones of the London Golf Club illustrates how he believes Integrated Pest Management can be effective, viable and successful within a Golf Course Landscape



# Pesting times



In recent years the Golfing World has demanded aesthetically pleasing, pest free Golf Courses expecting increased quality of turf. During this period thoughts of how we affect our environment with the use of chemicals and materials has increased dramatically. Therefore Course Managers and Superintendents have adapted maintenance approaches to include options for pest management other than the over use of pesticides. The Golfing World has created a need for Integrated Pest Management.

I believe Integrated Pest Management to be an ecologically based system that uses all available methods to keep pests from reaching damaging levels while minimising the effects on humans, the environment and turf. To implement a programme of this kind successfully, 'Knowledge' must be used extensively within the specif-

ic landscape. Knowledge of the desired and undesirable species, turf diseases, pest lifecycles as well as deciding which level of these pests and diseases are acceptable.

Frequent monitoring of turf for pest activity and therefore early detection can lead to the more efficient use and effectiveness of pesticides.

Monitoring should be logged to build up a historical account of incurred damage and pest populations. This knowledge can be disseminated to software programmes or map overlays to provide specific knowledge of problem locations. Once the Golf Course is being well monitored I feel there are six major but basic approaches for plant and therefore surface protection.

These approaches include: Genetic, Regulatory, Physical, Biological, Cultural and Chemical Attack.

The Genetic Approach has been very extensive within the Turfgrass Industry. Many cultures of different species have been introduced. Some are resistant to specific diseases, pests, temperatures and all of them have exact turf characteristics which have been sought after for many years. One important example of the Genetic Approach I have personally experienced, the art of irrigating surfaces is probably one we struggle with most. It is the one key area where instinct, experience and feeling guides your final decision.

Sure, many problems are caused by over watering although in Great Britain we have for many years stressed turf dramatically by either cultural manipulation, inaccurate distribution, or unavailable resources ie. poor, inefficient or insufficient irrigation.

**One very important aim of Course Superintendents should be and generally is, attempting to manage the turf from wet to dry conditions.**

This has been deliberate in many scenarios in order to achieve certain playing characteristics, but usually we do not have to stress plants to obtain this. I find this approach particularly difficult to come to terms with because 15 years ago my first experiences of greenkeeping involved instruction on keeping grasses barely alive and advocating stressing of the plant. Of all the approaches I personally feel genetics is the science that offers the greatest potential for turf improvement.

**IPM is a viable part of any golf course management program and success with IPM can be achieved without sacrificing golf course playability.**

The Regulatory Approach does and will continue to deal with the testing and assessing of seed and vegetation whether chemical content is excessive or non-existent. In the future this will become more and more commonplace. An example within the Golf Industry is the testing of seeds for contamination by other seeds which can save future problems.

Physical approaches have in the past included processes such as sterilisation of top dressing materials for

**The Golfing World has created a need for Integrated Pest Management.**

disease or insect control. More recently sub surface application of pesticides and biological organisms have become more commonplace. These ideas have eliminated worries many people had of whether the product they were applying was reaching the target area, an example being a heavy thatch layer interfering with a fungicide application.

A Biological approach is really the introduction or enhancement of nat-

ural enemies of turf pests, resulting in the regulation of pest populations. Recent US studies from independent plant pathologists (Jackson, Rhode Island, Nelson, Cornell and Denoeden, Ohio) clearly state that nearly all fungicides have virtually no negative affect on microbial populations. Unfortunately Biological control is often unpredictable because of cost, effectiveness or adverse weather conditions.

Laboratory trials conducted at Michigan State University (Vargas) consistently show biological control to be viable. However, once transferred into the field microbial populations require consistently moist conditions, application during the dark hours of the day as they are sensitive to UV rays and replenishment on a virtually daily basis. Despite these limitations the idea is becoming well supported by the General Public partly because of the natural effect and the relative safety factor. Extensive research may prove to combat the problem of consistent delivery to the target area. The most successful Biological approach within turf has been the introduction and encouragement of Endophytic Fungi into turfgrass. Resistance has been shown against various surface feeding insects and diseases. This is specific to certain species and indeed grass cultivars and is becoming interchangeable amongst different grass types due to agricultural developments being seized upon by plant pathologists specialising in turf.

Currently I feel many Course Managers and Superintendents are being tricked into purchasing ineffective microbial products. My advice is to look closely at the product you are buying. Trial in specific areas for consistent time periods before you take the plunge. All are designed to be used in conjunction with cultural practices. Define whether the cultural practice is improving your sward or the product. Some of these wonder cures have trace nutrients within them, however, most blatantly portray standard N. P. K. constituents. Programmes are suggested to follow including regular applications and assessments of greens. "Spoon feeding" with straight fertilisers like ammonium sulphate and potassium nitrate are far more economical and I believe as effective. Regular monitoring is an obvious prerequisite.

Healthy turf will always be less susceptible to pest invasion or attack and this Cultural Approach in some ways accidentally aids the Integrated Pest Management Plan.

I say that, because all Superintendents and golf courses are aiming for healthy turf. However, are they looking in the same direction? Mowing, Fertilising and Irrigation strategies are crucial in the Cultural Approach to IPM.

One very important aim of Course Superintendents should be and generally is, attempting to manage the turf from wet to dry conditions. Close monitoring of rainfall, evapotranspiration, soil moisture and storage capacity on a day-to-day basis will give the best chance of developing a beneficial cultural programme.

All of the detection programs must be specific for the type of grasses being grown. This leads to supplementary practises focusing on coring, vertical mowing and the debatable use of wetting agents, to relieve problems caused by localised dry spots. Establish the specific target area and adjust procedures in terms of depths and frequency.

These practises may not directly impact pest management but they all influence the health and vigour of the turf, making it more resistant or raising the threshold levels for pest organisms.

As for the Chemical approach, Pesticides are and will continue to be an integral part of any pest management for the foreseeable future.

However, relying totally on chemical control can not really be justified in this day and age and can lead to problem situations ie. pesticide resistance or accelerated degradation of pesticides. Alternating chemicals with different modes of action can slow or prevent resistance and degradation as well as utilisation at different rates. When chemical control is justified, Managers I believe, should select a safe yet effective pesticide and more safe products will be available. Operators should be well trained and be qualified applicators.

In conclusion, I think we have established that IPM is now a vital part of managing a Golf Course.

It brings about positive responsible actions concerning the environment.

I feel that it is a cost effective approach that may not be seen during individual systems but collectively seem to work.

A written scheme I would suggest is vital to success of the plan, it is more professional and easier to implement when a plan has to be followed. IPM is a viable part of any golf course management program and success with IPM can be achieved without sacrificing golf course playability.



**In May, over 80 new members joined BIGGA. Tracey Maddison, Membership Services Officer, welcomes them on behalf of the Association and highlights another valuable membership benefit...**

If I said to you "Legal Helpline", would you automatically think it was for the use of employment matters only?

If you said "yes", you'd be wrong!

Did you know that as a full green-keeping member, your membership includes access to a 24-hour, 365-day a year legal helpline?

If you said "no", I'd be disappointed!

Legal advice doesn't come cheap but as a full greenkeeping member of BIGGA our Legal Helpline can provide **you** and **your family** (living at the same address) with legal advice on ANY matter.

For example in 1998, we can report that the legal helpline received over 600 calls ranging from matters relating to consumer issues, general criminal queries, matrimonial issues, income tax to neighbour disputes, motoring offences and property problems.

So as you can see it's not just for employment matters.

Some of you may be lucky enough not to have had to gain legal advice throughout the course of your membership, however, if you know that the service is there, then should an incident arise, you can make good use of this membership benefit.

The numbers to remember are:-  
English Law 08705 234500  
Scottish Law 0141 332 2887

## BIGGA welcomes...

### Scottish Region

John Bateson *Central*  
Simon Crawford *Central*  
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Steven Gray *East*  
Paul Hamilton *West*  
Anthony Jinks *East*  
Ian Laing *East*  
Michael Maxton *West*  
James McCormack *North*  
Andrew McLeod *West*  
Derek McMillan *West*  
Scott Pettigrew *North*  
Robert Rees *West*  
Neil Stevenson *West*  
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### Northern Region

Craig Batty *Sheffield*  
Ian Downham *North West*  
Adrian Kinsey *North Wales*  
Andrew Leach *North West*  
Stuart Leek *Sheffield*  
Nicholas Littlewood *N West*  
Richard Sumner *North West*  
David Thompson *North East*  
Daniel Varney *Sheffield*  
Graham Pickin *Sheffield*

### Midland Section

Ryan Bullock *Midland*  
Richard David *BB&O*  
Richard Evans *East Midland*  
David Farrow *BB&O*  
Ross Ferguson *BB&O*  
Richard Goliath *Midland*  
Adrian Harris *Midland*

Daniel Hastie *BB&O*  
Gary Hill *Midland*  
Peter Hillier *BB&O*  
Howard Jones *BB&O*  
William Lane *BB&O*  
Jamie Lloyd *Midland*  
Jonathan Lloyd *Midland*  
Graeme Main *Mid Anglia*  
Mark Reeves *BB&O*  
Anthony Rudge *Midland*  
Phil Russell *BB&O*  
Tom Sheppard *BB&O*  
James Simpson *BB&O*  
Jonathan Stanford-Cope *Mid Anglia*

Thomas Sunley *Midland*  
Paul Tipping *BB&O*  
Stuart Walton *BB&O*  
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John Dixon *East Anglia*  
Phillip J L Fillyary *Surrey*  
Nicholas Guy *East Anglia*  
Christopher Guy *East Anglia*  
Peter Munden *Surrey*  
Paul Northcott *Surrey*  
John Pymar *East Anglia*  
Paul Senner *London*

### S West & S Wales Region

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David Barrett *South Coast*  
Ray Glascoline *South Coast*  
Robert Glover *South West*  
Peter Hammond *South Coast*

Paul Higgins *South Wales*  
Wayne James *South Wales*  
Paul Lawrence *South West*  
Peter Rabson *Devon & Cornwall*  
Ralph Searle *South West*  
Philip Sheehan *Devon & Cornwall*  
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### International Members

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Kevin Phillips *Germany*  
Iris Reuschel *Germany*  
Mike Eastwood *USA*  
Eamonn McCarthy *USA*  
Fred Perlini *Canada*

Check out August's edition for June's new members!

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**Stephen Bernhard, Managing Director of Bernhard & Co, came to BIGGA HOUSE on a very hush hush mission...**

# Having a quiet word...

## What is the Silent Auction?

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

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

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

## The Internet

- Profile of the donated item on the Silent Auction site

- Direct link to your own website

## Catalogue

- Profile of donated item and colour picture

## Press Reception & Buffet at BTME2000

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

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

## Where does the money go?

- The funds raised will go towards:
- The BIGGA Building Fund
- The continuing development of Greenkeeper education through training programmes and facilities
- The active promotion of BIGGA

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

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

## How do I bid?

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

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

**Don't bid yet!**  
Bidding starts from October 5, 1999

## Any other questions?

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



Stephen Bernhard presents Neil Thomas with the first of two donated grinders for the BIGGA Silent Auction

The first company to become a Premier Club member is Bernhard and Co who have given two Blade Rite 2000 Quatro Grinders.

Managing Director, Stephen Bernhard, said he was delighted that Bernhard's should be the company to give the Silent Auction a flying start.

"After the acquisition of Atterton and Ellis, Bernhard's felt that the newly combined company did not have enough experience of the challenges that face today's greenkeeper," he explained.

"With that in mind, we decided that we required to learn, and to do that we needed to work more closely with BIGGA and its members. We learn from the users of our equipment and we share the experiences we've picked up around the world with the potential users of our equipment in the UK.

"Therefore we feel it is important that we put our money where our mouth is. Donating machines in this way gives us a chance to do more than

just give money - we can monitor the results of the use of this equipment, where it ends up, how it impacts on the people who use it and to learn from that."

BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas, was full of praise for Bernhard's initiative.

"We have always believed that BIGGA's Silent Auction would be a

great success and that faith has been reinforced by the commitment which was made so readily by Stephen and everyone at Bernhard's," said Neil.

"We look forward to many other companies and individuals making donations to what will be a major event in the months leading up to an exciting conclusion during BTME 2000."



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

Phone: 01347 833800

Fax: 01347 833801

E-mail: reception@bigga.co.uk

Post: BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF  
or in person at BTME2000

Lot No.	Item description	Item value	Start bid
001	Bernhard grinder A	£6,000	
002	Bernhard grinder B	£6,000	

**Don't bid yet!**  
Bidding starts from October 5, 1999



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## ARRIVES TO CONQUER ALL TERRAINS...

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Club Car has launched the new XRT 272 rough terrain vehicle for construction, greenkeeping and general maintenance applications on golf courses. Based on extensive input from golf industry customers, the versatile XRT 272 model features a strong, durable design combining excellent load-pulling and hill climbing power with superior stopping ability, enhanced stability and increased traction via a differential lock system.

The XRT 272 model is a multi-purpose utility vehicle - it can easily be transformed from construction to maintenance mode simply by replacing its heavy-duty, all-terrain, four-ply rated tyres with turf tyres for working on grass. The XRT 272 vehicle is also fun to drive, providing versatile and tangible proof that utility vehicles can be tough and attractive at the same time. Users can customise the XRT 272 with accessories such as a light bar with halogen worklights; a 680 kg (1500lb) rated, remotely-operated front or rear-mounted winch; a hydraulic dump or electric lift bed; side step bars; a heavy-duty brush guard; a bed liner; a canopy top and windshield and beverage holders.

