

**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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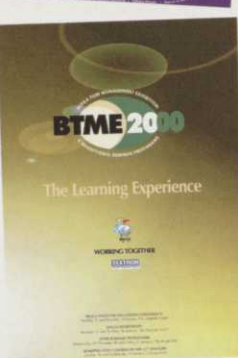
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**Green Release**

If you are having problems with your greens or are looking to improve them further, come and talk to us at the Aitkens Stand.

Black Layer, Thatch, thin sward, whatever your problem our microbial products can help. Not only that, we will achieve this using less fertility and less chemicals, as a healthier plant is under less stress.  
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**British Seed Houses**

Tel: 01925 654411 Fax: 01925 230682  
E-mail: [bshwarr.co.uk](mailto:bshwarr.co.uk)

Independent trials show that Avalon velvet bent is now outperforming all other bents in terms of shoot density and fineness of leaf. Particularly suited for the autumn overseeding of older greens, Avalon produces the highest quality turf of any species under close, frequent mowing and has a much better low temperature, shade and drought tolerance than other bents. Improve your greens this autumn.

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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.

**See us at Scotsturf**



**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

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### 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.

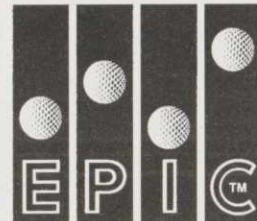
New launches include the Flexplate Surface Iron attachment to smooth out the playing surface behind the aerator. This implement may well become as essential to aeration as the extremely successful Flexblade Core Collector which enables aeration and core collection in one pass rendering the old windrow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

Sportsgrounds Ltd.,  
Stoney Brae, Potterhill, Paisley PA2 7TG  
Tel: 0141 884 7525 Fax: 0141 844 6252



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tractors

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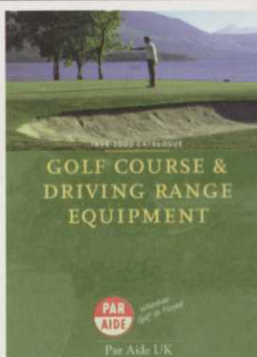
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### Marlwood/Double A Trading Co

The Articulator rotary Mowers from LasTec Inc. cut the most challenging semi-rough and rough turf with ease and precision. The 621ER, launched at Saltex '99, has a combined cutting width of 10' 6" and is a simple, tough, wide area finish mower suited to customers with less extreme terrain. Also exhibiting at Scotsturf is the 425D ride-on, the 721X rear-mounted mower and the 325 series. Articulators contour undulating turf without scalping!



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### Par Aide UK Equipment

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