



Greenkeeper

October 2000 - £3.50

INTERNATIONAL



Woburn:

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

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

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

EXHIBITION

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



BANQUET

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

24-26 JANUARY, 2001
EDUCATION PROGRAMME STARTS JANUARY 22
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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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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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Reader Reply Card

Advertiser	Page
AF Trenchers	43 + 48
Amenity Technology	68
ARCO	44
Aventis	5
Blec Landscaping Eqmt	48
Eagle Promotions	15
Evergreens UK	48
Fern House Marketing	27
Flowtronex	28
Golf Car	53
Greensward	63
Hydroscape	31
Inturf	48
ISS Aquaturf	31
John Deere	17
Kawasaki	43 + 53
Lely	40 - 41
Marlwood Ltd	42
MJT Contracts	23
North Staffs Irrigation	33
Ocmis Irrigation Ltd	13
Rain Bird	34
Rolawn	11
Sovereign Turf	53
Textron	11 + 13
Tonick Watering	33
Turfmech	51
White Castle Systems	31

October 2000

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

Regulars

News

Pages 6, 7, 8, and 9

9 Letters

10 Membership Update

10 Web Watch

This month features Greenkeeper International

12 Education

Ken Richardson gives a progress report on BIGGA's national competitions

14 The Learning Experience

Security Conscious: Keith Wiley looks at all aspects of a golf club's security



38-43 Around the Green

60 Quality Assured?

Our regular contributor examines the varied interpretations people put on the word quality

62 Features listing

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

62 As I see it...

BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small, sits on an SGU Forum looking at the future of golf and judges some stands at SALTEx



62 As I see it...



54 Win a BIGGA Sportswatch in our Buyers' Guide quiz

Is it essential or desirable?

Although by the time you read this, everything should hopefully be back to normal, as I sit and write, I have no idea where my next gallon of petrol is coming from and I have had to throw myself at the mercy of colleagues to get here to BIGGA HOUSE to complete this month's magazine.

It does show how modern day living has become so reliant on fuel - I don't think any of us really conceived just how much chaos could be inflicted on the country in such a short space of time.

Nowadays not many of us live within walking distance of our work and we have become so dependent on out of town shopping centres that a car is a necessity and not a luxury. Having said that we have to be responsible and I'm looking at certain car journeys and wondering whether they are really necessary - walking, or cycling, the mile to the shop for last minute groceries and sharing lifts where possible.

The situation makes me think a bit more about how golf could be affected by being so reliant on modern style living.

In debates about the growth of the game, the comparison about how many cars you find in the club car park, midweek, is often made. Back in the 60s you'd invariably find just a couple of cars, whereas now it's hard to find a parking space at all most days.

In the past, clubs were often built beside railway stations - or vice versa - because people would use the train to get to their golf clubs, but in reality very few golf clubs are in walking distance of anywhere. I do recall cycling to my club as a youngster with clubs strapped to my back, but it's not something you would generally see anyone over school age doing. The point is that it highlights how reliant golf is on the car. I'm sure that in the height of the blockades, golf clubs were quieter.

Thinking about it a bit more, it is not just the member who would be struggling if such situations were to become more regular. You would all find it difficult to put your hand on a piece of machinery which didn't rely on some sort of fuel to make it operational.

You might be forced into a position of deciding what jobs you could do with the amount of fuel in your possession. Do I cut the fairways fewer times a week or let the semi rough grow up a bit? It needn't necessarily be a bad thing and it would make you think about the real priorities.

It brings to mind a phrase which I heard from a publisher a few years ago when cut backs were to be considered on a magazine I used to work on.

Ask yourself, "Is it essential or is it desirable?"

We just need to hope that members still consider it essential to drive to the club otherwise golf could be in real trouble.

Scott MacCallum
Editor



Greenkeeper

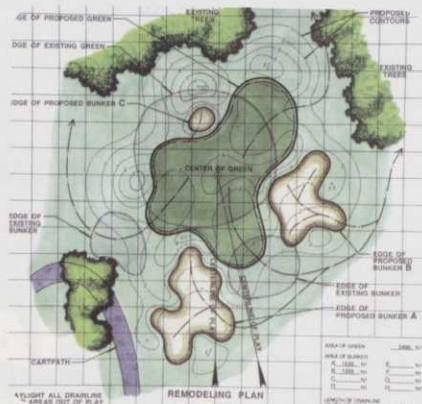
INTERNATIONAL

Features

- 18 Divide and Conquer**
Scott MacCallum visits Woburn where three separate teams look after the three superb courses
- 22 Cause and Effect**
Jenny Murphy looks at the main on-course pests and gives some advice as to their removal
- 24 Does your course suffer from Green Creep?**
Ronald Fream discusses green creep and how a golf courses character can change through time
- 29 Water of Life**
Roland Taylor examines what's new in the wet world of irrigation
- 35 Toro Time Again**
Your chance to assess the runners and riders for this year's Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award
- 45 Scotsturf Preview**
Get ready for the annual Scottish gathering
- 49 Saltex Review**
Find out what was launched at this year's Windsor Show



29 Roland Taylor examines irrigation



24 Ronald Fream discusses green creep



18 Woburn divides and conquers



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Attention to all BIGGA HOUSE visitors

Visitors to BIGGA HOUSE over the next three months should be aware that the famous Aldwark Toll Bridge will be closed for renovations and to be sure to look out for the diversion signs.

Sad passing of Ian Forbes

Ian Forbes, Links Manager at St Andrews Links Trust, died last month in the St Andrews Memorial Hospital. He was 45 and had been ill for some time.

As Links Manager, Ian had responsibility for matters relating to the maintenance and running of the golf courses — greenkeepers, starters, rangers, the caddie service, orderlies, engineering workshops, property maintenance and stores, as well as retaining responsibility for championships.

In addition, he managed all the developments on the Links including the building of the Links Clubhouse, the Eden and Jubilee Greenkeeping Centres, the Golf Practice Centre, the Caddie Pavilion, the Eden Clubhouse and the installation of the new irrigation system.

During his time as Links Manager, the condition of the courses improved dramatically, as did the facilities and services, enhancing the reputation of the Links throughout the world.

"Ian's contribution to the management and improvement of the Links in recent years cannot be overstated. He was a superbly effective manager, of both people and projects," said Alan McGregor, General Manager at St Andrews Links Trust. "His commitment to making the Links better for golfers was outstanding and he took enormous satisfaction from the improvements in the quality of the courses and the development of the teams of people reporting to him. Ian's achievements will have a lasting impact on the Links.

"The Trust has lost an invaluable member of staff and his colleagues have lost a great friend and helper known for his dedication, warmth, and humour. The loss of Ian is a tragedy for his wife, Elaine, and their two children and our deepest sympathy goes out to them."

Ian graduated in business studies from Strathclyde University. A former college lecturer, he joined the Links Trust as Deputy Secretary in 1987 after five years at the Scottish Rugby Union. In the Trust's management reorganisation in 1992 he took on the role of Championships and Development Manager with responsibility for managing the planned major development programme and became Links Manager in 1994.

Northern Region Golf Tournament

This year the Regional Final was played at Fishwick Hall Golf Club, Preston. Teams representing the six Sections in the Region had been selected at the various Spring Tournaments. We were lucky with the weather once again, finding a dry slot among some very wet weather. The course was in excellent condition and was a credit to Paul Eddlestone and his staff.

The format was the best five nett scores from each team of six. Unfortunately, only one team, from North Wales, was able to turn out a full team on the day. For the second

successive year, the players from the North East were counted out from the start when only four competitors appeared. The four other Sections had five competitors and all their scores would have to count. The failure of players to advise their unavailability was disappointing to all their teammates, the reserves who were available and not least to the sponsors Richard Campey Limited.

As in the inaugural event in 1999, the result was very close and was decided on the last green. The winners were the Cleveland team of Jim

Thompson, Martin Woods, Ollie Shepherd, Ian Pemberton and Neil Rogers.

We would like to thank Richard Campey for his company's sponsorship and for his attendance throughout the day and Bert Cross who organised the whole thing.

The scores were:

Cleveland: 370
North Wales: 371
Sheffield: 377
North West: 393
Northern: 396

BIGGA Scottish National Tournament

Played over the Hawkshill Course, Newmachar, by kind permission of the Board of Newmachar GC, the Scottish National Tournament enjoyed overhead conditions which were extremely kind, with a warm and sunny day and a slight breeze just to make things slightly tricky. Quite a change from the conditions we have had in the last two years.

Newmachar has only been open for 10 years and during this time has progressed to be one of the finest tests of golf in the North of Scotland. The condition of the course was superb and this was due to the fine effort and hard work by the greenkeeping staff, led by Dale Robertson. With 36 holes and a full size driving range and 20 bays, the staff at Newmachar have plenty to keep them occupied.

Scoring was always going to be very difficult with a course playing its full length of 6,600 yards, but, nevertheless many excellent scores were returned.

This year's Champion, with a fine round of 74, was David Leith, of St. Andrews.

The following members were the winners in the various classes.

SGGA Challenge Cup (Scratch), David Leith, St Andrews, 74.
Friendship Trophy (Best Nett) Steven Frost, Royal Aberdeen, 67 nett
Ransomes Trophy (Cat 1) 1. James McCormack, Kirriemuir, 70; 2. Neil Kidd, Keith, 74(BIH); 3. Archie Dunn,



David receives his trophy from the greens convener Mr Peter Thomson

Auchterarder, 74.
Pattison Trophy (Cat 2) 1. Gavin Neill, Tain, 72; 2. Michael Reid, Peterculter, 78; 3. Stuart Syme, Leven Links, 80.
STRI Trophy (Cat 3) 1. Andy Wilson, Brechin, 73; 2. Brian Hunter, McDonald, 81 (BIH); 3. Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead, 81.
Dick Aitken Trophy (Best Head Greenkeeper) Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen, 73. M and M Trophy (Best Assistant) Derek Scott, Scoonie, 74.
Souter Trophy (Best Apprentice) Ian

Cowder, Tain, 74.
SIGGA Trophy (Best Veteran) Duncan Gray, Pines, 76.
St Mungo Cup (Team Trophy) North. Trade Pat Allan, Stewarts, 73
Guest P. Thompson, Newmachar, 71.

Once again our thanks to Newmachar CC for affording us the facilities of the course and clubhouse.

Peter Boyd

Ian gets regional promotion at Inturf

Inturf, the specialist grower of cultivated turf, has promoted Ian Collett to the position of Regional Coordinator dealing with turf installation projects. Ian, (pictured centre), is 36 years old, and was formerly Installation Manager for the York-based company.

Inturf's nationwide installation service means that the company's quality turf can be installed quickly on behalf of clients with limited or unskilled labour.

Inturf reports increasing demand for the service, which ensures the turf is installed to a similarly high standard as when it was grown at the company's dedicated nurseries.



Major accreditation awards for Barenbrug UK

Barenbrug UK, the specialist grass seed breeder, was recently presented with two major awards, recognising the quality of the company's complete operation and its entire staff.

Bert Barenbrug, President of the Holland-based Barenbrug Group, flew over to see the UK company receive an Investors in People award from Mike Box, Managing Director of the Suffolk Training Enterprise Council, and Ann Chittock, Business Improvement Advisor, during a special ceremony held at Barenbrug UK's headquarters in Bury St. Edmunds. The Investors in People programme recognises the formal commitment made by a company to the training of all staff and their ongoing development.

Barenbrug UK was also presented with ISO 9002 accreditation, an assurance to customers and suppliers of the consistent high quality of all aspects of a company's operation.

Barenbrug's efforts to gain both awards have been co-ordinated by Financial Director, Neil Loveday.

Paul Johnson, Managing Director



of Barenbrug UK said: "These two awards confirm not only the high standards of our staff, but also the quality of Barenbrug UK's complete

operation, from our careful research into new grass varieties to the prompt dispatch of grass seed mixtures to our customers."

The Inaugural Northern Ireland Education Conference October 25, Greenmount College, Antrim

Due to unforeseen circumstances a change has been made to the advertised programme.

Joe Paulin, of Golden Eagle Agronomy, will be replaced by Peter Jones, Golf Course Advisor, Peter Jones Associates Ltd making a presentation entitled A Strategy for Success in Greenkeeping - Ten Topical Tips.

Other speakers include Frank Ainsworth, Jim Arthur, Gordon Child, David Garland, Chris Kennedy, David MacIndoe and John Quinn.

For further details please contact Sami Collins, Education and Training Officer on 01347 833800.

Tuck your shirt in!



Would the BIGGA Northern Region member spotted in the Greek Island airport of Zante on the afternoon of Sunday September 3 please tuck his 10th anniversary BIGGA-logged polo shirt into his trousers in future, as it looks so much smarter!

New recruits arrive at BIGGA HOUSE

Two new faces joined the BIGGA HOUSE staff last month.

Meredith Foster, as Sales and Marketing Assistant brought the Sales and Marketing team back up to full strength following the departure of Jenny Panton, while Brad Anderson joined the staff as Clerical Assistant.

Meredith, 21, returned to her home in Easingwold, near Aldwark, following the successful completion - with honours - of a three year Business Studies Degree at the City University Business School in London. During her time in London she was lucky enough to undertake a period of work experience and research at the prestigious Saatchi and Saatchi Advertising Agency and two other Covent Garden-based agencies.

Outside of work she enjoys travelling having spent time in Canada and the United States. Her other interests include cross country running and squash while she has recently discovered a talent for snow boarding.



Brad, 17, also comes from Easingwold, and will soon become a familiar voice on the BIGGA switchboard. He is undertaking an NVQ Level 2 in Business Administration



on a day release at JHP Training in York having already gained an NVQ in Information Technology.

His interests include computers, electronics and music.

Golfplan Europe formed after merger

Mark James, Andrew Mair and Ronald Fream have joined their golfing and golf architectural abilities to form Golfplan Europe providing source golf course planning, design, construction, turfgrass agronomic, operational and golf academy teaching services. Ronald Fream has directed Ronald Fream Design Group in California since 1972.

Golfplan Europe will expand upon the several decades of experience each of these principals contributes. Mark James was the last European Ryder Cup Captain and is Chairman of the European Tour's Tournament Committee. Andrew Mair has a broad golf design and golf club operations and feasibility expertise. Ronald Fream has been a professional golf course architect since 1966 with diverse project experience in about 60 countries.

"Golfplan Europe's methods are eminently suitable to be put to tender. The developers and owner will know in advance for budgeting purposes what the actual construction works will cost. There will be no open-ended, uncontrolled costs," said Andrew Mair.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



Major investment for Scotts UK

Scotts UK Professional is investing £50,000 in a major new fine turf trials area at Scotts Levington Research Station near Ipswich – Europe's largest independent commercial horticulture and turfcare trials facility.

The new project is the construction of a 2,000 sq m golf green built to full USGA specification.

Four times larger than an average course green, the facility will enable Scotts to research turf nutrition and chemical treatments under the specific and exacting conditions found on most new courses.

Installed by specialist contractor Ray Chisnall, the new green is built on a 100 mm coarse gravel, fully drained base, covered by a 50 mm blinding layer of finer grit to prevent integration of the rooting zone with the base.

The upper rooting zone is a mixture of sand (85%) and Shamrock Superfine Peat (15%).

"It is important that we tailor products to meet these particular circumstances, and this huge 'green' is ideal for the job. It is big enough to run a sufficient number of trials each year and still leave a large enough area fallow to recover from trials the previous two years," Trials Officer, Stuart Staples said.

Installation of pop-up irrigation is currently underway on the green, and Stuart anticipates seeding with a Barenbrug Bar 2 seed mixture by mid-September.

George Eastwood's German adventure

Reaseheath College Golf Course Manager student, George Eastwood, reports on his work placement in Germany.

I am a student at Reaseheath College, currently in the fifth semester of my Higher National Diploma in Golf Course Management. The fifth semester required me to enter the golf industry and apply my studies as a professional greenkeeper and to report back to my college on my progress.

I was lucky enough to secure a position at Hamburger Golf Club and, although initially I had doubts as to whether I was making the right decision, from the first day, Norbert Lischka, the Head Greenkeeper and the rest of the Greenkeeping team, made me feel at home.

As I write, I have been working in Hamburg for five months of my six month contract, and I am enjoying the experience very much.

The six month contract which I received, states that I will carry out all the normal Greenkeeping duties on a five day week, and will receive payment of 1500 Deutsch Marks approx. £462, which is not a large amount of money, but with accommodation paid for, has been enough to have a good life.

The course itself is a wood, heathland course designed in the 1920s by Harry Colt, and Morrison Traditional Style. This is my first time working on a fully mature golf course and I have gained an understanding on how time can have an



effect on a golf course. Although I am a student and I am still learning this profession I have been treated with the respect of a qualified professional, and my position is highly regarded by all the staff. This has been of great benefit to me, as I feel more involved with the organisation, and keep a strong interest in the work that I am doing, and what is happening on the golf course.

The language barrier has been a problem at times, but I feel that this has been a benefit to me, as I now realise the importance of communication and gathering information. After five months I have learned enough of the language to communicate with those who cannot speak English.

I feel that my time here in Germany

has given me a great insight into how golf is seen in another country, and a wonderful experience of life in Germany. I think I will find it very hard to leave this place and all the friends I have made at the end of my time here.

My tutor from Reaseheath, Brian Jones, was most helpful in arranging this opportunity as he made the first connection with agronomist, Bruce Jamieson, who took the time to meet with me at BTME last January.

Bruce organised the sponsorship of my work placement and the payment of flight costs by TORO machinery as the club has a five year contract with TORO Europe.

Thanks to Bruce and Brian for their help in making the trip possible.

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 inflight 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, Airedale, 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.

John Deere's most northerly mower?

Shetland's only 18 hole golf course, on the main island at Dale, acquired a new 3235A lightweight fairway mower last spring - shortly after the arrival of new Course Manager, Ian Donaldson.

"It was one of the priorities when I came to the club, as there were quite a few older machines that needed replacing," he said.

"The fairways were being cut with an outdated set of trailed gangs, so I ordered the new mower from Orkney dealer Bobby Flett in March.

"I'd had a demonstration of the 3235A at my last course, so I knew what I wanted. As far as I'm concerned, there's no other fairway mower to touch it, and I've tried all the other makes.

"We use the machine twice a week for a total of 24 hours cutting the fairways, and the only problem in more than 500 hours of operation has been a hydraulic drive motor that was replaced quickly under warranty with no fuss.

Picture shows (left to right) John Deere dealer Bobby Flett, Shetland Golf



Club Course Manager Ian Donaldson, Club Captain Ronnie Gair and John

Deere Territory Manager Richard Charleton with the 3235A mower.

Football Groundsman of the Year Award

Mark Robinson, head groundsman of Premiership Derby County's Pride Park Stadium has been named IOG Professional Football Groundsman of the Year at Saltext.

His award, a silver plate and holiday for two, was presented by IOG director Carl Pass who sits on the playing surfaces committee of the Premier and Football Leagues. The final judging, on groundsmanship skills including management and maintenance techniques, was carried out by Carl and IOG Director and National Treasurer Alex Millar.

"I am deeply honoured by this award, particularly as it has been given by fellow professionals who know the pressure we are under," said Mark. His pitch was named top in the Premier League earlier in the year by STRI judge Stephen Baker. The other contenders for the top IOG award were:

Division One:
Steve Patrick of Blackburn Rovers.

Division Two:
Steve Drew of Bristol City.

Division Three:
Mike Heather of Cheltenham Town.

Financial support for GCSAA exhibitors

The largest trade show in the world for the golf course management industry, the GCSAA Conference and Show in Dallas on February 15-17, 2001 will once again be financially supported by British Trade International under the SESA programme.

The Agricultural Engineers Association will act as the sponsor and the grant is available to all UK based

companies involved in exporting from the UK.

Support for eligible exhibitors:
60% of expenditure on stand space and construction, up to a fixed ceiling of £2,300.

First Time Exhibitors Package:
A structured package of information and advice, in addition to the basic grant for those companies exhibiting with support for the first time in any market.

Applications for the grant must be received by the Agricultural Engineers Association before 15th November 2000.

