



September 2000 – £3.50

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



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ireland
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IRISH HEADLAND

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Greenkeeper

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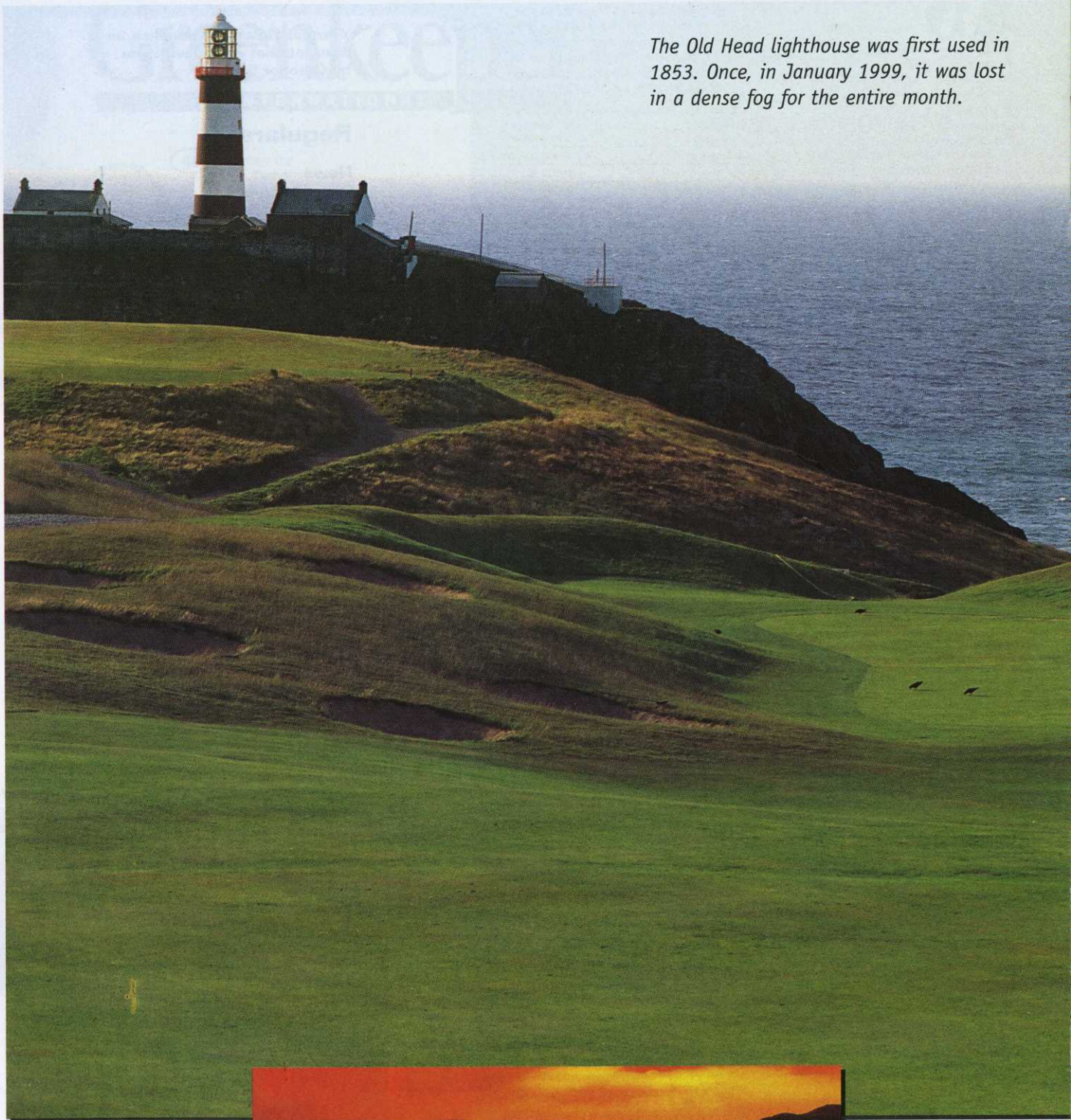
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The Old Head lighthouse was first used in 1853. Once, in January 1999, it was lost in a dense fog for the entire month.

Open only since the summer of 1997, Old Head Golf Links in Kinsale, Ireland is already ranked as one of the top 100 facilities in the world.



NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE



A guide to who's who at BIGGA

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September 2000

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Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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31 Simon Says...

A degree of accuracy?

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, wrote recently of his concerns regarding "vacuous" degree courses that are now being offered by nation's universities and colleges, describing them as "quasi-academic degrees".

To highlight his point he listed some of the prime culprits - Knitwear, Media Studies, Beauty Therapy and Pig Enterprise Management. However, the degree course with which he chose to launch his list was Golf Course Management.

He followed this up, in the article printed in The Sunday Times, by adding:- "what is the point of students completing a course only to find that their degree adds little or nothing to their career prospects".

The comments were jumped on by the media and other courses were soon lumped in among those initially mentioned including Madonna Studies, Beer making, Contemporary Circus and Stand-Up Comedy.

It gave the opinion shapers of the day the chance to mount their soap boxes and have a pop. Ruth Lea, the Head of Policy at the Institute of Directors, commented that employers had given these degrees the real thumbs down.

"What is worrying about many of these degrees is that they don't give specific skills and they are not even particularly academically rigorous," she announced to the press.

In fairness to Chris Woodhead, in general terms the point he was making had some validity. While ideal for evening classes, hobbies should have little place as full blown degree courses.

However, I would hope that given time to reflect on his comments he might feel that Golf Course Management should be excluded from the shamed list.

I don't know if Chris Woodhead is a golfer but I'd wager that he has little idea of what is taught on a Golf Course Management Course. If he did he would know that it includes Plant Biology and Physiology; Turf Grass Microbiology and Horticultural Biotechnology and that students are prepared for the monumental demands that are placed on the modern day Golf Course Manager.

All are academically taxing subjects and prepare the student for the rigours of the outside world. Students who have completed such courses can command healthy salaries from golf clubs and look forward to long and rewarding careers. In fact the courses represent everything that a modern degree course should.

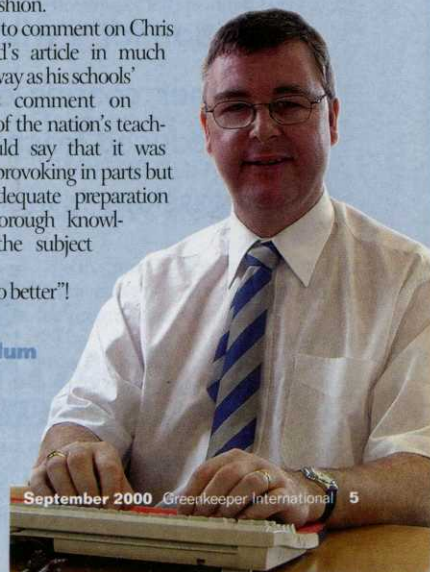
Let's face it, many traditional degree courses don't exactly offer a direct route into the employment market. How many jobs for Fine Art Critics or Mediaeval Historians do you see advertised in Job Centres?

The whole affair is yet another example of those with limited knowledge jumping to conclusions that people who work on golf courses do little more than cut grass and empty litter bins. It can only be damaging for green-keeping's educational courses to be derided in such a cavalier fashion.

If I were to comment on Chris Woodhead's article in much the same way as his schools' inspectors comment on the work of the nation's teachers I would say that it was "thought provoking in parts but lacking adequate preparation and a thorough knowledge of the subject matter."

"Must do better!"

Scott MacCallum
Editor



THE SECRET OF STRONGER TURF



Tel: 01799 530146 Fax: 01799 530229

Top environmental award for BIGGA

BIGGA's contribution to Environmental Best Practice 2000 was recognised at the national Green Apple Awards ceremony in London. The gold award was made in recognition of the Association's development of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition and its commitment to advancing the message of environmental responsibility and stewardship to greenkeepers, golfers and trade companies. The award also recognises BIGGA's positive impact in environmental matters on both the general and environmental media.

This is an appropriate time therefore to recognise again the vision of Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone, in originally establishing this competition in 1995. Since 1997 we have worked with Rod in promoting the competition which he remains totally committed to developing. Entries from golf clubs continue to rise each year and there is undoubtedly a growing national awareness of the competition which is leading to a much greater understanding of the positive aspects of golf clubs in terms of protecting the environment.

We should also recognise the major contribution which is made by Bob Taylor, Senior Ecologist for the STRI, and Dr Keith Duff, Chief Scientist of English Nature, as the competition judges. Their expertise and professional approach has done much to establish the credibility of the competition since 1995.

This year's Golf Environment Competition is again supported by Amazone, together with the R&A, and we thank them for their backing and recognition of the value of this competition.



BIGGA Chairman Elliott Small receives the Gold Green Apple Award 2000 at a presentation ceremony in The Cafe Royale, London.

Within BIGGA we will continue to develop awareness of environmental issues relevant to golf courses and promote the adoption of best practice guidelines. BIGGA will continue to stimulate action and debate in relation to the 'Committed to Green' initiative. While taking pleasure in receiving this national award there is a realisation within BIGGA that there is still much work to be done in envi-

ronmental matters. We need to be vigilant of the anti-golf brigade and seek to ever increase public awareness of the positive impact of golf courses as well as highlight to the conservation bodies that golf can be an acceptable land use providing valuable wildlife corridor habitat throughout the countryside.

Neil Thomas

Centenary idea for BIGGA Library

As you all know BIGGA has a large and growing library of books in BIGGA HOUSE, ranging from those of a general golfing nature through to more educational technical tomes.

On the suggestion of senior Scottish member, Cecil George, we would like those members whose clubs are about to celebrate a centenary, or have done so recently, to send in a copy of their club centenary book so that a new section can be made in the BIGGA library.

If you wish to make a contribution please send your book to BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF so it can become part of the Association's library.

Ernest Doe are awarded Textron franchise deal

Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd has been awarded the Textron Turf Care & Specialty Products franchise for East and West Sussex following the withdrawal by SCATS from the groundscape sector.

The company began operating from the former SCATS groundscape division premises at Frenches Corner in Billingshurst at the beginning of August.

This move establishes Ernest Doe and Sons Ltd as the largest Textron dealer in the UK with a total of 16 branches throughout East Anglia and South East England.

TH White Ltd, Textron's dealer based at Tetbury in Gloucestershire and with a branch at Reading in Berkshire, will take over the remaining SCATS territory that includes Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Peter Bell, Sales Director at Textron, commenting on the reallocation of territories said,

"I am particularly delighted that Ernest Doe & Sons and TH White have been able to step in and very swiftly provide a continuity of service to our customer base in Sussex and Hampshire. These are two of our premier dealers with established reputations in all aspects of groundscape and I am confident that they will provide exceptional levels of service in their new territories."

Turfgrass science information offered via new website

Penn State's Center for Turfgrass Science recently developed a web site for programme information.

The site contains educational programme information, research reports, outreach activities and faculty, staff, and graduate student contact information. The site address is <http://www.agronomy.psu.edu/>

BIGGA smashes the 7,000 barrier

007 is the most famous number in spying but in BIGGA the most long awaited number has been 7,000.

James Bond will always be 007 but 7,000 will now forever be the number connected to Kevin Dinsdale, of Northumberland Golf Club, who became BIGGA's 7,000th member.

"I must admit I was shocked to learn the news," said 39-year-old Kevin.

"I was going to join years ago but never got round to it, but I'm delighted that my timing has made me the 7,000th member," he explained.

His Head Greenkeeper, Gordon Proudfoot, was instrumental in keeping BIGGA in the forefront of Kevin's mind but it was only when Northern Regional Administrator, Doug Bell, paid a courtesy visit to the club and left the appropriate form that it pushed Kevin into sending in what turned out to be the lucky membership application form.

To mark the historic occasion Kevin was presented with a refund of his



Kevin Dinsdale (left) with his Course Manager, Gordon Proudfoot

membership cheque as well as a box of BIGGA logoed clothing, while Gordon was given a set of BIGGA videos and books for the club's use.

"I'm definitely going to remain a

member of BIGGA as the benefits make it really worthwhile," said Kevin, who is going to use some of his refunded money to buy Newcastle United's new away strip.

Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Initiative

The Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Initiative used The Open Championship at St Andrews as the ideal opportunity to spread the word about some of its recently launched projects.

"The reason we are distributing this information to a range of golfing, environmental and general media is in response to recent misinformed criticism of golf courses and their environmental impact," explained Senior Golf Course Advisor, Jonathan Smith.

"Particularly in Scotland, there has been much press and radio coverage recently, which has portrayed golf course management and development in a negative light. A great deal of this has been based on assumption and misunderstanding of how golf courses are managed, and the potential golf courses provide to protect and enhance the environment."

The pack which was distributed is designed to raise awareness among the media, and resultantly the wider public of the positive role golf courses can play in the environment, and the efforts currently being made by both the golfing and environmental sectors to make this positive situation continue.

Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Initiative, a partnership of golfing and environmental organisations funded by the Scottish Golf Union, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Greenbelt Foundation.

Further information can be obtained from Jonathan at The Scottish Golf course Wildlife Group, The Stables, Dalkeith Country Park, Midlothian, EH22 2NA Tel: 0131 660 9480 Email: scotgolf.wildlife@virgin.net

Support for Support Team



BIGGA's Open Championship Greenkeeping Support Team at St. Andrews this year were smartly turned out in polo shirts, caps and fleeces from BIGGA's logoed Slazenger range. The fleeces were sponsored by Rigby Taylor which are now available to all BIGGA greenkeepers through a product purchase incentive scheme which the company is running until October. The fleece makes a practical work wear garment for use around the golf course. Alan Halfyear, of Rother Valley Golf Centre and a member of the 2000 Support Team, is seen modelling the fleece in one of the Old Course's notorious bunkers.

John receives a surprise presentation

John Philp, Links Superintendent at Carnoustie's Golf Courses recently received his MBE for services to golf at Buckingham Palace and a couple of days later received a surprise presentation from his greenkeeping staff down on the golf course, writes Terry MacCallum

Championship Course Foreman, John Beattie, explained that the staff had got together and, using many of John Philp's most quoted phrases, had compiled a poem to mark his honour from the Queen as well as his achievements with the Carnoustie Courses.

"The poem was devised by the boys," he said.

The verses were superimposed on a computer-generated picture of John standing alongside James Braid, a five-times Open winner, who looked after the courses in the 1920s.

The framed poem was handed over at a surprise ceremony at the 10th hole.

John also received a presentation bottle of malt whisky and a cake, suitably decorated with a golfing theme. His wife Helen was also invited and was presented with a bouquet.

John said that the whole thing had come as a complete surprise, but confessed that the ceremony on the golf course on which he and his colleagues work so hard meant more to him than the visit to Buckingham Palace.

"But at least I knew I was going to Buckingham Palace," he quipped. "I knew nothing about all this."

His wife, Helen, added, "This means so much more when it comes from his own staff, the people he is with all the time."

When asked if the staff would be tasting the cake, John said that he thought they might have an early finish in order to sample it - which prompted several of his greenkeepers to question whether he had already been sampling the whisky!

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-holes course, 9-holes par 3 course and Academy, recently opened by Trevor Brooking, Chairman of the Sports Council.

The golf centre has been re-designed by Swan Golf Designs, golf course architects, to add to The Old Harry Colt designed course with a refurbished short course and a custom designed area with chipping and bunker practice complexes and a three tier putting green set to test all kinds of player with greatly varying abilities.

The project has been a partnership between The Local Authority and The Sports Lottery Fund who contributed nearly £400,000 towards the cost of the works, undertaken by John Greasley. Tees and bunkers throughout have been re-designed to allow access for disabled players and wheelchairs.



Gallacher opens new Oatridge course



Former Ryder Cup Captain, Bernard Gallacher, opened Oatridge College's new 9-hole golf course. He is seen here at the course pictured with Head Greenkeeper Andrew Forrest.

Gem Pro Invitation Tournament



John Davidson, Course Manager of Gatton Manor Hotel, Golf & Country Club, must be some sort of a masochist. Not only did his course play host to the Surrey Section at the end of June but at the beginning of August he found himself presenting a course to another 70 greenkeepers who this time were guests of Gem Professional. At the after dinner prize presentations Clive Pearson, Gem Professional Sales Manager, paid tribute to John and Gatton Manor for making such a contribution to a great day. John did have a consolation, he was good enough to score 35 points to come second on the day just beating his ex Deputy Tony Breiner on countback and pick up a prize! The winner was Nigel Colley (Roehampton G.C.) with 38 points. Nigel is pictured second from left together with his team who also won the Team Prize. Apart from the condition of the course, the organisation and the wonderful meal, there can be no doubt as to the highlight of the day. "Dangerous Dave" Delderfield completing more than 9 holes! Derek Farrington

Top award for Reaseheath student

Reaseheath College greenkeeping student, Adrian Moss, has recorded an outstanding achievement in a City & Guilds qualification.

