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President
Sir Michael
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BIGGA Board of Management
Chairman - Gordon Child
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Board Members

Richard Barker
George Barr
Robin Greaves

Jim Paton
Ian Holoran

Executive Director

Neil Thomas
E-mail: neil@bigga.co.uk

Administration Manager

John Pemberton
E-mail: john@bigga.co.uk

Sales & Marketing Manager

Steve Hardy
E-mail: steve@bigga.co.uk

Education & Training Manager

Ken Richardson
E-mail: ken@bigga.co.uk

Membership Services Officer

Tracey Maddison
E-mail: tracey@bigga.co.uk

Contact us

You can contact The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association in any number of ways:

Post: BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF

E-mail: reception@bigga.co.uk

Internet: www.bigga.org.uk

Tel: 01347 833800

Fax: 01347 833801



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of the
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Greenkeepers Association

Editorial

Editor: Scott MacCallum
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801
E-mail: scott@bigga.co.uk

Advertising

Senior Sales & Marketing Assistant: Jenny Panton
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802
E-mail: jenny@bigga.co.uk

Sales & Marketing Assistants:

Cheryl Broomhead, Diane Bray
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802
E-mail: sales@bigga.co.uk

Design

Design & Production Editor: David Emery
Tel: 01347 833800 ISDN: 01347 830020
E-mail: david@bigga.co.uk

Printing

Hi-Tec Print, Units 9-10, Houghton Road,
North Anston Trading Estate, North Anston,
Sheffield S25 4JJ ISDN: 01909 550561
Tel: 01909 568533 Fax: 01909 568206

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November 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



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Silver Key Circle Company Members

Avoncrop Amenity Products, Ernest Doe & Sons, Lambert/Fenchurch UK Group Ltd, Sisis Equipment Ltd, Weed Free



For exhibitor details on BTME2000, call Jenny Panton on 01347 833800

For educational details on BTME2000, call Sami Collins on 01347 833833

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Making a presidential visit to St Andrews

It was with a touch of trepidation that I walked into the most famous building in golf recently and informed the man behind the desk that I had an appointment with Sir Michael Bonallack. After all it's not every day that you meet one of the most influential and best known figures in the game.

Any such feelings of nervousness went as soon as Sir Michael appeared and offered a warm handshake and a smile before escorting me to one of the lounges in the R&A clubhouse, where we were to conduct the interview which appears on page 26.

That he has agreed to become BIGGA's new President is a tribute to the advances the greenkeeping profession in general, and BIGGA in particular, has made over the last dozen years or so and as a successor to the late Viscount Whitelaw BIGGA could surely not have made a better choice.

Throughout the interview I was struck by two things. One was the genuine love of golf that was apparent in his every word and the other was his encyclopaedic knowledge of so many elements of the game – including matters greenkeeping, although he modestly admitted to very little on that subject – “minuscule” was how he described his greenkeeping knowledge.

He was also well aware of how difficult it will be to replace a man of the stature of Viscount Whitelaw, who did a power of work on behalf of the Association and gave BIGGA the credibility it needed in its formative years. However he is surely just the man to give added impetus to an Association that is now about to hit its teens. No door in the corridors of golfing power will ever be anything but open to Sir Michael and a quiet word in the appropriate ear at the appropriate time will stand BIGGA in good stead for this next phase of development.

In his first year his involvement with the Association will be slightly limited as he recently “drove in” as Captain of the R&A for Millennium year and will carry out all the functions expected of the role. It must surely be unique to retire from the Secretaryship one day and become Captain the next - he still needs reminding to use the correct parking space. However we will no doubt see him at the BIGGA events he can fit into his packed calendar.

Once we'd finished Sir Michael took time to show me round the main lounge which boasts enough artifacts to keep the Antiques Roadshow busy for an entire series.

On the way out I mentioned that Walter Woods was taking me to see the new King's Barns course on the outskirts of St Andrews and Sir Michael pointed out the drawings of the course which were on display in the clubhouse foyer.

We chatted about the growing number of courses in the St Andrews area and he commented that it was good news as the more golf courses that were built the more greenkeepers that would be needed.

It just goes to prove that he's thinking of the Association already.



Editor:
Scott MacCallum

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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Duncan Gray is the master of all he surveys at The Pines Golf Centre in Dumfries



Cover photo courtesy of AllSport Photography

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45 Pining for Home

Nothing looks better than a course that's completely green.

On a growing number of courses, the choice of colour in golf and turf equipment is John Deere green. Here's why:



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This new triplex greens mower has a quality of cut that is second to none. Diesel models feature 13.4kW (18 hp) engines and John Deere cutting units.

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Steve gets set for BIGGA innings

BIGGA's new Sales & Marketing Manager is Steve Hardy who joins the Association having recently completed an MBA at the Bradford Management Centre. He has worked in a number of industries including Construction, Street Furniture and Industrial Coatings.

GI: Tell us a little about your professional background.

Steve: My background was first of all technical, providing product development and sales support for a wide range of building products. Eventually I took up a commercial role in sales and marketing which gave me both practical experience and an understanding that the customer has to be the focus for all a business's efforts because if you don't look after them then someone else will!

GI: Do you think those skills will be just as relevant working for BIGGA?

Steve: I believe the same principles apply whether it is a service or product which is being offered. Members or customers are looking for tangible benefits and value for money and part of my job is to ensure people are satisfied with the "product" we at BIGGA have to offer.

GI: What attracted you to BIGGA?

Steve: I can't deny there is an attraction working in such a fantastic location as Aldwark, although it is important to be out seeing the industry in action in order to understand the members and suppliers needs.

GI: What do you see as BIGGA's role?

Steve: The continuous training and development of people is so important these days, if we are all to keep up with the rate of change. BIGGA's role in that strikes me as very progressive and the industry sponsors are to be congratulated and encouraged for their support.



GI: What are your initial aims?

Steve: I am looking forward to making a contribution to BIGGA at an exciting time in the Association's history. There is a tremendous foundation to build on and many new initiatives and opportunities to develop.

GI: On a personal note what are your interests outside work?

Steve: I have to confess to a greater knowledge and ability at cricket rather than golf, but no doubt that will change now I am involved directly in this industry.

Steve can be contacted on 01347 833800 or by email on steve@bigga.co.uk

Andrew's top appointment at Toro

The Toro Company has appointed Andrew Brown to the new position of Corporate Accounts Manager for Europe, the Middle East and South Africa.

Andrew, 33, joins the company's international division, whose European headquarters for sales and marketing is based in the UK at Bournemouth.

In his new role he will be responsible for working closely with Toro's national distributors both for commercial turf equipment and irrigation products, and to a small extent with consumer machines. Initially he expects to spend about 50% of his time working in the UK.

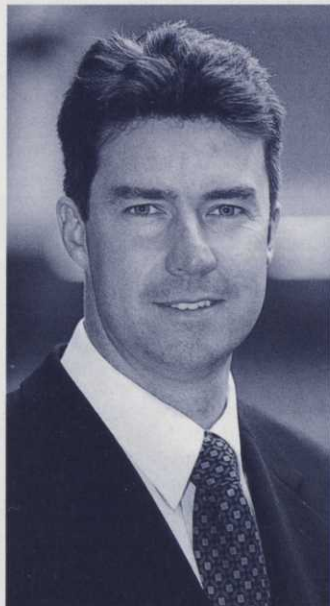
Chief among Andrew Brown's responsibilities will be to help service Toro's key account customers such as large national, and international, groups that have partnered with the company through exclusive deals. He will also be heavily involved in teaming up with distributors to prepare and present proposals for large contracts with new customers.

Bob Buckingham, European Sales Manager for The Toro Company, said: "This is a senior appointment aimed at giving our customers the high level of support expected from Toro. Andrew also has a great knowledge and experience of the irrigation side of the business. Coupled with sales of machinery, this will give a further boost to the Total Solutions package."

Having obtained a master's degree in irrigation engineering from Silsoc Research Institute, in Bedfordshire, Andrew Brown joined the government's Department for International Development. For three-and-a-half years he worked for them on a large-scale agricultural project that was part of a desert reclamation scheme in Egypt.

On returning to England in 1994, he became operations director for a commercial landscape irrigation company in Oxfordshire, prior to joining Toro.

He is currently chairman of the UK Irrigation Association.



Pastures new for Peter Larter

Peter Larter, who has been the Midland Regional Administrator for the past three years, is leaving the post to take up a full-time position with another company.

"Peter's contribution to the Midland Region over the last three years has been considerable and we wish him well in the future," said BIGGA Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

Peter, a huge ex-British Lion lock forward, leaves with a fitting tribute delivered by John Simonett, the speaker at the recent National Golf Championship.

"Peter Larter lights up a room... when he moves away from the window."

Ocmis & Textron form partnership

Textron has signed a partnership agreement with Ocmis Irrigation which aims to promote to mutual clients the ability to purchase complete golf course irrigation and machinery packages in a competitive manner.

"Ocmis is a well-established and well-respected supplier to the golf sector. This agreement provides both parties with the opportunities to offer competitive packages for complete golf course maintenance. It is a natural extension to our marketing policy as it enables two major suppliers of quality equipment to provide a comprehensive and competitive service to the golf sector," said Peter Bell, Marketing Director for Textron.

"We are absolutely delighted to have formed this agreement with such a major player in the golf sector. We see this agreement as a marketing partnership for today benefiting the golf clubs of tomorrow," said Chris Aplin, Ocmis Managing Director.

Silent Auction silenced

BIGGA has announced that the Silent Auction planned for BTME 2000 will not now take place. Commenting on this decision, Executive Director, Neil Thomas said, "Unfortunately it became apparent that support from companies within the industry for the Silent Auction was not at a level which would guarantee its success. In those circumstances, it would not have been fair to those companies who had donated items, to proceed with an auction which could have proved of questionable benefit to them, and, which may have lacked the wholehearted support of BIGGA's membership. The Association will continue to discuss with interested companies initiatives for the future development of BTME."

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Profile

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

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



Name: Mark Brute

Club: Old Colwyn GC

Position: Assistant Greenkeeper

Age: 17

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
15 months

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
NVQ Level 2 at The Welsh College of Horticulture

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
Cutting fairways

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
Edging and raking bunkers. Also divoting tees

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?
My second option was to be a joiner

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
My parents have been the biggest influence, also Gary Edwards, Head Greenkeeper at Old Colwyn Golf Club

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
Better understanding from Club Members of the work involved in maintaining a golf course

8. What are your hobbies?
Playing golf with a handicap of 6, and bike riding

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
Monthly copy of Greenkeeper International, greenkeeper seminars and outings

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
Would like to be a Head Greenkeeper or maybe involved in course design and construction

Keegan presents Carden with award



England football Manager, Kevin Keegan, was on hand to help Carden Park celebrate winning a top national honour.

The 750-acre hotel, golf resort and spa, on the outskirts of Chester, has been voted Best UK Venue by the publishers of the best-selling 'Following the Fairways' guide.

And the England soccer boss interrupted a round of golf at Carden to present the Award.

The annual award, sponsored by Jameson Irish whiskey, is based on all-round excellence, including the quality of a venue's golf courses, its hotel facilities and the welcome provided by staff.

Julian West, publisher of Following the Fairways said, "Carden Park has established itself in a relatively short period of time as 'the Gleneagles of Northern England'.

"It is a worthy winner of the 1999

UK Golf Venue of the Year award and, for any golfer planning a trip to the north west, Carden Park is a must."

Hamish Ferguson, General Manager of Carden Park, said: "We're delighted with this award, which proves our status as a major golfing venue - able to host some illustrious occasions, as well as provide enjoyment for individual golfers of all abilities."

Information centre at new Association

Some of the U.K.'s most experienced experts throughout the golf industry have joined forces to form the Golf Consultants Association.

Based near Warwick at the Sports industries Federation, the association will provide a point of reference for those requiring independent professional golf consultancy services world-wide.

This independent association of golf consultants will incorporate eight disciplines from the initial development and investment appraisal through to operational management and marketing of golf clubs and resorts world-wide.

Stephen Proctor, on behalf of the Association commented:

"Our collective aim is to provide

clients with a highly professional service with the reassurance of working with some of the most experienced individuals in the golf business. In this way we can ensure that the client receives an efficient and cost effective service. Our nine founding members, including two from STRI, provide a solid base for the Association's future."

The initial cost of membership will be £250 per annum, and will be on an individual rather than a corporate basis.

Prospective members must demonstrate substantial consulting expertise and experience in one GCA membership discipline for a minimum of five years plus references from two clients commissions.

Founding Members and Disciplines

Stephen Proctor, Sports Marking Surveys Ltd - Golf Development Market Research
Alan Ryder, Ryder Golf Services - Golf Topographic/Survey Services
Robert Taylor, STRI, and David Stubbs, Env. Golf Services - Environmental Management
John Ashworth, John Ashworth Associates; Dr Falk Billion, Golf Management, and Bryan Griffiths, Golfconsult International - Development and Investment Appraisal.
Jeff Perris, STRI, and George Shiels, McMillan-Shiels - Turfgrass Agronomy.
Philip York, York & Martin - Water Resourcing and Irrigation
Ian Bullied, Impetus Golf and Leisure - Operational Management Consultancy
Graeme Grant, Premier Resorts Ltd; Russell Bragg, Premier Resorts Ltd, and Helen McDonnell, Compete Golf and Leisure - Golf Enterprise Marketing.

Saltex success

The Best New Sportsturf Product Award at SALTEx '99 was won by Kubota (UK) for the AM3300 Ride-on Triple Cylinder Mower, said to be the only mower of its kind in Europe that is able to collect and dispose of cut grass without the driver leaving his seat. Although this product is aimed at local authorities and contractors with large grass areas to mow, the judges considered that the machine would also bring benefit to professional sportsturf managers and groundsmen maintaining football pitches.

BIGGA 2000 subscription rates

Subscription rates valid from January 2000

Job Title	2000 rates
Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£75
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£60
All other greenkeeping staff aged 21 years and over	£50
Green staff aged 20 years and under	£30
Full-time Students	£15
International Greenkeeper	£60
Associate Member	£60

Textron's UK Sales title goes to Richard

Richard Tyrrell, 39, has been appointed UK Sales Manager for Golf and Turf Vehicles at Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products.

He joins Textron from the industrial cleaning division of Kärcher where he held a joint role as Sales and Training Manager.

"I see this as an excellent career move following Textron's commitment to massive investment and growth over the next five years," said Richard.

"I will be concentrating my efforts on the E-Z-GO brand with golf cars and utility vehicles in the golf and turf care sectors and also the new range of personnel carriers dedicated to the commercial sector," he added.

John Nicholson Associates

John Nicholson, formerly a Director with Eamonn Wall & Co, has formed his own company, John Nicholson Associates.

John who is a regular speaker at seminars including BTME '98 and this year's North West Seminar at Mere offers an array of services to potential clients.

"I can offer expert advice on woodland design and management, arboreal surveys, tree health surveys, removal of trees and boundary hedge planting and hedge laying," said John, who has had articles published in several magazines including Greenkeeper International.

Lindum moves into the Millennium



Lindum Turf has supplied 2,800 square metres of BAyr root Washed Turf for a picnic area at the rear of the Millennium Dome and landscaping surrounding a water feature at the northern end of Central Park. "I think the quality of the product coupled with our professional business approach secured the contract," said David Snowden, Lindum's Sales Manager.

Rhône Poulenc issues safety warnings for Castaway Plus

The Pesticide Safety Directorate (PSD) recently completed their evaluation of an application to extend the approval of Rhône Poulenc product "Castaway Plus". The outcome of the evaluation was a decision to revoke the product, based on concerns relating to physical properties of the formulation.

Distributors and users have a two year wind-down period (to the end of July 2001) to sell or use existing stocks.

Rhône Poulenc state that as PSD has allowed a two year sell-out period it indicates that the product is still safe when used as recommended on the label.

In the case of any queries please contact Jenny Murphy, Technical/Registration Specialist at Rhône Poulenc Tel: 01277 301115.

Ernest Doe picks up Textron award

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products held its annual dealer awards at an evening reception at Saltex and for the second year running Ernest Doe and Son, of Ulting, near Maldon in Essex won the Textron Dealer of the Year Award.

Colin Doe, Dealer Principal, accepted the silver trophy and commemorative plaque from Harold Pinto, Textron's Managing Director.

Textron dealers from the UK, Eire and Europe attended the ceremony which recognised business excellence in all areas. Scottish Grass Machinery of Inverkeithing, Fife scooped two awards as did European dealers Van der Pols, of The Netherlands and Svenningsens of Denmark.

New Kubota challenge for Walter Wilder

Kubota has appointed Walter Wilder, to provide comprehensive sales, service and parts support for existing and future Kubota machinery owners in Berkshire and parts of Surrey and south west London.

Based near Reading, Walter Wilder has been given responsibility for the complete Kubota product range encompassing market-leading compact tractors and attachments, diesel ride-on rotary and cylinder mowers, and garden machinery. Current and future potential customers for Kubota equipment include local authorities, golf and sports clubs, landscape contractors, farmers, nurserymen and growers, estate owners, equestrian centres, schools, colleges and domestic and professional gardeners.

Kubota celebrates anniversary in style

Kubota, celebrated the 20th anniversary of the formation of its British operation with a commemorative luncheon held at the Guildhall in the heart of the City of London.

Hosted by the directors and shareholders of Kubota (UK) Ltd, the luncheon recognised the part played by Kubota in advancing the mechanisation of agriculture, horticulture and the construction industry within the United Kingdom and Ireland over the past two decades. The event was attended by almost 300 of the company's customers,

dealers, suppliers and staff.

Honoured guests who spoke of Kubota's heritage and the major contribution made by the company and its products included the Japanese Ambassador, His Excellency Sadayuki Hayashi; the Rt Hon Michael Heseltine CH MP; and the President of Kubota Corporation, Mr Yoshikuni Dobashi.

The Kubota Corporation has over the past 30 years set up subsidiary companies in all of the major global trading markets.

In 1979, the company founded its

operation in the United Kingdom and Ireland under the name Kubota (UK) Ltd, headed by a joint Japanese and British board of directors. In 1999, Kubota UK celebrates its 20th anniversary with Mr Masay Miyake and Rene Orban guiding the operation as Managing Director and Deputy Managing Director respectively.

