



Greenkeeper

November 2000 - £3.50

INTERNATIONAL



Dustin gets that Champion feeling

Monster FROM THE DEEP

The underground life of the Leatherjacket

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BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION

BTME 2001

& EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME



THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

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

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



CONFERENCE

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

Sessions include the following topics and speakers:

Growing

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

Human Resource Management

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

Water Management

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

Environmental Management

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

Workshops run concurrently with the Conference sessions and include:

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



SEMINARS

Wednesday 24 January 2001

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

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

Thursday 25 January 2001

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

EXHIBITION

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



BANQUET

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

24-26 JANUARY, 2001

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

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS SEMINARS BANQUET OVER 200 EXHIBITORS

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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

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November 2000

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Greenkeeper

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Dustin Houghton, won the second Charterhouse/Scotts BIGGA National Golf Championship, and achieved the feat despite a damp second day

A Completely Different Ball Game

A few months ago I took time to crow about how sport had much to learn from golf in terms of sportsmanship. Well, unfortunately, I may have to revise that thought a bit.

Sure, I believe in its conventional form golf is a truly genuine game when it comes to true sportsmanship but Team Golf, well that's a completely different ball game.

We won't forget in a hurry the scenes on the 17th hole at Brookline Country Club when the American Ryder Cup team celebrated victory despite Jose Maria Olazabal still having the chance to hole a makeable birdie putt, win his game and therefore affect the result of the entire match. The scenes on the green have been well documented and did golf a great disservice but if mitigation were needed they were borne out of a genuine exuberance on the back of an atmosphere of high excitement and tension.

Prior to that there was the War on the Shore at Kiawah Island and the ridiculous Gulf War style hats that were worn by some of the American team. Dottie Pepper had been known to cheer when her Solheim Cup opponent missed a putt. Before that there were various incidents, one including a certain GBS&I Ryder Cup Captain who memorably instructed his team not to search for American balls in the rough.

However much of it pales into insignificance against the events at Loch Lomond during last month's Solheim Cup when a cynical attempt by the American team to win at all costs was witnessed by an appalled gallery and suffered by the European team.

For those who are not aware of what happened. Returning after a break for rain Annika Sorenstam was off the 13th green faced with a little chip while her American opponents, Pat Hurst and Kelly Robbins, were on the green. She then chipped in for what would appear to have been a hole-saving birdie only to have the Americans ask the referee to adjudicate on who had been further from the hole. The referee paced it out and decided that in fact, by about a yard, Annika Sorenstam's ball had been closer to the hole. The Americans then ordered her to replay the shot and, in tears, she missed.

The Americans were quite within the laws of the game but no attempt had been made to clarify the situation before the chip shot had been played and the general consensus was that if the shot had not gone in the matter would never have been brought to light.

It caused a bitterness which, even though Europe won the Cup, will not disappear for quite some time.

These incidents only seem to occur in team competitions when tensions are at their height and the true essence of the game is overlooked. It does highlight the magnificent sportsmanship Jack Nicklaus displayed in conceding Tony Jacklin's three footer to tie the 1969 Ryder Cup match at Birkdale.

Of course, Nicklaus's Captain, Sam Snead, was not best pleased but that brings me back to where I started.

Scott MacCallum
Editor



This old timer can still cut it!



A fully restored and working version of the world's oldest motor mower, a Ransomes 42" built in 1903, has been donated by Cadbury's World in Birmingham to The Hall and Duck Trust. It has been lovingly restored by Michael Duck, curator at the Somerset-based Trust. He and his team of volunteers have scoured vintage vehicle jumbles across the country sourcing parts to help in the restoration.

"The Hall and Duck Trust is one of those organisations that act as guardians of our heritage and I am particularly delighted that they have chosen to restore such a fine example of British craftsmanship," said Textron Marketing Director Neil Woodfin.

"It really is a testament to the work that the Trust undertakes and it looks quite magnificent."

CGSA International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show Vancouver, 24-27 February 2001

BIGGA's links with the CGSA grow ever stronger as the presence of their members at BTME testifies. Their 2001 Conference and Trade Show will be held at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre from 24-27 February. Departure will be from Heathrow Airport on Thursday 22 February at 1635 hours returning from Vancouver on Wednesday 28 February to arrive at Heathrow the following morning. Accommodation will be provided at the Waterfront Centre Hotel which is one of the CGSA official hotels.

Vancouver is most certainly one of the world's most beautiful cities and the Waterfront Centre Hotel is surrounded by the towering peaks of the majestic Rocky Mountains and located on Vancouver's spectacular harbour and city parks. From here you will have the opportunity to explore Chinatown, historical Gastown, the exclusive boutiques on Robson Street, Stanley Park surrounded on three sides by the sea with 1000 acres of gardens, lakes and forest, or bask in the view atop Grouse Mountain.

Itinerary

Thursday 22 February
Assemble at Heathrow Airport for the 1635 hours British Airways flight direct to Vancouver arriving at 1815 hours. You will be transferred to your hotel for a six night stay on a room only basis inclusive of private facilities.

Wednesday 28 February
You will be transferred to the airport for your return flight departing 2020 hours to arrive in London at 1335 hours on 1st March.

Prices

Prices are £665 per person based on a twin share and £849 per person based on single occupancy plus comprehensive holiday insurance for the duration of £25 per person.

Included in the price are return economy class flights from London Heathrow to Vancouver with in-flight refreshments and meals; airport taxes; transfer from the airport to hotel and return; six nights accommodation on a room only basis and Canadian accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for the Conference and Trade Show are not included in the package and bookings will need to be made directly with the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association. Details are available from BIGGA on request. Please forward full payment of £665 or £849 (plus insurance if required) to BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Ane, York, YO61 1UF to arrive not later than Friday 8 December 2000, together with name, address and contact telephone number. If accommodation is required for the night of 21 February please advise in order for the hotel rooms to be booked. Payment will be made on checking out of the hotel.

World's fastest visits Europe's biggest

Richard Noble OBE (right) will deliver the keynote speech during BTME 2001, Europe's largest indoor fine turf exhibition.

Richard, driving Thrust 2, was holder of the World Land Speed Record from 1983 to 1997 reaching a speed of 468 mph then he founded a company aimed at producing the first ever supersonic land speed record. This was achieved in '97 when, driven by Andy Green, Thrust SSC reached a speed of 763.035 mph.

Preparations for the Show are well underway and visitors will be treated to an exciting and fulfilling experience whether they stay for a day or the entire week - Monday January 22 - Friday January 26.

As usual, the Learning Experience, in association with Textron, divides into two parts - the National Education Conference together with the accompanying workshops on the Monday and Tuesday followed by the Seminar Programme which runs in conjunction with the show itself.

The recently opened Hall M will join Halls A, B, C and Q in housing the 180+ stands with a significant number of exhibitors showing for the first time - including Fern House Marketing Ltd, DGT Volmatic A/S, of Denmark; Aztec Chemicals and Rousseau Equipment Ltd. The added space available through the introduction of Hall M has enabled several companies including Toro, John Deere, Rigby Taylor and Amenity



Technology to increase the size of their stands markedly to enable them to show even more of their product to visitors.

Themes for the Education Conference include Growing; Human Resource Management; Water Management; and Environmental Management while - in addition to Richard Noble - the speakers to be enjoyed during the course of the week will be Dr Paul

Rieke, Professor Emeritus at Michigan State University; Dr Kimberly Erusha, Director of Education for the USGA; Canadian Superintendent, Dean Pillier; Australian Superintendent, Peter Schumacher, and Eddie Adams, Head Greenkeeper of the Old Course, St Andrews.

Richard Noble's speech will take place in the Royal Hall on Wednesday, January 24, at 10.45am.

Increased staffing levels with latest STRI appointments

Steve Gingell will be joining STRI's agronomy team this month. Working from his home base, Steve will be covering the Thames Valley as a Regional Turfgrass Agronomist.

Steve's previous experience within amenity horticulture ranges from research to retail to further education.

As Programme Area Manager for Horticulture at Berkshire College of Agriculture, Steve developed the Six Hole Golf Greenkeeping Academy, which featured in the September issue of Greenkeeper International, in addition to managing a varied curriculum which included Greenkeeping, Design Management, Conservation, Soil & Plant Science and Amenity Horticulture.

Steve will bring additional skills and experience to the agronomy team which will assist in the future development of the STRI Advisory Service.

Additional staff have also been recruited to the STRI's construction team. Jonathan Smith has been appointed as Regional Construction Specialist and will be operating a regional STRI office in Cardiff in order to develop STRI's services in South Wales and the southwest. Jonathan has considerable experience in soil management and has recently been involved with golf course construction projects. In 1992, he worked with Dr Bill Adams at Aberystwyth to complete a research project on "Physical and Chemical Properties of Rootzones in relation to Black Layer."

David Hemstock has also been recruited as an STRI Associate Consultant, working from the Midlands. David has many years experience in sportsturf drainage and construction, and, during recent years, in Golf Course Architecture, both in the UK and overseas.

New post for David at Barenbrug

David Linton has joined Barenbrug UK as the company's Area Manager for Northern Ireland and South-west Scotland. This is a newly created position, and David assumes responsibility for sales of both forage and amenity grasses within these areas.

Prior to joining Barenbrug, David, who lives in Northern Ireland, worked for a major grass seed distributor and so is already well known throughout the industry. He aims to increase Barenbrug's presence, particularly in the amenity sphere in Ulster, where the company sees tremendous potential for its purpose-bred varieties and mixtures.

David, who holds a National Diploma in Food Science & Technology, owns a small farm in Killea as a spare-time venture.

New role for Peter at Lindum Plant Nutrition

Peter Cotton, has joined Lindum Plant Nutrition as the company's new Northern Sales Manager. Responsible for the area from Birmingham to the Scottish border, Peter, who started working in horticulture in 1969 and moved to the amenity turf sector in the late seventies, brings over twenty years experience of the industry to his new post.

"Having been around for many years, I am excited by the opportunities offered by the Lindum Plant Nutrition system," he says. Fresh from an intensive training course

with Floratine Products Group USA, who pioneered the system, Peter is enthusiastic about what he sees as a new approach to turf care.

"While I was in Memphis I had the chance to talk to golf course superintendents who are using the system, which has given me a whole new perspective. The industry needs a fresh approach to soil science, and Floratine are ten years ahead of us in their thinking. We know the concept is successful in America, the Far East and elsewhere in Europe, and I am looking forward to developing it in the U.K."



Hayter bought by private investment company

Hayter, which has been a long time friend to BIGGA and known for the popular Hayter Challenges and Hayter International Cup Matches, has been sold to a private investment company.

The company with the dark green livery was part of the Murray Group which parent company Tomkins Plc sold to Summersong Investments Inc.

Wayne G. Smith, President of Summersong, said that they intended to assist the Murray Group in developing strong global alliances in order to bring new products to its customers.

"Additional related acquisitions may be made by the group as well," he said.

The existing management team remains - headed by Managing Director, Tony Bourke, and Sales and Marketing Director, Kim Macfie - and does not envisage any immediate changes in commercial policy or customer relations as a consequence of the change of ownership.

"The sale process has been extended but ultimately with a satisfactory conclusion. We look forward to working with our new colleagues who are obviously prepared to invest in the future of the business and we expect to continue the growth in sales and profitability with our dealer partners, experienced over the last few years," said Tony Bourke.



Two more books have arrived at BIGGA HOUSE that may interest some of our readers.

Practical Drainage for Golf, Sportsturf and Horticulture by Keith McIntyre and Bent Jakobsen
Published by Ann Arbor Press
ISBN 1-57504-139-1

Keith McIntyre, who is based in Canberra, Australia, has 34 years of experience in horticulture and sportsturf specialising in sportsground construction, soils and drainage. Bent Jakobsen has spent much of his working life working on soil compaction and particle movement. More recently, Bent worked with Keith on soil and drainage problems.

The two authors have used their knowledge and experience to put together an easy to follow text book on drainage which contains chapters on soil structure and water retention through to subsoil and surface drainage. All units are shown in both metric and imperial measures, key points highlighted in bold print.

Although some theory is included, the authors have attempted to keep definitions simple and at the correct level for practitioners, although some theorists may argue about some of their definitions.

An enlightening chapter on Perched Water Tables gives an insight on what can go wrong and this is followed up in a later section with information on the USGA Recommendations. Written by practitioners for practitioners this book would solve many of the problems and answers most questions that greenkeepers encounter.

The second book is for those greenkeepers who are interested in new grass species and are concerned with the changes that the 21st century may bring to the fine turf industries.

Seashore Paspalum
The environmental Turfgrass
by R R Duncan and R N Carrow

Both authors are Professors within the Turfgrass department of the University of Georgia, Griffin, where they have been concerned with the breeding and growing of new cultivars that are resistant to stress.

Although of limited use to greenkeepers in Britain, the book aims to establish a precedent by offering turf grass managers a four pronged approach to growing new cultivars.

This book concentrates on Seashore Paspalum and contains:

- A description and background information
- Environmental tolerance.
- Management practices
- Using alternative water resources

A fairly complex book for most readers, but it does give a useful insight into what is becoming available now and what may become available soon to help greenkeepers in their quest to plant, grow and maintain turf grass when it is under stress.

Membership Subscription Rates for 2001

Please note that from January 1, 2001, BIGGA Membership Subscription Rates will be as follows:

Job Title	2001 Rates
Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£80
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£65
All other Greenkeeping staff aged 21 years and over	£52
Greens staff aged 20 years and under	£32
International Greenkeeping Member	£60
Full-time Students	£15
Associate Member	£60
New for 2001	
Corporate Membership (upto 4 trade members)	£180

Top IoH award for Robert

Independent turf consultant and agronomist, Robert Laycock, (right) has been elected a Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture (IoH).

The honour comes in recognition of the high level of distinction achieved within the turf profession by Robert during a 25-year career working with turf growers, golf greenkeepers, groundsmen and other turf professionals.

Following his election, Robert Laycock becomes the only Fellow of the IoH who is also an active turf agronomist. He is the first turf specialist to be made a Fellow since Dr Peter Hayes and the late John Shildrick, both of the Sports Turf Research Institute, were elected Fellows.

"I am very pleased and deeply honoured to have been made a Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture," commented Robert.

"Very few turf specialists have received this accolade which is made on the recommendation of the Institute



before being approved by individual members. The honour reflects the growing status and importance of the turf profession within the horticultural industry."

New acquisition for Charterhouse



Redexim Charterhouse has added to the company portfolio with the acquisition of Pro-Seed Equipment Ltd.

This acquisition was made by Charterhouse Turf Machinery's parent company in Holland, whose strategy is to grow by gaining strength in niche market areas within the turf industry.

The products manufactured by Pro-Seed will complement Redexim Charterhouses' existing range and

benefit from their world-wide distribution. Ken Knowles, Managing Director of Pro-Seed Equipment said that he was delighted that several months of negotiations had come to a successful conclusion and that his whole Company would now receive the benefits which flow from being part of a larger group. He himself would continue working in conjunction with the group's Engineering Department which is based in Holland.

Links Manager appointed at The Trust

Former Scottish National Chairman and National Board Member, Gordon Moir, has been appointed Links Manager at the St Andrews Links Trust following the tragic death of Ian Forbes in September.

Gordon, (right) has worked for the Links Trust for nine years. He joined in 1991 as Head Greenkeeper of the Eden Course from Fraserburgh Golf Club. He then added the management of the nine hole Balgove Course and in 1996 also became responsible for running the newly-opened Eden Greenkeeping Centre.



As Links Manager, he will have responsibility for the greenkeeping squads covering all six courses, property maintenance, stores and engineering workshops – over 60 employees in total. He will also oversee the installation and future maintenance of the irrigation system.

"I am delighted that the Trust has been able to fill this senior position by internal promotion. This confirms the rising quality of the Trust's staff at all levels. Under Gordon's management the condition of the Eden Course has improved substantially and I am convinced he will make a major contribution to the management of the Links," said Alan McGregor, general manager of St Andrews Links Trust.

Originally from Fraserburgh, Gordon served his greenkeeping apprenticeship at Fraserburgh Golf Club and completed his training at Elmwood College.