Adrian, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Shrewsbury Golf Club, has been awarded a Silver Medal for Excellence for his work at NVQ Level 3 in Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance.

The award is the highest accolade possible and Adrian was the only greenkeeper in the north-west to be selected as a prizewinner. The works of 205 students nationwide from different types of industry were chosen for special distinction.

Adrian has attended Reaseheath College in Nantwich one day each week, basing his academic studies on the practical duties he carries out at his workplace.

Greenkeeping lecturer, Martin Smith, said: "Adrian is typical of the quality of student attracted here. I am delighted that his high standard of work has been recognised."



Adrian Moss receives his Silver Medal from Dr Nick Carey (right) watched by his Course Manager Robbie Konieczka (left)

Adrian, of Minsterley, Shrewsbury, said: "It was a great honour to be awarded a Silver Medal. I enjoyed the course and I feel that education is always a bonus."

Shrewsbury Golf Club Greens

Chairman Graham Pennie stressed: "Our club has a high commitment to education. Over the past two years our golf course has benefited tremendously from the training which our staff have received."

Training scheme success for British Seed Houses

Customers of British Seed Houses can now claim over £3000 worth of free training thanks to the success of the company's Grade A Club launched at BTME earlier this year.

Turfgrass professionals who join the club are able to build up training credits based on the value of Grade A seed business done with the company. Partners in the scheme include BIGGA, IOG, STRI and LANTRA and the credits generated can only be redeemed for training courses and materials available from these organisations.

Club members also gain access to a discounted soil analysis service from IGER.

British Seed Houses' Director Simon Taylor said that the company had been delighted by the response to the scheme since its launch at BTME.

"The club has proved to be extremely popular with groundsmen, greenkeepers and professionals employed within the landscape industry. Membership is growing at over 40 registrations per month and by the end of June our customers had amassed at least £3000-worth of training credit. They can now start to use this credit – or keep building it up – to help fund training courses and educational materials from our four partners," he said

Successful Open Day for Scottish Grass Machinery

An Open Day at Scottish Grass Machinery brought in £100,000 worth of new orders as well as proving an ideal opportunity to benefit from some customer feedback.

"It was our most successful open day yet. Among the invited guests was Neil Woodfin, the new Marketing Director of Textron Turfcare Specialty Products who came along to our new premises in Inverkeithing along with over 60 local authority customers representing 25 of the 32 local authorities. I think it is important to bring our customers face-to-face with manufacturers to give them feedback on the products the buy or hire," said Managing Director, David McInroy.

Neil was delighted with the feedback he got in Inverkeithing.

"The main points I picked up on from customers were that due to cuts in local government budgets, the number of times council grass is cut every year has been significantly reduced. This means they may need different machines to meet this change," said Neil.

The open day was also supported by Scottish Grass Machinery's other manufacturing partners: Renault, IPU/Ferris, Wiedenmann, GreenMech Chippers, GambettiBarre Sprayers and Victa.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



The new Chief Executive of the STRI is a man who combines a fine scientific mind with a keen business brain. He is also well known to a great many BIGGA members...

STRIVING TO BE THE BEST



Gordon McKillop joined the STRI having spent 22 years working for the Central Science Laboratory, in York, the last eight as initially, Science Manager, and more recently the Commercial Business Strategy Manager.

It was during the last five years that he became involved with BIGGA working with Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, in the devising and delivering of a series of Control of Mammals courses throughout the BIGGA Regions.

"I built up a very good relationship with BIGGA and through that wrote sections for books written by Bob Taylor,

sory work or knowing what is involved in winning a research contract, delivering it and following it up afterwards," said Gordon, speaking at a meeting organised to give him the chance to meet some of the local and industry press.

"Having this background gives me credibility with the staff and with the large number of clients with whom we are involved," explained Gordon, among whose accomplishments is the development of grids to prevent rabid rats and foxes using the Channel Tunnel to enter the UK.

His more recently acquired business skills, he gained an MBA from Henley

to a more structured approach to work.

"The way I would see things going eventually is that each area of the STRI's business will be given a strategic thrust. We'll look at what we hope to develop over the next few years. But at the same time having an element of serendipity about the whole thing so that if people see interesting areas that have potential for development they are free to follow them. This would be rather than the other way round with things going forward serendipitously with the odd strategic branch.

"People here are bright and intelligent and know what they are doing and I want to encourage them to seek opportunities that we can develop but not rush off at tangents. We want to do them in a considered manner bearing in mind what the implications would be for the main strategy," he explained.

He is also keen to find out why people go to the STRI in the first place and learn a little more about the Institute's competitors.

"I want to find out what they are doing and how we can differentiate ourselves from them. The advisory areas are becoming much more competitive than they once were."

There will be no quick fixes at Bingley, however, and seasoned observers looking for radical changes in the outward appearance of the Institute in the immediate aftermath of Gordon's appointment may draw blanks.

"I'm worried about bringing in things piece meal and I'd rather take a steady look forward in the way we develop these plans. I'd certainly hope that by the end of the year things are beginning

to develop and it may be more of the same, it may be less of the same. But certainly within that period I'd be looking to make internal changes in terms of improving communications; looking at the way staff are training and looking at the internal links between different parts of the organisation.

"So initially more changes will take place internally affecting the staff rather than externally."

He is hoping that his scientific expertise will not be left to rust and he has already discussed various projects to look at wildlife on golf courses compared with adjoining agricultural land with Bob Taylor, the STRI's Senior Ecologist.

"Golf has a bad image but there is no science to justify it so we are looking at it from an experimental perspective," he revealed.

Gordon's ultimate aim, he calls it his Holy Grail, is to have the research and advisory sides of the STRI working in such a way that they are creating work for each other.

"I want to make sure that the information we get from the "Good of Sport" research, funded by bodies like the R&A and the Football Association, goes out to our advisors and they use it and that the advisors, in turn, see problems and issues arising out on golf courses that could benefit from research and that they come back and advise the research staff who then submit research proposals to the funding bodies. That's my Holy Grail. To make sure that all elements are working together and feeding back to one another," explained Gordon, who is a 48-year-old native of Glasgow.

I think it would be very difficult to do this job without a research and advisory background

the STRI's Senior Ecologist. Thanks to that I got to know Mike Canaway (his predecessor as STRI Chief Executive) and when I considered applying for the job I went to various people to discuss what their perceptions were of the Institute.

"The feeling I came away with was that it had a very diverse business, a very professional staff, it gave value for money and that there was considerable potential to develop the service.

He is confident that his strong scientific background will be a huge asset in his new post.

"I think it would be very difficult to do this job without a research and advisory background - without really knowing what's involved in doing advi-

Management College, enabled him to attract income while at the Central Science Laboratory and he is confident those same skills will be of great benefit in his time in Bingley.

"Having spent my first month getting to know the staff I'm now at the stage of finding out how the business works and deciding upon the various options for developing it. Once we have done this I will develop implementation plans to take them forward in conjunction with staff and those involved in the wider industry.

"I'm looking at sensible controlled expansion," he added.

He is currently working on developing a business plan for the Institute while he is keen to marry staff initiative

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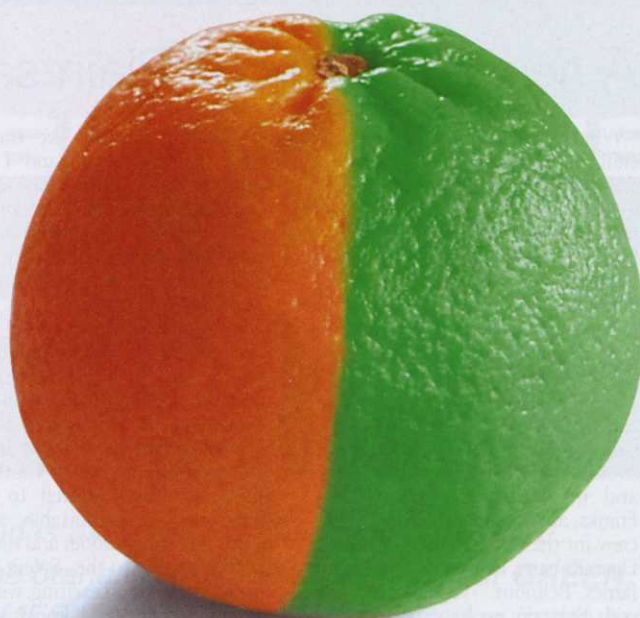
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Open thanks 1

Could I take this opportunity to thank the BIGGA Support Team for their assistance during the 2000 Open.

The bunkers were presented to the highest standard I have seen throughout the competition and it was a vital factor in the presentation of the course and the success of the championship.

I hope that you enjoyed your time at St Andrews and that the bunkers were not too deep for the elderly members of the Support Team!

Once again thanks,

**Eddie Adams, Head Greenkeeper
Old Course**

Open thanks 2

Just a quick line to thank you very much for another superb week at The Open Championship. It was once again such a privilege to represent the Association at the best golf event in the world.

To be there alone is so exciting and such an honour. This year I was even more lucky and fortunate to get some "cracking" matches, including Lee Trevino's final round. An experience I will never forget.

**Roger Clark, Course Manager,
The Bedfordshire Golf Club**

Retirement wish

I would like to bring to the attention of fellow greenkeepers and to the companies that I have dealt with while I have been at the Phoenix Sports and Social Club, that at the end of this month, I have decided to call it a day and retire, due to ill health and personal reasons.

In the 37 years that I have been in the Greenkeeping/Groundsman business, (fourteen at Phoenix) I have made a lot of good friends, especially the reps from the companies. So to Mike Brears and Brian Booth, Rigby Taylor; Andy Crowther, Glenside Organics; Peter Fell, Aitkens; Mike Shepherd, Vitax; Robert Bone, Supaturf; Les Purdsy, who was always ready for a laugh and a joke and my good friend, Glen Sawyer, of South Yorkshire Groundcare Ltd. To these people I say a big thank you to you all.

As I retire from the work that I have always loved and known no other, I wish everyone in the trade, the best of health and to the guys who are hanging in there because you think the place will fold up if you leave, don't kid yourself - please fellas don't leave it too late.

Yours forever in the green stuff,

Keith Riley

The end of a nightmare?

Your dramatic account of the unusual accident at Westhill Golf Course some six years ago finally resulting in a Civil Court hearing last November provides interesting reading.

Notwithstanding, it is difficult to believe that the drama expressed as the "Head Greenkeeper's Nightmare" ever existed! From the day the club lady member decided to take Court Action I have no doubts whatsoever that the Club Committee informed the Head Greenkeeper that both his job and the costs arising from the case would be fully covered. I can not conceive that the Head Greenkeeper could have been left to worry about these serious matters for a period of six years. In short there was no "Nightmare" - and perhaps no dream? Unless, of course, you have paid him handsomely for your story.

More seriously, it is worth recalling that the injured lady left the course with her playing partner immediately after the accident occurred. Some four days later, after hospitalisation, she returned to the course to search for the stone which she convinced herself her ball had struck. How anyone else could

accept that she found the actual stone must be a matter of some doubt.

Perhaps the bringing of the case in the first place was another example of the over hyped TV advertising "NO WIN, NO PAY" complex with which the country is now saddled.

Some three decades back a much more interesting and serious case occurred when a Golf Club Captain lost an eye when struck by a golf ball driven by another committee member/friend.

There were two foursomes playing on adjacent fairways parallel to each other and running in opposite directions with a narrow area of rough separating the two fairways. When one of the foursomes was driving off their tee the other foursome was some 260 yards away walking as a group down the middle of their fairway. When the member concerned drove his ball, with a considerable hook, all of the four members on the tee called "FORE".

Of the group towards whom the ball was struck, three of the members immediately ducked with their hands on their heads and turned their backs.

The Club Captain alone, conversely, looked up and was struck in the eye by the ball.

His friend, who was fully insured, gave his condolences and apologised and invited him to sue.

At the Court Hearing the Insurance Company called the late Dai Rees as an expert witness. Rees was asked by the Company Lawyer if the player striking the ball was, in his opinion, negligent? Rees replied "No", the group were sufficiently far away, and on a busy competition day it could happen frequently. He was then asked if there was any negligence or irresponsibility on anyone's part? Rees replied "Yes. Three of the approaching four players turned their backs and hunched shoulders covered their heads with their hands. Conversely the fourth player - the Club Captain - looked up and was struck in the eye." The complainant lost the case and the Insurance Company was awarded its costs.

**R. W. Garson CBE RN,
Old Hunstanton, Norfolk**

Can anyone help?

I am working on a book about the reel lawn mower as manufactured in the USA. I am always looking for catalogues, literature, etc. on reel lawn mowers. Any help or assistance would be greatly appreciated.

**James B. Ricci, Reel Lawn Mower History and Preservation Project at North Farms,
30 North Farms Road, Haydenville MA 01039-9724, USA jricci@reellawnmower.com
<http://www.crocker.com/~jricci/>**

A new experience? Plain sailing for Cedric

What a wet year we have been enduring over 300mm of rain the last three months. "If it carries on raining like this" I said, "I think we might have to invest in a boat". Of course I was only joking. The only boat I'd been on was a ferry across the channel and it's not an experience I wish to repeat.

A couple of weeks ago Nick Bennett, of Groundforce Leisure Ltd, asked me if I fancied going sailing. Sailing, ah yes, a nice sunny day and calm seas, sipping champagne, sounds like a great idea. Nick Bennett and his partner in crime, Dave Franks, are experienced sailors. Their crew for the day consisted of myself; Dean Roberts, Painswick, and Wayne James, Belmont. We all agreed that with the rain we have been having that it might be to our advantage to learn to sail. Although Nick Bennett pointed out that it might be alright for Wayne, but if my course, Broadway, floods, being 1,000ft above sea level, he might be better

off building an ark. We travelled down the day before and I must admit to feeling a little nervous. I'm bound to be seasick, I thought to myself. Anyway I was determined to enjoy my last meal on dry land. What's on the menu I enquired, Ostrich was the reply.

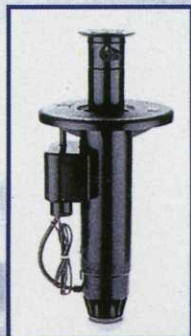
The boat turned out to be a 42ft yacht called the Jaybee and our destination was The Needles. We awoke the next morning to the sound of a force seven wind blowing outside. The Solent was very choppy indeed. On approaching Hurst Castle the wind and waves started to make things very uncomfortable, so the decision was to go about and run with the wind, down the Solent. This turned out to be an exciting, wild ride with speeds up to 11 knots, surfing down the waves. Dave was on the helm and thoroughly enjoying himself. The only person not worried by the conditions was George, the out-pilot. It was suggested that we all had turns at the helm of the yacht. Some

of us were more successful than others. Dean was up first, and he was that good, that Nick said he must be a natural. I went next and I must say in my defence that the wind was gusting quite strong, which affected my performance, so much, that Wayne declined his invitation to steer, saying he was happy to stay where he was.

While sailing I caught sight of a yacht in front of us leaning over a great deal. Look at that, I said to Nick, "Is that safe?" only for him to reply, "Just look at the porthole in the galley." It was under water, we too were sailing at an angle. We sailed up the Beaulieu River stopping at Bucklers Hard for a short time before returning to Lymington and dry land.

Can I thank Nick and Dave for an eye opening day out, it was a day I will never forget.

**Cedric Gough,
Broadway Golf Club**



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



CONFERENCE

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

Sessions include the following topics and speakers:

Growing

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

Human Resource Management

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

Water Management

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

Environmental Management

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

Workshops run concurrently with the Conference sessions and include:

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



SEMINARS

Wednesday 24 January 2001

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

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

Thursday 25 January 2001

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

EXHIBITION

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



BANQUET

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

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EDUCATION PROGRAMME STARTS JANUARY 22

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With a very successful Open Championship now just a memory, Carolyne Nurse, of The St Andrews Links Trust, reviews the decision to build two new greenkeeping centres at the complex and how they have contributed to the overall course maintenance at 'the home of golf'



Shedding an image



The only constraint on the design of the Eden Centre was that it should be in keeping with the other nearby buildings with a low profile and similar roofline. It is screened with banking and planting from the car park and public areas

Opened in April 1996, the Eden Greenkeeping Centre was the first of two new greenkeeping facilities on St Andrews Links.

