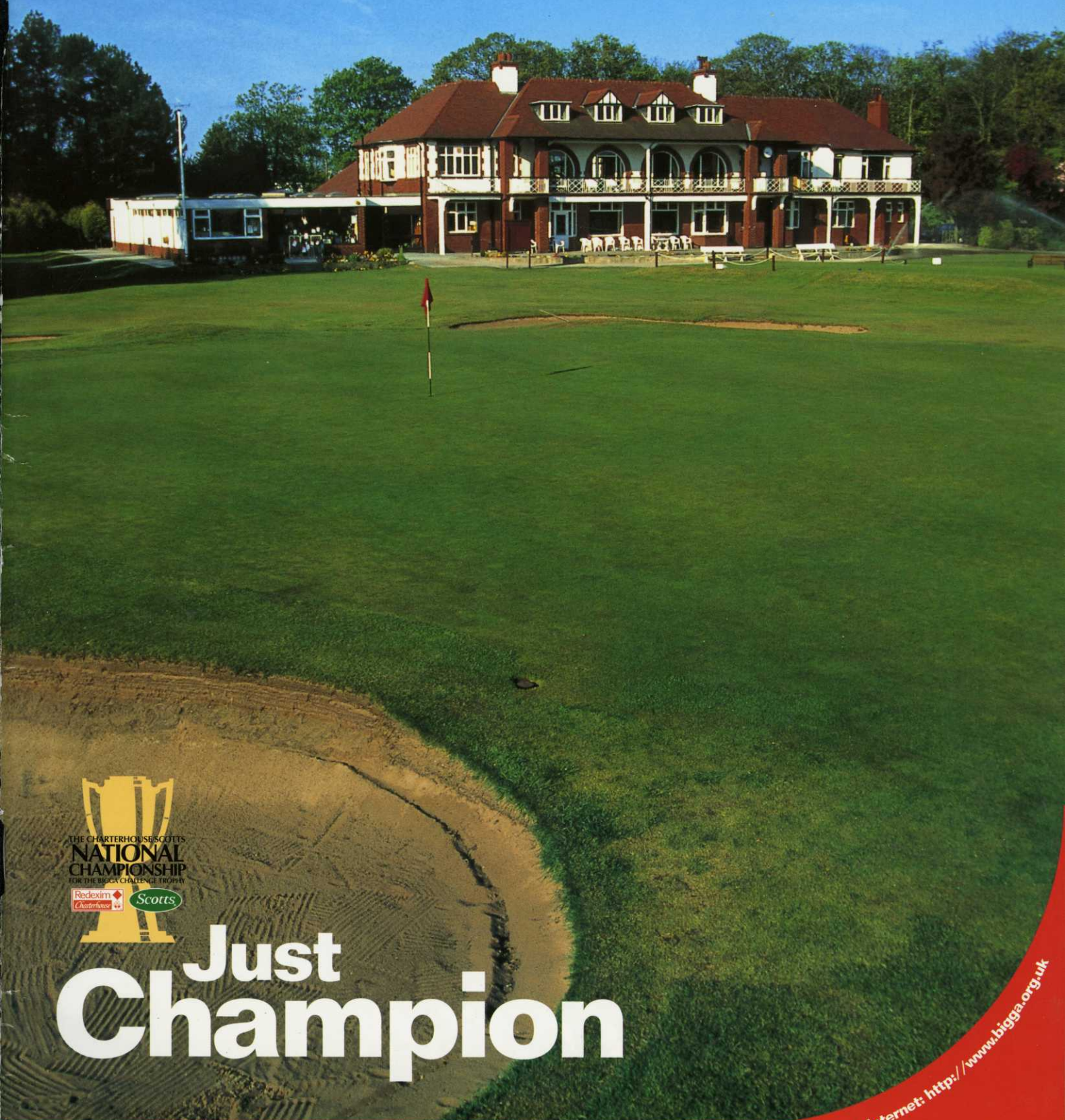




June 2000 – £3.50

# Greenkeeper

## INTERNATIONAL

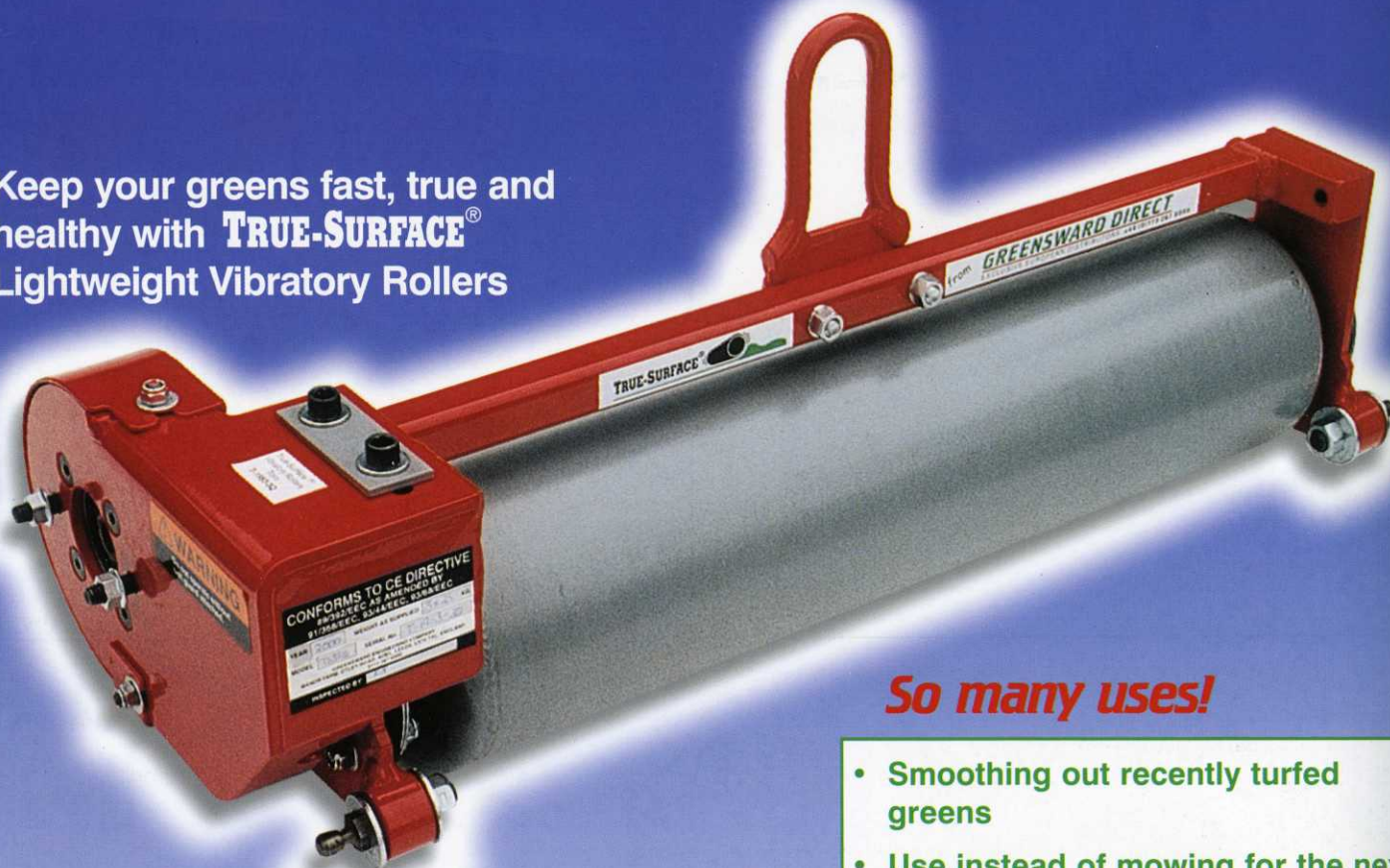


# Just Champion



# NO! PRIORITY RIGHT NOW!

Keep your greens fast, true and healthy with **TRUE-SURFACE®** Lightweight Vibratory Rollers



Used by St. Andrews, Carnoustie, Gleneagles etc.



Isn't it time you  
had a **FREE**  
demonstration?

**TRUE-SURFACE®**  
PATENTED

...makes true greens!™

## *So many uses!*

- Smoothing out recently turfed greens
- Use instead of mowing for the next 48 hours after spraying greens with fungicide
- Polishing greens for extra speed without lowering height of cut to avoid causing stress
- Firming up newly seeded greens to bring them into play sooner
- Trueing up the surface after aeration
- Vibrating top dressing sand into the surface, below bottom blade level
- Controlling winter heave

**GreenTek**  
**0113 267 6000**



# DENNIS

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT FOR THE PROFESSIONALS

## The G560 Sport for a top quality finish on today's greens



This highly manoeuvrable  
56cm mower has  
ultra short roller centres  
for an even cut on  
undulating greens

Designed for greens and tees this easy to use  
mower is built from high quality components and  
very competitively priced.

Available with an 11 or 7-bladed cutting cylinder  
To book a **FREE** demonstration without obligation of the

### Dennis G560 SPORT

Tel: 01332 824777 or email us at: [sales@dennisuk.com](mailto:sales@dennisuk.com)

*Alternatively fill in the details below:*

*Please send me details of Dennis G Series Mowers*

Name: .....

Club: .....

Address: .....

.....Postcode: .....Tel: .....

Visit the SISIS WEBSITE [www.sisis.com](http://www.sisis.com)

**NEW**

# sisis ROBBI

**Rapid dew  
dispersal**

**Rubs in top dressings**

**Lifts grasses  
prior to  
mowing**

Ram assisted  
brushes  
lift and fold back  
when not  
in use

A man wearing an orange jacket and blue jeans is operating a SISIS Robbi roller mower on a golf course. The mower is orange and black, with the brand name 'sisis ROBBI' visible on its side. The background shows a lush green golf course with trees in the distance.

Please send full details of the SISIS Robbi to:

Name.....

Club.....

Address.....

.....Post Code .....

Postage  
will be  
paid by  
licensee

Do not affix Postage Stamps if posted in  
Gt. Britain, Channel Islands or N. Ireland

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE  
Licence No. MC77

SISIS EQUIPMENT (Macclesfield) LTD.,

Shoresclough Works

Hulley Road

MACCLESFIELD

Cheshire

SK10 2YB

2

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE  
Licence No. MID18867

DENNIS

GROUPS MAINTENANCE FOR THE PROFESSIONALS

Howardson Works

Ashbourne Road

Kirk Langley

Derby

DE6 4NJ

2





## A guide to who's who at BIGGA

**President**  
Sir Michael Bonallack, OBE

**BIGGA Board of Management**  
Chairman - Elliott Small  
Vice Chairman - Clive Osgood  
Past Chairman - Gordon Child

### Board Members

Richard Barker  
Ian Semple  
Paul Jenkins  
Jim Paton  
Ian Holoran

### Executive Director

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

### Administration Manager

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

### Sales & Marketing Manager

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

### Editorial Media

Scott MacCallum  
E-mail: scott@bigga.co.uk

### Education & Training Manager

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

### Membership Services Officer

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

## Contact us

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

**Post:** BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Airedale, York, YO61 1UF

**E-mail:** reception@bigga.co.uk

**Internet:** www.bigga.org.uk

**Tel:** 01347 833800

**Fax:** 01347 833801

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



## Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund



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

### Golden Key Circle Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Avoncrop	01934 820868
Advanta	01529 302500
Amazone Ground Care	01579 351155
Aventis	01277 301114
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd	01428 661222
Gem Professional	01254 356611
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Kubota UK Ltd	01844 214500
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rainbird	01273 891326
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01483 535657
Rolawn	01904 608661
Ocrnis	01460 241939
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Textron Turf Care	01473 270000
The Toro Company (Lely UK)	01202 319987

### Individual Members

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

### Silver Key Circle Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Ernest Doe & Sons	01254 380311
Lambert/Fenchurch UK Group Ltd	0113 246 1313
Sisis Equipment Ltd	01625 503030
Supaturf Products Ltd	01455 639639
Weed Free	07000 481011

### Individual Members

Clive A Archer, John Crawford, Bruce Cruickshank,  
Douglas G Duguid, Alan Holmes, Iain A MacLeod,  
Robert Maibusch MG, Elliott R Small, Steven  
Tierney, Raymond J Warrender

# June 2000

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by July 6, 2000

## Regulars

### News

Pages 6, 7, and 8

### 10 Letters

### 11 The Learning Experience

Water, water everywhere. Bruce Reekie of Gleneagles Hotel explains the Gleneagles' approach to irrigation and water conservation.

### 14 Education

Ken Richardson gives an update of BIGGA's premier competitions

### 16 Membership Update

### 32-36 Around the Green

### 46 Brin Bendon

continues his off-course skills series by looking at Motivation

### 57 Sandy McDivot

Sandy gives an insight into what life is like working for Japanese owners

### 58 Features listing

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

### 58 As I see it...

BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small, attends the World Education Conference as well as the opening of Berkshire College's experimental new course.



58 As I see it...



50 Win £50 with our Buyers' Guide quiz

# Greenkeeper

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

### Editorial

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

### Advertising

Sales & Marketing Manager: Steve Hardy  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802  
E-mail: steve@bigga.co.uk

Sales & Marketing Department:  
Jenny Panton, Cheryl Broomhead, Diane Bray  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802  
E-mail: sales@bigga.co.uk

### Design

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

### Printing

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

The advertising copy deadline for inclusion in the July 2000 edition of Greenkeeper International is Wednesday, June 14, 2000

### Greenkeeper International:

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission. Return postage must accompany all materials submitted if return is requested. No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication.

Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear.

Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £36 per year, Europe and Eire £46. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.

ISSN: 0961-6977

© 2000 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

## Reader Reply Card

Advertiser	Page	Ad Ref
Allen Power Equipment	28	126
Amenity Technology	60	431
Arco	15	1
Aventis	17	59
Bathgate Silica Sands	42	543
Dendix International	33	17
E P Barrus	39	65
Eagle Promotions	13	549
Evenproducts	33	609
Flowtronex	45	610
G & A Wilson	39	632
Golf Car UK	28	583
Green Releaf	59	618
Greensward	2	312
Hallmarket	23	39
Humate International	38	656
I S S Aquaturf	23	32
Lely	36-37	61
Lloyds & Co Letchworth	42	603
Marlwood	18, 34	501
Maxicrop	28	174
Organic Plus	39	19
Rolawn	18	34
Rufford Soil	23	5
Spray-Tech	39	22
Textron	9	4
Trimax Mowing Systems	25	24
Turfmech	27	6
Weed Free	33	504



## Familiar Faces Everywhere

As I was lying on my sun lounger in the garden recently, enjoying the sun and admiring the sight of wife and lawn mower operating in perfect harmony, my mind wandered off into thinking about the industry we are all fortunate enough to call our own and in particular our Association.

I began musing that now, after five years in the job and having visited so many of golf clubs up and down the length and breadth of the country, if I were to be carried off in a space ship and deposited anywhere within the United Kingdom that no matter where it was I would bump into someone I knew by walking only a matter of a few miles.

I know it does seem a bizarre thing to be thinking about as I was supposed to brushing up on my tan but the sun does these things to you – particularly when you can overdose on its rays in our little piece of the Yorkshire Riviera.

But think about it. The beauty of this business is that it is small enough to know a large proportion of those people working within it but large enough to have many of those people spread all over the country.

I often play the game of hearing a place name on the television, or in the course of conversation, then working out who I knew in that place. I'm rarely stuck and normally the list can reach double figures. To make matters worse, I bore the pants off my aforementioned long suffering wife by providing her with the name of the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper when we pass golf clubs in the car. She now knows quite a number of you by name, if not sight, as well as having a better than average knowledge of tractor makes and colours, again having benefited from my generosity in passing on such information.

As I said I'm lucky that I do travel around the country a lot but within your Section or Region area you can no doubt do the same while with people moving to new jobs and relocating your group of friends widens and you'd be surprised just how many places you could bump into a familiar face.

Now the great thing is not only do we know these people but we also know we can call on them in times of need. If we have a problem there will always be someone happy to lend a tow rope, money for a pint, a piece of kit, offer some useful advice or even just provide a shoulder to cry on.

That is the real value of BIGGA as an Association. Not only are there so many benefits to membership that can really help you – read Steve Dixon's letter about the insurance money he received after a recent accident – but the things we can't list in among membership packages such as lasting friendships and camaraderie, within the trade as well as fellow greenkeepers, are just as important, if not more so.

**Editor:**  
Scott MacCallum



# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

## Features

### 19 A Championship of Distinction

The Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship will be played over St Annes Old Links and Fairhaven this September. It should prove to be a wonderful event

### 24 Grass Attack

Roland Taylor gets down among the long grass to bring you information about tackling the long stuff

### 29 American Beauty – Part 2

Our four intrepid Pinehurst interns provide some background to last year's US Open, played over Pinehurst Number 2

### 40 Spray Away

Bill Oliver gives an update on the latest spraying regulations

### 43 World Education Conference

Ken Richardson reports on the World Education Conference held at BIGGA HOUSE in April

### 48 Managing an environment

A look at the environmental management work undertaken at Fairways Golf Club, near Clacton on Sea



24 Grass Attack



40 Spray Away



48 Managing an environment



# Don't miss out?



## 2000-2001 **BIGGA GOLF DIRECTORY**

Your comprehensive guide to the products  
and services relating to the fine turf industry

Don't miss out on your chance to be included in  
one of the most comprehensive Golf Directories  
available to the Fine Turf Industry.

- **The directory will contain a Members Directory Section. This will be a major attraction to members and will ensure greater usage of the directory**
- **All companies who enter in the Directory will receive a FREE listing on the BIGGA internet site where the directory is also available**
- **The target audience will be ALL BIGGA Members, ALL UK Head Greenkeepers and Secretaries/Chairman of Greens**
- **We have restructured the category list to make it even easier for Greenkeepers to find your company information**

For further information  
on display advertising  
contact

Cheryl Broomhead  
on 01347 833800



# OnCourse™

THE GOLF COURSE MANAGERS SOURCE  
OF ADMINISTRATIVE POWER!

## On Sale from 1st June

**Contact  
BIGGA for details**

Tel: 01347 833800

Fax: 01347 833801

e-mail: [education@bigga.co.uk](mailto:education@bigga.co.uk)

**Epani**



## 'Killer' weed warning from Country Landowner's Association

A warning has been issued advising people to sharpen up their ragwort control this year. Increased populations of the noxious yellow weed mean disused ground and grass verges acting as a source of infection for agricultural land could be served with clearance orders by the government.

This caution comes hot on the heels of an on-going campaign by the Country Landowners Association to implement an effective eradication programme which encourages all landowners and property managers to attack ragwort when the weed is at its vulnerable rosette stage.

The Association's Ginnie Bealby says: "This killer weed contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids whose toxic effects are most apparent in the liver, causing progressive and irreversible damage. An animal has to eat less than one kilogramme fresh weight of the weed for death to occur."

"Control is best carried out from April to early June, using a translocated product applied with a knapsack sprayer."

Alisdair Mason, of Nomix Chipman, says it is important to catch the weed when it is still young and growing actively. Once ragwort flowers, hand roguing is the only effective option.

Ragwort is deemed an injurious weed under the 1959 Weed Act and allegations of it spreading to agricultural land from nearby verges and parkland can be fully investigated. However, notice for clearance on non-agricultural land can also be served by local authorities under the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act.

## TEXTRON DONATE MOWER TO ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPICE

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products has responded to an appeal from St. Elizabeth Hospice after thieves stole their lawnmower earlier this year.

Ray Kidd-Stanton, a member of staff at Textron's manufacturing division, noticed a report in the local newspaper and contacted Caroline Gumble, the company's Human Resources Director. She sourced a rotary mower from Textron's Jacobsen range and contacted the hospice who were delighted to accept the offer.

Caroline Gumble and Ray Kidd-Stanton presented the Jacobsen Commercial 20" motor mower to hospice staff recently.

"It's amazing how low some people will stoop", said Mrs Gumble, "but we are delighted that we have been able to help. I'm sure the grounds will look immaculate throughout the coming months thanks to the many volunteer gardeners that lend their support to the St. Elizabeth Hospice."

## Rain Bird run training day at Gleneagles

Rain Bird held a training day at Gleneagles attended by Course Managers and staff from golf courses across Scotland and Northern England.

The event was organised by Mark Ganning, Rain Bird's Field Service Manager for the UK and Ireland, to provide an introduction for new users to the company's computerised control systems and as a refresher for those already familiar with the systems offered by the company.

"Irrigation technology has made massive advances in the last decade, especially with the introduction of ever more powerful personal computers that have enabled sophisticated systems to be managed from a desktop environment. Effective water resource management, with its associated environmental implications is vitally important, therefore it is imperative that users of any one of our control systems knows how to operate them in the most appropriate manner," explained Mark Ganning.

"The duties of the golf course manager are becoming more diverse and lifetime learning is now part of the culture. That's why this training session, demonstrating the simple and effective use of the Windows-based new technology, has proved to be such a success with the delegates who attended."

The format of the Training Day was



to provide delegates with an overview of Cirrus, Nimbus II, and Stratus II, the three central control systems from Rain Bird's software portfolio. Each delegate was set various tasks to ensure that they fully understood each application before progressing to the next level.

"We have invested over £500,000 in our Rain Bird system and it has proved a most worthwhile investment. I thought it was a fascinating learning

experience and provided an excellent insight into the software options available. Irrigation and its effect on our environment is an important issue and these control systems enable course managers to act responsibly when it comes to water conservation," said Scott Fenwick, Golf Maintenance Co-ordinator for Gleneagles King's and Queen's courses.

## Ecology on agenda at STRI conference

A European line up of top ecology officers attended a technical working meeting at STRI in Bingley in last month.

Officers from all over Europe including representatives from Austria, Belgium, Finland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Scotland and England took part in discussions seeking to develop a standard for golf courses throughout Europe in line with Committed to Green.

Also present were Dean Cleaver representing FEGGA, Susan Moorgenroth from LGA, an environmental auditing institute working with the German Golf Federation and Alex Dyke

from Green Globe, a leading environmental initiative in the tourism industry.

Bob Taylor, Senior Ecologist and STRI representative on the Technical Working Panel, opened the programme with a technical presentation. Further presentations were provided by STRI staff including Kate Entwistle, Plant Pathologist, David Lawson, Research Chemist and Jeff Perris, Head of Advisory and Construction Services.

Across Europe there are now almost 200 golf clubs joining the programme.

## Don't try this at home Mike! ...too late he's done it

Mike Cheers, Head Greenkeeper at Haigh Golf Club, in Wigan, will be seen across the nation's television screens later this month swinging from the end of a rope over the Arkansas River in Colorado.

An unlikely situation in which to find oneself you might think but Mike was collared by Davina McCall, of popular Saturday evening show "Don't Try this At Home" on the 7th green at Mere Golf and Country Club when was still working at the club last year, having been set up by his wife, Tracy, and two sons, Christopher and Joseph.

"Tracy and I were then whisked off to Colorado to be confronted by the Royal Gorge Suspension Bridge which hangs 1053 feet above the Arkansas River. My "Challenge of a Lifetime" was to swing from a very long rope under this bridge," explained Mike.

The programme will be broadcast on Saturday, June 24 when we will all find out how he got on.

"It was all very exciting and certainly a challenge of a lifetime," is the only clue Mike would give.

## Canadian Dates Confirmed

The Canadian Golf Superintendent Association's major events for 2000-2001 are as follows.

September 18, 2000 CGSA Annual Fall Field Day, The Niakwa Country Club, Winnipeg, MB

February 24-27, 2001, 52nd Canadian International Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show, Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre, Vancouver, BC (In association with WCTA)

Contact: CGSA Office Tel: (905) 602-8873 or 1-800-387-1056  
Web Site: [www.golfsupers.com](http://www.golfsupers.com)



## Textron support for Matt's Lotus season



Matt Bartram, a Director at Textron Dealer Bartram Mowers, has secured a drive in this season's Autobytel Lotus Championship, a one-make series featuring the new Lotus Sport Elise.

Textron has committed its support to the event by providing four E-Z-GO XL -875 industrial vehicles for use by the pit crew.

Matt, who last year competed in the Formula Renault single-seater championship, is one of the two drivers racing for Team Norfolk, a consortium of sponsoring companies

headed by Roger Bennington of Stratton Motor Company.

This year's championship is a support event for the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) and involves 21 cars that are all operated and maintained by Lotus Motorsport to ensure that they remain identical from the beginning to the end of the series. This provides a completely level playing field for all the drivers.

After the first race at Brands Hatch recently where he finished a very creditable 12th.

"It was an intensive and interesting

weekend, what with testing on Friday, qualifying on Saturday and the actual race on Sunday. I'm particularly looking forward to the races on the Continent at Spa in Belgium, Nurburgring in Germany and Magny-Cours in France. The E-Z-GO vehicles in their new Lotus livery looked really smart and I know from talking to the pit crews that they were very impressed with their performance over the three days," said Matt.

## Congratulations to Emma



Emma Duggleby, who worked in BIGGA's administration department two years ago will be a part of the Great Britain and Ireland Curtis Cup team which plays the Americans at Ganton later this month.

Emma, a former British Ladies Champion and English Stroke-Play Champion, will enjoy a lot of home support as her own club is Malton and Norton, a near neighbour of Ganton.

Everyone at BIGGA wishes Emma and the rest of the team every success in their efforts to secure the Cup.

Indeed we also wish Head Greenkeeper Phil Baldock and his team every success in preparation of the course before and during the matches.

## Thanks from Seve



Current Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Champion, Brian Turner of Sunningdale, received praise for his work at the inaugural Eurobet Seve Ballesteros Trophy from the great man himself.

Writing in European Tour News Seve thanked everyone involved in making the event – won by the European team he captained – such a success and he singled out Brian and his team for special mention.

"I was particularly delighted that at the prize giving Brian Turner, the Head Greenkeeper at Sunningdale Golf Club, properly received a standing ovation for the work he and his team put in throughout the week and, especially on the Saturday when torrential rain made conditions so difficult in which to work," wrote Seve.

## Flooding tip from Bob

Like many of his colleagues, Bob Bean, Head Greenkeeper of Humberston Park Golf Club, in Grimsby, had to cope with the horrendous flooding the wettest April for many years brought. However Bob is not so sure all his problems were caused by the April Showers.

"My message to all Head Greenkeepers is this – If senior members are causing this sort of damage by using on-course toilet facilities insist that all senior sections must use changing room toilets before commencing play," joked Bob.



Humberston Park's flooding



Bob Bean

## Tree Information Day

An Information Day under the heading Trees and Golf will be held at North Wilts Golf club, Devizes, on Wednesday June 28.

The day, organised by John Nicholson of John Nicholson Associates, will look at Ecology; Constraints of planting on a golf course; Golf strategy and the role that trees play; Principles of course

design and the benefits that trees have; Grant availability; Successful tree establishment; Management of new and existing woodland; Golf ball damage to trees and Examples of good and bad practices.

The cost of the day is £35 inc VAT and further information can be obtained from John Nicholson Associates Tel: 0191 384 2556.



# New Textron deal for PGA Tour

PGA European Tour Courses PLC, owners of flagship golf courses in the UK and Europe, have signed an exclusive three-year agreement with Textron, the Ipswich-based manufacturer of turf care equipment. The agreement was signed at Stockley Park Golf Course recently.

Textron Specialty Products will be the official golf car supplier to PGA European Tour Courses, which specialise in the ownership and management of tournament courses that host professional golf events under the auspices of the European Tour.

"I am delighted that we have renewed this agreement for a further three years. We have received excellent service from Textron over the last three years and that has been a major factor in renewing this contract. E-Z-GO golf cars will be supplied on a pan-European basis and will be used in Portugal, Spain, and the UK, and also at our new German resort," said Paul Kimberley, Sales and Marketing Manager for PGA European Tour Courses.

Apart from the Victor Chandler British Masters, which is held at Woburn, PGA European Tour



Above: Paul Kimberley (centre) Sales & Marketing Manager from PGA European Tour Courses PLC signs an exclusive three-year agreement with Richard Bishop (left), National Accounts Manager and Peter Bell (right), Sales Director from Textron.

Courses PLC will also be hosting a number of other events in Europe this year. The PGA Golf de Catalunya, just north of Barcelona and which opened

in June 1999, hosted the Spanish Open. The Volvo Scandinavian Masters will be held at the Kungsängen Golf Club in Stockholm.

## SW & SW Course Management Trophies

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.

## Rickerby on call

Rickerby Ltd, the Textron dealer for Northern England, South West Scotland and the Borders has unveiled its new Direct Line Service Centre at Hexham in Northumberland.

The new facility will be manned by experienced groundscare parts experts to ensure that customers within this important sector of the Rickerby business receive an efficient response to parts and service enquiries.

"We receive a wide range of enquiries from across an extensive customer base. In the past enquiries relating to our groundscare business may have been handled by staff based more on the agricultural side of the business and vice-versa. Now, our groundscare customers only need to pick up the phone, dial our dedicated number and talk direct to a groundscare expert," said Alistair



Above: David Withers (left) Sales Manager and Alistair McRobert (right) open the new Direct Line Service Centre

McRobert, Groundscare Divisional Manager.

