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TICK	ADVERTISER	PAGE
	Amenity Technology	56
	Aventis	5
	Brian D Pierson	21
	Charterhouse	40-41
	Dendix International	22
	Eagle Promotions	17
	Evenproducts	39
	Gambetti-Barre UK Ltd	21
	Golf Car UK	30
	Greenleaf	6
	Greensward	2
	Independent Exhibitions (IOG)	14
	ING Turfcare Finance	19
	Inturf	27
	ISS Aquaturf	33
	John Deere	55
	Kawasaki	33
	Lloyds of Letchworth	21
	Major Equipment Ltd	33
	Marlwood	38 & 45
	Maxicrop	22
	Motorkov UK Ltd	30
	Organic Plus	27
	Par Aide UK	30
	Prestige Sport Surfaces	22
	Rigby Taylor	45
	Rollawn	27
	Softspikes	13
	Textron	11
	Weed Free	33
	White Castle System/PSB	30

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July 2000

Your next issue of **Greenkeeper International** will be with you by August 9, 2000

Regulars

News

Pages 7, 8, and 9

10 Letters

15 The Learning Experience

The business of Golf: Laurence Pithie, of American Golf provides an insight into the management philosophy of a major golf developer



18 Education

Ken Richardson provides information on up-coming training courses and gives details on BIGGA's agreement to sell Epani's OnCourse course management software

20 Membership Update

31 Brin Bendon

Over to you: Brin Bendon continues his series on off-course skills by looking at the art of delegation

36-41 Around the Green

44 New Products

54 Features listing

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

54 As I see it...

BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small, reports on another busy month, and his recent visit to the Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association's Millennium Turfgrass Conference held in Melbourne



54 As I see it...



48 Win £50 with our Buyers' Guide quiz

Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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Amenity Technology	56
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Par Aide UK	30
Prestige Sport Surfaces	22
Rigby Taylor	45
Rolawn	27
Softspikes	13
Textron	11
Weed Free	33
White Castle System/PSB	30

Accidents do happen

Elsewhere in this issue you can read about Dougal Duguid who has just emerged from a six year nightmare which began when a golf ball bounced up and into the face of a lady member causing her to lose an eye. She claimed it was caused by her ball rebounding from a stone negligently left on the golf course and sued.

It was a horrible accident and our heart goes out to the woman, who by cruel fate already had limited sight in her other eye. What could be worse than suffering such a horrific injury playing the game we all love?

But it was an accident, pure and simple, as decided by the Sheriff who heard the case, and said that Dougal had done all that could have been asked of him and could not be held responsible.

Had the decision gone the other way the implications for the game, and all greenkeepers were wide ranging. Read some of the comments made by Dougal and then make up your own mind. It would be good to hear from you on the matter.

There is an increasing trend, which appears to be American led, to go to the courts and target someone for blame. And you can see why.

Around the time Dougal's case was resolved another golfer went through the US courts and successfully sued a golf course after he fell down a hole and broke his leg on some jagged rocks. He claimed the club was negligent for not putting up a guard rail and won his case. He was awarded substantial damages, including £866,000 for "pain and suffering".

McDonald's prints the warning - "Beware. These cups contain hot liquid" on its coffee cups to cover it from anyone who feels the company would otherwise be negligent in not ensuring customers were made aware of such a fact.

What really amazed me though was the recent news that a deaf person was suing the American version of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" because he was, in effect, excluded from the show because he couldn't phone a friend. Let's ask the audience. Is that, or is it not, plain daft?

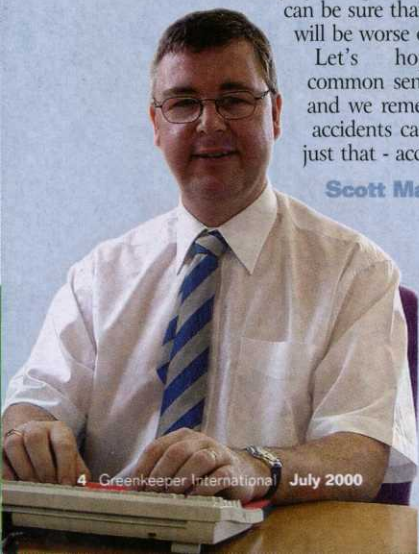
Golf has shown restraint in the past. You may recall Greg Norman, spraining a wrist when he hit a submerged stone and had to pull out of many potentially lucrative tournaments. He accepted it as the "rub of the green" and his own bad luck. He didn't look for anyone to blame.

Of course we can all understand the Westhill lady member's desire to go to court, particularly as she can no longer work, but it must be hoped that golf can steer clear of such cases in future.

If golf does become a target for "no win no fee" lawyers and the unfortunate few who do suffer injury on golf courses you can be sure that the game will be worse off for it.

Let's hope that common sense prevails and we remember that accidents can often be just that - accidents.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

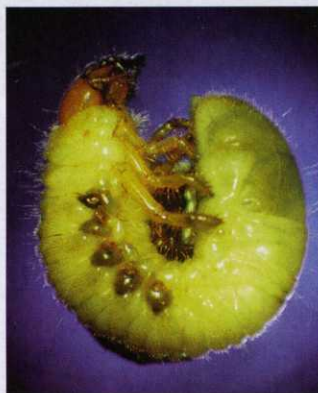


Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

Features

- 12 End of a Nightmare**
Scott MacCallum travels to Aberdeen to meet Head Greenkeeper Dougal Duguid who has just been cleared of blame for a tragic accident which befell a lady member
- 23 The Patron Saint of Opens**
Eddie Adams explains to Scott MacCallum his philosophy for managing the Old Course and the efforts that have gone into making this year's Open Championship something special
- 26 Effective Selection**
Jenny Murphy, of Aventis, gives advice on how to keep your turf in tip top condition
- 28 Pesssst! Have you heard?**
Roland Taylor looks at the issues surrounding pest control
- 42 Dream Team**
BIGGA Golden Key Supporter, Aventis, do much to ease the fears of greenkeepers as Scott MacCallum found out when he visited the company's Essex headquarters



26 Effective Selection



23 St Andrews prepares for action



12 Dougal Duguid



42 Dream Team

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Brave Christopher battles to fitness

Christopher Yeaman celebrated his 12th birthday last month and as you would expect with any youngster it was an occasion of great joy and happiness. For his mum and dad Carol and Chris, Head Greenkeeper at West Linton Golf Club, near Edinburgh, however, this happiness was multiplied tenfold and joined by equal amounts of sheer relief.

The reason was that Christopher's birthday signalled his departure from hospital after a near six month spell which should bring the curtain down on a four and a half year nightmare for the family.

It began on Boxing Day 1995 on a frozen Swanston Golf Club, where Chris was Head Greenkeeper until this January. Only a short distance from Edinburgh's famous dry ski slope in the Pentland Hills Swanston is a sledding paradise for the local youngsters and Christopher was hurtling down the slope one particularly icy day when his watching mum and dad recognised the danger.

"I rushed to try to stop his sledge but couldn't get to him and he crashed into a fence post," said Chris, who ironically had been the man responsible for planting the post.

Christopher spent six months in Edinburgh Sick Kid's Hospital as a result of his injuries with the first three weeks in intensive care with serious liver damage.

"The same injuries had struck three children before Christopher and none of them had survived," revealed Carol, who gave up her job to look after her son full time.

Christopher did recover, and recover well. He returned to school and got back into the sports he loved and everything seemed fine until last October when he became ill again and internal bleeding was diagnosed.

He was assessed for a liver transplant at Birmingham Children's Hospital, one of only two in the country able to conduct such procedures, and placed on the waiting list for a suitable liver to become available.

"Christopher went into hospital on December 22nd last year and the transplant was eventually carried out on April 26th. He was in surgery for 14 and a half hours. After that everything was again going well until he was struck by a serious infection and had to undergo another five hours of surgery to ease the problem," explained Chris.

During Christopher's time in Birmingham Carol stayed in a house provided by a charity for the parents of long term child patients while Chris started his new job at West Linton and travelled down to Birmingham every weekend.

Christopher was finally transferred back to Edinburgh before being allowed home - to a brand new home which he hadn't seen before, right on the golf course - on June 5.

"The support we've received for everyone has been absolutely incredible. Fellow greenkeepers, people in the trade have been wonderful while the golf club has been great. I even got into trouble from the Green's Chairman for being on the course and not at the hospital" said Chris.

"Steve Dixon has been my PR man handling all requests for interviews and drumming up publicity while National Chairman, Elliott Small, has kept in regular touch.



Christopher settles into his new home with mum, Carol and dad, Chris

"We've even had letters from people we've never even met. Two women offered to donate their livers to Christopher, while the local people of West Linton have also been wonderful. We'd like to thank everyone at Ward 4 of the Sick Kid's Hospital in Edinburgh who now know Christopher so well, also the staff and surgeon in Birmingham. We must also thank our parents who did so much to help, particularly Chris's who looked after Christopher's sister, Amy, while we were away," added Carol.

Elsewhere such has been the amount of publicity generated by Christopher's situation others have been doing their bit to help.

Livingstone Football Club, whose Stadium Manager is a relation, held a fun run to raise money to send Christopher on holiday as well as the Children's Liver Disease Foundation and raised £7,000, while some of the players took time out to visit him in hospital.

As well as the holiday Christopher has a lot to look forward to. Having already been a Livingstone mascot he has been invited to be a Rangers mascot - his favourite team - at an upcoming match with Livingstone. He has also been invited to play golf with one of West Linton

GC's Honorary Members. One Sandy Lyle, the former Open and Masters Champion.

"Sandy used to live close to the club and his coach is the club pro here and when he learned about Christopher he gave him a signed putter as well as promising him a game when he's recovered."

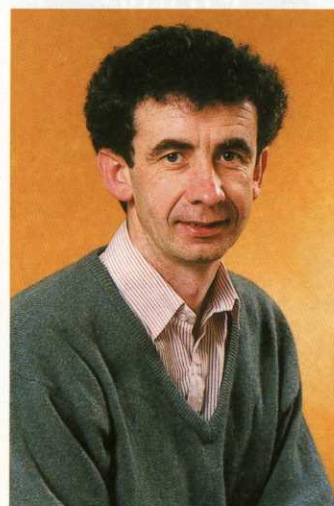
One plea that Carol makes strongly is to ask people not only to carry donor cards but also to inform relatives of a desire to donate organs.

"It is not enough just to carry a card, families must be made aware as well so that they can give permission straight away and save vital time when the organs could be utilised," said Carol, who has written to Tony Blair asking him to change to a system of opting out of donation rather than opting in.

"Because medical procedures have progressed so much in the last few years there are actually fewer organs available for transplant than there was. At Birmingham the transplant unit is only operating at half capacity because of a lack of organs," explained Carol.

Meanwhile Christopher is settling into his new home, gaining his strength and getting ready to start at his new school in September.

Gordon McKillop: New STRI Chief



Dr Gordon McKillop has been appointed as the new Chief Executive for STRI. He officially takes over the role on July 10.

Dr McKillop joins STRI from the Central Science Laboratories in York. CSL is an agency for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF).

He joined CSL in 1978, where he progressed from the Science Team to Science Manager, to his current position of Commercial Business Strategy Manager, working on strategies to further the commercial development of CSL.

Growing up in Glasgow, he studied at the University of Glasgow before obtaining his PhD from Reading University. In 1997 he was awarded an MBA from Henley Management College.

Dr McKillop is looking forward to the challenges of his new appointment. He brings with him qualifications, skills and experience which will enable him to combine business management skills with science in his role as Chief Executive.

Henry Bechelet, a former Turfgrass Agronomist with STRI, has returned to take up the position of Advisory Agronomist for the North East.

Henry, who left to work with VITAX, has spent the last 8 years gaining extensive commercial experience of the Turf Industry in Technical Sales. Henry's previous advisory work experience, combined with his knowledge of the Turf Industry and a BASIS registration, has enabled him to commence visits to his client portfolio from his starting date on May 30.

Henry is the second employee to return to STRI this year. In January Tim Colclough was appointed as an additional Advisor for Scotland, having spent a number of years in education.

Newsflash from the South West/ South Wales region

The South West and South Wales Course Management Trophy due to be held at the Manor House, Castle Coombe, on August 22 has been changed to Monday August 14.

For further information contact Paula Humphries Tel: 01288 352194



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

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



Name: Michael Keogh

Club: Glencorse GC

Position: Apprentice Greenkeeper (4th Year)

Age: 21

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
Three years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
SVQ Level 3, Management Course (Evening Class)

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

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
Strimming the burn

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?
Police Officer

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
My boss, Ian Bell, and ex first Assistant, Gordon Trotter

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
A wide spread minimum wage structure for apprentices

8. What are your hobbies?
Golf, bowls, swimming and going to the gym

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
Education Opportunities

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
To be a Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager abroad

Chinese students graduate at Elmwood

Students from Shenzhen University in the South of China have completed their Professional Development Award for the Advanced Certificate in International Golf Course Management at Elmwood College, Cupar.

The 24 week course endorsed by the R&A, China Golf Association and the GTC was set up with the College's link with Shenzhen University in China.

Golf is a growing sport in China and the students who attended the college were very dedicated with a high work ethic.

On their return to China they will either work in the Golf Industry or education and training degree programmes being the first people in China to gain a Golf Course Management qualification. However, some of the students have made the decision to stay on at Elmwood College to further their qualifications, working at Golf Courses around the area, applying this to their HNC/HND programme.



Academy's abundant academic accolades

Success was the theme at Huyton Civic Centre on Merseyside when eleven members of the Knowsley Metropolitan District Council Greenkeepers Academy were presented with their NVQ Level 2 Certificates in Sports Turf, by the Mayor of Knowsley, Councillor Bob Maguire. Shaun Guinen was also awarded his prize for outstanding theoretical work and Darren Rickets collected his prize for outstanding practical work.

A bonus prize of a computer was given to the Academy by the Whiston Pathways Group.



The picture above shows eleven apprentices, Stephen Ellis, Shaune Gynane, John Lawrenson, Darren Rickets, John Morgan, Shaune Johnston, Charles, Johnson, Terry Daintry, Stephen Holmes, Daniel Carney and Lee Begley with their

awards, Paul Morton and Paul McGrail from Myerscough College, Terry Hill, Business Manager from Knowsley Contract Services and Councillor Maguire. The twelfth apprentice, Paul Goodman could not attend the presentations.

A bolt from the blue wreaks havoc

This picture ably illustrates the power of the lightning and the caution that should be shown on golf courses when thunder storms are in the area.

This tree was beside the 8th green of the Kingfisher course, at Mannings Heath Golf Club, and Course Manager Billy McMillan witnessed the strike.

"It was about 4.30pm around the middle of May and we were a quarter of a mile away when we saw it happen.

"We found debris from the strike 60 feet away some buried six inches into the turf which shows the sheer power," recalled Billy.

"It really does bring home to you the dangers that are around and the need to get somewhere safe during storms," he said, adding that some golfers refused to come off the course during the storm.

In fact that clubhouse was also struck and suffered damage.



Textron put greenkeepers back in classroom

Greenkeeping teams from Clubhaus PLC, owners of 14 golf courses in the UK and six in Europe, visited Textron's International headquarters in Ipswich for training in the operation of turf maintenance equipment.

The training is integral to the recent agreement between Clubhaus and Textron, who have been appointed as exclusive supplier for turf maintenance equipment to the Clubhaus organisation.

"Following our agreement with Textron we now have one of the most modern fleets of turf maintenance equipment and therefore we must ensure that our greenkeeping teams know how to use the equipment to maximum effect," said Guy Buckley, Chief Operating Officer for Clubhaus.

A total of 80 members of the greenkeeping teams will take part in this training initiative where they will be instructed in



all aspects of the equipment including general operation, safe use, routine maintenance and trouble shooting.

"At the completion of the training the

two delegates who have attained the highest pass mark in the written test will win an expenses paid trip to the GCSAA conference next year," said Guy.

The late Eric Palmer

Eric started at work at Sitwell Golf Club then moved to Abbeydale Park Golf Club where he was Head Greenkeeper for many years. He then moved to Hickleton Golf Club as Head Greenkeeper and he worked there until his retirement in 1992. Eric was a stalwart supporter of BIGGA's Sheffield Section and also for many years was a very active committee member of the Section.

Eric was highly thought of in the greenkeeping fraternity and will sadly be missed.

The Association wish to send their condolences to Eric's wife Margaret and also to Andy, his son and all members of his family.

David Eccles: The man from Advanta

Advanta Seeds has appointed David Eccles as regional amenity seeds specialist, for grass. Based in Forfar, he will be responsible for supporting sales of the Advanta MM and Designer from Advanta's grass seed ranges, to sports and landscaping customers throughout Scotland.

"We are very pleased to welcome David to our team. Having worked in the seed trade for over ten years, his experience will prove valuable as we continue to develop the sales of our leading amenity grass seed products. In particular, he will be working closely with Stewarts and Co. at Dalkeith, who distribute the Advanta MM range in Scotland for us," said, Advanta's Amenity Sales and Marketing Manager, Dave Phillips.

David, who has qualifications in management and personnel training and development, has also lectured at the Borders College on horticultural topics. In his leisure time, he plays rugby and golf.

Berhards get set for demonstrations

Bernhard's is set to carry out practical demonstrations at leading colleges throughout the country. Worldwide suppliers of specialised maintenance equipment for turf care, Bernhard is building on the successful programme of educationals they ran last year. Demonstrations will be complemented by a theoretical seminar on the range of improvements that can be made to turf, by making sure mower blades are kept really sharp.

Leading colleges throughout the country have shown an interest and seminars will be given at Elmwood College, Merrist Wood College and Writtle College.

"We developed the seminar to be of considerable practical benefit to students as they study turf management," said Stephen Bernhard, Managing Director of Bernhard's.

"The knowledge gained is very broad, and links plant physiology to mechanical issues. The financial and practical implications are useful in almost all job applications and will apply when the students become greenkeepers or groundsmen."

In response to demand, this year Bernhard is increasing the number of seminars they are undertaking at colleges.



Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



"Is that a roll of turf I see before me?"

Rolawn has received several orders to provide their Minster turf from the Royal Shakespeare Company's Touring Department.

The turf will be used to cover the stage during the performances of the Company's production of 'The Seagull' at various theatres throughout the UK.

The locations range from Stratford, Norwich, Woking, Milton Keynes, Bath, Sheffield, Newcastle and London.

Rolawn have 18 depots situated throughout the UK and are well placed to deliver fresh turf into each of the locations throughout the production period.

"Rolawn has been approached to provide turf for many unusual sites - from the inside of pubs to steps of Town Halls and we are delighted that we can add the Royal Shakespeare Company to the list and that they will be performing on our turf's," said Terry Ryan, Rolawn's Sales and Marketing Director.

New Director for Rolawn



Rolawn has promoted Guy Barrett to the post of Farms Director.

Guy joined Rolawn in 1980 and has risen "through the ranks" to head the harvesting and production functions which now operate on a large scale supplying millions of square metres of specially cultivated turf throughout the UK.

When not tending to the 3000 acres of turf under his care for Rolawn, he enjoys playing golf and cricket.

"It is in recognition of his hard work, dedication and success in his role over many years that this appointment has been made. I am delighted to welcome him on to the board and I am certain that Guy will play a key role in the future development of our business," said Ken Dawson, Chairman of Rolawn.