Built on the south side of the 660-acre Links complex and costing £500,000, it was designed to be in keeping with the developing complex at Pilmour that includes Pilmour House, the Links Trust's administration headquarters, the Golf Practice Centre and a large neighbouring car park. The location for the greenkeeping centre was chosen as the most suitable because of the road access and other nearby services. Most importantly, it is less than 30 seconds from the first tee of the Eden Course and a minute from the Strathclyde Course.

"It used to take at least 20 minutes

for greenkeepers to make the journey from the previous greenkeeping sheds," recalls Gordon Moir, Head Greenkeeper of the Eden Course.

"We had to cross both the New and the Old Courses and often had to wait for golfers as we did not want to interrupt their game. It also caused a fair amount of tracking on both courses."

Another factor for locating the Eden Greenkeeping Centre at Pilmour was its close proximity to the Golf Practice Centre, which opened in 1993. The only constraint on the design was that it should be in keeping with the other nearby buildings at the Pilmour complex that includes the Golf Practice Centre, ie a low profile with the shape of the roof in similar style to the other buildings. It is screened

with banking and planting from the car park and public areas.

It provides more than 10,000 square feet of storage space for the grass-cutting machinery, tractors and equipment used by the greenkeeping squads responsible for the Eden, Strathclyde and Balgove Courses as well as the nearby Golf Practice Centre.

This large amount of space is required as the fleet of equipment includes five tractors, five trailers, one digger, two sprayers, two verti-drainers, four pieces of aeration equipment including a GA30 and a GA60, five ride-on mowers (160s), two ride on fairway mowers (300s), two rough cut mowers (AR250s), five Cushman trucksters, 15 pedestrian mowers

Right: At the Eden Centre there are 2500 square feet of covered storage bays for top dressing and other materials such as sand

Below: Some of the greenkeeping team outside the Eden Centre



(GS55 and marquises), six victas and six strimmers as well as attachments such as topdressers, seeders and scarifiers. There is also a tractor mounted chemical spreader and a pedestrian version. Around ten E-Z-GO petrol-

driven golf cars used by the orderlies and rangers and, some that are for hire are also stored here. The five orderlies use the centre as their base.

As well as a large storage area, the Eden Centre also incorporates a small engi-

neering workshop for basic maintenance with facilities that enable engineers to go to the centre to service the machinery. The service and maintenance routines for each type of equipment is dictated by the manufac-

turers' requirements as are the routine safety checks, usually after every 100 hours. When a service is due, the main workshop at The Jubilee Centre is informed and staff travel to the Eden Centre to carry out the work.

Any equipment that breaks down or requires a serious overhaul goes to the Jubilee workshop as it was decided at the design stage that the main workshop facilities should be centralised there. It is bigger and better equipped to tackle more of this type of work. A small chemical safe is situated outside the Eden Centre and used for the short-term storage of chemicals – the main store being located at the Jubilee Centre.

Two Head Greenkeepers are based in the Eden Greenkeeping Centre in an office where they each have a computer to control the irrigation on their courses and the Golf Practice Centre. Their greenkeeping squads of 15 men have lockers for their work clothes and separate lockers for spraying equipment and clothes. There are changing rooms, showers and a large room where breaks and lunches can be taken, equipped with a kettle, fridge and microwave. There are drying facilities where work clothes can be dried overnight and there is also an emergency shower by the chemical safe in case of a spillage.

Outside there are 2500 square feet of covered storage bays for top dressing and other materials such as sand. There is also an enclosed bay for seed and fertiliser. This area also incorpo-





rates a wash bed where the machinery is cleaned with silt traps to prevent grass cuttings and top dressing flowing into the soak-away.

An above-ground tank provides storage for 3000 gallons of diesel while an underground petrol tank holds 2000 gallons of petrol. All machines are refuelled in a dedicated central area and spillages flow into an interceptor tank.

"After the Eden Centre opened there was a noticeable improvement to the Old Course as maintenance vehicles no longer needed to travel backwards and forwards across the Links from the old storage sheds to reach the courses on the south side," said Ian Forbes, Links Manager.

During the recent Open the Jubilee Greenkeeping Centre was the focus of operations. All the Links greenkeeping staff from all the courses, around 58 staff, were working on the Old Course for the Championship starting at 4am every morning plus the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team. The Eden Greenkeeping Centre was also used, but not to the same extent, with four staff using the four AR250s for maintaining the semi-rough.

The Jubilee Greenkeeping Centre was opened in 1997 to serve the Old, New and Jubilee Courses. Twice the size of the Eden Centre, the Jubilee Greenkeeping Centre was designed with a 'barrel' roof as a means of ensuring that its profile intruded as little as possible into the famous St Andrews skyline. Banking and landscaping

around the centre screen it from the Jubilee Course, which runs alongside.

It includes a large workshop where all the machinery can be stripped down and maintained. It is equipped with a scissor-lift ramp, lifting benches, grinders and welding equipment and also provides central storage facility for items such as hydraulic hoses, control cables, bearings, filters, spiker tines, spare wheels and a host of other spare parts.

A computer-controlled £2.5m irrigation system is currently being installed on the Links. When it is completed the whole 660-acre site will have irrigation including the Golf Practice Centre. There are four Flowtronex pumps and a master computer control that are housed next to the Jubilee Centre. Also nearby are two covered reservoirs providing storage for 750,000 gallons of water and there are four boreholes. If necessary, one million gallons of water could be fed onto the courses in one night. A weather station on the site feeds the latest information into the computer and to ensure the accuracy of the information the grass around the weather station is cut to the same height as that on the fairways. There are currently 4000 sprinkler heads on the system and 28 miles of irrigation pipe work that will rise to 100 miles when all the work is complete.

Both the Eden and Jubilee Greenkeeping Centres were designed by Fraser Smart of Links Design Studio in Leven and built by Forman Construction of Dundee.



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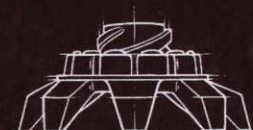
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This month, Ken Richardson, announces the majority of the finalists for the Toro Student of the Year and reminds members to get their entries in for the BIGGA Essay Competition...

EDUCATION UPDATE

TORO Student of the Year Competition

I completed my annual long distance trip around Britain, accompanied variously by Trevor Chard and Pete Mansfield from Lely UK and Jim Paton, Ian Semple, Paul Jenkins and Richard Barker all BIGGA Board of Management Members, selecting the finalists for this year's TORO Student of the Year Competition.

As always, the week was stimulating, motivating and enlightening giving all of us judges hope for the future of the green-keeping industry. Standards continue to improve which must mean that the GTC, BIGGA, training providers and employers are putting the training of greenkeepers as a top priority, leading to better qualified greenkeepers and to better golf courses.

Those selected for the National Final, which will be held at BIGGA House on 29/30 October are:



Name	Golf Club	College
Christopher Williams	Astbury Golf Club	Reaseheath
Mark Farragher	Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links	Elmwood
Lawrence McRory	Mentmore Golf and Country Club	Oaklands
Michael Sawicki	The Richmond Golf Club	Nescot
Tony Vokes	St Austell Golf Club	Cannington
Vince Harrison	Enderry Golf Club	Brooksbury

Scottish finalists are proving to be extremely difficult to separate! Details soon.

BIGGA Essay Competition

The deadline for entries to this year's Essay Competition draws near. Several entries have arrived already at BIGGA House but you have still got a chance to collect a prize of £500 thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and



Development Fund.

All you have to do is write between 1500 and 2000 words on the subject 'Managing Without Chemicals, is it possible, what are the consequences and how would you cope?'

Send your entry to reach BIGGA House by October 27 and you could be one of three winners to receive £500.

Categories are:

Golf Course managers/Head Greenkeepers and Deputies
Assistant GKs and Students over 25
Assistant GKs and Students under 25

BIGGA HOUSE and Regional Training Courses



Applications for both Regional training courses and BIGGA HOUSE courses are arriving at HQ at a steady rate. The deadline for entries was 11 August. However, we will accept entries up to one week before course start dates. Please note that if sufficient numbers are not booked on courses, they will have to be cancelled.

Contact either Ken Richardson or Sami Collins on 01347 833800 to check current availability.

BIGGA HOUSE course topics

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Managing Oneself
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Next Steps in Supervisory Management - Making Budgets Work

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Manage the Use of Physical Resources

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Human Resource Management - Leading Teams into the 21st Century

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Develop Productive Working Relationships

Management in Action

Provide Information to Support Decision Making
Facilitate Meetings

Regional course topics

Golf Course Design 1

Golf Course Design 2

Leading Teams into the 21st Century

Making Meetings Work

Essential Management Skills For Greenkeepers

Interviews & Appraisals

Making Budgets Count

Basic Computer Skills

Further Skills in Computing

Ornamental Horticulture

Health & Safety Update

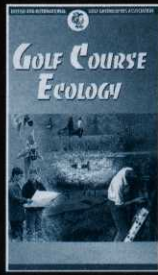
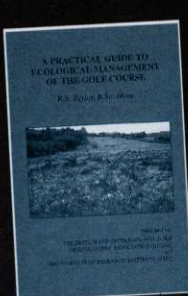
Manual Handling and Risk Assessment

Soil Science

Negotiation Skills

Full details are available from the BIGGA Education Dept on 01347 833800

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As Autumn approaches and the cold, wet weather arrives, you may be looking to purchase some new workwear to keep you warm and dry. Tracey Maddison explains how you can save £££s off your clothing bills with your BIGGA membership...

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Did you know that this July was the dulllest since 1992 and the wettest since 1993? But now for the good news! All members of BIGGA are eligible to take advantage of a fantastic 20% saving with ARCO, the leading UK supplier of workwear, safety clothing and equipment and industrial and maintenance products.

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

BTME2001 on the Web

BTME is a major event in the Greenkeeping calendar, and, as you would expect, the BIGGA website has a section dedicated to what is the turf industry's largest European indoor trade exhibition and conference. Once again, the trade show is expanding with increased demand for stands at Harrogate. The Harrogate International Centre is itself growing to meet the needs of exhibition organisers like ourselves and is opening a new hall later this month.

The BTME section of the website is intended to be useful for both visitors and exhibitors alike. With over 160 companies and organisations already confirmed for the exhibition, the final number is likely to exceed 200 this year. There will be 5 halls operating with the new hall M being added to halls A, B, C, and Q.

The web site provides a hall by hall plan showing exhibitor stand locations which can help you either find your favourite companies to visit or locate and book stand space. The hall maps can be printed off from the site to produce a hard copy version. It is possible to access the list of companies exhibiting by searching either alphabetically on the company name or by hall and stand number sequence. This enables a quick check of not only who's exhibiting but also which companies are occupying which halls and stands.

Details of the 'Learning Experience' Conference programme and seminar speakers are also included, as well as a Reservation Highway service of accommodation and details on the entertainment and booking arrangements for the final night banquet.

The BTME section of the site will be updated regularly as changes and news items occur. Stand availability can be checked, new exhibiting companies will be added and the latest details on the timings, speakers and bookings for the conference, seminar and workshop programmes included.

If you register your e-mail address details with us we will be able to let you know as things happen. Start today by visiting our site www.bigga.org.uk

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Held at the Harrogate International Centre each January, the event attracts
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- Head Greenkeepers
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- Course Managers
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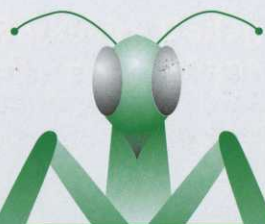
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Berkshire College's new six hole course is a testing challenge for the man charged with maintaining it, but Bob Woodward relishes a challenge...

Man with a mission



Bob Woodward (left), and Steve Gingell (right)

Keeping a level of consistency over all 18 holes, particularly if the course covers areas of different soil types or perhaps a phased programme of replacing greens is being carried out, is a problem that many face.

It creates a number of difficulties and great skill is required to produce putting surfaces which look as though they belong to the same golf course and stimp around the same mark.

Spare a thought then for the Head

Greenkeeper at Berkshire College's Golf Greenkeeping Academy who chose to accept what many would regard as a Mission Impossible.

Sure, he only has six holes to maintain and no members to worry about but he works alone - save for some assistance from the college's students - and each hole is designed and constructed to a completely different specification.

Bob Woodward whose orders, which I don't believe subsequently self

deconstructed, were to maintain the course to the best of his ability and he returned after a career which had taken him to Hawthorn Hill and Maidenhead Golf Clubs before a spell at The Berkshire.

Not put off, Bob, who is an "Old Boy" of the College himself, saw the task as not so much impossible as difficult and there is no chance of him waking up in the middle of the night surrounded by a pool of ice cold sweat.

Man with a mission

"I think this is a dream job. I like the college environment and I believe that I can expose students to practical skills out on the golf course which will be of benefit to them," said Bob, who was one of those chosen to meet HRH The Duke of York when he opened the course earlier this year.

"Before his Royal Highness's visit, I got the course looking reasonable and then took the chance to sit back and think what a good situation I have found myself in. In fact, I've got a chance to learn as much as the students," said the man, who oozes enthusiasm for the job.

Speaking during the growing-in period of the course, Bob explained the approach he has taken so far with regard to its management.

"In consultation with our agronomist, David Stansfield of PSD, I've treated every green the same with regard to the fertiliser regime, although it has been adjusted for the sand based greens. In that regard I've been lucky that in the first year it has been fairly straight forward."

When we spoke, all six of the greens, with their different grasses, were also being cut to the same height - five millimetres - and the stimp metre readings for them all was remarkably similar.

"David Stansfield is coming down soon and we'll sit down and discuss how to maintain each green. I have my own views on the matter having seen them now for a year and from there he will write a specific report," explained Bob.

He is well aware of the problems being a "one man band" will cause him if a decision is taken to have widely different regimes for each hole.

"For example if we use purely liquids on one green, I could be half a mile from the sheds where they are stored and I'd have to wash the tank out for just one green. I have got a logistical nightmare."

"My view, in consultation with everyone else, would be that I should spend a year doing all six greens with sea weed and see what results we would get. Then the following year, do them all with plastic coated fertiliser and check the results. Everyone knows that a plastic coated 25-5-10 on a USGA spec creeping bent is fine but keeping them all the same with a different product each year will mean we can learn more about what we can and can't do," he said.

He also has views on the presentation of each hole.

"Cutting wise, my suggestion for the

6th - the centenary hole - was that we cut it 50-50, while the 1st would be double cut in a diamond pattern to represent the modern way of thinking. Another follows the left hand contour so I've done wavy lines and another is a dead straight line down the middle. One of the par-3s is just cut in a semi circular arc outwards. I'm just trying to represent as many different cutting patterns as we could."

The original idea for the six hole academy came from a view that the students should have a proper green-keeping facility upon which to develop their skills.

"We have great local support through our Greenkeeper Liaison Committee, which includes Martin Gunn and Malcolm Peake, of the neighbouring Temple Golf Club, and Ray Clark, of Harleyford Golf Club, which was committed to helping us develop the idea which grew to become what it is today," explained Steve Gingell, at the time the College's greenkeeper training lecturer.

"Once we'd agreed the concept I went away and spoke with companies and organisations within the industry to gauge the potential of the idea and found that everyone was extremely positive."

The R&A put in a substantial grant, with the industry contributing between £60 - £100,000 in terms of equipment, root zone, seed, turf and signage while the College put in the remainder of the cash required to make the project succeed.

Once the decisions on the make up of the holes was made - see table at the end of the feature - Tom McKenzie, from Donald Steel Associates, then put together the architectural make-up of the holes.

"He came back with a 1970's flat green with lumps around the outside; a USGA style with mounds and bumps; one with Sunningdale-like swails and shaping and what he would like a modern green to be like," explained Steve.

"It wasn't just us as a college saying we want this or that it was very much the industry deciding what would be best," said Steve, who explained that due to planning restrictions play on the course would be limited and that the course would never become a commercial operation.

"We need play to make it realistic but it will be from friends of the college and not members or green fee paying visitors."

One of the companies which embraced the idea was Barenbrug who have since used the course to demonstrate one of their newer varieties.

"We saw it as an opportunity to use some of the more unusual, future looking, cultivars that we've been

Below: The Duke of York shows interest in the project at the official opening



developing but which we wouldn't necessarily use on commercial golf courses at the moment," explained Paul Johnson, Managing Director of Barenbrug UK.

"We've got our own facilities where we trial and test but this was a unique chance to put down fine leaf perennial ryegrass and also a crested hair grass on a green which we could subsequently show, in a life situation, to other greenkeepers," said Paul.

The first sod for the new course was turned by then BIGGA Chairman, Pat Murphy, in 1997, with the construction proper starting a short time after.

"It was very much felt, through the committee, that the construction should be done professionally and I would agree with them. Having said that there does need to be some poor construction put in so that some of the problems that can develop from such construction can be demonstrated," said Steve.