Speaking at the celebration luncheon, Mr Miyake said that he was proud of the progress that had been made since he joined the company, shortly before its 15th anniversary.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



BTME bulletin BTME bulletin BTME bulletin

Q: How are preparations going for BTME 2000?

A: We are well on the way to being full. Hall Q is over three quarters full and requests are still flooding into the office on a daily basis.

Q: Hall Q?

A: Yes. This is the first year that we will have used Hall Q which is twice the size of Hall G which we used last year. It has its own main entrance equipped to accept both pre and non registered visitors alike. It is also linked to Hall C and the other halls by an attractive glass walkway.

Q: Can you give us an indication of some of the companies which will be in the new hall?

A: Well the BIGGA stand will be there for a start while Rigby Taylor, Rhône Poulenc, Amenity Technology, Rainbird, Sisis, H. Patisson and Co, Softspikes, Pentagon Amenity Marketing and Gem Professional are among some of the others to take space.

Q: What else will be different from previous BTME's?

A: The organisers office has been relocated to Hall Q in a pre-equipped site while we have new, improved and enlarged catering facilities including a separate coffee bar. In addition there will be numerous TV screens situated throughout the halls used to highlight seminars, news bulletins and weather reports - with a visual message system.

Q: Anything else?

A: Two other main features, situated adjacent to Hall Q in the King's Suite, will include an exhibitors lounge to enable exhibitors to take a break from the public eye or hold private meetings with prospective clients and The Careers Clinic which is a series of informal presentations concerning all aspects of recruitment and job hunting from CV writing to interview preparation. All to help those concerned find that ideal job.

The press facilities have also been upgraded significantly to include a formal presentation area where companies can make press announcements or hold press conferences.



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TALKING

This month, Greenkeeper International's bi-monthly series featuring Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers from every Region, looks at Bunkers.

Bunkers

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE



Name: Duncan Peddie
Course: Alloa GC
Region: Scotland
Type of Course: Parkland
Number of Holes: 18
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus five



Name: Vincent Magill
Course: Cairndhu GC,
Northern Ireland
Type of Course: Parkland
Number of Holes: 18
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus four and two students in the summer



Name: Jeremy Duffield
Course: Cleckheaton and District
Region: Northern
Type of Course: Woodland
Number of Holes: 18
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus four and a part-time gardener



Name: Jonathan Wood
Course: Ross-on-Wye GC
Region: Midland
Type of Course: Woodland
Number of Holes: 18
Staff: Course Manager plus four, plus part timer three days a week.



Name: Paul Jenkins
Course: Lilleybrook GC
Region: South West and South Wales
Type of Course: Parkland
Number of Holes: 18
Staff: Course Manager plus five



Name: George Barr
Course: Ham Manor GC
Region: South East
Type of Course: Parkland
Number of Holes: 18

1

1. How many bunkers do you have and have you added or subtracted from that number in the past?

We now have 56 bunkers. We had 58 ten years ago but took two fairway bunkers out.

25 plus one practice bunker. This year we are having two or three changes, but we will finish with the same number.

We have a total of 48 at Cleckheaton now. Last year two greenside bunkers were changed into one.

We used to have 28 but added another near the 13th green during 97-98 when all the bunkers were reconstructed.

A total of 32. We added one some time ago – the greenside at the 14th

We have got 74 bunkers and in last 10 years we've taken away four and installed one new one.

HEADS

2

2. What type of sand do you have and what are its advantages?

We use Stewart's No 2 which is dark brown and very good after heavy rain as it doesn't compact and it is very consistent wet or dry. We used to have a silicon white sand but it caused problems by burning the face of the bunker and tended to congeal after rain.

We are experimenting with Wexford white sand in six bunkers at the moment as in my opinion it looks quite spectacular. However, it's a bit expensive at £25 a tonne and we may go back to filtered sand.

Moneystone at present. It doesn't blow about as it is quite a heavy sand and it eliminates sand splash.

We have Bank's GS 5 sand, the advantage being that I didn't want a white or too bright sand as it wouldn't fit the environment. The disadvantage is that sometimes it blows about a bit as it is very fine.

A white double washed sand which is not too fluffy. The golfers like it and it is compatible with our top dressing so any splashed out of a greenside bunker blends in very well.

The sand we use is a Tarmac Top Sports Minstead HMS2 because it is a sand that suits us. It firms up and the ball doesn't plug in and it is free draining and consistent.

3

3. Have your bunkers been designed with maintenance in mind or would you make any major alterations if given the chance?

Originally they were designed with maintenance in mind but over the years with constant edging and trimming they lost their shape and became ugly. Last year after a visit to the King's Course, at Gleneagles we copied the Braid design and are now the subject of good comments from the members.

They were never designed with maintenance in mind and we have suffered from waterlogging. We are doing a lot of work this winter on lessening the slope on the bunkers so they don't retain too much water.

Maintenance was in mind when the bunkers were designed. We are now re-shaping them as they don't face up, so there is quite a bit of work to be done.

When we reconstructed we tried to maintain the original design which has been good from a maintenance aspect. We could perhaps do to enlarge one or two.

Originally they were, but after 70 years of play they are not perfect. I would like to turf down the banks rather than have sand all the way to the top.

Our bunkers are not maintenance friendly and are a little difficult to maintain at times due to characteristics of a Harry Colt design. There are a lot of banks and edges on them. We don't maintain them mechanically - they are all raked by hand.

4

4. How often do you do major maintenance work on your bunkers and of what does it general consist?

We edge twice a year, fly-mow weekly and the lads take edging shears out with them once a week.

We top up with sand twice a year and edge twice yearly. There is a continuous programme of strimming and weeding to keep them tidy.

We top up the sand usually once a year, although obviously more often if needed, on the greenside bunkers in particular. Edging, fly-mowing and weeding is done fortnightly.

We top up the sand twice a year in spring and autumn and trim the bunker edges every two weeks in the growing season.

We edge and trim fortnightly. Four years ago we drained every bunker and took all the old sand out.

We edge them maybe three or four times a year, strim some of them and flymow them. We have a five year written maintenance programme for our bunkers for sand replacement so that all the bunkers will have exactly the same sand in them. It is written down as per a policy document.

5

5. What is your your policy regarding where the rake is left?

Inside the bunkers. This was a club council decision about five years ago, I believe, after comments on the subject by Peter Alliss on television. I always believe that if a shot is heading for a bunker it shouldn't be stopped by a rake.

We always keep rakes in bunkers, otherwise our staff have to keep getting on and off the cutting machines to move them. I also believe that a rake shouldn't stop the ball from going into a bunker.

I like to put the rake inside the bunker because if a shot is heading towards a bunker it should go there rather than be stopped by a rake.

Our policy is to leave the rakes in the bunkers as near to the edge as possible. It is possible we could have a 'Y' stand for bunkers in future, as it has been discussed.

It is the club policy to have the rakes in the bunkers. Rakes outside can stop a bunker-bound shot from going in.

Our policy is that rakes should be placed inside the bunker with about six or eight inches of the shaft of the handle coming out of the bunker and the rake should be pointed at the green. The bunkers are raked every day and the staff position the rakes as they should be then.

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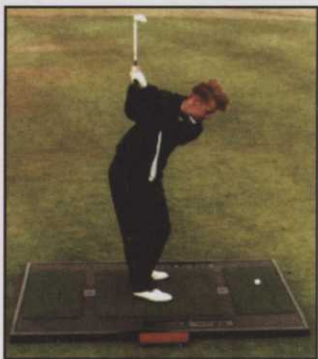
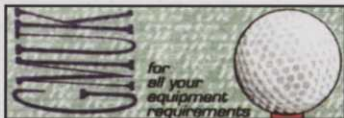
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Ad Ref 435

A bunker according to the new Shorter English Dictionary is a pit containing sand etc. and constituting a hazard trap. In this article Keith Thompson discounts the "etc" and concentrates on the sand...



Bunking Off



Right: Bunkers maintained by mechanical process have to be carefully designed and constructed to ensure that the bunker rake performs to maximum efficiency and without damaging the edges

Bunkers originated from the early Scottish Links courses as hollows created by the forces of nature and enhanced by grazing animals. The natural occurrence of these hazards on the early links courses led to some fiendish course designer incorporating the sand trap into his own course design and from there the idea spread. It is reported that there is an 18 hole course that has over 300 bunkers, but this seems to be excessive leaving little room for the grass. The average golf course has four to five bunkers per hole, which in my view can still be too many.

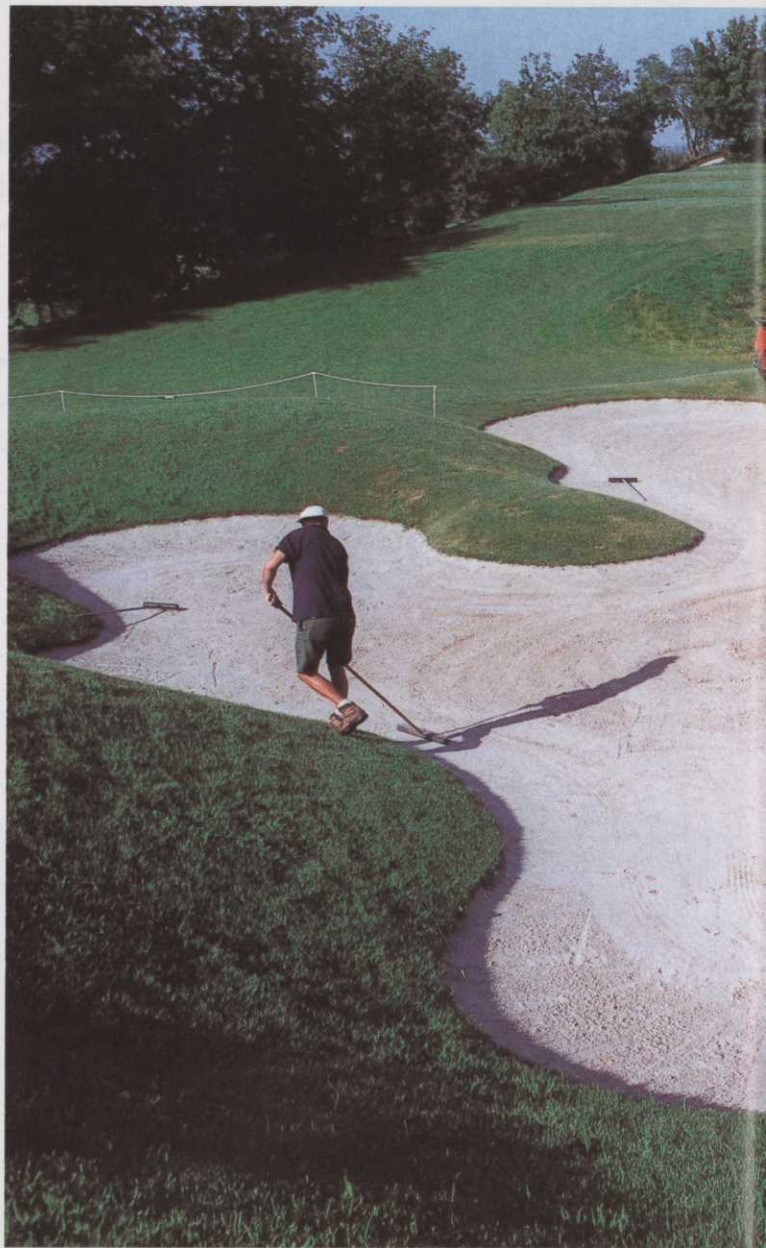
The bunker should not only be strategically positioned to afford the maximum discomfort to the golfer but should also enhance the visual amenity of the course. The design of the bunker will vary from course to course with the greatest marked difference being between Links courses where wind blow is a major factor and inland parkland courses where the wind factor is less but drainage can be the main problem.

The design of a Links bunker generally is small in area, but deep and the sand used will more than likely

be that occurring naturally in the local area. An inland course, unless built on gravelly land will, almost certainly, have a drainage problem. In this case, the bunkers should then be constructed with a comprehensive under-ground drainage system.

This consists of gravel filled channels in the bunker floor falling to a main drainage course piped to a soak away. The gravel layer should be covered with a geotextile membrane to keep the drainage channel free from clogging. The overall bunker should be designed to channel surface run

Right: Bunkers should be strategically positioned, but also enhance the visual amenity of the course.



off water around or away from the bunker. Ideally, the face of the bunker should be no more than 30 degrees from the horizontal, this will enable the sand to hold position and avoid erosion.

Once the bunker has been properly designed and positioned, the final and most important ingredient is the sand. Trying to cut costs at this vital stage is a false economy. Any old builders sand simply will not do; the cheapest

option is almost certainly not the best.

Sand can be too fine resulting in poor drainage and crusting, so a high quality silica sand is essential. The correct grading is also important; if the sand is too coarse the high-pitched ball will plug and the golfer's stance will be unstable. The grit particles from coarse sand in greenside bunkers will be strewn onto the green. Too fine and the sand blows away.

The shape of the particle size is also an important factor and a semi angular grain shape is preferred with not more than 60% of the particles rounded to well rounded. This is to ensure sufficient drainage and improves the stacking angle at the bunker face.

The chemical composition of the sand has also to be considered and the best sands have a high silica content; the higher the percentage the better, as this reduces the impurities. A low lime content of less than 0.5% is considered beneficial; this avoids the possibility of damage to the surrounding grass areas.

Silica sand deposits are the small siliceous fragments resulting from the wearing down action of ice, water and wind. The ideal sands for bunkers

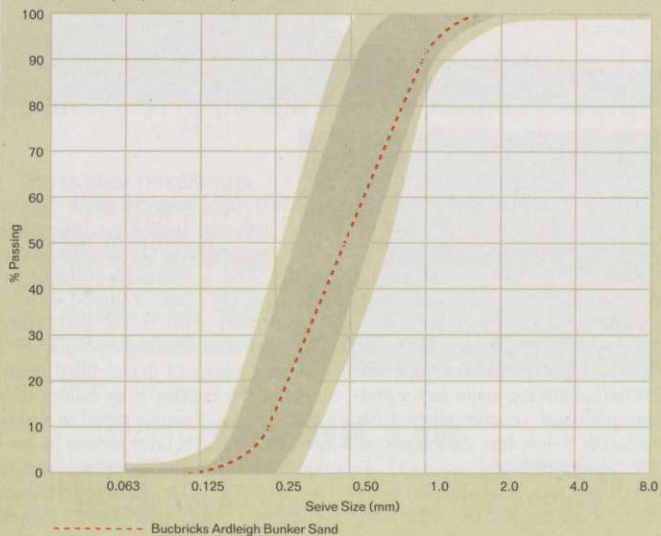
occur in only a few places in the United Kingdom and where these deposits exist, sand and gravel quarries have developed.

The material is excavated from the quarry face and transported to a processing plant. The initial segregation is to separate the gravel particles from the sand by passing them over a large vibrating screen. The sand is washed through the screen and then to a pump which carries the particles to the final selection process which, in most cases, splits the bulk sand into three graded sizes - Soft, Medium and Sharp. Medium sand is the preferred grading for bunker sand and in some cases this sand is re-washed to remove excess fines and discolourants.

There is no perfect grading for bunker sand but the Sports Turf Research Institute has done considerable work on preferred sands and they recommend "at least 95% of the particles in the size range 0.125mm to 1.00mm with the greatest proportion between 0.25mm and 0.5mm. There shall be no more than 2% fine gravel and less than 2% silt and clay". The grading is best shown in the grading curve shown opposite. The most suit-

Acceptable sand size limits

This grading curve defines recommended and acceptable limits of sand size for golf bunkers on inland courses
Graph reproduced by kind permission of the Sports Turf Institute





able sands will fall into the darker coloured area of the diagram.

The colour of bunker sand is a matter of taste, but the general trend on inland courses is towards the lighter to white colours. This lighter sand is more likely to occur in the high silica areas, but even here to get the best results selective quarrying at the face is sometimes necessary prior to the grading process.

The depth of sand used in a bunker can be both too great and too small. The recommended compacted depth is 100mm. This provides a firm footing and ensures that the clubface does not impact with the sub-base. Daily maintenance of the surface is required and this can be done either manually or by machine. Bunkers maintained by mechanical process have to be carefully designed.

Specifically, constructed to the correct radius and depth this will enable the machine to rake the bunker with maximum efficiency and without causing damage to the edges.

It is probably more important with a mechanical rake to have clean, high quality silica sand as this prevents clogging of the machine and ensure

the sand in the bunker does not become compacted.

In summary it can be seen that bunkers should be carefully designed and constructed with attention given to adequate drainage, especially on inland courses. Cheap builders sand will almost certainly prove to be a false economy, so adherence to STRI guidelines is strongly recommended to ensure that you provide the optimum facilities for your paying customers. This article has not designed to help those paying customers get out of bunkers, but I hope it has provided some technical reasons for their failure, sometimes, to do so!

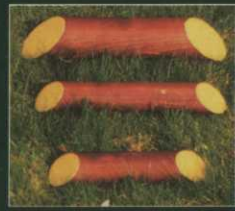
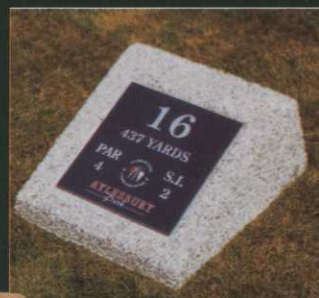
Keith Thompson is General Manager of Bucbricks Co. Ltd of Ardleigh, near Colchester in Essex, who for the past 20 years have supplied high quality bunker and root sands to many major and championship golf courses in the south-east of England.

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BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson gives information on training courses, and sets a quiz for readers

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The Learning Experience 2000

Applications for the National Education Conference, Workshops, Seminars and the BTME Banquet are flowing into BIGGA HOUSE at a steady rate. Thanks to the continuing support of Textron Turf Care and

Specialty Products, the Learning Experience 2000 looks set to be a sell out. Make sure of your place by sending in your completed booking form as soon as possible. Learning Experience brochures are being sent to all golf clubs this month.

