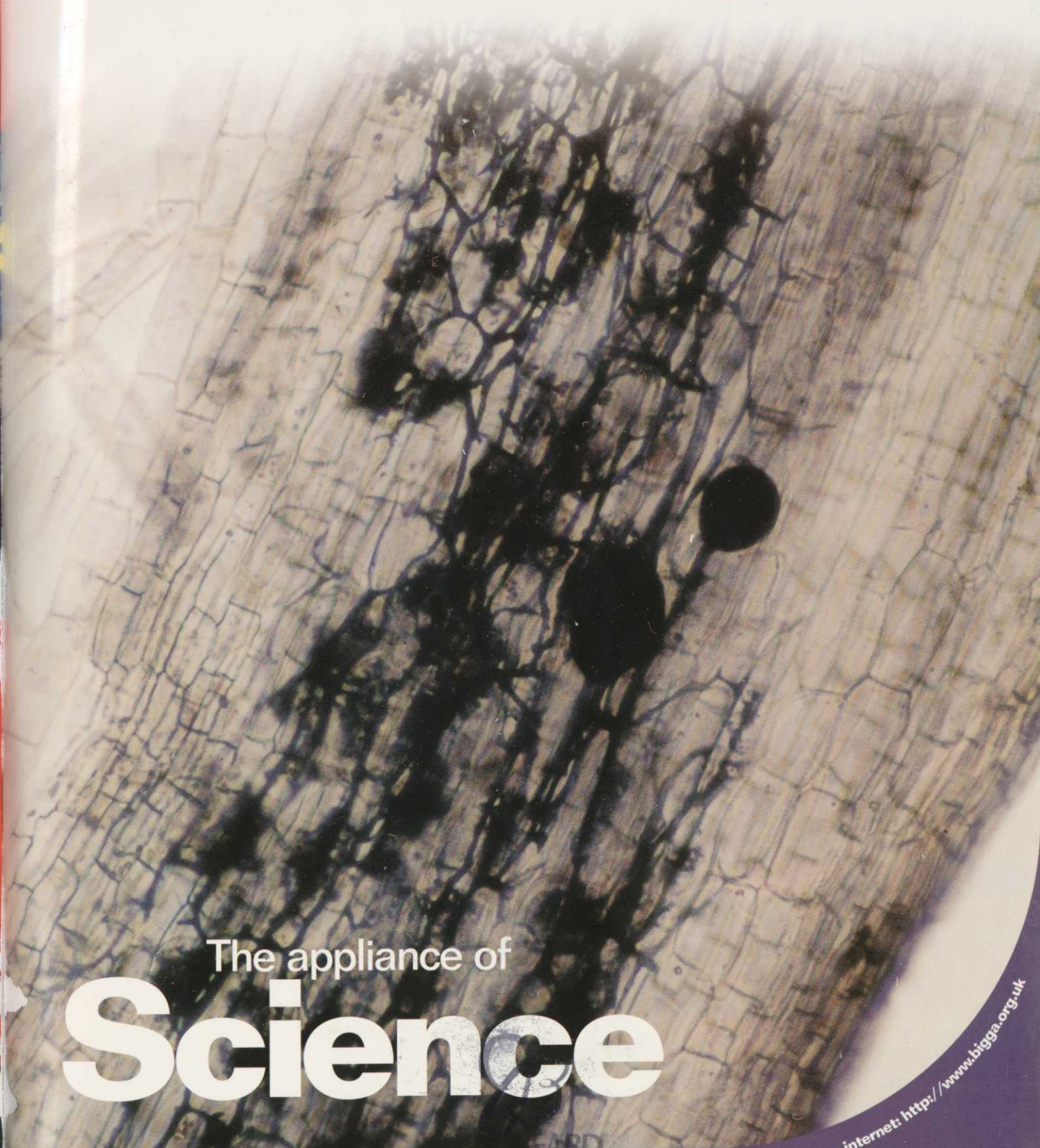




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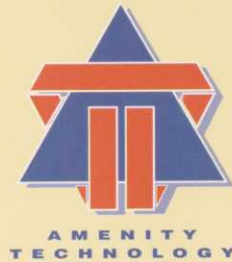
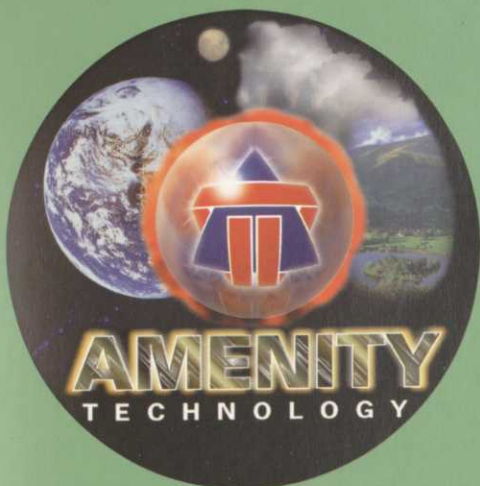
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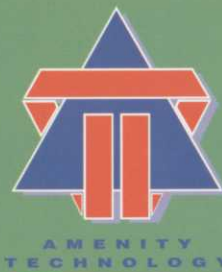
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# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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## Reader Reply Card

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

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## Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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



### Golden Key Circle Company Members

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By bidding for items in the BIGGA Silent Auction, you can save thousands of pounds.

See page 11 for full details!



71 Win tickets to BTME2000



63 Win £50 with our Buyers' Guide quiz



# Where will it all end?

As we race towards that date which has been in our diaries for years, but for which most of us have yet to make arrangements, it's perhaps pertinent to look back at just how far we've come since the day's when horse power was provided by real horses.

Progress has been startling and new technology now enables tasks to be performed that were once beyond anyone's comprehension. Or at least allows existing jobs to be done much more easily.

It is natural to look back and wonder how people coped in the past. Times must have been hard before the existence of machines which could aerate to 12 inches below the surface, before the days of air conditioned cabs or before mess rooms had hot and cold running water.

It is easy to feel sorry for our predecessors, shorn of such modern day luxury, but there is no need because everyone feels better off than the lot who came before them... and remember there will always be those coming up behind us with even more technology at their fingertips, casting pitiful looks back at those forced to work around the time of the turn of the millennium.

Our grandchildren will no doubt laugh at us having to manage before the introduction of self raking sand.

The point was brought home to me during the summer holidays when my wife and I ventured to Orlando for two week's escapism.

In the middle of some magnificent new attractions, including virtual reality, 3-D and high speed roller coasters, was the Carousel of Progress which was one of Walt Disney's own ideas and positively ancient by modern day standards

You sit in a revolving theatre and stop at different scenes from different decades of the 20th Century. On each occasion a mechanical man in his 40s, dressed in the appropriate garb, enthuses about the latest innovations and how they have made such a difference to their lives.

He raves about how the arrival of electricity has changed their lives; about how the wireless has become the ultimate entertainment; that he's heard that some guys are trying to fly across the Atlantic; that rumour has it that talking pictures are reputed to be right around the corner and how the new washing machine has saved his wife hours.

Each time he's delighted to be living in such a modern age while, sitting in the moving theatre, we know that just around the corner is space travel, key hole surgery, air conditioning and Sony Playstations.

It is true to say that you never know what delights await us but it's also true to say that we are always further forward in technological terms than we ever have been before.

I'm sure the guy who first harnessed a piece of equipment to the back of a horse was seen as some sort of visionary by his colleagues and they were soon looking back at their old days and wondering how they coped.

Where will it all end?

**Editor:**  
Scott MacCallum



# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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

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

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

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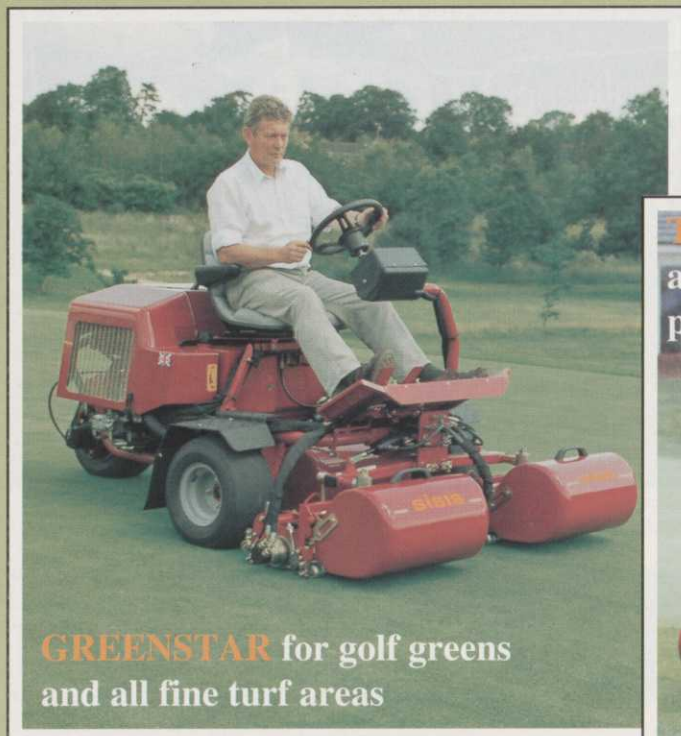
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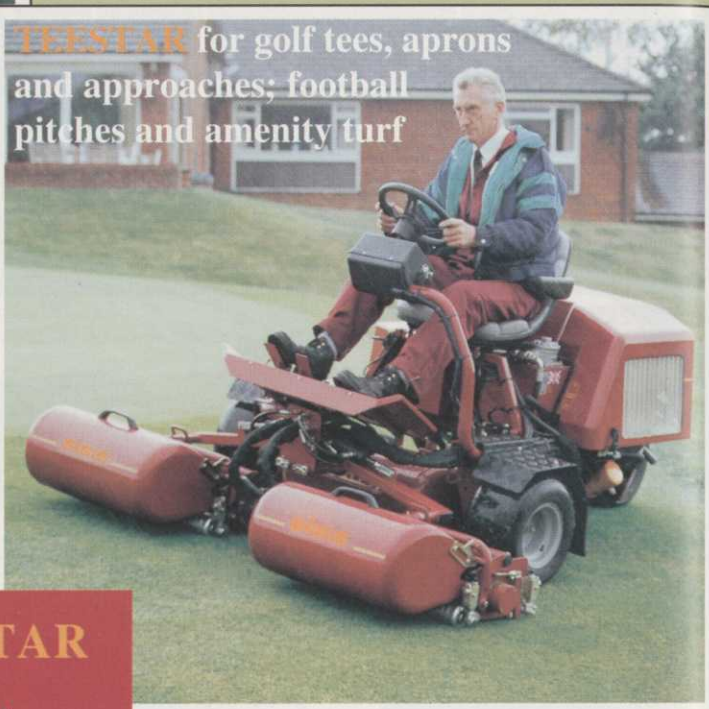


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# Sir Michael Bonallack accepts his invitation to become BIGGA President

BIGGA's Board of Management is pleased to announce that Sir Michael Bonallack is to be the Association's President.

In doing so he succeeds the late Viscount Whitelaw, the Association's first and only President, who stepped down a short time before his death earlier this year.

Sir Michael, who has just retired after 16 years as Secretary of the R&A and was installed as the Club's Captain for the year of the millennium on September 16. He is one of the few people in the game to have been a formidable force on the golf course and then as a golfing administrator.

As a player he was recently listed as one of the top 200 male golfers in history - a rare feat for an amateur player - and few would complain about that assessment. A record of five Amateur Championships and nine Walker Cups appearances, two as playing Captain, speaks for itself. In addition he was twice leading amateur in The Open Championship.

Off the course his list of honours is unrivalled culminating in his being knighted in the Queen's 1998 Birthday Honour's List. He has been Chairman of the PGA and the Golf



Sir Michael pictured on a visit to BTME97, with then Chairman, Pat Murphy

Foundation, President of the EGU while before his Knighthood he was also the holder of the OBE.

"I am absolutely delighted that Sir Michael has accepted our invitation to be the Association's President," said BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child.

"No-one in the game is held in higher esteem and for him to agree to become our President is a real honour for the Association and everyone who

is involved in greenkeeping," added Gordon.

"I am delighted to accept the invitation to become BIGGA's President, and to follow in the footsteps of Viscount Whitelaw, who was such a marvellous President, is a great honour indeed.

"I hope that I can contribute as much to the Association as he did," he added.

## War of the Roses won by Tykes

This annual competition takes place around August between the Northern and North West Sections of BIGGA. The "Roses" trophy has been contested for about the last 25 years, with both sides winning approximately the same number of times.

Pattissons have sponsored the event from the outset, providing players with their meals and a trophy to be retained for the year by the victorious team. Many thanks to Pattissons for their long support of this event which I hope will continue for many more years to come.

The contest is played on a Yorkshire course one year and the following on a Lancashire track and over the years it has been played on some testing courses.

This year the tournament was played at Howley Hall Golf Club near

Leeds. I can't say too much about the condition of the course as I am the Head Greenkeeper but from the comments made by the lads they all thoroughly enjoyed the golf course.

After eight hard fought contests, this year's winners were the Northern Section with a score of 6.5 to 1.5

Mike Hinch, the Managing Director of Pattissons, travelled up from the South to attend the tournament and present the trophy to the winning team.

Bert Cross informs me that next year's venue in Lancashire has already been booked, and it sounds like the North West team are out to get their revenge.

However, anyone who has played in the tournaments over the years will tell you that win or lose, the spirit between the lads whilst on and off the

course couldn't be of a more friendly nature.

Thanks to this year's North West Team and I am sure next year's event will be as good as the previous.

**Simon Heppenstall Northern Section Team Captain 1999**

The photograph below shows the victorious Northern Section Team being presented with the trophy. Pictured from left to right are: Les Kirkbright, Peter Thompson, Andrew Clarke, Dave Collins, John Waite - Northern Section Chairman, Pattissons Representative, Mike Hinch - MD Pattissons, Simon Heppenstall - Captain Northern Team, Ken Purdy, Jim Brown, Richard Harris, Alan Court, Alvin Fawcett, Alan Baxter, Jonny Platt, Tito Arana, Richard Smith and Marcus Cordingley.



## The 1999 BIGGA Essay Competition

For those of you who have already put pen to paper in the BIGGA Essay Competition the fact that the deadline is fast approaching will not be too much of a shock. For those of you who have been intending to write an essay but have not quite got round to it, you'd better get your skates on! October 29 is deadline day giving you a good three weeks from when you receive this magazine. That should be sufficient time to collect your thoughts and put them on paper but it doesn't leave much slack!

The Competition will be judged in three categories: Head Greenkeepers/Golf Course Managers and deputies; Assistant Greenkeepers and Students aged 25 and over and Assistant Greenkeepers and Students aged under 25.

Entrants have to write an essay of between 1500 and 2000 words long ie. five to seven type written pages on the subject of Greenkeeping and Golf Course Management Techniques for the 21st Century. Essays should not confine themselves to 'crystal ball gazing' but should include lessons to be learned from the 20th Century.

All entries should be sent to BIGGA House by 29 October 1999. Essays will be judged on content, accuracy and presentation.

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

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

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

## Andrew nets a top job at Par Aide UK

Par Aide UK has appointed Andrew Lofting as their new Sales Manager.

Andrew brings a wealth of experience to the job and will mainly be concentrating on the company's driving range equipment which includes all types of artificial surface and perimeter netting.

## Premier honours go to Steve

Steve Baddock, Head Groundsman for Arsenal FC, has been named Groundsman of the Year and the award was presented at Saltex.

Highbury was chosen as the best pitch in the Premier League with Oxford United, York City and Cambridge United winning the other divisional awards.



## Martin goes West to Scotts



Scotts turf and amenity sales team has been added to by the recent appointment of Martin Townsend, from Avoncrop, to cover the West of England and South Wales.

Martin brings to Scotts a wealth of experience from all sides of the turf-care business beginning his career in 1972 as a player on the MCC Young Professionals Staff programme at Lords. Martin subsequently turned his hand to groundsmanship at Lords and greenkeeping at Bishops Stortford Golf Club, where he was appointed Head Greenkeeper.

After a spell with Gloucestershire County Cricket Club as Deputy Head Groundsman, Martin moved to the commercial sector with Monro Amenity Care and Avoncrop, where he was promoted to Technical Sales Manager.

## New role for Dave at LasTec



LasTec, manufacturer of the revolutionary Articulator mower, has appointed Dave Bayless to the newly-created position of Product Manager.

The Product Manager is responsible for the development of all LasTec products - complete from the research & development process to the shipping of finished goods. This includes overseeing initial product development, coordinating manufacturing processes, implementing design changes, tracking field service and warranty issues - and assuring quality control and effective customer service throughout these processes.

"We needed someone who was not only very familiar with our complete product line and our manufacturing processes, but was intimately knowledgeable of our parts department for customer service issues," said Mike Eastwood, LasTec President.

# Northern Region Golf Tournament

On 25 August teams representing the six Sections in the Northern Region assembled at Macclesfield Golf Club in Cheshire for a golf tournament to fill a gap left by the late lamented Hayter Tournament. The teams of six had been selected following the Spring Tournaments with two qualifiers from each of three handicap ranges.

Most of the members who had qualified to play were present; holiday and work commitments resulting in one or two changes. Unfortunately, the North East team was hit by late withdrawals and could only muster a team of three on the day. This put them out of the running, as the result would be decided by the aggregate of the best five medal scores of each team.

Macclesfield Golf Club is real mountain goat country and it would be a definite advantage to have one leg shorter than the other (alternating legs preferably). It was in excellent condition and was a credit to Steve Worthington and his staff. The scoring was very good and it was clear from an early stage that the result would be close and arrangements were quickly made for a sudden death play-off. However, this was not required as the Sheffield Section came through in the end and won by one shot.

Sheffield 348  
Cleveland 349  
North West 352  
North Wales 353  
Northern 354



The Sheffield team was John Darrock, Hirst Priory; Andrew Lornas, Matlock; Cohn Hopper, Doncaster Town Moor; Mark Knowles, Rufford Park; Paul Neve, Brough; Alan Sampson, Wortley.

The best gross scores of 74 were returned by Roger Bielby, Hornsea, from the Northern Section, and Michael Nolan, Haltwhistle, representing the North West. Michael, playing off a handicap of 10 had the best net score of 64.

At the Dinner following the tournament, Bert Cross thanked Richard Campey for his company's sponsorship and his personal interest in the event and Macclesfield Golf Club for the excellent arrangements on the day. It was nice to see Steve Worthington

and his Deputy, Mike McGinnis, present taking the deserved plaudits for the condition of the course.

This was Bert Cross's day. He made the original suggestion to the Board, He found the sponsor, and he found the golf course. He purchased the prizes. He negotiated with the caterers. He liaised with the Section Secretaries to ensure that all qualifiers or replacements would be present. He donned his official BIGGA Starter's bright blue blazer and saw the players off the 1st Tee. He checked the cards and then presided over the Dinner and Presentation. Well done, Bert!

It is hoped that the tournament will become an annual event, circulating around the Region.

Doug Bell, Regional Administrator

## Knighton Course opened at Canford



A ribbon was cut on the first Tee by Proprietors Bill Riddle and Richard Harding to open officially the Knighton Course, an additional 9 hole course to the Canford Magna Golf Club near Bournemouth. The new 2754 yard course has been designed to compliment the existing 6,496 yard, 18 hole Parland Course and the Riverside Course, again 18 hole and over 6000 yards.

More than £400,000 has been invested by the complex to complete the new 9 hole par 3 to offer a shorter but equally challenging game on unused farmland that remains rich in wildlife.

Landowner and farmer Richard Harding, who with his developer partner Bill Riddle first started landscaping what has become a £15 Million com-

plex in 1994, says that the 1000 strong membership and visitors will greatly appreciate the new addition to the existing Championship level courses.

The new Knighton course was designed and constructed by Trevor Smith, who was recently appointed as Managing Director from his position of Project Manager, and the Club's Greenkeeping team.



# New MD announced at Allen Power

Peter Bateman will succeed Peter Jefferis when he retires as Managing Director of Allen Power Equipment at the end of this year.

Peter Jefferis joined the company in 1962. During his 15 years as MD, he was responsible for the continuing development of the company's own brand of British made products, including hover mowers and ride-ons, plus the acquisition of other established outdoor power equipment companies.

With his background and experience, Peter Bateman is well placed to provide the insight and experience to continue this policy. His career in the industry started in 1986. For the last five years he has been General Manager at Kent-based Godfreys. Under his progressive management

style the company has achieved rapid growth through marketing initiative, enthusiasm and staff motivation. This has brought the dealership into the forefront of the areas in which they trade.

Commenting on the appointment, Allen's Chairman, Michael Macarho said, "The company has grown substantially under Peter Jefferis' leadership and we all wish him a long and happy retirement. In Peter Bateman we have appointed an exceptional young man to take the company forward. We believe firmly that building on our strengths will increase profitability for our dealers."

Peter Bateman joins Allen Power Equipment at the beginning of November.



# New amenity herbicide products from Rhone Poulenc

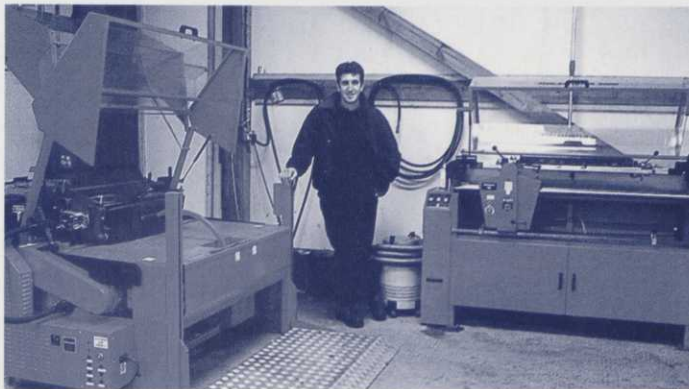
Rhone-Poulenc Amenity launched two new products into the Amenity Herbicide Market.

The first of these is Xanadu, a ready to use non-hazard CDA formulation of Diuron/Glyphosate. This herbicide fits into the Rhone-Poulenc CDA range, as an early season partner for CDA Vanquish and gives at least three months control of germinating weeds.

The second product Helmsman, takes shrub bed weed control into a new direction with innovative active ingredients being introduced into the Amenity Market. Its three-way mode of action means control over a wide spectrum of weeds and less chance of resistance build up. It is very safe to use on an extensive variety of trees and shrubs from 10cm high. The product stays where it is applied and does not move into sensitive areas, such as watercourses.

# Abbeyle and Bernhard get to the point

Abbeyle Golf Club now enjoys the benefits of the twin performance of the Bernhard Express Dual and Anglemaster grinding machines. Current Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award winner, John Coleman, has seen his maintenance costings fall since the purchase this year of the grinders. Maintenance and stress relief were the important factors which John was required to address, as he sought the correct machinery, earlier this year. The products were identified on the Atterton Bernhard Website and following an initial demonstration, were purchased for immediate maintenance work.



# The 'Rite' blade from Atterton-Bernhard

As a further extension to their range of grinding equipment, Atterton/Bernhard demonstrated their Blade Rite 2000 and RapidRelief 1000 sharpening equipment at Saltex '99.

The Blade Rite 2000 has been designed for the smaller golf club where there are only a small number of mowers to maintain. This quattro grinder will spin sharpen cylinders, allow one to add relief or single blade grind. The maintenance manager can also fully grind bottom blades making this an excellent value for money machine.

This all-in-one unit provides accurate relief grinding with a hands-free safety aspect integrating a simple guard system. Other features include: compact variable speed cylinder drive control; a built-in vacuum system and a superb simple hydraulic lift which is integrated into the grinding table - eliminating all lifting of today's heavy mowers.

