

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.