While competitive products have been engineered for other applications and then adapted for golf course use, the CLUB CAR XRT 272 vehicle was designed specifically for golf course professionals. "During golf course construction, tough ground conditions are often encountered. We have engineered a smarter, stronger, more versatile machine - one with power, stability, traction and stopping power to conquer trackless terrain and work harder in the field, where it counts," said Jerry Hanss, Regional Manager for Club Car Europe. By combining these advanced features, Club Car has created a utility vehicle that is without doubt the best in its class."

Ad Ref 583

**A long time has passed since the last Carnoustie Open but John Philp and his team will present a modern, and formidable challenge for this month's Championship. Scott MacCallum paid them a visit...**



Photo: David J Whyte

## *Many happy returns*

Think back to 1975... even for those of us who were alive at the time it seems like an absolute age ago. Harold Wilson was Prime Minister and no-one, outside of her closest friends, had even heard of Margaret Thatcher. We'd not long since had the three day week and endured many an evening huddled around candles. Cars had sensible names like Morris Minor and Ford Anglia, not Xantia or Ka.

It was 24 long years ago - almost a quarter of a century - and marks the last time The Open Championship was played at Carnoustie. To those who know Carnoustie's revered reputation - the toughest course in the country and one where only the finest golfers in the world can win - it seems almost unbelievable that there should be such a long wait between Carnoustie Opens.

However behind the bland statistics that highlight the time lapse is a story as interesting as any which unfolded during any of the five Opens that have been hosted by the Angus town.

# Many happy returns

It wouldn't overstate the matter to say that Carnoustie, and the trials and tribulations which went into winning back The Open, would have made an ideal subject for a fly on the wall documentary over the last 20 years or so and credit for the fact that The Open does make a triumphant return later this month is down to many. Tragically, however the one person who did more than anyone else to bring the Championship back to Carnoustie will not be there to see it.

Jock Calder was Chairman of the Carnoustie Links Management Committee and a man whose personality was stamped all over the Angus town's efforts to win back golf's premier Championship. Jock died two years ago, thankfully after it had been confirmed that the last Open Champion of the millennium would join an elite roll of honour that contains the names Tommy Armour, Henry Cotton, Ben Hogan, Gary Player and Tom Watson.

"I'm looking forward to it, without a doubt, but the only sad thing which will never go away for me is the fact that Jock Calder will not be here to see it...The man who brought The Open back to Carnoustie," said Golf Links Superintendent, John Philp.

Below: John Philp with some of his team



"Without him I don't think we would be where we are. He guaranteed the investment that I've enjoyed and benefited from and allowed me to do what we've done though staff levels, equipment, materials and course alterations."

It was Jock Calder who had brought John to Carnoustie in 1985.

"I was Walter Woods' Deputy at St Andrews but saw this a big challenge, just the sort of thing that I enjoy, because you can take something forward and see it develop and mature."

It is a challenge he embraced with real relish and the effort and attention he has poured in the Championship course and the two other links, the Burnside and the Buddon over the last 14 years is quite remarkable.

"My remit, as put to me by Jock Calder, was to get the course back to a championship standard and to bring the other two up to a similar standard as well. I was asked to produce a five year programme...and there is still a five year programme in place," explained John.

It would be fair to say that Carnoustie had suffered from a lack of investment and that the conditioning of the course had suffered as a result but other problems were also stacked against an Open's return, including the poor access to the links and the lack of a quality hotel. That omission was finally corrected in May with the opening of a stunning 85 bedroom hotel overlooking the 18th green which will undoubtedly soon become an established landmark in the world of golf.

"When I arrived I had 11 men to cover the three courses and the degeneration had gone on over a good number of years," he said.

"The first thing to establish was the corrective programme to restore the indigenous grasses and the heather, which had receded badly because of liming and the use of 20-10-10 compound fertiliser.

"Fairways and greens were very much poa dominated although some natural fescues and bents had managed to survive."



There were also patches of Rye grass which John reckoned had been introduced many years before based on the logical thinking at the time that a grass which offered good germination, operated well under drought stress conditions, was tough and recovered well from damage was well worth using.

"You often go up fairways and see tufts of the little blighters probably caused by divot filling years ago."

His first step was to introduce a root zone environment which encouraged the fine grasses to compete.

"We had to get the aeration going so we hired a vertidrain as there was nothing in the sheds other than an





original Sisis Hydromain and a barrel spiker. I took the little barrel onto the 4th green within a week of starting and the turf rolled up like a carpet. I knew it was weak but not quite that weak."

They undertook a huge programme of overseeding - for some years he has been using Barenbrug seed - on the back of the aeration work and returfing on the fairways and a 17 acre turf nursery was introduced. This was all aided by the staged introduction of a fairways, greens and tees Watermation irrigation system that was installed.

"It was a great saviour for all the seeding and patch working we did

especially in the late 80s. Without it we wouldn't have enjoyed the same success rate."

It was the success of the seeding which brought about the introduction of Carnoustie's famous astroturf mats.

"We got a brilliant strike rate in '89 and I thought that we really needed some protection over the winter so as not to lose the benefits. We apply seaweed sprays to aid seed establishment. We also change the route of play in the winter to help the walk off areas but I felt the fairways would benefit further from nobody hacking into them all winter."

John favoured the mats, five by nine

inches in size and anchored by a tee, which had first been used at Scotsraig Golf Club about 20 years earlier but the other options put forward to the Committee were lifting off the fairways and playing from the rough, teeing it up on the fairways or just carrying on as usual.

"I said it would only be for the November to the March, Jock backed me to the hilt and it was carried. When the 1st of April arrived and everyone saw pristine fairways with no divots they were delighted and come the next year they said 'We'll be continuing with the mats no doubt John,' without me having to say anything.

"It wasn't intended to be a continuation every winter but it's happened ever since and this year we had an extra month and the mats were in use until May 1st," adding that mats don't repair dead ground they just play a part in fairway recovery."

Alongside the corrective programme John had also proposed to the committee that he felt that no matter how good the turf quality became the course would still have a shortfall because there were elements that required attention.

"There were internal design elements which I felt were lacking for modern Opens to test today's top players and there were lots of areas

# Many happy returns



Above: A fine example of one of Carnoustie's revetted bunkers

where the course's potential had not been nearly realised," he explained.

Donald Steel was called in around '87, looked at the proposals John had suggested, rubber stamped them and added a few more.

"I looked at the design of holes and how the players attack it. Professional golfers are much more capable now. Mentally they have improved, they are physically much more powerful, they have got better equipment and what they can reduce a golf course to is quite amazing."

To highlight the point John talked about the famous Hogan's Alley - on Carnoustie's par-5 6th. Much of Carnoustie's mystique can be credited to Ben Hogan who only played in one Open, at Carnoustie in 1953. He lowered his score in each of the four rounds, closing with a superb 68, and each time on the final day he played the notorious 6th he ignored the safe line and played his tee shot between the bunkers and the out-of-bounds to the left of the fairway.

"Nowadays top players take these bunkers out of the equation by blasting straight over them so the R&A asked if we could put in a new bunker behind the existing ones to preserve the challenge of the hole," said John, who wrote to Jack Nicklaus prior to playing host to the Scottish Open in '95 and '96 for his thoughts on the power of today's players and their affect on our championship courses.

John has also looked at the players'

lay-up areas in a bid to encourage them to take a wood.

"Top players have very good at course management and their number one criteria from the tee is to find the fairway even if it means adding several clubs to their approach shot.

"On certain holes we've tried to entice the player into taking wood because the lay-up area is fraught with danger as well."

John is also making the players think around the greens.

"We've rebuilt five greens on the Championship course and, other than the 18th where the committee wanted the original contours retained, we've brought in more subtle contouring."

This has allowed a variety of recovery shot requirements to be introduced.

"Some raised greens are cut short all the way round so if you run through the green the ball keeps going and you're left with a tricky chip, especially to a tight pin placement. On another green you run off into a fluffy fescue semi rough about two inches long.

"If offers up a variety of challenges. Why should it be consistent? Why should there be a set width of semi rough? We've sculpted it differently on specific holes.

"For example the 4th is a dogleg left and, if the fairways are hard during The Open a player could quite easily run out of fairway and lose his ball, but he wouldn't have hit a particularly bad shot. So we'll give him a bit of leeway

there and have a little more semi rough, rather than thick stuff so he is prevented from being overly punished," said John, who as an ex-greenkeeper/professional has the golf game to play the shots himself and see where these types of situations are likely to arise.

The Carnoustie team - there is now a to 28 including a workshop staff of four and four apprentices - do all the construction work in-house and work on a policy of rebuilding 30-40 of the 115 Championship course bunkers a year, although in preparation for The Open this winter they rebuilt 80.

"I've got to hand it to my staff. The target was to set a standard for the new millennium and they really have produced the goods. It would be very difficult to better what they've achieved here," said John.

"We have recontoured the land to many bunker lead in areas to create a gathering effect and in the bunkers themselves have a 30 degree slope to the face and a small lip at the back, of about two rows of revetments high, which stops people having to clamber out and eroding the sides."

It is another example of the care and attention to detail that pervades everything John Philp and his team accomplish at Carnoustie and it would be a safe bet that thanks to all the work carried out both on and off the course that has been carried out the next Open to be staged at the course will not be in the year 2023.

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Above: A Bridge of Sighs...  
If your ball happens to  
be underneath!  
(Bridge from Woodscape Ltd)

Golf Course furniture can add the finishing touches to the excellent work you do in preparing your course, as Roland Taylor explains...

# Bridge the gap



The last decade has certainly seen considerable changes in golf with the introduction of increasing numbers of commercially run clubs, pay-and-play venues and municipal courses being established across the country. Some may say that golf is now part of the leisure and sporting entertainment industry, especially with the greater media coverage it now enjoys.

While this analysis might not be to everyone's taste, it has meant that the over-all presentation of a course is an important part of the marketing package. For any commercially run establishment it is necessary to have a corporate identity that creates a high profile and public awareness. They want as many people as possible to play the course and to enjoy their visit so they return, and also tell all their friends about it.

These changes have led to some interesting developments. One of these is in golf course furniture and accessories. Suppliers in this sector are reporting a significant increase in business and interest. Many courses

have discovered a source of extra revenue - sponsorship. Items like litter bins, divot boxes or tee markers are ideal advertising sites.

For those Course Managers or Greenkeepers looking for signage, accessories or furniture there is plenty of choice.

Harmonising with the surroundings and withstanding the elements are two of the most important features. One company that has taken this into consideration is Surrey-based Eagle Promotions. They use a photographic process to etch onto a zinc plate. A positive or negative film of the required image is exposed to the specially treated metal surface. It is then etched. Varying the temperature of the etching solution controls the depth of the imprint. The plate is then primed and stove enamelled. All the raised areas are machined bright. Finally, coatings of epoxy resin and polyurethane are applied for UV stability.

Because of the nature of this process it is possible to include logos and hole diagrams. Any size or shape of plate can be made and mounted on to the

# Bridge the gap

Signage can be as attractive as it is practical



chosen material. This could be stone, natural rock or wood. An alternative to natural rock is the use of pre-cast concrete. By using different aggregates and cement pigmentation plus various finishings they can produce stone-effect pedestals.

Border Golf from Shrewsbury etches stainless steel and bronze plaques. These can include hole maps and any logos in full colour and there is a choice of mountings including reconstituted stone or natural rock. The company also manufactures reinforced granite resin composites which can be mounted on plinths and stands made from powder coated steel, Iroko and kiln dried Oak.

Meeting an individual club's corporate or identity requirements is the reason for their success according to Links Leisure Ltd. Their "Pro Tee Collection" includes signs, tee-markers, litter bins or divot boxes. All are tailor-made in detail, style and colour for each course. They are cast from weatherproof glass reinforced cement. The manufacturers say this has been used in the construction industry for over twenty years, it is durable and requires the minimum maintenance. Signs can be mounted on metal post or free-standing units.

Timber is ideally suited for blending into the landscape and a company that specialises in this material is



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Woodscape from Lancashire. They offer a wide range of products including litter bins, seats, signs and bridges.

They use "Greenheart" timber for most of their products. It is claimed to be one of the hardest and most durable timbers in the world with a life expectancy of over 100 years in the UK without any preservative treatment. Among their range is hardwood paving setts that are suitable for paths or walkways or areas that have a lot of foot traffic. According to the supplier these can be quickly laid on a smooth compact permeable base. When it comes to footbridges the company can advise on the best design to blend in with the natural landscape.

Britannic Teak says that outdoor furniture must be of a quality that enhances and harmonises with the elements and natural surrounds. While providing a comfortable resting-place, it also has to withstand heavy use and the rigours of the UK climate. Their range of traditional and classical benches and seats are manufactured from genuine plantation teak which they say is strong, stable and impervious to the weather and does not require preservatives or paint.

Whilst Furnitubes offer an extensive range of street furniture, they do have a number of products that could be of interest for those readers whose responsibilities include areas around the clubhouse complex. Their cast-iron litter bins are available as circular, square or octagonal units. These can strengthen the corporate identity by being fitted with plaques which can be produced by photo etching or by traditional hand carving. Other items in their range include traditional cast iron and timber seating, directional signage information panels and finger posts.