A keen golfer, he plays off 6. Married with three children, he lives in St Andrews and is past Chairman of St Andrews Round Table.

Mike Olver passes away

Mike Olver, of Olver Seeds and Sundries, and a regular attendee at Devon and Cornwall Section events has died after a short illness.

"Mike supported the Section for many years and we are all saddened by his passing. Our condolences go to his family," said Devon and Cornwall Section Secretary, Richard Whyman.

Canadian Awards

Jim Wyllie has been awarded the John B. Steel Award for distinguished service and will be presented with the award at the CGSA Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Show in Vancouver next year.

He will be joined by James Brown, who has been voted the CGSA's 2000 Superintendent of the Year.

The Conference and Show will be held in the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre on February 24-27, 2001.

A true International feel to Association

In recent editions of 'Greenkeeper' we have noticed that you have been mentioning international members more and more, so we thought that it was long overdue that we introduced ourselves as two of probably very few members currently working in Nigeria.

The golf course is an 18 Hole Championship course situated in the new capital Abuja. It has been named IBB Golf and Country Club, named after the former president Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (IBB), who initiated the idea. The course was opened in 1984 and since then it has developed into a very challenging and beautiful course, which could easily be compared to any of the better courses in the hotter parts of Europe or America. The course also serves as a nature reserve providing a home for many types of tropical wildlife including crocodiles and dangerous snakes (so be careful in the rough).

The greens are 100% Tifdwarf which after several attempts was found to be the most appropriate grass to suit the conditions found in this part of the world, as such extreme temperatures which can reach 40°C coupled with six months of drought and six months of heavy rain. The fairways and tees are made up of native grasses such as Kikoji and common Bermuda, which generally provide a good playing surface.

At present we have a staff of 45 but not all are working on the course. We have four mechanics, store keeper, timekeeper and cleaners. During the rainy season the remaining staff spend 90% of their 10 hour day just keeping up with the course cutting on this 101 hectare site, bearing in mind that the grass here grows at three times the normal rate found in Europe. Providing it gets irrigated during the dry season it never stops growing as the coolest experienced is 21°C so it's like growing your grass in a heated greenhouse with no shortage of moisture all year round.

With the exception of the rough the whole course is irrigated. During the dry season we would normally irrigate with 1,000,000 litres of water per day. All valves are operated by hand which requires a team of four working 24 hours per day to ensure enough water is applied.



Our machinery is made of 95% Textron equipment and the remaining 5% being the Kubota compact tractor range. These machines have proved very reliable in these conditions, although we are forever changing rubber components such as hydraulic hoses and tyres. This is due to the constant exposure to extreme heat and sunlight which softens the rubber, causing it to wear prematurely. We would normally change the tyres on the drive wheels every four weeks, so, as you can imagine, with over 100 tyres on the course daily we get through quite a few.

We enjoyed reading a letter from one of your readers in which he complained about waiting 33 days for spare parts for an Iseki tractor. As I'm sure you realise we do not have the luxury of a local dealer so everything is shipped in from Europe. The normal delivery time (without expensive air freight charges) is three months. We keep a large stock which probably compares to a small dealers stock but sometimes we do get caught short - for example, an engine for one of our bat wing mowers developed a major fault which required a new engine. It was ordered in January 2000 and after shipping and customs problems did not arrive at the golf course until seven months later. A long time to be without such

an important machine but as with all greenkeepers we just have to find a way to manage this kind of situation and still present our course in the best possible condition no matter what. We all know excuses do not make any difference when the chairman of the greens committee is stuck in the rough up to his waist on the 18th hole and, as a result, loses the monthly medal by one shot.

On saying that, it's not a bad job really turning up for work every day in a pair of shorts, tee shirt and sunglasses. Yes we can remember that wet and cold February morning huddled together in the shed thinking of the summer months which seem a lifetime away.

On a final note we hope you enjoyed a look into greenkeeping in Africa. We could go on to tell you about greens disappearing overnight due to insect attack and the problems of filling the accident book after scorpion and mamba bites, but instead would like to thank BIGGA for its splendid publication which brings us a much needed look at what's going on back in Europe every month.

Robert Bell and Paul Evans
Golf Course Superintendents,
IBB Golf & Country Club,
Abuja, Nigeria

Sad passing of Fred Hawtree

BIGGA Honorary Member, Fred Hawtree, has died after a long illness. Fred, a world renowned golf course architect, was presented with his Honorary Membership certificate at his home in Oxfordshire by his long time friend and then BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, last year.

Gordon will write his own tribute to Fred in next month's magazine.

Drainage Seminar

A Sports Turf Drainage Seminar will be held at Newbury Racecourse on November 16. Further details can be obtained from the Land Drainage Contractors Association Tel: 01327 263264 Fax: 01327 263264.

Positive feedback after Deere trip

Alan Sampson, of Wortley Golf Club, reports on the latest John Deere Feedback trip

In September, approximately 90 people from the UK, mainly greenkeepers and sales representatives, travelled to Moline in Chicago, the headquarters of John Deere, for Feedback 2000.

For nine years John Deere have been listening to comments made from feedback stations and then re-designing machines to suit greenkeepers needs. This year, as in previous years, feedback was held at the Pinnacle Country Club where various new and hybrid versions of John Deere equipment were there for us to put to the test and then give feedback on whether it meets the needs and demands of greenkeepers and golf courses back in the UK.

There is without doubt some excellent machinery in its final stages of production and who knows, we may even see some launched at our very own BTME show.

Although feedback was the main reason for the journey to Chicago we were treated to many more features of the trip. On the second day we were given the opportunity to play golf at the new TPC golf course Deere Run, a PGA tour course and host to the recent John Deere Classic. This, for a golf course in its first playing year, was very impressive. For those not golf minded was a trip to Grand Detour to visit the historical site and home of the influential figure John Deere himself.

Day three was a trip to see the production of John Deere combine harvesters followed by an introduction programme at the auditorium and dinner at the John Deere headquarters.

Day four started with customer evaluation field stations (feedback) followed by a short trip to the 41 acre under cover parts department. Day five was back in down town Chicago for a guided tour of some of the city's most famous landmarks.

This trip, apart from being a chance of a lifetime, was an opportunity for greenkeepers to say what they really want out of machinery from a company whose aim is to provide excellent equipment. I would like to say a big thank you to Richard Tyas, of Bob Wilds Grass Machinery, to James Morley, of John Deere, and to John Deere themselves for their hospitality and generosity on this trip was first class from start to finish.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



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

Praise for Sandy McDivot

Congratulations on continuing to turn out a first class magazine for BIGGA in Greenkeeper International.

The article I enjoy and deserves much credit is Sandy McDivot - very humorous with a lovely sting in the tail.

Keep up the good work and regards to all my greenkeeping friends.

John Nudds, Retired Course Manager, Gerrards Cross GC, Now Hunstanton, Norfolk

Retirement thanks from Allan Stow

Yes, it is true, I have retired after over 35 years working for Synchemicals/Vitax. I have covered, at some time, most of the British Isles and have driven over a million miles.

I have met so many greenkeepers and groundsmen over the years and would like to say thank you to you all for making my job so enjoyable. Also a big thank you to all at BIGGA and members of the trade.

Thank you and farewell,

Allan Stow, Farnham

PS Don't let the golfers get you down!

Chris Yeaman Jnr

I want to thank you all for the money you raised for me after my transplant in April this year. I have put the money into my building society, so that I can use it to go to Butch Harman's Golfing Academy in Portugal next summer with my mum, dad and sister. I'm hoping to be the next Tiger Woods, and a week's tuition at the Academy should hopefully send me on my way.

Once again thank you very much for the money. I'll send photographs of my time there next year.

**Christopher Yeaman Junior
West Linton GC**

Friendly advice not taken on board

I feel compelled to write this letter in response to the article "Friendly Advice" by Sandy McDivot, in the August 2000, edition of Greenkeeper International. On reading the article I was utterly astonished at the attitude that was being taken by the author and the way in which he encouraged other BIGGA members to adopt his principles. In my view BIGGA is an Association that promotes professionalism and the way in which it has encouraged this along with its members in recent times is to be admired.

In my opinion if members of your golf course are not repairing the damage they cause, they should be told in a courteous manner that it would be beneficial

to the overall condition of the course if they replaced their divots and repaired their pitch marks on the greens. After all this is basic etiquette that should be followed while playing a round of golf.

To turn a blind eye to this type of behaviour is the worst thing that anyone can do. If you can get the more prominent members to follow these rules then they themselves will do the work for you. After all this type of person thrives on telling other people that they know best.

I agree that all greenkeepers should strive for good relations with their membership, but never lose sight of the fact that you work long hard hours to produce a good golf course for them and

to resort to arse licking means you lose your self respect and the respect of your employers.

I believe that it is time Mr Sandy McDivot revealed his true identity so we can see just who is responsible for this ridiculous feature, because I am pretty sure that he is talking (in his own words) out of the final component of his elementary canal.

I am more than happy to leave my real name and address and I look forward to any response that Mr McDivot has to my comments.

A J Mannon, Deputy Course Manager, Southerndown Golf Club, South Wales

'Sales ploy' defended by seed company

I am writing in response to the Talking Heads' article in the September 2000 issue of Greenkeeper International where your panel of greenkeepers debated the pros and cons of overseeding.

As Technical Manager for Amenity Grasses at Advanta Seeds, I feel I must defend the statement that this practice is merely "a sales ploy invented by seed companies".

The life of any particular sward is neither static nor infinite, and eventually some of the species will need replacing with better, healthier plants.

We are investing heavily in developing new amenity cultivars, which will make golf course management easier. We understand the increasing pressures that greenkeepers face, and are working hard to produce new varieties that will cope with greater use, but which need less physical and chemical inputs.

For example, we are developing varieties where the speed of regrowth has

been reduced, so that in future, greenkeepers won't have to mow the grass so often. Twenty years ago, our breeders made disease resistance a top priority, and varieties coming out of the breeding programme now, show very good resistance to diseases like red thread.

In some situations, tees and fairways will benefit from the introduction of the new strains of fineleaved ryegrasses, which have been specifically bred for golf course use. They offer benefits such as high wear tolerance, rapid establishment and good root development, and produce a dense, disease free and clean cutting turf.

Your contributors displayed a wide range of expectations with regards to germination - which makes me wonder whether some were not confusing this with establishment. All seed sold in the UK is subject to strict regulation regarding germination potential and purity. All Advanta seed sold exceeds the Higher Voluntary

Standards set by the EC.

Sward preparation prior to overseeding, and subsequent management will influence establishment considerably. This is particularly true when using mixtures with bentgrass in them because the seed is so small. But if managed correctly it will drop down below mowing height, especially if sown after verticutting.

Finally I would always advise using a mixture of cultivars. We take considerable efforts to formulate mixtures that are right for each particular situation. In mixture trials we started in the UK two years ago, we have already seen dramatic differences. In terms of shoot density, tolerance to close mowing, cleanness of cut and disease resistance, mixtures out-perform individual cultivars every time.

David Rhodes, Amenity Grass Development Manager, Advanta Seeds UK

Dustin's thanks after National Championship win

After a fantastic few days golf at Lytham St Annes playing two of the best courses I have had the pleasure of playing, I felt I just had to write to you to express my feelings now that it has sunk in what I have managed to do. I was so very shocked when I was announced the winner and it just all seemed as if I was in a dream. That was first time that I found myself lost for words but I wanted to say so much.

The two days golf were on two courses that were very well presented, and in excellent condition that suited my golf to a tee. The accommodation provided was also very good and the food fantastic, what more could we ask for, everything was so well planned and all seemed to go very smoothly. This event would not have taken place had it not been for the kind sponsorship from Charterhouse and Scotts who pro-

vided some lovely prizes and just made the event the success it was. Of course I would also like to thank the good people behind the scenes at BIGGA who have obviously put a lot of time and effort in to the championship to allow the competition go off without a hitch and make it the success it was.

I am sure that I speak for all who attended this Championship when I say thank you for the enjoyment had

by all. This was a great experience to meet other Greenkeepers from around the country, and to play some good golf on great courses.

I look forward to playing in future events. Keep up the great work at BIGGA.

**Dustin Houghton
Winner The Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship**

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Associate Member



MEMBER

Geoff Yelland takes an in depth look at one of greenkeeping's potential nightmares: The Leatherjacket

MONSTERS FROM THE DEEP

Under the surface of fine turf at this time of year lurks a voracious feeding machine with an appetite to match jaws – and right now it could be attacking the roots of your turf!

Leatherjacket activity is one of the biggest threats to fine turfgrass through the winter and early spring period, and while damage visible on the surface is often attributed to other factors such as drought and stress, leatherjackets – underground and out of sight – are the real enemy.

The problem is that although leatherjackets are feeding now, the signs of damage will not be obvious until the spring.

The first visible signs of activity are straw-coloured patches of turf which happen when roots are damaged by leatherjackets feeding on the roots. Soon after this the patches become bare and are invaded by weeds.

Leatherjackets are rather like great white sharks – superbly designed eating machines!

Magnified photos give a pretty good clue to the reason for their voracious feeding habits – their extremely large biting mouthparts mean they can easily chew and sever roots and stem bases. That's why what looks like stressed or drought-hit turf on the surface can often be hiding a more serious problem.

The key to effective treatment is a

sound understanding of the crane fly's life cycle.

A closer look at this will help turf managers match insecticide application timing to the more susceptible immature larval stage of the pest.

Leatherjackets are the larvae of the crane fly (*Tipula paludosa*), or daddy longlegs, and undergo complete metamorphosis through four distinct phases: adult (crane fly), egg, larvae (leatherjacket) and pupae. Each adult crane fly lays 300-400 eggs just below the surface of the soil between late July and early September.

The leatherjackets emerge two to three weeks later and begin feeding on grass roots, which continues until the following June when they pupate.

The adults then begin to emerge again from late July to complete the life cycle. The problem at this time of year is that leatherjackets consume large amounts of plant material and quickly build up their food reserves during the autumn and early spring.

Infestation and damage in the spring can be particularly severe if the autumn and winter are mild and moist as they can continue feeding throughout this period. And of course, turfgrass growth has slowed at this time of year, so it cannot compensate for the damage caused.

A well-planned integrated pest management approach can be extremely effective at keeping leatherjacket numbers down – but timing of every process is crucial for good results.

Cultural operations, particularly spiking or slitting to improve turf aeration and reduce excess surface moisture, are the key to creating an adverse environment for the pest. Leatherjackets thrive in a warm, moist environment, but cannot tolerate dry conditions, and a freely draining, aerated sward in the autumn will help ensure that populations surviving through to



the spring feeding period are minimised. Of course, the benefits of good aeration are twofold, as it also helps prevent fusarium development.

A combination of these operations and the use of a proven insecticide will give effective control if timing is carefully planned. Aeration reduces the moist turf conditions in which leatherjackets thrive, while the contact, ingestion and vapour action of the insecticide gives a high level of control.

With lower temperatures during the early winter period, leatherjackets tend to move further down the soil profile to avoid the cold turf surface, and will only actively feed when temperatures are greater than 60C.

For this reason, it's not advisable to apply pesticide during periods of prolonged frosty weather as the leatherjackets will be too deep within the soil to come into contact with the insecticide.

This is why treatments should ide-

ally take place in the autumn or early spring. Attacks in the spring are often more serious, as the leatherjackets are approaching maturity and are more active, inflicting severe injuries to root systems and stem bases, so it's advisable to treat for leatherjacket infestations sooner rather than later.

Careful monitoring of leatherjacket populations and environmental conditions at this time of year is an important part of integrated pest control.

Keeping a record of signs of activity such as the number of crane fly seen on the wing during the late July to early September period and the feeding activity of birds on turf can be good pointers to the likely leatherjacket populations for the year. And that will give greenkeepers a head start over the eating machines.