Full details of the education and training options available at BTME2000 are included in 'The Learning Experience' brochure.



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TORO Student of the Year Competition

Last month's copy of Greenkeeper International previewed the entrants for the 1999 TORO Student of the Year Competition, which for the first time. The GTC nominated three of their Modern Apprentices and two of them, Vincent Gilroy, from the Midlands and Michael Bush from the South West were selected to progress to the Final which took place at BIGGA HOUSE on 25 October.

Full results will be published in the December edition of Greenkeeper International. Unfortunately, the

Scottish Finalist, Jim Gilchrist was shown to have attended Langside College when in fact he was trained at GOSTA Training.

Training and Development

In the past year, 62% of managers in the UK have been affected by some sort of organisational change.

As the greenkeeping industry changes, with new techniques, increasing mechanisation, new products and computerisation, greenkeepers need to learn new skills or new ways of working on a continual basis. Whose job is it to ensure that greenkeeping staff are trained to a sufficient level of competence and to ensure that all staff continue to develop? Look at the following questions and see if you can come up with the answers.

1. Who is responsible for the performance of a greenkeeping team?

- A. The Green Committee.
- B. The Golf Club Secretary.
- C. The Head Greenkeeper/ Course Manager.
- D. Individual Greenkeepers.

2. Who is best placed to know what standards of presentation have to met by the greenkeeping team?

- A. The Greenkeepers' Training Committee.

- B. BIGGA.
- C. Golfers.
- D. The Head Greenkeeper/ Course Manager.

3. Who should identify training and development needs?

- A. The Greenkeepers' Training Committee.
- B. The National Training Organisation.
- C. Colleges.
- D. The Head Greenkeeper/ Course Manager.

4. Who should carry out assessment and give feedback on performance?

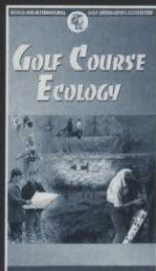
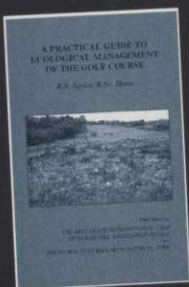
- A. The Head Greenkeeper/ Course Manager.
- B. Colleges.
- C. Internal Verifiers.
- D. Awarding Bodies.

5. Who should assess improvements in competence?

- A. Colleges.
- B. The Greenkeepers' Training Committee.
- C. The Head Greenkeeper/ Course Manager.
- D. Green Committees.

Watch out for the answers in next month's edition of Greenkeeper International.

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This month, Tracey Maddison, BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, welcomes over 80 new members to the Association, and gives some important membership renewal information

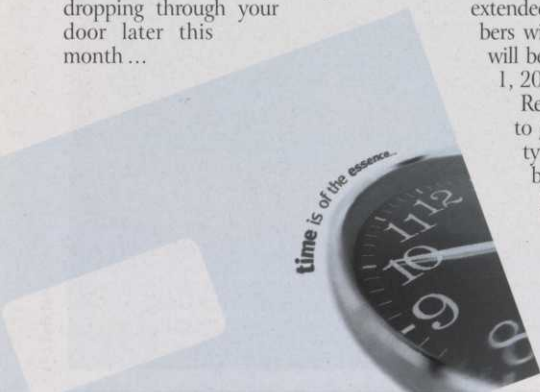
Renew your membership for increased benefits!

In September, over 80 new members joined BIGGA and became part of the largest greenkeeping association in Europe. Membership has grown in strength and now boasts over 6,700 members. If your expiry date is 31 December 1999 or 31 January 2000, your renewal pack will be with you later this month. Read it! It contains important information on improvements to your benefits.

Watch out for this envelope dropping through your door later this month...

... it contains important information regarding your membership renewal for 2000. Improved benefits for next year include the Legal Helpline. BIGGA have negotiated improved terms with a new provider - General Legal Protection. Their number is **free** so it won't cost you a penny. You can ask for advice on Health and Safety matters, employment matters or consumer rights and motoring offences, all over the phone. This service has now also been extended to include all members within EU countries, and will be available from January 1, 2000.

Remember, the best way to get the most out of any type of membership is to be an **active member!** Read the leaflet enclosed in your Membership Renewal Pack and find out exactly what you are entitled to as a member of BIGGA.



BIGGA welcomes...

Scottish

Malcolm Baxter, Central
Stephen Brown, Ayrshire
Calum Ross Faulkner, North
Lawrence Foley, Ayrshire
Frank Forrest, East
John Henderson, Central
Kenneth R MacNab, Ayrshire
Kevin John Malner, Ayrshire
Stuart Manattini, Central
David Wilson McAvoyn, North
Stuart Millar, East
Scott Reid, Central
Robert Robertson, Central
Kevin Andrew Rogalski, Central
Gary William Roger, East
Adam Sherwood, Ayrshire
Iain Lawson Eadie Sinclair, Central
Richard Smith, Central
Murray Wright, Central
Tommy Yeomans, East

Northern

Richard Anthony Barker, Northern
Adam Stephen Blanchard, Northern
Andrew John De Wet, N East
Chris Docherty, North West
Paul Dunning, North West
Jared Ellison, North West
Nicholas Peter Fogarty, N West
Steven Lee, North Wales
Fraser Nellies, North West
Marc Read, Northern
David Robson, Northern
Neil Richard White, North West
Barry John Wright, North West

Midland

Peter Chandler, Midland
David Collins, Midland
Robert Andrew Deane, BB&O
Matthew Evans, BB&O
Stuart Ferguson, BB&O
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Garry John Goodchild, BB&O
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Check out
December's edition
for October's
new members!



Trevor Downing of J. Rothschild Assurance looks at financial provision if illness or injury were to affect your ability to work

Look to the future in a partnership for life

As we approach the Millennium, it is interesting to look back upon the many changes that have taken place within our society. It is particularly interesting to see how nowadays, the majority of modern day couples regard their relationships as an equal partnership rather than having one person reliant on being the main bread winner.

If you are in a relationship, you will know that you both tend to contribute financially to your lifestyle. But have you ever asked yourself what would happen to this lifestyle if either of you were to become seriously ill and unable to work?

Suddenly, instead of enjoying your financial independence, you could now become a real financial burden on your partner. Consider how you and your partner would be affected if you became seriously ill and unable to work.

Your mortgage will still have to be paid. What about other household bills

that have been traditionally shared in the past?

How will it affect your social lifestyle? What about intended holidays, are they still likely to happen?

Could you afford to pay for any medical treatment or modifications to your home, should they be needed?

You would be totally dependent on others for your security and well-being. In addition those who are dependent on you would suddenly be exposed to hardship.

This list is by no means exhaustive. It just touches on the basics, underlining some of the financial issues that you could be faced with particularly at a time when you would be already trying to come to terms with your own or your partner's illness.

If you have children, their situation would be quite vulnerable as their welfare could be undermined.

Some partners take career breaks to

stay at home and look after their children. Although there may not be any obvious financial loss should the non-working partner become seriously ill or die, consider this, if you were the working partner, how would you cope with all the things you previously took for granted?

Who would look after your children?

Who would take your children to and from school?

What would happen if one of your children became ill?

How would you cope with the everyday domestic chores?

Could you afford to pay for help at home?

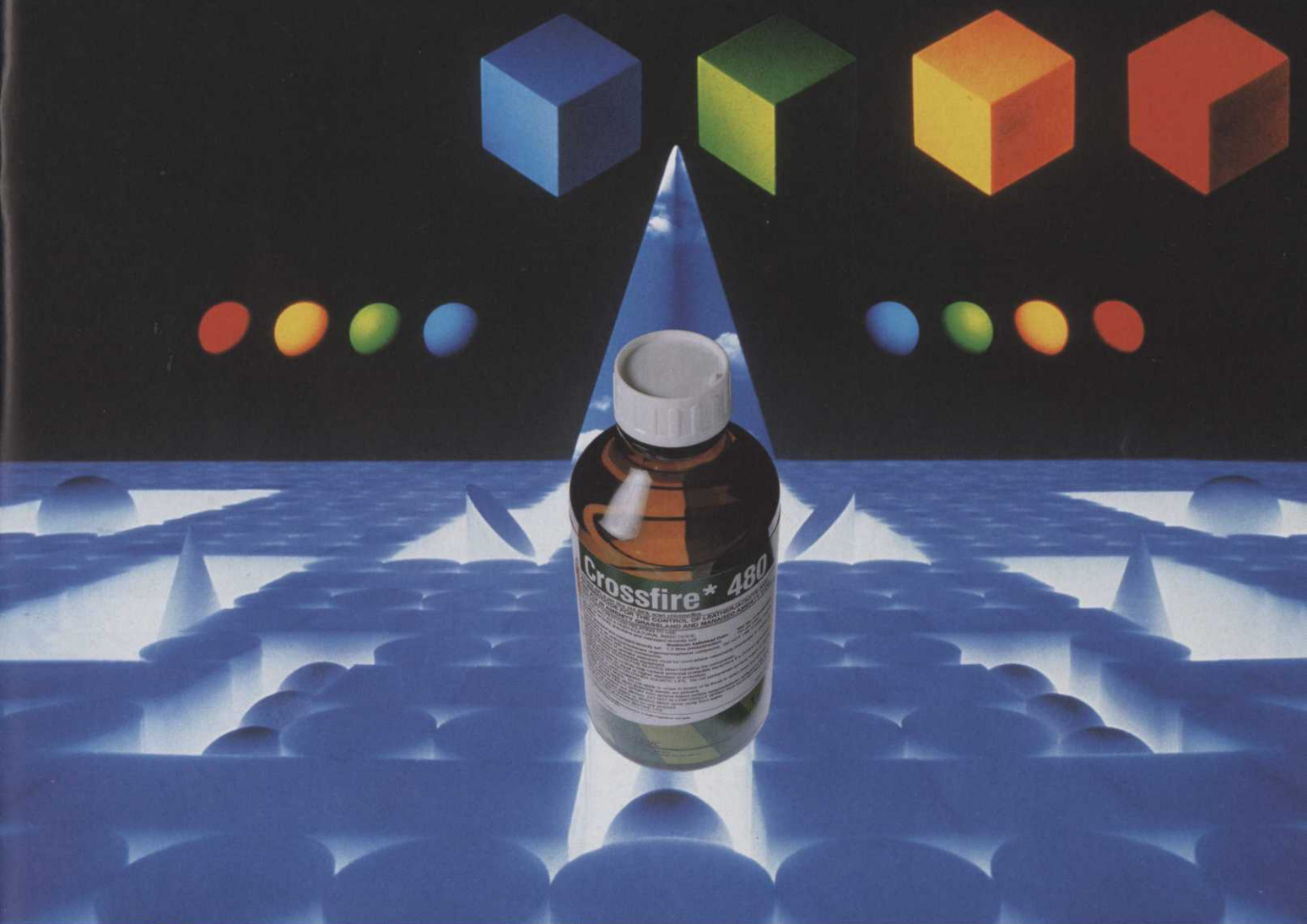
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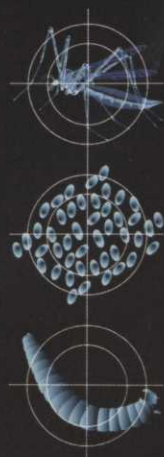


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Top and bottom left: Despite the horrendous rain prior to the Championship Andy Campbell and his team had both courses looking magnificent

Above: Tony James receives the wonderful National Championship trophy from Richard Minton, National Sales Manager of Scotts, and David Jenkins, Managing Director of Charterhouse/Redexim

Bottom right: Players and caddies ready themselves before tackling the Cheshire Course





The Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship supported by Softspikes, was a truly outstanding event. Carden Park showed its true quality in every way and both on and off the course it was an occasion which will be remembered by all who attended.

Pictures by Alan Birch

CHAMPIONSHIP Gold

THE CHARTERHOUSE/SCOTT'S
**NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP**
FOR THE BIGGA CHALLENGE TROPHY



Sitting six shots off the lead going into the final round, Tony James' thoughts may well have gone back to July and Carnoustie where Paul Lawrie recovered from ten shots back to win.

If this were indeed the case such memories obviously inspired the 30-year-old to some outstanding deeds over Carden Park's Nicklaus Course. Where he had putted poorly over the first round, with seven three putts and a four putt, he was inspired on the greens and shot a nett 64 to snatch the title of BIGGA's Champion Golfer by a single stroke.

"I got up early on the second day, bought a course planner and spent an hour on the range. I thought I had an outside chance," explained the Tehidy Park Assistant.

"It is by far the biggest event I've ever won and I feel just brilliant.

"It was a beautiful place to stay and to play and it was a great honour to be a part of the event...an even greater honour to win."

Since returning to work he has spent time fielding the congratulations of his club members while the replica trophy has pride of place among his BIGGA memorabilia in his home.

While Tony was a deserving winner credit must also go to David Cuthbertson, who led after the first round then chipped in twice at the beginning of the second round only to be overtaken by Tony's late charge.

The quality of the golf and the golfers was extremely high with 13 entrants at two handicap or better and a further 26 between three and five handicap.

The gross prize went to one of the scratch men Tony McLure, whose two round total of 147 was a superb achievement with the courses playing so long.

While the honours on the course

were handed out there is no doubting the real heroes of the event - Course Manager Andy Campbell and his team.

With five and a half inches of rain falling four a half days before the event and both courses closed the day before everyone arrived and the Nicklaus course under three feet of water in places Andy did a more than passable impression of King Canute to have them playable at all.

The fact that both courses were played, as per the programme, is a tribute to the endless hours of work carried out, often well into the night.

We look forward to returning next year...hopefully after a long dry spell!

Results

Winner of the BIGGA Championship

1. Anthony James, Tehidy Park, 139 Nett;
2. David Cuthbertson, Slaley Hall GC, 140;
3. Anthony Knight, Kingsdown GC, 142.

36 Hole Aggregate, Gross

1. Tony McLure, Whickham GC, 147;
2. Lee Corfield, Golf de Rimaison, France, 149 (better second round);
3. Greg Evans, Ealing GC, 149.

1st Round Winners

- 0-9. D. Davies, 72; 10-17. T. Bremer, 75; 18-28. C. Pennyquick, 72.

2nd Round Winners

- 0-9. S. Harvey, 67; 10-17. A. Howarth, 70; 18-28. P. Neve, 73.

Regional Team Cup

1. Northern - 1176, T. McLure, T. Weston, D. Collins, D. Davies, D. Hayes, D. Cuthbertson, P. Neve and P. Bowler.
2. South West & South Wales - 1181, J. Hamlet, A. Knight, M. Grogan, A. Gawman, T. Smith, A. James, L. Corfield and N. Webber.

Putting Competition

- Brian Turner, Sunningdale GC, 33

Par 3 Competition.

- Allen Lewis, Llanymynech GC, 26





Above: Did you hear the one about the wonderful After Dinner Speaker? John Simonett involved a huge number of the guests in his act.

Below: It's not how, it's how may. The scoreboard conceals many a story behind its simple numbers.

BRITISH & INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
CHARTERHOUSE / SCOTTS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

PLAYER	SCORE	NET	GRAND	NET	GRAND	AGE
11 BARTNEY	127	127	127	127	127	38
12 HILL	127	127	127	127	127	38
13 JORDAN	127	127	127	127	127	38
14 LEATHERLAND	127	127	127	127	127	38
15 BARR	127	127	127	127	127	38
16 JOHNSON	127	127	127	127	127	38
17 WILSON M	127	127	127	127	127	38
18 LINDA	127	127	127	127	127	38
19 BRUCE	127	127	127	127	127	38
20 WYSTER	127	127	127	127	127	38
21 BERRY	127	127	127	127	127	38
22 SHILOD	127	127	127	127	127	38
23 BURGESS	127	127	127	127	127	38
24 WYLLIE	127	127	127	127	127	38
25 TEMPLE	127	127	127	127	127	38
26 SCARFORD J	127	127	127	127	127	38
27 WILLIAMS	127	127	127	127	127	38
28 HAYES	127	127	127	127	127	38
29 DAN	127	127	127	127	127	38
30 COOK	127	127	127	127	127	38
31 MURPHY	127	127	127	127	127	38
32 MURPHY	127	127	127	127	127	38
33 OUTHBERTSON	127	127	127	127	127	38
34 TON N	127	127	127	127	127	38
35 ROBERTS	127	127	127	127	127	38
36 CHANFORD &	127	127	127	127	127	38
37 GAVIN	127	127	127	127	127	38
38 HOLTHAM	127	127	127	127	127	38
39 GIBSON	127	127	127	127	127	38
40 ZOFFICIAL	127	127	127	127	127	38
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96 BURT	127	127	127	127	127	38
97 BURT	127	127	127	127	127	38
98 BURT	127	127	127	127	127	38
99 BURT	127	127	127	127	127	38
100 BURT	127	127	127	127	127	38

Above: The Championship Banquet on the Monday evening was a most enjoyable occasion and (bottom) After Dinner Speaker John Simonett did manage to confuse Bert Cross with a knotty problem.

Right: Richard Minton; BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, David Jenkins and Carden Park Course Manager and Master Greenkeeper, Andy Campbell pictured with the impressive array of silverware.





Above. Richard Minton with Tony McLure winner of the Gross prize, Tony James, with David Cuthbertson, runner-up in the individual but winner of the team event with the Northern Region; Bert Cross of the Northern Region and David Jenkins



Above: Tony McLure played some fine golf to clinch the gross prize



Above: David Cuthbertson led after the first round and only Tony James' 64 denied him overall victory.



Above. Anthony Knight finished third on 142 after two solid rounds.

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Meet BIGGA's



BIGGA's new President, Sir Michael Bonallack spoke about greenkeeping and BIGGA with Scott MacCallum in the R&A Clubhouse, just after the Dunhill Cup in October.

Sir Michael Bonallack is truly a remarkable man. As a golfer he won the Amateur Championship five times, including three times in succession – the last time it was won by the same player more than once was by Peter McEvoy more than 20 years ago.

He also competed in nine Walker Cups and was twice leading amateur in The Open Championship. He is arguably the top British amateur golfer of the century. He was also recently listed as number 132 in Top 200 Male Players in History... of any nationality.