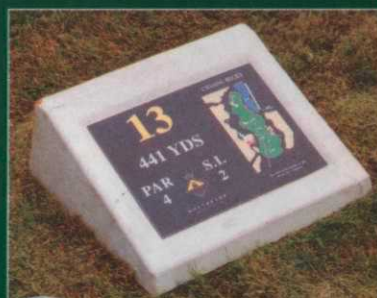
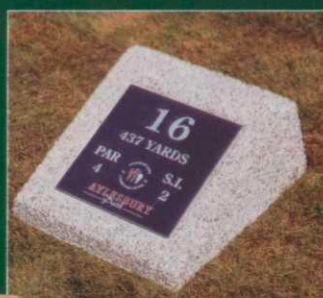
Dura-Sport, from Leicester, have recently introduced a range of golf furniture that they claim is almost identical in appearance to wood, but is manufactured from recycled plastic. Using the latest technology, everyday plastic waste is transformed into wood substitute materials that can be nailed, screwed and sawn. This material they say also has joinery capabilities which enables the company to produce outdoor furniture that has low maintenance and long life.



Keeping areas around trees clear of grass and weeds can be a time consuming operation, plus the fact there is a chance of damage from a mower or line trimmer. According to Linpac Environmental, their Edgemasta Tree Guard is an effective new protection system for trees. A safety zone is created around the base of each tree which protects it from damage while retaining mulch and moisture. A weed suppression membrane can be fitted as an optional extra. The Edgemasta, which is made from UV stabilised polyethylene comes in a range of shapes and colours. It is said to be easy to install and requires no further maintenance.

A factor that needs to be taken into account when installing any course furniture is how it will be kept clear of that feather of uncut grass that forms around the actual static items or their supporting posts. If not added at this stage, it could become a time consuming cutting operation later. It could be set on a pea shingle base or wood chippings. This needs to be larger than the item and below the turf so mowers will cut up to the edge. This will require trimming either by hand or with an engine-powered edger.

Good signage benefits the players and can help to speed up the game. It needs to be discrete, give out an easy to read message and blend with the landscape. If in any doubt about whether your club has got it right, then take a walk around your course viewing it from a stranger's point of view. If you find that signs are missing or out-of-date, or just looking a little sad, then perhaps the time has come for a face-lift.



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The question of what we can learn from the past may well be answered at next years Learning Experience, which will be sponsored by Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products. We can all learn from our peers, from retired members of our association and from learned authors. An article, reproduced here, links the present day with the past by including comment on such things as cutting regimes, irrigation and greenkeepers salaries. The remarkable thing is that the article was written as the winning entry for the Greenkeepers Association Essay Competition of 1913 (86 years ago).



## BIGGA ESSAY COMPETITION

# The write stuff

### **Economy in golf course management**

1st Prize and Certificate;  
W. Kirkpatrick, Greenkeeper, Rye  
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The word Economy, when applied to golf, opens up a somewhat large field for discussion, as well as being an incentive to thoughts: Discussion as to what constitutes real economy, and thought, as to what means to adopt to secure it.

Economy is of two kinds, the true and the false, the real and the apparent, and it is only by careful thought and keen observation that the one can be distinguished from the other.

The idea of economy with some people seems to be to obtain the best results from the worst material, and to use the smallest quantity at the least possible expenditure. Be it labour or any other necessity of the course, this is false economy, and if followed up, can only lead to one result, that is, inefficiency and disappointment.

Then there are others whose ideas of economy lead to the other extreme; to buy the most expensive materials through the most expensive channels, and to use them without paying due regard as to their cost, or being really necessary on the false supposition that being costly, they must necessarily do good. This is not economy, this is sheer waste.

True economy is the medium between the two extremes and consists in getting the full value for any given expenditure incurred, be it much or little and on many golf courses, particularly the larger ones, this precisely is what is not done.

A large sum, in some cases thousands of pounds, is annually spent on the upkeep of the course, and, so long as everything is kept in good playing order, and no complaints from the members, no one troubles about economy, for the simply reason, there is an ample income, and therefore no pressing need for it.

The shareholders of the average golf club company do not expect the same return from their shares as they would from a like amount invested in any industrial concern, and are satisfied to take their dividend largely in the form of enjoyment which they derive from playing on a well-kept course, and usually expect, and as usually receive, but little monetary return from their capital so invested.

With regard to how far it is possible to run a golf course on economic lines, which must necessarily depend upon whether the course has originally been properly laid out and the work of construction thoroughly done with good material and good work.

Often we find this has not been done, especially on some of the older courses, and to bring the course up to modern form and adapt it to up-

to-date ideas, it becomes often necessary to spend a large sum of money each year to renew this, and alter that (as the case may be), so that to run the place on economic lines, plus efficiency, becomes impossible.

Whilst I think most greenkeepers will agree that the largest waste of money on golf courses lies with the management, and quite out of the power of the greenkeeper, either to question or prevent, yet I think they will also agree that there are many ways a greenkeeper can save the money of his club, without in any way laying himself open to the charge of parsimony, and so I proposed to look at each item separately, in which economy can be viewed from the greenkeepers' standpoint.

One of the principle things on which waste is likely to occur is in the use (or rather the abuse) of artificial manures. There is no doubt much money is wasted under this item every year, or at any rate, its full value is not always obtained.

The economic management of a golf course stands out quite by itself in comparison to other undertakings of a similar nature, especially in respect to the use of manures. The farmer might well be excused for thinking the policy of the golf club more or less a policy of extravagance, in view of the fact that an average golf course of say, 100 acres, situated on poor sandy soil (as many are), there would probably be used during



**BIGGA  
ESSAY  
COMPETITION**

## The write stuff

the year as much manure as he himself would use on a 500 acre farm.

The loss on artificial manures often happens through buying cheap inferior samples from small local dealers, composed of second-rate materials and crudely mixed by persons with no expert knowledge. A crude, ill-balanced mixture is not cheap, however little money is paid for it. Guano, Superphosphate, Sulphates, or any other chemical manures under standard strength are not economical, however cheaply they may be bought. Always obtain the supply of such important articles from a source to be depended on for purity, and even should the price be a little higher, they will be found to be the most economical in the end. Again, never buy any untried manure in bulk, however well recommended, before first ascertaining by using a small trial lot whether it bids fair to be a suitable manure on your particular soil. The manure has yet to be made that will give equally good results on all soils.

Another cause of loss is in preparing composts for the greens. The aim should be to get this as fine as possible before applying it, the finer it is, the better. It saves the material, saves much in labour when the work of applying it is carried out and provides useful work for the staff during bad weather when they might otherwise be less well employed. When the compost is ready to be carted to the green, it is a good plan to provide a sheet on which to tip it, if tipped on the grass some of it will certainly be lost. Serious loss is sometimes caused through using chemical manures at the wrong time and not frequently, when not really required at all. Economy in the use of manures should be the medium between starvation on the one side and repletion on the other.

Again, the fullest advantage is not always taken of the natural resources of the place in the way of providing composts for the greens and course, which, if properly prepared are of equal value with chemical manures. On many courses during the year a considerable amount of rubbish is collected and thrown away whereas, if the same was put on a heap and rotted down, a useful dressing would be provided for the fairways or (if burnt or charred), for the greens. I should not use the rotted rubbish on the greens on account of weed seed usually contained therein, but the burnt portion, finely sifted, makes an excellent dressing for the greens, costs but little and saves the manure bill.

The manure heaps should be made up on a hard bottom, so that rain cannot wash the strength out of it into the ground and covered with a layer of soil on the top. No doubt, all manures are best kept under cover but there are but few courses where shed room will allow of this being done. Artificial manures must, in all cases, be kept dry and no mixtures prepared until required as the action of one chemical on another often results in serious loss in the essential elements they contain if mixed together several days before being used.

All drainage from clubhouse, stables and other sources should be run into a tank with pump attached. This, when diluted, makes a good stimulant for grass and costs nothing beyond the cost of labour to apply it.

Watering greens is another item where there is considerable waste, both in labour and water. This is not so much in evidence when the supply is from the water company's main. But even then, there is often waste of labour in using it on the greens. On some courses it is the practice of from eight to 10 men to put in three hours watering each evening during the watering time, usually being paid 6d. per hour overtime. Three men, working all night, would water the same number of greens under better conditions for the greens, and at a cost of but little over the ordinary day's pay for the reason that when it is necessary to water, the mowing will be slack and the three men's work during the day could easily be dispensed with, the watering being done with better effect at night. I have known several cases where the staff have, during dry weather, been engaged all the day on work of doubtful value to the club, then in the evening, paid 1/6d each evening for watering, thus cutting the stick at both ends. If a man has done, say, 10 hours conscientious work during the day and perhaps some little distance to walk home, he does not want much overtime in addition, if he is to keep himself fit for a fair day's work the following day.

Waste of water often is caused through using bad sprinklers. There are many weird devices on the market under the name of lawn sprinklers. Many of them might be useful for some purpose, but are certainly no use to water a green with. A sprinkler, to be effective, should give a very fine spray, and even then, if there is the least wind, one side will be soaked and the other side dry. The

system of one man watering three greens at once with sprinklers always leads to waste of water. It is very difficult to regulate the best of sprinklers to give sufficient water in one place without giving too much in another, and the man walking from green to green will find he cannot water the three greens together so well, or so economically as he could by watering each one separately with a fine rosed spray under his direct control. Watering in this way he can regulate the supply according to the requirements of the green and can put it where he wants it to go. Where the water has to be pumped up from local wells or artesian bores, the most expensive way is hand pumping. The average hand-pump would lift say, 200 to 250 gallons per hour and take two men to work it at a cost of 1/- per 250 gallons. The most economical way is by using a portable oil engine; an engine of 1 1/2 to 2 horse power would lift 500 gallons per hour or 5000 gallons in a working day of 10 hours, at a cost of 5/-, including the attendant to look after it and the oil to drive it. Once started they require little attention and, as the wells are generally situated near the greens, the man could weed or do other light work on the green and still keep his eye on the engine if within sight of the exhaust or within hearing of the stroke, he would soon know if anything went wrong and would be there to correct it. If all the greens are watered from one well the cheapest way is to erect a windmill, but in the case, unless there was 18 to 20 thousand gallon storage, an engine would be necessary to ensure a supply.

Hose pipes used in watering the greens should be kept in the shade during hot weather and, in buying hose pipe, the best is the cheapest in the end. The low priced kinds made of inferior material need constant repairs and renewals. Most of us had a good illustration of this during the rubber boom, that is, those greenkeepers who were unlucky enough to have to purchase them at that time.

In using water from a main, too great pressure should not be used, it strains the hose and is harmful to the grass. Generally speaking, it should be impressed on the staff employed that hose pipes cost money and require careful handling, especially in moving them from one green to another. When stored after the season's work, hose should be properly emptied and laid out straight, not coiled up. I once found, on taking charge of a watering plant, most of

the hose coiled up very neatly, but half full of water, which had it not been detected, would have remained till the following summer. Small wonder if, under such circumstances, the pipes soon got worn out and a heavy bill for renewals was the result.

### Seeding greens

It is not economical to be sparing of seed in sowing a new green. A liberal sowing will produce a good turf fit for play in much less time than a light one, and with a new green, time is money. Consequent re-sowings, which are usually required after a light crop, cost more than liberal sowing in the first place and I will not go into the question of sowing v. turfing. Each side has its advocates. Local circumstances alone can decide which is best, but seeding is certainly cheapest. The important thing is to get a suitable mixture of seed of good germinative quality. Cheap seed, containing as it usually does a large percentage of useless grasses, is an abomination on a golf green. Many of us know, from bitter experience, the trouble and expense it is to eradicate course grasses from a green. To get rid of the worst weeds is nothing to it, so every care should be taken to procure seeds of the best possible quality, irrespective of cost.

Birds generally cause a considerable loss in spring-sown seeds. In districts where birds are very troublesome, autumn sowing should only be done as the birds seem to do less damage in the autumn when food is more plentiful.

Where a whole green is sown, or any considerable area, it might pay to cover with an old fish net. It can be bought very cheaply. The cost of a few bushels of seed at 35/- per bushel, would buy a lot of net, not to mention the cost of sowing and loss of time.

Where rats or mice are troublesome, a galvanised iron corn bin is a good store place for any stock of seed on hand. It is very important to keep grass seed perfectly dry or its power of germination is quickly lost. The bin will answer the two purposes.

### Machines and mowing

The last few years have brought a great change from the old heavy cumbersome machines which were used on golf courses, to the light, clean cutting machines of modern manufacture. In studying economy in mowing, it is necessary to get the best work done with the least labour and at the same time to use a machine of

good wearing qualities, which will not be unduly costly in repairs.

The old-fashioned way of two men to a 16 in machine on a golf green has now given place to the light one-man machine of the present day, with a 12 or 14 in cut which does the work better, does not tire the men too much and costs less in repairs. A word may be said about the care of machines where each man has his machine allotted to him he usually takes sufficient interest in it to keep it clean and in good running order. It is to his own advantage to do so, but any slackness in this detail should at once be attended to by the green-keeper, as he may be sure any machine put away ill cleaned or not cleaned at all will soon cost money on repairs. Wet days should see all machines thoroughly overhauled, and any necessary repairs noticed in addition to cleaning every time after use.

I cannot help thinking that there is a lot of quite unnecessary cutting through the green done on some courses. From a scenic point of view, no doubt, such broad, long lengths of close mown grass looks very beautiful but in the economic sense I fail to see they are necessary, neither in many cases do they make a better test of golf. I have noticed on several courses the fairways were cut right up to the tees on all except the short holes. It seems to me a waste of time and money to cut the grass with the machine which should be carried, say, 80 to 100 yds from the tee, and again, the carry at the second on many of the 2-shot holes. The grass, in this case, might well be left rough mown as a hazard in place of the eternal pot bunker.