When greenkeepers and Course Managers need to 'backlap' they require relief to be maintained on their cylinders. The Rapid Relief 1000 achieves this in minutes by avoiding the need to remove the unit to place it on a grinder. The Rapid Facer technology, the new rapid relief 1000 combines speed with accuracy employing powerful magnets to hold the unit firmly to the mower. Driven by standard shop air, the head restores worn away relief to cylinder blades in only a few minutes. This minimises down time and ensures mowers being lapped do not suffer hydraulic or power problems during the mowing season.

# A risk assessment? What do you think?

Marc Haring, Course Manager, at Cumberwell GC in Wiltshire, had a close escape when he got just a little too near to one of the five new lakes on the club's new nine holes.

"Before the new course was opened we took bets on who would be the first to end up in one of them," explained Marc.

"Unfortunately, and to great amusement to the rest of the team it was me. Of course there were the usual jokes about fitting periscopes to the mower and supplying me with a rubber ring but I was able to inform my team that I was simply carrying out a particularly dedicated and radical form of risk assessment on their behalf," he said.



# Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband





## Now available for the Acorn: It's Super Mario Man!



David Bottomley formerly of Trident/Rigby Taylor has a new post with Acorn on Course Equipment as Area Sales Manager, covering the Yorkshire & East Coast areas. Dave was Head Greenkeeper for 10 years at Branshaw Golf Club and has a further five years experience with Rigby Taylor. Dave joined the company at the end of May and has gained a nickname in the company as 'Super Mario Man'

## South East beckons as Ray joins Weed Free



Ray McClatchie, formerly Course Manager at Blackmoor GC in Hampshire, has joined Weed Free as Contracts Manager for the South East of England.

Ray brings 12 years Greenkeeping experience to the post, having begun his career at Sunningdale, before becoming Course Manager at Blue Mountain Golf Club.

"I'm ready to be part of a company that's going places and I think that my years in greenkeeping will help. When you have been in charge of maintaining a golf course yourself, you know what the Course Manager expects and how to behave while the course is in play."

His appointment closely follows that of Mark Anderson who joined the company at the beginning of the Summer moving from an earlier career in Greenkeeping, and continues proprietor Mike Seaton's policy of staffing Weed Free with turf professionals.

## St Andrews Head GKs get grassed up

Three of St Andrews Head Greenkeepers recently travelled to Holland to meet a number of fellow grass experts, beginning at the Barenbrug Research Station. Sales and Marketing Manager, Alan Lomas, was the escort.

Eddie Adams, Mark Brunton and David Wilson flew from Edinburgh to Amsterdam and were then whisked off to Wolfheze to meet Gerard van't Klooster, Chief Breeder at Barenbrug Research and be given a tour of the establishment.

On the second day they visited the Amsterdam Arena to meet Head Groundsman, Pierre Joosten, and then on to the Arnhem Vitesse Gelredome stadium to be greeted by the Head Groundsman, Henk Roosendaal. The final visit was to the Roosendaalse Golf & Country Club where the St Andrews team were given an opportunity to swap notes with Chris Wagener, the Head Green keeper.



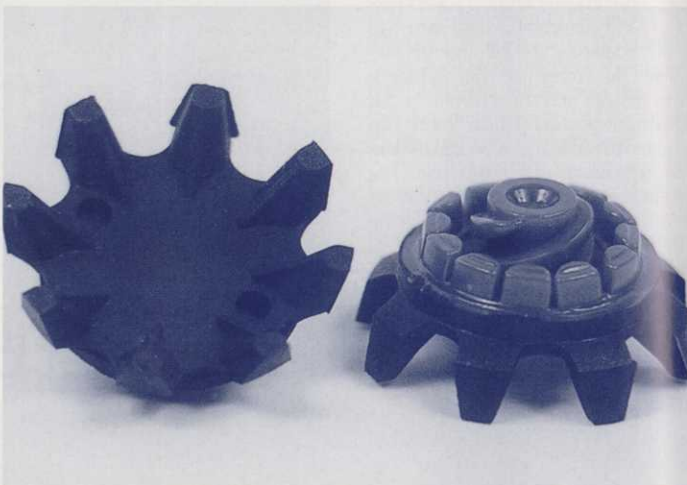
## Black Widow gets a new twist

The Black Widow alternative spike is now available to golfers with the Fast Twist locking system.

The Fast Twist system makes changing spikes quicker and easier, without in any way detracting from the traction and comfort that the Black Widow provides. The Fast Twist system is currently available in shoes made by the following manufacturers, Footjoy, Dexter, Lady Fairway and Hi-Tec.

At a recent ELPGA event in France, first round leader Trish Johnson hit out at the spiked greens.

"The greens were quite cut up, I can't believe more players haven't switched to soft spikes. Only a handful of players haven't converted in the States and it has made a big difference to the putting averages. And anyway they're far more comfortable."

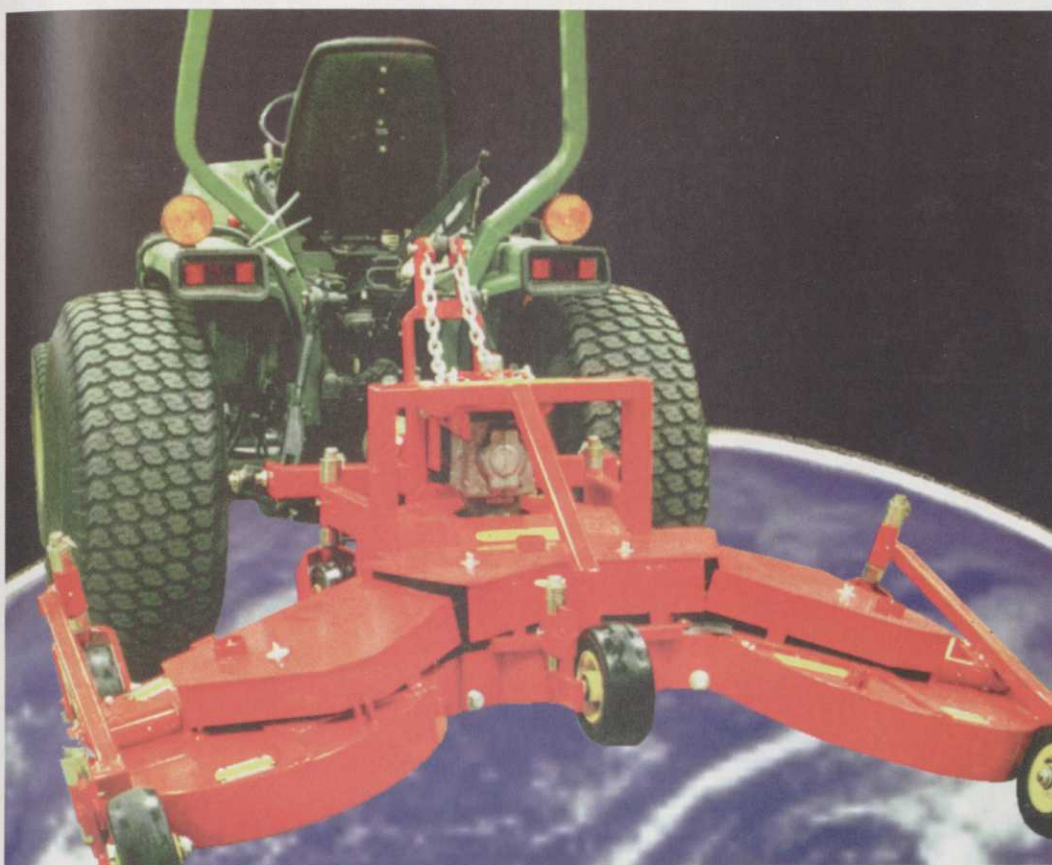


BIGGA's South East Northern Ireland Section enjoyed a superb day out and also raised £1,250 for the Heartbeat children's charity at the same time. The Greenkeepers' Charity Open attracted greenkeepers and visitors from as far afield as Sligo and it is hoped that the event will become an annual date on the calendar.



Marlwood Ltd is the latest company to make a donation to BIGGA's Silent Auction with the rear-mounted Model 325ER Articulator valued at £5000.

# Have you heard?



Marlwood's rear-mounted Model 325ER Articulator

The 325ER is a three-deck version of the Articulator specifically designed to cut the semi-rough and rough turf on golf courses. The three 25" cutting decks articulate over undulating mounds and valleys, delivering the best quality cut with no scalping and no missed grass.

With a combined cutting width of 72" the 325ER Articulator easily mounts on to most traction units equipped with a rear-mount 3-point hitch and a minimum of 18HP. Cuttings are mulched and discharged to the side of the machine ensuring a clean finish while high-lift blades help

eliminate tractor wheel marks from the mowers path. The Model 325ER has the cut quality of three single pedestrian mowers with the productivity of a wide-area machine.

The Articulator Rotary Mowers from Las'lec Inc. are the most versatile on the market. Encompassing a variety of PTO or Ride-on units, each model is based on the principle that each of the cuffing decks articulate independently providing a championship quality cut on undulating ground.

The Articulator family includes the 325 Series of rear-mounted and front-mounted mowers, the four deck Model 425D Ride-on to the seven deck Model 721X rear-mounted machine.

Want to bid?

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

Phone: 01347 833800

Fax: 01347 833801

E-mail: reception@bigga.co.uk

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



## What is the Silent Auction?

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

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

### Greenkeeper International

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

### The Internet

- Profile of the donated item on the Silent Auction site

- Direct link to your own website

### Catalogue

- Profile of donated item and colour picture

### Press Reception & Buffet at BTME2000

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

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

## Where does the money go?

The funds raised will go towards:

- The BIGGA Building Fund
- The continuing development of Greenkeeper education through training programmes and facilities
- The active promotion of BIGGA

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

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

## How do I bid?

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

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

## Any other questions?

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



Address your letters to the Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF. You can also fax them to 01347 833801, or email them to reception@bigga.co.uk

## A journey back in time

Reading Ian Forbes' letter to Walter in the September issue of Greenkeeper International sent my memory flooding back to 1955 when I took over the Head man's position at Lenzie Golf Club. Up until this period I was not very interested in people who came to ply their wares to the courses where I had worked. Then I became a Head Greenkeeper it took me only one season to realise what helpful information I could glean from the travelling Salesman who willingly sought me out whether I was in the sheds or in the furthest-most out part of the course. No telephone calls to say they were coming, nor the irritating mobile phone stuck on the belt or inside pocket.

I remember receiving the postcard saying "The Company's Representative would call" on a certain day, at a certain time and if this was not convenient to me, would I be kind enough to give their office a phone call. I always thought it peculiar that

the Company Reps. all came in the same week but never the same day. They must have loved wet days when most of the Greenkeepers could be found in the compost sheds, or tinkering with some mower or other.

I looked forward to a visit from Ian Forbes. He was so interested in nature that I think he enjoyed walking the course to find you, then he would enquire about some wild flower, bird, or the condition of your course and greens which he had noticed in his seeking you out. Selling fertiliser or seed etc. seemed to be the least of his worries.

I became Secretary of the West Section around the late '50s and had the task of arranging Speakers for the Winter Lectures. Speakers were hard to come by, especially those who could impart their knowledge on all subjects concerning greenkeeping. Ian Forbes was such a man. What insight he had on the flora and fauna of our country.

These lectures were a delight to all who attended. I can't remember a year that he was not invited to speak to the Greenkeepers in the West Section, of SIGGA where he always came with something new and interesting. What I enjoyed most from Ian was Question Time at the end of his lecture. His wealth of practical information was remarkable. I never remember his flanneling over a question and, believe me, some of the questions that were put to him were pretty near the bone; arguments about fertiliser prices, or a certain product he had sold someone not coming up to expectation.

As Walter said, Ian Forbes was a gentleman, may I add to that a friend who would impart his excellent guiding advice to all who sought him out.

Cecil George, Lenzie

## Making the earth move?

I read the above article with great interest and feel that to describe the Vertidrain as "the first anti-compaction machine built anywhere in the world" is a rather sweeping statement. Your article also gives the impression that the only method of aeration available prior to the 1980's was a hand fork.

Compaction can be treated very satisfactorily in many instances by deep slitting or hollow coring and greenkeepers have been doing just that since the 1930s. The first SISIS deep slitter was horse drawn and produced

in 1936, by the 1940s we could offer 9in. times and by the 1980s 12in.

We acknowledge the introduction of the Vertidrain as a major landmark and indeed the SISIS Soil Reliever works on a similar principle, but to claim that it was the first ever anti-compaction machine is not true.

Redexim may have developed an alternative method of deep aeration and incorporated the "heave" factor which can be useful in certain situations but SISIS were the true pioneers of aeration as a means of compaction relief some 45 years earlier.

Compaction and the role of aeration in its relief is clearly explained in the STRI's "The Care of the Golf Course" by Roger Evans and those of your readers interested in the development of aeration machinery could not do better than to read Chapter 7 of the excellent book "Practical Greenkeeping" by Jim Arthur, the legendary agronomist whose personal experience goes back 60 years.

J.W. Hargreaves, Managing Director, SISIS Equipment Ltd.

## Finding the right employer

Due to my recent unpleasant experience in employment I wish to bring to the attention of all members seeking work, the importance of vetting any potential employer.

After attending interviews at a club in the South of England, I was politely shown around the grounds, course, plant and sheds, etc. However upon accepting the position of Head Greenkeeper it soon became clear to me that all was not as it should be.

I was not allowed to make any purchase however small without going

through the Management who took unnecessarily long periods of time before dealing with same. Use of strongly unacceptable language by Management to ALL staff was a common occurrence. No regular contact was possible due to absence of Management for prolonged unknown periods. There was threat of physical abuse directed at me when I questioned the reasoning behind certain requests.

There was an extremely high turnover of staff on the course and in

the clubhouse. This together with the fact that the local residents had nothing good to say about the Management gave out warning signs on the door.

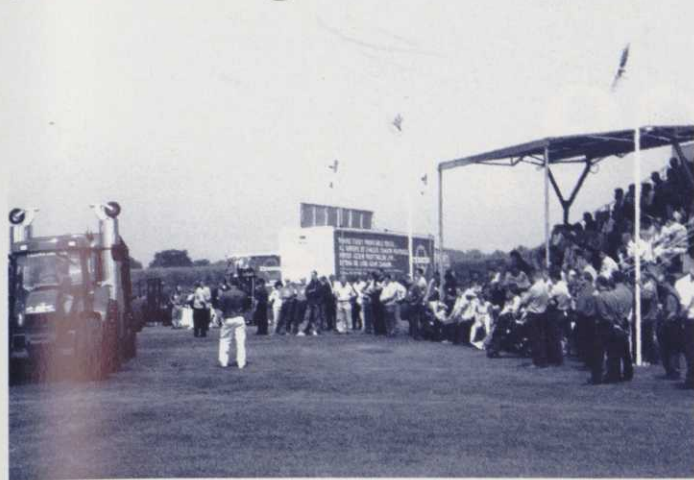
Had I taken the trouble to look into these areas, and check my prospective Employer thoroughly, I would have saved myself a lot of inconvenience and stress.

I hope that by writing of my experience I can help others to avoid falling into the same pitfall.

Name and address withheld.



## TGA field days are a resounding success



The Turf grass Growers Association held its first ever UK Field Days recently. Final attendance statistics including details of attendees not only from the UK, France, Holland, Greece and Spain, but also from the USA, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Exhibitors gave important technical information accompanied by working demonstrations and attendees were offered hands on experience of the equipment that they were interested in an experience that has never

been offered at this type of event before.

To ensure a blend of business and informal pleasure, turf producers and their suppliers took up the opportunity of attending the TGA Summer Social while at the event and ate and danced the night away at an event which was sold out well in advance of the Field Days. The evening included the presentation of TGA Awards to Members, Affiliates and attendees.



Long Ashton Golf Club, Captained by Course Manager and Past BIGGA Chairman, Ivor Scoones (far left) clinched the second of the three Course Management Trophies, sponsored by Scotts at The Manor House last month

## Retirement of Denis Clark

Denis Clark, Managing Director of Links Leisure, the Shropshire-based manufacturer of the PRO-TEE range of golf accessories, has retired.

After being at the helm since the company's formation in 1994, Denis's management replacement is Brenda Baskerville, ex-Marketing Manager of North West Turf, a member of the Institute of Groundsmanship, and one of the people organising this year's IOG Haydock Show alongside the IOG's, Geof Brereton, and Aintree's, Terry Robinson.

Commenting on the new appointment, John Butler, chairman of Links

Leisure, said. "After working successfully with Denis for more than 17 years through both Links Leisure and other group companies, it was fairly obvious that he was going to be a difficult man to replace.

Brenda, however, has the qualification and experience to become a valuable member of the team contributing towards the continuing growth of the company. At the same time, I am certain that her many friends in the industry will be looking forward to seeing her when the company exhibits at SALTEx, Harrogate, Haydock, and Scotsturf."

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David White looks at the glamorous life of the Golf Course Appraiser



# In search of. praise



The life of a golf writer is often envied. "How exciting," people will say, "wouldn't I just love your job." It's the most well-worn phrase a journalist has to contend with, yet for every day spent in the field (you know the sort of courses we tackle; a muni' built over a reclaimed rubbish tip one week, a multi-million dollar, over-the-top designer nightmare in South Carolina the next), there remain several days when the glare of a computer screen is as near as we get to sunlight. So, please, cut out the envy. Remember, like gluttony or sloth, it's a deadly sin.

For real envy, and a task I'd give my eye teeth for, fantasise for a moment and picture yourself in the exotic

world of 'The Golf Course Appraiser'. This pastime, (by nature of the reward package it can hardly be called a career), calls for amateur golfers, not necessarily of Walker Cup level, but competent, to play their way around the globe, followed by their filing of a judgmental golf course star rating, each following a set criteria, yet with each Editor setting different criteria for their own readership.

What set me thinking was prompted by a round played recently with an American chum, who'd been gifted one of these assignments by a US publication. After sailing the Atlantic on QE II, he set off around the coastline, ducking west, then south and east, the midlands, north and over

the border, playing and assessing a possible wish-list of courses. Three months and over 60 courses later, not a single track had failed to dent his game or indeed his enthusiasm for what he described as 'our unique Britishness.'

Comparing notes, we considered the interest these so-called 'top' lists generated, while agreeing that one should not put too much stock by them. No surprises either, that we chose to differ on several of those earmarked as greats, grands, or also-rans. As he put it, "the golf hole that makes me quiver might reveal nothing to you, while your favourite may do nothing for me. And while seven good holes won't necessarily ensure a

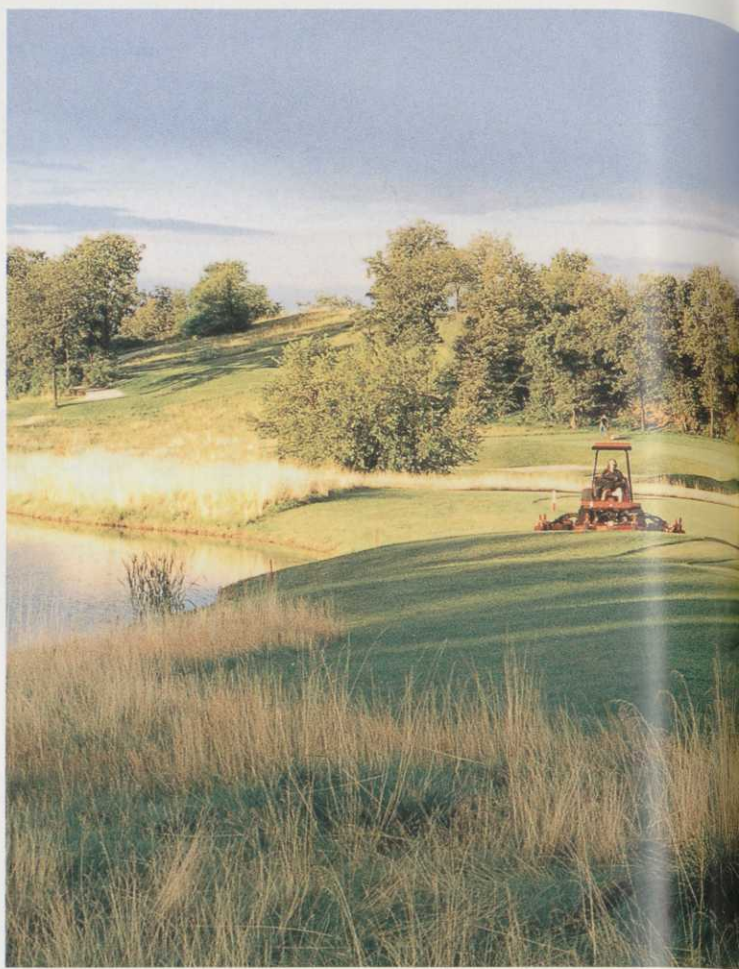


course gets into my top 100, one fabulous hole alone, even one exceptional green, just might."

The word 'art' kept cropping up, yet opinions regarding the place a golf course has in the world of art differ widely. Some architects splutter with indignation at the very idea of golf architecture as an artistic pursuit. Many, however, will cite aesthetics as being important, while suggesting also that aesthetics - the prettiness that distracts, if you like - can fool a golfer such that he will not notice the things that really affect how the hole plays.

Others, Desmond Muirhead in particular, believe that since golf courses should be approached as works of art, all these lists become speculative and superficial. Further, Muirhead uses a clever example in his put-down of the star rating system by drawing comparison between paintings and golf courses, suggesting that though a Rembrandt scholar might skillfully authenticate a painting, he wouldn't dare have the temerity to rank quality into a first, second or third category. Yet, by playing (or, sometimes, merely walking) the fairways once or twice, golf courses are judged and graded, and not always by the golfing equivalent of a Rembrandt scholar, either.

My friend is nothing if not an Anglophile, so his comments carry more weight than any first-time Yankee tourist. He's guided more by local knowledge than any preconceptions he may have, thus it was encouraging, knowing that all of his rounds were played incognito and many were return visits, to hear him talk about courses being 'pulled around' or 'brought back from the brink'. He particularly cited Carnoustie, saying, "It was never pretty, though always a great test of



Above right: Attention to detail on the course demands that all areas receive attention, including grading rough and, for aesthetic reasons, contouring fairways.

Below: Graded rough, while bringing a degree of parity back into the game, is pleasing to the eye. It can also create a fiendish optical illusion



golf, now it can be acknowledged as transformed; almost an art form of restoration. Those revetted bunkers are awe-inspiring." So, take another bow, John Philp!

Take a bow, also, the Hendon Golf Club, who with artistic input from architect Jonathan Gaunt, plus a dedicated greenkeeping force who did most of the work, have revitalised Harry Colt's battered and ancient bunkers, bringing them back to their former artistic glory.

So, we're back to art again; or at least art forms resting in the eye of the beholder. Yet who's to say that Jackson Pollock is a better artist than, say, Titian, or Van Goch?

Golf architecture, my friend opines, is artful sculpture rather than rocket science and therefore invites criticism. The art, he believes, is found in subtle things like swales and interestingly contoured greens, perhaps

the gentle colour changes of heather and gorse, rather than fancy waterfalls, contrived flower beds, indeed any artefact that sticks out like a sore thumb. He quotes from Dr Mackenzie's "Golf Architecture" published in 1920 - all artificial features should have so natural an appearance that a stranger is unable to distinguish them from nature itself."

So, regarding the turn-ons and turn-offs, what lessons might the greenkeeper take from these? First, the concession is made that golf courses tend to be situated in handsome places, and handsome adds a bonus. The curl of a hillside, bluebells at the edge of a copse, the aroma of new mown grass in spring, musty leaves and haze in autumn; if these could be bottled they'd sell them in Harrods!