Geoff Yelland is Technical Manager at Rigby Taylor's Guildford branch

Risk assessment chart for leatherjackets in turf

Risk Category Rating

Locality	Rating
Predominantly grassland	***
Mixed arable/grass	**
Mainly arable	*
Other	*

Past history	Rating
Problems noted previously	***
Problems in neighbouring farmer's fields/areas	***
No history of problems	*

Weather during late summer/autumn	Rating
Warm/damp	***
Cold/damp	**
Warm/dry	*
Cold/dry	*

Action
 Over 7 * Apply pesticide
 5-7 * Check for signs of damage or presence of larvae.
 An indication of leatherjackets may be given by the presence of birds, particularly rooks, crows and starlings searching for grubs. Apply pesticide as necessary.
 Under 5 * Treatment may not be needed.

Know your leatherjacket risk – complete this risk assessment and add up the score to determine the threat to your turf.

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This month, Tracey Maddison, BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, welcomes over 90 new members to the Association, and gives some important renewal information

Renew your membership for increased benefits!

In September, over 90 new members joined BIGGA and became part of the largest greenkeeping association in Europe. Membership has grown in strength and now boasts almost 7,200 members. If your expiry date is 31 December 2000 or 31 January 2001, your renewal pack will be with you this month. Read it! It contains important information on improvements to your benefits.

Watch out for your renewal envelope dropping through your letterbox later this month.

New benefits for members for 2001 include a health care scheme. You can choose a plan that most suits your lifestyle, you elect to pay a weekly or monthly sum to cover you for the cost of minor medical treatments not normally covered by the NHS. In this way you will always have the funds to pay for dental treatment, glasses or contact

lenses, physiotherapy and a whole host of other treatments including consultation by a specialist. By ensuring that you have the funds you can ensure that you have the treatment when you most need it as opposed to when you can afford it.

Be a BIGGA winner!

Also, in your renewal pack will be two yellow application forms, pass them on to your greenkeeping colleagues, who are not already members, and encourage them to become part of BIGGA. Each month, if you introduce one new member, your name will be placed into a draw to win £50 worth of vouchers to spend in a popular high street store.

Watch out for December's Membership Update for details on another exciting new membership benefit.

BIGGA welcomes...

Scottish Region

Steven J Amott, Ayrshire
Craig Davidson, East
Graeme Davidson, East
Logan J Ferguson, East
William Fulton, Ayrshire
Kevin A S Neilson, East
Ian J Williams, East
Steven Wilson, Ayrshire

Northern Region

Richard Allen, N West
Matthew J Bulmer, Northern
Anthony J Carr, N East
Peter L Cotgreave, N West
Grant Dougherty, N West
Stephen Eccles, N West
Andrew D Ellis, Northern
John P T Evans, N West
John Grimes, N West
Ethan Moses, N West
Michael Rogers, Northern
Andrew M Stingsby, Northern
Tony Smith, N West
Richard G Wilson, N West

Midland Region

Andrew Bailey, Midland
Philip Chiverton, BB&O
Peter Hobbs, Mid Anglia

Devlyne Hodgkiss, Midland
Martin Huckle, Mid Anglia
Melwyn L Labram, Mid Anglia
Darren J Reeve, Mid Anglia
Anthony P Rudge, Midland
Adrian Sharratt, Midland
Robert Spikings, Mid Anglia
Graeme W Stevenson, Midland
Stefan J Timworth, E Midland
Christopher J Yeomans, Mid Anglia

South East Region

Paul M W Bacon, Surrey
David S Badham, London
David Beale, Essex
Jason J Bradbury, Surrey
Steve Brennan, London
Peter J Brooker, Surrey
Mark D Couch, Surrey
Tim Daniel, Sussex
Andrew Duffy, Sussex
Meyrick J Field, Surrey
Neil Gibson, London
Chris Guy, E Anglia
Nicholas Guy, E Anglia
Richard P Hare, Essex
Richard J Hayward, London
Robert J Kemp, London
Michael G Kyriacou, London
Gary Leggatt, Sussex
Robert J Newson, Essex
Matthew Short, Surrey

Barry J Smith, Surrey
Rob S Thomson, London
Kevin Westney, London
Michael Wilding, E Anglia

S West & S Wales Region

Andrew J Brown, S Coast
Graham C Burbidge, Dev & C'wall
Ryan J Church, S Coast
Danny P Corson, S Coast
Matthew D Driffiths, S Wales
Patrick Jackman, S Wales

Northern Ireland

Lee M Cartmill
Mark Cassidy
Damien Doherty
Adam Kelly
Scott Otley
Irwin Robinson
Ivan J Ward

Republic of Ireland

Donal Kearney

International Members

Michael Ortegren, Sweden
Dirk Josef Thelen, Madeira
Shawn W Semones, USA

John Berry, Australia

Associate Members

John A Souter, Central
Kevin Kinzer, E Midland
Nigel Kirkup, E England
Dawn Magan, E England
Jonathan T Wood, E Midland
A Atilla Demirsoy, Essex
David Maclaren, London
Terence Welch, London
Paul Burroughes, S Coast
Stephen Clifford, Dev & C'wall
Jeremy A Dunn, S West
Gareth D Jenkins, S Wales

Student Members

Darren Kilby, London
Roxanne E Roberts, S West

Check out December's edition for October's new members!



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

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING ACCOUNTS

What are they?

To enable all of you to help pay for education and training, the Government have introduced a scheme called Individual Learning Accounts. Supported by a range of Training Providers, the Accounts are designed to make it easier for you to start and continue learning.

Who can have an account?

Accounts can be opened by anyone aged 19 or over.

How do I open an account?

You need to obtain an application form by phoning 0800 0725678 in England or 0800 100900 in Scotland or 01792 354126 in Wales or ask your college or other training provider. You should return the completed form to the Individual Learning Account Centre which handles your account. The form asks if you have opened an account before, asks for information on citizenship, asks for your date of birth, personal information and information on your own learning.

What do I get from an account?

Once you have opened an account you will be able to claim discounts on a range of learning, eg. If you are one of the first million to open an account, you will get a £150 contribution

towards the cost of your course if you contribute £25. If you are not in the first million account holders, you can claim a 20% discount on a wide range of work related learning up to a maximum of £100 in any one year. You may even be eligible for an 80% discount, up to a maximum of £200, on some types of learning eg. computer training courses and key skills in maths.

How will the scheme work for me?

Many of BIGGA's Regional Training Courses could, in the future, be eligible for ILA discounts, which together with BIGGA's Education and Development Fund subsidies to BIGGA members, will ensure quality training provision at even lower costs.

Are there any courses that are not eligible for discounts?

You will not be able to claim discounts on:

Graduate or post graduate courses.
Courses that you have started already.
Learning for which you have already received government help.
Leisure or sports courses.

How can I find out whether the course that I want is eligible for discounts?

You can find out by asking the training provider eg college, BIGGA etc. or

by phoning the Individual Learning Account Centre on 08000 725678

How do I claim discounts?

Once you have opened your account, you will then need to contact your chosen learning provider. The learning provider will then:

Check your account details with the Individual Learning Account Centre.
Confirm your enrolment and eligibility for a discount.
Take the payment for your own contribution.
Claim your discount entitlement from the Individual Learning Account Centre.

Don't delay, contact your Individual Learning Account Centre, request an application form and look for discounts on your learning courses.

BIGGA HOUSE and Regional Training Courses

Following a very poor response for this year's BIGGA HOUSE Courses, we have been forced to cancel all advertised courses except the Making Budgets Work week which runs from 16 to 19 October.

Regional Courses cancelled are Making Meetings Work on 22/23 November at Stirling. Interviews and Appraisals on 11/12 December at Huntingdon and Ornamental Horticulture on 29 November at Ham Manor.

Making Budgets Count at the East

Cliff Hotel, Bournemouth will now be held on 15/16 February 2001 and not on 19/20 February 2001

The Learning Experience 2001

Bookings have started to arrive at BIGGA HOUSE for the Learning Experience 2001, which, once again, will be held with the support of Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, in Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Starting with the National Education Conference and Workshop Programmes which are being held in the Majestic Hotel on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 January 2001, the Learning Experience continues with the joint BIGGA/SRTI Course, Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century, held in the Crown Hotel, followed by the BTME Seminar Programme, which starts in the Royal Hall on Wednesday 24 January.

Full information on all of the Harrogate Learning Opportunities can be found in the Learning Experience brochure which can be obtained from BIGGA HOUSE.

Please note that due to a production problem there is an error on the Bed and Breakfast section of the Learning Experience booking form. The dates should read: Sunday 21, Monday 22, Tuesday 23, Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 January.



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With the recent fuel crisis now behind us, but only perhaps for the time being, Richard Comely, Product Manager at Textron's Specialty Products division, looks at the case for alternative fuels for golf course applications

Fueling the economy?

Legislation, pressure groups and technology, not to mention the recent fuel crisis that affected the UK and some parts of mainland Europe, are just some of the factors driving research and development into the use of alternative fuels. Before looking at how alternative fuels will impact upon the golf course, it is perhaps pertinent to look at some of the influences that will affect their use over the next decade.

A recent report by Dr. Peter Harrap, entitled 'Electric Vehicle Markets, Players and Forecasts', provides a fascinating insight into the predicted growth of various markets up to the year 2010.

This report and other factors, such as the commitments from the authorities in Paris to have low or zero emissions for many new delivery vehicles in the French capital by the end of 2001 and London's mayor, Ken Livingstone, pressing for a fleet of electrically-powered buses as soon as possible, all help fuel the argument that alternative sources for vehicle

power will gather momentum in the coming years.

Dr. Harrap's report states that the global market for electric vehicles was US\$14.02 billion in 1999 and will grow by 11% by the end of 2000 to US\$15.5 billion, representing a total of 7 million electric vehicles in use worldwide. In the next decade he predicts that the global market for electric vehicles, including manufacture and aftersales, is expected to exceed US\$48.3 billion.

So, from these brief statistics and the undoubted pressure that will come from governments to reduce emissions, together with advances in battery technology, we can see that one of the major sources of alternative fuel for vehicles will be electric power.

How will this affect golf course operations here in the UK?

At present the main use of electric vehicles is restricted to golf cars and utility vehicles and here in the UK the split between petrol and electric is

60% and 40% respectively. However, in Europe, the trend is very much the other way with 76% electric and 24% petrol. In America they have embraced the use of electric power and there we see a 62%-38% split in favour of the electric buggy over its petrol driven cousin.

So why is there this disparity as we cross the English Channel and the Atlantic?

In the United States, they believe that the electric golf car offers better efficiency and more flexibility than the petrol-driven version. For example, the electric-powered E-Z-GO TXT golf car with Precision Drive System (PDS) allows course operators to specify a golf car with very specific performance characteristics, optimised to suit the topography of their individual courses. This golf car is now available with three options - All Terrain, Mild Hill and Steep Hill, and can be programmed to ensure optimum efficiency relative to the design of the course.

From an economic standpoint, the electric golf car has added benefits. The solid-state technology of the drive system and high efficiency of the electric drive motor reduces maintenance costs over the lifespan of the vehicle. Improved battery technology means that batteries now have a minimum lifespan of at least three years. And then there's the fuel storage problem. Ideally, petrol should be stored in underground tanks and although at present some clubs turn a blind eye to this HSE requirement, the laws governing storage are bound to be strengthened and enforced more enthusiastically in the future. In terms of security, petrol can be stolen, whereas electricity is pilfer-proof.

Looking at the comparative running costs of petrol versus electricity for golf cars, it makes interesting reading. The figures given below have taken into consideration that overnight electricity charges can vary between £0.50p and £0.70p depending on the tariff and that a golf car requires an average of 6kW hours of electricity. The petrol figures are based on a golf car using between 0.5 and 1 litre per round. However, it is pertinent to recall that charging facilities have to be installed, but this could be offset by the reduced maintenance requirement of the electric buggy.

Electricity

£0.70p per night for 7 nights a week = £4.90 per week.

Petrol

14 litres per week at £0.81 per litre = £11.34 per week.

That's a saving of £6.44 per week per car. Using the above figures and looking at a fleet of 10 golf cars we see an initial annual saving of £3,348.80 (£64.40 x 52).

It's not only the golf car market where growth is foreseen. Electric power is now being introduced on course maintenance equipment, especially mowers. Again America is leading the way with stricter laws on noise pollution being implemented and existing laws being enforced more diligently. In the UK, with increased pressure on our green areas for housing development, more and more golf courses will have residential properties adjacent to their borders.

California, one of the most environmentally aware states in America, is introducing legislation restricting the use of petrol-powered equipment within 250 feet of residential property between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday to Saturday and banning all use on Sundays and holidays. This will have major implications for course operators who are aware that homeowners will not tolerate being woken at dawn or have their weekends polluted with the noise of greenkeeping teams going about their business.

All the major turf equipment manufacturers are looking at producing mowers that are quieter and cleaner. Some are investigating the use of dual fuel, using lean-burn, highly efficient petrol engines for moving between greens and using electric power for cutting. Here in the UK, Textron Turf Care is the only company currently marketing an electric ride-on greens mower.

Sales of the Jacobsen E-Plex II have seen a steady increase in the past two years and one of the major advocates of the electric-powered mower is the course management company, American Golf (UK) Ltd, which has recently included three units in a major order for new equipment.

Commenting on the inclusion of the E-Plex II's in their latest round of orders, Laurence Pithie, Director of Maintenance, said, 'We have been impressed with the two E-Plex

Below: The ST350 Workhorse proves that LPG can now be used successfully to power smaller, air-cooled engines, ideal for golf course utility vehicles





Above: Advanced technology allows course operators to specify a golf car with very specific performance characteristics, optimised to suit the topography of their individual courses

machines that we currently operate and these three additional units will be deployed at The Hertfordshire, Addington Court and Sunbury which all have residential properties close by. I must admit that I had reservations initially, but they have exceeded all our expectations. Battery life is good, giving us a very acceptable operational range, and when it comes to maintenance there's no oil filters, oil changes and absolutely no question of accidental hydraulic oil leaks onto the greens.

Having looked at golf cars and mowers, lend themselves to electric power? Textron have recently adapted their

E-Z-GO Industrial 875 platform to take a series of alternative body derivatives. The platform model now offers the option of a Chelsea refuse collection tipping body, a tipping litter cage for the collection of refuse sacks or a water bowser complete with lance and 12 volt pumps for watering hanging baskets - all could be adapted for use on tomorrow's golf course.

However, it's not just electric power that provides an alternative to petrol and diesel. LPG technology has been around for many years mostly for use in industrial applications, i.e. powering forklift trucks in warehousing and logistic operations. Also, car manufacturers such as Volvo have introduced bi-fuel powered vehicles that can run on LPG, then switch to conventional fuel if the need arises.

At Saltex this September, Textron introduced an LPG conversion kit for their popular ST350 utility vehicle, which is powered by an 11hp, 350cc twin cylinder, four-stroke petrol engine.

For many years LPG has not proved popular when used on small, air-cooled engines, the cost of the installation often outweighing the savings to be made in fuel. As petrol prices continue to rise LPG is becoming a viable alternative even in relatively low cost vehicles such as golf cars.

Using LPG results in greatly reduced emissions, the fuel is cleaner and safer to use, the period between oil changes can be increased as less carbon is produced in the combustion cycle and the fuel can be stored in bulk tanks above ground, unlike petrol, and it is unlikely to be a target of pilfering.

LPG will appeal to many golf courses that are not on mains gas and already use this fuel for heating and cooking. When purchased in bulk it can be very cost effective and, like red diesel, taxation is lower for off road use offering further significant savings.

These LPG conversion kits are also available for E-Z-GO Workhorse utility vehicles and the petrol-driven TXT golf cars.

Calor Gas has produced some interesting comparative figures for petrol and LPG powered golf carts. In order to provide an accurate comparison the calorific value of LPG has to be taken into account and 10% extra LPG consumption is included in these figures to account for this factor. Also the costs exclude VAT, as most clubs will be VAT registered and claim the tax back.

Petrol
20 litres per week at £0.70p per litre =
£14.00 per week

LPG
22 litres per week at £0.22p per litre =
£4.84 per week

That's a saving of £9.16 per week per car. Using the above figures and looking at a fleet of 10 golf cars we see an initial annual saving of £4,763.20 (£91.60 x 52). Even allowing for the rental of a 2000 litre tank and electric pump at £283.92 (£5.46 x 52), the annual saving is still £4,479.28. Definitely fuel for thought for golf course operators!