Contact: Debbie Dale, Agricultural Engineers Association Overseas Manager.
Tel: 01733371381
Fax: 01733 370664
Email: export@aea.uk.com

In last month's issue we used a red cross to illustrate the article on the winter health check for golf courses, and in doing so we inadvertently contravened the "Statute ruling" which states that the Red Cross symbol is protected by statute and may only be used by member groups, societies of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement. We apologise unreservedly to the Red Cross for the breach.



Education matters: Both old and new

I feel that I have to comment on the statement in Steve Isaac's article, in last month's issue, that there has been a slight rethink on the subject of autumn fertilisers, on the part of those with dominantly annual meadow grass greens who see their turf turn a sickly yellow. Surely he and they have heard of the greenkeepers' friend, sulphate of iron, which imparts colour for the benefit of those who equate colour with quality, without all the harmful effects of fertiliser. It also, needless to say, acts as a mild fungicide, hardens the turf, acidifies the root zone (discouraging worms) and blackens moss.

Applying NPK fertilisers as late as the end of August would be regarded by many experienced traditional greenkeepers as too late anyway, but

such fertilisers in autumn not only encourage *Poa annua* to dominate but set up fearsome *Fusarium* attacks. When students in both Greenkeeper International and other turf magazines report through articles a big swing in the States towards traditional (low fertiliser) standards save in the case of 'resort' courses, we should not allow such heresies as autumn fertilisers to be given credence here. Needless to say the fertiliser firms are all in favour of the extra sales.

To advise NPK in autumn because greens look sickly (if they are dominantly annual meadow grass) is equivalent to letting a drying-out alcoholic go back on the booze just because he is suffering.

May I also comment on two other articles. First my congratulations

to my old friend Duncan Gray in Talking Heads, who is brave enough to say what many think, that overseeding greens is something invented by the seed trade as a sales ploy.

On the subject of the editorial on education, when will we accept that colleges today are inventing more and more courses not for the benefit of our profession but to serve their own interests? The trend today is for more and more on-course training, supervised by visiting lecturers and under their own head men - far more economic and efficient.

JH Arthur
Budleigh Salterton
East Devon

Toro thanks

Can I just say what an enjoyable afternoon I had meeting Jimmy Neilson for the first time and walking my course with him under the premise of his judging our efforts for the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award. I was previously under the mistaken impression that there was nothing for me in an award scheme like this - after all there must be thousands of people nominated, some who will be less deserving than me and some who will be more. If all your judges have as much enthusiasm and experience as Jimmy Neilson, and are willing to pass that on in the same encouraging and motivating manner then every one of those nominees will have had a worthwhile experience.

Meeting a man willing to share a lifetime of knowledge is worth more to me than any trophy. Jimmy, I look forward to meeting to again soon.

Simon Freeman,
Machrie Hotel and Golf Links,
Isle of Islay

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



As Membership reaches a record breaking 7,100 with a fantastic Greenkeeper membership figure of 6,200, Tracey Maddison, BIGGA's Membership Services Officer asks "Can you afford not to be a BIGGA member?"

BIGGA wants you!

Why become a Greenkeeping Member of BIGGA?

I had the very same question asked of me recently but with a slightly different edge... what do the Golf Club gain from their Greenkeepers being members of BIGGA?

I started with the obvious, Greenkeeper International. A monthly copy of this award winning magazine drops on the doormat of every member each month. Full of news, views, reviews and updates, section information and editorial features. (Subscription to this magazine alone would normally cost £36 per year). A must for all in the industry.

I then highlighted the new Greenkeeper Training Courses which are designed to meet the needs of all greenkeepers. These courses are heavily subsidised thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund. Courses range from 2 day courses in Getting Started in Supervisory Management, Making Budgets Work, Human Resource Management - Leading Teams into the 21st Century to 1 day courses in Essential Management Skills for Greenkeepers, Making Meetings Work and Skills in Computing amongst others.

Not forgetting BTME which is held in January at Harrogate each year. With over 200 exhibitors and 7,000 delegates, this is

Europe's largest indoor fine turf exhibition and features a showcase of the latest advances in machinery, products and services within the industry. Running alongside BTME, 'The Learning Experience' is perhaps the most comprehensive education programme available to the greenkeeping profession. All BIGGA members are eligible for discounted rates on accommodation, seminars, the National Education Conference and workshops.

Then something new - thanks to contributors to the Education and Development Fund, BIGGA is encouraging the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) of greenkeepers by the introduction of its free CPD scheme for members. Further information can be obtained from the Education and Training Department at HQ, or in your CPD2000 Brochure, which was free with last month's magazine.

Also, members have the use of the BIGGA Lending Library, containing over 600 books and 250 slides and FREE field guides are available.

All the above Education and Training opportunities are aimed at bringing members up to date with what's new in the industry, and helping them carry out their jobs more effectively. Golf Clubs can only continue to benefit from their Greenkeepers being members of BIGGA.

BIGGA welcomes...

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Jonathan D Lester, North
James Matthew, West
Clinton J Maxwell, West
Brian Toal, East
Fraser Wright, Central

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Raymond Birchall, N West
Geoffrey K Hadley, N E
Martin L Hughes, N West
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Richard Pickin, N Wales
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Charley D Carvill, BB&O
Steven Coyne, E Midland
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Tristan J Elward, BB&O
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Agnar Kvalbein, Sweden

Student Member

Piotr Maleszcy, Poland

Check out November's edition for September's new members!

Watch the web for the latest news

At the risk of being accused of excessive navel gazing - the magazine talking about the Website talking about the magazine - the BIGGA Website is an excellent complement to Greenkeeper International, giving as it does a shortened version of that month's magazine content.

There is also a database of the last 14 months of Learning Experience, in association with Textron, articles to draw from, while a similar database is shortly to be introduced to include some of the other significant articles which appear each month.



In more general terms BIGGA Website is becoming an increasingly worthwhile tool for members, as useful Association information can be posted urgently if it has become available after a magazine deadline.

So always make a point of checking the latest news on the Web, it may sometimes be more up to date than the magazine!

scott@bigga.co.uk

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www.bigga.org.uk/greenkeepers.html

NetScape: British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association - Greenkeeper International

Location: <http://www.bigga.org.uk/greenkeepers.html>

The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
The UK professional body representing over 7000 Golf Greenkeepers worldwide

Greenkeeper International - September 2000 issue

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Redesign provides greater access for disabled

The third course at Moor Park, operated by Three Rivers District Council as a public course now has its revised and renovated facilities - 18-hole course, 9-hole par 3 course and Academy, recently opened by Trevor Bracking, Chairman of the Sports Council.

The golf course has been re-designed by Swan Golf Design, golf course architects, to add to the Old Many Cok designed course with a refurbished short course and a custom designed area with shipping and bunker practice complexes and a three tier putting green set to test all kinds of players with greatly varying abilities.

Features

Cover Photos: Winter Health Checks for your GOLF
STH to be the Best: Gordon Millipip Interview
Man with a Mission: Berkshire College's Academy

NetScape: British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association - Greenkeeper International

Location: <http://www.bigga.org.uk/greenkeepers.html>

STH to be the Best: Gordon Millipip Interview

Greenkeeper International

Man with a Mission: Berkshire College's Academy

Greenkeeper International

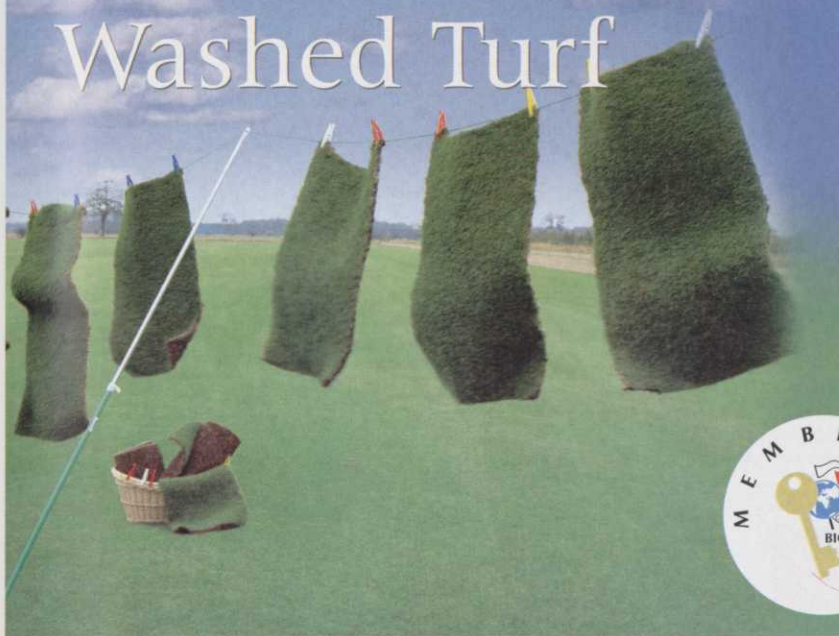
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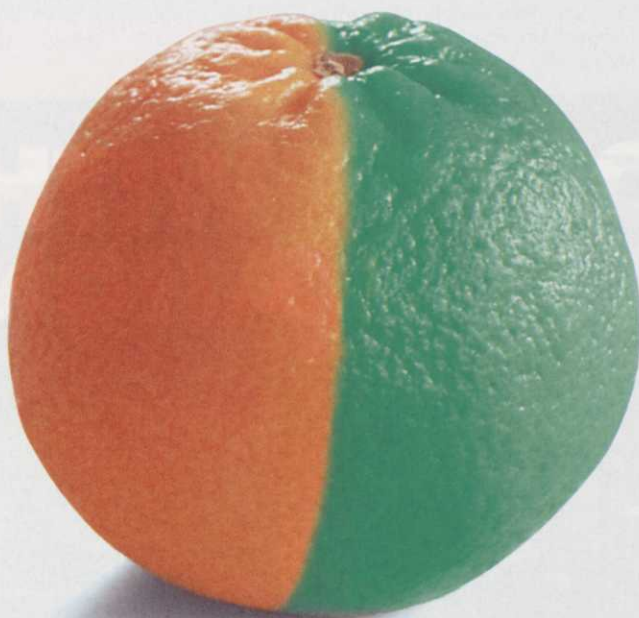
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Things have changed...



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This month, Ken Richardson reports on the latest education and training information, after a particularly hectic month...

IMPORTANT GREENKEEPER INFORMATION

Due to the very poor response to this year's BIGGA HOUSE Training Courses, the following courses are no longer available.

BIGGA HOUSE
 9/10 October
 11/12 October

Managing Oneself
Managing Information for Action

Further BIGGA House Courses and some Regional Courses are at risk of being cancelled unless further booking are received. Use them or lose them. Contact Ken or Sami for further information.

EDUCATION UPDATE

Life has been hectic in the Education and Training Department, arranging the final stages of the TORO Student of the Year and Excellence in Greenkeeping Competitions, liaising with Bob Taylor, from STRI, to complete the final stages of the Golf Course Environment Competition, sponsored by Amazone Ground Care and finalising the programme for the Learning Experience 2001 which is, once again, sponsored by Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products. We have also been busy arranging for additions to be made to the Field Guide on Trees and Shrubs and to the Guide on Grass Identification, producing an environmental booklet, administering the BIGGA CPD scheme, dealing with applications for the BIGGA HOUSE Supervisory and Management Courses and for the Regional Training Courses, finalising details of our next training video on Irrigation and Water

Management and judging the BIGGA Essay Competition, which are all provided thanks to the contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, shown on page 3 of this magazine.



Toro awards

I was very pleased to hear from the judges of the TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition that the standard of entries continues to improve with improved facilities for greenkeepers, including formal training and excellently prepared and presented golf courses. It gets more difficult each year to select the finalists. The Toro Student of the Year Competition continues to attract high quality entries year after year

and this year is no exception. Details of the finalists for the Student of the Year Competition and for the Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition appear on page 36 and 37 of this magazine.

Golf Environment Competition

Entries for the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, sponsored by Amazone Ground Care continue to increase and improve each year making judging ever more difficult. Bob Taylor, Jonathan Hart-Woods and Keith Duff have almost finished their judging. The announcement of winners should take place during November.

BIGGA HOUSE Courses

There is still time to book a place on a BIGGA HOUSE Supervisory Management Course and/or on one of this year's Regional Courses. Presented at very low prices, these courses have something for everyone.

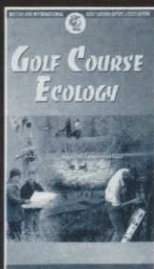
Contact Sami or myself to check on availability.

Education and Training contact information

Post: Education Dept, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF
E-mail: education@bigga.co.uk
Internet: www.bigga.org.uk/edudev.html
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Keith Wiley, General Manager at Moatlands Golf Club in Kent, looks at all aspects of security at the golf club with an emphasis on risk assessment and the appropriate action to mitigate possible losses.

Security conscious

Below: CCTV and security lighting can prove to be an effective deterrent

Top right: Visible and audible alarm systems are all part of the golf clubs' physical evidence that risk assessment has taken place.

The incidence of break-ins, thefts and vandalism at golf and leisure facilities up and down the country is continuing to conspire to add to the nightmares involved in trying to protect effectively acreage, premises, personal property and course equipment against criminal damage.

The real question facing course and facility managers is just how much protection can be realistically afforded to property before installation and maintenance costs become more of an over-riding issue.

It is an accepted fact that general alarm systems have historically been

the most effective and economic deterrent to would-be intruders, but the latter day technical advances in other areas of loss prevention such as close circuit television (CCTV) have seen the cost for even quite intricate systems become affordable to the smallest business.

Identifying the risks

The first priority when analysing security both internal and external is to undergo a rigorous risk assessment against what will inevitably be a constantly changing background. The areas most commonly exposed will, of course, be the clubhouse, professional shop, car parks, maintenance compound sites and the course itself.

Clubhouse

In times gone by most clubhouses would consider protection by linked-alarm (either to a specialist monitoring service or direct to the police or, more preferably, both these options) to be generally sufficient to deter intruders. However, with the uncertainties in police response time in a modern day environment, it has become logical good practice to think about supplementing existing devices with systems such as CCTV to extend not only the quality, but also the quantity of protection.

From the club's perspective the vital areas of cover are the immediate direct financial risks in stock, money and equipment. Thus the food and beverage areas of bar and restaurant, Pro Shop and the administrative offices are clear targets for the criminal and this is where small TV monitoring cameras can be an effective deterrent. They can provide real time protection and hard evidence of intrusion, theft and/or damage. In most instances





these individual at-risk areas should also be covered by an isolated alarm link within the overall system.

At most clubs, the probability is that the restaurant will only be open within certain limited hours, but the bar and lounge are normally open from start till finish and consequently demand far more rigorous monitoring and surveillance. Point of sale areas therefore are a major risk, so monitoring these coupled with coverage of the actual bar itself, will ensure that managers can feel that they are doing as much to the business as could be expected.

From the member and visitor's point of view the protection of personal effects within the clubhouse, although historically an individual's sole responsibility, can be facilitated by the use of electronic entrance/exit doors governed by swipe cards and also CCTV coverage of public places such as locker rooms and entrance and exit areas. Locker rooms are always a somewhat sensitive issue, as cautionary concerns over personal privacy being invaded have to be balanced with current demands for maximum loss prevention methods. At Moatlands, for example, members have taken a circumspect view of the thinking behind installing cameras in locker and changing rooms and prefer to feel comforted that their property is at least being watched over. The incidence of property loss, since the installation of these internal cameras has been almost entirely eradicated.

From the golf professional's standpoint, he ideally requires the comfort factor of knowing his stock and equipment are adequately protected, not only throughout the operating day, but after as well. It was a major break-in and theft from this area some years

ago that was to provide the final provocation for the installation of CCTV at Moatlands and again, the instances of reported theft and damage since installation have been non-existent.

The administration areas or back-room offices tend to handle the bulk of golf club receipts and although visually not the shop window of the operation, are nonetheless crucial areas that demand protection. Insurers would have already required that a safe be an integral part of the securing process and it is again a logical step to cover the entrance and exit areas of these essential parts of the building in some way or other.

The final area needing constant reappraisal is the club's trophy cabinet. Most of the cups, plates and other memorabilia stored therein would have incurred an intrinsic historic value which may on the surface be of little use to thieves, but that still does not deter them from taking everything that is not nailed to the floor. Individual photographs of the various items housed within the cabinet will therefore give added support to the recovery process and, if isolated alarm sensors can be used inexpensively within the same function, then insurers could not ask for more.

Professional Shop

In those facilities where the professional shop is situated externally from the main clubhouse particularly rigorous risk assessment needs to be undertaken, as this area has been traditionally the most vulnerable to intruders. Many clubs would have had the unhappy experience of losing stock due to insufficient monitoring systems and during daytime those criminals who operate in pairs or groups have historically found easy pickings where

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Security conscious

Right: Some of any club's prime assets are bound up in its course machinery. All ignition keys should be stored in a safe or special anti-theft key locker when the equipment is not in use



the professional or assistant is able to be distracted. The introduction of CCTV here though is the next best defence affording the professional at least a little support while his back is turned.

Although initially expensive and time-consuming the individual identification of each saleable item within the shop will add to the chances of recovery while the extra value of external security lighting should offer sufficient deterrent to satisfy insurers and put off the potential criminal.

Car Parks

The highest incidence of intruder activity stems from break-ins to cars parked in club car parks and left unattended for many hours. The protection of these sometimes remote areas is always difficult and CCTV again proves to be the most commonly used response as the committed thief will tend to be in and out quickly, sometimes with an accomplice in tow.

The introduction of security flood-lighting, that have hitherto been considered too expensive an option, can now be considered as more economic lighting options come to market. Lights with long duration use, controlled either manually or by sensor, are now widely available from proprietary security companies at a reasonable cost, enabling individual requirements to be tailored to meet the needs of the individual club.

Maintenance Compounds

Some of any club's prime assets are bound up in its course machinery and

equipment and this vital part of the operation must demand equally high attention to protecting them both night and day. Greenkeeping staff are habitually away from the compound for long periods of time during working hours and it has become good practice for irregular visits back to the base to be part of their daily drive to ensure that there is no set pattern to the absences.

A separate intruder alarm system here is a prerequisite and this should be linked to the police services by secure monitored line provided by a proven supplier such as B.T.'s Redcare. Evidence of thefts of greenkeeping machinery en masse have underwritten the necessity to provide cover for both small and large pieces of equipment alike with either a sophisticated radio transmitting device attached to each piece and/or a series of sensors activated by infra-red movement situated within outbuildings adding to the comfort factor. These may be supplemented by a governing control panel, which can report silently or provide an audible warning to scare intruders away. If all these protective devices are also overtly advertised to the casual onlooker, the additional provision of external security lighting and monitoring cameras will serve to underline the message to potential thieves or vandals.

The Course

Given the logistics of covering the sheer size of this part of the operation the golf course and the greens in particular are the very hardest areas to

defend comprehensively. Recent horror stories from The London Club, locally in Kent, who have over recent years experienced the most serious examples of premeditated and controlled vandalism, are lessons to all course managers.

Continued vigilance from both greens staff, members and the public are all necessary for the satisfactory protection of any club's most valuable asset.

The sheer cost of employing a specific security patrol operator as a last line of defence is normally the overriding conundrum. Most clubs will take the philosophical view that you can only go so far in protecting against what may or may not happen. This is clearly the last, and most expensive option, and if there are repeated or renewed attempts to gain illegal access to the course then this option needs to be given serious consideration. Clearly the constant monitoring of all access points to the course remains a necessity and all gates, fencing and boundaries should be securely locked and checked regularly.

In the final analysis Club Managers may in due course be driven by insurers' demands towards the installation of more sophisticated protection systems as premiums increase alongside an ever-growing claims experience. The very best that can be done in the face of such pressure is to provide physical evidence that risk assessment has taken place and that all reasonable actions have been taken to cover exposed areas.

Nothing looks better than a course that's completely green.

On a growing number of courses, the choice of colour in golf and turf equipment is John Deere green. Here's why:



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The three magnificent Woburn courses each have their own greenkeeping team and as Scott MacCallum found out the friendly competition keeps them all on their toes

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

I'd been to Woburn a number of times over the last ten years but hadn't ever appreciated one important fact about the renowned estate of the Marquess of Tavistock. Golf has only been a feature of it for the past 25 years.