All enquiries throughout Rickerby's territory, will be routed to the Direct Line Service Centre, all for the cost of a local call.

The new number for groundscare enquiries is 01434 600777.

## Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



## Grand Tour 2000 Scholarship announces winners

The Grand Tour Scholarship committee, comprised of golf course design and maintenance officials from around the world, selected four students to participate in the first professional development tour sponsored by Rain Bird International and organised by Bettina Schrickel, design associate with GOLFPLAN/The Ronald Fream Design Group Ltd.

The inaugural Grand Tour, based on a prior tour of American golf courses taken by Ms. Schrickel, is designed to offer students of golf course design, development and maintenance from all over the world an opportunity to tour and study elite golf courses in the United States. The tour is divided into an eastern and western route with two students selected to follow each one.

The committee chose Jose Makk, turfgrass management student at Michigan State University and a native of Argentina, and William Bowden, turfgrass management student from England, for the tour's eastern route. The western route winners were Paul Mogford, golf course architecture student from Australia, and Colin Mumford, turfgrass management student from England.

The tour's eastern leg started in Orlando, at the beginning of April and concluded in Boston, in early May. The western route kicked off from San Francisco also at the beginning of April and ended up in Fort Worth, Texas. The scholarship winners visited legendary courses including Pebble Beach Golf Links, Augusta National and Pinehurst No. 2.

"Rain Bird was proud to be able to sponsor the first Grand Tour Scholarships," said Jack Buzzard, Vice President of Rain Bird International.

"Ms. Schrickel worked hard to organise a prestigious opportunity for students from around the world to study some of the finest courses in the United States. We believe this programme fitted well with our commitment to education."

Application forms and detailed information for the 2001 Grand Tour Scholarship will be available from Bettina Schrickel in August 2000. Contact Ms. Schrickel at [schwanenhof@hof.de](mailto:schwanenhof@hof.de).

## Green Releaf win a Mean deal at Greenwich

Green Releaf has won the contract to supply spraying services to all the major turf areas on the Greenwich Peninsula including the areas around the millennium Dome, following a recent successful weed and feed application to the project's Central Park and Millennium Boulevard.



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



## ...and they've still got a fairway to go.

Keep your fairways trim with the Jacobsen LF-3400 and LF-3800.

Inbuilt diagnostics and joystick control of cutting unit functions are leading design features for ease of use. The widest cut and highest cutting speed in their class mean maximum productivity and fully interchangeable FlashAttach™ reels produce the legendary Jacobsen cut.

Make short work of the semi rough, in comfort, with the Jacobsen HR-5111.

Rotary decks feature a unique direct drive to each blade by hydraulic motor and the highest productivity from a full 3.4 metre cutting width. With 4-wheel drive it takes undulating terrain in its stride. The operating area and controls are user friendly for driver comfort.

**Jacobsen – the choice for the Millennium at St. Andrews.**

Contact your Textron dealer for full details or Freephone 0500 026208.



**JACOBSEN**  
**TEXTRON**  
TURF CARE AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

RANSOMES JACOBSEN CUSHMAN RYAN E-Z-GO ISEKI

Ransomes Way, Ipswich IP3 9QG England. Tel: +44 (0) 1473 270000 Fax: +44 (0) 1473 276300 [www.textronturf.com](http://www.textronturf.com)



**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](mailto:reception@bigga.co.uk)**

## Thanks 1

I would just like to express my thanks and gratitude to Rain Bird

International and the Grand Tour Scholarship Committee for awarding me one of the inaugural Grand Tour Scholarships (western route). I would also like to say a special thank you to Bettina Schrickel for organising such a wonderful trip, and to all the Superintendents and their assistants for sparing their valuable time to give a detailed tour of their courses and facilities.

The tour was an experience that I will never forget, and the knowledge that I have gained from the trip will be invaluable to me. I would urge anyone to apply for the scholarship as a great wealth of knowledge and exchange of ideas, as well as making new friends in the golf world is made possible by this opportunity.

Once again thank you to everyone involved in the Grand Tour Scholarship.

**Colin Mumford**  
Via e-mail

## Thanks 2

During my recent accident the help that I received from all concerned was excellent and much appreciated. A wee word to our members. Our insurance package works for all. Please use it!

The extra cash during my seven weeks off work gave me a big boost when I was feeling a bit sorry for myself while it also helps to pay a few bills if you get caught a bit short.

Once again thanks to all at BIGGA. Keep up the good work.

**Stephen Dixon**  
Course Manager  
Kingsknowe GC, Edinburgh

## Thanks 3

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate William Bowden, a member of my greenkeeping team, on being awarded the Grand Tour Scholarship 2000. William is fully deserving of this Scholarship and will be given the opportunity to visit 22 of the top golfing venues on the East Coast of America.

I only wish that these types of Scholarship were available when I was an up and coming greenkeeper and for this reason I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rain Bird International and Bettina Schrickel for their investment into the industry.

**Martin Hucklesby**  
Course Manager  
Woodbury Park  
Devon

# Much Deserved Honour 1

In our May magazine you would have seen our Chairman making the presentation of Honorary Membership to Jim Arthur.

I was very pleased to be asked to arrange a small dinner to tie in with Elliott and Neil's visit to Westurf in Exeter. At the same time I invited a few of Jim's oldest friends who have worked with and known him for a long time. This proved to be my only problem, because I could have invited so many greenkeepers who have great respect for him and his work and also cherish his friendship. So, I am sorry it was just not possible to ask everyone.

The night was a very enjoyable occasion, even though Jim's wife,

Audrey, was unable to join us. It was very fitting that Walter Woods, George Brown, Bill Lawson and Derek Green could be with us to make the night so memorable for Jim.

Jim has been and still is a great friend, not just to greenkeepers, but also to the whole industry. He has given us so much and it was nice to see him honoured in this way. I know Jim has written to thank all who were there, but I would like to thank them all personally for making such long journeys to be with us. It just proves the respect we all have for him and his work over six decades.

**Gordon F Child**  
Churston

# Much Deserved Honour 2

A few months ago I was contacted by our Association Past Chairman, Gordon Child, to ask if I, along with George Brown, of Turnberry, could travel down to Exeter to an arranged dinner and presentation dedicated to Mr Jim Arthur, who recently was made an Honorary Member of BIGGA.

I have personally known Jim for over 25 years, most of it in my capacity as Links Supervisor at St Andrews, where Jim was Agronomist to the R&A. Throughout all of those years I have gained nothing but respect for this man's knowledge and contributions to greenkeeping, not only in Britain but throughout Europe

as well.

On the evening of the presentation, in the company of Jim's friends from the greenkeeping world he looked perhaps, at 80 years of age, slightly older but his mind is as sharp as a 20 year old's. Fertiliser and irrigation companies were receiving his full wrath while aeration companies were being congratulated.

What would we have done without his contribution. When he has stood up to be counted or criticised he has invariably always been correct.

**Walter Woods**  
St Andrews

# Well Done Brian !

Through the pages of our magazine, I should like to congratulate Brian Turner and his staff at Sunningdale on managing to put on the Seve Ballesteros Trophy in such adverse conditions. To be able to play any golf at all on the Saturday after all the overnight rain took a great effort and hard work by all his staff.

It does not end there, the pro's move on, with no thought of the mess and mud left to contend with. It is really silly to put on a tournament of

this magnitude at this time of the year. April to Greenkeepers is still a winter month, cold and wet with not much growth maybe the Professional Golfers Association should think of this and play early events abroad in warmer climates.

**A E Watson**  
President BIGGA  
Surrey Section  
via e-mail

# Ask Us Another

I have just read the letter from Eric Liskey in the May issue of Greenkeeper International with regard to a Short-Cut greens mower.

The AEA is the UK trade association representing the agricultural and outdoor power equipment industries. We have a wide range of information on the industry and have found what you are looking for.

The company to contact is Eurogreen, The Tythe Barn Farm, Titnore Lane, Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6NZ Tel: +44 1903 700678 or Fax: +44 1903 700868.

Hope that they can help you.

**Debbie Dale**  
Overseas Manager

# Top Issue

I write with congratulations for arguably the "best ever", certainly the most relevant ever, edition of the Greenkeeper International – the April issue.

John Ross' sensible reply to the "Temple" article epitomised what this Association and its members stand for, and recognised the damage that an ill-advised article in a National Newspaper could do. (Of course, Temple Golf Club and Martin Gunn are to be congratulated for their stance; it would be interesting to hear their experiences first hand.)

I remember winter golf in the 70's - waiting weeks on end for a game when snow and frost finally thawed. Then, when the course was open, chances were that the greens hadn't been cut or rolled, holes weren't changed, putting was a lottery etc, etc. Wasn't a problem then - the handful of players who were keen enough to go out didn't worry.

Ten years later however, memberships started to boom – the demand went up out of all proportion – the course could be busier on Winter weekends than it was at times during the summers. Couple that with the distinct absence of any significant snow or frost – my children have grown up almost without knowing snow – and you begin to see where problems have arisen. The quality of the courses is far higher now than it was during the 70's and it is a disgrace to suggest otherwise.

Kerran Daly's witty essay touched on the subject of looming legislation within the industry. When oh when are we going to realise that we must take the lead now and not wait to be tamely led by "Eurocrats" from an ivory tower somewhere near Brussels?

Change is inevitable and continual – we often resist change because of the additional workload and stresses it brings but we must shape and influence the change. We certainly can't afford to bury our heads – after all, who knows what Brussels may do with the sand?

All power to the elbows of last months' authors. Let's have more of the same.

**Paul Worster**  
Course Manager  
Minchenhampton GC  
Glos.



**Bruce Reekie is the Environmental Co-ordinator for The Gleneagles Hotel. Here he explains the philosophy behind Gleneagles' approach to irrigation and water conservation and looks at possible future developments.**



# Water, water everywhere



Above: Rainfall, soil temperature, air temperature and wind speed all have to be taken into account before making a decision to irrigate. Here the irrigation system has been activated at the 9th on the Monarch Course. Photograph courtesy of Russell Kirk, Golflinks.

## Introduction

Throughout history irrigation has been used as a method of conveying water for crop cultivation during periods of drought.

This means that water has always commanded a high value both economically and environmentally. This is more pertinent than ever with increasing demand from the public, industry and golf courses for potable water (drinking quality water).

The large majority of the general public argue that the use of potable water for golf course irrigation is not a sustainable practice. Golf courses and the greenkeepers who maintain them can have only two responses to this:

1. Conserve and manage existing water resources.
2. Seek alternatives to potable water.

In many cases the requirement to irrigate has been driven by members' needs to have their local courses brought up to the standards seen on the clubhouse television.

However, a note of caution has to be introduced as the expectations and perceived benefits of an irrigation system can often lead to disastrous consequences. In many cases over watering and compaction of poorly drained soils has led to water logging, a factor in the increased occurrence of patch diseases such as Fusarium and Take-All.

The conservation and management of water, avoiding the above scenario, begins by defining the irrigation priorities relative to the course.

What are the priority areas on the course?

1. Greens and Collars
2. Tees
3. Approach Areas
4. Fairway Landing Zones
5. Other Fairway Areas
6. Out-Of-Play Areas

For example, only small areas of fairways may be susceptible to dryness during the summer months, therefore hand watering may be all that is necessary, rather than installing a full fairway irrigation system. The main



Right: Loch-an-Eerie, between the 13th and 14th holes on the Queen's Course at Gleneagles acts as a natural reservoir for the irrigation system

benefit of lower priority areas receiving little or no water is that it allows them to rejuvenate into original features of the course, therefore retaining the natural feel of the surrounding environment.

## Conservation of irrigation water

The main factors affecting irrigation and water management are:

1. Turfgrass species
2. Weather patterns and data
3. Drainage and cultural practices
4. Irrigation system efficiency

## Turfgrass Species

The tables below show grass species, their water requirements and their salt tolerance.

## Weather patterns and data

Obviously, the weather has a major influence on the conservation of water supplies on golf courses. Therefore, carefully monitoring and predicting weather patterns can save both water and money.

Rainfall, soil temperature, air temperature and wind speed all have to be taken into account before making the decision to irrigate. This is a continuous day-to-day process through the summer months. Even in July in Northwest Europe 100mm of rain is not uncommon, and therefore natural irrigation is the best option.

To reduce the impact of evaporation losses, irrigation should be carried out

when soil and air temperatures are at their lowest. This can be done early in the morning or late at night with manual irrigation systems or a cycled programme through the night with an automatic control system.

The benefits of running an irrigation system on a cycle is that water can be applied at a rate which the soil can absorb it, rather than irrigating with one large flush and producing waterlogged greens and tees. It also makes sense to delay irrigation when wind speeds are up as you are more likely to water your neighbour's crop or your cart path.

In the spring every year at Gleneagles water samples are taken from the main irrigation ponds and sent to a laboratory for testing. The main items that we look for in the analysis are:

1. pH
2. Nutrient Content
3. Sodium Content
4. Suspended Solids

A pH range of 6.0 - 7.5 allows for better availability of nutrients in general, but in particular this range allows favourable conditions for Nitrosomonas and Nitrobacter stimulation that transforms  $\text{NH}_4^+$  into  $\text{NO}_3^-$ .

The sodium content is an important factor when utilising effluent wastewater and will be discussed in greater detail later in the article.

The test results will also identify the presence of suspended solids and if they are found to be present they should be filtered out to avoid causing damage to pumping equipment, sprinkler heads and nozzles.

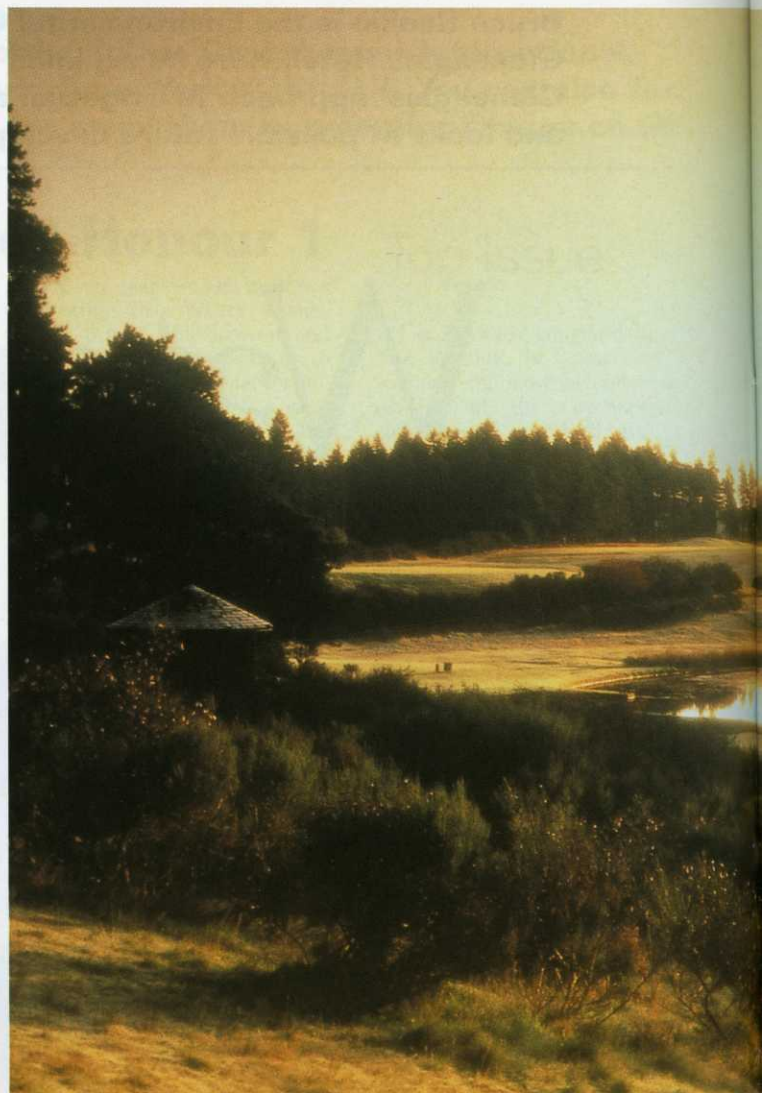
## Irrigation system efficiency

From October to March the majority of irrigation systems are shut down, the pipes are then drained and blown through with a compressor, which virtually eliminates the risk of frost damage.

In April, an external service engineer will carry out the start up of the system. This ensures the pump house systems are operating efficiently, that there are no leaks in the system and all sprinkler heads are operational.

A computer utilising irrigation software is the best way to ensure the efficient use of irrigation water on a golf course. Here at Gleneagles we have a Rain Bird system and my colleague, Scott Fenwick, Golf Maintenance Co-ordinator for Gleneagles' King's and Queen's Courses comments,

"Irrigation technology has made



massive advances in the last decade, especially with the introduction of ever more powerful personal computers and this has enabled sophisticated systems to be managed from a desktop environment. We have invested over £500,000 in our Rain Bird system and it has proved a most worthwhile investment. The flexibility of the software that includes the ability to upgrade through a range of control packages without the need for major retraining is a huge benefit. However, if we are to make this level of investment we must ensure that the greenkeeping teams know how to operate it effectively.

We recently attended a training day, organised by Rain Bird and held here at Gleneagles, that provided an introduction to their range of computerised control systems. The duties associated with golf course management are becoming more diverse and lifetime learning is now part of the culture. That's why this type of training session is so important to get the maximum benefit from our significant investment."

## Drainage and cultural practices

To ensure good water infiltration during the summer months, turf should be aerated during the spring months using hollow coring, verti-draining and tining.

Good cultural practices also help

reduce the risk of soil compaction and allow the plant roots to grow and take up water more efficiently. Wetting agents are utilised through the spring and summer months to provide good infiltration rates into the soil and to ensure that the water is retained there. Wetting agents will also aid in water penetrating thatch.

Careful selection of topdressing material is also required. Fine particles may make the surface impermeable and can cause damage to sprinkler heads. Also the height of cut during prolonged dry periods should be increased to ensure continuing photosynthesis in the green tissue, ensuring that root development will continue underground. Good root development will maximise the uptake of water from the soil. And, by maintaining a thick sward, the loss of water through evaporation and wind is minimised.

Trees situated close to tees and greens compete strongly with the turf for moisture. The Willow and Pine families are good examples of moisture loving trees. To overcome competition between trees and turf, stands of trees can either be thinned or have their lower branches removed.

## Alternative sources of irrigation water

The use of other sources of water rather than potable supplies is obviously a major step towards conserving

### WATER USE

Low  
Medium  
High

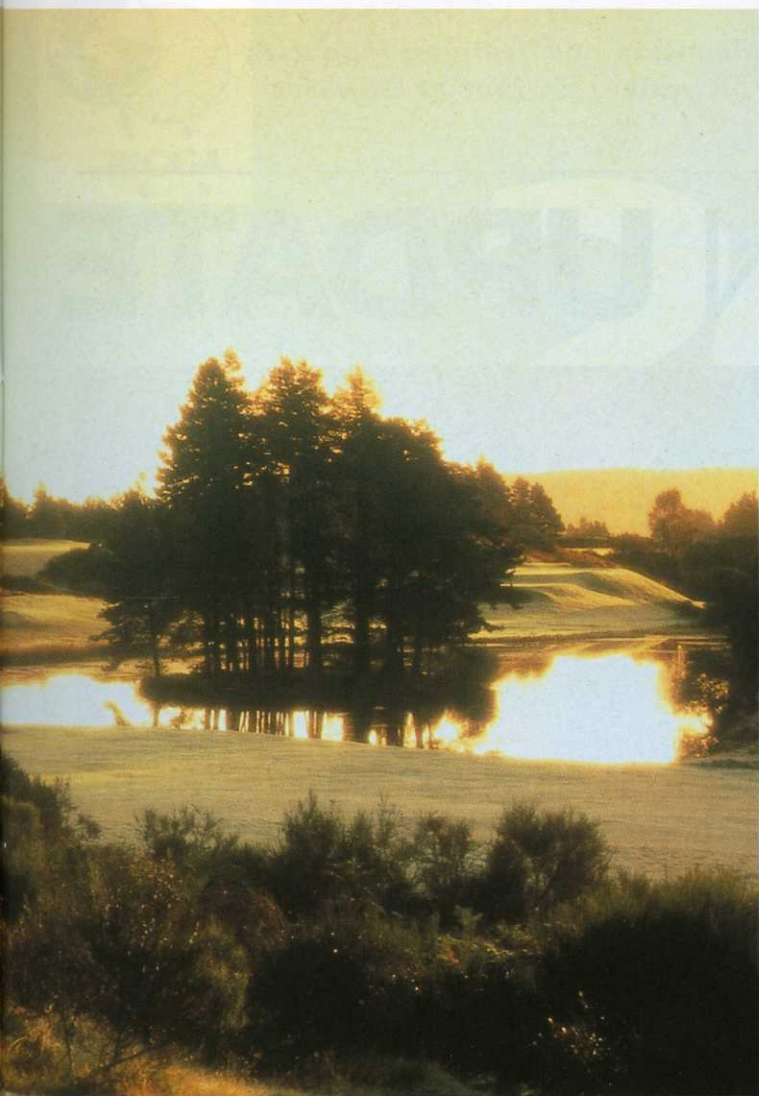
Buffalograss  
Kentucky bluegrass  
Perennial ryegrass  
Bermudagrass  
Velvet bentgrass  
Creeping bentgrass  
Zoysiagrass  
Red top  
Tall fescue

### SALT TOLERANCE

Low  
Medium  
High

Colonial bentgrass  
Tall fescue  
Hybrid bermudagrasses  
Most zoysia spp.  
Perennial ryegrass  
St. Augustinegrass  
Annual bluegrass  
Common bermudagrass  
Seashore paspalum





such a precious resource.

In the United States the use and management of effluent water (sewage wastewater) is increasing in popularity as an alternative to diminishing potable supplies. A recent survey by the National Golf Foundation (NGF) reported that approximately 13% of golf courses in the United States use effluent irrigation sources, and this increases to 34% in the Southwest States where water availability is lower than average.

The biggest concern revolving around the use of effluent water on golf courses is the Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR). This test measures the sodium hazard present in the water. The higher the SAR, the greater the potential for damage to plants and soil. High SAR test results are usually down to a deficiency of calcium and magnesium in the effluent water. This situation, in most cases, is brought about by bicarbonate ions, which react with calcium and magnesium and remove them from the water.

Attention must also be paid to the level of nutrients contained within the effluent water. Nutrient levels vary, and are dependent on the type of effluent plant and type of effluent being processed. In many cases the ratio of salt and nutrients can be diluted or even eradicated through 'polishing' treatments before being used for irrigation. The effluent can be stored in holding ponds for dilution with sur-

face water, rainwater and/or a limited potable supply.

In many cases the water can be passed through a wetland/reed bed system. These can be designed to consist of plant types, which are salt loving and will absorb much of the salt content of the water. They can also be interspersed with other types of reeds to aid nutrient absorption.

Although the use of effluent water carries a greater potential risk than using a potable supply, the implementation of an irrigation management plan can resolve many of these issues. By looking at the interaction between the incoming quality of effluent, the turf and soil types on the course, management techniques and weather data it is possible to run an irrigation system utilising effluent water, maintain good quality turf, reduce water costs and help conserve potable supplies.

In a changing world where water has the potential to become as valuable as oil, golf courses must adopt best practice in order to use water in a sustainable manner. In short this means constant analysis, monitoring and control.

Sources used in the compilation of this article include Audubon International, 1996; Carrow & Duncan, 2000; Christians, 1998 and NGF, 1999.

# PHOTOCAST TEE SIGNS

By  
**EAGLE PROMOTIONS**

Scorecards • Course Measurement • Yardage Books • Tee Signs  
Event Boards • Leaderboards • Notice Boards • Bag Tags • Green Fee Tickets

Call Philip McInley on : 01883 344244

email us: eaglepromotions@compuserve.com

visit our website @ [www.eaglepromotions.co.uk](http://www.eaglepromotions.co.uk)



Ad Ref 549





**This month, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, gives an update on four of BIGGA's premier competitions**

# EDUCATION UPDATE

Applications have been flooding in to BIGGA HOUSE for three of our major competitions, the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition and the TORO Student of the Year and Excellence in Greenkeeping Competitions.



## Golf Environment Competition

This year's competition again sponsored by Amazone Ground Care with the additional support of the R&A has attracted entries from a wide range of golf courses, with almost 150 clubs expressing an interest. Entries have been delivered to Bob Taylor and Jonathan Hart Woods at STRI and they will begin judging during late June. Those clubs progressing to the next round of judging will be contacted individually to arrange site visits which will take place during August and September.



## TORO Student of the Year Competition

The search for the winner of the Millennium TORO Student of the

Year Competition starts towards the end of next month when Pete Mansfield, from TORO; Jim Paton, BIGGA Education sub Committee Chairman, and Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education and Training Manager, will travel the Regions to interview the chosen few. Up to eight students will be selected to progress to the National Final which will be held at BIGGA House on October 30, at BIGGA HOUSE.



## TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition

Judging for this year's competitions will commence in July when our team of judges will tour England Ireland Scotland and Wales and select four National Finalists. The National Final will be held at BIGGA House on October 30, alongside the Student of the Year Final.



## BIGGA Essay Competition

Following a gap of more than 80 years, the Greenkeepers Essay Competition was relaunched by



Above: Last year's Toro winners Tommy Givnan & Brian Turner

BIGGA in 1999 at the behest of the current Chairman of BIGGA, Elliott Small.

The closing date for entries to the Year 2000 Competition is October 27 so you have plenty of time to compose your manuscript.

All you have to do is:  
Write between 1500 and 2000 words on the subject

## Managing Without Chemicals

Is it possible? What are the consequences? How would you cope?

There are three categories:

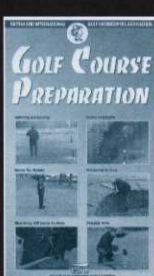
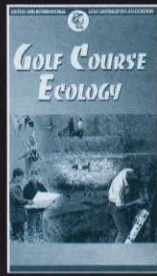
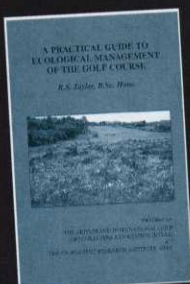
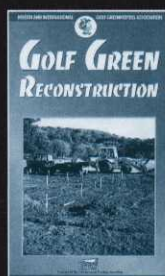
1. Golf Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers and deputies.
2. Assistant Greenkeepers and Students aged 25 and over.
3. Assistant Greenkeepers and Students aged under 25.

## Prizes:

The winner of each category will receive £500 to be presented at BTME 2001 and runners-up will receive £100.

Additionally, each winning entry will be printed in Greenkeeper International.

# ON COURSE WITH BIGGA EDUCATION



**Golf Course Preparation Video**  
£14.95 to BIGGA members  
£29.95 to non-members

**Golf Course Reconstruction Video**  
£14.95 to BIGGA members  
£29.95 to non-members

**Ecology Book**  
£3.00 to BIGGA members  
£7.00 to non-members

**Ecology Video**  
£14.95 to BIGGA members  
£29.95 to non-members

**Raising the Standards of Mowing Management Video**  
£14.95 to BIGGA members  
£29.95 to non-members

**Setting the Standard in Spraying Application Video**  
£14.95 to BIGGA members  
£29.95 to non-members





# BIGGA MEMBERS SAVE

# 20%\*

## WITH ARCO

ARCO and BIGGA have got together to offer you 20%\* discount on the UK's widest range of Workwear, Safety Clothing & Equipment and Industrial & Maintenance Products

- ◆ All the big brands
- ◆ Free delivery
- ◆ No minimum order charge
- ◆ Extra discounts for bulk and quantity orders - telephone for details
- ◆ Free catalogues and technical advice
- ◆ Embroidery and heat seal badging available if required
- ◆ Choice of ways to pay:
  - ARCO Account - if your club or business does not have an account, please telephone us for an application form.
  - All major Credit and Debit Cards
  - Corporate Purchasing Cards
  - Cash
  - Cheque



To order or request FREE catalogues, just call  
ARCO'S special BIGGA Hotline on

# 01482 611773

and quote your BIGGA membership number

\*Discount not available on selected technical products and special offers. Please telephone for details.

Orders subject to our Terms and Conditions, copies of which are available on request. Delivery is free in the UK unless otherwise stated. All prices are subject to VAT and all offers are subject to availability. Registered in England No. 133804. A division of ARCO Ltd, Waverley Street, Hull, HU1 2SJ. ©ARCO Ltd. All rights reserved. MP02538 March 2000

## ARCO

### Personal Protection

- Head Protection
- Eye Protection
- Ear Protection
- Respiratory Protection
- Safety Equipment
- Corporate Clothing & Workwear
- Weather Protection
- Hazard Protection
- Hand Protection
- Skin Protection
- Washroom Hygiene
- Foot Protection

### Workplace Safety

- Site Safety
- Traffic Management
- Vehicle Cleaning
- Hygiene & Cleaning
- Floor Level Safety
- Fluid Handling
- Showers
- Insulation
- Fire Protection
- Safety Signs

### Maintenance

- Lubrication
- Adhesives
- Packaging
- Jointing and Sealing
- Hose, Ducting and Fittings
- Tools
- Site Maintenance



**BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, Tracey Maddison, would like to welcome almost 80 new members to the Association and offer the opportunity for members to win some fantastic prizes**

## Be a BIGGA winner!

Impress your other half by winning a weekend break to Dublin, York or go on a spending spree with Marks & Spencer Gift Vouchers. HOW? It's easy! All you have to do is to introduce at least two new members to the Association, make sure your name goes on their application form as the person who referred them, and leave the rest to us! The draw will be made at BTME 2001.