Although the recent fuel crisis has highlighted our dependence on petrol-powered products, Textron has been researching and developing turf maintenance equipment that runs successfully on alternative fuels. High levels of excise duty, tougher regulations on emissions, stricter environmental laws and greener purchasing policies by multi-national organisations will all ensure that the quest for alternative fuels remains on the political agenda. It is an issue that golf course management will ignore at their peril and, most probably, to their cost.

*Electric Vehicle Markets, Players and Forecasts is written by Dr Peter Harrap and published by Footnote Publications. Tel: 01256 862163

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Terry Crawford manages the only inland 36 hole development in Northern Ireland and, as Scott MacCallum found out, he has some interesting views on greenkeeping...

MR BIG



Above: Terry Crawford aboard his new Millennium Putting Green

Terry Crawford stands on the balcony of Clondeboye's imposing modern clubhouse surveying his latest project - the Millennium Putting Green which was due to be opened officially on the upcoming Captain's Day.

"I suggested a putting green for the area in front of the clubhouse and the Council agreed that I should put a small one in... but everything has to be big with me," said Terry, with a smile.

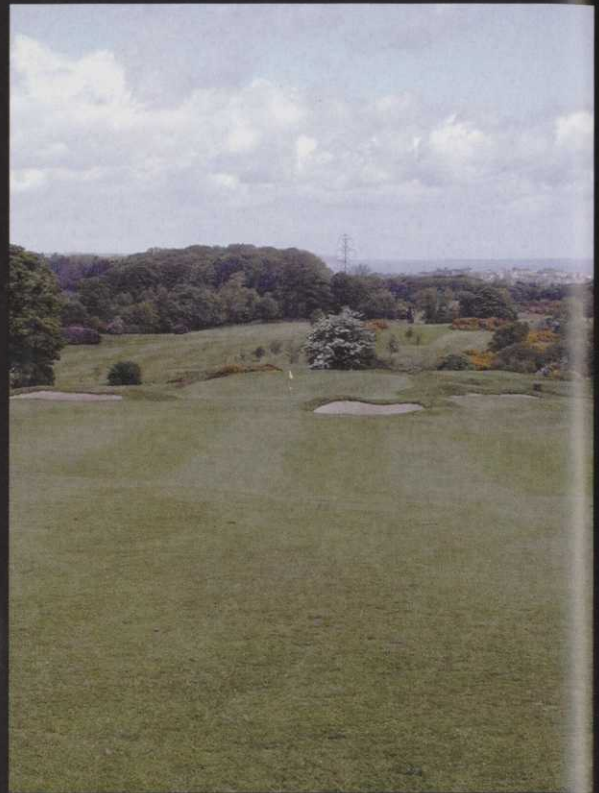
"I've given them three different characteristics. A links area so you can practice breaking putts, another which is typical Clondeboye with a lot of subtle borrows and then an area which is completely flat," he explained, at once showing that a greenkeeper who possesses golfing knowledge can be a real asset in so many ways.

Now a 36 hole development, just a few miles from Belfast, the Duffern and Ava courses offer differing chal-

lenges to member and visitor alike but Clondeboye was originally an 18 holer with nine coming for each of the present two 18s and was built 20 years ago for the princely sum of £33,000.

The Duffern is more manicured and takes up a greater expanse of ground while the Ava is more heathland and much more rugged.

"We've been ranked highly in inland course categories but with so many multi-million pound developments in Ireland we have had to work hard to



Above: The results of some of the alterations made to the course recently

Far right: One of Clondeboye's excellent greens and aprons

Below: The team



maintain our standing," explained Terry, who is a former Chairman of the Northern Ireland Golf Greenkeepers Association, and now an active BIGGA member.

To fulfil this ambition £1.8 million has been spent on the new clubhouse for the 1500 members, £180,000 has been allocated for new maintenance facilities and Howard Swan was commissioned to make alterations to the Duffern course.

"I met Howard, along with Simon Gidman, on one of BIGGA's training courses and liked him very much. I brought him over to do a critical analysis of the golf course but it kind of just went mad," chuckled Terry, as he recalled the occasion.

"The reason I got Howard in was to bring the golf course up to a higher standard by lifting and levelling tees to give better sightings to the fairways and to introduce new bunkering."

Having done some work on the course, including tightening up the entrance to the 8th hole Howard met with the Council members and his potential brief grew enormously.

"The Council members met him in this very room and before he left he was bringing the 9th hole back to the clubhouse, building new practice facilities and all but designing new golf courses."

The meeting ended with Howard drawing up five different options which the members will decide upon in due course.

Terry has been at the club for 10 years and in that time has also used his own methods of improving the courses.

"Golf is becoming easier with the modern day equipment so the cheapest way to improve the course and to make it more difficult is to grow in the rough. The next cheapest option is to put in bunkers and the most expensive way is to redesign and rebuild the greens. We've gone down the cheapest route first to try and make the course more difficult," explained Terry who has also spent around £30,000 on mature trees for the course.

Terry admits he is extremely fortunate to be at a golf club which is so forward thinking.

"I can put my hand on heart and say that in my ten years here they have not refused me one thing. Not too many Head Greenkeepers could say that after 10 years."

"I feel that I'm probably a very lucky greenkeeper but you must work hard to keep yourself in that position.

"The one word that I use about management philosophy, and when I'm talking to younger greenkeepers, is consistency. That's the name of the game.

"If a golfer is on a green and it's not in peak condition there is no use me saying to him 'If you were here last week when we had the Irish Amateur they were brilliant.' He'd say 'But, Terry, I'm here today and I have guests with me.' You must be consistent

and have no ups and downs."

With that in mind everything is done seven days a week at Clondeboye. Bunkers are done seven days a week, greens are cut seven days a week while fairways and tees are cut three times a week.

"We have two teams but with so much golf is is sometimes difficult so sometimes we'll go out and blitz one course and then blitz the other," said Terry.

He has noticed that disease has become more apparent in recent years.

"We're getting more traffic and the climatic conditions are changing. We're not getting season now or rather we can get all four seasons in one day. We're not getting frost to kill off disease. In fact, although we're high up, we've had no frost at all this year and we've only closed the course perhaps three times this year. It is golf 365 days a year and people will play more competitively for a turkey than they will for an Open strokeplay event.

"I'm using much less fungicide than I was five years ago and 50 times less than when I started - aeration is the name of the game. The preventative approach is better than having to find a cure," said Terry, who was the youngest Head Greenkeeper in Northern Ireland and the first to go to Elmwood College.

"I never thought I'd be here at Clondeboye. In fact I never thought I'd get out of Newton Stewart (his first job) because in the past people would go to a golf club and stay there but I could see the challenge of a 36 hole club and this is the only 36 hole parkland club in Northern Ireland."

He is proud of the fact that he has turned out four Head Greenkeepers and is keen to promote the young greenkeeper.

"I've only got a couple of guys over



30. I'd rather they came to me without experience so that I can train them in the way I want them to do a job and they don't have bad habits."

Terry is very much an inland greenkeeper and enjoys a bit of banter with his links land colleagues.

"I think there is more of a challenge working on a parkland course whereas links courses look after themselves really. Alan Strachan (Royal County

Down) wouldn't come and work this because he'd think it was too hard," laughed Terry.

"Greenkeeping to me is very basic and the more basic you can think about greenkeeping the better you will get on. This high tech greenkeeping that you hear about will never last. It gets too advanced and you can't control what is happening."

Terry, who advises at four other

clubs has strong views on what is expected of the modern day greenkeeper.

"Committees and councils used to be full of older guys but now it is the younger members who sit on these and they demand that the course is at its best every day. If it isn't they look to make changes. If you are at the top and you're not producing what they are demanding the next

step is out the door. The first person to be targeted is the Head Greenkeeper.

"Golfers used to expect. They don't expect any more. Golfers demand. That is the difference nowadays."

In Terry's case he delivers more than is demanded as with the case of his state-of-the-art putting green in front of the clubhouse.

Another wet September/October and once again drainage is foremost in Head Greenkeepers'/Course Managers' minds. A fact borne out by the number of enquiries for the installation of land drainage systems to golf course fairways says Nigel Wyatt, Director of M J Abbott Ltd.

THE DRAIN GAME

Any golf course which is excessively wet will impose limits on the availability and quality of play. In addition a wet golf course will affect grass growth and development restricting maintenance operations.

The benefits of good drainage include the following:

Removal of excessive moisture and the lowering of the water table.

Improvements to the quality, firmness and durability of the turf increasing wear tolerance.

Quicker drying of the ground surface, extending possible playing and maintenance time.

Subsequent prevention of damage to the soil structure through machinery and pedestrian traffic.

Prevention of erosion and collection of surface water run off.

Improvements to the soil structure and air movement within the soil preventing restriction of plant root development.

Increased root development and improved bacterial action.

Increased capillary moisture in dry weather promoting improved drought resistance.

Higher soil temperature earlier and later in the year giving a longer growing season.

The need for good drainage on golf courses cannot be disputed.

Courses built upon naturally free draining soils may only require basic drainage systems to carry water from features within the golf course, i.e. golf greens, tees, bunkers and hollows within fairways.

Courses built on heavier soils will require much more work and expenditure to provide satisfactory drainage.

A primary piped system is the basis for all golf course drainage. The introduction of drainage systems incorporating perforated plastic pipe will play an essential role in the part of removal of excess water quickly.

The piped systems usually consists



of a main drain installed at the edge of a fairway within the semi rough/rough with lateral drains connecting into the main drain at 5-10m spacings in a grid formation depending on the slope of the land. Lateral drains should always cross the natural slope of the land in order to intercept ground water moving naturally through the soil. If ground levels demand it the main drain may be installed within a fairway with lateral drains connecting into the main in a herringbone formation.

Main drains - typically 200mm-100mm diameter depending upon the catchment area should be laid within trenches excavated cleanly to a depth of 900mm-600mm generally. Pipes are laid on a formed trench bed. The pipe is then surrounded and the trench filled to within 150mm of the surface with an approved clean stone. The stone is generally blinded with grit and the trench filled to the surface with an approved coarse sand, ensuring no migration of fines through the gravel. It is common to use a capping mix of rootzone to dress the trenchlines, providing a medium in which grass seed can grow enabling quick establishment.

Lateral drains typically 100mm-60mm diameter depending upon the spacings should be laid within trenches excavated cleanly to a minimum depth of 750mm-450mm generally and backfilled in the same manner as main drains. It is a fact that natural settlement may occur over the trenchlines, therefore continued work may be necessary in order to maintain surface levels.

There is no doubt that a piped drainage system alone can dramati-



cally improve conditions on very wet sites with heavy soils or where there is a high water table in more permeable soils. Primary piped systems may also provide the infrastructure for any subsequent secondary drainage operations.

Having provided the means for the transportation of soil water, it may be desirable to make provision for the quick removal of surface water.

The restricting factor for the removal of surface water is often the impermeability of the subsoil/topsoil compaction and smearing of the surface.

A number of secondary drainage operations are available.

Gravel/sand slitting involves the excavation of narrow trenches typically 65mm-50mm wide to an average depth of 250mm. The slits are installed generally 2m-1m spacings and installed perpendicular to the primary lateral drains. Trenches are filled with gravel to within 50mm of the surface topped off with coarse sand.

Gravel banding involves the installation of narrow bands of grit, typically 20mm wide to an average depth of 200mm. The bands are installed generally at 0.4m spacings, perpendicular to the primary lateral drains.

Each secondary system intercepts surface water conveying it and discharging to the permeable fill within the lateral drains.

Top dressing on very wet sites should form part of an ongoing maintenance programme to ensure the continuing effectiveness of the drainage systems.

A primary piped drainage system should be carried out only when

ground and weather conditions are suitable i.e. reasonably dry and firm. Typically the works will affect at least one fairway which will have to be closed during the installation of the system. Clearly timing is crucial, particularly as the works will affect play on the golf course. It is common that a Golf Club's calendar of events dictate when works may commence.

However, it is risky to expect works carried out later in the season to be completed. If weather and ground conditions deteriorate there is a possibility that the work may not be completed and the benefits of the works will be lost for another year. An old colleague of mine has always said you cannot make an omelette without cracking the eggs!

Therefore it must be stressed to Managers/Committees that some disruption to play is inevitable for the successful completion of the system.

The installation of a land drainage system within a new or established golf course requires a combination of the correct experience together with the correct installation equipment.

Land drainage machinery for use on golf courses is often specialised, developed for its purpose by the contractor together with machinery manufacturers over a number of years.

Trenching machinery, either tracked continuous chain or tractor mounted continuous wheel should be fit for the purpose of excavation on fine turf.

Typically, trenchers include the provision of soil loading conveyors, therefore excavated soil is loaded directly onto dumpers preventing contamination of the playing surface.

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THE DRAIN GAME



Trenchers should be fitted with an automatic laser levelling device enabling accurate grading of each pipe run. Pipes are laid on a formed trench bed through a chute attached to the trenching machine. Typically, gravel is placed around the pipe and the trench filled to the correct level by the use of a hopper attached to this pipe laying chute in one continuous operation. All wheeled

equipment including the soil removing dumpers and gravel fill front/side discharge trailers should be fitted with low ground pressure tyres fit for use on turf to prevent disruption to the playing surface.

It is important then that faced with the problem of poor drainage that the correct steps are taken to solve the problem.

Planning is all important. You may

already know or have had referred to you a reputable contractor to assist with planning design and costing of the works. Should you require a number of quotations, three would be the norm, then contact the Land Drainage Contractors Association Sports Turf Division. Members of the Association are individually vetted on their ability to carry out such works. Ask your chosen contractor for refer-

ences of a similar project and take them up.

An alternative route may be to engage the services of a Consultant. You will receive unbiased advice and design from them at a cost. Consultant charges depend upon the size and nature of the project and their level of involvement may vary between 5% and 15% of the contract cost.

Ever increasing standards of maintenance and playability are expected in today's society. A key factor in the success of any venue is the ability to remove water quickly and efficiently. Contact the experts.

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Roland Taylor gives advice on how to ensure the best results from your cutting units

Blade runner



As the main cutting season comes to a close, it is a good time to assess the performance of your mowers and determine the necessary maintenance that will be required to ensure they continue to operate at their optimum.

Regardless to whether the mower is a cylinder, rotary or flail there is one fundamental element that all machines have in common - sharpness of the blades.

Prior to the mid 1800's any mowing of turf was done by a man with scythe and he certainly would have been continually sharpening his blade to make the job as easy as possible.

Throughout the spring and summer, with so much going on, it is easy to forget some of the principles relating to quality of the cut. Obviously the

results of a dulled or badly adjusted cylinder will show very quickly on fine turf, but with rotaries and flails on areas such as fairways or the rough the signs may be less obvious.

Cylinder Mowers

This system relies very heavily on precision - not only in its manufacturer but also when it is being set up - a fact that is very often overlooked in the environment the unit is used in. A round cylinder cuts against a straight edge, the slightest distortion will affect the performance. If the gap between the two surfaces is too great then the grass leaves are torn and seriously damaged. A symptom of this is grass folded over the bedknife. Also with this situation sand or top dressing can

be scooped between the two surfaces and cause excessive wear. Where the adjustment is too tight, severe stress is placed on the mower's components and fuel consumption drastically increases. Heat builds up, especially on multi-bladed cylinders with a thin bottom blade. This can result in fine turf being scorched.

There are three cutting surfaces that need to be accurate on these machines; the cylinder spirals, the leading front edge and the top cutting surface of the bottom blade. A fault in any one of these will cause a poor finish. Back-lapping can be carried out. This will re-establish a cutting edge but is only a stop-gap measure and the unit will eventually require regrinding if the high standards are to be maintained.

There are other contributing factors to watch out for if a machine is to operate safely. As said before, the system relies heavily on precision so cleanliness is important, a fact often overlooked. Grass deposits can build-up on the spiral blades and these need to be removed. The leading edge of the bottom blade is continually in direct contact with the surface so is liable to get worn or damaged. This can be refaced in-situ in a matter of minutes with a grinder especially designed for this purpose.

Where a mower is not going to be used for a period of time, the cylinder should be adjusted away from the bed-knife to avoid any rust building up between the two surfaces. Clean of all dried grass and other debris and spray the metal parts with WD40. Details regarding the engine in this situation are below.