Walking around the mature parkland environment you would be forgiven for thinking the Dukes and Duchess courses shared a history with the Sunningdales and Royal Mid Surrey's of this world. But while "historically challenged" no club in the country has done more to catch up its elders and the Woburn CV is scattered with some of the most illustrious names in the world of golf, who have won some of the 35 men's and ladies events played at Woburn - Lee Trevino, Seve Ballesteros, Sandy Lyle, Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam among the men and Helen Alfredsson, Patty Sheehan, Liselotte Neumann and Karrie Webb among the women. You've got to be good to win at Woburn.

Below: Eddie Bullock, with his three Head Greenkeepers, front, from left, Chris Hunt, Gary Leadbeater and Steve Tompkins



The trick of looking older than one is, much craved by 16 and 17-year-olds with recently acquired tastes for alcohol, has been pulled off again at Woburn on the newly-opened Marquess course. Although still in its nappies in golf course terms the latest addition to the Woburn stable will certainly not look out of place when it joins the big boys next year with the decision to move the Victor Chandler British Masters from the Dukes to the Marquess.

The man charged with running the Woburn operation is Eddie Bullock, who succeeded Alex Hay as Managing Director of Woburn two years ago, and in that time he has put together a greenkeeping set-up designed to ensure quality on each of the three courses.

Each course has its own greenkeeping team working under its own Head Greenkeeper with the healthy rivalry keeping everyone on his toes.

"I'm a great believer in competition provided it is kept under strict control and we have benefited because the condition of all three courses is absolutely fantastic," said Eddie, as we spoke in his office on the Monday before last August's Victor Chandler British Masters - 35th professional event in the club's history.

"We do have regular meetings between the teams and the guys share ideas but at the end of the day they are all wanted to get their own team and their own course in the best condition they can. What has happened as shown me that this is achievable," he explained.

Unlike many clubs where there is a natural pecking order for the courses Woburn's triumvirate, although different don't have an obvious one-two-three.

"My ambition is to get

three tournaments here within a year - one on each of the courses and I think that can be achievable with the standard of courses we have. We know the Marquess will have the Victor Chandler next year, and as in previous years, when it's hosted the Weetabix British Ladies Open, that the Dukes can host ladies events while the Duchess is one of the most underestimated courses in the country and could easily host a seniors event. It is tighter and couldn't cope with the spectator numbers for other events but because it is tight I think the seniors would appreciate the course management skills required," revealed Eddie.

The Marquess is a stunning new course which will soon feature in the lists of the country's finest.

It doesn't look out of place with the other two but it has been built to cope with modern day tournament golf. The greens are 50% larger than the Dukes at 600 square metres and at 7200 yards with a range of tees it can be set up to cope with any eventuality.

As a golf professional and a man steeped in the game Eddie possesses a knowledge of agronomy and greenkeeping which would be beyond most Managing Directors, while during the week of the tournament he was on site at 6am supporting the work of his greenkeeping staff.

He draws on having played all the major courses throughout the British Isles as well as many in Europe and the States.

"You are always on the look out and comparing things and find ideas to tuck away for future use," he explained.

It has also enabled him to provide support when it became necessary for major work to be done on the greens.

"Two years ago we came in for criticism for the condition of our greens and undertook an extensive and aggressive aeration programme with a lot of verticutting. The seasons have changed and snow and frost used to stop us from playing but now the courses are open but members still expect 100% quality which is an impossibility.



"I believe that to make yourself look fit you have to look after your diet, your interiors as well as exteriors, and it is the same with grass. It can only look good on the surface if you have looked after what is underneath. The soil and the vertidrain and hollow coring regime."

Woburn has recently signed an agreement with Toro to supply machinery and Eddie is pleased with how the arrangement is working out, as is Toro.

"We are delighted to be involved at Woburn. It is a prestigious club and we believe Toro can ensure top quality maintenance standards for all three of its courses," said Pete Mansfield, General Manager Turf Products of Lely UK.

Eddie is also a great supporter of BIGGA, although he does feel that perhaps more could be done to instil an ethic of "attention to detail" in members.

"I do believe that greenkeeping has come on leaps and bounds for anyone wishing to treat it as a career and I'm



delighted to see the pride that people feel from being a member of BIGGA and I support everything the Association does.

With that, and despite a schedule which would have most seeking a premature end to the meeting Eddie took time to drive me around the Marquess course in a buggy.

He was to be rewarded by an excellent tournament with some fabulous golf over the following few days.

OVERLEAF: FIND OUT HOW EACH OF WOBURN'S COURSES HAS ITS OWN INDIVIDUALITY AND HOW THE THREE HEAD GREENKEEPERS DEAL WITH THE VARYING DEMANDS PLACED UPON THEM...



Above and top: Two contrasting views of the magnificent 12th on the new Marquess Course



Steve Tompkins
The Dukes

Although only 37 Steve has already been involved in over 30 professional events with the recent Victor Chandler British Masters making it three as a Head Greenkeeper.

He was certainly thrown in the deep end with the previous two which came within a month of each other, the Weetabix Ladies Open followed four weeks later by the British Masters.

"To be honest we kept the course pretty much the same between that four week period but by the Sunday of the Masters you could see the stress the greens were under," said Steve, who said that he was pleased that the events had fallen with the ladies' event first.

"The ladies don't like the greens quite so quick but the rest of the course is much the same," said Steve, who revealed that he expected the greens to be about 10.5 for the event later that week.

He gets a buzz from being involved in competitions and having his work seen by the television cameras, the galleries and the players but has seen a difference tackling them from the position of head man.

"You face all the pressures and everyone is gunning for you during the week while in the weeks leading up you have to work out a different work programme to cater for the extra man power that we take from the Duchess and Marquess courses. I have over 20 staff in total so it is a lot more balls to juggle. We also have to take into account two tee starts and working round that."

Steve is a keen advocate of the three Head Greenkeeper system having been Deputy Head of the Dukes Course under the previous regime.

"It can be a bit of a scramble deciding who gets kit sometimes but at the end of the day we work with each other to ensure we don't do the same jobs as the same time," said Steve. The Dukes and the Duchess share machinery while the Marquess has a separate facility and outside of tractors and top dresser has its own stable of machines.

"I believe our new system works better than the traditional Course Manager in overall charge method as it creates healthy rivalry between teams," he added.

Having given up valuable time to speak with me during the busiest week on the year Steve then headed back on to the course to ensure the final touches were being completed on the event which was to be won by Scotland's Gary Orr.



Gary Leadbeater
The Marquess

Gary moved from the position of head man on the Duchess course to the Marquess on day one of construction and has enjoyed what he describes as a great learning experience.

"To have an in depth knowledge of what has gone into the ground, how it has been constructed, the depth of root zone, draining, irrigation lines, types of soils is invaluable. If we find a problem now I can often remember something specific which occurred and which we can trace the problem back," he said.

He was also able to put forward his own opinions often on the need for areas to be more maintenance friendly.

"The interest in the project was huge, with many people involved other than just the architect - Ross McMurray of European Golf Design and the constructors, Southern Golf, but if I said something they did take note."

The course was cut out of 42 hectares of dense pure woodland so, with so many majestic mature trees forming part of the design, it has an established feel to it from the very beginning. As well as the routing the remainder of the woodland has been thinned thus encouraging wildlife to return to an area previously excluded to them because of the unmanaged woods.

"It is great to see deer roaming the course early in the mornings."

Unlike the other two courses the Marquess has been built to USGA guidelines and Gary has been on a fast learning curve.

"I've seen dry patch appear within hours and the amount of leaching you get is incredible," said Gary, who is not slow to ask advice of people who have had dealing with USGA guideline constructions.

"It has been an up and down experience for me but there has never been a time when I've regretted taking it on," he revealed.



Chris Hunt
The Duchess

The tight tree lined nature of the Duchess course has caused a number of long standing problems for Chris and his team.

"In the past a lot of iron has been used on the greens and our iron count is horrific, we're up at 700 parts per million as opposed to the optimum of between 60-100, and we haven't used iron ore and sulphur based fertilisers for two years now," explained Chris, who took over from Gary as the Duchess' Head Greenkeeper two years ago.

"In the winter we have been running over with the big vertidrain, going down a foot with an inch tine and back filling with Leighton Buzzard sand which helps the drainage. It should help the roots to spread and break down the iron content. The grass plant is a lot healthier now so we can live with the high iron count," explained Chris, who worked in Seattle and California before returning to Woburn.

The wealth of trees around the course also causes shade problems with some greens in the winter not shaking their covering of frost while bare patches under the trees are currently being tackled with blinding areas of three to four inches of soil.

In the past the tree work was carried out on an ad-hoc basis but recently a tree surgeon has been employed to conduct a proper programme.

Chris is also an advocate of the policy of having three separate teams to maintain Woburn's courses.

"It's quite playful between the guys and it's good to have that healthy competition. Greens are the main thing we judge each other on and we might just point out that someone's greens are looking a bit sick one week. Having said that we definitely share ideas and solve problems together."



Clockwise from top: A tremendous tree-lined approach to the 2nd on the new Marquess Course at Woburn

Toro kit plays a major part in the daily routines of all three Greenkeeping teams at Woburn

The new halfway house on the Marquess Course. One live-in 'chef' required!



Cause and effect

Jenny Murphy examines the types of pests in turf, and the treatments available

The management of fine turf will occasionally require the control of turf pest problems. This article aims to provide a working knowledge of the four major pests of turf, and how best to control them.

The problem of wormcasts is well known and an easy one to identify. However, the presence of insect pests such as leatherjackets, frit fly and chafer grubs are not so readily recognised and requires closer examination of the turf.

Worm casts

Earthworm casts are a mixture of earth and decomposing organic matter. In the UK, there are 25 species of earthworm commonly occurring. However, the majority of worm casting problems are the responsibility of just three species.

Earthworms feed on decaying organic matter found either on the surface or in the humus fraction of the soil. Some worms feed exclusively on humus found lower down in the soil profile. These species deposit their casts in their burrows. Other species may be described as 'surface feeders' and it is this group that contains the three species responsible for worm casts which have been deposited on the surface.

Benefits of worms

It is widely recognised that earthworms are beneficial to soil, especially in agricultural and amateur gardening situations. They aerate the soil and assist in drainage by producing deep burrows, which are kept open when worms are active. In addition they are important in the re-cycling of organic matter.

Disadvantages of worms

In the professional turf market, these benefits are out-weighed by the disadvantages and worms unfortunately reach pest status. Worms live in colonies so that their beneficial effects are not evenly spread. They cannot be relied on to produce the standards of drainage and aeration acceptable to the management of fine turf areas such as bowling and golf greens. The disadvantages can be devastating on fine turf:

- Worm casts are unsightly;

the aesthetic appearance of a green is highly important to greenkeeper and golfer alike

- Worm casts disrupt the playing surface of a golf or bowls green: a smooth surface with an appropriate speed is essential for both games
- An unresolved cast problem could create a slip hazard for players
- Casts form ideal sites for weed establishment and encourage the spread of turf disease
- The presence of high worm populations in fine turf is likely to attract moles - with devastating effect.

Factors influencing worm populations

Worms are encouraged by the conditions necessary to grow fine turf grasses:

- The right pH (6.5 - 7.5)
- A good soil texture (light, sandy soil/medium loam)
- A regular supply of food (grass clippings)
- Optimum temperature (similar to that for healthy grass growth)

Treatment

Apply a pesticide to moist turf at the first sign of casting activity. Do not apply when earthworms are inactive, such as during periods of drought or when the ground is frozen.

Leatherjackets

Leatherjackets are the larval stage of the crane fly (*Tipula* spp.) and can cause widespread damage to turf.

Identification

The grubs are legless, brown/grey or earth coloured and 4 cm long when fully grown.

The head is black and retractile, with a pair of horny jaws. On the last body segment, there are two dark coloured holes through which air enters the body; these are surrounded by six conical projections.

Life Cycle

Adult flies usually emerge in early September and lay their eggs in the sward. The eggs hatch after a few weeks, and the larvae which emerge

start to feed immediately. They may become dormant during cold winter months and may even be killed by severe frosts. If a high population survives the winter, extensive damage is caused in the spring, by which time the larvae have grown up to 4cm long, with a voracious appetite for grass roots and stems.

Damage by leatherjackets is often very severe if the autumn of the previous year was wet (i.e. favourable for growth and feeding of newly hatched larvae).

Symptoms

Both old grassland and newly established swards are attacked. The damage to turf is seen as patches of dead or dying grass. Examination of the turf by lifting sections of the affected grass will often reveal the grubs.

Large numbers of leatherjackets may also be indicated by the persistent attention of birds feeding on the grubs. The main culprits are rooks, starlings and gulls. These birds often do more damage than the grubs themselves, tearing up sections of turf in search of a meal.

Treatment

Application of pesticides can be made at any time from the beginning of November where high larval populations are detected or damage is first seen.

You should not apply during periods of frost, as leatherjacket activity is reduced under these conditions and treatment may not be as effective.

Chafer Grubs

Chafer grubs are the larvae of the chafer beetle family. The most frequently found chafer grub in turf is the garden chafer. Occurrence of these pests appears to be increasing in the UK.

Identification

Chafer grubs are pale, fleshy grubs with brown heads and curved bodies. They have three pairs of legs carried on the front segments of the body. They grow to about 1.2 cm long, although other less common species of chafer grub may grow up to 4 cm in length.

ct

Life Cycle

The life cycle of the chafer grub is variable (one - three years), depending on the species. For example, the garden chafer (*Phyllopertha horticola*) completes its life cycle in one year. The adult beetles emerge in late May and early June. Soon afterwards, the female burrows into the ground to lay her eggs, which take about five weeks to hatch. The emerging grubs feed on the grass roots until late autumn, when they burrow deeper to hibernate for the winter. The grubs pupate in the following spring and after about four weeks the adults dig their way out of the soil.

Symptoms

The damage caused to turf by chafer grubs is very much the same as with leatherjackets - i.e. dead / dying grass and flocks of birds - and can be severe. Positive identification of a chafer grub problem relies on finding the grubs under the affected patches.

Treatment

There is currently no pesticide available for the specific treatment of chafer grubs. Aventis is currently meeting this challenge with a new research programme to find a suitable product to control this pest. In the meantime, chlorpyrifos-based products are used. In the case of severe infestations, two applications are required two to three weeks apart, to suppress the problem.

Frit Fly

The frit fly causes problems in the establishment of newly-sown turf.

Identification

The larvae are almost colourless and very small, being just visible to the naked eye.

Life Cycle

Up to three generations of frit fly can occur in one year. However, damage to turf is restricted to those generations which are active at the normal sowing time for grass (spring and autumn). The adult fly lays its eggs on the shoots of young grasses and the emerging maggots burrow into the young shoots, causing withering of the affected plants. When fully grown,

the maggots pupate and give rise to adult flies.

Although a fairly rare problem in the UK, the occasional attacks can be phenomenal, particularly in autumn. Populations in excess of three million per hectare have been recorded.

Symptoms

The larvae destroy the central shoots of ryegrass, fescues and bents. They may affect both establishment and development.

Serious thinning of newly-sown grass swards can be seen following an attack. Close examination of the affected plants will often reveal the maggot or the small brown puparia (cases left behind).

Treatment

Application of a pesticide should be made at emergence, where damage is anticipated, or at first signs of attack.

Conclusion

Information from the Aventis Environmental Science Technical Helpline indicates that turf pest problems generally, and chafer grub populations in particular, are on the increase.

This could be due to climate change. Milder winters and fewer frosts allow higher populations of leatherjackets to survive the winter, and reduce the period of dormancy, encouraging pests to feed earlier in the year. In addition, warmer summers appear to be causing a trend towards greater occurrence of ants and more unusual species such as mining bees and cutworms (moth larvae).

Until recently, we often commented that the climate of the British Isles restricts turf pests to a manageable few. As indicated above, perhaps we should not be so self-assured....

To combat changing/increasing pest populations, current research and development (at EAS) is looking at new active ingredients and methods of application, with a wider target pest spectrum in mind.

The author, Jenny Murphy is Technical and Registration Manager of Aventis Environmental Science



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Does your course suffer from green creep?

Below: An existing, traditionally shaped green is given a softer and more interesting outline (bottom)

Golf courses experience evolution, alteration, maturation and aging just as all other living things do. Having the benefit of almost 35 years as a golf architect and observing some courses for 25 years or longer, it is quite easy to notice the incremental, and at times, profound changes that occur.

The alterations I refer to are natural and evolutionary. Golf course maintenance crews cause and enhance alteration. Technological advances have accelerated change. Plant physiology, human genetics, nutrition, television and golf publications have expedited the demand or need for alteration. The focus of this article is on those alterations that are more or less naturally occurring as distinguished from greens committee action or periodic remodelling

for design sake.

Green creep is a catch-all phrase I use to describe the inevitable alterations which emerge on every course. The rate of emergence, the frequency and the extent are variable in response to the type of course, location, climate, turfgrass varieties, soil conditions, original design and construction methods. Intensity of, and quality of maintenance, volume of play and financial strength of the owner or operator of the golf course.

Green creep begins to emerge as soon as maintenance begins on a new course. However, it increases in prominence the older the course is. Green creep is part of the aging process of almost every course, everywhere. There really is no easy way to avoid some component of green creep. That green creep is so prevalent and yet so unnoticed, is due to the almost glacial rate of occurrence.

At its most basic, Green creep is altered shapes and sizes of putting surfaces, the repositioning of bunker edges and altered tee surfaces due to insidious, little by little, mowing changes and sand edging practices. These changes can become many feet over time.

Maintenance personnel keep their jobs by not killing the grass. As the person mowing the putting surfaces does the job, each day a little uncut collar is left to prevent scalping. The person mowing tends to cut inside yesterday's cut.

Concurrently, straighter lines or more rounded lines of cut emerge over time. The putting green surface becomes smaller and rounder or oval, more uniform and less visually appealing in shape.

Bunker edging often does not cut back all of the growth that has occurred since the bunker edge was last trimmed. The person doing the edging often overlooks the original outline shape. The grass remaining has grown more onto the sand than before. Continued edging over time tends to cut off or ignore originally designed undulations or irregular outlined shapes. The sand surface area becomes less. What were visible sand surfaces from the tee now are grass. What had been a visible bunker in the fairway is now a slightly visible sand depression or appears from the players view to be only grass. The aesthetic and strategic reason for the bunker has been lost. Now the sand is blind to the player and has become an unfair hazard.

Excessive adding of sand over time tends to flatten and make shallower what originally was a meaningful hazard. Siltation has clogged the drainage system and the bunker is a pond when it rains. In some environments, the action of blowing wind can cause sand to accumulate at one prevailing edge or side of the bunker. Sand accumulates and the grass continues to grow. Now that portion is substantially higher than before. A mound or ridge now obscures what was once visible sand. This same result occurs from the use of mechanised bunker raking machines.

As the green surfaces become smaller and rounder, day by day and year by year, the area for pin placement is reduced. The distance relationship between pin position and adjacent sand bunker is expanded. The golfer's visibility of the sand basin often is





reduced. Topdressing of greens as a normal process of maintenance will, over time smooth out a green surface, remove some original contour and perhaps not make it easier for most golfers, but make the putting surface flatter, less contoured.

Progressively smaller greens, greater distance between pin and sand, less pre shot awareness of bunker locations, all contribute to substantially different playing conditions than the original design possessed.

Changing putting surface shapes do alter what were originally designed-in approach play strategic factors, often lessening the challenge and diversity. Smaller green sites that are more flat and round begin to all look the same. Reductions of 25% or more in pinable green surface is common after 10 or 15 years.

Smaller putting surfaces reduce pin placement options. The original variety in pin placement variation now has become lost. Smaller putting surfaces concentrate golfer wear and tear, increase compaction, turf wear and tear. Deteriorating putting surfaces are the result. Increased maintenance costs are a result. Missed putts are also a result.

Similar slow motion changes occur on tees. Day by day mowing can change the shape, reduce the usable surface, alter the outline edge and

adversely impact play and wear and tear. Smaller teeing area is the result. Incorrect or inattentive divot repair and inadequate or incorrect tee surface topdressing will, over time, turn a flat comfortable surface into one more crowned, bumpy, or with a surface sloping in several directions. Traffic induced compaction problems increase. Turf quality often deteriorates. Any of these creeping changes can alter how the player addresses the ball. Inattentive mowing can lead to tee surface alignments not focused on the centre of the fairway or par 3 green site. The person setting the tee blocks often then does not orient the markers correctly and perpendicular to the desired line of play. Inattentive golfers often line up their shot on this incorrect orientation hitting inaccurate shots, wasting time, and raising scores. Miss-hit shots result, through no fault of the golfer.