My friend's turn-offs are man-made gimmicks, especially moonscapes and humps bordering fairways where humps just should not be, his judgement firm that courses which have stood the test of time were constructed without artificial mounds all over the place.

He'll downgrade any course that has the mark of reproduction upon it, you know the ones; created by computer, churned out like boxes of chocolates and formulaic to the point where a player is confused by the location. Like, where am I, Berkshire or Bali? Those that ignore topography: that desecrate nature - such courses also are almost always deficient and without soul. They get low marks, no matter how well spruced-up they may be.

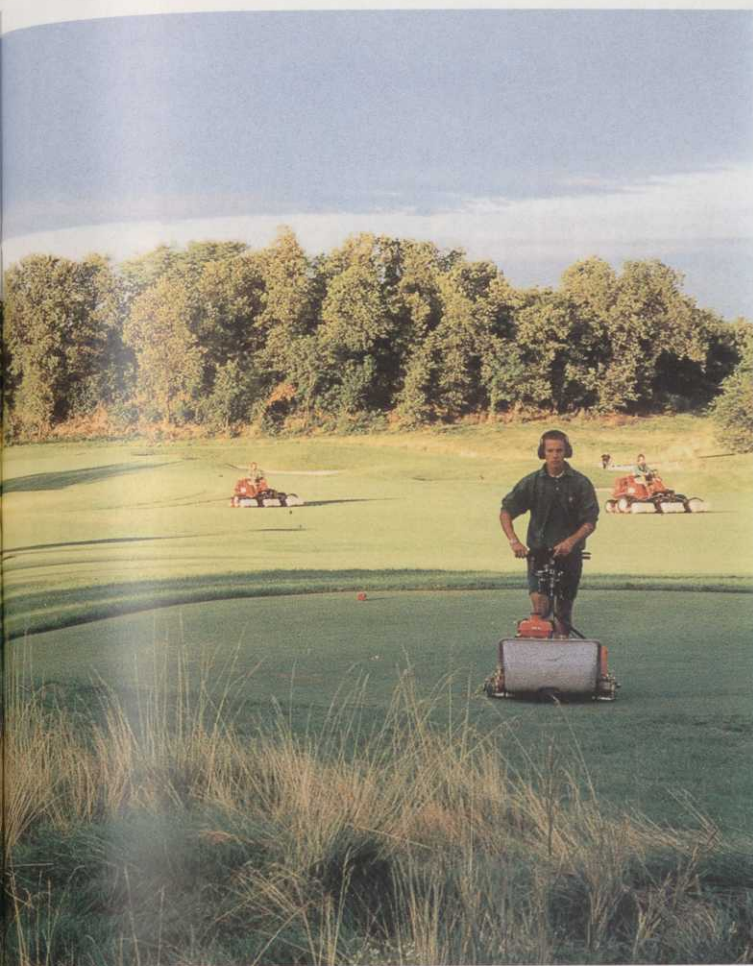


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But in his book there must be no comparing apples with oranges. His grading makes allowances for environmental factors; links versus heath or parkland, turf composition, the age of a course and the traffic it bears, while he is not above sneaking a look into the maintenance sheds to see what resources are available. Brownie points go to the greenkeeper who presents smooth as opposed to sparse though excessively rapid putting surfaces.

For chipping and pitching to the green he appreciates grass cover, though certainly nothing lush, which produces 'fliers'. On the other hand, bone hard lies bereft of turf, especially where a wedge is called for, will lose a few points. Having said all that, his opinion (shared also by many others involved in the ratings game), suggests that a fine course ought to be bulletproof, so that if the weather has been rotten and the sward isn't up to its usual standards, the course will still remain playable. And as he so succinctly put it, golf isn't meant to be fair, anyway, though it's good to start with a properly aligned tee!

Recovery, the ability to recover or at least have a chance to recover from a bad shot, is rated as very important. Don't take away the strategy of the game by leaving those a little bit off line without any chance. This brings the ratings round to all that grass through the green, as opposed to the putting surfaces, which can be manipulated in just about any manner. On fairways it is accepted that a height of half an inch or less than three quarters of an inch will give the ball just enough support to prevent

grass interrupting the contact of club with ball.

Provide grass where the ball settles down and you're making the game more difficult. Nobody likes a flyer. And just as rough is a hazard, a punishment for missing the landing zone, today's thinking leans toward having the penalty fit the crime. No golfer, missing the fairway by a few inches, should be penalised as harshly as one who misses by 60 feet.

In strategic design (and maintenance) off fairway grading is tackling the golfer's error and giving back some element of recovery. Meting out punishment according to crime means three cuts of rough, the so-called friendly rough, cut usually at one and a half to two inches, the intermediate rough at two and a half to three inches, the rest as condemnation for misdemeanours with the driver!

Of course, it's the architect that gets the kudos, yet the real rating, the only one that counts, is the one that says to visitor and local alike, I want to come back! That, we are all in agreement, is so often down to the man at the sharp end; our friend, our ally, our unsung hero, the greenkeeper.

The author, Alexander Omatt, promotes the work of golf course constructors. His all-time favourite course is Tobacco Road, designed by former greenkeeper, turned course shaper, turned architect, Mike Strantz, who is described as Alistair Mackenzie reincarnated.





**BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson prepares for an extremely busy month...**

# EDUCATION UPDATE

October is always a busy month in the Education and Training Department as we prepare for the Finals of the TORO Student of the Year and Excellence in Greenkeeping Competitions, for the Final of the Golf Course Environment Competition, for the BIGGA House Supervisory and Management Courses, for the start of the Regional Training Courses and we begin to take bookings for the Learning Experience.

## TORO Competitions

Thanks to TORO's continued sponsorship, the Excellence in Greenkeeping and Student of the Year Competitions continue to attract high quality entries year after year. The Competitions ensure that the prize winners receive top quality education and training opportunities and they also help to improve the quality of golf courses and monitor formal education and training standards. Details of the Finalists for the Student of the Year Competition and for the Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition appear on pages 36-37 of this magazine.

## Golf Course Environment Competition

The number of entries for the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition in association with Amazone Ground Care and the Grass Roots Trading Company, was the highest ever in 1999. The judges, Bob Taylor and Jonathan Hart-Wood from the STRI and Dr Keith Duff, from English Nature have had a very diffi-

cult job selecting the Regional and National Finalists from the large number of high quality entries. Full details of prize winners will appear in the November edition of this magazine.

## The Learning Experience 2000

You should have received a copy of the Learning Experience 2000 brochure with the September edition of Greenkeeper International, however, additional copies can be obtained from BIGGA House. There are a number of changes for 2000 as regular visitors will have noticed from their brochures. What does remain constant, however, is the support of Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products which makes the Learning Experience possible.

The National Education Conference, which takes place in the Majestic Hotel, on 17 and 18 January 2000, has a new look for the Millennium, with four in depth tutorials taking the place of the varied, shorter, less intensive talks of previous years. Each session has been designed to be thought provoking, perhaps controversial and, most importantly, audience led.

Monday morning on 17 January sees Jim Snow, Dr Stephen Baker and John Wells lead the session on golf green construction. Jim Snow is the National Director of the United States Golf Association Green Section. He has been involved in the 'USGA Green Specification' for many years and has a wealth of knowledge on greens construction. Dr Stephen

Baker is the Head of Soils and Sports Turf Science at the STRI. He has been at Bingley for almost twenty years and he is, currently, carrying out research for both the R&A and USGA on aspects of golf green construction. Stephen was also a member of the Advisory Committee responsible for the 1993 revision of the USGA Construction Recommendations. John Wells, who is the Course Manager at Bocket Hall became a Master Greenkeeper in 1995. He is nearing the end of the Project to construct a second course at Bocket Hall which introduces a further 18 holes, 6 par 3 holes and a 3 hole academy. John, who was a speaker at a previous Education Conference has given many lectures on the subject of 'From Soil to Sand Greens'.

This is your chance to get those burning questions answered. What are the advantages/disadvantages of USGA greens, do they cost more to maintain than soil greens, what will happen to the USGA specification in the future, what's wrong with soil anyway? etc etc.

Monday afternoon's session looks at Effective Soil Water Management for Optimum Turf Quality, with Demie Moore and Justin Smith. Both experts in the field of water management, Demie and Justin have presented lectures around the world. Is there a link between sand based greens and water management? Find out on Monday 17 January.

Tuesday 18 January begins with an in depth look at Integrated Pest

Management, with Dr Paul Miller, Team Leader Curriculum at Elmwood College, Dr Kate Entwistle, Turfgrass Pathologist, STRI and Steve Jones, Golf Courses Superintendent, The London Golf Club. With a scientist from STRI, an academic from a Greenkeeping Training College and a practising Golf Course Superintendent, this session should answer all of your questions on turfgrass diseases and how to control them. Or will it? Find out by being there and asking those questions that you need answering.

Tuesday afternoon continues the theme of theory and practice, this time looking at Grasses for Golf Courses.

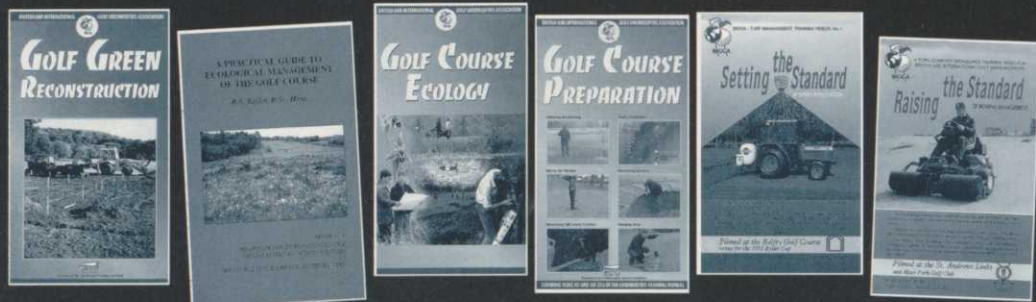
There is still time to book a place on a BIGGA House Supervisory Management Course and/or on one of this year's Regional Courses. Contact Ken or Sami to check on availability.

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



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**Tracey Maddison, BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, welcomed almost 90 new members to the Association during August. If you have moved home recently or are about to move, then there's some important information for you...**

Having just moved house myself I know how stressful it can be, and how important it is to let people know of your change of address. So don't forget to include BIGGA on your list of people to inform of your change of details. You can contact us in a variety of ways, via the post, telephone or e-mail. All of our contact details can be found below, and on page 3.

Don't leave it too late to inform us of your change of address, or your copy of Greenkeeper International will be returned to us, rather than delivered to you. And then, how would you be able to read your regular monthly installment of all the latest features, news and up to the minute information from the fine turf industry?

Also, this month, together with the October issue of Greenkeeper International you will find a copy of the 1999/2000 BIGGA Golf Directory, with our compliments. This year, the Directory includes a comprehensive greenkeeper member-



ship section, providing an invaluable tool in finding out where those long lost colleagues have gone! (See, someone else forgot to let us know their change of address too!)

So, to make sure you receive your future issues of Greenkeeper International, be sure to inform Tracey or Kirstie of your change of address as soon as possible.

## BIGGA welcomes...

### Scottish Region

George Davidson, North  
Robert J Hardie, North  
Paul Hares, East  
Ronald Mccrindle, East  
David A Murdoch, North  
Steven F J Nicol, East  
Iain F Watson, East  
Graham Winter, Central  
J.W. Wood, East

### Northern Region

Ian Carins, North East  
David Dodds, North East  
Chris Elmslie, North East  
Stephen H Evans Jones, N Wales  
Peter Green, Northern  
Shaun Hardy, North East  
Andrew J Harker, North West  
David Jones, North West  
Tudor Lloyd Kerry, Northern  
James B Macdonald, N West  
Alan Miller, North East  
John M Mullany, Northern  
Wendy O'Brien, North Wales  
Oliver Shepherd, Cleveland  
David Sutton, Northern  
John Talbot, North East  
Karl S Walsh, North West  
Craig Wilson, North East

### Midland Region

Stephen G Ball, East Midland  
Thomas A C Bickerdike, BB&O  
Nathan Carmichael, BB&O  
Andy Chambers, BB&O  
Lloyd J Cooper, East Midland  
David Cork, Mid Anglia  
Daniel R Evans, East Midland

Jamie Harris, BB&O  
Justin D Lee, BB&O  
Brian Lewingdon, BB&O  
Peter H Rich, Midland  
Carl D Small, BB&O  
Keith Stevens, BB&O  
Charles I Wright, BB&O

### South East Region

Adrian R Blackaby, Essex  
David M Brown, Sussex  
Darren Bryant, Surrey  
John E Divall, Sussex  
Alan Elliott, East Anglia  
Adam Envis, Kent  
Thomas Frost, Sussex  
Stephen A Gilbey, Sussex  
Michael Gooch, Surrey  
Daniel R Halfman, Surrey  
Nicholas A Heasman, London  
Nigel A Kilby, East Anglia  
Anthony Lawson, Surrey  
Timothy D Le Mesurier, Kent  
Steven Lowe, Kent  
Barry E Meakings, Kent  
Martin Smith, Surrey  
Geoff M Smith, Essex  
Gary Threadgill, Kent  
Kenneth J Threadgill, Kent  
Martyn F Weller, Sussex

### S West & S Wales Region

Neil A Carter, Devon & C'wall  
Simon A Coombes, Devon & C'wall  
James P Coverdale, S West  
Stuart M Hooker, South Coast  
Gene Lee, Devon & C'wall  
Mark T Lewthwaite, S West  
Martin D Luckes, Devon & C'wall  
Roger J W Neale, South West

Kevin R Potter, South Wales  
Jason Stevens, South West  
Darren R Trewin, Devon & C'wall

### Northern Ireland Region

James Harkness, South East  
Michael Haughian, South East  
Brian Manson, North East  
Leslie G Murphy, South East  
David J Wilson, North East  
Richard Wray, North East

### Republic Of Ireland

Stephen O Meara

### International Members

Keith Allen, Germany  
Alan Walsh, Germany

### Associate Members

Danny Tomkins, North West  
Bernard D Ganning, Midland  
Gary Haines, Midland  
Martin Harriy, Midland  
Paul A Dyter, Sussex  
John Farrell, East Anglia  
Stuart Ashworth, Devon & C'wall

Check out  
November's  
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September's  
new members!

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**Tel:** 01347 833800 **Fax:** 01347 833801

**E-mail:** tracey@bigga.co.uk kirstie@bigga.co.uk



**Trevor Downing of J Rothschild Assurance introduces the second in a series of articles on protection, investment, pensions and mortgage planning which we believe will be of much benefit to BIGGA members.**

# Retirement planning - Why you need to act now

Some of the best things in life are unexciting but essential. To all but the most devoted practitioner, pensions are pretty unexciting but they are essential. A successive governments rein back State support in retirement, we are all going to have to get interested in old age.

The Government's proposed changes to both State and private pension provision have meant that retirement planning is suddenly newsworthy again. Over the past few months the papers have contained numerous articles on the importance of starting retirement planning without delay. The plain fact is that State pensions are now in the process of moving from inadequate to less than inadequate.

Low inflation has halted some of the slide but the reductions since 1985 right up to proposals in the recent Green Paper on pension reform have trailed a sorry story.

The State Scheme was never meant to provide much more than a subsistence income, choice would come with individuals making private provision. Now the outlook is even more bleak.

If we assume the current framework, the impact of relying on the State Scheme is obvious.

Perhaps it is time for State benefits to carry their own health warning!

### A Double Whammy

What is causing enormous concern amongst commentators now is the "double whammy" effect:

- What has been called "planning blight" by the Association of British Insurers and
- The drop in interest rates (and therefore the cost of buying an income at retirement).

'Planning blight' is a consequence of proposals for Stakeholder Pensions.

These new savings vehicles will be with us some time in 2001 or later.

The danger is that individuals will delay starting or topping up a pension scheme now in order to wait for the 'new kid on the block'.

This could be an expensive mistake.

In any long term savings plan (particularly in a tax efficient fund), the early contributions are the most valuable, producing the largest proportion of the final fund.

A delay therefore of two years could reduce emerging benefits by 20% over a 25 year savings term.

Then there is the problem of interest rates. Most of us can remember paying record high mortgage rates not so long ago. The good news is that mortgage repayments have now fallen following a sustained period of low interest rates. The problem is that this same phenomenon has led to retirement income becoming more expensive.

There are some compensations. Inflation linking need not be so expensive for instance because inflation is now lower. For larger funds, there is a range of options enabling you to postpone purchase of an income.

We will have to save more - with a little help from the Inland Revenue. The only way to forget about retirement is to plan for it.

How you live in retirement is up to you. It is important you act now - no one else is looking after your needs. You have two choices:

- Do nothing and suffer the consequences
- Act now and take control of your future

If you decide on the latter then please feel free to contact Trevor Downing on 01959 500427 for further information.

Representing only the J. Rothschild Assurance Marketing Group (members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and/or IMRO) which takes responsibility for its representatives only in respect of advice given on, and the sale of, life assurance, pensions and unit trust products of members of the Marketing Group.



Mycorrhizal structures associated with turf roots

# Intelligent disease control

Harmless to beneficial turf fungi



Fusarium



Dollar Spot

## Still effective against disease

Amazingly, some species of fungus are hugely beneficial to your turf.

Mycorrhizal fungi develop a mutually beneficial relationship with turf roots for effective nutrient exchange, and increased resistance to drought, insect pests and disease.

As a result, turf associated with Mycorrhiza tends to be healthier.

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You'll also be glad to know that Rovral Green is still as effective as ever at controlling the harmful species like Fusarium, Red Thread and Dollar Spot. No wonder it's still the UK's No 1.

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# Education opportunities

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

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



## Education & Development Fund

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

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



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



**Scott MacCallum visited The Manor House at Castle Combe and found a golf course basking in the magnificent setting...**



The spectacular drop which faces players on the 17th hole

# Lord of the Manor

There are some places in this world which obviously managed to be further up the pecking order when good looks and scenery were handed out.

One such area is undoubtedly the Cotswolds, and more specifically, Castle Combe, a village that could have single handedly inspired the American tourist mantra "Ain't it quaint".

While the village is a star in its own right, acting as it did as backdrop to the film *Dr Doolittle*, the Manor House Hotel and Golf Club at Castle Combe more than adds to the area.

The golf course was designed by Peter Alliss and Clive Clark in the early 90s and is now the responsibility of Course Manager Paul Bishop, who is well aware of how lucky he is to earn his living in such an idyllic part of the world.

"It is a wonderful place to work," he explained, as he sat in the clubhouse following a BIGGA day during which the course had impressed everyone... despite a day-long down-pour which would have been of more use to the Director of Singing in the Rain than *Dr Doolittle*.



# Lord of the Manor

Paul has been at The Manor House for five years having moved from Hever Castle in Kent, and before that East Sussex National.

"When I was at Hever I wrote to a couple of courses to ask if they had any job vacancies and one of those was Mannings Heath in the Sussex Downs. They wrote back to say that they didn't have anything but that their company, Exclusive Hotels and Country Clubs, had just bought a course in the West Country - The Manor House at Castle Combe," explained Paul.

Since then, and despite the obvious distractions that the stunning scenery provides, Paul and his team, have been hard at work both on the general maintenance of the course but also on some elements of course reconstruction to iron out some of the wrinkles implicit in the original design and build.

With the added complication of the course being built on Cotswold Brash, Paul's first task was to try to improve the make up of the greens which had been constructed on pure fine sand

"It packed down causing compaction and drainage problems so they required lots of aeration," explained Paul.

"We did what we could for the first couple of years with soil exchange - taking pure sand out and putting in top dressing - and although we had moderate success we realised that reconstruction was the only way forward."

Having come to that conclusion, a programme was put in place after having identified where the work would be targeted.

"There were certain holes on the course which had small greens compounded by the fact that they were also in the



Above right: The 11th green has been enlarged

Below: Course Manager, Paul Bishop



shade - in particular the 2nd, 3rd and 4th - and these caused us real problems.

"Other greens, like the 18th, are quite small and offer up limited pin positions which doesn't help to spread the wear."

The first phase involved the three aforementioned holes and in particular the 4th - a par-3 completely encased by trees.

"Light was always a problem with old established trees which had been there for a long time so we decided that the best option was to move the green turning it into a par-4.

"The tee stayed where it was but the green, which had been at the bottom of a hill was moved to the top."

The work was done pretty much in-house with a team consisting of Paul plus six greenkeepers and a mechanic

but for the addition of Shaper and Constructor, Will Geddes, who had previously worked for Transcontinental Golf.

"I could not have done all this without the hard work and dedication of my deputy, Chris Jack, along with the rest of the greenkeeping team.

I ordered the materials and all the machinery required" explained Paul, who added that the beauty of the plan was that the original par-3 could still be played by the members while the work on the new green was going on.

Having completed the first phase last year the second was undertaken earlier this year, featuring two of the most picturesque holes on the course.

Both par-3s, the 11th and 17th, have greens at the bottom of a valley and you would be just as likely to reach for a camera as a short iron when





standing on the tee. Indeed the 17th, regarded as the the signature hole on the course, drops over 100 feet in the space of 100 yards.

"They were both small greens - the 11th was about 400 square metres - and were in frost pockets," explained Paul.

Both greens were totally rebuilt to full USGA spec. with all materials sent away to the European Turfgrass Laboratories, Stirling, Scotland to ascertain full compatibility. Greens were sown down to providence creeping Bentgrass at 4g/m<sup>2</sup> x 2 directions.

"Providence I believe provides an excellent dense, true putting surface and if managed correctly, does not require excessive maintenance."

The 11th is now around 600 square metres and has been lowered so that people did not have to scramble up

the side to get on it while the 17th now has two greens to utilise.

"We built another green for the 17th so we can spread the wear. As you can imagine tee shots were landing from quite a considerable height and the pitch marks were a problem.

The main green has been pushed back so that we can now have a medal position right by the brook which runs behind the hole," said Paul, while the other green has the brook running in front of it bears loose comparison to Augusta National's 12th on Amen Corner.

In addition to the greens several tees were altered and enlarged including the 9th which is now significantly bigger and offering many more tee positions. This hole has been changed from a par-4 blind tee shot to a par-3, which compensates for the change on

the 4th to keep the course pretty much the same length.

With the first two reconstruction phases now complete Paul and his team can now return to the regular tasks of maintaining the course and enjoying one of the more pleasant work places in the country.

Indeed, fact could quite easily emulate fiction as "talking to the animals" is a distinct possibility with the amount of wildlife on show and the club were the Western winners of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition in association with Amazone and Rhone Poulenc, two years ago.

"It is a wonderful course for wildlife, we have two pairs of buzzards nesting and regularly see kestrels, woodpeckers, monk jacks and roe deer while there is also evidence of badgers," said Paul, although unlike the good doctor

he didn't admit to having any experience of the rare Pushmepullyou.

"We have got some areas of limestone grassland which is designated SSSI and we manage this in conjunction with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

"We have a complete management strategy and one of the things we do is never spread grass clippings in the rough - we've got specific grass dumping piles to ensure that it does not go into the woods etc. We also have a list of weed killers and pesticides which have been approved by the Trust"

The course is extremely hilly and the majority of golfers use buggies - in fact during the South West and South Wales BIGGA Day when I visited only one team ventured out on on foot - congratulations to Jeff Mills and his colleagues from Taunton and Pickeridge.

"I know cart paths are much criti-



# Lord of the Manor



The undulating course makes a buggy a very good idea

cised but they are a great help to us, particularly in the winter when we can get round the course on machinery when otherwise we would be stuck. We can get jobs like changing holes done without marking the course at all."