A thunder and lightning storm didn't dampen the spirits at the recent Northern Ireland Section meeting at Killeel Golf Club in County Down. Around 20 played golf but with holes running out a dramatic thunder storm struck and the sensible ones among the players high tailed it back to the clubhouse thus forfeiting any chance of a place in the prizes.

Walton Heath Annual Gentleman's Evening

It has been brought to my attention that BSP Landscapes were inadvertently omitted from the list of sponsors for the recent Annual Gentleman's Evening at Walton Heath.

Those of you who were there will know that Barry Pace not only spon-

sored the 6th hole on Walton Heath's Old Course for the event but also built the very fine bunker that so many of you managed to get into.

Sorry about that Barry.

Derek Farrington
South East Regional Administrator

Students plan Vintage Open at Reaseheath

Golf Course Management students at Reaseheath College, organised the annual Reaseheath Millennium Vintage Open as part of their third year studies.

Held on the college's nine hole golf course, the tournament attracted septegenarian competitors from all over Cheshire.

Veteran golfer Fred Hallworth, 79, proved age is no handicap by winning the tournament run specially for the over 70s.



REASEHEATH
COLLEGE

A member of Hazel Grove Golf Club, Fred received his trophy from sponsor John Hammond, of sand and gravel provider Bathgate Leisure. He also won a golfing weekend, courtesy of Gray Travel, Northwich. Further prizes were donated by The Golf Shop in Crewe.

The winning lady, Mrs Brenda Wright (above) of Ashville Court, Wistaston, Crewe, a member of Reaseheath Golf Club, received her prize from her own lady captain, Maura Murphy.

The tournament, which raised £500 for charity, also featured professional golfer Dave Yates, who was available for advice. Competitors later enjoyed a barbecue.



Thanks from Moray GC

Moray Golf Club would like to thank the following companies - Headland, Terralift, Amenity Technology and Scottish Grass Machinery for sponsoring the environmental survey that was carried out recently over our two 18-hole championship links courses, and adjacent land. We would also wish to thank Scottish Natural Heritage for the award of a 50% grant and Jonathan and Fiona from the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Group for their advice.

The survey was awarded to the Sports Turf Research Institute and carried out at the end of May by senior ecologist Bob Taylor.

We at Moray Golf Club are committed to improving our courses to the benefit of both the golfer and the environment and now thanks to the generosity of the aforementioned companies we will have an environmental management plan that will enable us to realise our goals.

Nell Ballingall, Courses Manager
Moray Golf Club

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

Pinehurst tested my cutting degree

I was very interested to read the article about Pinehurst and especially G2 turfgrass. When working in the USA, I spent a considerable amount of time at Pinehurst with Richard Yoe, Pinehurst's machine maintenance director, working on methods of mower set up and sharpening techniques to obtain a better quality cut than was being achieved.

As G2 has such a high shoot density, is so fast growing and is a very juicy grass obtaining a quality cut was proving very difficult using Pinehurst's tried and trusted methods. Maintaining a sharp edge and angle on the bottom blade was also a problem due to regular top dressing dusting because of the denseness of G2 it is very difficult to mat the dressing in, it tends to lie on the leaf.

I was given four Jacobson walkers to experiment with, the normal angle ground on the bottom blade was 5°, this was not enough relief for grass ejection due to the growth rate of G2 and top dressing problems. After experimenting with different angles and set ups on selected greens on No.8



course I found a top face angle of 9°-10° and front face angle of 5° with the cylinder set with .001 clearance from the bottom blade, a quality cut was obtained combined with regular facing of the front free angle a quality cut was maintained.

This regular facing of the bottom blade is a practise that should be used for grasses and is far more beneficial than back lapping, which did not

work at Pinehurst using regular sharpening angles on the bottom blade.

The co-operation and friendliness that I experienced at Pinehurst was second to none. No wonder the lads enjoyed the experience of working with such great people.

Peter Fletcher, Professional
Mobile Grinding, At Austell
Cornwall

They've had a tough day at St. Andrews...



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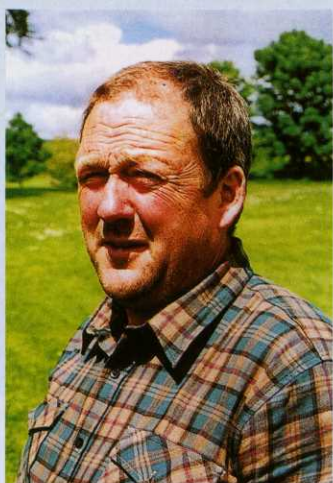
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Scott MacCallum visits Dougal Duguid, Head Greenkeeper at Westhill Golf Club, the man at the centre of a civil court case which had major implications for the game...

The end of a nightmare



Above: Dougal Duguid, Head Greenkeeper at Westhill Golf Club

Below: Our circle indicates the location from which Muriel Milne played her stroke

On Thursday June 1 in Aberdeen Sheriff Court a civil law suit decision was made public which, had it gone the other way, would have had earth shattering implications for the entire game of golf.

While this is a reason for greenkeepers throughout the world to breathe great sighs of relief for one man it spelt the end of a long nightmare and the removal of a cloud which had been hanging over himself and his career for almost six years.

Dougal Duguid, Head Greenkeeper at Westhill Golf Club, eight miles west of Aberdeen, was able to celebrate once his lawyer had made the call to tell him that the Sheriff had decided in his favour, eight months after the two day long court case, but since then he has reflected on the outcome and what could have happened if it had gone the other way. He also feels that, despite the positive result, there are still reasons for the greenkeeping profession to move forward with caution.

The incident which resulted in the court action occurred on June 22,

1994, on the 6th hole of the attractive and affluent Aberdeenshire club.

A tough uphill par-3 over water faced lady member, Muriel Milne, but her drive didn't quite have the elevation required to clear the roughed bank some 50 yards in front of the green. She found the ball and prepared to play her recovery shot with a 5-iron. Unfortunately the ball flew up and struck her in the face causing her to lose an eye. The accident was particularly tragic as she already had limited sight in her other eye.

Dougal takes up the story.

"About a year later I learned that the incident was going to lead to a court case," he recalled.

Initially Mrs Milne, who claimed it was caused by her ball rebounding off a stone which had negligently been left on the golf course, sued the golf club and Dougal for £220,000. However, when it was determined that as a member of the club herself it would, in effect, have meant her suing herself she dropped the case against the club and sued Dougal alone for a sum of £107,000.

"The Sheriff said in his judgment that I'd done everything that could possibly have been asked of me and that there was no responsibility on my side whatsoever for what had happened," explained Dougal, as we sat in the attractive clubhouse with views over the hillside course.

"But if the decision had gone the other way I would have jacked in my job. Every time golfers went out on the course I'd have been wondering if they would come in and sue me," revealed Dougal, who ironically lost his own eye while working on a piece of greenkeeping machinery almost 24 years to the day before the decision was announced.

"The last five years have been a nightmare. I've managed to stand up to it fairly well but my wife and daughter have suffered badly. There is no way I'd have put the family through this again I can tell you. I'd have just had to look for another job," said Dougal, well aware, that as the family lived in a tied house, of the sacrifices that would subsequently had to have been made.

Having said that he is delighted with the support he has received for the golf club he has served for 25 years.

"The club was right behind me from the start. It was the club's solicitor who took on my defence and any damages would have been paid by the club and its insurers," said Dougal.

"They could quite easily have turned round once the case against the club had been dropped and said I was on my own, but they couldn't have been more supportive," said Dougal, a point reinforced by the number of members who came up to him to offer their congratulations as we walked down to the place where the incident had occurred.

Having survived such a career threatening episode Dougal can now take a more relaxed view of what might have happened if the result had gone the other way and why golf need not necessarily feel it is out of the woods.

"If I'd lost the case every greenkeeper in Britain, if not the world, would have had to look again at his course, and you must remember that



If I'd lost the case, every greenkeeper in Britain, if not the world, would have had to look again at his course, and you must remember that golf courses tend to be built on fairly poor land. I genuinely believe it would have finished an awful lot of golf clubs.

Dougal Duguid

golf courses tend to be built on fairly poor land. For instance, many courses in Spain and Portugal are built on lava with rocks sticking out of the ground. I genuinely believe it would have finished an awful lot of golf clubs," stressed Dougal.

"What would be classed as an acceptable stone to leave on the course and an unacceptable one which had to be removed if seen?" he asked.

"In future the stone picking on a new course would not just be the fairways but the rough and every other area of the course as well. It would cost an absolute fortune to build a new golf course.

"Even then stones eventually come to the surface and we'd need four or five more staff to go out before any golfer teed off to check every hole for loose stones. Having said that if a stone was just under the surface there is no way you could know it was there," said Dougal.

"It may have meant that every time a golfer visited a club the greenkeeper, if he was to be held responsible, would have had to have a say in whether he or she was allowed on the golf course. Everyone would have had to have proved they had personal accident insurance, as well as third party in case they hit anyone else," said Dougal, painting a picture which aligns playing a round to golf to driving a car.

"Basically it would finish golf for juniors because many of them wouldn't be able to afford to take out cover."

He does believe that the golf unions and the R&A are going to have to look at wording signs to inform people that golf is dangerous and that anyone playing a course should be properly insured before doing so.

The subject of marker posts and ladies' forward tees also raises concerns with the threat of a ball rebounding off a post which had been placed by a greenkeeper.

"We may need to look at markers which are flush to the ground instead," said Dougal.

Asked if he himself thought differently when out on the golf course he agreed that, to a degree, he did.

"We check things a bit more. Being

in the middle of a residential area we have a lot of vandalism with beer cans and bottles finding their way on to the course. We pick them up as soon as we see them now rather than making a note to pick them up on the way back to the sheds. It has certainly made me think a bit more."

Westhill Golf Club has a dry stone dyke bordering part of the course which sports a sign advising people not to climb it. This raises another interesting point.

"If on a Saturday afternoon, when I'm not on the course, someone does climb the wall - and it does happen - and dislodges a stone and a golfer comes along, fails to see it, and hits it would I be liable to be sued?" he asked.

He also poses the question of what would have happened if the Sheriff hadn't been quite so impressed by his diligence on the course.

"In my case the Sheriff said I'd done all that could have been asked of me but there might be another case where a Sheriff decides that the greenkeeper hadn't done enough or it might be that a different Sheriff might take a different view... albeit that my case might give a bit of guidance," he said, while also raising the point that a distinction may have been made had he been a Course Manager and not a Head Greenkeeper.

Dougal recalled that the Sheriff had asked why there were no signs on the banking but that he'd said that he had no way of knowing which area stones were going to come through on a 25 year old course.

These issues are burning and will continue to burn for quite some time but one thing is certain Dougal Duguid can now get back to doing what he is best at, maintaining Westhill Golf Club for the benefit of members and visitors, without his mind wandering off to wonder "What if I lose..."

Anyone with a view on this case and the implications for golf should write to Scott MacCallum, at BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF or email to scott@bigga.co.uk

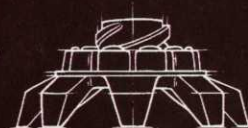


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THE INSTITUTE OF
GROUNDSMANSHIP

Laurence Pithie, Director of Maintenance at American Golf (UK) Ltd, provides an insight into the management philosophy of a major golf course operator...



The business of golf



Above: The Blue Mountain Golf Centre, headquarters of American Golf (UK)

American Golf (UK) Ltd was established in August 1993 when the parent company American Golf Corporation took the opportunity to buy five clubs in the south of England. This was the first acquisition for the Santa Monica-based company outside the United States.

David Price, who is also the Chief Executive Officer, owns the company. An attorney by profession, his belief that golf clubs could be run on a better business footing is perhaps even more relevant today than back in 1967 when the first club was purchased in Los Angeles for \$1.

As we begin the new millennium the company owns or operates around 325 golf courses, all of which are in the United States with the exception

of 20 clubs, comprising 26 courses, in the UK. Although the company is based in California, the clubs are spread across many states including Hawaii and consist of Public, Private and Resort clubs. Today over 15,000 people are directly employed by American Golf.

American Golf (UK) Ltd is effectively one of the 10 regional divisions within the company and operates with a certain amount of autonomy being the only region on 'away' territory. Each region is similarly structured and operates within a well-defined company structure and strategy, although the UK does have its own finance department and external legal office. Geary Leathers, from Atlanta, Georgia, is the UK Managing Director and has served

the company for many years, gaining experience on both sides of the 'pond'. Geary leads a team of six Regional Directors who have responsibility for Finance, Acquisitions, Sales, Operations and Maintenance. The UK head offices are found at the Blue Mountain Golf Centre in Bracknell, Berkshire and provide a central location for the now considerable UK operation.

Each of the 20 clubs is similarly structured whether they are a 36-hole resort complex such as St. Mellion International with hotel and time-share lodges, or an 18-hole daily fee course such as Paultons Golf Centre near Southampton. At these clubs, a General Manager has overall responsibility for the property and he or she

Right: One of the five
Ransomes E-Plex II
greens mowers that are
used on courses close
to residential areas

liaise very closely with the Superintendent who is responsible for maintaining the golf course, driving range and usually a small number of golf cars. Both the General Manager and Superintendent are responsible to Regional Directors who assist in the smooth running of these facilities. This is a formula inherited from the United States which has stood the test of time, with the benefit that there is good communication, friendliness, effective management and good team spirit where everyone is working for a common goal.

Since 1993 the UK region has expanded considerably, employing over 1000 people, 160 of whom work full time on the golf courses. The objective is for continued growth, acquiring the right product that suits the AG (UK) criteria, which often involves significant investment, both in the clubhouse and on the course or driving range. With regard to the golf course itself, drainage, irrigation, and turf quality issues are usually the main areas where improvement is needed in order to reach the desired standard.

As well as improving the property, much time and investment is made in both people and equipment. Training tends to be on going with the result that the company can offer good career opportunities for those with the right skills, experience and aptitude. An example of this investment in people is that five of the current Super-

intendents were deputies within the company prior to gaining promotion and one of the Superintendents has been promoted to Regional Superintendent with added responsibilities in the given area.

With regard to maintenance equipment, American Golf has worked closely with Textron Turf Care over the last five years, forming a national agreement that has considerable benefits for both companies. This follows on the heels of a similar agreement to that which operates in the United States between Textron and American Golf Corporation that also includes E-Z-GO golf cars. With over 300 courses within the company's portfolio this involves a considerable amount of business.

The agreement provides American Golf with the opportunity to purchase a large range of equipment and golf cars at a cost-effective price and 'tap-in' to a large network of dealers who give valued support and back up when required. As with any major deal there are occasional hiccups along the way. However, it is fair to say that whenever these have occurred, effective communication allied with a genuine desire to help and supported by prompt action have ensured that the wheels stay firmly on track. This has resulted in the attainment of a high level of confidence from both parties since the signing of the initial agreement.

Below: Public courses like Addington need to be maintained on par with private clubs. The redesigned 3rd green surrounds provide the golfer with improved playing conditions



Textron also offers comprehensive parts back up for all equipment and has loaned machines to a number of clubs when the need has arisen. This is especially helpful when grass growth is prolific and unforeseen breakdowns occur. Trialling new machines such as the electric greens mower is also beneficial to both sides and it is here that feedback is so vital. American Golf now has five Ransomes E-Plex II electric greens mowers, the primary reason being the need to operate within closer proximity of residential areas without creating undue noise, especially at weekends when it is essential for staff to prepare the course ahead of play.

At each of the American Golf properties, a mechanic has the responsibility of maintaining and servicing the equipment. Each year Textron provides a training course with the aim of spending time on each of the main items of equipment used in order to run through fault finding, correct servicing procedures and a general hands-on approach to understanding more about each machine. One of the side benefits from these training courses is being able to telephone the appropriate Textron engineer who can then diagnose the problem and offer advice on what form of action to take. Since most clubs have similar equipment, word is soon passed round when common faults develop and these can often be rectified before problems arise. Again

feedback to Textron is vital since all equipment can develop faults and it is preventative action which helps to keep maintenance costs to a minimum and machinery working.

Not all items of equipment for maintaining a golf course can be supplied by Textron but since the current range includes Jacobsen, Ransomes, Cushman, Ryan and E-Z-GO, there is a considerable choice. The ordering process is fairly comprehensive, with much advanced planning. This begins with the Superintendent trialling certain types of equipment that will be requested the following year. This is then discussed and agreed with the Director of Maintenance who then coordinates the orders from each of the 20 properties. Once provisional agreement is achieved within the UK, usually around November, a provisional list is then sent to Textron who can then plan its production and delivery time-scales. The agreed order is then placed sometime in January and that allows both sides to complete the transactions in time for the new season. Equipment required outside of this schedule enters the urgent order category and this usually applies to new properties that American Golf has recently acquired. Upon delivery the safe operation of each machine is explained and the eventual invoice signed for payment once satisfactory performance is gained. Perhaps the most important aspect of this agreement or any other is that there has to



be good and effective communication between each company and in practice this works very well with regular meetings between both parties.

American Golf will continue to expand within the UK, aiming to acquire several properties each year and expanding and improving existing properties. Inner city courses owned by local authorities tend to be the poorer relation, often requiring major investment, whereas proprietary private clubs are usually better served.

All present unique challenges and it is essential that American Golf has the right people to tackle the job in hand. Interest in other countries is also on the increase and it is only a matter of time before the company spreads its wings even further afield. Irrespective of where a course is there is always the need for equipment and materials and establishing a good working relationship with our key suppliers is of great importance.

Below: Golf cars require regular servicing and Textron's training courses ensure that maintenance technicians have a comprehensive understanding of all equipment



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BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson provides information on up-coming training courses and BIGGA's agreement to sell Epani's OnCourse course management software

EDUCATION UPDATE

BIGGA House Training Courses 2000

The BIGGA HOUSE Training Courses have been revamped for the New Millennium to give all greenkeepers greater choice of training at very low costs, thanks to a generous subsidy from the Education and Development Fund, with a choice of residential or non-residential options. Learn to drive your computer and gain a European Computer Driving Licence, learn to manage yourself, manage your team, manage finance and budgets, manage resources, how to give briefings, reports and presentations and gain evidence towards N/SVQ. You will find full details of the BIGGA HOUSE Training Courses 2000 in the leaflet enclosed in this magazine and on the BIGGA website (www.bigga.org.uk) If you do not receive a copy of the leaflet or need further information then contact Ken or Sami at BIGGA House.



Regional Training Courses 2000/2001

We have tried to provide courses and locations requested by previous delegates on our Regional Training Programmes. Full details are given in the leaflet enclosed with this magazine and on our website (www.bigga.org.uk)

New for 2000/01, are courses cover-



ing Computer Skills which will give the chance to obtain a European Computer Driving Licence, a one day course on general horticulture, a one day course on risk assessment and manual handling. Make sure that you book early to make sure of your place.

If the course that you want is not being presented in your Region then contact myself, Sami or your Regional Administrator and we may be able to run further courses.

OnCourse

BIGGA and Epani Systems have now entered an agreement to sell OnCourse™ Golf Course Management Software in the United Kingdom. OnCourse™ gives golf course managers the tools to organise work schedules, keep track of machinery, calculate time and resources needed and monitor supplies and suppliers. Presented in modules, OnCourse™ is user friendly and requires only limited hardware resources and is very easy to use. It was developed by Epani after consulting Golf Course Managers all over the world and this British version was written following extensive consultation with BIGGA members.

