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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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# May 1999

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by June 7, 1999

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## Reader Reply Card

Use our post-paid reader reply card to obtain further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the company's Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us, and we'll arrange for further information to be sent direct to you.

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## 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



### Golden Key Circle Company Members

Amazone Ground Care, Amenity Technology Products Ltd, Barenbrug, Bernhard and Company Ltd, Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd, Hayter Ltd, John Deere Ltd, Kubota UK Ltd, Mommersteeg International, Ocmis Irrigation UK Ltd, PGA European Tour, Rainbird, Rolawn, Rhone-Poulenc Amenity, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Scotts Turf and Amenity, Supaturf Products Ltd, Stylo Matchmakers, Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, The Grass Roots Trading Company, The Toro Company

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74 As I see it...



63 Win £50 with our Buyers' Guide quiz



# Investing in the future

Smugness is not regarded as an attractive trait, but hopefully, you will forgive BIGGA's staff for feeling just a little bit smug at the moment.

The reason is that we've just achieved the Investor in People Standard. That means that independent assessors have come in, looked at the way we conduct BIGGA's business and gone away impressed.

So that's why we've been walking around wearing Cheshire Cat-sized grins.

Like most things worth having it involved some extremely hard work as we had to be prepared for anything and everything to be put under the microscope and examined. Not only that, with so many of the staff interviewed, everyone had to up to scratch and prepared.

Personally I believe that the achievement of reaching the required standard was merely the icing on the cake. The real benefit came from the process of preparing for it.

Instead of running to stand still - a physical pursuit in which so many of us indulge, but for which we never seem to see any benefit when we step on the scales - we forced ourselves to stop and make time to examine every aspect of BIGGA's work.

Often we were pleasantly surprised by what was in place, but occasionally we uncovered something which perhaps we'd taken for granted for too long. In those instances we were able to strip it down and come up with a new and improved system.

So, in effect, even if we had failed to reach the exacting standards imposed by Investors in People at the first attempt, we had improved our way of operating anyway.

It is a little like the Master Greenkeeper certification, and anyone who enters the three main BIGGA competitions - the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping; the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone and Grass Roots.

It is not just those people who smile - not necessarily as smugly as the BIGGA HOUSE staff - from the pages of Greenkeeper International who have won. Everyone who has entered, and put themselves up for actual or potential scrutiny, comes away with something.

This may come in the way of formal feedback following an inspection or, more informally, from talking with people involved. Or it may just come from examining your own work and devising a better, more efficient, method.

The bottom line is that, when you do anything that involves being judged, you start to look at yourself, and the way you do things, a little more closely. That is the best possible way to improve...even if at the end of the day you don't win anything this time round.

We feel that we've benefited from being involved in Investors in People. So could you by becoming involved in the various BIGGA programmes.

Entries for the three competitions close at the end of this month while information of Master Greenkeeper can be obtained from the Education Department.

**Editor:**  
Scott MacCallum



# Greenkeeper

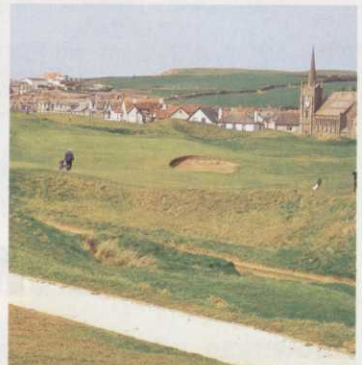
INTERNATIONAL

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**47** Spray it with Confidence



**29** Beautiful Bude



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# National recognition for BIGGA

BIGGA has achieved one of the most prestigious and nationally respected awards for business excellence.

The Association has gained the Investor in People National Standard which recognises that the Association works actively to improve its performance by linking the planned, efficient development of employees to the achievement of business objectives.

"That we achieved the Investors in People Standard so quickly is a tribute to the systems in place and the quality of staff who operate them. The support of Board members has also contributed to the assessors' positive view of the Association. The



## INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

co-operation and enthusiasm of staff in working towards the award has been impressive and they are naturally delighted at the outcome," said Executive Director Neil Thomas.

"I am proud that BIGGA has achieved this award and the members should be delighted that they have such an efficient and effective staff," he added

BIGGA's success was also recognised by North Yorkshire Training and Enterprise Council.

"Investors in People has been designed by some of the best businesses in the country and by achieving recognition the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association has shown itself to be among the best," said Bill Johnstone, Head of Business Services.

"Investors in People help businesses to be more efficient, give better customer service and as a result be more profitable," he added.

The achievement will be marked by the presentation of a plaque which will be displayed in BIGGA HOUSE.

## BIGGA/GCSAI: Joint statement

As a result of a meeting held on 25 March 1999 at Portmarnock Golf Club, Dublin, the following statement has been agreed.

Those in attendance were: BIGGA - Gordon Child, Elliott Small, Neil Thomas, GCSAI - Iain Ritchie, Joe Bedford, Tracy Coburn

### Objective

For the two associations to communicate and work together for the benefit of their members and the greenkeeping profession.

The GCSAI is to remain as the main association in the Republic of Ireland giving representation for superintendents, assistants, greenkeepers and apprentices.

Superintendents / greenkeepers in Northern Ireland will continue to have the choice of which association they wish to join and the GCSAI and BIGGA are to encourage membership of both.

If membership numbers suffice, the GCSAI may arrange outings, educational events for its members in Northern Ireland and will liaise with BIGGA to avoid duplication and clashes of date.

Members of BIGGA in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland are to be invited to GCSAI conferences, seminars etc. BIGGA will likewise reciprocate in Northern Ireland.

Both associations are committed to remaining open and friendly as well as to communicating regularly.

## STRI schedules two new courses on turf culture

In a break with tradition, STRI is replacing its annual five day residential training programmes on turf culture for greenkeepers and ground staff with two new courses.

Both courses are scheduled for the Autumn at STRI headquarters in Bingley.

November 15 - 19 "Your Passport to Perfect Courses" for golf greenkeepers, Course Managers and trade and November 22 - 26 "Your Passport to Perfect Pitches and Playing Surfaces" for grounds management, including

fine turf surfaces, and trade.

The structure of these training programmes allows the delegates much greater flexibility in juggling both their time away from work and costs.

The two training courses each consist of five consecutive one day specialist courses.

Delegates have the choice of attending one or more of the one day courses, relevant to their specific needs.

A range of optional accommodation packages are available for those wishing to stop over in Bingley, with

substantial discounts for multiple bookings.

Each training day is split into two distinct sessions. The morning session, presented by STRI research staff, covers facts and up to date information on the latest trends and current thinking.

The afternoon session presented by the STRI agronomy and Consultancy team, concentrates on "putting research into practice", with the focus on practical implementation for particular playing surfaces.

## Sisis' US base heads for the Deep South

SISIS Inc is relocating its American-base from Florida to South Carolina, following the company's successful piloting of a range of maintenance machinery for use on sports grounds and golf courses.

SISIS Inc is relocating to premises at Clemson University, within the Madren Conference Centre and Walker Golf Course complex. There will be a Distribution Unit and Admin. Office initially managed by Ian Camp, General Sales Manager of the parent company SISIS Equipment Ltd.

Although initially concentrating on the states of Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, N & S Carolina and Florida, to ensure a high standard of support and after-sales service, SISIS is happy to deal with customers throughout the United States.

## Free CD-Rom from Kubota

Kubota is using the second issue of its Owners Club magazine to launch a free CD-Rom entitled 'Kubota - Putting people first'.

Attached to the front cover of the magazine, the CD-Rom uses pictures, graphics and commentary to describe Kubota's worldwide environmental policy before moving on to focus on the company's development, new products, services and the customer support.

Suitable for playing on a PC or an Apple Macintosh computer, the CD-Rom presentation runs for 14 minutes.

The magazine, with CD-Rom attached, is being mailed to all registered members of the Kubota Owners Club. Membership of the club is available free of charge to all new and existing owners of any Kubota product.

## BIGGA mouties friendship with GCSAC

Gordon Child joins Dean Piller, President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Canada, in a flag waving exercise prior to the banquet at the GCSAC Conference and Show in Toronto



## 2nd BIGGA Golf Directory

It is intended that the second edition of the BIGGA Golf Directory will include BIGGA member information in addition to the trade information on which the first Directory concentrated.

The proposed format would involve members' names being listed under their golf club address and telephone number.

Anyone who does not wish to be included in the Directory in such a fashion should contact BIGGA HOUSE Tel: 01347 833800.



## Career move for Chris Pye



Dow AgroSciences Specialty Products has appointed Chris Pye as Sales Manager for UK and Ireland. He will be responsible for sales to key distributors of all the company's turf, ornamental, amenity and vegetation management products.

Chris has extensive experience in the amenity sports turf, crop protection and public health sectors. On leaving university, his first post was with the STRI at Bingley. He comes to Dow AgroSciences following five years in the public health sector with a major distributor.

A keen golfer in his spare time, Chris is a member of Woolley Park Golf Club, Barnsley. He is married with two children and lives near Wakefield.

## John Thomas

John Thomas (46) of Lansdowne GC, Bath, had died following a short illness. He leaves a wife, Carol, and two sons as well as a son and daughter from a previous marriage.



### Contact us

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# Celtic Manor promotion for Jim

The Celtic Manor Resort near Newport, which is mounting a bid to stage golf's premier event in 2009, has appointed Jim McKenzie to the new post of Director of Golf and Courses Management.

The 36 year-old from Helensburgh moves up to the wide ranging position after being in charge of estate management and overseeing the development of three courses in six years.

The latest is the 7,450 yard, par-72 Wentwood Hills course, which will be officially opened on May 17 by the resort's touring professional, Ian Woosnam, and Ryder Cup Captain Mark James.

"I have no qualms as a Scotsman in saying that this is a world class venue," said Jim.

"Wentwood Hills has been specially designed for matchplay and to cater for large crowds. It's ideal for the Ryder Cup."

When Jim arrived at The Celtic Manor in 1993, from his previous position of Head Greenkeeper of Wentworth's West Course work had only just begun on the resort's first course.

"I recognised The Celtic Manor's potential even in the early days," he said.

"I knew it was going to be something special and felt I couldn't turn down the chance to be involved in creating three superb courses on one site. The only people who now ask me why I left Wentworth are those who haven't been here."

In his new role, Jim will continue to guide the work of The Celtic Manor's grounds maintenance team, while also heading a golf operation with an ambitious programme of events.

"We're very proud of what we've achieved here, and we want to take it



further. The next stage is to host a European Tour event, the icing on the cake would be the Ryder Cup."

The Celtic Manor's Resort Director, Robert Church, believes Jim is ideal for his new role.

"His quiet and unassuming competence and his passion for golf have earned him enormous respect throughout the industry. He has already accomplished great things over the last six years, crowned by the successful completion of Wentwood Hills. We're confident

he can now carry forward that work on a wider basis and bring yet more success to The Celtic Manor."

The Celtic Manor's other two courses are: Roman Road (par-69, 7,001, opened 1995) and Coldra Woods (par-59, 4,000 yards, opened 1996).

The Celtic Manor's new hotel and conference centre is due to open this summer, giving the 1,400-acre resort 400 luxury rooms and an 1,800-seater conference venue.

## Textron to supply PGA European Tour

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products has signed a new agreement with the European Tour as official suppliers of turfcare equipment to the Tour.

The deal, which was completed recently at Wentworth, means that Textron equipment will be used at Tour venues when additional machines are required in the important two-week run-up to the competitions.

The Textron stable of machines includes the world famous names Ransomes, Jacobsen, Cushman, Ryan, E-Z-GO and Iseki which have become renowned in the golfing world for quality, adaptability and reliability. The products used on the courses will cover the whole range from tractor gang mowers and the popular walk-behind motor mowers such as the Jacobsen Greens King whose name has become synonymous with top green care, through to aerators and Groom Masters.



Textron's Richard Bishop with David Garland, Director of Tour Operations

"Textron is a top name in turf care with a range of products which is second to none. We are delighted to have them on-board again as an official supplier to the tour and we

look forward to working closely with them all over Europe," said Richard Stillwell, of the Tour, who is responsible for ensuring the good condition of all courses.



# Toro purchase Multi-Core

The Toro Company has completed its purchase of Multi-Core Aerators Limited, the British manufacturer of large turf aeration equipment.

The three aerators in the Multi-Core range are now being sold and serviced in the UK by Toro Commercial Products' distributor Lely UK and its national network of dealers and service centres.

Toro says the acquisition brings a high-quality product into its full range of turf maintenance machinery and greatly enhances its aeration range with equipment that has an immediate appeal to its own customers.

"These are proven products with a high reputation and we are delighted to have them join our stable. They shall continue to be made in Britain, and with immediate effect all sales, spares, repairs and service are now through our Lely operation," said Pete Mansfield, Toro General Manager at distributor Lely UK.

All three large units in the Multi-Core range are mounted to a compact tractor by way of a three-point linkage for fast, optimum core aeration. They are lightweight for use on sensitive turf areas such as fairways, tees and greens, as well as sports pitches, and come in working widths of 101, 152 and 203cm (40,60 and 80in respectively).



Changes will be made during the summer to the aeration tine holders so that all tines supplied both by Toro and Multi-Core become interchangeable. Completing the Toro aeration range are its existing Fairway Aerator, which is a towed PTO-driven heavy-duty machine for high-quality aeration of large

areas which can cover up to 1.5 acres an hour; the productive and durable walk-behind Greens Aerator covering up to 1,208sq m an hour; and the trailed or mounted Turf Aerators, which can be fitted with open or closed tines or slicing blades and operate at speeds up to 10mph.

## Jayne plans a northern trip



Barenbrug UK has appointed Jayne Leyland to take over as Area Sales Manager (North), covering Scotland and the north of England. Originally hailing from Cheshire, Jayne is looking forward to returning to her roots with the challenge of this prestigious role.

Jayne was appointed thanks to her greenkeeping experience, at such courses as The Belfry and East Sussex National. Most recently, she was Assistant Course Manager at Chart Hills Golf Club, Kent. Indeed, Jayne has been very busy since graduating from Reaseheath College with a HND in Horticulture (Golf Course Management) in 1995.

She has worked in the USA and Austria and has helped prepare courses for PGA European Tour events. She is also a GTC approved D32/33 Industrial Assessor.

## New role for Richard at John Deere

John Deere Credit Limited has appointed Richard Kinsey as the company's new Commercial & Consumer Equipment Finance Manager in the UK.

Richard was previously with FAF, where he handled both grounds care and agricultural finance in Lancashire and Cheshire for two years, after a one year spell in direct sales.

His new role will be to liaise with dealers in developing John Deere Credit's business with golf clubs, local authorities and contractors, particularly in asset management

and contract hire services, and co-ordinate the activities of the existing team of area managers and brokers.

John Deere Credit has also announced a number of changes designed to further improve its service to customers.

An additional 36 new staff members have been trained and now provide extra support in essential areas of the business. These include the operations division, which is responsible for customer care and new business, and direct sales, which is responsible for customer and dealer enquiries.



## H<sub>2</sub>O acquire Watermation

Watermation has recently undergone some major changes which will allow it to move into the new millennium. Watermation 2000 has been acquired by the H2O Group PLC.

H2O has been established for over 10 years and is a leading company in the field of domestic, commercial landscape and sports irrigation and the addition of Watermation 2000 will enable the Group to turn its attention to the golf market.

A number of key staff have moved with the new business, including design, installation and maintenance engineers.

The company will offer full design and installation packages, spares and maintenance and the contracting side has already secured contracts from Royal Porthcawl, and Hankley Common as well as the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

"The addition of Watermation into the Group will reinforce our strategy of expansion in all areas of the irrigation industry. The Watermation name and technical staff are recognised throughout the golf industry and we aim to build on these strengths," said Richard Allan, Chairman of the H2O Group.

## Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband





## Slap on the suncream!

Outdoor workers are at high risk of sun damage and skin cancer because of their long-term exposure to ultraviolet radiation. Yet until now little information has been available to help employers protect outdoor workers, who can be hard to reach with health advice.

Therefore together with the Health Education Authority and support from the Health & Safety Executive, East Surrey Health Authority has produced a comprehensive training pack for addressing sun safety in the workplace.



The pack enables organisations to run and evaluate workshops to raise staff awareness of the dangers, and identify protection measures that are acceptable and practical for the workplace.

It is easy to use and can be followed either step-by-step, or adapted by more experienced trainers. It contains all the materials you need including: overheads, handouts, a case study video, background notes on skin cancer and addresses of sun protection suppliers.

With a growing body of scientific evidence on the dangers of sun exposure, both in the short term with sunburn and long term damage leading to skin cancer, employers cannot afford to ignore this health and safety issue.

Further information can be obtained from East Surrey Health Authority Tel: 01372 731013.

## Latin Lessons

In our article on Velvet Bents last month we inadvertently titled the article *Agrostis capillaris*. This is, of course, (almost) the Latin name for browntop bents. British Seed Houses would therefore like us to make clear that the Latin name for Velvet Bent is in fact *Agrostis canina*.

Humanum est errare, as they once said on the Roman fairways!

Translation? To err is human.

# Wonderful Walton Heath!

The rain had stopped a few days earlier. The course was beginning to dry out. The sponsors were there in force and so were the Greenkeepers and their guests. Yes, everything was set fair for what had all the ingredients for a great day's golf, and a great day it turned out to be too.

Each year we are inclined to take for granted that we are to be presented with a golf course in magnificent condition, whether we are just recovering from a freezing winter, a dry winter or, the case this year, an extremely wet one. This year was no exception, Clive Osgood and his Staff once again produced a miracle on what was a few days earlier a very wet and soggy piece of heathland.

But it is not just because of Clive and his Staff that we have such a great day at Walton Heath. All the staff from the Secretary, Nick Lomas, and the girls in the office through to the Bar and Catering Staff seem to go out of their way to make sure that we have an enjoyable and our thanks are very much due to them for such a great effort.

One of the traditions of the 'Gentlemen's Evening' is that Alan Stow, Vitax, and Dennis Smith, Rigby Taylor, act as unpaid starters. This year was no exception and armed with waterproofs and warm clothing they set off for the 1st tee. The weather, however, was very kind and apart from an attempt at rain around 11am the day got warmer and warmer and Alan and Dennis removed more and more clothes.

It was also nice to see Chris Allen, late of Lewes GC, who was seriously ill a year or so ago, but thanks to a kidney donation from his son is now fit and well and gradually getting back to the 2 handicap that he played off before his kidney failure. Chris is now "doing the business" for Sheerwater Leisure, one of the day's sponsors. The others to whom we are indebted were: Avoncrop Amenity, CMW Ltd, Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd, E & S Sports Grounds, Farmura, Gem Professional, Grass Roots Trading Co, H. Pattison Co



Above: Alan Stow and Dennis Smith

Ltd, Rhone Poulenc, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd, The Scotts Co. (UK) Ltd, John Shaw (Machinery) Ltd., Sherriff Amenity Services Ltd, Sisis Ltd, and Vitax Ltd.

The Winners were 0-9. Category Kenny Mackay; 10-18. Stefan Antofik, Cooden Beach; 19-24. Tony Bremer, Gatton Manor; Guests and Trade - Mark Day, CMW; Rigby Taylor - Nearest-the-Pin 7th. Barry Bell; 11th. Alec McIndoe, Stockley Park; 17th. Mark Harvey, Epsom; Sisis Putting Competition - Mervyn Downing, Aldenham.

The Combined Score of Greenkeeper Playing with Club Official was won by Mervyn Downing and Fred Hague, of Aldenham GC, who both received a delightful Waterford Crystal Clock.

All in all, a great day.