One of the perceived problems with the project was the difficulty in retaining the individuality of the greens in terms of grass type and construction over the course of a season.

"Poa will obviously get in as it is a perennial problem but we'll be monitoring the development of what is of interest to us," explained Paul.

"I envisage a biannual overseeding of the particular mixtures," he added.

The one green which has attracted particular interest has been the 3rd, sown out with Bareine, the fine leafed dwarf perennial ryegrass.

"People are hearing from the States that it is a potential way forward and like to take the chance to take a look at it on site here," said Steve.

It is a point that is carried on by Bob.

"The first time I walked on to the green and was told that it was a dwarf ryegrass I said it had no place on a golf green but now I'm a convert. It has had no disease through the winter and I'm waiting to see what it is like after some play."

The dwarf ryegrass green demonstrates how the Academy will be of interest to many over the years and Steve is sure that the project will continue to develop.

"Looking five years down the line to 2005 I think we'll have dug up a few greens and started again.

"We have to keep it moving. It is not a static project. What I would hope is that in five years time the industry is using the facility as much as we are," said Steve.



Examine Berkshire College's unique course breakdown, with a hole by hole technical analysis overleaf

Man with a mission



Details of the Six Holes

1st - 194 yards par-3 Dutch putting green for possible British Standard

The green and teeing ground represent a look into the future of the British greens guidelines: a hole for the 21st Century. The specification is based on a Dutch method of construction. The hole is constructed on a sub sand root zone. The fairway is cross cut at approach height of cut and boxed off to demonstrate modern techniques.

Sward

Green: Fescue turf
Surrounds: Fescue turf
Tee: Smooth stalked meadow grass fescue turf

Construction Green

80:20 sand: (medium fine) 12"
Single washed sand subsoil: 12"
Drainage: Herringbone

Tee

Top quality sand assuming 80:20
Sand:soil (medium fine) 12"
Single washed sand subsoil 8"
Drainage: Single drain

Sponsored: Roffey's Ltd; Toro; Rolawn; Greenkeeping Supply Company

2nd - 304 yard par-4 USGA Guidelines

This hole is designed in a modern American style. Considerable rear of green mounding and bunkerage invoke the American style. The green is two tiered. Fairway cutting is straight from the teeing ground.

Sward

Green: Native bent
Tee: Creeping bent seed

Construction Green

80:20 USGA root zone (med/coarse) 12"
Blinding layer 2"
Drainage carpet 8"
Drainage: Herringbone

Tee

80:20 USGA root zone (med/coarse) 8"
Blinding layer 2"
Drainage carpet 8"
Drainage: Side sump
Bunker: On putting green complex

Sponsored: Hepworth Minerals and Chemicals; Inturf; Barenbrug; Rainbird; Hunter; Standard Golf

3rd - 139 yard par-3 Research Green

The teeing ground of this hole represents a unique construction using high tech foam materials and systems. Based on roof garden technology this demonstrates research for the future. The green is in 1970's style with a flat pulling green and severe mounds to side and rear. It is constructed using USGA guidelines using recycled materials.

Sward Fescue bent seed

Green: Dwarf ryegrass, fescue, bent seed (B'brug)
Tee: Ryegrass, fescue seed (B'brug)

Construction (no bunkers)

Green
80:20 Ecodress root zone (med/coarse) 12"
Blinding layer 2"
V2 - 1" stone carpet 10"
Drainage: Herringbone into swale

Tee

Local sand (fine) Various depths
Bacel foam sub base various depths
Drainage: Side of teeing ground

Sponsored: Greenscapes UK Ltd; Hepworth Minerals and Chemicals; Barenbrug; Pattison

4th - 154 yard par-3 Clay bowled, natural sand on clay putting green

A clay bowled putting green and teeing green construction reminiscent of the turn of the century with Old Tom Morris style architecture. Local sandy soil is used in this construction.

Sward

Green: Bent. fescue seed
Tee: Bent. fescue, poa seed

Construction (no bunkers) Green

As dug - fine sand
Drainage: Single at front of putting green (drained to sump)

Tee

As dug - fine sand

Sponsored: Weathermatic; Mommersteeg

5th - 380 par -4. Donald Steel style hole

The Donald Steel & Co hole on the Academy has been built using the perched water table technique for putting green and teeing green construction, as they are water efficient offer best all year round surfaces. The design of greens and bunkers is strongly influenced by the great architects of the 20's and 30's but tailored to modern standards of play and maintenance. Construction uses fen soils and root zone improved drained sub soil.

Sward

Green: Creeping bent seed
Tee: Ryegrass, fescue turf

Construction Green

Fen soil root zone (med/coarse) 80:20 12"
Blinding layer 2"
Half - 1" stone carpet 10"
Drainage: Herringbone

Tee

Fen soil root zone (medium coarse) 8"
Blinding layer 2"
Stone carpet 10"
Drainage: Herringbone
Bunkers: One revetted and grass faced

Sponsored: Banks Horticultural Products and Bardon Aggregates; J&E Ely; Watermation; Nelson; Mommersteeg; Inturf; Amenity Technology

6th - 348 yard par-4 Traditional 1920's/1930's heathland hole

A very traditional Harry Colt style hole using design and construction methods of the 19th century in a heathland setting reminiscent of many famous Surrey/Berkshire courses. The green has numerous undulations. Local sandy soil has been used throughout this construction.

Sward

Green: Crested hair grass, fescue, bent seed
Tee: Poa, fescue seed

Construction Green

As dug fine sand/soil
Drainage herringbone

Tee

As dug fine sand soil
Bunkers: Single washed sand - sweeping grassed tongue

Sponsorship: Barenbrug; Mommersteeg; Par Aide



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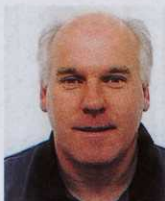
Six of the country's top men give their views on overseeding

Overseeding

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE



Name: Duncan Gray
Course: Pines Golf Centre, Dumfries
Region: Scotland
Course Type: Parkland and heathland
Staff: Course Manager plus five



Name: Roger Shaw
Course: Ramside Hall Hotel and Golf Club, Durham
Region: Northern
Course Type: Parkland (27-holes)
Staff: Course Manager plus nine



Name: David Leatherland
Course: Kedlestone Park, near Derby
Region: Midland
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus five



Name: Steve Chappell
Course: Woodspring Golf and Country Club, Bristol
Region: South West and South Wales
Course Type: 18-holes parkland, 9-holes downland
Staff: Course Manager plus six, plus driving range man and a part time gardener



Name: Clive Osgood
Course: Walton Heath Golf Club, Surrey
Region: South East
Course Type: Heathland (36-holes)
Staff: Course Manager plus 16, plus mechanic and a gardener



Name: Iain Harrison
Course: Bangor Golf Club
Region: Northern Ireland
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus five, plus mechanic

1
What benefits do you get from overseeding greens, tees and fairways?

I never overseed fairways. Tees are ongoing filling divot marks and if you do your work properly you don't need to overseed greens. It's a waste of time, effort and money.

Better growth, though I have never needed to overseed fairways, apart from the usual divoting. Neither do I overseed tees, apart from the par-3s which get more wear.

We get a better sward basically by overseeding greens with creeping bent and tees with a mixture of dwarf rye grasses.

On greens we increase the stock of cultivars of species we want and get a stronger and better sward. We overseed fairways once every two years. The newer of the fairways, built only five years ago, were getting a bit thin.

A debatable question. You waste a lot of seed when overseeding greens as you cut it out again, so I would say very little benefit. We work on divots on tees and put some seed on the par-3 tees, but they are big tees so we can spread the load. We only overseed fairways after the odd drought.

A better finish. I use a soil and sand mix for the divoting. We overseed tees twice a year and greens once a year. The course is nearly 100 years old and we have 95% annual meadow grass on the greens.

HEADS

What species of seed do you use?

We use Barenbrug's mixture of fescue and bent, creeping red fescue, chewings fescue and browntop bent.

I use Providence bent to overseed the greens to compete against the annual meadow grass. We had serious problems with Take-All Patch in the course's early days, but we are all right now. I use Barcrown on greens and a mixture of Lance, Herriot and Providence bent and fescue. But no dwarf rye grass or smooth stalked meadow grass.

We use Providence creeping bent on greens and Lorina and Rex dwarf rye grass on tees.

We overseed tees and aprons with 100% dwarf rye grass, fairways with 70% dwarf rye grass and greens on the parkland course with 30% creeping red fescue, the downland course with a rather higher percentage.

Fescue and bent with no rye grass at all. We use creeping red fescue and Highland bent.

I am experimenting with a mixture of Queen's, Merci and Superstar dwarf rye grass with fescue and bent to produce a hard wearing mix on the tees and Setton, Egmont and Tracenta on the greens.

When do you consider the best times to do your overseeding?

The only time is the back end, mid to late September when the height of cut comes up and you are not verti-cutting. Doing it in spring is a waste of time in my book.

Generally speaking late spring, though I repair winter damage in early spring.

My main overseeding is always done in late spring, round about mid-April, though I do a bit of repair work if needed after a lot of play in summer at the back end. Tees are always top dressed and overseeded on a regular basis.

Autumn most definitely because with the soil warmer for longer than in spring and a higher height of cut you get much better germination.

Early autumn for fairways and September-October for greens and tees although almost any time for tees.

Greens at the tail end of the year when the height of cut comes up. March would be a waste of time, effort and money, because of verti-cutting.

How much work do you put into getting your best results?

100% at all times. If you are not giving it your best all the time you are not going to get the best results.

I find I need to put an awful lot of effort in to get the best results. We try to keep to our best standards all the time so we are flat out.

We work very hard, particularly on the greens which we always like to keep at the best possible standard. We keep at it all the time.

100% at all times. The cost of seed isn't cheap and we work hard to ensure that the new seed has every chance by scarifying verti-cutting etc.

100%. We are at it all the time. It's a difficult task as you can't shut down an area when there is a lot of play on the course.

We try our very best and watch carefully how much the of the top dressing goes down the holes made by hollow coring. It's a massive amount of work.

What percentage of germination are you happy with from your different grasses?

I have strong views on this. Poa annua inhibits germination of other grasses. If you overseed I would expect no more than 5-10% germination. I have 98% fescue and bent in the greens. I have a theory that overseeding is something invented by seed companies as a sales ploy.

It's difficult to judge out on the fairways, but I would look for 90% plus cover elsewhere.

I would be looking at 90% on tees and greens.

I would say 20-30% on the greens and a bit higher percentage on tees, fairways and aprons.

I would be happy with 70-80% germination on fairways. However, overall, I must say that I am not keen on overseeding as a general idea because so much seed is wasted.

I look for 90% strike rate on tees and fairways, but am happy with 5-10% on greens because of the large amount of annual meadow grass which, thankfully, is fine rather than course.

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Simon Hutton is a remarkable young man. As Scott MacCallum found out, he has two full time jobs and puts more than his fair share of overtime into both of them...

Simon says



Simon Hutton
Fineford, Surrey

Simon Hutton is a workaholic. There can be no other way of describing a man who not only maintains Sudbrook Manor Golf Club, near Newark, in Lincolnshire, but has masterminded the growth of Simon Hutton Fine Turf Services which, since the launch of the company two years ago, has grown to such an extent that many golf clubs in the Lincolnshire, and increasingly beyond, rely upon it to carry out verti-draining, coring as well as other construction work.

To fit such a workload into a normal week would be impossible but normal doesn't apply to Simon as he regularly clocks up 100 hours a week, while a holiday, which he takes once in a

blue moon, would be described by others as a "weekend".

He is no "Johnny come lately" to greenkeeping having already chalked up almost 14 years of experience, and has a network of con-

tacts to draw on from all aspects of the industry to enable him to carry out the tasks he is unable to undertake himself.

Oh yes. Simon has just turned 22.

His is a remarkable story of a single minded determination to succeed in a profession for which he has had a passion since an early age, and of a family who have pulled together to create a superb little golf club which certainly lives up to the term "family concern".

"My father, Tim, was the professional at Sleaford Golf Club and it was always his dream to have his own golf course," explained Simon, as he grabbed a bite of breakfast, in the attractive little Sudbrook Moor clubhouse.

"The land here came up for sale about

13 years ago and although it was a big decision for the family we decided to buy 17 acres. We put on six holes - three par-3s and three par-4s - laying them out and constructing them all ourselves," he explained.

"Then in 1990 we acquired another 20 acres and made it a really good nine hole course."

In the early days Simon worked on the course in his spare time after school.

"School was not a priority for me," he confessed.

"From the age of eight I used to hand cut the greens and cut the rough while my mother, Judith, who was a teacher at the time, used to cut the fairways in an old Massey Ferguson with trailed gangs when she got home from work," said Simon, who mused about how such a situation would go down with the Health and Safety Executive these days.

Judith retired from greenkeeping duties when they employed Ernie Tatchell, as a greenkeeper/mechanic. Other labour is brought in on a self employed basis.

Simon says

Simon's love of all things greenkeeping began as he grew up in the family home on Sleaford Golf Club itself.

"I used to love knocking about with the greenkeepers and did so every spare minute I had," recalled Simon, who remembers Jim Durrant, Head Greenkeeper at Sleaford as well as John Scotney, who took over a year before the Hutton family began their great adventure.

"I was in my element when we bought this place because I could be hands on."

Simon worked full-time on the course when he left school at 16 and the next big leap for the course came in '97.

"We bought another four acres and put two new holes to replace two not so good holes. It made it a proper course and we had 18 greens, and nine tees which means that golfers play to a different green on the back nine."

His greenkeeping skills have been accumulated through experience, reading books and magazines while he forged friendships with people who were able to pass on knowledge to him.

"I'm a quick learner and although I've made mistakes they have tended to be



adding that with 600 members plus green fees the course gets lots of wear.

Over the last ten years Simon acquired more machinery than would be absolutely necessary for a course of Sudbrook's size.

"I'd always had an interest in machinery and known a lot of people in the trade and they would phone me to say they had a particular machine and ask if I'd be interested in it. Ernie is a superb mechanic which allowed us to get the best out of the machinery. It got to the stage that we had quite a bit and in '98 I started to do a bit of contracting - spraying, hollow tining and top dressing," he explained.

It was through this that he was pointed in the direction of the machine that was to be the making of Simon Hutton Fine Turf Services.

"I was talking to Sheamus Cogan, of Belton Woods, and he asked me if I'd ever thought about getting a vertidrain. I said that it had

crossed my mind as I knew only two people in the county at the time had one but it got me thinking more seriously about it.

"I chewed the matter over. I had an old tractor that we could put it on already and I knew that I had the money to buy it as I lived at home and all I did was work and never had time to spend it so I bought a Wiedenmann for £16,000 in February last year."

Initially he did his own course and a few football pitches before sending out some brochures to five or six local clubs some of which took him on.

In addition they spent a full three to four week spell at Belton Woods on pathway construction, tee building, bunker work and big roll turfing, with the help of another contact who had experience in that field.

He has also worked at The Belfry and was involved in some work on the Millennium Dome and Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

"Then last July I decided to buy a brand new Kubota L3600 tractor and got some work with Nuneaton Borough Council to verti-drain all 14 of their football pitches and sand spread them. So I went out and bought an Amazone sand spreader. Then last autumn it was absolute mayhem.

I hadn't done any advertising at all but I was going all over the country. I ended up buying a trailer to put behind my Trooper, which I'd already bought, and it just got busier and busier.

"I had New Year's Day off and the vertidrain was absolutely solid until something like May 20," said Simon, who has recently bought another Kubota tractor, a Proseed core collector while a second vertidrain is on the cards for this month.

While Simon Hutton Fine Turf Services enjoyed such a successful period the man himself was still running Sudbrook Moor, with the help of Ernie and two students, both of whom have worked for Simon since they were 15 - hence the need to extend his working week to 100 hours.

"For example I haven't started after six for the past month and normally don't finish until eight or nine at night, seven days a week.

The success of the contracting business is a boost to the whole Hutton family which is completed by his younger brother, Ben, who is an aspiring tournament professional.

"My father runs the pro shop and gives lessons, my mother acts as secretary and I manage the course but the club won't really support us all so my brother supplements our income with his winnings and I bring in more from

the contracting business," he explained.

He has a pool of around 10 able people on whom he can call on for work, including a tree specialist and a landscaper while he also has his own turf nursery from which he sells to the domestic market.

"I bought the land five or six years ago and it was meadow turf and I mowed it and sold it as such but then I redrilled it and sowed it with bent fescue and rye for domestic use and stripped that field. I've only got about 1000 metres left in a corner. We recently redrilled it again and hopefully it will be ready by Christmas," he explained, adding that he also acts as an agent for seed as well as top dressing.