The topping once or twice during the season with the scythe would not be nearly so expensive as the constant mowing with the machine. On many courses the fairways are much broader than is necessary for first-class golf, and treated in the same way on either side, as the case might be, would in no way detract from the character of the hole, and be a great saving on the mowing account. Where the fairways are not too hilly, I should say the motor mower would be the most economical. A good pattern 36-in. motor would do as much work in a day as two horse machines, at less than half the cost. The newer patterns by British makers are quite reliable machines, and (with a little tuition), any intelligent man can soon learn to use one.

Where two or three horses have to

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## The write stuff

be kept for mowing, rolling and carting, they have to be fed all through the winter, whether there is really profitable work for them to do or not. In the case of the motor mower, it can be put away at the end of the season and costs no more till the following spring. In smaller clubs, where only one horse is kept, it would be less expensive to use the horse machines as it would be necessary for any club to keep one horse all the year round for carting and general work, so the motor would be but little saving.

A light form of reaping machine is a great saving on courses where much rough mowing is to be done, doing the work more quickly and better than the scythe. Narrower fairways with the sides cut once or twice during the season to prevent lost balls, would save in a great measure the heavy expense of short grass mowing, without putting too much strain on the temper of the golfer.

Another matter of no little importance, is the weeding of the greens. Hand weeding with the three-pronged fork is the most effect way of dealing with the deep-rooted weeds and where the weeds are in big patches, the best way is to cut the patch clean out and replace by good turf, a plot of which should always be kept for that purpose.

I noticed last year a good illustration of how want of thought causes loss of money. On a course I visited there were large patches of daisies on some of the greens which had recently been treated with weed killer. They seemed pretty well shrivelled up, which the greenkeeper considered satisfactory, considering it would be necessary to remove the dead patch-

es and repair with new turf. I failed to see any advantage gained, in view of the fact that it would mean as much work to remove the dead patches, as the living daisies, so the expense of the destroyer and the labour of applying it were wasted. Turf weeding is usually done by boys paid about 3d per hour, sometimes providing useful work for the caddies when not engaged.

It is false economy to let a green get weedy. It is impossible to produce a true putting surface on a weedy green and once a green gets into that condition it is an expensive job to get it right again.

Of late years there has been some controversy on the subject of sheep feeding on golf courses. In my opinion sheep are a perfect nuisance on a golf course, and (unless some one owns the grazing rights), should never be tolerated. What little good the sheep do by keeping down the grass is more than discounted by the damage they do in trading down the bunker banks, scalding the greens and generally fouling the course, the manurial value is practically nil, unless fed on hard food. The few pounds received by the club for the grazing is paid out twice over in making good the damage done by them, in addition to giving the course the appearance of a farmyard.

I have purposely avoided quoting figures in respect to both labour and materials. Most of us know how useless and misleading such figures generally are. With the price of much material varying from time to time and the cost of labour differing in different localities, it is next to impossible to give any useful figures unless well acquainted with the local-

ity. Railway rates, distance from station, character of soil and general local knowledge.

My last subject is a rather delicate one. That is the wage question. Whilst on many clubs a fair wage is paid to the greenkeeper and his staff, on others it is not so. The time has passed when any man who could use a scythe and push a lawn mower was considered competent to manage a golf course and many clubs have still a painful recollection of what such men have cost them, men who, doubtless did their best with the limited knowledge they had. That all of us have still much to learn before we are perfect greenkeepers I think most of us will agree, but the false economy of paying low wages for work requiring considerable skills seems hardly to give the encouragement which might be expected from the point of view of the importance of the work.

Without laying down any hard and fast rules as regards wages, it seems to me that if a man is expected to do his best, he should certainly receive fair remuneration for his work and it certainly pays the club best, for a man who works cheap seldom works well. What the amount of wages should be largely depends on the man and the cost of living in the district where the course is situated. What might be a comfortable wage in one place, might be bordering on starvation in another. The best and most economical way in regard to labour, is to pay a good wage and insist on good work. Pay a man good wages and see that he earns them. If the club receive the value for their money and the workmen make a comfortable living, it is to the mutual advantage of both.

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**Scottish Region**  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

### Ayrshire

The section Spring outing was held at Ballochmyle Golf Club on Thursday 6 May where a good turn out of over 40 attended. The day saw a change from the recent spell of good dry weather with some overnight and early morning rain. It didn't dampen the spirits and the team of A. Clarke, D. Armstrong, both Louden; B. Inglis, Greentech, and J. Paterson, Port Bannantyne, came out victorious in the morning Texas Scramble. The weather brightened up for the afternoon and the following prize winners came out on top.

Scratch - Keith McCartney, Dumfries & Galloway, 71; 1st Class. 1. William McMeikan, Turnberry, 75-6-69; 2. Andrew Clarke, Louden, 78-8-70; 3. Duncan Gray, The Pines, 80-9-71; 2nd Class. 1. Steven Brown, The Pines, 88-20-68; 2. Marshall Sloss, Beith, 96-24-72, 3. Roland Blackburn, Southernness, 93-17-71. Trade. Brian Inglis, 73-2-71.



Qualifiers for the National Tournament at Carden Park are Keith McCartney and William McMeikan.

Chairman, Duncan Gray, conducted the presentation of prizes and thanked the Captain and the Committee of Ballochmyle Golf Club for the courtesy of their course and facilities. He commended Head Greenkeeper, Ross Wills, and his staff for the presentation of the golf course and thanked Mr and Mrs Wilcox for a splendid service of food and refreshments throughout the day. Duncan finished with a special thanks to our secretary, Derek Wilson, for all his efforts in organising the day and hoped to see everyone again at the Pines Golf Centre on the 30 September for our Autumn outing.

That's all the news for this month. Any snippets, give me a call on 01505 683278.

Iain Barr.

### North

The Section Spring outing was a great day with blue skies and a hot sun shining all day. As predicted Brian Fraser and his staff had the course in

excellent condition. In fact everyone at Inverness made us very welcome. The lucky prize winners were as follows: Scratch, Bowen Trophy, Mike Wilson, Forres, 71; 2. Bradley Wood, Westhill, 74. Class One and Frews Trophy winner Scott Williams, Inverurie, 72-6-66; 2. Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen, 74-5-69, 3. Richard Roy, Garmouth, 74-4-70. Class Two 1. Colin Mackay, Elmwood, 76-7-69; 2. Sean Jaffray, Ellon, 81-10-71; 3. Stewart Robertson, Craigie Hill, 82-10-72. Class Three 1. A. Leslie, Forres, 86-13-73; 2. George Aitken, Peterculter, 93-19-74; 3. Stuart Hogg, Fortrose, 96-20-76. Veterans 1. Roy Donald, Oldmeldrum, 76-7-69; 2. Allan Grant, retired, 85-11-74. Apprentice Spring Trophy winner Iain Cowper, Tain, 81-13-68; 2. R. Pendlebury, Peterculter, 81-10-71. Trade Shield Jim Darling, Aitkens, 77-4-73. Committee Iain Gunn, Strathpeffer, 77-6-71. Guest Neil Hampton 74-1-73. Longest drives, Class One, Kevin Thomson, Moray, Class Two John Morton, Alford, Class Three, Iain Cowper, Tain. Nearest the pin at 15th, Kevin Fowler, Fortrose.

The winner of the draw for a BIGGA blazer or merchandise from

the Association was R Martin Reay. The first four draws for the 200 Club were made and were: January £30 No.133 W. Ogilvie, Boat of Garten. February, £30 No.1 S Frost, Aberdeen. March £30 No.110 G. Moir, St Andrews and April £100 No. 164 G Moir, St Andrews (again!)

The two lucky winners of the expenses paid entry into the Charterhouse/Scotts National Tournament at Carden Park are Mike Wilson, Forres, and Scott Williams, Inverurie.

All in all a great day and a big thank you to all at Inverness.

A couple of new appointments in the Section. Scott Williams has moved from Peterculter to Inverurie and Stewart Robertson has been made up to Head Greenkeeper at Craigie Hill. Rejoining the Section is Jim MacCormack, Kirriemuir, and one new member to welcome is Scott Pettigrew, Tain.

This month we have The Open at Carnoustie and the BIGGA Support Team will have four members from our Section, that I know about, along with myself are Stuart Hogg, Fortrose, Gordon McKie, St Andrews, and Paul



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Murphy, Downfield. I will be driving a bus again, so keep clear of the Dundee to Carnoustie road that week, you have been warned!

I A Macleod

### East

I hope we find everyone fit and well and you are all getting some good growth on your courses as the weather is very good just now! Long may it continue.

Down to Section business. We had our Spring tournament on 27 April at Goswick Golf Club, Berwick Upon Tweed. We would like to thank the Captain, Council and the Club Secretary for the courtesy of the course and clubhouse facilities for what was an excellent day.

We would like to thank George Thompson, Head Greenkeeper, and his staff for the condition of the course which was in superb condition considering the week before the course had four inches of snow, which was followed by frost. Well done lads. Last but not least thank you to the Steward and Stewardess and the clubhouse staff for looking after us very well on the day. Once again, thanks to everyone at Goswick Golf Club. On the day we had 60+ mem-

bers, Guests and Trade members in attendance for our first major of the 1999 season. The weather was not too kind to us on the day with very thick fog, sea haar, mist or whatever you want to call it, making visibility very bad. It forced some people to retire after 9 holes and head for the clubhouse, myself included, but around half the field continued and some very good scores were returned in testing conditions. Some of the people who only played 9 holes and headed for the bar were people who travelled on the bus, so speaking personally, I think the bus was a great idea as the bar did a roaring trade that afternoon. Seriously though, everyone enjoyed a great day out so I hope it's not too long until we are back at Goswick. One more thank you to the trade for bringing along raffle prizes, it is very much appreciated.

Tournament Results: Best Scratch, K. Mail - 76; Best Nett, C. Pennycuik - 84-17-67. 1st Class 1. S. Greenwood - 81-8-73; 2.: D. Melville - 80-6-74; 3. A. Holmes - 80-5-75. 2nd Class 1. C. Pennycuik - 84-17-67; 2. K. Anderson - 86-12-74. 3. A. Russell - 92-16-76. 3rd Class 1. R. Mullen - 92-20-72; 2. J. Nisbet -

104-19-85; 3. S. Townsend - 124-28-96. Veteran's Prize J. Manuel - 80-7-73. Trade Prize I. Thompson (SGM) 106-28-78. Guest Prize. D. Wilkinson - 81-11-70. BIH (Secretary Goswick GC). New Member's Prize: D. Graham - 91-18-72. Highest Score of the Day. C. Moffat - 141.



Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship Qualifiers. Best Gross: K. Mail, Glencorse, SCR 76. Best Nett. C. Pennycuik, Winterfield, 84-17-67.

Next Tournament is the Summer tournament at Murrayfield Golf Club, Tuesday 8 June. Hope to see you all there.

People on the move are Richard Mullen, formerly Assistant Greenkeeper at Murrayfield GC, who has moved to my club Swanston GC as my Deputy Head Greenkeeper and we wish him success in his new position. The Section is running a fund raising prize draw this year which will be drawn at the Annual Dinner Dance in December. There is some very good prizes to be won, so we

would like everyone to take some books of tickets to sell. If you haven't got any yet, get in contact with Craig Pennycuik who is dealing with the tickets and he will send you some. So, come on, we need your help to make this a success. Craig can be contacted on his mobile 07979 452097, home 0131 654 2913.

That's it. See you next month.  
Chris Yeaman

### Central

It's a warm welcome to the Section to Grahame Taylor, from Leven Links, and Simon Crawford, from Gleneagles Hotel, who is rejoining us. As I have said before, hopefully we will see them at some of our events in the near future.

We also send best wishes for a successful future to Kenny Duncan, who has taken over at Dunfermline Golf Club, and to Ronnie Cunningham, who has moved on from Dunfermline to a new venture on the outskirts of the town.

Within the next few weeks you will be receiving your tickets for our new Section fund raiser, "CLUB 2000", the tickets will cost you £6 per year and there will be ten draws for £50 starting in January 2000, a bonus



draw in July for £100 and another in December for £150 which isn't bad for less than 2p per day. Even less in a leap year!

Hopefully every member will give this venture their support as it will go towards providing a wider variety of educational events and enable us to organise events which are of interest to every member and not just the golfers in the section.

A prominent member of the Section was put in a dilemma the night Manchester United were playing in the final of the Champions League as it fell on the same night as parent's night at school and the only alternative date was the same night as the Section committee meeting. I won't tell you which one he chose but let's just say that he put in an apology and it wasn't to Alex Ferguson and the committee was one man short! It's just a pity that a week later the team which he supports lost out in the final of the Tennents Scottish Cup.

This year's Inter Club Tournament is underway with a number of the first round ties already completed and can I remind all the team captains that the results must be returned to me as soon as possible after each match and with a bit of luck we will manage to get the final played by the allotted date.

Section Chairman, Archie Dunn, having recovered from a severe bout of 'flu which laid him low for three weeks, was in the States last month working at the US Open, so perhaps we will have a report of his experiences in some future section notes.

The Section football team was in action against the West Section last month. Too late for this report but I will let you know next month how they got on. If any of you fancy yourselves as the Section's answer to (does anyone know the names of any home grown talent?) just get in touch with Andy O'Hara on 01334 423 685 as he is always on the look out for new talent. Well, that's what SS told me, but I'm not quite sure if he meant for the football team.

John Crawford

played at Penrith GC on Wednesday 15 September and previous arrangements still apply. The competition will still be sponsored by Course Care and is by invitation only. Sean Moon, previously Head Greenkeeper of Mersey Valley GC, informs me that the Legal Helpline certainly works, as it did for him. Sean and his staff were all made redundant just before Christmas last year and they got in touch with the helpline right away. The outcome was that they took the club to a tribunal on the grounds of unfair dismissal and won their case, and the staff were each paid an undisclosed sum. It is also nice to know that they have all found employment again.