Here are three great reasons why you should recommend a colleague to join the largest greenkeeping association in Europe...

### Reason 1

You could win two return flights to Dublin plus two nights accommodation for two people in a centrally based hotel, all courtesy of BIGGA. The city of Dublin is a thriving, modern centre, home to a million people and rich with a variety of attractions ranging from culture, history, heritage and the Arts, to

sports, shopping, concerts and nightlife. Enjoy exploring this colourful city of fine Georgian buildings and extremely welcoming pubs! One of the oldest areas of Dublin is the maze of streets around Temple Bar, now home to numerous restaurants, pubs and trendy shops.

### Reason 2

You could get away for a weekend break, for two, to the historic city of York. You could be in the first class company of the Monkbar Hotel, which holds an unrivalled position in this historic city, close to the city walls, which date back to Roman times, and by Monkgate Bar, one of the main entrances to the city. The impressive York Minster is only 300 metres away, with the many attractions being only a few minutes walk away. The bustling market with its many stalls is a timely reminder of York's role as

## BIGGA welcomes...

### Scottish Region

Joseph Baxter, West  
Patrick Bonnerdy, Central  
Thomas Cornerford, Central  
Christopher Docherty, West  
Mark Geddis, Central  
Kevin Kirkpatrick, Ayrshire  
Bryce G B McLaren, North  
Gary McLay, West  
Donald J Meldrum, North  
Dale W Norquay, Ayrshire  
Alan T Purdie, Central  
Craig A Purdie, Central  
Gary Thomson, Central

Thomas E Kaye, N West  
John Kelly, N West  
Stephen N McKie, N West  
Jon McMullen, N West  
Keith Riley, Sheffield  
Nicholas Robinson, Northern  
Guy W Stokes, N East  
Stephen Swindall, Sheffield  
Darrell Tinsley, N Wales  
John M Ward, N East  
James J Waters, N West  
Nick J Wild, N West  
Lae C Williams, N West  
Richard Wood, Sheffield

### Midland Region

### Northern Region

Michael Brennan, N West  
Paul Charnock, N West  
Stephen Edwards, Northern  
Richard Joyce, N East

Daniel Brown, East Midland  
Chris Clarkson, Midland  
Luke Collins, BB&O  
Richard W Cosby, Midland  
Herbert T Cox, Midland

John P Craddock, Midland  
Ian Curston, Midland  
Barry J Gardner, BB&O  
Daniel Green, Mid Anglia  
Brian Jeffries, Midland  
Gary L Jenkinson, Mid Anglia  
Peter T Johnson, Midland  
Stuart I Langhorn, Mid Anglia  
Robert J Leach, Midland  
Jordan Roman, East Midland  
Wayne Tysoe, Mid Anglia  
Scott Whale, Midland  
Andre Woodings, East Midland

### South East Region

Rose Anthony, E Anglia  
Scott Bailey, Surrey  
Alfred R Collier, E Anglia  
Simon Collingridge, London  
Justin L Dunstan, Sussex

Paul Esterhuizen, Surrey  
Shane W Hulme, Surrey  
Matthew Keech, London  
Paul A Merriman, London  
Simon R Need, Kent  
Mark Paxton, Essex  
Colin D Pedderham, Surrey  
Gary Wiggins, London

### S West & S Wales Region

Paul A Moore, South Coast  
Ian M Piffey, South Coast

### Northern Ireland

Samuel Hall  
Alistair Logan  
Alan W McKee  
William Smith  
William S Walker  
Gavin J White

### Associate Members

Alan J Miller, E  
Ian L Wall, Surrey  
Martin J Beer, South Coast  
John Lindsay, Northern Ireland

### Student Members

Ian Morrison, N West  
Glynn Parkinson, N West  
Jason Rainbow, E of England

Check out  
July's edition  
for May's  
new members!

a shopping centre. Your stay will situate you in one of ninety-nine rooms – all with en-suite facilities, colour TV, hairdryer, trouser press, welcome beverage tray and direct dial telephones.

### Reason 3

You could win vouchers from Marks and Spencer, to be redeemed in any one of their many stores. Choose

from their fabulous range of clothing, home furnishings or food and wine.

So come on, to be in with a chance of winning start introducing those new members, and they could soon be benefitting from the many benefits and services BIGGA membership offers.

Please note: The weekend breaks are subject to availability and exclude Bank Holidays

# Mountain King

You may recall a short article in the magazine last year describing the preparations and fund raising activities of Stephen Jack, of The Buckinghamshire Golf Club, for a trip to the Himalaya's in aid of Whizz-Kidz. Well, he's been and now reports back on his trip and what it was like to survive 12,000 feet up a mountain.

I could probably write a book about my whole expedition – if I had the ability that is! However I will try and describe my experiences briefly and keep them general. The expedition as a whole

is definitely the most overwhelming, extraordinary and vivid experiences in my life. Although it is now five months since arriving back, so much of what I saw and did remains clear in my mind. The place, people and atmosphere is very special indeed and I believe it cannot be fully understood unless you see and feel it for yourself. Pictures are good but truthfully do no justice and simply don't capture the atmosphere, spirit and characters of the people. There is an amazing culture and equality and happiness in the people that I've never seen before – especially happiness, you

can see it in their eyes and their smile

The two main experiences are when I arrived and my first experience of altitude. You don't realise how big an area the Himalaya's are. It is a vast with mountain after mountain. The scale of things is completely different eg. Kathmandu is at 3,000ft (1,000ft short of Ben Nevis!) and you by no means feel you are high up. I remember standing outside the airport looking around me in amazement and probably a daze to what was surrounding me – beyond belief.

The day we started our trek, started with an eight hour bus journey to our

starting point, which was at 1,000ft – So no we didn't get a head start!

Altitude sickness can be fatal and affects everybody differently. There are many symptoms. The only thing you can do is take things slower the higher you go up and be aware of the symptoms. Altitude can become a problem at generally 10,000ft, which is the highest we camped, but climbed to 12,500ft. This part was optional and some people didn't make it. Luckily I felt okay and made the 12,500ft point which was a platform to view the real sharp pointy mountains with snow. This is where the picture is taken - Manaslu south face in the background. Manaslu is in the top ten highest in the world – about 24,000ft, (Everest is 29,000ft!)

At one point, shortly after leaving camp at 10,000ft I didn't think I could make it any further. The few seconds it took for me to drink some water left me gasping for air!

I'll leave you with a thought! Each day we were given a bit of philosophy from the great Bhuda, one was – "Do nothing in haste, look well to each step and from beginning think what may be the end."

If there is anyone interested in doing the same challenge, they can contact me. Alternatively they can contact Tamsin Cowie at Whizz-Kidz on 020 7233 6600. [www.whizz-kidz.org.uk](http://www.whizz-kidz.org.uk)





Mycorrhizal structures associated with turf roots

# Intelligent disease control

Harmless to beneficial turf fungi

Still effective against disease

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

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

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

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

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

Rovral Green - it thinks for itself.



Fusarium

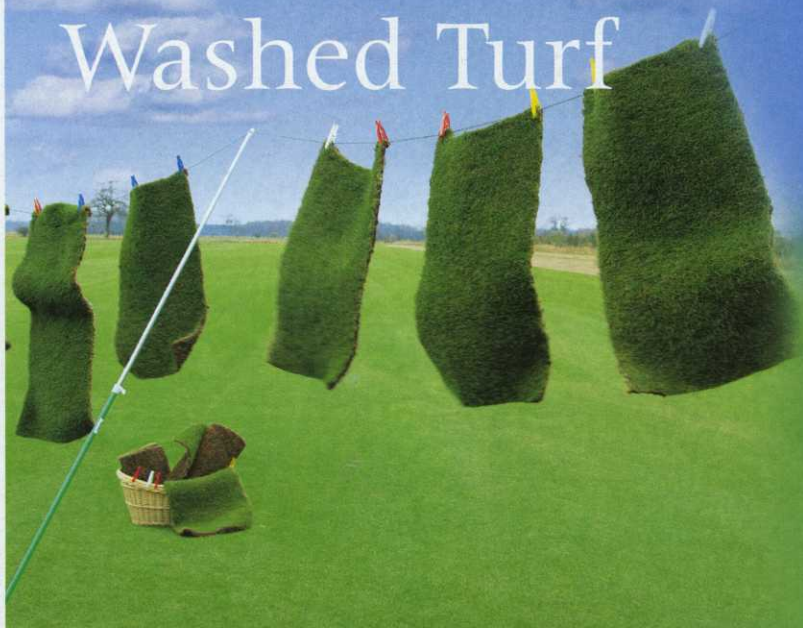


Dollar Spot





# Wash away rootzone worries with Rolawn Washed Turf



**Washing turf is a job for experts.** Rolawn's expertise in turf washing has been built up over twenty five years. This coupled with a substantial investment in a state of the art turf washing plant has made the company European leader in turf washing technology.

Rolawn's turf washing plant is operated by expert staff to produce top quality turf that is 100% clean and soil free. Our unique process leaves the turf roll intact with a healthy aggressive root system on one side and a first class dense healthy sward on the other. Any roll format produced by the company is available washed. i.e. Standard roll, Budget roll, 1066 roll.

Rolawn Washed Turf is faster and easier to lay, saving time and money. And with no rootzone problems to overcome it establishes rapidly. Therefore your greens and tees will come into play much sooner.

**So don't hang about – choose Rolawn Washed Turf.**



## Rolawn®

BRITAIN'S FINEST TURF

Available on a no minimum order basis from  
Rolawn's network of UK depots.

*For further details call: 01904 608661  
or visit our Website: [www.rolawn.co.uk](http://www.rolawn.co.uk)*

Ad Ref 34

ALWAYS OUT FRONT

# SMITHCO

**4 Sprayer  
models  
available**



**A range  
of utility  
vehicles &  
trailers  
available**



**2 models  
available**



**12 models  
of bunker  
rake  
available**



**for details or a demonstration contact...**

**Marlwood Limited**

Court Lodge Farm, Forge Lane, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent ME15 0HQ  
Tel: 01622 728718 Fax: 01622 728720

email: [marlwood@kentnet.co.uk](mailto:marlwood@kentnet.co.uk)

Ad Ref 501



Last year Tony James played out of his skin to becoming the first winner of the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship. This year it could be you...



# A Championship of Distinction



Above: Last year's winners flanked by Richard Minton of Scotts and David Jenkins of Charterhouse. L-R Tony McLure, Tony James and David Cuthbertson and Bert Cross representing the Northern region.

The two venues for this year's Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship for the BIGGA Challenge Trophy may well be familiar to some of those people lucky enough to be playing in this year's event.

St Annes Old Links hosted the 1995 National Tournament while its near neighbour, Fairhaven, welcomed the Hayter Challenge Finalists in 1996 as well as both Rest of the

World and Americas teams in the country for the Hayter International Cup.

If there are any qualifiers or entrants who played on either, or both, of those occasions they will know the treat that is in store for them on September 25 and 26 this year.

The abiding memory of those who tackled St Annes in the summer of '95 will be the scorching heat which

drew the last bit of energy out of everyone who played well before they reached the sanctuary of the 19th but the difficult conditions will not have masked the excellence of the course they had the privilege of playing.

Masterfully maintained by Geoff Whittle and his team St Annes is very much a traditional links which adds degrees of difficulty depending upon how hard the wind blows.

If that were not enough since our



# A Championship of Distinction



Peter Simpson of Fairhaven.



Geoff Whittle of St Annes Old Links.

previous visit the course has also been tightened up!

"Yes, we've put in some extra bunkering in the driving landing areas on the 2nd and 6th holes. It was getting too easy," laughed Geoff, who has been at the club for 11 years.

"The committee felt that it needed toughening up a little in places as it does depend on the weather for its defences."

The decision was influenced by the fact that the club hosted an Open Qualifiers when the Championship was last at nearby Royal Lytham & St Annes in 1996...an honour it will also have next year as well.

"Last time it was dead calm and

the scoring was low. We had a 65 by Richard Boxall for example," explained Geoff, who has recently taken delivery of a several new pieces of kit courtesy of a leasing agreement with Burrows, the local Textron dealer.

As well as the bunkering, which brings the total number on the course to 138, some new Championship tees have been built and the addition of a couple of ponds, one behind the 7th green and another behind the 14th green.

"We needed a huge amount of spoil to build some new Championship tees so we created our own by digging the ponds which, although not affecting play too

much, create a bit of interest," said Geoff.

The pond at the rear of the 7th, which is perhaps more in play from the 15th, boasts a nice touch.

"There is an island in the middle of the pond and one of the friends of the Greens Chairman asked us to put an suggestion box on the island. We did this and it's gone down very well."

Geoff is looking forward to the army of his peers who will descend on the course in September.

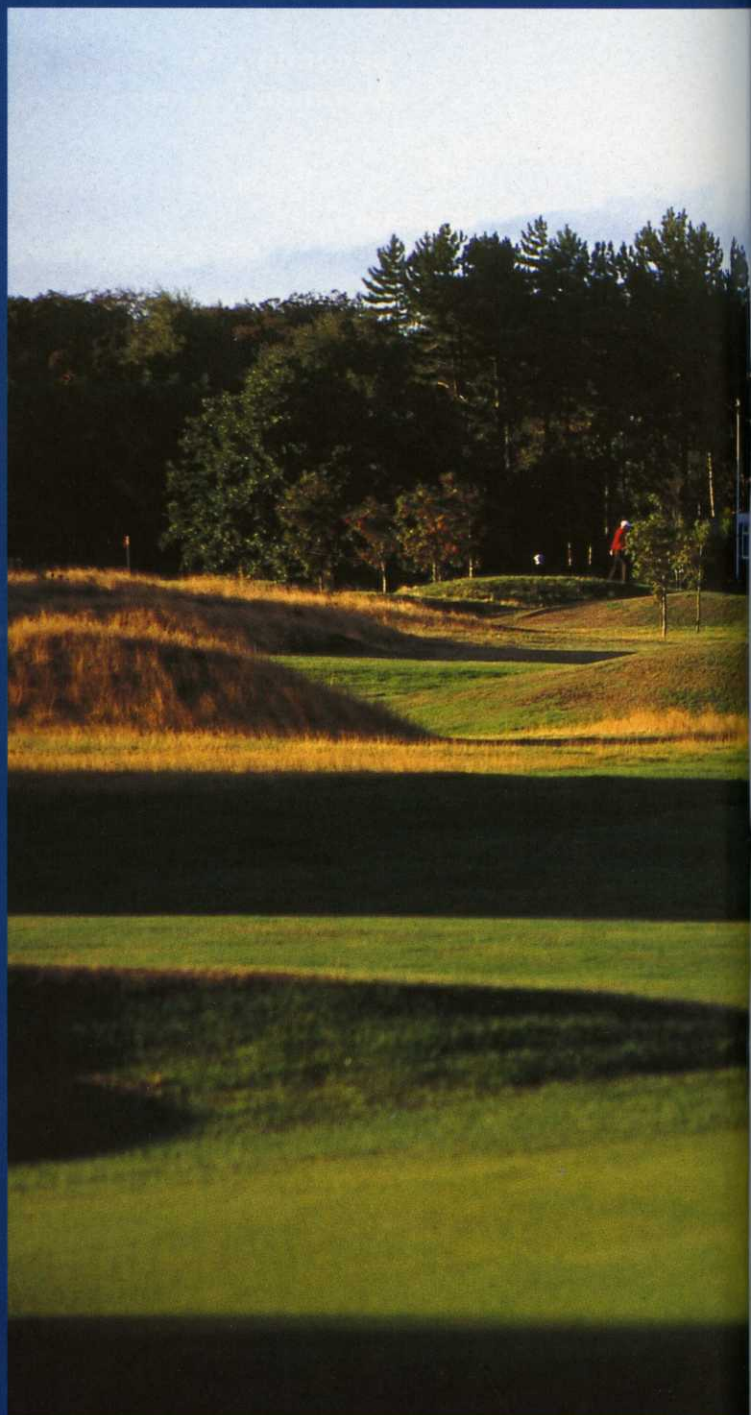
"I know they all enjoyed coming here last time apart from the incredible heat. It was a big tournament for us and I hope it is the same this year."

Oh yes. One other change since 1995 which will raise a cheer from those who played then. The clubhouse now has air conditioning!

St Annes will host the first round of the 36 hole Championship with Fairhaven picking up the baton for the second and final day.

Although only a couple of miles from St Annes, Fairhaven is a different type of golf course altogether – tree lined and secluded. In fact, Peter Simpson, the Head Greenkeeper describes it as a semi links.

"We've got the bunkers of a links course but we've not got the rolling fairways while, of course, we've also got trees," said Peter, who like Geoff







is a former Royal Lytham man.

"I think the National Championship will be a good test because they will be playing two different courses – an out and out links where the wind blows and another which is a bit more picturesque but which is equally tough."

To illustrate the point Peter describes the work that has been carried out on the par-3 17th which has made a difficult hole more difficult.

"We've altered the bunkering around the green so that it is now surrounded by eight pot bunkers while we've removed the mound at the rear of the green so that now, if you go

long, you risk going out of bounds."

When you're hitting at least a 5-iron into the green, and it's all carry, it could never be described as a cake walk.

Having said that the course did hit the headlines during the '96 Open Qualifying when local favourite Royal Lytham tournament professional Paul Eales, desperate to play the Championship over his home course birdied the final five holes at Fairhaven to scrape into the final field. Admittedly there are two par-5s in those final five holes but it was still a mighty feat.

The course record was set during that same qualifying event. A 64, which might have been two less had



One of the new ponds at St Annes – Complete with a easily accessible suggestions box!



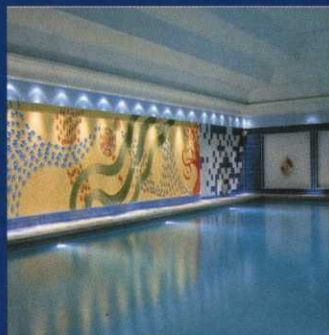
# A Championship of Distinction



Right: St Annes Old Links.



Some of the excellent features to be found at the Dalmeny Hotel.



not two relatively straight forward birdies been missed, including one at the last, by a certain Justin Leonard, who went on to become Open Champion at Royal Troon 12 months later.

"The club was delighted to have an Open Champion as course record holder and made him a member of the club," revealed Peter.

"We're hoping he'll find time to come over and play the course again next year."

Another change from our '96 visit is on the 3rd which used to have a big bunker guarding the left hand side of the fairway but which now has two pot bunkers.

In many ways Peter had the toughest task of any of the greenkeepers who have hosted a BIGGA event. Not only did he have the British and Irish contingent he also had to present his course to some of the top superintendents and greenkeepers from the rest of the world in the shape of the Hayter International players who had competed at West Lancashire Golf club earlier that week.

"We try to produce a golf course which is good all the year round and it is nice to have some greenkeeping professionals playing here. It is our professional pride which ensures that it is in good shape for them," said Peter.

"Our season is from Good Friday to the end of September and we try to have it at its best all the time during that period so when the National Championships are played it should be in good shape," said Peter.

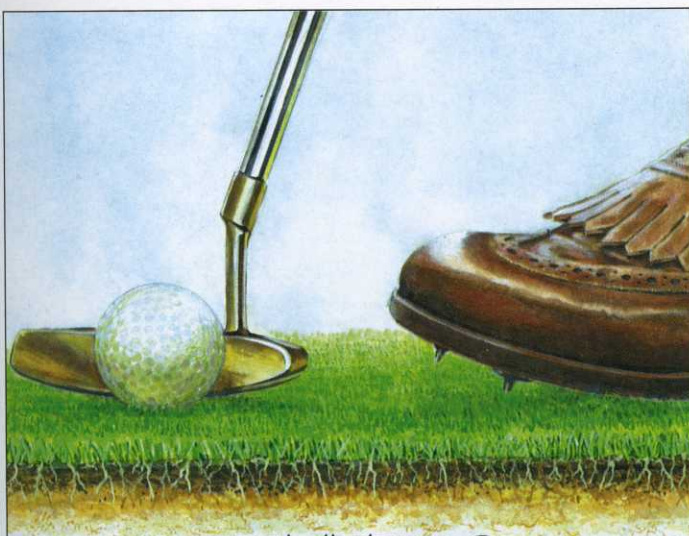
The Championship Hotel for the event is the Dalmeny, on Lytham's South Promenade. An excellent hotel it boasts, three restaurants, a heated indoor swimming pool and extensive leisure and gym facilities while all bedrooms are equipped with satellite television.

The Lytham area boast many attractions including Blackpool's world famous pleasure park. Britain's most visited tourist attraction the park includes the death defying Big One, the mother of all roller coasters while the equally terrifying Valhalla, built at a cost of £15 million, will have opened by the time we descend on the town to play the event.

Think about it a couple of visits to these two rides and the four footer on the 18th to win a prize is not going to appear quite so frightening.

Anyone wishing to enter the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship and book into the Dalmeny Hotel should contact Sarah Sowerby at BIGGA HOUSE for further information. Tel: 01347 833800.

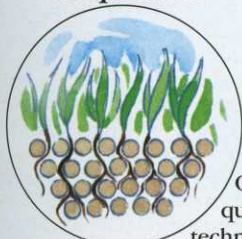




# PUTTING SOIL TECHNOLOGY ON THE RIGHT COURSE

Consistency of the growing medium is the key to superior greens and tees, which is why Rufford place such importance on the uniform particle size and the quality of all our sand/soil products

*Uniform size of particles is essential in resisting compaction.*



- from Rootzone mixes to Top-dressing mediums. With Rufford you know they must be the best, because
- Materials are constantly checked.
  - All dressings are heat treated.
  - Uniform particle size.
  - Soil analysis service.
  - Guaranteed quality.
  - Professional advice.

Of course, achieving such consistently high quality products is only possible when the technical aspects of each sand/soil mix is under the tightest control. Again an area in which Rufford is uniquely qualified, not only operating our own quarries, but with in-house laboratories constantly monitoring their output.

*Call us today and find out why greenkeepers throughout the country rely on Rufford for quality and service second to none.*

ENGLAND & WALES  
**Tel: 01260 281801**  
SCOTLAND  
**Tel: 01324 714477**

SOIL TECHNOLOGY  
**RUFFORD**

Top Dressings	Fine, medium and coarse
Sands	Wide range, for bunkers to greens
Rootzone Mix	Standard U.S.G.A. or made to order mixes
Screened Soil	Fully screened and shredded
Divot Mixes	Especially blended for golf tees & fairway divoting

**kesmac**

**TRANSPORTABLE GANG MOWERS**  
**EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE FROM HALLMARKET**

**SHEER STRENGTH AND DURABILITY COMBINED WITH LIGHTWEIGHT CONSTRUCTION**

## Features include:

- Excellent clipping flow resulting in less, if any need for vacuuming
- Delivers quality cut consistently from ¼" to ¾" and mows up to 6" tall grass
- Very low maintenance costs
- Low H.P. requirements eg. 11 gang, 25 ft mower requires only 45 H.P.
- Excellent cut even in wet or rainy conditions
- High floatation for soft conditions
- Available in 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 gang configuration
- Fingertip hydraulic control allows easy transportation

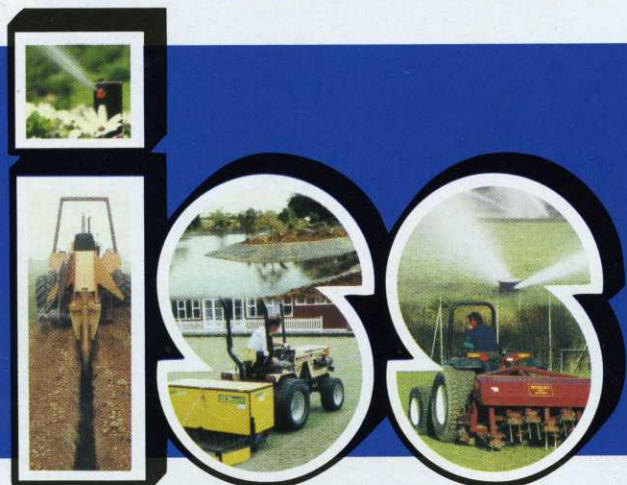


**EQUIPMENT BUILT FROM EXPERIENCE**

**FREE DEMONSTRATIONS AVAILABLE**

Contact Clare Marshall @ Hallmarket Turf Machinery  
32 / 39 Woden Road, Heath Town,  
Wolverhampton, WV10 0AU  
Tel: 01902 352111 Fax: 01902 452998

# 20+ YEARS EXPERIENCE



**YOURS FOR THE ASKING...**

**iss**  
**aquaturf**  
SYSTEMS LTD

Irrigation systems, lakes and reservoirs, plus specialist contracting services for golf and golf courses

**TORO**

Unit 18, Downton Industrial Estate, Batten Road,  
Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 3HU  
TEL: 01725 513880 FAX: 01725 513003



**Roland Taylor gets down among the long grass to bring you this report on how to deal with the thick stuff**

# GRASS ATTACK

One of the most successful species of plants found throughout the world is grass. It is a survivor, growing in the harshest of conditions such as mountainous regions, mud flats, sand dunes and jungles.

There are an estimated 10,000 species globally and the family includes at the top end bamboo trees that grow to over 50 metres, whilst at the bottom of the scale is the dreaded poa annua at less than 12mm. Here in the UK there are approximately 160 species found naturally of which a few have been chosen for their characteristics in the production of professional turf.

The rest grow wild and a fair proportion will find their way on to most golf courses. Combined with other vegetation such as trees, bracken, heather

and flowers they make up the backdrop to immaculate greens, fairways and tees. These areas play an important role in the overall image of the course and, therefore, require some form of management.

Regardless of its location, a course is a haven for the development of flora and fauna and in recent years there has been an increasing interest in developing this aspect. Changes in agriculture and the encroachment of concrete and tarmac have led to the demise of natural grasslands and as a result some flower species have been lost, whilst others are becoming rare. The introduction of wild flower areas is one positive action that can be taken to reduce the impact modern civilisation is having on the environment.

Whilst the greens, tees and fairways are the most important part of any course, creating natural areas that blend in and add another dimension to the game are increasingly becoming a consideration when managing a course.

To manage these sites and keep vegetation under control often requires a different range of grass cutting equipment. For long grass there are three suitable systems rotary, flail and reciprocating blade (rarely used for cutting grass these days).

## **Rotary**

This is the most popular method of dealing with long grass and vegetation and today it can be found in many configurations.

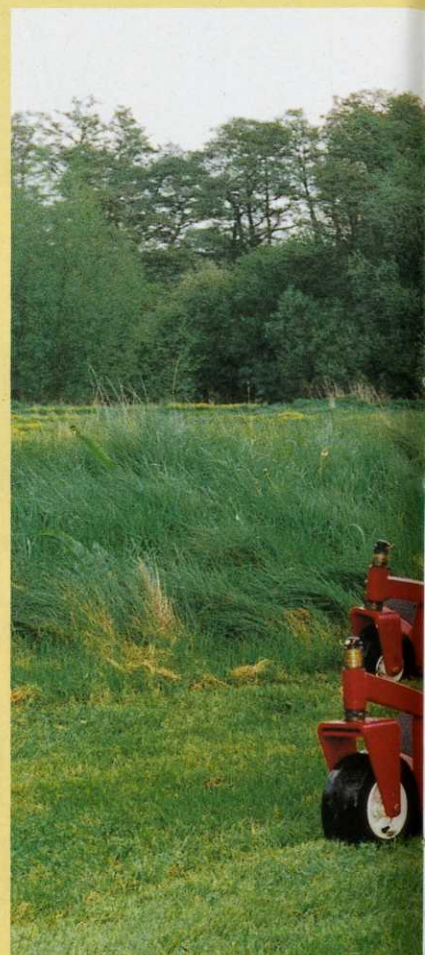
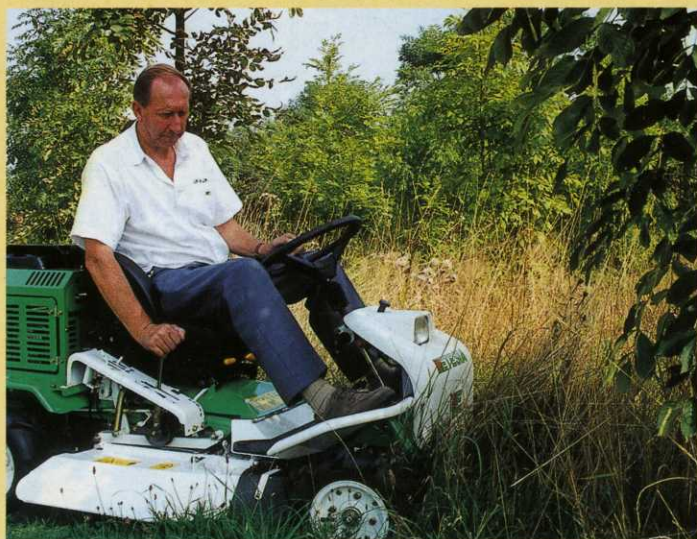
Its origins date back to 1930 when the hedge of Scotsman David Cockburn was causing him problems – he was fed up with having to cut it by hand. One day while his wife was out shopping he

removed the brushes from her vacuum cleaner and replaced them with a blade. The experiment on the hedge was a failure but when he pulled the unit across his lawn it cut and collected the grass. David Cockburn realised he was on to a winner and set up a company to develop the machine. A petrol engine was used for power and the first rotary mower was created and christened 'the Rotoscyth'. World-wide patents were taken out, but unfortunately, Adolf Hitler intervened and production ceased.

