



# Greenkeeper

December 2000 - £3.50

INTERNATIONAL



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of the  
**Best**

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION

# BTME 2001

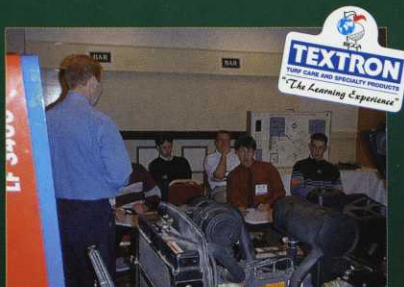
& EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME



#### THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

The BTME 2001 event combines the National Education Conference - 'The Learning Experience' - sponsored by Textron Turf Care with the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. The formal conference is supplemented with practical Greenkeeping workshops and a Seminar programme which means there is plenty to interest everyone involved in the golf and fine turf industry from Master Greenkeepers to Assistant Greenkeepers.

The event attracts Golf Greenkeepers from all over the world, encouraging learning, debate and an exchange of ideas and experience. The programme is available to both BIGGA members and non-members, although members receive preferential rates. While the technical forums are primarily concerned with Golf Course maintenance and greenkeeping issues, many of the sessions are equally relevant to general turf maintenance and groundsman-ship, and would interest those working in other sportsturf sectors. The programme also has a keynote speaker and seminars which will be of particular interest for Chairmen of Green and Golf Club secretaries.



#### CONFERENCE

**22nd and 23rd January 2001, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate**

Sessions include the following topics and speakers:

##### Growing

David Lawson, STRI; Dennis Mortram, Reaseheath; Dr. Paul Rieke, Michigan Univ

##### Human Resource Management

Frank Newberry, Duncan McGilvray, Potters Bar GC; Brin Bendon, Vector Training

##### Water Management

Graeme Francis, Hydroscape; Junier Brown, NRA; Kneale Diamond, Hanbury Manor GC

##### Environmental Management

Martin Gunn and Malcolm Peake, Temple GC; Rob Witherspoon, Guelph Turfgrass Institute Canada; Jonathan Smith, Scottish Wildlife Trust

#### Workshops run concurrently with the Conference sessions and include:

Basic Machinery Maintenance, Computer Skills, Golf Course Design and Grasses/Soil Science



#### SEMINARS

**Wednesday 24 January 2001**

Keynote speaker: Richard Noble of Thrust 2 World Landspeed Record fame

The Law and the Golf Club, Health & Safety, Golf and the Environment - the US experience, Erosion Control and Mulching

**Thursday 25 January 2001**

Golfdom Magazine, Changes in Training Provision, Topdressing - Material Standards, An overview of Australian Golf Courses - problems and solutions

#### EXHIBITION

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition has been held at Harrogate since 1989 and is the biggest indoor show of its kind in Europe. Over 6,000 visitors and more than 200 Turfcare Industry manufacturers and suppliers were present at last year's show, and there will be even more in 2001 with the addition of a new exhibition hall. The exhibition is open from 9.00am to 5.30pm Wednesday and Thursday and from 9.00am to 1.30pm on Friday.



#### BANQUET

The week's events are rounded off on the Thursday evening with a banquet in the Harrogate International Centre. Cabaret entertainment this year will be provided by 60's pop sensation 'The Searchers' and singer Susan Maughan.

# 24-26 JANUARY, 2001

## EDUCATION PROGRAMME STARTS JANUARY 22

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## A guide to who's who at BIGGA

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



## 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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Mike Eastwood, J H Fry, J H Greasley, David S Robinson, Stuart Townsend

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# December 2000

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by January 8, 2001

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Ken Richardson gives an update on the 2001 Learning Experience, in association with Textron, as well as dates for regional training courses

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Deal me in. David McInroy, of Scottish Grass Machinery, explains just what a dealer can offer to you, the customer



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Helping you track down some of Greenkeeper International's previous articles

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BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small, passes on his thought to those suffering in the floods, takes in the Northern Ireland Education Conference and the final of the Toro Awards

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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## The 2000 Toro Awards

The final judging of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student of the Year Award uncovered two wonderful winners in Iain Ritchie and Jonathan Cleland.

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## Features

### 8 10 Good Men and True

Neil Thomas reports on the selection of the ten delegates who will represent the Association on the Bernhard-sponsored trip to the CCSA Conference and Show in Vancouver, Canada, next year

### 10 Budget Boosters

Roland Taylor looks at a few ways to generate extra cash

### 21 2001: A Greenkeeping Odyssey

Would you believe Harrogate is just around the corner again? The opportunities to inform and enjoy yourself are already in place for what should be a tremendous occasion



# Beware of Groundhog Day

There can't have been too many occasions in the last 30 years that have witnessed the scale of flooding we experienced at the end of October and beginning of November. It was truly horrific and a large proportion of the population suffered to some degree or another.

At the sharp end, and that included a number of BIGGA staff, homes were flooded and incalculable damage done, not to mention the loss of custom for many shops and businesses in flooded cities, towns and villages. Further down the scale were those people whose routes to work were blocked, and down further to those people who had to cancel weekend trips or recreational pursuits. All in all, a sizable percentage of the British population were affected.

As Elliott Small says in his "As I see it..." column golf courses are not the top priority when compared to people's homes but members will no doubt expect to get back on their courses as soon as is possible, if not sooner, to work out their frustrations on a lump of balata.

I suppose it leads to the pointed question. How tall should the posts for "Course Closed" signs be to keep them visible above water lines?

Regular work schedules go out of the window, winter programmes shelved and the thought of the effort required to bring a course back to its best after the floods have gone is enough to bring grown men to their knees. Which is exactly where those Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers and their teams earn their stripes.

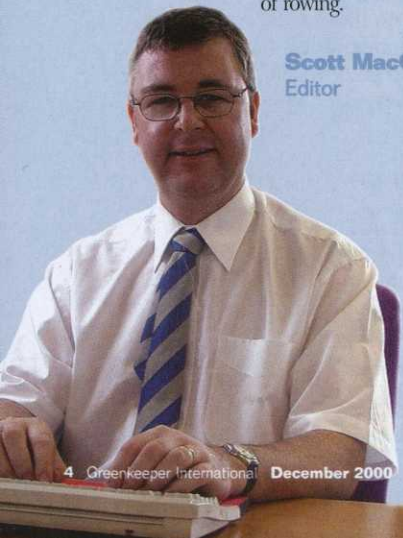
Clearing up debris from sodden ground, ensuring that still saturated areas are roped off and that course furniture is retrieved and repaired can be a thankless task. Particularly if conducted under leaden skies, in the certain knowledge that with water tables at record levels the whole rigmarole will have to be repeated, and not just once. Groundhog Day comes to greenkeeping.

The golf course at Aldwark Manor, home of BIGGA HOUSE, is divided by the River Ure - a tributary of the River Ouse. Normally this flows quietly on, gobbling up the odd ball misdirected from the 14th tee, but as I write it has totally overwhelmed the entire area to the extent that most of the course is under feet of fast flowing water - the same thing happened in June would you believe - and remember we're just at the beginning of the winter. It provides a perfect example of the frequency with which this is likely to occur in the short, medium and long term and the problems which Richard Gamble and his team now face.

Looking at the pictures on page 5 you will see that the 14th fairway at Aldwark Manor looks far more inviting to Steven Redgrave than Lee Westwood.

Perhaps it will not just be the Coxless Four's magnificent achievement in Sydney that is a major shot in the arm to the sport of rowing.

**Scott MacCallum**  
Editor



Address your letters to **The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF**, or email them to [reception@bigga.co.uk](mailto:reception@bigga.co.uk)

## Toro thanks from a valiant Terry

I am writing to thank Toro and BIGGA for organising the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping 2000.

I was fortunate to reach the final four candidates for judging and was England's representative.

Unfortunately I was unsuccessful in winning the main prize, but I feel proud of what the Greenkeeping team has achieved at Dartmouth Golf and Country Club and to have represented England in this prestigious award.

I would like to thank a few people for their part in this achievement. Starting with Ralph Hitchens who originally orchestrated Dartmouth Golf and Country Club and recognised my talent at a very early stage. Members of my greenkeeping staff, for their exceptional efforts in preparing the course during the assessment stages of the competition and their professional approach to their work throughout the year. They were Kevin Yeoman, Graham Sulley, John Farkins, Dave Sroka, Charles Crisp, Neil Carter, Neil Curtis, Steve Reeves and Gene Lee. Thanks also to Jamie Waugh and all the staff and

members of DGCC for their encouragement and good wishes.

This award gives the opportunity for Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers to show their golf course management skills, it motivates and will improve all those who take part in the competition. As golf course management becomes more and more demanding by the golfing public, it is vital that greenkeepers continue to develop themselves and keep up with modern techniques, this will all lead to better playing surfaces for longer periods and greater recognition to the Greenkeeping Industry. I would recommend all Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers to use this competition for improving and developing themselves.

I would finally like to thank everyone associated with this quality competition and wish all the Greenkeepers that I was fortunate to meet at Aldwark Manor, the very best for the future. Well done Iain Ritchie a worthy winner.

**Terry Farkins**  
Course Manager, Dartmouth G&CC

## Praise for BIGGA training courses

I recently attended a Budget & Project Management course which was held at BIGGA HOUSE. I would like to thank Ken Richardson and Sami Collins for supplying us with fantastic facilities and organising a faultless course. I would also like to thank Brin Bendon and his co-helper for once again delivering a good and informative four days of knowledge which was clear and understandable. I would like to congratulate Brin for his efforts in trying to understand our trade. Taking into account that Brin has no experience in golf course management he always relayed his knowledge across to us in a language in which we could relate to and which was received well by the group. This ability enabled the courses to roll along freely without anyone being left in the dark.

On my arrival at BIGGA HOUSE, I was surprised to hear that out of all the courses that had been organised, only the four days that I was attending would be run, even then, there were only six people attending. I have now attended a four day course, once a year for the last three years and I am amazed at the lack of support shown considering these courses have been set by information gained from Greenkeepers

and Course Managers alike. Like every single Greenkeeper, I have had a very busy year and am facing a hectic winter but I always manage to plan my programmes around the courses that I want to attend. I can't understand why a few more people who, like myself, take their careers very seriously and want to progress, don't do the same. Greenkeeping is a very specific art and requires a high standard of training. You guys at BIGGA deliver this standard.

I can strongly recommend that any person attending these courses, do get value for money and gain some sort of knowledge from precise and direct subjects. There is nothing scary or off putting because they have been put together especially for our trade, in a language that everyone can relate to.

Ken, I hope you and your team are able to gain the interest and support you need to continue to produce this high standard of education and the friendly environment to which it is delivered. I will see you next year.

**Anthony Kyle,**  
Head Greenkeeper, Datchet GC

## Sandy McDivot's right to reply

Just a short reply to the letter from A J Mannion in the November edition. Three things basically. Firstly lighten up.

Secondly, you may not like it but in the real world networking or "arse licking" as you so cynically and unimaginatively put it, is considered a highly recognised and essential skill. Big business, politics and industry are littered with people who are specialists at gaining friends and support and as a result become highly sought after as individuals who have the reputation of being able to get things done.

If you remain adamant that you know best, then I strongly suggest reading Dale Carnegie's classic book, "How to win friends and influence people" Although written some 80 odd years ago it is perhaps more relevant today than it has ever been. The title itself sums it up. If you want to influence someone, then the best way is first of all become their friend.

I was not trying to encourage BIGGA members to adopt the principles that have helped me so much, just trying to give people some ideas about how they may be able to relieve the pressure that is sometimes

placed upon them. Often, it is better to look at problems from a different angle and my ideas maybe unorthodox but, who knows, they may just work.

Thirdly, can I point out another basic fact to you? If you do not agree with what I have written, then ignore it. That is the marvellous thing about advice, you don't always have to follow it.

On a different note, can I say how delightful it was to see John Nudds writing in. John, who does not know my true identity, used to maintain Gerrards Cross in that traditional manner that produces greens that I so admired in my October article. He may have got a little bit of stick from some of the less discerning of his members as a result, but owing to his natural charm and friendliness would have come away with the respect that he deserved. No surprise that he became recognised as not only a superb greenkeeper but also as a first class long serving Captain of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon county golf team. Well done John, keep reading the magazine.

**Sandy McDivot, alias, who knows?**  
Head Greenkeeper, Sludgecombe Pay and Play

# The sad loss of a greenkeeper's friend

Immediate Past Chairman, Gordon Child, reflects on the debt greenkeeping owes Fred Hawtree, who died recently.

The 22nd of September 2000 saw the passing of one of the best-known men in golf. It was the day Fred Hawtree died. Fred, like his father before him, was a great ambassador of golf, as an architect. They were looked upon as the best in the business, a mantle that now passes to son Martin.

It is their input and support of greenkeeping, which I want to talk about. Fred's father was known as FG, and was the founder of the BGGGA back in 1912, and along with Beatrice, his wife, administered the Association affairs from their offices in Woodstock. He later became the second President, following his great friend Lord Riddell, who as Chairman of the News of the World presented the trophy that we still play for today.

Fred junior, or FW, followed his father in his support of greenkeeping. He edited the BGGGA magazines for many years and wrote regular columns, as well as being our President. I always think Fred's feeling for greenkeepers showed in everything he did, the way he designed his courses, always took in greenkeeping and maintenance prob-



Fred receives his honorary membership flanked by Gordon Child; wife, Mary; Marion Child and son, Martin

lems, and in a way, many would do well to copy today. Fred never missed an opportunity to promote greenkeeping, giving us a mention in many of his books and papers produced over the years. He travelled all over the UK giving talks to sections or BGGGA, and later BIGGA, never charging a penny for expenses.

It was an honour to be counted as one of his many friends, and Marion and I knew him as Uncle Fred. I will always recall that it was Fred and Mary, his dear wife, who were having dinner with us when I got a call to say that the three Associations had at last agreed to come together to form BIGGA. The approval on Fred's face said it all. He loved to talk about golf and greenkeeping, and

his wonderful collection of golf artefacts. They show his lifelong love affair with the game, indeed a love affair in which he was so generous, that it makes us realise just how little we contribute. My final thoughts of Fred are of when Marion and I travelled to Woodstock on the 28th June last year, when I as your Chairman, presented him with his Honorary Life Membership of BIGGA. Fred was absolutely delighted.

Fred is a great loss to us all and he will be sadly missed. We should be very grateful for everything he represented. The loss will be even greater for Mary and the family, but at least he was spared until after their Diamond Wedding.

# Grass breeders accelerate pace of innovation

New gene mapping technology is helping plant breeders accelerate traditional 'back crossing' techniques and remove much of the trial and error involved in conventional turfgrass breeding methods.

That was the message delivered to turf care professionals from all sectors of the amenity industry at a recent turfgrass breeding open day organised by British Seed Houses at the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER).

"Thanks to the latest gene marker technology, we can now identify desirable turfgrass characteristics more quickly and precisely. This means the pace of innovation in the turfgrass industry is set to accelerate of the next few years," said IGER turfgrass breeder Dr Danny Thorogood.

The IGER turfgrass breeding programme - funded by British Seed Houses since 1987 - has already produced two perennial rye grasses and thanks to new technology, more new rye grass, fescue and bent cultivars will start to emerge shortly.

"Both AberElf and AberImp are rated in a league of their own by the STRI in terms of tolerance to close mowing," Danny Thorogood said.

"AberImp in particular can tolerate being mown to 8mm or less and still maintains complete green cover with unparalleled shoot density.

"These attributes make the varieties good choices for cricket pitches and other closely-mown turf areas. In fact, AberImp is the ideal choice because it has 10% higher summer shoot density under 8mm mowing than any other commercially available rye grass variety," Dr Thorogood pointed out.

Visitors also heard that IGER scientists are now looking at other development issues. For example, turf professionals are demanding low maintenance, sustainable grasses that look good under a variety of environmental conditions.

Consequently, the IGER programme is now combining recognised sportsgrass requirements such as wear tolerance, fineness of leaf and shoot density with aesthetic traits such as colour retention; be this over winter, during drought or under low nitrogen fertiliser regimes.

# Flooding causes havoc at Aldwark Manor



The scale of the recent flooding can be illustrated by the affect it had on Aldwark Manor Golf Club, home of BIGGA HOUSE. The joint 4th and 14th fairways looked like a potential venue for the World Angling Championships while the depth can be seen by how little of the 4th pin is visible. If you have any similar photographs of the extent of the flooding on your course, or the damage which was left after it went down please feel free to send them to the magazine to share with your fellow greenkeepers.

# Royal Inverdivot GC...

www.tonyhusband.co.uk



# IOG invites grant applications

The IOG is inviting applications for grants following the creation of a fund to help education and research within the industry, with particular emphasis on turf management. Applications, within GB&I, can be made by individuals or organisations and money made to fund special projects providing the benefit to the industry can be demonstrated.

Applicants should obtain an application form from IOG Head Office at Milton Keynes Tel: 01908 312511.

## New appointments at Rolawn

Paul Dawson has been appointed Operations Director of Rolawn, having worked for the past year as Corporate Development Manager. Prior to that he spent the previous five years with the Shropshire Group.

He now turns his attention to developing and expanding Rolawn's 3000 acres of turf production. He will use his skills and experience to further the expansion and development of Rolawn's business. Already the main instigator of the new bulk products recently added to the Rolawn product range (Topsoil and Soil Conditioner) Paul will now focus the overall level of service provided by Rolawn to its customers and the operational efficiency of the business.

Andrew Langford, 32, has joined the company as Marketing Manager. Andrew, who will be based at the company's Head Office, Elvington near York, joins the company from Express Dairies Plc where he was Marketing Manager for three years, responsible for supporting household doorstep deliveries, national accounts and development of a foodservice business.

## New premises are just the Tonick

Tonick Watering, established in Worthing in 1995 is moving to spacious new factory and offices in South Wales. Having outgrown the existing 1200 square feet premises, the company is moving to a 4000 square feet factory on a 17 acre site.

## Hayter founder passes away

Douglas Hayter, founder of the renowned lawnmower manufacturing company which bears his name, has died at his home in Old Harlow at the age of 86.

After the Second World War, during which he had been a member of the Home Guard he directed his energies into timber built, temporary homes and agricultural machinery, both of which were treated at the time as priority occupations. Almost by chance, to clear the unwanted growth between his timber drying sheds, he developed the product that was to be his lasting monument - the rotary lawnmower.

Among his proudest personal achievements was the granting of a Royal Warrant in his name for the supply of agricultural machinery to HM the Queen.

He retired from business when he sold his company in 1985 to FH Tomkins plc. It is a fitting legacy to the foundations he laid that the company continues to prosper, offering employment to over 200 people locally and having a sphere of influence in many parts of the world. It is ironic that, only three weeks before his death, the company was sold into foreign ownership.

He is survived by his wife, Susan and by his daughter from his first marriage, Janet.

## Northern Ireland Conference success

The Inaugural Northern Ireland Education Conference proved to be a major success. Following the coming together at the end of 1999 of our two Northern Ireland Sections to form one strong Section for the new millennium, this Conference was very much a yardstick for measuring the progress of BIGGA in Northern Ireland.

The occasion was a sell-out at Greenmount College in Antrim and I was pleased that we were able to provide a platform of speakers which has probably been unsurpassed in BIGGA's conference history. The speakers provided a broad spectrum of expertise and interest across the greenkeeping profession. Each session was stimulating and often controversial providing for excellent questions and subsequent debate. The speakers gave freely of their time despite heavy professional commitments and our appreciation is due to David Garland, Chris Kennedy, David McIndoe, John Quinn MG, Frank Ainsworth, Jim Arthur, Gordon Child and Peter Jones for ensuring a conference which delegates will look back upon as a memorable experience.

Not everything goes according to plan at such conferences. Triumph and disaster can go hand in hand. On this occasion two of our illustrious speakers were flying into Belfast on the morning of the Conference only to arrive at the local airport and find that their tickets were dated for the



previous day. Fortunately our intrepid travellers stood their ground and cancellations enabled them to board a flight. Had they failed, a decimated programme would hardly have been ideal for our Northern Ireland Section in terms of adverse reaction and publicity gained.