Rotary

While there is less precision involved in the design, the same applies as regards sharpness. A rotary blade works best at around 3000 to 3500 rpm (blade tip travel in the region of between 80 and 100 mph). At this





speed the blunt blade will hack the grass but because of the effort involved, the blade slows down and quality of finish rapidly deteriorates; the cut material builds-up under the deck, and the machine will eventually stall. In this situation the engine consumes more fuel and oil. If the rotary mower is being used with a collector, then the airflow is reduced with a result that the clippings are not ejected correctly so the whole system becomes clogged up.

Considerable stress is placed on all the machine's components and their life can be drastically shortened.

Because rotaries are often used in hostile conditions, there is more chance of the cutting system being damaged and the unit become unsafe. In addition to speed, the rotary relies heavily on balance - a broken or badly chipped blade will cause vibration to occur, which if left unchecked will become a major safety hazard and eventually cause considerable damage.

On a pedestrian machine, it will become obvious to the operator that there is a problem due to the amount of vibration being experienced. This is not always the case with a tractor-mounted rotary. Here the driver is not in direct contact with the unit so is less likely to experience the warning signs, therefore it is important always to be vigilant and check the units regularly.

The rotary system cuts material with a relatively short length of the sharpened edge and cutting occurs only in the front half of rotation. For this reason there is usually a built-in forward tilt in the design of the blade assembly. On machines with height adjustment to each wheel, this angle can be altered so the front of the blade becomes higher than the back. The grass is then being cut both at the front and the rear (double cutting) and the system has of twice as much material to eject. Power requirement increases

by 50% resulting in high fuel consumption and blockages as the rotor speed is reduced. On mowers with multi-height adjustment, the level should always be the same for each wheel or slightly higher at the rear. If a rotary blade is sharpened it must also be balanced.

Flail Mowers

While the principle is different from a rotary, most of the details regarding maintenance and things to watch out for are the same. The rotor with its swing blades is vulnerable to damage, especially in some of the conditions these mowers are worked in. A careful watch should be kept for damaged or missing blades as this can cause vibration with all its inherent problems.

General

Maintaining a consistent drive to the cutting units is important. If either chains or belts are fitted, these may have automatic tensioning devices but they still need checking for signs of slackness or wear.

Where hydraulic systems are used, the main concern is the oil. This must be "squeaky" clean. Contamination from water or even worse dirt will seriously damage the pumps and motors. Hoses and their connectors should be regularly inspected signs of a leakage. Also be on the look out for chuffed or damaged hoses. If one of these bursts hot oil will be sprayed on to the turf and operator - not a pleasant experience. The correct hydraulic oil level has to be maintained if the system is to work correctly.

Greasing points are often fitted these will need regular attention, but be wary how much lubricant is applied. Great dollops of grease clinging to nipples attract abrasive substances such as sand and top dressing. Bearings can also be dislodged.

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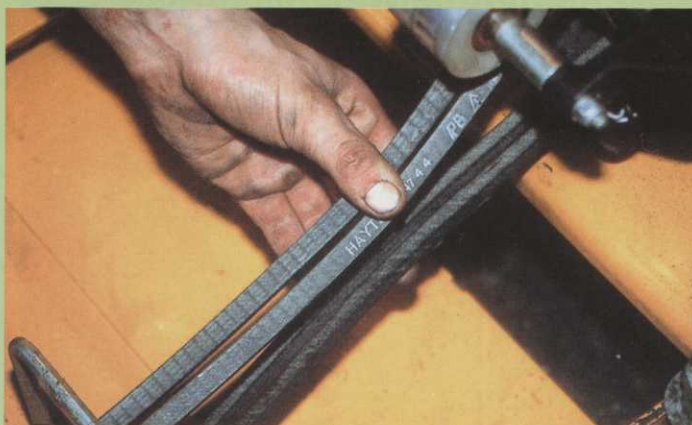
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Blade runner



The engine

The state of the engine is vital to everything else working correctly so it needs to be in tip-top condition. Oil is relatively cheap compared to having to replace an engine because it has seized-up so regular changes should be carried out.

A dirty oil air filter affects performance and increases fuel consumption.

Modern electronic systems are highly reliable, but spark plugs do not last forever.

All grass cutting machinery is designed to run at an optimum level of rpm and the engine governs this, so it is worth regularly checking the

engine's speed. The difference a slight drop of just 200-rpm can make is considerable.

At this time of year, machinery may not be used often and the fuel in the tank can become stale and also clog up the carburettor system. For a relatively small investment this problem can be overcome. There are fuel additives available, which will keep it fresh for up to 24 months.

Care of machinery is important not just to ensure it is trouble free and works correctly but also as far as pollution from both emissions and noise are concerned.

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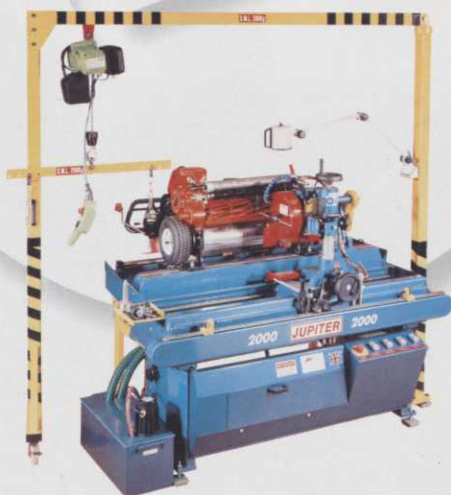
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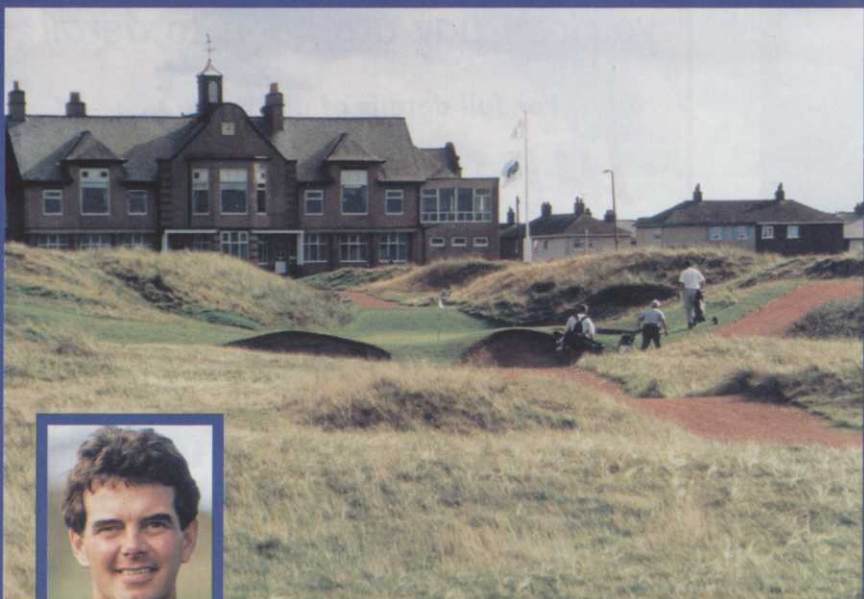
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THE RAIN MAN



Peter Simpson, Head Greenkeeper at Fairhaven, produced an imposing test for the competitors, particularly in the wet conditions



Geoff Whittle's St Annes Old Links brought the best out of the field

Like his namesake, Mr Hoffman, Dustin Houghton proved himself to be a bit of a Rainman when it came to conquering the difficult wet conditions on the second day of the Scotts/Charterhouse BIGGA National Championship. In successfully doing so he went on to become a deserved winner of the splendid trophy.

The 29-year-old Head Greenkeeper from Seaford Head, in East Sussex, shot a nett 69 over St Annes Old Links and then followed it up with a nett 71 at Fairhaven despite the wet conditions.

"I obviously knew I was in with a chance after the first round but tried to put it out of my mind over night," he explained.

"I had a few drinks and my roommate, Richard Clark, gave me a superb talking to which put me in the right mood for the next day."

Halfway round Fairhaven he knew that he only had to keep playing consistently and he would have a great chance.

"I don't use a wood off the tee, only a 3-iron, and this policy served me well. I also holed three or four long putts which made a difference,"

said the 26-handicapper

"I'm absolutely ecstatic to have won.

It is like our Olympics and this is by far the biggest golf event I've ever won," added Dustin.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALAN BIRCH

The Competition Scratch Score for each Day of the National Championship was as follows - courtesy of Doug Bell.

1st Day: St Annes Old Links
SSS 72 CSS 73

2nd Day: Fairhaven
SSS 73 CSS 75



Above: Eventual winner Dustin Houghton starts his campaign at St Annes



Above: The four Northern Ireland representatives made a huge impact on proceedings over the two days



Left: Eventual runner-up, Richard Andrews, produced one of his best shots at St Annes' 9th. His 4-iron to three feet left him a tap in birdie but he was still one more than his Highgate GC colleague James Seisun who holed in one at the same hole five years ago in the National Tournament

COMPLETE RESULTS OVERLEAF



Above: BIGGA Chairman Elliott Small, Bert Cross and Richard Minton, of Scotts, enjoyed a threeball on the opening day



Above: Graham Wallace, not only won the longest drive but took the nearest the pin with this effort on Fairhaven's 17th

THE RAIN MAN

Right: National Championship winner, Dustin Houghton receives his trophy from Richard Minton, UK Sales Manager of Scotts UK Professional and Philip Threadgold, Sales Director of Charterhouse UK



CHARTERHOUSE/SCOTTS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS ROUNDUP

36 HOLES AGGREGATE NETT

1st Dustin Houghton	140
2nd Richard Andrews	142
3rd Antony Kirwan	(on last 18) 144
4th Richard Barker	144

Putting Competition

Richard Pendlebury (on last 6) 16

Nearest the Pin Competition

and Longest Drive - Graham Wallace

36 HOLES AGGREGATE GROSS

1st Noel Crawford	147
2nd David Leith	149
3rd Michael Wilson	150
4th John Hutton	(on last 19) 155

REGIONAL TEAM CUP

Winners - South East Region

Richard Andrews, Dustin Houghton, Antony Kirwan, Andrew Howarth, John Groombridge, Ian Semple, Andy Sheehan, Richard Clarke

1st Round Prizes - Monday

0-9 Barry Holt	70
10-17 Kevin Irving	69
18-28 Alex Robertson	74

Runners Up - Midland Region

Richard Barker, Barry Holt, Les Howkins, Mike Smith, Michael Hughes, Simon Austin, Graham Wallace, Dave Leatherland

2nd Round Prizes - Tuesday

0-9 Eamonn Crawford	(on last 9) 72
10-17 Richard Mullen	74
18-28 Nick Bird	73

3rd Northern Region

4th Scottish Region

5th South West & South Wales Region



Left: BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small enjoys a joke from after dinner speaker, John Welch



Below: The victorious South East team



Above: Graham Wallace, longest drive and nearest the pin winner



Above: Noel Crawford - 36 hole gross winner

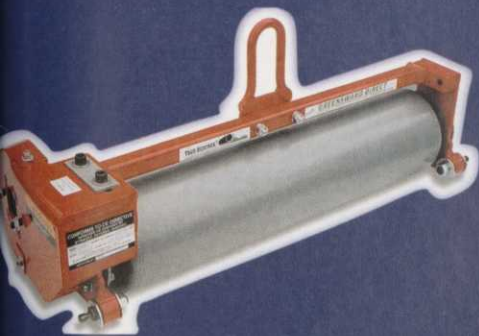
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TALKING

Six of the country's top men give their views on Construction Work

Construction Work

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE



Name: Archie Dunn
Course: Auchterarder GC
Region: Scotland
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus four



Name: Gary Edwards
Course: Old Colwyn GC
Region: Northern
Course Type: Parkland (nine holes)
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus one, plus one part-timer



Name: Andy Smith
Course: Shirley GC, Solihull
Region: Midlands
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Course Manager, plus six, plus part-time gardener



Name: Martin Forrester
Course: Stapleford Abbots GC, near Romford, Essex
Region: South East
Course Type: Parkland (36 holes)
Staff: Course Manager, plus nine, plus mechanic



Name: Fred Deamen
Course: Alton GC
Region: South West and South Wales
Course Type: Downland
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus two, plus casuals when needed



Name: Gordon Ennis
Course: Bright Castle GC, Downpatrick
Region: Northern Ireland
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus two, plus part-timer

1

How well ahead of the work itself do you know that you will be tackling a particular job and what can affect the timing?

Six months normally and we also have a five-year rolling programme. Work can be governed by finance, weather, fixtures and the number of visiting parties.

When planning work on the course I ensure that all major jobs are carried out at the end of the season where possible and depending upon weather and course conditions.

A seven-year course improvement plan helps us to prepare well in advance for major course projects. Weather/ground conditions, season and fixtures affect the timing of operations.

Six months. The weather does, of course, affect the timing on some occasions.

We normally plan two to three months ahead and have a general five-year plan. The weather can affect the timing.

We plan six months ahead, but everything then depends on the weather which can obviously cause delays.

HEADS

2

Do you use outside contractors and why do you, or don't you, go down that route?

We use outside contractors for drainage as they have the specialist machinery which we don't have. However, we do all the other work ourselves.

I don't use outside contractors as I am capable of carrying out the work myself and this reduces the cost to the club.

We use contractors for major construction. Their expertise and specialist equipment ensures a quicker and efficient time scale for work and minimises disruption to members. It also frees the greenstaff for other course improvements and maintenance.

Yes, we use contractors for basically constructing greens because they have the expertise. We finish the job off with root zone etc.

We try to do everything in-house really because then we can do a job when we want to do it, rather than rely on contractors who have a programme and may work when damage to the course results. We had outside contractors ten years ago to do some tee building.

We used outside contractors ten years ago to build a 100ft x 50ft x 20ft deep lake from which we draw water to irrigate the course. We bought our own digger five years ago so now we do most things in-house.

3

Describe the biggest construction job that has been done at the club in your time there.

Constructing two new greens four years ago. They took sometime to get going but are doing very well now.

At my present club, the largest construction work I have carried out is the building of a putting green. The club didn't have one for the previous four years.

The construction of two winter tees with half the teeing area laid with an artificial playing surface. It only took two weeks and is a relatively small job compared with other major construction work the course has undergone in the past, or that I have been involved with elsewhere.

Building greens. We have done three complete greens and extended two others.

The par-4 4th and par-5 13th tees were reconstructed and this involved digging out a hillside with 1,500 square metres of earth moved to create a two-tier tee.

Apart from the lake, we have constructed a new 2nd hole green which is a fair way from the old one.

4

How do you go about minimising disruption to the course?

We normally mark off the areas concerned and have notice boards telling golfers what is happening on the course. Good communication is essential in this respect.

I minimise disruption to the course by starting work early in the morning before golfers arrive. Any areas which are under construction, or having work carried out, are roped off, leaving the rest of the course neat, tidy and playable.

We minimise disruption to members with good communication in the club, working round fixtures and advanced preparation of alternative playing surfaces.

We basically plan a route, keeping golfers well away from the work and also well away from the fairways and playing surfaces to limit damage to the course.

We have a large hedgeline all round the course so can divert players away from areas which are well marked. We also have notices displayed well in advance so that people know exactly what is going on

We rope off and have signs up in addition to putting notices on the main noticeboard and we find this is sufficient to have minimal disruption.

5

What construction work will you be tackling during this winter programme?

We are building a new tee at the 6th which will be 500 square metres. Also new bunkers are being built, two reconstructed and also we have drainage plans.

The winter programme has already been set and is being worked on. This includes mainly drainage and I have a constant problem with water retention on the fairways, due to the course being constructed on farmland.

We have got a big drainage programme this winter involving four greens and work on two fairways. This is being carried out in-house and not with contractors.

We are extending two tees considerably, doing some drainage work and also constructing new paths. We are also extending backwards a few of the smaller tees.

Bunker maintenance, with one on the 9th fairway needing to be enlarged. We will be digging out, laying a drain and replacing sand. There is also some drainage work on the 7th green where we will be putting in a herringbone system.