OnCourse™ is constantly being modified to meet the demands of golf course managers and regular updates are issued, free, to licence holders, making OnCourse™ a valuable investment for your club.

The OnCourse™ package costs, a



very competitive, £800 + VAT which includes all software, documentation, one year telephone support and one year update contract. Installation and training can be arranged and costs £150 +VAT.

With the cost of hardware falling, you could have a state of the art office management system comprising computer, printer, scanner, MS Windows, MS Office and OnCourse™ for under £1600.

To order your copy, or to request further details and/or a demonstration disk contact the Education and Training Department at BIGGA HOUSE.

The BIGGA Essay Competition

There are just four months left to the closing date for the BIGGA Essay Competition 2000.

The subject is 'Managing Without Chemicals' Is it Possible? What are the Consequences? How would you Cope?

The winners in each category ie. Golf Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers, Assistant Greenkeepers aged 25 years and over and Assistant Greenkeepers aged 25 years and under each receive £500 and have their essay published in Greenkeeper International. Two runners up in each category will receive £100.

Get your thinking caps on sharpen those pencils and get writing your 1500 to 2000 word essay and send it to BIGGA HQ before the closing date of October 27 2000.



Success follows success

Only months after returning from his TORO Student of the Year trip to Massachusetts, New Orleans, Minneapolis and California, Tommy Givnan, Head Greenkeeper at Bowring Municipal Golf Club on Merseyside was present when the twelve members of the Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Greenkeepers Academy were presented with their NVQ Level 2 certificates by the Mayor of Knowsley, Councillor Bob Maguire.

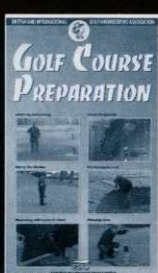
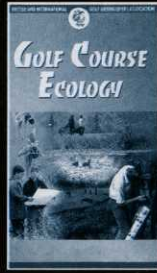
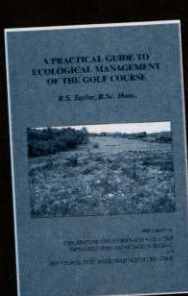
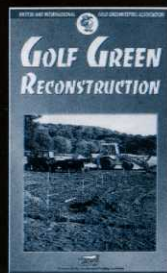
The Academy is based at Bowring and Tommy and his team have been involved in on the job training and assessment.

Academic training has been provided by Myerscough College lecturers Paul Morton and Paul McGrail. Readers of this magazine will remember that the Academy was set up in 1999, using funds obtained from the EC, to offer 12 youngsters the chance to be trained as greenkeepers and, hopefully move into full time posts at golf clubs.

Thanks to Myerscough's links with the Belfry, Academy students have gained valuable work experience on the Brabazon Course, working on the preparations for the Benson and Hedges International Open.

The twelve apprentices now move on to NVQ Level 3 and Knowsley are looking forward to having the Open Champion of the future as they are soon to open a golf academy. At their rate of progress, the Open venue Course Manager could well be a graduate of their Greenkeeping Academy.

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THE INDEPENDENT LEADER IN TURF CARE FINANCE

In May, Tracey Maddison, BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, welcomed almost 80 new members to the Association. This month, she would like to highlight some valuable money saving benefits for members...

Money, money, money!

Do you pay for your own membership subscription?

If you pay for your own subscriptions, then you can apply to the tax office for a refund of 23% of the subscription amount. For example on a Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper fee of £75 that's over £17! And a potential saving of £11.50 for an Assistant Greenkeeper.

The reason for this is that BIGGA is recognised by the Inland Revenue as a legitimate professional body, and membership fees to such bodies are eligible for tax relief.

To benefit, all you have to do, is inform your local tax office that you are paying your own fees, or

send them a completed form (available from BIGGA HQ), or visit www.bigga.org.uk. It couldn't be easier to save money on your membership!

Refund of Education/ Training Fees

Don't forget that all green-keeping members who pay for their own fees are eligible to apply for a refund. In order to apply you must be able to meet the following criteria:

- You must be a member of BIGGA and have been a member for at least two years.
- You must have paid your own fees and be able to provide proof of payment eg. receipt/credit card slip or statement.
- You must have completed a course or component part of a course and be able to provide evidence of completion e.g. certificate/end of course report etc.

BIGGA welcomes...

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 Thomas Byrne, West
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 Russell S Crighton, Central
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Steven P Foxcroft, N West
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 David Goldstrong, N West
 Stephen Hatfield, Cleveland
 James Hall, N West
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South East Region

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 Phillip M Coleman, Kent
 Samuel Cook, Essex
 Jody R Hawkes, Essex
 Lee Hasted, Surrey
 Sam Hoggett, Surrey
 Nicholas C Pomfret, Essex
 Chris Venables, Kent

Midland Region

Jacques M Barkhuizen, BB&O
 Malcolm Brooks, E Midland
 David G Collins, E Midland
 Ross P Fitzgerald, BB&O
 Derrick Forster, E Midland
 Terry Fuggle, BB&O
 Paul Gethin, BB&O
 Colin Goldfinch, Midland
 Ben Hastie, BB&O

Northern Region

Matt Bolton, Northern
 Kevin Crick, N East
 John H Daniel, Northern
 John Dobson, Northern
 Alan Evans, Cleveland

Associate Members

Mark Atkins, Northern
 David M Evans, S West
 Graham F Prosser, N Ireland

Check out
 August's
 edition for
 June's new
 members!

And finally...

I would like to thank our Northern Ireland members for making Scott and myself most welcome on our recent visit. Although my third visit to Northern Ireland since I started with BIGGA, this was my first opportunity of seeing some magnificent golf courses and beautiful countryside. And as always it is a pleasure for me to meet our members face to face. So thank you!

A reminder to all members: Unfortunately, the 10% discount on car insurance was withdrawn in December 1999

The Web just got BIGGA

BIGGA relaunched its website in June 2000 in recognition of the increasing access and participation on the internet by Greenkeepers both in the UK and worldwide.

The new expanded site at www.bigga.org.uk has been completely redesigned and replaces the original website set up in July 1996.

A recent survey of members on the use of computers and access to the internet showed their increasing use and importance in Greenkeeping and as a result it was decided to develop the BIGGA site to expand the content and provide additional benefits.

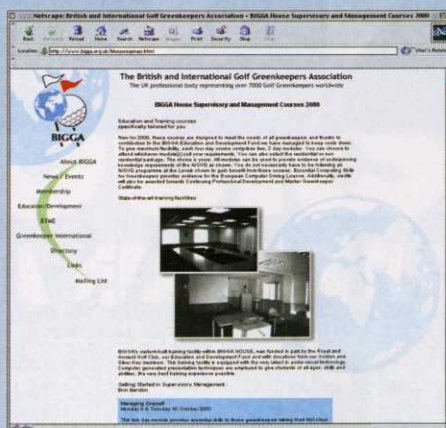
Features of the new site include sections dedicated to Membership, including a member's only area with jobs, a 'bulletin board' style discussion forum, and a searchable database of articles from Greenkeeper International magazine.

The Education & Training section provides career advice, competitions and training course details. There is a product Directory, to search for manufacturers, distributors and service providers.

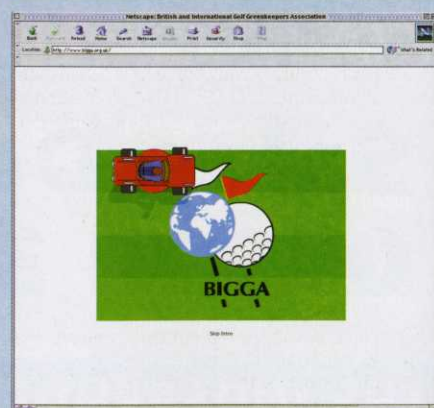
A links section with website hyper-links to hundreds of useful associations, golf clubs and training providers worldwide, offers a tremendous facility to 'surf' to other sites of interest within the industry.

News and events, gives a calendar of important meetings, shows and exhibitions in the greenkeeping diary.

The section dedicated to BTME, the turf industry's largest European indoor trade exhibition and conference, has a hall plan of exhibitors to help you plan your visit, or book stand space, with details of the conference and seminars are included.



www.bigga.org.uk



Extracts from Greenkeeper International, the association's award winning monthly magazine, are updated regularly in keeping with the aim to improve BIGGA's communication both with its members and people involved in greenkeeping and the fine turf industry.

We hope you will visit the site and find it worthwhile, returning to on a regular basis, there are easy ways to let us know what you think and what you would like to see. We look forward to receiving your e-mail.

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Scott MacCallum travelled to St Andrews to discuss the preparation for the 2000 Open with the man who carries much of the responsibility for a successful week...

The Patron Saint of Opens



PHOTOGRAPHY: BRIAN MORGAN



Above: Eddie Adams

In 50 years time or so, casual golf historians may well look back in the record books - or more likely the website - to see which famous names sit beside which year and venue for The Open Championship.

If the number of "hits" per Open were monitored I would guess that those which create the biggest interest might be the very first Open in 1860 when Willie Park won at Prestwick; the 1900 Open when JH Taylor won at St Andrews and the year in which the interested party was born. In my case that would be Arnold Palmer at Troon in 1962. Another would most certainly be the 2000 Open at St Andrews. Yes the Open Championship we are about to enjoy will be one of those few which will attract attention for as long as golf is played, because of its unique time slot.

The man who carries much of the responsibility for ensuring that such a significant Championship is a true cele-

bration of the sport is the St Andrews Links Trust's Old Course Head Greenkeeper, Eddie Adams, a man who is St Andrews through and through and whose experience when it comes to Links preparation is formidable for such a young man.

His first Open Championship was in 1990 when, as an apprentice, he was responsible for cutting the 1st and 17th greens. Five years later he had risen to become Head Greenkeeper at the Old Course working under Links Superintendent Walter Woods.

"It was, as the magazine said that year, 'Walter's Swansong.' He let me do a lot in '95, but it was definitely Walter's course. He was the man at the presentation, just as in 2000 it will be me," said Eddie.

Asked if that responsibility was weighing more this year Eddie said it was quite the reverse.

"It was terrible in '95 because I always

had Walter to please and I didn't want to let myself down this year. I have got the rest of the team to think about but I know I've got a really good set of guys who are really good at their jobs. So I don't have much to worry about on that score," said Eddie who added that they work very closely with the R&A Championship Committee.

While this Open is the first of a new millennium a greenkeeper from times past wouldn't see much that would make his hair stand on end if he watched his modern day successors carrying out their work on the famous links.

"My philosophy on greenkeeping for St Andrews is minimalistic. Steve Isaacs, of the STRI, called it anorexic greenkeeping," explained Eddie.

"The tees have only had a minimal application of fertiliser - straight nitrogen with some iron - the greens haven't had any fertiliser and the fairways



Above: Greenkeepers walk over seven miles to cut this green



Above: Where fairway ends and green starts, nobody knows!



Above: The infamous 10ft high rivetted Hell bunker dwarfs even the mightiest of players

haven't had any fertiliser for 10 years now.

"Our irrigation system hasn't been used this year. The only time it has been on was when the engineer needed to test it and I don't expect to use it until after The Open to assist the reinstatement," said Eddie, who revealed that despite this a completely new irrigation system is shortly to be installed on the course.

The one thing that might have brought our time travelling greenkeeper up a little short is the use of astroturf mats to protect the fairways.

"We use these from November to April in normal years and to May in Open years and I think we'd have struggled to get this policy through ten years ago. However, it's the only way to protect the Old Course which at the end of the day is an international monument to golf and it should be protected over the winter months when there is zero recovery rate," said Eddie, who added that the Old, New and Eden courses run at virtual 100% capacity with around 41,000 rounds of golf each.

The traditional course management philosophy extends to the course set up where players will certainly be required to play links style golf to succeed.

"We want to get it fast and linky, although with 92 mm of rain in May and June starting off just as bad we are very much in the hands of the weather when it comes to that," explained Eddie.

However, there are elements within his control that can ensure conditions that can only be found on a links course.

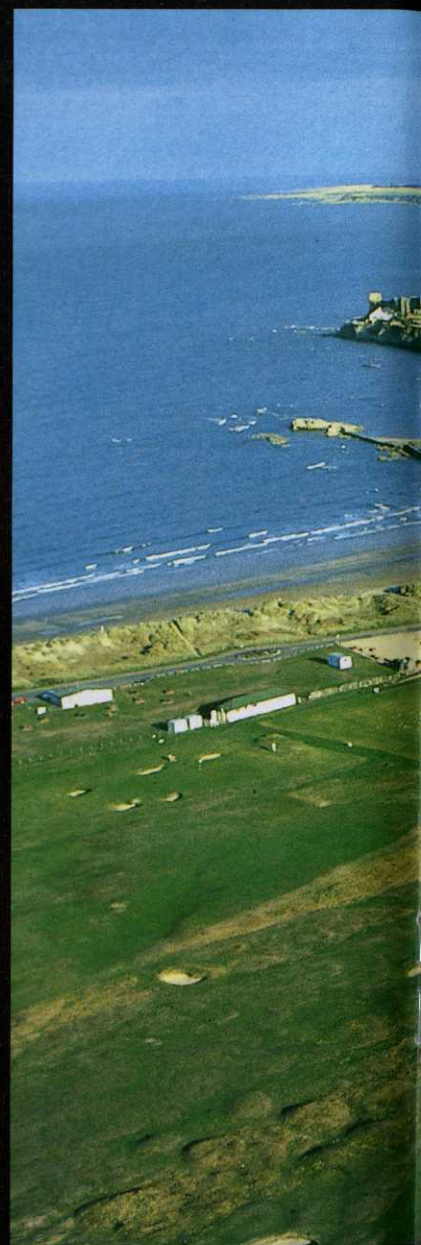
"The fairways will be kept very short - eight mil - so it will be difficult to get underneath the ball properly and hopefully the greens will be stimping about 10.5."

One element of the set-up which could perplex players is the fact that there is no definition between tee and green so that when they stand in the fairway there will be no visual reference to where the green starts or ends.

"It will make clubbing more difficult. The caddie can stand till he's blue in the face saying it's 137 to the pin but it won't look like that," said Eddie, adding that it was also causing the R&A a slight headache because of the difficulty in determining what was on or off the green for ball marking purposes.

The biggest task in advance of the Championship has been a complete bunker rebuild of all 112 on the famous Old Course.

"We did Shell and Hell bunkers last year because they were such big jobs but



we did about 100 between the end of the Dunhill Cup and this March. It's the first time we've done the whole lot in the space of 12 months with our own team and the guys did a fantastic job."

The statistics behind some of the bigger bunkers are quite mind blowing.

Hell bunker is seven feet tall at one side and 10 feet at the other and is 60 feet wide. To build a 10 feet high face takes 80 pieces of turf and the whole job takes 20,000 turfs in all and it takes two months to build.

"Greenkeepers who revet will know that building above head height is difficult as gravity takes over," said Eddie, who recalled the time in 1990 when some Canadian Superintendents were playing the course.

"My now Deputy, Billy Nicol, and I were just finishing off two month's work on Shell Bunker and Billy was giving the Canadians all the stats. I was on top, just cutting off the final row of turf, and looked down to see the bunker beginning to bulge. I jumped down and stuck my spade in to hold it but eventually had to jump out of the way and the whole face collapsed. Only about 10% was left.

"The Canadians played the loop and



PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN MORGAN

when they came back round were gobs-macked to see what what had happened. Billy told them we hadn't liked it so had pulled it down and they went off thinking what perfectionists we must have been. But we were devastated as it was two months work down the drain."

They have since learned from that and the biggest bunkers now have concrete foundations to provide a firm base for the revetting.

The St Andrews bunkers are all very deep as, if it is particularly windy, the sand can swirl and gather in the most sheltered part of the bunker.

"It can be fine for the first 20 or so matches but after that a player can find himself in an area with no sand. We tried watering them but with so much rain recently haven't needed to," said Eddie as he sat in the £1 million maintenance facility - one of two similar buildings on the links, just part of a huge investment by the St Andrews Links Trust over the last few years.

The rough won't be any different from previous St Andrews' Opens with a three metre band of semi and the rest of it four to five inches thick.

"The Old Course rough has never

been thick and that's a deliberate ploy because we take a huge amount of play and we have to get people round the course.

"From my point of view golf is for everybody regardless of handicap or stature and they should be able to putt from tee to green if they wanted to. Hence the reason we don't have rough such as you see at a US Open venue."

Such is the strategic way the Old Course has been designed the rough adds a degree of difficulty rather than making the next shot impossible.

"If you land in the rough left off the tee at 17, although you've got a terrible line to the green, a well struck shot might get you to the front right of the putting surface and you could two putt for par. I don't have any problem with that.

"Like most of the holes, if you go right off the tee - the more dangerous line - you have a much easier shot to the green. It's all about risk and reward and that's what makes the Old Course the test it is. We'll be trying to encourage the golfer to play down the right a riskier tee shot but an easier approach."

Pin placements are vital at St Andrews and decisions on these will be taken very early on each morning of the Champi-

onship, possibly using an on-site fore-caster and done by 4am.

"St Andrews is a funny place for weather. It can be pouring everywhere else but sunny here. Forecasting is only about 50-60% accurate when it comes to St Andrews," revealed Eddie.

Pin placements are different for the first two days of the Championship than for the final two because of the famous double greens.

"Pins are further apart because of the amount of play on Thursday and Friday then come Saturday and Sunday we can come in a bit tighter."

The huge greens are another unique St Andrews feature. Where else could a slightly misjudged approach lead to an 80 yard putt?

"The 5th-13th green is 6,500 square metres and the two guys who will double cut it will walk seven miles in the morning and seven miles at night. It's tough but a guy from England gets that job," smiled Eddie.

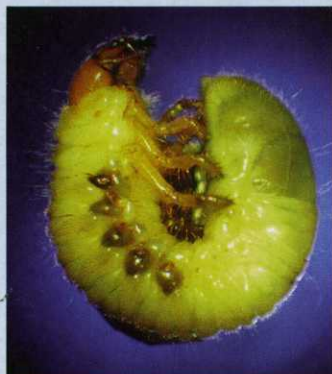
"They need very good cutters because you need to walk 80 or 90 yards in a straight line and it's obvious if you go wrong because there will be a camera high above that green. Greenkeepers will know just how difficult that job is."

With the Old Course team of 18, plus three Interns from the States and a Wentworth greenkeeper who asked if he could join the team for the week - "We brought him in just in case it rains," joked Eddie - joined by the rest of the Links Trust greenkeeping staff bringing the total team to over 60. Eddie reckons he will be able to get the course prepared each morning in an hour and three quarters.

"Championship preparation is all about being able to do a week's work in three hours. There is no great science. It's all about extra pairs of feet to do the job - that and having enough kit to do the job and Textron have been great in providing us with whatever we need."

With the enviable man power and equipment at their finger tips the St Andrews team which will also be joined by the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team for the week have all of the bases covered for the third week in July and you can be sure that the 2000 Open Championship will go down in history and be remembered for all the right reasons.

EFFECTIVE selection



All greenkeepers will have this seasonal problem: you want to kill off broad-leaved weeds without damaging the turf. The answer is the application of a Selective Herbicide. These herbicides are weedkillers which suppress or kill undesired plants without damaging valued plants. Therefore the term also applies to the control of weeds in agricultural crops, in shrub beds, and around trees.

Why do we need selective herbicides?