"In an ideal world I would get another man on the course and another on the contracting full time to enable me to manage both," said Simon, who runs the business from a mobile phone. He has an accountant but does all his own invoicing in his "spare" time.

"I don't mind putting the hours in but it's tough when you can't see an end to it. I don't want to get too big because I've seen it with other contractors who are not making any money. Payments all go to the men and to cover overheads. At the moment I don't have many overheads."

Concerned that he might be burnt out by the age of 25 he does point to the fact that he has more grey hairs than his two older colleagues who popped into the clubhouse for their breakfast.

"My ultimate ambition is to do well early on in life, make money and then retire. I may build the business up and then sell it. I don't know really."

With his easy manner and extraordinary work ethic you can be sure that whatever the future holds for him he will make a success of it.



Above: Remarkably, a bird has nested in the hydraulic arm of the company trailer, and now, the chicks travel everywhere it goes

minor and made on our own course, which tends to be fairly disease free.

"I've sprayed for Fusarium three times in 13 years. We use a lot of mechanical rather than chemical maintenance. We go from sandy loam to heavy clay on the course but it's amazing how it looks after itself.

"We mow it, aerate it, top dress it. We put on granule fertiliser in the spring or early summer and then later liquid fertiliser and we vertidrain the greens with large tines once a year and through the summer with pencil tines. In the autumn we hollow tine," he said,

Ever the entrepreneur Simon called the office a few days after the interview to ask if we could include his telephone numbers in the article. Happy to oblige Simon.
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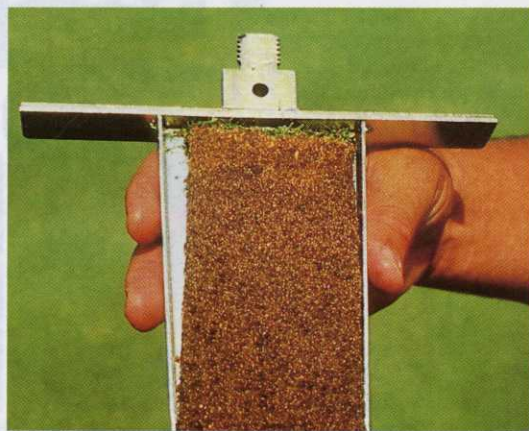


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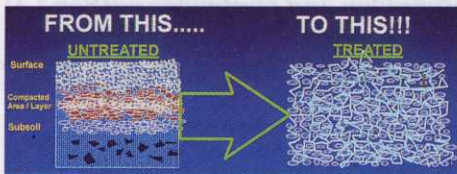


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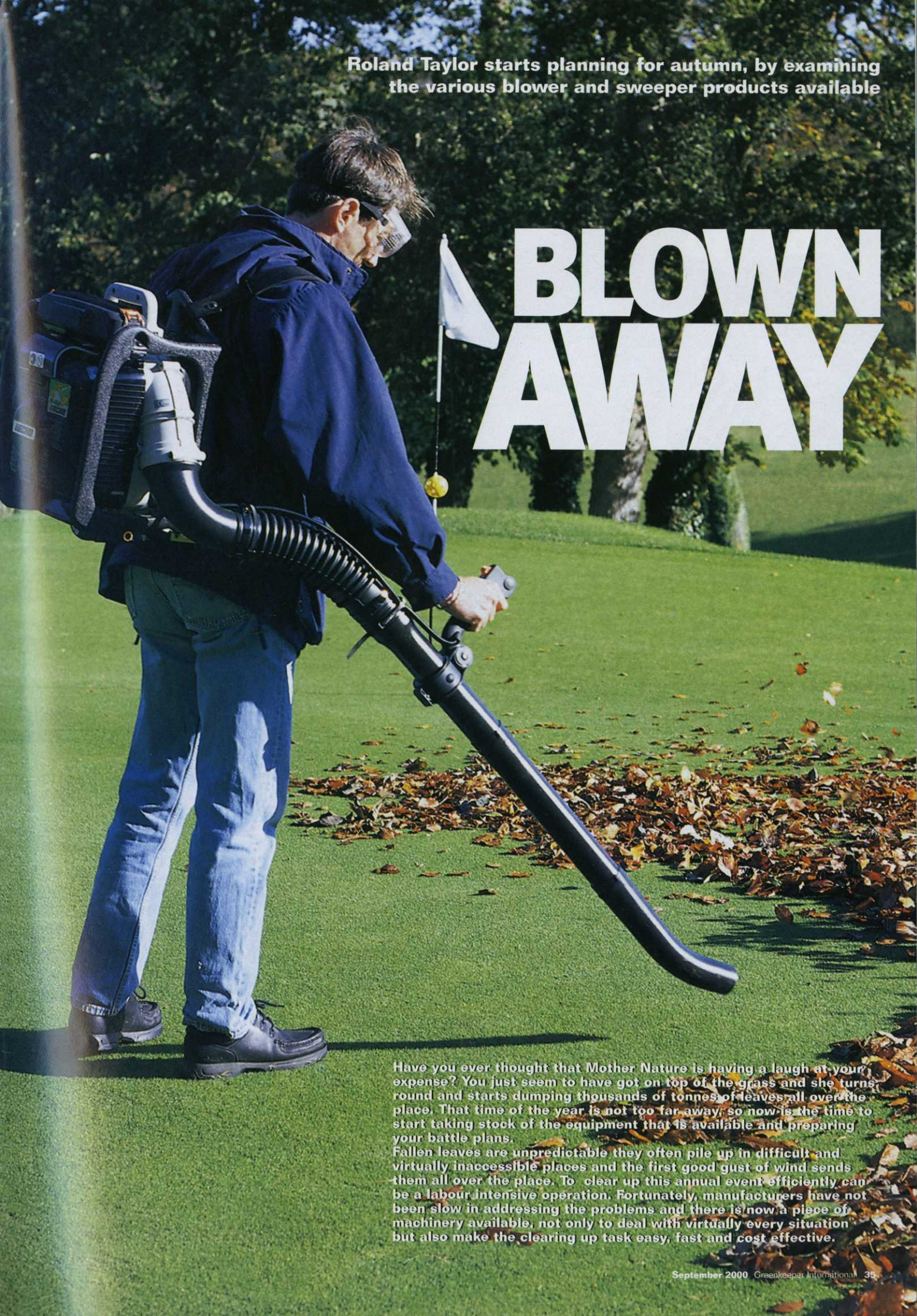
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A man in a blue jacket and jeans is using a backpack-mounted leaf blower on a golf course. He is wearing safety glasses and is blowing a pile of brown leaves. The background shows a green golf course with trees and a white flag on a pole.

Roland Taylor starts planning for autumn, by examining the various blower and sweeper products available

BLOWN AWAY

Have you ever thought that Mother Nature is having a laugh at your expense? You just seem to have got on top of the grass and she turns round and starts dumping thousands of tonnes of leaves all over the place. That time of the year is not too far away, so now is the time to start taking stock of the equipment that is available and preparing your battle plans.

Fallen leaves are unpredictable they often pile up in difficult and virtually inaccessible places and the first good gust of wind sends them all over the place. To clear up this annual event efficiently can be a labour intensive operation. Fortunately, manufacturers have not been slow in addressing the problems and there is now a piece of machinery available, not only to deal with virtually every situation but also make the clearing up task easy, fast and cost effective.

BLOWN AWAY



Leaf clearing machinery incorporates one or more of three basic systems: blowing, sucking or sweeping. These come in a number of configurations.

Blowing & sucking

At the heart of both blowing and sucking is an impeller for creating the blast of air or a vacuum - these two often go together as in the blower/vacs.

Where leaves are being collected, in most cases they will pass through the impeller and in doing so are chopped up. This combination has two advantages. Firstly, it reduces their volume, often significantly, thus reducing the number of times the collector has to be emptied. Secondly, the fibres of the material are broken up and exposed so decomposition is accelerated.

Obviously, organic matter is not

always all that passes through this type of system - stones, sand and other foreign bodies can be picked up so the impeller has to be constructed from a material that withstands a fair amount of abuse. This is a point worth remembering when considering which machine to choose. Other factors that can effect performance are the speed and the way in which the volume of air is expelled.

There are other methods of collection using airflows where the material is picked up and passes directly into a collector - these are generally found in the domestic machines.

Machinery using the impeller system comes in all shapes and sizes. There are the highly portable hand held and backpack models, wheel pushed or self propelled and tractor mounted versions.



Wanderhoses

Most of the pedestrian and tractor machines using the suck and blow principle offer as an optional attachment a wanderhose. This consists of large diameter inlet and outlet flexible tubing of various lengths. They are designed for clearing leaves from areas that are inaccessible to the large units, such as ditches and culverts or areas such as greens where heavier machinery would not be acceptable. A wanderhose can also be used for sucking up piles of leaves that have been windrowed by another machine. The system is used on loaders which are purpose built for collecting leaves and litter into trailers or a vehicle's bucket.

Brush type action

These can be split into two forms; the conventional rotary brush or the flail.

The brush is usually an attachment for a tractor, ride-on mower or ATV and these are available as an out-front unit or rear-mounted.

While they work reasonably well on grassed areas they perform better on hard surfaces.

There are a number of machines available that use the flail and these have an advantage that they can be also used for cutting and scarifying large areas. The flail drum rotates at high speed and this action picks up leaves and other debris and deposits them into a container. On the large units an impeller is incorporated to provide an extra vacuum for lifting the material into large hoppers. These have a moving floor to speedily unload. A wanderhose attachment is also available for the more inaccessible sites.

This type of unit is ideally suited to large areas. They are a valuable addition to the maintenance fleet, especially on the big tournament courses for clearing up after the general public has left.

Rotary mowers

Any rotary mower pedestrian or ride on that incorporates a collecting system will collect leaves - some machines do this well.

Around the course Greens

These are the number one priority and the equipment has to be as light as possible so the hand held or backpack blowers are the answer. The leaves can be blown into heaps off the green ready for picking up.

With the hand held models there are two things to look out for - plenty of power yet lightweight (power to weight ratio) and the velocity of the airstream.

The nozzles on these units can be directed wherever they are required. Most have the facility for collecting but these usually have a small capacity so are not practical in most course applications.

One of these machines is an ideal addition to the fleet as it can be used for other applications such as clearing leaves and litter from drains guttering.

Some readers may use them for blowing dew off the greens.

A wanderhose can be used but this may be found to be slow. Also one of the pedestrian machines could be suitable but as these have wheels there is the danger of leaving markings.

Tees

The equipment used on the greens is also suitable for tees. Here, the pedestrian machines may be more at home.

Fairways

This is where the tractor mounted units come into their own. The blower models can be used to directing leaves into windrows or piles. With the flails the material is collected immediately.



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BLOWN AWAY



Bunkers

There is the problem of sucking up or blowing sand about and in most cases these are better manually raked.

Other areas

Each course will have specific requirements. If there are large areas of hard surfaces to be kept clear then the type of machines used in pedes-

trian precincts might be the answer. The tractor mounted rotary brush type is also ideal for these areas.

What to choose

Each course will have different requirements and there are plenty of machines on the market. Now is the time to start looking at what is available. Saltex provides an ideal

opportunity to do just that. An alternative could be to hire some machinery but the only problem is when. Leaf fall can happen over night. One hard frost followed by high winds and there are masses to clear up or it could take up to a month before the trees are bare.

Because of this everyone needs to hire at the same time and machinery

might not be available. However if you are thinking of going the hire route it is worth talking to your local hirer now.

Leaves may look good in their autumnal colours, but they present a problem greenkeepers could do without - so a little preparation now could make the task, and life, a lot easier when it eventually happens.



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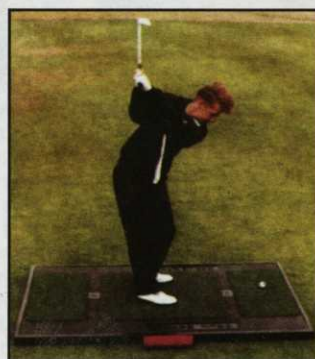
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Steve Isaacs gives some advice on the health check you should give your course to give it the best chance of surviving winter. A time for hibernation... not likely!

WINTER

HEALTH CHECK



Prepare for winter all year round

Winter preparation is not a case of working hard on the greens for a couple of weeks in the autumn. It used to be, autumn scarification, coring and top dressing was the norm. However, in those days there were few hardy souls who ventured onto the course over the winter months. Your modern day golfer is a much tougher beast, seemingly determined to play golf in all weathers. Some believe that courses close themselves when the weather is extremely inclement. You need only look out of the clubhouse window to see golfers so padded with extra layers of woolies and waterproofs that they can hardly make a swing to appreciate that this is not the case. So, you must prepare your course for winter play and this must be seen as a year round exercise, implementing treatments all aimed at producing dry, firm surfaces with a good, dense and healthy grass cover.

Aeration is probably the most important maintenance procedure to produce firm, dry greens but isolated coring or Verti-Draining of greens in October or later is not the way to prepare them for the ravages of winter. Coring and Verti-Draining (or an equivalent such as the Soil Reliever

The days are drawing in and winter beckons. The course has looked fantastic all summer and now all you want to do is put your greens safely to bed to ensure they survive the winter so you can repeat that performance next season.

Sorry, you're living in the past. You can't rest the course over winter anymore, the demand from members is for year round play and year round play you must provide, oh, and on near perfect surfaces as well thank you. There will, undoubtedly, be courses where poor drainage or harsh weather conditions limit winter use.

Only a massive investment in fairway drainage and green reconstruction is likely to make the worst of these playable through the wettest part of the year. Nevertheless, the majority of courses are playable for much of the winter and there is a need to plan for the winter's play if the course is to emerge the following spring in a condition where you can take full advantage of any early growing weather.

Below: Intensive aeration is essential to winter preparation, but is your timing right?



or Terra-Spike) may well form part of your aeration programme but with much more efficient aeration equipment available to us these days routine pencil tining throughout the year, backed up with further Verti-Draining, micro-coring, slitting and the rest, helps keep on top of thatch, retains decent root systems and sustains free drainage. It is even possible to continue with deep spiking through the summer with minimal disruption to putting surfaces. This is not to say that everyone needs to be out on their greens every fortnight punching some sort of hole into them. If you have a serious thatch problem this could well be necessary but nowadays aeration programmes take on a tremendous range of tine types, spiking frequencies and individual attention to problem areas of specific greens.

The days of hiring in a corer or deep spiker once a year and going through all 18 greens should be over. Every course should have a bespoke aeration programme for their greens, one designed to suit its needs rather than convention or historical precedence. The little and often approach to top dressing that has been advocated could just as well be applied to aeration work these days.

Dealing with thatch and poorly draining greens

There will be situations where an intensive aeration attack is called for. If you have inherited a severe thatch problem which causes the greens to turn to bogs at the first drop of winter rain then annual coring is not going to be much help. Steve Dixon, at Kingsknowe Golf Club in Edinburgh, cored his greens 18 times in two years (a combination of micro and Jumbo coring) to get on top of thatch. The Club now enjoy much firmer, drier surfaces throughout the winter months. Obviously, communication within the Club is vital if this sort of programme is to be accepted and Steve was fortunate enough to have a very supportive Committee. Even so, it takes guts to follow such a programme through.

If you are managing greens on a heavy soil base then the timing of pre-winter aeration is critical. Links managers and others fortunate enough to have sandy greens can get away with October, or even later, Verti-Draining. On soil based greens you need to get in much earlier, when the soil is relatively dry and when the shattering effect of the tines will prove beneficial. This means August or early September work, never pop-

ular with the members, at least initially. Deep spiking at this time will disrupt golf but for a much shorter time than later operations. It also allows time for a fairly heavy top dressing. Verti-Drain at the height of growth and the greens recover within a week or two, leave it until growth is in decline and true surfaces may not be restored until you can get a few light dressings on them the following spring. By deep spiking this early it is also possible to get away with far less heave to achieve the desired effect which means less surface upheaval and no major softness problems once the surfaces have been smoothed back down. Be brave, explain to members why you need to get in early and reap the rewards - firmer greens through the winter and better greens coming into the spring. A Club in Glasgow took this step and it proved so successful that there is an outcry from the members if there is any suggestion of putting the work back by even a week or two.

The evil that is Fusarium

The Course Manager should always be thinking at least six months ahead when it comes to maintenance and presentation of the greens. Do not think of winter preparation as simply

a means of reducing course closure but as an exercise in ensuring that there is a decent surface ready for your spring works so that good quality playing conditions can be prepared as early in the year as possible. One of the potential hazards in this regard is outbreaks of Fusarium patch disease which can result in severe scarring and a spring of repair rather than grooming towards summer condition.