Derek Farrington

Below: BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child shows a touch of class as he tees off



## Master Greenkeeper gains promotion

John Quinn, a BIGGA Master Greenkeeper, has been promoted to Director of Golf Developments at Elmwood College and will manage all of the college's sportsturf related commercial developments under the name of Elmwood Golf Developments.

John was previously the Course Manager at the recently opened 18 hole course in Cupar, and oversaw the construction and growing in of the course.

"Among the future developments planned are a feasibility study into golf academy for aspiring young golfers and the provision of consul-

tancy and contracting services for the sportsturf industry," said John

"Research facilities are envisaged in the future. The Elmwood name is synonymous with quality greenkeeper and Course Manager training and we now intend to offer our expertise to the wider sportsturf industry."

Elmwood Golf Developments has been set up to manage and expand its golf related commercial activities and will provide services to all aspects of the golf industry.

With a contracting machinery fleet and fully trained greenkeeper staff they will offer services includ-

ing hollow tining, turving, seeding, top dressing, fertiliser application, pesticide application, verti-draining, spiking, scarifying and mowing.

Full sportsturf consultancy services will also be offered and include providing full advisory services in the following areas: annual maintenance plans, maintenance budget planning, machinery evaluation and selection, materials advice, design advice, project management, agronomic advice, management plans, construction specifications, materials specification and conservation and ecological management



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**Deadlines for three of BIGGA's major competitions are looming. BIGGA's Education & Training Manager, Ken Richardson counts them down, and also previews a new competition...**

# Education update

This month sees the deadlines for entry to three of BIGGA's major competitions. The TORO Award for Greenkeeping Excellence and Student Greenkeeper of the Year Competitions, which have an entry deadline of May 28, and the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Ground Care and The Grass Roots Trading Company, which has an entry deadline of May 3.

Make sure that your entry is sent to BIGGA HQ by the closing date.

## **The TORO Award for Greenkeeping Excellence**

The search to find the 1999 winner for the TORO Award for Greenkeeping Excellence is hotting up. You still have time to nominate your choice, however, as entries need to be at BIGGA HQ by May 28, you need to make sure that your nomination is in the post today.

Does your Head Greenkeeper deserve to be recognised for his efforts? Does your club want to win a TORO 3000 series triplex mower? Do you want to visit the GCSAA show in New Orleans and the TORO factories in Minneapolis and California in February 2000 for free? If the answer to any of the above is "yes" then fill in and return an official entry form or telephone Ken or Sami on 01347 833800. Remember, this competition is open to all Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers. Initial judging, to select up to eight finalists will take place during June/July, by a panel of experienced, retired Head Greenkeepers, led by Walter Woods. The National Final will be held at BIGGA HOUSE on 24/25 October.

## **TORO Student of the Year**

Entries for the TORO Student of the Year competition need to be at Aldwark Manor by May 28. Regional judging will take place during the week commencing July 26 when a panel of three judges will select up to eight national finalists. The National Final will be held in Harrogate on October 24/25 alongside the The TORO Award for Greenkeeping Excellence Final.

Make sure that your college or training provider submits an entry for this prestigious competition and you could win the TORO Scholarship for 1999, attending the University of Massachusetts for a six weeks turf management course as well as visiting the TORO factories in Minneapolis and California.

## **The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition**

This year, 1999, sees, the Grass Roots Trading Company, joining Amazone Ground Care and BIGGA in sponsoring the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. Golf clubs throughout Great Britain are beginning to see the benefits of entering, which at the very least can give your club a detailed environmental survey and action plan. However, if you win then your club could receive the £5,000 first prize and the added bonus of being recognised as the top environmentally managed golf course. Complete your application form today and send it to BIGGA HQ or contact Ken or Sami for further details.

## **The Learning Experience 2000**

Planning is continuing for the Learning Experience 2000, which once again will be sponsored by

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products. With less than 270 days to the Learning Experience week, time is running short but there is still chance for you to have an input. Contact Sami or Ken at BIGGA HOUSE with your ideas.

## **The Y2k Problem**

What is it? Does it affect me? What will it do? Watch out for more details next month.

## **The BIGGA Essay Competition 1999**

Thanks to a suggestion by our Vice Chairman, Elliot Small, we are reintroducing an essay competition for greenkeepers. Full details of the competition will be published soon but briefly:

The overall theme will be "The Past, The Present and The Future" ie to link with BTME 2000. The original essays from a competition run for Greenkeepers between 1912 and 1915 will enable us to compare the past with the present thoughts on greenkeeping issues and to look to the future.

There will be three categories: Head Greenkeepers/ Course Managers and deputies; Assistants and Students aged 25 and over and Assistants and Students aged under 25.

The entrants would be required to write an essay of between 2000 and 2500 words long ie. five to six type written pages.

The Essay would be marked to an agreed criteria by selected BIGGA representatives.

The subject matter would be on the lines of 'Greenkeeping Management Techniques for the 21st Century'.

The last day for entry would be 29 October 1999.

The winners would be announced in the January 2000 edition of Greenkeeper International.

Presentations and readings of essay extracts would be made at BTME2000.

Winners of each category would receive £500 with two runners up in each category receiving £100.

A brochure would be published in 2000 of all the winning essays, together with a number of the essays from 1912 to 1915.

Get thinking and get sharpening your pencils ready to submit your entry in the Autumn.

## **Refund of Fees Scheme**

The maximum refund that can be claimed in any one year has been increased to £250 from 29 March 1999. To be eligible, you must:

- Be a member of BIGGA and have been a member for at least two years
- Have paid your own fees and be able to provide proof of payment.
- Have completed a course or component part of a course and be able to provide proof of completion.
- Not have had the course subsidised by BIGGA.
- Attend a relevant course to your job as a greenkeeper.

If you wish to claim then contact BIGGA HQ for an application form.



## Successful Sheffield seminar

On the 16 March 1999 the Sheffield Section of BIGGA held their first Seminar for over 20 years. It was a big success with over 100 people attending.

Our thanks go to our Trade Members who sponsored the day, namely, Aitkens, Cheshire Turf Machinery, Course Care, Garbutts International Ltd, Glenside Organics, Irrigation Control, Mansfield Sand Company Ltd, Multi Core Aerators Ltd, Ocmis Irrigation UK Ltd, Purdy's Grass Machinery, Rigby Taylor Ltd

and Sisis Equipment Ltd.

Also many thanks to our speakers David Golding, GTC, Bob Taylor, STRI, Ken Richardson, BIGGA, Tracey Maddison, BIGGA, John Coleman, Course Manager, Abbeydale Golf Club and Ian McPherson, Golf Course Construction.

Finally, our grateful thanks to Rotherham Golf Club for allowing us to use their Club for the day.

**Ron Ullathrone**  
 Sheffield Section Secretary

## Keep smiling, Sandy

This is just a short note to reassure Sandy McDivot that not all greenkeepers have lost their sense of humour. It is blatantly obvious that the McDivot series of articles are somewhat tongue in cheek and therefore should be enjoyed as a piece of light relief.

Carry on the good work, Sandy. As for your critics, maybe a sense of humour bypass would be an option.

**Michael Poole,**  
 Assistant Head Greenkeeper  
 Nevill GC, Kent. (Via e-mail)

## Environment action for Golf Courses

Golf clubs across Europe can now demonstrate their concern for the environment by signing up to participate in "Committed to Green" a campaign initiated by the European Golf Association Ecology Unit.

Following a meeting of Ecology Officers representing over 10 national golf federations, held at Vilamoura, Portugal, in February, details of the "Committed to Green" certification process have been finalised, and a common registration format agreed.

"Committed to Green" is a voluntary Environmental Management Programme, through which any European golf club is eligible to seek public recognition for demonstrating good environmental practice. The recognition process involves three stages of certification: Registration; Intermediate Recognition and Full Recognition.

The three levels of certification offer clubs an incentive to participate and then to follow the successive steps of the programme.

To register - clubs need to complete a registration form which gives a profile of the club and its environmental situation, and to provide a copy of the club's environmental policy statement and a list of the members of the club's "Committed to Green" Team.

As clubs progress to subsequent stages, they will address different environmental topics, including nature conservation, water resource

management, integrated turfgrass management and aspects dealing with waste, energy efficiency, education and communications.

Full "Committed to Green" recognition will be based on a comprehensive Environmental Management Programme, in which the candidate clubs clearly demonstrate significant environmental achievements.

This is a long-term process, normally taking at least three years to complete. Successful clubs will also be expected to sustain their commitment.

"The award of the 'Committed to Green' label will be a valuable form of recognition, both for golf clubs and eventually for other sport and recreation facilities," said David Stubbs, Executive Director of the EGA Ecology Unit.

"All fields of activity are these days having to address environmental questions, and it is good that golf is taking a positive lead on this subject. The example set by golf should have wide applications throughout the sport sector."

Since its launch in late 1997, the "Committed to Green" programme has attracted widespread interest throughout the golf community, and from leading environmental organisations. The initiative has been welcomed by the European Commission, United Nations Environment Programme and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

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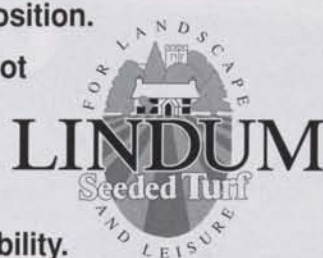
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**Jim Arthur looks back to when he started his career and shows that the advice he gave then is just as relevant now...**



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# Keeping it simple

Throughout more than 50 years of golf course advisory work I have steadfastly followed the principles impressed on me at the start of my advisory career by three remarkable people, of whom more anon. They taught me the time-proven and indisputable facts on which the basic principles of greenkeeping have depended since time immemorial. These principles have not altered simply because they are based on the needs of the fine textured 'turf' grasses - fine fescues and bent (*Agrostis*) - and these needs like the grasses have never changed. One sees so many passing fashions, hailed as the newest and best ideas, and none last more than a decade, and when they do conspicuously fail, their advocates have already shamelessly switched to the latest gimmick. The most important basis of my advice is and always has been - keep it simple and understandable. Greenkeeping is more of an art than a science.

Soil chemists, physicists, mycologists, soil analysts (particularly them!) and all the other 'ists' are there to support, not to promote unproven policies. Their worst crime is correct observation, wrong deduction. The work of the commercial element of

sports turf management is not to be denigrated providing it is confined to real improvements. Sadly, especially in the case of fertilisers, at times the motivation seems to be to try to create new markets by over-selling. I have maintained for more years than I care to remember, that golf clubs should buy very little fertiliser (and then nitrogen-only). Furthermore, clubs should order only what they need and should resist being pressurised into excessive purchasing.

Yet we still see case after case of gross over-feeding with inorganic fertilisers -

**If you are presented with techno-babble, demand that the perpetrator explains in simple terms - nine out of ten cannot.**

one case this year relates to a new course where no less than three massive complete fertiliser applications had been given by mid March!, because the first two "didn't work". This chase after colour cannot be too highly condemned. We play golf on

fine turf not colour and traditional greenkeeping as well as giving better playing surfaces is so much cheaper!

To return to my mentors, my introduction to grasses was in 1938 when my professor, a doughty Scot and a golfer of course, while concentrating on agricultural grasses, explained that all the rest were still worth studying, as quite apart from being valued constituents of golf course turf, they were very useful indicators of soil fertility, or the reverse, - even if farmers did regard them as weeds! He started my enthusiasm for grasses, which is still with me. Then came five years in the Army and my close contact with turf on occasions had nothing to do with studying botany but everything to do with survival!

The philosophies taught me by two remarkable men when I joined 'the Research Station' at Bingley just after the war are simple, indisputable and unchanging. I do not understand why I am regarded as "invariably controversial", though Sir Michael Bonallack kindly qualifies this comment in his preface to Practical Greenkeeping adding "but infuriatingly nearly always right".





Jim Arthur

After all I am merely echoing the tenets of sound traditional greenkeeping which were old fashioned when I was first taught them 53 years ago. My mentor was Richard Libbey, the senior advisor, who was a botanist of international renown. When I was first appointed, their Director gave me three pieces of advice. First, my pre-war agricultural degree was useless and I had to reverse everything I had been taught on the principle of "ask a farmer what to do and go and do the opposite". Secondly, I was told to stick to grass and avoid architecture as "I would never be a good enough golfer to rank with the best and my agronomic advice could be compromised". Thirdly, (and even on a short acquaintance he realised it would be a severe hardship), "I was to go round for the first year being trained by Richard and I was to keep my mouth shut and my ears open."

Long advisory tours with Richard gave me a wonderful education - peering, probing and digging into turf

**I have maintained for more years than I care to remember, that golf clubs should buy very little fertiliser (and then nitrogen-only)**

by day and listening and discussing what we had seen in small, inexpensive (but licensed!) hostels in the evenings. It was an unrivalled way of learning about grasses - and weeds, pests and diseases - as well as people - based on botany not chemistry. It was Richard who taught me, with proof, that golfing turf never needs phosphates in fertiliser form and proved it, though we had many differences of opinion with Bingley's Director and its soil chemist.

**Our courses also have to stand up to heavy play and picture-postcard Augusta is probably the most under-played course in the world**

The other person, also a Scot, was Frank Smith - Superintendent of the Bingley plots, previously Head Greenkeeper at Cruden Bay, which was before the war the Gleneagles of North Scotland. His quiet advice and helpful practical tips were invaluable to me - and to many Bingley advisers who came after me - and stopped me from many beginner's mistakes. It was he who said, "Listen to the head man, but if he isn't talking, find out why, for without him on your side you and the Club are wasting your time and their money."

I have always tried to make a personal friend of my 'oppo' in the team, not just for politic reasons but for shared enthusiasms and many of the friendships of those days have survived 'retirement' and many is the welcome call I still receive from such elder statesmen.

However, I found that even the most died-in-the-wool, 'feed and water' enthusiasts have nearly always special interests in which I could share - botanical or ornithological in many cases - and once that mutual interest was shared we could develop amicable discussions and then agreement on greenkeeping principles.

I have always tried never to act as a surrogate Head Greenkeeper, although in the run-up to Turnberry's first Open and in the absence of trained staff, I had to guide on the basis of monthly visits for three years a dear old friend, Jim McCubbin. We made a good team and the results justified the means, backed generously by both cash and faith on the part of British Transport Hotels' Directors.

I have not got the space to cover these time-honoured basic principles in detail, but if anyone is anxious to learn then I suggest getting hold of a copy of Practical Greenkeeping - commissioned by the R&A and representing the

knowledge of many acknowledged experts in their specialised work.

Alternatively send for a 28-page folder of relevant articles and references which can be obtained (as can the book) from BIGGA HOUSE, for the princely sum of £2.50 to cover postage.

The basic principles of traditional greenkeeping hinge on copying the conditions in those areas where bents and fescues naturally dominate the turf.

Such areas are so diverse and seem to have nothing in common, yet there must be common factors. Clearly it is nothing to do with acidity or alkalinity as the same grasses thrive equally on acid moors and heathland as on alkaline dunes and downland. It is nothing to do with soil types which range from extremely sandy links and heaths, to heavy clays of old parkland and neglected pastures. It is nothing to do with soil moisture; there can hardly be a greater contrast between tidally flooded meadows and arid sandy links, yet the same species occur on both.

A little 'research' shows that the common factors are very low 'chemical' fertility coupled with free drainage and related absence of compaction, encouraging deep rooting species which are also our finest textured grasses.

Alter these conditions, deliberately or accidentally, by compaction or fertiliser treatment, and the grasses we want are penalised and in come our old enemy, *Poa annua*. In brief, the two main causes of its invasion and dominance are inadequate or too shallow aeration and above all phosphatic fertilisers. There is no possible argument against this tenet - with research references going back to 1913. Some fertiliser firms have accepted this for many decades and sell an 8:0:0 organic/inorganic nitrogen-only mix which is used by virtually all our



With Scott  
the s

**The two main causes of Poa Annuua invasion and dominance are inadequate or too shallow aeration and above all phosphatic fertilisers**

best traditional courses - very sparingly!

Even before the 1914-18 war, Poa annua was synonymous with poorer turf in the eyes of greenkeepers and research scientists alike (Dr. Murray 1913). Today, however, there are too many voices which excuse or even praise this enemy Number One - either claiming it is inevitable, or because, as with Tour Professionals, they never play in this country when Poa is at its worst - and get presented with tarted-up putting surfaces for their big day - and never see or care what happens to those greens a few months (or weeks) later.

Let there be no question - annual meadow grass is the source of 90% of all greenkeeping problems and is an extremely expensive grass to maintain, and is tolerable only in the peak growing periods when its rapid recovery from damage and in response to fertilisers and water make it possible to produce good if slow putting conditions - for six to seven months a year.

The grasses which produce (on much smaller budgets) good conditions all year round for golf are the bents and fescues. Therefore we need to know how to encourage them. Many greenkeepers over the years have succeeded. It is therefore depressing to hear speakers at seminars either extolling its virtues or saying Poa dominance is inevitable. It is reprehensible because this unquestionably is confusing to younger greenkeepers, plagued as they are by unqualified salesmen some of whom, if told the truth, would conveniently forget it to make a sale.

Equally depressing is the number of greenkeepers at all levels who maintain that however wrong they may be, their members (new golfers) have to be given the nice and green lush turf that attracted them to golf in the first place the Augusta syndrome. Such heretics forget that golf is an all year round game (Augusta is open

perhaps four and a half months a year). Our courses also have to stand up to heavy play and picture-postcard Augusta is probably the most underplayed course in the world. Finally, the budget to produce such visual 'delights' is enormous, with money, manpower, machinery and materials wildly beyond the means of 99.9% of U.K. courses.

Once you start on the slippery slope, one cost leads to another. Excessive fertilisers lead to increasingly ineffective and hugely expensive fungicidal treatments. Our best courses use minuscule amounts of nitrogenous fertiliser and virtually no fungicides.

Above all else, we must combat the insidious dual evils of misplaced commercialism and apathy. Those who care for traditional standards tight lies; plenty of run on the ball; firm, fast greens - and abhor target golf, must put their heads above the parapet. Do not be afraid of being criticised; your reward will come, though perhaps not in this world.

Stand up and be counted and join the swelling ranks - both side of the Atlantic - for the 'bump and run game' and counter the ranks of misplaced commercialism - even those most eloquent in favour of feeding have not the slightest idea that they are completely wrong.

Do not let dodgy speakers get away with misrepresentation, whether caused by ignorance or cupidity. Stand up and argue your case. Demand more audience participation time in seminars. Good speakers on sound ground welcome such interventions - at least it shows that their audiences have not been put to sleep. Remember the speakers' adage: "Repertee needs to be rehearsed".

Fight for our traditions and rout the target golf, summer-only school.

If you are presented with technobabble, demand that the perpetrator explains in simple terms - nine out of ten cannot. Do not spare the miscreants!

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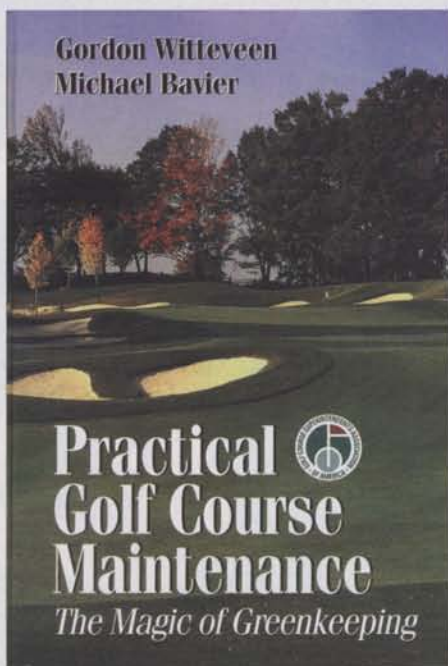




**Practical Golf Course Maintenance**

# THE MAGIC of Greenkeeping

By Gordon Witteveen and Michael Bavier



I was very fortunate to attend a one day seminar in 1997 called "The Magic Of Greenkeeping" Gordon & Michael gave. An insightful & candid portrayal of what ingredients make a successful superintendent, delivered with great verve & panache in a Morcombe & Wise style of humour ensuring those attending did not nod off in the process.