Changes such as these are incremental and very slow. Ten to 15 years after opening is a good time to really begin to see the difference. However, some green and bunker shape changes can often be noted by year five. When visiting older courses, the extent of change can be remarkable. These changes are so glacial that to the Green Committee or Course Manager, the changes may not even be apparent. The players hardly

notice, unless turf deterioration becomes obvious.

A new Course Manager, a new pro or General Manager taking over 10 or 20 years after opening, or a first time player, seldom will even be aware of what might have been the original design intent. The golf architect's name may have been lost. The original design drawings often have been lost or discarded. Unfortunately, these creeping changes tend to soften the course and will remove much of the original playing strategy.

Tree growth also creeps upon a course. Too often, greenkeepers budget little for annual tree care, particularly proper pruning. Players seldom notice the annual growth of a tree, yet overplanting of new courses in originally open areas, and too gentle a clearing on wooded sites, leave ample tree growth over time. Ongoing general thinning and reshaping of trees is lacking, so excessive growth results. Creeping tree expansion directly influences golf shots on the same hole differently over time if left untouched. Fairways become narrower. The strategy of play around a tree can be significantly altered.

An alert greenkeeper can regularly overcut the green or tee edge apron by a few inches. A yellowish discoloration will be visible for a few days. However, this repositioning of

the putting or teeing surface can help retain the original outline shape and surface area.

Fairway mowing patterns and fairway outline shapes often have crept over time. New machinery at least can provide visually attractive patterns even if the width or outline shape of the fairway has changed over the years. Fairways often become narrower.

Maintained or semi-maintained rough closer to the preferred lie. Rough areas tend to creep inward as well.

Bunker creep and technology have overtaken the irrigation system too. A new more versatile and efficient pumping plant may be necessary. Upgrading the irrigation system controls to computer operation may save labour, improve turf quality and help conserve water and electricity. Reshaping of green sites, or repositioning of fairway bunkers can also require sprinkler head replacement repositioning or the addition of heads to assure uniform coverage. Recent improvements in sprinkler head operation, water distribution and water efficiency may encourage sprinkler head replacement. Adapting to the use of sewage effluent irrigation water may be a necessity of the times in some areas.

Few old and older courses are today

Does your course suffer from
**green
creep?**



as they were when they first opened. Noted examples, such as Augusta National, Pine Valley and Pebble Beach, bear little resemblance to their early years of operation, even though current owners or members believe they are holders of the original design or original product. Some changes are committee induced, not green creep however, and still result in substantial alteration from the original design.

Green creep makes courses more homogeneous, more similar in visual and playing appearance and certainly decreases the playing challenge of the original design. Few professional golf

architects of the last half of the 20th century would have designed every green round, every fairway flat and every bunker in the image of a peanut

When I am doing bunker and green creep corrections, I feel just like a plastic surgeon. I am doing nip and tuck, wrinkle removal, a little middle-age facelift and enhancement, and a few hair grafts. Pouty lips on a bunker are preferable to thin ones.

Correcting green creep really becomes a remodeling and modernisation programme, even if some effort is devoted to recapturing a long lost glory. Modern volumes of play, enhanced expectations for turfgrass quality, a focus on visual dynamics and who has the toughest course will influence some remodelling efforts. Remodelling to a budget, to meet user mar-

ket green fees or membership capability is certainly feasible. Revitalising an older course to join today's standards and meet today's expectations while accommodating more play is attainable and can occur in an affordable way. Often corrections can involve only mowing pattern changes or bunker edge re-cutting. A comprehensive master plan should guide more involved elaborate directives. The master plan for a hole or a course should be precise and comprehensive. Accurate working drawings should be utilised. Not only golf design, but also ornamental horticulture and turfgrass agronomics are part of the solution. The corrective effort can occur over an extended period of time, be sequential or priority phased or occur quite quickly over an entire course. Bunker edge corrective changes can occur quickly and have a clear obvious and beneficial result.

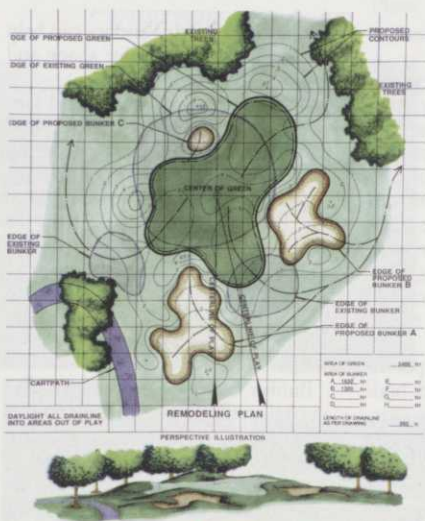
To do nothing, and continue with the status quo, is a continuing downward slide. From a competitive viewpoint, the slowly deteriorating course that does nothing in response certainly los-

es market share to newer courses in the area. Golfers today are highly attuned to the visually dynamic style of golf. Countering years of evolutionary change will have direct and positive economic benefit. To see the problem, to understand there is a problem, is not for everyone to do. Being too close, being there too long, being too new to the situation and not being attuned to the action shields the viewer from the knowledge of what had been and often also what can be. An impartial, experienced eye brings great value.

Much of this article's focus is on easy to implement, relatively inexpensive actions to reclaim what once was there. This must not be confused with the more extensive makeover or upgrade and repositioning that can be very elaborate, involved, costly and very beneficial. An assessment of existing playing conditions, the members desires, analysis of current market competition, user demographics, operational goals, economics, agronomics, local competition and other factors become part of any renovation or modernisation programme.

The restoration or modernisation programme must be carefully planned and correctly implemented. The results can be spectacular, the cost of implementation need not be excessive. Green creep is here to stay and we must deal with it, sooner or later.

Ronald Fream has recently joined with Mark James and Andrew Mair to form Golfplan Europe providing source golf course planning, design, construction, turfgrass agronomic, operational and golf academy teaching services.



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Roland Taylor takes time to meet with the irrigation specialists and find out what is afoot...

WATER OF LIFE



Above: Irrigation in action at The Belfry

From the moment man started growing plants for food he discovered that they needed sufficient quantities of the elixir of life – water, to flourish. When it failed to descend from the heavens he had to provide it from another source.

Over the centuries this need has led to some highly innovative systems. In the quest to provide water for crops animal power and counter-weighted devices were used in early Middle Eastern countries. The portable Archimedes screw was invented in Syracuse for lifting river water into irrigation ditches and the Romans built aqueducts that transported water from the snow melts in the mountains to their cities on the plains. With the advent of steam power and followed by the combustion engine, plus electricity, irrigation became mechanised.

In today's world the word "irrigation" conjures up complex systems with pumps, electronics and computers. Strip away all the razz, flashing lights, gizmos and bells and in its crudest form the principle is no different to that of early man carry-

ing water in a pig skin from a river to his vegetable plot. It is simply the transporting of this vital liquid in sufficient quantities from A to B, plus controlling the timing of when this happens.

Here in the UK "timing" is the operative word because unlike other parts of the globe Mother Nature frequently takes over and provides much more water than is needed. Only when she fails to come up with the goods does man have to act. This reason alone raises the question of whether it is necessary to go to the expense of installing a system. In the eventuality of a drought setting in, the chances are that severe and expensive, damage can occur very quickly. This alone says that irrigation needs to be given serious consideration.

During a dry summer transpiration can account for an average loss of moisture of up to 75mm (3 inches) per month in some areas. If there is no rain the grass roots are unable to obtain sufficient water to make up for transpiration losses and problems start to occur. Artificial watering in

this situation is needed to adjust the balance.

The installation of an irrigation system is a big project and requires expert advice and planning. There are plenty of consultants and specialist irrigation companies to choose from and it is worth talking to other greenkeepers who have used their services before deciding who to call in. A number of quotes should be obtained based on a standard specification, which needs to lay out the most important points, including performance requirements.

One of the main items that will have to be considered is where the water is to come from, because an 18-hole course will require a large quantity. Whatever the source, be it purpose-built reservoir, natural lake, river, stream or bore holes an extraction licence from the Environmental Agency will be required.

Changes are continually being made and those courses that already have irrigation systems may want to use the services of a specialist and update their existing units with the latest introductions.

WATER OF LIFE

Ocmis

When it comes to designing and putting in a system, Ocmis has installed over 3,000 here in the UK - so they clearly know what is needed. Once a decision has been reached to either install a system or up-grade the existing one their qualified course surveyor will visit and draw up a detailed survey that shows what will be required to achieve optimum performance. If some form of irrigation is already in place this will be tested to determine whether it can be integrated into the new proposals.

A detailed plan of the course, plus costings, will then be submitted. This will illustrate what can be achieved within a certain budget. Also included are recommendations regarding the necessary installations to meet all the needs. The latest state of the art

Some courses that have older irrigation systems may not be able to meet today's requirements. This is especially the case where changes in the course have taken place, such as lengthening or shortening holes by moving tees or enlarging putting areas. All these affect the irrigation requirements and, according to York & Martin, their experience over the last three decades enables them to provide sound advice on the most economical and best possible action for obtaining satisfactory results.

Rain Bird

When it comes to sprinklers, the range offered by Rain Bird is extensive. As you would expect from one of the market leaders, their rotors incorporate a host of features to ensure optimum performance, mini-

valve seat to be carried out quickly.

The development of computers and the use of satellites in recent years have led to the introduction of software programmes that allow you to monitor and control the flow of water over the entire course without leaving your chair. Rain Bird's Nimbus II provides a map of the course and enables the user to constantly monitor irrigation activities. The efficiency of each pump is monitored and watering can be controlled to prevent over application on areas such as slopes, or where there is poor drainage. There is the option of a Virtual Weather programme that enables transpiration rates to be created from either user-defined values or an optional Weather Station, which collects data on wind, temperature, solar radiation and rainfall.



Above: Rox Burche Golf Club displays its irrigation system

computer aided design (CAD) is used to come up with a suitable system for specific course requirements. Once an agreement has been reached, the company carries out the installation. Ocmis also offers a programme of repair, updating and replacement parts.

Greenkeepers and their staff are trained to ensure they get the best out of their installation.

York & Martin

With over 30 years experience in irrigation, York & Martin say they have the expertise and knowledge to provide independent advice and project management when it comes to fine turf irrigation.

Their services include feasibility studies, site surveys, water sourcing, abstraction licenses, existing system evaluations, design and installation.

mum maintenance, plus savings in energy and water.

They have been designed to prevent algae and debris blocking the unit and on the electric Impact rotors there is a pressure regulator to adjust variation in the supply, thus saving water, eliminating puddling and erosion around the head. Their low angle of trajectory minimises wind drift and the arm is kept out of the water stream to give increased coverage.

The Eagle series of gear-driven rotors have a closed case for protecting the motor and are claimed to be the only units available with self-flushing when they pop up or down. The gear driven rotors are designed to work with water so no lubrication is required. Maintenance has been kept as simple as possible with patented features that enable clearance of debris and removal of the

The Cirrus programme graphically creates the course, including irrigation layout and showing each individual rotor. This enables the user to click on a specific sprinkler and instantly obtain a status report.

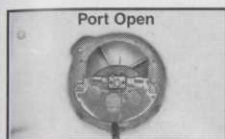
Using Rain Bird's advanced line weather stations the programme is able to monitor and respond to climate changes. By tracking transpiration and using data from other sensory inputs it can alter watering schedules. This helps conserve water and reduce costs. The Phenology Models will send out a warning when conditions are favourable for disease and insect infestations.

All Rain Bird programmes use the latest Microsoft® Windows™ format.

Continued on page 32

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Now is the time to bring your existing irrigation control management system bang up to date. Consider the benefits offered by the new Toro 'GT' Update Package...

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In addition to providing the latest, simplified desk-top control technology, the Toro 'GT' Update Package ('GT' stands for Gemini-Trident) enables you to exercise better flow management, the key to reducing water consumption. It also eliminates the risk of over-watering and ultimately, helps cut the cost of your club's water and electricity bills.

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*This offer of finance is for Private Members Golf Clubs and is subject to acceptance. Other low cost finance options also available. Please ask for details. Finance is arranged by UFB Groundscape Finance.

WATER OF LIFE

Continued from page 30

Toro

The Gemini and Trident are the latest in a series of Toro PC based Controllers from Hydroscape.

The Gemini is a two-wire decoder, which has been designed to allow upgrading from Watermat's TWII Controller. Toro's SC1000 and 3000 controllers can be upgraded using Trident. Both can be used as a complete stand-alone control for a new irrigation system of up to 6000 individual stations. Ease of programming is said to be a main feature of these packages and station operating times and application rates are quickly set up using pull-down menus.

Digital pictures of the course allow for status checks and the programming and manual operation of individual sprinklers, stations or complete greens. Up to 60 different irrigation programmes can be stored. There is a logbook for recording all the activities and a flow gauge is displayed on the

Records of each station are kept including water used, running time and precipitation applied. A log is available for any station which remains un-watered during the last programme and the reason why this happened. For those readers looking for a budget-priced decoder, there is the Demi-Rain. This unit controls up to 100 two-wire decoders and each watering budget from 20% to 250% can be given six starting times per day. This allows the irrigation to be varied without changing the programme in addition the watering sequence can be split to run three times consecutively (each a third of the time allocated) to help prevent run off.

Comprehensive diagnostics have been included to help identify field wiring, decoder or solenoid problems.

There is the option of a wall-mounted version which includes pump-start relay and two inputs for sensors.

Tonick Watering recognises the

nation of drive between main pumps for equal wear and running time; CAPS patented Automatic Priming System for suction lift applications. Quality finish to the customer's specification includes in-house shot blasting and spray painting. Hot dip galvanising finish is also available. Flowtronex say their high quality package design incorporates all components within base-plate parameters. Total control is achieved by a selection of the company's in-house design software - Smoothflow, Oasis and Pumplog.

Hunter Irrigation

The new Hunter EC Controllers which are available from Evenproducts Ltd are designed for 2, 4 or 6 stations. They have three programmes each with 4 starting times per day. A station starting time can be from 1 minute to four hours, in 1-minute increments. There is a seasonal adjust-



Above: Kilarney Golf Club

screen for the whole time that irrigation is taking place.

In addition to water flow management, the programme also includes data on the electrical supply - these combine to make savings on both power and water. Each time the programme is used, a full station test takes place. In the case of a problem occurring there is technical support service available. Hydroscape's Waterworld Helpline is on 01425 476261.

Tonick Watering

This UK company was formed six years ago to design and manufacture decoders. Their latest introductions are the Rainmaker RMI and the Demi-Rain.

The Rainmaker RMI wall-mounted irrigation controller is claimed to do 90% of the job of a PC based system. It is compatible with most existing decoders. The unit has flow and electrical balancing and adjustable order of watering. It is said to have the unique feature of being able to split the programme into 2 or 3 applications, thus reducing water run-off.

importance of providing help when it is needed and the company provide technical support on 01243 554060.

Flowtronex

At the heart of any irrigation system are the pumps and a company that specialises in this field is Hampshire-based, Flowtronex. Their involvement in irrigation spans over 20 years during which time the company has installed over ten thousand packaged pump sets throughout the world.

Flowtronex's standard and bespoke packages include optimum pump selections combined with in-house control systems incorporating ABB variable speed drive and Allen Bradley switch gear. Total control is achieved by selection of in-house design software - Smoothflow, Oasis and Pumplog. To avoid having to completely shut down the units for servicing, captive suction and discharge isolating valves plus a pump check valve are included in the design. Other features include: a pilot operated pressure relief valve for emergency back-up pressure control; auto alter-

ment from 10% to 150% and independent day scheduling options. There is a facility for linking rain, moisture, temperature and wind sensors. The unit will retain the programmes should power be lost.

Genesis is a computerised management application for the programming and control of Genesis radio or hard-wire field controllers, data retrieval units and weather stations. Up to 999 field controllers are available which can be expanded to meet future needs. Automatic ET matches the water usage to weather conditions.

The programme uses Windows™ for all controller configurations.

Conclusion

An irrigation system is like insurance - it is there to protect the investment of money and time that has been put into establishing quality playing surfaces. As every greenkeeper knows, there is a good chance that if there are no irrigation facilities, the sun will shine every day - and the minute one is in place the heavens open continually. That's 'Sods law'.

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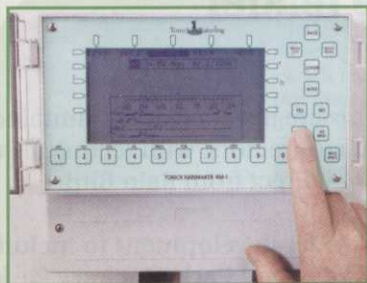
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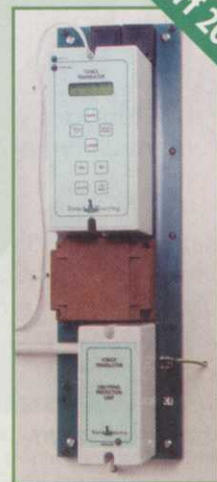
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COURSE CARD



HOLE	FRONT NINE	HOLE	FRONT NINE
1	Aldeburgh GC	10	The Gleneagles Hotel (King's & Queen's)
2	Ballybunion (Old & Cashen)	11	The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers
3	The Belfry (Brabazon, PGA & Derby)	12	Killarney G&F Club (Mahoney's, Killeen & New)
4	Burhill (Old & New)	13	Richmond GC
5	Carden Park GC	14	The Royal St George's GC
6	Celtic Manor (Wentwood Hills)	15	Royal Wimbledon GC
7	Fota Island GC	16	Sunningdale (Old & New)
8	Foxhills (Longcross & Bernard Hunt)	17	West Lancs GC
9	Forest of Arden Hotel G&C Club	18	Woburn (Marquess)

If you want a reliable irrigation system that has proven itself follow the course leader

For more than four years the Rain Bird Maxi Windows operated computer control system has been installed in Europe.

A combination of Rain Bird Maxi Stratus, Nimbus and Cirrus control systems have been installed on over 60 Golf Courses in the UK and Ireland together with Rain Bird EAGLE™ sprinklers.

In fact more than 150 Rain Bird Maxi systems have been installed in Europe alone.

All Rain Bird systems are installed and maintained by highly experienced contractors, with technical support and backup provided direct from Rain Bird.

A future course is under development to include Queenwood GC, Wychwood Park, Rookery Park, St Andrews Bay Development, St George's Hill, Doonbeg GC, and The Addington due for installation this year.



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Excellence in Greenkeeping

TORO

TIME AGAIN



The culmination of many months of searching will come to fruition on Monday October 30th when the fourth winner of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student of the Year will be discovered.

Judging at regional level has been on-going for some time for both awards and the prestigious nature of the Toros has ensured a quality lineup for the finals.

The winner of the Excellence in Greenkeeping Award will follow in the illustrious footsteps of Iain McMillan, of Hankley Common; John Coleman, of Abbeydale GC, and last year's winner, Brian Turner, of Sunningdale.

This year the competition follows a different format with a Home International flavour to it. Instead of each Region sending a representative plus one wild card each country within the home nations will have a representative. Walter Woods and Bruce Jamieson, of Toro, have visited each of the finalists to assess the quality of the golf course and maintenance regime and the visit to BIGGA HOUSE for the final stage will involve an interview by an expert panel comprising representatives from both BIGGA and Toro.

The eventual winner's golf club will receive a Toro Workman 2100 utility vehicle and a trophy, while the man himself will win a two week trip to the United States to visit the GCSAA Conference and Show in Dallas, Texas as well as a trip to the headquarters of the Toro Company in



Above: Last year's triumphant winners. Left, Tommy Givnan with the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year trophy, and right, Brian Turner with his Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping

Minneapolis and its factory in California. The winner's team will also receive £250.

As England has more golf courses than the other three home countries four semi-finalists have been selected from whom the English finalist will be drawn and each semi-finalist will win a Reelmaster 1000 pedestrian mower for his club and a plaque.