The Talking Heads feature in the July 2000 issue of Greenkeeper International showed that Fusarium is still the greatest disease threat faced by greenkeepers in the UK. The changing climate has not helped matters with milder, wetter winters seemingly the norm, a weather pattern that, if anything, should promote the disease. However, at many clubs I visit we have seen a decrease in Fusarium in recent years and much of this can be attributed to adapting to the changing weather.

This may incorporate:

Avoiding late top dressing. Any dressing applied after the end of September has the potential to bring on Fusarium, particularly if combined with intensive aeration which always produces a growth spurt. This may not be as applicable the further



WINTER HEALTH CHECK

... gives some advice on the health check you should
... course to give it the best chance of surviving winter
... vibration... not likely!

Bottom: The dreaded fus! Protect against disease by reducing autumn stress
Below: Line marking is a good way to divert trolleys



south you go but if you are plagued with persistent Fusarium attacks then it is something to consider.

Boosting potassium levels through the late summer months can also help reduce the level of Fusarium. Paul Murphy, the Course Manager at Downfield, cited this as part of his disease management programme in the Talking Heads feature.

While the conventional approach to fertiliser remains true, i.e. no significant nitrogen input after the end of August, the milder weather seen through October and November in recent years has led to a slight rethink on this issue. Certainly, those blessed (not!) with a high annual meadow-grass content have often seen the turf turn a sickly yellow

through the autumn months if their final feed was made in August or earlier. This turf is clearly under stress and is far more prone to disease than healthy grass. We have seen a return to autumn fertiliser treatment to compensate for this, though only with low nitrogen tonics to keep the grass healthy and less prone to disease attack through this period of late growth.

Course protection

In spite of all your efforts there will be times when temporary greens have to be brought into use. So, prepare temporary greens early so that you present a decent alternative. Siting of temporary greens is vital. So often we see temporaries in wet or shaded sit-

uations which are, at times, worse winter environments than the main putting surface. We would always advise against using green aprons as temporary putting surfaces. This moves us into another aspect of winter preparation, traffic management. Most of our courses were not designed for today's level of play, particularly not through the winter. Trolley traffic should be banned altogether or must be kept away from funnelled access points into greens. For some reason line marking seems the most effective means of preserving turf to surrounds. Yes, it can simply transfer the damage but surely this is far better 20 yards off the green than in the immediate fringe.

In an ideal world every course would have separate turfed winter tees. If available, great, if not then mats may be needed but whatever form of winter tee is employed an important part of the principle is changing the line of traffic flow. This will not necessarily mean altering the length of the hole. Balls fly and run shorter distances through the winter so the usual practice of pushing winter tees forward merely retains wear on the main landing area down the fairway. Additional measures may have to be implemented to protect fairways over the winter as these are often the wettest part of the golf course. If such a policy is implemented the means of protection should to be a decision for the members, under guidance from their professional Turf Manager. Small artificial grass mats (approximately 270

mm by 130 mm) have gained a following in Scotland. Their use originated on links to help preserve the shallow depth of topsoil found here but more and more courses inland are adopting this policy. At one club I visit the members like them because they help keep their balls clean! At another a lady member thought they were great as they kept one of her feet dry, the Captain of the day didn't have the heart to tell her that you were supposed to play your ball off it, not stand on it! Others go for pegging up, but look at how much protection your tees get from this practice. Roping off main landing areas and replacing balls in the semi is another alternative. At least all of these ideas show more imagination than the traditional winter rule of placing on fairways; why have one scar when you can have two!

Firm and dry, there is no other way

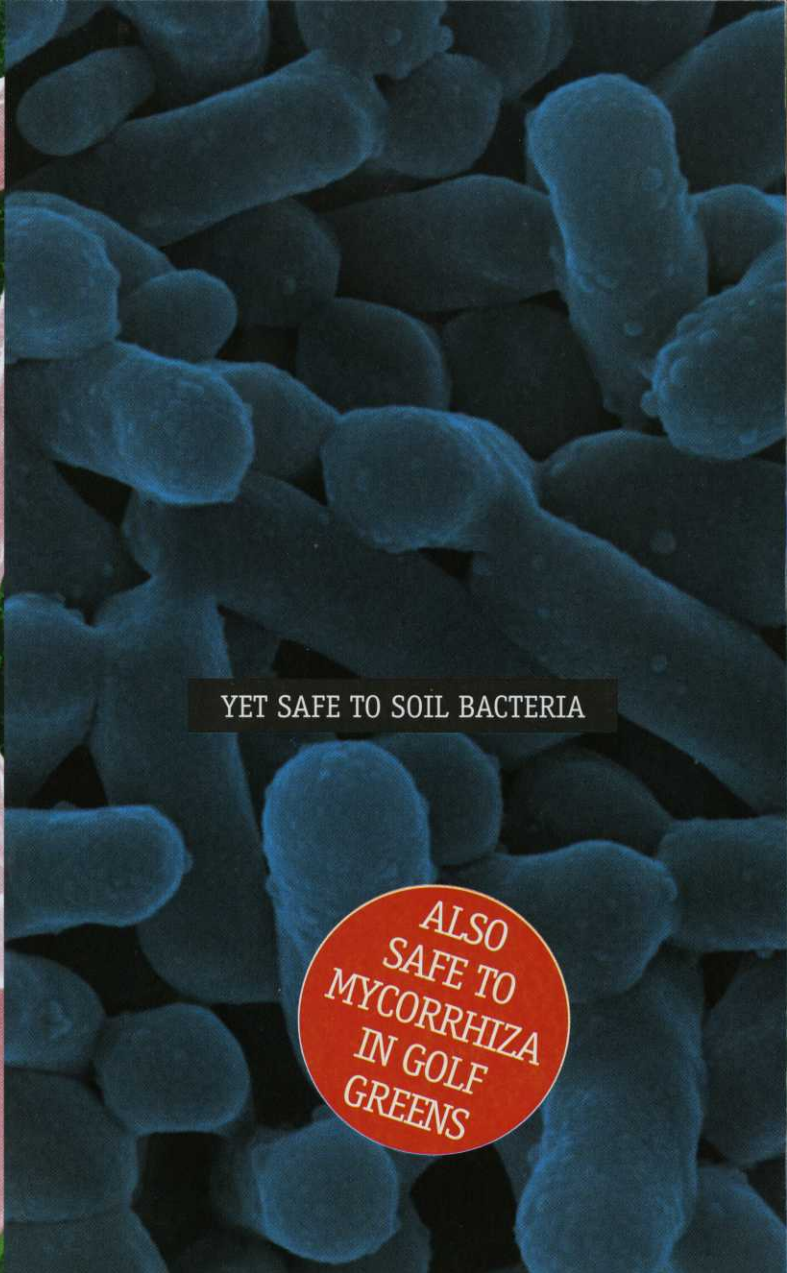
So, to get through the winter in better order be prepared. Follow traditional greenkeeping ideals of promoting firm, dry surfaces. This will involve a vast array of techniques, many employed year-round not just in the immediate run up to winter, providing a sensible level of protection for the turf through good greenkeeping practices rather than through panic induced closure.

Steve Isaac is the STRI Regional Agronomist for Scotland





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The second Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship is set to be an exciting affair both on and off the golf courses

ARE YOU READY?



The bright lights of Blackpool are likely to be the setting for the victory celebrations of one of the players in the National Championship, and when the champagne corks pop they will do so to herald an extremely fine golfing achievement.

For to earn the title of Champion Golfer of the Year some excellent golf is going to have to be played over two of the finest courses in the country... never mind the Lytham/Blackpool area.

St Annes Old Links and Fairhaven are well known to BIGGA members hav-

ing hosted a National Tournament and a Hayter National Championship respectively in the past and, although close neighbours geographically, they are completely different types of course.

With that in mind the winner over the two days, is going to have to show an ability to adapt to the specific demands of each course and be on the top of his game.

Last year over the two wonderful courses at the superb Carden Park Resort near Chester, Tony James, of Tehidy Park, became the inaugural

Charterhouse/Scotts National Champion producing a blistering second round nett 64 over the Nicklaus Course to snatch the magnificent trophy from under the nose of David Cuthbertson, of Slaley Hall.

Whoever becomes the second name on the trophy will have to show similar such brilliance.

Anyone wishing to enter the Championship as a last minute non-qualifier should contact Sarah Sowerby at BIGGA HOUSE for further information on 01347 833800.



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Alan Forrest

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Alex Robertson
David Leith

East of Scotland

Richard Mullen
Ian Bell

North of Scotland

Richard Pendlebury
Mike Wilson

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John Brown
Gerry Bruen

North East

Barrie Wilson
Steve Quince

North West

Kevin Irving
Jared Ellison

Northern

John Waite
Richard Harris

Cleveland

Darren McGee
Barry Walker

Sheffield

Mark Crawshaw
Andrew Lomas

North Wales

Andy Peel
Allen Lewis

East Midland

Antony Bindley
James Tudor

Midland

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Graham Wallace

East of England

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Fusarium



Dollar Spot



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"The knowledge gained links plant physiology to mechanical issues," said Stephen Bernhard, Managing Director, "and shows how maintenance operations and costs can be reduced." Bernhard promotes strong links with BIGGA and its members. Continuing this strong educational link Bernhard has decided to

sponsor a BIGGA delegation of greenkeepers to visit the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association Show in Vancouver in February 2001.

A total of ten BIGGA members will be selected, two from each region, and all costs are being met by the company. This includes, travel, accommodation and entrance to the conference programme.

"Forging closer links and sharing knowledge with BIGGA and its members will help to promote a continuous rise in standards of turf management," said Stephen Bernhard. "This will benefit the whole of the industry." Bernhard offers to work with greenkeepers and provides free demonstrations of their highly regarded Express Dual and Anglemaster combo - precision cylinder and bottom-blade grinding system. They also provide a free cost analysis service to examine existing costs and demonstrate the potential for savings and how they can be made: telephone 01788 811600, visit the web - www.bernhard.co.uk or e-mail info@bernhard.co.uk for further details.



Above: Stephen Bernhard, Managing Director of Bernhard and Co, and Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA

CGSA Show 2001 - Conference Seminar details

Turfgrass Ecology

Turfgrass Ecology introduces the participant to the major concepts of a sound integrated pest management (IPM) program. The five major concepts include minimal disturbance, management practices accumulate, self-thinning, the logistics equation and continual change. Participants in this one-day seminar will focus on how these concepts relate to management practices (such as mowing, fertilization, irrigation and winter overseeding of warm-season turfgrasses) and learn how to manage turfgrass under environmental stress. Pest management and pesticide resistance will also be discussed.

Instructor

Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., is a professor of agronomy in turfgrass physiology at The Ohio State University. His research in plant stress physiology has served as the foundation for his expertise in formulating IPM programs.

Budgeting and Forecasting

The budgeting process is a necessary element of enhancing your position as the manager of the largest asset - the golf course. This one-day seminar examines planning for positive financial results and helps you manage your resources. The participant is taught to revise budgets as necessary allowing your operation to run efficiently throughout the fiscal year. Major topics include preparing operating budgets, controlling with budgets, budgeting for capital expenses and managing cash budgets.

Instructor

Raymond Schmidgall, Ph.D., is Hilton Hotel's professor of hospitality for financial management at the School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management at Michigan State University.

Lake and Aquatic Plant Management

Put an end to stagnant or foul water areas. Topics include lake chemistry and biology that focus on the oxygen cycle; aquatic weed and algae identification and nutrients that fuel their growth; turf management practices that can impact lake water quality; design and construction of lake systems; lake management tools (aeration, biological, chemical, mechanical and cultural); aquatic herbicide application; and EPA and state permit issues.

Instructor

Terence M. McNabb, is president of Resource Management Inc., an environmental consulting firm specializing in lake and aquatic plant management. He is also the operations manager for ReMETRIX, one of the leading environmental mapping consulting firms in the water resource and golf course fields.

Sports Turf Management and Function

A one-day introduction to sports turf cultivation & management with emphasis on the linkages between management, turfgrass quality and functionality. The program includes the following content: a review of field construction techniques, soil vs. sand fields, mowing, fertility

and water management, secondary management; e.g. aeration and topdressing, integrated turfgrass management (ITM) of sports fields - a new perspective on IPM, quality evaluation of sports turf, functional evaluation of sports turf (e.g. hardness, ball response etc.) and construction, management and user levels - how much is enough?

Instructor

Brian Holl Ph.D., PAg, is a professor of agricultural sciences at the University of British Columbia. Research projects include fine fescue breeding, rhizosphere management and fertility management of turf using organic-based resources (e.g. biosolids).

Effective Soil Water Management for Quality Golf Course Turf

This half-day seminar (afternoon) includes the use of good agronomic practices and other practices available to effectively manage water for uniform turf quality. The physio-chemical properties of water, water movement, the interaction of water with soil particles, water use by the plant and factors affecting soil water retention are also discussed.

Instructors

Stan Kostka, Ph.D., is the director of research and development for Aquatrols Corporation, and John Cisar, Ph.D., is a professor and turf coordinator at the University of Florida.



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Ayrshire

This column has been blank for the past couple of months with holidays and no news to report. Jim Paton, from West Kilbride, called to say that two greenkeepers had played the final of their club championship with Barry Crawford, of Old Prestwick, defeating defending champion local man Brian Aitken. Is this a unique occurrence?!

A man on the move is my old apprentice from Beith, David Blair, who moves to Lochwinnoch Golf Club to be Alastair Law's First Assistant. Congratulations and good wishes with your new job David. Over the town in Largs, at Routenburn, First Assistant, Colin Sutherland, has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper. Congratulations and good wishes with your new job Colin also. That's all the summer news, well at least the weather has been good.

I was at St Andrews for The Open Championship with the Support Team which was again superb and a most enjoyable event. The highlight for me was being drawn with Tiger Woods on the first day and apart from being an awesome golfer he didn't bother going in any bunkers which he repeated for the entire Championship. I would like to pay a tribute to Jimmy Neilson and Cecil George who retired from the Support Team at St Andrew's, where it was started in 1984 with Jimmy and Cecil, among others, in the days of SIG-GA. They had been present ever since. Well done lads you have carried out a fantastic job and can now become full time ambassadors in the hospitality marquee. The autumn outing is on September 21 at Largs (Kelburn). Secretary, Derek Wilson, will be in touch soon with the final arrangements if you don't already have them. To book your entry give Derek a call on 01294 276177 or just return your entry form. I look forward to meeting you there. Any news give me a call on 01505 683278.

Iain Barr

Central

Sorry about the blank last month but I had very little news for you. Nobody thought to tell me that only nine members of the Section played in the Scottish Tournament at Newmacher, and that four of them were in the prize list! So they will just have to miss out on having their names in print. While I am on about the 'Scottish Tournament,' why was there so little support from the

Section? Was the venue too far away? Is it the wrong time of the year? Are there too many events being held? If you have any thoughts on the aforementioned, please get in touch with any committee member or Peter Boyd on the usual number.

Another three members have joined the Section and we welcome Adam Head, from Auchterarder GC, Alan Green, from Dunblane New GC, and John Forrest from Canmore GC. A man on the move this time is Abe Torrance. Abe has left the Green Hotel Golf Courses, at Kinross, where he was employed as an assistant and has taken up a similar position with Joe Oliver, at Pitreavie GC, in Dunfermline. Best wishes for the future Abe, you'll be able to get an extra half hour in your bed in the morning!

The entry form for the Autumn Tournament at Stirling GC on September 21 should be with you by now. So if you wish to play in the final golf event of this year, it is also the first qualifying round for the 2001 National Championship, please get your entries in as soon as possible. On August 24 we will have held a football tournament at Forthbank Stadium, Stirling.

The proposed visit to the seed trial ground at Loch Lomond has had to be cancelled due to circumstances outwith our control. Sorry if you are disappointed, but there was nothing we could do about it.

Richard Walton, of Scotts, is organising a visit to their fertiliser plant for next month and he is also hoping to include a visit to the STRI at Bingley on one of the two day programmes. Anyone interested should return their form quickly as numbers may be restricted.

We are hoping to hold this year's AGM in the St Andrews area, with a talk on golf course machinery prior to the meeting and a visit to the maintenance complex following the AGM. That's another form for you to fill in!

The winning numbers in the 'Club 2000' draw for the past two months were No. 388, Joe Oliver from Pitreavie GC and No. 260 which was sold by Alex Robertson from Grangemouth GC. This year's 'Club 2000' tickets should be arriving with you soon and you will notice a difference in the monthly prize, instead of one winner of £50 we are making one of £30 and one of £20. Once again your support in this venture will be very much appreciated by your committee.