That's it for now, see you at The Open. Ring me if you have any information on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

#### Northern

I haven't had any little birds whispering into my ear about any exciting events/promotions/job changes this month and therefore I'll keep it brief!

At the time of writing, the numbers listed for playing in the President's Day golfing event are sadly very low. I appreciate it's an exceptionally busy time of year for everyone, me included, and we may well look at changing the dates to a different time of year in the future. Please let me know your thoughts.

As previously communicated, the remaining golfing events for this year are as follows:

Invitation Day, Shipley GC, 4 August; Roses Match; Howley Hall GC, 18 August; Autumn Tournament, Bradford GC, 20 October; Winter Tournament Fulford GC, 8 December. If anyone wishes to be considered for the Roses Match, please contact me as soon as possible so that a 'top class' team can be selected!

Anyone who has any news from within the Section, please contact me at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield HD5 0LA or telephone 01484 317813 or 07788 442755. Don't forget to get your name and money to me in good time for any of the forthcoming golfing events.

Simon Heppenstall.

holding this prestigious event. Keep up the good work lads!

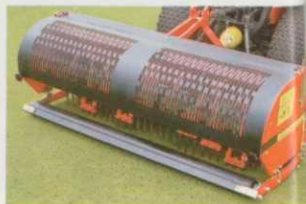
I had the pleasure of attending Wentworth again in June for the Volvo PGA Championship and was lucky enough to draw a game that didn't visit too many bunkers. It was nice to see some of the boys from last year and it's certainly a pleasure to watch the golf. A certain Mr

Montgomerie managed to win both of the above mentioned events, but it was also nice to see Chris Kennedy getting some much deserved recognition for his services to Wentworth and indeed the condition of the course.

That's about all for this month other than to say, we at Donnington Grove are looking forward to hosting

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#### North West

This month we have no golf to report on, which also means the Section news will be short because no members have telephoned with an snippets for me to include.

The Cumbria Cup that was to be played on 12 May had to be cancelled due to heavy flooding causing the course to be closed. The rain had been so heavy that I think Penrith itself had to be closed. The competition has been re-arranged to be

#### Berks, Bucks & Oxon

As the golfing season is now fully underway, I would imagine everyone is very busy at the moment. There is not much to report this month other than to say congratulations to David Gower and his team for their handling of the Benson & Hedges at The Oxfordshire. The course looked immaculate and certainly merited



the next Section event on 22 July. Remember the more the merrier. We hope to see you there.

Ross Wilson 01635 821333

#### East Midlands

This year's Spring Tournament was held on 13 May at the excellent venue of Longcliffe GC. The weather forecast was sunny intervals and

heavy showers, and true to form everyone required umbrellas and waterproof clothing at some point in their round. However, this did not deter anyone from enjoying a great day. The course was presented in great condition by Walt Cole and his staff who found some testing pin positions.

Unfortunately Richard Barker, due

to other commitments, was unable to join us on the day, this giving others a chance of taking the best Gross prize. One concerning factor was the poor turn out on the day, 29 members only. What do we need to do to encourage more members?

The scores for the day were as follows. Best Gross: Dave Leatherland, Kedleston Park; Winner of the



Scotts/Charterhouse Qualifier. Best Nett: Steve Tolley, Longcliffe 84-20-64. Winner of the Scotts/Charterhouse Qualifier.

Category 1. 1. Pete Billings, Cotgrave Place, 90-8-82; 2. Alex Hawkes, Cotgrave Place, 89-4-85.



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Category 2. 1. Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 9-17-74; 2. Danny Branson, Stanton, 98-15-83. Category 3. 1. Graham Arnold, Erewash Valley, 100-19-81; 2. Mike Billings, Chevin, 104-22-82. Trade & Associate Winner: Nick Webb, Tacit, 90-16-74. Nearest The Pin: Nick Webb, Longest Drive: Pete Billings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Longcliffe GC for courtesy of their fine course and to all those committee members for their valuable contribution in helping run the competition. Not forgetting Mr & Mrs Barker for setting up the prize table. A special thanks goes to ET Breakwells from all our members, for sponsoring and providing a grand prize table. Finally I would like to once again remind all members that if they wish to attend any Section event, their forms must be returned to the secretary before the closing date.

On August 18 we host the annual East Midlands v East of England golf match at Ramsdale Park. Tee-off time 3.45pm. Also on August 23 at Charnwood Forest GC is the date for this year's Better-Ball pairs Tournament. Tee off 4.00 pm. If anybody would like to participate in either or both of these competitions, please give me a ring and I will send you an entry form. To keep these two events running we shall require a lot more support than in previous years, so please try to support your section. Come along and have a great day.

Finally, on behalf of the Section I would like to congratulate Carl Chamberlain, of Scraftoft GC, on his recent wedding.

Antony Bindley.

### Mid Anglia

A course visit took place at the end of March to the new 18-hole course currently under construction at Brocket Hall. Course Manager, John Wells, gave the 30 people attending a guided tour of the new site and an insight into some of the problems encountered. It is planned to open

nine holes by September for limited play only. Our thanks go to John for taking the time to show us around the new course.

Our Spring tournament was held at Aldwickbury Golf Club at the end of April, over 36 holes. The course was in excellent condition, so thanks to Stephen Hesk and all his staff, as well as the club officials who allowed us courtesy of the course. We were also lucky enough to experience some fine spring weather, which obviously made the day more enjoyable.



The First Gross and First Handicap winners qualify for the new National Championship.

These were: 1st. Gross. Mark Whittle, Mentmore, 142. 1st Handicap. Simon Clark, Brockley Hill, 143. Third (on countback). Chris Brook, Chesfield Downs, 143.

Gavin Simkins won the am prize with a 70 and Gary Boulton the pm with a 71, which included a superb eagle 2 at the par 4 18th hole! The Trade prize was won by Tim Webb with a total of 145. The Kingpin competition was won by Dick Coogan, Longest Drive by T Houghton and nearest the pin by Neil Whittaker, who won a colour TV, kindly donated by David Hawkins.

Rigby Taylor sponsored our day once again, so thanks to Mark Stigwell for providing the prizes and to all other trade members for supporting the day.

It must be noted that it was a superb turn out, the best for a Spring event for a long time, so thanks to all who attended, in taking the time away from your courses at such a busy time of year.

The Lodgeway Four Ball is now up and running so please ensure that all your league matches are played by the end of July. The next golf event is the Summer Tournament, to be held at Verulam Golf Club on Tuesday 31 August.

Paul Lockett.



South East  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

### East Anglia

It was a sad day when I attended the service of celebration for the life of Stephen Noye, Head Greenkeeper of Purdis Heath Golf Club, on Thursday 13 May. The Section and trade were well represented by Colin Rushbrook, Larry Pearman, Robert Tomlinson and many others. Stephen was well liked by all the members at the club and all those who knew him as a friend. Our sympathies go out to his family and I know he will be missed by everyone.

Turning to a very much lighter note Colin Rushbrook invited some of us to his golf day at Haverhill on Wednesday 18 May. It was a joint competition run by Rushbrooks, SIS, Rhone-Poulenc and Scotts. As usual Course Manager, Alan Carter, and his team had done a splendid job of making the course look its best (well done lads) and the club house staff made us feel very welcome. Unfortunately my golf was not at its best but I was fortunate enough to be partnered with Lyndon Upham, from Gog Magog, and Tim Russell, from Lakenheath, and the laughter and joking made up for my bad play. I will take this opportunity to thank the Trade members of our Section for their support, I know that they put in a lot of work in attending our Section golf days and Colin in particular works hard to get us venues for our matches.

Our next meeting will take place at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club on the 10 August.

I must report that the golf match between East Anglia and Essex that was to be played at Thorpeness has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

See you all at Bury.  
Ian Willett.

### Essex

I was going to talk about the hot dry weather we endured through May but as we approach the first few days of June my rain gauge reads at present 20mm with more thunder storms on the horizon. Who can predict what the weather holds by the time you read my article?

On to the golf front. Our next meeting will be held at Colchester Golf Club on Wednesday 23 June, sponsored by P Tuckwell Limited of Ardleigh. A report will appear in next month's issue.

The Section's singles "Matchplay 1999" is now reaching the semi-final stages, with Dave Wells v William Wingfield in one match and Richard Pride waiting for the winner from the Roland Hughes/Matthew Allen quarter final. Semi-finals to be played by 15 August.

Unfortunately, I have to report the cancellation of our match against East Anglia in August at Lakenheath due to the crisis in Kosovo.

On to education with the list of excellent guest speakers growing, which includes Dr Alan Gange, from the University of London; Mark Hunt, Headland; Dr Tim Lodge, STRI; Graham Robins, Grass Science, and Bill Hawthorne makes this year's South East Conference held at Writtle College, Chelmsford, on 16 November 1999, one not to be missed. Make a note in your diary now.

For all Committee Members our next meeting is on Tuesday 27 July, 2pm at Thorndon Park GC. Please make every effort to attend or contact Martin on 01245 603131.

See you at Colchester.

PS. I see a few other London clubs have joined West Ham in Europe this coming season!

Dave Wells 01702 522202

### Surrey

By the time this article goes to press we will have played the Cresta Cup at Effingham sponsored by Gem Professional. The result will appear in

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August Around the Green. While writing about Effingham Golf Club we can congratulate Peter Broadbent and his lovely wife Karen on the birth of their fourth child Alfie who weighed in at 9 lbs and in Karen's own words "at that size they make your eyes water!"

Another Golf day that I'm sure will produce a large attendance is the McMillan Tankard which will be played for on 6 August. If you have not got an entry form, please contact your Surrey Section Secretary Ian Sellers on 0181 393 8078 or mobile 0976 709145 ASAP.

We are hoping that the Turkey Trot this year will be held at West Hill Golf Club but this will be confirmed at a later date.

I have just noticed in June's edition a mistake that I wish to correct. Young master Evans is called Euan and not Evon.

Brian Willmott.

**Kent**

Our first golf event was held on 24 May at Chart Hills GC and this was the Section qualifier for the National Championship. Before I list the results I would like to say a big thank you to all of the trade companies who sponsor these events and make it all possible and secondly to thank Chart Hills GC for the courtesy of the course and the excellent meal which was provided. Also I'd like to personally thank Paul Hobden and his staff for the excellent condition of the course which I know they all worked very hard to achieve.

The results were as follows: Best Nett, N. Gillem. Best Gross, D. Kelso. 2. Nett, P. Copsey who also won the nearest to pin competition. 2. Gross, J. Fullager, 3. Nett, G. Debenham, 3. Gross, J. Nolloth, 4. Nett, K. Diamond and the trade guest was G. Ogleby. There was an excellent turn out of 58 entrants, which was very good to see

and it was a very enjoyable day, especially as the weather held out.

Now I'm afraid I've got some very sad news as Trevor Hindmarsh, our Chairman, has been taken seriously ill with some form of cancer of the blood. So from everyone who knows you, I'd like to send you our best regards and wish you a speedy recovery.

Lastly I'd like to know how many people would be interested in a golfing/social weekend away at the end of the summer. The destination is unknown yet but if anyone is interested or has any suggestions, then contact me and leave me your name, number and any preference of a venue.

Also if anybody has any news or comments for the magazine, then please don't hesitate to contact me on 01474 879200.

Kneale Diamond



**South West and South Wales**  
Paula Humphries  
Tel: 01288 352194

**Devon & Cornwall**

The Section would like to take this opportunity to thank PJ Flegg Ltd for their generous sponsorship of the fixture cards over the last two years. Many years ago the section committee decided that the sponsorship of our fixture cards should be on a two year basis to allow all companies the chance to sponsor. It is with great pleasure that I can announce that Rigby Taylor has kindly agreed to take on the sponsorship of these cards for the next two years.

The Section would like to congratulate Kerran Daly on his appointment as Course Manager at the Gog Magog Golf Club. Kerran has been a great ambassador to the greenkeeping profession within the South West Region. His input on the Regional and National Boards will be missed. I recall a wet February day in

1992 at Bigbury Golf Club when Kerran presented his afternoon educational talk on computers. Kerran had spent some time preparing his overhead transparencies for his talk only to have a leak in the roof land directly onto them causing the ink to run. Kerran completed his talk like a true professional.

Best wishes Kerran from all your friends and we look forward to seeing you at Harrogate next year.

I finish this month's report on a sad note after hearing that a fellow Head Greenkeeper within our Section has felt it necessary to resign from his position after extreme pressures put on him by his committee, including cutting the greens through the winter at an extremely low height of cut. We wish him well for the future.

Richard Whyman.

**South Wales**

Our thanks to Southerndown Golf Club and to Gary Johnstone and his staff for yet another enjoyable day for our spring tournament. Thanks to the sponsors: Softspikes, Scotts and Avoncrop. Thanks also to the caterers, Jan Williams and Vice Captain Geriant Davis.

Best Nett and winner of the Cardiff Cup - Steven Lloyd from Burghill Valley GC, Nett 70. Winner of the John O Gorman Cup - Henry Stead, Net 72. 2nd Best Nett - Alan Crichton. 3rd Best Nett - John Borga. 2nd Best Gross and the Browns Shield - Gary Johnstone.

The best Nett and Gross scores of the day - Steven Lloyd and Gary Johnstone both qualified for the Charterhouse/Scotts sponsored National Championships to be held at Carden Park from the 3rd - 5th October.