"I would like to take this opportunity to say that if you manage predominately established POA greens that you should actively encourage it!

In my near 20 years in the business I do not know anyone who has com-

pletely succeeded in transforming POA greens to Fescue/Bent but I know many that have nearly lost their jobs trying to achieve it. With many young and upcoming greenkeepers this does concern me because above all whatever grass plant you have on your greens it should be strong and healthy not starved of essential nutrients. I also expect to see in the not too distant future new greens being sown down to a variety/mixture of POA

reptens. I know this is a very controversial subject, but at least there will be plenty of letters next month!

As well as looking after the golf course Paul and his team look after the Hotel grounds including the croquet lawn.

"The future for the whole place is extremely rosy. The hotel is superb, unusual and incredibly tranquil and the golf course will go from strength to strength" said Paul.

## Machinery Inventory

6 John Deere 220 Hand Mowers  
2 John Deere 2243 Greens Triples with vertidrain units  
1 Jacobsen Greens King IV Tees Mower  
1 Set of True Surface Rollers  
1 John Deere 3235 Fairways Mower with lightweight heads  
1 Toro 5100-D Fairway Mower  
1 Jacobsen Tri-King 1672D  
1 Jacobsen Tri-King 11900D

1 Ransomes T51D Backwing  
1 Kubota F2400 Outfront  
1 John Deere Gator 6x4 Utility Vehicle  
1 Kawasaki Mule 1000 Utility Vehicle  
1 Toro Workman 3300-D with topdresser  
1 Cushman Turf Truckster  
1 Toro Sand Pro 2000  
1 Kubota ST30 Compact Tractor  
1 Izeki 537 Tractor  
1 Massey Ferguson 362 with Front Loader

1 Hardi 300L Sprayer  
1 Hardi 600L Sprayer  
1 Amazone Groundkeeper 150  
1 HO532 Sisis Fairway Slitter  
1 Sisis Multislit (Greens)  
1 Sarrell Roller  
1 Vicon Spreader  
1 Multi-Core TM1500 Hollowtiner  
1 Tornado TM360 Blower  
1 Wessex Rotovator

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1 SW15 Scarifier  
1 Charterhouse Verti-Seed  
1 Ransomes Ryan Sod Cutter  
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2 Ashresty Bunker Rakes  
1 Express Dual 20000X Cylinder Grinder  
1 Anglemaster 2000DX Bottom Blade Grinder



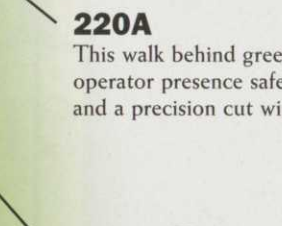
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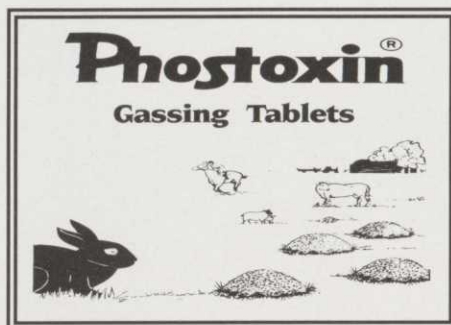
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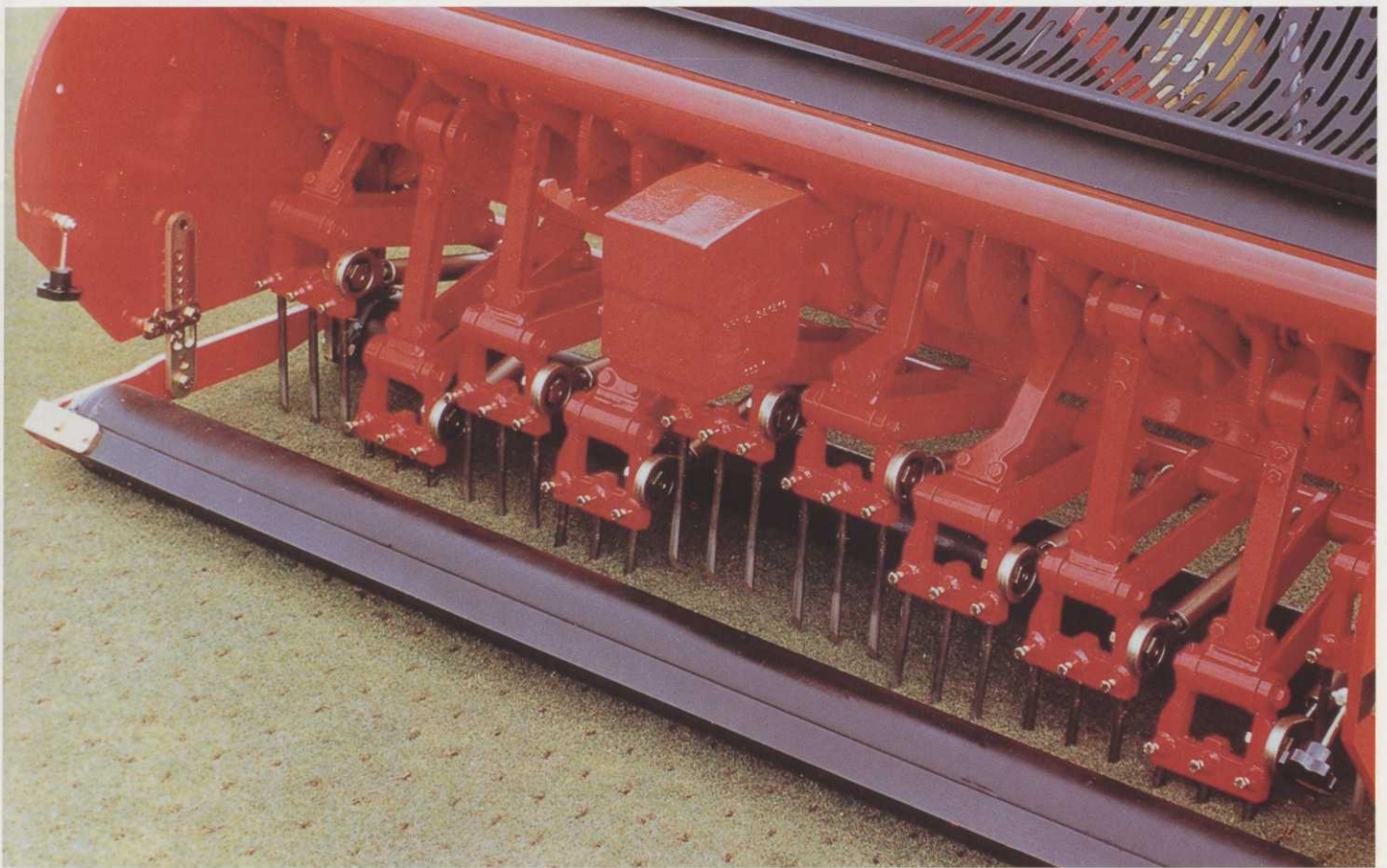
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Roland Taylor looks back at the development of aeration and how machines have improved to tackle the task.

# •The times they are a changing



Ever since man began creating and caring for natural playing surfaces aeration of the underlying soil has been an important issue. Unfortunately in the past, greens committees and players have been more concerned with what happened on the surface than problems underneath. They wanted nothing to hold up their play. This must have left many greenkeepers in a no-win situation. Only limited aeration, if any, was carried out, turf deteriorated and the golfers whinged.



Another down side was that there were only limited funds available to buy equipment. One very small "plus" was that courses were not played at anything like the same level as today, so compaction was less, but it was still prevalent.

Unlike his predecessor, the modern greenkeeper is faced with a far greater problem. Keeping playing surfaces in top condition is becoming increasingly difficult. Changes in climatic conditions have led to excessive rain followed by scorching heat. Heavy use of the course and equipment plays havoc with the soil structure. To maintain some normality under the surface requires a great deal of skilful management.

To understand the problems of compaction it is necessary to look at the soil's structure.

It is made up of varying proportions depending on the location of some or all of the following; gravel, sands, silts, clays. Each of these constituents has a particle size and this is significant in respect of the air space. For

example, clay is very small at 0002mm - this is so fine that the air space is minute and virtually impenetrable. Not only is the size important but the shape also plays a part - a perfect sphere is the ultimate. Large round particles make big spaces through which air and water can flow freely. In this ideal environment a thriving community of macro and micro organisms will happily beaver away breaking down organic matter so it becomes readily available to the plants. Roots can freely spread out to produce strong healthy leaf growth.

Unfortunately, all things in nature are not constant and the balance can quickly change. Pressure from above changes the particle shapes and compresses them against each other. The air spaces are drastically reduced and the flow of water slows down or even stops. Pools of stagnant water can form and the soil turns sour. Root growth is restricted and the absorption of nutrients virtually ceases. The plants fail to develop properly and become weak. Disease, weeds and

unwanted grass species appear on the scene.

From this scenario it can be seen that keeping an open soil is vital to the well-being of all turf.

It basically consists of particles and the spaces between them. It is the latter that is important to plant growth because through these the water, air and nutrients travel. In addition they allow the roots to spread out. If these are restricted in any way the plants become weak and susceptible to all types of attack. Not a pretty picture.

Aeration will help to alleviate this problem and the first form of this treatment was carried out by hand-forking was carried with immediate results. Tines specifically for the task were introduced at the beginning of this century. These were solid, and even then it was recognised they had a disadvantage. The soil was displaced laterally and roots' development restricted. On clay soils the holes produced were liable to fill up with water.

To overcome this the hollow tine

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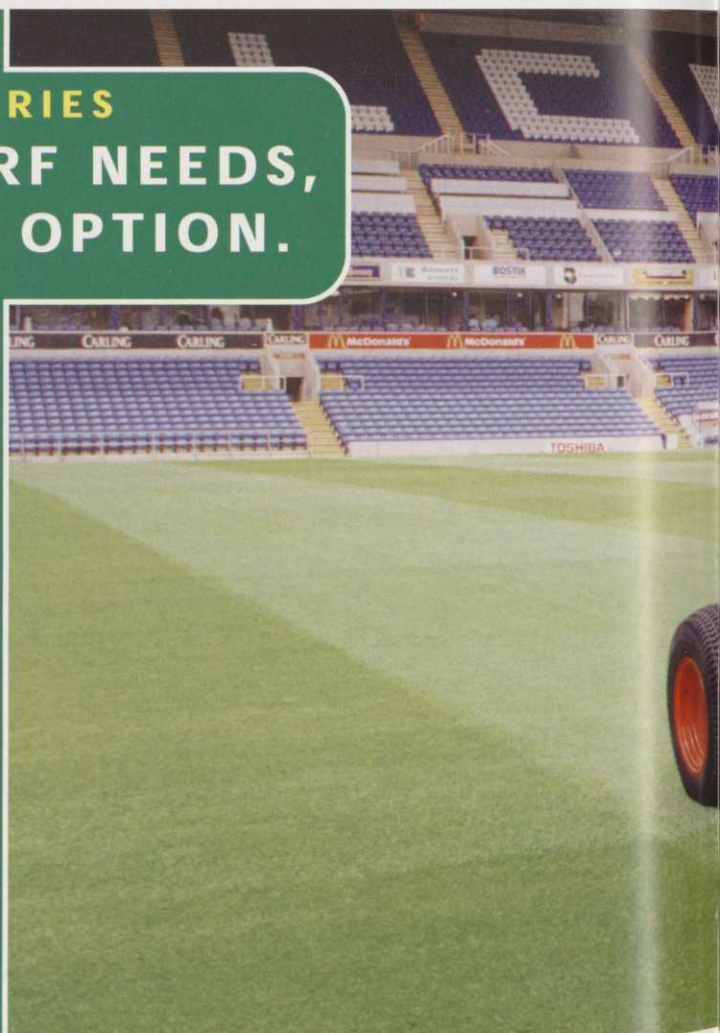
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was developed. While this went some way to eliminate the problems it also introduced new ones. The hole produced was larger in diameter and penetration depth was shallower. This allowed for the invasion of unwanted grasses and weeds.

Mechanisation brought with it the introduction of the slitting tine. Like a knife blade, this cut down opening up the soil and pruning the roots in the process, whilst causing very little surface disturbance.

Manufacturers were busily finding ways of making aeration as easy as possible, but the depth of penetration was limited. New steel manufacturing processes meant stronger tines. For penetrating the soil, crankshaft designs were introduced. These power-punched the tines below the surface. Six inches was about the norm at this stage.

What was needed was a machine that would go deeper and this appeared in 1980 in the form of the Verti-Drain. This piece of equipment operated at a far greater depth than

anything previously and in doing so broke through any pan that existed. It also had another advantage, before being withdrawn, a heaving motion was introduced that broke up the compaction by lifting the soil.

This system is still very much at the forefront of aeration today and units are available that will go down 600mm (24"). It is critical that this type of operation is carried out by a trained specialist, as the correct penetration and speed of operation is important to the results both underground and on the surface.

Another method for dealing with areas of major compaction or panning is by driving a probe down into the soil. Then compressed air is pumped in causing an underground mini earthquake.

In recent years another power source has been introduced in the form of high pressure water particles that act like bullets. As they pass through the soil, a shattering effect is created. This is a relatively slow operation, especially if the penetration





The  
tines  
they are a changing



required is deep, but the one big advantage is that there is no surface damage, so play is virtually uninterrupted.

Organisations, manufacturers, scientists, agronomists and those involved in the day-to-day management of courses are continually seeking new ways of improving the methods used to maintain playing surfaces. This has led in the last few years to some alternative methods of aeration.

One of these, developed in the USA, uses the drainage system to blow or suck air and water down through the root zone. While this has the desired effect of putting these vital elements where they can be used by the plants, it does not relieve compaction so conventional forms of aeration also have to be employed. Here in the UK, some courses have taken up this system but the majority of installations are in sports and football stadiums.

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On modern courses aeration needs to be carried out regularly and at varying depths to avoid a pan developing. Some heavily used areas will need more frequent attention.

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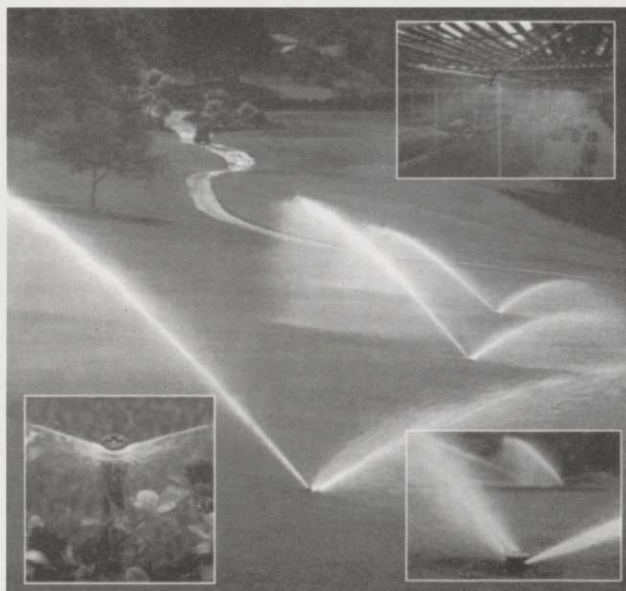
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# Toro Toro Toro



Last year's Excellence Winner, John Coleman aboard the Club's prize

BIGGA HOUSE will be the venue for two of the high spots of the greenkeeping calendar this month with the finals of both the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student of the Year Award.

Winning these prestigious competitions provides the winners with a passport that will carry them through the rest of their greenkeeping careers while even appearing in the final acts as a considerable boost to a CV.

This is the third year that Toro has sponsored both events and if the judges can identify two Champions as worthy as Iain McMillan, of Hankley Common, and John Coleman, of Abbeydale, in the

Excellence Award and Steven Nixon, of Wortley, and Sally Doherty, of The Belfry, in the Student, they will have done an exceptional job.

As always the quality of the prizes at stake heightens the tension with the winner of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping again winning an all expenses paid trip to the GCSAA Show in the States - next year in New Orleans - and a trip to Toro's outstanding facilities. In addition his golf club will win a Toro Greensmaster 3000 triple greens mower and a plaque to display in the clubhouse while each member of the greenkeeping team will receive a set of BIGGA waterproofs.

There has been a record entry for the Excellence Award which has kept the regional judges, some of the most respected figures in the industry - Jimmy Neilson, Barry Heaney, Bill Lawson, Gordon Child and Eric James - extremely busy.

Each of the finalists was also visited by Walter Woods who examined every aspect of the courses management.

Quality was also up in the Student of the Year competition which augers well for the future of the industry.

The winning student will win a six week study course in the States while the two runners-up win all expenses paid trips to BTME.





**Name:** Stuart Hogg  
**GC:** Fortrose & Rosemarkie  
**Age:** 27

Stuart has been at the north of Scotland course for seven years, four as Head Greenkeeper, and in that time has produced both a Health and Safety Policy and Management Plan for the club. With a staff of four Stuart is a hand's on greenkeeper and he overhauls and services all greenkeeping machinery himself in the winter. He is a key member of the Greens Committee and in that role recommends what machinery is in need of replacement and when. He also has full control of the working budget. All staff attend BIGGA functions and Stuart is a regular attendee at BTME. He also invests in books and videos for his staff. Should he win he feels it would be a great boost to the profession in the north of Scotland.

**Name:** Andy Campbell  
**GC:** Carden Park Resort  
**Age:** 38

This is the second successive year that Andy has won his way to the National Final of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping. Andy manages a staff of 33 who maintain Carden Park's two courses - Cheshire and Nicklaus each of which requires different maintenance practices to retain their distinctive styles. He advises of all agronomic, management, training and recruitment matters and sits on the monthly management committee meetings. The club is registered with the EGA Committed to Green Programme and also has close links with the RSPB.

**Name:** Barrie Lee  
**GC:** Chester le Street GC  
**Age:** 33

Barrie has been at the County Durham club for 11 years and has been Course Manager for five. His role within the golf club covers everything from risk assessment, working policy, all training, machinery maintenance and replacement, planning, instruction while he prides himself on being a working greenkeeper and carries out all the regular chores. In addition he carried out the building of six complete holes on the course. Becoming Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping winner would make his club extremely proud.



## Excellence in Greenkeeping finalists



**Name:** Kim Blake  
**GC:** Fulford Heath GC  
**Age:** 40

Kim has been at the club for ten and a half years as Head Greenkeeper and he has control of all expenditure outside the clubhouse and the management of the course is left to him and the Greens Committee which meets every three months. He has been operating on a natural "back to basics" approach for the last two and a half years and last year introduced bacteria on to his greens on a five year programme. They have developed conservation areas and bought machines for the upkeep of these areas. Kim feels that winning the award would be a great way of thanking the club for all the support they have shown him over the last 10 years. He also says the award would belong as much to his Greens Committee of Graham Pillase and Ivor Cooper as himself as they have been the same for 12 years.



**Name:** Brian Turner  
**GC:** Sunningdale GC  
**Age:** 53

Brian has been at the prestigious Berkshire club as Head Greenkeeper for three years and manages the 18 staff who maintain the Old and New Courses. He lists his responsibilities as ensuring that the courses, and surrounding areas are kept in a first class condition; maintaining all records, that equipment is maintained correctly and that all staff are familiar with Health and Safety requirements. Part of the club is a SSSI and the management programme involves minimum spraying of chemicals and fertilisers. Brian, who is also an excellent golfer playing to a handicap of 3, says that winning the Award would be a feather in the cap of the club as well as his own.



**Name:** Matthew Maryon  
**GC:** Yeovil GC  
**Age:** 30

Matt has been at the 27 hole club for just over two years and in that time he has produced a Health and Safety Plan which was used as a template for the rest of the golf club and a five year development plan including irrigation renewal, tree plan, bunker renovation, tee construction, car park improvements and a machinery purchase plan. He is currently working on an Environmental policy for the club but they have already signed up to the EGA's Committed to Green Programme. Winning the Award would, says Matt, show the greenkeeping staff at Yeovil what is achievable in the industry and increase their motivation to do well.





**STUDENT  
OF THE YEAR**

**Name:** Simon O'Hara  
**Age:** 29  
**Golf Club:** Fota Island GC  
**College:** Colaiste Stiofain Naofa

Simon started work as a greenkeeper at Fota Island in May of this year having previously done work experience at Monkstown Golf Club as well as three months in the States during his college course. He is currently working towards his Greenkeeping NCV City & Guilds Level 2 but he also holds a BA in History and Geography, an MA in History and a Diploma in Legal Studies. A keen sportsman with a golf handicap of 10 his ambition is to represent Ireland in some sporting capacity.

**Name:** Kevin Scarce  
**Age:** 18  
**Golf Club:** Bedale GC  
**College:** Askham Bryan

Kevin began working at Bedale while still at school and he started full time when he left school. He has just completed his NVQ Level II in Sportsturf which he undertook in block release. Another keen sportsman he who his school basketball colours and plays golf and football and turns out for Northallerton Town, rugby union club. He is interested in perhaps working abroad in the future to add to his experience while he has his sights set on becoming a Course Manager.

**Name:** Vincent Gilroy  
**Age:** 22  
**GC:** The Warwickshire  
**College:** Askham Bryan

Vincent is Deputy Course Manager at the Warwickshire, a 45 hole Championship complex, having been Acting Course Manager for four months earlier this year. Prior to that he worked as an Assistant at the 27 hole Seedy Mill GC. He is currently just completing his NVQ Level III. He is a six handicap golfer and won the '98 BIGGA Singles Knockout Championship for the Midlands Region while he enjoys foreign travel. In fact his ambition is to be a Course Manager of a course in Portugal.

**Name:** Jim Gilchrist  
**Age:** 24  
**Golf Club:** Hamilton GC  
**College:** Woodburn House

Jim has been an assistant at Hamilton for five years having done a further two years on YTS. He has achieved SVQ Level I&II and is currently working towards level III having passed his spraying certificates. A keen sportsman listing golf and keep fit among his interests but he was also voted the Young Player of the Year for his local amateur football club. He is hoping to soon be in a position to apply for First Assistant positions.



## Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists



**Name:** Tommy Givnan  
**Age:** 34  
**Golf Club:** Bowring Golf Course (Knowsley Municipal)  
**College:** Myerscough

Tommy has been Head Greenkeeper, at Bowring - the oldest municipal course in England - for six months having previously been a charge hand on the course and before that a landscaper for 10 years. He is currently studying towards NVQ Level III Sportsturf and was last year's Student of the Year as well as BALI Award winner in '96. Tommy, who is a D32 assessor, has also been involved in the setting up of a Greenkeepers' Academy at the course with the aim of training and finding employment for 12 apprentice greenkeepers. His interests include golf, painting and sea fishing.



**Name:** Michael Bush  
**Age:** 23  
**GC:** St Mellion  
**College:** Elmwood/now Cannington

Michael is Deputy Superintendent at St Mellion having previously been an Assistant for four years. When he left school he worked for a landscaping company, but having lived in St Mellion all of his life he has seen the club grow and it was always his ambition to work on it. With no vacancies he took a position with St Mellion Leisure a golf construction company to gain experience before a job became available. He has completed SVQ I & II at Elmwood and is currently undertaking Level III at Cannington. He is keen on golf, football and motorsport.



**Name:** William Collins  
**Age:** 32  
**GC:** Falmouth GC  
**College:** Cannington College

William was promoted to Head Greenkeeper at Falmouth a mere 16 months after starting at the club as a mechanic/greenkeeper. Since then he has introduced cultural and biological practices onto the course which in turn has reduced the spraying budget. He is currently completing his NVQ Level II but has his sights set on Levels III and IV and ultimately the Master Greenkeeper Award. He is a recent convert to golf but also plays football at senior level and is keen on DIY.