I can think of no greater achievement for any person who has dedicated their life to one profession than to communicate their wealth of experience through the publishing of a book. What is a surprise is the fact that they dedicate this book to their Green Chairmen. This in itself speaks volumes of where their personal success

lies, not just in sound agronomy but in communication with those golfers on the front line.

Through careful nurturing of their contact with club members they gained genuine support, trust & respect for their knowledge in the art of greenkeeping. We all thrive in our positions when we are a valued member of the team which Gordon and Michael certainly achieved. This book goes into detail about all aspects of turf management which, professionally integrated, will lead to success in this business of golf.

Its general aim is to give renewed vigour and enthusiasm for a profession which has countless pitfalls for those who do not tread carefully. After the last two winters we have endured we can all do with an intellectual "pick me up". They cover the rudimentary elements of greenkeeping, making this book a sort of Lonely Planet guide for greenkeepers, espousing what budding or experienced greenkeepers really need to know.

The emphasis on practical matters in turf management is excellent. Any greenkeeper will find something useful within these pages. Practical experience is only gained through hard, dedicated work. It takes several years to accrue such skills. The best of these is the "sixth sense" which prods the mind into seeing some form of action is required for the greenkeeping matter at hand. This book goes a long way to exposing the important facets which over time help to form this sixth sense. The many common sense ideas will be most interesting to those greenkeepers or students with limited experience. Items covered are clear, concise & of great benefit to younger greenkeepers studying for their N.V.Q Levels 2 & 3. They often quote maintenance or management techniques used by associate Superintendents so a cross reference of experience is succinctly highlighted for your attention. Those Course Managers with many years experience will revel in the accuracy of problem solving & more importantly - prevention of the pitfalls & will no doubt evaluate these against your own practical methodology. Another important area covered in detail throughout the various sections of the

book is the restoration of turf from a poor to healthy state with years of good practical husbandry coming to the fore.

In case you are concerned that this book, written by two American/Canadian Superintendents, will only be useful to American style Greenkeeping - forget it! This is a foray into global greenkeeping skills and there is plenty here for the European greenkeeper. This book is a fine addition to any turf managers library. It should be read by all those seeking new ideas or to support & salute other superintendents achievements on ways in which this increasingly complex and competitive world of golf can be nurtured with stress-free success

Sleeping Bear Press, Michigan,  
 1998, ISBN: 1-57504-047-6.  
 254pp - b/w Photos, Hardback.



Book reviewed by David Winterton, O.N.D., C.M.S., M.G.



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## More bite from new Harley

Glenmac's Harley Power Box Rakes now feature a new roller tooth tipped with pure carbide. This tooth has five times the life of the vanadium roller tooth which greatly reduces down time and any extended maintenance procedures.

Designed for use on all Harley Power Rake models, the solid carbide teeth will take a bite out of the toughest jobs for years to come.

For those already using a Harley rake, an upgrade can be obtained, and a new roller fitted with the new teeth.

For further information Tel: 001 800/437-9779

## Rainbird raise performance of Eagle™



RainBird has made new enhancements to the EAGLE™ Series of closed-case, gear drive rotors. The enhancements are designed to boost the rotors' performance, serviceability and durability.

The Top-Serviceable Rock Screen™ (TSRS) and Replaceable Valve Seat further enhances the serviceability of the EAGLE Series of rotors. This newly patented feature offers the ability to remove the rock screen and valve seat from the top of the rotor, thus allowing for the removal of debris during installation or due to build-up over time.

Additionally, since the valve seat is integrated into the rock screen design, it can be easily removed - if it gets nicked or damaged - without digging up the entire rotor case.

For further information Tel 001 800 984 2255.

## Stihl launch new backpack brushcutter

Specially designed for ground maintenance in inaccessible areas, the new FR85 backpack brushcutter from Andreas Stihl is ideal for work on steep embankments, overgrown slopes, in narrow ditches and in confined areas.

Its low weight and reduced vibration levels, a newly developed carrying frame and the flexible connection between the power unit and the shaft allow the operator to work uphill without tiring. It can be fitted with a variety of cutting tools from nylon mowing heads to brush knives, making it easy to cut

and clear grass, scrub, bushes and saplings. Extra flexibility is offered by the in that it can also be converted into a telescopic pruner or hedgetrimmer using one of several new attachments now available.

All engine functions can be controlled via the right-hand multi-function handle, ensuring that they are firmly under control at all times.

The Stihl FR85 backpack brushcutter will retail at £395 ex VAT.

Further information or a free brochure can be obtained by calling Freephone 0800 137574.



## Greens Groomer sweeps up

The new Greensward Engineering 6' wide Greens Groomer attachment quickly fits behind almost any power unit and will handle a wide range of greens maintenance tasks.

It can be used for regular brushing and grooming to stand up the grass before mowing and to control grain, and is also exceptionally effective for rubbing in topdressing due to its patented multi brush design which moves the sand three ways to gently rub it in and fill aeration holes without scuffing or bruising the turf.

It can even be fitted directly behind a truckster mounted topdresser to apply and rub in topdressing in a single pass.

A 17' wide triple gang version is ideal for brushing fairways to remove worm casts and dew for improved early morning play.

For further information Tel: 0113 267 6000.

## New moisture meter from Dynamax

Dynamax Inc, of Texas, USA, has launched the TH20 Theta Moisture Meter, to measure volumetric soil moisture content. It combines ease of use and accuracy with low cost, to give access to precise soil moisture data.

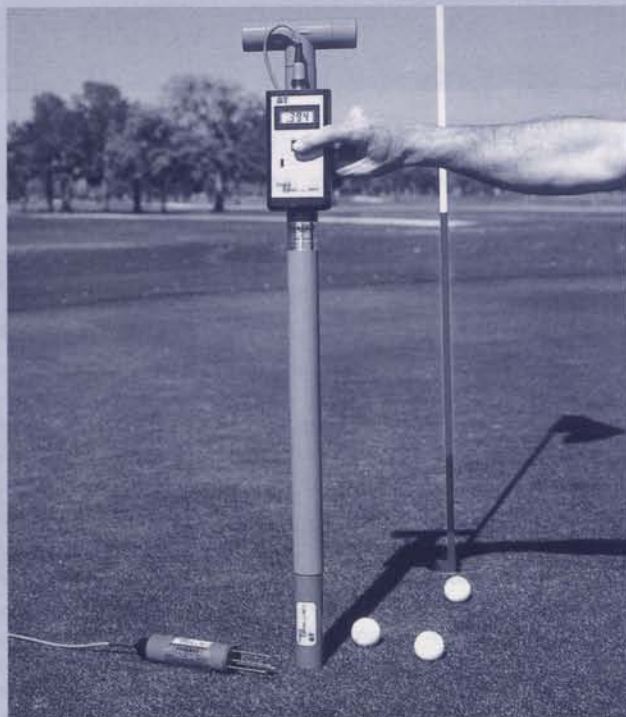
The probe is reliable, even in saline soils, and its compact size means minimal soil disturbance.

The sensor sends microwave signals and amplifies a reflected signal dependent on the dielectric constant (theta), a precise electronic parameter for the volume of water in soil (plus or minus 2% accuracy).

TH20 is simple to use: the probe is inserted into the soil and when pushing the button then the LCD shows the volume of water in soil as a decimal value.

The palm-sized, battery powered, display device provides instantaneous readings for mineral or organic soils, which may be selected by a slide switch on the front panel.

For further information Tel: 001 281 564 5100





## 'Tailor-made' Pro-Tee golf signs from Links Leisure



Links Leisure, has extended its Pro-Tee range with the introduction of a brand new series of wooden course signs.

The new signs are the latest addition to a range of specially designed products which already includes accessories such as all-weather mats and practice nets, plus an array of course furniture such as tee markers, litter bins, divot boxes and also golf signs manufactured from various materials.

Marketed under the trade name "The Pro-Tee Collection", the range has become increasingly popular with operators who realise the need to provide on-course facilities such as directional signs, hole information, etc., but, at the same time,

want to include a corporate identity element for their own particular golf course.

A major feature of the Pro-Tee range is the fact that each product is tailor-made in detail, style, and colour to meet the individual requirements of each golf course and that many of the products can also be used for sponsorship or advertising.

The new wooden golf signs - produced from either mahogany or oak - follow the same pattern. Individually produced, the range includes entrance and finger post signs, plus a choice of teemarkers which can incorporate club and hole

For further information Tel: 01948 663002

## New fertilisers are mighty 'fine'

Two new Multigreen controlled release fertilisers have joined the Greenpower range of specialist turf products distributed by Headland Amenity Products.

Known as Multigreen Fine, the fertilisers have been developed by Haifa Chemicals for turf which is cut between 6mm and 10mm - for example, close-mown golf tees, approaches, surrounds, fairways and cricket outfields. The small size of the granules used minimises the quantity taken up by mowers, and increases coverage at low applications.

Multigreen Fine 25+5+15 is for spring and summer applications, and 19+10+30 for autumn and winter. Both have a five to six month release period in the UK and are sulphur-free, with nutrients derived from potassium nitrate, mono ammonium phosphate and urea.

For close-cut turf such as golf greens and bowling greens Headland offers Multigreen Mini, which has even smaller granules and also provides up to six months' nutrition from one application.

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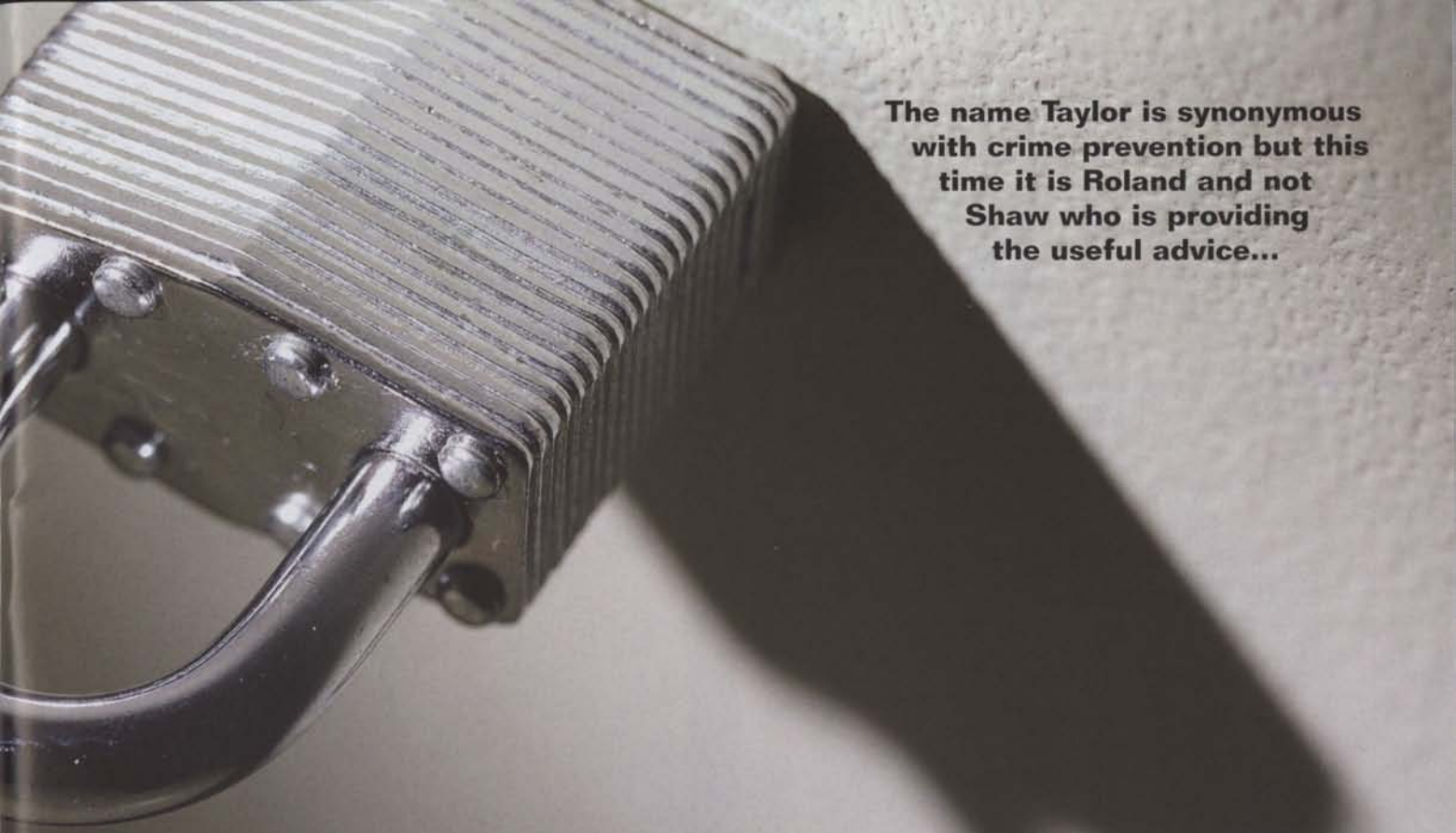
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The name Taylor is synonymous with crime prevention but this time it is Roland and not Shaw who is providing the useful advice...

# Crime stoppers

It must be a horrendous shock to open the machinery shed one morning to find it bare or looking like World War Three has started on your doorstep. Theft and vandalism are on the increase.

Not only is this very stressful, also it causes considerable inconvenience. The grass does not stop growing and you are still expected to continue producing a quality-playing surface. Police and insurance companies have to be dealt with and if the thieves or vandals are caught you may be involved in the court case. A considerable amount of time can be taken up dealing with the police and insurance company arranging the purchase of replacement machinery. On top of this, the insurance premiums will very likely escalate. If the thieves are caught and the machinery recovered then there is the question of identification and proving it belongs to you.

Not a pleasant scenario, yet it can happen to anyone. In England and Wales, (according to a Home Office survey) over a million burglaries are attempted each year. It reports that entry to premises was achieved in 60% of these cases and of this figure 30% were without force either through open or insecure doors or windows. Robbery is on the increase and reports show that, because of increased security, it has moved from banks and other money outlets. In addition, violence to staff has increased by 40%.

This report demonstrates how important it is to protect equipment and make it as difficult as possible for thieves or vandals to get their hands on it.

Like everything else in this world, it costs money and the size of the budget will determine the level of security that can be put in place.



# Crime stoppers



Above: A police tracker in action

Below: Examples of secure storage solutions



The building that houses the course machinery is the first place to start. Often this is sited well away from the clubhouse and set in a secluded area of the course. This type of location is ideal for someone or a gang to gain access without being disturbed. Buildings come in all shapes and sizes and are made of a wide variety of materials. A quick analysis of your security is to determine how easy is it to gain access if you had lost the keys. It would be a good idea to call in a reputable security company to carry out a survey. They should be able to tailor a suitable system for your requirements. This may include lighting and in some cases a CCTV system. You can even buy dummy cameras.

If a new machinery store is being considered then there are companies who specialise in manufacturing a wide range of high security modular units for this purpose.

Where the overall structure of the building is questionable from a security point of view, then a possibility is to purchase interior security units for storing smaller items such as tools, chainsaws,

brushcutter, plus any other items that can be quickly removed. These units can be bolted to a concrete base or wall. The larger machines could be fitted with wheel clamps. The object of the exercise is to make nicking the items as difficult as possible. One thing the thieves do not want is to have to spend too much time trying to remove equipment - this increases the chances of them being caught.

Fuel can often go missing, so some form of security is needed. Again, there are purpose-built units on the market that help to reduce the risk of theft.

In the event of items being stolen and then recovered, it is then up to you to prove ownership. The chances are that the serial numbers and ID tags will have been removed, so something that confirms ownership will be required. Technology has come up with a solution in the form of an electronic identification device that utilises a micro-transponder. Each tag has its own 10 character alphanumeric code that can be "read" by a scanner via radio frequency. This code is fed into a mainframe computer and registered together with make,

machine model, the frame and engine identification numbers and details of the owner. In the event of a piece of equipment being stolen, incident details including crime reference, police station and officer handling the case will be fed into the computer.

The tags are very small and have been designed to withstand vibration, electrical and magnetic interference as well as an acid attack. They are unobtrusively secured to the machine with two-part epoxy adhesive. These systems are accepted by Police and Customs who have the equipment to read the tags as well as access to the supplier's main frame computer.

Another possibility worth considering, especially for triples, larger machines and tractors, is a tracking device. Up until now these have been mainly used on cars and plant.

They consist of a small homing device that is hidden on the machine and emits a silent signal that can be picked up by a police car or helicopter and followed to its exact location. For vehicles there are two systems - retrieve and monitoring. With retrieve, immediately





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Ad Ref 50

a vehicle goes missing it is reported to the police and the operator's network. The device is then activated and then can be tracked by the police. With the monitoring system the unit sends out a signal to the network that it has been moved; they contact the owner who immediately informs the police and the tracking control centre.

Security does not just entail fitting lighting, cameras, locks and other devices - there is also the human element. Making sure things that should be shut and locked are. It is no good having a sophisticated system if the doors of the machinery store are left wide open all day, or tools left in an open trailer for long periods.

A golf course is a big place to keep a check on, so members too can play their part by reporting strangers wandering around or a vehicle sighted where they are not normally seen. If anything is spotted that is out of the ordinary, it should immediately be reported to the police. Your local police can best advise on how members and staff can play their part in reducing the criminals' chances of committing a crime.

A break-in, whether it involves vandalism or theft of machinery, affects everyone. A sound security operation is made up of three areas:-

**Secure the buildings and contents as much as possible.**

**Mark all the machinery and equipment for identification**

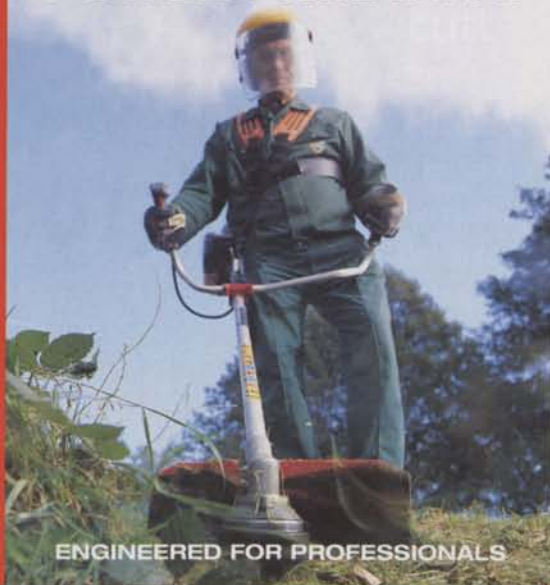
**Encourage all club members and staff to be vigilant and report anything out of the ordinary.**

No one should put themselves at risk by getting directly involved or "having a go". Contact the police so they can take action.

This is not a guarantee that a crime will not be committed, but it could make the thieves or vandals think twice before going ahead with their plans.