We are having a new machinery shed built, 70ft x 30ft and the site has to be cleared, doing the digger work ourselves before the specialist firm moves in to erect the building.



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

The Scottish Region is once again offering its members a subsidised package deal for BTME 2001. The package includes coach to Harrogate, entry to all seminars and exhibitions, three nights bed and breakfast in en-suite twin rooms on January 23, 24 and 25 in the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate. The cost of the package is £173 with partners welcome at a cost of £123 for travel and accommodation. Bookings and full payments are due to December 18 with banquet tickets at an extra cost of £40 per person.

Further information from Peter Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6TA Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440 Peter Boyd

North

The Section's Autumn outing at Peterculter was a great success with a large turnout, great weather and a lovely golf course. Over 80 members, trade and guests, played over David Marnoch's course which was in superb condition despite all the recent bad weather.

This was the first time in my capacity as Chairman of the Section that I got a kiss from the club official who partnered me on the course, but before you start getting ideas, it was the Lady Captain, soon to be Club Captain, I played with.

Thanks to all at the club for making the

day so good. Prize winners were as follows. Scratch - 1. S. Herd, Strathlene, 71. 2. G. Neill, Tain, 74. Class 1. 1. A. Williamson 71-5=66; 2. C. Pearson, Craibstone, 77-4=73bih; 3. S. Sullivan, Craigiehill, 77-4=73; Class 2. 1. A. Shade, Spey Bay, 75-7=68; 2. C. Cummings, Peterculter, 81-11=70; 3. R. Hardie, Craibstone, 79-8=71. Class 3. D. Duggan, Fortrose, 95-26=69; 2. S. Frost, Royal Aberdeen, 92-22=70; 3. M. Spence, Alford, 88-16=72. Apprentice 1. R. Pendlebury, Peterculter, 76-9=67; 2. A. Stewart, Royal Aberdeen, 76-6=70. Veteran. 1. G. Aitken, Peterculter, 90-18=72; 2. A. Grant 88-12=76. Trade. P. Allan, Stewarts, 76-4=72. Guest G. Birse, Peterculter, 83-18=65. Committee Trophy S. McBain, Hazlehead, 79-8=71. Nearest the Pin R. Pendlebury, Peterculter. Longest drives, Class 1. N. Sadler, Grantown. Class 2. R. Main, Buckpool. Class 3. R. Middleton, Royal Aberdeen. Spring and Autumn aggregates. Best Nett R. Pendlebury, Peterculter, 130. Best Head Greenkeeper. S. McBain, Hazlehead, 139. Best Veteran. A. Williamson. I wonder if it is just a coincidence that there are a lot of winners from the home club!

The score card draw for the BIGGA blazer was won by M. Grant, Garmouth. The four lucky 200 Club winners were, May £30. No.20. Brian Cocker Snr. Alyth. June £30 No.4. Brian Anderson, Aberdeen. July £30 No. 190. Andy Wilson, Brechin. August £100 No. 131 Bob Napier, Dundee. Still four more chances to win this year. Thanks to all who attended.

The two winners of the North Section Patrons Award for 2000 are Stewart

McBain, Hazlehead, and Ian Cowper, Tain, who will be off to BTME in January as a result. Keep attending events and you could be the winner next year.

The National Championship was a great success with two fine courses and a lovely hotel to stay in. As usual it was well organised, but my golf was not quite good enough. Mike Wilson again did the Section proud with two fine scores. A big thank you to Andrew Lomas, from Matlock, who dropped me in Leeds for the Champions League game that evening, on his way home. After the game I caught the train back to Preston and my sleeper train home.

Congratulations to Gordon Moir on his promotion to Links Manager at St Andrews. We wish him all the best in his new position.

I A Macleod.

West

Welcome again to this month's news. One story to report on this month and that is the Autumn outing held at Lenzie GC on Thursday, September 21. I don't mind telling you there were some anxious hours running up to this event with plenty of sky watching, no, not TV, and praying for good weather. As it turned out, the elements could not have been more favourable. A low turnout on the day with only 39 entries. I understand that the date clashed with two of the other Sections' golf outings and an invitation to St Andrews on behalf of an irrigation company for a bit of a chat and a round of golf on the Eden course! Might explain why the numbers were low, however, we

shall endeavour in future to try and avoid such foul ups. So, the results of the day:

Scratch: S. Taylor, Killermont GC, 73. 1st Class. 1. S. Bulloch, Fereneze GC, 73-5=68; 2. R. McLeish, Vale of Leven GC, 75-5=70 BIH; 3. D. Johnstone, Cardross GC, 77-7=70. 2nd Class. 1. M. Kelly, Hayston GC, 82-12=70 BIH; 2. S. Brawley, East Kilbride GC, 85-15=70; 3. J. Young, Dougalston GC, 87-15=73; 3rd Class. 1. T. Nisbet, Killermont GC, 103-25=78; 2. D. Reid, Lenzie GC, 100-20=80; 3. M. Carey, Balmore GC, 98-17=81. Trade Prize. J. Stokoe 82-19?=63. Visitors' Prize R. Kelly 87-13=74 Longest Drive R. McLeish. Nearest the Hole. S. Taylor 13'2".

The second draw of the 100 Club took place soon after the prize giving and the number drawn was 74 the ticket holder George Nisbett, Killermont GC. Congratulations to you George.

Thanks to the Committee and members of Lenzie GC for allowing us courtesy of the course and use of their facilities. Well done to the greens staff for all their hard work in preparing the course. Thanks finally to the steward and stewardess for all their efforts on the day. If anybody has anything they think they would like to mention, please contact me on Home 0141 776 1532. Mobile 07050 173080 email Ryryg@lineone.net

Gavin Jarvis

Ayrshire

The summer season has just ended and I am struggling to get some aeration work started. I have never seen the ground so wet from September into October after



Are you planning to visit BTME 2001 in January?

Why not share the cost of travel?

If you are planning a visit to this year's BTME and have space in your car or would like to find other BIGGA members to travel with, contact your BIGGA Regional Administrator and they will try to put people in touch who live in the same area.

Scotland	Peter Boyd	Tel/Fax: 0141 6163440	Email: biggascotland@aol.com
Northern	Doug Bell	Tel/Fax: 0151 4310433	Email: bigganorth@aol.com
Midlands	Les Emery	Tel/Fax: 01162879036	
S East	Derek Farrington	Tel/Fax: 01903 260956	Email: derek.farrington@tesco.net
S West	Paula Humphries	Tel/Fax: 01288 352194	Email: paula.bigga@eclipse.co.uk

Still looking for accommodation in Harrogate?

The BTME 2001 Reservation Highway is an organisation based in Harrogate which has been appointed by BIGGA as an official accommodation agent for the event. They operate an hotel listing service which can provide bookings for a wide range of accommodation at a price to suit your budget. The rates are better than you can achieve by going direct to the Hotels, so why not give it a try? Don't forget to mention you are a BIGGA member.

Call The Reservation Highway: Tel 01423 525577 Fax 01423 525599

Give BTME your full support - Why not phone a friend?

If you have been to BTME before you will know what a great week it is, taking in the conference, the exhibition, the keynote speaker and seminars, the banquet, the camaraderie, the nights out etc. etc. If you are planning to visit this year, why not get in touch with a greenkeeping colleague at another club (they don't have to be BIGGA members!) and plan a visit with them. Once Greenkeepers have been to Harrogate they appreciate how much they can gain from the experience and they are usually keen to return. If it convinces them it is worth joining BIGGA as a member so much the better. Help us to increase the numbers visiting BTME 2001, it makes it the key event in the Greenkeeping calendar and ensures it receives the maximum support of the Fine Turf Industry.

Pre-Registration Competition

Pre-Register for BTME2001* before Friday, December 8, 2000, and your name will be entered into our fantastic prize draw to win one of five BIGGA Sports Watches. Personalised with the BIGGA logo, these 'TOP' Sports Watches are water resistant to three atmospheres, and contain Citizen/Miyota quartz movement.

* You will find a BTME2001 Pre-Registration card in the centre pages of this magazine

such a decent summer. By the time you read this, maybe things will have taken a turn for the better. Scotsturf will be with you soon, where all the new and established products can be viewed and/or discussed. It's well worth a visit even just to be hospitable. The Norrie Whytock Trophy was recently played at Auchterarder Golf Club where Ayrshire finished a gallant third, beaten on a count-back by Central and only two points adrift of the East Section who secured the trophy for the first time. Thanks go to Archie Dunn and the greenstaff for an excellent golf course, to RA Peter Boyd for the expert administration and, last but not least, to Aventis for continued sponsorship of the trophy.

The Autumn outing was played over my course at Largs on September 21 where we had a disappointingly small turnout. However, apart from some blustery showers later in the afternoon, all those who attended had an enjoyable day and the prizes were much easier to win - see roll of honour later. Chairman Duncan Gray, in his vote of thanks, mentioned Captain George Grant and the committee of Largs Golf Club for granting courtesy of the course, the greenstaff for presenting the course, George and Fiona for the excellent catering, Joe and the bar staff for keeping us refreshed and, last but not least, stand-in secretary Jim Paton for his organisation of the day. Prize winners were as follows. Morning Texas Scramble. 1. Marshall Sloss, Beith. John Mair, Beith, Dale Norquay, Barassie and Jack Paterson, Port Bannatyne. 2. Scott McLean, West Kilbride, Brian Aitken, West Kilbride,

Barry Reid, Barassie and John Marshall, Port Bannatyne.

Afternoon Stableford. Winner Jim Paton, West Kilbride. 1st Class. 1. John Muir, Beith; 2. Iain Barr, Largs; 3. Scott McLean, West Kilbride. 2nd Class. 1. Dale Norquay, Barassie; 2. Martin Lothian, Turnberry; 3. Paul Tulloch, West Kilbride. Trade winner Derek Duthie, Aitkens.

Any news call me on 01505 683278. See you next month.

Iain Barr

East Section

There was no column last month as we were between events but we're back this month. The Section visited Winterfield Golf Club, Dunbar, for the annual Willie Woods International Tournament, where a great day was had by all in attendance. Thanks from the Section go to the Captain and Council for giving us courtesy of the course, the Clubhouse staff for looking after us very well and lastly Head Greenkeeper, Craig Pennycook and his staff, for the superb condition of the course. Also the easy pin positions on the day! Also a big thanks to our tournament sponsor, Ian Henderson, of Ian Henderson Finance.

I am glad to announce that Ian has agreed to continue the sponsorship of this event for a further two years. Thanks Ian and we look forward to having you along with us next year. The scoring on the day was very good as the following scores will show. The results are 1. S. Nicol & J. Finlay, Winterfield GC, 66 2/3 65 1/3 BIH; 2. G. Wood & H. Brown, Dunbar GC, 68 2/3 65 1/3. So, as normal with this tournament we shall be returning to the holder's course

next year so we hope to see you all at Winterfield GC next season.

The final tournament of the season was held with the courtesy of the Captain and Council of Dunnington GC on Thursday, September 21. This tournament is the first qualifier for the BIGGA National Championships 2001 so there was some fine scoring on the day as the results show. Thanks go to the Captain and Council, the clubhouse staff for keeping us well fed and refreshed throughout the day, Head Greenkeeper, Adam Gordon and his team, for presenting the course in excellent condition on the day. Well done to everyone concerned. Also a big thanks to the members of the trade who supplied prizes for the raffle. Thank you.

The results. Best Scratch, Stewarts Quaich = S. Nicol -76. Best Nett, Russells Quaich. I. Laing 79-9 = 70. 1st Class 1. Watermaton Cup. I. Laing 79-9=70; 2. G. Ferguson 77-3=74; 3. I. Bell 78-3=75. 2nd Class 1. SGM Cup. I. Watson 86-14=72; 2. R. Mullen 84-11=73; 3. C. Irvine 88-11=77 BIH.

3rd Class 1st Sts/Rigby Taylor Cup. F. Forrest, 131-25=106; 2. K. Shiels, Better outward 9; 3. C. Moffat, 2nd best outward 9; 2. and 3. Nr after 9 holes three in section to return card. Veteran, Eddie Holt Trophy - J. Manuel 84-7=77. Trade, Autumn Trade Cup, - J. Smith 85-13=72. Guest Prize D. Hunter 80-2=78. New Member - K. Purves 90-13 = 77. Worst Score of the Day - G. McKie 100-9 = 91

Best Aggregate Trophy Spring & Autumn 2000, Bill Beveridge Trophy - I. Watson 80-72=152.

Well done to all trophy winners. I am

looking forward to adjusting your handicaps! So round two of the qualifying to come in April 2001. Dates and venues of next year's tournaments coming soon, so we hope to see you all then to complete your qualification for the BIGGA National Championships 2001. Remember, only two places up for grabs, so keep practising!

Well, that's all this month. If anyone has anything to let us know, please drop me a line or give me a call on home: 01968 661313 or, office: 01968 661721 or email me at chriscjy26@aol.com and I will make sure it gets into print and into the magazine. That's it 'til next month.

Chris Yeaman

Central

We welcome another three new members to the Section this month and they are Graeme Bryce, from Elmwood Golf Developments; Steven Hemsley, from St Andrews Links Trust, and Malcolm Baxter, from Muckhart Golf Club. Welcome to the Section, lads! The final golf tournament of the season was held in September at Stirling Golf Club on what proved to be one of the drier days of the month when 56 members and guests enjoyed a relaxing day and played some very competitive golf with the prize winners being as follows:

Best Scratch. D. Leith, St Andrews, 67-1=66. Best Nett D. McAllister, Ladybank, 73-4=69BIH. 1st Class 1. K. Mitchell, St Andrews, 74-5=69; 2. C. MacDonald, Crieff, 75-4=71; 3. B. Cruickshank, Roxburgh, 82-9=73.

2nd Class 1. M. Graham, Green Hotel, 86-14=72; 2. T. Harris, Cupar, 86-11=75; 3. D. Scott, Scoonie, 92-15=77. 3rd Class

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1. A. Robertson, Grangemouth, 92-21 = 70; 2. A. Amott, Dunnikier, 98-18=80; 3. S Cruickshank, Deer Park, 105-22=83. Best Nett Spring & Autumn. D. Leith. St Andrews, 74 & 66=140. Patrons K. Brunton, Greentech. 72-1=70. Guests. G. Hepburn, Muckhart. 76-3=73. Longest Drive, C. MacDonald. Nearest the Pin D. Leith.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Stirling Golf Club for the courtesy and hospitality which was extended to us, especially Club Captain, Peter Gilchrist, who presented the prizes and Club Secretary, Walter McArthur, for all his help. Thanks also to the bar and catering staff for keeping us fed and watered throughout the day; Kevin Brunton from Greentech for doing the cards, Derek Raffles- Scott and a big thank you to my own staff who worked so hard in getting the course prepared for the day. National Chairman Elliott Small joined us for the presentation of prizes following flying visits to other Sections during a very busy day. Perhaps you will get time to play in next year's tournaments Elliott!

Our two section qualifiers in the National Championship at Lytham, David Leith and Alex Robertson were both in the prize list, so it's congratulations to them both for doing the Section proud. Exact details can be found on pages 28-30.

The visit to the Scotts/STRI/Rolawn has been postponed for the time being, due to the lack of support, three. Obviously there are an awful lot of very knowledgeable greenkeepers in the Central Section. Our thanks go to Richard Walton, of Scotts, who put in a great deal of time and effort in organising this visit on our behalf.

The football tournament held on September 24 was very successful, despite the Editor deciding to change the date to the 24 August. Why, I don't know. (Apologies. Put it down to mistyping - Ed) and the following is a report from Andy O'Hara.

The participating teams were Downfield, Drumoig, Dunfermline, Callander, Lundin Links, Shaw Park Wasps and Stirling/Level Lions. The tournament was run as a league with all teams playing each other once, kicking off at 2pm. It became obvious that this was far too early for most players to have recovered from the Saturday night hangovers. This observation took on more significance when louder cheers were heard from the teams who didn't have to play two games in a row, than cheers for goals scored. Final placings were 1. Lundin Links, 2. Dunfermline, 3. Stirling/Leven Lions, 4. Drumoig, 5. equal Downfield, Callander and Shaw Park Wasps.