With the coming of peace, Cockburn's company resumed production but shortage of materials was a problem, plus the fact that the American and Australian designers had found a way round the patents. They marketed products that had no collection facility as rough grass cutters – a label all rotaries were to carry for over two decades.

It was the beginning of the fifties and the country was getting back to some normality after the war. On the Hertfordshire/Essex border a builder by the name of Doug Hayter had built a rotary mower for cutting around his premises and quickly discovered there was a market for such a machine. He established a factory and went into production. A local agricultural company which had found a number of customers with large areas of grass to cut contacted him. The result of this meeting was the 6/14 – the first tractor-mounted rotary mower in the world. These units proved highly successful and were used by many golf clubs for cutting their rough.

The next rotary milestone was as a result of work of Karl Dahlman, a Swedish engineer, who combined the hover principle of a cushion of air and a rotary







## PROFESSIONAL OUT FRONT FLAIL MOWERS

# FlailDek

### FlailDek



**GAMMA Flail**

The FlailDek can mow anything from quality parklike conditions to rough road sides at speeds not attainable with other mowers. The unique Gamma Flail blades fitted to the FlailDek require relatively low horsepower. Designed by Trimax engineers, the Gamma Flail with its aerodynamic shape cuts easily while creating optimum airflow to expel the clippings. Tractor horsepower is used for cutting grass, not pumping air. The Gamma flails deliver a perfectly uniform cut with clippings evenly dispersed behind the mower, even in sodden, long grass conditions. FlailDek does not leave windrows or clumps.

*Robust flail mounting lugs are welded both sides.*

#### UNIQUE FEATURES

- Gamma flails
- Extremely robust construction
- Quality cutting finish
- Leaves no windrows or clumps



**Trimax**  
MOWING SYSTEMS

Trimax Mowing Systems Ltd  
Unit 2, Salcey, Salcey Forest, Hartwell, Northampton NN7 2HA, UK  
Tel (sales/admin): (01604) 864 477, Tel (spares): (01604) 863 999, E-mail: trimax@netcomuk.co.uk



# GRASS ATTACK



blade to produce the Flymo. At this time another inventor in the United States had used nylon fishing line and a tin can to come up with the strimmer.

To know what to look for when deciding which machine to choose and how to get the optimum performance, it is necessary to understand how the rotary system operates and the factors that can affect it.

For a rotary mower to operate efficiently two things are required: rotational speed and the ability to move the cut material out of the system as quickly as possible. Each of these affects the other and the machine eventually blocks up and stalls the engine.

In many instances this can be avoided as there are other contributory factors:

- **The cutting height is too low for the volume of vegetation.**
- **Blunt blades.** This is a common fault, as even a blunt blade will hack off something.
- **A worn engine or one that needs servicing will not give of its best.**
- **The forward travel speed of the machine is too high for length of grass conditions.**

Whilst all rotary systems are similar the method of ejecting the cut material can be different especially on the wider machines. This is either out of the side or rear of the machine. In the case of the latter, the blades contra-rotate and their action directs the flow of grass back and into the centre of the cutting deck.

The dimensions of the outlet aperture are vital to the efficiency of the mower when it comes to collection. It needs to be as large as possible and with minimum obstructions. The more direct the flow of cut material into the catcher is from the blade, the better the performance.

Cutting decks need to be kept clean. Dried grass deposits and dirt attract more build-up and impede the flow.

When using collectors it is necessary to ensure the air vents in the bag or box are free of debris. Blockages cause a build up of air pressure, which slows and often restricts the volume of grass entering the receptacle, thus choking up the cutting chamber.

When using strimmers it is important to have the correct length of nylon protruding from the drum – too

long and the rotation speed is reduced with a resulting drop in performance and more strain on all the components.

As said before, for all rotary blades sharpness and balance are critical. Any damaged ones must be replaced immediately using only those supplied by the original manufacturer. If something solid has hit the cutting system the blade carriers and mountings will need checking for signs of stress or breakage especially around welds.

Which rotary to buy will depend on the requirements. In the case of wild flower meadows the cut material should be collected, otherwise it can smother the sward and reduce light penetration so the plants become weakened. The rotary mower has to be able to cope with long, often lush, wet growth and this should be borne in mind when choosing a machine.

For large areas a tractor drawn unit could be suitable and the introduction of small independent units, all linked together to make a wide mower that is flexible and can follow the ground contour could be the solution to undulating rough areas.

Recycling mowers are now available. These finely chop up the cuttings and blow them into the turf. The length of grass and frequency of cuts will determine if one of these units is suitable.

In recent years there have appeared on the market a number of wheeled strimmers, which are suitable for dealing with long grass and undergrowth. When it comes to rugged work the hand held, pedestrian and ride-on brushcutters are ideally suited. For banking on the course around tees and bunkers there are the two-stroke petrol powered hover mowers and four-wheel rotaries.

## Flails

The flail mower arrived on the scene largely due to the problems found using reciprocating cutterbar on roadside verges and hedges. Roadmen were a dying breed in the early fifties and they were being replaced with tractor mounted mowers. Whilst these did a reasonable job they were extremely expensive to maintain, especially when used on hedges.

On the verges the cut material blew across the road and blocked drains and ditches. The answer was the flail. This





consists of a drum with rows of hinged blades. When spun at high speed the blades are held out by centrifugal force and cut the grass, mulching it up in the process.

The first machines were belt-driven from the tractor but Tony Turner had other ideas. He came up with a hydraulically powered version. This made the machine much more adaptable. It had a long fully adjustable arm and the cutting head could be set to virtually any angle – sales of this machine are said to have taken off immediately.

A long armed flail unit will have limited applications on a lot of courses but for banking, ditches, river banks, around water features and cutting country-type hedges they are ideal. Where the workload does not warrant buying one, it is worth considering hire as they can save a lot of time.

For areas of rough and semi-rough there are rear-mounted tractor models. These machines have the facility for fitting a large hopper for collecting the cut material. This is a distinct advantage

when the flail unit is fitted with scarifying blades.

Like the rotary machines the cutting efficiency relies on drum speed. As there are a large number of blades involved they need to be checked regularly for damage or breakage and replaced, as the drum will be out of balance. The vibration set up in this situation can do a lot of damage in a short period time.

With both rotaries and flails because of the conditions they work in there is often a tendency to neglect the maintenance

aspect. Blades are allowed to become blunt; guards are left off; belts not adjusted and a grease gun is rarely used. In the end, any one of these can cause a breakdown, so it is worth spending those extra few minutes checking and carrying out any replacements so the machine always performs at its optimum. Who wants hassle?

Having the right piece equipment to deal quickly and efficiently with areas other than greens, tees and fairways, is half the battle – there are plenty out there to choose from or hire.

## Cuddles contours

### What?

The 3.05m (10ft) wide Pro-Flex 120 rotary mower for tractors of 35hp upwards.

### How?

Five individually-floating cutter heads attached to a freely-pivoting trailed frame.

### Why?

To produce a consistent cut across the working width over undulations, bumps and hollows.

### Where?

Golf courses, landscaped grounds, parks, all uneven turf demanding a precise, clean cut every time.

### When?

As part of all regular mowing programmes.

### Who?

For illustrated literature, a video or a demonstration across your contours, call:

Visit our website at:  
[www.turfmech.co.uk](http://www.turfmech.co.uk)



**Turfmech Machinery Ltd.**  
New Road Industrial Estate, Hixon, Staffs ST18 0PJ, UK  
Tel: 01889 271503 Fax: 01889 271321 e-mail: [sales@turfmech.co.uk](mailto:sales@turfmech.co.uk)



# If you don't believe us...



# believe him!

Maxicrop Bio-stimulant has been tested extensively by independent researchers. They've discovered the quite remarkable beneficial effects this unique product can bring to turf management.

- *More beneficial soil microbes*
- *Better rooting*
- *Better stress tolerance*
- *Greener turf*
- *Better tillering*
- *Better turf health*

Contact us **TODAY** for full details, and a copy of our **free** Research Data Technical Dossier - it's why we think...

## Maxicrop®

*gives you the cutting edge on turf...  
"for deep rooted success"*

Maxicrop International Limited,  
Weldon Road, Corby, Northants, NN17 5US  
Tel: 01536 402182 Fax: 01536 204254  
e-mail: [info@maxicrop.co.uk](mailto:info@maxicrop.co.uk)

*Maxicrop is produced from seaweed, using sustainable, and environmentally benign, harvesting regimes.*

Performance Utility Vehicles™

## MAKING IT EASIER... TO WORK HARDER.

**Durability. Versatility. Power.**  
They are the three things you can expect from a Club Car Performance Utility Vehicle.

Your Golfing Partner

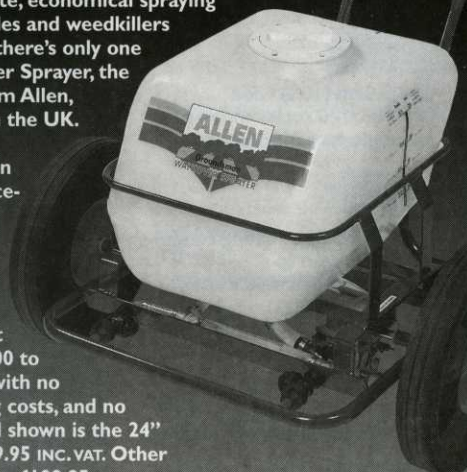
Golf Car UK Dunmore Court, Wootton Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX13 6BH

**CALL THE PERFORMANCE UTILITY VEHICLE HOTLINE: 01235 537575**

Ad Ref 583

## THE TRUE PROFESSIONAL

For fast, easy, accurate, economical spraying of fertilisers, fungicides and weedkillers over fine turf areas, there's only one answer. The Walkover Sprayer, the true professional from Allen, designed and built in the UK. The Allen Walkover Sprayer is right out in front for maintenance-free efficiency. Its unique pump, powered by the forward movement of the wheels, delivers a full tank at walking pace over 600 to 1,000 square yards, with no servicing, no running costs, and no problem. The model shown is the 24" Groundsman at £299.95 INC. VAT. Other models available from £199.95 INC. VAT.



PHONE THE 24 HOUR BROCHURE LINE  
OR COMPLETE COUPON  
**0845 60 10 815**



To: Allen Power Equipment Ltd., The Broadway, Didcot, Oxon OX11 8ES.  
Please send my **FREE** Walkover brochure.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

Allen Power Equipment Ltd., The Broadway, Didcot, Oxon OX11 8ES  
Tel: (01235) 515400 Fax: (01235) 515401 Website: [www.allenpower.com](http://www.allenpower.com) Email: [sales@allenpower.com](mailto:sales@allenpower.com)

0020/00100

Ad Ref 126

Ad Ref 174



**"The Insiders" Philip Armitage, Ben Allen, Neil Atkinson and Swede Patrik Benneryd spent time as Interns working on Pinehurst Number 2. Last month they told us about the overall experience while this month they give an insight into the background to last year's US Open preparations.**

# American beauty part II

**"The United States has to move very fast to even stand still" John F. Kennedy, 1963.**



Above: The Carolina Hotel (or 'Queen of the South' as it is often renamed) is the main hotel at Pinehurst where guests stay

"Pinehurst No. 2 makes you think, it makes you play, it makes you drive the ball, it makes you position the ball. It's a player's dream. Donald Ross did a phenomenal job. It's the type of course I'd play every day of my life" – Greg Norman.

After the 1992 US Open at Pebble Beach, Pinehurst was awarded the 1999 US Open. The stipulation was that the USGA would work with Pinehurst to rebuild all 18 greens on No. 2. Pinehurst knew their existing Penncross greens were not of a high enough standard for a US Open,

given the heat of the Carolina summers. So they asked the USGA to help them find a newer, more heat tolerant variety of bentgrass.

With the huge success of the G-2 at Pinehurst No. 8, it was decided that this variety of bentgrass would be ideal for installing into the greens on No. 2. So, in 1996, Pinehurst rebuilt the greens on No. 2. In addition, several new tees were constructed to lengthen the course and dozens of trees were removed to provide space for grandstands and hospitality units.

Pinehurst became only the second golf resort to stage a US Open (after Pebble Beach) and this afforded them the luxury of utilising whatever room was required for corporate hospitality, TV compounds. Course No. 4 is located adjacent to No. 2 and so certain holes would have to be closed down to accommodate marquees, car parking and TV compounds.

ClubCorp, Pinehurst's ownership company, was faced with a challenge. How could it close down No. 4 to provide space for the US Open but





Above: 8th Hole, Par 4 (for Professionals), Course No. 2. Normally a straightforward Par 5 for guests/members, this has turned into a Par 4 for the US Open.

still utilise the remainder of No. 4 productively? They decided to completely rebuild No. 4! So, in early 1999, construction began on a Tom Fazio designed, new Course 4.

Since it acquired the resort back in 1984, ClubCorp has instigated many changes at Pinehurst including the openings of No. 7 (1987) and No. 8 (1996). No. 4 is another chapter in its portfolio and reflects in the company's ongoing commitment to golf course improvements.



Above: 13th Hole, Par 4, Course No. 2.



Above: 3rd Hole, Par 4, Course No. 2. Show bermuda grass in various stages from white (still dormant) to green (actively functioning as a plant)

Significant progress was made in constructing and grassing most of the new holes before the US Open in June. The areas that were used for marquees were left untouched until after the tournament. Then construction recommenced on those holes up to its completion in October 1999. No. 4 re-opened in December 1999 to rave reviews.

Paul Jett CGCS, Superintendent of No. 2, was responsible for the preparation of the golf course for the US Open. He is perhaps the only Golf Course Superintendent who has had to raise the green heights in preparation for a major tournament!

The USGA felt that for the tournament, the greens should be rolling at about 10.6 and so Paul decided to raise the heights to 3mm and have them double-cut. The USGA worked with Paul to ensure that at the start of each day's play, the greens were rolling at 10.6. Green speeds were actually checked before any mowing commenced.

For those who are unfamiliar with the greens on No. 2, imagine 18 greens shaped like upturned saucers. The greens are similar to USGA spec. and are normally maintained to a height of 2.7mm which generate green speeds of around 9.5. The greens average around 6,000 square feet in size.

Course 2 has a history of having hard, fast greens. To maintain healthy, fast greens, Paul's philosophy is to control the water supply to the greens. Overwatering causes lack of oxygen, contributes to thatch build-up and encourages disease. Although minimal watering can cause problems in hot, windy weather, Paul would rather his staff syringe the hot-spots on the greens only when necessary. He also likes to stress the bentgrass in hot weather to increase their heat tolerance. In addition, regular verticutting and topdressing assist in keeping the greens firm.

Paul's fertiliser programme in the build up to the US Open was no different than any other year. In the month leading up to the tournament, he applied Nitrogen at

about a tenth of a pound per week and Potassium applications at around a fifth of a pound per week. (Paul was so satisfied with the greens that they were probably fourth priority in the build-up to the tournament!). The greens received just over 6lb N/1000 sq.ft for 1999.

The inclement weather slowed the greens down substantially during the tournament and as a result, greens were double cut morning and evening. (On one day, the 30,000 sq.ft putting green was cut 14 times to bring it up to the speed demanded by the USGA!) The USGA demanded faster greens for the Sunday. To dry them out, a vacuum pump was connected to the drainage system of the greens in order to remove excess water from the top few inches of the soil profile.

Fairways were narrowed to 28-30 yards in width and were mowed daily at 9mm. They were also cut in one direction, from green to tee, in an attempt to control long driving. Tees, approaches and surrounds were also mowed at 9mm but twice daily. It was refreshing to see tight surrounds instead of thick rough just off the greens – the normal tradition for US Opens. Rough was mowed daily at 3 inches at the USGA's behest.

Despite the rain, only Payne Stewart managed a sub par total of 279 (-1). One shudders to think of the winning score if the weather had been hot and windy. The success of the tournament has resulted in Pinehurst being awarded the 2005 US Open – a fine tribute to Pinehurst and to Donald Ross' masterpiece.

Paul's disease programme is done on a preventative basis and only during times when conditions are favourable for pathogens. Paul sprays to control a broad spectrum of diseases and never uses the same product two weeks in succession. G-2 is highly resistant to disease too and thus Pinehurst doesn't have many major problems with diseases. Paul also sprayed the Bermuda with Carbaryl the week before the tournament which killed off white grub larvae that were present





Above: 15th Hole, Par 3, Course No. 2. From Camera tower (Note that only aesthetics come from the green – creeping bentgrass. Bermuda grass being a rigid, upright growing plant, does not produce the great aesthetics that many people associate with U.S. courses.



Right: 15th Hole, behind Par 3, Course No. 2. Shows severity of slope-offs on greens of No. 2. This taken at eye level with green surface!

in the turf.

It has been documented in some Greenkeeper International articles that many American courses are intensively manicured and offer 'lush, green fairways', Augusta National GC being the most commonly used example. Have that many people been fortunate enough to play the 'lush' fairways of Augusta? Or are these assumptions made after four days of watching the Masters on TV? Anyone who believes that a US Superintendent prefers to maintain a lush, dense sward (rather than a tight, fine sward) is merely a fool.

Many American courses do require intensive maintenance but the Superintendent is, more often than not, given the budget in which to do so. This is because the demands from the US golfing public are much higher and climatic differences lead to more intensive maintenance of the golf course. But perhaps most importantly, the memberships/ownership companies of US golf courses realise that the golf course cannot be maintained to the highest standard on a shoestring budget (accounting for the aforementioned variables).

Pinehurst has bermudagrass tees, fairways and rough. For those unfamiliar with the bermudagrass growth cycle, it goes into dormancy during the autumn-winter transition and then re-emerges the following spring. This is because the lower winter temperatures are not warm enough for bermuda growth. The lack of chlorophyll production results in the plant turning white but still provides a good playing surface. In recent years, Pinehurst has

overseeded its courses with perennial ryegrass in the autumn. This is purely for aesthetics ie to provide a 'green' appearance year-round.

The recent introduction of new dwarf ryegrass cultivars are now commonplace in the USA. They not only have a fine leaf blade but also offer superb aesthetics. Overseeding is done in October after the courses have been verticut (to create a seed-bed for the ryegrass seed) and it has led to intensive course management year-round for Pinehurst Superintendents.

Here are several points of interest about Pinehurst in relation to overseeding (that results in a darker green, not lush, golf course):

- The underlying soils are as sandy and free-draining as most links courses
- Dwarf ryegrass cultivars are now used which produce fine, tight swards
- Superintendents must irrigate regularly to prevent rye grass wilt, as Carolina's winter temperatures can still exceed 75 degrees
- The decision to overseed is from Corporate management. The Superintendents have no choice in the matter
- It is assumed that guests prefer to play on a green golf course
- Guests at Pinehurst pay between \$140 - \$250/round, depending upon which course they play. It is not unreasonable for these guests to expect a well conditioned golf course for these prices.

The USA is the world leader in turfgrass research and development, having given us Pennncross, Providence, dwarf Bermuda & Ryegrasses among many other products. Last year, Michigan State University announced its trials of poa annua cultivar development. Food for thought for the BIGGA Turf Managers' fraternity!

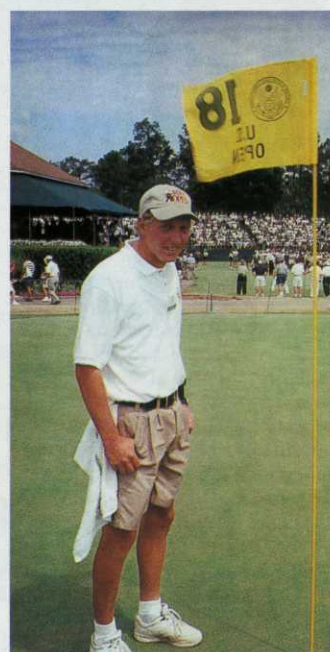
Perhaps younger readers may be thinking about enrolling in the OSU Program. Our advice is to go for it! In addition to performing a wide range of turf management practices, you'll also be able to attend the Florida Short-Course. This is a weekend of turfgrass seminars, hosted by OSU Professors, where you'll learn about pests and diseases, warm & cool season grasses etc.

Travelling the USA is fantastic too, with a whole variety of sightseeing and activities on offer. Interns have the opportunity to travel after the expiration of their visa. Watch a Broadway show in New York, sing the blues in Memphis, enjoy Mardi-Gras in New Orleans or marvel at New England's autumn colours. The choices are endless.

America is not a perfect utopia but it is a great country that is full of opportunities. Go try it for yourself – you may be pleasantly surprised!

Our sincere thanks to the Ohio State Intern Program 'team' for the opportunity to participate in this unique program, to Brad Kocher CGCS, Director of Golf Course Maintenance at Pinehurst for continuing to support the OSU Interns, to all our Superintendents we worked with in the USA: Joe

Alonzi CGCS, Brian Clodfelter, Jeff Hill CGCS, Paul Jett CGCS, Scott Kinnan and Fred Klauk Jr. Best of luck to the OSU Interns at Pebble Beach for the 2000 US Open. Finally, we'd like to thank the many other friends we made in the USA – someday we hope to return to see y'all!



Above: Patrik Benneryd, Pinehurst No. 2, 18th Hole. Just finished setting up.





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

## Ayrshire

There was no news last month with nothing much to report. As I type these notes on May 3 we are basking in glorious sunshine prompting the first real growth of the season. It's difficult to believe that only last week we were enduring sleet, hailstones and Baltic-like temperatures. Those of us who braved the elements at the spring outing will be able to relate to these conditions.

The spring tournament was held at Western Gailes Golf Club on Wednesday, April 26. It was played under extremely testing conditions described above. It was commendable that more than half the field actually returned a scorecard when the clubhouse was the only sensible option of the day.

My thanks to David Woodbyrne, of Southernness, who inspired me to continue when Brian Inglis of Greentech retired. He quipped in his Irish accent "Sure you can only get so wet and I'm going to stroll around the other half of this beautiful golf course. Don't let me keep you out here I'll just join the game behind".

I'm glad I battled on to make the prizes. Thanks David. The prize list was as follows:

Best scratch - Alan Forrest, of Western Gailes, with a little bit of local knowledge.

Best net - Duncan Gray of The Pines.

Alan and Duncan both qualify to represent our Section in the National Tournament at St Annes and Fairhaven. Class 1 - 1. Iain Barr, Largs Kelburn; 2. Brian Finlayson, Barassie; 3. John McLaughlan, Prestwick St Nicholas. Class 2 - 1. Marshall Sloss, Beith; 2. Andrew Reading, The Pines; 3. Gordon Haughey, Southernness.

Chairman, Duncan Gray, in his presentation speech welcomed everyone for attending on such a terrible day, with mention to Regional Administrator Peter Boyd and National Chairman, Elliott Small. He commented that it was a privilege to play at such a prestigious venue for our spring tournament and thanked the captain and committee of Western Gailes for granting us courtesy of their course. Jim Devlin and his greenstaff were thanked for presenting the course in such fine condition and the clubhouse staff were also thanked for keeping everyone well fed and refreshed all day.

The annual challenge match of the Region versus the Secretaries Association was played at Luffness New Golf Club where I had the honour of partnering Tom Murray

of Ratho Park to a narrow victory in an overall 8-2 success for the Greenkeepers. The only other Ayrshire representative was Keith McCartney, of Dumfries and Galloway, who partnered our R A Peter Boyd to victory also. Keith told me that he has been appointed Interim Head Greenkeeper with a view to a permanent appointment if all goes well. Congratulations on your promotion Keith and I'm sure it won't be long before you make an impression to confirm your position.

Remaining on the promotion subject, George Brown has appointed Jimmy Johnstone to Head Greenkeeper of the new Arran course at Turnberry. Congratulations to Jimmy and good luck with all the development on the Arran course.

Finally, just a reminder that the Scottish National Tournament will take place at Newmachar Golf Club, Aberdeen on Tuesday 27 June. All entries should be forwarded to our R.A. Peter Boyd. That's all for this month. Any news just call on 01505 683278.

Iain Barr

## Central

Another five new members join us this month plus two members are rejoining and, as usual, it's a warm welcome to the following: Mark Geddes and Gary Thomas, from Canmore GC in Dunfermline; Patrick Benneryd, from the Dukes Course; Craig Purdie, from St Andrews Links; Thomas Comerford, from Grangemouth, plus Peter Findlay, from Auchterarder, and Alan Purdie, from Crail, who are both rejoining. Welcome back lads!

The first golf tournament of the season was held in April when 75 members and guests made our spring tournament the best ever as for attendance, 69 players enjoying an excellent challenge over the Jubilee Course at St Andrews, despite the wind and rain. Our sincere thanks goes to everyone at the St Andrews Links Trust for the courtesy and all the assistance on the day, with a special thanks to Head Greenkeeper David Wilson and his staff for presenting the course in such excellent condition despite the weather. Also, thanks to everyone who helped on the day and to Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd and Scottish Chairman John Scott, who did us the honour of presenting our prizes to the following winners:-

Best Scratch - B. Heggie, St Andrews, 70. Best Nett - D. Leith, St Andrews, 74. 1st Class 1st H/Cap - K. Stirling, Kingsbarns, 75 BIH. 1st Class 2nd H/Cap - K. Mitchell, St Andrews, 75. 1st Class 3rd H/Cap - A. Paterson, Gleneagles, 77. 2nd Class 1st H/cap - S. Pearson, Aberdour, 76. 2nd Class 2nd H/Cap - D. Scott, Scoonie, 79. 2nd Class 3rd H/Cap - T. Harris, Cupar, 81. 3rd Class 1st H/Cap - A. Robertson,

Grangemouth, 76. 3rd Class 2nd H/Cap - A. Arnott, Dunnikier, 77. 3rd Class 3rd H/Cap - D. Brown, Muckhart, 80. Stewart's Quaich - B. Heggie/D. Leith, St Andrews, 144. Patrons - K. Brunton, Greentech, 76.

Guests - G. Moir, St Andrews, 73. Longest Drive - D. Simpson, Crieff. Nearest The Pin - S. Pearson, Aberdour. Mike Dennis Prize - D. McAllister, Ladybank, 79.

The qualifiers to represent the Central Section in the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship are David Leith, with the lowest gross score, and Alex Robertson with the lowest nett score from both the autumn '99 and spring '00 tournaments.

Congratulations to them and I am sure they will do their best to bring the trophies back to the Central Section.

The autumn tournament is at Stirling GC in September and hopefully we can have just as large an attendance. The entry forms will be sent out in plenty of time along with details of the next football match and next year's allocation of "Club 2002" tickets.

I am still waiting for the match report regarding the football match against the West Section. It's either very long or Andy is still trying to find adjectives to describe his team's performance!

This month's winner of "Club 2000" is Owen Browne with ticket number 0057 and a £50 cheque is on its way to you Owen. Congratulations!

Next month is the first of our bonus draws, when the prize will be a massive £100 so look out for next month's magazine, it could be your lucky number which is drawn out. That is if you bothered to buy your tickets!

Ten teams have entered this year's inter club tournament which is now well underway. Please remember to phone me with the result as soon as you have completed each match so that results can be kept up to date.

John Crawford

## North

Anyone out there wondering what happened to my Section notes in the April magazine? Well, I did send them in but they got mislaid somewhere along the line. First time they have gone missing in over eight years and I have been assured it should not happen again.

Looking through them there are some parts still relevant. New members to the Section were Leslie Phillip, from Nairn Dunbar, and Graham Lornie, from Royal Aberdeen. Congratulations to Gordon Mckie, St Andrews on his engagement to Susan. Unfortunately, as a result of this, he has moved to Edinburgh and

joined the East Section, so the longest drive in class two is up for grabs again.

No new members this month, but one or two on the move to report about. Stuart Hogg's new First Assistant is Kevin Fowler who has been promoted from within, while joining the staff at Fortrose is David Duggan, formerly at Ullapool GC. Paul Ross leaves Nairn after 15 years to take charge at Lumphanan GC, in Aberdeenshire. His place is taken by Ross Hamill, who worked at Craggan GC, Grantown-on-Spey previously.

At the end of this month we have the Scottish Greenkeepers Championship here in our Section at Newmachar GC by Aberdeen. Let's have a big entry from the North and hopefully we can win a few trophies over Dale Robertson's excellent course. It is one of the toughest courses I have played, so get practising.

