

New education conference at Myerscough

Myerscough College, under the drive of Martyn Jones, is hosting a three day Education Conference in April under the guise of the Myerscough Turf Club.

The Conference will run from April 14-16 for the all-inclusive cost of £230 for non-Myerscough Turf Club members and £184 for members.

The price includes accommodation for the Wednesday and Thursday nights, meals and refreshments for the three days and attendance at the Conference Dinner.

Prior to the Conference itself, the college is holding a two day workshop on micro-organisms, their

functions, their requirements, the factors affecting populations and communities and will identify beneficial species as well as those which may be harmful. It is being held on April 12 and 13.

Speakers at the Conference include Jimmy Kidd, of Gleneagles Hotel; Dr Eric Nelson, of Cornell University; Dr Michael Boehm, of Ohio State University; Dr Bill Adams, of University College of Wales; Dr Joe Vargas, of Michigan State University; Dr Anne-Maria Brennan; Dr Kate Entwistle, of STRI; Dr Kark Danneberger, of Ohio State University; Dr Alan Gange, of University of London; Professor Noel Jackson, of

University of Rhode Island; Dr Graham Lewis, of IGER; Dr Bruce Martin, of Clemson University; Dr Michael Kenna, of the USGA, and Peter Wisby, of the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa.

Cheques should be made payable to Myerscough Turf Club, and the event is being sponsored by the Toro Corporation, Grass Roots, Inturf, Rigby Taylor, Kubota, GTC and the GCSAA Student Chapter at Myerscough College.

For further information contact Martyn Jones, Head of Turfgrass Science, Tel: 01995 640611 Fax: 01995 640842. e-mail: mjones@myerscough.ac.uk

Survey at St Andrews

All six courses at St Andrews Links are being surveyed using the latest satellite technology in the largest project of its kind in Europe. The result will be the most accurate record to date of the size and location of features on the ground as well as the position of installations under the ground.

The survey is being carried out by Adrian Mottram from Robin Hume Associates, the company overseeing the installation of an extensive irrigation system on the six courses managed by St Andrews Links Trust.

He is making the most of the latest Global Positioning System (GPS) which uses a constellation of satellites to track him as he walks round the courses and records the exact co-ordinates of different locations to the nearest centimetre.

Adrian will be surveying every tee, fairway and green on the Links logging their dimensions as well as the positions of sprinklers, underground pipelines and cables.

The results will be transferred on to the greenkeepers' computers who will be able to use the scaled maps to identify routes and sizes of pipework and cables as well as the location and types of valves and sprinklers. They will also be able to calculate the size of a particular area they may be planning to work on to a remarkable degree of accuracy.

"This is probably the first time GPS has been used on this scale for any golf course in Europe and represents a major step forward for us," said Ian Forbes, Links Manager with St Andrews Links Trust.

"The advantages will be tremendous in helping greenkeepers pinpoint problems and improve effectiveness. Such detailed maps will also make life easier for the organisers of major events such as the Open Championship and the Alfred Dunhill Cup."

A speedy delivery for John

John Beattie, foreman greenkeeper on Carnoustie's Championship Course, may have expected to be in the public eye when The Open returned to his course in July, but his appearance on the front page of his local paper recently came as a big surprise.

The reason was the dramatic arrival of the latest member of the Beattie family who decided to make her debut en route to, rather than in, Dundee's Ninewells Hospital.

As John explained to the Dundee Courier: "By the time we were on the the Arbroath Road heading for the city it was clear that things were moving ahead and we weren't going to make Ninewells."

When it became apparent that mum-to-be Arlene couldn't hold off any longer they stopped at the first house they came to and by luck Heather Lindsay came to the rescue.

"The baby's head was already showing when I got the car so it was obvious that it was going to happen right there," Mrs Lindsay, secretary at a local Health Centre, told the Courier.

Despite the unusual circumstances everything went smoothly and the Beatties were soon celebrating the birth of the eight pound 13oz sister to Jack.

Jack's arrival two years before had been a more drawn out affair and it had been that which had lulled John and Arlene into thinking they had more time.

"I'm just happy that everything worked out all right and both of them are safe. We don't know how to thank Heather for coming out and helping us like that," said John.