Unfortunately the match BIGGA versus Pencoed College was cancelled on 2 June but hopefully will be rescheduled for another day.

On the 17 August BIGGA versus

the South Wales PGA will take place at St. Mellons GC Cardiff.

Richard Hatcher - 01656 742761

**South West**

Tall Pines Golf Club was the venue for the Greenkeeper Amateur event which was held on May 18. Despite conditions being rather wet underfoot, the course was still playable even though a number of local courses were forced to shut.

The erratic weather conditions also led to some erratic driving on the course, not so much in the golfing sense of the word but more the buggy driving. An unnamed source has informed me that Duncan from Chippenham GC was seen "bombing" down a hill at the wheel of a buggy in Formula 1 style.

Unfortunately he didn't notice a large hole looming ahead of him until the last split second. Somehow he performed an incredible swerving manoeuvre and just avoided disaster. However, his golfing partner and passenger Keith Milton was not so lucky. Keith was catapulted out of the side of the buggy and was seen tumbling out of control to the bottom of the hill. Les Johnson was first onto the scene but was unable to offer first aid because he was still wetting himself with laughter.

Anyway the result of the competition was as follows:- 1. J. Cooper & J. Hennes, 44 points; 2. C. Tozer & G. Fox, 40 points; 3. N. Kelson & C. Ashworth, 39 points. Thanks go to Marc Rossiter and the rest of the greenkeeping staff for all their hard work in getting the course into great condition. The next event is the Summer Tournament at Lilley Brook GC on July 22. This will also be the Section qualifier to see who will gain a place for the National Championship at Carden Park in October, so get your name down for that.

There is still no news on the disappearance of the Region's team T-shirts. However, brand new shirts have arrived which have been sponsored by Rolawn.



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Turning to education and training. The one day first aid courses being held at Cumberwell Park on August 17 is almost full. Those of you that have asked to do the course should have received a booking form, which should be returned to me. Other courses taking place include a PA1 on September 22 and a PA6 on October 13. I hope to run a number of other courses shortly including abrasive wheel and fire safety. If you want any more information, please contact me on 01249 783382.

Paul Cunningham.

### South Coast

Our Spring Tournament was held at Canford Magna Golf Club on 4 May. The results were as follows. Division One. 1. (Huxley Shield) Simon Ridland;

2. Mark Grogan; 3rd Darren Miller. Division Two. 1. (Avoncrop Trophy) James Krzyzanowski; 2. Ian Noble; 3. Phil Wentworth. Division Three. 1. (Roffey Cup) Alan Rideout; 2. Sid Cutler; 3. Don Friend.

The winner of the Best Nett under 25's for the Christopher Fry Trophy was David Lyons. The winner of the Best Nett over 55's for the Nita Stimpson Trophy was Sid Cutler.

The Lowest Gross Score was Mark Grogan and the Lowest Nett was



Simon Ridland. Both Mark and Simon go forward to the Charterhouse/Scotts National Tournament. Well done to all those who took part and congratulations to all

the winners.

We would like to thank the owners of Canford Magna for allowing us the courtesy of their superb golf courses. Also to Pete Lovel and his staff who presented the courses in such pristine condition. Thanks to the bar and catering staff who kept us well fed and watered. Last but not least, thank you to our sponsors for the day. They were Avoncrop, Roffeys and Huxleys. They provided us with the prizes and trophies. We are very grateful to you all. Lastly, thank you to all of you who participated in the Tournament.

Just a reminder for our Summer Tournament at Rowlands Castle on 22 July. All details were in the June magazine. For those of you who have not yet got your entries in, get them in to Fred as soon as possible.

We had a very happy event on the 14 May. Fred Deamen's wife, Susan, gave birth to a baby boy, Luke Bernd Oldale. I hope I have got those names right Fred. Mother and son are doing well. As far as I know, father isn't

doing too bad either. Congratulations to you both. What a nice way to end July's report.

Ken Lodge.



### North East

Sorry for nothing in last month's issue, but I had nothing to write about. So come on, anyone who has any news or has anything they think deserves a mention, give me a ring 01574 276001. It has been a very busy time for us here at the moment with the opening of our new Golf Course, which is called The Golf Club Stakis Park. We expect this to change any day now as we have been taken over by the Hilton Group.

We would like to wish Royal Portrush and their staff all the best for the staging of the up-coming of the seniors. Finally, Massereene GC has recently signed a deal and has taken delivery of £110,000 Toro machinery kit.

Eamonn Farrell.

### South East

The Section would like to pass on best wishes to Tommy Bradshaw on his retirement after many years service at Malone Golf Club. Welcoming new members to the South East Section, joining this month are: Ian Harrison, Head Greenkeeper at Bangor GC and Paul Lappin, Assistant Head, also at Bangor GC. Also joining as Associate Member is Joseph Paulin from Golden Eagle Agronomy.

Our Summer golf event will be held at Bangor GC on Thursday 8 July. Tee-off at 2.30 pm and we would welcome all members to attend.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Ken Henderson, Allen Park GC, and Alison Sloan, Ballymena GC, on being selected to the Greenkeeper support team for the Open Championship at Carnoustie GC. Well done.

Jonathan McCabe



See you all next month!

# Membership Regions

BIGGA incorporates five Regions and 28 Sections, ensuring that there is a steady flow of information between grass roots level and the administrative headquarters.

Each Region has its own Board consisting of a representative from each of the Sections and is serviced by a Regional Administrator as follows:-



**Peter Boyd** -

Regional Administrator for Scotland.

Covering Ayrshire, Central, East, North and West.

Tel. 0141 616 3440



**Douglas Bell** -

Regional Administrator for Northern England. Covering NorthEast, North West, Northern, Cleveland, Sheffield and North Wales.

Tel. 0151 431 0433



**Peter Larter** -

Regional Administrator for the Midlands. Covering East Midland, Midland, East of England, Berks, Bucks and Oxon and Mid Anglia.

Tel. 01480 437507



**Derek Farrington** -

Regional Administrator for the South East.

Covering Surrey, Kent, Sussex, London, East Anglia and Essex.

Tel. 01903 260956



**Paula Humphries** -

Regional Administrator for the S West and S Wales. Covering South West, South Coast, Devon and Cornwall and South Wales.

Tel. 01288 352194

BIGGA also has two Sections in Northern Ireland



For more information on the many other benefits that BIGGA membership can offer you, and for an application form, contact your local Regional Administrator, or Tracey Maddison, Membership Services Officer, at BIGGA HQ on 01347 833800



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Congratulations to all the qualifiers so far in the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship for the BIGGA Challenge Trophy.

Keep those results coming in, and we'll highlight the winners every month.

**Qualifiers to date...**

The following members have so far won places in the Charterhouse/Scotts National Golf Championship at Carden Park, October 3-5

William McMeikan  
 Keith McCartney  
 Shaun McMillan  
 Kenneth Stirling  
 Craig Pennycuik  
 Kenneth Mail  
 Scott Williams  
 Mike Wilson  
 George Barr  
 Tony Bremer  
 Dave Cuthbertson  
 Kenneth Rutherford  
 Richard Castle  
 Michael Nolan  
 Dave Collins  
 Roger Bielby  
 Andrew Wood  
 Anthony Burge  
 Andrew Lomas  
 Paul Neve  
 John Humphreys  
 Robert Lewis  
 Dave Leatherland  
 Stephen Tolley  
 Robert White  
 Graeme Macdonald

Tony French  
 Ross Wilson  
 Simon Clark  
 Mark Whittle  
 Brian Turner  
 Gareth Rogers  
 Duncan Kelso  
 Neil Gilham  
 George Barr  
 Tony Bremer  
 Larry Eden  
 Ian Semple  
 Nicholas Brewster  
 Terry Moreton  
 Steve Cox  
 Chris Ward  
 Mark Grogan  
 Simon Ridland  
 Alan Gawman  
 Anthony James  
 Gary Johnstone  
 Steven Lloyd  
 Alison Sloan  
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# GREENKEEPER

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

qualifications into industries, has caused the colleges to re-think their training policies and the GTC will be issuing guidelines for the golf greenkeeping industry as to which colleges employers and their staff should be supporting. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeeper Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, Tel: 01347 838640.

## NORTH



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



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



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



**MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE** Bilbottle, PRESTON, Lancashire PR3 0RY. Contact: Course Enquiries Tel: 01995 640740 Fax: 01995 640842 Email mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk WWW http://www.myerscough.ac.uk. Full time courses: BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science - 4 years; HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management - 3 Years; ND Turf Science and Sportsground Management - 3 years; National Certificate Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping - 1 year. Part time courses: NVQ Level 2 and 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance (plus Fast track option); Higher National Diploma Turf Science and Golf Course Management; Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation; FEPA short courses.

## MIDLANDS



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



**BROOMFIELD COLLEGE** Morley, Ilkeston, Derby DE7 6DN. Contact Admissions Officer. Tel: 01332 831345. NVQ Level I and Level II Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Block Release course. Two years duration presented in 12 one-week blocks following guidelines of GTC Training Manual. NVQ Level III gained by 9x 3-day blocks or day release or APL service. Also available TDLB, Pesticides, Chainsaw and First Aid Training.



**WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE**, Moreton Morrell, Warwick CV35 9BL. Contact Brian Cook. Tel: 01926 318268. Greenkeeping courses - NVQ levels 2 and 3 (day release), NVQ levels 2 and 3 underpinning knowledge only (block release), NVQ level 4 (block release), IOG National Intermediate Diploma (evening class), 2-year ND in Horticulture with turf culture option. We also offer short courses in FEPA, Chainsaw, First Aid etc to cater for individual and company training needs: Call us to discuss your requirements.



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

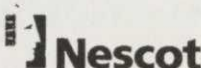


**BROOKSBY COLLEGE** Brooksbys, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE14 2LJ situated on the A607 between Leicester and Melton Mowbray. Contact Ann Hurt/Jo Lees Tel: 01664 434291. Day release Level 2/3 Greenkeeping, includes GTC training manual. Short courses available in arboriculture/chainsaw work, FEPA spraying and machinery maintenance.

## SOUTH EAST



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



**NESCOT** North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS. Contact Dr S Shaw. Tel: 0181 394 3220/3049. NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) Training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Part time, Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses.



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



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

# TRAINING

## A GUIDE TO THE COLLEGES AND COURSES AVAILABLE

KEY TO COLOURS

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

Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Supervisory level

Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Craft level only

Pending GTC approval for all courses

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

SOUTH EAST



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



**Berkshire College of Agriculture**

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



**Merrist Wood College**

**MERRISTWOOD COLLEGE**, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey, GU3 3PE. Contact D I Rhodes. Tel: 01483 884003. Fax: 01483 884001. E-mail: info@merristwood.ac.uk. Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Greenkeeping & Sports Turf Management. Part time courses: NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 1, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 2, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 2 (block release), NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3 (afternoon/evening release), Higher National Certificate Turf Science (subject to approval) 1999. Various short courses throughout the year.



**WRITTLE COLLEGE**, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR. Tel: 01245 424200 Fax: 01245 420456 **SPORTSTURF PROGRAMMES** (Contact - Stewart Brown) NVQ Level 2 - Sportsturf: (Options in Greenkeeping (GTC) or Groundsmanship (IOG) NVQ Level 3 - Sportsturf Maintenance. NVQ Level 4 - Amenity Horticulture. HNC - Sportsturf Science. HND - Sportsturf and Golf Course Management. Other Programmes: First Diploma. National Certificate. National Diploma (with Sportsturf Option). BSc (Hons) Horticulture. BSc (Hons) Landscape and Amenity Management. MSc Landscape and Amenity Management. NVQ 2 and 3 Service Engineering. FEPA. Chainsaw. Tractor Driving



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

S WEST



**Cannington College**

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



**Sparsholt College**

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



**HARTPURY COLLEGE**  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
University of the West of England

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

SCOTLAND



**GOSTA TRAINING LTD**

**GOSTA TRAINING LTD** Unit 2B, Clydeaway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow G3 8JU. Contact Chris Bothwell. Tel: 0141 248 2772. Fax: 0141 248 2453. svq II in Amenity Horticulture will all options including Greenkeeping and GTC Training Manual. Available Day/ Block Release from November- February. Evening classes also available. Short courses including pesticide training, noise assessment, chainsaw and health & safety courses, SVQ III in maintaining sportsturf - Mixture of block and day release. SVQ IV in Amenity Horticulture available from Winter 1998.



**elmwood COLLEGE**

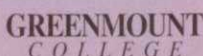
**ELMWOOD COLLEGE** Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB. Contact Carol Borthwick. Tel: 01334 658910. Fax: 01334 658918. Craft Level courses. Full time National Certificate, Block-release, following SVQ Level II and the GTC Training Manual. Six week specialist modular programme (January-February), including Golf Course Construction, Pesticide Application and Plant Protection Procedures. SVQ Level III Block Release and SVQ Level IV coming soon. HNC/HND Golf Course Management available as full-time, block/day release and distance learning. FEPA, COSHH and Health & Safety short courses also.



**Oatridge Agricultural College**

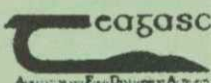
**OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE**, Broxburn, West Lothian, Near Edinburgh, EG52 6NH. Contact Steve Miller - Tel: 01506 854387 Fax: 01506 853373. E-Mail. OATRIDGE\_AGRICULTURAL\_COLLEGE\_EDU@msn.com, HNC in Golf Course Management and Certificate in Greenkeeping. Block and day release SVQ Level II and Level III (GTC and IOG manuals) and Modern Apprenticeship. SVQ's in Groundcare Machinery. Short Courses: FEPA, Chainsaw, Forklift, etc.