The person who succeeds Tommy Givnan, of Bowring Golf Course, in Knowsley, near Liverpool, will win

the Toro Scholarship - and eight week trip including a six week residential turf management study course at the University of Massachusetts, USA and a trip to the Toro sites and the GCSAA Show in Dallas. The winner's Senior Greenkeeping Tutor will earn a place on the BIGGA trip to the GCSAA Conference and Show while two runners-up will be invited to attend the Learning Experience, in association with Textron, in Harrogate next January.



Excellence in Greenkeeping

Finalists: Ireland

This edition of Greenkeeper International went to press before the Irish finalist was announced. Full details of all finalists will appear on the BIGGA website as soon as they are released. Point your browser to www.bigga.org.uk for the latest news and events from the Toro Awards and the greenkeeping industry in general. *SMc*



Scotland

Ronnie Bunting, Kilmacolm GC

Ronnie is 46 and has been Course Manager at Kilmacolm GC, near Glasgow, for the last 14 years having been a greenkeeper for 32 years and a Head Greenkeeper for 24. A staunch BIGGA supporter he regularly attends BIGGA Regional training courses while he has been Chairman and Secretary of three BIGGA and before that SIGGA Sections. A keen advocate of good environmental practice under Ronnie's management Kilmacolm has received awards from the Scottish Wildlife Charter, the BIGGA Environmental Competition, in association with Amazone and Grass Roots and the National Green Apple Award scheme. He is qualified to D32-D33-D34 and acts as an internal verifier for the GTC while he gives talks to local SVQ level 2 students.



Wales

Gary Johnstone - Southerndown GC

Gary is 29 years-old and arrived in Wales eight years ago from his native Scotland. Born in Aberdeen he began his career at Aberdeen Kings Links before spending three and a half years at Carnoustie. He moved to Southerndown as Deputy Head Greenkeeper in '92 and was promoted to Head Greenkeeper just over a year later. His greenkeeping education began at Elmwood College where he achieved his Scotvec levels 1,2 and 3 in sports turf maintenance while he is currently completing his HNC in Golf Course Management at Pencoed College. He still finds time to play golf to a handicap of 4.

English Semi Finalists:

Due to the large number of entrants and size of the country, four semi-finalists were selected. The English finalist was not possible to announce before this edition of Greenkeeper International went to press. *SMc*



Graham Waller - Henley G&CC

Graham is 30 year's old and a Yorkshireman. He moved into greenkeeping after initially training as a nurse. The change of direction occurred when he took a short term job at Maxstoke Park GC in 1989 and his potential was spotted by Trafford Stonebridge who encouraged him to go to college. He moved to Henley in '94 to gain experience in the growing-in and maintaining of a new 27 hole development.



Richard Barker - Kirby Muxloe GC

Richard is 36 and has been Head Greenkeeper at Kirby Muxloe, near Leicester, for a number of years. A staunch BIGGA supporter he is a current National Board Member and a regular attendee at many BIGGA functions on a Sectional, Regional and National basis. He plays to a handicap of 2 and is the current Leicestershire County Second Team Captain.



Terry Farkins - Dartmouth G&CC

Terry is 35 and has been Course Manager at Dartmouth for the past nine years, taking over at the growing-in stage. He states that his ambition is to win the Toro award and then to achieve Master Greenkeeper status. He is keen golfer and cricketer having played Minor County Cricket for Devon.



Gerald Bruce - Berkhamsted GC

Gerald is 38 and has been at Berkhamsted for 14 years having previously been a trainee at Hunstanton GC. He plays golf to a handicap of 2 and is married with two children Hannah (8) and Freddy (5).



Name: Laurence McCrory
Age: 27
Golf Club: Mentmore G&CC
College: Oakland College

For Laurence, greenkeeping eventually won over a degree in Orthoptics at university for his future having initially found an aptitude for the former in a summer job at Chiltern Forest GC. Although he did finally go to university and did well in his course he took the decision to return to greenkeeping and a job at Mentmore via a work placement at Brocket Hall G&CC. He is currently undertaking a National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Someone who sets daily, monthly and yearly goals for himself he is particularly proud of a solo charity Land's End to John O'Groats bike ride which he completed in 12 days having cycled just under 1000 miles. He also lists rugby, tennis, golf and reading among his interests

Name: Jonathan Cleland
Age: 24
Golf Club: Helensburgh GC
College: GOSTA Training

Jonathan is Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Helensburgh having started his career at the club. He returned in '98 having spent four years as Greenkeeper/Groundsman at Cameron House Hotel's nine hole course. He is currently working towards his N/SVQ Level 3. He is a keen golfer and is also interested in boating and other watersports. He has ambitions to become a Course Manager and to take on the challenge of being fully responsible for his own course while his tutor at GOSTA Training expects great things from him. "He has wide practical experience and a thirst for knowledge," said Chris Bothwell.

Name: Michael Sawicki
Age: 27
Golf Club: The Richmond Golf Club
College: NESCOL

Michael joined the Richmond staff earlier this year after two stints at Coombe Hill GC, an apprenticeship at Rhuddlan GC in Wales and being in charge of the growing-in of Woodcraze Manor GC. At Richmond he is responsible for the recently installed irrigation system and is working towards NVQ Level 3. A fine footballer he is captain of Kingston Academicals FC and a previous footballer of the year for the club. He is also a holder of a Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award while he is currently considering learning Spanish or Portuguese to improve future career prospects.

Name: Vince Harrison
Age: 30
Golf Club: Enderby Golf Course
College: Brooksby College

Vince worked in a bank for 10 years before he decided to move into greenkeeping. Initially he reduced his banking hours and enrolled at college, spending his holiday entitlement working on the college grounds to improve his knowledge before he resigned from the bank last summer and started on the nine-hole council course at Enderby where he is First Assistant. He is currently undertaking NVQ Level 2 and is delighted to say he is working in a job which he thoroughly enjoys. His interests include golf, football, reading and gardening.



Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists



Name: Mark Farragher
Age: 22
Golf Club: Portmarnock Hotel & Golf Links
College: Elmwood College

Mark has been a greenkeeper for five years and in that time has worked at some fine golf clubs including Gleneagles, Lahinch and the K Club and he has worked at a number of prestigious events including the WPGA Championship at Gleneagles, and the Smurfit European Open. He is currently undertaking an HND in Golf Course Management. He is a keen footballer and also enjoys golf and snooker. Attached to Portmarnock H&GL, he will be hoping to emulate Fintan Brennan, also from the club, who won the Toro Student of the Year award in '96.

Name: Tony Vokes
Age: 35
Golf Club: St Austell GC
College: Cannington College

Tony has spent two years at his present club where he also finds time to assist and advise on the maintenance of three rugby pitches at St Austell RFC. Prior to that he spent three years at Mid Dorset GC through its construction and playing in. Before that he worked for Merlin Landscapes. He has just completed his NVQ Level 2 on Cannington's "Fast Track" system. He represented St Austell at rugby, tennis and managed the St Austell third team for season 99-00. His other interests include golf, tennis, cycling, motor cycling and cottage/house restoration.

Name: Christopher Williams
Age: 25
Golf Club: Astbury GC
College: Reaseheath College

Christopher returned to the golf industry after a break of five years during which time he worked in the motor industry. Initially he spent nearly three years as assistant to the golf professional at Astbury Golf Club. He returned to the club as an Assistant Greenkeeper and is currently taking his NVQ level 2 at Reaseheath. He plays golf to a handicap of 8 and is also interested in motorcycling, keep fit and travel. His aim is to add to his experience and move up the ladder in the greenkeeping profession.

Name: William Fulton
Age: 32
Golf Club: Turnberry GC
College: Langside College

William has been an Assistant at Turnberry for 10 years having moved into the profession following a spell working in a garage. During the past decade he has worked on the Open Championship and the British Seniors Championship. He is currently working towards his HNC in Golf Course Management. His main interest outside work is wildlife while he is also keen on football, walking and swimming.



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

North

Rejoining the Section this month is Stuart Griffiths, of Letham Grange. Stuart started his greenkeeping at Tain and has been at Letham Grange for several years now.

Last month I had my weekend at the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate, my prize from the raffle at BTME in January.

It was funny being there and not seeing all the familiar faces and hearing the buzz from the bar, still very enjoyable though. As usual the food was good and the pool nice and warm.

We let go of the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Auchterarder recently. The Section team of Stewart McBain, Hugh Maclatchie, John Geddes and Jock Urquhart were unsuccessful as the East Section team were victorious. Sponsors, Aventis, must be thanked for a great day and thanks also to all at the Club, especially Archie Dunn and his staff.

The Section AGM is on the 26th of this month at Royal Aberdeen GC. Let's have a good turnout this year.

Anyone wanting to put their name forward for committee, please get in touch with Secretary Dougal Duguid on 01224 740329 for details.

The same guys have been running the Section for a while now and it is only fair that others come forward to either share the load or take over. This is your chance to do your bit and have your say. See you there.

I have just attended one of my training days for my SVQ Level 3 fast track through Elmwood College. It is hard work for someone who hasn't been in college for many years, but will be worth it in the end.

I really think this is the way forward for Senior greenkeepers who don't have the time to attend block release but wish to keep up with things educational, which is essential in our business.

We are still working out the two lucky winners of this year's Patrons' Award as the system for calculating was modified slightly.

The two winners will know soon and everyone else can find out in the next magazine along with news from the National Championships in St Annes and anything else I can drag up!

I A Macleod

West

Welcome again to another news round up.

An Education/Golf outing has been arranged for October 31 at Elmwood Golf Developments. The agenda for the day includes a tour of the facilities, an overview of the EGD, question and answer session, lunch and golf.

Numbers for this outing are restricted to 30, it is therefore strictly a first come first serve basis. Application forms are available from Sandy Bulloch. Those interested should contact Sandy on Tel:-01506 612423.

No transport has been arranged for this outing as the cost of coach hire for such a small number would be prohibitive.

The annual dinner will be held at Victoria's, Friday, November 17. The cost is £20 a head and tickets will be available very soon. Fifty seats have been booked so it is recommended that you book yours quickly as this has proved to be a popular venue.

Monday, September 4 the annual Club Stewards versus Greenkeepers challenge, played at Cathcart Castle GC. The weather and company was good, however, the golf was even better, with a resounding victory for the Greenkeepers.

The result. Greenkeepers-5 Club Stewards-1. The players representing the Greenkeepers team: P. Boyd, T. Hindmarch, S. Taylor, S. Ballantyne, G. Jarvis, C. George, D. McLaren, D. Duthie, A. Wright, I. Wilson, B. Hillen and A. Jack.

Thanks go to the Club Stewards for organising this year's fixture, thanks also to Cathcart Castle GC for use of their facilities on the day also to Jim and Linda Adams for their splendid catering and finally thanks to Tom Hindmarch and his staff for all their efforts on the day.

Any news or views, contact me on any of the following: H 0141 776 1532/ M 07050 173080 email Ryrug@lineone.net

Gavin Jarvis

Central

Another new member joins us this month and he is John Wright. John is Head Greenkeeper at Lundin Ladies Golf Club, in Fife, and we extend a warm welcome to him from everyone in the Section.

The Section AGM will be held on Tuesday, October 31 in the premises of Scottish Grass Machinery at Inverkeithing, Fife. Steven McInroy, General Manager of SGM, has kindly agreed to support us prior to the

meeting and has arranged a visit to the Old Course at St Andrews with transport provided from Inverkeithing and back, lunch and a presentation by SGM followed by the AGM and all this for free! Can't be bad! So please try and give your Section committee some support, you never know, you might even end up as one of us! On the committee that is.

Full details of the above event along with your allocation of 'Club 2000' tickets, I can hear most of you saying "Oh! not again", should have reached you by now, if not just get in touch and I will send everything out to you.

This month's winning number in 'Club 2000' is 00299 and the lucky person is Brian Lawrie, from Elie Golf Club. Well done Brian!

The Annual Inter Section match for the Norrie Whytock Trophy was played at Auchterarder Golf Club recently and the Central Section were runners-up for the second year running, but I have it on good authority that they are determined to improve on this result next year. Well done to team members Archie Dunn, Andy O'Hara, Derek Scott and James 'Seve' Seivwright.

A message for David at Liphook, David I will get around to answering your letter shortly, Honest!

John Crawford



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North East

Recently the Northern Regional Final was held. This letter is for the benefit of the two players who failed to turn up on the day. Not only did they let the Section down, but the sponsors and their fellow Section members. Can they imagine how the rest of the team felt when they had travelled so far to find out they were disqualified before they hit a ball. There is no excuse for this behaviour as they had four weeks to pick up the phone to cancel, considering there were plenty of reserves to take their place. These two members will have had a letter from the Section committee by the time this comes into print.

Winter lectures will again be arranged this year. Members will be notified as soon as possible.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

The last day of August and the sun is cracking the flags. Perhaps September will be the start of some dry weather giving us the chance to get a good start to the winter work programme. Royal Birkdale was the venue for the ladies "Open" this month, Chris Whittle and his staff had the course in lovely condition, although it is unusual to see a links course looking so green and lush in August. Well done to the Birkdale staff, who have turned the course into a true links course.

Two golf matches were played this month, the first being the Regional Final at Fishwick Hall Golf Club. The six Sections in the Northern Region provided six players, who had qualified from their respective spring tournaments, to play in the final. Even though each player had received a copy of the starting times, and the format, only one Section turned up with a full team. North West, Northern, Sheffield and Cleveland Sections arrived with five players, and the North East section had only four players, with North Wales having six players. The format was a medal round, with the best five scores to count. The winners were Cleveland 370 pts, North Wales 371 pts, Sheffield 377 pts, North West 393 pts, Northern 396 pts. The North East Section having only four players could not compete.

The winning team received the Shield and each player received a medal. I would like to thank Richard Campey (Macclesfield) for once again sponsoring the day which was enjoyed by everyone, Fishwick Hall Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course, the caterers for a lovely meal, and Paul Eddlestone and his staff for preparing an excellent course on the day. The only bad point on the day was that certain members of the teams failed to arrive, therefore letting their Sections down. I hope Section secretaries will note their names and make sure they don't get the opportunity to qualify again.

The second match was the "Roses Match" played at Longridge Golf Club. Although we turned up with a full team, and Longridge was our choice of venue, we were well stuffed. The Northern Section won by 5.5 to 2.5 and once again retained the "Pattison" Cup. I will not comment any more about the golf, (I am sure you can read a full report in the Northern notes?) but I would like to thank Longridge GC for

allowing us the courtesy of the course, the caterers for a lovely meal, and of course Patissons for sponsoring this very popular tournament.

The next golf in the Section is the Presidents Cup and AGM at Wilmslow Golf Club on Thursday November 30. We have the tee from 10am and once the golf is completed we will have the AGM before the evening meal, and prize presentation. All entries to be in by Friday, November 24, including a cheque for £15 made out to BIGGA North West. Send entries to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Liverpool L4 9RB. Telephone 0151 2844416. If you do not play golf you can still attend the AGM and have a meal. That seems to be it for now but any news or views please contact me on 0151 7245412.

Bert Cross

North Wales

Well it has been a long time hasn't it, enjoyed your summer lads and lasses I think not. No-ones been in touch except Andy Peel so I've now to write about.

Anyhow autumn meet at Vicars Cross you'll all receive your forms winter lectures are being arranged I will let you know in due course see you all soon.

Dave Goodridge



Midland Region
Les Emery
Tel: 0116 287 9036

East Midland

This year's East Midlands V East of England golf match was played at the excellent venue of Burghley Park G.C. on August 15. The format for the day being a ten-a-side Fourball Better-Ball Matchplay. On a fine warm afternoon and evening in near perfect conditions some excellent golf was played by both teams, with the East Midlands again proving a little too strong for their opponents, winning by a four games to one margin.

The Section also won the Nearest the pin (Mark Bindley), and Longest Drive (Gavin Robson) prizes. The Section was represented by the following members. Jeff Dickinson, Pete Billings, Gary Thurman, Steve Goode, Adi Porter, Ian Needham, Antony Bindley, Steve Tolley, Mark Bindley and our Chairman Gavin Robson. I would like to thank all those members who turned out on the

day at such short notice, and hopefully more members will be interested in playing in next years fixture. Congratulations should also be extended to all members of the East of England Section for making this such an enjoyable fixture.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Greenkeeping Staff at Burghley Park for setting up such a neat and tidy golf course, the Steward for a fantastic meal and Burghley Park G.C. for allowing us all courtesy of their great course. Last, but not least our new sponsors Barenbrug for providing a grand prize table.

Congratulations should also go to Ian Needham, of Beedles Lake GC, for his day as Club Captain on August 12 as a guest of Ian's I was invited to play on the day and finished with a respectable 35pts Singles Stableford and thus winning the guest competition for the day. Thanks for the invite Ian, hope that the rest of the year as Captain is just as successful for you.

Has anyone else any news they would like to see in this column, if so please give me a ring and let me know.

Antony Bindley

Berks Bucks and Oxon

The summer tournament was held at Richings Park GC. This was our second visit to the course and Phil Russell and his staff once again produced a course to be proud of. Apart from some dodgy monsoon-like rain a great day was had by all, and it was Section Secretary, Lindsay Anderson, who turned on the style to win with 40pts. Not bad going one win in ten years!

Anyway the results are as follows: 1. L. Anderson 40pts; 2. G. Wheeler 38pts; 3. C. Small 38pts; 4. D. Goodchild 38pts; 5. C. Evans 38pts. Longest drive, C. McMillan, nearest pin, Matthew Stomart. The trade prize was won by Mark Stidley, of Rigby Taylor, with 26pts.

Many thanks to our hosts Richings Park GC and to Tacit and ETT for donating the prizes.

An on-going competition has been the Rigby Taylor Paris. We are now at the final stage with Gordon and Peter Critchley beating Brett Moggeridge and Paul Young. Also Ian Robins and Carl Small beating Lindsay Anderson and Simon Austin. The final will be played at Caversham Health GC although a date has not yet been set.

Also good luck to Cameron McMillan who will be leaving Grass Roots Trading to join Queenwood GC and to Geoff

Wheeler who is leaving Lambourne GC. Both have been regular attendees to our Section events and we wish them the best in their new ventures.

One final note is that if anyone has any information about anyone or anything concerning the section that they would like printing in the section news please ring me on 01189 723334

Jon Scoones

East of England

The annual match between E.O.E. and the East Midland Sections took place at Burghley Park Golf Club and the visitors took home the Shield with a victory of 4-1. The only winners on the day for the E.O.E. Section were Daniel Wells and Graeme MacDonald. Other results were Simon Lidgaard and Les lost, George Venable and Bill Watkin lost, Andy Thomas and Kevin Hodges lost, Russ Moody and Adi Kitchener also lost.

Many thanks to Les and Simon from Cleethorpes for making the long journey to Stamford.

As usual the course was in excellent condition and we thank David Salisbury and all his staff. This years new sponsor was Barenbrug Seeds and many thanks to Ben Petitjean who brought along some great prizes. Ben himself had a prize recently, his wife Agnes gave birth to their second daughter on Saturday, August 19.

The first of the winter seminars takes place in November at Newark. The theme of the evening is on machinery talks from Textron and Supreme Grinders and a practical demonstration which is sponsored by Lawn Mower Services. Any news contact me on 0880 502464 - 01836 - 626564

Graeme Macdonald



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

South East Regional Seminar

You should have all received by now, if you haven't you will in the next day or so, details and a reservation form for a place at the Regional Seminar. This year it has been organised by the East Anglia Section and is to be held at Thorpeness Golf and Country Hotel on Tuesday, November 14. The Seminar is titled 'Future Developments in

the Greenkeeping Industry' and promises an interesting day, hopefully giving Greenkeepers an insight into the future!

I appreciate that Thorpeness would be a long journey for some members of the South East Region, but the East Anglia Committee have done a great job in putting this Seminar together and deserve your support. The cost for members is a very reasonable £10, £15 for non-members, to include a buffet lunch. In addition, negotiations with the Hotel have resulted in a very favourable rate for Bed and Breakfast should you wish to stay the night. With production of a Handicap Certificate and a BIGGA Membership Card you can also enjoy a courtesy round of golf on a very fine golf course before returning home.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you not receive your application form in the next few days or with any other query.