Above: Hold the front page!

Above: John pictured with Heather, wife Arlene and family

BIGCA to get library

The world's first library dedicated to the subject of golf course design is to be established by the British Institute of Golf Course Architects at Merrist Wood.

A grant of £5,000 from the R&A has made this possible.

A call for contributions of books, technical literature and financial support has been made by the BIGCA and the shelves are beginning to be stocked with authoritative works from around the world.

The library will be formally opened in April at the Institute's General Meeting and will be open for members, the Institute's students and colleagues from the golf industry.

Full CD-ROM and Internet facilities will be provided so that the maximum opportunity is gained to browse the world's information bank.

Photo courtesy of DC Thomson & Son Ltd

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Profile

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

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



Name: Bob Butfoy

Club: Mount Pleasant GC, Lower Stondon, Beds

Position: Assistant Greenkeeper

Age: 32

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
Approximately 10 years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
NVQ Level 3

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
Hand mowing greens for competitions

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
Flymowing and strimming ditches

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?
Musician

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
My father

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
Create awareness of our professional abilities ie. We're not just grass cutters

8. What are your hobbies?
Football, music and golf

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
Up to date information and good golf and social events

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
If I'm not a lottery millionaire I'd like to be in charge of a course in the south of England.

Leatherjacket numbers on increase



Leatherjacket numbers are at their highest for five years - and that means turf is at risk this spring unless greenkeepers act now. That warning comes from Dow AgroSciences' Andy Cawley, who says that the company's Pestwatch monitoring service shows a 30% rise in numbers compared with last year.

"That increase can be attributed to

the relatively mild weather this winter, and fine turf could suffer significant damage this season if populations are left unchecked," said Andy.

"Leatherjackets attack grass roots just below the soil surface, which can reduce the plant's drought tolerance, and may cause it to die.

"The first signs of damage will be

seen as straw-coloured patches of turf. With drier conditions later in the year, these become bare and are then invaded by weeds. Groundsmen should also look for birds feeding on turf for the crane fly larvae."

Andy urges greenkeepers to consult their local adviser for further advice on leatherjacket control, and to look out for signs of leatherjacket activity.

Tim finds a top prize in the bunkers

After months of attempting to establish a day when three busy people were free, the top prize for the 1998 Great BIGGA Bunker Competition was presented to Tim Glover, of The Independent on Sunday, by Kim Machie, Sales and Marketing Director for Hayter, at Mill Ride Golf Club.

Tim was the member of the Open Championship media who was closest in his estimation of how many bunkers would be found during the course of the four days. In the end the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team raked 1140 bunkers - the second highest total since statistics began being kept - and Tim's estimate of 1160 was only 20 out.

As a reward he received a Hayter Harrier lawn mower - recently voted the Machine of the Decade - worth £700.

The presentation took place at Mill Ride Golf Club, Ascot, not far from Tim's home in Datchet, on the tee of the 15th hole where several months earlier Derek Lawrensen, a golf writing colleague of Tim's, won a £180,000 Lambourgni for a hole-in-one in the company of the England football squad.

While not quite in that class, Tim was more than delighted to win his prize.

Thanks go to Kim and Hayter for donating the prize for the fourth consecutive year and to Gordon Irvine, of Mill Ride, for his hospitality.



Greenkeeper Training Committee

Following a meeting between the R & A and English Golf Union, it has been decided to commission an independent review of the work undertaken by the GTC.

In the meantime, the EGU will continue to fund and remain a member of the GTC.

Commenting on the press

release, BIGGA Chairman Gordon Child who represents the Association on the GTC said, "A meeting of the GTC due to be held on the 25th of February was subsequently postponed. I have requested that this meeting be held as soon as possible in order that members of the GTC can be consulted with

regard to the independent review. Until this happens BIGGA is not in a position to comment on the merits of the proposed review or to indicate its support or otherwise for such a review". Readers of Greenkeeper International will be kept informed of matters in relation to the GTC as they develop.

New scheme launched for Deere dealers

A new service evaluation scheme has been introduced to commercial & consumer equipment (C&CE) dealers in the UK and Ireland, underlining the company's commitment to first class parts and service support for the full John Deere product range.