These problems can so easily arise and it does no harm to be reminded now and again of how vital the checking procedures are to the successful outcome of an event. BTME draws near the organisation of which is both complex and demanding. No doubt there will be problems along the way but if the week runs smoothly then the planning and organisation will have achieved its ends and staff will

breathe freely once more!

In Northern Ireland our thanks are particularly due to Graham Wylie and Frank Ainsworth for their input to the Conference and provision of excellent facilities, to Greenmount College for hosting the event and not least to the sponsors Evergreen Lawns, Golfing Union of Ireland, Graham Prosser - Tacit, Hortasoils Ltd, John Lindsay Professional Sports Turf, Laird Grass Machinery, Lely Ireland Ltd and Turf Care Irrigation Ltd. I am reliably informed that plans are underway to make this a biennial event. If so, I strongly recommend early booking of places next time around.

Neil Thomas

## Avoncrop play host to distributors

Avoncrop hosted the 6th annual European Golf Distributors Conference in Bristol over four days at the end of October.

Members gathered from all over Europe including delegates from Holland, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Scotland, Spain and Sweden.

The group consists of distributor principals who all service the turf and amenity markets within their respective countries. The objectives of the group are to exchange information and ideas.

This millennium meeting proved very successful and areas of discussion included the dynamic market trends that are occurring across Europe. New products and technologies were also discussed, presentations from members on new developments proved very interesting, each of the group may well have potential new products to take back to their own markets.

Commitment to continue this useful exchange of ideas and market trends was made and next year's conference is to be hosted by Portugal.



Elliott Small presents Max Hedingham, Ashton & LGA GC, Preston, with the Whitelaw Bowl at the Whitelaw Cup played at Penrith recently. Watching on is Course Care, Managing Director, John Wood, the competition sponsor.

## Can you help?

Waterbridge Golf Course, near Crediton, in Devon, is currently looking for spare parts for a SISIS Hydromain 17 and 20 models. If you have a machine surplus to your requirements please contact Martin Petherick Tel: 01363 85711 or [golf@waterbridge.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:golf@waterbridge.fsbusiness.co.uk)

## New online venture for Sovereign Turf

Sovereign Turf has launched its new website [www.sovereignturf.com](http://www.sovereignturf.com) - which includes webpages in English, French, German and Spanish.

"These pages should be of particular interest to European golf greenkeepers and Course Managers," said Steve Williams, Sales Manager at Sovereign, because they have an overview of the turf operation in their own language.

Turf currently available is listed and the quality section posts up the turf declaration. This shows the results of the TGA quality assessment for the fields being harvested.

## Sad passing of Mike Upton

Mike Upton, who recently joined Green Pride to cover the East Midlands, has died after a short illness.

"Ever cheerful and conscientious he will be greatly missed by customers and colleagues alike. Our sincere condolences go out to his family," said Duncan Bell, of Green Pride.



Mycorrhizal structures associated with turf roots

# Intelligent disease control

Harmless to beneficial turf fungi

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.

You'll be pleased to hear then, that Rovral Green leaves these 'friendly' fungi completely unharmed.

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Neil Thomas reports on the selection of the BIGGA Delegation to visit Canada...

# TEN GOOD MEN AND TRUE

## The Delegation

### Midland Region

Anthony Bindley  
Ray Clark

### Northern Region

Anthony Davies MG  
Jimmy Richardson

### Scottish Region

Andrew Forrest  
Archie Dunn

### S West & S Wales Region

Peter Lacey  
Richard Whyman

### South East Region

Tom Smith  
Raymond Day



From top; Neil Thomas, Sam McLean and Stephen Bernhard

"Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" wrote John Keats of Autumn many years ago. My October odyssey around our Regions to help select our Delegation to Canada would suggest that times have changed! In a recent conversation with Chris Kennedy he informed me that Wentworth had just experienced its 37th consecutive day of rain to a greater or lesser degree. Where now the autumns of long ago!

What a rewarding experience the interviews around the Regions proved to be while Bernhard & Co are to be applauded for this initiative in enabling ten of our members to participate in a Delegation which will be not only beneficial for their personal development but will help cement relationships with an Association who seek close ties with BIGGA. Clearly there will be expectations from the perspectives of both BIGGA and Bernhard & Co and as one candidate so succinctly put it "this will be no jolly". Far from it. Already the successful ten have been advised to begin preparatory work in relation to researching the visit and it is hoped that they will renew or make contacts in Canada. There will be a full briefing for the Delegation and we will be working to ensure that it has a high profile, while on their return we will be looking for the ten to pass on their experiences to fellow members in a number of practical ways.

Each interview panel comprised, in

addition to myself, two Regional Board nominees and either Stephen Bernhard or Sam McLean as the company representative. This ensured a broad cross-section among the panels and enabled us to judge candidates from both regional and national perspectives together with a business viewpoint through Stephen and Sam. In the course of 26 interviews many valid points were made in relation to the Association and from a personal angle it was a valuable learning experience. The project is something new for BIGGA and to be widely welcomed in the opportunity it has provided for members at "grass-roots" level to benefit themselves personally as well as their Association and profession.

Of course, when selection was involved there were always going to be those who would not make the Delegation. Sixteen members were runners-up and their initial reaction will surely and very naturally have been disappointment. They will be assisted with their trip to BTME 2001 in recognition of being nominated for panel interview as worthy representatives of both Section and Region. Standards set at interview were invariably high and reflected well on the professionalism which so many of our members now demonstrate in their working lives, their Association activities and to their profession in general. I do hope that those disappointed will

consider that they have gained from the experience.

So to Canada and we look forward to strengthening our ties with the CGSA. They have had a strong presence at BTME in recent years and all the indications are that they will be well represented again at BTME 2001. This lends credence to our exhibition as truly international and demonstrates the commonality of greenkeeping worldwide with many shared aspirations and problems. BIGGA is far and away the second largest greenkeeping Association in the world and we have a key role to play in promoting the profession in a global context, particularly assisting the smaller Associations worldwide, and especially in Europe, to develop and progress. We have much in common with the CGSA and our relationship with them has growing importance in terms of influencing positive developments for the profession worldwide. These are considerations which our Delegation to the CGSA event in Vancouver will come to understand and appreciate. Bernhard's initiative may well prove to be the forerunner not only for closer international co-operation, but also in terms of the future greater impact of greenkeeping within the world of golf in its widest sense.

Neil Thomas  
Executive Director, BIGGA

## A message from our sponsors

Bernhard's are delighted to have the opportunity to develop their relationship with British Greenkeepers by sponsoring a group of BIGGA members to travel to the Canadian National show in February.

Meeting many candidates from the several regions during the selection process has been enlightening. Many candidates were able to discuss views and attitudes aimed at developing the professional standing of BIGGA and its members. Several had strong views on the national and local manage-

ment and communications while others were determined to improve local awareness of the many activities and career development opportunities offered by the BIGGA regions.

Education proved to be a hot topic for many and reinforced the views held by the Bernhard Company, who dedicate a great deal of time to providing a broad range of educational seminars based on the impact of mowers upon the growth of turf.

We were particularly pleased to note how many of the candidates expressed

a desire to improve not only educational standards but also to improve the expectations and examination processes in our industry.

The British industry will be well represented by this interesting and widely differing group of first class Greenkeepers who come from all over the British Isles and we are proud to be associated with them all.

Stephen Bernhard  
Managing Director, Bernhard & Co



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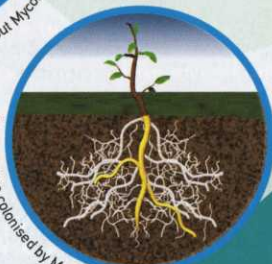
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Roland Taylor looks at a few ways of making a few extra bucks for the golf club or even yourself...

# BUDGET BOOSTERS

It should be said from the onset that this feature is written with tongue in cheek. It is fully realised that readers have plenty on their plates in maintaining courses to the standards that players, management and committees now demand. There are odd occasions, however, when an opportunity arises that can save money, generate extra cash and at the same time eliminate a problem.

Many courses are built in old parklands or include large areas of woodland and these require some form of management. Sometimes these sites are the responsibility of an estate manager but they can come under the jurisdiction of a course manager. While outside sources may be brought in to carry out the tree work the residues from these operations can often be put to good use. Wood chippings are ideal for pathways, especially in areas, which become water logged and muddied with all the through traffic.

At this stage it should be pointed out it is not being suggested that one should buy the equipment to carry out the operation, since hiring is usually the more cost effective option. Most tree specialists will have their own chip-

pers so it is therefore just a question of making sure the resultant material is left so it can later be easily transported to the required site.

One point worth mentioning is that when using chippings, it is a good idea to contain them in the area by putting down some edging. This can be simply made from suitable branches pegged down to form the path's borders. If large amounts of chipping have been generated they could be offered to members for use in their gardens.

This also applies to leaf mould. Every year large piles of leaves accumulate and gradually rot down, and the result is an ideal soil conditioner and mulch to suppress weeds in the shrubberies and flower beds that may surround the clubhouse or hotel complex. Again, members may be induced to buy quantities of this valuable natural product for their own gardens.

If large branches and tree trunks are available they could be sawn into logs for use in the clubs or hotels where a fire is part of the heating system. Likewise they too can be offered for sale.

For a logging operation there is a mobile unit available from Charterhouse Richmond the Lumbermate. This portable sawmill is a one-man operation with the saw bed at ground level so loading timber is safe and easy. The standard bench handles logs up to 13" and 28" in diameter. As the saw head is manually fed the rate of cutting can be adjusted to suit the timber.

Another possibility is having woodland areas coppiced. This could generate some return as timber from these is used in charcoal production and hurdle making. It also has another advantage in that by removing the tree canopy, light reaches the woodland floor and a wide variety of plants and flowers will become established. On the downside, this generates a poor return and the rotational cycle of coppicing, depending on the species of trees, can be up to 15 years.

Where new areas of trees are being planned Christmas trees could be a consideration. Again, any returns are going to be long term, but by introducing a planting cycle, a harvest could be established ever year.

## Other possibilities Regrinds

Apparently there are some clubs already offering the service of regrinding members lawnmowers. Modern in-situ grinding equipment makes this operation very quick and where a club has this installed it looks a relatively good idea. However there could be a major drawback and that is the fickleness of the mower owner! It is possible that a great deal of time could be taken up dealing with what amounts to be something very petty. Also there has to be an infrastructure introduced to recover payments. Unless the workshop personnel have a great deal of patience, tact, diplomacy and time this service could create problems.

## Knowledge

Greenkeepers have a wealth of knowledge and experience on turf maintenance so why not put this to good use by imparting it to others (for a fee). Anyone who is prepared to give up their time by talking or lecturing to other parties could generate extra income. It is never going to be a fortune but it can be very satisfying and enjoyable, especially if you like meeting people.

Ways of using your knowledge include:

Relate it to lawns and talk to gardening clubs in your locality.

There are plenty of amateurs who look after bowling greens that are desperate for information on how to get the best out of their patch. The same applies to football and cricket clubs. Looking after pitches often falls to a part timer with limited experience.

On the downside, you could find that all your spare time in the winter is taken up addressing these audiences.

As said at the beginning there are opportunities if one chooses to look for them, but it is very much a personal choice and careful thought needs to be taken before embarking on any ventures outside ones normal field of operation.



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Peter Broadbent,  
Head Greenkeeper  
Effingham Golf Club,  
Effingham, Surrey.

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**In October, more than 90 new members joined BIGGA, and began to take advantage of the many savings and benefits available to them. Tracey Maddison gives details on just a few of them...**

## Membership renewal time?

Many of you will be due to renew your membership at the end of this month or January 2001. Don't forget if you pay for your own subscriptions, you can take advantage of paying by direct debit and spreading the cost over 10 equal monthly payments. 25% of members are already taking advantage of this service, why don't you?

If you are retiring from greenkeeping at the end of this month,

congratulations! However, your BIGGA membership doesn't have to retire with you, why not apply for retired membership of BIGGA and keep in touch with your friends and the industry? Contact Tracey in Membership Services for further details.

Once you have returned your completed renewal form, together with payment, we will send you a new 2001 Membership Renewal Pack, containing your membership card and useful information including telephone numbers regarding the many benefits and services available to you as a valued member of BIGGA. Read it and keep it for future reference - one day you may be glad you did!

If you have any queries or any general enquiries regarding membership services or benefits, please contact Tracey on 01347 833800.



### November's Monthly Membership Draw Winner

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch. Our congratulations go to November's winner, Andrew Holdsworth of Sturminster Marshall GC.

## BIGGA welcomes...

### Scottish Region

Garry Anderson, West  
Graeme L Bryce, Central  
Richard W Cutler, North  
Keith Robert Hedley, Ayrshire  
Steven Peter Hemsley, Central  
Graham MacKie, North  
Stuart Manattini, Central  
James Muir McGowan, West  
Brian David Needs, Central  
John Roxburgh, Ayrshire

### Northern Region

Bryan William Berry, N West  
Andrew Halifax, Sheffield  
Andrew Graham Hullah, Northern  
Stephen Kenyon, N West  
Gary Ian McKie, N West  
Scott Lee Ratchford, N West

### Midland Region

Paul Bramley, E Midland  
Dale Ian Coates, Midland  
Mark Terrance Coppage, Midland  
Brian Fox, BB&O  
Michael Ginger, BB&O  
Russell Mark Heathcote, E Midland  
Peter John Holden, E Midland  
Andrew Holloway, Midland  
Stephen William Hutchinson, BB&O  
Norman John Knox, BB&O  
Richard Alan McCrohan, BB&O  
Graeme Reeves, BB&O  
Richard Shropshire, Midland  
Russell Philip Swanwick, Midland  
Ben Ronald Swift, BB&O  
Trevor John Ward, Midland

### South East Region

Paul James Andrews, Kent  
Louis Alan Ayres, Surrey  
John Paul Bell, Sussex  
Adrian Bryant, Surrey  
Ian William Carby, Surrey  
John Graeme Clarke, London  
Luke Denton, Sussex  
Steffan Elliott, Kent  
Darren Elliott, Kent  
Ian Faulkner, Kent  
Lee Felton, Kent  
Dominic Foster, Surrey  
Andrew Stuart Furness, London  
Philip William Gill, Surrey  
Andrew Greedy, Surrey  
Paul Greenfield, Sussex  
Alan Edward Jiggins, Essex  
Paul Olaf Larsen, Kent  
Sarah Mardon, Kent  
Darren Pettengell, Sussex  
Richard Henry Phillips, Essex  
Kelvin Sales, Kent  
Robert Cameron Welford, Surrey  
James Peter Wells, Surrey

### S West & S Wales Region

William Martin Clarke, Dev/C/wall  
Simon Peter Clarke, Dev/C/wall  
Thomas Lewis Gleason, S West  
Christopher John Gowen, S West  
Colin Green, S West  
Martin Haydn Howell, S West  
Gary L Vile, S West  
Richard Woods, S West

### Northern Ireland

Lee Michael Edwards,  
Paul Johnston,  
Michael Edward Kennedy,

Jeffrey Lamb,  
Joel Robinson,  
Alan William Simpson,  
Alastair Andrew Smyth,  
John Ward,  
Fintan Peter Ward,

### International Members

Stewart MacIntosh, Germany  
David Mallinder, Germany  
Frank Schafer, Germany  
Roy Douglas Machray, Spain  
Javier Nunez, Spain

### Associate Members

Kate Entwistle, Northern  
Tom Henry, Northern  
David Burton Smith, E Midland  
Clive Dryden, Surrey  
Gene Bates, USA

### Student Members

Glenn Cameron, East  
Graham Grant, North  
Richard Cowpe, N West  
Tony Owen, N Wales  
Ben Corby, E England  
Timothy Parker, Mid Anglia  
James Peter Lowe, Surrey  
Gavin Yeoman, Surrey  
Daniel Robbins, S West  
Mark Farragher, Rep Ireland

Check out January's edition next year for November's new members!



## BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson reports on the latest education and training developments

I hope that by now, all of you have applied for your Individual Learning Accounts. If the number applying matches the entries for this year's essay competition then they will have to take on extra staff.

### The Learning Experience 2001

Applications for the Learning Experience 2001 are flooding in to BIGGA HOUSE and places on the Workshops are filling fast. The deadline for applications for the Learning Experience 2001, sponsored by Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, is January 10, 2001. Make sure of your place by sending in your entry NOW. Extra copies of the Learning Experience brochure and application form are available from BIGGA HQ.

Visit the Royal Hall on Thursday 25 January and receive even better value than previously advertised in the Learning Experience brochure. Appearing at 11am until 11.30 will be Chris Byrd, from Milliken Chemicals, speaking on Drainage Improvements with Soil Structure Management. Simon Barnaby, from Scotts UK Professional, will follow at 11.30 with a session on the USGA Specification.

### TORO Competitions

The Finals of the TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping and Student of the Year Competitions were held at BIGGA HOUSE at the end of October. Full details are printed elsewhere in this magazine but I would



like to congratulate all finalist, especially Iain Ritchie, the Excellence Award winner and Jonathan Clelland the Student of the Year. The weath-



er almost caused problems and three finalists had to be evacuated from South Lodge. It was a difficult job to separate the finalists and select the winners in both competitions as the Standard was as high as ever. Thanks to the continued sponsorship by TORO these competitions go from strength to strength.

### Regional Training Courses

There are still plenty of places available on a number of courses being held in the New Year. These are:

#### Essential Management Skills for Greenkeepers

Moat House Hotel, Sheffield,  
5 and 6 March, Brin Bendon  
Cost for BIGGA Members £120.00 + VAT

#### Interviews and Appraisals

East Cliffe Hotel Bournemouth,  
21 and 22 March, Frank Newberry  
Wokefield Park, Reading,  
12 and 13 March, Frank Newberry  
Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle, Northern  
Ireland, Brin Bendon  
Cost for BIGGA Members £120.00 + VAT

#### Making Budgets Count

Quality Hotel, Walsall,  
12 and 13 February, Brin Bendon  
East Cliffe Hotel Bournemouth,  
15 and 16 February, Frank Newberry  
Cost for BIGGA Members £120.00 + VAT

#### Health and Safety Update

Old Fold Manor Golf Club, Barnet,  
6 February, Tony Rees  
Cost for BIGGA Members £50 + VAT

#### Negotiation Skills

BIGGA HOUSE, 28 February, Brin Bendon  
Cost for BIGGA Members £50.00 + VAT

#### Manual Handling and Risk Assessments

Old Fold Manor Golf Club,  
7 February, Tony Rees  
Cost for BIGGA Members £50.00 + VAT

### On Course

Remember to visit the OnCourse stand at BTME if you want to obtain more information on this extremely useful software package. Designed to assist greenkeepers to maintain records on staff, machinery, the golf course, stock, budget and health and safety, the package is available from BIGGA priced at £800. Demo disks are available from BIGGA HOUSE.

# OnCourse



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**David McInroy is Managing Director of Scottish Grass Machinery, one of Europe's top Textron dealers, based in Scotland. Here he talks about how to get the best from your dealer.**

# DEAL ME IN

## From leading to cutting edge

If Scottish Grass Machinery is to reach its target, to double turnover to £20 million by 2005, we must continue to listen to the specialist needs of our customers and manufacturers.

To achieve this high pace of growth, we will once more revolutionise what the right dealer will offer its customers.

We have developed a new way of doing business. If we are to revolutionise the market it is important that we bring together the manufacturer and customer to share information and at the same time listen to other experts in the golf industry. Our new approach is called 'From the Leading Edge to the Cutting Edge'.

Below: Eddie Adams (left), Head Greenkeeper at St Andrews Old Course, and Jimmy Kidd were at a recent Scottish Grass Machinery two-day course, entitled Caring for Golf Courses.