I have just received confirmation of my entry to the BIGGA National Championship in Lytham later this year. Hopefully, next report I will be able to tell you that I have won a place at our spring outing in Buckpool and am awaiting a refund!

Iain Macleod.



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

## Cleveland

The weather tried its best to spoil the spring tournament at Ramside Hall on the 11 April, but despite the persistent rain all 29 competitors completed their rounds, although some scorecards were hardly legible. The course was in excellent condition, a credit to Roger Shaw and his staff.

Results: Category 1 sponsored by Border Sports was won by Darren McGee nett 73; 2. Andrew Wood nett 75; 3rd Ian Rowe nett 76. Category 2 sponsored by GEM was won quite surprisingly by Olly Sheppard nett 69, who would have expected a greenkeeper from Richmond winning a category?! Second and third were the Wearside pair, Barry Walker, nett 70 and Tony Cheesebrough, nett 71. Category 3 sponsored by Sportlands was won by the bookies favourite and the housewives' choice, Ian Pemberton nett 73 - his four hour practice sessions have paid off! 2. Neil Rogers nett 76; 3. Chris Powley nett 76. Prizes in each category were: 1st CD Players. 2nd Personal Stereos. 3rd Cameras.

Best nett on par 35 sponsored by Rite Feed was won by Barry Walker.

The two qualifiers for the Scotts/Charterhouse national final in Blackpool are: Best Gross - Darren McGee. Best Net - Olly







# Hunter<sup>®</sup> Golf

From The  
**Irrigation Innovators**  
Setting The Standards

UK Distributor - Evenproducts Limited  
Evesham Worcestershire  
WR11 4TS



[www.evenproducts.com](http://www.evenproducts.com)

Tel: 01386 41212 Fax: 01386 423769

EVENPRODUCTS

Ad Ref 609



A Unit of Jason Incorporated

Tel: 01291 634040  
Fax: 01291 634090  
E-Mail: [sales@dendix.com](mailto:sales@dendix.com)

## Heavy Timber Construction

Timber Bridges and Structures in a choice of Hardwoods and Softwoods. Available in "Kit" form for self assembly or fully installed at your location

Welsh Oak a Speciality - All timber from sustainable sources

Standard and Creative Construction Designs Available

For further details please phone, fax, e-mail or write to:

**DENDIX INTERNATIONAL LTD**  
Dendix House  
Lower Church Street  
Chepstow, Mon. NP16 5XT

Ad Ref 17

## WEED FREE<sup>®</sup>

• Advice • Application •  
Supply • Training

DRIFT FREE Contract Spraying  
utilising our purpose built machine

The **SPRAYING MANTIS**

Freephone: 0800 068 08 78

Fax: 07000 481022

Car: 0850 300104

Unit 14, Roundshead Drive, Warfield, Berkshire RG42 3RZ

WEED FREE is a Registered Trade Mark

Ad Ref 504



Sheppard. Good luck to both of them.

Entries for the Cleveland Shield, sponsored again by Carrs, were taken and a good response was had. Entrants will be informed as soon as the draw is made.



Any news contact me on 0780 8196558.

Steven Jaques

### North West

Beginning of May and at last the weather has warmed up and the rain has eased, at least for a few days. It certainly puts a different outlook on things with the trees coming into leaf and people are more pleasant. Today a member of one of my bowling clubs actually said "Good morning" and commented on how nice the green looked.

On April 20 we played at Hazel Grove GC and although the rain had not ceased for the previous seven days, we had a dry day except for the last few holes, which gave the tailenders a good soaking. The game should have been a match between the NW Section and the N Wales Section with two teams of 16 players, but the N Wales Section could only muster six players so the N W Section claimed the GEM trophy. This did not spoil the

day for those who did turn up as we had a sweep and the day was enjoyed by all. I would like to thank Gem Professional for once again sponsoring this annual tournament which has been played for many years. Thanks also to Mike Davie, Head Greenkeeper at Hazel Grove GC and his staff, for what must have been a mammoth task to have the course in such great condition and playable after the continuous rain. Thanks to Hazel Grove GC for allowing us courtesy of the course and the caterers for a great meal. I would also like to thank everybody who turned up to make it a great day and especially the six from N Wales. I am sure you thought it was worth coming.

The next tournament is the summer meeting at West Derby CC on Wednesday 28 June. Lunch will be served between 12 noon and 1pm. The tee will be available from 1.30 pm. All applications, including a cheque for £15 made payable to BIGGA N.W. to be sent to Peter Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill Road, Liverpool L18 3HU, no later than Friday 23 June. Evening meal and prize presentations to take place once the golf is completed. Smart dress in the evening please.

Any news or complaints you can contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

### North Wales

The annual N.West versus N.Wales match, was lost before a ball was hit. A combination of Easter weekend and trade members not allowed to play meant we couldn't raise a team. Our apologies go to the N West, Hazel Grove and Gem the sponsors. It's just one of those things. I know even if I was the keenest golfer in the world, I wouldn't have been able to make it. Three short weeks on the run isn't conducive to taking extra days off, especially with the weather leading up to and including Easter.

More golf. We got the regional qualifiers wrong. They are Sc-9 Allen Lewis and Andy Peel, Reserves Darryl Davies and Ian Buckley. 10 - 18 Craig Wheeler and Mathew Pooley, Reserves Paul Massey and Les Parry. 18 - 24 Jeff Jago and Pete Sproston, Reserves Eric Rowlands and Aiden Jones to be held on the 10 August at Fishwick Hall. I hope we've got that right now. Golf, silly game, far too complex for me. Think I'll take up quantum physics, far simpler and I bet it's far less irritating. Don't get me wrong, love green-keeping, but the game just brings out the worst elements of human nature and I for one don't need the hassle that goes with it. Nothing ever goes smoothly. A lot of effort is put in and a load of rubbish comes out. Maybe I'm holding the

clubs wrong. Now, seriously, I think that everyone involved in this industry needs to look at themselves when it comes to the game itself, analyse it truthfully and I think the majority wouldn't like what they saw.

See ya

Dave Goodridge

### Northern

It had to happen again. Our return visit to Bradley Hall GC for the spring tournament, sponsored by White Moss Amenities, was cancelled again due to the white stuff, heavy hail. With everyone playing at least seven holes and we had a count back over the last 3 holes played, the results are as follows: Div 1. 1. Dave Collins, 2. Richard Barker, 3. Brian Hudson. Div 2. 1. Alvin Fawcett, 2. Richard Smith, 3. Tito Arana. Div 3. 1. Jim Brown, 2. Dave Thackery, 3. Les Kirkbright. Trade Prize, Mike Brcare. Longest Drive, Andrew Clark, sponsored by Acorn. Nobody reached the nearest pin so this will be played for at another event. No silverware was presented, but the sponsor's prizes were given out as normal.

Many thanks to the Head Greenkeeper, Alan Court and his staff for the condition of the course, shame about the weather, and their assistance on the day. Thanks also to the catering staff for

## The Articulator®

"Quality rotary mowers for a world that isn't flat"

### 325EF

72" to fit  
all leading  
outfront  
mowers



### 425HD

96"  
38hp Kubota  
Zero turn &  
instant height  
change

### 621ER

126" low cost  
rotary mower



### 721XR

132"  
Unmatched  
quality & high  
productivity

for details or a demonstration contact...

**Marwood Limited**

Court Lodge Farm, Forge Lane, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent ME15 0HQ

Tel: 01622 728718

Fax: 01622 728720

email: marwood@kentnet.com.uk



the meal and the golf club committee for the golf course. Final thanks to White Moss Amenities for sponsoring the event.

The qualifiers for the National Championship and Regional Final Golf Day will now be played for at President's Day on Wednesday 21 June at Hollins Hall Hotel & Country Club. This will be sponsored by Greenkeeping Supply.

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 seven 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.

We welcome this month as new members: Stephen Edwards, Kirkstall Valley Golf Centre; Nicholas Robinson, Boothferry Park Golf Centre; Simon Hardcastle, John Daniel and Paul Gawthorpe, Sandmoor Golf Club; Matt Bolton, Leeds Golf Club; Michael Patrick and Mark Pryce, Ganton Golf Club. You can be assured of a warm welcome at any of our section events. If you have any queries, don't hesitate to pick up the phone and give me a ring. There is no other news at the moment. If anybody has any, then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 238 3188/mobile 07790 678572.

Andy Smith



**Midland Region**  
Les Emery  
Tel: 0116 287 9036

## East of England

Sorry there has been no articles for the last few months, but things seem to have been quiet in the East of England.

On May 3 the Section held the first golf day out at Canwick Park Golf Club (Lincoln). Although the day was damp a good turn out of members enjoyed an excellent testing course set out by Head Greenkeeper Steve Webster and his staff.

Thanks to Canwick for the courtesy of the course and the hospitality on the day.

Stuart Jeffs, of Rigby Taylor, the main sponsors, was unable to present the cup but we hope he is on the mend and playing with us soon.

The cup and the Scotts/Charterhouse Low Handicap qualifier went to Graeme Macdonald of Newark Golf Club with a 73/4/69.

Second and the best gross went to Les Howkins of Cleethorpes Golf Club with an 82/7/75 and third went to Russ Moody of Lincoln Golf Club.

The nearest the pin was won with a great shot of 21" by David Hornsey, of Woodhall Spa, and the Longest Drive was taken by Graham Bontoft, also of Woodhall Spa.

Thanks to all other sponsors on the day for making the prize table look so full. Sponsors:- Barenbrug, Atkins, Bourne Nursery Supplies, Tower Sports, Alpha Amenity.

The trip to the Scotts factory is to go ahead and I will be writing to those who have shown interest, but there are still some places left (phone me).

We are also thinking of running a Go Karting night but we are looking for a sponsor.

There is also possibly going to be another Golf Management Team Competition, which will be held at Glencorse (Leicester). The team consists of the Head Greenkeeper, Greens Chairman, Secretary and Captain. Anybody interested contact myself for more details.

On behalf of the East of England Section I would like to welcome Les Emery to his post as the new Regional Administrator for the Midland Region.

If you hear of any news please telephone me on 01636 626564 or 0860 502464.

Graeme Macdonald

## East Midlands

By the time you have read this article, this year's spring tournament will have been played and enjoyed by 34 members with the best Nett and Gross winners qualifying for the Scotts/Charterhouse National Tournament. The qualifier itself was played at the pleasant course of Chilwell Manor in Nottinghamshire, with prizes for the day sponsored by E T Breakwells. More information and scores will appear next month.

This month also sees the addition of several new members and the reappearance of old members, names should appear elsewhere in the magazine. Also the following members have transferred from the Sheffield Section to our Section. J. Kirkham, K. Taylor, J. Cumberland, A. Rhodes, D. McJannet, P. Duff, B. Bowring & B. Paling. Hopefully all these members will participate in Section events as they will be made most welcome.

On 30 April Alan Roberts, of the Midland Section, and myself travelled to Worktop for the Kilton Forest Open and finished second with a Better-Ball score of 6 under par. If any member has more golf news or any relevant information for this report, please let me know.

Antony Bindley.

## Mid Anglia

An open forum discussion group took place at South Beds Golf Club in late March. Although only a dozen members attended, a lively discussion took place on various subjects including "health & safety," "bugs," "better methods" and "fertilisers."

Our first golf event took place on April 20 at Northants County Golf Club, the spring meeting qualifying event for the National Tournament. As I'm sure all our members can recall, April was notable for rain and yet more rain; not the best conditions to prepare for 30 greenkeepers playing your course so early in the year! It did actually stop raining for a few hours, however, which enabled us to enjoy a wonderful golf course in excellent condition for the time of year. Our thanks to David Low and all his staff for their gallant efforts - it was much appreciated. Thanks also to Northants County for allowing us courtesy of the course and for an excellent meal afterwards.

A Stableford competition was played in the morning, the results of which were as follows:

1st - Richard Goddard, Shendish Manor 35 points. 2nd - John Blair, Brocket Hall.

35 points. 3rd - Kevin Armstrong, John O' Gaunt 35 points. (winning order decided on countback).

Longest Drive was won by Geoff James, of John O' Gaunt, and Nearest the Pin by Tom Houghton, of Pytchley Golf Club.

The afternoon round - an 18 hole medal - was the qualifying event for the National Tournament, to be played at St Anne's Old Links and Fairhaven Golf Clubs in September. The two golfers who qualify for this event are Russell Howson and Mark Whittle, both from Woburn, who had a 72 gross and 79 net respectively. I'm sure they are both pleased to represent the Section and Midland Regional team at such a prestigious event. We wish them both well.

Our final thanks go to all our trade members, who once again supported our golf day; particularly in this case Rigby Taylor, represented by Mark Pyrah, who provided the prize table. Simon Hedley, of Boughton Loam, was the best trade player on the day with 32 Stableford points in the morning round.

Teams who entered the Lodgeway Four Ball competition should have received the draw by now, please ensure all matches are played by the appropriate dates.

David Forsyth, of Mid Herts Golf Club, has been recruited onto the committee as Handicap Secretary in place of Neil Whittaker. A new Regional Administrator - Les

Emery - has recently been appointed to replace Peter Larter. Paul Lockett

## Midland

With record levels of rainfall recorded and the cold temperatures we have experienced in April, it has not been one of the easiest months for all greenkeepers. It was then no great surprise that our scheduled spring tournament at South Staffs had to be cancelled.

I do hope all of you who entered this tournament got the message and can make the rearranged date. I will therefore have to report all the results in next month's issue.

As I have mentioned in my previous report, the Midland Committee have decided to put together an agenda which sets out our intentions for the year to come. The agenda is as follows-1. To organise and promote four golf tournaments for its members. 2. To organise and promote a doubles knockout tournament. 3. To organise and promote three matches against other golf associations. These will be dependent upon the commitment of the section members. 4. To organise an educational trip to a major golfing venue. This will be again dependent on the commitment of the Section membership. 5. To keep membership informed with any information that is of importance at section level.

Once again I would ask anyone who has information to put into this report please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Jonathan Wood



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

## East Anglia

Our first meeting of the year was held at Haverhill Golf Club on a bright spring day. The 18 hole Medal competition was the section qualifier for the Charterhouse/Scotts National Tournament. The course was in excellent condition and all credit must go to Alan and his team; Glen, Jamie and Gary for all their hard work. Signs of the one inch of rain that fell the previous day were barely noticeable, although the amount and speed of water that ran through the stream on the course provided us with a reminder of the conditions the day before. Once again, many thanks Alan.

Steven Nicholes, Haverhill's captain, welcomed the Section and hoped everyone enjoyed the day, which went without saying. Robert Whiting thanked Alan for the presentation of the course and Ian Willett for his hard work organising the day and ensuring things rang smoothly.





John Noyce, of Scotts UK, presented the prizes on behalf of Charterhouse/Scotts UK and the qualifiers for the National Tournament are: Scratch, R. Whiting, Handicap, J. Wright. Results: 1-9 handicap - 1. R. Boyce, nett 68, 2. R. Whiting, nett 69, 3. T. Moreton, nett 70. 10 - 18 handicap - 1. J. Wright, nett 67, 2. I. Willett, nett 69, 3. S. Millard, nett 69. 19 - 28 handicap - 1. G. Rayfield, nett 76, 2. J. Pymmer, nett 83, 3. K. Titchal, nett 84. Trade - 1. T. Bonner, nett 68, 2. S. Nicholes, nett 70, 3. L. Pearman, nett 70.



Toilet seat, M. Taylor again! This was won for failing to return the seat after earning the right to have his name engraved on it at our last meeting. As members of the Section know, this trophy represents those times when the BOTTOM drops out of your game, but in this instance I think Mike just wanted to SIT on it a little longer!

Thanks to all the trade for their company and for their help with the prize table. Charterhouse, Scotts UK, Aventis, Rigby Taylor, Rushbrook & Sons, Sheriffs, Sisis, Tomlinson Groundcare, Toro UK, Turf Care.

Future dates and venues: June 9 - Rushmere; July 25 - Stoke by Nayland v Essex; August 15 -

Royal Cromer; October 10 - Waldringfield Heath; December 19 - Thorpeness.

2001 venues: Felixstowe Ferry, Eaton, Richmond Park, Purdis Heath and Thorpeness. Last, but by no means least, it was good to see Derek Farrington swinging a golf club again. He appears well on the mend.

See you all at Rushmere.  
Steve Millard

### Surrey

I am typing this on May 5 and hopefully the second spring of the millennium has arrived and the gloom on the faces of our members has been replaced with the warm glow of anticipation of fine dry summer days with a hint of rain during the night. By the time you all read this in June, we will know.

Our spring golf meeting took place on May 4 at Merrist Wood Golf Club and the best nett and best gross qualifier for the Charterhouse/Scotts National Competition. Best Gross, Brian Turner. Best Nett, John Groombridge. 2. Steve Holmes, 3. John Mathis. Nearest the Pin 2nd hole. Bob Rogers. 8th hole Justin Llewellyn. 11th Hole. Bert Watson. Nearest the Pin in 2 shots 12 hole. Dave Murdoch. Longest Drive 17th hole, Nigel 2 Iron Colley. The hole-in-one prize sponsored by John Shaw of Toro was not won.

Many thanks to Merrist Wood Golf Club for the courtesy of their course and a special thank you to Tom Smith and his team for the fine presentation. The only mild criticism from some of the longer hitters was that perhaps next time they should play from the ladies tees and the less able golfers should stay in the bar. Joking aside, Merrist Wood is a long course and a true test for all amateur and professional golfers.

Our next Golf Day is on June 30 and the venue is Gattin Manor Golf and Country Club, somewhere in the deepest Surrey countryside. Please contact the Course Manager, John Davidson, who will be willing to supply, for a small fee, a map, a compass, a passport and the optional inoculations some think advisable when on safari.

Brian Willmott

### Essex

New Members: Mark Paxton joins us from Canons Brook Golf Club in Harlow, along with Jody Hawkes from Regiment Way and Nicholas Pomfret of Bentley GC.

Golf Days: Forrester Park was the venue for this year's Charterhouse/Scotts sponsored National Championship qualifier and Avoncrop Amenity/Tuckwells sponsored Spring Trophy, with 40 people including trade and guests attending the day. On a wet and windy day and on a course with



fairways no wider than your average 'A' road, scores were expected to be high, but all sections were won by scores within one or two of the par 72.

Qualifiers for the National Championship were: Best Gross, Andy Sheehan, Bentley GC. Best net, Tony Kirwin, Colchester GC. Best of luck at Royal Lytham fellas, I have heard the night life is great Andy and the practice facilities aren't too bad either Tony. The Spring Trophy results were as follows: Cat 1. 0 - 9, 1. Steve Crosdale, 2. Carl Croucher, 3. Steve Cox. Cat 2. 10 - 18, 1. John Selwood, 2. Malcolm Smith, 3. Chris Ward. Cat 3. 19 - 28, 1. Mark Stopps, 2. Peter Cannon, 3. Keith Chinnery.

Trade prize went to Steve Denton, of Rigby Taylor, who shot a magnificent nett 66 with Forrester Park Social Secretary, Peter Stuart winning the guest prize with a nett 69. Longest Drive went to Forrester Park Head Greenkeeper, Roland Hughes, and a surprise Nearest the Pin winner was Martin Forrester. All in all a very good day for the committee who, with the exception of Dominic Rodgers. Come on Dom, took home some lovely prizes including 'boof' coloured wind proof tank tops, or were they muscle tops?

# A 'red engine' that doesn't believe in scalping.





Special thanks to past Captain, Dennis Cornwall, along with all the staff at Forrester Park for the hospitality shown. This should be extended to Simon Banks who did a great drag act doubling as a rather fine waitress.

The trade as usual continue to strongly support our Section, Rigby Taylor, Sherriff Crop Care, Gem Professional, Bourne Amenity, Banks Horticulture, Grass Roots and Driving Force Leisure all donated raffle prizes. Thanks guys. Longest drive and nearest the pin prizes were donated by Bill and Liam Galway, of Greenkeeping Supply Company.

Our next event is the Summer Trophy held at Theydon Bois GC on June 13. Hopefully information will have reached you well before the publication of this edition of the magazine.

Education: As yet, John Sinclair has been too busy visiting bike shows and relaxing in Crete to arrange any seminars, but rest assured there will be more opportunities in the near future for you to get out of the house for a few hours and end up in the nearest public house. Who knows, you might even learn something in the process.

Steve Crosdale.



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

### Devon and Cornwall

The Westurf 2000 took place again at the purpose built arena at Westpoint, Exeter, located just minutes off the M5 motorway. The indoor arena created a superb atmosphere, very similar to BTME, allowing visitors to catch up on the latest developments within our industry.

Visitors also had the chance to sample the hospitality on the BIGGA stand and to meet our Chairman, Elliott Small, Executive Director, Neil Thomas and Tracey Maddison, who were on hand to answer any questions. The seminars were very well supported and run throughout the day.

Our congratulations must go to our Regional Administrator, Paula and the Regional Board, for an excellent show which saw a rise in attendance. Hopefully next year, as the word gets around, we will have many more trade companies exhibiting and even more people attending.

Richard Whyman

### South Coast

Very little to report this month. At going to press we had not played

our spring tournament. Remember the summer tournament is at High Post on July 19, your entries are requested early and this time to Chris Sturgess on 07777 3138409 before 8pm please.

Welcome to six new members in the South Coast Section. Let's see you supporting the golf and lectures. Anyone with information about moves, promotions or just interesting facts about people and greenkeeping, please let me know.

Lastly, remember BIGGA members are the best and we always present ourselves that way. Many clubs operate a mobile phone ban, so please be discreet with yours. See you around the Section.

Tony Gadd

### South Wales

We gathered together on April 5 at Pencoed College for a combined BIGGA/IOG

Quiz. Five teams of three people answered question from our very own Chris Tarrant, Malcolm Davis. Team 1 The Handsomes: H. Evans, A. Hatcher, T. Cavell. Team 2 The Wellies: C. Jones, H. Purnell, A. Hughes. Team 3 The Academics: P. Gillard, P. Discome, M. Cook. Team 4 The Not Intelligence: Myself, A. Panks, R. Patterson. Team 5 The Poa's: T. Horne, D. Ward, P. Lacey. Thanks to score master Colin Murphy for the final outcome with team one winning

with 52 points and a bottle of whisky each, lucky them: Team 5 second with 50 points: Team 3. third with 49 Points: Team 4. fourth with 42 Points: Team 5. fifth with 39 points. No wonder team 1 won they had Ted Cavell on there side who has seemed to have travelled the world like Fillias Fogg and team 2 had David Ward, an old seadog himself.

I can only express what I have heard about Westurf which was again a good success with many trade stands and good entertainment.



On May 3. at Southerndown Golf Club the Spring Tournament was held with best Gross 80. A Roach. Best Net 64. Steven Lloyd receiving the Cardiff Cup.

Both the Best Nett & Best Gross also won themselves entry to this year's National Championship courtesy of Scotts. 2nd Best Net 65. Gareth Evans: 3rd Best Net 75 Bob Hanford just beating Chairman Adrian Panks by one shot. Thanks also to secretary Alan Hughes and to Southerndown GC for courtesy of the course and to G Johnson and his team. To the caterers for food and thanks again to Martin Townsend from Scotts for sponsorship of the day.

This years Match against GC



You'll keep your hair on with Toro's Groundsmaster®. There are no shocks or surprises – just superb Toro performance, with high levels of safety, manoeuvrability and productivity. The Groundsmaster's exceptional contour-following rotary deck gets into undulations and over humps with absolutely no scalping, and the machine's agility gives a close-cut finish even on turf edges and around trees, bushes or water hazards. Whether choosing the large, highly productive 3000-D, or the more compact 200 and 300 series, you'll get a smarter cut with positively no scalping. Simply call Toro on 01480 226800 and we'll arrange for a local dealer to contact you.

**TORO®**

**BRINGS QUALITY TO  
THE SURFACE**



Secretaries is to be held at Tredegar Park GC. on August 11. 1pm tee off.

Richard Hatcher

## South West

Well, finally we have reached the halfway mark of the year and of course the weather in June will be gloriously hot. This is a far cry from the erratic spring weather we experienced. April had three times its normal rainfall and had depressed greenkeepers reaching for the bottle of Prozac.

This weather was typified at Clevedon Golf Club which hosted the spring tournament and National Qualifier, sponsored once again by Scotts and Charterhouse. The rain came down in biblical proportions. However, it was nice to see a number of new faces attending a sectional event for the first time.

Paula Humphries and Martin Townsend, from Scotts, saw all the competitors off from the first tee. Everyone agreed that the Clevedon greenkeepers had done an amazing job in getting the course cut and looking superb despite the weather. The greens in particular remained excellent to putt on, although eventually the rain won the day and a couple of the greens started to flood severely.

By the time everyone had passed through the 11th hole, a decision was made to abandon the tournament and the winners would be decided from a count of the front nine scores only.

The results of the National Qualifier sponsored by Scotts and Charterhouse were as follows: Low Handicap Winner, Gary Cook. Lowest Gross, J Byrne. Kevin Day and Ben

Davies were runners up.

Without doubt, the main talking point of the day was a hole-in-one at the 11th achieved by Maurice Pearce. This was also the nearest the pin hole. Maurice then purchased a bottle of whisky and placed it on the bar for anyone to celebrate his achievement with

him. At that very moment, Matt Hawker shot to the bar like a greyhound released from his trap and poured himself a large treble.

Once again thanks should go to Scotts and Charterhouse for their continued support of this event, the Clevedon greenkeepers, catering staff and the secretary for allowing us courtesy of the course.

The next tournament will be the summer tournament at Erlestoke Sands Golf Club in Wiltshire on July 13. I'm sure this event will attract large numbers.

Remember to contact me if you would like to participate on a particular training and education course. I am also still waiting for the first person to show an interest in taking over the monthly report writing and education and training officer. I step down at the next AGM in November, so someone will have to take over. Get your applications in early to avoid disappointment.

Paul Cunningham

## Northern Ireland

It's the first week in May and I'm sitting outside the Green Shed writing these notes (on my lunch break I might add). The sun is burning the top of my head (after a closer than usual crew cut) and I'm watching golfers on the green just in front enjoying their golf; yes conditions at present are heavenly - great cutting days, fine growing conditions, and, with the sun shedding its golden glint over the course, everything looks super. It was great to see the sun after such a long absence and it took my staff and me a few days to work out just what that great yellow thing was in the sky. But anyway enough rambling, here's some news.

The first of our socialising events or golf days was held at Belvoir Park on Tuesday, April 11. The weather wasn't the kindest, what

with heavy hailstone showers and a bitterly cold wind, but a turn out of around 36 ventured out to brave the elements.

The course was beautifully presented and full credit must go to Pat Devlin and his staff for courtesy of the course and also the catering staff who served up excellent grub that was eaten rapidly.

Our sponsors for the day were Drilling and Pumping Services. This is a company relatively new to our industry, which provides a full range of irrigation installation and superb back up. Alastair Wilson, the Managing Director and Partner, joined in the golf and afterwards at prize giving gave us a brief chat about the services his company provides. Drilling and Pumping services can be contacted on 028 9181 8347. Once again many thanks. The prizes were won by Stephen Brady, of Royal County Down, in first place, Gary Murphy, of Silverwood Golf Club, in second, and in third place Noel Crawford, also from Royal County Down.

Apologies to the sponsors - our Chairman, Graham Wylie, wasn't there, but he allegedly attached the wrong date to the wrong day and in a tizzy completely missed the whole event. At least that's his side of the story, but no harm done as the day was a great success.

Congratulations to Terry Crawford and Nigel Aitken who have been picked to go to

St Andrews to join the BIGGA Open Championship Support Team. Volunteering your own time and holidays is very commendable and I hope you enjoy your trip.

New members to the Region are William Walker, from Royal Portrush, and Gavin White, from Portstewart Golf Club. We'll be delighted to see you at the events.

June 30 sees the Annual Charity Event to be held at Clondeboy Golf Club. If you wish to play in this even phone Terry on 0410 076663 and book a tee-off time. Please do not turn up without booking as this is a very well attended event with upwards of 100 players, and you may find that you might not be accommodated.

A fee of £20, which includes your golf, supper and entertainment should be paid before you play on the day. This is open to all Greenkeepers, Secretary Managers and Green Conveyors, so please do try to make the effort to come along. It's a worthwhile cause.

See you later!

Iain Harrison

## Around the green

See you next month!



Congratulations to the qualifiers so far in the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship for the BIGGA Challenge Trophy.

Keep those results coming in, and we'll highlight the qualifiers every month.



### UK OFFICE:

50a Market Place  
Thirsk, North Yorkshire YO7 1LH  
Tel: (01845) 525585  
Fax: (01845) 523133  
e-mail: horticulture@jmcl.freemove.co.uk

### WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS PICTURE?

Remember the AQUA-ROOT [HUMATE + wetter] black pellets which were much more effective than plain wetters? Now they are even better with beneficial micro-organisms for increased root bio-mass and improved plant health.



Please Contact Us.