As in previous years, the Inter Club tournament has fallen behind schedule with a number of first round ties still to be played. It will be difficult for the committee to take any action on this one as four of them have teams participating in the event!

John Crawford

East

Welcome to this month's column. There's not a lot of news around just now so here we go.

The Section held their Summer Tournament at Melrose GC in the heart of the Scottish Borders. We had a good turnout on the day with 38+ in attendance and the weather was reasonably good which is very unusual these days. The way the weather is going, all I can say is roll on summer when it starts, I think that will be around October!

Thanks for the day go out to the Captain and Council for courtesy of the course, the clubhouse staff for looking after us very well and Head Greenkeeper, Stevie Dunn, and his staff for having the course in great condition for us, which is quite a daunting thought when you have 30+ greenkeepers going round your course. Well done to all. Also thanks to our trade members who provided raffle prizes and also gave a helping hand on the day.

Results of the day were: 1. S. Greenwood, S. Aird, M.O. Rourke, sec Melrose GC; 2. S. Gray, J. Robertson, E. Thomson; 3. T. Murray, S. Dunn, T. Scott.

The next tournament on the calendar is the Willie Woods Invitational at Winterfield GC on September 6, so hopefully you've got yourself a partner for this great tournament. If not, ask your Captain, Secretary, Vice Captain, Greens Chairman or anyone from your committee along for the day. If they have not been before, they will be pleasantly surprised, so we hope to see you there.

Following on from that will be the autumn outing, first qualifier for the BIGGA National Championship 2001. So we hope to see a big turnout at Duddingston GC on the 21 September.

Going back to the Willie Woods at Winterfield, having spoken to Craig, final preparations on the course are well under way for the tournament and he is looking forward to having us down in Dunbar.

People on the move this month are Iain Elliot, from Dalmahoy G & CC, who has moved down to the Borders to join my team at West Linton GC as First Assistant, third in charge. Welcome along to our team and all the best for the future.

I will have details of the Annual Dance and Section Raffle shortly and immediately I receive them I will put them in print.

Well, that's all this month.

Chris Yeaman

North

A couple of new members to welcome to the Section this month. Paul Fraser, from Brechin GC, and Robert Duncan, from Royal Dornoch GC, and rejoining the Section, now working at

Longside GC is Jonathan Lester. The Section continues to grow and grow and hopefully new members will remain with us for years to come.

The Open was another great experience at the home of golf, St Andrews. The Section was well represented as usual and full credit to Eddie Adams and his staff for the presentation of a fine links test for all.

The soccer match on the Saturday resulted in another Scottish win. If we win again next year we get to keep them! Ex-Section member, Gordon Mckie, nearly lost his gear when dropping off some of the London based lads at Edinburgh airport as they took his bags as well, but realised before boarding the plane, fortunately.

The Scottish Amateur Matchplay was held in the Section at Royal Dornoch recently and Bobby Mackay and his staff had the course looking superb as usual. This was a double for the North as the Scottish Strokeplay was at Letham Grange earlier in the year.

Are you remembering to send entries in for the Section's autumn outing at the end of the month at Peterculter.

David Marnoch and his staff will be wanting to show off their lovely course to as many as possible, so let's have a good turnout. We will have the next four draws for the Section's 200 Club, so if you're there you can pick up your cheque on the day, providing you win of course.

The two lucky members from the Section to win the year 2000 Patron Awards will be announced shortly with details in the next magazine.

So if you have been attending BIGGA events over the last 12 months, you could be one of the ones chosen for a trip to BTME next January.

Watch this space.

Iain Macleod



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Northern

A full report will be in next month's issue for Invitation Day. A date for your diary is Wednesday, November 15, when, at Howley Hall GC, there will be a winter seminar during the day. More details of this event will follow.

The team for the annual Roses match against the North West Section is as follows:- Simon Heppenstall, Richard Smith, Jim Brown, Johnney Platt, Andy Smith, Nigel White, Alan Baxter, Eric Paley, Edwin Walsh, Alan

Court, Richard Harris, Roy Armitage, Dave Collins, Les Kirkbright, Alvin Fawcett, Peter Thompson.

Our next event is the Autumn Tournament, at Hornsea GC, 1.30pm, sponsored by F & G Adamson.

All entries for the golf events are to be sent to myself and must be received along with the FULL amount of £15 no later than seven days before the event. Cheques to be made payable to "BIGGA Northern Section."

Entries will be on a first come first in basis, so book early to avoid disappointment.

We welcome this month new members:- John Burnside, Bingley St.Ives GC; Stuart Rogers, Philip Niven, Northcliffe GC; Andrew Slingsby, Hollins Hall H&GC.

You can be assured of a warm welcome at any of our Section events. If you have any enquires don't hesitate in picking the phone up and giving us a ring.

There is no other news at the moment, if anybody has any then let me know.

My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 2383188 / mobile 07790 678572, or my new email: andy_smith21@hotmail.com
Andy Smith

North West

I have just returned from The Open at St Andrews and feel completely jet-lagged, although we travelled by car. Long days without my evening's nap, while 'Neighbours' is on, catches up in the end. Back to The Open and what a finish by Tiger Woods. When he thought he was going to be caught on the final day, he shifted into another gear and left them all standing.

The course was in lovely condition and on the Wednesday the greens were reported to be 11 on the stimpmetre and the fairways measured 8. The bunkers seemed to cause problems for some of the players, and I must admit just peering into them made the mind boggle. Of course they posed no problem to Tiger who missed them all. I feel the reason for this is that he was able to out drive them all. As you all know, the weather could not have been better and it was a great week to remember, especially meeting up with old friends in the Support team.

Anybody interested in education can find plenty of information in the magazine about training courses at BIGGA HOUSE, also regional courses. If you require any further information, give me a ring.

The Cumbria Cup has been renamed 'The Whitelaw Bowl' and will be played for at Penrith Golf Club on Wednesday, September 13. Anybody wanting to play should ring Andy Vincent, of Course Care, on 07971 292 626. We have a match against the Golf Club Stewards on Monday, October 2, at Stand Golf Club and I require a team of 16 players. If you are interested, please give me a ring and you don't have to be the best golfer in the world.

That seems to be it for now, but if you have any news or require any information, you can contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross



Midland Region
Les Emery
Tel: 0116 287 9036

East Midlands

It is with deep regret that I report the sad death of Gerald Darby. Gerald was a popular member of the Section during the 1970's while working at Birstall Golf Club. He then moved South to the Surrey Section before retiring about five years ago. Our

condolences go to Gerald's wife and two daughters. The Section was represented by two of our members, Dave Leatherland and Richard Barker at this year's Open held at St Andrews.

Finally, all members should be in possession of their autumn competition entry form. If you wish to play in this tournament please return your form before the closing date. If any members have not received a form, please contact me and I will gladly send you a copy.

Antony Bindley

Midlands

On July 19 the summer tournament was held at Walsall Golf Club. The day proved to be a great success with the English weather being very kind to us for a change. Many thanks to Steve Wood for presenting the course in such splendid condition and to all his staff, also to all the associated golf club staff for making the day such a great success. The results are as follows: 1. Gross, Mike Hughes. 1. Net, Eddie Stant. 2. Alan Roberts, 3. A. Lang, 4. Brian Nuttall. Nearest the Pin was won by Peter Holtham. Martin Sowerby won longest drive. Peter McCrair won the trade cup.
Jonathan Wood

Your greens' quality is riding on it.



East of England

The Purdy's Golf Day took place at Kenwick Park Golf Club, Louth.

As usual the organiser was late, but eventually the competition got under way.

Head Greenkeeper, Geoff Henderson, and his staff, were praised for the excellent condition of the course.

The winner of the Purdy's/Toro Cup was David Hornsey, of Woodhall Spa - 33 points; 2. Graeme MacDonald of Newark with 32 points; 3. Simon Gazda of Kenwick, - 31 points. The main sponsors of the day were Andy Hardie and Les Purdy, of Purdy's Grass Machinery, and thanks to them for the usual excellent prizes for the winners.

Everybody went home with a prize even if it was only a raffle prize.

The day was also capped off with a super donation from Toro towards the meals for which we are truly grateful to Andy Hardie and Toro for organising.

Other sponsors on the day were Rigby Taylor, Tower Sports, Green Pride, Barenbrug, Scotts and Aitkens.

Unfortunately the Scotts fertiliser/chemical factory tour on August 2 had to be cancelled due to poor support, but thanks to David Truby for his support in organising the day.

Look out for other events which are in the pipeline - ie seminar in November.

G A MacDonald

Mid Anglia

Our autumn golf tournament will be held slightly earlier than usual this year, on Wednesday, September 27, at Mid Hert's Golf Club. Please have your entries in on time to Richard Saunders at the usual address should you wish to enter.

The golf event will be followed by the Section AGM, which is open to all BIGGA members of the section, so please feel free to attend.

I'm sure the Section Committee would welcome input from the members on how the Section is run at present and would consider any new ideas for the future.

The final of the Lodgeway 4 Ball Tournament will be held on October 5, hopefully over the two courses at Brocket Hall. Good luck to all the participating finalists.

For those of you who did not photocopy the entry form for golf events, Richard's address is 55 Leys Road, St Neots, Huntingdon, Cambs PE19 1EP. Please enclose a cheque for £23.

Paul Lockett



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

East Anglia

The day was warm and overcast when teams from Essex and East Anglia came together for the biannual golf match at Stoke by Nayland Golf Club. My guest, Peter Bevin, stated on the first tee "That this is a young man's Golf Club." Personally I preferred to think that a few genetic characteristics of a mountain goat may have come in handy.

Kevin King and his staff had made a splendid effort in producing a first class course for the lads to play on, 45 in all, and the staff in the clubhouse went out of their way to provide excellent service, our thanks go out to everyone at the golf club. The Sponsor for the day was Tuckwell Ltd and Neil Peachy and Ian Willett made sure that the day ran as smoothly as possible. Our thanks go out to Tuckwells for their continual support and sponsorship.

On to the winners:- 0 - 9

handicap 1. A. Kirwan 39 points; 2. D. Beale 35 points (on countback); 3. P. Howard 35 points. 10 - 18 1. S. Curtis 44 points (Steve also won best of the day and had his handicap cut by two shots); 2. G. Nash 41 points;

3. S. Townsend 40 points. 19 - 28 1. J. Pymer 32 points; 2. K. Chinnery 28 points,

3. M. Forrester 25 points. Guest and Trade prize was won by W. Assenheim 41 points. Longest Drive - A. Kirwan, Nearest the Pin - G. Bird.

Now onto the coveted Tuckwell Cup, where it was agreed to take the eight best cards from greenkeepers from each Section. Essex accrued 274 points and East Anglia 299. It gave me great pleasure to accept the trophy as Captain of the East Anglia Team. Many thanks to all those who took part in the competition and well done to all the East Anglia Team. A splendid effort.

Ian Willett

Kent

The Section's second golf day was held on July 25 at Broke Hill Golf Club.

A total of 60 members, members of the trade and guests



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played in this invitation stableford competition. 1. Andy Pearson and Ken Robinson with 67 pts (BIH); 2. James Duncan and Graham Collins with 67 pts; 3. Chris Marsh and M Young with 65 pts (BIH). Trade Prize - Peter Leeves and J. Moir.

Longest Drive - Terry Edwards.

Nearest the Pin - J Moir.

It has come to our attention that the tee shot of J. Moir finished approximately five feet from the hole, beating the previous nearest (held by Gary Ogilvie, a four handicapper from Avoncrop) by only a few inches. Congratulations on a fine shot Mr Moir, but Gary, would like you to talk us through the three putts!

Out thanks to Barry Jackson and the rest of the staff at Broke Hill for a great day.

The course was in excellent condition and the evening meal was first class.

A big thank you also to Alistair and Bernie for their help on the day, starting people and organising the nearest the pin and longest drive.

The next golf day will be held at Kings Hill in October, hope to see you all there.

Congratulations to John Noyce, of Scotts Fertiliser

Company, on his forthcoming wedding. A lot of you will know John from his time at Parker Hart and I am sure you'll join us in wishing them future happiness. Sorry John, but we don't know the name of your good lady.

As always, the Section is open to offers for courses for next year's golf events.

If any of you would like to put your club forward or if you have any information for this Section, please contact me on 01277 750281.

James Duncan

Surrey

As there have been no golf competitions since last month's edition and the September edition's deadline, today August 5, there are therefore no results to report.

I will take this opportunity, however, to remind all members that on September 27 we are playing our autumn tournament at Laleham Golf Club and the Turkey Trot and AGM at Tyrrells Wood. By the time you read this we will have played the McMillan Tankard on August 21 and Addington Palace on the 30th.

Results will be shown in

October's edition.

A number of our members have been, or are about to move and I ask you all to welcome Ian Wylie, the new Head Greenkeeper at Selsdon Park Golf Club. Congratulations to Stuart Patterson, who is leaving Woodcote Park to become First Assistant at Westerham GC. Stuart has been at Woodcote for three years and previously at Selsdon Park, also for three years.

Ian McMillan is, as I am sure you all know by now, leaving Hankley Common to take up his position as Course Manager at Queensland Golf Club, Ottershaw, a new exclusive course still in the development stage.

Gareth Roberts will be stepping into Ian's shoes at Hankley and Paul Hutton will take over as Assistant Course Manager, well deserved after 17 years service.

Well that's it for this month except to inform you of the danger when Roger Tydeman is off road at Croham Hurst.

His pick up has a blind spot when he is watching juniors in his side mirrors and drives straight into unsuspecting trees!

Brian Willmott



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

South Coast

Autumn will be upon us by the time you read this. Several excellent golf days have been enjoyed by the Section this year. Firstly, the match against the secretaries was played at Basingstoke Golf Club with the greenkeepers winning easily 5-1. Thanks to Course Care for sponsoring the day and Basingstoke for allowing courtesy. Well done to Harvey and his team for the excellent course conditions.

The summer tournament was our guest day played at High Post Golf Club sponsored by Rigby Taylor and again Course Care. Well done to Lauchlan Millar and his team for the super conditions.

Winners with an obscene 48 pts was Joe Newman and his Guest, from Downshire GC.

Second was Ian Noble and guest, from Moors Valley GC, 45 pts. Third was Alan Rideout and guest, from Bournemouth Services, 44 pts.

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ment Trophy sponsored by Scotts Charterhouse was played at Salisbury and S Wilts Golf Club on August 2. An excellent turnout of 26 teams with the winners coming from the Isle of Wight. Well done the team from Freshwater Bay. Thanks must go to Paula Humphries for organising the day and everyone at Salisbury for making the event so successful.

Don't forget, come down for the autumn tournament on October 4. Payment in advance please to Chris Sturgess, 40 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton SO19 6HB. Telephone 07773 138409 before 8pm. Cost will be £17.

Lastly, the annual match against the S West will be played at Marlborough Golf Club on 5 September and the Turkey Trot and AGM will again be at Hockley Golf Club.

Thanks for your support.
Tony Gadd

Devon & Cornwall

I start my report this month by wishing Mick Oliver, of Oliver Seeds, a speedy recovery from his recent operation.

We hope to see him back to full fitness shortly. Also I would like to report that Bill Pile,

Course Manager at Fingle Glen Golf Club, will be retiring from his position during September. Bill was a founder member of the Section and was Section Secretary, taking over from Brian Summers, way back in the 70s, until handing over to Jim Wood in the late eighties.

Bill also served the Section on the Regional Board and on the old national committee of BGGa. Bill's hard work over the years has made our Section what it is today a strong and active section, without his effort I wonder where we would be today? Thanks Bill.

Summer is now slowly drawing to a close which means autumn is once again around the corner and with it the start of our autumn and winter meeting programme which will start this year at Dainton Park Golf Club on Wednesday, October 25. The morning's golf competition will be a singles Stableford competition for the D.O. Hunt Trophy. Our non-playing members will be able to enjoy the usual course walk which will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30 am, lunch will be from 1pm followed by our afternoon educational talk.

Golfing members please note

entry details for our forthcoming meetings:-

After receipt of your completed entry form which will have been sent out to you or your Course Manager.

Golfing members to receive starting times before meeting with a draw for partners being introduced, pairings will be accepted for our foursome and greensome competitions.

A levy of £2 will be added to each entry received after the closing date.

As some members have problems paying before meetings, they will be able to continue to pay on the day without being levied as long as the entry has been received before the closing date, any member who doesn't attend after entering will be invoiced if no payment is received.

Regional educational dates to note:

22 November
Regional Seminar to be held at Cannington College

23 - 26 January
Regions trip to BTME at Harrogate

For more details on regional

events, please contact Paula Humphries on 01288 352194.