The use of selective herbicides allows efficient removal of weeds from large areas. To remove weeds by hand from the same area would take very much more time and effort. Selective herbicides are therefore one of the most cost-effective tools in a greenkeeper's armoury. Also, as most selective herbicides kill both the foliage and root system, the removal of the weed is complete - giving a much longer lasting kill than if the foliage only is removed by mechanical means.



How do selective herbicides work?

Inquisitive users of selective herbicides may ask the question: the product is sprayed onto both the turf and target weeds, so why is the grass not killed? Well, the term "selective" means that product has been developed to be active against broad-leaved weeds, but is selective to turf - meaning that the turf is unaffected. This selectivity results from physiological and biochemical differences between grasses and broad-leaved plants.

Selective herbicides can be divided into two major groups based on the way in which they act.

1. Contact Acting Selective Herbicides.

These act only upon those leaves which are directly sprayed. They cause scorching of treated plant tissue destroying their capability to produce energy for growth. Their main use is against annual weeds. Ioxynil is an example of a contact acting herbicide.

2. Translocated Selective Herbicides.

Upon application, translocated herbicides are absorbed by the foliage and move throughout the plant, killing both the leaves and root system. Translocated selective herbicides are therefore more effective and give longer-term treatment than contact selective herbicides.

There are many groups of selective herbicides which are translocated, each group killing the weeds by a variety of modes of action:

* Alkanoic & carboxylic acids: these are also known as "phytohormones"

because they disrupt normal plant hormone activity. Typical symptoms are inhibited and deformed growth and ultimately plant death. Examples of these compounds include MCPA, 2,4-D, mecoprop-p, triclopyr, clopyralid and dicamba.

* Anilides: disrupt the production of chlorophyll (the stuff which makes plants green!), giving characteristic bleaching symptoms. The affected leaves cannot photosynthesise (produce energy for growth) and therefore they die. Diflufenican is an anilide.

* Diphenyl ethers: inhibits photosynthesis and respiration and cause rupture of cell membranes. These compounds are quite fast-acting and scorch symptoms appear rapidly on most weeds. Bifenox is a diphenyl ether.

When should you use a selective herbicide?

Application is best carried out during conditions of active growth. This usually happens during the Spring and early Autumn. However broad-leaved weed growth may continue through the summer if conditions remain wet and mild.

Avoiding close mowing three days prior to application ensures maximum leaf area for product uptake. It is advantageous to avoid mowing for three days following application as well, to allow time for uptake and translocation of the active ingredients.

It is important to note that selective herbicides should not be applied if the turf and weeds are under stress, for example during periods of drought, waterlogging or frost, as this may impair herbicide uptake and lead to poor control.

How are selective herbicides applied?

Most are applied as liquids for use through watering cans, knapsack sprayers or tractor mounted sprayers.

Every selective herbicide has an approved label giving essential recommendations on protective clothing to be worn and precautions to be followed during application. In addition the label gives detailed use instructions including dose rates, water volumes and weed spectrum. There may be a range of rates on the product label, according to weed species. It is therefore important that you identify the weeds first then select the appropriate application rate and water volume.

The label recommendations are based on many years' research, and must be followed to ensure safe and effective product usage.

Having selected your rate of appli-

cation, the next essential step is to calibrate your sprayer. Anyone who regularly uses a knapsack or ride-on sprayer should be familiar with the calibration process. Calibration must take into account both the product dose rate, and the volume of water which is stated on the product label.

Applied in the correct dosage and under the correct conditions, selective herbicides represent the most cost-effective solution to weed control in turf.

Getting the best from the products Six point summary -

Identify The Problem

Select the right product for the job by first identifying the main weeds present. Then compare your list against the weeds mentioned on the product label. As a general rule, the more active ingredients a product contains, the wider the weed spectrum will be. For example, if clovers are predominant, you could use a product containing straight mecoprop-p. If several species are present, e.g. daisies, dandelions, buttercups and thistles, you will need a product containing two active ingredients including 2,4-D or MCPA. Three-way products also exist. These usually have a very wide weed spectrum, including difficult weeds such as speedwells. In addition three-way products can be useful if control of uncommon or unusual weeds is required.

Timing

Best results are achieved when the selective herbicide is applied to actively growing turf and weeds. The application of a fertiliser prior to treatment will improve growth, which in turn will speed up herbicide uptake and give good results.

Mowing

Mowing reduces the leaf area and consequently the weeds' ability to absorb the herbicide. Therefore mowing should be avoided for 3-4 days before application where possible. After spraying, a further period of 3-4 days without mowing will allow complete uptake of the herbicide, resulting in better control. Clippings from the first 2-3 mowings following application will contain traces of herbicide. These should not be used for composting unless allowed to rot down for at least 6 months.

Adverse conditions

If adverse conditions prevail, for example periods of drought, flood, frost or very high temperatures, both grass and weeds are under stress and therefore not actively growing. This will adversely affect the uptake of herbicide and the grass may be scorched.

Spray Drift

Avoid drift as much as possible by setting the nozzle at the recommended height and working under conditions of light breeze only. Use the correct nozzle and avoid high pressures which create small droplets that are more likely to drift. Small amounts of selective herbicide may cause damage to adjacent broad-leaved vegetation.

Calibration

Ensure equipment is properly calibrated before use.



From top: Chafer grub;
Leatherjacket; Daisy;
Dandelion; Wormcasts

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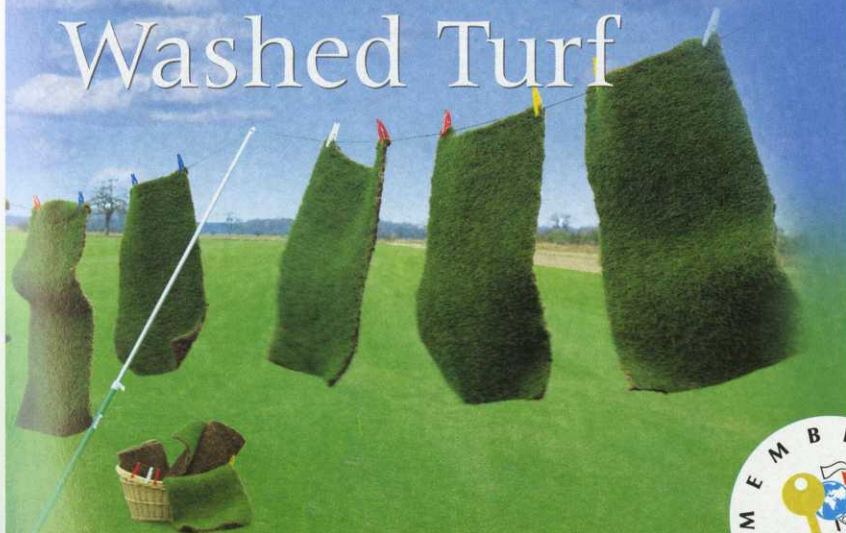
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Roland Taylor examines the issue of pest control, and how best to deal with various 'alien' elements on your Golf Course...

Pesssst!

Have you heard?

Right + far right:
Unless carefully
managed, badger
can create havoc
to golf courses, in
their quest for food



Above + top: Animal faeces are unsightly and constitute real health hazards

Bottom: Molehills are obvious hazards to both greenstaff and golfers



Unlike farmers, horticulturists and gardeners, greenkeepers have relatively few pests to deal with, certainly in the insect category. However, those that do occur can cause havoc. To ensure the turf remains strong and healthy throughout the year a pest control management system needs to be in place.

Pests fall into two categories - animals (including humans) and insects. In both cases it is important to know as much as possible about them.

Rabbits

Once upon a time the rabbit was used as a mower. Apart from sheep, cattle or a strong man with a scythe (plus a lot of time!) there was no other way of obtaining a short grassed playing surface. A few centuries ago, St Andrews issued the rights for a warren on their course. Apparently the players soon got fed up with losing balls down burrows and trampling about in unpleasant substances so the powers decided it was not such a good idea.

It is estimated that at present rabbit numbers are between 35-40% of the pre-myxomatosis levels and this figure is going up about 2% each year.

As we all know, the rabbit is a prolific breeder. They do reproduce all year round, but the main period is between January and August with up to 24 young being produced in four to six litters. Each youngster is capa-

ble of reproducing at three months old, so two born in January can become 80 by autumn! Young rabbits are vulnerable and 90% will have died during the summer.

An ideal time to reduce the adult is from November to March when the population is at its lowest and before the next main breeding season. There are a number of Acts that need to be taken into consideration when dealing with rabbits.

Under the Wild Mammals (Protection Act) 1996 it is an offence to intentionally inflict unnecessary suffering on any wild mammal as specified in the Act. This legislation may need to be considered where the destruction of occupied warrens and burrow systems is being contemplated

An Order under Section One of the Pests Act 1954 which declares England and Wales "a rabbit clearance area" states that every occupier of land is responsible for destroying wild rabbits on their land. In cases where it is not practical to destroy them, steps must be taken to prevent damage

An occupier of land has the limited right under the Ground Act 1880 to kill rabbits using any legal method including gassing, trapping, ferreting, shooting, snaring and netting

CONTROL METHODS

Gassing

Under the right conditions this will have an 80% success rate.

At least two trained personnel must carry out this operation, so for most readers the answer is to call in a specialist. Some of these companies run training courses in the correct procedures and it may be a good idea to train up some of your staff.

The most commonly used compound is a sodium cyanide (Cymag). When this comes into contact with moisture or soil it produces hydrogen cyanide. It comes in a powder form, which is blown into the burrows or deposited inside the entrance with a spoon.

There are also a number of pellets or tablets now available. These contain metallic phosphides which give off phosphine gas when moistened. Like the powder forms these are introduced to the burrow entrance which is then blocked up.

Fencing or wire netting

In certain situations this could be the answer. The initial outlay is likely to be high, but in the long term it is a cost-effective preventive measure compared with carrying out other control measures on an annual basis.

Moles

Unlike the sociable Mr Mole portrayed in "Wind in the Willows" moles are very solitary, territorial animals, living most of their lives in total darkness underground. Their tunnel systems can cover an area of up to 1.6ha (4 acres) and consists of a deep permanent network and short-lived surface runs. The complex has one or two chambers within it lined with dry material, these are used as sleeping quarters and for raising the young. Molehills are created as a result of tunnel extensions or repairs and are often due to a shortage of the moles staple diet - worms. They consume large quantities, an 80gram mole requires up to 50grams of earthworms a day. During the summer they will also eat insects that fall into their tunnels. Sometimes special chambers are set up where worms are stored alive for a later feast.

Male and females remain solitary in their own domains only coming together in the spring for breeding. Litter numbers are from three to four babies and these are weaned at four-five weeks. They leave their mother's territory at about six weeks by dispersing above ground. This is the time when they are most at danger.

Control

This is best carried out between October and April and there are two main methods, poisoning with strychnine or trapping. There are other methods although some evidence suggests these are questionable. They include smoke cartridges containing pesticides, which are ignited and placed in the tunnels. This can be very hit and miss as it is difficult to make sure a sufficient toxic level is reached. A mole is no fool and can quickly block off a tunnel if it senses danger.

Where chemical repellents are used



it is often a case of pack the bags and move to another district.

A number of electronic devices, which are said to produce vibrations that make the moles life intolerable, are now available. Current evidence would suggest they have a very limited effect and the offending creatures stay put.

One method that could have the desired results is to eradicate the food supply by getting rid of the worms. A hungry mole is going to move on.

Trapping

First find the right tunnels using some form of probe - they are down there somewhere between molehills. The deep ones are what you are looking for, those near the surface are not suitable. Once located a hole is dug into them and the trap carefully lowered in.

Poisoning

Earthworms are the bait, these are mixed with strychnine and carefully introduced to the run. The bait needs to be distributed evenly throughout the tunnel system.

With strychnine a permit must be obtained from the MAFF Regional Service Centre in England and WOAD in Wales.

As with gassing, because of the measures and precautions that have to be taken with poisons it would probably be more economically viable to call in the services of a professional pest control organisation. Staff have to be fully trained before using any of these substances.

Earthworms

A major portion of any greenkeeper's turf management programme is devoted to aeration and in this he has an ally - the humble earthworm. It breaks down organic matter and excavates tunnels through which water, air and nutrients can percolate. When this creature decides to deposit casts it becomes the greenkeepers enemy. Out of the 25 species of earthworms found in the UK, three carry out this heinous crime.

The casts contain a mucous, which if wet, smears and dries rock hard. It

is an ideal site for unwanted seedlings such as poa annua and weeds to establish themselves. In addition, it forms an impenetrable crust through which nothing can permeate. On fine turf they stick out like a sore thumb.

There are some preventive measures which, while not eliminating the problem, can play a part in its control. Removal of organic material such as grass clippings and thatch reduces the food supply, which in turn affects the worm population.

The pH of the soil is another influencing factor. Worms cannot tolerate acidic levels. Applications of sulphate of iron have been a commonly practised method over the years and trials have been conducted to determine the effects of aluminium sulphate and sulphur.

Most chemical controls for worms have disappeared and today the choice is limited. At present fungicides based on carbendazim and a fungicide/insecticide thiophanate-methyl are said to prevent worm cast formation. This is only a short term answer, so repeated applications have to be made.

The quest continues to find an acceptable solution to this problem.

Badgers and foxes

They love insect grubs, and will create a battlefield, tearing up the turf in their quest for these delicacies. The answer is to remove these tantalising meals by controlling the insects that create them.

Geese

These can be a problem for some greenkeepers - they graze fine turf and leave a nasty mess behind. Electric fencing or bird-scaring devices are possible solutions. Lead pellets from a 12 bore were suggested but there could be major problems regarding the species of geese involved and the organisations that protect them.

Cattle and sheep

In years past, some courses were built on sites where the locals had (and in some cases still retain) grazing rights. Over the years, regular players will have come to accept that

they have to retrieve their balls from a cow pat. Likewise, the greenkeepers tolerate this particular pest and restrict their access to greens and other vulnerable areas with some form of fencing. They have very little choice and have to live with it.

INSECT PESTS

Leatherjackets

During the late summer and early autumn the daddy long legs or crane fly is a common sight. Like a terrorist it is plotting trouble. The female lays about 250 eggs and these become larvae within 14 days. They then spend the next nine-months chewing their way through grass leaves and roots. Bearing in mind how many eggs were laid, the numbers of larvae in a particular area will be high and as a result the devastation their feed has on the turf is very significant. Another problem is that birds such as rooks and starling have a sixth sense. They know that there is a tasty morsel lurking beneath the surface and have no respect for the turf in trying to get this meal. They are good indicators that there is a leatherjacket problem.

Finally the larvae change into a pupa and work their way to the surface and hatch into adult crane fly ready to produce more offspring, to repeat the cycle again. Sandy soils are more to their liking and they prefer a diet of fibrous turf.

Treatment should be carried out when the larvae are relatively small and this is best done about November using a chlorpyrifos based insecticide.

Fever Fly

The larvae of the Fever Fly, of which there are two species, also damage turf. They resemble the leatherjacket, but are smaller and the treatment for this pest is the same.

Chafer Grubs

The Garden Chafer Beetle has a one-year lifecycle. Adults emerge at about the beginning of June and the female burrows into the ground and proceeds to lay her eggs. These take just over a month to hatch. The grubs

feed on grass roots until the late autumn then burrow down into the soil to hibernate throughout the winter. In the spring they pupate and emerge a month later ready to procreate.

The damage is similar to that produced by leatherjackets and the presence of birds is also a sign there is 'trouble afoot' underground. Treatment is with an insecticide.

Other Pests

Most greenkeepers will inevitably encounter pests of the human variety, these come in all shapes and sizes. We have all met the so-called expert - (X an unknown quantity and spurt a drip under pressure). Whilst it would be nice to tell them to travel, the treatment has to be diplomacy and tact.

Next time you encounter a pest problem, stop and ponder this for a second: your counterpart in some far distant country could be faced with alligators or snakes all over his course. Is this not a sobering thought!




Above: Rabbits do not always dig their burrows in secluded areas

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Empowering leaders know the value of delegation. It not only benefits the manager by freeing up time so that he or she can lead more effectively, but also benefits the employee by developing them and helping them to feel valued. Brin Bendon explains the art of delegation...

Over to you

If I delegate responsibility for work to you, it means that I trust you to do a good job. If I never let go and delegate responsibility to you, it sends out a very negative message and you feel that I don't trust you enough. In turn you feel undervalued and distrustful of me.

So why do managers procrastinate over delegation? Managers are reluctant to delegate for many reasons:

- Fear of letting go and losing control
- Not being organised
- Failure to trust people
- Feeling indispensable
- Intolerant of differences
- Unwilling to let others take over the managers favourite tasks
- Afraid that others might perform tasks better than themselves

Such managers will often make excuses such as 'I'm the only one who can do this job.' 'In the time that I would need to tell someone what to do, I could have done it myself.' 'I'll only end up having to spend time doing it all over again.' 'Nothing that I can be delegated.'

Your unwillingness to delegate any task that is under your control means that others never get a chance to prove they can do it. It may well be that you are the best person to do the job, but doing it prevents you from doing more. The belief that it is quicker to do the job yourself than to teach others is a view that guarantees that you end up doing it all yourself.

It does take time to coach people, but this is a far better use of your

time than continually getting involved in activities which detract from your efficiency. Many of the reasons given for not delegating have to do with the perceived lack of time, yet, it is a known fact that if time is considered to be the problem, it is usually the will to delegate that is really lacking.

There are also those who think they are really good at delegating because they give so many tasks away. But they may not have grasped that there is a considerable difference between delegation and abdication. If you give too much away, it means that:

1) People may have responsibility, but not authority, so they have little influence in getting things done should others prove unco-operative,

2) People can be asked to carry out tasks which are outside their skills and abilities, so they are unlikely to be able to complete them satisfactorily, and

3) People may not understand how their given task fits into the overall picture, so they are unable to produce their best work for the circumstance. The consequence is, that when people do not achieve results, they may become unresponsive and unwilling to take on anything extra.

So, despite your attempts to delegate, you end up having to do it all yourself. Even if people do achieve results, they can end up feeling disillusioned because they are doing all the donkey work while you appear to be taking any credit that is going. Giving too much away, is, in fact, just

as bad as not giving away anything at all.

There are many good reasons for delegating including making better use of your time, developing the skills of others and being able to get on with other important tasks.

To be effective however, delegation needs clear lines of accountability, clear responsibilities with the authority and adequate resources for people to do the task. It is unfair of managers to make people responsible without giving them the authority or the resources they need. It is also unfair to delegate tasks to people who have not been trained in the execution of such tasks. Hence we only fully delegate responsibilities to people who have been trained and are competent to perform the tasks.

The key to effective delegating is to be able to answer three basic questions:

- What job can I give away?
- What does the job involve?
- What do I need to do to ensure that people know what they are doing?

Deciding which tasks to delegate

It is a mistake to think that you can delegate any task that takes your fancy, possibly because you do not feel like doing it. Or, because you have to keep someone busy. Deciding what to delegate requires you to consider everything you do and to make a list of the tasks you do under four headings:

Over to you

Circle of Delegation

Adapted from Eugene J Bengé



■ **Tasks you must delegate.** These are jobs you should not be doing at all. Very often they are jobs you have always done, or jobs which you particularly enjoy and are reluctant to give away to anybody else. Delegating these tasks enables you to make better use of your time while minimising the risk involved in handing them over to others.