## What the dealer is doing

This new way of doing business was kicked off recently with our Cutting Edge conference. This brought together golf experts from all over the world to map out the future of the golf industry in Scotland.

Our panel of eight internationally renowned speakers gathered at the SGM Group's Inverkeithing headquarters in October to share information with more than 300 greenkeepers, Club Secretaries, Ground Convenors and Captains about a number of topics affecting the future growth of the golf industry. These included marketing, the environment, and the manufacture and supply of ground maintenance equipment.

Customers were given an insight

into how some of Scotland's top golf courses such as Meldrum House Golf Club, the Old Course at St Andrews and the courses at Gleneagles are promoted in Scotland and overseas.

By bringing the manufacturer, dealer and customer together in a forum for discussion, issues such as environmental factors affecting the golf industry put us in touch with customer needs.

## What the manufacturer is doing

At the same event Harold Pinto, Textron's Managing Director-International, explained Textron's new marketing strategy - the Jacobsen range for golf courses and the Ransomes range for local authority and municipal markets. The new Jacobsen Greensking VI golf green ride-on mower was also launched to the Scottish market.

We firmly believe in this new marketing approach. We have created a stand alone golf division which markets the Jacobsen products to the golf market, and a separate dedicated team marketing the Ransomes range to the local authority and municipal market.

By being in step with Textron's UK strategy, we will further improve our customer service by offering dedicated sales, service and support teams for the golf market and local authority and municipal market, who know the equipment for each industry inside out.

## Bringing manufacturer and end user together

A full range of machinery was on display at the conference, which allowed Textron to hear 'from the horses mouth' what the market thinks of their new range. Customers were also given the opportunity to test drive each of the products and Textron staff were on hand to answer any queries from customers.

Textron's Regional Manager Ian Bridges introduced each product including the Jacobsen, Ransomes, E-Z-GO, Cushman and Ryan brands. Product demonstrations were carried out on our mini golf course at the back of the dealership in front of a seated grandstand.

## What's in all of this for the customer?

Scottish Grass Machinery has had to change constantly, improve and find new, better ways of doing things. We have driven the ground maintenance industry forward in Scotland. Over the last few years we have concentrated on a much more professional, customer-focused way of doing business.

A year ago Scottish Grass Machinery recognised that our customers need a more flexible way of financing the cost of equipment, and of maintaining and servicing machinery. Backed by Bank of Scotland, SGM Finance was born to allow customers to control their costs with a contract with no hidden extras.

In one case we managed to save a golf club which was in serious financial difficulty from struggling on with old and broken machinery. We were able to supply them, after trade-ins, with £100,000 worth of brand new equipment at a monthly cost they could afford. And if our customers prefer, we can even build in payment holidays during the winter when no green fees are collected.

SGM Finance gives our customers new equipment with no capital outlay. Instead, there is a monthly payment which guarantees a fixed price for up to five years which covers servicing, maintenance and breakdowns.

In the case of a breakdown we guarantee a swift response and if we cannot fix the problem there and then, we supply the same standard of replacement machinery until the problem is fixed - that's guaranteed.

Scottish Grass Machinery ensures that customers can see for themselves the quality of our products. We have two staff who are constantly on the road taking products to our customers for demonstrations on golf courses all over the country. This ensures that all of our customers get the most out of our equipment and the best quality cut. We also provide a day's training which leads to a competency certificate for their operators.

Quality is something we take seriously at Scottish Grass Machinery. In November last year we were



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Above: Stuart Harley and Willie Reed test out two new SGM delivery vans. The green livery denotes SGM grass machinery, while the blue refers to SGM industrial.

awarded the prestigious BS EN 9002 1994 industry quality standard.

We then also recognised that the service levels that we introduced through SGM Finance could be applied to other related sectors - giving rise to SGM industrial. Our business diversified and our product range extended to provide our existing customers with a one-stop shop which as well as ground maintenance equipment includes precinct sweepers, tractors, snow-clearing gritters, woodchippers and shredders.

To accommodate this structure, we became the SGM Group with three divisions, grass machinery, finance and industrial.

### Investing in the future

Since moving to Inverkeithing in 1997 we have continued to invest in our premises, technology and most importantly rigorous training for our people. As well as regular in-house training, all of SGMs mechanics are given a minimum of two weeks off-site training at Textron's factory in Ipswich.

We have invested £30,000 in a giant-sized Kardex Industrier

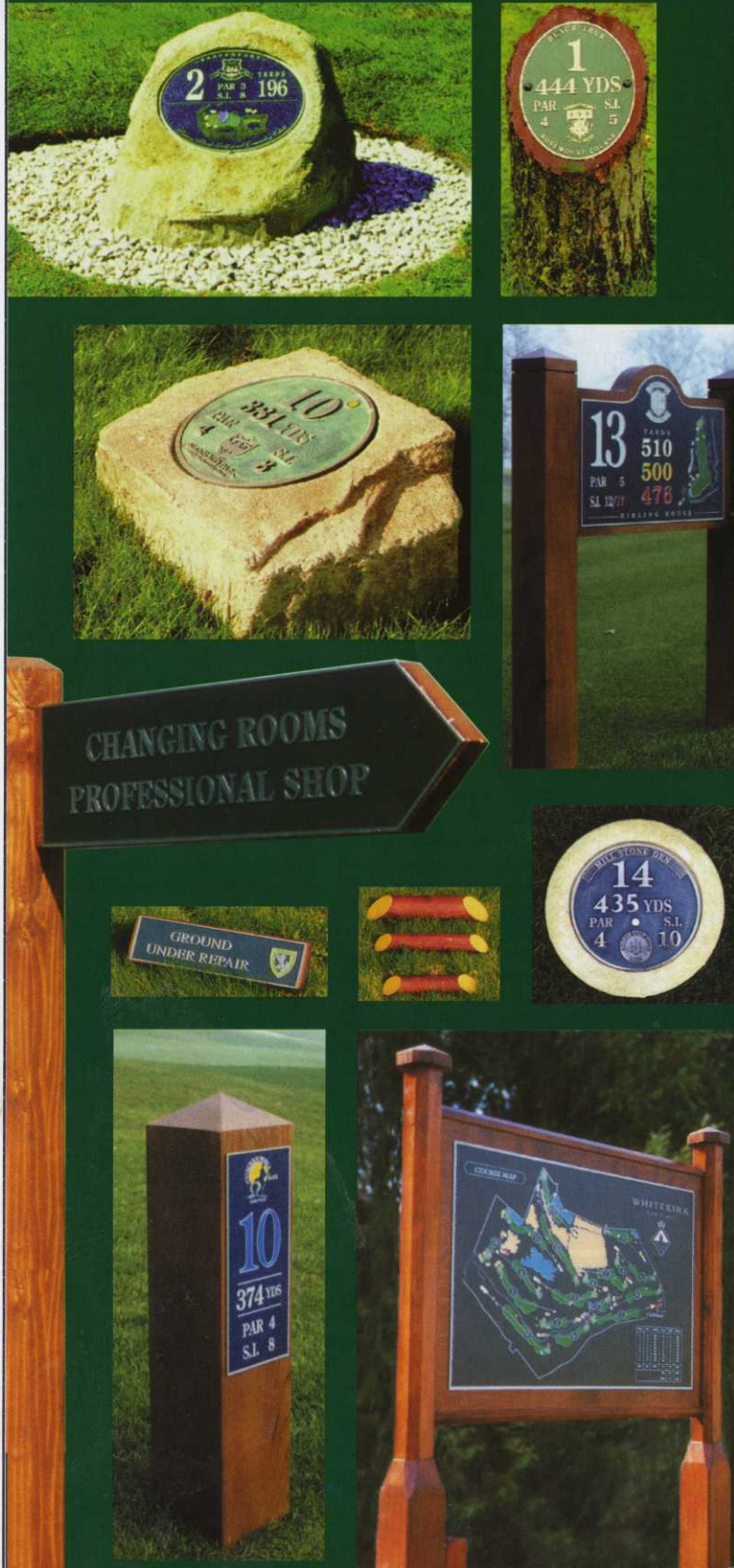
part of our constant drive to improve customer service. The machinery operates a carousel enabling quick and easy access to more than 15,000 stored parts.

This piece of equipment has dramatically improved the spare parts order processing and at the same time allows the company's 15 field service engineers to further enhance the first class after sales service they currently provide.

Time is of the essence in meeting customer demand. It now takes seconds to access a part using the Industrier. This means we are able to provide an even more efficient maintenance and support service to our customers. It has also reduced the floor space required for parts storage by around 70%, which we now use as additional workshop space.

Looking to the future, the creation of these new business innovations does not mean we have time to rest on our laurels. If we are to become a £20 million business, it is essential that we continue to move our entire industry from the leading edge to the cutting edge.

Below: Neil Henderson perfects the Old Course greens watched by SGM's Steven McInroy, while Eddie Adams tries out a piece of new machinery.



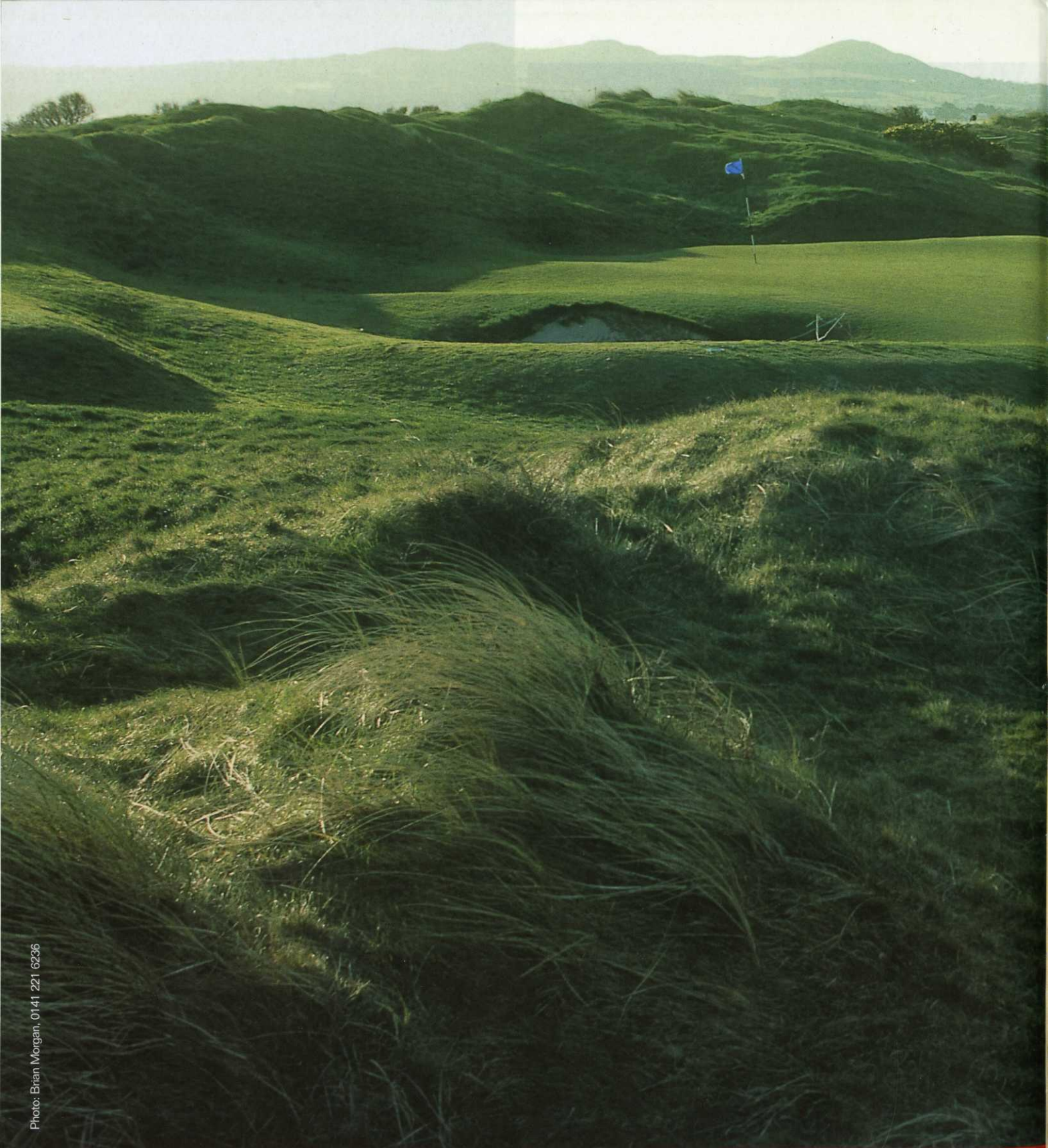


Photo: Brian Morgan, 0141 221 6236

## Toros - Identifying the best of the best



Have greenkeeping standards risen because of the incentives of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition or do the awards merely amplify the increasing standards that have been there all along?

The reality is probably somewhere in between. Standards are rising within the industry with better education and an increasingly high quality of candidate being attracted to greenkeeping... but the Toro Awards

are very juicy carrots for the more ambitious and motivated within the profession and undoubtedly entice many into striving that little bit harder to win a Toro title. Doing so ensures that a CV stands out from the crowd for an entire career.

The 2000 Toro Awards continued to produce more evidence of growing standards unveiling as they did two fine Champions from two pools of finalists any one of whom would have worn his particular crown with genuine distinction.

The winner of the re-styled Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping was won by Iain Ritchie, of Portmarnock Golf Club, the Irish finalist... once he got there, with Ronnie Bunting, of Kilmacolm Golf Club and Scotland; Terry Farkins, of Dartmouth Golf and Country Club and England, and Gary Johnstone, of Southerndown Golf Club and Wales, all making it a difficult decision for the judges, Walter Woods; Graeme Dale, Managing Director of Lely UK; Bruce Jamieson; Toro Agronomy Consultant and Neil Thomas.



Iain Ritchie was a little worried about entering the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping coming from such a high profile club. But it all worked out well...

# Risk & reward

Iain Ritchie was a little apprehensive about entering the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping. After all, as Course Manager at Portmarnock Golf Club, near Dublin, one of the best known and most highly regarded golf courses in the world, he was putting himself up there to be shot at.

But he needn't have worried. Golf Clubs of the stature of Portmarnock don't employ run-of-the-mill greenkeepers and the judges at the new style "Home International" final at BIGGA HOUSE recognised what was already apparent to the Portmarnock members and crowned Iain the winner of the 2000 Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping.

"Obviously I'm from one of the top clubs in the country and I was putting myself forward to be knocked down. I spoke with the club about it and they fully appreciated how I was feeling. But it has gone the right way for me so it means a hell of a lot. I'm very proud of the profession I'm in," said Iain, as he spoke the morning after one of the most hectic and stress-filled days of his life - (see page 18).

"The Captain was mentioning the fact that I was the Irish Champion and that I was going to the national final in various speeches he has given and I phoned the club as soon as I knew I had won. I'm certainly looking forward to getting back to the club. I'll have a big smile on my face," said a happy man, who was modelling one of those smiles as he said it.

Iain, whose accent now betrays only a hint of his Aberdeen roots, has been at the club for 10 years and is now benefiting, much like a football manager given the time to learn the strengths and weakness of his team, from having had the time to learn everything about the golf course from 1st tee to 18th green plus all the surrounding areas.

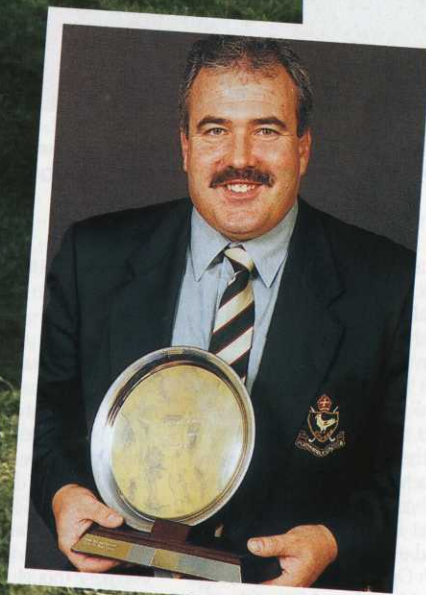
"We've upped a gear or two recently but I would say that was down to natural progression rather than a conscious decision to do so. It is also gratifying to see that Portmarnock is placed number seven in the recent Golf World magazine rankings. We've jumped four places from last year and for an old established golf club to do that with so many other courses coming in is very good. The committee was pleased and it was just reward for the efforts we've put in in the last few years. This minor tweaking, redesigning and reshaping work is starting to show, while we've just spent half a million on a new irrigation system. It's just an insurance policy really," he said.

Projects in the pipeline include the reconstruction of the 12th green which will be put out to contract.

"It's something to get our teeth into and is a big project for Portmarnock Golf Club and depending upon how this one goes there may be more to come."

Iain and his team are well supported by the the Honorary Secretary and the General Manager.

"The Honorary Secretary, Joe McAllease, is also what we call the Links Convener and he has a serious passion for the golf course, there is no other way to describe it. He loves it and gets very involved. He'll come down and have a cup of tea with the staff and tell a few jokes. It's a very nice atmosphere.



Terry actually made history having been the first man to have reached the final of both the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, in 1991 and, eight years later reaching the national final of the Toro Excellence Award as well. His progression is a model for young greenkeepers everywhere.

Jonathan Cleland, of Helensburgh Golf Club and COSTA Training won the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award with Michael Sawicki, of Richmond Golf Club and NESCOL and Vince Harrison, of Enderby Golf Course and Brooksby College, runners-up each

winning an all expenses paid trip to BTME 2001.

Judges in the Student Award final were Jim Paton, Chairman of BIGGA's Education Sub-Committee; Pete Mansfield, General Manger Turf Products, of Lely UK; Andy Brown, of Toro, and Ken Richardson.

Getting back to the original conundrum. There is no definitive answer but let us merely delight in the fact that standards are on the up and up and thank Toro for putting in place two competitions which benefit greenkeepers and golf clubs all over the country.



## Risk & reward

continued from page 17

"General Manager, John Quigley, is the man who put me forward for the Toro award."

It is perhaps a reflection in the quality of golf courses in the Irish Republic that a previous attempt to win the Toro award didn't get past Section level but it did ensure that this year Iain was ready.

"After that I stood back and took a fresh look at the entire operation and tightened up many working practices, and this time I got the staff more involved in the competition. They were fully aware of what was happening, when it would be happening and what the place would be like," said Iain, who would describe himself as employing the hands-on approach to the job.

The golf club will greatly appreciate the Toro Workman 2100 which they receive as part of the prize while Iain is already looking forward to the trip to the GCSAA Show in Dallas.

"I haven't been to the show for about seven years and ironically it was at Dallas the last time I was there."

He is also complimentary of his staff of 12, whom he describes as being very enthusiastic and loyal. They benefit from Iain's success to the tune of £250 while Iain is sure that will be added to by the golf club.

"I've had very little turn-over in the last 10 years, mostly it's been retrials."

Prior to moving to Ireland Iain had been Head Greenkeeper at Ladybank, a wonderful heathland course not far from Cupar, Fife.

"I was at Ladybank for five years from '85. It was a super club to work for, I was



Above: The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping finalists. Front row: Ronnie Bunting, Terry Farkins, Iain Ritchie and Gary Johnstone with the judging panel behind

a member as well and it was difficult to leave, particularly as in '90 we had an Open Qualifier for the St Andrews Championship and I would have loved to have stayed and prepared for that. I must admit I have very fond memories of Ladybank.

"However, there was a big carrot being dangled in the shape of Portmarnock and an Irish Open which was held 10 weeks after I got there," said Iain who adds that his arrival at Portmarnock was the first time he had ever set foot on Irish soil.

That Irish Open went well with a high profile winner in Jose Maria Olazabal

while the course achieved much more publicity when it hosted the 1991 Walker Cup.

In the run up to the match, then American amateur golden boy, Phil Mickelson, made a derogatory remark about Irish women - so unimpressed with their beauty he didn't want to go into the rough to be too near them - which caused such a diplomatic incident that George Bush, "Dubya's" dad the then US President, had to apologise.