A special mention goes to Wasps goalkeeper Dunc who injured -stung- himself with his first involvement, ie. picking the ball out of the net and then pulling a muscle when attempting to kick the ball away in disgust!

Thanks to Ian - Hugh Dallas - Jarvis and well done to Lundin Links on a 100% record, to Dunfermline for pushing them to the last game and to all players for the sporting and friendly atmosphere which prevailed on the day. Lastly, thanks lads for a totally enjoyable tournament which I hope can be repeated next year. A O'Hara.

Man gets restless. Pat Brennan has moved from The Dukes Course in St Andrews to a new position at a course in Germany and our best wishes go to him in his new employment.

Man settles down. A member who tied the knot last month is Kenny Stirling from

Kingsbarns. Kenny married his fiancée Ann on October 21 and our best wishes for a long and happy life together go to them both. Does this mean the handicap will go up Kenny?

Tickets for the Club 2000 have been sent out so please make an effort to sell your allocation and if you require any more, just get in touch and I will send them to you. All monies and unsold tickets must be returned to me by December 31, 2000.

The Central Section is 20-years-old on the 20th of this month and it was intended to hold a Dinner Dance or some kind of event to mark this important date, well, I think it's important. But, due to lack of response, your committee are going to celebrate it by themselves and it will be at their own expense!

At the time of writing I have had two replies from members, outwith the committee, who have indicated that they will be attending the visit to Scottish Grass Machinery, St Andrews and the AGM, so I will give you an update next month on what happened. In the meantime I am away to find something else to moan about and upset some of you with, or perhaps some of you with, or perhaps some of you will have attended the AGM and I won't be doing this next time. You can always live in hope.

John Crawford



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Northern

It is with regret that I announce the untimely death of Eric Paley. Eric was 66 and just retired from Stand GC having being previously at Sandmoor and Halifax G.C.'s. Our sympathies go out to Eric's family and he will be sadly missed from our Section events.

Our Vice-Chairman John Waite is recovering from a bad road accident, in which John got knocked off his push iron and wrote off the on-coming car. His pelvis is broken in two places. Get well soon John and in the meantime give everyone else a chance at golf!

Much better news is that fellow committee man Richard Smith and his wife are expecting twins. Good luck to the both of you. Congratulations to Alan Court on getting married recently.

Our Invitation Day (Baxter's Trophy Cabinet Day) was held at Cookridge Hall G&C.C. Thanks Jim Brown for organising the day and Mike Brear and Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the day. The results are as follows:- 1. Tito Arana, Richard Simpson-Riddlesden GC 41pts; 2. Scott Baxter, Mick Collins- Bingley St.Ives GC 40pts; 3. Alan Baxter, Alan Johnson- Bingley St.Ives GC 39pts; 4. Richard Smith, Jim Ashley- Clayton GC 39pts; 5. Joe Baxter, David Priestley- Bingley St.Ives GC 39pts; 6. Simon Heptonstall, David Sykes- Howley Hall G.C. 39pts. The longest Drive on the 16th - Philip Rowbottom, Nearest the Pin 6th - David Sykes, 15th - Jim Ashley. Thanks to Tony, from Gem, for sponsoring the Longest Drive & Nearest the Pin. A new competition we've started is called the 2's Club and we had four winners each receiving £10. They were R. Simpson, J. Ashley, D. Sykes, A. Johnson. Our thanks go to Head Greenkeeper, Jim Brown and

his staff, for preparing the course and also Cookridge Hall G&C.C for their help and assistance in the day.

The next event is the seminar day at Howley Hall GC on the Wednesday November 15. You should have received information about this by now. If not, or you would like to book, then get in touch with me.

Our AGM will be at Huddersfield G.C. on Wednesday 6th December at 6.30pm. The golf will start at 10am and will be a bring/win a prize, (minimum value of £5).

You can contact me in any of the following ways. Address: 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS. Tel: 0113

2383188. Mobile: 07790 678572.

Email: andy_smith21@hotmail.com
Andy Smith

North West

What has gone wrong with the N/W section? We have the largest Section in the Association, almost 600 members, and we used to have a very active Section supporting the golf tournaments, and the seminar at Mere, but for some reason, and I don't know the answer, just a small nucleus of members supported the Section, and national events.

Let me put you in the picture. The seminar at Mere in March was attended by 73

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delegates, 31 greenkeepers, and the remainder being golf club secretaries, greens chairman, and members of the trade, a small percentage of our 600 members.

Team events such as the Roses match, the annual match against North Wales, and the match against the Golf Club Stewards, all sponsored, with no cost to the competitors, can be a nightmare getting a team together. The regional final at Fishwick Hall, even though the qualifiers had all been informed with their starting times, we finished with one man short, made almost impossible for us to win. The autumn tournament at Denton Golf Club, was attended by only 17 members and two

guests, and to top it all, the National Championship played at St Annes Old Links and Fairhaven G.C., which are both in the Northwest Section, was attended, apart from the two qualifiers, by only myself and Peter Hogan. As Secretary, and with a good section committee, we try our best to satisfy the members needs, but we do need the support of you guys out there, and if you feel if something is lacking in the Section, or the Association, put pen to paper, or give me a ring.

Now that I have that off my chest I would like to thank Tim Nolan and his staff for a great day at Denton Golf Club on September 7. The few days previous to the

match day had been rain, rain, rain, and I feel sure that Tim and his staff must have had many soakings working in the rain, because the course was in great condition, and a credit to them.

The results on the day were; Best Gross - Tim Nolan, Best Net - Mike Llogg, Vets - Arthur Moorey, Guest prize - Andrew Cornes, Aggregate Winner - Arthur Moorey. I would like to thank Denton Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course, the caterers for a great meal, and Tim and his staff for an excellent course, also our sponsors for the prize table. Don't forget we have the Presidents Cup and the AGM on the 30th November at Wilmslow

Golf Club, get your entries in with your cheque for £15 to; Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Liverpool, L4 9RB, not later than Friday, November 24. Everybody must bring a bottle of something on the day, so that we can all go home with a prize. I will close now but please remember you have a good Section, and a good Association so please support them.

The Northern Region is organising a seminar to be held at Penrith Golf Club on Thursday, December 7. Full details will be sent to all members in Cumbria and surrounding areas. For further information contact Doug Bell.

Bert Cross, (Tel: 0151 724 5412)



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Cleveland

Three new members joined the Section this month. Stephen Taggart and Gary Hutchinson have both been assistants at the Wynyard Club for over a year and Liam McGeough, older and better looking brother of Anthony - Titch - McGeough, has taken the job of greenkeeper mechanic at Richmond Golf Club after Mark Blugman left for a career change. Also leaving Richmond is Oly Shepard who is going to University. The Beast of Bedale, Alex Russell, is now the Beast of Billingham moving to join Bob Lawton and his team.

The Cleveland Section won the National Team Final at Fishwick Hall Golf Club in Preston recently. Well done to all those who were involved.

Congratulations to Chris Powley, of Dinsdale Spa GC, who won the Carrs sponsored Cleveland Shield, beating Tony Burge in the Final at Durham City GC.

Any news contact me on 07808196558. Steven Jaques

North Wales

I write these notes on the day of our cancelled autumn meet and the weather is again, horrendous. It's been a testing year and the only positive thing is we are all in the same boat - pun intended. We shall try to rearrange the meet - you will know by the time you read this - if not, any of you who can't make the Xmas meet, please get in touch for a refund. The winter lectures start at the college on November 15 with Derek Green, Bunker Construction and Chris Clarke, Equipment Maintenance starts at 2.30. All welcome. A small charge for non-members.

I don't suppose any of you need reminding the Xmas meeting is at Royal Liverpool on December 6, that's if the Wirral still exists and isn't part of Liverpool Bay, so remember to bring your beach coster boat rods just in case, maybe Derek should give us a lecture on how to land a sea bass!

Our Match Secretary, Jeremy Hughes, helped the Denbighshire county team to win the Welsh inter-counties final for the first time in the county's history. His rounds of 71 and 73 were instrumental in securing the win over second placed Flintshire, who also had one of our Section members in their team - Lee Hinks-Edwards, assistant greenkeeper at Hawarden, well done lads, it shows greenkeepers can play the game as well! The finals were played at Borth-Ynlas which was apparently in excellent condition for the tournament. Finally, belated congratulations to my old mate Peter Sproston on his September wedding, wishing you all the best for the future.

Remember, if you have got anything I can write about, get in touch. I am like the bad comedian, I need the material.

Dave Goodridge



Midland Region
Les Emery
Tel: 0116 287 9036

Golf Management Trophy events

Glen Gorse Golf Club September 14
This year's first event was held at Glen Gorse Golf Club in Leicester and got off to a flier with 21 teams entering. Then three days before the tee off, came the petrol crisis. At first I thought we would have to cancel but we carried on. Seventeen

teams made the day with teams travelling from as far afield as Cleethorpes, managing to attend. What a successful day it was, although the rain only managed to stop when the play ended there were no complaints from anyone, only praise. I would like to thank all of the teams whom entered for supporting this event, especially when using up their petrol ration

The team from Ryston Park Golf Club, in Downham Market, won the event with a team total of 133 (two best net medal scores to count).

There must be an awful lot of rainfall in Norfolk because they won by seven strokes on the second placed team Trentham Park from Stoke on Trent. In third place came Boston Golf Club.

Thanks to Frank Kempster the Course Manager and his team of greenkeepers for presenting the course in superb condition and the catering staff for a wonderful meal.

We quickly followed up the first event with a visit to St Neots GC, near Cambridge. Although only 11 teams entered it still proved a success. The weather remained pleasant and many golf clubs said that they thought that the format was a winner. I would like to thank all of the teams who entered for supporting this event. The team from Verulam Golf Club, in St Albans, were the eventual winners as three teams all finished with the same score eventually won on the back three count-back. Second place went to Letchworth Golf Club and third to Ramsdale Park Golf Club.

I would like to thank Phil & Richard, Course Manager and Deputy, and the team of greenkeepers for presenting the course in superb condition and the catering staff for a wonderful meal.

I would like to thank the Secretary, Captain & Committee of both Glen Gorse Golf Club and St Neots Golf Club for allowing the use of their golf courses.

My sincere thanks must go to Scotts for the sponsorship of this event with one tonne of fertiliser going to the winning club along with decanters and port. Second place bottles of port and third place bottles of wine.

Nick Martin from Scotts attended both days and Richard Minton the second. Nick also presented the prizes kindly donated by Scotts. Thanks also to Kevin from E T Breakwell & Mark from Avoncrop for their help in running the day and the raffle at St Neots.

There were many raffle prizes with donations coming from the section committee members. I thank you all.

Les Emery

East Midlands

This year's Autumn Tournament was played at Market Harborough GC on September 20, a dry pleasant Autumn day. The course was in excellent condition, after all the heavy rain of the previous week which is a credit to Tim Harris and all the greenkeeping staff. This also reflected in the good scores that were posted.

Best Nett. Gavin Robson, Lingdale, 84-22-62. Best Gross, Richard Barker, Kirby Muxloe, 71.

Category 1. I. Guy Boyd, Greatham Valley, 77-10=67; 2. Pete Billings, Cotgrave Place, 77-7=70. Category 2. 1. Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 82-16=66; 2. Ian Needham, Beedles Lake, 85-11=74. Trade and Associate prize. Simon Hedley, Boughton Loam, 90-17=73. Nearest the Pin. John Burnham, Sisis. Longest Drive,

Jeff Dickinson, Leen Valley.

Our thanks to Market Harborough GC for hosting our Tournament and to the Steward and Stewardess for an excellent meal, one of the best we have ever had. A special thanks should go to our sponsors Banks Amenity Products for not only providing a great prize table, but to put on a free bar and provide a sponsored golf ball each.

Unfortunately the day was only supported by 17 greenkeepers and we really do need to increase these numbers if we are to remain successful. Finally, can I once again remind all members that your entry forms and payment must be made before the closing date of any Section event should you wish to attend. Next year's Autumn Tournament will be held on 14 September at Lingdale GC.

This year's Scotts/Charterhouse National Championship was supported by three of our Section members. Richard Barker, Ian Needham and Dave Leatherland.

The best Gross and Nett score on the first day was won by Richard who also finished with the 4th Best Nett score over the two days.

Also in attendance was the Section Chairman, Gavin Robson who was Dave Leatherland's caddy for the two days. (I only saw him carry Dave's bag for one of them - Ed)

Antony Bindley

Berks Bucks and Oxon

The autumn invitation was held at East Berks GC on October 2. The event was very well attended with some 48 players taking part. Myself and my partner were very lucky to be paired with Adrian Cooper and Andy Church, from Rolawn. During the round Adrian taught us the very useful "canopy shot". This shot involves the player hitting the ball as hard as possible through trees taking many deflections and landing close to the hole. He has even mastered this shot from distances of about 250 yards. Luck? Not a chance! My feeble attempts ended up with the ball travelling further sideways than forwards, or is that called a snap-hook?

Anyway, the results are as follows. 1. N. Ely & M. Ely, 44 pts; 2. J. Bevan & D. Eglington, 42 pts; 3. T. Webb & R. Webb, 42 pts. Longest Drive. D. Emery. Nearest the Pin. M. Putt. Many thanks to Marc and his staff for producing a superb course and also to the other club staff for making us feel very welcome. Also many thanks to Rolawn who sponsored the event.

One last thing and that is to watch out for your forms for the turkey trot. These will be out in November and a quick response would be greatly appreciated.

Jon Scoones.

Midland

On November 22 there is a trip to Hardi Sprayers organised and sponsored by Sportsworld. If you are interested please contact Mike Whitehouse on 07971 484050. The main sponsors for the summer tournament, whom I forgot to mention in my last report, were Alpha Amenity. Thank you. The autumn tournament was played at Penn Golf Club, which was in excellent condition considering the amount of rain the day before; I believe this to be 25mm!

Many thanks to Eddie Stant and his staff.

The results are as follows- 1. net- Mike Hughes; 2. V. Roll; 3. M. Sowerby. 1. gross-

Nigel Couchman.

Longest drive was won by Eddie Stant and sponsored by Ruffords. Nearest pin was won by Nigel Couchman and sponsored by Ruffords. The main sponsor of the day was Sportsworld.

Jonathan Wood

East of England

The annual match between East of England Greenkeepers and the Secretaries Association took place at Coxmoor GC.

There was a break in communication on the start time as our team arrived for a 2pm tee off, but the Secretaries were ready to go at 1.30pm.

This actually helped the Secretaries score as they went on to win 7-1.

Our team had to rush on to the course without the usual practice of beer and sandwiches. Thanks to Kevin Hodges for captaining for me and the day out, and to Phil Wilkinson and Alan Buckley for saving the white wash.

Thanks also to Coxmoor for an excellent presentation course and to Tony Morgan of the Secretaries Association. Jim Carr of Chandlers was the usual sponsor and brought along some good prizes.

Forthcoming event - There will be a talk on Machinery on November 2 at Newark Golf Club. Everyone welcome.

GA Macdonald



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel. 01903 260956

Surrey

It was with eager anticipation that those members who had entered the autumn golf tournament journeyed to Laleham. Many had not been there before, but its reputation had ensured a really large turnout. We were not disappointed. The weather remained dry and the rides at Thorpe Theme Park were as thrilling as we had expected. Afterwards we all played golf at Laleham Golf Club. The Head Greenkeeper, John Ross, received us with his usual kindness and after we had explained that it was the norm for greenkeepers to be given the courtesy of the course, his threat to have us physically removed for not paying green fees was rescinded.

Enough of this nonsense. We all thank John and his team for ensuring that our autumn meeting was a great success. The course was in excellent condition and although the recent rainfall had been extremely heavy, the course played far drier than expected.

A Latham greenkeeper, using local knowledge, came first. Bob Rogers scored 45 points. Second position was filled by Roger Tydeman 42 points. M. McClaren, after countback, was third with 40 points with Gordon Bell fourth; John White fifth. and Daren Lee sixth. Nearest the pin was captured by Gareth Rogers and the longest drive had John White deciding that a 5-iron was his most favourite club. Sponsors for the day were Bioseed.