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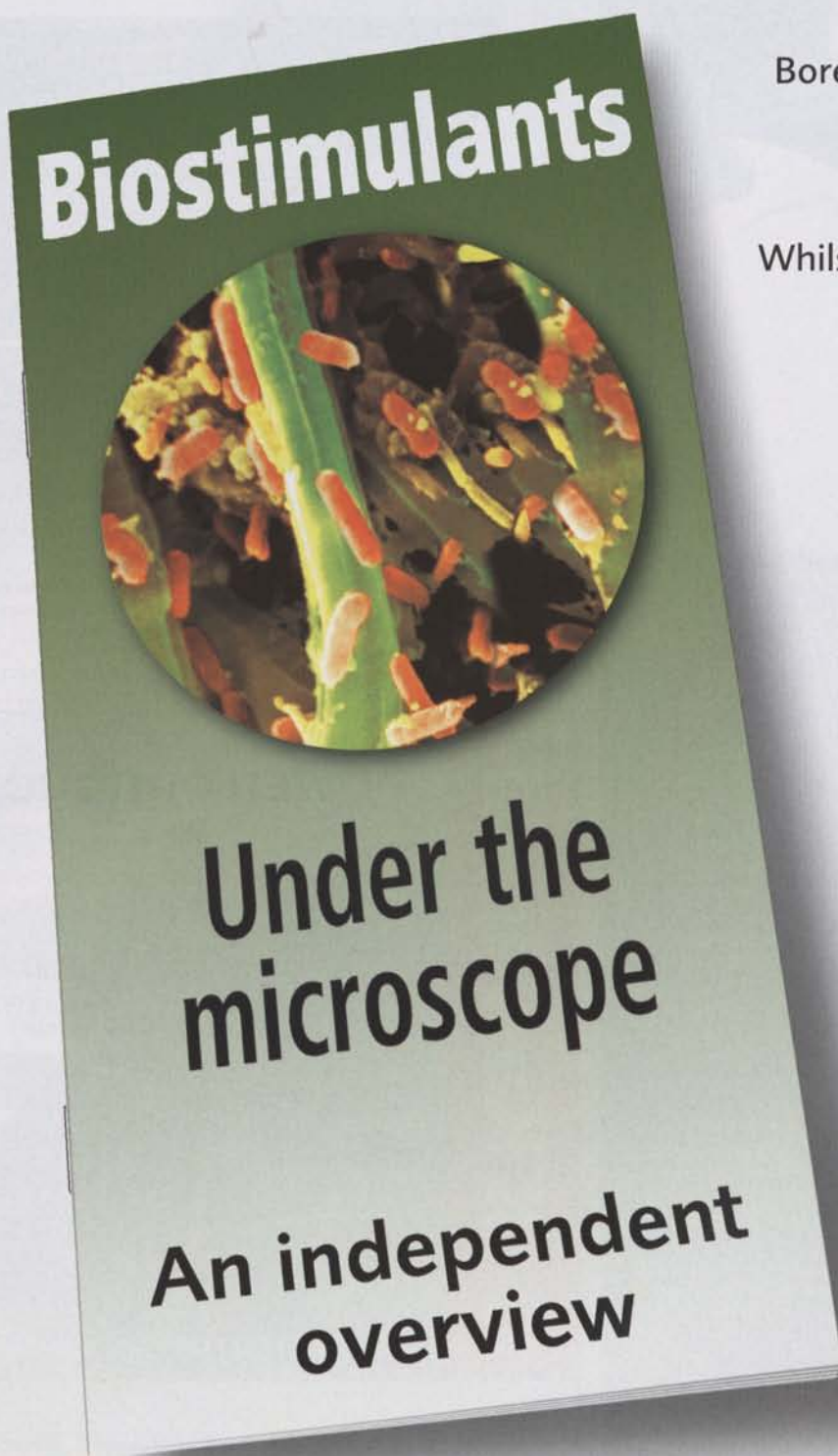
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# The Facts



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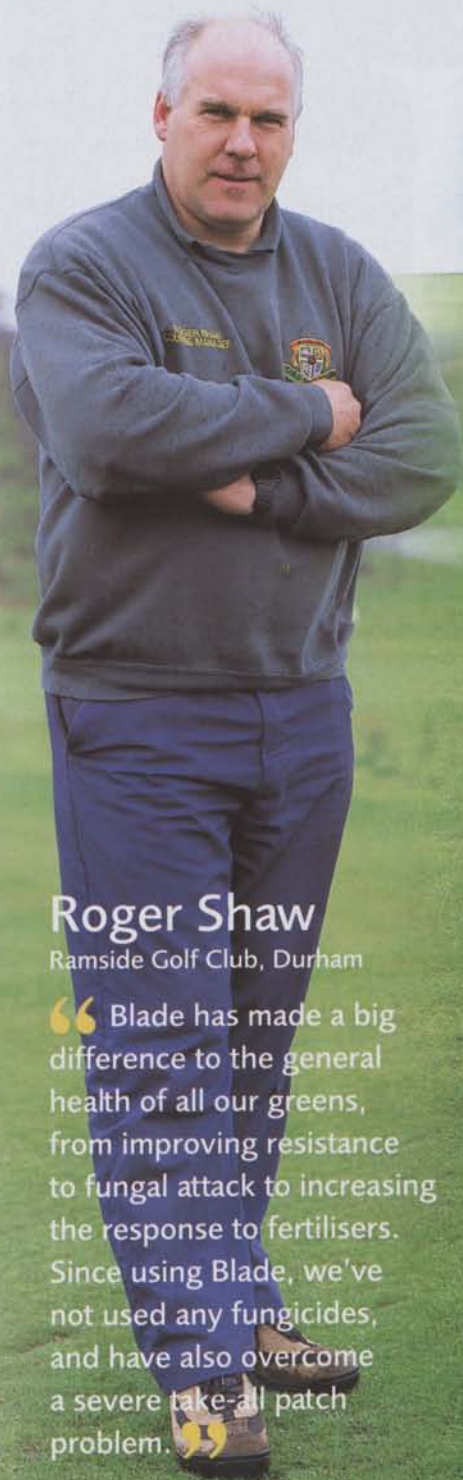
Whilst it's true that developments  
in soil bacteria management  
can help you with turf  
management techniques,  
picking out the important  
information from so much  
literature can be a chore.

A new booklet -  
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from independent experts  
from British universities,  
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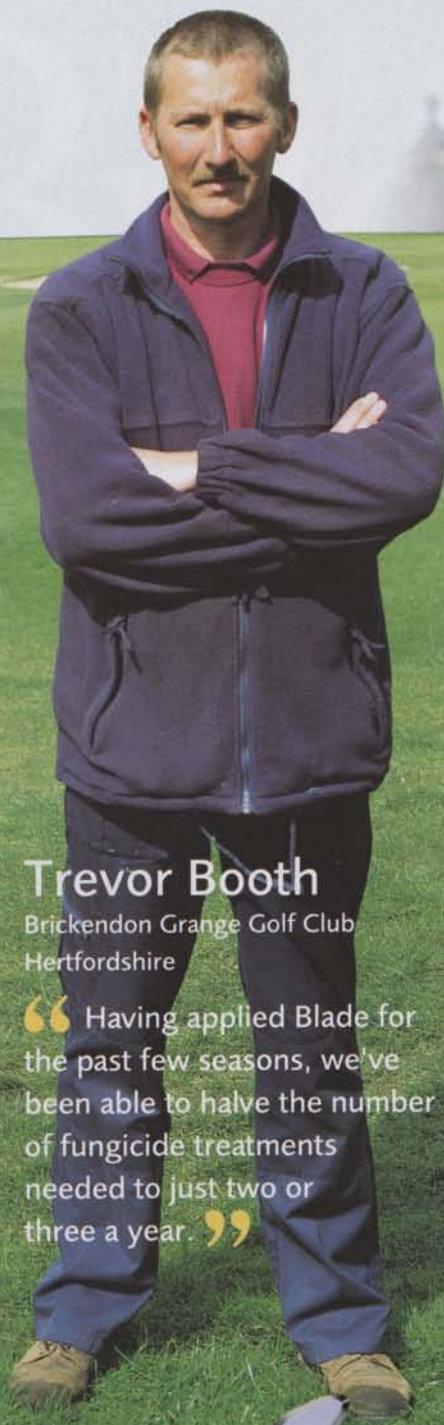
# The Figures



## Roger Shaw

Ramside Golf Club, Durham

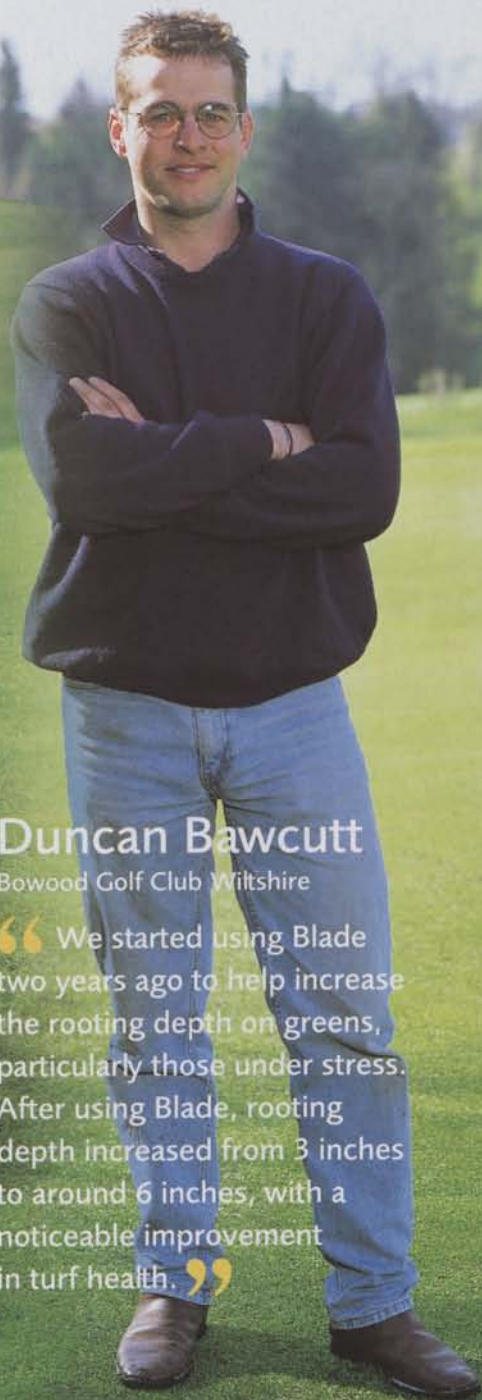
“ Blade has made a big difference to the general health of all our greens, from improving resistance to fungal attack to increasing the response to fertilisers. Since using Blade, we've not used any fungicides, and have also overcome a severe take-all patch problem. ”



## Trevor Booth

Brickendon Grange Golf Club  
Hertfordshire

“ Having applied Blade for the past few seasons, we've been able to halve the number of fungicide treatments needed to just two or three a year. ”



## Duncan Bawcutt

Bowood Golf Club Wiltshire

“ We started using Blade two years ago to help increase the rooting depth on greens, particularly those under stress. After using Blade, rooting depth increased from 3 inches to around 6 inches, with a noticeable improvement in turf health. ”

# Blade

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North Cornwall is some distance from Fife but a visit to Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club still made Scott MacCallum a little home sick.

# Beautiful Bude



Arriving at Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club I couldn't help feeling that I'd been there before. I knew I hadn't but looking out from the clubhouse at some of the pretty houses that bordered the course it all looked very familiar.

Then it clicked. It is almost the double for some of the courses of the East Neuk of Fife, just around the coast from St Andrews.

Yes, Bude would fit nicely alongside the likes of Elie, Crail and Anstruther while, having its clubhouse and several holes right in the middle of town, it is a distinction it shares with St Andrews itself.

Yet, Bude is about 500 miles from Fife, and there is little else in the surrounding countryside to suggest any Scottish influences. The answer may be in the man who extended the

course from its original nine holes to 18 in 1893. Tom Dunn was a Scottish professional who would undoubtedly have taken the Fife influence on board when he saw the land he had been commissioned to mould into a golf course.

It certainly gives Bude a feeling of golf as it was intended to be played and Richard Whyman, the Head Greenkeeper, is a man suited to ensuring the best interests of the great game are preserved, even when modern day pressures are brought to bear.

These have involved course amendments when the growth of the town has rendered some of the holes dangerous as well as dealing with the intermittent bouts of mindless vandalism.

"We are on an extremely small site, only about 100 acres, and our safety margins are very narrow," explained Richard.



# Beautiful Bude

"The only safe way is to play to the middle the whole time but when you get a big gust of wind the balls fly," he added, and a hour later when walking the course you discover that wind is not in short supply.

But like many courses of an earlier vintage - it celebrated its centenary in 1991 - it doesn't rely on length to protect its dignity.

"There are plenty of blind shots. The 14th comes to mind with a blind tee shot and a blind second and it's only 320 yards. The greens can be tough as well with sever slopes which means you've got to take care to get the ball on the right side of the hole."

The increased need to consider safety has affected the course however and one hole that suffered from the need to play within the margins

was the 18th, a superb finishing hole of 540 yards, which got the juices running when a good card was all but in and signed.

"You really had to get the tee shot over the burn and then you'd be home and dry but houses came into play and balls would drift over," explained Richard, who has been at Bude for 14 years.

As a result the hole was altered as was another, a short driveable par-4 which offered up dreams of birdies and eagles but nightmares of 8s if the tee shot landed on the road.

"We had to close it because we couldn't get insurance cover for the hole. You'd hit a tee shot when it was clear but by the time the ball came down there would be cars going along the road and in danger."

The other problem brought about by the growth of the popular surfing centre has been the vandalism.

"It comes in phases. We can have a period without any, and then a spate when we'll have a problem.

They usually start ripping up the greens around the hole because it's a weak area," revealed Richard, who prior to arriving at Bude worked at Saunton - a course, he still regards very highly, and Lee-on-the-Solent, where he played golf with a 14 year-old Steven Richardson

"They just dig away with the flag and there is obviously a lot of effort involved. They also dig out the cup and chuck it away. Another of their favourite tricks is to get hold of the top of the flag stick and bend it down as far as it will go which will force the bottom of the cup up through the surface."

The club get through at least a set of flag pins a year and it has meant Richard and his two full time and one part-time staff showing ingenuity when it comes to cutting costs.

"We make our own tee markers as we get through about 72 of them a year. We use down pipe, filled with concrete, put nails in and paint them.

Below: Richard with the rest of the team



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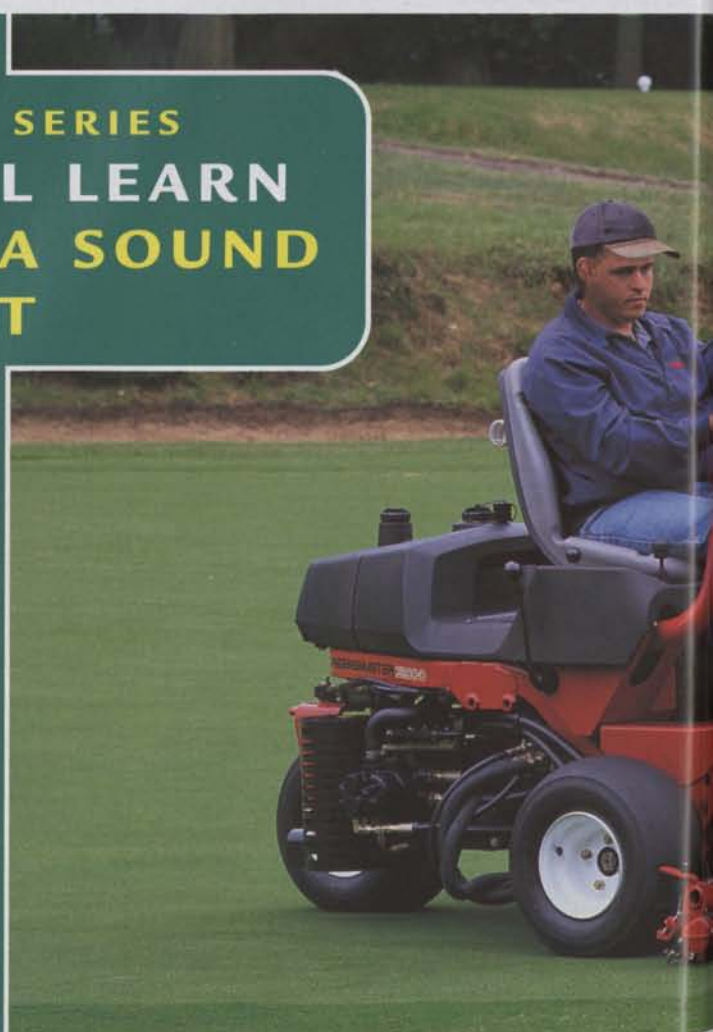
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"If we didn't get vandalised we would certainly look to improve the quality of our course furniture but it's really not worth it."

Working with such a small team ensures that no job is too big or too small for any member and the Bude staff – of Jason Chidley, Andrew Pollard and part-timer Greg Pett – are a tightly knit unit who have been together for some time.

"All my planning and paper work is done at home in my own time because if I did it during the day we wouldn't get finished on the course. I do the same jobs as everyone else. Fly mowing, divot filling, the lot."

The course is relatively maintenance friendly and a lot of areas can be cut with ride-on machines and they try to keep the use of hand equipment down to a minimum.

"The biggest user of time is the stream at the bottom end of the course which runs from east to west right across the course. We maintain about half of it on a regular basis



strimming and fly mowing and that itself takes three people just under a day."

Richard holds great store in aeration and always makes sure the course gets regular doses.

"I'm a great fan of slitting and we slit tine about 10 times through the autumn and winter, and also vertidrain in the Autumn. We've just quadra-hollow cored the greens which we always do in mid-March."

Among the on-going projects are a

bunker revetting programme and up-grading the paths from tee to fairway.

"Fairy rings are the only real problem we have and we are hoping that microbes might be the answer."

In his time at the club Richard has seen a steady improvement in both the quality of working conditions and the machinery fleet.

"When I arrived we had a shed which was more like a broom cupboard for three or four of us. It

wasn't ideal but was much better than a lot at the time. We also had to keep the machinery outside.

"Now we have a small fleet which is kept inside in our purpose-built sheds for which we have a replacement plan. Depending on the machine and how heavily it is used. The worst thing that can happen being isolated in Bude is a breakdown. If it is not too specialised a problem we have an excellent local commercial company which helps







and we make sure every piece of kit has an MOT every year. We do the general maintenance checks ourselves."

Last year was a memorable one for Richard who was the South West and South Wales representative in the final of the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award having been originally nominated by the Club Secretary.

"The support I had from the club was tremendous and they were really willing me on... I think the possibility of winning the mower had something to do with it," he laughed.

It had not been an easy passage through to the final for Richard and his team.

"The two course visits were tough because I had the BIGGA Chairman,

Gordon Child, first of all and then, having qualified for the final, I had Walter Woods. Two hard men to please, particularly in Walter's case because we were the only links course in the final. What it actually did was keep us on our toes longer because we knew it was coming up and we couldn't afford to lapse at all," recalled Richard.

"It was a real honour to represent a Region which has so many fine golf courses and I will enter again. I thoroughly enjoyed it but you always feel a bit gutted when the results are read out and you've not won, even if you don't expect to win it... you always hope.

"I'd now call the rest of the finalists friends and having spoken a lot with them during our time at the final I learned a lot."

It is a learning ethic which Richard holds dear. He completed Level 3 over a six month period at

Cannington College so he didn't have to be away from work too much and he is hopeful of starting Level 4 later this year.

"You've got to try to keep one step ahead in this game."

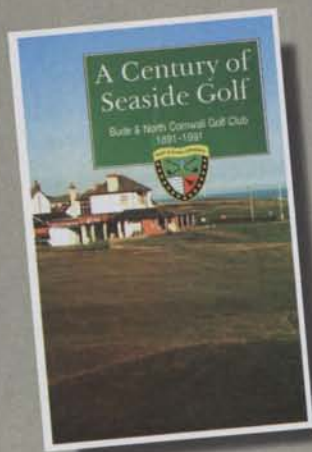
It is a philosophy which has served Richard Whyman and Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club well.