"The course went down well with everyone though as it always does," said Iain, who is married to Yvonne with two

daughters Lisa and Lynzie.

Portmarnock has also received a couple of visits from Tiger Woods, who has taken to honing his game for the Open with a few days in Ireland tackling some of the finer links courses.

"He comes into the club afterwards and is always very open. It's nice when things like that happen on your golf course."

It seems a lot of nice things are happening to Iain at the moment and they are all much deserved. "I turned 40 last week and now this. It's been a very good Millennium for me."

## When in Rome... Find a way to get back!

For such an important day as the Toro finals you would imagine that a finalist would get an early night and be up, ready, and prepared well before the interview time.

Not Iain Ritchie. The tale of what happened on the day of the finals would make a fine sequel to John Cleese's film *Clockwise*.

To celebrate his 40th birthday Iain and wife, Yvonne, had booked to spend the long weekend in Rome only discovering later that the Monday coincided with the Toro finals.

Let Iain take up the story.

"There was nothing to do but for me to fly out early on Monday morning and for Yvonne to come back at the scheduled time later that night.

"However, the day coincided with day

one of the horrendous storms which hit much Britain.

"I left our hotel at 6am to get the 8.30 flight to Heathrow where I was due to change for Leeds/Bradford. When I got into the airport everything to and from London was delayed because of the storms. I then tried to buy a ticket to get to Amsterdam from where I could then fly directly to Leeds/Bradford but I couldn't because my luggage by this time had been checked in.

"With my interview at 3pm all I could do was keep Joe Bedford, who was at BIGGA HOUSE, informed by mobile what was happening. After what seemed like days we eventually did get airborne but there were further delays as we circled Heathrow at least 15 times. When we did land I had to run from Terminal

2 across to Terminal 1 for the British Midland lounge. I was carrying my presentation because I hadn't wanted to risk it going missing

"By this time it was already about 3pm and I had been due on the 12.45pm flight to Leeds/Bradford. Fortunately this flight hadn't left and I thought finally things were going my way... but then it didn't take off until half past four.

"Sitting waiting for this flight I was desperate and quite prepared to hire a car, and driver if necessary, to drive me to York. It meant so much to me to be there.

"I had a car booked at Leeds/Bradford and knew that Aldwark Bridge was closed for redevelopment. I'd organised a route from my computer Route Master but Elliott (Small) came on and

told me that this way was closed because of the weather so I had to go another way by memory."

"I eventually arrived at the Hotel at 6.50pm and, after a quick shave, was sitting being interviewed at 7.10pm, the scheduled time having been moved back as far as was possible to accommodate me.

"The last thing I wanted to do was jump straight out of the car and be slap bang in the middle of an interview situation but the later it got in the day the more unfair it was on everyone else. I was thinking of Ronnie Bunting, who'd been on first at the beginning of the day and how long he was having to wait.

"I feel that I had a nery start to the interview but after that they had to shut me up at the end."



**Jonathan Cleland explains to Scott MacCallum his love of greenkeeping and what winning the accolade of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year means to him...**

# Following a dream

Below: A proud Jonathan displays his well-earned trophies

Bottom: The 2000 Toro Student of the Year finalists with their judging panel. Jonathan is flanked by Vince Harrison on the left and Michael Sawicki on the right



As a small boy Jonathan Cleland used to watch Helensburgh Golf Club's greenkeeping staff at work from his home overlooking the course. What he saw became the spark which ignited a passion for greenkeeping which carried him to the title of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year for the year 2000.

With single minded determination Jonathan, a keen, talented golfer and junior member of Helensburgh, told everyone who took an interest in his future both within and outside school that he wanted to become a greenkeeper and set out to make that ambition a reality.

He began working at the club in the summer holidays from when he was 13 and jumped at the chance of an apprenticeship when it was offered to him by the then Course Manager, John Grainger. He gained his National Certificate at Elmwood College, and, with no full time vacancy available at Helensburgh, took a post at nearby Cameron House Hotel on the banks of Loch Lomond. There he quickly rose to become Golf Course Supervisor before being lured back to Helensburgh, by current Course Manager, Ronnie Miles, with the post of Head Greenkeeper.

It was on his return to

Helensburgh that his march towards the prestigious Toro award gained momentum. He achieved his SVQ Level 3 through Glasgow-based GOSTA training and impressed tutor Chris Bothwell to such an extent that he was put forward for the competition and following a regional interview and a final interview at BIGGA HOUSE he was announced winner.

"I'm over the moon. Winning the Toro Student of the Year Award for the year 2000 gives me a lot of satisfaction and a great deal of pride," said 25-year-old Jonathan, as we spoke the morning after some considerable celebrations in Aldwark Manor Hotel.

Asked if there was any stage at which he felt he had the qualities which set him apart from the rest he answered with honesty and in a manner devoid of cockiness.

"I am very confident and I take a lot of pride in detail in the work that I do on the course. I'm quite a perfectionist...although that can be a weakness," acknowledged Jonathan, who is proud of the fact that he prepared Helensburgh for the highlight of its calendar, the Helensburgh Golf Week, earlier this year when a late change of date meant Ronnie was on holiday.

While Helensburgh Golf Club means a great deal to him - he has a long held dream to be the Course Manager of his home course - he also feels much of what he learnt while at Cameron House Hotel has, and will continue, to stand him in good stead.

"Initially I was involved in all aspects of work on the leisure complex including landscaping and this has given me skills and experience which is useful to me on a golf course as well."

Despite ultimately being in charge of the Cameron House golf course he was delighted when Ronnie offered him the chance to return to Helensburgh.

"It was the fact of going back to my home course and returning to an 18-hole club and something which was first and foremost a golf course and not an add-on facility for residents, as was the course at Cameron House."

Jonathan knew of the Toro Student of the Year Competition but never thought he could possibly win it. He did well in his regional interview and prior to the final took a

decision which emphasises the dedicated approach he takes to his career.

"I was going to bring my girlfriend down to Aldwark Manor for the final but then Ronnie Bunting - who'd qualified for the Toro Excellence Final as Scottish winner - called me to ask if I wanted to travel down in the train with him. I thought it would be a great chance to quiz him about the Association and greenkeeping so I decided to leave my girlfriend behind."

It paid off and Jonathan is appreciative of the information Ronnie was able to pass on during that train journey from Glasgow to York.

"It is actually now, through talking to Ronnie, winning this award, and having gone through the stages, that I can sit back and appreciate what BIGGA can actually do for an individual and for the profession as a whole. I'm definitely going to get more involved with the Association," said Jonathan, who says that Ronnie Miles and Alan Glachan, Head Groundsman at Cameron House Hotel, are the two people who have helped him most with his career.

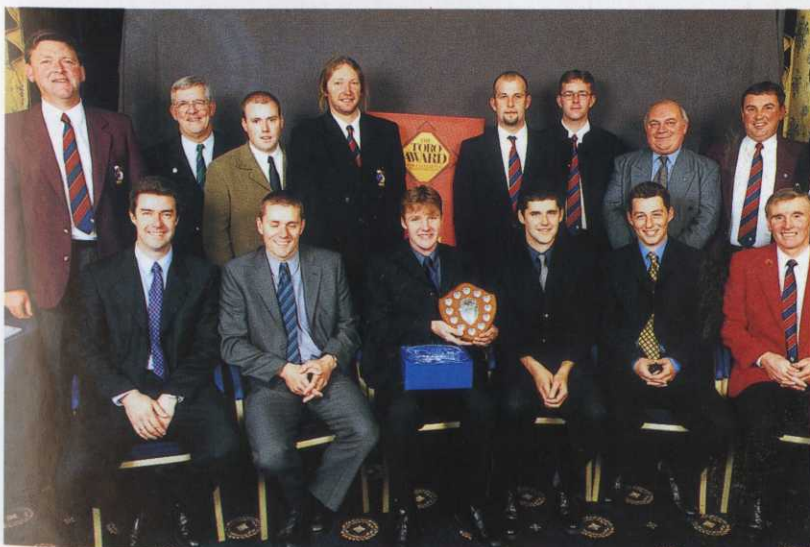
Having enjoyed a trip to Australia earlier in the year - one on which his girlfriend did accompany him - he is looking forward to heading stateside too and making the most of his Toro prize.

"The six week study course will increase my knowledge and give me a greater understanding of how things work over in the States while meeting new people and students of different nationalities will be an experience in itself in multicultural terms. What with the trips to Dallas for the GCSAA Conference and show and the trip to California I'll get a lot out of it. Toro support of this competition is wonderful and like the winners before me I'm sure I'll benefit greatly from it."

Back home he will continue his education and is currently looking at his options.

"The SVQ 3 was very useful to me in the position I hold as it included budgeting, forecasting and management skills and as I work closely with Ronnie and I'm encouraged to give my opinions on a range of things the NVQ gave me the confidence to do that. I'll be looking at perhaps a national diploma and when and if I have my own course SVQ Level 4."

You can be sure that whatever Jonathan decides to tackle next he will succeed as the little lad who watched Helensburgh's greenkeeping staff switching greens from his own garden has become a perfect role model for any other youngsters who may be making early career decisions.



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# Learning

Education & Training for Professional Greenkeepers



As a member of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, BIGGA is actively involved in raising the Standard of Greenkeeper Training. The range and quality of training now available means that there is a training course for every greenkeeper which should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce quality golf courses.

Golf course managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards, beginning by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC. There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and if you think that training is expensive then try ignorance.

Ken Richardson  
Education and Training Manager,  
British and International Golf  
Greenkeepers Association

Tel: 01347 833800  
Email: [education@bigga.co.uk](mailto:education@bigga.co.uk)  
Website: [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)



The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) is continually striving to raise the standards of Golf Course Maintenance and Management and they are totally committed to ensuring that the range of qualifications are relevant to the Sportsturf sector and used by Employers for recruitment and by trainees for their own personal development. The Government endorsed awards range

from National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications (N/SVQ's) to the more academic Higher National Certificate (HNC)/National Diploma (ND)/Higher National Diploma (HND) in Golf Course Management and the Degree in Sportsturf Science.

The qualifications are continually under review by the National Training Organisation (NTO) in association with

the GTC. The quality of the delivery of these awards by the network of GTC Approved Training Providers is also constantly monitored by the GTC. For up to date independent advice on qualifications, education and training courses contact the GTC on:-

Tel: 01347 838640  
Email: [golf@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:golf@the-gtc.co.uk)  
Website: [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)

[www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

# GREENKEEPER TRAINING

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of colleges offering greenkeeper training courses. This guide shows colleges offering courses to craft, supervisory and management levels, but it must be stated that until the GTC review is completed only the green coded colleges are approved to train greenkeepers beyond craft level. The introduction of vocational qualifications into industries, has

caused the colleges to re-think their training policies and the GTC will be issuing guidelines for the golf greenkeeping industry as to which colleges employers and their staff should be supporting. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeeper Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, Tel: 01347 838640 or visit their website at [http://www.the\\_gtc.co.uk](http://www.the_gtc.co.uk)

## SCOTLAND



**ELMWOOD COLLEGE**, Cupar, Fife. KY15 4JB Contact Huw Parry Tel 01334 658842 Fax 01334 658888 or Email [abain@elmwood.ac.uk](mailto:abain@elmwood.ac.uk)  
Full time National Certificate, Block Release following SVQ Level II and GTC training manual. SVQ level III Block Release and Outreach available with SVQ level IV coming soon. HNC/HND Golf Course Management available as full time, block release and distance learning. Professional development awards for football and cricket available by both Block Release and Outreach. FEPA and COSHH, chainsaws, tree climbing and rescue techniques and Health and safety short courses also available.



**GOSTA TRAINING LTD**; Unit 5E Clydeaway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow, G3 8JU, Contact Chris Bothwell, Tel: 0141 248 2772 Fax: 0141 248 2453  
Email: [training@gostatraining.freereserve.co.uk](mailto:training@gostatraining.freereserve.co.uk) SVQ 1, 2, 3 and 4 also Modern Apprenticeship in all options of Amenity Horticulture including Sports Turf and GTC Manual. Attendance day/block release from November to March. Short courses include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Abrasive Wheels, Manual Handling and Assessor training. Consultancy covering Noise Assessment, Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use, COSHH, Health and Safety Policy.



**LANGSIDE COLLEGE**, Rutherglen Campus, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen, G73 3PF Contact Colin S Urquhart, Tel: 0141 647 6300.  
Email: [colinurq@perseus.langside.ac.uk](mailto:colinurq@perseus.langside.ac.uk). SVQ, SGA, HNC, HND. Full time and part-time courses in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Land and Environment and Applied Ecology. Short courses for land-based industries including Risk Assessment and Pesticides.



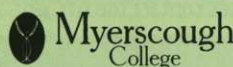
**OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE**, Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn, West Lothian, near Edinburgh, EH52 6NH. Contact Steve Miller. Tel: 01506 854387  
Fax: 01506 853373. HNC In Golf Course Management (Part-time): Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management: SVQ Level II and GTC Manual (Day and Block Release): SVQ Level III Sportsturf (Day and Block Release) SVQ Level III in Ground Care Machinery, full range of Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping and other land based subjects at HNC, National Certificate and SVQ Levels; Short Course - FEPA, Chainsaw, Forklift, First Aid.  
E-mail: [OATRIDGE\\_AGRICULTURAL\\_COLLEGE\\_EDU@msn.com](mailto:OATRIDGE_AGRICULTURAL_COLLEGE_EDU@msn.com)



**ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE** Askham Bryan, York YO23 3FR. Contact: Central Admissions Tel: 01904 772211. National Certificate in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture (Turf Option), Higher National Diploma in Horticulture (Golf Management Option) all available full or part time. Block release courses: NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance, NVQ Level 4 Amenity Horticulture. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.



**EAST DURHAM AND HOUGHALL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**, Houghall, Durham DH1 3SG. Contact Tony Milan. Tel: 0191 386 1351.  
Full-time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship - 1 year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option - 2/3 years. Part time courses: Greenkeeping and Sportsturf maintenance NVQ Level 2 - Day Release. NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance Day Release. Short courses: FEPA Modules, Chainsaw certification, Tree inspection, Horticultural Machinery, Safe Lifting and first aid.

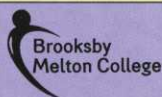


**MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE** Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY Tel: 01995 642211/642222 Fax: 01995 642333 E-mail: [mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk](mailto:mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk)  
Website: [www.myerscough.ac.uk](http://www.myerscough.ac.uk) Full time courses; BSc (Hon's) Turfgrass Science, HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management; ND Turf Science; NC Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping: First Diploma; Turf Science: NVQ Level 2. Part-time courses NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance (Day/block release or Fast track work-based training qualification). HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management; HNC Turf Science; FEPA Short courses: Industry Training Support Course: Myerscough Turfgrass Foundation holds an annual conference and regular education seminars.

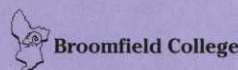


**REASEHEATH COLLEGE** Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF. Tel: 01270 625131 Fax: 01270 625665 E-mail: [brianj@reaseheath.ac.uk](mailto:brianj@reaseheath.ac.uk). website: [www.reaseheath.ac.uk](http://www.reaseheath.ac.uk)  
Full time First Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 1 year. National Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 2 years. BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management - 3 years. Part time: HNC Golf Course Management with Open Learning option, NVQ Levels 1-4 Greenkeeping with Fast Track options. IOG courses available. Short courses: FEPA Chemical Safety; Safe Lifting; Chainsaws, Off-Road Vehicle Driving; First Aid.

## NORTH



**BROOKSBY MELTON COLLEGE**, Brooksby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 2LJ. Situated on the A607 between Leicester and Melton Mowbray, contact Ann Hurt/Jo Lees. Telephone 01664 434291.  
Programmes available include NVQ Level I, II, III & IV in Greenkeeping. Work based emphasis for all of these programmes. Short courses available in Arboriculture/Chainsaw work, FEPA certification, TDLB training.



**BROOMFIELD COLLEGE** Morley, Ilkeston, Derby DE7 6DN. Contact Admissions Officer. Tel: 01332 836600. NVQ Level I and Level II. Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Block Release course. Two years duration presented in 12 one-week blocks following guidelines of GTC Training Manual. NVQ Level III gained by 9 x 3 day blocks or day release or APL service. Also available TDLB, Pesticides, Chainsaw and First Aid Training.

## MIDLANDS



**BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE**, Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6QR. Tel: 01628 824444. Fax: 01628 824695.  
Email: [enquiries@berks-coll-ag.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@berks-coll-ag.ac.uk). Website: [www.berks-coll-ag.ac.uk](http://www.berks-coll-ag.ac.uk)  
Full-time programmes - BTEC First & National Diploma. Part-time programmes - NVQ 2 & 3 Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf (day and block release). Short courses - Greenkeeping for golfers, NPCT Chainsaw Competence Certificates, Spray Operators Training Courses.



**BRINSBURY COLLEGE**, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 1DL. Tel: 01798 877400, Fax: 01798 875222. E-mail: [Student-services@brinsbury.ac.uk](mailto:Student-services@brinsbury.ac.uk)  
Website: [www.brinsbury.ac.uk](http://www.brinsbury.ac.uk) FULL-TIME: BTEC National Diploma Horticulture (Greenkeeping option), BTEC First Diploma New Entrant Horticulture (Greenkeeping option), City & Guilds National Certificate Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sportsground option), PART-TIME: NVQ3 Sports Turf Maintenance (Day release or work based), NVQ2 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sports Turf options), plus varied short courses including Chainsaw, Brushcutter/Strimmer, PA1/PA2A/PA6A/PA9 etc.



**WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE**, Royal Leamington Spa & Moreton Morrell, Moreton Morrell, Warwick, CV35 9BL. Contact: Brian Cook  
Tel: 01926 318268. Email: [enquiries@warkscol.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@warkscol.ac.uk) Greenkeeping Courses: HNC Sports Turf & Golf Course Management (Day Release 2 year Programme); NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and Workbased Option (we come to you); two year ND in Horticulture with Turf Option; IOG Intermediate Diploma (evening class); Certificate in Turf Irrigation. Short Courses: Introduce your Committee to Turf Culture; Computing for the Greenkeeper; Various throughout the year - ring for details. FEPA; Chainsaw Certification; TDLB; First Aid also RHS General and Diploma.

## SOUTH EAST



# A GUIDE TO THE COLLEGES AND COURSES AVAILABLE

KEY  
TO COLOURS

Currently GTC approved at Regional Training Centres, offering courses at Craft, Supervisory and Management levels

Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Supervisory level

Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Craft level only

Please note that all the college details published in this guide were supplied by the colleges themselves. Greenkeeper International takes no responsibility for accuracy of information provided. Contact the college directly for prospectuses and comprehensive information.

SOUTH EAST



**HADLOW COLLEGE** Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL. Contact Tony Leach Tel: 01732 850551. NVQ Level II and Level III Part-time Day Release with two periods of Block Release or evenings. Level II in Groundsmanship evenings. NVQ Level III Golf Greenkeeping. BTEC First Diploma Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Horticulture (Sports Turf option). National Certificate: Sports Turf Management, National Diploma: Sports Turf Management, National Diploma Sports Studies, National Intermediate Diploma in Turf, Institute of Groundsmanship National Practical Certificate. Centres at Hadlow, Canterbury, Maidstone and Mottingham.



**MERRISTWOOD COLLEGE**, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE. Contact D I Rhodes Tel: 01483 884003. Fax: 01483 884001. E-mail: info@merristwood.ac.uk. Website: www.merristwood.ac.uk Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Greenkeeping & Sports Turf Management. Part time courses: NVQ Amenity Horticulture Level 2 and 3 in the work place - we come to you. NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 2, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3 (afternoon/evening release). HNC Turf Science (afternoon/evening release). Various short courses throughout the year. Please contact us for up-to-date listings and information.