Derek Farrington

East Anglia

A bright sunny day greeted us when our happy band of wanderers descended on Royal Cromer Golf Club for our third Section meeting of the season. Roger Plummer and his staff had worked hard all season to keep the very high standards that Royal Cromer members have come to expect. The golf course was exceptional, as was the meal. The Club Captain, Kevin Taylor, made us feel very welcome as did the staff in the Club House. I would like, on behalf of the Section, to thank all at Royal Cromer for making our day special.

As usual on these occasions, Cromer and Sheringham swept the prizes with seven out of the 12 going to the area.

0-9 H/cap. 1. Roger Plummer, Royal Cromer, 39 points; 2. Michael Virley, Halesworth GC, 35 points; 3. Mark Keysell, Sheringham GC.

10-18 H/Cap. 1. Steve Pigott, Royal Cromer, 41 points on count back; 2. Richard Plummer, Sheringham GC, 41 points; 3. Paul Gould, Thetford GC, 38 points.

19-28 H/cap. 1. Stephen Crabb, Sheringham GC, 47 points; 2. Ernie Hart, Royal Cromer, 37 points; 3. Keith Tittshall, Waldringfield Heath GC 32 pts.

Guest & Trade

1. Kevin Taylor, Royal Cromer Club Captain, 38 points; 2. Richard Barney 36 points; 3. David Inglis, 36 points.

Nearest the pin 7th. Ian Willett, 17th Brian Dunn.

Longest Drive 18th, Andrew Gibbins.

Thank you to our main sponsors of the day Aventis and Ben Burgess and thank you to all our other sponsors, Tomlinson Groundcare, Atterton and Ellis, Consultant Clarkson, Lely UK, SISIS, Sheriffs, Stalham Engineering, for their continual support.

The loo seat went to Graham Paul, from Sheriffs, for hitting his drive from the 1st tee on to the roof of the Pro Shop. A feat that had never been done in the history of the club as the ball had travelled at an angle of 90 degrees from the tee. We had two new members join in the fun at this meeting, Andrew Gibbins, from Aldeburgh GC, and Roger Nicholson, from Stalham Engineering.

Our next meeting will be held at Walderingfield Heath Golf Club on October 10. I hope to see you all there. This year the Section is responsible for running the South Eastern Regional Seminar. It will be held at Thorpeness Country Club on November 14. Derek Farrington, the Regional

Administrator will be posting the information in the magazine. Dates for all next year's events have been finalised so put these in your diary. Felixstowe Ferry GC, 24 April. Richmond Park GC, 13 June. Eaton GC, 1 August. Purdis Heath, 10 October. See you all at the next meeting and remember the Regional Seminar.

Ian Willett.

Sussex

There are two golf days to report about this month.

Firstly, there was golf followed by a Tapas Bar at Copthorne Golf Club on July 11. I would like to thank Mike Gould and his staff for all their hard work and presenting the course in excellent condition.

The main sponsors for the day were Grass Roots in conjunction with Symbio. Other sponsors for the raffle etc. were, Avoncrop Amenity Products, Driving Force Leisure, CMW, E & S Sportsground and Tacit.

The format for the day was Four Ball Better Ball. On to the winners.

1. John Budd, 44 points. John

Hudson, 44 points; 2. Mike Gould, 42 points, Ian Wood, 42 points; 3. Peter Hammond, 40 points. Kevin Sullivan, 40 points.

Nearest the pin winners were Alastair Cale, Rose Gould, Shaun Sturrock, Alan Bartup. Longest drive winner was Peter Gibbs.

Well done to all the winners and I am sure everybody enjoyed the Tapas Bar that followed.

On to the next event, which was played at Cooden Beach Golf Club on 16 August. Once again the course was in excellent condition and I am sure everybody who played will join me in thanking Stefan and his staff for all their hard work.

The format for this event was a Three Man Team Stableford Competition with all three scores counting.

The sponsor for the day was CMW. The prizes were presented by Mark Day, thanks for the fiver Mark! The winners of the team challenge shield are as follows:

1. Alastair Cale, Mike Roberjot, from Ifield Golf Club,

Terry O'Neill; 2. Mike Gould, John Payne, from Copthorne Golf Club, Roy Toms.

Nearest the pin at the 14th, Brian Morrison. Nearest the pin at the 16th, Giles Johnson. Best Individual with 37 points was Mike Gould on count back from myself. The golf was followed by a superb bsrbeque. Thanks to everybody who turned up to the last two events.

The numbers were slightly down, so let's hope by the time this appears that the next event at Worthing Golf Club on 27 September has enjoyed a good turnout.

Gary Ogilvie.

Surrey

Our annual pilgrimage to Sunningdale Golf Club for the McMillan Tankard was on August 23 and from the comments I overheard and the congratulations bestowed on Brian Turner and his staff it was once again a venue that should never be missed. The weather was excellent and with the sun shining down on the new course. Surrey Section members did battle playing from the

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white tees. The result was that Nigel Colley won the Coveted Tankard but only by the skin of his teeth and on countback with 39 points. James Partridge was second and Ian Morrisson was third also with 39 points. Darren Lee was fourth with 37 points.

The August tournament took place just over a week later at Addington Palace Golf Club and although these events were so close together the turnout proved to be very high with 50 members booked to tee off from midday. Many thanks to Ron Christie the course manager and his team for presenting Addington Palace in such superb condition. Many who played the course for the first time stated their intention of returning ASAP to try again now that they have more knowledge of the complexities and subtle layout of the course especially the front nine holes. The winner was Dave Goddard with 40 points, runner up was Merrick Field 39 points and third place was filled by Mick Mclearn, 38 points.

To both Sunningdale and

Addington Palace we thank them for the courtesy of their courses. We thank the artisans at Sunningdale for a fine buffet and the catering staff at Addington for a delicious three course meal.

Finally, Cameron McMillan has confirmed that the rumour floating around Surrey Section is true, he is joining his brother Ian at Queenwood and therefore we all wish them both every success for the future.

Brian Willmott

Essex

One bridge definitely not too far is Abridge Golf & Country Club, nestled in the hills of Stapleford Tawney in Essex. This club is worth paying a visit to wherever you are located.

Since taking over the reigns Head Greenkeeper, Jon Selwood, and Deputy Head, Steve Cox, have transformed what used to be a good course with potential to one with greens which most greenkeepers would give their eye teeth to have. Jon admits to being pleased with the course at the moment and puts a lot of his

success down to the greenstaff at the club, they are :- Steve Cox (Deputy), Chris Ward, Paul Aylett, Geoff Smith, Paul Bannock and Mark Singleton. Well done lads keep it up.

The Essex Section of BIGGA were at Abridge for the Driving Force Leisure and Advanta Seeds sponsored Autumn Trophy way back in August, we must try and get golf days closer to the publication of the magazine. Overall winner for the day was Chris Ward, Abridge, 36 points, with yes you guessed it, Andy Sheehan, Bentley, a close second on 35 points. Nearest the pin and Longest drive was sponsored by Greenkeeper Suppy Company, both prizes went to guests, P. Swinn nearest the pin and P. Brackley longest drive. The handicap categories were divided into two divisions, 0 - 16 and 17 - 28. First place in the 0 - 16 went to Ray Clark, Channels, followed by Jon Selwood, Abridge, Tony Kirwin, Colchester, and Steve Crosdale, Gt. Hadham. Geoff Smith, Abridge, won the 17 - 28 group with Martin Guy, Paul Aylett,

Abridge, and Sonny Willis completing the 1-2-3-4. The scores have been left out to save embarrassment to one of the eight named above.

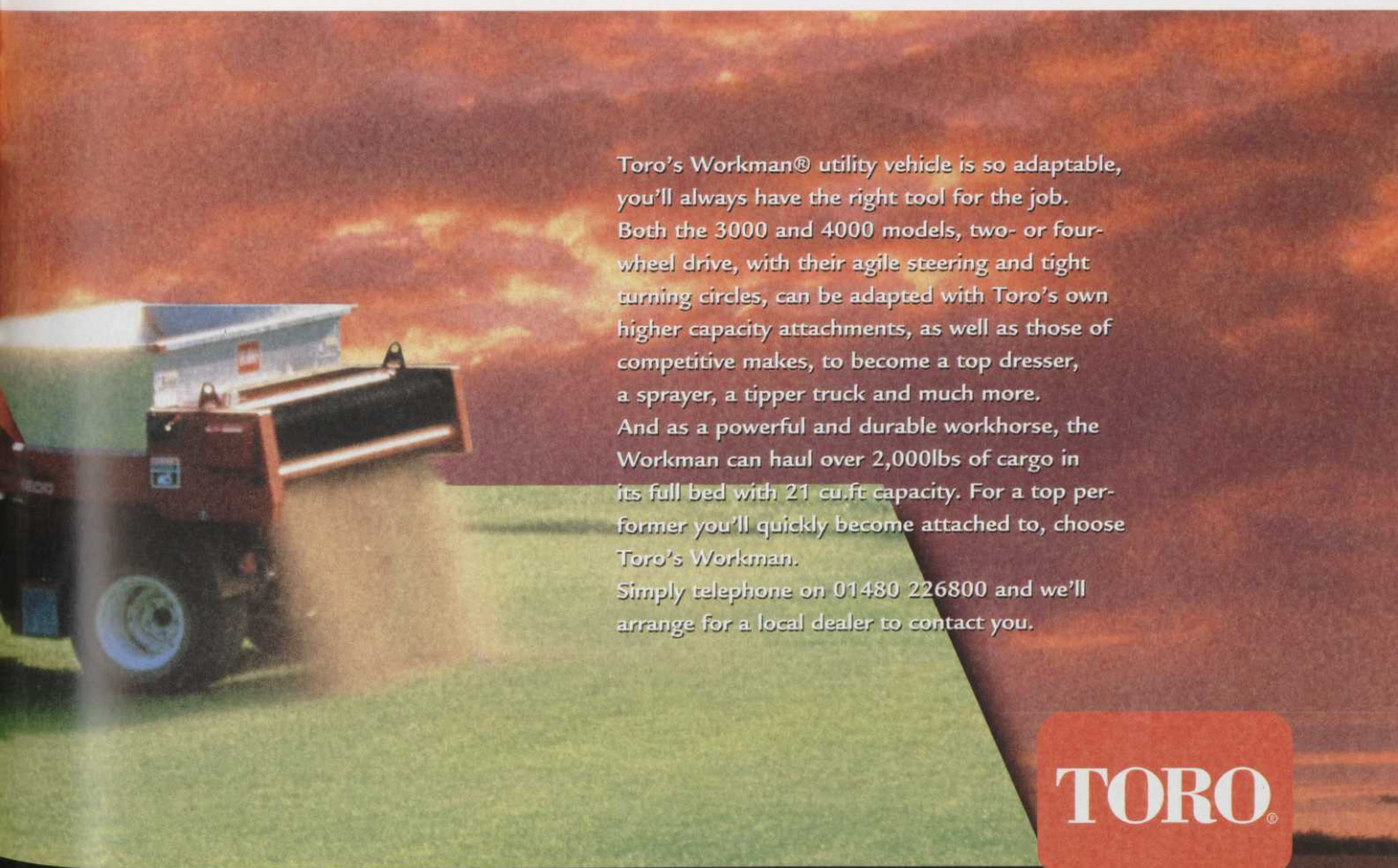
Trade winners were 1. Richard Fortmuller, 35pts, 2. Matt Gresty, 34pts, with the guest prizes going to Paul Bambley 34pts and Gerry Goldstein 31pts. Congrats to all those who came away with a prize.

Other companies deserving a mention are:- Tuckwells who sponsored the halfway house, (what a great idea!), Sherriffs, for the flyers, and Grass Roots, Banks Gem and Bishops Brothers for the raffle prizes.

Above all on behalf of the Essex Section I would like to extend my thanks to Abridge Golf and Country Club and all it's staff, catering and greens.

New Members: Grant Warner, from Harwich and Dovercourt and Sonny Willis, of Stapleford Abbots, join us this month, Sonny has already picked up a prize coming fourth at Abridge.

Tit-bits; The Go-Karting scheduled for the end of November has had to be cancelled.



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Ian Willett (01728) 452759 is looking for D32/D33 assessors to help him out on the Essex/Suffolk Border.

Support is required for the South East Regional Seminar held at Thorpness GC on Tuesday November 14.

Finally our next golf day is to be held at Bishops Stortford, playing for the winter trophy, forms should be with you by now as the event is held on Thursday October 19. See you there.

Steve Crosdale



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

South West

My apologies for not publishing a report in last month's magazine. Unfortunately I was just too late getting my article in.

The summer Tournament was kindly sponsored by Ocmis and hosted by Erlestoke Sands Golf Club. As I was unable to attend, reports that have come back to

me say that the course was superbly set up for the event, so congratulations to Don Southey and his greenstaff. The overall results of the competition were:

Best score by a Head Greenkeeper, A. Akerman. Best score by an Assistant, K. May.

The golf was followed by an interesting talk from Cannington College. Thanks once again to Ocmis for providing some excellent prizes and Erlestoke for allowing us courtesy of the course and providing the food afterwards.

The next event is only just around the corner. This will be the Autumn Tournament and AGM taking place on Thursday, November 2 at Weston Golf Club. For anyone interested in taking one of those highly sought after places on the BIGGA South West, here's your chance.

A few days later on November 22, Cannington College will be hosting the Regional Seminar. Included in this year's event is a line up of speakers that are bound to get tongues wagging. Jim Arthur will kick off the seminar followed by the highly

entertaining Frank Newberry. Finally, Amenity Technology will round off the day.

I am still enquiring about an educational day out to one of the top courses in the country. Hopefully the day would comprise of a question and answer session, tour of the club's facilities and a round of golf.

The only remaining course I have planned for this year is a beginners' computer course in December at Lilley Brook Golf Club in mid December. The course will be taken by Ken Richardson from BIGGA HQ. Half the places are already filled, so for more information, telephone me on 01249 783382 Paul Cunningham

Devon and Cornwall

The Devon Garden Machinery Section meeting and AGM will be held at Launceston Golf Club on Wednesday 15 November. 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 club house

at approximately 10.30am. Lunch will be from 1pm onwards followed by the golf presentation and a short company presentation by Devon Garden Machinery, our sponsor for the day. The section's AGM will conclude the day.

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

The Regional Conference and 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, £22.50 non-members. 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

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contact Paula Humphries on 01288 352194.

During last year the Section held three very successful pesticide training days with a 100% pass rate.

Congratulations to all. This winter the Section will organise training days to suit your needs, eg. pesticide, first aid, computer courses with dates and venues being arranged when sufficient numbers have been reached. The Section will keep the cost of training as low as possible and don't forget if you pay for the training yourself, you may be able to claim a grant from BIGGA.

For more information please contact me on 01288 353438. Richard Whyman

South Coast

Very little to report this month. The annual match against the South West was held at Marlborough Golf Club on September 5. The result was a 3/2 win for the South West. Well done lads! Thanks to Marlborough for a superb day.

Our Autumn tournament is at Came Down Golf Club on

October 4. There are suggestions that a late October/ November match against the Surrey Section could be arranged. I will keep you posted.

The Turkey Trot and AGM will be at Hockley Golf Club for the second year. Entries to Chris Sturgess please. Costs will be in next month's issue.

Anyone interested in the committee please contact either myself or Fred Deamen.

Tony Gadd



See you all next month!

BIGGA Regional Network

For any information regarding BIGGA activities, please contact your local Regional Administrator and/or Section Secretary, who will be pleased to offer help and advice on any of the areas in which the Association operates. A complete list is printed, here, on the right.

SCOTLAND				
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR	Name	Regional Administrator	Tel/Fax	E-mail
AYRSHIRE	Derek Wilson	Irvine Bogside GC	Club: 01294 274777	Mobile: 0370 734360
CENTRAL	John Crawford	Stirling GC	Club: 01786 464098	Mobile: 0864 632052
EAST	Stephen Dixon	Kings Knowe GC	Club: 0131 443 0235	
NORTH	Douglas Duguid	Westhill GC	Club: 01224 740329	
WEST	Alexander Bulloch	Fereneze GC	Club: 0141 881 1519	
NORTHERN				
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR	Name	Regional Administrator	Tel/Fax	E-mail
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N WEST	Bert Cross	(Retired)	Tel/Fax: 0151 724 5412	
NORTHERN	Andy Smith	Oulton Park GC	Club: 0113 264 5624	Mobile: 07790 678572
CLEVELAND	Barry Walker	Wearside GC	Mobile: 0589 658161	
SHEFFIELD	Ronald Ullathorne	Hirst Priory GC	Club: 01724 711619	
N WALES	Gary Edwards	Old Colwyn GC	Club: 01492 51581	Mobile: 0961 806519
MIDLAND				
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR	Name	Regional Administrator	Tel	E-mail
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MIDLAND	Jonathan Wood	Ross on Wye GC	Club: 01989 720818	Mobile: 0370 956238
E ENGLAND	Graeme MacDonald	Newark GC	Tel: 01636 626564	
BERKS/BUCKS/OX	Lindsay Anderson	Badgemore Park GC	Club: 01491 572206	
MID ANGLIA	Gerald Bruce	Berkhamstead GC	Club: 01442 865832	Mobile: 0374 921606
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REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR	Name	Tel/Fax	Mobile	E-mail
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KENT	Gary Debenham	Boughton GC	Club: 01227 752277	Mobile: 0410 624562
SUSSEX	Stefan Antolik	Cooden Beach GC	Club: 01424 846130	
LONDON	Ian Semple	Old Fold Manor GC	Club: 020 8441 2077	
E ANGLIA	Ian Willett	Thorpeness GC	Club: 01728 452176	
ESSEX	Martin Forrester	Stapleford Abbots GC	Tel: 01254 603131	
SOUTH WEST / SOUTH WALES				
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR	Name	Tel/Fax	Mobile	E-mail
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S COAST	Fred Deamen	Alton GC	Club: 01420 82042	
DEVON C/WALL	Richard Whyman	Bude & N C/Wall GC	Club: 01288 352006	E-mail: richwhy@cwcom.net
S WALES	Peter Lacey	Pennard GC	Tel: 01792 233923	Mobile: 07971 914121
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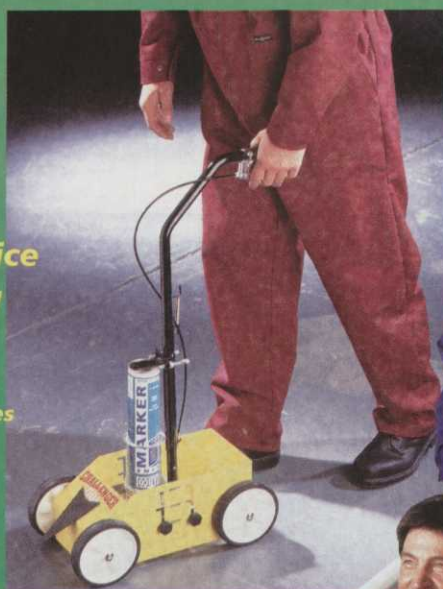
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Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9, November 2000 The Royal Highland Centre Ingliston, Edinburgh

Opening Times Wednesday 10am to 4.30pm Thursday 9.30am to 3pm



Scotsturf has been an annual fixture on Scotland's fine turf calendar for almost two decades now and in that time many deals have been done and stories told in the famous old Hall. The 2000 exhibition will be no

exception and the familiar faces of Scotland's BIGGA members will be making their annual visit to the Show. BIGGA itself will have a strong presence with the Membership and Sales and Marketing Departments repre-

sented as well as Peter Boyd, the Scottish Regional Administrator. The team will be able to handle any queries you may have regarding the Association. We look forward to seeing you there!



Geo Henderson Ltd

We will be exhibiting some exciting new products from various manufacturers this year. Kubota have launched several new products during the course of the year; of which the G18 Glide Cut and the BX 2200 Mini-compact tractor have both proved very popular. Also new to our product range will be the Great Dane professional pedestrian mowers, and the new pedestrian greensmower from Dennis. If you would like anymore information please visit our stand or call 0131 443 2474 for prompt service.

See us at Scotsturf



British Seed Houses

Tel: 01925 654411 Fax: 01925 230682
E-mail: bshwarr.co.uk

Visit the British Seed Houses stand at Scotsturf and go one up. Turfgrass professionals joining our Grade A Club can gain special discounts on approved BIGGA training courses, as well as access to turfgrass developments from the UK's only amenity grass breeding programme at the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) near Aberystwyth.