■ **Tasks you should delegate.** These are routine jobs which you may never have considered delegating but which other people are quite capable of carrying out. Not only that, they could also find them both interesting and challenging to take on.

■ **Tasks you can delegate.** These are jobs which others could be doing if they were fully capable of doing so. Delegating these tasks provides them with the opportunity to develop their skills, so long as you ensure that the necessary coaching or training is forthcoming to enable them to require the requisite skills.

■ **Tasks you must retain.** These are the jobs which are your core responsibilities, such as planning ahead for future actions, selecting someone new, monitoring people's performance and effort, supporting, evaluating and rewarding people. This should prompt you to realise that you may still be carrying out some tasks which you really should have delegated years ago. However, this does not mean that you should delegate the dreary tasks while keeping all the attractive ones for yourself. Nor should you delegate work which you find difficult. If you have problems, it is unlikely that other people will do any better than you unless they are specialists.

Delegation is not the same as 'giving out work'. Giving out work is simply allocating jobs which already form part of the duties of subordinates. Delegation consists of charging the subordinate with the authority to take decisions within defined areas of responsibility. It is an effective use of peoples' time, talent and resources. We need to differentiate between responsibility, authority and accountability.

Responsibility in this context means the work delegated. The duties of the job itself.

For example, a Deputy could be given the responsibility to maintain the stock of chemicals.

Authority means charging the subordinate with the right to take decisions and the action to enable the responsibility to be successfully discharged.

For example, a Deputy could be charged with the authority of placing orders to replenish stationery.

Accountability means 'carrying the can' for the success or failure of the task. Leaders cannot shrug off their accountability by delegating. They are ultimately held to account.

For example, the Head Greenkeeper retains the accountability for controlling the course budget and should the Deputy over-order the stock, the manager still carries the can.

The task, duty and authority can be delegated; accountability cannot. You continue to 'carry the can'. So, before delegating any of the tasks you have selected as suitable, you need to evaluate how much of a risk you are taking when you pass on a job for which you are ultimately answerable. In practical terms, this means assessing.

1) How much risk - what are the consequences of the job being mis-managed and what are the chances of that happening?

2) How much responsibility - what obligations which you are relied upon to care about are you handing over?

3) How much authority - what extent of your command and control will you be giving up?

Deciding who can do it

Once you have decided which tasks can, and should, be done by others, you have to decide who could do them. Ideal delegation is that which assigns a task to a person who is competent to do it, and who will find it stimulating and challenging. To get as near as possible to this ideal, you should look at the task you have decided to delegate and match it against the skills of the people who might best execute it. Not everybody is at the same stage of development in their knowledge and skills.

Considering capabilities. When deciding who might do a particular task, you should start by consulting your list of skills, and then consider the capabilities of the people available. You are likely to find that people tend to fall into three categories when you come to determine their abilities.

1) **Star performers** - these are your very experienced people. It is essential that they are left alone once the task has been handed over, unless help is requested.

2) **Average performers** - these are fairly experienced people, but need support from time to time. It is important to check progress intermittently and monitor unobtrusively while giving encouragement.

3) **Incompetent performers** - these people need to learn how to do the task, so you may not have considered them at all. But, a lack of experience should not be confused with a lack of ability. They ought to be told how to carry out the task and given feedback if they are to gain confidence and learn quickly.

Practice these simple techniques and you will find that not only will you become more effective as a manager, but your people will become more effective, since effective delegation promotes skill development and motivation.



Brin Bendon is the Managing Director of Vector Training Ltd., an approved training provider for BIGGA and many other corporate and public sector clients. Brin is well known to many Greenkeepers in his role as one of the lead tutors on the BIGGA's Management Development Programmes. Vector Training can be contacted via telephone on 01904 642464 or by email: enquiries@vector-training.demon.co.uk.



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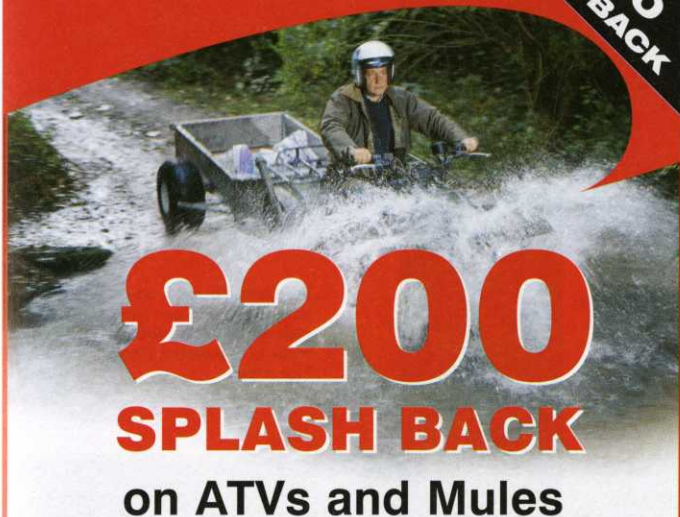
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TALKING

Six of the country's top men give their views on the effects of disease on their course and how they manage the problem

Disease

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE



Name: Paul Murphy
Course: Downfield GC, Dundee
Region: Scotland
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Course Manager, plus six, plus mechanic



Name: Steve Oultram
Course: Wilmslow GC
Region: Northern
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Course Manager, plus five



Name: Gerald Bruce
Course: Berkhamstead, Herts
Region: Midland
Course Type: Heathland
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus five



Name: David Everitt
Course: Bognor Regis, Dorset
Region: South West and South Wales
Course Type: Mixture of downland, parkland and heathland
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus four



Name: Ian Willett
Course: Thorpeness GC, Suffolk
Region: South East
Course Type: Maritime heathland
Staff: Course Manager, plus four



Name: Terry Crawford
Course: Clandeboye GC, Bangor, Co Down
Region: Northern Ireland
Course Type: Parkland/Heathland
Staff: Course Manager, plus 12, plus mechanic (36 holes)

1. Which diseases affect your course to the greatest degree?

1. Fusarium mainly with a touch of anthracnose now and again.

1. Fusarium, but it has become less of a problem in the last two or three years by adopting a policy of minimal watering, aeration, vertidrainage and micro-tining.

1. Fusarium and some anthracnose, but I don't spray for anthracnose.

1. Fusarium. We get it late autumn and early winter and can almost guarantee it as we have moisture caused by heavy mists in September, October and November.

1. Fusarium and anthracnose. I didn't use any fungicide for the anthracnose and put some turf tonic on which which took it away.

1. Fusarium mainly with some anthracnose.

HEADS

2

2. Have you noticed any changes in the type of diseases which has affected you in the recent past?

2. Less of a problem over the years. Snow and the fact that we have a lot of trees result in problems, but through good cultural practices we have fewer problems than before.

3

3. What has been the most surprising disease to hit your course in the recent past?

3. We call it St Mark's Fly, but maybe there is another name for it. The grub eats the roots of the grass and makes greens patchy.

4

4. What policies do you carry out to alleviate or reduce disease?

4. Over the last five years we have adopted a very heavy vertidrainage programme of three times a year. Minimum fertiliser, minimum water, greens are treated separately as certain greens have different conditions. I don't top dress at the end of the year because it encourages disease. We put on potash at the back end.

5

5. If you had the ability to wipe out a single disease from existence which would it be and why?

5. Fusarium. It hits you quickly overnight and you go from being perfect to having problems. It's always a worry. We now clear greens of snow. We used 200 litres of chemicals every month when I was first here but not it's only 70 litres and we hollow core to get rid of thatch.

2. Not really. It's been Fusarium most of the time with the odd Take-All Patch affecting us.

3. Take-All Patch, which we have only experienced in the last three or four years.

4. Good regular top dressing, keep moisture away from the surface and in winter keep away from fungicides. I rely on sulphate of iron.

5. Take-All Patch because we are defenceless against it. We have cures for the other diseases. I believe some research is being carried out in America, but I haven't heard of any progress over here.

2. I haven't noticed any changes in the time I have been here. Fusarium is the major problem and remains so.

3. Leaf blight, aschochyta but these are not on-going problems.

4. Good cultural practice, aeration, removal of thatch, minimum water, preventative spray in September or early October, spray through the winter period. I am reluctant to spray in spring or summer.

5. Fusarium is the one disease which affects all our courses and gives the most problems so I would gladly see the back of that forever.

2. No, I can't say I have. Fusarium is the common factor.

3. A few instances of Take-All Patch on newly constructed greens and anthracnose on the older established greens but these have never been real problems.

4. Summer solid tining and winter slit tining. Aeration. Cultural mechanical practices before applying fungicides. Switch daily if not cutting greens. Raise height of cut from five to seven mil in autumn. Sulphate of iron and liquid potassium helps to minimise problems.

5. Fusarium, which is the most common disease. It spoils fine turf and is difficult to treat.

2. No. It's been Fusarium in the three years I have been here. I use one spray per season and that does the trick. We are very exposed with a North East wind in winter which cuts you in half, so that helps!

3. Not really. There's been the odd patch of disease but we have been largely disease free.

4. Aeration, hollow tining, vertidrainage and iron application. I also use Vitax turf tonic, Rimidin and Rovril and I rotate the remedies all the time.

5. Fusarium which seems to affect most courses all over the country.

2. Diseases are more frequent although there are more fungicides available than there have ever been. Climatic changes with warmer weather and moist humid conditions are probably the reasons.

3. Anthracnose which is caused by compaction and more golf. We treat this with more aeration.

4. A lot of aeration and I also believe strongly in the quality of cut. We have our machines set up every day and check the height of cut. I use a preventative fungicide before top dressing.

5. Fusarium, which is so unsightly. If you get it late in the season it is often difficult to get a good covering of grass in the scarred areas.



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

West Section

Welcome once again to another round up of Section news.

Firstly a somewhat belated report on the Greenkeeper Convenors' match played at Cowglen GC in March.

A reasonable turnout on the day and for all concerned a rather fine spring-like day.

Congratulations to the Helensburgh team, we look forward to playing there in the spring of 2001.

Thanks go to the sponsors Aitkens and SGM and also to Derek Duthie and John Yeats for their organisation on the day. Finally thanks to Scott Ballantyne and his staff for preparing the course and having it in, I must say, fine shape, considering the rain that had fallen prior to this event.

Thanks also go to the Captain and Council of Cowglen GC for use of their Club and facilities.

My next report is of the spring outing played at Ranfurly Castle GC.

Although unable to attend in person, I have been reliably informed that the course was looking well and played well.

The results are as follows: Scratch prize - G.Bruen 74

First Class-1. I. Smith, Drumpeiler, 74-5(69); 2. G. Kerr, Gledloch, 78-8(70); 3. R.McCleish, Vale of Leven, 76-5(71) BIH

Second Class-1. A. Miller, Wishaw, 86-13(73) BIH; 2. N. McKinlay, Lochgoilhead, 88-15(73) BIH; 3. T. Hindmarsh, Cathcart Castle, 85-12(73)

Third Class-1. D. Mowatt, Glasgow, 96-20(76); 2. E. McGhee, Blairbeth, 102-25(77); 3. T. Nisbett, Glasgow, 113-25(88)

Trade: Derek Duthie, 77-5(72) BIH

Visitors: Kenny Hunter, 84-11(73)

Longest drive: P. Boyd

Nearest the pin: R.Love-Kilmaccolm 110cm.
Team prize-Game 11 C. Goodall, R. McLeish and C. McFarlane. Total 220.

Best gross: G. Bruen. Best nett: J. Brown both qualifying for places in the National Championship.

Thanks to all the greenkeeping team, the steward and finally the Captain and members of Ranfurly Castle for use of their facilities.

Congratulations go to Kenny Henderson of East Kilbride for winning the first draw of the 100 club with ticket No. 25.

Any news or information please contact me on Mobile: 07050 173080, Home: 0141-776-1532, Email: rryrug@lineone.net

Gavin Jarvis

Central

Joining the Section this month are Ali MacFadgen and Russell Crichton, both from Crieff Hydro Golf Course, and rejoining is Richard Hastings from Holland-bush Golf Club. Welcome to the Section lads! That's 50 members who have joined the section in the first half of this year, so hopefully, if we can keep up the numbers, we can reach the 300 mark this year.

Is anyone interested in a weekend on Islay at the Machrie Hotel and Golf Links? Head Greenkeeper, Simon Freeman, has been in touch and if we can get enough members interested, Simon can arrange accommodation at very competitive rates with as much free golf as you like. Can't be bad can it? This is another bonus of being a member of BIGGA. If anyone is interested in a weekend later in the year, just get in touch with me or fill in one of the forms you will soon be receiving.

It is intended to organise a visit to the trial grounds at Loch Lomond Golf Club later in the year and once again, if you wish to participate in this visit, please return your confirmation slip as soon as possible, as numbers may be limited.

The winning number in this month's bonus draw in 'Club 2000' is 00538 and the lucky holder of this ticket is Alex Robertson from Grangemouth. Well done Alex! A cheque for £100 is on its way to you.

Kenny Duncan has now been confirmed as Head Greenkeeper at Dunfermline Golf Club, Crossford, in Fife, and our congratulations go to him wishing him every success in the future.

Nominees for the annual Patron's Award from the Section will be decided on by the number of events each member attends, either at Section, Region or National level. This will include lectures, conferences, demonstrations, exhibitions and golf events, so if you attend any of these events, please let me know in order that a record can be kept, that is if you wish to be nominated for the Patron's Award, which is a very worthwhile expenses paid trip to the BTME at Harrogate in January.

John Crawford

North

The Spring Section outing at Buckpool started off in pouring rain, but the sun came out mid morning and it turned out a fine day. Martyn Cameron and his staff had the course in excellent condition for the 80 players that ventured out and this was reflected in the scoring.

Our representatives at the BIGGA Scotts Charterhouse National Tournament in September will be Mike Wilson, from Forres GC, who shot a fine even par 70 and R. Pendle-

bury, from Peterculter, who had a superb nett 63 off his 10 handicap. We wish them every success at St Annes and Fairhaven later in the year. Prize winners were as follows. Scratch, M. Wilson 70, runner up, B. Wood, 71. Handicap, all nett scores, Class one 1. C. Pearson 67; 2. G. Lornie 68; 3. S. Herd 70 bih. Class two 1. R. Pendlebury 63, 2. S. McBain 68, Committee trophy winner also; 3. N. Ballingall 72 bih. Class three 1. A. Leslie 71; 2. H. MacLatchie 72; 3. C. Cummings 73 bih. Apprentice Trophy 1. I. Cowper 66; 2. S. Pettigrew 75. Veteran Trophy 1. R. Donald 74; 2. A. Grant 75. Trade P. Allan 74. Guest E. Simpson 72. Nearest the pin R. Pendlebury, longest drives Class one C. Pearson. Class two R. Hardie. Class three P. Watson. BIGGA blazer card draw winner N. Mackay, who incidentally is one of our newest members and this was his first outing.

The day passed off very smoothly with around 85 members, trade and guests present and thanks must go to the Section Committee for their hard work and organisation. Once again thanks to Martyn and the greenstaff and all at the club for a great day. The four lucky winners in 200 Club were, January £30 number 36 G. Thorn Aberdeen, February £30 number 123, J. Geddes and H. MacLatchie, March £30 Machrihanish, but soon to be Dumbarton, April £100 R. Patterson, Aberdeen. Finally I would just like to thank Elliott Small, BIGGA Chairman and John Scott, Scottish Chairman for attending the outing and being on hand to talk to members.

Assessors wondering what happened to the Moderation meeting in May might like to know that, after discussion, with the GTC, we have decided to hold it in the winter time when things are quieter on the course and it should be easier to attend, details to follow.

Just the one new member to welcome to the Section this month and that is Kevin Smith from Kirriemuir.

Finally, the Lady member who sued Section Secretary Dougal Duguid after she was injured when her golf ball allegedly hit a stone in the rough and struck her, has lost her case. Hopefully this sort of thing will not happen again, more details elsewhere in this magazine.

Iain Macleod

East Section

Well, I'm back. After two months away, here we are with some Section news. The reason there has been no reports for the last couple of months is due to my son being in Birmingham having a liver transplant as you will all probably know now, after all the reports in newspapers etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kind wishes and thoughts for myself and my family through a very hard and testing couple of months. I

would like to thank everyone personally, but it would take up most of this magazine. I would like to say thanks to my PR team in the East Section, notably Steve Dixon, Craig Pennycuik and Stuart Greenwood who kept everyone up to date and informed of the situation. Lastly, I would like to thank all members of the trade who have been asking and thinking of us over the last few months and finally my club West Linton Golf Club who allowed me as much time off as I needed, which, considering I have only been here a few months, has been overwhelming. So a big thank you to the Captain, John Mackie, Vice Captain, Secretary, Greens Chairman Scott Mackay and the rest of the committee and all the members of the Club whose thoughts and kind words helped us all through this time. Thanks to everyone it has been quite exceptional.

The summer event took place on 26 April with the kind permission of the Captain and Directors of North Berwick West Golf Club. Stuart Greenwood and his staff had the course in immaculate condition, so all credit to them. It was just a pity the weather couldn't have been as good. I missed the day due to my son undergoing surgery in Birmingham, but I have been totally informed that the rain and wind had to be the worst ever encountered for an East Section outing. With water everywhere, gale force winds and totally black rain laden skies only a few brave souls went out - some only survived a few holes and very few played the full 18 holes. Most people stayed in the bar all day and got very wet inside but not outside. So, well done to the bar and catering staff who looked after the lads superbly on a terrible day. So few people completed their rounds or went out that we could not give all the prizes away in the 3rd class, but thankfully we got some prize winners. The results were as follows:

Scratch, P Hares. 1st Class winner, P. Hares, 2. I. Bell, 3. S. Greenwood. 2nd Class Winner, C. Pennycuik, 2. I. Cowan, 3. R. Mullen. 3rd Class Winners, C. Moffatt, Best nett of the day, C. Pennycuik, Veteran, J. Robertson, Trade, I. Thompson. New Member, I. Watson. Guest, D. Mcraw. High-est Score, C. Moffatt.

The qualifiers for the National Tournament in September are: Scratch, I. Bell, Glencorse GC. Handicap, R. Mullen, Swanston GC.

The Section's best wishes go with them to St Annes Old Links and Fairhaven on 25 and 26 September. Remember the silverware lads, all the best to you both.

Lastly, thanks to the trade for their support and prizes they brought along on the day. Thanks to you.



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THE CHARTERHOUSE OF SCOTTS
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
FOR THE BIRMINGHAM & GLASGOW TEAMS

The Section Committee had their day out on May 30 to Aberdour GC in Fife, to play for the Eddie Holt Memorial Trophy, singles, and Chairman v Vice Chairman's match, team event. A very fine day was had by all on a day of cloudless blue skies which, these days, is unusual. We would like to thank the Captain and Council for courtesy of the course, the Clubhouse staff for keeping us happy in the food and liquid refreshment department. Also the Head Greenkeeper and his greenstaff for the condition of the course which was superb and a pleasure to play. Well done. Finally, A M Russell of Toro for sponsoring our day and their continued support of the section. We hope Brian Goudie and Dougie Jefferys enjoyed the day with us. I had the pleasure of playing with Dougie. This is the second time I have played with him and this time he bettered his score by 20+ shots, so I think he should play with me more often. Well done Dougie, look out Tiger! The results for this were = The Eddie Holt Memorial Trophy, Craig Penny-cuick, Winterfield GC and if Craig keeps picking up trophies instead of cutting his handicap, we will have to cut off one of his hands. Probably still wouldn't make a difference!