**NESCOT** North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS. Contact Dr S Shaw. Tel: 020 8394 3038 or email: info@nescot.ac.uk NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) Training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Part time, Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses.



**OAKLANDS COLLEGE** Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0JA. Contact Ian Merrick. Tel: 01727 737000 Fax: 01727 737752. Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, Modern Apprenticeships. Evening courses: leading to NVQ Levels 3 and 4. Short courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw, Greenkeeper Mechanics.



**SPARSHOLT COLLEGE** Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2NF Contact Ray Broughton. Tel: 01962 776441. NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase iv Management Studies, National Diplomas in Golf Course Management and Golf Studies, GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC: Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FEPA: Short courses, Chainsaws. All courses other than Phase IV are offered on block release. Full residential facilities available. Sparsholt college provides education and training in the land-based industries.



The College of West Anglia offers a full range of courses for Greenkeepers including: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf (Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship), NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance. GTC Craft Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, TDLB Assessors awards, FEPA, Chain Saws, MO1. Other Courses: National and First Diploma in Horticulture and Garden Design. For further information, please contact Bob Young at our Milton Campus on 01223 860701 or Student Support at King's Lynn on 01553 761144 Ext 271.



**WRITTLE COLLEGE**, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR. Tel: 01245 424200 Fax: 01245 420456 Website: www.writtle.ac.uk  
SPORTSTURF PROGRAMMES (Contact - David Campbell) NVQ Level 2 - Sportsturf: NVQ Level 3 - Sportsturf Maintenance. NVQ Level 4 - Amenity Horticulture. HNC - Sportsturf Science. HND - Sportsturf and Golf Course Management. Other Programmes: First Diploma. National Certificate. National Diploma (with Sportsturf Option). BSc (Hons) Sportsturf Science and Management. BSc (Hons) Horticulture. BSc (Hons) Landscape and Amenity Management. MSc Landscape and Amenity Management. NVQ 2 and 3 Service Engineering. FEPA, Chainsaw. Tractor Driving

S WEST



**CANNINGTON COLLEGE** Cannington Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS. Contact Terry Horne: 01278 655083. http://www.cannington.ac.uk Email: hornet@cannington.ac.uk BTEC Higher National Diploma in Sports Science (Golf Option). BTEC National Diploma in Sports Science (Golf Studies), Higher National Certificate Golf Course Management, BTEC First Diploma, BTEC National Diploma in Golf Course Management, BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management NVQ Level I and II Golf Greenkeeping, NVQ Level III Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management, NVQ Level IV Greenkeeping Management, FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Off-road Vehicle Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics. Certificate in Irrigation (BTIA) 1 week course; National Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping (1yr FT). Note: HND = 2 yr course HNC now 2 yr day release course



**HARTPURY COLLEGE** Hartpury House, Gloucester GL19 3BE. Hartpury Marketing Tel: 01452 830065 Fax: 01452 700629. Courses available: First Diploma Horticulture, National Certificate Horticulture, National Diploma Landscaping, First Diploma Greenkeeping, Certificate in Greenkeeping, National Diploma Greenkeeping, National Diploma Golf Studies, Modern Apprenticeships, Route 2 Work, NVQs available in Amenity Horticulture, Commercial Horticulture, Amenity / Turf, Amenity / Sportsturf, Decorative Horticulture, plus RHS General Examination, City & Guilds Certificate in Gardening, TDLB Assessor Awards and a full programme of amateur, leisure and day release courses.



**WARREN FARM CENTRE** is the base for West Oxfordshire College's education and training in Greenkeeping, Sportsturf, Amenity horticulture and allied land based courses for the whole of Oxfordshire. Courses include: NVQ Levels 2 & 3 in Sportsturf, Decorative Horticulture and Hard Landscape. We also offer a range of short courses for the Industry including Health & Safety, pesticide training and chainsaw operation. For more information contact either Alan Brown or John Revis on Tel. no: 01865 351794, Fax No. 01865 358931. Email: alan\_brown@oxfc.ac.uk

WALES

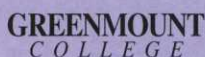


**PENCOED COLLEGE**, Pencoed, Bridgend, Cardiff CF35 5LG. Tel: 01656 302600. Fax: 01656 302601. Courses: NVQ Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Levels 1-4, HND in Turf Management in conjunction with the University of Glamorgan. Short Courses - include Pesticides Application, Chainsaw Operation, Machinery Maintenance plus many others. Outreach NVQ II & III in the workplace. Pencoed College is conveniently situated between Cardiff and Swansea J35 on the M10.



**WELSH COLLEGE OF HORTICULTURE**, Northop, Flintshire. Contact Graham Wright. Tel: 01352 841034, Fax: 01352 841031. Email: graham.wright@woch.ac.uk. Website: www.woch.ac.uk. Full-time - Higher National Diploma in Turf Management. Part-time - Day release Higher National Certificate in Turf Management. Block Week - NVQ Amenity Sportsturf Levels 2-3. Briefing Days - NVQ Level 4, TDLB Assessor Courses D32, 33, 34. Day Courses - FEPA, Chainsaw Certification, First Aid, C.I.E.H.

IRELAND



**GREENMOUNT COLLEGE** Antrim BT41 4PU. Contact Declan Gallagher 028 94 426794 Email: declan.gallagher@dardni.gov.uk Website: www.greenmount.ac.uk. Day release courses to (a) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf (b) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level III Golf Course Supervision National Diploma in Horticulture with Turf options FEPA, Health & Safety and a range of short courses.



**TEAGASC COLLEGE** Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Contact Pat Suttle. Tel: 00353 16376133. Block release courses in greenkeeping providing Level III Certificates by the National Council of Vocational Awards. Level III Certificate in Golf Course management, Level II Certificate in Groundsmanship. Further Education Programme also available.



# Find out how you could benefit from BIGGA Student Membership



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## Research tools to help with your study

Greenkeeper International, the Association's award winning monthly magazine, is packed with up to the minute information and features, providing you with valuable research, and perhaps even helping you with your assignments. A FREE copy will ensure you are kept informed of all that's new or topical in greenkeeping (normally £36 for annual subscription).

Your membership also includes a FREE copy of the BIGGA Golf Directory which

provides you with an extensive guide to the products and services relating to the fine turf industry and the contact details of the major companies supplying those products and services. The Directory also includes a comprehensive greenkeeper membership section.

All BIGGA members are invited to attend the annual BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition event in Harrogate. With over 200 exhibitors and 6,000 visitors, 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. On production of your membership card you can attend the seminars FREE of charge.

## Exclusive discounts and benefits

To aid with your study further, Student members are entitled to receive a FREE copy of each of the field guides available in the series. Produced in a handy to use and read format. Can't find the book you require in your local library or College Resource Centre, why not check our library listing to see if the BIGGA lending library stocks the title for which you are looking. The lending library is available to all

BIGGA members, allowing them to borrow up to two books for up to six weeks, the only cost is return postage.

Student members are eligible for substantial discounts on the books and videos available from BIGGA HQ, all of course connected with your studies. BIGGA have teamed up with ARCO, the leading UK supplier of workwear, safety clothing and equipment and industrial and maintenance products, to offer you a massive 20% discount\* off a choice of goods including big named brands, orders include free delivery and there is no minimum order charge.

Another valuable way of learning... from those already in the industry! By attending local events in your section, you can build up a network of greenkeeping contacts in your area, region and the UK as a whole.

When you gain a position as a greenkeeper at a golf club, why not upgrade your student membership to full greenkeeper membership? Call Membership Services for further details on 01347 833800.

\* Discount not available on selected technical products or other special orders. Please telephone for details.

For further details, contact Tracey Maddison, BIGGA Membership Services Officer

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801 membership@bigga.co.uk



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For further Information contact Central Admissions on 01334 658856

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www.elmwood.ac.uk  
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HORTICULTURE AT BCA



**Enjoy your greens...**

**Greenkeeping Courses**

- FD First Diploma in Horticulture (1 year)
- NVQ Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf Maintenance, Levels 2 & 3 (part-time)
- HND Sports Industry Management (2 years)

**Landscape Design Courses**

- NC National Certificate in Horticulture specialising in Garden Design (1 year)
- ND National Diploma in Horticulture (2 years sandwich)
- NC National Certificate in Horticulture, Garden Design (part-time)

**Horticulture Courses**

- FD First Diploma in Horticulture (1 year)
- NC National Certificate in Horticulture (1 year)
- ND National Diploma in Horticulture (2 years sandwich)

Residential accommodation is available.

You can now start some of our full-time programmes in early February. Please call Alison Sampson for more details.

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# 2001

## A BTME ODYSSEY

Where does all the time go? It doesn't seem five minutes ago that we were all standing in ill-formed circles with our arms in the air singing, "Na, na, na, nanananaaaa, nanananaaaa, Hey Jude," along with the Bootleg Beatles, yet here we are on the verge of starting the latest BTME Odyssey on which everyone who is anyone in the fine turf industry sets out in the third week of January.

Each BTME seems to surpass the one before and each year negotiating a path around the various seminar rooms, exhibitions halls and, dare I say it, bars, takes longer as the list of friends and acquaintances grows and reminiscences are shared.

Those who have been regular visitors to Harrogate will again see some changes and innovations in 2001. Last year we unveiled Hall Q as the show continued to expand. This year we are proud to present Hall M which has been built by Harrogate International Conference

Centre in the time since we were last there. This magnificent hall, officially opened just a couple of months ago, fills the space left by the marquee which has operated for the last two BTME's and will be a welcome addition to the week.

Educationally, under the banner "The Learning Experience", which is run in association with Textron", there is something for everyone and this now gives valuable credits towards CPD and the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. The Education Conference covers issues in-depth, including Growing; Human Resource Management, Water Management and Environmental Management, with the papers being delivered by some of the foremost authorities in their respective subjects. Workshops also let you take a more hands-on approach to your education.

The BTME Seminar programme kicks off with a motivational speech from a man who knows how to get things moving.

Richard Noble OBE is the man behind Thrust SSC, the holder of the world supersonic land speed record. Richard heads an impressive array of seminar speakers which includes speakers from all over the world. Also returning after a successful debut last year will be the Career's Clinic

So if you are preparing to embark on your BTME Odyssey you can be sure that it will be a worthwhile and rewarding experience.

Entertainment this year will be provided by renowned after-dinner speaker, Peter Brown, at the National Education Conference Dinner in the Majestic Hotel on the Monday night and by one of the finest bands of the 60s - the golden age of pop - in The Searchers, together with Susan Maughan, whose hits include Bobby's Girl... or to be more correct in this age of political correctness Robert's Significant Other!



BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION

# BTME 2001

& EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME

**24-26 JANUARY, 2001**

**EDUCATION PROGRAMME STARTS JANUARY 22**  
**HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, HARROGATE, ENGLAND**

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**BTME EXHIBITOR  
 PREVIEWS  
 OVERLEAF**

**Advanta Seeds UK  
Stand C3-4**

Advanta Seeds UK will highlight the benefits of Headstart, a non-toxic, organically derived seed stimulant, which is applied to all their amenity grass seed, at BTME this year - stand number C3-4. Based on a seaweed extract, with added enzymes, bio-stimulants and water attractants, Headstart treated seed germinates faster and has better root development, than non-treated seed. Field establishment can increase by 20 per cent, particularly where sowing conditions are difficult, or greenkeepers and groundsmen are under severe time pressure to repair or rejuvenate worn playing services.

"Advanta has been using Headstart for ten years and many of our customers have come to rely on the added security it offers," explains Dave Phillips, Advanta's Amenity Sales and Marketing Manager.

"They know that, whatever the seeding situation, our seed will not only germinate fast, but will also be more drought and disease resistant, due to the rapid development of deep roots and strong seedlings".

**Allen Power Equipment Ltd  
Stand A22**

National Triple Mowers feature prominently on our stand this year with the HT7 84" cut machine. This hydrostatic drive unit comes into its own on banks, having an extremely low centre of gravity, Power Steering too. Also on show will be the full range of Komatsu Zenoah brush and hedge cutters, blowers and the recently acquired chainsaws.

Allen Hover mowers, Walkover Sprayers and Turf Doctor Scarifier can also be seen and the 'Pet' Petrol Edger powered by a 22.5 cc Zenith engine. Walker Mowers with zero turning radius and superb grass collection complete the exhibit.

**ALS  
Stand A8**

Following its launch at Saltex 2000, ALS are delighted to confirm that the Earthquake decompactor machine will be on show for the first time in the UK at BTME 2001!

ALS are the National Importers and Distributors of the Earthquake decompaction equipment for the UK and Ireland. The Earthquake offers sports turf managers a new experience in decompaction techniques. This machine decompacts the full soil profile to its 10" depth, but crucially the upper 4"-6" where grass root zone and seed establishment is a problem.

The Earthquake will decompact the surface layer in all conditions including hard and dry situations - a performance which alternative equipment fails to match

**Amazone LTD  
Stand M9**

The groundcare division of Amazone LTD was established in 1989 and is based in the Harworth Distribution Centre. This allows for prompt communication between wholegoods, parts and technical services for its customers and its manufacturing bases.

As a family owned company, Amazone's objective of selling superior and well-engineered products is shared not only by its staff but also by its Dealers.

Often it is only possible to offer both economic and agronomic advantage through innovative, high quality products - an area where Amazone is easily recognised with the groundkeeper, profithopper and Amenity Combination products.

**Aventis Environmental Science  
Stand C33**

Aventis Environmental Science will have information on our new ultra-low dose fungicide 'Capricorn' which treats one green with 50mls of product. You will also be able to take away one of our new technical manual CD Roms with the facility to print out Safety Data sheets and electronic calibration. You will have the chance to try out the new Aventis Environmental Web site. Ravral Green Speadhead, the Mildethene and Crossfire 480 tank mix will be featured. Please visit the stand to find out the future of Amenity Chemicals. Contact Aventis on 01277 30115, visit our website on [Aventis-environmental.science.co.uk](http://Aventis-environmental.science.co.uk) or e-mail us with your questions at [jennymurphy@aventis.com](mailto:jennymurphy@aventis.com)

**Avoncrop Amenity Products  
Stand B7**

Avoncrop Amenity Products will be showing their unrivalled product ranges from manufacturers such as Aventis, Barenbrug, Farmura, Green Releaf, Scotts, Supaturf, Terralift, Rufford, Vitax and numerous AA own brands.

Turf has recently been added to the portfolio. Three grades of turf are offered; Royal blend for greens, Aughton Green a hardwearing non-rye turf and thirdly Stadium a rye mix for winter sports, rye tees or hard wearing lawns.

Grazers the new rabbit damage repair product for the restoration of damaged turf has also been recently added. So safe is this new product it can be sprayed onto fine turf with out fear of damaging the sward.

A warm welcome awaits Course Managers, Greenkeepers and visitors to discuss these and any other products and services offered.

**DGT - Volmatic A/S  
Stand Q111**

Contact: Roger Saint Engineering  
1 Layburnum Walk, Upton-Upon-Servern,  
WR8 OLW  
Tel: 01684 591020 Fax: 01684 591030

DGT - Volmatic is introducing a unique method to fertiliser management. Fertiliser is fed through the watering and irrigation system. Management of the fertiliser and control of pH takes place through the AML golf-computer. Correct pH figures create a stronger and greener turf and for immediate effect the computer controls the fertiliser-varied dosage. The system is environmentally friendly as it conserves fertiliser, which therefore, is a saving on the initial cost, and also reduces the labour cost involved by eliminating the need for manual applications. Additional benefits comprise the continuous monitoring of water quality and quantity for your records.

The system is engineered and manufactured by DGT - Volmatic, delivered to your premises customised individually to your requirements.

**Bernhard & Co  
Stand B17**

BETTER, faster grinding will be demonstrated at BTME by leading specialists Bernhard. Their star performers Express Dual and Anglemaster 3000 have been updated to be the next-generation of efficient and easy to operate grinders.

Keeping mower blades really sharp helps greenkeepers to maintain an excellent playing surface. A further benefit is the grass looks greener and healthy and the club benefits from a significant reduction in on-going maintenance costs.

Responding to the increased use of rotaries to cut the rough, Bernhard introduces Rota Master. This most advanced rotary blade sharpener will prove an essential tool for every workshop.

Included in the professional line-up will be Blade Rite, Gear Rite, Rapid Relief and Rapid Facer, helping professionals to maintain the leading edge in fine turf presentation with a cleaner, healthier cut.

**British Seed Houses  
Stand A10**

British Seed Houses  
Tel: 01925 654411 Fax: 01925 230682  
[www.britishseedhouses.com](http://www.britishseedhouses.com)

Visit the British Seed Houses stand (A10) and go one up. Turfgrass professionals joining the Grade A Club (registration is FREE) gain special discounts on approved training courses. Join the club at BTME - or order any Grade A products at the show - and you will receive an additional 1000 training credit points.

Avalon velvet bent is outperforming all other bents in terms of shoot density and fineness of leaf. Order two bags of Avalon at BTME and you will receive 25kg of a Grade A golf course mixture of your choice, absolutely FREE!

Find out more about the Grade A Club and the full range of British Seed Houses seed and fertiliser products at [www.britishseedhouses.com](http://www.britishseedhouses.com)

**Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd  
Stand B19**

Contact: David Jenkins  
Weydown Industrial Estate, Weydown  
Road, Haslemere Surrey GU27 1DW  
Tel: 01428 661222 Fax: 01428 661218

The new Pedestrian Core collector 3000 will take pride of place at the Charterhouse BTME Stand this year. This exciting new development from Redexim results from the purchase of Proseed during the autumn of last year. The walk-behind Core Collector incorporates a new revolutionary pick-up system, which will work even in the wet and leaves the turf behind completely clean. The cores are collected in a large hydraulically operated tipping hopper which tips at a height of 800mm ideal for loading into a truckster and making removal from site to the compost heap a simple job.

The Core Collector 3000 is a robust machine, which is simple and quick to operate. There is a tractor-mounted version also available. If you have a problem cleaning up after hollow coring these machines are just what you require. Also the Charterhouse Stand will be examples of the new Amenity range of Sprayers. These machines feature high volume pumps which produce large droplets destined to hit their target without problems and the minimum of drift. Also for those who have to spray in difficult or windy conditions Charterhouse will be showing the Rogers covered Booms, which have made such a dramatic difference to Greenkeepers with ecological and environmental concerns. Do not hesitate to come and examine these products and ask further technical questions which Charterhouse staff will be delighted to answer.

### Eagle Promotions Stand A19

Eagle Promotions provide an extensive range of services to Golf Clubs from the initial Course Measure through to Scorecards, Yardage Books, Course Signage and other Point of Play Accessories. We continue to "set the standards" for Scorecards nationwide. Our signage is based around our ability to etch Zinc and cast Bronze and when mounted on Stone, Moulded Rock and Wood, create truly spectacular sign systems. At this time we are developing a virtual 3D Course Guide and this is on the verge of being launched.

### Fern House Marketing Stand Q53

**Vaminoc - C**  
There is a considerable debate at present as to the use of biological organisms in turf management regimes. Vaminoc - G is one such treatment, a mycorrhizal fungal inoculant which when added to root zones enhances the establishment of washed turf and grass seed by encouraging deeper, denser rooting and more vigorous growth. Vaminoc - G is unique in that it is the only biological treatment available in the UK that has been researched and produced from the natural soils of the UK. The commercial benefits are huge but so are the environmental benefits, as users can feel safe in the knowledge that they are not importing foreign organisms. For further details contact Fern House Marketing LTD on stand Q53 and ask for details about Vaminoc - G

### Golf Car UK Stand C29-30

At the BTME 2001 Exhibition, the Utility and Transportation Vehicle Division of Golf Car UK will be showing the Club Car range of products for the going market including greenkeeping vehicles, golf cars and people carriers. As the industry's only line of rustproof aluminium frame, chassis and cargo bed vehicles from Club Car offers advantages in general turf and maintenance applications and people carrying on golf courses. Completing the utility vehicles is the Club Car range of petrol and electric golf cars, where the all-aluminium frame gives an overall weight some 50kg less than competitors' models and the new Integrated Comfort System combines high reliability with enhanced comfort and refined styling.