A total of 42 C&CE dealer service departments will have been evaluated by spring 1999. Each can achieve a Gold, Silver or Bronze award, after being assessed on a range of important service features.

Areas under the spotlight number 16 in all, and include specialist equipment, workshop condition and size relative to the number of staff employed, service vehicle presenta-

tion, technical training, warranty procedure, marketing and service management.

Full dealer training on all aspects of parts and service support is available at John Deere's new training centre at Langar, Nottingham. Upwards of 5000 training days are provided each year for dealer personnel, including around 3500 days for service technicians - all designed to ensure the best possible service to customers throughout the UK and Ireland.

"Our aim as a business is to provide the most advanced and reliable machines possible, backed by efficient and knowledgeable product support," says Managing Director, Alec McKee.

"The John Deere brand name means quality, combined with industry leading investment in research and development, manufacturing facilities and spare parts distribution... all aimed at providing customer satisfaction and genuine value right across the product range.

"The new service evaluation scheme is designed to encourage good working practice throughout the dealer network.

This means that customers can always obtain modern, efficient, safe and cost effective equipment, secure in the knowledge that both John Deere and the dealer are fully committed to keeping their machines working."

Iain goes West

Iain Richardson, (right), has recently been appointed by Scotts UK Professional to represent the company in Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dyfed, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Hampshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Oxfordshire, Powys, Somerset, Warwickshire and the West Midlands.

Iain joins Scotts from Avoncrop Amenity, where he worked in sales for two and a half years. Iain has a City and Guilds in Motor Engineering and his hobbies include following Formula One Racing.



Sheffield to host seminar

The Sheffield Section are hosting an Educational Seminar on March 16 at Rotherham Golf Club.

Included among the speakers are Bob Taylor, of the STRI; David Golding, of the GTC; Dr Kate Entwistle, of the STRI; John Coleman, of Abbeydale GC and the current Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping winner; Ken Richardson, of BIGGA, and Iain Macpherson, a golf course project manager.

The cost of the Seminar is £15 inclusive of coffee on arrival and a buffet lunch.

Further information can be obtained from Section Secretary Ron Ullathorn, Tel: 01405 765322

Well versed after BTME

BTME 99 inspired one member of the trade to break into verse. Now I know the position of Poet Laureate is still vacant...

The Last Bus to Harrogate

On the annual trip to Harrogate

Two of the boys appeared to be late Which, to the gang, was a hell of a pity

As Stevie Dunn was the one with the kitty So he got in his car, a determined man

To try and find those who had foiled his plan To go to the show for a bit of a roam

Then party on the bus, all the way home But they really did feel a wee bit sad

As they all know he's a bit of a lad

But never mind Stevie, they enjoyed the beer And they're sure you'll make up for it next year!

Carol Quinn,
Thorntrees Landscapes

High praise for Jacobsen

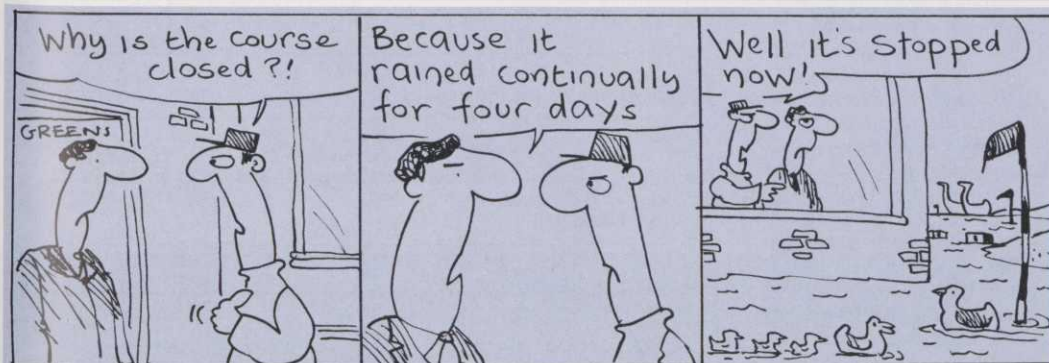
Martin Hucklesby, recently appointed as Head Greenkeeper at Nigel Mansell's Woodbury Park Golf and Country Club in Devon, believes that the Jacobsen golf machines used by the Club for some time will help him take it successfully into the Millennium.