Having retired from the top class amateur scene he then turned his attentions to golf administration and, if anything, his achievements in this field have all but eclipsed his playing record.

As Secretary of the R&A from 1983 until September of this year he has overseen the well being, and expansion, of the game and masterminded the development of The Open Championship. In both these endeavours he can be justifiably proud of his record and he has handed the reins of the R&A over to Peter Dawson with the game and The Open in rude good health with the future just as rosy.

Uniquely the day after he retired from the role of Secretary he "drove in" as Captain of the R&A and the next 12 months will see him travelling the world attending Championships and functions in his new role.

He is undoubtedly one of the most respected figures in the game and it is therefore a huge honour that he accepted the invitation to become BIGGA's new President.

Greenkeeper International: After a lifetime in golf what are your first recollections of the people who look after the golf course?

Sir Michael: I was a junior at Thorpe Hall Golf Club in Essex and the Head Greenkeeper was a Scot called Jock Glass. He was to my mind almost the most important man in the club. As a junior you'd be playing a lot, going round and round and round in the school holidays, and Jock was always there working like a beaver. If you didn't put back a divot or rake a bunker you were soon told by Jock.

As I grew up the importance of the job became more and more apparent to me. Whereas nearly every club regarded their clubhouse as the be-all-and-end-all, you actually went to play the course. You could put up with very inadequate clubhouse facilities but if the course was good that's why you'd remember it.

new President

Meet BIGGA's new President

Greenkeeper International:
What do you remember about the quality of golf course conditioning in those days?

Sir Michael: The greens were probably a bit slower but on the other hand the overall condition of the course was probably as good, if not better, than it is now. That's because they didn't have any problem getting rid of worms and there weren't any inorganic fertilisers used then. It was all very natural.

In the summer the grass got very burnt but the turf was still good. Indeed, they probably had far more natural, fine grasses in those days than we do now. It's only latterly when fertiliser and water came in that meadow grass really took over.

Greenkeeper International:
What do you believe to be the major milestones that the greenkeeping profession has passed over the last 30 years or so?

Sir Michael: Certainly the amalgamation of the three associations and the formation of BIGGA was the big milestone as it really did focus attention on to the greenkeeping profession.

Also the education programmes that have been set up to encourage young people to see greenkeeping as a profession they can move into.

The profession has moved from being an art to a science and is now not so much by the seat of your pants. The older greenkeepers almost did it by feel and you can't teach that although you can hand it down.

Greenkeeper International:
What are your views on the current state of the greenkeeping industry?

Sir Michael: I think it is very healthy. The overall standard of greenkeeping has gone up enormously. There are very few bad greenkeepers now and if they are bad they don't last. That is a very healthy sign.

It is a science now. The greenkeeper has to be an agronomist, he or she has to recognise all sorts of diseases and know the appropriate treatment.

People expect far more out of a golf course now than they did. Courses used to be closed in the winter now they have to be open 365 days a year and stand up to a lot of rounds.

It is also good news that we are getting more young people coming into the job as a profession. They are ambitious and look up to the top people in the good jobs on excellent salaries and see that the rewards are there if they work hard.

Nowadays the Head Greenkeeper has more responsibility than the Club Secretary and a much bigger budget. In the past greenkeepers very rarely had responsibility for their own budgets. Chairmen of Green told them what to spend on and when to spend it. Now they control and draw up their own budgets. They are greenkeeper managers really.

Greenkeeper International:
What would you say modern greenkeepers are particularly good at?

Sir Michael: They are very good at recognising and tackling diseases at the early stages. They are also exceptionally good at course presentation while their man management skills are something which have improved

no end. They know how to get the best out of their staff.

The equipment they now have available to them is improving, and becoming more sophisticated, all the time and this has helped in the general conditioning. They have to keep up to date with it all and know what is right for their course. It's a long way from the days when they used to cut the greens with a scythe... although I don't remember those. I read about them!

Greenkeeper International:
Conversely what would you say today's greenkeepers need to brush up on?

Sir Michael: I don't find too many complaints. Greenkeepers get brow beaten by members and good greenkeepers don't let themselves be influenced too much by the criticisms from the members.

Having praised their course presentation I do believe there is over presentation on occasion. For example with contrived scalloping of fairways. There is nothing wrong with reasonably straight lines and it doesn't look natural if it is in and out in and out all the way down the fairway. It is a matter of luck if you finish in one of the bays on the fairway or in the rough.

Greenkeeper International:
How do you feel greenkeepers are regarded by club members generally?

Sir Michael: It is altering all the time now. I think they really do regard the greenkeeper as a superior technician. Many courses have good young keen greenkeepers who have had the advantage of better education now than they did in the past. Members realise that they are looking after their greatest asset. They appreciate how valuable a good greenkeeper is and hopefully the wage structure is reflecting that.

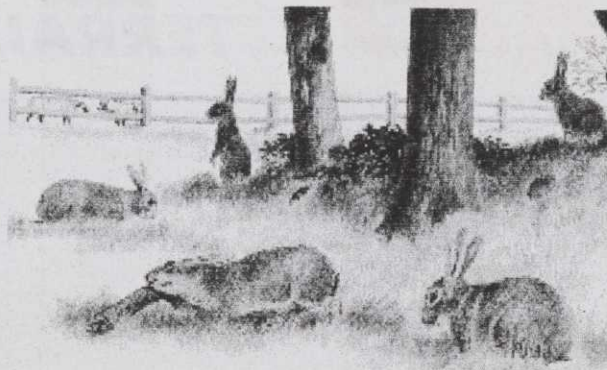
Greenkeeper International:
Talking about that are you in favour of the new Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries, rather than BIGGA, making salary recommendations?

Sir Michael: It was always a danger if the Association was seen to be setting salaries for its own members that it would be viewed as a trade union, and that wouldn't have been a good image for a greenkeeping association to get. It's gone through that and the Association is now no longer seen as a trade union but as a professional body.





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Greenkeeper International:

How would you see the game of golf progressing as a whole over the next few years and where would you see the greenkeepers fitting into that progression?

Sir Michael: Golf is going to continue to expand globally and a lot of the expanding countries will look, as they do now, to this country for support. For example Elmwood College has formed a liaison with the China Golf Association.

I hope that our greenkeeping skills, which are in some ways a lot different to the Americans in terms of grasses and as well as different ideals, will be taken to a lot of these countries.

There will be tremendous opportunities for greenkeepers. They are going to have to learn foreign languages as well as all the other things they do.

As golf becomes more and more popular and more and more people playing the courses there will be much more responsibility on greenkeepers to be able to maintain their courses.

Greenkeeper International:

Do many of the top pros have a particular empathy with greenkeepers - any who stand out?

Sir Michael: All the top pros have a close empathy with greenkeepers and many single out the greenkeepers and find out who they are. I noticed Jose Maria (Olazabal) last night (at the presentation of the Dunhill Cup) meeting Eddie Adams to thank him and tell him that the course was in great shape.

Greenkeeper International:

What are your views on BIGGA and how the Association has progressed?

Sir Michael: It has come on by leaps and bounds. The service it now gives the membership, the way they are informed; the success of the magazine; Harrogate and BTME. These are all focal points for the members and makes them feel that they are part of a very worthwhile body. It also lets them keep up-to-date with all the latest developments in greenkeeping, and enables an exchange of views. It has raised the whole status of the profession.

Greenkeeper International:

How would you hope to contribute as President?

Sir Michael: Well my knowledge of greenkeeping is minuscule I'm afraid but I'll certainly work to raise the status of both the Association and the profession as a whole and try to enhance the reputation that it's already got.

BIGGA's members are looking after the most important asset that a golf club has and the golf club member tends to forget that.

Willie Whitelaw is going to be a hard man to follow. He was very supportive of the Association and took a very close interest in it. I've always tried to support the Association through my job at the R&A and the R&A has been very sympathetic to the aims of the Association and given financial help over the years and advice when and where it's needed.

I'll try to act as a link between the Association and the R&A, and any other bodies if necessary.



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Ad Ref 126

Oil is a liquid modern day society could scarcely live without. Roland Taylor takes a closer look at why.

Liquid gold

Massive fortunes have been made from it, wars fought over it and countries economies are based on it. What is it? Petroleum (crude oil) or, as some call it liquid gold.

This dark thick liquid which mainly contains hydrocarbons is found in sedimentary rocks in some of the most hostile locations around the globe. Through distillation processes, petrol, diesel, paraffin and lubricating oils are separated out and the residues produced include fuel oil, paraffin wax, asphalt and carbon wax.

These commodities have, over a number of

decades, shaped our lives and non-more so than in combustion engines for which they are the lifeblood - the petrol, diesel or paraffin to generate the power, and the oil to lubricate the components.

Engine oil has four main functions:

- Dissipation of heat
- Lubrication of moving parts
- Cleaning
- To Seal air from certain parts

By understanding how each of these functions plays its part, we are better equipped to recognise the importance of good maintenance procedures and, ultimately, how to get the best out of an engine both in performance and durability.

Dissipation of heat and lubrication of moving parts

In the case of a car engine, more than half a million explosions occur each hour. The temperature of exhaust gases reaches 1500 degrees and at 3000 rpms the valves open and close more than 25 times a second.

Water and air are used to help control temperature levels, but this is not the whole picture.

We all rub our hands in cold weather to warm them up.





When two surfaces move against each other friction is created which in turn produces heat. Without lubrication these surfaces would eventually weld together. This is exactly what happens when an engine seizes up. In some cases the heat is so intense that components melt.

The objective of oil is to form a film that keeps surfaces apart and enables them to glide smoothly against each other. This will help to eliminate friction as well as dissipating any heat build up. It is obvious therefore that any reduction in the oil film between surfaces will have a detrimental effect. Apart from the problems caused by heat, two surfaces that constantly rub against each other will quickly wear, thus drastically reducing their life expectancy.

Cleaning

At this point it is worth looking at a general formula for lubricating oil.

80% Oil
20% Detergent (which includes; anti rust, foam and viscosity additives plus a friction modifier).

There are other factors that also need to be taken into account.

Varnish

The heat produced by the engine oxidises the oil to form a varnish coating that adheres to internal components. This fouls up oil passageways and restricts the flow of lubricant to crucial surfaces. Deposits can build up in the valve guides causing a drop in power and an increase in fuel consumption. Any oil starvation, even over a relatively short period, will usually result in expensive repairs or, in some cases, the need for a new engine.

Sludge

As a warm engine cools down at the end of a day's work, condensation forms inside it. We have all seen the water vapour signs next morning when it is started. During this non-operational period, water droplets mix with the crankcase oil and the by-products of combustion, sulphur, nitrogen and hydrocarbons. The nett result of all this activity is sludge - a substance that will quickly block oil ways and filters.

Burning oil

If an engine starts burning oil it is

a warning sign that needs immediate attention. One or more of the following could be responsible

Valve seals

These stop oil flowing down into the engine from the valve chamber. A seal failure will result in the lubricant entering the cylinder where it is burnt off.

Worn valve guides

These wear with age and the gap created between guide and valve stem increases allowing oil to pass into the combustion chamber.

Pressurised crankcase

The crankcase needs to breathe. If the system becomes blocked up with carbon or varnish then pressure builds up forcing oil into the fuel supply system.

Worn piston rings

Piston rings perform two functions:
1. Seal the combustion chamber to maximise the power produced.
2. Lubricate the cylinder walls.

If they are worn or broken they allow pressure to build up in the



crankcase and oil to enter the combustion area.

What can you do to stop this all happening?

Engine parts will wear and there is no way of stopping this, but you can slow it down with regular maintenance. Modern engines work at high temperatures and compression ratios producing large amounts of friction and heat. In its main task of controlling these two factors, oil evaporates and breaks down. For this reason it is essential that the correct levels are maintained and manufacturers' recommended oil changes are adhered to.

Something that is often overlooked is the fact that when oil is drained from an engine, not all the suspended impurities are flushed out and as much as 1/2 litre of dirty oil and sludge can be left behind. Immediately a new supply is added, it becomes contaminated. There are products available that can be used to flush the system and it may be worth using one occasionally.

Manufacturers will recommend suitable oils for their particular

engine and as a general rule, it does pay to buy the best quality. There are ranges of synthetic oils on the market, but it is recommended that you check with the power-unit supplier before using one of these.

The oil must be of the correct viscosity (thickness) and this will depend on the time of year.

Where an oil filter is fitted, this will require replacing at the intervals shown in the instruction manual.

Pull the dipstick and read the level every time the machine goes out and watch for any leakage signs both on the unit and on the floor where it has been standing overnight.

As was said at the beginning, oil is the lifeblood of an engine. If you starve it of oil you can expect problems. A few minutes taken to regularly check everything is okay can save the frustration plus cost of hours of remedial work later on.



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Live the American Dream...

GCSAA Conference and Show, New Orleans, 14-20 February, 2000

GCSAA's 71st International Golf Course Conference and Show will be held in the Morial Convention Centre, New Orleans from 14-20 February 2000.

As in previous years BIGGA is offering you the opportunity to travel on the trip to New Orleans.

The BIGGA party will meet at Heathrow Airport on Sunday 13 February for departure to New Orleans via Chicago at 10.00am.

BIGGA will be able to arrange accommodation for any member wishing to stay overnight before the flight at competitive rates.

The Hotel Monteleone, chosen by BIGGA to accommodate our party, offers excellent facilities and is ideally located in the historic French Quarter.

The GCSAA Conference and Show takes place from 14-20 February with

the trade show on 18-20 February. You will be able to attend the conference seminars and education programmes as well as take in the latest golf course equipment, products and services at the trade show.

Itinerary

Sunday 13 February

All members will assemble at Heathrow Airport and will take the 1000 hours American Airlines flight to Chicago before transferring to a flight to New Orleans. You will be transferred to your hotel for an eight night stay on a room only basis inclusive of private facilities.

Monday 21 February

You will be transferred to the airport for your return flight departing New Orleans for Chicago at 1240 hours with transfer to the overnight flight to London arriving at Heathrow at 0620 hours on 22 February.

Prices

£929 per person based on a twin share. £1389 per person based on single occupancy. Plus comprehensive holiday insurance for the duration of £35.

Included are:

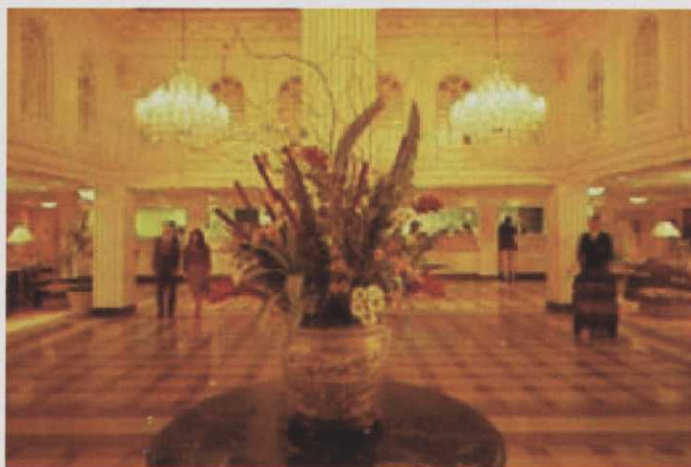
Return Economy class flights London Heathrow/New Orleans with inflight meals and refreshments; UK and US taxes; transfer from the airport to hotel and return; eight nights accommodation on a room only basis and US accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for



the Pre-Conference seminars and Education programmes which run from 14-19 February and the Trade Show are not included in the package and bookings will need to be made directly with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Details are available from BIGGA upon request.

Please forward full payment of £964 or £1424 (unless travel insurance is not required) to BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF to arrive no later than Friday 10 December; together with name, address and contact telephone number. If accommodation is required for the night of 12 February please advise in order for the hotel rooms to be booked. Payment will be made on checking out of the hotel.



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...or see a little of Canada

CGSA International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. Ottawa, 4-7 March 2000

BIGGA has established close relationships with the CGSA and a large party of their members attended BTME. For the first time BIGGA is offering a package deal to the annual Conference and Trade Show which will be held at the Ottawa Congress Centre from 4-7 March. Departure will be from Heathrow Airport on Thursday 2 March at 1505 hours, returning from Ottawa on Tuesday 7 March to arrive at Heathrow the following morning. Accommodation will be provided at the Westin Hotel which is one of the CGSA official hotels with excellent facilities.

Itinerary

Thursday 2 March

Assemble at Heathrow Airport for the 1505 hours Air Canada flight

direct to Ottawa arriving at 1740 hours. You will be transferred to your hotel for a five night stay on a room only basis inclusive of private facilities.

Tuesday 7 March

You will be transferred to the airport for your return flight departing at 1900 hours to arrive in London at 0635 hours on 8 March.

Prices are £565 per person based on a twin share. £1141 per person based on single occupancy plus comprehensive holiday insurance for the duration.

Included in the price are return economy class flights from London Heathrow to Ottawa with inflight refreshments and meals; airport taxes; transfer from the airport to hotel and return; five nights

accommodation on a room only basis and Canadian accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for the Conference and Trade Show are not included in the package and bookings will need to be made directly with the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association. Details are available from BIGGA on request. Please forward full payment of £595 or £1171 (unless travel insurance is required) to BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF to arrive not later than Friday, 7 January 2000; together with name, address and contact telephone number. If accommodation is required for the night of 1 March please advise in order for the hotel rooms to be booked. Payment will be made on checking out of the hotel.



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WIN!

Welcome to the final part of our BTME 2000 competition, and your chance to win an exclusive accommodation package during the most important week of the greenkeeping calendar.

BTME 2000 sees the introduction of the new Hall Q which is approximately twice the size of the original Hall G. This Hall boasts its own main entrance, along with an impressive linkway conveniently joining it to Hall C. In addition to Hall Q, BTME 2000 is proud to introduce the long-awaited Exhibitor's Lounge along with a Career's Clinic and a revamped Press facility, all situated within the King's Suite, adjacent to the new hall.

Prepare to be entertained! If you are planning on attending the BTME banquet, then you had better reserve your place quickly. The entertainment for BTME 2000 is being provided by none other than 'The Bootleg Beatles' one of the UK's finest tribute bands, and bound to be a 'sell out'. (For tickets call Sami Collins on 01347 833833).