### Hayter Stand C22 & C41

Hayter will be exhibiting a selection of professional machines at BTME. Designed to tackle with the ease the demands of municipal, golf and general turf care. All Hayter machines are built to a high specification resulting in impressive productivity and lower operating costs. Hayter recognise the need for service time to be kept to a minimum and as such easy access to the hydraulic system makes routine maintenance a quick and easy job. For further information and advice visit Stand C41.

### Hunter Grinders Ltd Stand C13 & E2

Hunter Grinders Ltd is the world authority on 'relief' grinding. The range of machines on display includes the new Jupiter 2000, the next generation of grinders. It will relief grind cylinder and bottom blades of pedestrian mowers 'In-situ' with accuracy second to none. Set up and change over procedures are simple and demolish the argument for purchasing separate machines for cylinder and bottom blade grinding. The Jupiter 2000 combines accurate grinding with versatility. It is 'One-Stop' machine for all uses without compromising on performance and at a price that is hard to beat. Other products include the OMEGA a new grinder specifically for sharpening circular chipper blades.

### John Deere Limited Stand M7 & M8

An innovative fairway mower and a wider aerator are among the newest John Deere machines on show at Harrogate, backed by a new interest free finance scheme from John Deere Credit. Designed for aerating greens, fairways and other professional sports and amenity turf areas, the 2m Aercore 2000 is the company's largest tractor mounted aerator to date, built around a heavy duty frame and high speed Flexi-Link tines. Built specifically for fairway use, the optional FTC fairway tender conditioner provides a better, cleaner finish by grooming, recutting and dispersing grass clippings more evenly, particularly in wet conditions, without leaving unsightly clumps of grass on the course. See John Deere's new website for further details: [www.johndeere.co.uk](http://www.johndeere.co.uk)

# Kawasaki



## ENVY OF THE GREENS

Immaculate greens are the product of sheer hard work, which is why the new Mule Diesel 2510 is the envy of the fairways.

Built for the toughest terrain, the Mule gives you more power, performance, load capacity and fuel efficiency and, with its low-ground pressure qualities, you won't leave any divots.

- 23 hp, 3 cylinder, 4-stroke, liquid cooled, diesel engine
- Automatic variable speed transmission
- Dual mode differential for rear axle
- Dual range gear box with selectable 4-wheel drive
- 12-months warranty



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**Kawasaki Commercial Products  
Stand M25**

Kawasaki's acclaimed Mule utility vehicle range will be in the limelight at BTME 2001.

The spotlight falls on the much sought-after Mule Diesel 2510 which takes centre stage having shattered all sales targets set by the Japanese manufacturer since its launch in the UK last year.

The appeal of the Mule utility vehicles to the turf and related sectors reinforces the pioneering contribution made by Kawasaki in the low ground-pressure vehicle market. Kawasaki's extensive brushcutter range provides another focal point for the power products on display along with hedge trimmers and the new KRB 400B blower with hand-held throttle.

Generators and water pumps will also be much in evidence in addition to Kawasaki's ever-growing engine range, featuring two new models this autumn, the FE400D and the FD791D.

**Kubota UK Ltd  
A13/35**

Making their first appearance at BTME will be the new ST Alpha 30 and 35 compact tractors, rated at 30hp and 35hp respectively. In addition to hydrostatic transmission, four wheel drive and mid/rear power take-offs, both tractors have a new power steering system with exceptional steering torque, producing smoother, lighter steering even with a fully-laden front loader bucket. To enhance manoeuvrability on and off turf, Kubota's unique Bi-speed turn is fitted as standard. The system automatically speeds up the front wheels when turning to minimise scuffing. Other enhancements on the new tractors include a top speed of 30km/hr (19mph) the fitting of hand operated cruise control and a rear linkage lift capacity of 1,150kg (2,356lb).

**Ocmis Irrigation  
Stand A5**

Ocmis are experts in irrigation system design and installation for all golf course, sport turf and landscape. We are distributor for Rain Bird irrigation products and can supply/service equipment manufactured by other companies. Ocmis have unique in-house design capabilities, ensuring that the requirements of each client are individually met. This coupled with a marketing agreement with Textron, provides the ultimate irrigation package. For more information or a no obligation survey and design contact Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Ltd, Head Office: 01460 241939, Scotland Office: 0131 220 2102, Ireland Office: (00353) 234020

**Rigby Taylor Ltd  
Stand Q29**

Rigby Taylor, a BIGGA Golden Key Member, will be displaying their wide range of products and services on stand Q29. Particular emphasis will be given to their MASCOT production portfolio including their Fertilizer (e.g. Polymax, Microflow,) Chemicals (e.g. Rimidin, Bastion T.) and Grass Seed ranges. The MASCOT Specialities range will also be featured including Integrate, Magnet, Amino-Sorb and Profile. Displays from Maxicrop (UK) Ltd and Rufford Soil Technology will be on show and in addition Grass Science, the UK based independent agronomy consultancy, will also be featured on the stand.

**Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd  
Stand A24**

Rolawn was established in 1975 and since that time has been supplying specially cultivated turf for the greens and tees of golf courses throughout the UK. The STRI conduct an annual botanical composition test on our turf. Medallion is Rolawn's most popular and versatile turf, combining a fine appearance with high wear tolerance. Minister is a fine textured greens turf, suitable for golf and bowling greens. All grades and rolls of Rolawn turf can be supplied washed clean and free of soil. The company also sells screened topsoil and soil conditioner. Contact: Customer Services Tel: 01904 608661 - email: info@rolawn.co.uk - www.rolawn.co.uk

**Scotts UK Professional  
Stand B6 & B20**

Contact: Martin Morgan  
Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich IP8 4BZ Tel: 01473 830492  
Fax: 01473 830386  
Scotts UK Professional is a leading authority on turf nutrition and pest control in the UK and Europe. No other company can offer a similar level of expertise in formulation, registration, technical support and research. As a result, Scotts is in a unique position to offer a fast and efficient information service to customers, including soil, water and tissue analysis and disease identification. For BTME 2001, Scotts will make these services available on stand, inviting greenkeepers to bring the results of their latest soil analysis to Scotts for interpretation. Scotts advisory team will be able to draw up a tailor made turf nutritional programme on the spot. In addition, the stand will display the benefits of the complete Scotts turfcare armoury, including a demonstration of the turf management tool Shortcut, which can halve the amount of time grounds and greenkeeping staff need to spend mowing grass.

**SISIS Equipment Ltd  
Stand M12**

SISIS have moved to Stand M12 in the new hall. Be sure to see the new heavy duty scarifier which will be shown for the first time at BTME 2001. Also on display will be other machines from the well-known SISIS range of turf maintenance equipment and grass cutters. We look forward to seeing you.

**Supaturf Products Ltd  
Stand A27**

Another year of outstanding innovation 2001: A year to revisit traditional methods. Visit us and win a years supply of some of our market leading products. Supaturf has been innovating and supplying market-leading products for many, many years to our industry but at this year's BTME, Supaturf will be launching a revolutionary new product which will be the answer to many a greenkeepers prayer. Details below. The World's favourite range of wetting agents, including Primer 604, will be on display as usual, as will the EvenSpred range of spreaders, the EvenSpray spraying system and the SupaMark range of aerosols and applications. We will be providing our free "TRY IT AND SEE FOR YOURSELF" sample/test pack of Primer 604 and will be demonstrating how to get the best from this world-leading product. There will also be a chance to win a years supply of Primer 604 absolutely free as part of our 2001 "LETS MANAGE OUR WATER" campaign and also to be awarded an, all expenses paid, trip to visit some of the world's best golf courses and meet some of the worlds best greenkeepers in our 2001 "LOOK AND LISTEN" water management education programme. Irresistible or what? There's more. We will be putting a new emphasis on our world famous range of traditional, semi organic fertilisers and invite everybody to our stand to try to win a years supply of Supaturf fertilisers in our special 2001 "LETS TAKE CONTROL" initiative. So what is our revolutionary product? Suffice to say at the moment that it is a new kind of sprayer that offers a whole range of totally revolutionary benefits but come along to the stand and see for yourself.

**Symbio  
Stand B4**

Symbio is 10. The first and most experienced British company developing microbial solutions to maintain excellent sports turf, trees and amenity and irrigation water. If you think you are spending too much on chemicals, visit us, to find out how biologically active root zones and good cultural practice can improve your turf and cut your chemical costs. If algae or organic silt in your lakes and ponds is a problem, we have the simple solution. No dredging, or algacides are required. Trees, cut transplant losses and get the best from your new trees and shrubs with our MycoForce Mycorrhizal inoculants. Contact Martin Ward  
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**Textron  
Stand A23**

Textron: the full range of golf turf maintenance equipment from a single source. Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products continue to display their innovative approach to all sectors of the turf care market with a complete range of quality products - all from a single source. New products to be launched include the Ransomes Super Certes walk-behind mower with 'Motivairi, the new control system from Textron and the triplex greens mower from Jacobsen, the Greens King VI, with either éone-touch reel lift and lower foot buttons or reel lift and lower joystick control. Also on display from the Jacobsen golf range will be the new Tri-King with lower profile and ISO-mountings and the restyled and redesigned Greens King IV.

**Toro Commercial Products  
Stand M11**

Making its debut at BTME is the all-new Toro Groundsmaster 4000-D, a powerful, but highly manoeuvrable 11ft rotary mower that produces a superb, high-quality cut. Toro has introduced the machine to meet the demand from those customers who prefer a large-scale rotary with a three-deck configurations. The Groundsmaster 3500-D Sidewinder also joins the Toro exhibition line-up. This innovative rotary mower has cutting units that can be shifted to either side of the machine to provide an overhang for grass edges such as bunker rims and fringes.

Turf-Seed UK Ltd  
Stand no: Q50

You're welcome at the Turf-Seed U.K., the youngest star in the Turf-Seed Inc. companies' galaxy around the world. Turf-Seed Companies represent the biggest private research in turf grass. Our RPM cycle, research-production-marketing, assures professional users the best quality seed for the highest quality playing surfaces. There is a wide range of varieties across all the major species with several entered into the STRI trials. If you are not yet familiar with the name you will know several of the famous cultivars, sold over decades throughout Europe. Visit the turf grass source and let us introduce you to the newest generation of Creeping Bent Grass, Perennial Ryegrass, Fine Fescues and Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass.



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**Scottish Region**  
Peter Boyd  
Tel./ Fax 0141 616 3440

## North

Is it really Christmas time again already? This year seems to have flown by, or am I just getting older?

The Section AGM took place at Royal Aberdeen GC at the end of October preceded by the annual Chairman versus Vice Chairman golf match for the Daval Trophy. We had an eleven a side match with one pair and five four balls. Victory went to the Vice Chairman's team by four matches to two. Thanks to all who played and Dennis Slater, of Daval, for presenting the trophy. A big thank you to Robert Patterson and his staff for a lovely golf course, the front nine of which is as good as any course in the world as it winds its way through the high dunes.

The meeting passed off very smoothly. The new Vice Chairman is Stewart MacBain who takes over from Wilson Morrison. We must thank Wilson for his hard work on the committee over the years. Welcome to Robert Hardie who comes on the committee in Wilson's place. A full list of committee duties will be in next month's magazine (if I remember to do it).

The final four winners in the Section 200 Club are: September £30 No 67 Gordon Moir, St Andrews. October £30 No 41 Colin Forbes, Aboyne. November £30 No 63 Alex Cruickshank, Ayrshire. December £100 No 58 Iain Grant, Buckie. Thanks to all who bought tickets and McNabs Sports for being this year's sponsors.

I had the hard task of helping to select the two representatives from the Scottish Region to go to Canada next February courtesy of Bernhards. All five candidates were excellent and would have been good ambassadors for the Region, but only two could go, so congratulations to Archie Dunn and Andrew Forrest on their selection. Hard lines to the other three, especially our Section representative, Hugh MacLachlan. Your turn will come, I am sure.

Once again the Region is running a bus to BTME next month and anyone interested should phone Peter Boyd on 0141 6163 440 for further details. This is a great trip and is subsidised by the Region so as many members as possible can attend, so come and join us in Harrogate for the event of the year.

Following on from Gordon Moir's promotion at St Andrews to Links Manager, Gordon McKie has been made up to Head Greenkeeper of the Eden course. Well done Gordon and maybe you will come back to the North Section as you are moving back over the Forth bridge.

Finally a very Happy Christmas to everybody out there and I hope 2001 brings you all you wish for.

I A Macleod

## East

Since I last wrote a number of things have happened in the section. Firstly

we have won the annual Norrie Whittock trophy for the first time beating all the Sections in Scotland. We have been runners up a couple of times so this makes up for it. Well done to the lads and hopefully we can retain it next year. The Section also defeated the north east of England greenkeepers at Tyneside GC for the first time since 1988 to win the Stewarts Quaich in the annual Stewarts match which is sponsored by Stewarts of Dalkieth. Thanks again to Robert T Bruce and John Geddes who were our hosts for a very enjoyable day. Also Tyneside GC clubhouse staff who looked after us extremely well, and the greenstaff, whose course was in great condition considering the terrible weather we were having at the time. So thanks to everyone for a great day and we look forward to next year's match when hopefully we can retain the trophy.

The Annual General Meeting took place on November 1, at Kingsknowe GC where our sponsors for the day were Thomas Sheriff and Co who put on a good talk for us on the John Deere range of equipment which was very informative and also supplied us with a very nice buffet lunch. Thanks to Andrew Harkness and Willie Ness of T Sheriff and Co for a great day.

The AGM took place in the afternoon and passed very quietly. There are a few changes to the committee; Stewart Greenwood has now completed his time as Chairman and takes his place on the committee as Past Chairman. Well done to Stuart for his time in office as the Section is now even bigger and better than it was when he took over. His time in office done so well, and we look forward to having you on the committee, with us, Stuart.

The new Chairman is Tom Murray, Ratho Park. Tom is thoroughly looking forward to the job ahead and can't wait to get started, so all the best to Tom in his time as Chairman. Tom's Vice Chairman is yours truly, Chris Yeaman, West Linton GC. Tom asked me to be his Vice Chairman and I was delighted to accept his offer, and I am looking forward to the next few years. Graham Wood, Dunbar GC, has stepped down from the committee after a number of years with us, and we would like to thank Graham for all his hard work, and wish him all the best for the future.

Our new committee member who is making a welcome return is Peter Ormiston, Uphall GC. Well done Peter and we look forward to seeing you at the first meeting of the new committee. The annual dance will have taken place by the time you read this slightly earlier than normal so a report next month. If you are going to BTME 2001 you had better get your entry forms back to Peter Boyd ASAP as we are getting more Scottish greenkeepers going each year so hurry and don't miss out.

Well that's it all this month - if you want to get in touch just use the usual phone numbers and email address. So, as this is the last column of the year, the section would like to wish all members and friends a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year, and I would like to extend that to all members of BIGGA

and all staff at HQ and also Peter Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator and all the other administrators across the country. I hope I will speak to you all at BTME2001 in January.

Till then, bye for now,  
Chris Yeaman.

## Central

We begin this month's report with the sad news of the recent death of one of the Section's Past Chairmen, Jimmy Lees. Jimmy was a founder member of the Section being the first Vice Chairman in 1980 and becoming Chairman in 1981. He served on the committee for a good number of years and was a strong supporter of section events even after his retirement as Head Greenkeeper at Grangemouth Golf Course. He will be sadly missed and our sincere condolences go to his family at this very trying time.

Well, the Section AGM was held on October 31 at SGM House, Inverkeithing, when a whole 15 members took the time to attend! You don't know what you missed! Scottish Grass Machinery organised a visit to St. Andrews, a presentation on SGM and a tour of their facilities prior to the meeting. Our sincere thanks go to Steven McInroy and everyone at SGM for an excellent day. As far as the AGM was concerned we had a very successful meeting and YOUR committee for the coming year is Chairman, A. O'Hara, Vice Chairman, S. Sime. Past Chairman, A. Dunn, Sec/Treas. J. Crawford, Committee D. Scott, G. Mitchell, S. Cruickshank, A. Collier, Patron's representatives P. Langdon and K. Brunton.

Congratulations go to Past Chairman Archie Dunn on being selected to represent BIGGA at the CGSA Conference in Vancouver next year.

Archie will visit Canada in February next year along with the other selected members for what should be a memorable trip. Well done, Archie!

Joining the Section this month are Michael Romaszkiwicz, from Montrose Links; Brian Needs, from Towers of Lathandy, and Stuart Manattini, from Murrayshall Golf Club. Once again we extend a warm and welcome to the Section and we hope to see you at some of our events in the not too distant future. Membership of the Section is still on the increase and this year we welcomed new members every month. Let's hope we can do the same next year.

The Section's recipients of this year's Patrons' Awards are Kenny Thomson, from Tulliallan Golf Club, and James Seivwright, from Auchterarder Golf Club. Both will receive an expenses paid trip (not including liquid refreshments) to BTME at Harrogate in January. See what can be achieved if you support BIGGA events!

Remember your "Club 2000" tickets have to be sold or returned to me by the end of this month in order that everyone's number can be included in the January draw. The winner of this month's big draw is Alex Robertson - yes it's that man again! - from Grangemouth Golf Course, with ticket number 539. There must be something about that area which attracts winning numbers.

As we come to the end of another year. Where did it go? I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, with special thanks to everyone who supported the Section, the Patrons of the Scottish Region and the numerous golf clubs who give us their support year in year out.

John Crawford.

## West

Thursday 26th October, the West Section's annual AGM and another disappointing show of members.

John Scott, on behalf of Claremont BC, stated, and quite rightly so, that if attendance is poor again, the use of their clubhouse facilities will cease forthwith! So, to the AGM, Gavin Jarvis, Lenzie GC, took over from Brian Hillen, Drumpellier GC as Section Chairman, for a two year term.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank Brian, who breathed a huge sigh of relief after we exchanged our respective posts, for firstly his extended length of service as chairman - two years - for all his input and enthusiasm at meetings and the like. At least we have still got hold of you for a little while longer, eh, Brian! Upon taking the chair I proposed Brian Bolland as my vice. Brian was seconded from the floor and took up his new appointment.

There were two vacancies to fill on committee this year, John Scott Jnr, Scottish Chairman, and Stuart Taylor came off ending a lengthy service and dedicated hard work for the West Section. Thanks to both of you for your sterling efforts.

The lucky pair to join the committee were John Robertson, Hilton Park GC, and Gerry Bruen, East Kilbride GC. Welcome aboard to you both, I hope you enjoy your time serving on committee.

Ronnie Bunting announced at the AGM that there would be a Moderators' meeting in January at the Central Station Hotel, date to be confirmed.

Patron's Awards were offered this year to Brian Bolland, E. Kilbride GC, and Gavin Jarvis, Lenzie GC. Naturally, we both accepted and would like to thank the Patrons for this wonderful award. We both look forward to attending BTME in January 2001.

The games on this occasion were limited to four - snooker, pool, dominoes and bowls. The undisputed winning pair were John Scott Jr and Brian Bolland. Well done to you, guys. The last draw of the 100 Club was drawn with the winning ticket number 19 and the lucky holder for £50 was K. Collins, E. Kilbride GC. Thanks to those of you who made the effort to show up on the evening.

Friday October 31, the visit to Elmwood College and Elmwood Golf Developments (EGD), and unfortunately another poor turnout as only nine members appeared. I must say that the attendance at some of these outings is absolutely pitiful, considering the number of members in our Section. I would ask you to consider and offer the committee some positive feedback that may help us generate more interest in organising future



events and venues.

However, back to Elmwood. For the benefit of members who did not attend I can only say what an excellent day you all missed. John Quinn, Director of EGD, and Huw Parry, Deputy Principal of Elmwood College, gave us a talk in the morning and a look around some specific areas in the college. Later, we were taken up to EGD for a look at the greenkeepers' utility area. Thereafter we had a lovely lunch in the Fairways Clubhouse. After lunch seven members played 9 holes of golf and the remainder were taken to the Scottish National Golf Centre. An amazing complex that I would recommend to anyone, a must see.