**Name:** Andrew Wood  
**Age:** 29  
**GC:** Singing Hills GC  
**College:** Plumpton College

Andrew is Assistant Head Greenkeeper at Singing Hills having previously worked at East Sussex National, Mid Sussex, and Plumpton College as a groundsman/greenkeeper as well as summer holiday work at the Dyke where he is a 2.5 handicap member. He also tasted work abroad, working at Leeuwenbergh GC, in Holland. He is currently studying towards NVQ Level III - Sportsturf Management. In addition to his golf he is keen on all other sports as well as DIY.



# Have you heard?

## **BIGGA**

membership isn't just for greenkeepers. As well as our popular Greenkeeper membership, we also have membership categories which cater for both Student and Associate members. All membership categories are utilised by people seeking to create a greater understanding and awareness of greenkeeping, the skills, knowledge and training involved, and the rewards to be gained from this profession.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

benefits include substantial savings on all BIGGA educational literature and videos. Greenkeepers will receive tax relief on their subscription fees, and all members can benefit from generous savings on health, motor and household insurance. We also provide greenkeeper members with a free legal helpline. With over 6,600 members in over 31 countries worldwide, BIGGA has one of the largest info-networks of its kind.

## **BENEFITS**

for members also include a free copy of Greenkeeper International, the Association's award-winning monthly magazine. Packed with up to the minute information and feature articles, this magazine is essential reading for practitioners of the greenkeeping profession. In addition, as part of our on-going programme of education and in conjunction with our Education and Development Fund, BIGGA runs many training courses covering topics such as Supervisory Management, Golf Course Design, Project Management, Health & Safety, Budgeting, and Computing.

## **GREENKEEPING**

professionals are also invited to attend the annual BTME event in Harrogate. With over 200 exhibitors, and 7,000 delegates, this is Europe's largest indoor fine turf exhibition and features a showcase of the latest advances in machinery, products and services within the industry. Running alongside BTME, 'The Learning Experience' is perhaps the most comprehensive education programme available to the greenkeeping profession.

BIGGA membership is about maximising resources for the benefit of members and ensuring that golf clubs recognise the importance and benefits of education within the profession. Let us look after you, and help train and expand your greenkeeping knowledge, while supporting you at both section, regional, national and international level.

**After all, BIGGA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS GREENKEEPING**



**For further Membership information, please contact Tracey Maddison,  
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**Scottish Region**  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

**North Section**

We've done it again! The Section won the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Craige Hill GC, Perth. The team was slightly changed from the original due to work and holidays so well done to Section members Stevie Sullivan, Stuart Robertson, Craige Hill; George Aitken, Peterculter, and Colin Mackay, Elmwood. Captain Stevie Sullivan led the team to a two stroke victory over the other Scottish Sections.

New members this month to welcome are David Murdoch, from Buckpool, and rejoining us after a few years away is Robert Hardie now working at Craibstone. The two lucky Section members who have won this year's Patrons' Award are Gordon Moir, St Andrews, and John Geddes, McDonald GC, Ellon. Their reward for attending the most BIGGA events over the last year is an expenses paid trip to BTME 2000 on the Scottish bus.

Congratulations to you both.

This month is the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship at Carden Park, near Chester, where BIGGA members from all over will be competing for the BIGGA Challenge Cup and I will be there to report on any Section success... I hope.

This month is also when our AGM will be held, final date and venue is not quite confirmed but will be towards the end of the month in the Aberdeen area and we hope to have a talk as well as the golf prior to the meeting. While I am talking about outings, two dates for your year 2000 diary.

Spring outing at Buckpool GC, Head Greenkeeper Martyn Cameron, on Thursday May 25, and Autumn outing at Peterculter GC, Head Greenkeeper David Marnoch, on Thursday September 28. As I go to press we are contacting Downfield GC for more tee times as this year's Autumn outing is oversubscribed.

Iain Macleod

**Central**

The Inter-Club Tournament should have been completed by now but one team got their dates mixed up, and, at the time of writing, it looks like the final will be delayed slightly. It's amazing how they could make such a simple mistake as they take the event so seriously that they carry a mobile phone with them when they are playing and report the result of

each hole back to the clubhouse, or some "central" result gathering centre. At some holes they even attempted to send it by "carrier club." Only joking D.Mc!

I have discovered the whereabouts of a certain A. O'H. He is alive and well and playing in the aforementioned tournament, trying to do an impression of Jean Van de Velde. While competing against one of the Kinross teams, at Kinross, his ball landed in one of the many burns which zig zag across the course. Undeterred he promptly walked into the burn, shoes and all, and attempted to play out. Needless to say he lost the hole, lost the match and was last seen running towards Leven with his playing partner (D.S.) in hot pursuit. Still, that's what the tournament is about, having a bit of fun!



**BIGGA's got something to shout about!**

You will have noticed that I have used a lot of initials rather than full names, the reason being to protect the innocent.

We have one new member to welcome to the Section this month and he is Graham Winter from Kingsbarns Golf Links in Fife. Graham is an apprentice at Kingsbarns and he is a golfer. Perhaps we will get the chance to meet him at one of our tournaments in the not too distant future. The Spring Tournament is at St. Andrews on Tuesday, April 11 next year, so you won't have too far to travel Graham.

Tickets for "Club 2000" are selling well, with only a few having been returned so far. So if you don't have yours yet you had better hurry as time is running short. An interesting point about those who have returned their allocation of tickets (2) is that they don't support any event which is organised by the Section for their benefit. So what do they want from BIGGA?

Mark McHendry has left Thornton GC, where he was assistant greenkeeper, to take up a new career with the Lothian and Borders Police Force. Mark was a member for over eight years and we are sorry that he has left greenkeeping, but we wish him every

success in his new career.

Details of the section AGM, which we are hoping to hold at Drumoig next month, should be with you shortly, so if there is anything you want to say, for or against the way the Section is being run, then you will have your chance. Hopefully numbers will be higher than the eight who turned up last year!

John Crawford.

**West**

Welcome to another round up of Section news. Hopefully by now all of you should have received your entry forms for the Autumn outing taking place at Windyhill GC on October 22. Remember this will be the second draw of the '100' Club and there is £100 up for grabs. The final draw is for £50 and will take place at the AGM later in the year.

Tuesday August 24 was the day of the challenge match, Greenkeepers v Scottish Clubmasters, venue Lenzie GC. The day was most enjoyable with a close result for the Greenkeepers winning the day by one match up.

Thanks go to Scottish Clubmasters for providing the trophy on the day. I hope you enjoyed the day and would hope we can have a return match next year? Thanks to Lenzie GC for use of their course and facilities and also to the Steward Alan and Morag for their super efforts. The chicken was great. I must say the course was in great condition and I can only recommend to the Lenzie GC Committee that the greens staff deserve a huge wage rise. Well done chaps!

Two days later, August 26, and the Norrie Whytock Trophy was played for at Craige Hill GC sponsored by Rhone-Poulenc. The North Section won the Trophy with 97 pts and the West Section was runner up with 95 pts. Well played guys, that was close. The West Section was represented by Douglas McIntosh, Cathkin Braes; Joe Bell, Kilmacolm GC; Iain Smith, Drumpelieir GC, and John Scott, Kirkhill GC. Thanks go to McKenzie Munro the Scottish Area Managing Director of Rhone-Poulenc.

One final piece of news I heard from Peter Boyd today is that congratulations are in order for Robbie Bunting as Kilmacolm Golf Club's policy of care for wildlife on the course has been recognised with the National Crystal Trophy in the Green Apple awards for environmental best practice. The club was chosen out of 120 businesses and organisations throughout the British Isles which had been nominated for the award. I am sure that an article will be published in the 'Greenkeeper'

featuring Kilmacolm and how they achieved this fine accolade. Well done to Robbie Bunting and staff and Kilmacolm GC from all of the West Section.

So that wraps up another section news. Please call me if you have anything to mention, promotions, births etc. H: 0141 776 1532 M: 07050 173080

Gavin Jarvis

**Ayrshire**

The Section would like to pass on its congratulations to Derek Wilson and his wife Jacinta on the birth of their twin boys.



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

**North West**

The N/W Section currently has 562 members and is the largest Section in the Association. This is good news, but when it comes to getting a team of 16 together for a match against another Section, nobody seems interested. I struggled to get a team against the N/Wales Section in April and only just made it after many phone calls. This month, August, it was a struggle once again to find a team to play in the "Roses" match against the Northern Section.

We finished up eventually with 14 players instead of 16. A lot of work goes into organising these matches, and it is embarrassing to arrive short of players, especially when the sponsor has attended expecting to see a good turnout. I hope in future more interest is shown. Anyway we had a great day, even though we were hammered six and a half to one and a half.

The venue was Howley Hall, the course of Simon Heppenstall, and he and his staff had the course in great condition considering the amount of rain prior to the match. The match was once again sponsored by Patissons, who have sponsored this competition for 21 years. I would like to thank Patissons for their sponsorship and hope it will continue for many years to come.

On 25 August we had the Regional Final at Macclesfield Golf Club. Each Section had six qualifiers from their spring tournaments to go through to the final. The course was in great condition thanks to Steve Worthington and his staff and the standard of golf played was equally as good. The winners were the Sheffield Section with a score of 348, being the best five scores from six games. The difference between the winners and the last Section being only six shots made it a very close match. The sad thing was the N/East section could only muster



half a team, but at least the three who turned up enjoyed themselves and played well. The final was sponsored by Richard Campey Ltd of Macclesfield, who presented the winners with a shield and each member of the team received a medal. Many thanks to Richard Campey for sponsoring the day and also thanks to Macclesfield Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course.

The next golf will be the President's Cup and AGM at Wilmslow Golf Club on Thursday November 25. The tee will be available from 10am and everyone will need to bring a bottle in order for all competitors to take away a prize. All entries to be sent to Bill Merrit, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool L4 9RB. Tel: 0151 284 4416. Please include a cheque for £15 made out to BIGGA N/W.

That's it for now. Any news or views, ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

#### North East

On 22 July we held, for the first time, a summer competition at Garesfield Golf Club. Our thanks to the committee for giving us courtesy of their course. Sadly a very poor turn out, only 15 bothered to play, but everyone enjoyed themselves. Let's hope next year we get a better response as it is going to be played most likely the last Monday of July, 3pm to 4pm.

Best gross, J. Hutton, 72. Whickham. Ransomes Cup. C. Cooper 72-6=66, Slaley Hall. Greenlay Cup, R. Reid, 77-8=69, Prudhoe. Fewster's Shield, G. Wright, 89-15=74, Crook.

A final thank you to Head Greenkeeper, Ian Hutton, on the excellent condition of the course in the short time he has been there.

On 5 August at Beamish Golf Club, the reinstated match against the Cleveland section was played. The North East overcame our neighbours in a close game by 3/2. Looking forward to the replay next year.

At a recent Section meeting, it was agreed to have a repeat of winter lectures in January, February and March. Members will be notified in due course.

Jimmy Richardson

#### North Wales

A committee meeting was held on 24 August. We discussed, among other things, the autumn golf meet and the autumn/winter lectures. By the time you read this you should have received your entry forms and a programme of dates for the lectures. If you haven't please get in touch.

Last month I gave you some wrong information. The Christmas meeting is on Thursday 2 December at Royal St Davids. Sorry.

The lectures will all take place at the college, mostly afternoons. We felt that, the dress code etc., wouldn't be a problem and you could literally finish work and attend. There will be a nominal charge to non-members of £1 to cover refreshment costs.

The Match Secretary would appreciate it if you could provide official handicaps otherwise the max will be 18 medal, 21 Stableford. Please also remember golf related guests only, ie. Captain, Green Chairman, Secretary etc.

Marc Brute who is 17 years old and a MA at Old Colwyn Golf Club is now Denbighshire County Champion. A superb achievement, so we'll need your handicap certificate Marc and no, we won't accept a 24 provisional OK.

Our Section's only Life Member, Bill Lawson, has donated a shield to the Section which we decided will be awarded to the best gross score from a member under the age of 21 at our Christmas competition. I've got an idea who might win!

Rigby Taylor's Mike Whitehouse is organising a North vs South Wales match. I will keep you

informed about date and venue.

Finally, welcome new members Stephen Jones, Vicars Cross; Wendy O'Brien, Carden Park; Paul Davies, The Pleazey; Gareth Jones, Henllys Hall and a very belated welcome to Jamie Williams, Vale of Llanyollan and Lee Edwards of Hawarden.

Dave Goodridge

#### Cleveland

The Section had a very busy time this month. First the Cleveland Section played the North East Section at Beamish Park GC. The weather was great and the course was in excellent condition.

Keith Lough, Course Manager at Beamish had the greens tip top. The sponsors for the match were Ritefeed and Alan Cordingly, Ritefeed Rep, gave out some very nice prizes. Cleveland got beat 3-2.

The Cleveland Shield Knock Out competition was held here at Brancepeth GC. Both semi-finals and finals were played the same day.

Results: Barry Walker bt Ian Holoran. Alix Russell bt Tony Burge.

In the final Alix Russell kicked Barry Walker's a\*\*e - Barry's words not mine. A good day was had by all. Thanks to Brancepeth GC, Deputy Head and greenstaff for the way the course was turned out.

Then Cleveland Warriors went down to Macclesfield in the National Finals. The Cleveland Section came second, lost by one point.

Other news. Martin Woods has been nominated by GLC for Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year at Hough College. Both lads work at Wearside GC.

Well, the Autumn tournament is on us again. This year it will be held at Weynard GC on October 12. Any further info call Barry Walker on 0191 514 5263.

Kevin(Scoop)Heslop

#### Sheffield

Yet again I have to apologise for the lack of notes in the September edition. Once again we have the Royal Mail to thank for this!

On 12th July we held our annual competition at Abbeydale Golf Club. The weather was absolutely glorious and very warm which made the golf very tiring but there was still plenty of excellent golf played.

Abbeydale was in excellent condition and our thanks go to John Coleman and his staff. Well done John.

Our thanks also go to Abbeydale Golf Club for giving us courtesy of their course and facilities.

Thanks also to Mansfield Sand for being the main sponsors of the day and to all the other trade members who provided prizes.

There was some excellent golf played but the eventual winner was Mick Coltas, with a net 68. Well played Mick!

Results 1. Mick Coltas 68 net. 2. J. Darach, 70 net, 3. W. Mannig, 71 net.

The gross prize went to M. Hayward with a 72.

By the time you read this we will have played our Autumn tournament at Hallamshire on September 15, so I hope you all enjoyed the day again.

John Lax



Midland Region  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01480 437507

#### Northern

This year's Invitation Day Tournament was held at Shipley (Beckfoot) Golf club. The weather was excellent, matched by a course produced by Pat Murphy and his team. I am sure the comments from the players justified the hard work getting the course set up for us on the day.



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Many thanks to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the main prize table and to Mike Brear for presenting the prizes on their behalf.

Thanks to Acorn Equipment for sponsoring the longest drive and nearest the pin prizes and to Lindum Turf for setting up and sponsoring the prizes for the putting competition.

The results for the day were as follows: 1. J. Baxter & R. Naylor, Bingley St Ives GC. 2. Ms M. Welch & R. Scott, Bingley St Ives GC. 3. N. Schofield & R. Spencer, Rigby Taylor. 4. A. Baxter & I. Summersgill, Bingley St Ives GC. 5. A. Corns & A. Brittain, Acorn Equipment. Nearest the Pin: L. Kirkbright. Longest Drive: A. Baxter. Putting Competition: S. Baxter.

Congratulations to Phil Mitchell of Shipley Golf Club and his wife on the recent arrival of their new baby. I was surprised to see how much hair he had lost due to the extra stress after only a week!

If anyone has any news from within the section, please contact me on 01484 317813 or 07788 442755 or at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield HD5 0LA.

Simon Heppenstall

#### East Midlands

This year's East Midlands v East of England Golf Match was hosted by Ramsdale Park Golf Centre on August 18. Despite a very heavy shower and some persistent rain to begin with, we were still able to play the match. All members from the East Midlands team were in fine form, winning four of the five matches by big margins and sharing the point in the fifth.

The team was represented by the following members. Jeff Dickinson, Peter Billings, Pete Larter, Steve Goode, Dave Mitchell, Ian Needham, Steve Levers, Antony Bindley, Gavin Robson and Steve Tolley. The result means that the

Section has now regained the Toro shield. The East of England Section did, however, win the Longest Drive, Phil Wilkinson, and Nearest the Pin, Graeme Macdonald. Thanks to all those members who represented the Section at short notice.

I would also like to thank Ramsdale Park Golf Club for offering courtesy of their course and the catering staff for an excellent meal. Also thanks should go to Steve Levers and his staff for providing a fine test of golf for the tournament. Not forgetting our generous sponsors, Chandlers, for their support.

Unfortunately, our Pairs Tournament, which was to be held on 23 August had to be cancelled due to lack of support. Only six members entered, with ten members for the evening lecture.

This year's Autumn tournament at Erewash Valley Golf Club on 6 September has only attracted 24 members. Scores and results will appear next month.

On a brighter note, I would like to congratulate Anthony Foulds and Thomas on winning the Best Gross prize in the Telford Golf and Country Club Open.

This year's AGM will take place at Raddcliffe-on-Trent Golf Club at 4.30pm on November 3. If you have not received your entry form, please give me a ring and remember to send your form back before the closing date. Also, this year's Regional Seminar will take place at Mentmore Golf Club on 17 November. For further details contact our Regional Administrator for what promises to be a great day.

Antony Bindley

#### Midland

There has been a trip arranged to the newly-formed Advantage Seed Houses at Sleaford, formerly Sharpes, Momersteeg, at the end of October. ALS have sponsored the visit and will be providing transport and lunch.



### Have you heard?

The day will consist of a tour of the warehouses and laboratories and a look at the extensive trial plots. This will be interesting to see how cultivars, chosen from a brochure, finally look. Numbers are limited, therefore a first come first served basis will operate. Contact Andi Smith on 01676 530114.

The results from the Autumn Tournament will be in next month's report along with a full report on the Trafford Stonebridge Golf Day to be held at Maxstoke Park.

Jonathan Wood

#### BB&O

First of all I would like to thank everyone who took time to visit us at Donnington Grove in July for the summer meeting. The results were as follows: 1. Nigel Ely, 36 pts. 2. Geoff Wheeler, 36 pts. 3. Lindsay Anderson, 35 pts.

I had the pleasure of playing with Lindsay and his fears about the length of the course never showed in his scoring. Thanks to Phil Sharp, from Pattisons, who sponsored the day and ETT and Richard Fontmeuller who donated the raffle prizes.

A welcome from the Section to Carl Small and Charles Wright. We hope to see you at the rest of the season's events.

Finally, the Autumn Meeting was held at The Springs Golf Club, Wallingford on 21 September and the results will be in the next article.

Numbers for the golfing events appear to be steady but we appeal to those still not taking part. Please come along, it really is a good day out.

Any information within the Section would be gratefully accepted. You can contact me on 01635 821333.  
Ross Wilson

#### Mid Anglia

Demonstration of the Juno and Jupiter grinders by Eric Hunter Grinders Limited is to be held at John O'Gaunt Golf Club, Sutton Park, Sandy, Bedfordshire on 24 November 1999 at 10am.

Please ring Colin Robinson, Course Manager, on 01767 261416 regarding numbers for catering.

Colin Robinson



South East  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

#### South East

Firstly I would like to draw to your attention the Regional Seminar due to be held at Writtle College, Chelmsford on 16th November. You should have, together with your copy of "Greenkeeper International," a programme for the day which includes an application form for reservations.

This seminar has been carefully put together by the Essex Section and promises to be a great day, and at £13 to include lunch and coffee, incredible value as well. This is due entirely to the generosity of our Sponsors (please see programme for the full list).

Should you have not received the programme with your magazine then please give me a ring on the above number.

Secondly on a personal basis, I would like to thank all of those Members, (Greenkeepers and Trade) who enquired after my health when I was "laid up for most of the summer. I am now on the road to recovery and hope to make up for all that lost golf, by attending the Turkey Trots! But thanks for your thoughts, it meant a lot to me, at a time when I felt very low.

Derek Farrington

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## Around the green

### Essex

Well gentlemen, after last month's feast of golfing reports, October has given the chance to cover other items.

First of all, on behalf of all Essex members, I would like to welcome to the Section two new members from the London Club. Geoff Smith and from Manor of Groves, Adrian Blackaby. Hope to see both Geoff and Adrian at one of our events in the near future.

On to the South East Regional Conference to be held on Tuesday 16 November at Writtle College, Chelmsford. Please gentlemen, support this event. We have a great line up of speakers some you will know, others will be new names but we will guarantee you they will be names, once heard, never forgotten!

Alan Gange, Biostimulants; Tim Lodge, Top Dressing & Root zones; David Kidd, Architect, Mark Hunt, Fertilisers; Brian Robinson, Grass Seed Technology, and Giles Wardle, Irrigation.

Further information and costs will be sent through the post shortly.

During November, the first of a two day management course (second day in March 2000) with Uncle Frank Newberry and a two day computer course with Ken Richardson, Middle of February 2000, will all be held at the Burstead Golf Club. Members who applied for these courses will be contacted. Any problems please telephone Martin Forrester 01245 603131.

Those who enjoyed the Go-Karting will be given the chance to challenge present champions Stapleford Abbotts GC on November 26. Details to follow.

By the time you read this report both Steve Cox and Chris Ward will have attended the National Championship at Carden Park. Let's keep our fingers crossed that they both bring home plenty of prizes.

Our next meeting is at Wanstead G.C. 19th October sponsored by GEM. Hope to see you there.

Dave Wells

PS. When was the last time there were two West Ham players in the Full England squad? September 1999.

### Kent

The last golf event held in the Region was on 26 July at Brokehill GC. The results were as follows: 1. P. Belton & S. Bates, 42; 2. B. Farnham & D. Clark, 42; 3. I. Jarman & P. Rudkin, 41; 4. T. Southwell & G. Nicholl 41; 5. B. Deacon & R. Cole 41; 6. Mrs J. Walton & P. Walton, 39; 7. R. Buckley & N. Young, 39; 8. B. Ramsey & H. Wignell, 38, and the booby prize went to J. Shaw & G. Sidders with a massive 26 pts. Sorry guys.

Before I go any further I would like to thank Geoff Rolstone for his hospitality and the trophy. June Clark the Secretary and David Rolstone and his staff for the presentation of the course. A big thank you also to the catering staff, bar and restaurant staff and the pro-shop staff and starters. Many thanks to our main sponsor, Barreffield,

and all of our other sponsors who made this day possible.

During the last week or so we would have held our golf event at Tandridge GC on October 4. Hopefully everybody who attended this event enjoyed themselves and the results will be in the November issue along with any points of interest that arise from the next committee meeting which was held on 15 September at Wildernesse GC.

Any news or comments, please pass them on to me on 01474 879200 or 0402 573994. I have received a total of two calls all season with news for the magazine, so if you would like to continue to read this then give me a call.

Kneale Diamond



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

### South West & South Wales

The 1999 South West & South Wales Regional Seminar will be held at Cannington College on 24th November and the theme will be RESEARCH. We have some tremendous speakers including Dr Mike Canaway of STRI, Dr Danny Thorogood of IGER, Prof Bill Adams, Stephen Bernhard, Dr Bob Daniels and Steve Jones of the London Club.

The speakers will be talking about genetically modified grasses, shortcut, rootzone formulations, impact of sharpening blades etc.

Do make the effort to come, it will be well worth it. Cost £15 members £22.50 non-members. Apply to Paula Humphries.