Greenkeepers will also be able to hear how Avalon velvet bent is outperforming all other bents in terms of shoot density and fineness of leaf.

See us at Scotsturf



Weidenmann

Weidenmann UK Ltd. Have secured a prime stand in the new hall, B, on which the company will display a cross section of their popular machinery range.

Having its UK base in Paisley, Weidenmann values Scotsturf highly and the company's staff look forward to meeting existing and new customers who visit the show.

On display will be a range of various Terra Spike deep aerators, which will be fitted with a range of tines. A range of Terra Spikes are available from 1.35m wide to 2.6m wide providing machines for a wide variety of applications from golf to playing fields. Terra Spikes have unique features such as quick set heave control and power pack which make the machine easy to use and reliable.

Other machines on display will include the new Terra Top tractor mounted Top Dresser which is particularly efficient at spreading wet top dressings and tractor mounted Triplex 4.2 finishing rotary motor with bat wings.

Weidenmann invite all to visit the stand to view their latest products and enjoy the usual hospitality.



TerraSpike

Deep Aerators

TerraTop

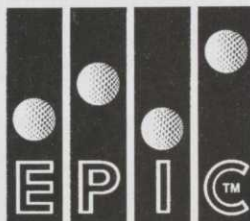
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Fax: 01418 846252

See us at Scotsturf



Sportsgrounds Limited

Now that Sportsgrounds are Scottish Stockists and distributors for EPIC driving range equipment the company will be using Scotsturf to display a cross section of the extensive EPIC range including tee mats, ball dispensers, ball washers, ball collectors, synthetic range surfaces and accessories.

The company's large stand in the new hall will also illustrate the comprehensive range of services available which include design and construction of playing fields, golf courses, bowling greens and tennis courts in either natural or synthetic grass. Sportsgrounds continue to specialise in drainage, sand slitting and groundcare maintenance.

2000 has proved to be a very successful year with the completion of many prestige projects including the construction of new playing fields for Glasgow University, the design and build of a new bowling green at Mount Vernon and the construction of a synthetic multi sports pitch complex at Dagenham.

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Scottish Grass Machinery

Top dealer Scottish Grass Machinery, part of the SGM Group, will fly the flag for Textron at Scotsturf as its top UK dealer.

The latest product innovations from Textron including the new Jacobsen orange for the golf market and Ransomes green for the municipal market will be on show at the stand.

Company representative's from Scottish Grass Machinery and the Group's other two divisions SGM Finance and SGM Industrial, will be on hand to advise on a full range of manufacturers' products displayed on screen in business booths.

Also on display SGM Industrial will launch the new Ransomes Pathfinder Ride-On Sweeper and there will be product information on the latest innovations from Renault, Spearhead and Greenmech.

Customers will have the opportunity to talk to finance experts about spreading out the cost of hiring and servicing quality ground maintenance equipment with the Group's new Bank of Scotland backed finance arm, SGM Finance.



Scottish Grass Machinery distributing Textron products throughout Scotland

See us at Scotsturf



Hunter Grinders Ltd

Hunter Grinders are exhibiting the Omega chipper disc Grinder at Scotsturf for the first time.

The Jupiter 2000 has been developed from the well established range of Jupiter Models in order to meet an increasing demand to be able to grind pedestrian hand mowers fully 'in-situ'.

An integral hoist has been incorporated into the design of the Jupiter 2000 with capacity of 200kg. Allowing it to handle the largest hand mowers.

The Jupiter 2000 retains all the advantages of the Jupiter range with the capability of being able to handle 'relief' grinding 'spin' grinding and bottom blade grinding all on the one machine.

In addition, spin grinding can be carried out fully automatically and bottom blade grinding can traverse automatically.

The Orion bottom blade grinder has been updated to be fully automatic on both traverse and 'in-feed'. Again developed from the well proven bottom blade grinder.

Both machines have liquid coolant systems.

See us at Scotsturf: Stand 8, Hall B

Marlwood/Double A Trading Co

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



See us at Scotsturf

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If you haven't already heard of us, Garfitts International are one of the leading manufacturing suppliers of parts to the grass machinery and turf care industries in the U.K. We have a commitment to quality service that we feel is unparalleled. In addition to this, our product range is huge. Our comprehensive catalogue lists over 8,000 products. So we should always be able to meet your requirements. Why not come and see us at Scotsturf and pick up a FREE 2000-2001 season catalogue. We are looking forward to meeting you. Products: - Cylinders, Bed Knives, Spares & Accessories, Tines, Batteries, Rotary Blades, Protective Clothing, Rollers, Engines, Tyres

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See us at Scotsturf



BIGGA

BIGGA will once again be exhibiting at Scotsturf giving visitors the chance to find out more about all aspects of the Association and its activities.

Should you wish information about becoming a member there will be someone on hand to answer all your questions and provide literature highlighting the benefits of membership.

If you are already a member information can be obtained about the prestigious Master Greenkeeper scheme, education and training courses, as well as about that highlight of the greenkeeper's year - BTME at Harrogate.

From a company perspective, stand space is filling up quickly and from an individual's, spaces on the workshops and Education Conference need to be booked early to avoid disappointment.

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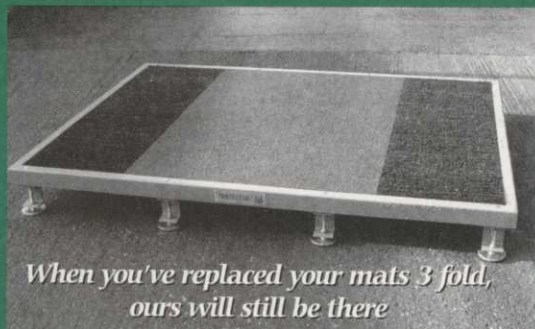


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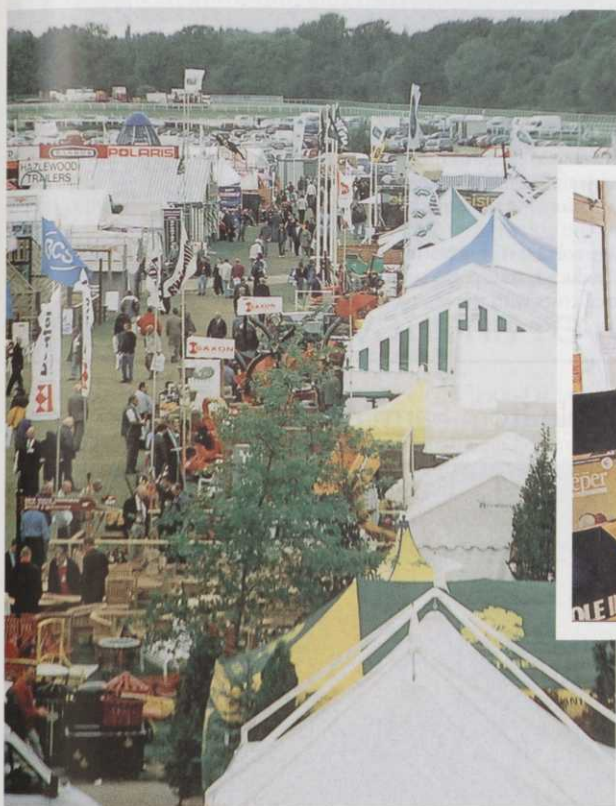
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SALTEX REVIEW



BTME's southern outdoor cousin, SALTEX, unveiled a new layout this year, colour coded to assist navigation, and although often in different locations the familiar companies were on-hand to display what's new in the world of fine turf.

The amended layout saw a change to the traditional entrance of the Show with a larger number of companies, together with the Education Pavilion, housed in the centre of the race course.

As in the previous two years BIGGA took the opportunity to launch its annual Golf Directory and the new look publication found many admirers among those lucky enough to see early copies.

Above: Tracey Maddison, BIGGA Membership Services Officer gave a warm welcome to visitors to the BIGGA stand, and answered questions about Membership and the Association in general.

Left: Saltex's new layout ensured a plentiful turnout of exhibitors and visitors.

Alan Stow retires from Vitax



Saltex was also the venue for the final event in Vitax's Alan Stow's extended round of retirement functions.

Having been honoured at several BIGGA functions over the last few months he enjoyed his official send-off at Vitax's headquarters the Friday before SALTEX only for Clive Williams to arrange a surprise party for Alan with all his friends from the industry on the Wednesday of SALTEX. Alan was presented with a brand new spade and fork by Derek Walder, of the IOG.

Spray Watch competition won by Drift GC

Seven successful years and seven sprayers, the annual Blazon 'Spray Watch' campaign continues to educate golf clubs and spray operators to the benefits of including a spray pattern indicator each and every time they spray. This year's lucky winner, selected from a record entry, was The Drift Golf Club, East Horsley, Surrey, who received the first prize of a brand new Gambetti Barre AMK 300 Tractor Mounted Sprayer.

Presentation of the prize to the win-

ning club's Head Greenkeeper Mark Bellamy, was made by Elliott Small and Neil Thomas. Also attending the ceremony were The Drift Golf Club's Course Manager, Paul Weston, and General Manager, Gail Backett.

Commenting on the award, Mark Bellamy stated, "Blazon has become an essential part of our spraying programme. It does not stain and the easily seen spray pattern ensures that all our applications are applied with a high degree of accuracy and uniformity".



Above: Chris Byrd (Marketing Manager Blazon), Mark Bellamy (Head Greenkeeper, the DriP Golf Club), Elliott Small (Chairman BIGGA), Paul Weston Course Manager, The Drift), Gail Backett (General Manager, The Drift), Neil Thomas (Executive Director BIGGA), Ian Sellers (GEM Professional)

Advanta range on display at Saltex

Amenity grass seed breeder Advanta Seeds UK, displayed five of the company's most popular branded mixtures at the show including, from the Advanta MM range, MM 10, MM 50 and MM 60. The first is a variation of the traditional fescue/bent greens mixture. It incorporates Mocassin, a new variety of slender creeping red fescue, which adds extra resilience to the turf.

MM50 is a hard-wearing perennial ryegrass mixture, ideal for repairing worn ends of cricket squares and badly divoted golf tees. The mix offers high wear tolerance, rapid establishment and strong root development.

MM60 is a 100 per cent ryegrass mixture for oversowing winter games pitches. The blend of cultivars gives quick establishment, a hard wearing surface and the capacity to regenerate quickly after damage.

The two 'Designer' mixtures will be Premier Sport and Estate. The first has a mix of ryegrass, fescue, smooth stalked meadowgrass and browntop bent cultivars, and is ideal for all heavy-duty winter sports areas, including football and rugby pitches.

Estate is a combination of a fast growing perennial ryegrass with a variety of strong creeping red fescue. Containing true amenity cultivars, it is a value for money option for temporary reseeded, or use in utility areas receiving some wear.

Vitax extends Organic range

Vitax extended its organic range by launching three, new, seaweed based products at Saltex 2000. A natural high strength seaweed, a 12.0.6 seaweed based liquid feed for turf, and a high strength seaweed based iron tonic, which are the result of research carried out on the seaweed variety *Laminaria Digitata*. Harvested from renewable sources in the Atlantic Ocean, this particular variety is rich in trace elements, growth hormones and cytokinins. These three, new products, which come in 10 litre containers, follow the success of Vitax Vitaliser, the 100% organic controlled release fertiliser which was launched at BTME.

Headland additions

Headland Amenity launched a new addition to their successful range of Greentec granular fertilisers.

Homogenous, with rapid breakdown qualities and an average size of 1.25mm, this new formulation of 6.4.12 has all the qualities of the original, but benefits from additional iron to harden turf for the harsher months ahead.

Three different Nitrogen sources ensure that the product produces optimum results over the full range of soil temperatures, especially under cool conditions, and adapts easily to varying weather conditions. The new Greentec 6.4.12 is designed for use on all fine turf including golf and bowling greens, and carries a recommended application rate of 25-35 grams per square metre.

New product wins award for Aventis

Saltex 2000 saw the launch, by Aventis Environmental Science, of an ultra-low dose fungicide, Capricorn, which will treat an entire average size golf green with just 50 ml. The product went on to win the award for Best New Sportsturf Product at the show.

This equates to one litre per hectare and compares with a typical requirement of 20-40 litres per hectare with other fungicides.

The chemistry of the product (which contains epoxiconazole and carben-dazam) enables far greater absorption into the turf, thereby requiring a greatly reduced concentration in application and thus less environmental impact. Capricorn has also been shown to have a positive effect on the beneficial fungus, Arbuscular mycorrhiza, particularly to turf grass.

The product is supplied in 250 ml packs with a measuring cap to ensure the correct dosage is applied. The low,



accurately measured dosage means greater accuracy in usage of the product, thereby making it a more cost efficient solution for fungicide treatment.

The lower volume required will also result in reduced transport, storage and disposal costs with the attendant environmental benefits.



Latest Shibaura tractors available from Farm and Garden Machinery

Farm and Garden Machinery showed the Shibaura ST 321 and 324 compact tractors with power assisted steering and four wheel drive.

The diesel engine has been designed to provide extreme efficiency with better combustion, cleaner emissions and reduced fuel consumption. Model ST321 has a 21hp engine and the ST324 a 24hp.

For operator comfort there are low noise and low vibration features and this tractor has been designed to balance rigidity and strength with light weight and easy maintenance.

True versatility is offered by the ST tractor models. They are compatible with a whole range of attachments which can be rear-mounted. If required, as an option there is also a hydraulic outlet on the side for out-front implements. From flail mowers,



rotary tillers, harrows, cultivators through to snow blowers – all can be harnessed to operate with this compact tractor.

Shibaura's ST tractor has a 20 litre fuel tank, lifting capacity of 669kg and can travel at a speed of from under 1 mph up to 9.97mph.

New combi-trailer from Lloyds puts an end to wet weather woes

Lloyds & Co Letchworth Ltd has launched the multi-purpose Greenline combi-trailer.

The machine can be used for a variety of tasks, from the maintenance of grass areas, including cutting and scarifying, to the collection of grass, leaves and wood chippings taking advantage of the high tipping and various size high capacity trailer available, thus saving the necessity and expense of having a dedicated machines for each task.

The unique design is based on the "building block principle" in that you decide which blocks and configuration you need to perform a specific task knowing that it will be carried out to a standard you would expect from a dedicated machine.

The combi-trailer is constructed



from high quality, hardwearing materials and this together with its low centre of gravity and variable track width, means it can be used

on difficult terrains and in all weather conditions. Bad weather will no longer be an excuse for work not being carried out!

Tigarake removes thatch with a real roar

The new Sisis Tigarake, hydraulic scarifier, has been designed for fast, effective thatch removal on bowling greens, lawn tennis courts, cricket squares, golf greens/tees/approaches, football pitches. The twin scarifying units have a working width of just over a metre.

The entire machine floats on a front roller, and each individual unit floats independently across the width of the machine. It therefore follows undulations maintaining depth of cut and eliminating scalping.

The Tigarake incorporates the Sisis Rotorake contra-rotation principle, whereby the blades rotate at high speed in the opposite direction to that of the conventional cylinder mower. The blades therefore cut upwards, continuously taking fibre away from the



surface and leaving a clean finish.

There is a high speed hydraulic motor on each unit while there are four interchangeable reels available: thatch removal reel; verticutting reel comprising close-pitched triangular blades

for light scarification during the growing season; brush reel to remove light surface debris and lift grasses prior to mowing; combined reel with thatch removal blades interspersed with brushes to remove thatch.

New Toro innovations revealed at Saltex

The new Groundsmaster 3500-D Sidewinder unveiled by Toro at SALTEX is an innovative rotary mower with cutting units that can be shifted to either side of the machine to provide an overhang for trimming grass edges such as bunker rims and fringes.

The GM 3500-Ds innovative cutting system comprises three individual, 27in floating rotary decks with front and rear rollers which follow ground contours to virtually eliminate scalping. The deck overlap configuration prevents grass streaks in turns and on banks.

Versatility is provided by an adjustable width of cut, which allows the machine to be set up for three different cutting widths - 68in, 70in and 72in - by simply changing a bolted assembly.

The Sidewinder system enables the decks to slide 12in left and right of centre. This provides a 12in overhang on either side of the mower at a 68in width of cut.



The GM 3500-D is designed to appeal to greenkeepers, grounds managers and landscape contractors. In golf, its use is primarily for surround mowing, trim work in roughs and striping around the clubhouse and other desirable areas.

The Toro GM 3500-D is fitted with a Kubota 35hp turbo diesel engine and has permanent three-wheel drive for both mowing and transport. Mowing speed is factory set at 6mph, but is adjustable, and the unit can travel at up to 9mph in transport.

The Toro Groundsmaster 4000-D is a lift rotary mower that is manoeuvrable and produces a high-quality cut.

On cutting performance, the focus is on the quality of cut, mowing capacity, ground following and after-cut dispersion of the clippings. Rear discharge decks are fitted for even dispersion of cuttings for a clean after-cut finish.

For cleaner cutting management and added safety, these can be converted by customers to Toro's Guardian Recycler design simply by bolting on baffles and kickers.

Excellent manoeuvrability has been achieved by Toro engineers through a combination of wheel tread width, wheel base and the positioning of the two wing decks.

Finally, to meet today's requirements for high operator comfort, ease of use and safety, the lift rotary utilises much of the driver's platform and controls of Toro's Groundsmaster 3000. This provides workers with excellent visibility for both cutting and transport operations.

The Toro Groundsmaster 4000-D is expected to be available in the UK next spring.

Richard Campey shows latest Koro developments

The latest developments from the Koro Design and Manufacturing Centre in Holland were shown for the first time, on the Richard Campey stand.

The Field Top Maker has given birth to a 'Mini' version for specific surface management work in tight areas. The Koro 120 FTM is a 1.2mtr version of the original FTM for use with compact tractors.

The working depth is easily adjusted by four micro screw jacks, enabling the machine to fraise mow, removing surface irregularities. Thatch layer and weak shallow rooted grasses can also be removed by further adjustment, leaving the roots of any good grass cultivars to quickly re-establish.

Material is removed by specially designed blades, direct onto a cross conveyor and elevator into a trailer running alongside the machine. The result is a level playing surface.

Home-grown success for BSH

A new UK-bred perennial ryegrass - the second home-produced cultivar to emerge from the British Seed Houses' turfgrass breeding programme at the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) - tops the 2001 STRI ryegrass listings for fine turf situations.

AberImp is a sister variety to AberElf - the first IGER-bred perennial ryegrass that still heads the STRI listings for winter sports pitches two years after its launch. AberElf has since become a firm favourite with UK turf producers and groundsmen and is firmly established on many pitches in the Carling Premiership. AberElf also forms part of the sward at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff and at Murrayfield.

Described by British Seed Houses as the ideal, low maintenance dual-purpose ryegrass, AberImp shares the wear tolerance attributes of AberElf with the added benefits of unrivalled shoot density and exceptional slow re-growth characteristics under regular mowing.

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Here is some of the debris that customers have shifted with their Turfmech

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Tough jobs are no problem for E-Z-GO

Appearing for the first time at SALTEX the Workhorse LX series from Textron is a range of dependable, multi-purpose E-Z-GO utility vehicles designed to handle the toughest jobs.

Each vehicle in the range includes an array of standard features including heavy duty bed liner with tailgate cover, differential protection guard, engine skid plate, fuel gauge or state of charge meter, halogen headlights, hour meter, trailer hitch and tubular steel bumpers. The Workhorse 800 LX features a 9hp, 295cc twin cylinder, air cooled overhead cam, petrol engine with automatic, continuous variable transmission forward and reverse and a payload of 363.2kg. The Workhorse 1000 LX is an electrically driven derivative with a 36-volt, DC high efficiency series motor with the capability to carry a payload of 454kg. Topping the range is the powerful Workhorse 1200 LX featuring an 11 hp, 350cc, air cooled overhead cam petrol engine and a payload of 544.8kg. The E-Z-GO Workhorse LX series provides the versatility required for a host of applications on golf courses, parks, leisure complexes, smallholdings, farms, woodland and amenity areas.

New Knife Rite from Bernhard & Co

The latest addition to Bernhard & Co's professional range of precision grinding equipment, is the Knife Rite 1000 bottom blade grinder with powerful 1 hp motor.