Truly well-thought out, offering youngsters and even old duffers like me, an incentive to improve their handicap. I greatly appreciate the members who attended on the day.

The Scottish Region have organised a coach and accommodation package to BTME in January. Please contact Peter Boyd if you are interested and wish to make a reservation. The education conference will be on March 6, 2001 at Lauder College, hope to see lots of faces there.

Lastly, I would just like to wish all members a good year for the new season ahead.

Gavin Jarvis 07050 173080



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

**Northern**

The Christmas golf is at Huddersfield GC on 6 December at 10am. Please note that this is a bring and win a prize with a minimum value of £5. Also the AGM will follow the golf at 6.30pm.

A packed attendance for our autumn tournament at Hornsea GC with many new faces ensured an enjoyable day with the sun out as well. Thanks to F & G Adamsons for sponsoring the event and Head Greenkeeper, Roger Bielby and his staff, for the excellent condition of the course. Format for the day was 3/4 hcp and the prizes were dished out as follows:- Div 1. 1. Alan Baxter 34pts; 2. Mark Price 32pts; 3. Roger Bielby. Div 2. 1. Robin Smith 32pts; 2. Lee Garrad 30pts; 3. Tito Arna 27pts. Div 3. 1. Michael Gregson 23pts; 2. Jim Brown 19pts; 3. John Stuttard 17pts. The U40's went to Richard Barker and the trade prize went to Mel Guy.

The Longest Drive went to Michael Gregson, Nearest the Pin to Roger Bielby.

Thanks to Acorn for sponsoring the Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin. There was only one winner in the 2' s club and guess who walked off with £30. Yeah, it was a certain Mr Bielby. Well done Roger. I would like to thank everyone for contributing to the raffle with all proceeds going to John Waite. You raised £100 on the day.

Last month was the Section Seminar which was well attended at Howley

Hall GC and I would like to thank Lubemaster, Amenity Technology, Aitkins, Barenbrug for sponsoring the event and John Dobson, Robert Laycock, Howard McAddy and Jim Croxten for speaking.

If you have any queries don't hesitate in picking the phone up and giving us a ring. There is no other news at the moment. If anybody has any then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 2383188 / mobile 07790 678572, or email: andy\_smith21@hotmail.com

Andy Smith

**North East**

On October 5 we had the annual match against our old friends from the East of Scotland Section and this time they came out the winners by 4-2. Rumour has it they brought in a few ringers - not to worry lads you only have a loan of the trophy for a year.

I would like to thank Steve Pope for re-arranging the game to Tyneside at very short notice as the venue was to have been at Gosforth GC but it was closed due to heavy rain.

Thanks also to Tyneside GC for coming to the rescue on the day and also to Stewarts of Edinburgh for sponsoring the event.

Graham Chambers, of Longhirst Hall GC, has informed me that the new 11 holes are progressing very well and should equal the quality they already have by opening date next August. Work has already started on the remaining seven holes due for 2003 and this will give them 36 holes with planning for another 18 in the future.

Tony McLure, of Whickham GC, has also been busy as they bought adjoining land for extension to 20 holes and at a later date work it in to a challenging 18 holes with the odd alteration on the existing course.

As you can see, people are getting in touch with news. I can't print it if I don't get it!

Jimmy Richardson

**North West**

Almost the last day in October and the sun is shining brightly, giving the impression that all is well outside. Wrong; the ground is just about at saturation point after continual rain for what appears to be the last two months. Some parts of the country have had it much worse than the north west, but nevertheless we have certainly had our share of the wet stuff. I am sure that most of you are struggling to keep the courses open at the moment, apart from getting any winter work done, so lets hope for some good drying winds to enable you to get some drainage work done.

We had a poor response of applications for the free trip to the Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show in Vancouver next February from the north west section. Only two applications came from the Section, and one of those withdrew at the last minute, but the six finalists (one from each Section in the Region) came over very well in the interviews, making it a difficult task to choose the final two. I am pleased to say that Anthony Davies, Prestbury GC, was

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one of the winners, and Jimmy Richardson, North East Secretary, was the second winner. The BIGGA delegation to the show has been sponsored by Bernhard & Co, ten members in all, and apart from enjoying the trip, they will be expected to represent BIGGA in a proper manner.

Well that seems to be all the news for now. I am just preparing for my 20 day trip to Africa, and the hot sunny days. In the meantime I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

Bert Cross Tel: 0151 724 5412

### Cleveland

This month at the Wynyard Club we have been putting the finishing touches to our ark and have been loading the animals in two by two, also life jackets have been issued as P.P.E. The irrigation system has been closed down as Course Manager Gary Munro decided that we probably wouldn't need it again till spring!

The autumn tournament took place at Durham City GC last month. I was unable to attend but my roving reporter informs me that the course was in excellent condition, so thanks and well done to course manager Stan Shotton and his staff for their efforts.

The event was sponsored by Sportlands. Many thanks to them for their support. Their representative Allen Kellady won the guest's prize in his first greenkeepers' event. Also winning a prize in his first event was Liam McGeough, stealing the booby prize from his younger brother Titch. Chris Powley, of Dinsdale Spa GC, won the event and nearest the pin and Tony Burge, Head Greenkeeper at Richmond GC, came second and got the longest drive. No comment!

Any news contact me on: Mobile - 07719 193381

Steven Jaques

### North Wales

Greenkeeping, what a profession! Water, water, everywhere and a huge headache for all of us, winter programmes finished before they have even started, stress, stress and more stress.

Our autumn meeting was eventually played at Bull Bay, with 37 players in attendance. A bright but windy day made for testing golf. In the nearest the pin competition, not one member hit the green. However Bob Bolland, of ALS did, and claimed the guest's prize.

The rest of the prizes were; Best Gross Allen Lewis, 77pts Stableford 1. Andy Peel, 34pts; 2. Shaun Pritchard, 33pts. Guests 1. John Burns (pro Bull Bay) 29pts; 2. Ken Baker 27pts. Trade yet again, Andy Cornes, Acorn Equipment, with a storming 27pts. Longest drive, member, George Whitby and guest, John Burns (again). Thanks go to Bull Bay for offering us the use of their splendid course; to Andy Peel and his team for the preparation and presentation of the course; the bar staff for the liquid refreshment and the caterers for an excellent meal.

Thanks also go to our trade sponsors Paul Walker, ALS, John Osman, Acorn, Gem, Sports World, Aitkens and Major R Owen, without who, the prize table would not be anywhere near as good.

Terry Adamson drove in as captain at Northop Country Park in October. Wishing you an excellent year with better weather than this year mate. Congratulations go out to Gavin Clarke and Sharon on the birth of a baby boy and Paul Massey and Janice also a baby boy, both couples having called their sons Thomas.

Finally it is with regret that I am not standing for committee this year due to increasing pressures in my private life. I would just like to say that it has been an honour and a privilege to serve the Section as Chairman. I thank all of you as members for your support and my fellow committee members for making everything go as smoothly as possible. So, the election papers are sent to your house, please think about serving on committee. You will get something out of the experience, honestly. Here's to a Happy Christmas and a dry New Year!

Dave Goodridge



Midland Region  
Les Emery  
Tel: 0116 287 9036

### Midland

I hope everybody has dried out from the deluge of rain that closed most of our courses during late October and early November. At the time of writing this report most of the courses in our area have been closed for over a week. Records show that in the region of 20mm of rain has fallen during October. Is this the shape of things to come?

Anyway, on with the news. The Rigby Taylor Doubles Final has been played and the eventual winners were Mike Gash, from Moseley GC, and Rob Shaw, from Gaudet Luce GC, who defeated Julian Chesson and Richard Thwaites, both from Three Hammers Golf Complex. The Final was played over the Duchess course at Woburn. Many thanks go to Steve Blakeman, who organised the day, and also Tony Cheese, who helped with the smooth running of the day.

The Committee Cup has also been played and the winner this year was Eddie Stant from Penn GC. The Cup was played at Shirley GC and many thanks to Andrew Smith and his staff for presenting the course in such good condition.

Finally, it remains for me to remind you of the Christmas tournament and AGM to be held at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club on Wednesday 6th December.

On October 26 the Midland Section held an informative talk at Fulford Heath GC. The day was sponsored by Rigby Taylor, Grass Science & Abbey Mowers (TORO). The numbers were limited so the representative of the sponsors delivered the information as they were going around the golf courses. The committee would like to thank Steve Blakeman, Tony Cheese, Andrea Fleetwood from Rigby Taylor, Andy Cole from Grass Science, Mick Shaw, Bob Pilsbury, Mike Corbett from Abbey Mowers for all their help and financial sponsorship.

The event started at 3pm with 36 delegates being split into two groups with group one having a talk by the practice putting green by Andy Cole and group two going onto the practice area where TORO had 4 machines (Toro 550 Fairway Mower, Toro Sidewinder, Toro 3250D Greensmower, Toro 2100 Utility Vehicle) and Dave Watson, from Lely/Toro, gave a talk on the various machines. Each talk lasted 30 minutes with the groups changing places and completing the outside talks. On returning to the Clubhouse all the delegates sat down for the talks by the Rigby Taylor Speakers. Peter Gower, Amega Sciences, gave a talk on black layer and the use of Blockade. A talk was given by Chris Pye, of Dow Agrosociences. Chris gave a brief talk about Dow Agrosociences and their links with Rigby Taylor. Then the talk went on to discuss integrated pest management with the delegates answering questions on how they managed pest and disease, whether Biological, Cultural or Chemical ways worked or whether a preventive management approach was better.

Peter Richmond thanked all the people involved and the delegates for taking time to come along. After the formal proceedings there was a hot buffet which was free to the delegates. Our thanks go to Simon Gibbs, the Steward, for all his help in the Clubhouse, also the committee would like to thank Fulford Heath GC for allowing us the use of the Club's facilities.

On a final note, the committee are always looking for ideas for future events. If you have any ideas etc. then please write to K. Blake 10 Dinmore close, Winyates West, Redditch Worcs, B98 0JT and we will give them an airing.

Jonathan Wood

### East of England

The last golf day of the year was held at Boston GC. Bruce Hicks and his staff produced an excellent course, considering the downpour prior to the competition. The sponsors for this competition were Lawn Mower Services, and we thank Chris Overton and Dave Hampshire for their prizes on the day. Also thanks to John Cook for presenting the prizes on the night.

Other sponsors on the day were Aitkens, Greenpride, Barenbrug, Alpha Amenity and Rigby Taylor.

The winners in the Texas scramble who took home the LMS Trophy were:- N. Hewson, M. Smith, P. Fell. Second were M. Wood, T. Luffman and G. McDonald. Nearest to Pin went to Nick Smith and Longest Drive was won by Russ Moody (Shortest Drive went to Adrian Kitchinson)

The first of the evening education seminars sponsored by Lawn Mower Services was held at Newark GC. Unfortunately John Neil of Supreme Grinding had to pull out the day before the seminar. We thank Sam McLean for standing in at short notice. Sam who works for Bernhard and Company Grinding talked about grinding techniques and was followed by a practical demonstration on grinding. Gerry Solthgate of Textron spoke on the

importance of preventative maintenance of grass cutting machinery.

Graeme McDonald

### BB&O

The evening of October 6 saw the BB&O AGM at Springs GC.

Amazingly, in a Section that boasts in excess of 375 members, the number of member who turned up could be counted on two hands. However, the meeting itself was remarkably successful. Questions that were raised from the meeting ranged from the content and quality of the magazine to the dates of next year's events and meetings. All answers I will try to get printed as soon as I get them. Also the current committee have agreed to stay on although Bernie Wall will step down in August. John Lister of Sonning GC has also been elected onto the committee. It is important that the committee changes more regularly, say on a three yearly basis. That way we have fresh ideas as well as fresh people.

The section itself is financially doing very well. This is mainly due to the support at golf days. We are very fortunate in being able to cap the prices of golf days to £20, and in the past years we have played on some superb golf courses, and we cannot thank these clubs enough for their support.

The reason we are able to cap the price for golf days is because of the support we receive from trade members who pay for postage, trophies and raffle prizes as well as helping out on the committee. Since HQ stopped funding the Sections, to pay the regional administrators we had to become self-sufficient and without trade support it would cost us more money.

So there you go, a brief insight into the AGM. I must admit, on a personal note, that since I've been on the committee I have seen the work, time and effort that Adrian, Lindsay, Bernie etc. put into organising events for you, the members, and it must be very disappointing for them when no-one turns up or seems interested. If you don't like the way that the Section is being run, then AGMs are your chance to tell us. That's one of the reasons why we have them.

Anyway, time to get off the soapbox. The Rigby Taylor Pairs final has been played and won by Ian Robins and Carl Small, beating Gordon and Peter Critchley 5&4. The golf played by both pairs was superb. I've heard that the BBC are putting a quote in for coverage next year in place of the PGA matchplay. Seriously though, I do think that it's time for a review of handicaps - any volunteers? Many thanks to Mark Stidwell, of Rigby Taylor, for his help organising this event and for the trophy and prizes. Let's hope next year's pairs competition is as equally successful. Ian Roberts seemed to have had a very good month, not only being a part of the winning team in the aforementioned, but he has also been promoted from First Assistant to Deputy Head at Ellesborough GC. Well done Ian! Also, congratulations to Alun Wright, of T.H. Whites, for being named Textron European Salesman of the year, for the second year running. Before I sign off I'd just like to thank

Thames Valley Police for catching the little sods that broke into my sheds, and for letting me off for speeding last Sunday, There is hope! See you all soon.

Jon Scoones Tel: 01189 723334

**East Midlands**

This year's Rigby Taylor East Midlands v Midlands Section golf match was held at Coxmoor GC on October 9. The day started misty but then cleared into a fine sunny morning, before heavy rain ruined the day. The morning greensomes match was won by four games to one, with Pete Billings and Dave Leatherland winning the one game for our Section. The afternoon singles matches were started before the course was closed with the East Midlands ahead in many games. However, the match was quite rightly decided on the Greensomes results, with the Midlands Section again the victorious side. Congratulations should go to the Midland Section who have now won the shield on nine of the 12 occasions.

I would like to thank Coxmoor GC for hosting the event and to the Head Greenkeeper and his staff for providing us with an excellent course and to the Steward for a really great meal - not forgetting our sponsors for the day Rigby Taylor. Also I would like to add my own thanks to all the members of both teams. Our own Section was represented by the following members, Jeff Dickinson, Russell Allen, Pete Billings, Dave Leatherland, Ian Needham, Adi Porter, Antony Bindley, Steve Levers, Chris Weir and our Chairman, Gavin Robson.

Finally, at long last, I can publish the results of our Questionnaire and I would like to thank all our members who took the time to complete the form. 133 forms were sent out and 48 were returned. Five thought Section events were too expensive; 42 said that they were value for money; 20 paid their own subscriptions and 27 did not. Of the 27 who did not, 14 said they would pay their own and 13 would not. 14 members would like more golf tournaments and 29 did not; 15 wanted more lectures/seminars and 23 did not; 10 would like more social events and 38 would not. 34 were aware of their membership benefits and 10 were not. If you would like any further information on the questionnaire results, please give me a ring.

Next year's Go-Kart evening has been arranged for Wednesday, February 21 at the Wymeswold Industrial Estate. This again has been generously sponsored by Toro. For further details please read future Around the Green articles.

Finally I would like to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and on behalf of all the members I would like to thank all those companies who sponsored the section over the last 12 months. Toro-Go-Kart evening, E T Breakwell's Spring Tournament, Barenbrug, East Midlands v East of England Golf Match, Banks Amenity Products - Autumn Tournament, Rigby Taylor - East Midlands v Midlands Section Golf Match and Christmas Tournament and Vitax Ltd - AGM Tournament.

Antony Bindley



**South East**  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

**East Anglia**

It was a very windy and rainy day when our small band of wanderers went to play at Waldringfield Heath GC. Despite the heavy rain during the previous night, Keith Titshall and his greenkeeping team had made a splendid effort to produce a course of high quality. This has become the rule rather than the exception with all our meetings. I would like to thank Keith and all the staff at Waldringfield Heath GC for their help in making the day a very successful one. I would also thank Matt Bartrum and Toni Nelli, from Bartrum Mowers, for their sponsorship of the day and their continual support of the section. Although only 26 members turned up for the match, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves very much. On to the winners: 0 - 9 H/cap 1. P. Howard 33 points; 2. M. Virley, 31 points; 3. N. Brewster 28 points, on countback. 10 - 18 H/cap 1. M. Broughton 39 points, and overall winner of the day; 2. I. Willett 27 points o/c; J. Timms 27 points 19 - 28 H/cap 1. K. Titshall 36 points; 2. A. Hollins 31 points; 3. J. Pymer 29 points. Guest and Trade 1. S. Ayles 36 points; 2. R. Baker 31 points; 3. C. Savage 30 points o/c. Longest Drive P. Howard, Nearest the Pin 2nd. J. Pymer, Nearest the Pin 10th R. Barney.

Our thanks go out to our main sponsor Bartrum Mowers and our other sponsors Rushbrook & Sons, Greensports, Sisis, Atterton & Ellis Ltd.

Ron Goldsmith, the Golf Club Vice Captain, welcomed us to the club and helped to present the prizes. Thank you Ron for helping to make the day.

By the time you read this the Regional Seminar will have taken place. I do hope it went well. The AGM and Turkey Trot will take place at Thorpeness Hotel and Golf Club on December 19. It will involve a Texas Scramble in teams of three, followed by Christmas Lunch and then the AGM. On a personal note I have been informed that I shall become a Grandad next May. Christine and I are very happy about the prospect.

Hope to see you all at the AGM  
Ian Willett

**Mid Anglia**

The autumn golf meeting was held in September at Mid Herts GC, over 18 holes. It was disappointing to note that only 22 people entered and supported the event, which must be one of our lowest turnouts ever. Those who did attend, however, enjoyed a fine day's golf over an excellent course in super condition. Thanks to Dave Forsyth and his team for all their efforts. The golf was followed by a superb meal, and bearing in mind the refurbishment going on in the clubhouse, we were looked after very well. So thanks to Mid Herts for their hospitality.

Our main sponsors, Driving force Leisure, represented by Dave Murphy,

provided the prizes which went to the following people: 1. Wayne Tysoe, Mid Herts GC 36 points; 2. Tim Houghton, Pytchley Golf Centre 34 points; 3. Paul Greenhalgh, Berkhamsted 33 points.

Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin were both won by Steve Mason, from Mount Pleasant Golf Club.

The Section's Annual General Meeting followed the presentation and the resulting elected members of the committee were: Chairman, Colin Robinson - Secretary/Treasurer, Gerald Bruce - Fixtures Secretary, Richard Saunders - Regional Representative, Paul Lockett - other committee members, Steve Mason, David Forsyth, John Wells.

Gerald Bruce reported that the Section has a total of 256 members and thanked the sponsors of our fixture card - George Browns and Turner Groundcare.

The following golf clubs have been booked for next year's four seasonal events - Overstone Park, Harpenden, Letchworth and Dunstable Downs. Gerald also submitted a balance sheet which shows the Section to be in a healthy financial position. Richard then gave a report on all the golf days completed this year and mentioned the winners.

Two items were put to the vote in "any other business." (1) That there should be at least two greenkeepers per team entered for the Christmas Texas Scramble event. (2) That the cost of next year's spring, summer and autumn tournaments for members under 25 should be £15. Both were approved.

Frank Scullion, from Dunstable Downs, expressed his disappointment that entries for the Lodgeway Four Ball were down and that some people had failed once again to play their matches. Why do these people bother entering? The whole competition will be reviewed by the committee, to see if it is worth running next year, or possibly changing the format. Watch this space!