IRELAND



**GREENMOUNT COLLEGE**

**GREENMOUNT COLLEGE** Greenmount College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Antrim, BT41 4PU. Contact Brian Corr. Tel: 01849 426668. Day release courses leading to (a) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf (b) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level III Golf Course Supervision.



**Teagasc**  
AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTRE

**TEAGASC COLLEGE** Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Contact Pat Sutle. Tel: 003531 8374 388. Block release courses in greenkeeping providing Level III Certificates by the National Council of Vocational Awards. Further Education Programme also available.

The big red machines of BIGGA Golden Key Supporter Toro are a common sight on golf courses all over the world but, as Scott MacCallum found out, the talents that have to be combined to produce them are anything but common.

# T-time



How often have you gone to BTME and bumped into a colleague who's said "See Toro have a new machine out.?"

More than likely you will have replied "Oh yeh? I'll maybe take a look later on... Heard whose got the so and so job?"

No doubt you would see the new Toro at some stage but such is the frequency of the release of new machines from Toro and the other big machinery manufacturers these days the announcement of yet another innovation is hardly earth shattering. Is it?

But if you knew what went into producing just one new piece of kit - the concept, design, manufacturer, testing, marketing etc - you would be far more likely say "Wow!" than merely "Oh yeh?".

Walk into Toro's worldwide Headquarters in Bloomington, Minnesota, and you'll witness scenes that wouldn't look out of place at NASA. The technology involved in producing the latest turf maintenance machinery, its irrigation and consumer products is cutting edge and the brains involved in making sure this is put to good use are high browed and plentiful.

You are quite likely to find someone poring over a computer screen displaying a three dimensional image of a cutting deck electronically testing the stress levels from every angle or bump into the mechanical display showing off the qualities of the new Workman 1100 with its jointed chassis for a smoother ride. You might even see Igor the robot which travels throughout the building delivering mail.

A visit to Minneapolis is a treat the winners of the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award and Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year experience and this year John Coleman and Sally Doherty have already made the trip.

Over 1000 are employed there alone while the overall Toro staff number just under 4000 which gives you just a taste of the sheer scale of the operation.

"We say that the sun never sets on

the Toro empire - I wonder where we got that line from," said Barry Beckett, the ex-pat Brit who is Toro's Worldwide Marketing Manager.

"But it's true. 24 hours a day someone is using Toro product. When we're asleep it's being used in the Far East or in Europe," he said before explaining about the inherent difficulties this causes but which have been eased by advance of the Internet.

"If someone somewhere in the world is having a problem we have "Frequently Asked Questions" on our Website and all the users have to do is click on the appropriate national flag and the information appears in their own language."

It is that sort of attention to detail and depth of thinking that has ensured Toro's name is so frequently to be seen in golf course maintenance facilities across the world.

The complications of dealing in a universal market are emphasised by Barry when he talks about providing products on a worldwide basis.

"There are different regulations in place in different countries so that means standardisation is difficult. Also the Japanese for example tend to be a different shape from, for example, the Germans so seats have to be different sizes and set differently to take account of this. Everything has to be produced in different languages from on-board instructions to the operator manuals."

Toro started out by making agricultural tractors to pull ploughs in Minneapolis in 1914, before being recruited to produce munitions for the first world war.

"In 1922 we were approached by a local Golf Course Superintendent who had still been using horses to pull his gang mowers but who thought it might be possible to hook his mowers to one of our tractors. They tried it and it worked and from those humble beginnings we were launched into the golf business," said Barry.

"In the mid 1960s Toro took the significant step in acquiring an irrigation company, and the product lines have increase markedly since then, through in-house development

as well as acquisition, to the extent that Toro is so comfortable that it is the one-stop shop for every potential need outside of the clubhouse building the phrase "Total Solutions" is the Toro mantra

This covers fine turf products and services such as irrigation equipment,



reel and rotary mowers, utility vehicle, sprayers, consumer and contractor equipment, site management software, infra-red grass diagnostic services..., the list is ever growing. Indeed one of the latest additions to the stable is Multicore, whose products are currently being integrated into the Toro family.

"We are always thinking five to ten years ahead. You can't jump over a high bar from a standing start. You have to take a run up," said Barry.

"It's not always a smooth path. Things go wrong, the industry changes, competitors do different things but we know this is the only way to go because you can't do everything at once, you have to plan in stages.

"The list of things you want to do is always longer than what you can do. With people, time and money you can do anything but there isn't enough of all of them. Quite often it isn't the money part which comes up short it's the people and the time."

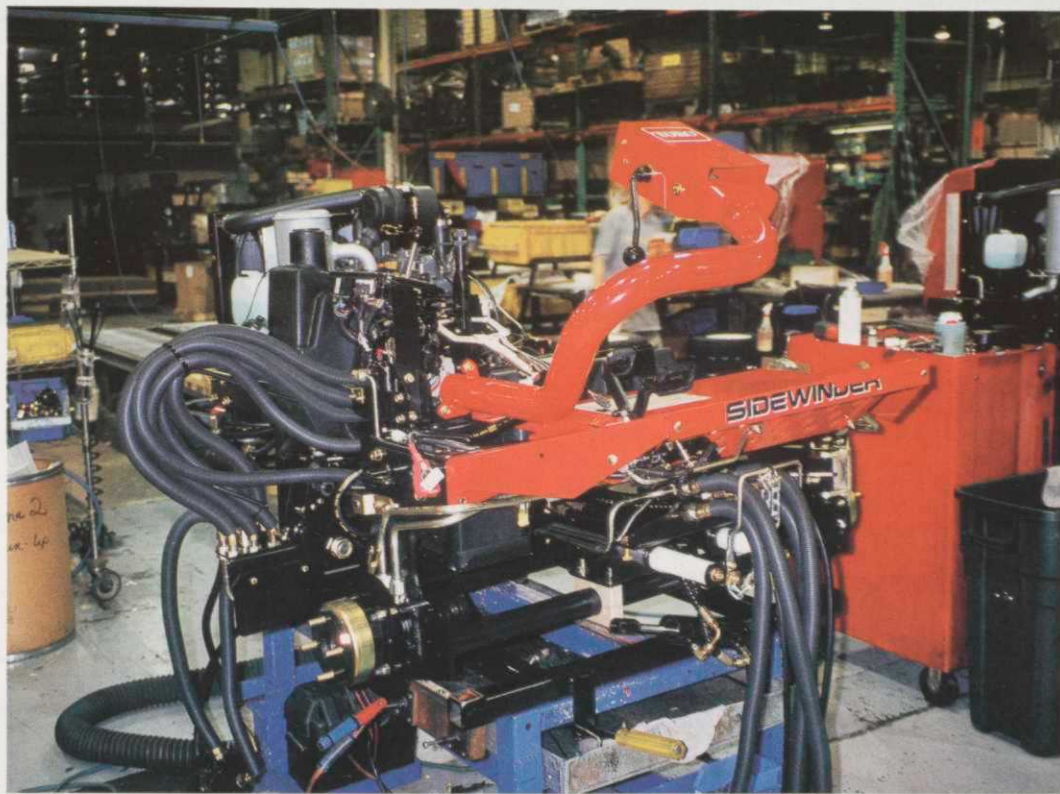
Toro has built up an exceptionally close relationship with the distributor in each of its major markets and

Sally Doherty and John Coleman, the reigning Toro winners, visited the Toro facilities earlier this year





A sidewinder is assembled in Tomah



in the UK it is Lely (UK) Ltd.

"We have been with Lely for about 16 years now and we have done well in the UK because of Lely's commitment to building the business. In fact the average length of the relationship of Toro with each of its European distributors is 27 years and in the case of Switzerland it is 52 years.

Lely and Toro are in touch at least once a day and with the advent of e-mail that communication has increased.

"Wherever I am in the world I can attach spreadsheets and send and receive information from Graham Dale or Pete Mansfield. Electronic communications have really helped us a lot in terms of being able to keep on top of business. We have video conferencing facilities which allow us to get a lot of people in the room at this end and the same at the other and we can get a lot of work done quickly as a group."

The main manufacturing base for the commercial market is 180 miles from Bloomington in Tomah, Wisconsin, where all the familiar products are assembled-including the Sidewinder and the Dingo which were launched last year.

The Tomah factory has a staff of around 600, the majority of the assembly workers being women who appreciate the nine month working year with the summer holidays off.

"We wind down in June and start up again in September and during the down time we clean the entire plant," explained Plant General Manager, Don Yahnke, a man whose pride in his factory shines as brightly as a spanking new red machine which has just emerged from the 15 stage paint process.

At its peak there are several production lines working at any one time but such is the sophistication of modern day machines, and the care that is put into their assembly, the number produced per day is surprisingly low.

"We can make 13 workmen a day; seven Fairway 6000 series; 22 Sidewinders and the same number of Dingos," explained Don, and when you consider such output is to ser-

vice the entire globe you can appreciate the reasons behind the occasions when there might be a delay before a dealer can get one to you.

With such a large company it would be easy to lose the personal touch and in that regard Toro works hard to ensure that its distributors and dealers work to the same high standards.

"We want customers to appreciate that when they deal with Toro there is an expectation of what they are going to receive in terms of parts and general support," said Barry.

"Anyone can sell a piece of machinery to a golf course but it is when it goes wrong that the acid test is applied. Where is the parts back-up? Where is the technical back-up? Who do you call to help figure it out? Where do you get an operator trained? It is the after sales service and support that is the key to the second and third purchase.

"You've got to get the people who have purchased product once or twice to buy again next year, and in five... ten years time. If you have a bad experience you're more likely to try one of the other companies next time."

To ensure that doesn't happen Toro has people who travel the world checking the standards of distributors and dealers.

"They arrive at a distributor and say they are going to do an inventory or they might ask what the part's fill rate is. Or they might give an order for ten parts and see what they can supply off the shelf. We have a criteria that they have to meet. If they are bad they can be literally put under notice and told that if they want to keep the Toro franchise they must start investing in whatever is needed to put it right."

That's not to say that no-one at Toro ever puts a foot wrong.

"We're not perfect. We're a people orientated business and someone will

press the wrong button or insert the wrong number on a part's order. It's human error but how you recover the situation is the key."

So looking down the line what can the BIGGA member expect from Toro.

Director of Public Relations, Don St Dennis, believes the greenkeeper of tomorrow will be tapping into satellite technology but is aware of the need for cost effectiveness.

"Satellite global positioning is now being used in golf carts to speed up play etc. We can share that same technology and map out the course for spraying and chemical applications so that they can be more cost effective and environmentally sound. People will be able to keep detailed computer records of what was applied, what the wind speed was at the time etc so when the inspectors visit all the information can be supplied at the touch of a button."

Having said all that the size of the fine turf industry is small and that

puts limitations on what can be achieved.

"Our industry is relatively small in the scheme of things and a lot of development of the new technology and materials comes from the automotive business and the people who are developing new plastics and polymers. We tend to piggy back on them.

"We could produce the world's greatest lawnmower with ten computers on it, satellite navigation etc but it would cost half a million so whose going to buy it. You have to wait for other industries to do the ground breaking development first - remember how expensive the first computers were."

So there you have it. So the next time you hear about the latest new product released by The Toro Company you'll have a better idea of the immense work that goes into it and be more inclined to say "Wow!"



# TALKING

This month, Greenkeeper International's bi-monthly series featuring Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers from every Region profiles Competition Preparation

## Competition Preparation

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE



**Name:** David Gower  
**Course:** The Oxfordshire  
**Region:** Midland  
**Course Type:** Parkland  
**Number of Holes:** 18  
**Staff:** 12 summer, eight winter



**Name:** Ivor Scoones  
**Course:** Long Ashton GC  
**Region:** South West and South Wales  
**Course Type:** Heathland and parkland  
**Number of Holes:** 18  
**Staff:** Course Manager plus five



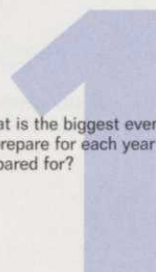
**Name:** Robert Patterson  
**Course:** Royal Aberdeen  
**Region:** Scottish  
**Course Type:** Links  
**Number of Holes:** 36  
**Staff:** Nine



**Name:** Simon Heppenstall  
**Course:** Howley Hall  
**Region:** Northern  
**Course Type:** Parkland and moorland  
**Number of Holes:** 18  
**Staff:** Five plus seasonal in summer



**Name:** Steve Jones  
**Course:** The London Golf Club  
**Region:** South East  
**Course Type:** 18 holes inland links,  
18 holes US style parkland  
**Number of Holes:** 36 (four loops of nine)  
**Staff:** 30 in winter and up to 38 in summer.



1. What is the biggest event you have to prepare for each year – or have prepared for?

The Benson and Hedges International Open each May. We also hosted a regional round of the Anderson Consulting World event for two years and we have also had the English Open Ladies' Championship

The Martini in 1967 when the joint winners were Peter Alliss and Bill Large. We have had the Carris event, the Coca Cola young professionals and the national girls championship.

We had the Northern Open last year and we also had our club bi-centenary (the club opened in 1780) in addition to our spring and autumn club medal events which are important on our calendar.

The Howley Hall Scratch 36-hole tournament, one of the North Region Order of Merit events. When I was at Fixby we had the Laurence Batley Seniors.

We had the London Masters Senior event two years ago won by John Bland, but now it is mainly club competitions.

# HEADS

## 2

2. How far in advance you you start thinking about it and how much preparation goes into the event?

We work on problem bunkers the previous October, but we begin thinking about a plan of work in August. We don't do a lot of extra work, apart from working on finer details, such as striping fairways. Our members expect fast greens all the time.