CAN IT GET ANY BETTER?

It certainly can, you could be going to Harrogate in January and not paying a penny for your transport, accommodation or seminars! Here's your chance..

These are the final two questions in the series of six featured in the previous two editions of Greenkeeper International.

When you have completed all the answers, fill in the entry form below and you could be on your way to Harrogate!

NOVEMBER QUESTIONS:

1. Name two of the new features of BTME 2000.
2. Which UK town is associated with 'The (original) Beatles'?

And if you missed the others:-

SEPTEMBER QUESTIONS:

1. What is the number of the BIGGA stand at BTME 2000?
2. What is the theme of "The Learning Experience" in 2000?

OCTOBER QUESTIONS:

1. Name one of the new workshops introduced for BTME 2000
2. Which Hall makes its debut at BTME 2000?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Golf Club: _____

September Answers

1. _____

2. _____

October Answers

1. _____

2. _____

November Answers

1. _____

2. _____

Send your completed entry coupons to: Jenny Panton, BTME competition, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Airedale, York YO61 1UF
Entries must be received by November 11, 1999. The first three correct entries opened after the closing date will win the prizes. The judge's decision is final. Winners will be announced in the December 1999 issue of Greenkeeper International.

First Prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three nights accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate with entry into the exhibition and all the education seminar sessions.

Second prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus two nights accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate with entry into the exhibition and all the education seminar sessions.

Third prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus one night accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate with entry into the exhibition and all the education seminar sessions.

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Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

As in previous years the Scottish Region once again offers members a subsidised package deal for BTME 2000.

The package includes, coach to Harrogate, entry to all Seminars and Exhibition, three nights Bed and Breakfast in en-suite twin rooms in the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate on 18th, 19th and 20 January 2000.

PACKAGE COSTS £156.00

Partners are welcome at a cost of £111 for Travel and Accommodation.

For booking forms call or fax Peter Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA.

Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440.

Arshire

The sections autumn outing was held at the Pines Golf Centre, Dumfries on the 30th September. A reasonable turnout was in attendance ready to brave the forecasted heavy rain and showers. Fortunately the severity of the forecast did not materialise and apart from one horrendous shower, which threatened the afternoon Stableford, the day remained mainly dry.

The Pines is an 18 hole course and driving range which was the initiative of our Chairman Duncan Gray who designed, constructed and now manages the complex. The presentation thank you speech was delivered by our Vice Chairman, whoever he is, with our chairman being mine host.

Duncan was congratulated on his achievements at the Pines. Much sterling work has been done and with extensions and improvements planned, the Pines has a big future. I will not elaborate as our Editor Scott McCallum was in attendance with his notepad and camera. The greenstaff were thanked for the preparation and presentation of the course and the catering/barstaff were thanked for keeping everyone well fed and refreshed throughout the day. Chairman Duncan Gray replied by thanking everyone for attending and hoped everyone enjoyed their day despite the weather and extended an open invitation if anyone wanted to return for another game. Secretary Derek Wilson then invited Scottish Chairman Jimmy Neilson to present the prizes to the following winners:

Morning, 12 hole Texas Scramble: 1. Keith McCartney, Dumfries & Galloway, Charlie Pickhall, Gatehouse, Jim Smith, Ruffords, and Iain Barr, Largs, 34.8.

2. Kevin Hills, Thornhill, Lawrence Foley, Thornhill, David Woodbyrne, Southernness, and Daniel Waddell, Thornhill, 35.6

Afternoon, Stableford: 1st Class: 1. Brian Aitken, West Kilbride, 35 pts (gross 71 and a new Pines Course record) 2. Lawrence Foley, Thornhill, 34 pts, 3. Scott McLean, West Kilbride, 33 pts, 4. Kevin Hills, Thornhill, 32 pts.

2nd Class: 1. Roland Blackburn, Southernness, 33 pts, 2. Marshall Sloss, Beith, 26 pts, 3. Stephen Brown, The Pines, 24 pts, 4. Ian Donaldson, Routenburn, 24 pts.

The patrons award winners for this year are Roland Blackburn, of Southernness, and Scott McLean, of West Kilbride. They will receive, among other things, a trip to Harrogate 2000. Congratulations to both on this achievement.

That's all the news for this month, any news or views call me on 01505 683278 or maybe I'll see you at Scotstuff.

Iain Barr

North

The section autumn outing and 50th Anniversary at Downfield, Dundee was a great success with a big turnout, wonderful weather, superb golf course and a great welcome from all. Paul Murphy and his staff are to be congratulated on the condition of the course and the clubhouse facilities were also first rate. We were delighted to welcome 95 people on the day with 86 playing golf. Guests included BIGGA Vice Chairman Elliot Small, Scottish Chairman Jimmy Neilson, Regional Administrator Peter Boyd and previous Section stalwarts John Flint and Willie Milton, who incidentally was Head Greenkeeper at Downfield for many years until retirement.

All who attended received a 50th Anniversary lapel badge, but the actual prize winners were as follows. Scratch K. Peace, Inverurie, 76, 2. S. Herd, Strathlene, 77, Class One 1. S. Williams, Inverurie, 78-6=72, 2. B. Cruickshank, Garmouth, 78-5-5=73bih, 3rd P. Murphy, Downfield 79-6=73. Class Two 1. C. Mackay, Elmwood 80-7=73, 2. I. Gunn, Strathpeffer, 82-7=75, 3. C. Ogilvie, Boat of Garten, 85-9=76. Class Three 1. I. Grant, Strathlene, 90-14=76, 2. G. Aitken, Peterculter, 97-17=80bih, 3. A. Wilson, Brechin, 98-18=80. Veterans 1. D. Patience, Tarbat, 93-13=80, 2. J. Taylor, Retired 89-7=82. Apprentice 1. A. Stewart, Royal Aberdeen, 81-6=75, 2. I. Cowper, Tain 88-11=77. Guest E. Small, Tulliallan 84-7=77. Trade P. Allan, Stewarts 81-4=77. The winner of the card draw for the BIGGA blazer was A. Wilson, Brechin. The winner of two tickets to a Dundee United home game presented by Rigby Taylor was Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen. Thanks to other trade members for donations to, what was, a large table of raffle prizes.

I had a bad back at the time so was unable to play, which was just as well because we were missing our hard working Secretary, Dougal Duguid, who was otherwise detained and we hope all has been settled satisfactorily in the matter by the time you read this.

The four lucky winners of our 200 Club draw were as follows: May £30 No. 4 B. Anderson, Aberdeen, June £30 No. 112 W. Morrison, Aberdeen, July £30 No. 132 A. Holmes, Blairgowrie, August £100 No. 163 J. Neilson, Edinburgh. I would like to thank all who supported the section by buying tickets this year as we sold them all once more and raised

much needed funds to help run the section. There are still four draws left, so you still might win!!

Finally, I feel I must say how disappointed I am that the Golf Course Design workshop due to be held in Aberdeen has been cancelled as only one member applied to attend. This is an excellent course and was available in the North at a much reduced cost. Apathy rules ok!

Iain Macleod

Central

The final golf tournament of the season was held at Balbirnie Park Golf Club, Markinch, Fife on September 21, when 40 members enjoyed playing on a course in excellent condition and sunshine, following what must have been the heaviest couple of days rain this year.

Our sincere thanks go to Craig Stafford (pity about the tie) and his staff for all their hard work. To Heather and the clubhouse staff for the first class service and meals, to club administrator Steve Oliver for all his support and to Vice Captain Dr. Krishnaswamy, who presented our prizes in the evening.

With a special thanks to all our Patrons for their continued support. Thanks go also to section Chairman Archie Dunn and Phil (five to reach the ladies' tees) Langdon for all their work in starting the tournament and checking the cards. Prize winners on the day were as follows: Best Nett Aggregate spring/autumn D. McAllister, Ladybank, 143 pts, Best Scratch D. Leith, St. Andrews, 71 pts, Best Nett S. Sime, Leven, 63 pts, 1st Class 1st H/cap D. McAllister, Ladybank, 69 pts, 1st Class 2nd H/cap A. Dunn, Auchterarder, 70 pts, 2nd Class 1st H/cap G. Taylor,

2nd Class 2nd H/cap T. Harris, Cupar, 71 pts, 3rd Class 1st H/cap A. Robertson, Grangemouth, 66 pts, 3rd Class 2nd H/cap A. Arnott, Dunnikier, 75 pts, Patrons K. Brunton, Greentech, 71 pts, Guests D. Walls, Grangemouth, 69 pts, Special Prize, donated by Rigby Taylor A. Crawford, Green Hotel, 71 pts, 1998 Inter Club Tournament S. Sime/A. Herd, Leven Links.

The reason no tee off times were allocated prior to the tournament was that at the closing date for entries I only had 13 names. So please return your forms in plenty of time in future.

I suppose I had better apologise to Stuart Sime from that Sporting Club in Leven as, even in spite of our usual immaculate planning, we managed to give him the wrong trophy and he has bet me (not a lot!) that I wouldn't put it in the magazine. Where's the money Stuart?

We welcome new member Kevin Rogalski, from Auchterarder Golf Club, to the Section and it was nice to meet him at our autumn tournament. That's what I call support; join, then attend the first event available.

The members at Grangemouth Golf Club, (the course is owned by Falkirk District Council) held a Greenkeeper's Day recently to show their appreciation for their staff who were presented with over £400. This is indeed recognition for

Head Greenkeeper, Alex Robertson, who only took over this year. It seems he is putting the same effort into his work as he puts into supporting BIGGA as he can be seen at every event, no matter where it is taking place. Well done Alex.

Could you please make sure that you have either bought/sold or returned your allocation (2) of "Club 2000" tickets by the middle of next month. There appears to be a mixed reaction to the committee's attempts to raise funds for the Section as I have had some tickets returned, in one instance it was by all the staff from the same club and some members have even put them in the bin. We are giving you the chance to win £50 a month for less than 2p per day!

John Crawford

East

The East Section held their annual Willie Woods Invitational Tournament courtesy of the captain and Council of Glencorse Golf Club. There was a good attendance on the day. The weather was very good as prior to the tournament we had some very heavy rain. We wish to thank Ian Bell, Head Greenkeeper, and his staff for the great condition of the course and also the clubhouse staff for looking after us so well on the day. The scoring on the day was very good as the results will show: 1. S. Millar/B. Oliver, Glencorse, 78-14-64, 2. G. Rodgers/I. Mackay, Glencorse, 70-4-66 bih, 3. S. Nichol/J. Findlay, Winterfield, 66-0-66.

Well done to the Glencorse team with a fine 64 and also to the other trophy winners, also thanks again to tournament sponsor Ian Henderson, Ian Henderson Finance, for his continued support of this event. Next year's tournament will be played over the links at Winterfield GC, Dunbar so we hope to see you there. The reason that we are not going back to the winner's course as normal is you can only hold it at the winner's course for two years. As Glencorse have done this and they were also second it then goes to Winterfield who were third, so we look forward to meeting you and your club officials next year.

The autumn Tournament and National Tournament qualifier 1st round was held at Newbattle GC. This is the first time we have been to Newbattle for about 8-10 years. We didn't actually think the tournament would go ahead as we had torrential rain on the Monday, so myself and Steve Dixon paid a visit to see if it was going to be playable on the Tuesday as on the Monday the course was closed due to the rain.

But we shouldn't have worried as Tuesday morning greeted us with warm sunshine and blue skies which led to some great scoring on the day. There were a lot of new faces at the tournament which was good to see and we hope this continues. Some handicaps will seriously need to be looked at. (These people know who they are, so beware. The axe is due to fall).

The scores are as follows: Best Scratch - S. Nichol 68, Best Nett - M. Ewing 81-17-64. 1st Class: 1. S. Greenwood

71-6-65, 2. J. Gallagher 69-1-68 bih, 3. I. Bell 72-4-68. 2nd Class: 1. M. Ewing 81-17-64, 2. K. Anderson 77-11-66, 3. R. Mullen 80-12-68 bih. 3rd Class: 1. J. Robertson 90-19-71, 2. J. Lockerbie 95-19-76 bih, 3. M. Keough 101-25-76.

Veteran I. Aitchison 80-11-69, Trade J. Darling 72-3-69, Guest G. Davidson 80-9-71, New Member A. Jinks F/H 78 SCR, Aggregate Trophy S. Greenwood 73-65-138, Highest Score of the Day C. Moffat - 120.

The Section would like to thank the Captain and Council of Newbattle Golf Club for the courtesy of the course on the day, the caterers and barstaff for keeping us well looked after, the Head Greenkeeper Billy Hudson and his team for having the course in pristine condition, considering the weather we had been having prior to the tournament and Peter Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, for keeping the tee running smoothly and letting me get off second and not last as usual. Also thanks for the prizes for our raffle from the trade members who were present. So we hope to see you at the spring Tournament 2000 at North Berwick Golf Club which will be the second qualifying round for the National Tournament at Carden Park 2000.

The annual dance is just a few weeks away now and there are just a few tickets left so if you want some, also hotel rooms, get in touch with Steve Dixon on 0131 443 0235 (work) or 0131 660 3965 (home) ASAP. If you still have raffle tickets for the annual draw get them sold ASAP as they will be drawn at the dance on the night at Kilspindie House Hotel on the 4th (Saturday) of December, so hurry and sell all your quota and get ticket stubs and money back to Craig Pennyquick as soon as you can.

Well, that's it all this time. If anyone has anything of interest eg. marriages, births, people on the move etc or anything, drop me a line or give me a call or fax me on the usual numbers.

PS: On October 6 the East Section entertained the North East of England Section in the Annual Stewart's match. This year we played the match over the new course at Eyemouth Golf Club. The new layout is a good test of golf with the greens in good condition also fairways and tees considering it is only two years old. The Clubhouse which sits in the middle of the course, is also superb, high up overlooking the full 18 holes, so if you haven't played it yet get yourself down to Eyemouth because you won't be disappointed.

Down to the match which was well contested by both teams and ended in a two and a half-two and a half draw, so the North East lads retained the trophy they won last year. Well done to them but look out next year, at Slaley Hall. We will be better, bigger and ready to win the trophy back for the first time in a few years. Hopefully!

A big thanks goes out to Stewart & Company for sponsoring the day, the Captain and Council of Eyemouth GC for courtesy of the course, our bus driver for doing an excellent job of ferrying us around, Head Greenkeeper, Allan

Campbell, and his staff for the condition of the course which was excellent.

Also the clubhouse staff (catering/barstaff) who were excellent, the meals were superb, especially the battered haddock which nearly everyone had. If you are ever in Eyemouth give it a try. The refreshments were much appreciated.

Last, but not least, to the members of both teams who made it a great day and one we all look forward to each year. So cheers see you all next year.

Report from the Section AGM and patrons award winners next month.

Chris Yeaman



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

In September we had two golf tournaments, the autumn tournament at West Lancashire Golf Club, and the match against the Golf Club Stewards at Burnley Golf Club. I will leave the reports on the golf until later but first I would like to congratulate one of the most respected greenkeepers in the country on his retirement. Jim Macdonald, Head Greenkeeper at Royal Lytham & St. Annes, retired on 1/10/99 after serving 35 years at Royal Lytham.

He started at Royal Lytham in 1964 having been a teacher at Preston College teaching ceramics. In 1966 he became deputy and eventually became Head Greenkeeper. Jim has quite a record having prepared the course for five Open Championships, the Curtis Cup and the Ryder Cup. His dedication to greenkeeping has not gone unnoticed either by his club or by the professionals who have played at Royal Lytham. His club have made Jim an Honorary member, of which Jim is very proud and he has received letters of congratulations from Seve Ballesteros, Nick Faldo and Gary Player.

I asked Jim how he would keep himself busy in his retirement and he tells me he is involved in two nine hole courses in the north of Scotland, and he will be keeping his eye on them from time to time. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Jim a happy and long retirement.

The autumn tournament was played at West Lancashire GC on September 9 and for once the weather was kind to us. The day was sunny with just a gentle breeze, and despite the perfect conditions, the course lived up to its reputation as one of the best and most difficult links courses around. John Muir and his staff had the course in great condition, despite the fact that they were involved with installing a new irrigation system. I would like to thank John for the lovely condition of the course, West Lancs for allowing us the courtesy of the course, the caterers for excellent food and the members for their hospitality. Thanks also to the Section patrons, Burrows GM, Acorn Equipment, Cheshire Light Machinery, Rigby Taylor, Bleeper Services. Also L.B.S. Group,

Amenity Technology, Bathgate Sands, Ritefeed and other companies who helped to swell the prize table.

The main winners were: Best Gross Neil Gravener, Best Nett Dave McEvoy, Vets Cup Bert Cross, Aggregate Trophy Dave McEvoy.

The match against the N/West Golf Club Stewards was played at Burnley Golf Club on Monday September 27 and this time the weather was shocking.

The rain had been lashing down for the past 24 hours and decided not to stop when we arrived. Eventually we plucked up courage and the match began. The rain did not ease at all, but everybody continued to the bitter end and we finished with a result, match halved. This means that the greenkeepers retain the cup for a further year. Many thanks to Burnley Golf Club for keeping the course open to allow us to play the match, the

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club steward for a fantastic meal and the stewards for organising the venue.

The President's Cup will be played for at Wilmslow Golf Club on Thursday November 25 with the tee times from 10 am. This will be followed by the AGM and an evening meal and prize presentation. All competitors are required to bring a bottle, so that everybody takes away a prize. All entries to be sent to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore,

Liverpool L4 9RB. Please remember to include a cheque for £15, made payable to BIGGA/NW.

Bert Cross

Sheffield

On 15th September we held our Autumn competition at the Hallamshire Golf Club, and it was a very enjoyable day even though the sun didn't shine.

Hallamshire was in excellent condition

and our thanks go to Gordon Brammah and his staff. Well done Gordon!

Our thanks go to Hallamshire for giving us the courtesy of their course and facilities. Thanks also to the catering staff for the excellent meal which I think everybody enjoyed.