Paul Lockett

**Sussex**

A blustery day welcomed us at the Worthing GC for the BIGGA Sussex autumn meeting on September 27. The day was sponsored by Sheerwater Leisure, so thanks to Mark Wilton for their prizes. Also I would like to thank Ian Evans, the Secretary at Worthing for their hospitality and a special thanks goes to Rob Short and all his staff for producing a very fine course with very fast greens.

Although George Barr and Raymond Day won't thank Robert for the long rough! They managed to lose 15 balls between them.

My playing partner, Derek Farrington, BIGGA's South East Regional Administrator, must have drunk too much brandy out of his hip flask as he was disqualified for not signing his card. Only joking Derek!

Now the results. Div. One. 1. Mark Thistleton 36 pts; 2. Mike Ground, 32 pts. On count back. Div Two. 1. Matt Crossley, 37 pts; 2. Stefan Antolik 35 pts. Trade/Guest 1. Mark Reed 35 pts. 2. myself 29 Pts. The longest walk went to Mark Wilton with 16 Pts.

Thanks to everybody who made the effort to turn up, the numbers were a little disappointing but I hope to see a few more greenkeepers at the Turkey Trot on Friday 15 December at Littlehampton GC. I will be reporting on this in the January issue, along with details of our AGM and Texas Scramble, which was held at Haywards Heath GC on 2 November. So let me be the first to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2001. Thanks.

Gary Ogilvie

**Surrey**

Although there is not much to write about this month I am pleased to report from Chipstead GC the birth of Andy Davey's first child, a daughter, Laura. Laura was eight weeks premature and weighed in at 4lb 2oz. Stuart Woods from Roehampton Club is also now a proud father of a little girl called Megan Michaela. Congratulations to them both.

From Puttenham Golf Club the news of a wedding, Nicola has made an honest man of James Andrews. Let's hope it does not affect his swing!

Brian Willmott



**South West and South Wales**  
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**South Coast**

Tony Gadd's given up the Around the Greens report in the magazine, so it falls upon me to have a bash at it, and I would like to start by wishing everyone a very happy Christmas. Yes it really is that time of year again, where did the summer go I hear you all ask? All I know is that it certainly didn't visit Salisbury.

Three new members were welcomed onto the committee at the November meeting, those were Carl Horrax, Course Manager at Salisbury and South Wilts; Trevor Simons, from Gem, and myself, Mike Cartwright, Deputy Course Manager from Salisbury.

All the year's events are over now, so I'll just remind you of a couple of things happening early in the New Year. The first is the Section seminar at Sparsholt. Speakers include Jim Arthur; Stella Inglethorpe, from Grassroots, and Mark Hunt, from Headland. The cost of the day will be £15 for members and £22 for non-members. Please could everyone get there for 9.30 am for a 10am start.

The first Golf Day in 2001 will be held at the Army Golf Club, Aldershot. The cost for the day will be £21, the price includes morning coffee, lunch, dinner and 27 holes of golf. A bargain! People who fail to turn up for the day, or cancel close to the day will still have to pay the full amount to cover the costs charged by the club. This will apply for all future Golf Days as well. Westurf will take place on April 12. This will be held at West Point again, with it being held a little later in the year the weather should be better, so we hope to see more of you there. Watch this space next month for the cheapest night out in Exeter, £40 for a Banquet Dinner, Bed and Breakfast.

Mike Cartwright

### Devon & Cornwall

Season's greetings to you all. The Roffey's meeting was our first of the autumn and winter programme which this year was held at Dainton Park GC on Wednesday, October 25. The day started as usual with golfing members competing for the D.O Hunt Trophy. The non-golfing members were treated to an excellent guided tour of the course & clubhouse facilities by Head Greenkeeper, Buster Lewer. After an excellent lunch Don Hunt, on behalf of Roffeys, presented the prizes for the singles Stableford golf competition for the D.O Hunt trophy. 1. Andy Parker, Crediton, 38pts on back 9; 2. Gerald Ayliffe, Wrangaton, 38pts; 3. Kevin Dymond, Morteohoe & Wollacombe, 38pts. After the prize presentation Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education & Training Manager, gave an excellent talk on the new BIGGA website and the internet. Ken also answered questions on current educational issues.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsors, Roffeys and Don Hunt, for their support and to David Wood, the owner of Dainton Park GC, for allowing the Section use of his excellent facilities, also our thanks and congratulations to Buster and his team who have kept the course playable during the wettest October on record. Special thanks to Ken for making the long trip down to the Section and presenting an excellent talk. Thanks also to all the staff at Dainton for making the Section feel so welcome.

The Barenbrug Seeds meeting will be our first meeting in the New Year and will be held at Royal North Devon GC on Wednesday, January 31. The morning will start with a singles Stableford golf competition with starting times from 9.30am. The usual course walk for non golfers will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am.

Have you booked your place on the Region's package to BTME 2001, which includes transport, accommodation and entry to the BTME show & Seminars, There's only a few places left so hurry.

Richard Whyman

### South West

This is unfortunately my last monthly report for the magazine as I am stepping down from my position as monthly report writer and Education and Training Officer. Fear not however, as a replacement for the monthly reports have already been found. Dave Bougen will take over next month, and I'm sure that Dave's usual tactful and diplomatic style will make for interesting reading.

As I'm stepping down from Education and Training Officer, no more courses have been arranged, so if you're thinking of going on a course you will have to wait until my successor is in the hot seat.

Autumn may appear as a distant memory now, but as I write this report, the wind and the rain are still battering everything outside. Earlier, on November 2, these same conditions led to the cancellation of the autumn tournament, due to take place at Weston-Super-Mare. Despite the prospect of difficult travelling conditions, a healthy turnout of 35 members

attended the meal and AGM. Thanks go to Karen and her catering team, and to Kevin James and his greenkeeping staff for attempting to get the course playable, but alas finally beaten by the weather.

The AGM turned out to be a lively and vociferous affair with many issues and concerns being raised, some of which are too hot to be printed on this page. With myself and Secretary Chris Jack stepping down from our positions, two places on the committee needed to be filled. Members of the committee went on the search for fresh faces, and within a short space of time, a number of victims could be seen cowering in the dark corners of the clubhouse pinned down by the committee, with arms twisted behind their back.

Hopefully, new faces on the committee will include Kevin James, taking over as Secretary, and John Jarvis, taking over Education and Training. Anthony Knight was elected as Team Captain, John Keenaghan, as Vice-Captain, and Martin Samuel as Trade Representative. Dave Bougen will also take over as Fixtures Secretary from Terry Humphrey. The Committee thanked Terry for all his hard work in what is an often-thankless task trying to persuade clubs to let us have courtesy of the course and provide us with good food at low cost.

Terry was able to announce the venues for next year's golfing calendar. This will start of with the Winter Tournament at Stinchcombe on February 28, followed by events at Thoulstone Park; Woodspring; The Manor House; The Kendleshire; Cumberwell Park and Cotswold Hills.

John Keenaghan also announced plans to introduce more varied competitions including Texas scrambles and also an inter golf club competition for greenkeepers.

Finally, with BTME coming up, it is important to contact Paula Humphries if you are thinking of booking a place for the trip.

Paul Cunningham.

### Northern Ireland

#### Northern Ireland

The Inaugural Northern Ireland Education Conference was held on Wednesday, October 25 at Greenmount College and was undoubtedly a rip-roaring success. A great line up of speakers and BIGGA Headquarters' help really ensured the success of this day before it had even started.

Including sponsors, we had approximately 150 people in attendance, which was a full house - so many thanks to all who attended. Forgive me if, in this article, I sound a bit like Barry McGuigan thanking people for their help, but sterling work from Sami Collins, Elliott Small, all the speakers, Greenmount College, Graham Wylie and the sponsors made it the day it was.

Elliott Small and Graham Wylie wel-

comed everyone to the conference, with Elliott introducing the speakers during the day. Our first speaker was David Garland, Director of Tour Operations on the PGA European Tour, who talked on how the Tour expect a course to be turned out for an event. There were some interesting tips to be had on how a course should be cut etc. and in particular, that the Tour didn't demand greens to be shaved, as long as they were smooth and consistent.

Chris Kennedy, Course Manager from Wentworth, then spoke on what is required from the course and Course Manager when the Tour hold an event at Wentworth. This paper was quite amazing as I am sure no-one thought there was just as much work involved: from course presentation, to setting up TV camera stands, to weather conditions, to someone having a heart attack on the course.

David MacIndoe, Course Manager from Killarney Golf and Fishing Club, gave his account of traditional greenkeeping and the problems he has encountered with weather and massive land slides. While building the course, thousands of tons of earth completely engulfed a new green and tee, which not only involved a lot of hard work to clear, but also a lot of heartache.

John Quinn MG, Director of Golf at Elmwood College, talked on how other people in the club perceive you and your staff; and how important it is to

create a good impression of yourself and to be prepared to change your ideas on how golf courses can be run.

Our own Frank Ainsworth talked on a career in Greenkeeping, which was very enjoyable and funny. He also touched on some of his experiences on courses which he had helped build or worked at.

Gordon Child reflected on a lifetime in greenkeeping contrasting the past with the present day before Jim Arthur took to the platform with his forthright and pungent views. The golf bodies in turn were the subject of critical comment and Jim left little doubt where he stood in relation to both golfing politics and greenkeeping practice.

The last speaker was Peter Jones, who delivered a very sensible guide to Greenkeeping. From this paper there was definitely something to learn and take away thoughts to digest later.

A final word for our sponsors. Your support was greatly appreciated and we hope that we'll see you back sponsoring our next conference. It was indeed a day that I'm sure will be talked about for a very long time.

Iain Harrison

Around the green

See you all next year!

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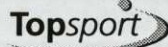
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TURF CARE AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products is part of the Industrial division of Textron, an innovative, market-leading, global corporation, turning over more than \$11.6 billion per year.

### Regional Sales Managers UK & Ireland

With a portfolio of recognised brand names such as Ransomes, Jacobsen, Cushman, Ryan and E-Z-GO, Textron Turf Care & Specialty Products is looking to recruit individuals with experience, drive and enthusiasm to work with our dealer network in the UK and Ireland. A good knowledge of the turf care industry would be an advantage, as would experience of groundscape machinery.

In the first instance, interested parties should send a CV and covering letter with current salary details to: Caroline Gumble, Human Resources Director, Textron Turf Care & Specialty Products, Central Avenue, Ransomes Europark, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9QG, UK.

All applications should be received by 15 December 2000.  
Strictly no agencies.

### Service & Sales Manager Singapore

We are also seeking to recruit a multi-skilled individual to work with our Asian distribution network, to be based in Singapore. This position also requires knowledge of turf care machinery, especially in the field of product service. The ideal candidate will have experience working with distributors in a selling environment and the required technical knowledge to understand product servicing requirements.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## Feature listing from December '98

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**November '99;** Sir Michael Bonallack interview; The Pines GC; Oil; Bunkers; National Championship review

**December '99;** Agronomy; Security; Environment Competition Winner; Toro Award Winners

**January 2000;** Greens Construction; Awkward Jobs; Sandy McDivot; Agronomy; Toro Award review

**February 2000;** BTME2000 review; Committed to Green interview; Rookery Park GC; Engines; Chairman's profile; Environmental Management

**March 2000;** Cleobury Mortimer GC; Course Furniture; R&A Conference Report; Cutting heights; Avoncrop profile; Valderrama report; Westurf preview

**April 2000;** Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC; Utility Vehicles; Irrigation; Seed breeding; Gem Professional profile.

**May 2000;** Ross-on-Wye GC; Top Dressing; Course Mapping; Compact Tractors

**June 2000;** National Championship preview; Spraying; World Education Conference review; Environmental Management; Mowers

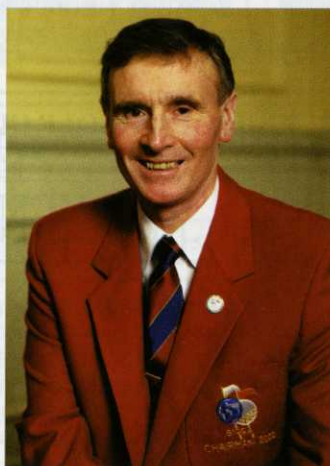
**July 2000;** Open Championship Preview; Dougal Duguid Court Case Report; Pest Control; Aventus profile; Course Conditioning

**August 2000;** Open Championship review; Water Features; Saltex preview; Charcoal; Malone GC; Royal County Down; Grand Tour Scholarship

**September 2000;** Blowers and Sweepers; Berkshire College Academy; National Championship roundup; Gordon McKillop interview; Winter health checks

**October 2000;** Toro Awards Preview; Ronald Fream; Irrigation; Saltex Review; Pest Control; Woburn GC

**November 2000;** Grass Cutting Machinery; Clandeboye GC; Drainage; National Championship review; Leatherjacket management



I remember as a young lad the floods of 1947. At that age it was exciting to watch dead sheep and cows and even 60 foot trees being swept downstream through the centre of my hometown.

Watching the television pictures of the flooding in the past two weeks one can only feel sympathy for all the victims of these torrents of water. Golf courses are not important in the scheme of things when conditions are as bad as they have been, the care of lives and homes are obviously the priorities. However as things return to normal, which hopefully they will soon, I am sure there are some of you out there who will return to your courses which have also been flooded. I have never experienced it so I don't know what it is like and all I can do, and I'm sure I speak on behalf of all your fellow members, is offer you moral support and sympathy. Humour can be a great way of making a bad situation seem better and I bet there are a few good stories to be heard of greenkeeping staff rowing to switch the greens and golfers wondering why you haven't pumped the several million gallons of water off the course. I'm sure Scott would love to hear some of your humorous and frustrating stories after you have all returned to normal.

As I sit typing this, and I look upward for divine inspiration as to what to say next, my eye catches the BIGGA calendar open as it should be at November and a picture of Titirangi Golf Club in New Zealand. I have played there so it brought back memories, but what is most striking is how dry it is with burnt fairways and the comparison with what we are suffering now. Never mind roll on next summer.

I was asked by David McInroy MD of Scottish Grass Machinery to present

# Time and tide...

a paper, the title to be chosen by David, at a Conference held by SGM on October 17. His choice of subject was 'BIGGA assisting in adding value to the product you provide.' This was aimed at greenkeepers and club officials. At first glance I thought this is not easy but it soon clicked into place. To add value to any product you have to improve that product and this is accomplished by improving the people providing the product and this is what BIGGA is about giving greenkeepers the opportunities to extend their knowledge through further education and providing us with the meeting places for discussion. My thanks to David and his staff for an excellent conference with many fine speakers.

A week later and I was in Northern Ireland to chair the NI section conference. It was a full house, there to hear a first class array of speakers from the European Tour and Wentworth experiences, from David Garland and Chris Kennedy, through to an excellent finish by Peter Jones.

My congratulations to Graham Wylie, NI Chairman and his team who along with Sami from HQ brought together such a quality platform and organised the whole event. As usual the hospitality was, well what can I say, Irish, second to none and thanks again to Graham and a special thanks to Frank Ainsworth and the Templepatrick Hilton for a great night.

At the end of October there was one of the highlights of the BIGGA year, certainly so for the finalists in the Toro Award for excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student of the Year Award. The results and report are elsewhere, suffice for me to say that the judges headed by Andy Brown, of Toro, and Graham Dale and Peter Mansfield, of Lely, all commented on the excellent standard achieved by all the contestants. These events have a certain aura about them, there is tension as we all await the results but the genuine congratulations afforded to the winners showed how well all those involved had gelled together in the short time in each others company. The other most satisfying point was that every finalist that I spoke to said how much they felt they had benefited from the whole event even if they had not won.

Our thanks, once again, to Toro for their sponsorship of a wonderful event not just on the day of the awards but

through the whole competition. So many greenkeepers and students have gained so much from the Toro Awards over the years both in a learning capacity and in the confidence it has imbued them with. Sadly Bob Buckingham, of Toro, could not be with us at the Awards as his son had taken seriously ill. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to your son Bob, (I was able to speak with Bob at Scotsturf and am pleased to say that the young Mr Buckingham is well on his way to a full recovery.)

So on to 8th and 9th November for the Scotsturf show which this year had added another hall to accommodate more stands and certainly seemed to bring more life to a show which had become a bit static in recent years. Like all shows a great meeting place to see friends old and new and it was nice to see some old retired faces, like Cecil George and Jimmy Neilson. Jimmy is recovering from an operation and I am pleased to say he's looking pretty good. Unfortunately I missed Barry Heaney but I know you were there Barry. I was also pleased to have the chance to have lunch with Past Chairman George Malcolm. The BIGGA stand was very busy and Pauline, from HQ and Peter Boyd along with some help from some of the Scottish Region men are to be congratulated on their efforts.

I have had a few interested inquiries during the year about the name of my club - Tulliallan - some thought it was unusual but I'm sure there are many more unusual than that and I came across a couple of crackers recently. The first was Garden of Gods Club and the other my favourite Kissing Camels Golf Course.

How about it? Let's hear you top that. I should say they are both American courses, of course!

I would just like to finish by wishing each and every one of you and all your families a very happy Christmas and best wishes for a dry New Year.

This quote may be aimed at those suffering from the effects of flooding but can equally apply to anyone.

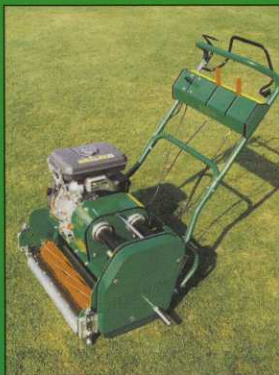
**The best bridge between despair and hope is a good night's sleep**

*Graham Wylie*

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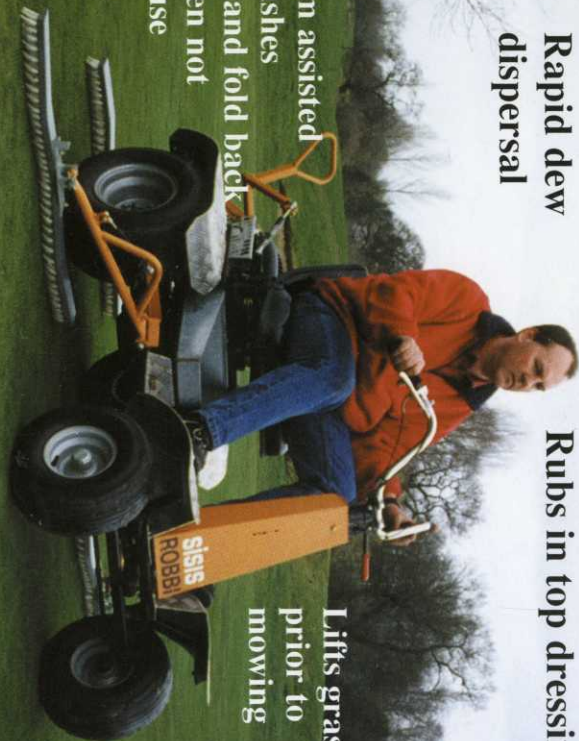
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# COMPANY WEBSITE PROFILES FROM THE TURFCARE INDUSTRY

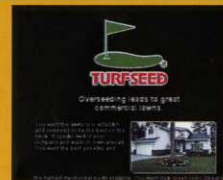
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**Website: [www.rigbytaylor.com](http://www.rigbytaylor.com)**

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**Website: [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)**

The UK's leading greenkeeping association, representing over 7,400 members worldwide. This site provides information and news about activities and issues relevant to greenkeeping professionals and the turfcare industry. Sections are dedicated to: MEMBERSHIP: including a members only area, EDUCATION & TRAINING: providing career advice, competitions and educational course details, DIRECTORY: allowing detailed searching for industry suppliers and contacts worldwide, LINKS: containing hundreds of hyperlinks to useful associations, golf clubs and training providers, NEWS AND EVENTS: giving a calendar of the most important meetings, shows and exhibitions in the greenkeeping diary, BTME: the turf industry's largest European indoor trade exhibition and conference, and GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL: the association's award winning monthly publication.

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