### Devon & Cornwall

The Devon Garden Machinery meeting and Section AGM will be held at Manor House Golf & Country Club on Wednesday November 17. The morning's golf will be of foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lely.

As usual the non golfers course walk will leave the club house at approximately 10.30 am, lunch will be from 1 pm onwards followed by the golf presentation by Devon Garden Machinery, our sponsor for the day. The Section's AGM will conclude the day.

I'd like to remind you that the Region's annual seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 24. Also, you should all have received details of the Region's package to Harrogate for the BTME show and seminar at the very low price of £95 per member. If you haven't already booked your place for the seminar or BTME package and wish to attend, please contact our regional administrator, Paula Humphries, on 01288 352194 to reserve any places remaining.

Richard Whyman



### South Coast

On the 10th November 1999 a trip to Hankley Common Golf Club has been organised. A coach is provided and the day has been sponsored by Rigby Taylor. The programme for the day is as follows. Coach to Hankley Common. On arrival Ian MacMillan, the Course Manager, will give an informal talk on his beautiful heathland course. This will be followed by a tour of the green-keeper's complex. A light lunch is then provided. After lunch Ian will be taking us on a grand tour of the course. Having heard about all the conservation work that has gone on I am really looking forward to the trip. This is definitely a visit not to be missed. All of you wishing to attend should contact Jef Drake our secretary on 01635 846575 as soon as possible. He can then book the coach, the route pick-up points and times.

By now you should have all received the information on the Regional Seminar. This is to be held at Cannington College on November 24 1999. Looking through the list of speakers that Paula has got together we are in for a real treat. All that remains to be done is for you to get your cheques and forms in and put the date in your diaries. See you all at Cannington.

Our Section AGM and turkey trot this year will be held at Hockley Golf Club on Wednesday December 8. Hockley always used to be known for its long rough. However, I have been told it has been cut down to a reasonable height. There will be 18 holes of golf (first tee off at 9am). This will be followed by the Section AGM. On completion of the AGM we will sit down to our Christmas dinner and prize giving.

Any items you would like included in the Agenda, please forward to our secretary Jef Drake, to reach him no later than Wednesday November 17. That is three weeks before the AGM. Anyone who would like to serve on the committee should get their names into Jef. If you require any information as to what is involved in being a committee member contact any of our committee members. We look forward to hearing from you.

At the time of going to print I do not know what the cost of the day's proceedings will be. I've no doubt Fred will be finding out shortly. I will make sure that it is in the November Around The Green report.

Your programme for 1999-2000 should be with you shortly. They are in the process of being printed. One date you may like to put in your diary, is the Seminar to be held at Sparsholt on the February 8 2000. Jef has got one or two speakers. If any of you have a particular speaker you would like to hear, get in touch with Jef, he would love to hear from you.

As some of you may know, Paula has not been too well of late and has had to go into hospital. I am sure that the whole of the Section would like to wish her a speedy recovery. We all hope all goes well for you Paula.

Ken Lodge

### South Wales

This year's summer tournament was held at Whitechurch GC Cardiff, on July 8. Match results, Best Gross A. Roach with a 78, Best Net P. Wilaby with a 69 and over 18's Net G. Evans with a 73.

The Match v Golf Club Secretaries held at Pontadawe GC on August 12 was successfully retained by winning three matches out of five. Match results as follows: A. Panks/A. Richards & J. Probert/B. Smith lost their matches with P. Lacey/B. Hanford; D. Don/R. Patterson winning their matches. The longest drive and nearest the flag was sponsored by Alan Able of Complete Weed Control. Thank you, with the prizes going to A. Panks - Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin - D. Fellows, H. Probert & K. Vin Hopkins.

A fantastic day was had by all and thanks must go to the secretaries for their continued support during the day. Thanks to J. Probert and his team for the superb condition of the course and not forgetting the kind words from the captain of Pontadawe Mr. Norman Hopkins.

Our sincere apologies to St. Mellion GC for the lack of support from the Section and the PGA for postponing the match on August 17.

On August 25 the Golf Management Trophy was held again at the Celtic Manor GC. Although this time we played the new Wentwood Hills course which held up superbly to the volume of rain that fell during the day. 25 teams had taken part with Llanwern GC coming up trumps to repeat their win last year. Thanks to Scotts for sponsoring the day and to Jim McKenzie and his staff for the condition of the course in such horrendous weather.

The Rigby Taylor results so far, R. Frater & J. Borge beat S. Lloyd & R. Barnham; P. Lacey & R. Patterson beat W. Benga & A. Phillips; I. Morris & J. Carter beat J. B. Jones & A. Panks; A. Roach & J. Phipps beat J. Probert & H. Probert.

Up and coming events; Match v BIGGA S. West at St. Pierre G&CC on October 6th. Tee off 12:30 pm; Rigby Taylor Match Play Finals at Royal Porthcawl GC, a theme of research, with the cost of £15 to members and non-members £22.50.

Winter Tournament/AGM/Xmas Dinner to be held at Pyle & Kenfig GC 8:30 am on December 8th. Just a reminder that you might like to start thinking of planning your visit to the BTME 2000 at the Harrogate International Centre from the 19th to the 21st January 2000.

Congratulations to Julian Bartlet Jones who has taken up the position of Course Manager at Dinas Powys GC, Cardiff.

Some unfortunate news. Our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, has been unwell. Paula we all hope you get well soon.

Richard Hatcher

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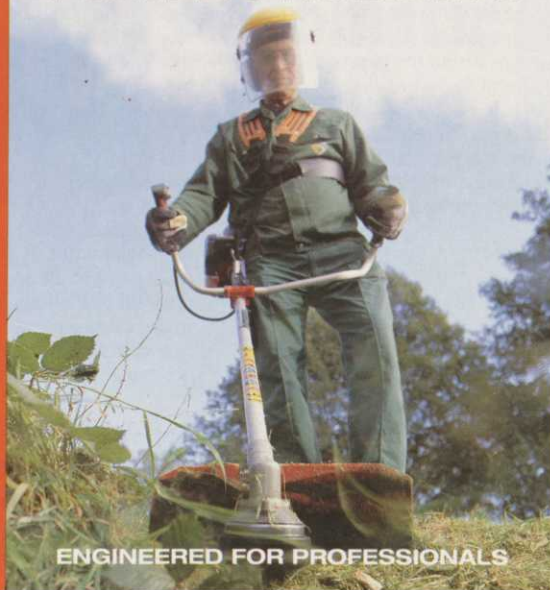
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# Weed Free Mini Profile

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## What Major Changes have you seen in your sector of the industry over the last 10 years?

The single most significant change has been the introduction of shrouded booms into the UK three years ago. The importance in terms of safety cannot be over estimated. Not only do the booms ensure that the chemical remains within the target area but the potential hazard of drift during high winds has been minimised. With the addition of Baby Mantis and Mini Mantis to join the Spraying Mantis, the company's spraying fleet all employ shrouded booms



## How do you believe the industry as a whole has changed over the same period?

Compared with 10 years ago, there is now general recognition and compliance with health and safety requirements and legislation, spreading from the Golf Course Secretary downwards. Increased media coverage has resulted in greenkeepers losing their cloth cap image, and in 90% of cases they are now seen as professionals.

With greater sports sponsorship and television coverage, everyone now sees the condition of the turf as well as the game played.

## Looking into your crystal ball what major developments do you envisage over the next 10 years in your sector?

As an ex groundsman, I can see an urgent need over the next ten years to educate the public on the importance of pesticides as a vital management tool. With more and more people playing, the pressures on greenstaff are enormous, and although I personally applaud the health and safety legislation to date, we must guard against measures from the EC in particular which could lower the standards of maintenance, currently achieved on our amenity turf. Pesticides used with moderation at the appropriate time by qualified operators should not be seen in the future as hazardous, but more as a cost effective and safe means of achieving the desired results.



## And in the industry as a whole?

I can see fewer big companies at the top of the industry as the current trend towards large monopolies continues. I predict a greater demand for British greenkeepers abroad, as the popularity of golf grows worldwide and more control for those at home, as respect for the profession grows. The emergence of corporate owned golf clubs, look likely to point the way to the future development of the sport, with many more companies following suit.

## What contribution do you believe BIGGA has made to the industry since the Association was formed?

By raising the profile of the greenkeeping profession and placing the emphasis on training, the industry has become more sophisticated. There is an ever increasing demand for higher quality products and services, as greens committees become more inclined to act on the recommendations of their Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager. Many Greenkeepers now have overall control of maintenance budgets, and some are almost treated as board members.

## Why are you pleased to be associated with BIGGA?

I have seen BIGGA grow and improve over the years to reach a point where the Association is in a very strong position to represent greenkeepers. Weed Free's Silver Key membership shows our commitment to furthering the cause of greenkeeping.

## What do you believe to have been your company's greatest contribution to the fine turf industry?

Weed Free was one of the first contract spraying companies to employ shrouded booms and the first to commission specialised spraying units to carry them. We have led the industry in the concept of applying pesticides safely in windy conditions. We are one of the few companies to pass on our knowledge through our training courses.



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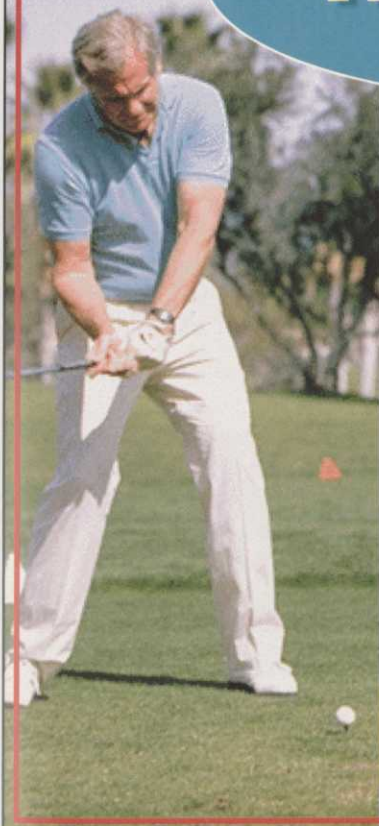


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## ULTRA PLANT



**Ronnie Bunting, Head Greenkeeper of Kilmacolm Golf Club, gives the story behind his success in the recent Green Apple Awards**

# The apple of Kilmacolm's eye

On a cold wet Saturday in February I was sitting doing the wife's crossword. The letter box rattles and it's the local free newspaper. The wife reads out the requirements to enter what was described as the prestigious Green Apple Awards Competition etc. "Why don't you send some of that gibberish you've been typing for the last month," she says. "Anything for a bit of peace."



Ronnie receives his prize

I had just completed my Environmental Summary for the club in the hope it would be a start for the club to get enrolled on to the European Golf Ecology's new programme "Committed To Green". I typed out the reason behind my submission, addressed an A4 brown envelope and set off to post it. I should explain that the local pub is next to the post box.

Early July and a letter arrives explaining that my submission had been short-listed for a major award. I am invited to attend a ceremony on the 3rd August 12 noon at the Chambers of the Environmental Health Department, Hatfield Street, London, where it would be presented. It was also explained that we were

entered into the small business category.

The 3rd of August, and we arrive at Kings Cross Station. Stepping out of the train was like opening the door of an oven - 32 degrees and no breeze what so ever. We got into a taxi it may well have been Indiana Jones driving. Scary or what!

At the reception everybody there seems to be business types and the hostesses seem offended if you don't accept a glass of wine from them, I certainly wouldn't offend anyone. The nametags we're given seem to attract attention because it was a private golf club and not a council or something more important. I'm asked the same question a couple of times, "What could a small golf club be doing for the environment to justify their presence at such an important ceremony?"

Rather than enter into any lengthy discussion I smile and play the daft laddie, (that has never been difficult for me). Another glass of wine is forced on me and I can feel the confidence swell and before I realise it I'm tapping one of the enquirers on the shoulder and proceed to explain that... I have produced a Course Management Policy Document, and an Environmental Management Plan, but that the submission I put forward was an Environmental Summary of Good Environmental Practice. This consisted of mission statements concerning, Planning Nature Conservation; Natural and Cultural Heritage; Water Resource Management; Sound Turfgrass Management; Energy Efficiency; Education Within the Working Environment; Communication and Public Awareness, and Waste Management. Also under these headings we have highlighted actions that have been implemented, and identified projects we are investigating for

their environmental value and how cost effective they are. There were more than a few impressed glances amid the number of listeners. More wine please.

My good Lady and I sit at one of the 20 or so enormous round tables with floral displays that covered 50% of the table surface. The palatial effects are matched by the buffet served with more excellent wine.

The awards are introduced and the method of presentation described in detail.

There are three categories small business, medium business, and large business. We are in the small business class and there are four awards in each class - the highest being crystal would be announced last.

As the ceremony progresses and all trophies are presented except the crystal, the wife and I look at each other and I whisper, "We have either won the big one or our name isn't in the hat."

Then the compere announces that the Crystal Award of Excellence in the small business category goes to Kilmacolm Golf Club. We get the biggest cheer of the ceremony.

I remember leaving my seat and going up to receive the Green Crystal Apple Trophy, some pictures are taken I return to my seat totally over awed.

Later when we are sitting on the train we could only stare at each other it all seemed like a dream.

Needless to say Kilmacolm Golf Club is very pleased with all the good publicity. As for Jonathon Smith and the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife group, without his enthusiasm and encouragement the experience would never have happened.

As it turns out it is not over yet for the press release is just being given out and the recognition will go on for a wee while yet.

It was a day neither of us will ever forget.





**BIGGA**

BIGGA will once again be exhibiting at Scotsturf giving visitors the chance to find out more about all aspects of the Association and its activities.

Should you wish information about becoming a member there will be someone on hand to answer all your questions and provide literature highlighting the benefits of membership.

If you are already a member information can be obtained about the prestigious Master Greenkeeper scheme, education and training courses, as well as about that highlight of the greenkeeper's year - BTME at Harrogate.

From a company perspective, stand space is filling up quickly and from an individual's, spaces on the workshops and Education Conference need to be booked early to avoid disappointment.

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**Geo Henderson Ltd**



We will be exhibiting several exciting new products. There are over ten new products being launched by Kubota (UK) Ltd all of which will be on display. Dennis will be launching there new pedestrian Green's mower, along with several other new mower's in their range. We again will be exhibiting a selection of clothing from our range of work wear that we stock. If you cannot make the show please feel free to contact us on 0131 443-2472 for further details.

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**Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd**



Eric Hunter Grinders Limited are exhibiting two new machines at Scotsturf for the first time.



The Jupiter 2000 has been developed from the well established range of Jupiter models in order to meet an increasing demand to be able to grind pedestrian hand mowers fully 'in-situ'.

An integral hoist has been incorporated into the design of the Jupiter 2000 with capacity of 200kg, allowing it to handle the largest hand mowers.

The Jupiter 2000 retains all the advantages of the Jupiter range with the capability of being able to handle 'relief' grinding, 'spin' grinding and bottom blade grinding all on the one machine.



In addition, spin grinding can be carried out fully automatically and bottom blade grinding can traverse automatically.

The Orion bottom blade grinder has been updated to be fully automatic on both traverse and 'in-feed'. Again developed from the well proven Orion bottom blade grinder.

Both machines have liquid coolant systems.

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### Ocmis

Ocmis irrigation are experts with a referral driven reputation in irrigation system designed, manufacture, supply, installation and service for all types of sports turf and landscape areas. We are also specialists in the refurbishment and upgrading of existing systems. Ocmis are distributors for Rain Bird, Buckner, and Hunter sprinklers and can supply and service other makes of equipment.

The Livingston depot stocks MDPE and UPVC pressure pipe, associated fittings, manufactured pump units, electric panels, electric cables and mobile irrigators. Ocmis's unique in-house design capabilities ensure that the requirements of each client are individually met and that each project is given independent attention. All installations are completed by Ocmis trained staff and in accordance with CDM and health and safety regulations.

Ocmis were British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association Award of Excellence winners in 1997 and 1998. For more information and a free no obligation survey and design contact Ocmis Irrigation Scotland on 01312202102.



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### Weidenmann

Wiedenmann UK Ltd. have secured a prime stand in the new hall on which the company will display a cross section of their popular machinery range.

Having its UK base in Paisley, Wiedenmann values Scotsturf highly and the company's staff look forward to meeting existing and new customers who visit the show.

On display will be the versatile Terra Spike deep aerator which will be fitted with a range of tines. A range of terra Spikes are available from 1.35m wide to 2.6m wide providing machines for a wide variety of applications from golf to playing fields. Terra spikes have unique features such as quick set heave control and power pack which make the machine easy to use and reliable.

Other machines on display will include the new Terra Top tractor mounted Top dresser which is particularly efficient at spreading wet top dressings and tractor mounted Triplex 4.2 finishing rotary mower with bat wings. Wiedenmann invite all to visit the stand to view their latest products and enjoy the usual hospitality.

Wiedenmann UK Ltd,  
Stoney Brae, Potterhill, Paisley PA2 7TG  
Tel: 0141 884 2552 Fax: 0141 884 6252

**TerraSpike**

**Deep Aerators**

**TerraTop**

**Topdressers**

**Triplex**

**Rotary Mowers**

See us at Scotsturf



### Groundsman Industries

Groundsman Industries, Europe's leading manufacturer of Turf Aerators will be at Scotsturf with their very latest range of equipment. This range spans through 5 models of pedestrian machines from the low budget model 345MD 18" swath vertical action aerator priced below £3,000 to the 48" and 72" swath tractor mounting units.

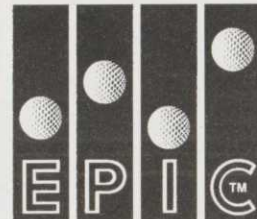
New launches include the Flexplate Surface Iron attachment to smooth out the playing surface behind the aerator. This implement may well become as essential to aeration as the extremely successful Flexblade Core Collector which enables aeration and core collection in one pass rendering the old windrow attachment redundant.

The other new launch from the Groundsman camp is a 4ft and an 8ft swath Disc Slitter. These units incorporate groups of sprung discs with follow-up rollers.

Pictured from top (a) Model 345HD coring with windrow. (b) Model 460SDR aerates in circles and has power steering and rapid transport. (c) Model 8120CTM 4ft swath tractor mounting aerator with flexblade Core Collector attached. (d) Model 12180TM 6ft swath tractor mounting aerator needle tining to 5" depth with Flexblade Surface Iron attached.



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### Sportsgrounds Limited

Now that Sportsgrounds are Scottish Stockists and distributors for EPIC driving range equipment the company will be using Scotsturf to display a cross section of the extensive EPIC range including tee mats, ball dispensers, ball washers, ball collectors, synthetic range surfaces and accessories.

The company's large stand in the new hall will also illustrate the comprehensive range of services available which include design and construction of playing fields, golf courses, bowling greens and tennis courts in either natural or synthetic grass. Sportsgrounds continue to specialise in drainage, sand slitting and groundcare maintenance.

1999 has proved to be a very successful year with the completion of many prestige projects including the construction of new playing fields for Glasgow University, the design and build of a new bowling green at Mount Vernon and the construction of a synthetic multi sports pitch at HMP Glenochil. Earlier in the year Sportsgrounds completed the construction of a multi pitch 5-a-side complex near Wembley and have received an order to build a similar complex at Dagenham. Everyone will receive a warm welcome when visiting the stand.

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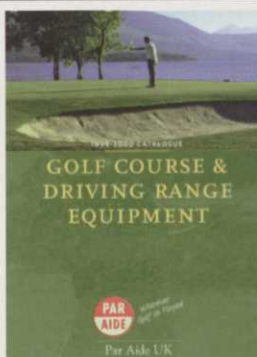


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### Par Aide UK Equipment

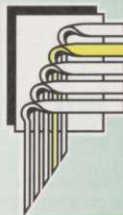
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*Nothing Kuts Like A Diamond*







The word 'mycorrhiza' is beginning to enter the language of greenkeeping. It now appears in several advertisements for companies selling biostimulant products. Here, I explain just what a mycorrhiza is, what it does, and what my research group at Royal Holloway is doing with it.

# Myco what?

Orchids are totally dependent on their mycorrhiza for survival

## Definition

The word 'mycorrhiza' (pronounced mike- o- riza) comes from the Greek and literally means 'fungus root'. It is a generic term, given to any intimate association between a fungus and the roots of a plant. It is important to realise that use of the word on its own means little; it as specific as using the

word 'grass' to describe the species of plant growing in a golf green. Now, plenty of disease-causing fungi could also be said to form intimate associations with plant roots, yet they do not fall under the description of mycorrhiza. The thing that sets this fungus-plant association apart from all

others is that both fungus and plant gain from the relationship. The scientific term used to describe such a relationship is mutualism. Clearly, in a plant-pathogen situation, there is no benefit for the plant and so it is not a mycorrhiza.



# Myco what?

## Types of mycorrhiza

A common misconception is that there is only one type of mycorrhiza, formed by one type of fungus with virtually any old plant. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact there are seven distinct types of mycorrhiza. Only four of these are at all common and of much relevance ecologically, and they are briefly outlined below. Another important point to realise is that the fungi which form any one type of mycorrhiza are taxonomically very different from those which form another type.

## Orchid mycorrhizas

Everyone is probably familiar with the fact that orchids must have a fungus in their roots to enable them to grow. All orchids pass through a relatively long seedling stage, during which time they are unable to photosynthesise and thus cannot fix their own supply of carbon from the atmosphere. As a result, they are totally dependent on the mycorrhizal fungus in their roots, which supplies the plant with its entire carbohydrate need at this time. For most orchid species, the fungus continues to supply carbon and mineral nutrients to the plant, throughout its life.



Above: Heather depends on its mycorrhiza for growth in acidic, poor soils

Above right: Fly agaric toadstools are the fruiting bodies of an ectomycorrhiza, which associates with trees, not grasses

## Ericoid mycorrhizas

As its name suggests, this type of mycorrhiza only associates with members of the Ericaceae, or heather family. The fungi grow in soils and when they encounter the roots of a plant of this family, they form an enveloping sheath over the tips. Some elements of the fungus from this sheath penetrate the roots of the plant. Inside there is an exchange of nutrients, with mineral nutrients moving from fungus to plant and carbon compounds moving from plant to fungus. It is thought that the presence of this mycorrhiza in soils allows heather to grow on acidic, nutrient poor soils. These soils have very low

concentrations of essential nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus and if the fungus was absent, the plant root system is simply too inefficient at taking up sufficient quantities of these ions from the soil solution. However, the fungus is remarkably good at doing so, and the passing of these to the plant enables the plant to grow. There is a further added benefit of the fungus which is that it also has a remarkable ability to take up metal ions which would normally be toxic to the plant. Examples are aluminium and iron which become very soluble at low pH and could occur at levels high enough to kill the plant. The fungus takes up these metals and stores them, thus reducing their toxic effect on the plant.

## Ectomycorrhizas

Ectomycorrhizas are very common. In fact virtually every woody plant forms an ectomycorrhizal association. As with the Ericoid association, the fungus envelops the roots of the plant, giving rise to its name (ecto meaning outside). The fungi which form these mycorrhizas can live perfectly happily without a plant, as they are decomposing organisms. This means it is possible to culture them in the laboratory. Most of the toadstools that you see in a woodland in autumn are the fruiting bodies of these fungi. A few produce their fruiting bodies below ground - these are the famous truffles. In autumn, turn over some leaf mould and you will see the strands of fungal mycelium (the 'roots' of the fungus) within. If some of this mycelium encounters the roots of a tree, then it forms the ectomycorrhiza, in which strands of the fungi penetrate the cells of the root. As with the Ericoid mycorrhiza, there is then an exchange of nutrients, with mineral nutrients (mainly nitrogen and phosphorus) moving from fungus to plant and carbon compounds moving the other way. Clearly, it is beneficial for the fungus to do this; it involves much less energy to obtain carbon from a host plant than it does to secrete enzymes which decompose leaves.