#### Machinery Inventory

- Toro GR 3100 x 2
- John Deere 2653A triple mower
- Cushman truck
- Cushman Topdresser
- Hardi 300l sprayer
- Huxley deep splitter
- Iseki 22hp tractor
- Coremaster
- Kubota L275 with front bucket
- Kubota L3600
- Amazone 135 rough cutter
- Trailer
- Various hand machines

Above: A newly revetted bunker

Below: An example of some of the damage vandals can cause



The club produced an excellent centenary book which details visits made by all three members of the Great Triumvirate, JH Taylor, James Braid and Harry Vardon and highlights Vardon's scorecard when he broke the course record with a 65 in 1909.

The Doyen of golf writers, Bernard Darwin, also visited the course and described it thus. "Bude is a place beloved by many summer visitors and the course is a good course if there are not too many of them upon it."

Written in 1910 some things never change!

However the real reason to look at the book is to read the section on "The amateur greenkeeper" which looks at some of the helpful hints written in the suggestion book over the years.

Included among the entries - which incidentally has a superb 1932 complaint about the

club's new hairbrushes only being suited to gigolos and that since the majority of members were getting thin on top the brushes acted as instruments of torture - is a most heartwarming put down by the Secretary of a over critical member in 1939.

The member had said that although a bad golfer he was able to distinguish between a good course and an extremely indifferent one. He grouped Bude in the latter category and listed a whole catalogue of complaints ending with..."In my humble opinion a cheap and bad greenkeeper is worse than none at all."

The secretary said that members of another club had visited recently and been full of praise and ended by saying, "Complaints about the staff should be made direct to the Secretary and not written in the suggestion book."

Hurrah!



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

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

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

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

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

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# TALKING

This month Greenkeeper International's bi-monthly series featuring Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers from every Region examines Cutting Regimes

## Cutting Regimes

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE



**Kerran Daly**  
Course: Salisbury & South Wilts GC  
Region: South West and South Wales Region  
Course Type: Chalk downland  
Number of Holes: 27 (three loops of nine)  
Staff: Course Manager plus six.



**Duncan Kelso**  
Course: Kings Hill GC  
Region: South East Region  
Course Type: Heathland  
Number of Holes: 18  
Staff: Course Manager plus six



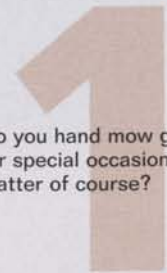
**John Scotney**  
Course: Sleaford GC  
Region: Scottish Region  
Course Type: Heathland - almost inland links  
Number of Holes: 18 plus six hole par-3 course  
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus three



**Ian Holoran**  
Course: Middlesbrough Municipal Golf Centre  
Region: Northern Region  
Course Type: Parkland  
Number of Holes: 18  
Staff: Five in total



**Ian McNab**  
Course: Dumfries & County GC  
Region: Scottish Region  
Course Type: Parkland and Heathland  
Number of Holes: 18 Holes  
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus four



1. Do you hand mow greens only for special occasions or as a matter of course?

We use Toro triples five days a week in summer and only cut by hand for special occasions and also in winter.

We only cut by hand for special events in the summer, although in winter we do use hand mowers. We use triples normally.

We hand mow in winter and use triples in the summer. We don't have the time to hand mow in the growing season.

We use a Jacobsen Triplex Green King and have never cut by hand in the 11 years I have been here.

We hand mow greens from Monday to Friday each week and use triples at the weekend. Cutting is usually done on a daily basis in the growing season.



# HEADS

2. Do you have specialist equipment for greens, tees and surrounds, fairways, banks and roughs or do you double up with some?

The Toro triple 3200D and Ransomes Super Certes are used for greens; the Toro 216 for tees and aprons; a Sabo Soberine for fairways; an Allen National for banks and the Dowdeswell roller mower and a Wessex flail for rough.

Greens - Toro GM3200, John Deere 220 pedestrian mower. Tees and surrounds - Toro GM3100. Fairways - Toro Reelmaster 4500. Banks - Saxon triple. Rough - Toro 455 quad float.

We have specialist equipment - two John Deeres, three Ransomes Auto Certes for greens; Sabo triking for tees; Ransomes T-plex for surrounds and winter greens and a hydraulic five-gang for fairways. We also have a John Deere rotary for semi-rough and a Saxon triple. A John Deere 955 and a Vortex nine-foot double up for the rough.

We use a Jacobsen Triplex on the greens, and also Jacobsen machinery on aprons and tees. Fairways are cut with a Jacobsen and a Hayter hydraulic five-set and the rough with a Kubota.

Specialist equipment. A Paladin 21 inch for the greens, Toro and Ransomes for tees and surrounds, a Ransomes five-unit for fairways and a Hayter for rough.

3. Is your cutting equipment all from one manufacturer - if so who - or a mixture, and why?

I believe a mixture to be better because I don't believe that any one manufacturer has the best quality item for the various purposes.

It's mostly Toro which has a proven history of reliability.

We have a mixture because of funds. I would probably have all John Deere equipment if we were starting from scratch because of the spares and good back-up.

Jacobsen is used because of a contract price by the municipal authorities.

We have a mixture because different courses have different needs. Everything depends on the terrain.

4. How often do you sharpen the blades and how do you go about it?

We re-grind once a year in winter and back lap monthly or more often as necessary. We have our own in-house equipment for grinding and back lapping and it is all done by our greenkeeper-mechanic.

We do rotary blades ourselves and send cylinders away. Fairway machines are done once a year and greens equipment two to three times a year, but obviously if something needs attention we do it.

We back lap the cylinders on the greens units every two weeks and tees and surrounds equipment every three weeks, gangs as required. Some of the rotary blades we do ourselves and send others away.

We have back lap facilities in our own workshop and anything particularly troublesome can be sent to the council mechanics. They are all serviced regularly.

We sharpen blades two to three times each year. We send equipment to a specialist in Edinburgh, always at the end of May and the end of July.

5. What cutting heights do you employ for greens, tees and fairways in winter and in summer?

Greens - summer 5 mill, winter 7 mill. Tees - summer 10 mill, winter 12 mill. Fairways - summer 14 mill, winter 19 mill. For a handful of tournaments we cut greens at 4 mill but only for very short periods as it causes too much stress.


We cut at 4 mill on the greens in summer and 5.5 mill in winter. Tees are 10 mill in summer and 12 mill in winter while fairways are 12 mill in summer and 16 mill in winter.

Winter heights - greens 6.5 mill; tees and surrounds 15 mill; fairways 22 mill. Summer heights - greens 4.5 mill; tees and surrounds 13 mill; fairways 18-19 mill.

Greens are cut at 3 16ths in summer and 5 16ths in the winter. As we have 80,000 rounds on the course each year we tend to raise the heights round about the time of The Open Championship. Tees are 14 mill in winter and summer and fairways 18-19. Because of the wear we tend to have higher heights than many courses.

Greens are cut at five 32nds in summer and 6 mill in winter. Tees are cut at five 16ths all the year round and fairways 12 mill all the year round.





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Scottish Region  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

**East**

I hope this season has got off to a good start for everyone as the weather is being a bit kinder to us all now, with courses drying out after the very wet spell this past winter.

I heard some comments about the Scottish Conference in early March and was told there were some very good speakers on the day. I had to miss out due to work commitments but will be in attendance next year.

Well done to Peter Boyd and everyone, who helped organise this years event. So, by the time you read this we will have held our Spring Tournament at Goswick Golf Club which will also be the qualifier for the new National Tournament at Carden Park in Cheshire. Results and comments next month.

You should also have received your 1999 fixture cards and again, our thanks to Greentech Limited for sponsoring these for us. As everyone now knows the dates of fixtures etc, we hope to see a good turn-out at the Section events. After all, it's your Section, so support it! If you did not receive a fixture card, give Steve Dixon a call on 0131 443 0235 and he will get one out to you.

If anyone is on the move or has any births, marriages or photographs of interest, give me a call or drop me a line and I will be only too pleased to put it into a future edition of Greenkeeper International. We are arranging another football match, this time against Mid Lothian District Council and a report will be done after this game, hopefully with better results!

On March 24 we visited Stewart of Dalkeith's Top Dressing and Kelpie plants.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend but feedback from members was very positive. Our thanks to Graham Forbes and everyone at Stewart's from all attending, for an informative and enjoyable afternoon. This was the last of the winter lectures for 1998/99, the committee are putting together an itinerary for Winter 1999/2000, so keep an eye on this column.

Well, that's it for this month, sorry if there is not a lot, but we seem to be in a quiet period.

Usual numbers, 0131 445 7165 work phone/fax; 01620 842037 home or 07901 846 194, so come on, let's hear from you.

Chris Yeaman

**North**

Congratulations to Iain Grant on his move to Head Greenkeeper at Strathlene GC, Buckie. I am sure Brian Cocker and all at Alyth will miss Iain, who was Deputy to Brian for a number of years. One of our Trade members is excelling in another sport. Andy Menmuir, of Rigby Taylor, is fishing for Scotland next month. We wish him success and tight lines!

More new members to the Section. This month we welcome Donald Mackinnon, Barra G C, and Fabrice Tournier and James Middleton, from Royal Aberdeen GC. I think that must be the full staff of Royal Aberdeen as members now. John Milne also rejoins the Section but has just moved from East Aberdeen GC to Gleneagles, so may move into the Central Section as a result.

One of my Club members came to see me with some news which might be of interest to North members. He has just returned from New Zealand, and while having a drink in a pub in the South Island, was approached by someone and asked if he was from Tain as he was wearing a Tain GC jersey. It turned out that the gentleman in question was Steve Macdonald, formerly a greenkeeper at Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC. Last I heard of Steve he was working in Holland and was in an article in this magazine about working in Europe. He is now working on a golf course in New Zealand, thoroughly enjoying life down under and is applying for Citizenship. We wish him all the best. If he ever gets up to the North Island, he should call on another Scotsman, Willie Carnegie, Head Greenkeeper at Redwood Park GC in Swanson, Waitakere City. I met Willie a couple of years ago at The Open and he came up to Tain for a game a couple of weeks later. He is a BIGGA member and so will see this. I hope all is well down under Willie.

Have you paid for your 200 Club ticket yet? The first draws are this month at the Spring outing in Inverness on the 18th. A big entry is expected, so see you there.

Remember, this is your chance to win an expenses paid entry into the Charterhouse/Scotts BIGGA National Championship at Carden Park on October 3 - 5. The best scratch and overall best net score on the day will win these trips. Next year, qualification will be combined Spring and Autumn scores, meaning you have to play both events and score well twice.

All D32/33 Assessors note there will be a Moderation meeting this month. Please try to attend, even if you are not assessing yet as we need to keep everyone informed of matters concerning education and the GTC, so these meetings are the

ideal opportunity to do just that and hopefully answer any questions you might have.

Anyone with news items or who wants to get in touch with me please note my new phone number: 07788 923214 and yes it still vibrates!

I A Macleod

**Ayrshire**

I pen these notes on a dull dreary Easter Monday evening which has seen the recent short spell of good weather come to an end. My only consolation is that the rain is washing in my Spring fertiliser.

A good few members are on the move to new jobs. I'll start with nearest to home by introducing George Morrison as my new Deputy Head Greenkeeper. George moves to Largs from West Kilbride where he has worked from apprenticeship. Staying in Largs, this time at Routenburn, Ian Donaldson has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper after Marshall Sloss's departure to Beith GC. Jim Smith, Head Greenkeeper at Ardeer GC, is moving to the trade Section as a representative for Ruffords. Jim's job will be filled by Steven Higgins who receives internal promotion. The much sought after position of Head Greenkeeper at Western Gables GC is to be filled by Jim Devlin, who moves from Royal Troon where he was Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

This position has become available due to Stewart Barr's imminent retirement after approximately 27 years service. The Section wishes Stewart well for his retirement and also congratulations and good luck to all the aforementioned greenkeepers who are moving to new jobs.

I will bring reports from the Committee Meeting and the Spring outing at Ballochmyle GC next month along with any other news. If you have any, call me on 01505 683278.

Iain Barr

**Central**

We begin this month's report with the sad news of the recent death of one of our former committee members, Jock Armstrong. Many of you will remember Jock as the jovial rep from Souter's of Stirling who went out of his way to help many a greenkeeper, even if they were not one of his customers and nothing was too much bother to him. He was appointed to represent the Trade on the Section committee at its inauguration on Thursday, 20 November, 1980 and served us well until 1989, when he felt it was time a younger person should have a chance. To say the

committee meetings were never the same after he retired is putting it mildly. As his successor (KB) never managed to organise the coffee and biscuits as well as Jock did.

The sincere condolences of the committee and members of the Central Section go to Jock's wife May and family at this very sad time.

This month sees another three new members joining us and they are Brian Heggie, from St. Andrews; Vincent Green, from Bridgend and District GC, and Kevin Wilkie from Stirling GC. Once again we extend an invitation to them to join us at some of our future events. This brings the number of new members this year, so far, to 32 which is very encouraging and hopefully we can keep the numbers increasing.

Bringing the Section Past Chairmen up to date this month they are: 1993/4, Jim Easton, who was at Stirling GC, and now at a club in London. 1994/7, John Crawford, who was at Stirling GC and is still at Stirling. 1997/to date Archie Dunn, Auchterarder GC.

Best wishes for the future from everyone in the Section go to members Simon Freeman, who is leaving Crieff Hydro Golf Centre to take over at Machrie Golf Club on Islay, and Steven Ewing, who takes over as Course Manager at Letham Grange, where he was Deputy Course Manager.

In the annual match against the Golf club Secretaries held at Lanark last month, the Scottish Region of BIGGA regained the trophy and I'm glad to report that three members of the section, A. Dunn, A. O'Hara and D. Scott played their part in the winning team. If any member is interested in representing the Section in this annual match, which is held at a different venue each year, please get in touch with me and I will keep you in mind for the next match.

Ten teams have entered the Inter Club Tournament and drawn into two leagues of five with the winners of each league meeting in the final. Would team captains please ensure that each round is played within the given dates!

John Crawford.

**West**

Just a few items to report on this month. Firstly the West Section's Education Seminar held at Crow Wood GC. Chaired by Paul Brannan the topics included an overview of COSHH and what it means to us all and how we will be affected by changes now and in



the near future. Secondly, the effects of microbial activity within the soil profile and how to sustain these precious life forms for the long term benefit of the grass plant. Lastly, Steven Hogg, Head Greenkeeper of Crow Wood GC, spoke about the basic uses of the Weather Station. The emphasis with this apparatus is the potential to record and store data over given periods of time. Such records could enable us to predict the best time at which to apply pesticides and fertilisers, thereby reducing the costly expense of misjudged applications. Thanks go to Steven Hogg and Crow Wood GC for allowing us use of their clubhouse and facilities. Many thanks to CSC for their time and effort in presenting and organising this seminar. Well done.

On now to the Conveners' match held at Cawder GC. I understand that the day went very well and that the weather even managed to behave itself. The results for the day are: Winners, Cowglen GC, 38 pts. Scott Ballantyne and partner, runners up Balmore GC, 36 pts. Charlie Goodall and partner.

Thanks to Neil and all the staff for preparing the course, to Cawder GC for allowing us to share their facilities and thanks also to the bar and catering staff in attendance. Thanks also to the two sponsors of this event, Aitkens and SGM. Both Richard Aitken and David McNroy, in attendance on the day.

Now a report on a football match played last Thursday, April Fools Day no less. An 11-a-side game held at the University Science Parks, a sportsmanlike group of Greenkeepers v East Kilbride YM. Word has it that the game was quite a toughie. Despite Stuart Taylor's rallying cries of "Come on the Greenies" and with the astro turf surface playing havoc with limbs etc, the E. Kilbride boys took an early lead with Gerry Bruen scoring the equaliser and, alas, the only goal for the Greenkeepers. Finishing with only ten men after Sandy Brawley's sending off under mitigating circumstances!! the final score was 4-1.

Rumour has it that on the day some of the Greenkeepers may have been carrying extra baggage under their shirts! Ah well, at least you will all be in shape for the next match won't you?

Thanks to Stuart Taylor for arranging the game and please remember to contact him of you wish to partake on 0141 992 5554.

Finally, if anyone has any news of interest, ie. promotions, births, deaths etc., please contact me on 0141 776 1532 or 07050 173080 (mobile).

Gavin Jarvis



**Northern Region**  
Douglas Bell  
Tel: 0151 431 0433

#### North

Congratulations to Jonathan Leach on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Queensbury Golf Club. Jonathan has moved from Outlane Golf Club, where he had been Deputy Head Greenkeeper for the past four years.

Congratulations to Andrew Clarke who has taken the position of Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Hollins Hall Golf Club near Bradford. Andrew has moved from Settle Golf Club where he was Head Greenkeeper.

All of this year's golfing venues and dates have now been finalised. Anyone wishing to book a place at any of the events must let me have their names and money at least one week before the date. Spring Tournament; Hornsea G.C. 4 April, sponsored by F.G. Adamson; President's Day; South Leeds G.C. 8 June, sponsored by Greenpride; Invitation Day; Shipley G.C. 4 August, sponsored by County Crops/Biotol; Roses Match; Howley Hall G.C. 18 August, sponsored by Pattissons; Autumn Tournament. Bradford G.C. 20 October, sponsored by RiteFeed. Winter Tournament; Fulford G.C. 8 December, sponsored by Rigby Taylor.

If anyone has any news or information from within the Section or wishes to place their names and money down for one of the above events, please contact me on 01484 317813 or 07788 442755. Alternatively by post at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield HD5 0LA.

Simon Heppenstall

#### North East

Just to remind members of what's happening this year on the golf competition. We are now having a summer competition on July 22, at Garesfield GC. Tee off time is between 2.30pm-4pm. All cups that were normally played for in the Autumn competition are to be brought forward for this event in the future.

The Autumn competition will still be played but in a different format. Just to remind members that it will be played at Carlisle and if there is enough interest we shall be laying on a coach for the day.

Graham Chambers, of Longhirst Golf Club, informed me that work is to commence on a further nine holes starting in May.