Twelve months before, although nowadays you try to get the course to its highest possible standard every day of the year. Obviously we tweak it with top dressing, striping etc for a big one.

Six months in advance preferably. But we try not to peak the course and would like to think we have it ready for a competition at any time.

As this is a members club I try to get good conditions all the year round, but two weeks before our scratch event we top dress, double cut the greens and get the fairways nicely striped or diamond cut and bring it to a peak.

A year in advance if possible but at any event as soon as we get notice of it. We feel we can reach tournament conditions in four weeks.

## 3

3. Are there any special requests made by the organisers?

We haven't had many special requests, excepting greens of a 10ft stimpmeter reading. We have ours at eight to nine feet regularly in any case.

The Martini wanted five yards of semi-rough and then jungle and this left quite a few problems in getting back to normal again. Ladies are very particular about measurements and length of course. All want fast greens.

Not really. We are left to set up the course as we think. We are happy for people to come and play our course as it is a good challenge.

At Howley Hall I don't get special requests, but at Fixby the European Tour people specified height of cut and pin positions etc.

We have received many special requests in the past, most of them too late to act on. I recall being asked two days before an event for a stimpmeter reading of nine feet when we had them at 10 feet. All greenkeepers would like a lot of notice of special requests because it gives you time to work on them.

## 4

4. Do you think more carefully about pin positions and sometimes give them a few tricky ones?

The European Tour choose pin positions, but we had very windy conditions on an open course for the three years before this year and even the Tour officials found difficulty in finding suitable positions.

Yes. I operate on the usual 6-6-6 principle but would give them an odd crazy one if you like, particularly on the last day. Our course is 105 years old and partly built on rock so even for a major event it wouldn't be possible to pins anywhere as there are places on some greens where you can't put them.

The PGA decided for the Northern Open and I had no control of where the pins went. But they took note of advice on different positions and places to avoid if there was heavy rainfall. Generally it's 6-6-6 so there is something for everyone.

As there are plus handicap players in the event I try to make pin positions a little more difficult on a course set up to its maximum length. As a general rule I follow the usual greenkeeper's practice of six hard, six easy and six average.

For a major event you are told by the PGA where they want pins and they mark them with a tee peg. We have little input for club events I follow the accepted pattern of six easy, six difficult and six average.

## 5

5. Do you enjoy the excitement of preparing for large events? Would you like to hold an Open/Tour event or prefer to work on producing excellent conditions all the year round rather than peaking?

I would say it's a buzz rather than enjoyment. A lot of effort has gone in but, until this year, we have had three very disappointing years from a weather point of view and so it was tough for the staff and their morale.

Yes, it keeps you on your toes and it's a nice feeling when you get the course absolutely right. It is also good for green fees following a big event. But I prefer to try to produce the best possible standards all the year round for our members.

Yes, I do like to put our work on show as it were and to have the course tested by top players. But to be frank I like top quality on a regular basis because the most important people, as far as I'm concerned, are our members.

Yes, it's nice to see the course laid out in the best conditions as it is being played by very good players and you hope for positive feedback but I prefer working on producing excellent conditions for our club members, rather than for a Tour event.

Yes. It gets the adrenaline going. I like to produce good conditions all the year round, but we certainly also peak for special club competitions.

BUYERS' GUIDE BUYERS' GUIDE BUYERS' GUIDE

# Buyers' Guide

The most cost effective way of reaching readers of Greenkeeper International. Just call Cheryl Broomhead or Diane Bray on 01347 833800 and ask about an alphabetical category listing; the cost starts from as little as £29.50 per month.

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

Last month, Phil Haig of Crosland Heath GC, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

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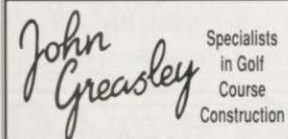
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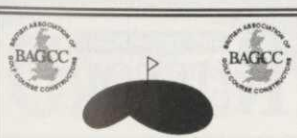


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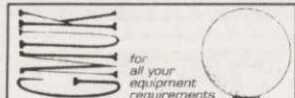
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# Wear and tear



## Dr. Stephen Baker, Head of Soils and Sports Surface Science at the STRI, Bingley examines golf shoe design and wear on the golf course...

A study in California in 1960 found that an average golfer walks 52 paces on the green while approaching the ball, putting it into the hole and then leaving for the next tee. A modern golf shoe typically has 11 spikes and therefore it is easy to calculate the number of spike holes that golfers will make over a given time period. During busy periods of the year, 1000 rounds of golf per week would not be uncommon on many UK golf courses. This would leave a legacy of over half a million spike holes on a single green, with an inevitable concentration of wear at the front of the green and around the pin positions. It is not surprising therefore that there is considerable interest in how different shoe types may affect the amount of wear and the quality of the putting surface.

Manufacturers, especially in the United States, are now marketing a vast array of footwear featuring alternatives to traditional metal spikes. These have sometimes been referred to as soft spikes but in the same way as Hoover (a manufacturer) and vacuum cleaner (a product) are sometimes wrongly interchanged, I will use the term "alternative spikes" to avoid confusion with the product of a single manufacturer.

In this article I intend to consider American research on footwear design and turfgrass wear, to address various issues such as traction for the player and to consider how this work may be made more relevant to conditions in the United Kingdom.

### Shoe design and turf wear

Early studies, dating from 1958 and 1959, carried out at Texas A&M College, were reported by Marvin Ferguson of the USGA. Initial tests consisted of individuals walking across a bentgrass putting green turf in a straight line, with damage to the turf being recorded. Conventional spikes were most damaging, rubber cleated shoes intermediate and ripple soles caused the least damage. This work was extended to include the effects of the golfer turning and changing direction, so a cup was placed in the centre of each experimental plot and players spent ten minutes per day for a five week period putting the ball into the cup.

Metal spikes caused the worst turf damage and there was additional evidence that the rounded shoulder to the spikes was accentuating damage.

More research was carried out at the University of California in the early 1980s on Penncross creeping bentgrass greens. In this study, conventional metal-spiked golf shoes were compared with two shoes with multi-studded soles and a spikeless shoe with small suction-type cleats. For each shoe type, plots were 4 ft. (1.2 m) wide and 10 ft. (3 m) long and were divided into a walking area and a putting area. The area subjected to the conventional metal-spiked golf shoe had poorer colour, decreased density and a scruffy, ragged appearance. Tests by two golfers also suggested that when metal spikes were used the turf had the poorest putting characteristics. Damage from the metal spikes was still visible four weeks after the experiment was discontinued.

In a study carried out at Ohio State University, again on creeping bentgrass turf, the effects of metal spikes, soft spikes and an unworn control were compared. On three of the four assessment dates, ball roll distances were greater where soft spikes were used. The authors also observed that turf damage was less when soft spikes were used and there was greater trueness of ball roll.

More recent work from Penn State University was published in 1998. This study included an all-sand and a slightly modified (74% sand) rootzone and once more featured creeping bentgrass. The three footwear types were conventional 8 mm metal spikes, soft plastic spikes (Soft Spikes) and a spikeless design. The work indicated that "the metal spikes usually caused more wear than the other two tread types. The effect that tread types have on ball roll distance and wear appear to be directly related to the amount of sand in the rootzone and traffic intensity."

The basic findings of these studies seem to be supported by observations from STRI agronomists who have recently visited the USA as part of an exchange scheme with USGA Green Section staff. Many golf courses with a spikeless policy appear to have benefited considerably in terms of the

quality of their greens. It has to be recognised, however, that the benefits are likely to be greatest on courses receiving heavy use, or with greens with a restricted number of hole locations, or where the green is under environmental stress, for example because of the effects of shade.

Most of the research that has been carried out in the USA has been on creeping bentgrass. Most greens in the UK on the other hand tend to be a combination of browntop bent, Highland bent and annual meadowgrass, with fescue remaining on some greens. This may be important as creeping bent, because of its above-ground, lateral stolons, may be more susceptible to the plucking effect of metal studs. Research is therefore needed on the effects of shoe design on grass types more widely found on UK golf courses.

### Other benefits of spikeless policies

From the greenkeeper's point of view, any factor that reduces turf damage is an advantage. This may be reflected in a reduction in the costs of maintenance for example because of reductions in the frequency of top dressing, aeration, weed control and cup changing. Furthermore, turf that is weakened by heavy use is more susceptible to disease. As a consequence, fungicides may be needed less often if turfgrass wear can be reduced.

Furthermore, it is not only the greens that may benefit from changes in footwear design - metal spikes certainly contribute to other forms of damage around the course, for example to wooden steps, bridges, artificial tee mats, golf carts and flooring materials in the clubhouse.

### Traction properties

The main reason that players started using spiked footwear in the first place was they wanted to improve their amount of grip. This is relevant to both stable footing during the golf swing and when walking around the course, especially on slopes and banks. Although there is considerable evidence that alternative spikes may reduce the amount of wear, the issue of traction is equally important. This may be especially true in a country such as the United Kingdom where

golf continues through the winter months at a time when rainfall greatly exceeds evaporation. Also, in our cool climate there are long periods with little active growth.

Consequently, heavy use leaves slippery areas of mud, which may also accumulate on the soles reducing the effectiveness of some shoe types.

### Future research

Research is needed on alternative spikes that is relevant to the main grass types used for golf in the United Kingdom and to consider the safety issues concerned with their use, particularly through the winter months when wet ground conditions make traction a major issue. There is also a need to look at how any progressive shortening of the spikes, as they become more worn, might affect traction properties.

Accordingly, the STRI has been working with SATRA, the research organisation concerned with footwear technology, to develop a research programme on alternative spikes. This has the main objectives of:

- Understanding the mechanisms by which different golf shoe sole designs cause turfgrass damage, particularly on greens but also elsewhere on courses and in the clubhouse.
- Determining the player's traction requirements of golf shoes and to define specific traction performance criteria both on and off the course.
- Quantifying the effects of key sole or spike design factors on performance, including number, length and sharpness of spike or cleat protruberances.
- Devising a design or specification for golf shoe soles incorporating spikes or other traction devices to maximise player performance and safety while minimising course damage.

The performance of alternative spikes is of major importance to golf greenkeepers and BIGGA have already indicated that they may be willing to contribute to the costs of the research.

Other organisations have also been approached and we are hoping that a detailed programme of work will be starting later in the year.

## Feature listing from July '97

**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, Ramside Hall GC, Gang Mowers, Hayter International report, Irrigation Systems

**December '98:** Toro Awards, Environment Awards, The Appliance of Science, Engines, Architects, BTME Preview

**January '99:** Pesticide Usage, Life in Colorado, Lyshott Heath GC, Worm Research, Stylo Matchmaker profile, Temporary Greens

**February '99:** Westerham GC; R&A questionnaire results; Finland; grass cutting; BTME99 Review; Bernhard and Co

**March '99:** Loch Lomond, Worm update, GrassRoots, Softspikes, Maintenance facilities, Environment review, Architecture

**April '99:** Carden Park, Telecommunications, Water Management, Rolawn, Seeds

**May '99:** Security, Bude and North Cornwall GC, Spraying Regulations, Jim Arthur, The Acid Theory, Amenity Technology profile

**June '99:** Thorpeness GC, Millennium Bug Busting, Irrigation, Scotts profile, Company adaptability



# Critical analysis



“If only we could teach the golfers to have a better understanding of the factors that affect course conditions, I am sure they would realise that the grass is not always greener on the other side.”

This month I would like to change track and talk about what I believe is one of the worst problems facing many greenkeepers today, that is, course comparisons by golfers who have little understanding of turf maintenance. I have lost count of the times someone has commented about this course "is better than that" - condition wise that is - or "these greens are faster than those". These comments are fine when discussed by greenkeepers who understand the reasons and conditions, but when it is the golfer, it usually has a totally different meaning. If only we could teach the golfers to have a better understanding of the factors that affect course conditions, I am sure they would realise that the grass is not always greener on the other side.

One of the most common comparisons made is to the professional tournament courses seen on television. There has been much talk about the Augusta syndrome and I don't wish to go over old ground, but television paints an unrealistic picture to the real world. Many factors come into play, such as staffing levels, equipment, finance, but most of all the soil structure and the grasses which we have to work with.

Most golfers play other courses apart from their home course. When he does he tends to see only the big picture around him, the scenery and the lay-out of individual holes. Back on his own course his head drops, he has already seen the sights and now he only sees the flaws such as an occasional weed or a small disfigurement on a green so he becomes more critical. He does not understand the circumstances. Every golf course is unique and it is difficult, if not impossible, to make like for like comparisons. The amount of play and the age of the course should always be considered before making comparisons about conditions. We, the greenkeepers know, but does the average golfer?

Golfers will continue to compare one course against another, but it needs to be stressed that each course is different in so many ways. The vast majority of Course Managers/Greenkeepers consider the condition of their course a very personal issue and when unfair comparisons are made, it hurts.

The golfer is far from unique. Like most of us, he or she rarely blames themselves for playing badly. If they hit a shot out-of-bounds it's because their partner, or something moved. If a putt is missed, someone spoke or the ball jumped on some invisible object. When the ball drops short of the target, the wind suddenly got up. We

have all said and heard similar comments, but by the very nature of our jobs the greenkeepers will always be in the firing line.

It may take a long time but I believe the only way to get more understanding is through education. Educating golfers at club level is a must. I am not sure how this can be achieved, but if everyone who played knew a little more about the cost and expertise required to care for their own course, then compare the resources available, they may begin to be more tolerant.

Gordon Child

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