**Humate International, Inc.** - - [www.humateintl.com](http://www.humateintl.com)



**KOHLER****DEERE  
DIESEL****YANMAR****INDUSTRIAL ENGINES**

Barrus is the UK distributor for Yanmar, Kohler and John Deere engines and spare parts.

The Kohler petrol engines range from 4 to 26hp and the Yanmar diesel engines from 3 to 112hp air and water cooled. John Deere water cooled diesels from 50 to 500hp.



Barrus pride themselves in having an extensive stock of engines and spares that provide a quick and efficient supply to YOU the customer.

For further information contact John Day at: E.P. Barrus Ltd,  
Launton Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire OX6 0UR  
Tel: 01869 363609 Fax: 01869 363640 jday@barrus.co.uk



Ad Ref 65

**3 STAR RATED NOZZLES**

FOR ALL SPRAYERS,  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH LERAPS

**HARDI \* LURMARK \* BILLERICAY**

**SPRAYER WASH DOWN KITS**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
GROUNDWATER REGULATIONS  
STARTING FROM £320 + VAT

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ADVICE,  
CONTACT JAMES WILSON  
ON 01904 738533

G. & A. E.  
**WILSON**

Sprayers and spray related products

Ad Ref 632

**ORGANIC +****(ORGANIC FERTILISER AND PRODUCTS)**

We provide high quality complete base fertiliser which is 100% organic, natural and safe.

A special blend of poultry manure with seaweed and containing essential trace elements with an NPK of 5.3.3 it is available in 3mm, 4.5mm pellets or in granulated form. This provides natural fast AND slow release.

1. Improves soil structure
2. Increases water holding capacity of soil
3. Reducing leaching problems
4. Stimulates soil micro-organisms
5. 100% natural, environmentally sound
6. Heat treated to remove weed seed, Pathogens etc

We also supply our growth booster with NPK 9.3.2 this is also 100% organic and vegetable based.

CALCIFIED SEAWEED CAN ALSO BE SUPPLIED  
FOR USE AS A SOIL CONDITIONER

Please phone or further details

**ORGANIC +**

P.O. Box 18, Darlington, County Durham DL3 6XS  
Tel: 01325 249076 Fax: 0870 1240737  
e-mail: kbj@quista.net e-mail: sales@organic-plus.co.uk  
www.researchglobal.co.uk www.organic-plus.co.uk  
www.greenfert.com

Ad Ref 19

**Spray-tech**

advanced spraying equipment  
for maximum operator & environmental protection



- Chemlok Pro-mix filling systems
- Spray-tech sprayers
- Driftbeater LERAP-Low Dirt
- \*\*\* booms
- Holder Multipack

**Spray-tech spraying equipment**

the highest safety specification of any amenity sprayer worldwide

- maximum productivity
- on-target accuracy
- total protection

What are you waiting for? A hole in the weather?

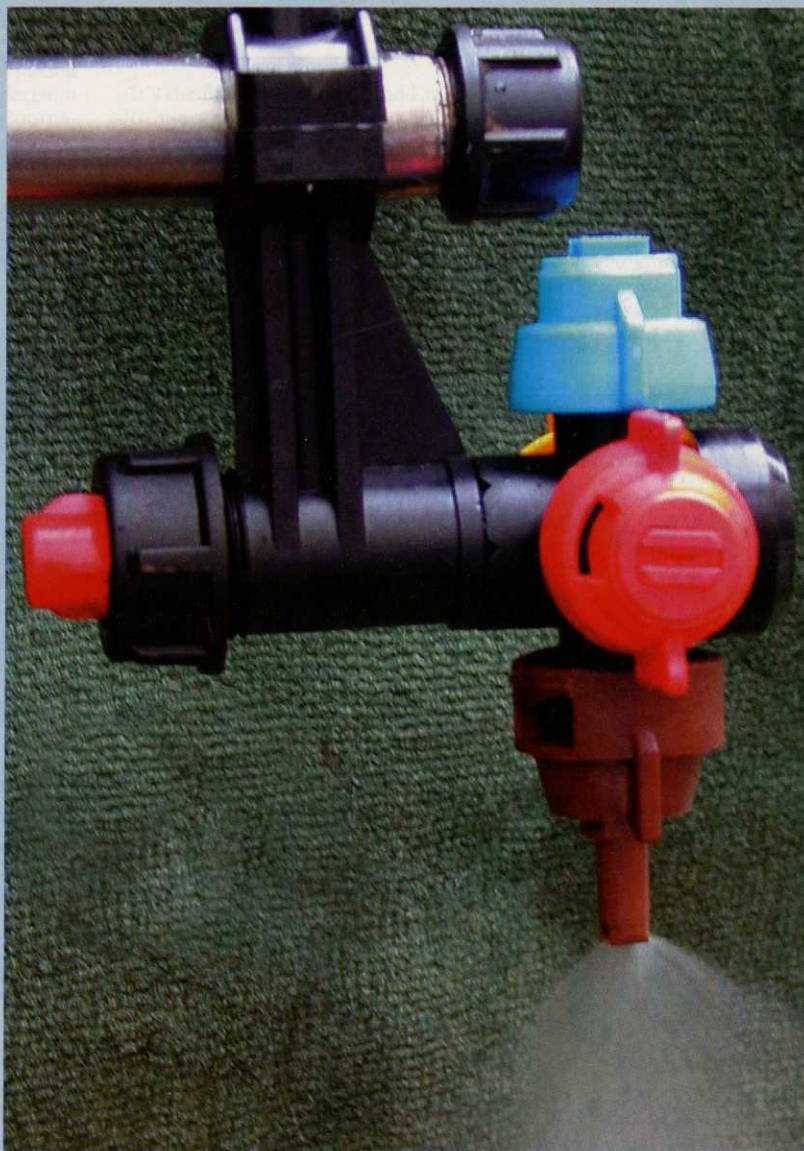
To find out more visit our web site:  
**www.spraywithsafety.com**  
or call **01932 269495**

Ad Ref 22



Bill Oliver looks at the latest legislation which effects sprayers and gives some useful advice on how to stay on the right side of it...

# Spray away



It is virtually impossible for dealer sales staff to be on top of all the latest in sprayer health and safety legislation so perhaps the best policy is to ask the people at the sharp end – the manufacturer, through its sales representative.

With that in mind I offer the following assistance in understanding the latest regulations which have been brought in to assist with safe spraying.

## **Ground Water**

Ground water regulations after spraying. You are not allowed to flush sprayer washings down the drain or onto waste ground.

The sprayer must be fully rinsed and sprayed back out over sprayed or designated area.

That's the regulations but it's more than that. **A clean sprayer is a safe sprayer.**

There are three main ways to rinse sprayer units properly.

A full tank of water but make sure it is to the brim of the tank, cleaning inside roof of tank and operate all controls to flush out pipes. Spray out as required.

Carry extra water. In a full rinsing system this must have a rinsing head fitted to clean tank properly and have at least 10% of tank capacity of clean water. Rinse and operate all controls. Spray out as required.

Have cleaning head fitted and put clean water at least 10% of tank





capacity. Rinse and operate all controls. Spray out as required.

This 10% comes from tests used in agriculture where tank capacities are much larger giving larger flow and rinse capability but how can you safely rinse, say, a 200 litre tank six metre boom with balanced pressure controls induction hopper & can rinse with 20 litre of water add to this possibly hose reels with 30/50 metre of hose lance/possible walk booms.

A good guide below 400 litres tanks would be one quarter of the tank capacity. Don't forget to operate all control systems

Be aware of some can rinsing units. Although they need to be flushed of chemical residues they can leak around lid if bottle or container is not placed over them.

Practicality of carrying extra water for rinsing, especially on lightweight vehicles and tractors, could make them unstable as well as the extra weight on greens.

In my experience a good quality direct flow-rinsing head with 40/50 litres of water giving flow and presser would complete the job properly.

#### Local environment risk assessment for pesticides

Drift from certain pesticides could effect water quality and would be harmful to aquatic-life and wildlife so a six metre buffer zone has been set for some pesticides. Please read labels carefully, you can bring this down to one metre by using LERAP tested jets.

Turning any sprayer into a top 3 star rated unit is easy, well almost.

There are several three star jets on the market that will do this but only when using specification from LERAP test. This could be, say, 50cm spacing at 50cm above target at two bare pressure six kmh at a maximum given wind speed so choose your jet carefully.

These details should all be recorded when doing your spraying record and assessment.

It is possible to put two jets on the same holder thus doubling your output. This would also, in my view, break specification.

After saying this, I believe bubble/low drift nozzles are very good on fine to medium droplet applications. A true end users tool.

Finally, after going on about LERAP and ground water regulations the key questions are - Is your sprayer fit to use? and will your new sprayer be fit to use?

There are still low specification sprayers they will try to sell you. So find out about British Standard EN907 as just part of what you should be looking for. Look at pump application rates. Often cheap sprayers mean small pump. You will have to operate at high revs giving wear and tear on vehicle / pump / operator noise & vibration and even then you might not achieve some of the higher application rates. 75 litres per minute and above is a good size to start for six metre booms. Try list below as guide to other safety features.

- Balanced pressure controls.
- Clothing locker.
- Clean water bottle.
- Hose pipe holder or way of filling without contamination of hose.
- Chemical induction hopper.

Finally, I'm often asked about sprayer MOTs. This is a voluntary scheme at the moment run by the AEA and having it done does not mean that your sprayer will pass HSE regulations but it will give you a good starting point as jets, application, pipes and pressure fittings will all be tested. Our sprayer cannot be failed in these tests but a recommendation can be made that you fit a new part or whatever. It would be down to your own safety assessment or equipment and the onus would be on you.

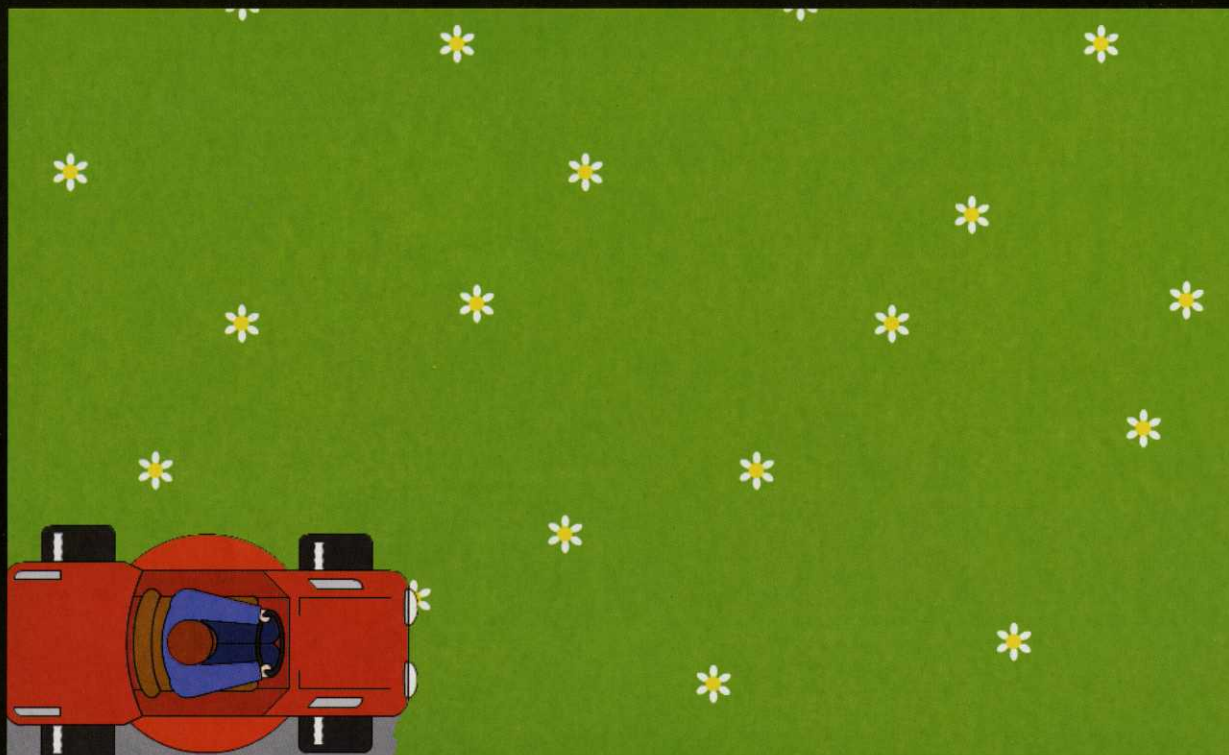
Hope this look into the world of spraying will assist you. I would be happy to help with any problems you may have with any make of sprayer.

Good spraying, see you all soon.



Bill Oliver works on Technical Sales for Gambetti Barre UK Ltd





# GET ONLINE WITH BIGGA

## Lloyds

**Manufacturers of High Quality Mowing Equipment**

*120th Anniversary 1878 - 1998*



**Lloyds Elite Triple Mower** is the ideal machine for high work rate requirements on golf courses, parks or sports grounds with a cutting performance up to 5 acres an hour designed with today's rigorous conditions in mind. *Now with floating heads and interchangeable vertirake.*



Award winning **Lloyds Paladin** self-propelled mower gives the finest cut to the finest turf. On bowling greens, tennis courts, cricket squares, golf putting greens etc.

'Playability is seriously affected by the finish of the turf which therefore demands the mowing excellence provided by Paladin - now with 11 bladed cylinders and groom front rollers



**Lloyds Leda** mower units are very robust machines designed for prolonged regular use on golf courses, municipal parks or similar landscaped areas.

The standard unit being used for a good finish with regular cutting while the giant is used on rougher areas or where less frequent cutting is required

**LLOYDS & CO. LETCHWORTH LTD**  
**BIRDS HILL, LETCHWORTH, HERTS SG6 1JE**  
**TEL: 01462 683031 FAX: 01462 481964**

## BATHGATE Leisure

# The Greenkeepers Choice...



### Top Dressings

- Combining technology and quality.
- All dressings are heat treated and mixed to specific requirements.

### Rootzones

- The perfect foundation for optimum growth.
- Quality is assured through on-site laboratory testing.



**800 TONNES AVAILABLE DAILY**  
**DELIVERY WITHIN 24 HOURS**

BATHGATE SILICA SANDS LTD  
 Arcild Quarry, Congleton Road, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 4SN  
 Tel: 01270 762828, Fax: 01270 760557





The flags of 12 nations were on display at BIGGA House on 15, 16 and 17 April when 24 delegates from Belgium, Britain, Canada, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Switzerland and the United States attended the World Conference on Greenkeeper Education and Training.

# World Education Conference



**Above:** Back row: Phillipe Mallaerts (Belgium), John Van Hoesen (Netherlands), Clive Osgood (BIGGA), Clus Detlef Ratjen (Germany/FEGGA), Martyn Jones (Myerscough), Neil Thomas (BIGGA), Paulo Croce (Italy), Ken Richardson (BIGGA)  
**Centre:** Sami Collins (BIGGA), Margeir Vilhjalmsson (Iceland), Kate Entwistle (STRI), Jaqui Atkin (Canada), Sergei Dolmatov (Russia), Gilbert Ayer (Switzerland), Gordon Child (BIGGA), Stal Bo (Norway), Daniel Ward (GCSAA), Dimtrie Boutyrin (Russia), Dean Cleaver (FEGGA)  
**Front Row:** Carol Borthwick (Elmwood), Elliott Small (Chairman BIGGA).  
**Not in Picture:** Paddy Holahan (Ireland), David Golding (GTC)

In his welcoming remarks, the Chairman of BIGGA, Elliott Small, welcomed delegates and said that 'although the countries represented may differ in culture and be separated geographically, the basic principles of greenkeeping are the same all over the world. Therefore, it must follow that greenkeeper education and training should also be similar. He hoped that the gathering together, over 3 days, of representatives from so many countries could help to bring the world of greenkeeping closer together.

The first afternoon looked at two differing (or so we thought) approaches to training, the British Experience and the North American Experience.

The session on the British Experience was led by David Golding, Education Director for the Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC). David said that the British model of greenkeeper training was a useful model for other countries to look at but the industry was working on the model continually to improve it.

David went on to describe the structure of the GTC, how it is

funded and managed. He showed how the Technical Committee fitted into the structure and illustrated its role and stressed that the GTC was an employers' organisation.

He stressed that all British qualifications were related to Government Standards for both vocational training (work based) qualifications and work related qualifications and went on to describe the roles of lead bodies, awarding bodies and training providers.

He described the structure of Vocational Qualifications. He stressed that the qualifications belonged to the industry and were based on skill i.e. the ability to do the job but also included knowledge requirements. To assess candidates required qualified industry assessors and the GTC had trained over 700 assessors, the highest number in the Land Based Industries. David showed how all greenkeepers could achieve vocational qualifications even if they had been in the industry for many years.

David then went on to describe work related qualifications and said how colleges were making these courses, which

include a first degree, more accessible to people in work by providing them on a distance learning basis.

David was followed by Carol Borthwick, from Elmwood College, who illustrated the facilities of Elmwood, stressing that the main area of operation was greenkeeper training, golf course management and golf course design. She showed an impressive list of facilities and showed how they were used for training purposes.

Carol showed how the college had strong links with the R&A, the GTC, BIGGA, the Scottish Golf Union and a number of colleges and universities. She then described the structure of courses in Scotland and highlighted that all courses were modular which allowed greater flexibility.

Elmwood's connections with the rest of the world was of great interest to the delegates and Carol described how the college was working with the Chinese to develop greenkeeper training in China by giving students the skills and knowledge to be able to set up their own training courses 'in country'.





Following a brief input from Martyn Jones, of Myerscough College on some of the differences between English and Scottish Colleges and on the facilities at Myerscough, Daniel Ward, Curriculum Manager from the GCSAA described the approach to training in the United States. Daniel showed that there are as many myths about education and training of superintendents in the US as there are about US golf courses being mini Augustas. He explained how the whole structure of education and training in the US was being changed by the introduction of the Professional Development Initiative (PDI). Many US Superintendents saw PDI as a threat and there was a high level of opposition. PDI had combined what the Superintendents felt was the job with the requirements of golfers and with golf club owners to come up with a list of competences (the ability to do the job and the knowledge to go with it). Superintendents can assess their competences against a plan and from the results, they can judge what training is required. The scheme has led to a massive change in the way that education and training courses are presented and in the content of seminars, courses and workshops.

The new system gives credit for on the job training but leaves assessment to individual superintendents.

Jacqui Atkin, Professional Development Manager with the Canadian Superintendents' Association (CGSA) said that she hoped that she would be able to get as much out of the conference as she could to help in her own quest for knowledge. The CGSA has the objective of getting all Canadian superintendents up to the National Occupational Standard. The standards are based on what a superintendent is expected to do. The Association is also looking at ways of presenting training eg. college, seminars, on course, Internet etc.

The first afternoon showed that three different countries had very similar ideas when it came to greenkeeper/superintendent training ie they all were looking at competence. How competence was achieved and assessed was approached in different ways but the underlying theme was ability to do the job against National Standards.

Day 2 began with a brief recap before delegates split into 4 groups to discuss the points raised and to exchange ideas before returning to present group solutions to greenkeeper training problems.

#### Points of concern were:

1. No access to college in many countries with limited number of golf courses.
2. Funding of training.
3. Language problems.
4. Non standardisation of training and job specifications.
5. Limited opportunities for student exchanges.
6. Legislation. (Planning, pesticides, water)
7. Educating employers.
8. Status of greenkeepers/superintendents.

#### superintendents.

#### Solutions presented were:

1. Use technology to improve dissemination of information.
2. Use technology to translate information.
3. Use international support/co-operation to change/prevent the effects of legislation.
4. Produce a common framework of standards and have regional variations around it.
5. Educate the educators and the employers.
6. Look for greater collaboration.
7. Standardise titles and job specifications.
8. Access funding.

Agnar Kvalbein, Principal at Gjennestad Horticultural College in Norway closed the morning session with the Norwegian approach to greenkeeper training. He said that their research on both sides of the Atlantic had shown that competence was the key but that knowledge was an important part of competence. The further education system in Norway differed from that in Britain and from that in the US. Therefore, his college had designed a course that was based on attracting full time students who would be taught theory in golf clubs and skills on golf courses. They hope to develop a pool of greenkeeper assessors and to open up training and qualifications to existing greenkeepers.

The afternoon session began with Ken Richardson outlining the proposed continuing professional development scheme for BIGGA members, which is due to be launched in July. The scheme is intended to encourage members to continue learning throughout their careers ie. lifelong learning. It is hoped that it will not only develop an individual's skills and knowledge and raise the status of all greenkeepers but also allow golf club officials to compare and contrast individuals when recruiting new staff and improve playing conditions for golfers.

Daniel Ward followed with a detailed look at the GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative. The Professional Development Initiative was being undertaken to improve the knowledge skills and abilities of the professional superintendent. It is hoped that this will lead to:

- Increased salaries
- Enhanced job security
- Intensified recognition as a key member of the golf course management team.

The PDI model, shown above, shows that the process is continuous ie golfers' needs define competences which identify the need for education which leads to marketing opportunities etc.

The GCSAA is, currently, matching their curriculum to their gap analysis, developing their curriculum to match needs and assessing the standards of external trainers.

Although suffering from some early problems, the GCSAA feel that PDI is

the best way to ensure that the superintendents of the future have the skills and knowledge necessary to maintain their golf courses.

A fairly heated discussion then took place on 'Who should pay for greenkeeper training'. All delegates had very strong opinions on who should pay and gave details of who did pay for greenkeeper training. Those paying for training currently were:

- Individual greenkeepers/superintendents.
- Governments through grants etc.
- Golf club owners.
- Associations with help from sponsorships.
- Federations and Unions.
- The R&A

Mr Gordon Child explained that British Golf Unions contributed funds to greenkeeper training through at a rate of 8p for each registered golfer. He also explained that if each golfer paid £1 into greenkeeper education then all greenkeeper training would be free. The delegates came to the conclusion that it should be individual golfers who should pay for greenkeeper training. They use the golf course and expect high standards of maintenance, which is impossible to achieve without high quality training.

The final day began with briefings on the BIGGA Master Greenkeeper Certificate and the Certified Superintendents Schemes in Canada and the United States. Both the CGSA and GCSAA had similar certification systems which were also similar to the BIGGA Master Greenkeeper Certificate. However, the MGC Standards were higher. Delegates felt that it should be easier for Master Greenkeepers to become Certified Superintendents of CGSA and/or GCSAA and vice versa.

Ian Grady, Regeneration Manager from Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, then gave a very informative talk on European funding, basing his talk on work done to establish a greenkeeping academy at Bowring Golf Course, home of Tommy Givnan, the 1999 TORO Student of the Year. Ian made it very clear that funding was available from Europe for a variety of projects. Knowsley had accessed funding to establish a greenkeeping academy at Bowring and 12 students were currently under training. Ian said that funds were still available for a wide range of projects and pledged the support of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council to anyone wishing to make a bid for funding.

Technology was the byword for the next presentation given by Tony Frascina an expert in distance learning. He showed that a number of methods could be used to train greenkeepers at a distance eg. in countries that did not have their own training system. Simulation, video (on CD, DVD or tape) and the Internet could all be adapted for greenkeeper training, however, Tony also said that paper eg. books etc could still be useful in certain circumstances. Delegates felt that current

#### Professional Development Initiative Model



technology using CD, DVD, video, TV and the written word could be useful to allow countries with a small number of greenkeepers to gain access to training. They also agreed that the Internet would be a useful, low cost training aid once speed of access was improved.

The penultimate session of the conference was on work permits, visas, job swaps and exchanges. It soon became apparent that it was easier to travel from Europe and work in a different country than it was to come to work in Europe. Martyn Jones and Carol Borthwick had a wealth of experience of placing student greenkeepers at colleges in the US and had attracted some students from outside Europe. The general feeling was that it would be difficult to set up an international exchange scheme, however, all delegates said that they would give all possible help in individual cases.

The final session was led by Elliott Small and came up with a number of outcomes/commitments. These were:

1. Link all Internet Sites to all other relevant sites.
2. Use e-mail to issue news letters, updates, forthcoming events, training opportunities etc.
3. Continue to make contact through meetings of smaller groups eg. colleges. Ensure that the same standards are set, worldwide. Attempt to standardise job specifications. Attempt to standardise job titles. Hold more 'virtual' meetings using eg. chat rooms, video conferencing, telephone conferencing. Hold further International meetings 'as required'.
4. Exchange information on public relations measures. Attempt to improve status of greenkeepers/superintendents.
5. Exchange magazines and journals.
6. Make teaching material available.
7. Allow access to members areas on Internet site for association officials.
8. Attempt to make Internet sites multi lingual.
9. Develop distance learning packages.





Visit our new web site at [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

## The difference is Flowtronex

Whether you want to keep your green green or your pitch perfect, Flowtronex makes the difference.

Flowtronex variable speed pump sets are the heart of any irrigation system, boosting flow and pressure wherever it is needed to make the most of your landscape.

Integrating the latest in variable speed technology with superior design, engineering and construction, Flowtronex brings you energy savings of up to 50% and reduced maintenance costs.

And when you order a Flowtronex pump set you can have every confidence that it has been designed to meet your specific requirements – from bowling greens to championship courses.

With a pump set from Flowtronex you can see the difference.



**FLOWTRONEX**

2 Relay Road, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 7XA, England

Tel: +44 (0) 1705 268511 Fax: +44 (0) 1705 241263





**Brin Bendon continues his excellent series concentrating on improving your off-course skills by looking at the 'M' word – motivation.**

# Motivation's what you need



Managers in organisations have, over recent years, been increasingly concerned with the question of motivating their people. The major problems within organisations are no longer technological but organisational human problems.

How do you get a co-operative response from the workgroup? How do you get integrated behaviour towards the attainment of organisational goals? In my work as a management trainer, I am often called upon to run sessions on motivation. Head Greenkeepers, like other managers frequently ask, 'How can I motivate my team or how do I motivate an individual?'

My first response to this is to say that you cannot motivate anyone apart from yourself. Motivation is not something you do to people. People have to charge their own batteries, you cannot do it for them. Unless people carry their own 'on-board generator' they cannot be motivated. However, what a leader can do is to create conditions, which are favourable to the development of a motivated workforce.

First of all, it should be stated that people join organisations in an attempt to satisfy their needs. Within organisations, leaders are able to facilitate the motivation of their people, if they can influence the way the individual is able to satisfy their needs, either helping them to satisfy them or threatening their satisfaction. Abraham Maslow, one of the founding fathers of classical motivation theory, drew up perhaps the most widely

accepted theory of human needs. This theory is constructed on the following foundations:

- All behaviour is 'goal directed' – aimed at satisfying needs, to relieve the tensions created by needs.
- A satisfied need is not a motivator.
- People have 'ever expanding' needs. Once one level of needs is relatively satisfied, the next level will preoccupy them.
- Human needs form a hierarchy – a series of levels.

Creating the conditions under which people can feel motivated isn't just about pay and conditions. If you

haven't got much money, then money will become an important factor. Likewise if people work under poor conditions, these will have an adverse effect upon their motivation. People have to be satisfied with their pay and working conditions before they can be motivated. However, good pay and conditions alone are not enough to encourage motivation. The need for money may motivate us to get a job, but it won't necessarily make us do the job well once we have started work.

The relationship between pay and motivation is a complex one. Both Maslow and Herzberg classified pay as a means of satisfying low level needs, rather than as a motivator. In many jobs there is no direct link between pay and performance. Provided the individual performs adequately the amount of pay received remains static. In these circumstances pay does not motivate people to work harder or to





improve the quality of their work.

Yet economic rewards continue to be used as a means to raise quality and output, often with no more than average results. The response tends to be calculative, with very little commitment to the organisation. With 'carrot and stick' cultures people tend to be preoccupied with WHIFM. They ask, 'What's in it for me,' and work out what effort would be required to get a return or payback on the effort expended. The problem with this approach is that we only get average performance, a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. Sure, as Herzberg once observed, "If you 'bribe' people or threaten them enough you will get a response," something which he called 'movement.' But, that isn't motivation.

Building on Maslow's theory, Frederick Herzberg led an important development in approaches to management – an approach termed 'job enrichment,' where one seeks to improve both task efficiency and human satisfaction at work by building into people's jobs greater scope for personal achievement and its recognition, more challenging and responsible work and more opportunities for individual advancement and growth.

Motivation is about freeing people to do their jobs willingly and well. Most people come to work because they have to. Few come because they want to. And yet, that is what motivation is all about – coming to work because you want to. Many will pursue a sport such as golf, not because they are paid to play golf, but because they want to. Indeed most will pay a lot of money to play golf and will devote much of their personal time to practising and playing their beloved sport. Now that's motivation.

However, to be motivated, two essential requirements need to be present; opportunity and capability. Herzberg argued that unless people have the opportunity to do something, they cannot be motivated to do it. So for example, unless I have golf clubs and access to a golf course, I cannot be motivated to play golf. Secondly, I need the ability to be able to play golf. If I cannot play golf then I cannot be motivated

to play without some instruction or coaching.

This is what I mean by creating the conditions in which people can be motivated to do; by providing the opportunities for people and by encouraging people to develop their abilities. One of the most effective ways that we have of developing ability into capability is through training. The more people are trained to do things, the more they can do, and the more they can do the more they want to do.