It is important to realise that these mushroom- or toadstool-forming fungi do not form mycorrhizal associations with turfgrass. This was brought home to me quite recently when I was walking a golf course with the greenkeeper. "Look", he said, pointing to some fly agaric toadstools, growing in the rough, "I've got mycorrhizal fungi - they're beneficial to the grass, aren't they?" I replied that the only thing they were benefiting was the silver birch tree we were standing beneath, and which, five



minutes earlier, he had been complaining was growing too quickly!

## Arbuscular mycorrhizas

From the turfgrass point of view, these are the important ones. On encountering the roots of a plant, the fungi do not form a coat or sheath, instead many individual strands of fungus (known as hyphae) penetrate the roots. These hyphae grow within the roots and inside the cells form structures which under a powerful microscope look like small Christmas trees, called arbuscules. These are the sites of nutrient exchange, with nitrogen and phosphorus moving to the plant and carbon compounds moving to the fungus. Unlike all the previous types of mycorrhiza, the fungi which form this association cannot obtain their carbon by decomposition. They are utterly dependent on the plant and so cannot be cultured on agar in a laboratory. Neither can you add carbon to the soil to feed these fungi. These fungi never produce toadstools, their spores are invisible to the naked eye and are formed in the soil. Arbuscular mycorrhizas are the type which associate





with grasses and herbs and therefore of importance to turfgrass. About 70% of the herbaceous plants of the world form an arbuscular mycorrhiza.

#### How arbuscular mycorrhizas benefit plants

Unlike the other mycorrhizal types, the arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) fungi can confer a variety of benefits on a plant. These are:

- increased uptake of phosphorus
- increased uptake of nitrogen (nitrate and ammonium)
- increased trace mineral uptake, e.g. zinc and copper
- increased resistance to drought
- increased resistance to insect pests
- increased resistance to diseases

It is a common mistake to think that the only benefit to a plant is the uptake of P. This misconception has arisen because in all natural ecosys-

tems, plants are limited by P availability, because this nutrient is immobile in soils. There are thousands of experiments which show that the AM fungus increases plant P uptake and therefore growth. However, in turfgrass, this is virtually irrelevant. Most turf soils have very high P levels and the plant can obtain its needs on its own. Therefore, in turf, the benefits of forming a mycorrhiza are mainly the last three items in the list above. I have found this misconception to be widespread; in fact some professional scientists have tried to tell me that AM fungi are irrelevant in turf, because they thought that P uptake was the only benefit conferred.

It is an interesting quirk that in the 30% of plants that do not regularly form an arbuscular mycorrhiza, the fungus may still try to enter the root. Sometimes it succeeds and is able to remove carbon, thereby acting as a parasite. When it does, plant growth is reduced.

#### AM fungi in turf grass

Research at Royal Holloway has

found that the levels of AM fungi in turfgrass are much lower than in natural grasslands. An often cited reason for this is the amount of fungicide applied. However, in recent experiments, we could detect no short term effect of fungicides on the mycorrhiza in a golf green. There was a detrimental effect in a football pitch, though. The reason? The putting green had a well developed thatch layer, which was lacking in the football pitch. Thatch is a remarkably good biological filter and bacteria within it rapidly degrade the fungicide before it reaches the mycorrhiza in the root. Probably the main reason why mycorrhizal fungi are rare in fine turf is the amount of compaction this environment receives. We are continually being told that aeration is of the utmost importance for the health of the grass. It is also of importance for the health of the fungus. I and my students continually perform surveys of AM fungi in golf greens, to elucidate the factors which determine the occurrence of the mycorrhiza.

Our research has also revealed that

the fungi appear to be able to reduce the growth of annual meadow grass. This grass happens to be one of the 30% of non-mycorrhizal species. If one grows *Poa annua* with a mycorrhiza then the growth of the plant is reduced. One of the major parts of our research programme is to find out the mechanism for this. However, this does add another unique benefit to mycorrhizas in turf - they have the potential to control the growth of this weed.

#### The future

The current situation is that we know that AM fungi are rare and sporadic in turf. We also have found that they can be inoculated into turf, resulting in better seedling establishment of bentgrass and reduced growth of *Poa*. We are currently investigating how effective they are in enhancing the disease resistance of grasses. There is much we need to learn about these strange fungi, but my prediction is that they will become one of the standard biostimulant products in years to come.



**BIGGA has over 200 international members situated throughout the world. Here, we welcome our members from the USA, and give some interesting facts about their country.**

**Meet the members**

- Peter Bacon, Wyantenuck GC
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- Stephen Cadenelli, Cape Cod National GC
- Stuart Cagle Cgcs, Old Oakland GC
- Steven Cook, Oakland Hills GC
- David P Davies, Tiaro Rado GC
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- Jonathan Jennings, The Patterson Club
- Mark Kuhns, Oakmont CC
- Robert Maibusch, Hinsdale GC
- Richard Matteson Cgcs, Pendleton CC
- Eamonn Mccarthy, Southward Ho CC
- Neil Mcloughlin, Southward Ho CC
- Richard Mcnabb, Palmetto GC
- William P Montague, Oakwood Club
- Walter C Montross, Westwood CC
- Patrick M O'Brien, Wolverine GC
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- Paul Pritchard, Wiltwyck GC
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- Richard J D Smith, Muirfield Village GC
- Brian T Sullivan, Bel Air CC
- Todd Voss, Double Eagle Club
- Bruce R Williams, Los Angeles CC
- John Yakubisin, Rolling Rock Club

# Focus on the USA

Location: Bordering both the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Pacific Ocean

Currency: US Dollar (\$)

Population: 267,954,764 (est)

Official Languages: English, Spanish

Time Zone: GMT -5 -11

Capital: Washington DC

Golf Clubs: According to the National Golf Foundation, there are 16,588 golf courses in the United States (June 99).

Practical Information:  
 Visa requirements:  
 UK: Visa not required for a stay of up to 90 days.

Chief tourist attractions:

Many cities of interest including New York with its skyscrapers, Washington DC with its monuments, Boston, San Francisco and New Orleans: enormous diversity of geographical features - the Rocky Mountains, the Everglades of Florida, the Grand Canyon; hundreds of national parks, historical parks and reserves including Redwood, Yosemite and Death Valley (all in California); Disneyland (California) and Walt Disney World (Florida).

Did you know...?

There are 50 states and one district? The 50 small white five-pointed stars on the flag represent the 50 states?

The 13 stripes on the flag represent the 13 original colonies; known as Old Glory?



**Next month: Germany**

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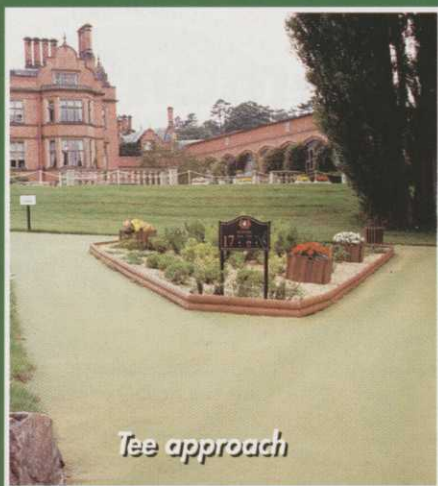
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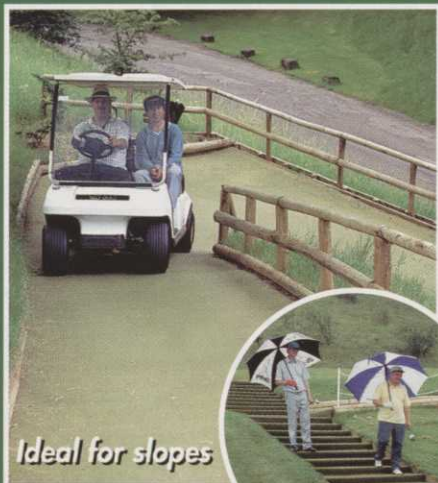


Tee approach



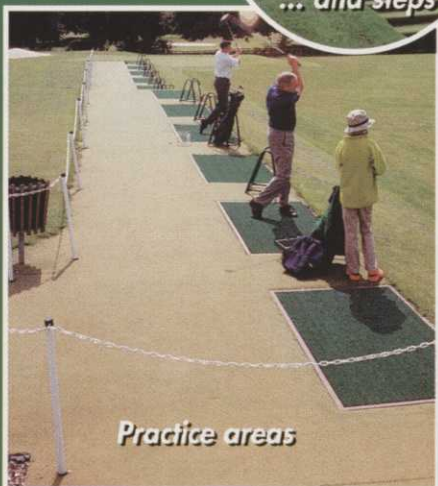
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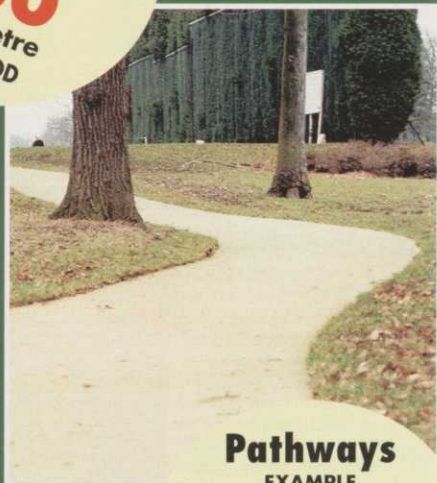


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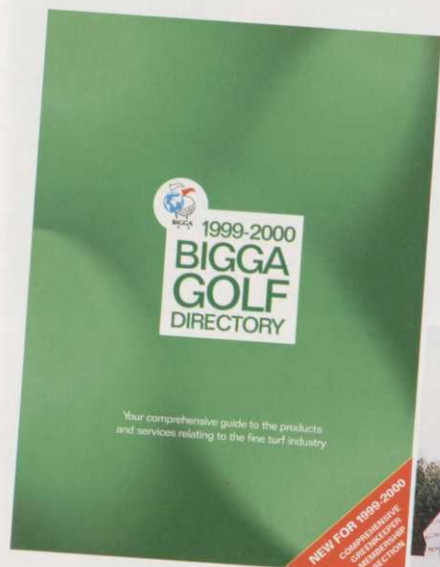
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7-9 September '99 Windsor Racecourse

**Saltex '99, the outdoor, summer, southern relation of BTME drew many familiar faces to Windsor Racecourse and served up the usual array of new products, machinery demonstrations, press launches and gossip.**



BIGGA's new improved 1999-2000 Golf Directory was launched at the Show and received rave reviews from everyone who saw it. For the first time, the Directory lists the names of BIGGA members and their golf clubs, and as a result it will be invaluable for people looking to track down old friends or acquaintances. Coupled with the company listings it is sure to become recognised as the yellow pages for golf... except it's green!

Please accept your own copy, free, this month, with our compliments.



As is tradition the BIGGA Chairman is invited to be a stand judge on the first morning of the Show. Gordon Child is seen admiring the Town and Country Turf stand which went on to win a Gold Medal in category 3.

From record entries throughout the UK and Ireland, The RAC Golf & Country Club, Epsom, was drawn as this year's winner of the annual Blazon "Spray Watch" campaign and received the first prize of a brand new Gambetti Barre AMK 300 Tractor Mounted Sprayer.

Presentation of the prize to the winning club's Course Manager Bob Wiles, was made by Neil Thomas, BIGGA's Executive Director

Attending the ceremony also was Chris Rudkin of Avoncrop Amenity Products whose company supplied the Blazon and entered the RAC Club into the draw.

"We have been using Blazon since it was first launched and it continues to be an essential part of our spraying programme," said Bob Wiles.

Pictured left to right are Chris Rudkin, Bob Wiles, Neil Thomas and Richard Fry, Blazon Europe.





## Textron launch new stablemates at Saltex

Textron launched the Jacobsen HR-4600 Turbo triplex rotary mower which incorporates many design features already proven on the HR-Si 11 and HR-901 6 Turbo.

An adjustable, high backed suspension seat, gauges that are easy to see and all controls within reach. Three hydraulically powered cutting decks, each with two blades, provide a 92" cutting width with a cutting height. The front decks can be raised and lowered independently.

A single pedal controls speed and direction, with dynamic braking through the traction circuit when in operating mode and front disc brakes for parking. An adjustable weight transport system improves traction when and where it's needed and optional 4-wheel drive.

Adding to their range of turf care equipment Textron launched the Turfco SP-1 530 trailed top dresser. It has a spreading width of up to 9.14 metres and can achieve a top dressing output of 12.8 acres per hour. The distribution pattern is adjustable from 15-30 feet.

A large six cubic metre capacity hopper ensures fast loading using a front-end loader and the low centre of gravity together with large floatation tyres make it light on the turf.

Textron also recently launched Jacobsen HR-9016 Turbo rotary mower.

Highly manoeuvrable with a 16 foot cutting width, the HR-9016 Turbo can mow up to 16.5 acres per hour. Automatic four-wheel drive when mowing protects the turf in tight turns and on wet and hilly terrain and there are two-wheel and four-wheel reverse options.

The cutting decks consist of a 92 inch, 5-blade, out front multi-flex front deck and two 59 inch, 3-blade,

wing decks, providing cutting heights from 1 inch to 5.5 inches.

The Greens King V has also been improved and is now built at Ipswich, specifically for the European market.

Designed with operator comfort in mind, the control console provides clear sight lines in all directions and all controls are within easy reach. The one-touch lift and lower foot pedals make raising and lowering the cutting units a simple operation.

Fully floating cutting reels available with 11 or 7 blades and with Jacobsen's FlashAttach system they can be changed in minutes, without tools.

A fully enclosed fibreglass hood helps keep noise to a minimum and lifts to reveal all major components which are easily accessible.

Building on the Parkway 2250, the new PLUS derivative offers a choice of either Magna 250 6-knife, fixed head cutting units or Sport 200 8 or 11knife, floating head units, both with direct hydraulic drive and variable reel speed control.

Powered by a Kubota 38hp liquid-cooled diesel engine the Parkway 2250 Plus has a mowing speed of 7.5 mph and a transport speed of 15.5 mph. Hydrostatic fail-safe disc brakes are used for parking and automatically engage when the ignition is switched off.

Turfcare professionals with large areas to maintain could find that Textron provides the solution with the factory-fitted combination of the new Iseki TR63 tractor and the Ransomes Hydraulic 5/7 gang mower. The pair are CE approved as one unit.

The seven cutting units of the Hydraulic 5/7 provide a maximum working width of 4.65m reducing to



2.5m in transport mode. Available with either Magna 4 or 6-Knife fixed head cutting units or Sportcutter 8-Knife floating head cutting units, the Hydraulic 5/7 features individual control over the four outer units enabling variations in working width to be achieved.

The Iseki TR63 provides the ideal partner generating 63 hp from a

Perkins direct injection diesel engine that gives a cleaner burn and low exhaust and noise emissions. The air-conditioned cab with wide opening doors for easy access offers superb comfort and excellent visibility especially for trailed equipment. PTO and four-wheel drive are electro-hydraulically engaged with push button control.

## Toro's new signing becomes a part of the team

Toro applied its 'Red Iron' livery to its newly-acquired range of Multi-Core aerators, and showed the machines in public for the first time at Saltex. The move to swap Multi-Core aerators' familiar blue clothes for Toro's traditional red-and-black look follows the purchase by The Toro Company, of Minneapolis, USA, of the machine's British company.

The acquisition has brought the product into the full range of Toro turf maintenance machinery and greatly enhanced the company's aeration range with equipment.

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

The new Toro Topdresser 1800 offers greater application control with a new belt design and improved brush performance. A redesigned, easy-to-change V belt improves performance even when handling wet sand or delivering fine applications. The faster-spinning brush and improved metering gate ensure that precisely the desired amount of sand is applied.

The 1800 topdresser is designed and built for use with the Toro Workman utility vehicle. It utilises the Workman's hydraulic system and is controlled with console-mounted levers. The unit has an 18cu ft hopper and can operate at speeds up to 8mph.

Another Toro product on show which is currently receiving a lot of interest is the Contour 82 Deck. This deck is fitted to the company's Groundsmaster 3000-D out-front rotary mower and is designed to produce an even cut without scalping on heavily-contoured ground. The spe-



cial deck comprises four independent, 22 inch-wide cutting chambers that are linked together to form a complete deck. Each section can flex

up and down by 20 degrees to 'float' over bumps and drop into hollows to hug the ground contours for a smooth, consistent cut.



# John Deere's new utility vehicles unveiled at Saltex

John Deere's new E-Gator utility vehicle is powered by a whisper-quiet electric motor. For anyone concerned about noise levels and exhaust emissions in the workplace, the E-Gator provides a clean, quiet, durable and efficient option for a variety of turf and golf course applications.

This four wheel, two seater electric utility vehicle offers the same advantages as the established petrol and diesel Gator models: low ground pressure to help prevent ground compaction; simple, smooth and reliable operation; and easy access to all service points for convenient maintenance.

Designed for quick acceleration and steady performance between charges, the E-Gator offers numerous safety features, including overspeed and roll-away control. This prevents the vehicle from freewheeling down a slope when either carrying a light load or left unattended with the parking brake off; an anti-rollback function also prevents it from freewheeling in the opposite direction.

Dynamic braking allows the motor to brake as the driver lifts a foot off the accelerator. The speed control governs the vehicle at a top forward speed of 15.5mph, or 8 to 10mph in reverse, and helps maintain a constant speed when travelling up or down slopes. In addition, a directional change control slows the vehicle to a stop when moving from forward to reverse.

The vehicle's charger plugs into a 240V ac, 60Hz wall unit and draws the maximum amount of current allowed, to reduce charging time; the charger senses when the charge cycle is complete and

shuts down automatically.

It runs on Hi-Flotation turf tyres and can tow up to 272kg, with a total payload capacity of 408kg. It will be available from spring 2000.

John Deere's new Pro Gator utility vehicle was officially launched in the UK and Ireland at the Show. It can be used as a general materials transporter or with specialist turf maintenance equipment for a wide range of applications in the golf & turf and commercial grounds care markets.

Designed as a heavy duty addition to the Gator range, this four wheel, two seater vehicle is available with a 24hp diesel engine and a choice of two or optional four wheel drive.


The Pro Gator has a five forward, one reverse speed synchronised transmission, with full front and rear suspension, hydraulic drum brakes on all four wheels plus differential lock, hydrostatic power steering and a maximum speed of nearly 20mph. The tilting steering wheel has a choice of five positions for maximum driver comfort, and there is a large eight gallon fuel tank.

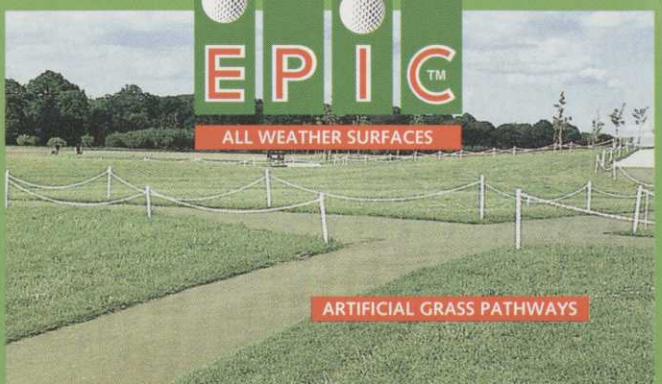
The standard tipping cargo box has a capacity of 876kg, and towing capacity at the rear hitch is 680kg.

In addition to the cargo box, it can be fitted with a range of different attachments utilising the vehicle's hydraulic services and mechanical pto. These include sprayers, spreaders, top dressers, materials collection systems and adapter kits for other turf maintenance equipment.


An optional cab can also be fitted in place of the standard ROPS frame.









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## Sisis drift along with Ecospray

The new single unit SISIS ECOSPRAY has been designed for use on small areas of natural or synthetic turf, sites with restricted access and hard surfaces such as pavements, car parks etc.

One of the major problems of carrying out selective weed control is waiting for exactly the right weather conditions, particularly wind velocity. Spray drift can damage neighbouring properties, pollute water courses or affect ornamental flower beds. New MAFF codes of practice state that "all pesticides must be contained within the area intended for application" - in other words no drift.

The single-unit "no-drift" ECOSPRAY incorporates the same shrouded spraying unit as those used on the well established tractor models. The patented mesh shroud was developed following extensive research at Cranfield University and scientifically designed to allow the correct amount of air flow to reduce drift to a minimum, while maintaining the correct spray pattern. Bubble jet nozzles are fitted to give a hollow droplet which bursts to give a more uniform droplet size. The shrouded spraying head can be offset to left or right to ensure spray goes right to the edge.

All controls are on the handle which is spring loaded to ensure operator comfort. The spraying head lifts and locks for ease of transport, calibration, change of nozzles etc.

## Fertiliser range expanded at Headland

Headland Amenity has expanded their range of fertilisers based on Multi-K potassium nitrate.

"Multi-K potassium nitrate has many advantages as a turf fertiliser and is ideally suited for use in our climatic conditions," said Mark Hunt, Headland's Fertiliser Product Manager.

Headland has added a mini-prill formulation of Multi-K potassium nitrate, to its existing water soluble and coated products. Multi-K Mini Prill is 1.2mm prill suitable for application to all fine and close mown turf.

The prill breaks down quickly on contact with moisture and provides a rapid response even at low soil temperatures.

"Turf managers now have a choice when applying Multi-K," said Hunt, they can either spray using the water-soluble formulation or apply the mini prill through a spreader as conditions dictate".

With an analysis of 13+0+46, Multi-K Mini Prill is ideally suited as an autumn/winter or spring starter fertiliser.

All Multi-K products are sulphur free, and this linked with their oxidising nature, can help counteract the formation of 'black layer'.



The Show saw the launch of the Ecosol Aero-Fil System from Ecosolve Ltd. The drill and fill aerator is designed to relieve compaction instantly, penetrate the hardest soils, backfill accurately up to 30cm, improve water infiltration, increase root depth and is gentle on the turf which enables play to resume immediately. Launched at the same time was Ecosol Sportslite, a zeolite soil amendment designed to be used with the Ecosol Aero-fil system's drill and fill.

## Stihl launch their new scrub cutter

The introduction of a new scrub cutter from STIHL, allows tidy cutting alongside roads, paths, planted and play areas, as the cutting blades operate like a mower beam and material literally falls where it is cut.

The FH75 scrub cutter is operated in the same way as a brushcutter, with the cutter bar mounted on a long, loop-handled shaft which is swung in an arcing action close to the ground. The cutter bar can be set to nine different angles between zero and 90 degrees, enhancing the tool's versatility as it can be instantly adapted to suit different cutting situations.

An additional benefit of the FH75 scrub cutter is the user's ability to see the tip of the cutting head during operation enabling a more accurate cut around tender and static objects.

The FH75 is highly versatile and clearly suited to a wide range of applications from road, rail and highway maintenance to park, nursery and garden care.





## Kubota go for the triple at Saltex



Kubota has extended its range of professional grass-care products with the G18 GlideCut - the world's first triple-bladed through-cut mower with integral rear-mounted grass collector.

Equipped with a 1.2m wide, three-bladed rotary cutter deck and rear collector which can be emptied hydraulically from the driving seat, the Kubota G18 GlideCut has a low noise, low emissions 18hp diesel engine, single pedal hydrostatic transmission and power steering.

The G18 GlideCut's low centre of gravity, clean cut and high workrate make it equally suited to maintaining most areas of amenity grass where clip-

pings need to be collected and disposed of cleanly, quickly and efficiently.