Hankley Common Golf Club played host to the annual England vs Scotland golf match on October 3. Thanks to Gareth Roberts and his greenstaff for presenting the course in such superb condition. England won, Scotland came second.

Brian Willmott



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

South West & South Wales

Three highly successful Course Management Trophies have again been held in the South West and South Wales Region and the Regional Board would like to thank Scotts Professional for sponsoring the prizes for these competitions.

A team event in its second year, comprising a Greenkeeper, Club Secretary, Club Captain and Chairman of Green maximum numbers of entries were received for each section.

Martin Townsend, from Scotts, attended each of the events together with the local representative from each section. The competitions were played in excellent weather and everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed the day. It was nice to welcome Ken Richardson, from Head Office, to the South Coast event at Salisbury. Results: South Coast, played at Salisbury & S Wilts, Freshwater Bay, South West, played at the Manor Castle Coombe, Bristol and Clifton; South Wales, played at Celtic Manor, Pontypool.

The Region would like to thank the host clubs very much for extending the courtesy of the course for each of these events and for providing such excellent catering.

Westurf 2001 - March 14.

On the 13th we will again be holding the Pre-Westurf Gala Dinner which this year it will be held at the Southgate Hotel in Exeter. This is in the centre of town and right next to the cathedral. There is an integral leisure club boasting a pool, gym, solarium, jacuzzi, saunas and solarium.

The price is £50 per person sharing and £75 for single occupancy. This price includes dinner, bed and breakfast.

The Region will again be providing after dinner entertainment free of charge. There are only a limited number of rooms available so book early to avoid disappointment. Bookings should be made in writing to Paula, Riverview, 2, Granville Terrace, Bude, Cornwall EX23 8JZ and include a cheque for £20 per person deposit. Last year this event was a great success so do try and join us. It is a great way to start of the Westurf Exhibition.

Please note that Jim Arthur will be available to sell and sign copies of Practical Greenkeeping, reduced price £25, at the Cannington College Seminar on November 22.

Paula Humphries

Devon & Cornwall

Once again this year members have had the opportunity to enter the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping awards. This year the Section has two members in the finals and our congratulations and good luck to Anthony Vokes, of St Austell GC, in the Student award and Terry Farkins, of Dartmouth GC, in the Excellence in Greenkeeping award. Also, the Section would like to congratulate Jim Arthur on reaching his 80th birthday.

Unfortunately our representatives for the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship had to pull out, with reserves found, then getting injured, time run out to find replacements. The Section would like to

take this opportunity to apologise to the sponsors Scotts & Charterhouse for not being able to field any representatives at this excellent event. The Section also hopes that the Championship went well and look forward to the Sectional qualifier next year.

The Devon Garden Machinery Section meeting and AGM will be held at Launceston Golf Club on Wednesday November 15. The morning's golf will be of foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lely. As usual the non golfer's course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am, the section's AGM will conclude the day. Once again Christmas is fast approaching, so what better way to start the festive season than by attending our P J Flegg-sponsored Christmas meeting which will be held at Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 6. As in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members, so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible and before the closing date.

The day will start as usual with golfing members playing for the P J Flegg Trophy with the format being greensome, for those of you not wishing to play golf the course walk will start from the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. Following lunch our afternoon cabaret and raffles will conclude the day.

It's now time to book your place on the Region's Amenity Technology sponsored package to the BTME show & seminars which will be held in Harrogate next January. The trip departs on January 23 and returns on the January 26 2001 with the cost of £110 for members, £150 for non members.

The Regional Conference & Workshop will take place on Wednesday, November 22 at Cannington College. Details of this event have been sent to you through Greenkeeper International, the cost of the day will be £15 members, non members £22.50. The morning seminar speakers will be Frank Newbury, Stuart Ashworth and Jim Arthur with the afternoon workshop being presented by Frank Newbury.

For more information regarding the Conference and BTME contact Paula Humphries on 01288 352194.

Richard Whyman

South Wales

I begin by firstly apologising for missing Around the Green last month. I faltered after being praised for previous notes in the last committee meeting, perhaps they should have said nothing. Anyway on the serious side the match versus the golf club secretaries at Tredegar Park GC on August 11 was extremely friendly & the match was halved although lacking support from our side. It was a glorious day and was a pleasure to return, although to a complete new course in excellent condition. Also Thanks to Alan Able, of Complete Weed Control, for the Prizes for the closest to the pin and longest drive competition.

A great day with the largest attendance for the Scotts Professional U.K. Management trophy was held at the Celtic Manor Resort. Thirty two teams attend on August 15. Thanks to Scotts for entire sponsored event.

Our President, Colin Murphy, had invited us along to an informal evening at his and Rosemary's newly developed plant centre specialising in perennials for the garden and ornamental grasses, the evening

was attended by six couples whom I gathered had a great time with refreshments & a barbecue laid on, and treated to a fly by from a Hot Air Balloon. Does this ring a bell Julian B Jones? A big thank you and best wishes for the future of your business.

The Autumn Competition was to have been held at Newport GC on September 27 but was unfortunately cancelled by the lack of petroleum with the fuel crisis.

St Pierre GC hosted our match versus the South West in appalling weather condition, only one match completed the whole course. Andy Roach holed a storming put of 20 ft which enabled us to halve the competition at the 18th green. Thanks to St Pierre for their hospitality, to Scotts for the prizes for closest to the pin and longest drive and especially to all from the South West Section a pleasure to see you again in great surroundings.

South West & South Wales Region Annual Conference & Workshop is to be held on the 22nd of this month at Cannington College with guest speakers Jim Arthur, Frank Newberry & Stuart Ashworth.

Rigby Taylor Match Play Finals which have been played in October bring you up to date with that next month, and by the way its the Winter Tournament/AGM/Xmas Dinner next month again to be held at the Pyle & Kenfig tee off 9.30am. Some other news, D. Gladwin has unfortunately been knocked off his bike, we always thought you were a few spokes short of a wheel. No, seriously hope you repair quickly Dave. That's all this time around folks, I'll bring you up-to-date with the details of the evening lecture next month sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity Products. Just one more thing if you are thinking of attending BTME 2001 and there is a large support from South Wales Section we may possibly have a coach picking up throughout South Wales area leaving from Carmarthen.

Richard Hatcher

South West

Just a quick reminder that a number of important events are coming up in the next couple of months. The BIGGA South West and South Wales Annual Conference and Workshop 2000, will take place at Cannington College on November 22. This meeting is certain to attract a lot of interest with speakers including Jim Arthur, Frank Newberry and Stuart Ashworth of Amenity Technology. Book early for this event by contacting Paula Humphries.

The Christmas Golf Tournament will take place on Tuesday, December 5 at Henbury Golf Club. This is the first time that a BIGGA event has taken place at Henbury in quite a few years, so it should be interesting to play a different course.

Also in December there will be a basic computing course run by Ken Richardson, to be held at Lilley Brook Golf Club. If you would like to book a place on this course, please contact me by telephoning 01249 783382.

Paul Cunningham

South Coast

The Autumn Tournament took place at Came Down Golf Club. Our thanks go to the club and committee for allowing us courtesy. Thanks also to the sponsors, Gem Professional and Vitax. The weather was good and the course in superb condition. Well done Derek Parker and his team.

Winners were Keith Hill-Jones 42 points. Alan Rideout 38 points, countback. Mark

Green, 38 points. Mark Hancock 37 points. The day ended with an excellent carvery, thanks again to the caterers.

A couple of dates for your diaries. The regional seminar is November 22 at Cannington College. Frank Newberry, Stuart Ashworth and Jim Arthur are all speaking so it promises to be a good day.

The Turkey Trot is again at Hockley Golf Club on December 6, followed by the AGM. Entries and payment in early please. £15 to Chris Sturgess on 07773 139409.

Tony Gadd



Northern Ireland

Apologies for no ATG notes last month but any sort of news was really scarce and listening to me ramble on for 500 words would probably have been too much to hear. By the time you read these notes we will have had our Autumn Golf Day at Malone and our seminar will have passed at Greenmount. I know both days will have been an excellent success and I'll give you a full report in next month's issue.

We have had a bumper month for people joining our section, a nice round number of 13, which really is encouraging to see and if you're reading these notes and you're a greenkeeper of any description, please come on and join.

The names of our new members are, forgive me if I spell your name incorrectly, but it has been a long time since I left school, Sydney Houston, Silverwood GC; Mark Cassidy, First Assistant at Lurgan GC; Adam Kelly, Ballymena GC; Lee Cartmill, not Cartwheel as I mentioned in a previous issue, sorry Lee, Malone GC; Thomas Otley and Damien Doherty, also at Malone; Ivan Ward, Rockmount; my very own curly haired First Assistant, Irwin Robinson; Jeff Lamb, Course Manager at Shandon GC has signed up his whole staff and they are as follows - First Assistant Joel Robinson, Lee Edwards, Alan Simpson, Alistair Smyth and Michael Kennedy. Many thanks to all the above and I'll be looking forward to seeing all of you at our next event. Congratulations to Noel and Eamonn Crawford who played sterling golf at the National Championship. Noel Crawford received the Best Gross Prize for one over after two rounds at St Annes Old Links and Fairhaven golf courses. Also brother Eamonn received Best Gross in the 0-7 category after a four over round of 78 at Fairhaven. Our other two competitors were Michael O'Neill and Nick Webber. I hear they played good golf, but no cigar was given. I hope all of you enjoyed your golf and the trip. You all did us proud.

During the winter period this region will be holding educational evenings throughout the country, with various topics ranging from irrigation installations to what type of grass seed is right for you. Please do make an effort to come along, as there has been a lot of work and time put into these evenings and at the end of the day, they are for your benefit.

Wrap up warm and I'll see you next month.

Iain Harrison

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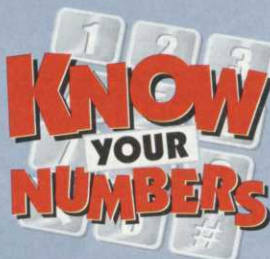
Entries to reach us no later than Friday, November 10, 2000. The first correct entry drawn will receive a stylish BIGGA Sportswatch!

The judges decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

This competition is not open to BIGGA staff or non-members.

Last month, Donald Spreadbury, one of our retired members from New Zealand GC, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

Our congratulations and a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch are on their way to you!



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Feature listing from November '98

November '98: Royal Opening, Ramside 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, OTO 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

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

July 2000: Open Championship Preview; Dougal Duguid Court Case Report; Pest Control; Avenit's profile; Course Conditioning

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

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

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



Guess What?



September, rain, the two have been inseparable in 2000 and the old saying that the weather will change with the month is definitely not right this year. As I write this Monday October 9, it has been non-stop heavy rain since 10am. It is now 8pm and the forecast says same again tomorrow. Anyone trying to get hollow coring done has my sympathy: It's a case of trying to catch a dry day between all the wet ones. I was lucky to catch one of those days on September 21 when I had lunch with the East Section lads at their autumn meeting and tea with the Central Section, also at their autumn outing. Thank you to both Sections, it was a grand day, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Thank you also to the Central Section, of which I am a member, for the lovely goblets they presented to me in honour of my year in office.

Guess what? It started raining again that evening. The next weekend and it was off to Lytham for the Charterhouse/Scotts BIGGA National Championship. On the Sunday I was looking forward to playing Royal Lytham for the first time. Guess what? It rained from the 1st tee till we eventually had to call it a day at the 11th. My thanks to Paul Smith, Course Manager at Royal Lytham, sorry I didn't get a chance to see you, hopefully I will another time.

Next morning Old St Annes Links were in fine shape and a beautiful day for the first round and there was some

good golf played to match the day. Monday night and we had a great evening at the Banquet. Good food and good company with our special guests Leon Gaskell, President, and Ted Walker, Captain of Old St Annes and Jim McFeat, Captain, June Miller, Ladies Captain and Harold Fielding, Secretary from Fairhaven, and an excellent speaker in John Welch.

Guess what? Tuesday and it poured down again but it did not deter our intrepid competitors – glad I wasn't playing – who battled through to the end. Well done to our 2000 Champion Dustin Houghton and also to Noel Crawford whose 75 scratch, one over par, round Fairhaven was tremendous given the appalling conditions. It was another great

tournament for which we thank all at Old St Annes and Fairhaven for their hospitality and especially to Geoff Whittle, Course Manager at St Annes and Peter Simpson, Head Greenkeeper at Fairhaven and all their staff for the excellent condition of both courses.

Lastly, but only because I saved them to last, our sponsors, Charterhouse and Scotts, who made it all possible. Once again a big thank you for your support.

By the way, if Richard Minton tells anyone that I don't pay my debts – he beat me easily at Old St Annes and he did play well – anyone who drops the bet to 1- after seeing my first drive has no courage of conviction.

Only one small point spoilt the event for me, this was the prizewinners who did not stay to collect their prizes, especially as we had the prizegiving finished by 5.30pm.

The next weekend and it was down to Aldwark for two days of meetings. However, a clear the head day followed, when I was invited to join the Northern Region at Penrith where they were playing for the Whitelaw Bowl. What a marvellous set of prizes with the Bowl itself simply magnificent. The sponsors, Course Care with John Wood MD and Andy Vincent have to be congratulated for their support of this tournament. I think the winner, was a bit overawed with the size of the bowl. I know I was a bit nervous holding it. It was a great honour for me to present the trophy in honour of Lord Whitelaw who did such

a wonderful job for BIGGA in his 10 years as President.

Well, summer is over and it's time to think that over the next few months Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers will be looking at ourselves and our staff and deciding who needs more training. There are so many opportunities for us to increase our knowledge and training on a myriad of subjects. We have Regional training courses spread all over the country; Regional seminars, the Learning Experience at Harrogate with Conference, Workshops and Seminars and some Sections run courses in their own area. I know people in other industries and professions who cannot believe the opportunities that we have set out for us and they do not believe the low prices either. We should all be taking advantage of these whenever we can.

I find the attitude of some golf clubs somewhat surprising in that they do not encourage their staff to improve themselves in either learning new skills or adding to what they already know. Recently a Club Manager told me they have a great Head Greenkeeper, but unfortunately he lacked some managerial skills. Why not send him on one or two BIGGA courses, I said, Brin Bendon or Frank Newberry will certainly help him to add these managerial skills to his already considerable skills as a greenkeeper. Surely it's daft to lose a good man or appoint someone over him if all it needs is some specialist training to help him and also help the club.

Most greenkeepers start off as apprentices and work their way up and have not had the chance to learn managerial skills such as man management, budgeting, work allocation, report writing and other skills like these. In this day of educational enlightenment when the governments are always encouraging us to learn new skills it surely behoves the clubs to set aside monies to each year purely for education and training. If you do not have this in your budget, put it in this year, it makes sense.

A man's greatest strength develops at the point where he overcomes his greatest weakness

S. H. R. Small

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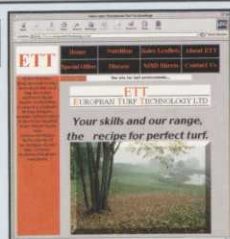
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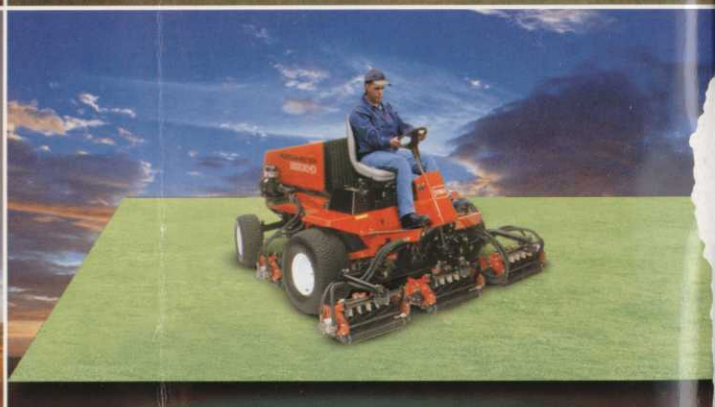
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The UK's leading greenkeeping association, representing over 7,400 members worldwide. This site provides information and news about activities and issues relevant to greenkeeping professionals and the turfcare industry. Sections are dedicated to: **MEMBERSHIP**: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



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