This bench-mounted grind machine is highly accurate and sharpens with speed, safety and simplicity. Capable of grinding bottom blades up to 40 inches long, the machine has a unique angle indicator device. Extremely easy to operate, it provides the convenience of an in-house grinding facility at a very affordable price.

Golf and sports clubs, local authorities, landscape contractors and schools with restricted resources can now undertake a regular programme of blade sharpening using Knife Rite 1000.

Used in tandem with the Express Dual 1000 cylinder grinder, turf can be maintained to higher standards with a cleaner cut.

Rolawn expansion

Rolawn Screened Topsoil is now available in full motor loads for delivery direct to site. Also available in 600 litre boxes, containing approximately one tonne of topsoil, from selected depots. The soil meets ICRCCL specification, is safe for use in domestic gardens and playing fields. Rolawn Soil Conditioner is 100% peat free, screened wood chip compost. Available in full 60 cubic metre loads.

It is light and easy to use, excellent for incorporation into soil when planting shrubs and trees. Both products join Rolawn's GroRight pre turfing/seeding fertiliser which came on to the market last year and has proved to be very successful.

John Deere range gets new additions

John Deere's F1145 front mower is now available with a 1.8m articulating rotary mower deck.

The new deck comprises three 63cm front rotary mowers. Wheels under each section ensure a constant deck weight. Cutting height is adjustable from 25 to 127mm in 6mm stages, and the mower can be set to side discharge or mulch as required.

The traction unit retains its heavy duty 27hp diesel engine and hydrostatic transmission, which are similar to those used in John Deere's compact utility tractor range. Dual pedal foot controls and power steering are standard, with cruise control available as an option.

In addition, a choice of two four wheel drive functions offers the operator increased traction for improved mowing performance. The new F1145 front mower with articulating deck costs £17,289.

The new John Deere 4700 compact tractor also had its UK launch at SALTEX 2000. Powered by a 48 gross hp diesel engine, the 4700 compact tractor provides the highest horsepower with hydrostatic transmission in its class. In addition to this transmission, developing 40hp at the pto, there is a standard hydraulic PowrReverser transmission with 24 forward and reverse gears, including creeper speeds, which develops 41.5 pto hp.

The reverser transmission allows the operator to change direction by flipping a lever without using the clutch, speeding up repetitive loader and front blade work for increased productivity. Twin Touch foot pedals on the hydrostatic version provide simple forward and reverse operation.

With the new John Deere 1620 wide area mower, large areas of grass with inclines, dips and other hard to reach places can be tackled.

It is based on the same traction unit as its stablemate, the 1600 wide area mower launched at BTME 2000. The 1620 has a 2.4m articulating rotary mower deck with 76cm wings that can mow undulating areas at a consistent height of cut. Operating at a speed of 6.5mph, the 1620 can easily cover over six acres per hour.



Envirosafe a boom for Gambetti UK

Keeping the spray away from the environment and all on the target was Gambetti UK's aim this year. The launch of the new ENVIROSAFE covered boom, with many extra safety features added as standard proved very successful not just for the UK but around Europe too.

Calibration and maintenance is made easy with the addition of a hydraulic ram which enables the entire boom to be tilted forward in order to provide open access to the nozzles. The operator can work safely on the underpart of the boom. This ram also allows the boom to be reversed up into tight corners and up

sloping ground without risk of damage to the canopies.

Triple jet nozzle bodies allow safe and quick changing of application rates. Underneath the canopy there are no wheels or bracing bars that could interfere with the spray pattern or become rusted with chemical or liquid fertiliser contamination.

The extra height in the canopy allows 110 deg fan angle jets to be used which give a more even coverage and eliminates the risk of striping. Billericy bubble jets can be fitted which carry the LERAP 3 star rating.

Gambetti hopes to have full production available in November.



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Last month, Matthew Baird, of Dukes GC, St Andrews, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

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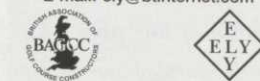
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The Club Secretary, Mrs M Scott, Gillingham Golf Course,
Woodlands Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 2AP

Applications by 27 October 2000



WELWYN GARDEN CITY GOLF CLUB LIMITED
Mannicotts, High Oaks Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL5 7BP
Telephone 01707 325243 (Office) 01707 322722 (Clubhouse) 01707 325525 (Pro Shop) Fax 01707 393212

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With a maximum of 675 members for 36 holes, Joyenval is one of the most prestigious private clubs in France.

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Mr Antoine Ferran, General Manager, Golf de Joyenval,
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Start date: 2 January 2001

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Gordon House, Littlemead, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8ND

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ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

5 FULL TIME GREENKEEPERS

Sandy McDivot examines the issue of quality, and finds that one man's quality can be the epitome of bad taste to another...

Quality assured?

Quality is a highly subjective issue. What is it, who decides it, what factors determine it? One man's quality can be the epitome of bad taste to someone else. To illustrate, let me describe an experience I had recently with my nearest and dearest when we were invited to take over her mother's bed and breakfast establishment for a week while she sunned herself on some remote Caribbean island.

An initial briefing session was set up whereby she indoctrinated us on the ways of the landlady. Breakfast, which consisted of fried bacon-flavoured grease with a bake bean garnish was at 7am to 8am and the "guests" were to be out by 9 o'clock.

I kid you not when I say that hot water was unavailable to one side of the house unless a fire was lit in the living room. Needless to say the decadent practice of fire lighting was all but abolished due to the prohibitive cost of wood and this resulted in the guests having to boil a kettle to carry out their morning ablutions. The central heating I later found out was programmed to come on for about five minutes at night and a slightly shorter duration in the morning. This particular extravagance was I concluded, essential due to it being just sufficient to thaw out the ice that would form inside the toilet during periods of inclement weather. The taking of a shower in the morning would have contravened international laws on human rights.

Having turned on the bathroom light (I never knew you could buy 10 watt bulbs), removed the dozens of articles of clothing (essential if one was to keep the body core temperature from slipping below the critical level at night) one was faced with a shower that looked to be some sort of Victorian prototype. Turning on the tap would result in an immediate and prolonged wailing noise accompanied by a violent shuddering of the entire house. About a minute later and some brown liquid would slowly ooze from the showerhead. The water temperature would then randomly and instantaneously fluctuate between that which is found beneath polar ice caps and something akin to

super heated steam capable of removing several layers of skin tissue. It was just as well so little water was exuded from this ghastly contraption as the shower door was falling off its hinges anyway.

The entire establishment which appeared to be modelled on one of Joseph Stalin's 1950's Siberian political correction institutions, would have made 17th century puritans recoil in horror. The only organisms that felt at home in this place were the thermophilic bacteria that lived in among the 20-year-old layer of encrusted gunge on the frying pans.

Yet despite all this, the punters were queuing up to get in. To me, it was reminiscent of the hostelry found in a certain Hitchcock movie, yet to them it was the height of luxury, a home from home that they were desperate to sample on a regular basis. Pitiful cries of anguish would be emitted when late arrivals were summarily refused entry. To them the word "quality" had a different derivation. To this day I cannot understand it, yet who am I to say they are wrong and I am right.

I have often felt many art critics have a perception of quality that is to be found in a different part of the solar system to the rest of us. To me, an unmade bed, a crude reworking of a Buster Keaton sketch or half a pickled cow does not even constitute art, yet to them they are worthy of prolonged and gushing praise followed by an international award or two. Call me cynical but I feel sure that had I included one of the above in my CSE art efforts all those years ago it would not have significantly improved my resultant grade 5.

But then who am I to argue. I have not spent years studying the subject; I have not the keen intellect or the expert analytical eye that they have at their disposal. I readily acknowledge their superiority on the subject and if these representations can give genuine pleasure to the onlooker then I accept the conviction of the art critic unconditionally and embrace them as great works of art.

But being a greenkeeper I do have authoritative knowledge on one issue. I am, I believe, eminently qual-

ified to give an expert opinion on one particular composition produced by the skilled artisan. In fact at the risk of conceit, I believe my qualifications for in depth analysis of a particular topic is equalled only by a tiny minority of people on this planet. That subject I am sure you have surmised, is the quality of a golf green and the tiny minority I referred to are other greenkeepers.

It is only greenkeepers who can look at a golf green and from the outward appearance at the surface can tell exactly what is going on underneath. Only a greenkeeper can look at a green in the summer and predict with extreme accuracy what condition it will be in during the winter. Only a greenkeeper can tell what the root development is like, how much and what kind of disease is suffered, even the quantities and type of fertiliser that has been applied.

Personally speaking, and in common with many of my colleagues, I have a strong preference for the more traditional style of green. My particular version of Da Vinci's Mona Lisa is a surface that is pale green with a hint of brown in the summer, while in the winter it is pale green with a hint of brown. At all times it is firm with minimal thatch and a tight sward composed principally of bent and fescue grasses. Fertiliser input would be negligible, disease practically non-existent, rooting deep and it would have a wear resistance capable of withstanding all out nuclear attack. That is not to say I have achieved this particular masterpiece myself but I live in hope.

The problem is, my interpretation of the word "quality" when applied to a golf green does not always coincide with that of golfers. I once remember asking a golfing friend of mine what he thought of the quality of the greens at a highly prestigious golf course he had recently played. "Oh, they were quite superb" he informed me. "They were lush and green and when you walked on them your shoes would sink in leaving water filled footprints that would slowly spring back up." Now to me I would find such greens to be physically repulsive but in this case, due

to my credentials I am able to argue with complete authority that my version of a golf green in Utopia was correct while his was entirely erroneous.

Unfortunately though, and in common with many golfers, he was not offering an opinion on the greens but making what he considered to be a statement of fact. Based on the dual principal that he could occasionally hit a golf ball in the rough vicinity of the target and that he was playing a golf course acknowledged to be of exceptional quality he concluded that he was fully qualified to make such a statement. To him the greens in question were of a quality that was highly desirable and he wanted to know when my greens would be of a comparable standard. I however took the stance of the art critic talking to the philistine and was able to point out the gross error of his ways. The greens I suggested, far from being admirable, were in fact artificial, horrifically

bumpy, diseased and unplayable for most of the winter, inordinately expensive to maintain, environmentally unsound and teetering on total demise whenever hotter than average weather was encountered. I also pointed out that their softness would negate all strategic elements painstakingly designed into the golf course. After all, there is no point in having a shrewdly placed greenside bunker if the green has all the characteristics of a green blancmange. Anyone can lob a mid iron over the offending object from heavy rough and still get it to stop within a couple of feet so what is the point in having the bunker there in the first place. It ceases to have any influence on how to play the preceding shot.

You might as well have that deranged individual from "Home Front in the Garden" design the course for all the subtlety you would need with greens like that. I ask you, would Tiger Woods with his supreme golfing brain have so dominated our Open Championship at St Andrews if Eddie Adams' greens had the receptive qualities of a plum duff? Well yes, he probably would have, but you get my point don't you?

However, to be fair, I do believe that most golfers do appreciate true quality when they finally encounter it. Just recently a popular golf magazine ran a piece on courses that they considered were in possession of the finest greens in the country. Listed were several leading courses and I am delighted to report that all of them were maintained in that traditional British way that produces a golf green

we, the greenkeeper, so admire. Yes, all of the courses mentioned had greens that were firm, true, fast and consistent whatever the time of year and surprise, surprise not a USGA spec among them. But we don't want to dig that old chestnut up again, do we?

So I say to all my fellow greenkeepers out there, if you are getting some serious abuse of the acoustic nerve then remember, you are the expert and they the layman. You are the respected art critic, they the student. You are the connoisseur while they are the apprentice. So argue your case from the position of complete authority that your knowledge bestows upon you ... in the nicest possible way of course.

Sandy McDivot,
Head Greenkeeper,
Sludgecombe Pay and Play



Feature listing from October '98

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

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, Toro profile, BIGGA Silent Auction

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

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

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

November '99: Sir Michael Bonalack interview; The Pines GC; Oil; Bunkers; National Championship review

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Looking to the future



Well it was nice to have a bit of a respite in August, not so much going on in the 'BIGGA' world.

One event I did attend, along with John Crawford (Past Chairman) who was representing the Scottish Region, was a Forum held by the Scottish Golf Union under the title 'Scottish Golf Development Initiative'. The aim was to bring together all the bodies involved in golf in Scotland to look at and discuss ways of developing the game of golf in Scotland. There were so many ideas put forward that if even a percentage of them come to fruition it would help the development of the game. Golf in Schools, family memberships in clubs, better facilities for practise, especially for Juniors, more 9-hole courses, short game golf for children, assist clubs to run themselves as businesses, promote clubs in a better light and in conjunction with tourism sell ourselves. These were just some of the ideas that came from a wide spectrum of the golf fraternity in Scotland.

One of the interesting points about this forum was that BIGGA was invited to send a representative as one of the main bodies interested in golf. Until recently a forum like this would have been held with no representation from greenkeepers, even though greenkeepers are probably more affected by the growth of golf and the prosperity of clubs than anyone else. After all it is our livelihood and usually the largest number of employees at any club are the greenstaff.

One little aside at the forum was when, at a break, I was asked what BIGGA stood for. This was from a senior representative of a national golfing body. I knew what their Association was all about why didn't they know us. This brought home to me how insular some of these bodies are and also how much work we still have to do at BIGGA to be recognised on a par with them.

However, that aside, this was a positive and interesting two days, bringing together of views on how to expand and develop golf into the new century and I congratulate the Scottish Golf Union for this and I look forward to BIGGA being involved in future meetings.

It was annoying reading Tracey's report in the August issue about the abuse of membership cards for courtesy golf. I know it's a very small minority, but there are always some rotten eggs in the basket who are only looking to take advantage for purely selfish reasons. So don't hold back if you know of any abuse of our card, report them it could be you who can't get a game at a club because they have refused courtesy to greenkeepers.

I have just returned from Saltex where we were lucky with the weather. One heavy shower on Wednesday was the only glitch in the show. I was asked to be one of the stand judges on the Tuesday morning and what a hard job that is. I'm glad I had someone else with me to bounce our thoughts off each other. However we survived with no threats and no bribes... well I don't think cups of coffee count as bribes. One thing for sure our staff were kept busy. Tracey had numerous enquiries and questions about membership, with quite a lot of forms going out, and the sales and marketing team must have had sore feet after all their walking, as they made contact with customers, sponsors and advertisers old and new. I spent three hours solid going round with Steve Hardy talking to many companies. Tell you what, give me a job on the course any day! Anyway I would like to say well done to all the staff there for their hard work.

By the time this is published most of us will probably have finished our autumn renovation work or at least be well through it. Scarifying, hollow coring, micro coring, verti draining, top

dressings, overseeding - we will all be doing all or some of these tasks. Hopefully we will have had some reasonable weather to get them done and with decent temperatures we will go into the winter season in good health.

This is how I see it now, no longer can we talk about "The Playing Season", meaning April to September. The demands for play are so great now that to my mind we have two seasons - Summer and Winter - and we have to prepare for both. It has been interesting recently to talk to more and more who have been able to hollow core greens in August. Usually during a quiet two weeks when their members are on holiday, they have raved about their green's recovery rate, and are now going into the winter season in fine condition.

This is something we should all consider and start working towards. I know, your club will never wear it. Well I can assure you that is what these other clubs said, "If you don't ask, you'll never get". Find out if someone near you has done it, and use them as an example and make your request as professional as possible.

All you need to do is convince your green committee, not the whole club. If they won't go for it as a whole, ask to try nine greens or six or three or even one (always start high) next year. Once they have seen the recovery rate as compared with late September or October and the ensuing benefits they will be convinced for the next year.

Finally I would like to extend a warm welcome to Meredith Foster who has joined the Sales and Marketing team in place of Jenny, and also to Brad Anderson, who is taking Janine's place as Receptionist/Trainee Clerical Assistant.

I hope they will both enjoy their time with us.

In the July issue I did not finish with a quote. I'd like to thank those people who asked me why as it made me realise that someone does read this article. This month I have to thank one of my assistants, Mark Gardner, for the following

**Don't bask in
yesterday's glory**

S. A. R. Small

"I WISH WE HAD..."

"...a set of THATCH-AWAY verticutters.
I've never seen anything work like they did,
when we had them on demonstration!"



"Next, I'd get an EASY-LOAD trailer.
It would save hours of back ache when we're top dressing..."



"...and the GREENS GROOMER
is incredible for rubbing it in.
We had one of those on demo too"



"Then the TRUE-SURFACE
vibratory rollers are ideal for
finishing off after aerating and top
dressing. They keep the greens
true through the winter as well."



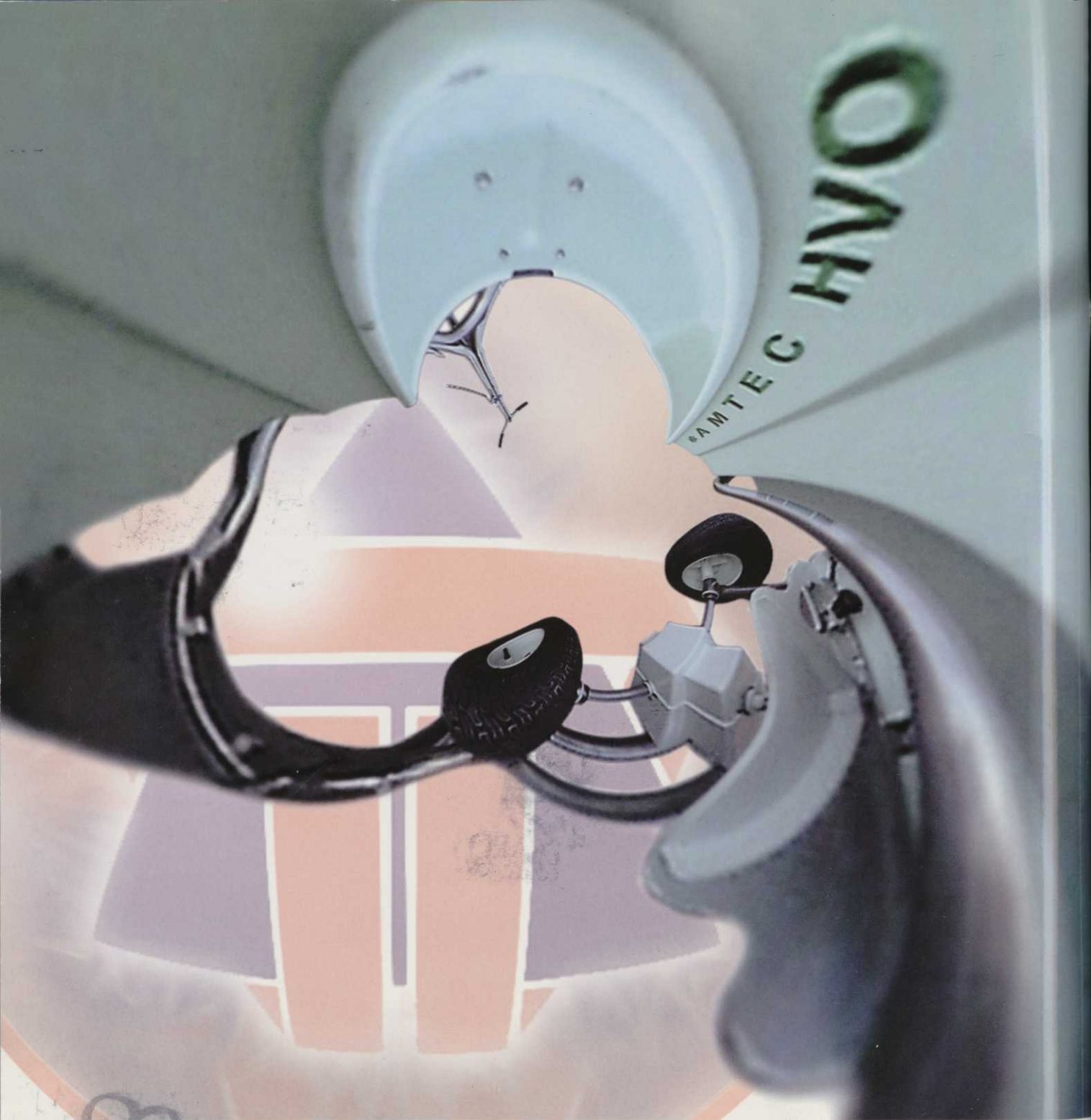
"plus, if we had a MAXI-BRUSH,
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