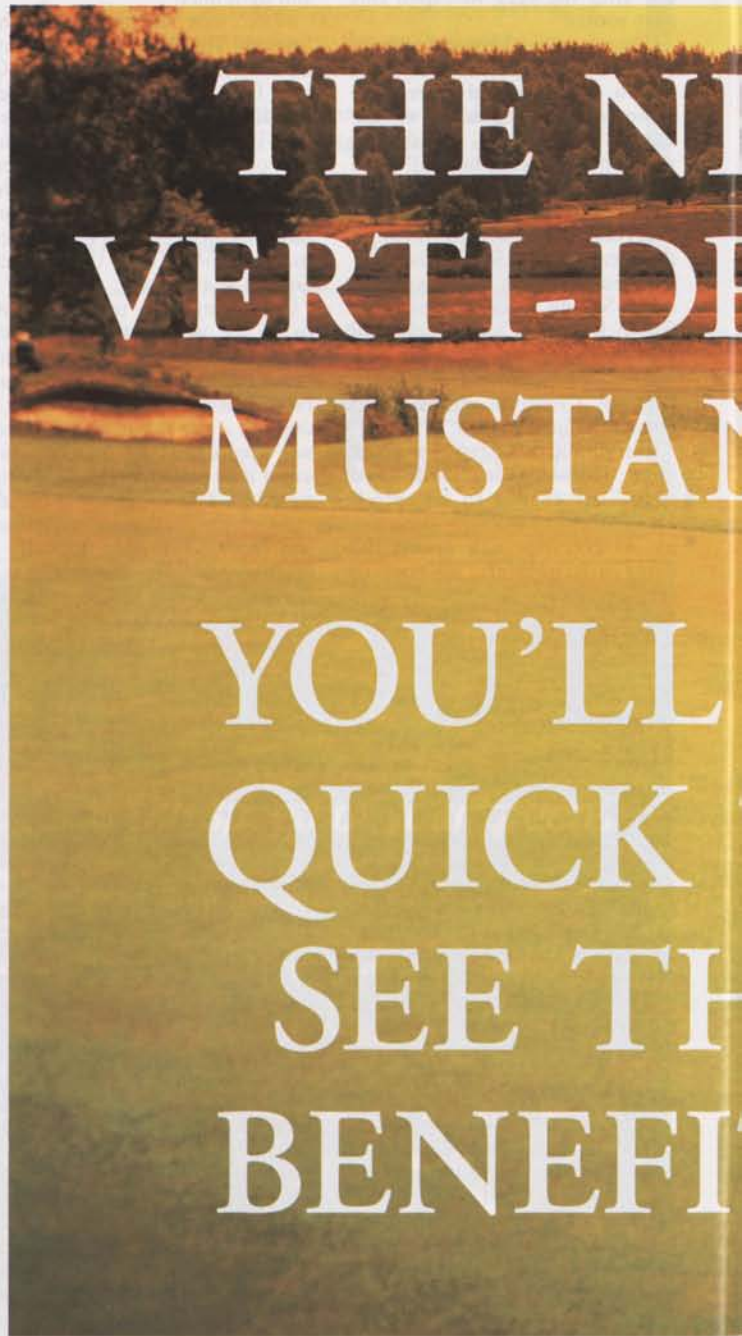
Alan Harrison of Garesfield has recently been promoted from assistant to the position of First Assistant.

Jimmy Richardson

#### Sheffield

On 14 March we held our final Winter lecture at Rotherham Golf Club and I would like to pass on my thanks for once again letting us use their facilities. The first lecture was given by Mr Crowther from Glenside Organics on organic fertilisers and the second

lecture was given by Mr Hodgkiss from Perryfields Holdings, formerly Johnsons seeds, on grass seeds. I would like to express my thanks to the two gentlemen for an excellent lecture and also thanks to Roy Ullathorne for organising the Winter lectures once again.



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

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**THE NEW MEDALLION TURF FOR 1999** has been grown from 12.5% Aberelf (perennial ryegrass) 12.5% Elka (perennial ryegrass) 20% Bargreen (chewings fescue) 35% Barcrown (slender creeping red fescue) and 20% Limousine (smooth stalked meadow grass).

**MINSTER BENT FESCUE TURF FOR 1999** has been grown from 40% Bargreen (chewings fescue) 40% Barcrown (slender creeping red fescue) and either 20% Heriot (brown top bent) or 20% Lance (brown top bent).

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John Lax

**Cleveland**

The Section had two lectures on 16 March. Turfcare had an Open

Day at Ramside GC. It was very well attended by both greenkeepers and groundsmen. The speakers were very interesting and everyone came away a bit wiser. As usual Terry Charlton put on a very good day. The meal was excellent. Our thanks to Roger Shaw and his staff for letting us

loose on his course with the demo gear.

The second lecture was on the night at Darlington GC. The speaker was Gordon Holms from CSC on Risk Assessment. About 20 greenkeepers attended.

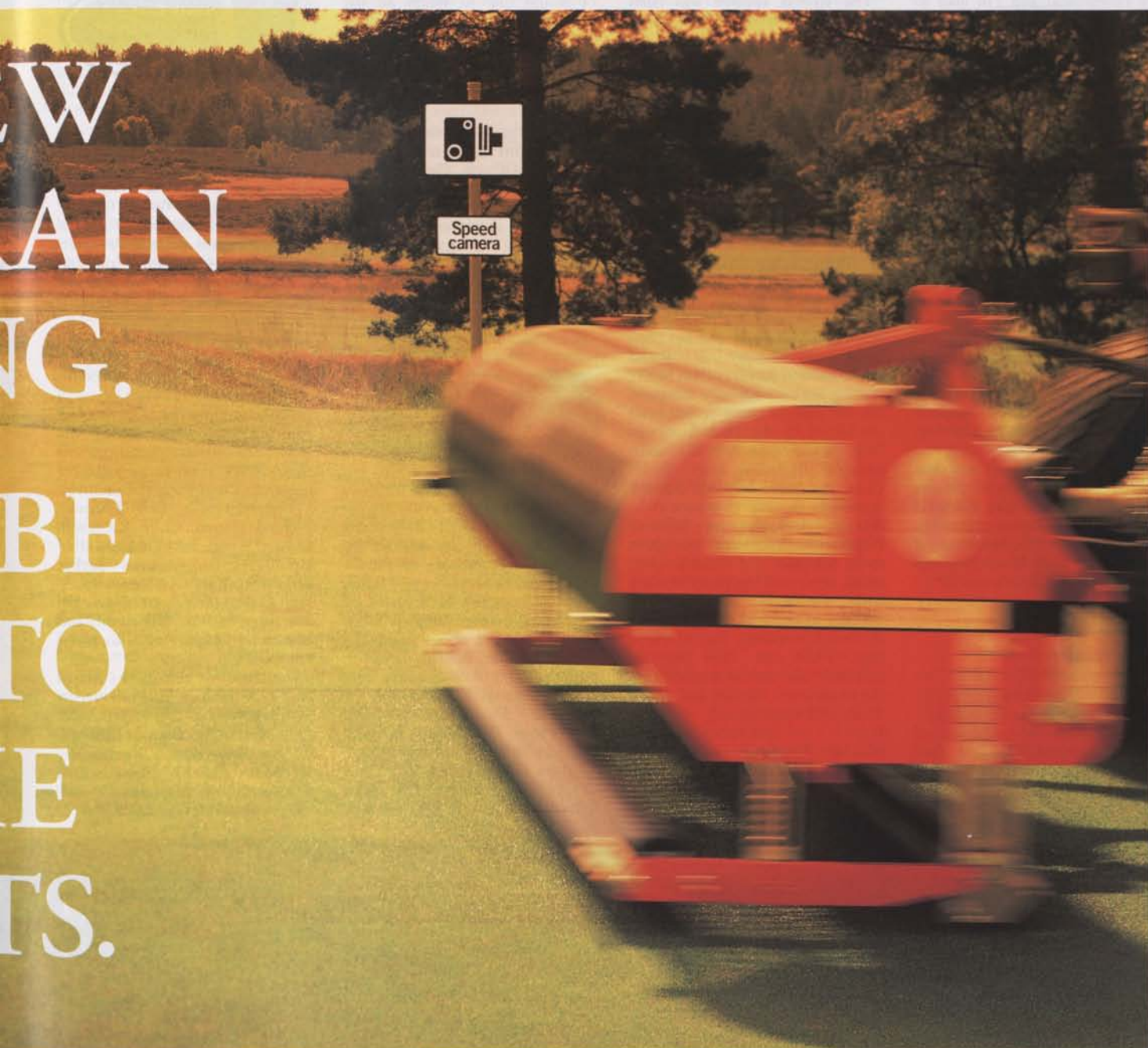
All seemed to enjoy it and our thanks to the Darlington Steward

for a first class supper.

Once again any news, let me know at work 0191 378007 or home 0191 3781912. Next Section news will have the latest from our Spring Tournament.

That should make riveting reading!

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop.



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### North Wales

Easter is upon us and, wow, the weather's lovely. This time last year we had about nine inches of snow. Oh, the British weather - don't you just love it!

On March 10 we held a seminar at the college on Water Management and the movement of water through the soil and the effects of wetting agents. It was very educational and I'm glad to say, very well supported. I never got the exact figures but suffice to say if we can get that many members interested in future lectures etc., then it will certainly be worthwhile organising them. If any of you out there have any suggestions, please let me know.

I am now starting to go through the process of becoming the Internal Verifier for Wales with the GTC (at long last) and, hopefully, by the time all you assessors read this, you should have had your first moderation meeting with Howard McAddy and myself. Fingers crossed.

I haven't got any college news this month as they are on their Easter break as I write, and to be quite honest, I haven't got anything else to write about either, so if there is anything you want mentioning, please get in touch.

Membership News. It's welcome back to Dave Proctor of Storws Wen Golf Club and also Nicholas Pearson, Nigel Barton, Damian Isado and Stuart Macdonald, all of North Wales Golf Club. Hope to see you all at our future events.

That's all folks.  
Dave Goodridge.

### North West

The Seminar at Mere G&CC on March 23 was attended by 64 delegates who enjoyed an excellent day's education. The day started with an excellent talk and slide show by John Nicholson of Eamon Wall & Co. The subject of his talk was "History of Trees in Golf

Course Architecture" and this man knows his trees. John has worked for Eamon Wall for a number of years and has advised over 150 golf courses ranging from new courses to long established courses, covering all aspects of woodland design and management. The talk was very interesting and also the advice on the availability of grants for tree planting.

The second speaker was Alan Gibbons, of Physio Control, whose talk was entitled "The need for Early Defibrillation." A defibrillator, for those who do not know, is a machine that can re-start the heart by means of electric shock treatment.

Alan had brought along a portable machine which could become an essential part of the first aid kit on golf courses. After an excellent lunch the seminar continued with Richard Stillwell, Director of Greenkeeping PGA European Tour, whose talk was "Preparing Golf Courses for European Tour Events." Richard has been greenkeeping for 34 years and has been Head Greenkeeper at Royal Porthcawl and Royal Dublin before starting his own advisory company. For the past 12 years he has been consultant to the PGA European Tour, preparing for over 300 tournaments including three Ryder Cups, the Volvo Masters and has travelled to every country in Europe. A folder on "Course Preparation Guidelines" was given to all delegates and Richard spoke on all aspects of the paper starting with preparation months in advance to the final things like out of bounds markings, Hazard markings, GUR etc. This was an excellent talk and he stressed that the tournament director and agronomist will work closely with the Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager. The final speaker of the day was Jim Croxton, Regional Secretary PGA North Region, and his subject was "Rules of Golf

Related to Greenkeeping." This was obviously a very interesting subject for a greenkeepers' seminar and of course many questions were asked and answered.

The old question of bunker rakes was raised and argued about, where do you leave the rake, in the bunker or out. The answer appears to be as close to the bunker without interfering with play.

I would like to thank all the speakers for making this an excellent seminar, Mere Golf and Country Club for allowing the use of their excellent facilities and caterers and all the delegates who attended.

The next golf tournament will be the "Summer Tournament," at Longridge GC, on Thursday June 17. All applications to be sent to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool L4 9RB, including a cheque for £15. Applications must be in by Saturday 12 June. Any news or queries, ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross



Midland Region  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01480 437507

### East Midlands

This year's Better-Ball Pairs Tournament will be hosted by Charnwood Forest GC on August 23 and will be played over 9 holes. This will hopefully be followed by an evening lecture. Anybody interested in playing or attending the lecture will find further details in future editions of this column. This year's Regional Seminar will be held at Mentmore GC on Wednesday, November 17 and promises to be full of high profile speakers. Further details will follow in future editions, but it is hoped that many more members will sup-

port this annual event.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Steve Goode all the best in his new appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Kilworth Springs GC. Steve formerly worked as an Assistant Greenkeeper at Lingdale GC.

Antony Bindley



South East  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

### Essex

Risk assessment. Two words that put fear into most people, but Jon Albutt put us right on a Health & Safety evening at Writtle College. It was an eye opener for me and the 30 greenkeepers present. An interesting evening. Thanks Jon and thanks to Doug, at Grass Roots Trading Company, for sponsoring the evening.

My Greens Chairman and I had a great day out at Walton Heath at the Gentleman's dinner. Good to see some Essex boys there. None of us won anything but it was a good day out with Clive having the course in pristine condition as usual. Derek, you owe me a glass of red wine. Don't leave the country!

New Members: Bob Spurway, Richard Linnen, Colin Robinson, Richard Wood, Tony Goddard all of Upminster GC; Andrew Taylor, Bishop Stortford GC; Steven Tovey, Jay Clark of Orgett GC; Ian Morrison, Saffron Walden GC and Michael Oakeg of Rochford Hundred GC.

The draw for the singles match play is as follows: R. Pride versus M. Forrester, R. Hughes versus M. Allen, D. Wells versus I. Mitchell, W. Wingfield versus S. Reeves.

That's all for now. Risk Assessment, where do I start?  
Dave Wells. 01702 522202

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

**Devon & Cornwall**

Dartmouth Golf & Country Club was the venue for the Rhone Poulenc & Supaturf March meeting held on Wednesday March 24. Unfortunately, on arrival, the rain started to fall which made playing conditions over Dartmouth's excellently prepared course, very difficult. Our non-golfing members departed the clubhouse on the now customary tour of the course, but with the weather closing in, they headed for the greenkeeping compound before returning to the warm dry clubhouse. After a superb lunch Paul Clifton, Rhone Poulenc, and John Mullins, Supaturf, representing our sponsors for the day, both gave a short presentation on their respective companies before presenting the golf prizes.

Supaturf Trophy for Head Greenkeepers and Trade 1. Gordon Tamblin, Mullion, 33 pts on back 9. 2. Tony Ramsden, Budock Vean, 33 pts. 3. Jonathan Bullen, Staddon Heights, 31 pts. Rhone Poulenc Trophy for Assistants. 1. Tony James, Tehidy, 36 pts, 2. Alan Gawman, St Mellion, 35 pts. 3. Terry Pascoe, Budock Vean, 34 pts.

Congratulations to Gordon Tamblin on his successful defence of the Supaturf Trophy after yet another strong challenge from Tony Ramsden who finished second again! Also, congratulations to Tony James on winning the Rhone Poulenc Trophy. It was nice to see so many Cornishmen in the prizes.

Our afternoon educational talk rounded off the day with Billy Spratt, of Phoenix Irrigation Services, presenting his excellent talk on "Starting your Irrigation System for the Season Ahead."

The Section would like to thank Billy for his superb presentation. Also, the Section would like to thank the day's sponsors, Supaturf and Rhone Poulenc for their continued support and to Dartmouth Golf and Country Club for allowing the Section use of their excellent facilities, and to all of Dartmouth's staff who made our day run so smoothly with special thanks to our Chairman, Terry Farkins, and his crew who had the course presented in superb condition.

Your attention is drawn to the pesticide courses the Section will be holding over the forthcoming months as the grandfather's clause for operators being withdrawn in the very near future. For more information please contact me on 01288 353438.

Richard Whyman



**National Championship**  
Qualifiers: Gross score Alan Gawman, St Mellion, Net score Tony James, Tehidy.

**South West**

The hot and sunny month of May has now arrived and it's time to rummage through the cupboards and wardrobe and grab those essential summer items of the modern greenkeeper. These include an ill-fitting pair of tight shorts and a cheap and dodgy looking pair of black sunglasses picked up on a day trip to Western-super-Mare.

Hopefully by now the post August syndrome will have faded away and most of your members will be appreciating your efforts and hard work over the Winter and Spring months with a big improvement in the condition of the golf course.

The better weather should allow for some excellent golfing days this

Summer. The next tournament is the Greenkeeper/Amateur event which will be held at Tall Pines GC on 18 May. All entries must be received by the 14 May. In June there is a match against the South West Secretaries which will take place on the 16 June at Enmore Park GC.

Congratulations go to Dave Bougen on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Cirencester Golf Club. Dave, who has moved from Bath GC, is also Team Captain for the South West Section. Anyone who needs to contact him about team affairs should telephone him on his new number which is 01285 720112.

Now, turning to Education and training. I am still building up a list of names for each course which BIGGA can run. Many of these courses just need a few more places to be filled before the course can actually be arranged and run. In February we ran a Fire Safety for Greenkeepers day at Gloucester Fire Station which was a big success. I am also hoping to run a one day First Aid course in June. If you would like to add your name to this list or to any other course we can run, then please contact me on 01249 783382.

Paul Cunningham

**South Wales**

Unfortunately there is very little to bring you up to date with this month, which leads me to explain that our fixtures have not yet taken place when these notes go to press. Hopefully you all should have received this year's fixture list, but if not, please contact our Section Secretary, Peter Lacey, who I'm sure will be of assistance in sending you one.

I'm sure everything went well at WESTURF this year but I'll bring you up to date next month with the ins and outs.

You would also have played the Spring tournament at Southern-

down GC, so I'll also bring you up to date with that next month. A date for your diary: BIGGA versus Pencoed College Golf Match on 2 June at the College golf course with a 5.30 pm tee off time. After, weather permitting, we may have a barbecue. Anyone with any information please contact me Tel: 01656 742761

Richard Hatcher

**Northern Ireland**

**North East**

On 25 March we had our Section qualifier for the National Championship on 3 to 5 October to be held at Carden Park, Chester. The qualifying was held at Royal Co. Down. We would like to thank all who turned up on what was a very enjoyable day. The course was in excellent condition with very fast greens. Our thanks to all at Royal Co. Down.

Finally, we would like to welcome our newest member Connor McLaughlin from Donegal who is currently working at Stakis Park. Congratulations to Mark Cassidy who is leaving Stakis Park to take up the job of Assistant Head Greenkeeper at Lurgan GC.

We wish you all the best in your new position. Mentioned twice in two months, Mark is this a sign of things to come?... Good Luck.

Eamonn Farrell



The best net was Nick Webber and the best gross was Alison Sloan. First reserve is Pat Devine and second reserve is Mark Farrell.

See you all next month!

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**Arne van Amerongen, currently working as a Supervisor for Harradine Golf in Dubai, gives some advice on using the local environment to its best advantage**

# Nature trek



Architects who try to impose their preconceived ideas on the tract of country on which they have been asked to design a new course, not only penalise their clients with exaggerated costs but frequently create huge unexpected problems.

Working with nature gives a natural acclimatised look to the new course.

Trying to reshape the landscape results in an artificial contrived appearance.

This is clearly demonstrated by the construction of a new Golf Course Golf De Lavaux in Switzerland, situated between Lausanne and Montreux. The site was a very rocky hillside at 700 metres above sea level.

Massive rocks weighing 10 tonnes and more had to be ripped out by a D-9 Caterpillar before anything approaching a level fairway could be graded out, let alone green sites.

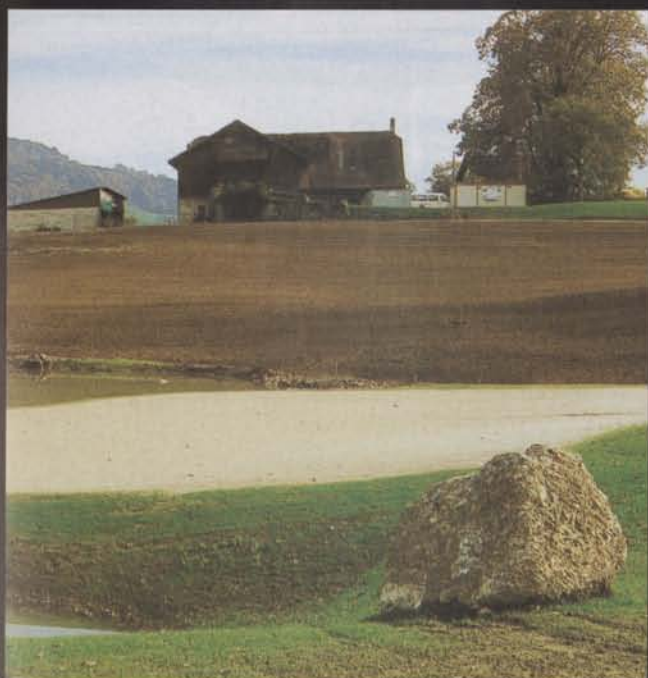
Burying the rocks was not feasible because of the lack of soil to provide adequate soil cover over the mounds. The problem of disposal of these huge rocks could have been very costly, but they were incorporated into the design both as features and to impart character to the course. One has to consider safety, of course, but when the rough is full of rocks a few massive specimens to penalise





wayward shots cannot be unduly criticised! The rock is behind the green - not in the approach area. Another sensible use was to spread rocks in the beds of streams to prevent washout and to create attractive torrents as shown in illustration 3. This prevents erosion, creates an attractive feature and finds a

useful home for large numbers of excavated rocks. Only rarely are courses built in ideal environments. With less than perfect conditions, improvisation and the intelligent use of local materials is far more effective than trying to create an entire new artificial landscape as well as costing much less.