Features of the G18 GlideCut which will be of particular benefit to users are its:

- Quick-attach 1.2m wide triple-bladed cutter deck
- Narrow overall working width of just 1.26m
- Low noise, low emissions Kubota 18hp water-cooled E-TVCS diesel engine
- Comfortable and easily accessible flat floor operator's platform
- Shaft-driven transmission and mower deck, with hydraulic deck lift
- Simple dial-type cuffing height

adjustment from 25mm - 102mm

- Large 22 litre diesel tank
- Large tyres all-round: 16 x 6.8 -8 front, 23 x 10.5 -12 rear
- Single pedal hydrostatic drive giving a maximum travelling speed of 9.5mph
- 500 litre capacity rear grass collector

Safety features on the Kubota G18 GlideCut include a neutral start switch, a seat cut-out switch to the mower drive, a blade-brake clutch and a mower cut-out switch when the rear grass collector is tipped for emptying.

## Latest release from STRI a hit

Turfgrass Titles of the World was launched by the STRI at Saltex.

This new catalogue is a landmark in the history of publishing within the Turfgrass Industry. It pulls together from around the world the widest range of Turfgrass Titles available from a single source. Although a leading publisher and supplier of turfgrass titles since 1929, STRI has never before been able to offer such a comprehensive list of books and publications through its mail-order service.

This first edition of the catalogue contains 57 titles covering all aspects of turf management and maintenance, design, construction, drainage, irrigation, turfgrass research, ecology etc. for golf courses, sports facilities, stadia, racecourses, sports grounds and recreational areas. The second edition, planned for the millennium, will expand to include almost 200 titles.

All books ordered via the catalogue can be sourced and dispatched direct from STRI with a single payment.

The new book catalogue is available free of charge from STRI.

## 'Best Value' from Barenbrug

Barenbrug launched its Best Value range of turfgrass seed, which makes it easier to find high quality cultivars at great value prices.

There is a Fine Turf Mixture for ornamental lawns, golf and bowling greens; Sports Turf Construction and Renovation for football, rugby and hockey; Sports and General Landscaping Mixture for parks, open spaces, housing and industrial estates; Low Maintenance, featuring Barkoel; an MOT-Approved Mixture for roadside verges, embankments and roundabouts; plus Barflora, a general-purpose wildflower seed mixture.

Barkoel is also one of Barenbrug's listings in the STRI Turfgrass Seed 2000, showing improved shoot density. It offers ultimate low maintenance, reducing mowing by 40%. It has withstood close mowing down to 5mm and performs best under a very low nitrogen regime. Low input requirements mean savings in fertilisation, mowing and irrigation. Barkoel also works well in conjunction with wildflowers.

Another new cultivar is Barlouise, a dwarf perennial ryegrass which scored the highest in the 'slow regrowth under regular mowing' category. One of the best new cultivars in resisting red thread, it makes a superb component in any medium fine turf mixture.

## Etesia's Attila battles the toughest rough

Following on from its Attila ride-on brushcutter, Etesia launched the Attila AV5 1 - a heavy-duty pedestrian-controlled machine.

This 51cm brushcutter is ideal for sites where access is restricted and for taming wild areas such as woodland rides, fire breaks plus weed control in plantations.

Powered by the latest Kawasaki FC 180 6hp OHV engine this machine is capable of taking on the roughest and toughest of conditions. Extra large diameter rear wheels have wide tread tyres for traction grip and all four wheels are mounted on ball bearings for long life.

The chassis is manufactured from boxed steel and three forward gears and one reverse transmission enable the operator to match the machine's travel to suit prevailing conditions. There is a differential lock for extra traction when it is needed on difficult terrain.

All the controls have been designed for ease of use and two central levers adjust the cutting height. These can be removed to avoid snagging on undergrowth.



Next month we will list more of the new products on show at Saltex





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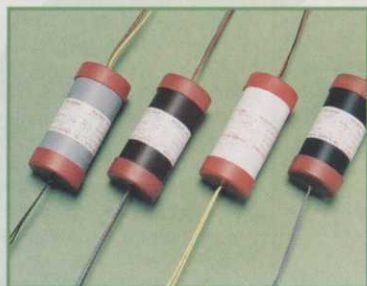
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# Buyers' Guide

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Last month, Iain Turnbull of John O'Gaunt Golf Club, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

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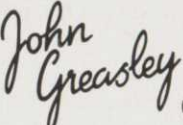
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To place an advertisement in the Recruitment Section, call Cheryl or Diane now on 01347 833800





## HARLEYFORD GOLF PLC

*This exclusive and historic parkland course, designed by Donald Steel, now requires a*

# COURSE MANAGER

Responsible to the Executive Operations Director for the management and maintenance of the course, the successful applicant will be qualified to minimum C & G Level 3 and have held a similar post for the last 3 years.

Sound inter-personal skills together with relevant experience in all aspects of modern greenkeeping, leadership, man management and statutory regulations (COSHH, H & S etc) are essential.

A competitive remuneration package is available.

Accommodation is negotiable.

Please apply with full C.V. and details of current salary, to:

Executive Operations Director, Harleyford Golf Plc.,  
Harleyford Estate, Henley Road, Marlow, Buckinghamshire SL7 2SP

*Closing Date October 15, 1999*

*Applications should be marked: "Course Manager - Strictly Private & Confidential"*

## CHOBHAM GOLF CLUB

# HEAD Greenkeeper

Chobham Golf Club is a private members club situated near Woking in Surrey.

We are currently looking for a replacement Head Greenkeeper for our 18 hole parkland course.

Reporting to the Management Committee via the General Manager, this demanding role includes responsibility for the management of highly committed and experienced green staff, the maintenance and continued development of a healthy, high quality golf course, the effective deployment of modern machinery and equipment coupled with compliance of all health and safety and environment regulations.

Suitable applicants must have relevant experience and up to date knowledge of all modern aspects of greenkeeping methods along with the ability to plan and manage both work programmes and staff.

A competitive negotiable salary is on offer.

Accommodation is not available.

All applications will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

Applications should be made in writing accompanied by a full CV stating current salary and sent to:

Chris Kennedy, General Manager/Membership Secretary,  
Chobham Golf Club, Chobham Road, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey, GU21 2TZ

## HINDLEY HALL GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

The Club has a well established moorland course celebrating its' centenary in 2005.

We require a competent, experienced person who is both progressive and self motivated. A practical knowledge of greenkeeping machinery, irrigation systems and current Health & Safety at Work Regulations will be required together with excellent man-management skills.

Salary and Conditions Negotiable

(Commensurate with experience and qualifications)

Accommodation is not provided.

Applications in writing enclosing full CV to:

The Secretary, Hindley Hall Golf Club,  
Hall Lane, Hindley, Wigan, Greater Manchester WN2 2SQ

*Closing date for applications 15 October 1999*



## Cardiff Golf Club

# COURSE MANAGER/ HEAD GREENKEEPER

A parkland course established in 1922, Cardiff Golf Club is a private members club, situated in the suburbs of the Capital City.

The successful applicant will report to the Club Secretary in close liaison with the Chairman of Green.

This demanding role includes responsibility for the management of experienced green staff, the maintenance and development of a mature tree lined course, the effective deployment and care of modern machinery, equipment and a computerised irrigation system.

The Club complies with all Health & Safety and Environmental Regulations.

Cardiff Golf Club is one of only two in the Principality involved in a 5yr Ecology Study, supported by the Welsh golfing Union and has won the Regional Award in the 1999 BIGGA Golf Environment competition.

The successful applicant will be expected to demonstrate relevant skills, knowledge and experience, coupled with a determination to achieve excellence in a team-working environment.

The remuneration package available will reflect the Club's desire to appoint an applicant of the highest calibre.

Written applications with a comprehensive curriculum vitae (to include details of current salary), should be sent in strict confidence to:

The Secretary, Cardiff Golf Club, Sherborne Avenue, Cyncoed, Cardiff CF23 6SJ





Founded 1907

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for the above position

The primary responsibilities of this position are as follows:

Maintenance of the golf course to a consistent and high standard. Management and development of all greenkeeping staff. Administration of project and maintenance programmes. Input and control regarding course financial budgets.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate:

A good working knowledge of modern golf course management practices and techniques, including the appropriate use and basic servicing of, turf maintenance machinery.

A recognised qualification in the appropriate field of horticulture and greenkeeping, as well as a positive approach to further training and professional enhancement.

The ability to play golf and to empathise with the requirements of a diversified playing membership.

Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

Concise CV and hand written letter of application in the first instance to:

**The Secretary/Manager, Ilford Golf Club,  
291 Wanstead Park Road, Ilford, IG1 3TR**

*Closing date for applications Wednesday 20th October 1999*

## WEST WILTS GOLF CLUB LTD

Invites applications for the position of

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

Founded in 1891 West Wilts is a mature downland Private Members Club.

The position becomes vacant early in 2000 following retirement.

The successful applicant will:

- Be fully qualified and experienced in all aspects of modern golf course management.
- Be responsible for maintaining the highest standards of the course.
- Be self motivated with good man-management skills.
- Be a 'hands-on' leader able to work closely with his team.
- Have sound knowledge of Health & Safety obligations and the ability to implement them.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary, West Wilts Golf Club Ltd  
Elm Hill, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 0AU

## BLACKMOOR GOLF CLUB

Require a

### FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Minimum qualification of NVQ Level 2 with PA1, PA2A and PA6A spraying certificates.

Must have at least 3 years experience and knowledge of all modern greenkeeping methods.

Should be pro-active with the ability to organise work programmes and motivate staff.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

Head Greenkeeper, Blackmoor Golf Club,  
Firgrove Road, Bordon, Hants GU35 9EH

### LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT - GROUNDS MAINTENANCE DSO

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

Post No: L-SM-014

Salary Scale 6 £16,719 - £17,838 p.a.

Hours: 36 1/4 per week, flexible according to the demands of the service with the need for evening and weekend working

Base: Haigh Hall and Country Park - Golf Course Development

A Head Greenkeeper is required for the exciting redevelopment of the Haigh Hall Golf Course in Wigan, Lancashire. The redevelopment, which is now underway following a grant award of £2.2m from the Sports Lottery Unit, includes:

- The reconstruction and upgrading of the existing 18 hole course.
- The construction of a new 9 hole starter course and a purpose built golf practice and training area - the "academy" - designed to identify and foster young talent.
- The construction of a large "Himalayan" putting green.
- The renovation and construction of a golf visitor centre and extension to the Haigh golf shop and administration office.

You will ideally have a minimum of three years' experience in golf or grounds maintenance, be qualified to NVQ 3 in Amenity Horticulture - Sports Turf Maintenance including spraying and have a practical knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems.

The Head Greenkeeper will be responsible for the maintenance of the golf facilities and estate grounds, with the following principal duties:

- Presentation of the golf facilities and estate grounds to a high and consistent standard.
- Budget management and control.
- Management of human resources.
- Effective utilisation of plant and equipment.

You will be self motivated with a "hands-on" approach to practical work, as well as having the ability to communicate with a wide range of people, including the development contractor, throughout the redevelopment period.

For an informal discussion contact Paul Barton, Finance and Development Manager, on 01942 731401.

Application forms, job descriptions and person specifications are available from the Grounds Maintenance DSO, The Depot House, Frog Lane, Wigan WN6 7LB. Tel: 01942 731406. PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO THIS ADDRESS.

Closing date: 29th October 1999.

*This Authority operates a No Smoking Policy*

## METROPOLITAN WIGAN

*"The Council is committed to Equal Opportunities in employment and welcomes applications from all sections of the community"*



LEAMINGTON & COUNTY GOLF CLUB

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful candidate will take over from the existing Head Greenkeeper and will report to the Greens Committee.

The following qualities are sought:

- Experienced and qualified in all aspects of modern greenkeeping
- Practical knowledge of machinery and computerised irrigation systems
- Capable of motivating, directing and working with our existing team of greenkeepers
- Capable of implementing a 5 year course development plan
  - Capable of working within financial budgets
- Sensitivity and drive to maintain a first class golf course

The remuneration package is negotiable and a contributory pension will be offered.

Applications and expected salary with full CV to:

The Administrator, Leamington & County GC, Golf Lane, Whitnash, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 2QA



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**BTME VISITOR HOTLINE 01347 833833 BTME EXHIBITOR HOTLINE 01347 833800**

# WIN!

Welcome to part two of the BTME 2000 competition, and your chance to win an all-expenses trip to Harrogate!

BTME 2000 has more exhibitors than ever before, providing a kaleidoscope of new and exciting products and equipment available to the fine turf professional.

On January 17, the National Education Conference will kick start the week of events, followed by the BTME Exhibition. In keeping with tradition, The Learning Experience will run alongside the show with its usual selection of high quality workshops, providing invaluable training for its delegates. New additions for 2000 include 'Computing for Greenkeepers' and Golf Course Preparation, places of which are expected to be of high demand. Contact Sami Collins on 01347 833800 for further details.

#### **SO, YOU WANT TO BE PART OF BTME2000?**

Well here's your chance...

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of our three fantastic BTME package prizes is to answer six simple questions. There were two last month, two in this issue, shown below, and the final two will appear in next month's Greenkeeper International. When you have completed all the answers, fill in the entry form, printed in the November edition of Greenkeeper International and you could be on your way to Harrogate on an all expenses paid mini-break to BTME 2000.

#### **OCTOBER QUESTIONS:**

1. Name one of the new workshops introduced for BTME2000
2. Which Hall makes its debut at BTME2000?

Remember, Don't send in your answers yet, keep them safe until you receive the entry form, printed in next month's 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 nights accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate with entry into the exhibition and all the education seminar sessions.



# A woman's role



People have been asking me recently if I have taken up the very kind offer from Stephen Okula when he invited me in the March issue to his Tenerife home for a chat on the maintenance of USGA spec greens.

Well, despite his generosity, I have decided to decline on the grounds that it is impossible to walk down a beach at any of the Canary Islands without being visually assaulted on a regular basis by a series of out of condition Bavarians wearing nothing more than a back-pack. Quite a traumatic experience for us Brits, especially after that most traditional of Canarian meals, the Full English Breakfast.

But before our Editor receives a mass of complaints from the greenkeepers wing of the Naturists Association of Deutschland, may I point out that my comments are not to be taken too seriously, as has been the unfortunate case in the past.

However the following anecdote, I can assure you is entirely factual and was recounted to me by my Brother the celebrated portrait artist, Leonardo McDivot.

My brother has a long-standing female friend who confided to him a story that had been an acute embarrassment to her for a long time. With her resolve severely diluted by a cheap bottle of wine she recounted this horrific tale in the strictest confidence. This he then told to me in not quite such strict confidence and with a total and blatant lack of confidentiality I will now faithfully relate it to a few thousand greenkeepers in the hope that she is not a regular reader of this publication.

She was seeing a young man who was to become her future hubby and the time had arrived when she was



required to meet the family. As we are all aware this can be the most stressful of duties at the best of times but in this case the family was of English nobility background and the house a stately affair complete with gazebos, orangeries, servants quarters, lodges and such like.

So the day arrived and she pulled up outside the ancestral home in her Mini Metro. Having coped with the initial introductions and navigated her way through the tea and cucumber sandwiches without too many lapses of etiquette, she was then required to tackle the evening dinner. This in keeping with normal protocol in the land of the gentry was a ceremonial affair that entailed dressing up in full ball gown regalia.

Towards the end though, she found it necessary to excuse herself to the powder room. At this point events started to take on a somewhat surreal perspective. This is a very delicate subject but I will try to explain what happened as inoffensively as possible. To her absolute horror the product of the preceding meals steadfastly refused to disappear no matter how many times the chain was pulled.

Panic then started to set in and as time was elapsing her stressed brain was blowing up the problem to global proportions. Convincing herself that she had committed the most heinous crime imaginable against polite society, her behaviour became utterly irrational and using large quantities of toilet paper she picked up the offending object and lobbed it out of the window. Having reassured herself that the nightmare was finally over, she brushed herself down, regained some composure and went back down to rejoin the family in the dining room.

The problem was she did not find them in the dining room. They were in the conservatory gazing up at this strange object that had suddenly splattered itself all over the glass roof.

In telling of this girl's painful experience I wish to highlight the difference between the cerebral workings of men and women. Placed in a similar situation most men would not become overly worried and would either:

a) Forget about it, reasoning that the butler would probably sort the problem out, or,

b) Especially if he is a greenkeeper, take the top off the cistern and relish the prospect of carrying out some on the spot adjustments with the ball valve to effect a permanent cure to the problem.

That is not to say that we men are in some way superior to our female counterparts. Far from it. It is just that we have a different way of viewing things.

For instance, I am of the opinion that if most men were left to their own devices it would not be long before a deep rooted basal instinct would kick in and we would degenerate into a life of concentrated drunken slobbery. I myself have found this particular desire difficult to control on many occasions. But as we have our female brethren to guard over us, they manage by way of a superior strength of will and prolonged verbal persuasion to discourage these genetic urges and instead lead us down the path of domestic duties.

Some may argue that their brains are incorrectly wired leading to a series of illogical conclusions based on nothing more than women's intuition. This is clearly untrue. For example, when my dearly beloved moved into a previous abode of mine that had resisted all my attempts to sell, she drew my myopic attention to the fact that the sparse black and white furnishings and stark empty spaces devoid of all feelings of homeliness were not helping me in my quest to attract the punters.

I was also made aware, in a brutally frank manner of the fact that vacuuming the carpets on a quarterly

basis was generally considered insufficient. It was also pointed out to me that my theory of living in conditions of total squalor would help me build up long term resistance to disease was not necessarily conducive to a quick sale.

Having made a few simple refinements such as the addition of cushions, flowers and what I considered the most tasteless of all, little cheruby type ornaments, a path was beaten to my door by eager buyers with full-asking-price bundles of cash in hand. So in this instance it was I, a fairly typical male who was unable to reach a conclusion based on simple logic.

Intelligence can and should not be rated on the ability one has in tackling an IQ test.

For example, ask me who came second in the 1973 British Open and I could relay such information of unmitigated boredom to my heart's content.

Ask me what colour would look good with magenta and I would fumble about hopelessly for an inept answer. Given my position of Head Greenkeeper in charge of not only a golf course but also several areas of flowers and assorted shrubbery, what ability do you think would be most appropriate?

My amazing talent to recall in detail the picture of Neil Coles striding down the last fairway at Troon, complete with ill fitting trousers and hideous jumper, several shots behind Tom Weiskopf or my equally amazing lack of talent at deciding what shrubs would look most impressive adjacent to the Captain's parking spot. With all due respect to Neil Coles, the ability to visualise horticultural artistry would win every time. Put the wife in a similar situation and she would notice those little details that are completely invisible to us males. The Captain's Rover, she would observe, always seems to come in a colour that matches his hearing aids and planting

would be appropriately harmonious.

Which finally brings me to my long-winded conclusion. The current trend of encouraging women into the world of greenkeeping is long overdue and should be encouraged at every opportunity.

Of course it is not only for a women's ability to design planting schemes that we should employ and promote. It is also for all the subtle touches that can be so lacking in the male of the species and simply because a different perspective on problems can often be the key in which to solve them. But it doesn't stop there. Have we not all noticed how supply companies are deploying that most fiendish of sales tactics, the female rep. Well maybe it is time the tables were turned. My wife can haggle with a man to the point where agreeing her terms is the only viable alternative to a nervous breakdown. Her powers of persuasion are incredible. I still spend many hours awake at night trying to comprehend how she managed to get the mortgage in my name yet the house in hers. She, like many of her associates, can go on a shopping spree of frightening proportions and yet still convince me by some obscure logic that she has saved me a fortune.

Employ women to do your purchasing and that 10% discount you were so chuffed at getting will be a thing of the past. 20% or 30% will be the norm.

So I say to all my macho colleagues out there Go Forth! Remove those tacky calendars given to you each year by the tractor spare's company and employ the fairer sex. You have the word of Sandy McDivot (and proud of it), I promise, you will not regret it.

**Sandy McDivot.**  
Head Greenkeeper: Sludgecombe Pay and Play.



## Feature listing from October '97

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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



# GTC update



tion and renovation with Souter of Stirling Sportsturf Ltd.

John Davies represents education. John has too many qualifications to mention here but to give you a sample he holds certificates in agriculture, engineering, health and safety, pesticides and education. He is an Internal Verifier with D32-33 and 34. John has been in education for over 30 years.

As well as its five members, The Technical Committee can call upon other experts in specialist fields as they see fit. Our job on the management must be to support and try to implement their ideas as far as possible. I personally feel this is a good and positive move in the right direction.

On September 7th I joined our team at Saltex. The weather was good for all three days, and although I feel the numbers were down on some years past, the BIGGA stand was very busy. The staff made many new contacts and took in lots of new members.

For myself, I was kept busy stand judging and attending meetings, so I'm sorry if I missed some of you when you visited the BIGGA stand. However, it was nice to meet so many of you, both greenkeepers and trade members. I would like to express my thanks and those of our staff to Chris Kennedy who kindly arranged for us to have dinner at Wentworth Golf Club on Wednesday evening. We were looked after like royalty and the food was superb. Thanks Chris. Also thanks to Richard Fry, who invited us to join him at the Ascot Oriental for a wonderful night, it was much appreciated. Finally I would like to thank the girls who worked so hard for three long days on our behalf.

Here we are at the end of another season, the last of this century. In many ways it's been good for some and not so good for others, depending where you live and work. Down

south, it started off wet with a dry June, very wet July and a dry August, but in the north and more so in Scotland, they have had more than their fair share of rain, but one thing has remained constant and that is the pressure put on greenkeepers, sometimes unfairly, but sometimes by our own stubbornness to accept change. I get many calls and letters from members who have got problems, some you can help and others which are far and away outside my or any other greenkeepers ability to help.

This is where legal advice comes in though your membership. Countless members have been grateful for this part of their package deal, but for many there seems to be a reluctance to use what is their right as a BIGGA member. The advice you can get is invaluable, not just for work related problems, but for home and personal difficulties as well. I don't care how many of you make contact with me, I will always try to point you in the right direction, and I'm happy to do so, but take a piece of advice, when your membership renewal drops through your door, don't just put it on one side, take a good careful read and make sure you know what's in it for you. It is an excellent package and one we should be proud of.

Finally, the seminar season is coming round again and I look forward to the chance of meeting lots of you again, if not at the regional ones, then at BTME in January. There is still lots to learn by us all. We will never know it all, so let's take every opportunity that's on offer.

Gordon Child

I am pleased to report that at the last GTC meeting things seem to have settled down with a more positive move to go forward. It may be early to be sure, but the signs are that everyone at the meeting were there to make a fresh start on the back of the Lantra Report. A new Technical Committee was appointed, and its responsibility is to assist the Education Director and propose to the Management Committee the way forward in its educational objectives, to prepare and maintain a three year on - going plan of GTC activities as well as identifying training priorities. The Technical Committee consists of the following personnel and the bodies they represent.

Dr Mike Canaway STRI, of whose credentials I am sure you are all aware.

Kerran Daly BIGGA, Course Manager at Gog Magog Golf Club, a Master Greenkeeper and also a GTC Assessor. Kerran holds a Certificate of Education along with Phases 3 & 4 and Diplomas in Golf Management and Turf Culture.

Tony Mears GTC, Course Manager Dinsdale Spa Golf Club. Tony is an Internal Verifier for the GTC with a D34 Certificate to add to his D32 - D33 and D36 Assessor and Advisors Certificates.

Iain Ritchie, Golf Superintendent, Portmarnock Golf Club, is currently President of the GCSAI and holds a Certificate in Turf Grass Management, along with qualifications in construc-







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