There was some excellent golf played and the overall winner with the help of local knowledge was Mark Crawshaw, who played some very good golf, well done Mark!

Results: 1. M. Crawshaw 40 pts, 2. P. Neve 37 pts, 3. G. Wells 36 pts.

Thanks also go to Henton & Chattells for being the main sponsors for the event and to all the other trade members who provided prizes.

Congratulations go to Jeremy Duffield on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Cleckheaton Golf Club back in his beloved Leeds. He moves from Doncaster Town Moor. Good luck Jeremy!



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E-Mail: ctm@dircon.co.uk
Web Site: <http://www.redexim.com>

Finally a message for one of our Section members, "Red is for Stop", no names mentioned.

J.V. Lax

Cleveland

This is my last news report so it will be brief. The Cleveland committee, mostly the Secretary, spend a lot of time and effort to get winter talks off the ground and when they are not supported by members it makes you wonder if it is worth it. Try to give a little time to attend talks and meetings as it's for all our good.

The next talk is November 11 at Darlington GC 7:30-8:00 pm start, the speaker is Par 4, so please try to attend.

Then the big one December 7, 7:30 Mount Oswald, Turfcare's Christmas quiz. We need a good turn out, as we have to beat the groundsmen this year to make it two wins in the last decade. Terry and his staff put on a very good night, let's give them the support.

North Wales

Not a lot to write about again this month. If any of you haven't received your programme of events, please let us know. On November 17 there's a lecture on R&D of pesticides/CDA sprayers at 14:30-16:30 which is preceded by a moderation meeting for all you assessors out there which starts at 12 noon, both at the college.

Also remember our Christmas meet and AGM at Royal St. Davids, Harlech on Thursday December 2. If there is anything you want on the agenda please get in touch, all numbers on programme of events card.

One last point, after last year's AGM anyone not properly attired will be barred. It's your association, make the effort.

Dave Goodridge



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01490 437507

BB&O

The autumn event was held at the Springs GC on Tuesday September 21, but unfortunately I was not able to

attend. Thanks to Lindsay and Adrian for relaying the results of the tournament to me. 1. S Curley & M Walker, Stowe School 43 pts, 2. A Burnham & G. Clark, Donnington Valley 42 pts, 3. A Cooper & D. Greenfield, The Springs 40 pts. Longest drive Angie Bell, Caversham, Nearest pin Paul Chana, Huntercombe.

Paul was recently in the headlines when he managed to achieve two holes in one on the same day at Huntercombe.

Thanks also to the sponsors, Rolawn Turf, to Phillip Marsh for presenting the prizes and to Andy Church for organising all postage and prizes. Thanks to Adrian and his team, Lindsay tells me the course was superb.

New members this month are: Anthony Leinster, Bearwood, Matthew Evans, Oxfordshire, John Lister, Sonning.

Saltex has come and gone again and we are at the time of year when boats would be more appropriate than tractors, not to worry through it will soon be summer again (I wish!). Hopefully everyone is managing to cope with the dreary weather and I look forward to seeing everyone at the next outing.

Ross Wilson

Midland

On September 15 the autumn tournament was played at Ross-on-Wye Golf Club. The day proved to be a great success and many thanks go to the greenkeeping staff and to the catering staff for making the day run smoothly. I have to be very conservative with what I say about the course, as most of you are aware I am the Course Manager, but it was a very good day and I do hope everyone enjoyed the day.

The results are as follows: 1st Gross Tony Cheese, 1st Nett Rhys Thomas, 2. Clayton Lee, 3. Rod Hunter, 4. Tom Haskett, 5. Mike Hughes, 6. Alan Roberts.

Nearest pin - Mark Cutler, Longest drive - Tony Cheese. The trade prize went to Andrew Corns.

The finals of the Toro Award for Excellence are to be held shortly and we have a member of our Section involved, he is Kim Blake from Fulford Heath Golf Club. We wish him all the best in the finals.

Early in September the Midland Section held what is hoped to be the first of many matches against the Midland Section of the Stewards' Association.

The event on the day was very professionally organised by Mike Moffitt, Steward at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club. The venue was Kington Golf Club on the Welsh border, with magnificent views of the surrounding countryside.

The result of the match was a well earned win of 3-2 to the Stewards, but don't worry we will be back next year with our first team. A singles Stableford was also incorporated of which the winner was Tony Denham, Steward at Stone Golf Club, with 46 points, second on a last 9 count back representing the Greenkeepers with 39 points was Nigel Tyler and in third place was our Chairman Peter Richmond.

The prize giving was carried out by Alistair Reay, Chairman of the Midland Stewards Association, and Steward at Robin Hood Golf Club. These comprised of a large shield awarded to the winning team and smaller memento shields to each of the team members, engraved winners and runners up respectively.

Thanks must go to Kington Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course, and to the Stewardess and Chef for the excellent catering on what is traditionally Stewards day off.

Thank you once again to the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Stewards Association for such a wonderful day out and to all the Greenkeepers who turned out at such short notice. Well played all of you.

Belated congratulations to Jim Ewing, First Assistant at Walmley Golf Club, on his recent marriage to Lorraine. Best wishes to both of you for the future.

Christmas tournament and AGM to be held at Little Aston Golf Club on Wednesday December 8. First tee time 10:30 am. AGM will be held at 4:40 pm cost £16.

Jonathan Wood

East Midland

This years autumn tournament was held on September 6 at the delightful venue of Erewash Valley. With the

weather set warm, dry and fine some low scores were expected. The only disappointment on the day was the poor turnout of 24. The scores were as follows: Best Nett: A. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 85-15-70, Best Gross: B. Fillary, Willesley Park, 76-5-71, Category 1: A. Hawkes, Cutgrave Place, 79-5-74, Category 2: A. Porter, Greetham Valley, 87-12-75, Category 3: M. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 91-21-70, Trade: Kevin Kinzer, E.T. Breakwells, 94-20-74, Nearest The Pin: Jeff Dickinson, Longest Drive: Alex Hawkes.

I would like to thank Graham Arnold and his staff for presenting an excellent golf course for this tournament. Also thanks should go to the caterers for a fine buffet and to all those committee members who helped organise the day. Finally, a special thanks should go to Banks Amenity Products Ltd for the very kind and valued sponsorship. I would also like to remind members that this year's regional seminar will take place at Mentmore Golf and Country Club on November 17th.

It is with deep regret that I report the unfortunate death of Nick Webb. Nick was a trade member of the Section from Tacit and had supported Section events for the past two years. Our condolences go to all his family and friends.

On a much brighter note, congratulations should go to Ian Needham, of Beedles Lake GC, for winning the men's invitation at his home course with a nett score of 66 (6 under par). Ian's shot of the day came at the 18th hole, hitting a full 9 iron into the wind to leave a 4 ft putt and save par, winning the competition by two strokes! Thanks once again for the invite, and well played partner!

On September 19 Alan Roberts (he is an Assistant Greenkeeper at Sutton Coldfield, in the Midland Section) and myself finished second with a six under par score of 65 at the Hinckley Open.

If any other members can give me any information for future Around The Green articles I would be most grateful.

Anthony Bindley

East of England

The Annual match against the East Midland Section took part at Ramsdale Park.



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The course was in great condition considering the torrential rain before we teed off. Thanks to Steve, Head Greenkeeper, and his staff for all their efforts.

The result of the game was a convincing win for a strong East Midlands Section 41/2 - 1/2. It took a great fight back by John Hewson and Graeme MacDonald to save the Whitewash. The E.O.E. pair were three down with three to play and then won the last three holes to get a needed half.

The shield was presented to Captain Anthony Bindley on behalf of the sponsors Jim Carr of Chandlers. The longest drive went to Phil Wilkinson and the nearest the pin went to G.A. MacDonald (both E.O.E. Section). Next year will be hosted at a venue in our section preferably on a flatter course.

The annual match between the association of Golf Club Secretaries and our section took place at Stoke-Romford.

The superb Chandlers Cup went back home with the Secretaries' Captain Brian Harris as we lost again 5-3 on a course which was in fantastic condition as usual.

Thanks to Gill, Roy and Brian for all their hard work put in, to make the day enjoyable, apart from the golf result. Thanks to all the E.O.E. section players for playing. Better luck next year.

The sponsors were Jim Carr of Chandlers who put up some great prizes which saw John Scotney take the nearest the pin and Graeme MacDonald take the longest drive. Phil Wilkinson of Greenpride donated a bottle to the raffle.

East of England Section Team: Kevin Hodges, John Scotney won 3/2, Peter Fell/Fred Cobb lost 3/2, George Venable/Bill Watkin lost 2/1, Graeme MacDonald/John Scotney won 3/2, Jim Carr/Brian Slater won 3/2, Adrian Kitchinson/Russ Moody lost 6/5, Roy Harrison/Gill Ogden lost 5/4, Josh White/Phil Wilkinson lost 4/3.

Mid Anglia

The summer Tournament was held at Verulam Golf Club, St. Albans, on the last day of August and twenty-one people entered. An 18 hole Stableford was played in the morning and was won with 36 points by Kevin Armstrong of John O'Gaunt Golf Club. Richard Saunders was second with 35 points and Chris

Slimm, also of John O'Gaunt, was third with 33 points. Longest Drive was won by Steve Mason of Mount Pleasant Golf Club and "nearest the pin" by Pete Robinson of Knebworth. The Kingpin competition was won by Colin Robinson of John O'Gaunt Golf Club. An 11 hole Texas Scramble was held in the afternoon, which was won by Gary Boulton, Kevin Armstrong and Pete Robinson.

An enjoyable day was apparently had by all, with particular praise for the course and excellent food. Our thanks to Verulam Golf Club for their hospitality and particularly to Geoff Smith and his team of greenkeepers. Mike and Simon from Boughton Loam also need to be thanked for their continuing support and sponsorship of the Section's summer event.

We are looking to hold next years summer event at Aspley Guise Golf Club, which has never been used as a venue before. This will be subject to Gerald acquiring a definite booking (hopefully in July). Our other plans are to hold the spring 2000 event at Hammonds End, with Mid Herts Golf Club in line for the autumn meeting.

Everyone should have received an entry form for the Midland Regional Seminar in the September magazine, which is to be held at Mentmore Golf Club on Wednesday 17th November, 1999. Please give the event your support as there will be a broad range of speakers and topics to appeal to all interests. If you cannot find the entry form, please give me a call and I will send another. It is essential for the financial security of the Section and Region that this event is successful - this can only happen with your support. The cost of the day is £25, which includes lunch, teas and coffees.

Our next golf event is the Texas Scramble at Brocket Hall Golf Club on December 2. Entrance fees are listed on the forms already sent to you by Gerald.

It has been disappointing that entrants in the Lodgeway Four Ball this year have failed to play matches by the agreed deadlines, particularly the quarter final/semi-final stages. This causes real problems for Steve Mason in trying to organise the smooth running of the event.

John Wells has tendered his resigna-

tion as Treasurer of the Section, although he will continue to be an active member of the committee. I'm sure everyone will support me in thanking John for his hard work in the post for the last five years.

Colin Robinson, Course Manager at John O'Gaunt Golf Club, has organised a demonstration of Juno and Jupiter grinders by Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd. on the 24th November 1999, at 10:00 am. Anyone who wishes to attend, or who needs further details, please contact Colin on 01767 261416.



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Paul Lockett Surrey

Royal Mid Surrey played host to Surrey section on September 14 and we say thank you to Alan McDougall for the pleasure of playing the shorter inner course which for myself and many other members was a first time experience. Although to some golfers shorter can mean easier, here the scoring showed that the inner is a tight course and one that deserves respect. Sponsored by Mommersteeg Grass Seed.

The results were: 1. Nigel Colley, 36pts on countback, 2. with 36 pts Tony Shaman, 36 pts 3. Alan McDougall, 35 pts

Please will all members make a special note in their diaries that the AGM for Surrey section will be held at West Hill Golf Club after the Turkey Trot on the 30th November. Contact Ian Sellars if you have not had the info, his mobile number is 0976 709146.

On one of the few dry days at the end of September, over 45 keen young golfers, myself included, met at Richmond Golf Club to do battle for prizes at the autumn tournament. Lee Strutt, Course Manager and fellow committee member, must have had his team cutting grass 24 hours a day to have been able to present the course in such a well manicured condition. Thank you Lee and thank you Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the event.

The results: 1. Mathew Lovett, 40 pts

on countback 2. John Davidson, 40 pts 3. John Mathis 39 pts on countback.

I hope that when John Mathis, our Handicap Secretary, cuts the first two his chopper also descends on his own handicap and that of Keith Pinks and Bob Rogers who also got 39 pts. The putting competition was won over 18 holes by Darren Lee with 33 pts, nearest the pin only 9' 4" away was Dave Jones and the longest drive was Cameron McMillan.

Unfortunately there have been two deaths in Surrey recently. The first on August 25 was Ken Collins, Course Manager at Chobham Golf Club, and then on September 29 Bill Lipscombe, from Coombe Hill Golf Club.

The following words have been written in memory of Bill by Murray Long, Course Manager at Coombe Hill.

"Coombe Hill Golf Club in Kingston, Surrey, report the said loss of Bill Lipscombe, its most loyal and longest serving member of staff of over 40 years. He was a true gentleman who loved his job and the course. Nothing was a trouble for Bill, always smiling and giving the younger staff a run for their money up until his sudden death aged 63 years. He will be sadly missed by everyone at Coombe Hill Golf Club".

Our deepest sympathy to his wife Sheila, his son Michael and daughter Wendy.

Brian Willmott

Essex

With great disappointment I have to report that our treasurer Richard Pride is standing down. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the members to thank Richard for his hard work over the years, not only in setting up the Essex section, but also with his earlier contributions toward the old East Anglia section.

Volunteers are welcomed to take up this post, please contact any committee member for further information.

If you missed last month's magazine containing the application form to attend the South East regional seminar at Writtle College on November 16, please contact either Derek Farrington on 01903 260956 or Martin Forrester 01245 603131. We need your support for this function in order to make it a success.

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Our next event is a go-karting afternoon on Friday November 26 starting at 1pm, prices are £80 per team of four. Please contact Martin Forrester for more details.

The next golfing day is combined with our AGM at Rochford Hundred Golf Club on December 15, please make a note in your diaries as this is an important event to air your views. This is your Section. Details will be posted nearer to the date. Don't work too hard!

Dave Wells



South West and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

Regional Seminar November 24 Cannington College. The theme is Research and some excellent speakers including Dr Canaway of STRI, Dr Thorogood from IGER, Prof. Adams University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Stephen Bernhard of Bernhard & Co, Dr Daniels of the Levington Research Centre and Steve Jones, formerly of the London Club. Book your places at £15 per head with Paula Humphries now.

BTME Express 2000. Places strictly limited to 100 on first come basis. List filling up fast. If you want to come on this superb value trip get your application form in quickly. If you require a banquet ticket please state this on booking from stating your menu choice of A or B and include payment of £40. Entries of Paula quickly to avoid disappointment. The coach once again sponsored by Amenity Technology and the trip heavily subsidised by Westurf to give you this excellent value package of £95 pp with second from the same club at £85 pp. Student packages available at £45 pp. Paula Humphries

Devon & Cornwall

Once again Christmas is fast approaching and the year 2000, so what better way to start the festive season than by attending our P.J. Flegg sponsored Christmas meeting which will be held at Okehampton GC on Wednesday December 8 as in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members, so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible and before the closing date.

The day will start as usual with golfing members playing for the P.J. Flegg Trophy with the format being greensome, for those of you not wishing to play golf the now customary course walk will start from the clubhouse at approximately 10:30 with Head Greenkeeper, Richard Wisdom, showing members his fine work. Lunch will be followed by our afternoon cabaret and the day will conclude with the raffles.

I would like to remind you that the regions annual seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 24 with the theme this year being on research. Places on the Regions package to BTME 2000 which includes transport, accommodation

and entry to the BTME show and seminars are going fast so to avoid disappointment you are advised to return your booking form as soon as possible. If you haven't already booked your place for the seminar or BTME packages don't delay call our RA Paula Humphries today on 01288 352194.

One member who has moved recently out of the section is Nick Rourke who has taken up a new post, we wish you well Nick and thank you for your support over the last few years.

If you have any news, you would like me to include in the monthly reports please let me know in writing, my address is on the front of your fixture card, reports have to be in one month beforehand (reports have to be in by December 1, for the January issue).

Richard Whyman

South West

Gloriously sunny weather greeted greenkeepers from the South West Section as they arrived to do battle with the Welsh greenkeepers at St. Pierre G&CC on October 6.

The Welsh were fired up for revenge following their drubbing from the encounter in the previous year. The South West team were equally fired up as they paraded their new team shirts sponsored by Rolawn. By the end of a long day however, the Welsh had emerged as the victors with a winning score of 4 points to 2.

It was still a great day however and many thanks go to St. Pierre for allowing us courtesy of the course and also the two team captains for organising the whole day. Thanks also go to Rolawn for kindly sponsoring the shirts.

The next event which is coming up very shortly for the region is the Autumn tournament, taking place at Bristol & Clifton Golf Club on Thursday November 11, followed by the AGM. The Christmas Tournament will take place on Wednesday December 8 at Kingsdown Golf Club.

I have already arranged a number of spraying and first aid courses to take place early next year. Once the dates and venues have been confirmed I will let you know next month. If you have already contacted me about attending a course, I have already written your name down on the waiting list. If you would like to attend a course next year, please contact me on 01249 783382

Paul Cunningham

South Coast

For those of you who have not got your application forms in for the Regional Seminar at Cannington, there is still time, so don't delay, get them in now. As you can see by your seminar agenda, there are some very good speakers. Any queries give Jeff a ring on 01635 846575.

As I said in last month's report our section AGM and Turkey Trot will be held at Hockley Golf Club on Wednesday December 8. This will be followed by our AGM, Christmas Dinner and prize giving. All details can be obtained from Fred Deamen on 01420 86679.

Any items you would like to be included in the agenda please let Jeff have your

details no later than three weeks before the AGM. Anyone who would like to serve on the committee should also contact Jeff.