If we train people to do their jobs well, and then give them constructive feedback on their performance, praising people when they do things well, then we enhance their self esteem. They feel better about their job. Effective leaders let their people know how important their jobs are by giving some appreciative feedback on the importance of their work. Ever so often, we need to remind people of the importance of the job that they are doing. And we need to let people know that they are personally appreciated when they deserve it for work well done through appreciation, recognition, congratulations or a simple thank you.

Giving people confidence in the value of their job is a key motivator. We can do this by helping people to understand the meaning of their work by explaining the context of their job. Effective leaders explain to people precisely what they are doing and why, i.e. give them a reason for doing so that they understand the context of a task or the job.

Effective leaders also lead by example. They set an example of a positive approach to work.

A second technique for improving motivation is to give people confidence in their value as individuals through offering challenge, praise and concern. Effective leaders encourage their people to realise their individual potential by offering challenge. They will feel stimulated and involved if they feel that their special skills are being used.

Showing concern is the third way that leaders show that they matter as individuals.

If leaders show concern for their



people as human beings, people will show concern for their work. This means getting to know them well and taking an interest in them as an individual.

Finally we need to give confidence in our people in their value as a team by helping them to feel, think, and work like a team.

As a leader you should treat all the members of your team fairly and equally and it is very important that you let them know that they can rely on you for your support and for their protection. Never run the team down, indulge in victimisation, leave someone out on a limb or practise favouritism.

Team leaders can help their people to think like a team by providing opportunities for discussion and two-way communication. Briefing the team collectively will help the team to think that it is worth them contributing their ideas.

To help people to work cohesively together as a team, the leaders has to get each member of the team to think that his or her job is to help the team to do its job – to inspire the idea of helping each other out.

To create the conditions in which people can be motivated, Herzberg's so-called hygiene factors need to be satisfied. These are company policies, administration, salaries or wages, working conditions, working relationships and supervision. Once a certain standard of living is achieved and hygiene factors are satisfied, more than money is needed to increase the individual's contribution.

The leader needs to be aware of how to get people to work willingly and well to increase the individual's satisfaction in the job, and the organisation's efficiency.

To enable people to have confidence in the value of their jobs, confidence in their value as individuals, and confidence in their value as a team, the leader needs to ensure that people's jobs provide opportunities for growth.

Job enrichment can stimulate an interest in the job. Leaders can encourage a sense of achievement by offering challenge and recognition of good work through praise and appreciation and by giving greater responsibility and opportunities for advancement.

Herzberg may be seen as old hat by some, but for my money, he remains ahead of his time.

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 642462 or by email: [enquiries@vector-training.demon.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@vector-training.demon.co.uk).



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](mailto:enquiries@vector-training.demon.co.uk).



Golf course management is a challenging job at the best of times, but a course situated on an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) presents challenges all of its own.

# Managing an environment



Right: Skylarks are one of the many protected species at Fairways Golf Club



Right: Course Manager Lee Squires

At Fairways Golf Club near Clacton-on-Sea, Course Manager Lee Squires (left) juggles the demands of maintaining a high quality course with the need to protect the skylarks and swifts that make it their home.

Part of The Orchards Park at Point Clear, Fairways Golf Club caters for the Park's golfing members. Situated by the River Colne, the perimeter area of the course lies on a sheltered site adjacent to salt flats and this provides an ideal habitat for large numbers of skylarks as well as a range of scarce and rare plants and insects – the reason for the SSSI status.

The nine-hole course was constructed three years ago on an almost square 27ha field which had remained wild for at least ten years before work began. The course was completed by September of that year, with Lee taking up the post of course manager in February 1998.

"Right from the beginning I knew that it would be a challenging course to manage," recalled Lee. "When I first came here it needed a lot of attention – the greens hadn't been cut for six months and the grass was an inch long. There was a wide variety of weeds present including some wild carrot in the plot.





Above: Clover was just one of the problems for Lee



Left: Creeping Buttercup

"Added to that, the course sits on clay, so drainage can be a problem and the course surface can crack in summer when it dries out."

But the SSSI rules mean Lee faces a number of restrictions to what he can do to the course – and when.

"For example, I was only allowed to use a herbicide on parts of the course after 18 months of discussions with English Nature, our SSSI advisers, because of fears about any runoff into the protected areas," said Lee.

He works closely with the organisation's Chris Gibson to ensure they can help provide the best habitat for the birds. The rough or semi-rough areas of the course are not touched and Lee was only given this permission to use a specific herbicide twice on the course after careful consideration of products with English Nature.

"I'm lucky in some ways as there are virtually no daisies, dandelions or annual meadowgrass on the course. But my main weed problems – clover, creeping buttercup and particularly bristly oxtongue – present quite a challenge."

Bristly oxtongue is perhaps the worst weed headache, and following discussions with English Nature to find the most suitable and environmentally safe product to use on the course, a programme was chosen to control the weed – as well as clover and buttercup – on the greens and surrounds.

"Steve Denton, at Rigby Taylor, suggested a programme of Bastion T at three litres/ha to help control the clover and creeping buttercup, and we were allowed to spray the course just twice last season as a one-off," said Lee.

"We also knew that the manufacturer had experience with Bastion T's off-label recommendation for control of bristly oxtongue. A short while after spraying the oxtongue had curled up and we found the whole weed had been taken out, right down to the tap root."

Bristly oxtongue, a broadleaved biennial, has been a problem on the course since its establishment and Lee had been looking for an effective way to control the weed.

"There were only a few tiny dots left in the turf where the weeds were and these will soon fill out when the grass starts growing again," says Lee.

Leatherjackets can be the other main headache at Fairways.

"We have seen masses of them on the course here at times. We have been allowed to use Lorsban T on one fairway where the problem was particularly bad. As for disease, we don't get too much here, and I try to keep it that way. Fertiliser use has also been restricted, and last year for the first time since the course was established we put 11kg/ha of nitrogen supplied from Taylor's 3:12:12 outfield fer-

tiliser, applied at 35g/m<sup>2</sup> on the fairways.

"Thatch isn't too much of a problem as the course is still relatively new. But the land on which the course was constructed is now beginning to settle, so I will have to start planning a scarifying and aeration programme."

The course's underlying clay means that it can be very wet during winter and so it is closed for play from November to February, reopening in the spring for the first few members of the season. Again, this fits in with the management strategy which English Nature believes secures the protection of the SSSI while allowing the area's use as an attractive golf course in the summer months.

English Nature's Chris Gibson added that the area is also designated a European site and therefore has International importance to wildlife.

"The restrictions on the management of the course serve to ensure it is operated in a welfare-friendly manner and is supportive to a range of birds, and we believe the work carried out by Lee and ourselves has fully met these objectives," said Chris.

As for Lee, his busiest period is just starting again.

"The members are starting to come back to the course, and are the skylarks and swifts. This year I hope the bristly oxtongue won't also be back, though!"



The most cost effective way of reaching readers of Greenkeeper International. Just call Cheryl Broomhead or Diane Bray on 01347 833800 and ask about an alphabetical category listing; the cost starts from as little as £29.50 per month.

### Aeration

#### HYDROJECT AERATION AND CHEMICAL INJECTION SERVICE

(WITH NO SURFACE DISTURBANCE)

A full range of expertly operated turfcare services also available

#### KEITH DRIVER (SPORTSTURF CONTRACTOR)

Tel: 01273 564015 Mobile: 0958 532008  
8 Morecambe Rd, Brighton, Sussex BN1 8TL

### Agronomy

#### B Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd

Bruce Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd, is an established company offering expert advice on:

- Golf Course maintenance
- Tournament preparation & presentation
- Machinery selection
- Budgeting
- Staff recruitment
- Soil & turf analysis
- Establishment of new golf courses

Contact: Bruce Jamieson  
Browtop, 17 Haywarden Place, Hartley Wintney, Hants, RG27 8UA Telephone: 01252 844847

### Amenity Spraying



#### WEED FREE®

- Advice • Application • Supply • Training

DRIFT FREE Contract Spraying  
utilising our purpose built machine

The **SPRAYING MANTIS**

Freephone: 0800 068 08 78

Fax: 07000 481022

Car: 0850 300104

Unit 14, Roundhead Drive, Warfield, Berkshire RG42 3RZ  
WEED FREE is a Registered Trade Mark

### Artificial Grass



Gabbotts Farm Barn,  
Bury Lane, Withnell,  
Chorley, Lancashire  
PR6 8SW

Tel: 01254 831666  
Fax: 01254 831066

- VERDE TEE FRAME  
Steel platform, woven grass top.
- VERDE WINTER TEE  
Generous size, self-install kit.
- VERDE DRIVING MATS  
Top quality - Long Life - Best Prices.
- ARTIFICIAL GRASSES  
For club and home use.
- DRIVING BAYS AND NETS  
Available through most reputable  
course equipment suppliers  
Please call for samples & information

### Artificial Surfaces

#### SELF DRAINING HONEYCOMB RUBBER MATTING

- 16mm x 9m x 9m
- Ideal for wet areas,  
Ranges etc.
- Special Interlocking feature
- Available in black and red

Call our sales office:  
J.P. Polymer Sheetings Ltd  
Tel: 0121-520 5020  
Fax: 0121-522 4610  
E-mail sales@jppolymer.co.uk

**Colour  
Alert!**

### Construction

#### Artington GOLF LTD

#### Specialist Golf Course Constructors



Telephone/Fax  
(023) 9259 2390

Mobile  
(0410) 450454

#### CONTOUR GOLF • LIMITED

Construction of new golf development  
and upgrading of existing courses

Tel: 01327 879464  
Fax: 01327 705777

1 Jubilee Cottages, Norton Rd,  
Davenport, Northants NN11 5LS  
Irish Office no. 064 39965



- Construction ● Remodelling
- Reservoir Works

Tel: 01604 468908

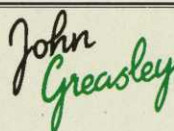
180 Ruskin Road, Kingsthorpe,  
Northampton NN2 7TA

#### J & E ELY

#### GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

Reading, Berks  
Tel/Fax: 0118 9722257

E-mail: ely@btinternet.com



Specialists  
in Golf  
Course  
Construction

#### JOHN GREASLEY LIMITED

"Ashfield House" • 1154 Melton Road  
Syston • Leicester • LE7 2HB



Tel: 0116 269 6766  
Mobile: 0836 553899  
Fax: 0116 269 6866

### LAND UNIT CONSTRUCTION

Hanslope, Milton Keynes MK19 7BX.  
Tel: 01908 510414 Fax: 01908 511056

### Course Equipment

#### PAR AIDE®

Wherever  
Golf Is Played

Par Aide UK

- 1 Golf Course & Driving Range Equipment
- 2 Range Balls 1 pce & 2 pce
- 3 Driving Range & Winter Tee Mats
- 4 Artificial Surfaces
- 5 Installers of Perimeter Netting

20A Beeching Park, Wainwright Rd, Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex TN39 3UR  
Tel: 01424 819008 Fax: 01424 819007

### Drainage

#### Duncan Ross Land Drainage Limited

#### SPORTSTURF DRAINAGE SPECIALISTS

- ★ Latest Sportsturf trenching machine
- ★ Verti Draining ★ Sand Slitting ★ Overseeding
- ★ Gravel Banding ★ Top dressing

Design, installation and maintenance service

Tel/Fax: 01257 255321  
Appley Bridge, Wigan, Lancs

#### GLM Turfcare

For soil amelioration and  
compaction relief to 55cm depth

Contact James Gibson

Tel: 01694 723815  
Fax: 01694 724186



### Here's your chance to win £50!

Simply look through all the products and services in our guide and name the companies which the following telephone numbers refer to;

a. 01427 890797

b. 01298 213740

c. 0118 9324910

Write down your three answers on a postcard and send your entries to:-

Know Your Numbers,  
Greenkeeper International,  
BIGGA HOUSE,  
Aldwark, Alne,  
York YO61 1UF

Entries to reach us no later than wednesday, June 14, 2000. The first correct entry drawn will receive a cheque for £50!

The judges decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

This competition is not open to BIGGA staff or non-members.

Last month, Desmond Dobbin, Head Greenkeeper of Bushfoot Golf Club, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

Our congratulations and a cheque for £50 are on their way to you!





**Drainage.  
Sand Slitting.  
Vertidrainage.**

*Established 42 years*

ONGAR, ESSEX  
01277 890274

**PEARL**

**SLEATH & SON  
SPORTSTURF DRAINAGE**

Full range of modern equipment providing  
UK and European service

Contact Geoff Sleath

Tel/Fax: 01709 862075  
Mobile: 0976 751742

**Turfdry**

**Golf Course Drainage  
Specialist**

For fast and friendly UK  
service call:

Melvyn Taylor  
on 01283 551417  
or 0836 259133

**Colour  
Alert!**

**White Horse Contractors  
Limited**



SPECIALIST SPORTS TURF CONTRACTORS

- DRAINAGE
- CONSTRUCTION
- RENOVATION
- LAKES & RESERVOIRS
- DESIGN & BUILD
- CONSULTANCY

Tel: 01865 736 272  
Fax: 01865 326 176  
whc@whitehorsecontractors.co.uk

Lodge Hill, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2JD

**SPEEDCUT CONTRACTORS**

**SPORTSTURF**

Construction Drainage  
Sandslitting Renovation

KEVIN SMITH  
Oxford 01865 331479

**Driving Range**



**RANGE SERVANT**

- BALL DISPENSERS • BALL WASHERS
- COLLECTORS • ELEVATORS •
- BLOWER SYSTEMS • MATS •
- BALL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS •

20a Beeching Park, Wainwright Rd, Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex TN39 3UR  
Tel: 01424 819008 Fax: 01424 819007

**Fertilisers**

**Gem**  
professional  
we make the difference

Pro Formula range of fine  
turf & outfield fertilizers  
including our new easy pour  
liquid range

Tel: 0990 133800

Our 10<sup>th</sup> year supplying biotech solutions

Thinking about a  
biological programme?



**First ask a biologist**

Contact Louisa Farthing BSc  
or Stella Inglethorpe BSc

Tel: 01372 456101

Email: fineturf@symbio.co.uk

**Golf Signs**

**LINKS**  
SIGNS ON  
STONES

Specially designed stones  
moulded from glass re-inforced  
concrete. Available in Cotswold,  
Grey, Slate and Sandstone colours.  
Vandal proof and easily movable.

Boulder



Quarry

Rock

Call now for

- Pro Tee
- mats
- bays
- nets
- signs
- markers
- stones
- bins
- planters
- layouts
- planners

LINKS  
Civic Industrial Park  
Whitchurch,  
Shropshire  
SY13 1TT

Tel: 01948 663002  
Fax: 01948 666382

**Irrigation**

**AutoFlow Systems**

CALL NOW FOR ALL YOUR  
WATER REQUIREMENTS ON

SPORTS GROUNDS, GOLF COURSES,  
BOWLING GREENS, COMMERCIAL  
LANDSCAPING, PRIVATE GARDENS

TEL: 01603 759701 FAX: 01603 758200

AUTO HOUSE, ASHTRIE WORKS, MILL ROAD,  
BARNHAM BROOM, NORFOLK NR9 4DE

YOUR COMPLETE INDEPENDANT IRRIGATION SPECIALIST

**British Turf & Landscape  
Irrigation Association**

"Quality by Association"



Our aim is to ensure  
you have the best  
possible irrigation  
system so we  
constantly monitor,  
maintain and raise  
the standards of our  
members.

For a full list of  
members contact  
David Halford

Tel/Fax: 07041 363130

**Cameron  
IRRIGATION**

Suppliers of Irrigation Equipment to Golf Courses,  
Bowling Greens, Landscapes, Horticulture.

- Manufacturers of Irrigation Equipment
- Existing systems renovated and upgraded

DESIGN - INSTALLATION - SERVICE

Call now for your irrigation needs

**Cameron** Macpenny

Unit 17-18, Hightown Ind Est, Ringwood, Hants BH24 1ND  
Tel: 01425 474614 Fax: 01425 471296

MEMBER OF  
MISC

**I.L.S. IRRIGATION SYSTEMS  
& EQUIPMENT**

- Contact us for irrigation  
installation service •
- Up-dates • Equipment

sales  
I.L.S. Irrigation, Oundle Road, Lutton,  
Peterborough PE8 5ND.

Tel: 01832 272450  
Fax: 01832 272191

**Colour  
Alert!**

**Irrigation Technical Services**

Design • Supply • Installation • Service

Pumps & tanks supplied

Moleplough & trencher hire

All leading manufacturers equipment serviced



AREA DEALER

Tel: 01202 87.42.16 Mobile: 0831 24.22.05

**M J ABBOTT LIMITED**

Design, supply and installation of

**RAIN BIRD**

Irrigation Systems

Tel: 01722 716361

**North Staffs Irrigation**



\*DESIGN \*INSTALLATION\*  
\*MAINTENANCE\*

TEL: 01785 812706

**OCMIS  
IRRIGATION**

Design, Manufacture,  
Supply, Installation  
& Service.

Ocmis specialise in Irrigation  
Systems for Golf Courses,  
Sportsgrounds, Recreational,  
Amenity & Landscape Areas.

For further information contact:

HEAD OFFICE SCOTTISH OFFICE  
01460 0131  
241939 2202102

**TORO**

IRRIGATION PRODUCTS

Design. Supply.  
Installation.  
Service.

*Established 42 years*

ONGAR, ESSEX  
01277 890274

**PEARL**

OAKDALE

**T&G  
IRRIGATION**

Golf Course and Sports Turf Irrigation:

Design - Installation - Maintenance • Annual  
Service Contracts • New Installations - System  
Upgrades - Fully automated PC systems  
Independent Installers of Hunter - Logic -  
Toro Irrigation Equipment

For advice and a free quotation, contact our Devonport office.

Tel: 01427 874200 Mobile: 0860 542616

Fax: 01427 875333

<http://www.source.co.uk/users/oakdale> e-mail: [enquiries@oakdale.source.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@oakdale.source.co.uk)

**WARDLE**

Consulting Engineers Ltd

INDEPENDENT IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS  
& PROJECT MANAGERS

Head Office: Tel/Fax: 01283 711864  
Southern Office: 01483 278416  
Scottish Office: 01259 742447  
E-mail: [wardle@avnet.co.uk](mailto:wardle@avnet.co.uk)

**Water Side  
Irrigation Services**

The most professional Design, Supply and  
installation service in the North.

Trained in Golf Course management, with real  
knowledge of irrigation and Golf Course needs.  
Effortless irrigation with minimum inconvenience.

Call now on: 01405 814889  
Mobile: 07967 504313

*You'll be amazed where we pop up!*



**York & Martin**  
GOLF IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS

Speak to Europe's most experienced, independent consultants for objective, unbiased advice, before deciding

**YORK & MARTIN**  
PO BOX 1192 FORDINGBRIDGE  
HANTS, SP6 1YD, U.K.

Tel. 01425 652087 Fax. 01425 652476

**Colour Alert!**

**Lake Construction/Liners**

**AQUALINE**

**Liner Specialists**

- Ponds • Lakes • Reservoirs
- Water features

Free survey and advisory service available. For further assistance contact Richard Thomas

Tel 01291-625186 Fax 01291-625185

**LINERS**

 Liners for lakes, ponds and storage lagoons from the UK's leading contractor

 Comprehensive advice regarding design and construction of water areas

Tel: 01206 262676 Fax: 01206 262998  
E-mail: sales@geosynthetic.co.uk  
www.geosynthetic.co.uk

**WATERPROOFING SERVICES**

**POND & LAKE LINING SPECIALISTS**

CONTACT US ON:  
**TEL: 01582 471723**  
**FAX: 01525 261103**  
E-MAIL: info@waterproofingservices.com

**Line Marking**

**LINE MARKING APPLICATORS AND AEROSOLS**



Blue Diamond STL, Clayfields Industrial Estate, Tickhill Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN4 8QG  
**Freephone: 0800 5425 004**

**Machinery**

**GRASS MACHINERY**


Large selection of new and second hand Turf Maintenance Machinery in stock

**FREE DELIVERY IN UK.** Warranty given. Also interested in purchasing surplus machines.

**Tel/Fax: 01829 720280**  
**Mobile: 0378 063418**

Massey Ferguson's powerful range of ride on mowers & garden tractors.

- Petrol powered from 10.5 hp to 18 hp
- Diesel powered from 20 hp to 42.5 hp
- Side or rear discharge
- Choice of 2WD or 4WD
- Wide cutting widths



UK Sales Department:  
Tel: 024 7685 1202 Fax: 024 7685 1182

**Mycorrhiza**

**NEW** Mycorrhiza for turf

**The essential start for new greens.**



Transforms existing greens. Apply as Seed Coat or Inoculant

See us at Harrogate  
**Tel: 01372 456101 Fax: 01372 456099**

**pH Control**

**USF STRANCO**

pH control and dosing systems for your irrigation water, for improved turf quality. Nationwide installation and commissioning service and advice. Contact Brian Sykes

**USF STRANCO**  
Priory Works, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0QL  
Telephone: 01732 354888 Fax: 01732 354222

**Railway Sleepers**

**LANDSCAPING GRADE SLEEPERS**

SELECTED HARDWOOD

**BEST** QUALITY PRICES

ALSO

COCKLESHELL PATH MEDIA

BULK LOADS - DISCOUNTED PRICES

**FINETURF PRODUCTS**  
Tel: 01375 361606

**RAILWAY SLEEPERS**

TEL: 01302 888676 FAX: 01302 880547

• WE WILL BEAT ANY GENUINE QUOTE



• DELIVERY ANY AREA • NO MINIMUM ORDER

**www.sleeper-supplies.co.uk**

**Crossing Timbers, 4" x 4" Posts and Telegraph Poles**

**QUALITY RAILWAY SLEEPERS**

From the only Quality Assured company in the business

Best prices on all grades (Softwood/Hardwood/Concrete)

CROSSING TIMBERS  
12 x 12 BAULK TIMBERS  
NEW UNTREATED OAK SLEEPERS

Large stocks nationwide. Immediate delivery, any area



**TRACKWORK LIMITED**  
UK's Major Supplier since 1975

Tel: 01302 365222 Fax: 01302 341691  
Email: info@trackwork.co.uk  
Website: www.trackwork.co.uk

**Root Zone**

• FENDRESS Rootzone to USGA • Economy Rootzone • Divot Mixes

**NATIONWIDE DELIVERIES FROM 5 DEPOTS**

Call: Banks Amenity Products Ltd  
**Tel: 01858 464346/433003**

**TOPDRESSING SANDS**

TREE SAND • ROOTZONES  
DRAINAGE & SUB-BASE MATERIALS

Freephone Sam on  
**0800 731 7450**

Alan Hadley Limited  
Fenton House, 102 Grazeley Road, Three Mile Cross, Berks RG7 1BJ

**MIDDLETON AGGREGATES LTD**

Suppliers of Quality Topsoils, Root Zone and Sand at competitive rates

**Tel: 01553 841044**  
**Fax: 01553 841837**

Great sport is built on

**Topsport**

National suppliers of sports surface materials:

- Sand • Rootzones • Pathway Materials
- Loksand • Drainage Aggregates

For further details telephone  
**01298 213740**

**Tarmac**

**Colour Alert!**

**Sports Netting**

**TILDENET**

Contact your local distributor or call the Tildenet Sports Department for further information  
**Tel: +44 (0)117 966 9684**

- Teaching Golf Net & Frame
- Target Greens
- Anti-ball Plugging Nets
- Padded & Net Bay Dividers
- Bunker Membrane
- Perimeter Fencing
- Ball-stop Net
- Grass Germination

**GROW SHEET**

- Anti-dazzle Netting
- Water Hog

**Top Dressings**

Sole manufacturers of  
**FENDRESS™ & FENDRESS GREENTOP™**

Superior, Consistent Top Dressings at  
**AFFORDABLE PRICES**

Call: Banks Amenity Products Ltd  
**Tel: 01858 464346/433003**

**BL BOUGHTON LOAM LTD**

Telford Way, Kettering, Northants  
**Tel: 01536 510515**

for  
**Turf Dressing**  
**Root Zone Mixes**  
**Screened Top Soils**  
**Bunker Sands**  
**Horticultural Composts**

"Pre-germinated grass seed"  
"Liquid Sod" Spray-on grass  
Herbicides  
Grass Seed  
Fertilisers

**Turf Management Systems**

Dromagh Farm, Sevenhills Road, Iwerheath, Bucks, SL0 0PA  
**Tel: 01895 834411**

**SOIL TECHNOLOGY**

**RUFFORD**

BRITAIN'S NO 1 FOR QUALITY AND SERVICE

TOP DRESSING • CONSTRUCTION ROOT ZONES

SANDS • GRAVELS • GRASS SEED SOIL • PATHWAY MATERIALS

Eaton Hall Quarry, Manchester Rd, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 2LU  
**Tel: 01260 281801**

**Soil Shredders/Mixers Screeners**

Make valuable compost and dressings on site. Wide range of models available.

**sisis** Tel: 01625 503030  
Fax: 01625 427426  
SISIS EQUIPMENT (Macclesfield) LTD

**Tractors**

MOTOKOV UK Ltd, Bergen Way, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE30 2JH

**Landini**

**Mistral**  
(37-47HP)  
From £9,900+VAT



- Powered by Yanmar Diesel
- Sensibly priced
- 540/750 Groundspeed PTO
- Excellent manoeuvrability
- Interest-free Finance
- Electro hydraulic Twin Diff Lock
- Turf tyres available

**Tel: 01553 817700 Fax: 01553 691201**  
**TRACTORS AT REALISTIC PRICES**



## Trees



**NATURE first**  
Nature First Ltd.  
Wood Lane Nursery  
Down Hatherley  
Gloucester  
GL2 9QB  
Tel: 01452 731199  
Fax: 01452 731131  
E-mail: trees@naturefinder.co.uk

**BIG TREES**  
Vast range of semi-mature and heavy standard trees available from our nurseries. Nationwide planting service if required.

**TREE MOVING**  
Move your own trees at a fraction of the cost with our fleet of modern tree spades.

## Turf

**Greens Turf**  
Grown on top quality USGA spec root zone & maintained at 6mm completely chemical free  
Bent/Fescue or Creeping Bent  
**AGATES NURSERY FARM**  
Tel: 0118 932 4910 Fax: 0118 932 4913

**INTURF**

**Turf Growers and Innovators of Turfgrass Systems**

The Chestnuts, Wilberfoss, York, YO41 5NT  
Tel: 01759 321000  
Fax: 01759 380130  
e-mail: info@inturf.co.uk

**NORTH WEST TURF**

QUALITY SEEDED TURF GROWERS

- Greens Turf
- Tees Turf
- Revetting Turf
- Next day nationwide delivery

All grown on beautiful sandy soil and TGA approved turf

**TEL: 01695 422144**

**TT ProTurf**

GROWERS AND SUPPLIERS OF QUALITY CULTIVATED TEES, GREENS AND AMENITY TURF COUNTRYWIDE

TEL: 01427 890797  
FAX: 01427 891785  
Email: info@proturf.co.uk

**TT ProTurf Ltd**  
NORTH CARR FARM, WEST STOCKWITH, NR DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE DN10 4BD

## Q Lawns

Growers of Quality Turf

**Q Master** (no ryegrass) for Golf Greens, Croquet Lawns

**Q Lawn** (with ryegrass) for General Landscaping & Retail

Quality Service with next day Nationwide Deliveries  
Quality Fair Prices – No Hidden Costs

**Tel: 0845 70 23 979**  
**Fax: 01842 827911**

ISO 9002 - TGA certified turf  
Official Suppliers to Royal Botanic Gardens KEW

[www.qlawns.co.uk](http://www qlawns.co.uk)

Email: sales@qlawns.co.uk

## Colour Alert!

## Turf Dressings

### BAILEY'S OF NORFOLK

☆ GOLF TURF DRESSINGS ☆ SAND ☆  
☆ SCREENED TOP SOIL ☆ FEN SOIL

Deliveries Nationwide

### BAILEY'S OF NORFOLK

Tel: 01603 754607

## BOURNE

AMENITY

Manufacturers of quality dressings, including green organic, fensol & loams, for fairways, greens & tees, in loads of all sizes

Serving the South of England.

Tel: (01797) 252298 Fax: (01797) 253115

**Gem**  
professional  
we make the difference

Pro Formula quality fine turf dressings, rootzones & divot mixes

**Tel: 0990 133800**

## Vertidrain Hire

### PETER MANNINGTON



Specialist Verti-Drain Contractor for the South  
For greens, tees, fairways and sportsgrounds  
Experienced operator, competitive prices and reliable service

Tel/Fax Peter on 01580 861211  
or Mobile 0850 612061

1 White Horse Cottages, Silverhill, Hurst Green, Etchingam, East Sussex TN19 7QA

## WORTH DRAINING

**VERTIDRAINING and HOLLOW CORING HIRE**

Distance no object

Contact **Peter Bloodworth**

Cornbecks Farm, Irnham, Grantham, Lincolnshire. Tel/Fax: 01476 550266

or **Paul Simpson**, Manager

Tel: 01476 585 549 Mobile: 0797 450 4793

## CONTACT THE PROFESSIONALS

FREEPHONE 0500 432 120

OR 0780 125 6767

DAY OR NIGHT

FOR ALL TYPES OF AERATION, CULTIVATION AND SEEDING, CONTACT **MICHAEL SEWARD AT SEWARD TURF MAINTENANCE** YORK

FOR THE LATEST NEWS, FEATURES AND INFORMATION FROM THE FINETURF INDUSTRY

GET ONLINE AT

**www.bigga.org.uk**

## Classified

## sisis DIRECT

Various SISIS S/H aerators, scarifiers, top-dressers, sweepers, seeders, etc. refurbished by the manufacturer. Stock constantly changing - phone for details and prices.