As Head Greenkeeper at Five Lakes Course in Essex for four years, Martin built up a strong relationship with Ransomes, where he used a Fairway 250 machine. He is delighted that Ransomes has lined up alongside Jacobsen under the Textron Turf Care banner as this will offer a total product and aftersales service to discerning greenkeepers such as himself.

"The golf industry is incredibly competitive, with players becoming more and more demanding when it comes to the quality of a playing surface and what a club has to offer. If these don't come up to scratch, they vote with their feet. Woodbury Park is renowned for its facilities so that isn't a problem, but the quality of the playing surfaces is down to me, and to offer the best, I have to work with the best," said Martin.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



Ian assesses his new qualification

Ian Willet, Course Manager at Thorpeness Golf Club and Hotel, has been awarded his City & Guilds National Vocational Qualification in Training and Development 7281 Level 3.

"This means that I am qualified to train my staff and assess them up to level 3 and also it enables me to have stronger ties with my local colleges in the area and help out with the work based assessing at other golf clubs in East Anglia," explained Ian.

"The course was very tough and I put a lot of work into providing the evidence and demonstrating my teaching abilities in front of other trainers, teachers and assessors on the course.

"Although very apprehensive at first, after a few weeks settling in, it proved to be very enjoyable, worthwhile and very satisfying.

"I would totally recommend it to an Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager to further their careers in greenkeeping and the Amenity Industry, especially in light of the recent press release from the EGU," said Ian.

Top role for Trevor



Trevor Smith has been appointed Managing Director of Canford Magna Golf Club in Dorset. It is due reward for the man who has been responsible for the designing and building of the new nine hole course which has turned the Canford Magna into a 45 hole pay-and-play complex unrivalled in the area.

A staunch BIGGA supporter, Trevor becomes another of the growing band whose education has carried him off the golf course and into the Board Room.

Fond farewell to Norman Sheddon

It was with great sadness that I learnt of the passing of one of life's gentlemen - Norman Sheddon. He always had time for everybody and anyone who came into contact with Norman will testify to that fact.

For many years Norman worked for Supaturf and in the latter

years worked for Aitkens. He was always seen at BTME.

Norman was a regular at greenkeepers' golf competitions in the Cleveland Section. He invariably looked after entries and sorted out the meals but never stayed. He always had to rush off to go and play squash or go tap dancing.

Our deepest sympathies go to Joan and the family as they mourn their sad loss and we would like them to know that our thoughts are with them. We, in the greenkeeping industry can say that one of the leading lights has gone out.

Ian Holoran

New manufacturing position for Mark

Mark Cooper has been appointed manufacturing engineer by Staffordshire-based grass and grounds maintenance equipment specialist, Turfmech Machinery Ltd.

Bringing to the position an honours degree in engineering and 14 years' manufacturing experience, Mark will be focusing attention on improving every aspect of Turfmech's production processes. This will start with the timely ordering and planned intake of bought-in components and raw materials, through to their managed storage, handling and distribution within the Turfmech factory and the efficient

machining, fabrication, assembly and testing of the finished product. His goal is to raise the standard and cost effectiveness of Turfmech's entire manufacturing systems, bringing continuous improvements in the quality, reliability and consistency of the finished product.

Turfmech products for which Mark will be responsible include Tornado debris blowers, TurfVAC vacuum collectors, the Seed-Air pneumatic turf seeder, the V800 vehicle-trailed vacuum unit with wander hose, as well as new products currently in development.



New MD for British Seed Houses

Roger Saunders will become managing director of British Seed Houses Ltd, the Germinal Holdings subsidiary, from July.

He takes over from Neville Bark who is retiring.

Simon Taylor will be promoted to replace Roger Saunders as unit manager at Warrington, and also joins

the British Seed Houses board.

Mr Saunders has considerable experience of the amenity and agricultural sectors of the seed industry, having initially been involved with the production of a comprehensive range of agricultural species before moving into the retail sector.

He joined British Seed Houses in

1977 to manage the Warrington unit and has been largely responsible for the development of the company's amenity section. He was Chairman of the Amenity Grass Marketing Association (AGMA) and currently serves on the Sports Turf Research Institute Breeders' Representative Committee.