The last time we were at Hockley was for our Spring Tournament in the early 1980's. I can remember John Dodds, who was the Head Greenkeeper at the time, he was reputed to have said "If those xxxxxx want fast greens I'll give them fast greens". He did! They were like lightning, in fact some of the low handicappers were finding it difficult to keep their putts on the greens. How many members remember that day? I can think of Peter March, Ted West and Bob Walker. Still a good day was had by all.

On Monday September 27 our annual match against the South West Section was held at Hampworth Golf Club near Salisbury. I'm afraid the South West finished up as the victors. I'm sorry I can't tell you whose fault it was that the South Coast lost as I have not got any details to hand. Joking aside, congratulations to the South West. I'm sure it will be back in the South Coast's hands next year.

Ken Lodge

South Wales

On September 9th the Autumn tournament held at Swansea Bay Golf Club was yet again a great afternoon of golf, with the course in good condition the tournament results were: Best gross/President's Cup, Gary Johnstone. Best Nett/President's Shield, Richard Barnham. Best over 18 handicap, Richard Patterson. I'll bring you up-to-date with the October fixtures next month.

By the time you read this you might have received a flyer from our secretary or it may have already taken place but hopefully not. This year's seminar is to be held at Pencoed College on the 17th of this month, with the theme on Irrigation and Water Management. The day as usual starts with registration and coffee 9 - 9:30. Then the guest speakers begin. At Noon - 1pm it's lunch, the first speakers can sit back, while the other guest speakers will be chewing their nails by now and waiting for the afternoon session to begin at 1.10pm. At around 3pm question time begins and brings the day to a close. The day will cost members £13 and non members £16.

December sees the return of the Winter Tournament/AGM/Xmas Dinner at the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club so as soon as your reminder and attendance form comes to your door fill it in hastily as it's a day you cannot afford to miss.

Moving into year 2000 we will have definite dates for the evening lectures next month but it looks to be the second week of the month on a Wednesday evening to be held at Pencoed College with Tony Home in January and Peter Johnstone in February.

A quick recap, do not forget the BTME at Harrogate International Centre on the 19th to the 21st of January 2000, it may be advantageous to book early.

Last but not least congratulations to Adrian Panks who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Llanwern GC, well done from all of the section.

Richard Hatcher

Northern Ireland

South-East

The first annual Northern Irish Greenkeepers Charity Open day was held at Clondeboye Golf Club on Friday September 3. Over 80 competitors took part on the day playing the Dufferin course. A special mention must go to Course Manager, Terry Crawford, and his team for the course was in excellent condition and very well presented. Special thanks to Clondeboye for giving the competitors a courtesy round which enabled all entry fees to go to the charity Heartbeat. The sum of £1300 was raised which will go to this very worthy charity which treats children with heart problems. The charity day would not have happened without Terry Crawford's hard work organising the event and gathering an impressive array of prizes kindly donated by the many sponsors.

We would like to thank Clive Richardson and Horta Soils, John Lindsay, Adrian Eastwood, Coburns, Oneida Cutlery, Bill Donnell at Stakis Park, Terry Magee General Manager Spa Golf Club and Ken Graham General Manager at Clondeboye Golf Club for all the donations of money trophies and prizes. First prize went to Sidney Spence, Greenkeeper at Spa Golf Club, 2. Allister Harrison, WD Irwins, 3. John Lindsay.

Course Manager Alan Strachan and the greenkeeping team at Royal Co Down Golf Club and Section members would like to wish Walter Beattie Head Greenkeeper at Royal Co. Down a very happy retirement. Walter has been at Royal Co. Down for 28 years.

I would like to remind members of our regional training course on the 2nd and 3rd December 1999 at the Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle, Co. Down. The course is on Budgeting & Finance and is presented by Brin Bendon.

Finally, it was nice to meet Tracey Maddison, Membership Services Officer again at the I.O.G. Show in Belfast on the 28th September. On behalf of all the members within the region many thanks Tracey for coming over to the show again this year.

The section would like to pass on best wishes to Walter Beattie on his retirement as Head Greenkeeper from Royal County Down G.C. after 27 years service to the club.

Congratulations to Eamon Crawford on his promotion to Deputy Course Manager also at Royal County Down.

Our charity golf day at Clandyboye G.C. on the 3rd September was a great success with eighty in attendance raising over twelve hundred pounds for Heartbeat (for children's) charity. Many thanks to the sponsors, Horta Soils, Coburns, John Lindsay's, Spa Golf Club, Stakis Golf Club and Eastwood Bookmakers. Also thanks to all those who made the effort to attend and give generously.

J. McCabe



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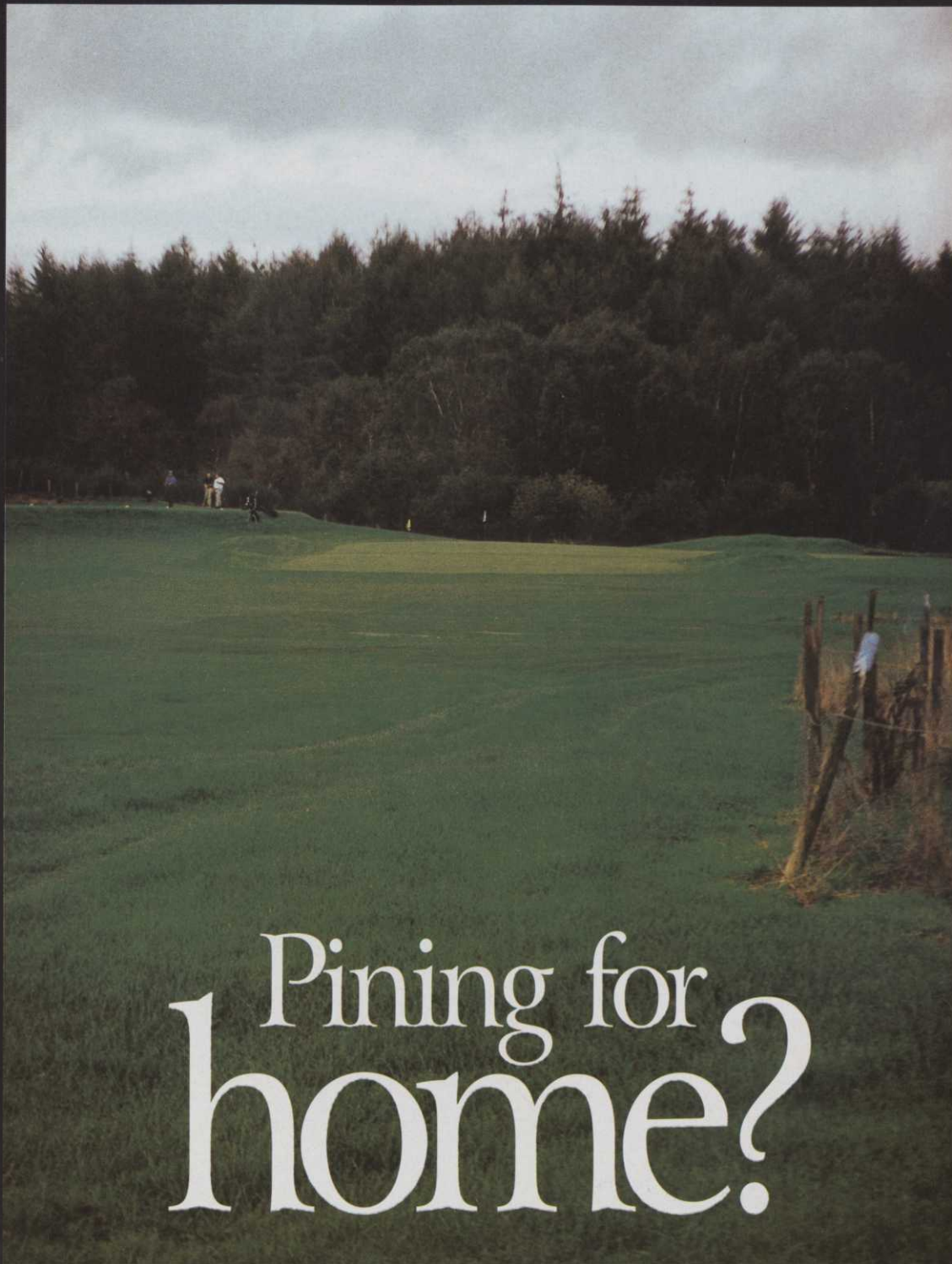
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Scott MacCallum visits the club where
nothing is black and white... only Gray



Pining for home?

A visit to The Pines Golf Centre in Dumfries can have you questioning your own sanity. Don't get me wrong it's an excellent new pay-and-play complex boasting floodlit driving range, testing 18-hole courses and an attractive alpine style clubhouse. It's just well... let me explain.

When I drew into the car park for the Ayrshire Section meeting last month I could see Section Chairman, Duncan Gray, standing with a group of students on the 1st tee. It transpired they were from Barony College and Duncan was setting them a project for the afternoon. He greeted me warmly and sent me into the clubhouse to meet up with the rest of the guys.

Having said my hellos and chewed the fat for a few minutes I looked up and recognised the man pulling pints behind the bar. It was Duncan Gray.

A few more minutes passed and the soup and sandwiches arrived. The waiter? Duncan Gray.

Later, after the golf (during which, incidentally, Duncan marked the card of the new course record holder) over the course that was designed, built, and maintained by Duncan – and between handling queries involving till receipts and range balls – Duncan revealed that the curry, a popular option on the menu, was his own recipe. Really, we should have known!

Duncan, however, certainly wouldn't want it to be seen as a one-man show at The Pines. Wife, Greta, is just as busy and operates from a disadvantage from which Duncan doesn't suffer. She's not particularly keen on golf.

While both muck in the general division is that while Duncan is in charge of everything outside Greta does the same inside.

So how did Duncan, a greenkeeper of long standing with a CV boasting such illustrious names as Prestwick St Nicholas and Lahinch, reach the point where he is Captain of his own ship – and many of his own crew members as well?

Pining for home?

Right: The course has established itself well in the short time it has been open

Below: The ever smiling Duncan Gray

Bottom: With Greta, the other half of the team



"I was in charge of the Kyle and Carrick municipal courses in Ayrshire when competitive tendering arrived and destroyed the budgets to look after the courses," said Duncan as we sat in the living room of the Gray apartment, overlooking the 18th green.

"Greta and I had always talked about starting our own business and, being in golf, running a driving range was an obvious way to go, as we couldn't afford our own course... or so we thought at the time."

A trawl around Ayrshire uncovered a couple of possible sites but it was not until they widened their search to Dumfries that things began to move.

"Being local to Dumfries we knew the town didn't have any practice facilities. "There are about 33,000 people in Dumfries, and another 70,000 within 20 miles, but there was no decent practice area for them at all."

"Fortunately we came across an old school pal of mine who had land that he was willing to lease and with the help of another school friend, a solicitor, the deal was struck with an option on the rest of the land, with the long term thoughts on a course.

"We looked at planning approval in December '94 and started work in December '95.

"We did all the work on the driving range ourselves. We prepared the foundations, poured the concrete, did all the slabbing. Even Greta drove dumpers," recalled Duncan.

The project was funded by equity from the family home in Prestwick which was sold, but there were some nasty surprises along the way.

"Putting in the electricity alone cost £12,000 and we had to lay 700 metres worth of road earlier than expected," revealed Duncan.

"The range was a great success. We had a caravan on site which acted as a clubhouse offering snacks," said Duncan, who along with Greta lived in another caravan alongside for about two and a half years.

The range was run by Duncan, Greta, a young skill seeker, a couple of part-



timers, with a couple of youngsters who worked as ball pickers in the evenings.

With the range up and running Duncan's thoughts turned to the possibility of building the course.

"I'd already sussed out the ground and found that there was quite a bit of sand. If it hadn't been there we wouldn't have been able to build," he admitted.

He took on some more Skill Seekers and talked with the Enterprise Board who provided some labour from the Training for Work programme.

"Basically we got a year's free labour but it worked well because everyone we used now has full time jobs," said Duncan, who also has his D32 and D33 and trains his staff on site.

"Initially I built a loop of 11 holes, including two temporary greens and these were played from July '97.

"They were a tremendous success and we were practically overrun with people coming to play, so we thought we'd fire ahead and build the rest of the course. We finished the last nine in September '97 and opened the full 18 in June '98."

Duncan designed the course himself

using experience gained from designing several courses in Ireland including Drumoland in County Claire which was used for a televised pro-celebrity golf series.

"The routing was done fairly quickly and I always had 18 holes in mind when I did the first holes. I created a loop with the 7th green beside the 10th tee and the 14th tee beside the 10th green."

He has also used six different types of construction on the course.

"I've used the course as an experiment as I've always been very inquisitive and what better way to try things than to use your own course. You can only blame yourself," he smiled.

"I've got three greens cut out of existing turf, top dressed, overseeded etc and these are on two different types of land. The 1st is on top of sandy loam while the 5th and 15th are on agricultural soil.

"Then there are two greens built and sodded with my own sod; another two with bought-in turf, while two greens which were seeded with creeping bent. The rest of the greens are build and seeded with fescue bent."

Duncan's greenkeeping philosophy is



not to do much feeding and he has not put on a fungicide since the course opened.

"I've never used much fungicide when I was at Prestwick St Nicholas and Lahinch... and here that approach also helps to save money," he added.

Another other of the major projects was the clubhouse itself.

"When we opened our 18 we were still using the caravan as the clubhouse but with things going well we looked at building a proper clubhouse.

"This proved to be a big problem. We had built the course using income from the range, and had benefited from an interest free loan from the R&A and a grant from the Enterprise Board. As a result we had very little borrowings, but it was extremely difficult to persuade the banks to lend money. It was only when we'd run the course and shown it to be successful that we were able to persuade them," said Duncan, who suspected that as it was around the time that Loch Lomond ran into financial difficulties banks were worried about becoming involved in golf.

"We started to build the clubhouse in the first week of June last year and

again we did a lot of the work ourselves. It was finished in three months and one week," he said with justifiable pride.

"Part of the clubhouse contains our flat which means we are married to the job and can't get away but at least it's better than a caravan. Greta has been a real martyr. Not many wives would put up with what she's had to."

He is under no illusion that despite the course being open and extremely busy he still has a great deal to do on the course.

"I need to put in quite a bit of drainage and will also do some tree planting and tree transplanting. We've got quite a few trees of good size on the periphery and we'll use our digger to move them. I also want to put in a few more bunkers, but not too many."

Asked about how he feels, as he sits looking out at the course he can rightly claim as his own, he has mixed emotions.

"I do have feelings of fulfilment but also a lot of tiredness.

"When you hear other people saying 'I don't know how you've done it.

It's an amazing feat' you think well, I suppose, maybe it is, but because we're so heavily involved - basically it is 24 hours a day - it takes a bit of the gloss of it," said Duncan.

Remarkably Duncan is also involved in the design and building of several other courses including one in Dundee, another at Southern Gailes and another in Crete.

"When you're asked to do it it's tempting to say I've got enough on my plate but it's not often you get asked to design a golf course and it helps to ease the finances. I've only started to take a small wage out of The Pines."

Asked if he would do anything differently, given a clean slate, he is honest enough to admit that perhaps they built the clubhouse a bit too soon.

"I think we'd have left it for another year, even although we were living in a caravan, because it made last winter very difficult. It was only this summer that we began to get on top of it again.

"That said I don't think I'd have done anything else differently, although to be honest knowing what

we know now we may never have attempted it. It has been so horrendously difficult."

As well as the benefit to the golfers of the Dumfries area - the professional gave lessons to 700 youngsters last year and the £12 a round green fee is no deterrent to new golfers - The Pines has also done a great deal of good to the local community with 25 people earning their living through the club.

"So from having a boss and working for other people - and having someone to blame - the boot is on the other foot and I have many people relying on me now."

Despite that Duncan still considers himself to be a greenkeeper through and through.

"I still go out and change holes and cut greens while I don't employ a Head Greenkeeper for two reasons. One, we couldn't afford one and two, I wouldn't like it. It's my course and it will be done the way I like it."

You would certainly be right in thinking that Duncan Gray is a one-off but surely, a visit to The Pines would have you believing that there must be more than one of him.

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As the nights draw in, more and more of facilities require some form of outside lighting. GenSet has produced a flexible, portable, stand-alone lighting tower.

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For further information contact GenSet Plc on 01639 777000 or visit their web site at www.genset.co.uk.



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dling the equipment into place in deck twelve. The task was completed with just one hour to go before the ship, Seven Seas Navigator, set sail on her maiden voyage.

The nets will be used by four American PGA professionals giving lessons to over 1,000 passengers paying £1,000 a day for a two-week cruise.



Greensward's one stop trailer makes loading easy

EASY-LOAD is a new trailer purpose designed for Greenkeepers and Groundsmen incorporating a number of features that, until now, have been hard to find in any single groundcare trailer.

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The minimum tipping height is 22in. Load capacity with standard sides is two tonnes and with the tapered extension sides 3 tonnes.

Price with standard sides is £3495 and extension sides plus flow control gate cost another £500. All prices are exclusive of VAT.





**Address your letters to the Editor,
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You can also fax them to 01347 833801,
or email them to reception@bigga.co.uk**

A greenkeeper's request

This is a request for information and photographs (which would be returned) from any BIGGA member regarding suitable furniture and fixtures that would be appropriate for a golf course built at the turn of the century and through to the end of the 1960s in 20 year periods.

This would include tee markers, seats, pin and flag design, hole cups and any other accessories that would be in keeping with courses designed between 1900 - 1920, 1920 -1940 and 1940 - 1960.

If anyone has any information

on the above and would be willing to lend it to me for a short period of time, I would be very grateful. Please include a description, including the period during which the item would have been used, and a photograph if possible.

Please contact me at the address below:

Robert Woodward
Berkshire College of
Agriculture, Hall Place,
Burchetts Green, Maidenhead,
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Tel: 01628 824444

Carbendazim clear-up 1

I am writing regarding the article on microbes written by Ms Stella Ingelthorpe of Grass Roots Trading Co. which appeared on pages 55-58 of the September issue of Greenkeeper International.