Also extensive range of hire equipment including stone removers, trenchers, aerators, seeders, top dressers, etc.

Phone 01625 503030

21 year old seeks assistant/trainee position: 1 years experience N.V.Q. part 1; currently studying golf course management H.N.C. at Elmwood College. Any area considered.

JS/113/00

Qualified, motivated Greenkeeper seeking work abroad in the construction industry leading to grow in contracts preferably, anywhere considered. Experience in construction, growing in and tournament preparation to international standards, staff management and education spraying certificates.

JS/112/00

## For Sale

### Ford 2120 Compact Tractor

J registered 4 wheel drive.

Dealer serviced.

3500 hours.

Fitted with creep speed gears & Lift hitch

£4,500 o.n.o.

Phone 0141 956 6844  
0141 956 4657

## Colour Alert!

The deadline for inclusion in the July 2000 Classified section, is Wednesday, June 14, 2000



## The Wisley Golf Club

The Wisley is one of Britain's premier Private Courses. An exclusive 27 hole Members club designed by Trent-Jones Jr., and situated in delightful Surrey countryside.

Due to restructuring of the Course Maintenance Team, we wish to recruit a

### Qualified Assistant Greenkeeper

The successful applicant will be self motivated with suitable experience and a sound knowledge of all turf maintenance practices. They should be an enthusiastic and hard working person, reliable and capable of working happily within a large team environment.

Salary negotiable, commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Course Manager  
The Wisley Golf Club  
Church Farm  
Wisley Lane  
Wisley, SURREY  
GU23 6QL**



**The  
Wisley**

## Elfordleigh Hotel, Golf & Country Club

Colebrook, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon, PL7 5EB

Requires a

### COURSE MANAGER

Elfordleigh Hotel Golf & Country Club is currently a nine hole golf course but construction has commenced on a new nine holes to extend the course to 18 holes.

In December our new Leisure Complex and additional 16 rooms (total of 34 rooms) will also be opening. Elfordleigh is set in beautiful countryside in South Devon and is privately owned.

**The Successful Candidate will have the following attributes:**

- Excellent Supervisory and Motivation Skills
- A recognised qualification in agronomy, horticulture, plant science with specialisation in golf course management.
- Having been previously involved with construction and growing in of a new course.
- Strong working knowledge of all modern golf course management practices with the ability to train staff
- An ability to put together, monitor and report on budgets and expenditure

If you would like to join the Elfordleigh Team please apply in writing, with CV and salary expectations to:

**The General Manager, Elfordleigh Hotel, Golf & Country Club**  
at the above address

## WELWYN GARDEN CITY GC

have a vacancy for a

### COURSE MANAGER

WGCGC is a private members club of 18 holes, 6,100 yds, situated on the A1, just North of Hatfield, Herts.

This position requires an outstanding individual, suitably qualified, who is very much "hands on", self motivated and a good man manager.

It is essential that any candidate applying should have a proven track record with at least 10 years experience in golf course maintenance and management.

The last 3 years would have been at the level of Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper. They must also play golf to a reasonable standard, preferably 18 handicap or better.

The package on offer is attractive and will be in accordance with age and experience .

If you wish to be considered for this position please forward your full CV to :

**The General Manager  
Welwyn Garden City Golf Club Ltd.  
Mannicotts  
High Oaks Road  
W.G.C.  
Herts.  
AL8 7BP**

## YELVERTON GOLF CLUB

require a

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Yelverton Golf Club is an 18 holes (Par 71, SSS 72) Moorland course located in the South West corner of the Dartmoor National Park.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and hard working Head (Greenkeeper who is qualified to at least NVQ Level 3 or its equivalent and holds PA1, PA2, and PA6 qualifications.

The successful applicant will be well versed in modern golf course management, be able to demonstrate a sound knowledge of Health & Safety, an ability to prepare and monitor budgets, inventories and expenditure and to show strong leadership and man management abilities. Knowledge and experience in machinery maintenance will be an advantage.

Applicants should have had 5 years experience as a Deputy Head Greenkeeper or 2 years experience as a Head Greenkeeper.

If you are interested in this opportunity and have the necessary qualifications and experience, please apply in writing including a full C.V. and an indication of salary expectation to:

**The Chairman of Green, Yelverton Golf Club,  
Golf Links Road, Yelverton, Devon PL20 6BN**

No accommodation is provided

*Closing date for applications  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2000*





## ABRIDGE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

### Requires an **Experienced Assistant Greenkeeper**

To join our enthusiastic team at this  
mature parkland course.

Applicants should have a minimum of 2 years  
experience and have NVQ Level 2 or equivalent.

Spraying certificates an advantage.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:  
**The Manager, Abridge Golf & Country Club,  
Epping Lane, Stapleford Tawney, Essex RM4 1ST**

## Canterbury Golf Club

Scotland Hills Littlebourne Road,  
Canterbury, Kent CT1 1TW

Canterbury Golf club is an 18 hole to parkland course  
situated approx 2 miles from the centre of the city.

*Applications are invited for the position of*

### **Head Greenkeeper**

which will become vacant at the end of July 2000.

Applicants must have hands on experience, be capable  
of supervision, motivating, and working with other staff.  
Qualified to NVQ Level 3 in sports and turf maintenance  
(or equivalent) and hold current spraying certificate  
PA 1.

Must have sound knowledge of irrigation systems and  
course machinery.

Accommodation not available.

Please apply in writing with CV to

The Secretary, Mrs P Bates, Canterbury Golf Club,  
at the above address.

*Closing date for application 15-6-00.*



## *Darwen Golf Club Ltd*

Founded 1893

### Invites applications for the position of **Head Green Keeper**

Applicants must have:

- Experience and knowledge of all modern green  
keeping methods.
- Practical knowledge of modern machinery and  
water irrigation systems.
- The expertise of motivating, guiding and disciplining  
of staff.
- The ability to communicate, liaise and work with the  
Greens Chairman and Club management.

Suitable candidates should be qualified to minimum  
NVQ Level 3 and hold all relevant certificates. Salary  
and conditions negotiable.

No accommodation.

Please apply in writing including CV to

Mr J. R Lawson The Secretary  
Darwen Golf Club  
Duddon Avenue  
Winter Hill  
Darwen  
Lancashire  
BB3 0LB

## Caversham Heath Golf Club

a new Championship Course,  
set in 250 acres has a vacancy for a

### **Deputy Head Greenkeeper**

Experience necessary, particularly of USGA greens  
and modern irrigation systems.

*Applications in writing to:*

**Jon Scoones**

Caversham Heath Golf Club  
Mapledurham, Reading RG4 7UT  
(0118) 9723334

## CUDDINGTON GOLF CLUB

*Established 1929*  
require an

### **ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER**

Age range 18 – 28 years

The ideal candidate must be enthusiastic and have a good  
knowledge of Golf Course machinery and maintenance.

Applications in writing with current CV

To: Stuart Sheppard, Course Manager, Cuddington Golf Club,  
Banstead Road, Banstead, Surrey, SM7 1RD



## Denham Golf Club

(Founded in 1910)

invite applications for the position of

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Denham Golf Club is an 18 hole private members club with 550 full members and is one of the leading clubs in Buckinghamshire. The present incumbent is due to retire at the end of August after 34 years.

We are seeking a top quality successor who can demonstrate that he holds all the necessary qualifications and has a proven track record in golf course management at a senior level. He will report directly to the Club

Secretary and be responsible for all aspects of man management and the observance of good Health and Safety practices. The highest standards of presentation and course maintenance are expected. The Club has installed a new computer controlled irrigation system throughout the course and the successful candidate will be expected to be computer literate.

The remuneration package will be attractive and competitive – accommodation is included

Please send your application in writing, together with full CV and salary expectations to:

**The Secretary, Denham Golf Club,  
Tilehouse Lane, Denham, Bucks, UB9 5DE**

## Rusper Golf Club

Has a Vacancy for a

### Greenkeeper

A qualified greenkeeper (with spraying certificates) required to join a small enthusiastic team looking after a 9 hole course extending to 18 holes this summer. Situated on the Surrey/Sussex border, The Club, with members, driving range, and pay and play visitors is looking for a hard working hands on greenkeeper who will be prepared to undertake any aspect of course work. Weekend work on a rota system is required.

Please write with full CV and names of references to:

**The Secretary  
Rusper Golf Club  
Rusper Road  
Newdigate  
Surrey RH 5 SBX**

**01293 871456**



### Assistant Greenkeeper Required

Preferably HND or NVQ3 qualified.

The applicant must also possess PA1 and PA2 certificates.

Also required:

### Summer Casual Greenkeepers

for immediate start.

Please apply in writing to:

**David Gower, Course Manager  
The Oxfordshire Golf Club**

Rycote Lane, Milton Common, Thame, Oxon OX9 2PU



### SALES REPRESENTATIVE - NORTH AMENITY & SPORT TURF DIVISION

Vitax is an old established privately owned company supplying quality products to the sport turf and local authority markets. Our well known brands include Tecto, Estermone and the Key Range of sports turf fertilisers

A vacancy exists for a Representative to take over an established distributor and end user customer base throughout the North. Proven success in a sales role or an in-depth knowledge of the sports turf industry is essential. Sound interpersonal skills will also be necessary, to communicate effectively at all levels and build strong relationships with both distributor and end user customers.

Drive and ambition will ensure success in an interesting commercial environment.

If you feel you have the necessary skills, experience and enthusiasm to succeed in this role, please send your CV to:-

**Clive Williams  
Product Development Manager  
Vitax Ltd  
Owen Street  
Coalville  
Leics LE67 3DE**

**Tel: 01530 510060 Fax: 01530 510299  
e-mail: clivewilliams@vitax.co.uk**

## Sutton Green Golf Club

Require an

### Assistant Greenkeeper

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

NVQ Level 2 with PA1, 2 and 6 qualifications preferred.

Salary in line with BIGGA rates

No accommodation

Apply in writing with full CV to:

**Nathan Kimsing, Head Greenkeeper  
Sutton Green Golf Club, New Lane, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7QF**





# Land of the rising blood pressure

Pay attention now, as I will give you the benefit of my meagre intelligence and share with you a profound thought. Yes I know, intellectual discourse in what many believe to be the senile ramblings of a degenerate old git is about as common as a kamikaze pilot's reunion, but here it is anyway.

I have a long held belief that in the interest of obtaining the most out of our short existence on this planet, it is wise to self impose change on ourselves. This change can take many forms. A new job, a move to a different part of the world or perhaps taking on the challenge of a new pastime or skill. Failure to execute such variation could result in the years becoming indistinguishable from one to the next until before we know it old age has permanently set in and the body succumbs to the irresistible urge to don warm slippers and smoke a pipe. So with that somewhat depressing notion in mind I have always looked on change in whatever form it takes as a means of slowing time down into a series of tangible slots each of which is a source of learning and experience.

One such recognisable period of time I was lucky enough to experience was when I became Head Greenkeeper at a Japanese owned golf club. I still look back on this period of my life as one that was rich in variety, if not monetary gain. There is no doubting the fact that the Japanese are a highly successful people and I looked forward to learning of their undoubted wisdom and superior management techniques. But trying to understand the Japanese I found to be challenging to say the least.

One thing I did learn and this may go some way to explaining their success, was the incredible capacity that they have for detail. It is almost as if the detail becomes the most important aspect in every problem to the point where the main issue is all but excluded.

At one of the painfully regular meetings I attended (The Japanese I found out have pre-meeting meetings, lists of lists and analyses of analyses,) we discussed how the milk should be served for the golfers coffee. Should it be in those little packagey type things or filled into a jug in the mornings. Should it be UHT or

pasteurised, skimmed, semi-skimmed or full cream, who would check the quantity of milk available and at what times would it be checked. Should a rota be drawn up for milk checking duty and if so who would draw up the rota. What temperature would the milk be served at and at what point should this be checked and what techniques would be used for milk temperature study.

On and on it went for well over an hour until a conclusion was finally drawn and the next item on the agenda was discussed.

The point that they appeared to miss was that the club was making an annual loss of somewhere between £100,000 to £200,000 a year. This was a result of the vast numbers of administration and managerial staff they needed to run the club.

One Friday afternoon at the club just as we were winding down for the weekend I learnt about another of the Japanese traditions. This was the one where they never expect the impossible. I was approached by one of the many office staff and told to build several bridges over the courses numerous ditches, place sand on all the pathways and to remove the water that was retained in the bunkers following some especially wet weather. The time limit on this undertaking was to be the end of the day ready for some VIP's that were playing the following day. I explained that this would be entirely impossible as we did not have any railway sleepers for the bridges and all the staff were at that time concentrating their efforts on the contemplation of how they would blow their unsubstantial wages on the fast approaching weekend.

But true to form I was presented with two Japanese trainee accountants complete with designer tracksuits and Gucci trainers and informed that they would help me achieve what had to be done. These guys weighed in at about seven stone tops and had all the muscular development of an anorexic stick insect. When we stuck a cast iron shovel in their dainty little hands they all but toppled over and that was before any sand entered the equation.

Amazingly enough though we all pulled together and got everything finished on time, although this did involve myself

hurting down a busy high street with a couple of tonnes of railway sleepers hanging out the back of the hatchback, having borrowed them from a neighbouring club. It was late at night when we finally finished sanding the last of the pathways by the light of the tractor. My staff and I were "cream crackered" as the local vernacular would put it, but the two Japanese accountants were close to death. With their filthy tracksuits and decimated Gucci's they could barely put one foot in front of the other let alone yield any productive output. But to my amazement they then made their way up to the office to carry on with their paper work until well into the early hours.

This highlights what is in my mind the main reason for the success of this nation. The work force has a totally unquestioning loyalty to their superiors and will obey them regardless of how demanding or even futile is the task.

To give you an example of this, when I went to Japan to visit the headquarters I noticed the main office was not set out like the Western equivalent. Instead of it being a large room full of office staff surrounded by smaller management offices it instead consisted of one large room and in the middle sat the manager. There he would deposit himself and do all but nothing save for signing the odd document. When home time arrived he would stay put and no one would leave until he decided the time was right. This would commonly be about eight o'clock in the evening. Only at this point would all the others follow at a safe distance.

It did not matter if his or her work had been done hours before, it was simply not customary for any one to leave before the manager and so no one did.

Paradoxically I believe this unquestioning loyalty has been the reason for some of their problems in recent years. If you don't question, you don't change; and often radical change is essential in today's highly competitive world.

I used to sometimes go out for a drink with the Japanese office staff they used to employ at the club. This was never much of a financial hardship as it would generally require about three whiskies for them to get to the paralytic stage, but they once asked me of my opinion of our

Japanese MD. With my usual belligerent lack of subtlety I described in detail my thoughts using a form of English that they were never officially introduced to but understood perfectly. They found this heartfelt critique of the man highly entertaining but when I asked the same question of them it was a different matter. It did not matter how persuasive I tried to be, they simply would not divulge any opinion whatsoever on the subject of their boss even though they knew just as well as I, that he was a mobile disaster area that had an unsurpassed talent for inviting hatred.

Memos were another aspect of the Japanese way that I found difficult to appreciate. Memos are a ghastly invention that gives the issuer a cast iron method of passing the buck and when used to excess as they were at this club, they begin to replace all conversation. When it got to the stage where I received a memo that said remove a fallen stick on 7th tee, I felt the time was right to start studying the employment section of this magazine.

But there is one lesson the Japanese could teach to the rest of the world and this is their attitude to golf. You will never see a Japanese person show any trace of frustration on a golf course at all. To them a bad shot is a source of endless merriment and a succession of bad shots the ultimate in hilarity. To see them run after their shot, duff it, crack up laughing and run after it again is a sight to behold and speaking as someone who has on more than one occasion indulged in some quality club throwing they offer a lesson to be learnt.

So there you have it, McDivot's guide to the world of the Japanese. They are illogical, unfathomable, incredibly sexist, often extremely generous, totally loyal, by and large, complete nutters and in most cases especially the younger ones, terrific people. If ever you get the chance to work at such a club be prepared for intense frustration and a great deal of hard work but take on the challenge with open arms as it will be an experience you will look back on with satisfaction.

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



## Feature listing from June '98

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**January '99:** Pesticide Usage, Life in Colorado, 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

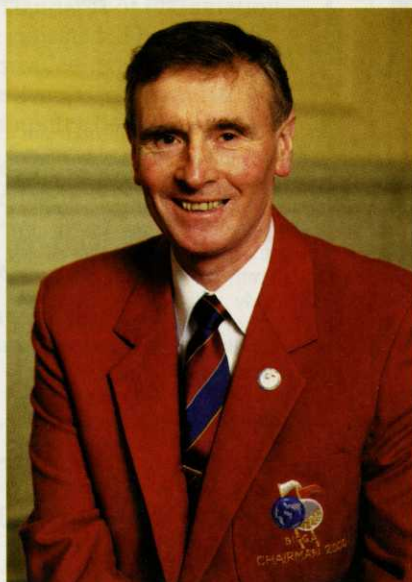
**March 2000:** Cleobury Mortimer GC; Course Furniture; R&A Conference Report; Cutting heights; Avoncrop profile; Valderrama report; Westurf preview

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

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



# from course openings to World Conferences



On Friday 14 April I attended the opening by the Duke of York of the new Greenkeeping Academy at the Berkshire College of Agriculture. This is a new 6-hole course built within the college grounds specifically for the training of greenkeepers. The College are to be commended for their initiatives in looking to the future, as they have incorporated into their design diverse areas of conservation and also have plans for research into using waste water from their own plant for irrigation purposes. Each of the six greens are of a different construction and Head Greenkeeper Bob Woodward has the interesting task of maintaining the complex. I wish Bob the best of luck and perhaps he could find the time to update us through the pages GI on the progress of the greens. I enjoyed talking to many people from all sections of golf including Martin Gunn and Malcolm Peake from Temple who were very much involved with the project. Also the Ely brothers, ex students of the Berkshire, who constructed the course.

I well remember Cecil George and Harry Diamond advocating back in SIGGA days that we should have our own golf course for training greenkeepers. I would like to think that may be a possibility in the future, my personal opinion, but in the meantime it is interesting to see how many colleges now have their own courses.

After a relaxing Saturday at home that week, it was up early on the Sunday morn-

ing to get the train for York and to the World Conference on Greenkeeper Training and Education at BIGGA House. I must admit to being a wee bit apprehensive about this Conference, but my fears were groundless as it turned out to be a most successful three days. (Report elsewhere).

It was fascinating to listen to people from so many different countries explaining their training systems, or in some cases, the lack of any training. How often were similar points raised by different delegates and the outcome of the group sessions on 'Problems and Possible Solutions' made everyone aware that the problems were global. Funding, Standards, Communication and

Language were common problems in each group.

It was a most enlightening few days and seeing the delegates exchanging cards and e-mail addresses, there was an air of expectancy that, in the first instance, better and more regular communication between all the associations and a willingness to share experiences and lessons learned from these experiences, could only help to further strengthen Greenkeeper Associations around the world.

Congratulations to Emma Duggleby, who many of you will remember working in the BIGGA office. Emma left BIGGA to concentrate on her golf and it certainly paid off as she has been selected for the Curtis Cup team to play the USA at Ganton in June. Well done Emma and the best of luck for the match.

I went to Western Gailes in Ayrshire to play in the Arter Spring meeting, my first game of golf this year it was to be. Well, what can I say. It was one of the worst days of the year, it poured down, there was a strong wind and it was freezing cold. Those 24 brave souls that played all the way had to be commended as us elder statesmen at the end only managed 8 holes before admitting defeat. My thanks to the Arter section for the day. I thoroughly enjoyed the clubhouse patter.

That was on April 26 and you know what, we have had two weeks of mainly glorious weather since then and I still

haven't had a game yet.

Many of you may have read in a national paper a few weeks again about Chris Yeaman's son. Chris is Head Greenkeeper at West Linton Golf Club and a hard working member of the East Section committee. His son, Christopher, had been waiting for a liver transplant and I am pleased to say that he has now had the transplant, which has been successful, and after some related complications, he is now stable. I'm sure I speak for all when I say we are all wishing Christopher a full and speedy recovery.

Golf is a great game, a game to be enjoyed by many. Most golf in this country is probably played at private members clubs. The day-to-day running of most of these clubs is usually carried out by, in no particular order, Manager/Secretary, Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager, Professional and a Club Steward. The relationship between these people will usually be pretty good with the best interests of the club and the members at heart. I know at Tulliallan that we all get on very well with each other and it makes for a better working environment. Why then, if we from all these difference associations get on so well at our clubs, is there so little co-operation and communication between our respective Associations. Even though there have been a lot of courses built in the last twenty years, it would appear that golf is in a bit of a stagnation period and we need to encourage many new people, especially younger ones, to play the game. This to my mind is even more reason why all the different associations should be talking to each other on a regular basis with a mind to the future of the game.

There is another group important to the game and these are in the Golf Unions. I believe there are fairly close connections in Wales and Ireland but not a lot in England and Scotland. The game of golf is the important thing here, not individual associations and whilst each association quite rightly will work hard on behalf of its members, they should all have closer working relationships for the good of the game of golf.

With that I leave you with the thought that

'The only limits are, as always, those of vision'.

*S. A. R. Small*



# New

## BIGGA Merchandise Range for 2000



BIGGA have teamed up with Slazenger Golf and Walrus to offer a select range of quality leisure wear, ideal for on or off the Golf Course.

All prices include VAT and post & packing for U.K. mainland (Overseas subject to additional delivery charge – price on application). Please allow 14 working days for processing and delivery.



### Slazenger Navy Fleece

with dark green reverse collar and BIGGA logo

S / M / L / XL / XXL sizes available

(please note sizes are generous)

Product code: 931 – 020

Price: £34.95

### Slazenger Long sleeved microfibre Windshirt

Available in Navy with BIGGA logo

M / L / XL / XXL sizes available.

Product code: 190 – 040

Price: £25.95

### Slazenger Solid short sleeved pique polo shirt

available in White and Navy with BIGGA logo

S / M / L / XL / XXL sizes available

Product code White: 315 – 010

Navy: 315 – 040

Price: £19.95



### Slazenger Headwear

in Navy with Khaki peak and BIGGA logo

one size – adjustable.

Product code: 904 – 04L

Price: £9.95

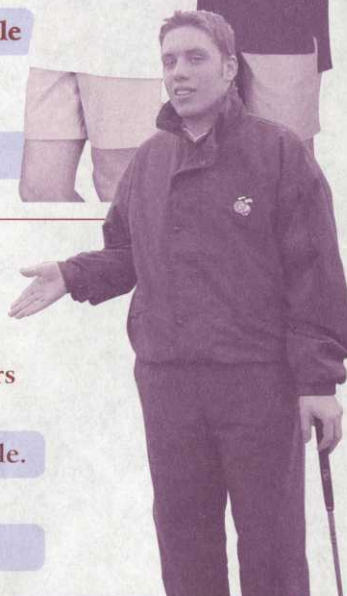
### Walrus 'Stormtrooper'

100% Waterproof 2 piece Rainsuit in Navy with BIGGA logos on the jacket and plain elasticated trousers offering outstanding protection

M / L / XL / XXL sizes available.

Product code: WST

Price: £59.95



## Merchandise Order Form

Product	S	M	L	XL	XXL	Code	Quantity	Price
Navy Fleece								
Short sleeved polo shirt								
Long sleeved microfibre								
Headwear								
Walrus 'Stormtrooper'								
Walrus 'Stormtrooper'						WST	1	£59.95

EXAMPLE ONLY

Total

### Your name, address and finance details

Forename

Surname

Address

Postcode

Tel:

Email

Please delete as applicable



I enclose a cheque made payable to BIGGA for the following amount:

£



Visa/Mastercard/Switch/Delta

£

Card no.

Expiry date

Issue no.

Signed

Date

You can pay by Cheque, Credit Card or Debit Card. Simply complete this order form and return it together with your preferred method of payment to BIGGA Membership Services, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF or phone on 01347 833800 or email [membership@bigga.co.uk](mailto:membership@bigga.co.uk)



Award-winning magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association



# Greenkeeper

June 2000 – £3.50

## INTERNATIONAL

**By Air Mail  
Par Avion**

**1**

POSTAGE PAID  
GREAT BRITAIN  
YORK 231

MR KENT KURTZ  
CALIFORNIA STATE  
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY  
POMONA  
CA 91768  
USA

**It undelivered, please return to:** British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF



# Just Champion

National Championship Courses Profile | World Education Conference review | Gleneagles

See us on the internet: <http://www.bigga.org.uk>



# BIGGA MEMBERSHIP: CHANGE OF ADDRESS

00:05.00

Have you changed your job, your address, or have any of your details changed recently? Just pop your current details on this card, and let us update our ever increasing membership database.

Name		Golf Club/Company/College
Mailing address		Work address
Home Tel:		Postcode
Position at Club/Company/College		Work Tel:
Membership No.		Email

# BIGGA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS GREENKEEPING

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801 Email: [members@bigga.co.uk](mailto:members@bigga.co.uk)

Fax: 01347 833801

Tel: 01347 833800

111

# Reader reply card

More than just a magazine – let Greenkeeper International help you find the right products or services for your golf course – for free! When you see an advertisement which interests you, simply make a note of the Ad Ref number in the panel below, send the card back to us, and we'll pass on your enquiry and more details will be rushed straight to you. It's as easy as that and what's more, it won't even cost you a penny!

Name	
Position	
Company/Course	
Address	
Postcode	
Work Tel:	

Because we deal with the issues which affect you, you can't afford to miss a single copy of the award-winning Greenkeeper International magazine. Subscription rates are: £36 for 12 issues (Europe £46). All you have to do is tick this box ☐ then complete your details above, and post this card back to us. We'll then add your name to our ever-increasing list of satisfied readers. *Our invoice will be sent in due course.*

Gi 05 00



BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE  
Licence No. YO 331

2

**Membership**  
**BIGGA HOUSE**  
**Aldwark**  
**Alne**  
**York**  
**YO61 1UF**

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE  
Licence No. YO 331

2

**Membership**  
**BIGGA HOUSE**  
**Aldwark**  
**Alne**  
**York**  
**YO61 1UF**





**ALL IN ONE  
ALL AT ONCE**

Introducing **NEW**

# TurfVigor

with high impact  
beneficial microbes and  
key organic nutrients.

**6 NEW MICROBES** New TurfVigor is a complete nutrient and microbe complex featuring six new microbes specially selected and screened to encourage turf health. During times of stress, TurfVigor responsively triggers the synthesis of essential growth factors and regulatory elements to maintain a healthier stand. Its performance has been validated through research conducted at leading turf grass universities.

**ONE STEP APPLICATION** Because TurfVigor contains both beneficial microbes and organic nutrients, it can be mixed and applied in one easy step. In fact, TurfVigor is tank-mix compatible with a variety of fungicides and growth regulators. Its highly stable nature assures a long shelf life.

**IT PAYS TO BE SELECTIVE** Like all GREEN-RELEAF products, TurfVigor is environmentally friendly with microbial strains selected strictly on their ability to provide targeted turf benefits. TurfVigor is packed in 9.5 litre containers.

**We're very selective.  
You should be, too.**



**TO KNOW MORE CALL,**

Ad Ref 618

**Avoncrop Amenity Products**  
Tel: 01934 820868 Bristol  
Tel: 01344 426600 Bracknell

**Richard Aitken Ltd**  
0141 440 0033 Glasgow  
**Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd**  
01977 681155 York



Green-Relief products are marketed in the UK and Europe by GreenLink International Ltd,  
1 Rysley, Holybread Lane, Little Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 4DD  
Tel: +44 (0) 1245 222750 Fax: +44 (0) 1245 222755  
[www.green-releaf.com](http://www.green-releaf.com)

**ISO 9002 CERTIFICATION**



# Don't Miss the Post !



## Ballwasher & Post Promotion

For a limited period only we are offering a free 46" Standpipe available in Green or Black with any Bayco Ballwasher purchased - a saving of £27.50. This offer is only available until the 31st July, so contact us today to make sure that YOU Don't Miss the Post. Offer valid from 1st June to 31st July 2000

Ad Ref 431



**Amenity Technology Ltd**

5 Arkwright Road, Reading, Berkshire RG2 0LU

Tel: 0118 931 1111 Fax: 0118 975 0344

Email: [amtec@btinternet.com](mailto:amtec@btinternet.com) Web: [www.AmenityTechnology.com](http://www.AmenityTechnology.com)