On top form

To help reduce the burden of postal charges on BIGGA Sections Greenkeeper International has produced a universal Golf Event Application form which can be used by all Sections. Having established the events in which you wish to play, via your Section fixture list or information contained in your Around the Green Notes, simply fill out the form and return to your Section or Competition Secretary with the appropriate entry fee(s). Of course you can photocopy the form if you don't wish to cut your magazine. Once this system becomes established it should avoid your Section having to mail an entry form to each individual member. This form will also be reproduced later in the year.

Name	_____
Membership number	_____
Position	_____
Handicap	_____
Club/Company	_____
Entry Fee (enclosed)	_____
Please enter me for the	Section _____
	competition _____
to be held at	_____
on	_____, 1999

Marathon man's race for charity



Gay Hill Assistant, Andrew Kite, is currently in training for one of the country's biggest sporting events and his efforts should go a long way to assisting with rare Metabolic disease.

Andrew, 35, is running in the London Marathon on behalf of the RTMDC charity and the money raised will be given on behalf of the golf club.

"Andrew has run marathons before but never the London Marathon and he is delighted to be doing so on behalf of the charity," said Andrew's Course Manager, former BIGGA Chairman, Dean Cleaver.

Metabolic Diseases are rare, inherited and incurable, although some can be treated by diet, drugs and organ transplant.

The film *Lorenzo's Oil* was based on a Metabolic disease while, just before Christmas, it also claimed the life of Rhys, the brave little boy whose parents fought to have him treated after the Local Health Board had initially turned him down.

Anyone wishing to sponsor Andrew in the marathon should contact him or Dean at Gay Hill Golf Club Tel: 0121 430 8544.

Sharp new idea from Bernhard

A new machine from Atterton & Ellis, part of the Bernhard Group, created quite a stir on their stand at the recent BTME exhibition at Harrogate.

The RAPID THINNER has been

introduced to allow machinery operators to quickly and easily restore the manufacturer's original relief to cutting cylinder blades. Explaining the concept, Bernhard's Managing Director, Stephen Bernhard said "We

have proved through exhaustive trials, particularly in the United States, that grass quality can be dramatically improved, and stress on mowing machinery reduced if cylinders and bottom blades are regularly sharpened."

"Mowers perform best, and grass is healthier, if the cylinders are performing a scything action when cutting, rather than the more brutal scissor-action which occurs when cylinders and bottom blades are back-lapped and in constant contact between the two components."

The RAPID THINNER is a high-speed device that attaches magnetically to the bottom blade. A specially developed air grinder is then guided across each blade, ensuring that the correct blade relief - as intended by the manufacturer - is returned to the blades, quickly and easily.

The new machine is an ideal companion to Bernhard's RAPID FACER 1000, a magnetic attachment for high-speed re-facing of the front edge of bottom blades. Machinery operators can save money by buying the individual grinding heads of both the RAPID THINNER and RAPID FACER 1000 to fit the same attachment frame.

In recent years, Bernhard's have pioneered the concept of better grass quality and reduced costs through regular cylinder and bottom blade grinding.

The company are manufacturers of the best selling EXPRESS DUAL reel grinders and ANGLEMASTER bottom blade grinders, used now by most of the USA's top 100.



Allen Power take command of new 4x4

Allen Power Equipment has launched a four wheel drive version of their Commander out front rotary ride on mower.

Drive is via hydraulic motors to each wheel and the 4 x 4 performance is ideal for bank work where the ability to stop and start on slopes with the improved traction reduces scuffing and wheelslip as well as improving the safety aspect for the operator.

The new mower is designed for ease of access for maintenance and servicing and a high forward speed for travelling between mowing sites coupled with a large capacity stainless steel fuel tank improves output.

Powered by a 18 hp twin Briggs & Stratton Vanguard engine the new Commander has a 44in. (1122mm) three blade mulching cutting deck which cuts outside the width of the wheels and a height of cut from 12.5mm - 100mm adjustable from the operators seat.

With rear steering and rear engine the operator is free from exhaust fumes and manoeuvrability is second to none.

This new initiative in safe mowing retails at just £5995 + VAT