In the article, Ms Ingelthorpe states that 'Production of carbendazim, the last remaining worm control agent (and a fungicide) is to cease at the end of the year

AgrEvo is a major manufacturer of carbendazim and sells this substance to The Scotts Company (UK) Limited which holds registrations for products approved for professional agricultural use on golf greens. Both companies would therefore like to point out that AgrEvo has no current plans to cease its production of carbendazim by the end of 1999 or in future years. Obviously, AgrEvo cannot speak for other carbendazim

manufacturers, but I can add that I have not heard of any such phase-out plans by the other major manufacturers.

I am sure you will appreciate that both AgrEvo and The Scotts Company (UK) Limited will have been understandably concerned at the inaccurate information contained in the article by Ms Ingelthorpe. I would therefore be very grateful if you could include a statement in the next available issue of 'Greenkeeper International' clearly explaining that AgrEvo is not planning to cease its production of carbendazim. This will provide appropriate reassurance to The Scotts Company (UK) Limited and to users of this company's carbendazim-containing products.

Mr R G Evans, Product Safety
Management, AgrEvo UK Ltd

Carbendazim clear-up 2

I refer to the article in the September edition of Greenkeeper International, written by Stella Ingelthorpe of Grass Roots Trading, concerning modern microbiology. In this article she states "the production of carbendazim, last remaining worm control (and a fungicide) is to cease at the end of the year, and MAFF are looking carefully at other chemicals on the market".

Your worthy magazine is held in high esteem by your members, and this information has caused concern with greenkeepers who have an on-going problem with worm

casts. I am sure it is difficult to ascertain that the information provided to you in such articles is correct, but the effects of such misinformation can be harmful. Vitax Twincarb contains carbendazim and this active ingredient, I can assure your members, is being supported through the BC Review Programme and the manufacturers do not have any plans to cease the manufacture of this important product

Clive R Williams
Commercial Development
Manager, Vitax

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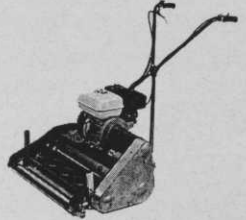
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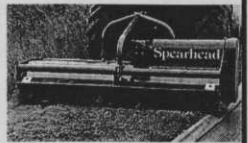
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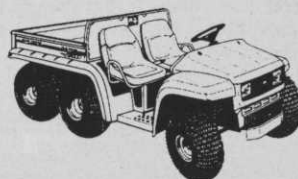
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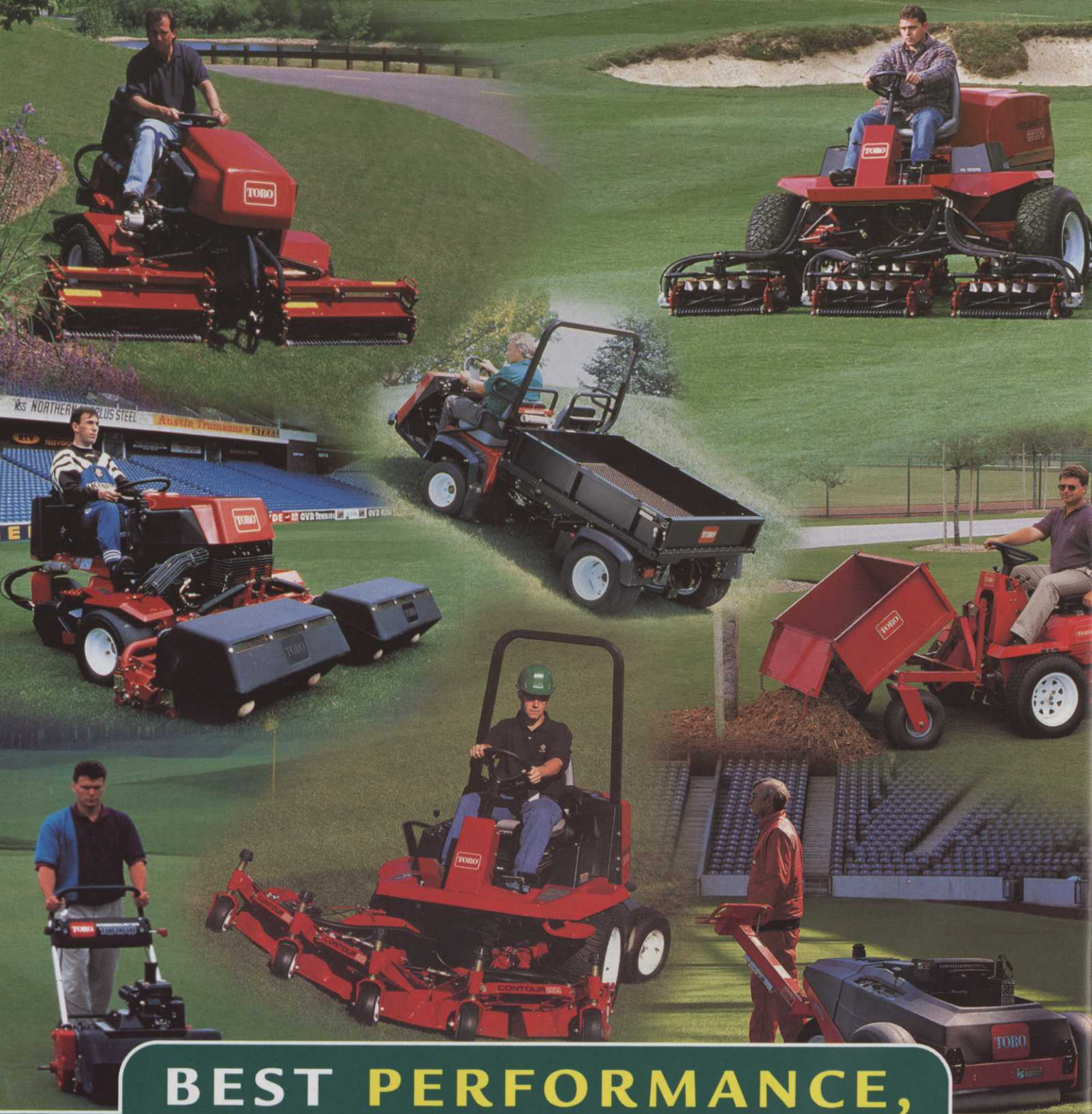
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Please apply in writing with CV to:

Mr C Allison, Gardens Dept, Woodside, Crimp Hill, Old Windsor, Berks SL4 2HL
 or Phone: 01753 831 247 / 07050 392 300

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Seek the services of a qualified mechanic, to instigate a preventative maintenance schedule and to aid in the restructuring of our workshop facility. Occasional help on the grounds may be required.

Interested parties should apply in the first instance to:

Paul Stevens, Property Manager, The Guards Polo Club,
 Smiths Lawn, Windsor Great Park, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0HP

STRATFORD ON AVON GOLF CLUB

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have a minimum of 3 years experience and be qualified to NVQ Level 2 with spraying certificates.

Please apply in writing enclosing CV, to:

The Course Manager, Stratford on Avon Golf Club,
 Tiddington Road, Stratford Upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 7BA



Handsworth Golf Club

Require a fully qualified and experienced

First Assistant Greenkeeper

Accommodation is not provided.

Applications and CV to:
 Hon Secretary, Handsworth Golf Club,
 11 Sunningdale Close, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1NP

THE RICHMOND GOLF CLUB

Require an

EXPERIENCED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The Richmond Golf Club is a private members club, situated along side the Richmond park. The 108 year old parkland course has a progressive on-going course development programme.

He/she should be qualified to City & Guilds II or NVQ level 2 with a minimum of 3 years experience. A good working knowledge of greenkeeping and modern machinery is essential. This would be an excellent opportunity for any progressive greenkeeper to further their career.

The salary will be negotiable according to experience and qualifications.

EXPERIENCED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

TEMPORARY

The Richmond Golf Club are seeking to employ an experienced Greenkeeper on a **6 month only contract**.

He/she should be qualified to City & Guilds II or NVQ Level 2 with a minimum of 3 years experience. A good working knowledge of greenkeeping and modern machinery is essential. This would be an excellent opportunity for any progressive greenkeeper to further their career.

The salary will reflect the short term nature of the contract but will be negotiable according to experience and qualifications.

Applications in writing by 31st November 1999 to:

Lee Strutt, Course Manager, The Richmond Golf Club,
Sudbrook Lane, Richmond, SURREY, TW10 7AS



ROMILEY GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Romiley Golf Club, founded in 1897, is one of the foremost Private members Clubs in Cheshire and is located approximately 5 miles east of Stockport.

The successful applicant must have appropriate greenkeeping qualifications, together with a thorough knowledge of modern greenkeeping practices.

A wide experience of equipment, machinery, computer controlled irrigation systems and the ability to motivate a team of five to maintain the required standard of excellence in course presentation is also essential.

The excellent remuneration package includes a negotiable pensionable salary. Accommodation is not available.

Written applications with a full C.V. to reach the Secretary by 22nd November 1999. Please mark your envelope "Private & Confidential".

ROMILEY GOLF CLUB,
Goosehouse Green, Romiley, Stockport, Cheshire SK6 4LJ

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Seaford, East Sussex

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

This 18 hole Municipal Downland Course is of a high standard and has an excellent reputation within the industry.

You must be self-motivated and able to work within a small team of qualified experienced greenkeepers and have practical knowledge and experience of modern machines and computerised irrigation system.

Experience and qualifications to NVQ level 2 and PA1 and PA2A certificates would be an advantage.

The golf course is well equipped with new modern equipment, including irrigation system and staff facilities.

Salary £11,751 to £13,110 depending on experience and qualifications (no accommodation)

Closing date: November 26, 1999

For an application form please contact Lewes District Council, Personnel Services Unit on (01273) 471600 extension 4234 (24 hours answering service)

A minicom system (01273) 484488 is available for those people who have speech or hearing difficulties.

In promoting Equal Opportunities, the council welcomes application form all sections of the community.

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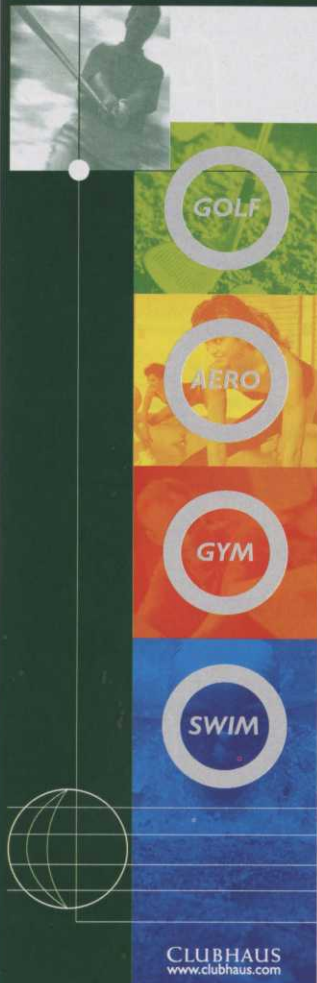
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Please send your CV to Jane Barton, Clubhaus Recruitment, The Tytherington Club, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 2JP indicating your salary expectations and locality preference.



PYLE & KENFIG GOLF CLUB

requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Due to the impending retirement of its long serving Head Greenkeeper Paul Robinson, Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club, a private members club with over 750 members now seeks to appoint his successor. The club, which is renowned as one of Wales' leading golf clubs, boasts a championship course that will be hosting many important tournaments over the next few years including the Welsh Team and Stroke Play Championships, the British Amateur Championships and the Girls International Matches, requires an experience and qualified person.

Reporting to the Club Secretary and in close liaison with the Chairman of Green the demanding role includes responsibility for the management of all Greenstaff. The successful applicant will currently be an experienced Deputy Head or Head Greenkeeper who holds recognised qualifications in Greenkeeping and Golf Course management and will have a good working knowledge of all modern golf course management practices, excellent man-management skills and be conversant with Health and Safety regulations. The person will be able to demonstrate the relevant skills, knowledge and experience coupled with the determination to achieve excellence in a team-working environment.

The remuneration package includes a negotiable pensionable salary.

Accommodation is not available.

Applications, indicating relevant qualifications including membership of BIGGA, if applicable, experience, age and current salary, should be made in writing. Please mark your envelope "Private and Confidential" and send it in strict confidence to:

Mr. S. D. Anthony, Secretary, Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club,
Waun y Mer, Kenfig, Bridgend CF33 4PU

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HEAD GREENKEEPER

The position requires a hands on Head Greenkeeper, who is self motivated and hard working with the necessary supervisory skills to lead a team of six in the maintenance and development of an 18 hole golf course.

The successful candidate will be suitably qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent and have a minimum of five years experience on a course with high standards.

If you are interested in this opportunity and have the necessary qualifications and experience please apply in writing including a full CV to:

The Secretary, Filton Golf Club,
Golf Course Lane, Bristol BS34 7QS

Tel: 0117 9694169

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS ARE INVITED TO APPLY

Feature listing from November '97

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

November '98: Royal Opening, Ramside Hall GC, Gang Mowers, Hayter International report, Irrigation Systems

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

July '99: Carnoustie, Golf Course Furniture, Spike Research, Toro profile, BIGGA Silent Auction

August '99: Viscount Whitelaw tribute; Open review; Merrist Wood; Saltex preview; Turf; Trees; Grass Cutting; BIGGA Golf Day review; Redexim profile

September '99: Slaley Hall; Tyres; Spotlight on Thatch; Elmwood College Awards; National Championship preview

October '99: The Manor House, Castle Combe; Aeration; Saltex review; Mycorrhizas; Toro Award preview



A hectic month



On the 15th September the rescheduled Cumbria Cup was played at Penrith. This time the weather was kind and we all had a good day. Penrith is one of those places you look forward to returning to time after time. I would like to thank the North West Section for inviting me and presenting me with a very unusual glass plaque. It was much appreciated. We are indebted to Penrith Golf Club for allowing us the use of their fine facilities, and to Course Care who sponsored this event.

In September I was invited by the Swedish Golf Federation to join three Canadians and their own team of agronomists on a tour of Sweden, taking in seven golf courses, three of which we played. We also stayed over at Jonkoping for the trade show and seminars, which were excellent. Our tour started in Malmo and ended in Stockholm, stopping to visit or play golf courses on the way. One course we visited was the links course of Falsterbo, situated in a nature reserve at the tip of Sweden's south west peninsula where the waters of the Sound and the Baltic Sea meet. A bird watchers paradise which attracts thousands of migrating birds. The course was founded in 1909, consisting of 9 holes later extended to 18 in 1930. Walking around the links I was told that my old friend Jim Arthur had been their advisor for many years and they still have fond memories of his visits. One very interesting fact is that while the course was built against the sea and ran along-

side the coast line, so much sand has been washed ashore they are now looking to construct a third nine holes where the sea used to be. A startling contradiction to the coastal erosion we keep hearing about.

I would go on writing about Sweden for many pages but Scott has to fit it in with everything else, so I'll just say it was a trip I will never forget. I would like to thank Maria Strandberg, who organised the whole trip and escorted us around, and the Swedish Golf Federation for their generosity. A special mention to Serge Gauthier, the only other greenkeeper in the party. He is Superintendent at Islemere in Quebec. We had so many interesting chats at the bar after days on the golf course.

At the beginning of October I travelled to Carden Park in Cheshire for the BIGGA National Championship. This was the first of our new look championships. The old National Tournament which had become less attractive over the years, and with the numbers falling we just had to have a new look. My thanks go to everyone who helped put this championship together. It was a great success. The venue, Carden Park, proved an inspired choice. Having said that, when we arrived on Sunday both courses were unplayable. There had been so much rain even the roads were flooded and in some areas of the courses, there was as much as 3ft of water, and you could only see the handrails on one bridge over a stream. We were left wondering if we were going to have a washout, but by mid morning Andy Campbell and his staff had worked wonders, and the Cheshire Course was open for play, and some got in a practice round.

At 7:30am on Monday the first round got underway on the Cheshire Course. As I walked up to the 1st tee I was met by our sponsors, Scotts and Charterhouse, who were supported by Softspikes, dishing out caps and making everyone feel welcome. Even the sun came out to greet the first to tee off, and stayed that way all day. In the afternoon Andy took three of us on a

tour of the Nicklaus Course where his staff were hard at work trying to get the water levels down. It seemed it would need a minor miracle to be playable for the second round on the Tuesday, but Andy was confident they could win the day and so it proved. The Gala Dinner on Monday night was a fine occasion with John Simonett, the guest speaker in brilliant form. So on to Tuesday and the second round. After a delay of 20 minutes play got underway in the sunshine. Andy Campbell and his staff had made it, and we owe them a big thank you. I am not going to report on the championship score, that's Scott's domain, except the incredible 64 by Tony James.

Now that the Championship dust has settled, it's time to take stock and look forward to next year. If you missed out this year get in soon for year 2000. I cannot end without thanking our sponsors, Richard Minton, of Scotts, and David Jenkins, of Charterhouse, for their help and support in putting this event on the map. Long may it continue! Also to Softspikes who also helped in the sponsorship.

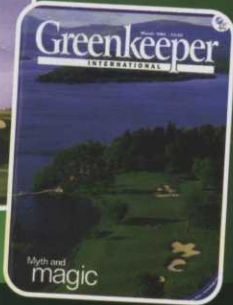
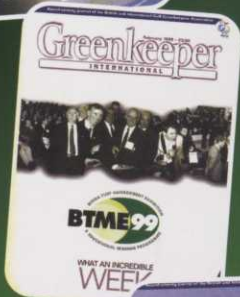
Last month I talked about the GTC. This month I just want to draw your attention to our training colleges. Many colleges have gone through a period of change, none more than my local college at Cannington. They lost two of their lecturers last year, both advancing their careers by taking more senior posts with other Colleges. Cannington has been lucky to replace them satisfactorily, and with Nick Rigden who is semi retired, helping in a hands-on capacity.

What this does show, is, that without the help and guidance from greenkeepers some colleges will not be able to provide the sound knowledge and training we all look for. So, it's up to us to take interest in what our local colleges do and teach our students. Again Cannington is lucky to be able to call on Jim Arthur along with greenkeepers in the area, but I just wonder if others are as fortunate.

Gordon Child

Greenkeeper

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