The team prize was won by Vice Chairman Tom Murray's team.

Stuart Greenwood, Chairman, was hoping to win it for the third year in a row, so he could keep the trophy but it was not to be this year. So, well done to all the winners concerned. Roll on next year.

We also had a putting competition that night after our meal, but I am not going to report on it as it was a carve up, conspiracy, etc. etc.

Oatridge College opened their 9 hole golf course on Friday May 26. The course was officially opened by former Ryder Cup Captain, Bernard Gallacher. Well done to Oatridge College Head Greenkeeper, Andy Forrest, and his staff and everyone concerned with this new venture. All the best for the future.

Well, that's it until next month when I will have a report from the summer tournament at Melrose GC. Pictures from opening day at Oatridge Golf Course and any information that anyone from this Section or any other Section in Scotland, England, Ireland or Wales want to send me.

The usual address is Westwyn, West Linton Golf Club, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EG46 7HN. Phone No. Home 01968 661313, Work/Fax 01968 661721 or mobile 07901 846194. So come on, let me hear from somebody about anything, please, as it gets a bit lonely sometimes!

Thanks and all the best.

Chris Yeaman

PS. We had better not mention Rangers 4-0 win in the Scottish Cup Final as our Editor, Scott MacCallum is an Aberdeen supporter! Say no more.



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Northern

A short one this month, the results for President's Day will be in next month's magazine. In the mean-time don't forget to let us know about your availability for the Roses match away at Longridge GC. The deadline is the end of this month, and the team will be published in next month's magazine.

Our next event is Invitation Day at Cookridge Hall Golf & Country Club on Wednesday 6 September. Please note that Invitation Day is for inviting club officials (eg Captain, Greens Chairman etc) All entries for the golf events are to be sent to myself and must be received along with the FULL amount of £17.50 no later than 7 days before the event.

Cheques to be made payable to BIGGA Northern Section. Entries will be on a first come first in basis, so book early to avoid disappointment.

A challenge has been issued by Rigby Taylor to a 5-a-side football match. If you would like to play then give us a buzz.

Not a lot going on this month except I've moved from Oulton Park to Howley Hall G.C. as assistant greenkeeper, to join our Section Chairman Simon Heppenstall.

We welcome this month a new member:- John Dobson, Kirkby-moorside GC. You can be assured of a warm welcome at any of our section events. 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, so if anybody has any, then please let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 2383188 / mobile 07790 678572.

Andy Smith

North Wales

After last month's tirade I went for a lie down, still didn't calm down though, I stick by my comments. It's beyond me how personal vendettas can come before a game of golf, sad!

Anyhow the only news item I have this month is that Darren Anderson has achieved NVQ level 4. Congratulations go to him, keeping the family tradition, as his father Brian is the ex-chairman of our section, now back in his homeland of Scotland. I bet he's chuffed too! My email address for any news is: d_goodridge@talk21.com

Dave Goodridge

North East

The spring competition was held at Bamburgh Castle on April 13. Our thanks to the committee for granting us courtesy of their fine course again. Sadly, it was a terrible day for playing golf with no let up in the rain and wind, but 24 people played. The section would like to thank the following companies for their dona-

tions. Turf Care, Whitmoss Amenities, Shorts of Whitburn, Greenlay, Sisis, Aitkens, Border Turf Supplies, Thorntree Landscapes, Carrs of Hexham, Rufford Top Dressing.

The best gross: S. Quince, Alnmouth GC, 74. Best Nett, B. Wilson, Stocksfield, 82-8=74. Best Ass. J. Hutton, Whickham, 81-4=77. A. Dalby, Warkworth, 85-7=78. G. Wright, Crook, 93-15=78. R. Black, Westerhope, 88-8=80. R. Reid, Prudhoe, 87-7=80. S. Hagar, Crook, 86-6=80.

The qualifiers for the National Championships are Steve Quince and Barry Wilson.

The qualifiers for the Northern Region Finals: 9 and under S. Quince, B. Wilson, reserve J. Hutton, A. Dalby. 10 to 18. G. Wright, I. Johnson, reserve, S. Pope, K. Rutherford. 19 to 28. R. White, G. Proudlock, B. Hughes, C. Elmsie. G. Proudlock's handicap has been revised and is now 28.

Sheffield

A good turn out for our President's Day Tournament played at Wheatley GC in very good weather, sunshine all day. Our thanks to all trade members who helped to sponsor the day and our main sponsor Tony Beaumont, of GEM Professional. The course was in amazing condition and presentation was of a high standard. Our thanks go to Head Greenkeeper, Paul Docherty, and his staff. Also thanks to Steward and Stewardess Jan and Howard Green for the meal and hospitality. The members at Wheatley are very lucky to have such wonderful facilities indeed. Thank you also to your committee for allowing us the courtesy of your course.

The results were: Qualifiers for the National Championship: Best Gross, A. Lomas, Best Nett, M. Crawshaw. Qualifiers for the Northern Region

Tournaments to be played at Fishwick Hall Preston 10 August. 0-9 A. Lomas, M. Knowles, Res, J. Darroch. 10 - 18 I. Lilley, N. Maltby, Res M. Lake. 19 - 28 M. Crawshaw, L. Robinson, Res. B. Kilcline.

New Members: S. Swindell & K. Riley, Phoenix GC; R. Wood, Hardleywood Golf Range; G. Crofts, Doncaster Townmoor; D. Rutledge, Rother Valley GC; T. White, Bondhay GC; R. Ardron, Handley Wood GC.

Next Golf Competition 10 July at Matlock GC. Tee off 1.30 pm.

R Ullathorne

North West

How about the Volvo PGA at Wentworth? The golf was good and Monty showed how good he is at his job but Chris Kennedy and his staff were excellent. The weather certainly put the course and the staff to the ultimate test to get the tournament completed, and this they did. Well

done lads, you did a great job and proved how good our greenkeepers really are.

Dave Berry and his staff also deserve applauding for the way they had prepared Bury GC for our spring Tournament on May 3. The weather on the day was dry and fine, but the weather prior to the tournament had been wet and cold for weeks. Apart from this, the growth up there is always a month later than most courses in our Section, but the course was in great condition on the day. Many thanks to Bury GC for allowing us courtesy of the course and the caterers for excellent meals. The results on the day were: Best Nett, J. Ellison. 69-5-64. Best Gross, John Coar, 77-12-65. Best Vets, Brian Turner, 88-16-72. Trade, Andy Cornes, 84-10-74. Longest Drive, Tom Wilkinson. Nearest the Pin, Mike Bottomley.

The longest drive and nearest the pin prizes were donated by Rufford Soil Technology. The nett prizes went to 13th place and this was due to N/W patrons and trade members who donated prizes helping to swell the prize table.



The two members from the N/W section who qualified for the Charterhouse/Scotts national championship are: Best Gross, Jared Ellison, Manchester GC and Kevin

Irving, Brampton GC. The qualifiers for the Regional Final to be played at Fishwick Hall GC on Thursday 10 August are: Cat 0-9 J. Ellison, M. Davie. Cat 10-18, J. Coar, M. Nolan. Cat 19-28, K. Irvine, P. Eddlestone. This Regional Final is sponsored once again by Richard Campey, Macclesfield. I still require a team of 16 to play in the Roses Match at Longridge GC on Wednesday 16 August. A few places remain to be filled, so if you are available call me on 0151 724 5412. I hope you all managed to see our swinging greenkeeper Michael Cheers on the telly on the Never Try This at Home programme on June 24. Rather him than me.

That's it for now. Any news or views, don't forget to ring me.

Bert Cross

Cleveland

Matches in this year's Carrs sponsored Cleveland Shield are starting to be played and already two low handicappers have bitten the dust leaving Pembo almost a clear run. The Beast of Bedale, Alex Russell, was beaten by Chris Pouley at Dinsdale Golf Club and shanking Jim Thompson was beaten by Martin Woods in the pouring rain at Wearside. Jim said the course was in excellent condition and well worth a visit.

On page 6 of last month's magazine, two handsome young men, myself and Lewis Meek, Head Greenkeeper at Wynyard can be seen attending the Rainbird Training Day at Gleneagles. The course was to learn how to operate Rainbird's Cirrus Nimbus II and Status II Irrigation

Control Systems. A very useful and informative course it was. If anyone gets a chance to go on it, I recommend they do. Thanks to Mark Ganning and Rainbird for their friendly approach and hospitality while we were there. The draw for the second round of the Cleveland Shield will not include Jim Thompson of the Wynyard Club. He was beaten by Martin Woods of Wearside.

Anthony McGeough, first assistant at Richmond Golf Club, returned to work after being off for several weeks with a broken hand which he suffered while white water rafting in the Grand Canyon. He has drawn me in the summer knockout, so things are not getting any better for him. Speaking of the knockout, did I mention Jim Thompson had been knocked out in the first round. Still, mustn't grumble Jim, there's always someone worse off than you. Any news, contact me on 07808196558.

Steven Jaques



Midland Region
Les Emery
Tel: 0116 287 9036

East Midlands

This year's spring tournament played on 10 May on a cloudy but dry spring day at the wonderful

venue of Chilwell Manor GC was enjoyed by 31 members. In reasonably good weather conditions some good scores were expected, although the rough was quite penalising for those of us who ventured into it.

This Tournament was also the Scotts/Charterhouse National Tournament qualifier. The scores were as follows. Best Net and National Quali-

fier: Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 84-15-69. Best Gross and National Qualifier, James Tudor, Chilwell Manor, 73-2-71. Category 1. 1. Pete Billings, Cotgrave Place, 80-8-72. 2. Russell Allen, Horsley Lodge, 80-7-73. Category 2. 1. Ian Needham, Beedles Lake, 84-13-71. 2. Adie Porter, Greatham Valley, 86-12-74. Category 3. 1. Lee Hughes, Chilwell Manor, 100-25-75. 2. Gavin Robson, Lingdale, 99-22-77. Trade and Associate Winner - John Burnham, Sisis, 89-14-79.

I would also like to congratulate Ian Brown, of Ramsdale Park GC, who, having entered his first BIGGA tournament, still returned his card despite a nightmare round which meant he beat the eight No Returns. Also, I would like to welcome the following members to their first Section tournament. Lee Hughes, James Tudor, Simon Hedley and Russell Latham.

Hope to see you all again on 20 September at Market Harborough GC.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody at Chilwell Manor GC for their hospitality and the use of their fine course for our tournament. The Steward and his staff served us all with an excellent meal and congratulations should be extended to Terry Porter and his staff for providing us with a good test of golf. It is the first time since at least 1979 that the Section has visited Chilwell. Finally, a special thank you should be extended to our sponsor for the day, E.T. Breakwells Ltd, without the support of which we would not have a prize table.

Please may I remind all members that to attend any Section event your entry form and payment must be returned before the closing date. Finally I would like to thank the following committee members for helping in the smooth running of the day. Richard Barker, prizes. Dave Leatherland and Jeff Dickinson, Starters, Ian Needham, scorecards, Adie Porter, Raffle and our Chairman Gavin Robson.

If any members would like to play in this year's clash with the East of England section on Tuesday August 14, tee off 3.45 pm, please inform me as soon as possible and I will send you the entry form. A team of ten is required, so it will be based on a first come first served basis. Also, if any

Head Greenkeeper member wishes to play in the year's Scotts Golf Management Trophy, please contact our Regional Administrator, Les Emery.

At the Belton Park Open, Alan Roberts, Midland Section and myself, finished in second place in the afternoon better-ball pairs competition with 42 stb points. If any other members have any news they would like to see featured in this article, please let me know.

Antony Bindley

Berks Bucks & Oxon

The regional qualifier for the National Championship was held at Wokefield Park Golf Club on 16 April and the two qualifiers were: Best Gross, Mike Smith, Donnington Valley, 74. Best handicap, Simon Austin, Badgemore Park, 66.

Nearest the pin on the day was won by Pat Whelahan and the longest drive was again Simon Austin. Congratulations to all the winners and good luck at St Annes and Fairhaven in September.

A big thank you to Wokefield for holding the event and to Robert Weir and his staff for the condition of the golf course on a week that brought atrocious weather. No one would have wanted to host a BIGGA event in conditions like that, but the course



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was presented admirably. Thanks also to the competition sponsors, Colin White, from Avoncrop. A good entry was received for the Rigby Taylor pairs and entrants should now have played their first round matches, any doubts about the rules, please contact either Ray Clarke or myself.

To finish this month, congratulations to John Scoones on the opening of Caversham Heath in late April and also to Mike Smith, Andy and the team at Donnington Valley, who also opened their new holes in April. We are very close neighbours to Donnington Valley and wish them all the best in their new venture. However, to relieve a bit of confusion, ie. arriving at the wrong course etc., Donnington Grove has now changed their name to Parasampia Golf & Country Club.

Section AGM will be held at the Springs, Wallingford, in October and the next outing is at Richings Park on 3 August.

Remember to get those Rigby Taylor matches played early. It is the only way to run the competition successfully.

Ross Wilson

East of England

The second Section golf event of the season took place at Peterborough Milton. The day was sponsored by Peterborough Garden Machinery and thanks to Alister for his great assortment of prizes. The main prize was

won by Les Howkins, 31 pts, of Cleethorpes. Second, N Smith, 28 pts of Market Rasen and third went to Kevin Hodges, 23 pts of Ryston Park. Guest prize went to Peter Fell. Longest Drive, Norman Hewson and Nearest the Pin was won by Gary Cooper.

A good turn out for our section at Peterborough Milton considering how busy everybody should be, trying to keep on top of growth. Head Greenkeeper, Brian Taylor, and staff of Milton certainly kept on top and produced an excellent conditioned course for all our members to play around. Although I was unable to play, the comments in the bar were none but praise about the course. Thanks also to all the other sponsors, Barenbrug Seed, Aitken, Boughton Loam, Tower Sports and Rigby Taylor for their generous help towards the prize table.

G A Macdonald.

Mid Anglia

The next golf event within the section is the Summer Tournament on Monday August 7. The venue will be Aspley Guise, a golf club which I believe has never hosted a Mid Anglia BIGGA event before. We can therefore look forward to a new challenge and a great day. Entries to Richard Saunders in good time please, using the usual form.

Paul Lockett



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Sussex

Firstly the results of the Spring Meeting which took place on May 4 at Royal Eastbourne Golf Club and was also the qualifier for the National Championship which is to be held at Lytham St Annes Old Links Fairhaven Golf Club on 25 and 26 September 2000. The morning round was sponsored jointly by Scotts UK Professional and John Shaw Machinery Ltd.



The results were as follows: Best gross scores, Richard Clark 77, Raymond Day 77, George Barr 93, Richard Clark wins on count back and also qualifies for the

National Tournament. Best net scores Dustin (Austin Powers) Houghton, sorry Dustin could not resist 69, Darren Mitchell 69, Rob Hudson 73. Dustin Houghton wins on count back and qualifies for the National Championship.

Trade/guest winner was myself, oh well! and no, I don't qualify for the National Tournament.

The afternoon round was spon-

sored by Rigby Taylor and was a stableford event. The winners were as follows, 0-15 Handicaps, 1. Chris Read, 35 points, 2. Stefan Antolik, 35 points, 16-28 Handicaps, 1. Rob Hudson 37 points, 2. Rose Gould 34 points. Trade/guest winner John Roberts, 35 points.

There were also prizes for nearest the pin and longest drive throughout the day. Nearest the pin on the 15th Rose Gould, on the 18th Rob Hudson, cut him!

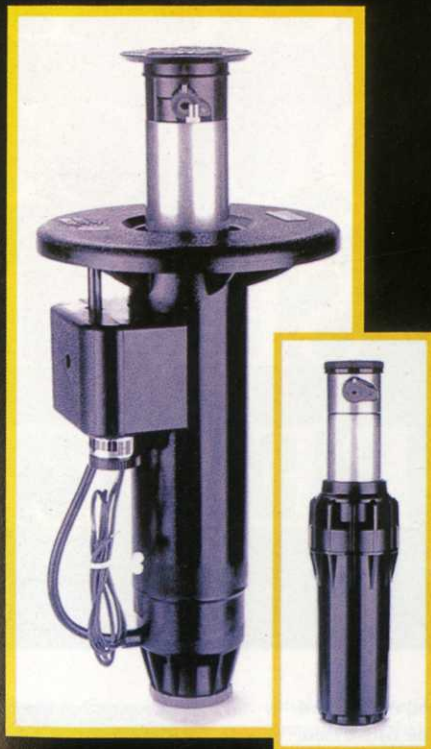
Longest drive on the 12th hole was Raymond Day with 150 yards, only person to hit fairway, only joking Ray, with about a 300 yards mammoth drive. Well done to all the winners and thanks to everyone who turned up.

I would also, on behalf of the Sussex Section, like to thank David Hannan and all his staff for presenting Royal Eastbourne Golf Club in such fine condition. Thanks again David.

The next event on the Sussex calendar is on July 11 at Cophorne Golf Club and will be a fourball better ball followed by a Tapas Bar.

Please arrive at 1pm for 1.30pm for first tee off time of 2pm.

One last note before I close, I would like to wish all the very best to Bob Moore on his retirement after 50 years in greenkeeping, which were all spent at the one club, Seaford, Blatchington Golf Club. Bob is a keen golfer who plays off 15 handicap an



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is now a part-time gamekeeper. I'm sure Bob would be welcome at any of the forthcoming golf events.

From everyone in Sussex, best wishes for the future Bob and enjoy your retirement.

Gary Ogilvie



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

South Coast

The spring tournament was played at Alton Golf Club over 27 holes. All credit to Fred and Darren for the excellent conditions. Not many would disagree that the course was set up at its most difficult. Many thanks to Alton for courtesy and hospitality. Also thanks to the sponsors for the day, Avoncrop, Scotts and Huxley Cambell Turf.

Results: Qualifiers for the Scotts/Charterhouse National Championship were Darren Miller and Mark Green. The Huxley Shield went to Matt Blake, with M Grogan and J Newman second and third. The Avoncrop Trophy was won by Kevin Glass with H. Tribe and Neil Davies second and third. The Roffeys Cup was won by Alan Rideout with P. Dudgeon and D. Hewitt second and third.

The Nita Stimpson Cup for over 50 was won by Alan Rideout and finally the under 25's cup presented by Christopher Fry went to James Martin. Congratulations to Rob Philips for his hole in one. Rob went on to record the highest score of the day!

The summer tournament is at High Post on July 19. Remember, this is a guest day but your partner must have a proper handicap and preferably be a member of your golf club. Entries to Chris Sturges at 40 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton SO19 6HB. Tel: 0777 313 8409 before 8pm. Cost of the day is £34 per pair.

Tony Gadd

Devon & Cornwall

The Section would like to take this opportunity to thank Rigby Taylor for sponsoring our fixture cards once again. The fixture cards are about to go to the printers and will be sent out to you during August. Our meetings for the coming season are as follows

October 25, Dainton Park. November 15, Launceston. December 6, Okehampton. January 31, RND. March 1, Thurlstone. March 28, Roserrow.

The section would like to congratulate Steve Peters on his new appointment which sees him move out of the Section, although he did say to me that he will be able to see the mighty whites play at Elland Road more often. The Section would also like to congratulate Jim Arthur on receiving his Honorary Membership of BIGGA. Jim has been the guiding light to all greenkeepers, if at times slightly controversial.