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# 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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**Bill Oliver gives a helpful look into sprayer safety and new European and HSE standards of compliance with a view to up-dating or buying new sprayers.**

# it with confidence Spray



Does your sprayer need updating?  
Will the one you buy comply with the latest machinery safety regulations?  
What are these regulations?

You may find that equipment bought in the last 12 months does not meet required standards. I'm afraid there is a need to constantly reassess and accordingly up-date all machinery, not just sprayers, and to introduce engineering controls that further reduce injury and exposure to operator and the environment.

Employers have a duty to supply equipment that is safe for use. The new provision and use of work equipment regulations came into effect on 1 January 1998 and state that it is the responsibility of the end user, where reasonably practicable, to up-grade existing equipment to conform to the latest standards.

OK - where do we start?

First, for those making the best of what they

have already got. If your sprayer is lying in the yard; is over three years old; is rusty, with cracking pipes and a well-used pump, then it's not so much "What can I do?" but "How can I safely and legally dispose of the contaminated unit?"

If your sprayer is clean and has a good size pump it may be worth bringing it up to the latest standards. However, remember that paying out for the new add-on features for your old sprayer does not alter the fact that there is still the heart of an old unit underneath.

Second, for those looking at a new sprayer. There are lots of factors which you will have to consider in choosing the correct specifications which will work best for you and comply with all the latest recommendations and guidelines. Increased safety doesn't come without a price, but with this price you gain from higher work rates, a wider spray window and automation of essential functions from within the cab.



Contrary to popular belief size does matter. Larger capacities do save time, money and most importantly, reduce the amount of handling of concentrated chemicals.



What is right for you? With a larger tank you can maintain a higher work rate, although if the ground is soft or steep in some areas you don't have to fill the tank right up. Think first and then ask our advice. We at Gambetti make a large range of truck-mounted units of 350/450/600 litres and 650/850 litres for longer wheel bases.

Tractor-mounted sprayers are available from 200 to 1000 litre. Trailed sprayers range from 650 to 1500 litre with special units designed with you, for you.

However, many other factors influence the chemical application and price of sprayer.

#### **Pumps**

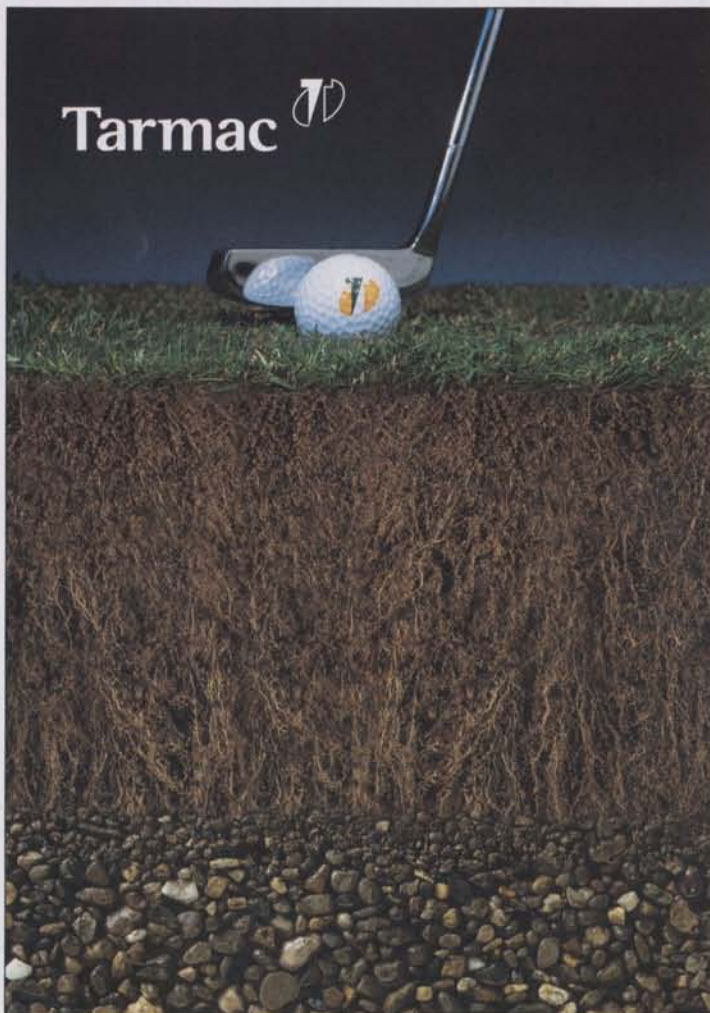
The diaphragm pump is the best for reliability and the ability to handle abrasive substances and suspensions. Beware, there are a lot of sizes. Some manufacturers sell small pumps on small sprayers but

a 3-diaphragm pump as standard gives excellent output without having to run at full throttle, thus relieving wear and tear on the pump and giving a smoother, quieter vehicle.

#### **Controls**

Pesticide regulations state that you must have a pressure balance unit such that if you turn off one section the others should not increase in pressure. I have yet to see the same in writing for sprayer legislation. This type of control will also allow for increase/decrease in forward speed as long as you do not change gear. Beware hydrostatics! Hydraulic drive pumps have similar increase/decrease as direct drive units and usually are within plus or minus 2% of sprayer output but please check induction tank/chemical hopper.

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Machinery (Safety) Regulations BS EN 907 Agricultural and Forestry Machinery Sprayers and Liquid Fertiliser Distributors.

#### Chemical Induction Hopper

The BS EN 907 standard states that sprayers shall be equipped with a transfer device and HSE takes this as a device complying with ISO 5681: 1992 and meeting the test standards of BS6356 parts 8 and 9. The EN 907 standard does go on to say that "if this is not possible" the filling hole on the sprayer shall be so positioned that the height from the ground or from a platform is not more than 1500 mm and the horizontal reach between the rim of the hole and the rim of the tank shall not be more than 300mm. The important words are "if not possible."

A manufacturer's technical file must show that it is not possible to fit a transfer device before they take

advantage of the direct filling into a sprayer using the dimensions referred to. Examples of when the "not possible" derogation may be applicable would be if the induction hopper caused stability problems on the sprayer (eg if the system was very large in relation to

the sprayer) or if there was no safety benefit from fitting it (eg the induction system could only be fitted in such a way that filling had to be carried out at a similar height as filling direct into the spray tank.)

HSE would look very critically at any claim that fitting any form of

induction system was not possible. Certainly cost would not be a factor normally taken into account in such a decision and, for example, HSE would not consider claims that an induction system could not be used because the sprayer pump had too low an output for the sys-



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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."





tem to work as a fair reason for not fitting an induction system - if this was the case it would suggest that the manufacturer had not met essential health and safety requirement 1.1.2 that relates to integrated design.

Overall HSE considers that in all but the most exceptional circumstances induction systems should be a standard fitting.

From a wear point of view I would also recommend a venturi type unit which puts the chemical into the tank without being taken through the pump in neat concentration, thus relieving clogging and wear on valves. This will not allow any neat chemical to be accidentally left in either the control or the pump. Concentrated chemical is thus never pressured over 0.5 bar.

#### **Clean Water Containers**

BS EN 907 is clear that all sprayers shall be equipped with a clean water tank with a minimum capacity of 15 litres. There is no exemption for small sprayers. HSE therefore considers that a clean water supply should be a standard feature of all sprayers.

#### **Protective Clothing Lockers**

BS EN 907 does not cover these

nor, specifically, does the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations. However, it is still the view of the HSE that to meet the duties imposed by Section 6 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, they are an item which should be provided with any sprayer to help avoid the contamination which will be inevitable if contaminated gloves or clothing have to be kept in the cab.

#### **Hose Pipe Holder**

This holds the hose a safe distance from the contaminated tank to prevent suck back into the mains water supply but also stops the next user of the hose from being contaminated.

I would like to see the following safety features added to the above list.

#### **Multi Turret Nozzles**

These cut down on nozzle change contamination. They encourage operators to select the correct size of nozzle tip to give the correct droplet size on the spray target, thus cutting down drift and using expensive chemicals to full effect environmentally. It can now be considered an offence to the environment if spray drift is

deposited other than on target.

Swath marking with foam marker and spray dyes also increases the accuracy of chemical application by minimising overlap and overdosing.

Low drift nozzles are very good and I hope to do an article very shortly on these.

Some of this article will seem very basic to trained end users but there are hundreds, probably thousands of sprayers in golf/amenity use that do not come close to these safety specifications from the HSE let alone the new legislation from the Environmental Protection Agency. Most sprayers are very poorly looked after but expected to be ready for use at any time and in an emergency.

I hope I've helped and look forward to seeing all of you at shows and on my travels. Have a good year.



Bill Oliver works as Technical Sales for Gambettibarre (UK) Ltd who also supply the Rogers Windfoil Booms which fit on any sprayer.



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From his base near York, Robert Laycock, an independent agronomist, charts the history of the use of acidic compounds on the golf course

THE

THEORY

Greenkeepers have been deliberately acidifying their greens for the last 60 years. Perhaps this is the time to stop. The fairways and rough of golf courses are often rich in fine grasses, but rarely the greens. Driving down the pH has not had the desired effect. It may have worked at first, but in many cases acidification has gone too far.

#### The history of the Acid Theory

The Acid Theory originated in the 1920s as a result of research work in the USA by Oakley and later at other universities, such as the University of Rhode Island. Broadly speaking, it had the aim of creating the acid conditions which research had shown favoured the desirable fine fescues and browntop bent at the expense of coarse grass and broad-leaved weeds. This was achieved largely through the use of sulphate of ammonia.

Apparently the theory as practised came about as a misunderstanding of Oakley's research. Oakley had established his experimental turf from seed and kept it clear of weeds by the use of acidifying materials. He did not start with weedy turf and then rid it of weeds as was attempted by greenkeepers subsequently.

In the UK the Acid Theory appealed because it simulated the acid soils where the fine fescues and bents of acid heathland golf courses could thrive. The acid conditions also worked against the needs of certain weeds (remember this was before the invention of selective hormone herbicides, which first became available in the late 1940s). It was also before the days of pop-up sprinklers and the overwatering which they all too often brought.

The acceptance of the theory was widespread. In certain cases it was

very successful. I G Lewis, writing in his book 'Turf' in 1948, stated that the Acid Theory:

"...left in its wake hundreds of ...golf greens infinitely better than before while causing severe damage to others." (My italics).

(It is interesting to note that I G Lewis was one of the first agronomists to leave Bingley to set up his own independent turf advisory service, in the 1930s.)

In 1931, Beale wrote:

"There are fashions in fertilisers as with everything else, the latest being the "acidity theory" which is so American that one feels almost compelled to spell sulphate sulfate as they do.

... In brief the theory is this: it is claimed that if turf is dressed exclusively with sulphate of ammonia in conjunction with neutral compost, free of lime, once a month from March to October, both inclusive for five years, the soil in most cases



# Are you missing?

**Driving down the pH has not had the desired effect. It may have worked at first, but in many cases acidification has gone too far.**

**The rain in the UK is naturally acid, so there is a tendency for golf green soils to become more acid over time. Will there come a time when they become too acid for healthy plant growth?**

will be rendered sufficiently acid as to exclude the growth of all weeds and coarse grasses and promote solely the growth of the very finest grasses..."

There was a backlash against the theory (which had been overdone in the 1930s) and the very low pH values which were caused had to be corrected by liming in some cases.

A J MacSelf wrote about the heyday of the Acid Theory:

"Any remark made which implied doubt [of the soundness of the Acid Theory] was attributed to stubborn prejudice and foolish adherence to old-fashioned and unscientific ideas."

#### **Observations on golf green turf**

We see few broad-leaved weeds on old golf greens. However, if the Acid Theory really worked we would expect to find that golf greens on acid soils are composed solely of fescues and bents. The only fescues which I see on the soil based greens of old inland courses are from recent overseeding or, in a very few cases, where they have managed to hold on against the odds. Bent is more common, but rarely manages to occupy more than a small percentage of the area of a green. The annual meadow grass which the technique is intended to oust is always the dominant species. Perennial ryegrass is also commonly found.

Many of the old greens I come across have a turf consisting pre-

dominantly of annual meadow grass on soils of pH 4 to over 7. In other words the annual meadow grass seems to do better than the bent and fescues at all pH levels. In other words the Acid Theory does not work.

The effects of repeated acidification can be seen in many of our old golf courses. Earlier this year I received soil samples from the greens of a well known golf course (not a regular client). The pH values were between 4.4 and 4.8. The turf was annual meadow grass, the rootzone anaerobic and thatchy. Experience has taught me that a factor in the development of greens like this is the use of acidifying materials. My recommendation was that the greens should be limed - I do not expect for one moment that they will be. But what would be the adverse effect of liming greens like this? What could be worse than their current condition?

#### **Using lime on golf greens**

I do not often advise the application of lime to golf greens, but in some cases it is necessary to correct the effects of years of over-acidifying. In these cases the benefits of lime are significant. Greenkeepers are often shy of using lime.

There is a widespread view that lime is harmful to golf greens. What about earthworms? If we let the soil pH rise won't there be worm problems? Clearly there is a danger in this, particularly if lime is used to excess. However, in my

experience, the increase in worm numbers is small if advice from a qualified agronomist is followed carefully. It is less likely to happen when starting from a very low pH.

What about fusarium patch disease? Won't that be worse if lime is applied? Again, my experience is that the turf on very acidic greens is less prone to fusarium after liming. In one case the two greens which were limed had no fusarium while the rest of the greens on the course did. My explanation for this would be that the calcium in lime is an important component of the cell walls of the turfgrasses, and plants need it to reduce the likelihood of infection.

#### **Management**

There comes a time when everyone should ask themselves: "What are the problems on our greens? What is causing them and what can we do to put them right? Are they the same as ten years ago? If not should we change our management policy?"

It is very easy to get into a rut and apply the same management programme to the golf greens this year as last year. This approach assumes that there are no long-term cumulative effects of the management programme. In the case of Acidity Theory - what are the long term effects of constantly acidifying the soil? The rain in the UK is naturally acid, though not so much as it was before the Clean Air Act, and so there is a tendency for golf



**There is a widespread view that lime is harmful to golf greens. What about earth-worms? If we let the soil pH rise won't there be worm problems?**

green soils to become more acid over time. Will there come a time when they become too acid for healthy plant growth?

Many plants are quite specific about the conditions they like. Not so annual meadow grass. It will survive at all levels of acidity. Why is this? The reason is that it is not just acidity that affects annual meadow grass survival. It is the over-watering, incorrect feeding and poor drainage of too many golf greens that make annual meadow grass the best adapted grass for golf greens, whatever their pH.

Some of the best old fescue-bent greens occur on links courses where the pH may be over 7 due to the sea shell content of the sand on which they are built. Why are these greens not full of annual meadow grass? One of my clients has greens of this type but on one of the 18 there is a significant annual meadow grass content. It is no coincidence that this is the only green on the course with pop-up irrigation. This leads me to conclude that it is over watering, not acidity, which is the main factor in encouraging annual meadow grass on the golf course.

Worse than the use of ammonium sulphate, which with iron sulphate is the usual acidifying material, there are some disreputable individuals who promote the use of granular sulphur, getting repeat orders by checking pH on a deep soil sample and ignoring the fact that the surface of the soil is

extremely acid. Since this is where the turf has most of its roots, it inevitably suffers. Each time the sulphur is applied it lingers in the soil, acidifying it over a very long time. Remember when using sulphur that the chemical reaction which occurs in the soil produces sulphuric acid, the effects of which on plant material we know from our school science lessons.

There are dangers from using any material as powerful as sulphur or lime to excess. If you intend to use them be careful and understand exactly what you are doing. Use moderation in all things. Use sulphur. Use lime. But only do it when you know exactly what you are doing or have an independent advisor who you can trust.

Robert Laycock has worked in turf research and agronomy since gaining an MSc from Imperial College, London, in 1974.

Following six years of research at STRI, his career has included periods involved with turfgrass breeding and grass seed production, as well as the production of cultivated turf and golf course management and agronomy. He now practices as an independent agronomist from his base near York, advising golf courses of all types around the UK.

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Welcome to the inaugural BIGGA workwear and casual clothing range. Late last year, BIGGA and Stylo joined forces to bring you this exciting range of clothing and footwear for 1999.

Included in the range is the first ever BIGGA approved golf shoe, the Duo - a technologically advanced shoe designed to provide the ultimate combination of on-course comfort and functionality. This shoe accommodates both softspikes or traditional spikes - both with the revolutionary quick-fit Q-Lok system.

All the clothing featured here is manufactured to the highest specifications in durable materials - offering working comfort as well as practicability. All items subtly feature the BIGGA logo.

While all the garments and footwear featured represent exceptional value for money - they have also been designed to be practical and stylish for general leisure as well as for work use.



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2

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### Pimple Palm Gloves

These gloves are pimpled on the palm to provide extra grip.  
BCP 108 GRN Green £2.25  
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3

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4

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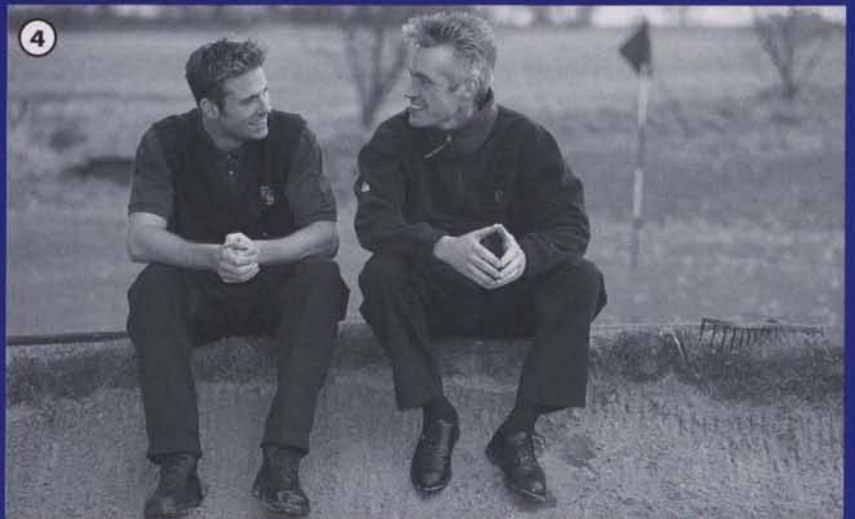
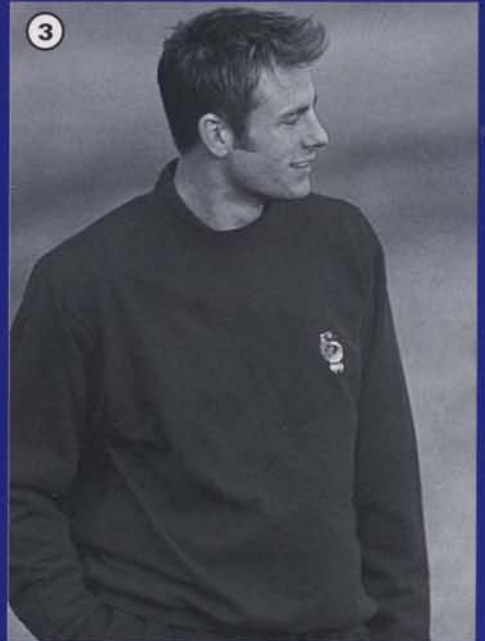
This is a plain coloured polyester/cotton short sleeve shirt. It has a flat knit colour and features the BIGGA logo.  
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# Education opportunities

With the appointment in 1989 of an Education Officer, BIGGA took an important step forward in its commitment to improving the training and education of greenkeepers in the profession and today offers a wide and varied range of opportunities to its members.