Richard Whyman

South Wales

A good summer so far for some of us working on links courses but may not be for others, will it change I wonder? Unfortunately, little news to report, although hopefully the Wales Open held at the Celtic Manor Resort went well, perhaps we will be able to report on that again next month.

South Wales and South West Region Course Management Trophies will, this year, be held at Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club, on August 2; Celtic Manor, on August 15 and Manor House, Castle Coombe, on August 22. If you have not received an invitation and would like one please contact Paula Humphries Tel: 01288 352194. The tournaments are team events, comprising the Captain, Secretary, Head Greenkeeper and Chairman of Green.

Once again they are being sponsored by Scotts Professional UK.

Congratulations to Robert Frater and wife, Ruth on the birth of their baby daughter.

Catch up with more news next month. Please contact me on 01443 204392 or 07932710286 with any news or gossip for your around the green.

Richard Hatcher

South West

Just a quick reminder that the summer tournament will take place at Erlestoke Sands Golf Club on July 13, so there may be just enough time to book your place.

The following courses have also been arranged. A PA2 Tractor Mounted Sprayer course will take place at Cumberwell Park Golf Club on 18 July.

A one day Fire Safety for Greenkeepers course has been arranged for Thursday 7 September and will take place at Gloucester Fire Station. I've already got three names booked and looking for three more. The price of this course will be approx £45.

A one day Emergency First Aid at Work Course has also been arranged for Wednesday 11 October at the Southern Ambulance College in Chippenham.

To go on any of these courses, please telephone me on 01249 783382.

Paul Cunningham



I think that's it - summer's over. Three glorious weeks in May when the sun smiled strongly and now the first week in June and the greens are being squeegeed again. There's no doubt, get a bunch of greenkeepers together and I assure you the main topic, next to women, will be the weather. I remember a golfer saying to me "Wouldn't it be great if you could control the weather!" After thinking about it, I concluded that it would probably be in a worse state than it is at present.

Talking about the weather, it wasn't kind to us yet again when our region played Kilkeel on May 24. We all set off on our round in short sleeves and finished drenched under an almighty thunderstorm. Some people wisely walked in, but two guys in our four-ball had a good score going, so we continued to wave a lightning conductor at the golf ball regardless of lightning.

Head Greenkeeper, Jimmy Jones, must be commended and congratulated for the condition of the course.

Jimmy has limited staff numbers and limited machinery, but yet produced a very well manicured course. The recent alterations to the course have improved it dramatically, and it is now recognised as a tough course to play, with very strong par 4's and interesting par 3's. I'll not talk about Par 5's, because, let's just say, I admired the scenery on those holes.

Our winners at Kilkeel were 1. Noel Crawford, Royal County Down. 2. Iain

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Martin, Ormeau. 3. Ken Henderson, Allen Park, and the Visitor's prize went to David Irwin, from Benburb. Once again, many thanks to Kilkeel GC for having us there and also the catering staff for setting up another fine meal that was promptly wolfed down by all.

Our sponsors for the day were J E Coulter Ltd. Unfortunately other commitments and short notice meant no J E Coulter's representatives were there, but they put up some fine crystal for the winners. Many thanks for

your continued support at these events and we'll try to give you more notice next year.

At the Kilkeel event we were privileged to have the company of Scott MacCallum, Editor of the BIGGA magazine, and Tracey Maddison, Membership Services Officer. Scott and Tracey were in the province visiting a few of our finest golf clubs like Malone, Clondeboyne and Royal County Down. The Course Managers were each interviewed about their course, on what they have done to

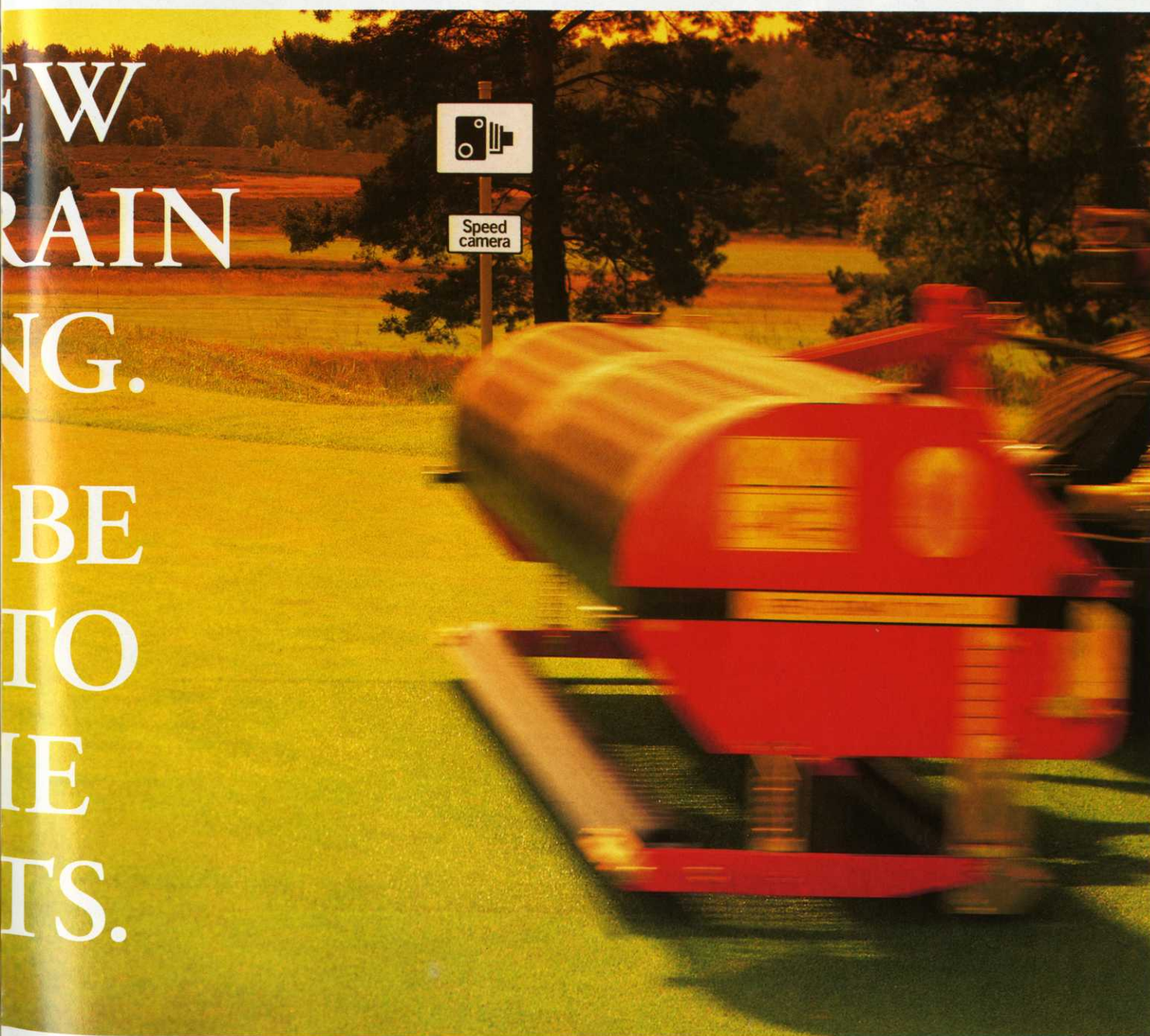
their course and how they perceive greenkeeping and the future of greenkeeping. Hopefully, over the coming months we will see these articles printed in the magazine. I believe it was Scott's first time in the province. I hope you enjoyed your stay and will hurry back. Maybe next time we'll introduce you to the delights of the Guinness family.

Congratulations to Eamon Farrell, who moves from First Assistant at Stakis to Course Manager at Masserene GC. Also congratulations to Mark Farrell,

also from Stakis, on his appointment to City of Derry GC as Course Manager. Well done lads and I know it will go well for you. New members to our region are Kyle Irwin, Head Greenkeeper at Lurgan and also Stuart Davidson from Portstewart GC.

Our next event will be held at Castle-rock GC on 2nd August. Tee off times and arrangements will be posted to you nearer the time. See you all at Castle-rock.

Iain Harrison.



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Web Site: <http://www.redexim.com>

Aventis, formerly Rhône Poulenc, is the only amenity company in the UK involved in research and development of new compounds to protect the nation's sports turf. Scott MacCallum investigated...

Dream team

It's a fact of life that many people suffer from nightmares. For me it's on the recurring theme of being chased for miles and miles by an unknown assailant who I can't quite shake but never actually get to see. For others it can be stuck in a confined space with walls that slowly close in on them... or being stuck in a pit of snakes, spiders or rats depending upon which dishes up the greatest blood pressure boost.

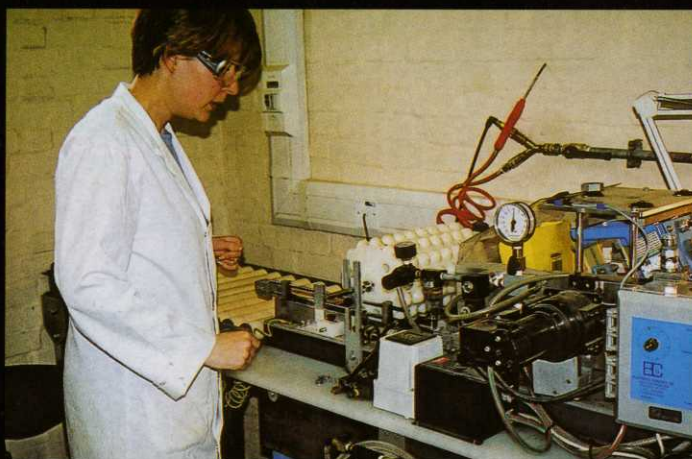
I would imagine for those in the greenkeeping profession the thought of an overnight outbreak of a rare grass eating fungus or plague of casting worms would be enough to cause otherwise sane men to wake up covered in freezing perspiration and ready to rush into work before day break to make sure what appeared a nightmare was not in fact a premonition of gruesome reality.

But thankfully there is a company which is doing its best to ensure that the country's greenkeepers are able to sleep soundly safe in the knowledge that even if some horrible disease or pest is attacking his beloved turf there is something available with which to fight back.

Far right: Extensive glasshouse trials at Ongar

Above right: Caroline Rutherford carries out final checks on a seeding machine

Below: John Hall and Jenny Murphy examine turf plots



Aventis, formerly Rhône Poulenc, is the only amenity company in the UK involved in research and development of new compounds to protect the nation's sports turf, and at the company's Ongar site in Essex - recently designated the European headquarters of a truly worldwide operation - a staff of 500 work towards producing antidotes to some of the problems which give fine turf managers the greatest nightmares.

"We are developing new fungicides to attack the diseases which are now hitting this country, things like Take-All Patch," revealed John Hall, Market Development Manager for Northern Europe.

"Ants have become a major problem while this year we've also got a big problem with chafer grubs and we're developing chemicals to try to control these at the moment. In fact we're constantly looking at different chemicals to control different diseases, pests, weeds etc. It's a long process but the work should ultimately benefit the customer," he added.

One issue which is currently exercising the fine minds at Aventis is worm control bearing in mind some of the extremely effective methods of old have been banned.

"There are environmental issues which have been brought in and the industry may have only a couple of years left with Carbenidazm. We are looking at different methods of control at the moment, although we prefer to use the term suppression to control," said John.

"What the chemicals do is suppress the casting worms - which amount to only three of the 25 species which commonly operate in the UK - and leave the others alone. The older compounds used to be extremely effective but killed rather than suppressed a wide range of worm species."

It would be fair to say that greenkeepers form one of Aventis' more demanding customer sectors.

"They do have specific problems because of the high aesthetic value placed on a course and the need to maintain high presentation standards. He is very concerned about any disease he gets on fairways and greens whereas local authorities perhaps wouldn't be quite so worried if they had a bit of fusarium or worm casts. The demands of greenkeepers ensure that we work hard to meet their specifications," said John.

The origins of the company go back to the early days of May and Baker who



worked out of a factory in Wandsworth, London, producing products like Bismuth Salts, ethers and collidions.

French company, Rhône Poulenc, became involved in 1927 when the companies began working jointly, however, they continued to trade as May and Baker for many years. A move to Dagenham preceded the move to Ongar which was made in 1953. In 1989 the May and Baker name was replaced by that of Rhône Poulenc before the recent change to Aventis which came about by the "marriage" of the French, Rhône Poulenc, to Hoechst Schering, of Germany, (and in the UK Rhône Poulenc merged with Agrevo) which produced a global total \$20 billion company boasting a total of 95,000 staff, from which the European arm of the Environmental Science Sector is now run from Ongar.

Aventis Environmental Science is a sector within the main Aventis group and consists of Turf and Amenity, Household Insecticides, Public Hygiene and Vermin Control. The Turf and Amenity business for Europe is run from the offices at Ongar.

"On the whole we are still associated with the name Rhône Poulenc but some people still remember us as May and Baker but we are working towards

making the Aventis name familiar. That process started at Harrogate this year.

"It is making people realise that that all the same products, like Rovral Green, are there but under the Aventis name. The labelling is different but the products the same," explained John.

Ongar was actually a farm in a previous life. On site, as well as a 150 strong commercial team, is the research and development teams who carry through the painstaking process of bring a new product to market.

Much of the process is now done by robots - such as producing the rows and rows of mini test plots and the spraying of these with chemicals and potential new products.

"We spray up to 30,000 plots a week and of these 0.1% are considered worthy of moving forward to the next stage in the process to see if they are effective against specific species," explained Caroline Rutherford, Research Biologist, adding that this process alone, as well as glass house trials, can take three years.

The next stage involves field trials on a well appointed site to the rear of the office buildings.

This allows the researchers to assess potential new products under more realistic conditions.

It all adds up to a costly process with the expense involved in developing a new active ingredient come in at a cool £60 million.

"Even then we have to make our return over a remarkably short space of time," explained John.

After the initial three years of screening the patent is registered and three years after that the first registration is sought from the relevant bodies; in years four to six factory construction takes place with the first sales taking place in the fifth year. Break even from a financial standpoint is not reached until year 13 is reached and the final chance to reap any rewards from a successful product disappears when the patent expires in year 20.

"We continue to work with the Regulatory Bodies in a long term investment programme, in order that we can gain approvals for new compounds and adhere to environmental regulations.

However, strange as it may seem Aventis is right behind the tighter legislation.

"At the end of the day it makes the products we produce much safer so it is of benefit to the customer. We are certainly pro it because we are keen to protect our end user as well as the environment."

Another part of this safety conscious

approach is the BACCS scheme which Aventis has introduced in conjunction with the BASIS and the Crop Protection Association, formerly the BAA.

"This is an advanced contractor certification scheme which encourages contractors to meet certain criteria before becoming accredited. Hopefully it may mean that when jobs are put out to tender it is not the cheapest option which is chosen but a person who has been adjudged capable and qualified to do the task," explained John.

Further details can be obtained from Alan Horgan, Contractor and Utilities Customer Manager.

It's all part of Aventis' on-going policy of development both in providing new and exciting products with safety and conscientious environmental stewardship at the hub.

This all helps a greenkeeper's ability to sleep soundly at night... but doesn't exactly help me with my recurring nightmare!



Saxon add two new Baroness models



Two new Baroness mowers have been added to Saxon's range of machines.

Cable-driven cylinders coupled with hydrostatic transmission give the Baroness Greens Triple many advantages. The cutting width, from three, nine-blade cutting cylinders is 152 cm. Cut height can be precisely set between 3.5 - 10 mm.

Cable drive has the advantage of allowing a consistent and precise clip-rate and because there are no complicated linkages to cope with, the cutters can quickly be removed and replaced for maintenance without tools or accessories - and without the risk of oil leakage.

The benefit of hydrostatic transmission is also apparent on the foot platform where just two pedals control travel and mower raise and lower functions.

The Baroness Greens Triple Mower's versatility can be increased by the addition of groomer units and there is the option of a brush unit and thatching reel.

Available as a two or three-wheel-drive the Heavy Duty Triple gives manoeuvrability and its low centre of gravity provides stability on slopes.

Hydrostatic transmission provides single pedal travel control and the cutter unit mounting allows the multi directional movement essential for accurate contour following. Three 162 mm diameter, seven-blade cutting cylinders give a cutting width of 180 cm.

For further information: Tel 01488 689400.

Greenkeeper International takes a look at some of the latest products and services available to the greenkeeping professional

Latest spraying developments from Hardi

The new Groundwater Directive is now fully in force, and to ensure that operators fully comply with this the standard specification for Hardi Jazz, Manx, Boss and Heron Amenity sprayers has been updated.

One aspect of the new Groundwater regulations that particularly affect amenity sprayer operators is the disposal of tank washings. To fill the sprayer tank with up to 800 litres of water and then spray this back out over the fairway or other areas previously sprayed is time consuming at the very least.

For this reason, all Hardi Jazz and Manx mounted, Boss demount and Heron trailed sprayer models are now fitted with a tank flushing nozzle. Where this is fitted, only 10% of tank capacity is needed for flushing, which not only saves a considerable amount of time and water, but also means that less area is needed for flushing out the tank.

Where, for instance on smaller amenity sprayers, chemical induction hoppers are not offered then the direct filling hole on the top of the sprayer must be no more than 1500mm from the ground or a step.



In addition the reach from the rim of the hole and edge of the tank should be no more than 300mm. Pump capacity will not be considered by the HSE as an acceptable reason for not fitting a chemical induction hopper.

For this reason Hardi Manx mounted, Boss demount and Heron trailed sprayers are now all fitted as standard with a 25 litre capacity chemical induction hopper. This incorporates a measuring scale, lid and wash down

ring, which ensures that after filling any remaining chemical is flushed from the hopper.

To enable existing Hardi sprayer users to comply with these regulations, upgrade kits are available for retrofitting. Excluding fitting, a 25 litre capacity chemical induction hopper costs £450 and the tank flushing nozzle kit costs £250.

For further information tel: 01455 233811.

Turn of speed given to new Renaults

A number of product specification changes have been made to the Renault Groundsman range to provide users with increased comfort, greater output and accuracy of operation.

The 52hp to 76hp Renault Pales Groundsman has been subject to a number of cab improvements. The gear lever, range selector and mechanical splitter, in addition to the hydraulic spool valve controls, have all been moved to the right of the operators seat, so that they fall conveniently to hand.

Certain operations, such as when using a hydraulically driven topdresser, require a consistent hydraulic flow to ensure that accuracy and evenness of spread is maintained. For this reason Renault Groundsman models can now be fitted with a dual hydraulic system. This provides a dedicated hydraulic circuit through which such equipment can be operated, which is independent from the steering and other hydraulic functions.

Where the tractor is being used between a number of sites, to reduce transport time, all three Pales Grounds-



man models are now also available with a 40km/hr transmission as an option. Where this is fitted, when braking the front axle is automatically engaged to provide full four-wheel braking and to achieve this road speed, the number of gears have been increased via a mechanical doubler to 24 forward and 24 reverse speeds.

The standard price for the Renault

Pales Groundsman range starts at £16,560 for the 52hp Pales Groundsman 210 and rises to £22,415 for the 72hp Pales Groundsman 240. The factory fitted fast travel speed option adds £895 to the standard price of the Pales Groundsman and the dual hydraulic circuit option costs £600.