All members have access to the National Education Conference, 'in house' supervisory management courses, short regional based specialist and management courses, careers advice, a lending library, the Master Greenkeeper Certificate Scheme as well as videos, books and education related competitions.



## Education & Development Fund

Closely linked to BIGGA's education policy is the Education & Development Fund which was established in 1992 with the creation of the Golden and Silver Key sponsorship scheme. The sole aim of this Fund is to enable the promotion and financing of specialist educational programmes and training aids for the benefit of the greenkeeping profession.

Between 1992 and 1997 the Fund helped BIGGA produce three training videos (Golf Green Reconstruction, Golf Course Preparation and Golf Course Ecology) and one book (A Practical Guide to the Ecological Management of the Golf Course), plus several field guides including the identification of grasses, the identification of trees and shrubs and the control of mammals. The Education & Development Fund has also been used to help subsidise regional based management courses for the benefit of members.



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For more information about BIGGA's education and training opportunities available to you, contact Ken Richardson, Education and Training Manager, or Sami Collins, Education and Training Assistant on 01347 833800.



**BIGGA's latest Golden Key company, Amenity Technology, has quickly become a recognisable name within the industry thanks to a combination of inspiration and perspiration. Scott MacCallum travelled to Reading to meet the team.**

# Growth industry



Gary Haines,  
Stuart Ashworth,  
Carl Crome and  
Alex Wright



In terms of change there can be few equivalent industries to match fine turf over the last few years.

Keeping up with the growth and, more importantly, increasing levels of sophistication takes commitment, imagination, not to mention sheer hard work, but as Amenity Technology, BIGGA's latest Golden Key member, has proved the rewards are there.

The company started small in 1993, with just one man armed with a good idea, but it has grown out of all proportion to the extent that it

has recently moved into new premises in Reading, the fourth move in six years of trading; has 12 full time members of staff and an attractive set of product ranges packed with items which are becoming more and more popular with greenkeepers.

That original idea was to bring unique products into the market place and the key was to choose a time when the industry was ready for such a change.

"I saw niche market emerging because there was a lot of new golf club development at the time and

the demand for courses to sell themselves, and pay more attention to the cosmetics and presentation, was becoming much greater," said Managing Director, Carl Crome.

Having the idea is one thing but putting it into practice is quite another but Carl built solid foundations for the fledgling company by spending valuable time and effort researching his potential product base in the country which leads the way in such things - the USA.

"America has far outgrown us with 22,000 golf courses and still growing





An unusual addition to the office!

and so with much greater competition they had to learn to sell themselves and products have been developed which were perhaps five to ten years ahead of the UK," explained Carl.

He spent a number of months sourcing new products from America which were unavailable in the UK market.

"I brought these specialist products over to Britain and marketed them out through a distributor network. There was no-one else at the time doing the same thing."

It is a measure of the success the company has subsequently enjoyed, and Carl's ability to spot talent among the thousands of products available Stateside, that many are now established as key weapons in a British greenkeeper's armoury. "Many of the products we brought over initially were thought of as no more than gimmicks and it is satisfying to see them now so well established."

Initially Amenity Technology's market tended to be clubs at the upper end of the game but this has now filtered down to the more regular members' clubs. The question of whether this has been caused by the golfers demand for a higher standard of golf course, or that education is reaching the level that greenkeepers are demanding better quality products elicits an answer from Carl of "Both".

"The education of the greenkeeper now is just streets ahead of where it was even five years ago but the golfer is also much more demanding."

Amenity Technology now concentrates its efforts on five product ranges and within these its own Research and Development division has introduced several own-brand products.

"When it comes to our own development we always try to avoid 'Me Too' products," said Stuart Ashworth, the company's Technical Director and a qualified soil scientist.

"Instead we try to come up with something which is better, more environmentally sound; better researched and with better back-up. In other words we are always trying to

improve on the quality of the products that are out there rather than coming up with another 8-0-0. We want to be one step ahead."

An area where much development is expected over the next few years is bio technology and Amenity Technology is making sure it can meet customer needs in that regard.

"People are becoming much more aware of the environment. There is always news about, whether it be genetically modified food, global warming or that having a 1.1 litre car will reduce your road tax and this rubs off at work too and we're thinking about how we can help the environment," said Stuart.

"One of our main fertiliser ranges is based on turkey manure so again we're turning one man's waste into another man's useful product. We are trying to cater for that need by providing environmentally sound products that can be used for a sustainable resource," he added.

The desire to avoid the "same again" mentality also goes for the imported products where the team can look at 100 products and end up only bringing one of them on board... if that.

"There has been real change in the last couple of years. Previously we would approach potential suppliers but now we are approached regularly by companies who want us to be their distributors. They have heard what we have done for other large name American suppliers like The Andersons and realise the potential we could offer them," said Carl.

"But we are limited by whether the potential product fits into our portfolio and has sufficient research and trial data to backup the suppliers claims," he added.

The company has an open management structure with regular meetings where all members are able to put forward their point of view.

"We have a very relaxed approach and hope that comes across to our customers," said Carl, and the easy banter within the team itself is proof of that approach.

They use a distributor network, which stretches the length and breadth of the country to reach their customers.

"We want greenkeepers to be able to deal with their local distributor so they can talk easily about our products, and receive high levels of service," said Sales Director, Gary Haines.

To keep the distributors up to speed on what are often highly advanced, technical products regu-

lar presentations are held to provide product information on the latest releases while Amenity Technology staff will often accompany distributors on greenkeeper visits or make visits themselves to learn what the end-user thinks about products or wants from future developments.

As well as developing its five product ranges Amenity Technology has made a conscious decision to raise the profile of the company recently.

"I don't think there can be many greenkeepers now who haven't heard of Amenity Technology," said Sales and Marketing Co-ordinator, Alex Wright, who charts this change over the last two and a half years.

"BIGGA has helped us in this regard as we have done a great deal of advertising in Greenkeeper International while BTME is also a superb opportunity for us to get to know our customers."

During Harrogate week Amenity Technology hosted a reception for up to 450 in the Old Swan Hotel. It is a friendly hands-on approach that has been well received by the nation's greenkeepers and is one which is now being taken beyond these shores. The team also understands that a selling job often has to be done to the committee, members and people who just play the course as well as the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper.

"Often a product is bought by a club because it answers the demands that the club golfers have whether it be green indicator dye or colourant for lakes. If the membership is happy the greenkeepers job is much easier," said Gary.

"We are now moving into Europe and are doing particularly well throughout the EEC"

The decision to formalise the relationship between the company and BIGGA was taken through a genuine desire to make a contribution to greenkeeper education. "As I said earlier much of our success is based on our products being taken on by knowledgeable greenkeepers and anything we can do to assist with greenkeeper education obviously helps us as well as the profession," explained Carl.

While impressive, the growth and expansion of Amenity Technology over the last six years has been achieved in a measured fashion and feet have stayed very firmly on the ground.

"We have a long term strategy for Amenity Technology and that involves doing things the right way. We believe we do that," concluded Carl.



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Membership has experienced tremendous growth since 1987 when the amalgamated membership figure from the three associations stood at 1,200. Eleven years later, in 1999, membership had exploded to a record breaking 6,600 members and is still recording year on year growth.

Membership is not just for greenkeepers, it is open to anyone connected with the fine turf industry and BIGGA now has three membership categories:

**Greenkeeper membership** - for anyone who is employed on a full-time basis as a greenkeeper at a golf club.

**Associate membership** - for anyone who is not employed as a greenkeeper but is involved or works within the fine turf industry.

**Student membership** - for people studying full-time at college for a qualification in greenkeeping.

These categories ensure that everyone can contribute to the profession and benefit from the many services BIGGA has to offer.

Each membership category benefits from:-

A monthly copy of of BIGGA's award winning magazine 'Greenkeeper International' full of news, views, reviews, updates, section information, recruitment advertisements and editorial features. With a circulation of over 9,000, this is THE magazine for anyone working in the fine turf industry.

Social activities and networking:-

Members of BIGGA also become members of their local section. Each section organises events throughout the year varying from seminars and lectures in winter to golfing days and outings in summer. This is an excellent way to establish your own contacts and network.



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



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# Buyers' Guide

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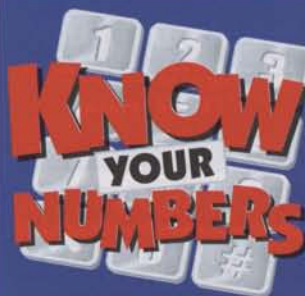
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Simply look through all the products and services in our guide and name the companies which the following telephone numbers refer to:

- a. 01722 716361
- b. 01206 272834
- c. 01538 702282

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

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

Entries to reach us no later than Thursday, May 13, 1999. The first correct entry drawn will receive a cheque for £50!

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

Last month, Christopher Tozer of Bridport & West Dorset GC, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

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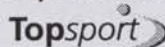
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JS/92/99

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The classified deadline for inclusion in the June issue of Greenkeeper International is Thursday, May 13

Send your completed order form to: Cheryl Broomhead, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York YO61 1UF, or alternatively fax the form to us on 01347 833802

**Greenkeeper**





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# COURSE MANAGER

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The successful applicant will be computer literate and able to demonstrate the following:

- Experience in all aspects of modern golf course management.
- The ability to prepare budget proposals for the Committee.
- A sound knowledge of Health & Safety obligations and the ability to implement them.
- The ability to recruit, train, motivate, appraise and manage staff.

Salary will be negotiable, according to experience and qualifications.

No accommodation is provided.

Applications in writing, with full C.V. to:

The General Manager, Salisbury & South Wilts. Golf Club,  
Netherhampton, Salisbury, SP2 8PR



## THE LONDON GOLF CLUB

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Steve Jones, Golf Courses Superintendent, The London Golf Club,  
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## Mannings Heath Golf Club

Requires a

# COURSE MANAGER

Mannings Heath Golf Club is a privately owned golf club situated 2 miles south of Horsham. Facilities include two outstanding 18 hole courses, Tennis court and the finest clubhouse in the south of England.

The successful applicant will report to the General Manager and be responsible for the highest standards on the golf courses, with the assistance of the Head Greenkeeper and his team. The successful applicant will currently be a Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper of an 18 hole course, looking to progress to 36 holes, who is fully qualified and conversant in all aspects of course preparation, maintenance and construction techniques.

Applications in writing with full C.V. and current salary to:

The General Manager, Mannings Heath Golf Club,  
Fullers, Hammerpond Road, Mannings Heath, West Sussex, RH13 6PG



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Clive Williams, Commercial Development Manager, Vitax Ltd,  
Owen Street, Coalville, Leics LE67 3DE  
Tel: 01530 510060 Fax: 01530 510299

## WEYBROOK PARK GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

This is an 18-hole, 6468 yard course on the Northern fringe of Basingstoke Hampshire and is a Members Owned Club. The successful applicant will be suitably qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent. PA1A, PA2 and PA6 certificates are essential and the applicant will have practical knowledge of modern machinery and irrigation systems.

The position requires a hands-on working Senior Greenkeeper who will lead by example, be hard-working and self-motivated with a keen and positive attitude towards their work.

They will show good man-management and supervisory skills leading a small team whilst working within agreed budgets.

An experienced person with a proven track record is required to take our course through to maturity. Salary negotiable.  
There is no accommodation available.

## FIRST ASSISTANT

We require an experienced and qualified person for the post of 1st Assistant Greenkeeper.

Practical knowledge of modern machinery and irrigation systems and City & Guilds or NVQ equivalent preferred. PA1A, PA2 - PA6 certificates are essential.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary, Weybrook Park Golf Club,  
Rootsdown Lane, Basingstoke, Hants, RG24 9NT

## SENE VALLEY GOLF CLUB

requires an

# EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

Sene Valley Golf Club are seeking to employ an experienced greenkeeper. He/she should be qualified to NVQ level 2 with a minimum of two years experience.

Salary in accordance with Standing Committee rates.  
A company pension scheme is operated.

Applications in writing to:

The Manager, Sene Valley Golf Club, Sene, Folkestone, Kent CT18 8BL

Closing date: 15 June 1999



## FIRST ASSISTANT/IRRIGATION TECHNICIAN

is required to join a highly motivated team at this prestigious course, home of the Benson and Hedges International Open.

You will be required to maintain the workings of the Toro Network 8000 Irrigation System. Therefore, a knowledge of Irrigation Systems is essential.

You will also be asked to carry out and supervise Greenkeeping duties, so NVQ3 or equivalent and also PA1 and PA2 spraying certificates would be an advantage.

Please apply in writing to:

David Gower, Golf Course Manager, The Oxfordshire Golf Club,  
Rycote Lane, Milton Common, Thame, Oxon OX9 2PU



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# Recruitment

## EASTHAM LODGE GOLF CLUB

has a vacancy for an

### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be qualified to NVQ Level 2/Phase II PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates preferred but not essential.

Sound knowledge of modern machinery required.

Must be able to work as part of a team.

Applications in writing with full C.V.

To: Mr C S Camden, Secretary, Eastham Lodge Golf Club,  
117 Ferry Road, Eastham, Wirral, Merseyside L62 0AP

## ROMFORD GOLF CLUB

has a vacancy for an

### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

To join its established committed team to become an integral and trained member of that team. This unique opportunity will suit an enthusiastic person who wishes to develop their knowledge and experience.

Please apply with CV to:-

Mrs Hazel Robinson, Secretary/Manager, Romford Golf Club,  
Heath Drive, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex, RM2 5QB

## ADDINGTON PALACE GOLF CLUB

requires an

### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have a minimum of 3 years experience and be qualified to NVQ Level 2. Spraying certificates would be an advantage.

Excellent pay and conditions for the right applicant.

Apply in writing with CV to: The Secretary,  
Addington Palace Golf Club, Gravel Hill, Croydon, Surrey CRO 5BB.

## LAHINCH GOLF CLUB

LAHINCH, CO. CLARE, IRELAND

Lahinch Golf Club, rated in the top 100 courses in the world require an

### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

to join our existing team.

Experience and qualifications preferred.

Salary in accordance with current rates.

Applications in writing with CV to:

The Secretart/Manager, Lahinch Golf Club,  
Lahinch, Co. Clare, Ireland

Applications to arrive no later than 30 May 1999

## CHART HILLS GOLF CLUB

Invite applications for

### GREENKEEPERS

To join our highly motivated team committed to the highest of standards at this prestigious golf club.

Ideally you must be ambitious, enthusiastic, hard working with and keen and positive attitude.

Suitable applicants should be qualified to NVQ Level 2/Phase 11 and also be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

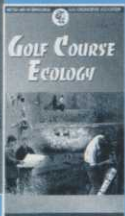
Paul Hoben - Golf Course Manager, Chart Hills Golf Club,  
Weeks Lane, Biddenden, Kent TN27 8JX

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## Feature listing from May '97

**May '97;** Data Tagging; Naunton Downs GC; Alternative Spikes; Suspended Water Table Greens; Shallow Aerators; Working in Germany

**June '97;** Drought Survival; Cooden Beach; Monitoring the Weather; Slitters

**July '97;** Royal Troon GC; Speed of Putting Surfaces; Mowers

**August '97;** Maintenance Facilities; Heather Management; Bunker Rakes; Workshops; Architecture; Kedleston Park GC

**September '97;** Accident Reporting; Greens Mowers; Valderrama GC; Links Courses

**October '97;** Environment; Recruitment; Abbeydale GC; Rough Mowers; Soil Analysis

**November '97;** Environment Competition; Bank Cutting; Risk Assessment; Pumps

**December '97;** Seed Development; Longhirst Hall GC; Toro Awards; Fertiliser Spreaders; Communication

**January '98;** FEGGA Conference; Buying Power Equipment; Elmwood GC; Mobile Phones; Traffic Management; Spraying; Environment

**February '98;** BTME Review; Overseeding; Royal Mid Surrey GC; Drainage; Thatch

**March '98;** Trees, Golf Course Accessories, News from GCSAA, Leamington & County GC, Trevor Smith's BTME Talk

**April '98;** Gleneagles Hotel, Compact Tractors, Environment, Protective clothing, Rain bird, Internet

**May '98;** Greens Mowers, Suspended Water Table Greens, Seeds, Letham Grange Resort, Charterhouse profile, Security and BIGGA's Fund Raising Campaign

**June '98;** Interview with Nick Park, Earthworm special, ATVs, Royal Porthcawl, Grinding

**July '98;** Aeration, Royal Birkdale preview, The importance of research, Architecture

**August '98;** Mill Ride, Fescue, Blowers, Textron, Open Review, Nematodes, Training

**September '98;** Nine holers - Tolladine and Fingle Glen, Turf, Steve Clement profile, Drainage, World Scientific Congress report

**October '98;** Saltex Review, BIGGA Retrospective, Stirling GC, Toro Awards Preview, Tree grants

**November '98;** Royal Opening, Ramsdale Hall GC, Gang Mowers, Hayter International report, Irrigation Systems

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

**January '99;** Pesticide Usage, Life in Colorado, Lyschott 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



# Forward thinking



Management, Have We Made Progress?"

When I was first asked to make this presentation I thought it would be easy, but just try to put 50 years into 45 minutes and you will soon have the same trouble I did. It's what to leave out rather than what you say, but I think in the end it became alright on the

night, as they say. I had to leave at lunchtime for Aldwark and the Board of Management meeting, so I had little time for reflections.

What a warm sunny end to March this year, it lived up to its reputation of coming in like a lion and going out like a lamb. By the time you read this page you will no doubt be cursing your luck, for I suspect there will have been the usual batch of cold east winds to knock you back. We did at least have a chance this year to get the grass moving a little before the rush of the new season was upon us and that is something we have not had the benefit of for the last few years. I don't think there is another job anywhere which you must take every opportunity that the weather offers, because if you don't you are sure to be made to suffer later in the year.

On the 25 March, Elliot, Neil and I went over to Portmarnock Golf Club for a meeting with Iain Ritchie, Joe Bedford and Tracy Coburn, who are President, Past President and Administrator of The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland (GCSAI) The meeting was to try and work out how our two associations could work closer together for

the benefit of all greenkeepers in the UK and Ireland.

I am please to report that the meeting was very successful and I would like to thank both Elliot and Neil for their contribution and support. Equally, Iain, Joe and Tracy, who came to the table in a positive forward thinking way, made the task of reaching agreement easy. Both Associations agree to issue a joint statement to be published in our respective magazines, so that no one can be in any doubt that we intend to have a good working relationship in the future.

I am looking forward to the rest of April and the long awaited GTC meeting on the 15th, when I hope to find out most of the answers to the many questions you have all been asking. On the 27th I will be going to Westurf in its venue at Westpoint, Exeter, and I look forward to meeting many old friends and having an excellent day.

Gordon Child







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