For further information Tel: 01608 662727

Golf industry gets a host of new caddies, thanks to Trojan

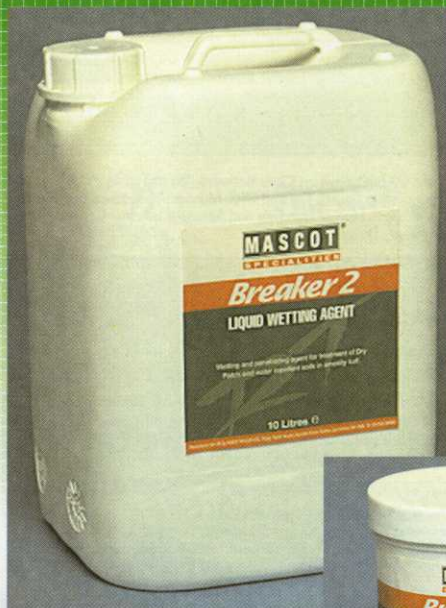
Trojan Trailers have expanded their range of industrial trailers. They have introduced a "no frills" model of the Greenkeeper's Caddy, called the Greenkeeper's Caddy Cadet. In addition

there will also be a new comprehensive range of tandem Axle Beaver Tail trailers. Sizes will be from 10ft. x 6ft. to 16ft x 7ft. Weights from 2000Kg to 3500 Kg gwt. These will have a

choice of different loading methods, ie: Ramps, Spring Assisted Mesh Loading Tailgates etc.

For further information Tel: 0831 125450





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email: marlwood@kentnet.com.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 Aldwick Manor, Aldwick, Aine, York YO61 1UF. Tel: 01347 838640 or visit their website at http://www.the_gtc.co.uk

SCOTLAND



ELMWOOD COLLEGE Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB. Contact Carol Borthwick. Tel:01334 658974. Fax: 01334 658888 Email: cborthwick@elmwood.ac.uk. Craft Level courses. Full time National Certificate, Block-release, following SVQ Level II and the GTC Training Manual. Six week specialist modular programme (January - February), including Golf Course Construction, Pesticide Application and Plant Protection Procedures. SVQ Level III Block Release and SVQ Level IV coming soon. HNC/HND Golf Course Management available as full-time, block/day release and distance learning. FEPA, COSHH and Health & Safety short courses also.



GOSTA TRAINING LTD; Unit 5E Clydeway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow, G3 8JU, Contact Chris Bothwell, Tel: 0141 248 2772 Fax: 0141 248 2453 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.



OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Broxburn, West Lothian, near Edinburgh, EH52 6NH. Contact Steve Miller - Tel: 01506 854387 Fax: 01506 853373. HNC in Golf Course Management: Full time Certificates in Greenkeeping, Block and Day Release. SVQ Level II and III (GTC Manuals) and Modern Apprenticeship. SVQ in Ground Care Machinery, full range of Amenity Horticulture and Landscaping courses at HNC Certificate and SVQ Level. Short Courses, FEPA, Chainsaw, Forklift. E-mail 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 Management Level 2 - Day release; NVQ Level 3 Amenity Horticulture - Afternoon-Evening. Short Courses: Health & Safety Legislation; Turfcare; Machinery & Mechanisation. All courses contribute towards NVQ Levels 1 and 2.



CITY COLLEGE MANCHESTER, Moor Road, Baguley, Manchester M23 9BQ. Contact Martin Webb. Tel: 0161 957 1527. College website <http://www.ccm.ac.uk> Part-time courses leading to NVQ L2 and L3 in Sports Turf Maintenance and Decorative Horticulture. Also RHS General and Diploma, Cert. Arboriculture and FEPA Spraying courses.



MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY. Tel: 01995 642211/642222 Fax: 01995 642333 Email: mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk, www.myerscough.ac.uk. Full time courses BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science; HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management; ND Turf Science & Sportsground Management; NC Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping. Part time courses NVQ Level 2 and 3 Greenkeeping and Sports turf Maintenance (day/block release or fast track work based training qualification) HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management; Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation; FEPA Short Courses. Myerscough Turf Club 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, website: 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.



SHIPLEY COLLEGE, Saltaire, BD18 3JW Tel: 01274 757222. Email: enquiries@shipley.ac.uk. Courses offered: NVQ Level I, II, III and IV in Greenkeeping by Day Release. Also Pesticide Spraying (FEPA) and Chainsaw operation short courses available.



BROOKSBY COLLEGE Brooksbys, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE14 2LJ situated on the A607 between Leicester and Melton Mowbray. Contact Ann Hurt/Jo Lees Tel: 01664 434291. Day release Level 1 - 4 Greenkeeping, includes GTC training manual. Short courses available in arboriculture/chainsaw work, FEPA spraying and machinery maintenance.



Broomfield College

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.



DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE, Caythorpe Court, Caythorpe, Grantham, Lincs, NG32 3EP Contact: Student Admissions. Tel: 01400 272521, Fax: 01400 272722. NVQ Level 2 and 3 Sports Turf Management. National Diploma in Horticulture. GNVQ Advanced Leisure and Recreation (Golf). Higher National Diploma in Golf and Leisure Management. BSc (Hons) Recreation Management (Golf pathway). FEPA short courses. Full residential facilities available. All courses are run at the Riseholme Campus, Lincoln.

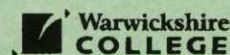
Profit through Skill



MOULTON COLLEGE, Moulton, Northampton, NN3 7RR Tel 01604 491131 Fax 01604 491127. Full time: BTEC First Diploma in Horticulture - 1 year. BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture - 2 years. National Certificate in Horticulture - 1 year. Part time: NVQ2 Amenity Horticulture with Sports Turf Care. NVQ3 Sports Turf Maintenance. Both NVQs - 1 day per week over 2 years Short Courses: FEPA - 2 days. Chainsaw Operators Certificate - 1 week



RODBASTON COLLEGE Rodbaston, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5PH. Contact Nigel Foskett. Tel: 01785 712209. Courses offered: NVQ Level 1,2,3 and 4 by Day Release. FEPA and chainsaw training.



WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE, Royal Leamington Spa & Moreton Morrell, Moreton Morrell, Warwick, CV35 9BL. Contact: Brian Cook Tel: 01926 318268. Email: 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.



Berkshire College of Agriculture

BERKSHIRE COLLEGE Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 6QR Tel: 01628 824444 Fax: 01628 824695 e-mail: enquiries@berks-coll-ag.ac.uk, website: www.berks-coll-ag.ac.uk Full-time courses. BTEC First & National Diploma. Part-time courses: GTC Manual - NVQ2 and 3 Amenity, Sports Turf (day & block release); Short courses: FEPA Horticultural Machinery, Chainsaws, Greenkeeping for Golfers "Regional Centre for Leisure and Land based Industries & Professions"



BRINSBURY COLLEGE Brinsbury College, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1DL. Tel: 01798 877400, Fax: 01798 875222. Email: student-services@brinsbury.ac.uk Full-time courses: BTEC National Diploma Landscape Studies (Greenkeeping option), BTEC First Diploma New Entrant Horticulture (Greenkeeping or Landscaping options), City & Guilds National Certificate Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sportsground Management). Part-time courses: NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance (block or day release), NVQ level 2 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance option), Institute of Groundsmanship Intermediate Diploma; plus various short courses, including Chainsaw, Brushcutter/Strimmer, PA1/PA2A/PA6A/PA 9, etc.

NORTH

MIDLANDS

S 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

Not GTC approved

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



EASTON COLLEGE Norfolk's College of the Countryside. Sportsturf qualifications, Amenity Horticulture and Rural Resource Management. For details contact the registry on 01603 731200. Easton College, Easton, Norwich, Norfolk NR9 5DX Tel: 01603 731200 Fax: 01603 741438



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@merrist-wood.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. Institute of Groundsmanship NID night class, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 2, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3 (afternoon/evening release). NVQ Level 4 Amenity Horticulture night class. 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.



PLUMPTON COLLEGE, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 3AE. Contact: David Blackmur. Tel No: 01273 890454 Full time courses: National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture (options in Landscaping and Sportsturf); National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture; First Diploma in Horticulture. Part-time courses: NVQ Level 1, Level 2 Amenity Horticulture in Decorative, Nursery, Hard Landscape and Sportsturf, Level 3 Amenity in Decorative and Sportsturf, Level 4 Amenity. Also available are RHS General and Diploma and IOG National Technical and National Diploma (Int). Short courses are also available for FEPA spraying and chainsaw courses.



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.



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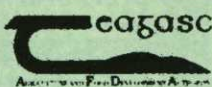
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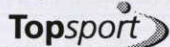
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This private members' Golf Club has a vacancy for an

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The Club Secretary, Northamptonshire County Golf Club,
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INTERESTED? SEND YOUR CV (MARKED CONFIDENTIAL) TO;

MR R HILL, THE ADDINGTON GOLF CLUB, 205 SHIRLEY CHURCH ROAD,
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CLOSING DATE 28 JULY 2000



Royal Automobile Club

Assistant Head Greenkeeper Required

To be responsible for the management of our Coronation Course under
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Applicants must be qualified to at least NVQ level 3 or equivalent and
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To request application form please contact:

The Estate Office, Royal Automobile Club, Woodcote Park, Epsom, Surrey
KT18 7EW Tel: 01372 276311

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We currently have a vacancy for a fully qualified assistant with spraying
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Please apply as above.

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Required for an English owners Golf course in

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Requires

QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be qualified to NVQ Level 2
Salary and conditions are negotiable
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Please apply in writing, enclosing a full CV to:

The Secretary
New Zealand Golf Club
Woodham Lane Addlestone
Surrey KT15 3QD

EPSOM GOLF CLUB

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We are looking for an enthusiastic and hard working
Greenkeeper to join our existing team.

NVQ Level 2 along with PA1A,
PA2 and PA6 qualifications required.
Only those with the above qualifications need apply.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

Mr D Fernie, Head Greenkeeper,
Epsom Golf Club, Longdown Lane South, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 4JR

NORTH OXFORD GOLF CLUB

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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EXPERIENCED IN THE USE AND MAINTENANCE
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APPLICATIONS IN WRITING TO:

THE SECRETARY, NORTH OXFORD GOLF CLUB,
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Applications in writing with full CV including current salary to:
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For application form and information pack contact:

The Manager, Sleaford Golf Club, Willoughby Road,
South Rauceby, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 8PL

Closing date for completed applications: 14 August 2000

THE FULWELL GOLF CLUB

Requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be ambitious, hard working and reliable.
The successful candidate will be qualified to at least NVQ level 2 standard or
equivalent. PA1, PA2 and PA6 would be an advantage.
No accommodation.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

Andy Johnson Course Manager, The Fulwell Golf Club,
Wellington Road, Hampton Hill, Middlesex, TW12 1JY

David Cook, General Manager, Burrell Golf Club,
Burwood Road, Walton on Thames, Surrey, KT12 4BL

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Applicants should have a minimum of 2 years
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Please apply in writing with full CV to:
**The Manager, Abridge Golf & Country Club,
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and

Assistant Greenkeeper

The successful applicants will possess the relevant experience and
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Both positions provide ideal opportunities for career
enhancement. The ability to play golf would be an advantage.

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

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

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Feature listing from July '98

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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; Westturf preview

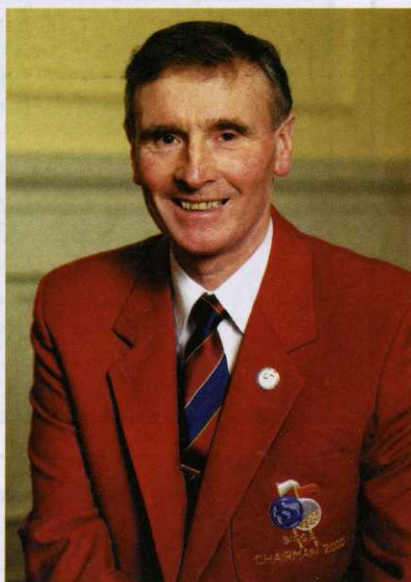
April 2000: Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC; Utility Vehicles; Irrigation; Seed breeding; Gem Professional profile.

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



Beneath your feet...



At last I have had my first full game of golf this year. - 25 May at Buckpool Golf Club, the North Section Spring outing. While my golf left a lot to be desired the weather was okay with just a couple of showers and the company was excellent. My thanks to the North Section for a grand day.

The North Section Secretary is Dougal Duguid, Head Greenkeeper at Westhill Golf Club near Aberdeen and it was great to get the news last week that the court in Aberdeen had found in his favour in the case brought against him by a lady member (see story on page 12). She was struck in the eye by a ball, which ricocheted off a stone in the rough. The case has been going on for months and I hope Dougal can relax now and put it behind him. This was in my eyes a decision for common sense, the ramifications for greenkeepers everywhere if the decision had gone against Dougal could have been mind boggling.

As always the weather is part of our every day lives especially greenkeepers. The green staff at both Sunningdale and Wentworth must have wondered what they had done to deserve the rain that they had for the Seve Ballesteros Trophy and the Volvo PGA Championship respectively. On both occasions we could

have expected both events to be foreshortened, but fantastic work by both sets of greenkeepers meant that both tournaments not only went the full distance but the courses were highly praised for their condition.

Congratulations to Brian Turner and Chris Kennedy and especially all their staff. You did a marvellous job. But it's not only at big televised events like that that these things happen. Many times during the season greens staff, at courses all over the country, will be out clearing water away to allow their Captain's Prizes, Ladies' Open, Club Championships, etc to play to a finish. To all you guys, I say well done, you also do a marvellous job. Contrary to what I sometimes read in papers about the condition of courses, there is no doubt in my mind that the condition of courses now, is far superior to days gone by, and it's all down to the professionalism and training of greens staff.

Earlier this year I was invited to speak at a Millennium Turfgrass Conference held by the AGCSA or the Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association in Melbourne and so on June 1 I headed off "Down Under". Unfortunately it was winter-time and the weather was reminiscent of Britain in spring. However Melbourne is a lovely city with a marvellous skyline with the tallest building in the Southern Hemisphere, Rialto Towers, its crowning glory.

It is certainly a city on the up if all the new buildings and expensive shopping malls are a barometer of wealth. It also has the biggest casino I have been in (only looking, honest!) and it was packed most of the time. However, the reason I was there was the Millennium Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. The proceedings started off with a bang at 8am Monday morning with a skit on greenkeepers including dancing girls.

Well that certainly woke everyone up. It was an excellent week conference, trade show workshops all well attended and even on the last day there were still a large number listening to the closing speaker at 5.30pm. One of the most noticeable aspects of the entire overseas conferences etc I have been at this year is how they often have seminars or workshops on early in the morning and sometimes in the evening. Now Ken and Sami what about a 7am start and 7pm finish at Harrogate next year?

I was most impressed with the great thirst for knowledge most of the delegates showed in Melbourne. No matter a person's title be it Head Greenkeeper, Course Manager, Superintendent we are all doing the same job and the principles of greenkeeping are the same the world over. I believe the contacts and communications we are making with all the greenkeepers' associations around the world is important and hopefully I would like to see the day when we will have exchange systems set up to allow greenkeepers to spend a few months in other countries extending their experience.

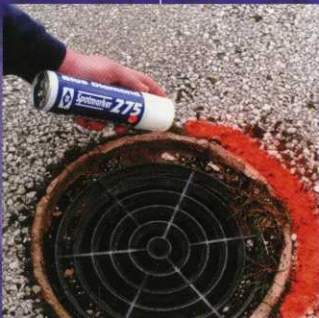
You think we have problems in this country with pests? At Anglesea Golf Club, near Geelong, they have a resident population of wild kangaroos. Now they are a lot bigger than rabbits I can assure you. When I think about courses in Canada with bears, moose, deer and geese and America with alligators and other creatures, well Britain's not such a bad place to work on a golf course after all.

Working on a golf course has its ups and downs and sometimes you are asked to do things you do not agree with, however when that happens remember this:-

Accept that sometimes you're
the pigeon and sometimes
you're the statue.

Sgt. H. R. Small.

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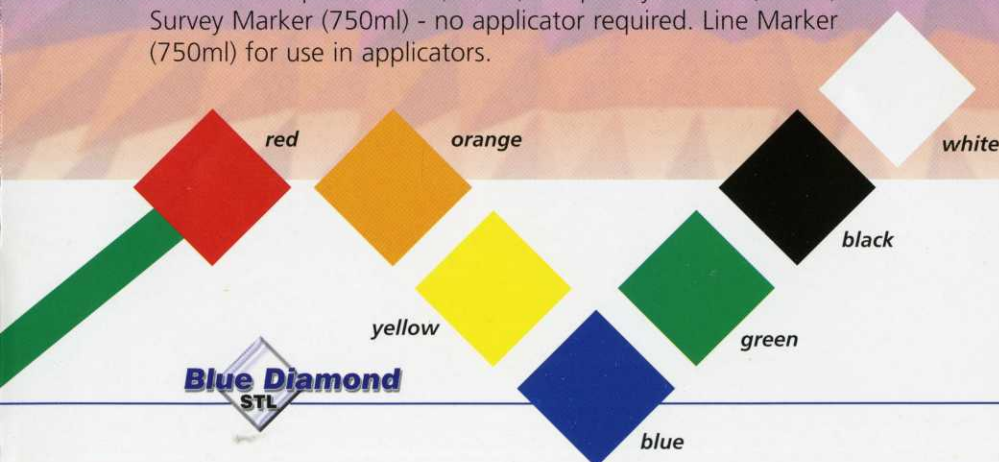
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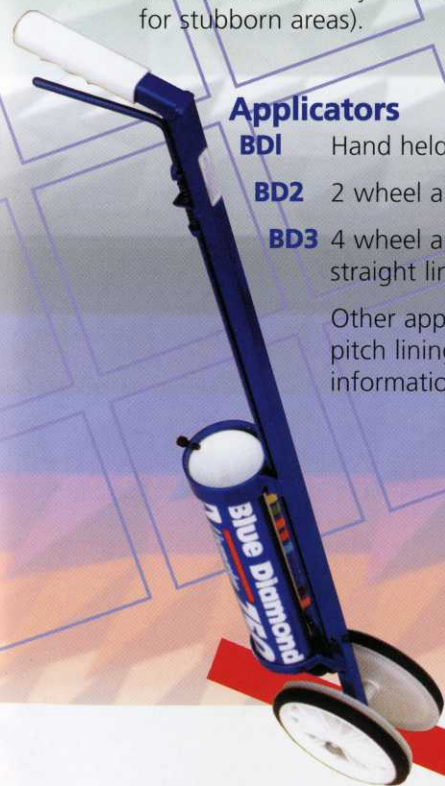
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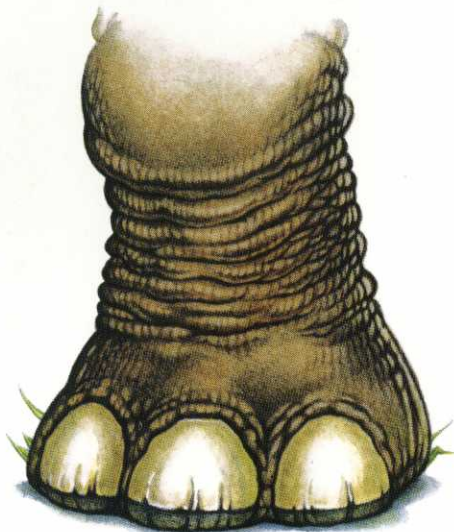
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