You should have received your new fixture card which has this year been kindly sponsored by Rigby Taylor. The fixture card has dates of all our forthcoming events, if you haven't received yours yet please let me know.

Richard Whyman.

South Wales

The summer tournament on July 5 was held at the picturesque Ashburnham GC. The day was glorious and the course in excellent condition thanks to Paul and his team. Thanks to Ashburnham GC for allowing courtesy of the course and to Birds of Cowbridge Grass Machinery for sponsoring the day and also to the caterers for the wonderful food.

Best Gross & winner of the Birdie Cup Andy Roach; 2. Best Gross Kerry Llywelyn, Best Nett and winner of the Jacobsen Cup J.B. Jones. 2. Best Nett Gareth Evans.

Peter Lacey returned for his second assistance at the Open Championship held this year at St Andrews. Peter again showing the world what us Welshmen are made of. Well done I'm sure it was great to be

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Around the green

In January I took the opportunity, through the pages of Around the Green, to thank those of you responsible for supplying Section Notes for all the great work that you do and to pass on some information regarding deadlines and production processes. This month I'd like to repeat this information for the benefit of any new scribes who have started recently.

I know it must seem like a thankless task when you have a deadline approaching and you've got nothing to write about but generally the pages do provide more than enough news and gossip to keep everyone interested.

I'd also like to remind long time Section Note contributors, and inform those who have been handed the task, of those deadlines.

The cut off point has always been around the 5th of the month - eg for the September issue Notes the deadline was August 5. There is a little leeway as I know there are sometimes events you wish to include and you hold the Notes back. That's fine but if you could use the 5th of the month as your regular deadline I'd appreciate it. You may wonder why it is so early as normally the magazine arrives on your door mats in the first few days of the month of issue. At our end to enable this to happen, and in the post as early in the month as possible, our printers have to be supplied with the entire contents - editorial and advertisements - two weeks before then, which takes us into the middle of the previous month. Then to give David, our designer, a chance to lay-out all of the pages in an attractive fashion he needs another full working week. This takes us back to around the 12th of the month.

Also Christine types up your notes which takes up additional time, but don't forget, those of you who use email, can send them to me on scott@bigga.co.uk thus saving on the typing time.

Invariably there are elements of the magazine that require me to work close to that deadline so it is beneficial to have bits that are not particularly time sensitive cleared early. Section Notes are one such element.

I hope this explains how we can need a full month to process your work.

As I said there is some leeway but the earlier you send them in, the more it will help.

It is also helpful if you can have them typed or in clear handwriting, to reduce the number of misspelt names we print, while a recommended word count for each Section would be around 500. (This column is 500 words long to give you a measure). Obviously, if you've had a particularly busy month, don't feel you have to miss anything out, just to keep it under 500.

As I said the Section Notes are a valuable element of the magazine and I do appreciate all the work you put into producing them. Thanks a lot and keep up the good work.

Scott MacCallum

part of the Support team.

The Rigby Taylor Qualifiers are well under way with the finals to be held at Royal Porthcawl GC on October 18; P. Lacey & B. Hanford beat A. Phillips & W. Benja; A. Roach & D. Gladwin beat L. Davis & D. Bray. P. Wilaby & S. Lloyd beat R. Patterson & A. Hatcher; S. Mills & K. Llywelyn beat R. Frater & J. Borja; D. Ward & R. Hatcher beat D. Morgan & H. Stead; Matches still to be played; A. Richards & J. Davis v K. Jones & Daryl Bray; A. Panks & J. B. Jones v G. Evans & A. Chrichton also I. Morris & J. Carter v G. Johnstone & M. Norfolk. Thanks must go to all Golf Clubs for allowing us to use their courses for this event.

I must say our match was very close. After all, we were three up with three to play, and subsequently lost those which meant a sudden death play off with the first play off hole being the 10th at Pyle & Kenfig. This was halved, so on to the next we walked, a short way to the 18th at P & K. Myself & D. Ward won but it was a very close call against Henry & David, of the Grove GC. It was a great evening of golf with plenty of humour.

Congratulations to Steve Jones, of the Coed y Mwstwr, for taking up a new role as Head Greenkeeper on a 9 hole course in Germany. Well done!

On September 13 at Newport GC we have the autumn competition with a tee off time of 1.30pm. Also, on September 27, South Wales Section versus BIGGA South West at St. Pierre GC. 12 noon tee off. Catch up with the latest of the Rigby Taylor versus The Secretaries Match at Tredegar Park next month.

Richard Hatcher



Northern Ireland

I don't know about you, but I love the warm summer days and I could live in these conditions happily - the thoughts of wet gear and welly boots I find non-apppealing.

It's very nearly hollow-tining time, which sort of brings the season to an end. I hope for all of you, as you look back over your main competitions, they all went well, and I'm sure thoughts are now turning towards winter work of construction and continuing course improvements.

Our qualifying golf day was held at Castlerock Golf Course

on August 2 and for a change it was dry. We had a good turnout at 23 and I would like to thank everyone who was there and made the effort to travel up. It was worth the drive as this is a simply beautiful course. The setting, the condition and hospitality at this course make it a real gem. Special thanks to Castlerock GC for granting us permission to play and also to Charles Edgar and staff for presenting us with a real good test of Links Golf.



The qualifying winners with the combined scores from previous golf outings were Michael O'Neill and Noel Crawford -

Best Gross, Eamon Crawford and Nick Webber - Best Nett. Good luck lads and well done. I hope you enjoy your trip, and play well at St Annes Old Links and Fairhaven Golf Courses.

Next month, on October 25, the Northern Ireland region will

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be holding an educational seminar at Greenmount College. A great line up of speakers has been attained, with the likes of Jim Arthur, Chris Kennedy, from Wentworth; David Garland, the European Tour Director of Tour Operations; John Quinn, from Elmwood College; David MacIndoe, Joe Paulin, of Golden Eagle Agronomy and our own Frank Ainsworth.

This seminar is open to all,

from Greenkeepers to Secretary Managers and anyone else involved in the Golf Course Industry. An approx. cost will be £25 for members and £30 for non-members. Booking forms will be sent to every club in the next few days. Don't leave booking your place to the last minute as this, I'm sure, will be very well attended. Lunch is included in the price and it is requested that a respectable dress code is adhered to.

We also have secured sponsorship from all the main suppliers of machinery and fertiliser in the province who will be showing their wares on the day. Also sponsorship from the GUI and enormous help from BIGGA headquarters will no doubt make this a great day and one definitely not to be missed.

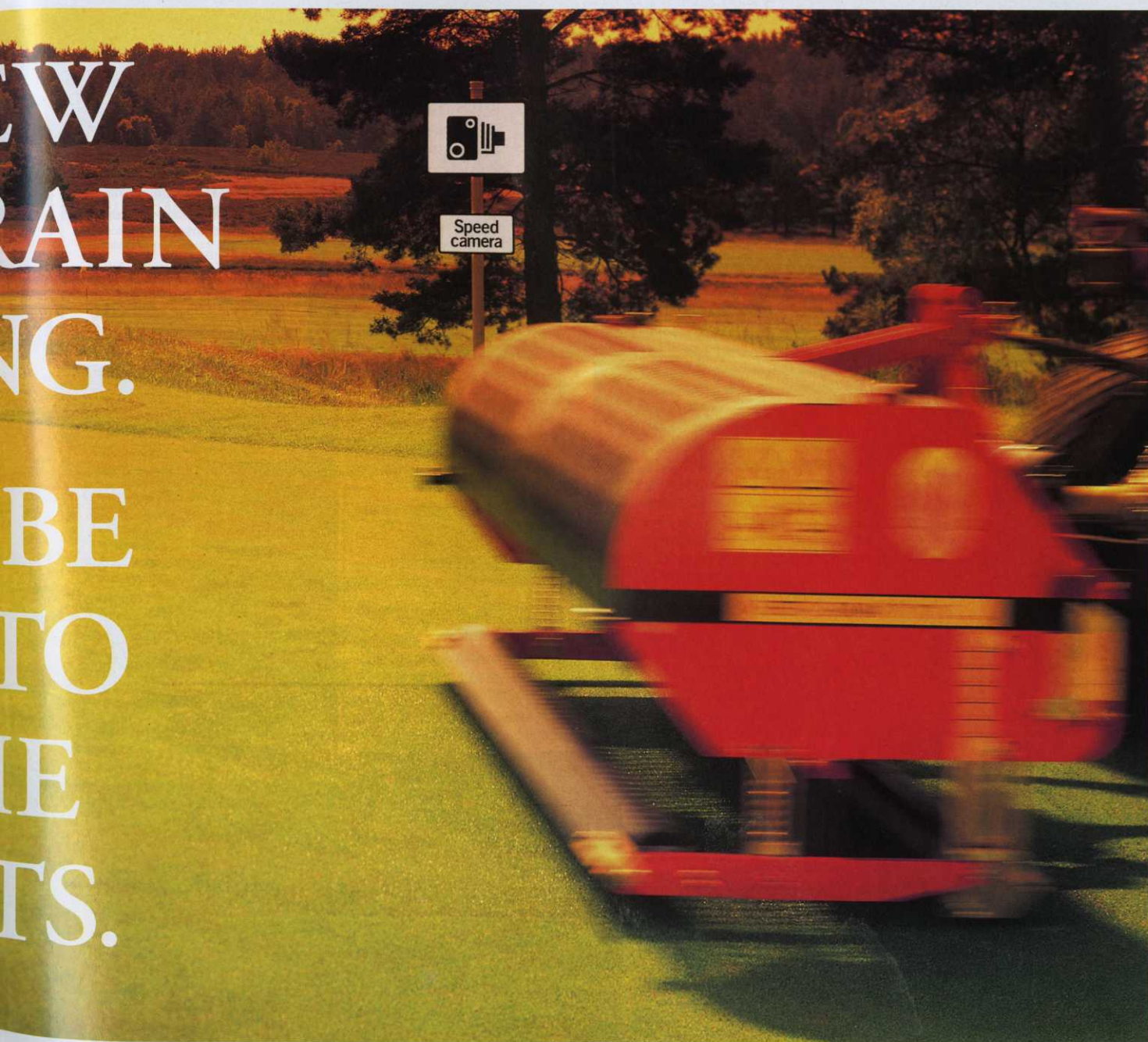
Finally, Head Greenkeeper at Shandon, Jeffery Lamb, got married on August 5. I was at the reception and it was pleas-

ing to know that your new wife has a better singing voice than you Jeffery. Congratulations and best wishes to you both for the future.

Iain Harrison.

Around
the green

See you all next month!



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CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The following companies have shown their continued support to the Education and Development Fund which has enabled BIGGA to introduce the CPD scheme as the latest initiative in its ongoing commitment to greenkeeper education and training

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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.

British greenkeepers have a wide range of qualifications, linked to the National Standards, from N/SVQ Level 2 to first degree. Research has shown that Britain leads the way in education and training provision for greenkeepers and BIGGA has been influential in developing training that is job specific, so improving the status of the profession leading to enhanced pay and greater recognition of its members.

BIGGA's Mission Statement includes 'BIGGA is dedicated to the continuing professional development of its members...' and BIGGA has provided and continues to provide a range of education and training opportunities which support professional development. Other training providers also offer a wide range of courses which can be used as evidence of Continuing Professional Development.

The BIGGA CPD Scheme has several benefits to its members and their employers. It will encourage greenkeepers:

- To adapt out dated skills
- To keep in touch with changes in legislation
- To show employers that greenkeepers are true professionals
- To accumulate evidence towards further National Qualifications
- To give greenkeepers a means of showing current prospective employers they have continued their education and training beyond a minimum level
- To update skills and knowledge on a regular basis
- To promote greenkeeping as a profession
- To give greenkeepers the skills to cope with change

A BIGGA Certificate of Continuing Professional Development will be awarded to those BIGGA greenkeeper members who accumulate 10 CPD Credits annually from July to June.

BIGGA greenkeeper members who have been awarded five successive BIGGA Certificates of Continuing Professional Development will receive a BIGGA Diploma of Continuing Professional Development.

The scheme runs as follows:

1. Greenkeepers must be member of BIGGA
2. A minimum formal qualification of N/SVQ Level 2 (or equivalent) is required to enter the scheme
3. The scheme runs annually from 1 July to 30 June
4. Courses, seminars, workshops and training days are awarded CPD Credits
5. Each greenkeeper must accumulate 10 Credits per year to reach the standard
6. All those reaching 10 Credits are awarded a Certificate
7. If an individual achieves the requirement for five consecutive years they receive a diploma
8. All training must be related to National Standards

The types of training that attract CPD credits are:

- BTME Seminars
- The National Education Conference or Workshops
- Regional Courses
- BIGGA House Courses
- Short Courses (eg. tractor driving, chain saw, first aid, D32/33)
- Approved industry courses and workshops

For full details of the CPD Scheme contact BIGGA's Education and Training Department on 01347 833800 or via education@bigga.co.uk

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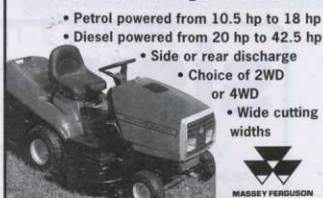
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M J Smith, Course Manager, Porters Park Golf Club,
Shenley Hill, Radlett, Herts WD7 7AZ

BERKHAMSTED GOLF CLUB

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Should be qualified to NVQ Level 2.
Please apply in writing with CV to:-

Gerald Bruce, Berkhamsted Golf Club,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 2QB

STRATFORD ON AVON GOLF CLUB

Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

An enthusiastic and hardworking individual is required to join our existing team.
NVQ Level 2 along with PA1, PA2 and PA6 qualifications preferred.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

The Course Manager, Stratford on Avon Golf Club,
Tiddington Road, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 7BA



Birchwood Park Golf Centre

As part of the progressive Burhill Golf Group, Birchwood Park is a quality pay and play golf centre near Swanley, Kent. We are seeking a suitably qualified and experienced

HEAD GREENKEEPER

to lead the development of 27 holes and driving range. In return for providing you with an attractive package, excellent resources, and pleasant working environment, we require leadership, motivational and organisational skills, the ability to manage resources and a commitment to continual improvement.

Applications in writing with full c.v. including current salary to:

Mr B Taylor, Regional Operations Manager
Burhill Golf Centres Ltd
Burhill, WALTON-ON-THAMES, Surrey KT12 4BX

Closing Date for applications is 21 September 2000

WOODCOTE PARK GOLF CLUB

Requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Minimum qualifications of NVQ Level 2.
Salary and conditions negotiable. Accommodation available.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

Mr K R Brabbins, General Manager, Woodcote Park Golf Club,
Meadow Hill, Bridle Way, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2QQ



Royal Automobile Club

Assistant Greenkeeper Required

Applications are invited from enthusiastic and hard working greenkeepers to join our existing team. Qualified to NVQ Level 2 with PA1, PA2 and PA6 qualifications preferred.

We have 2 x 18 hole golf course, a new greenkeepers complex and offer good wages, a contributory pension scheme and meals on duty.

Application forms from: The Human Resource Department,
Royal Automobile Club, Woodcote Park Clubhouse, Wilmerhatch Lane,
Epsom, Surrey KT18 7EW. Tel: 01372 229 282 (9am - 3pm).

Feature listing from September '98

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

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

November '98: Royal Opening, 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; Redexin profile

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

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

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

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

January 2000: Greens Construction; Aikward 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

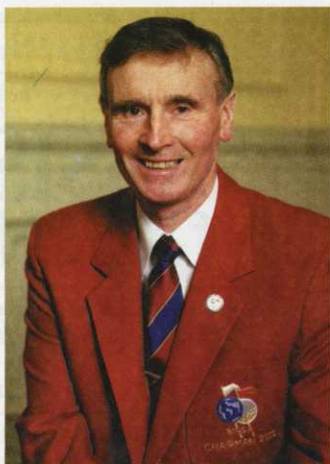
June 2000: National Championship preview; Spraying; World Education Conference review; Environmental Management; Mowers

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



A memorable month



The view from the 12th tee on the new Lynedoch course at Murrayshall, in Perthshire is magnificent and I was fortunate to be able to savour it on the opening day of this beautiful new course. Designed by Hamilton Stutt and moulded into great condition by Ian MacMillan MG and his staff, this is a thinking course, no place for the slogger here and I would thoroughly recommend it to anyone.

My thanks to Mr A.C. Van Gils, the owner and a marvellous host, for my invitation to what was an excellent day. To Ian MacMillan, my thanks for your company and for all the interesting information on the course. I must say that the greens were in tremendous shape considering they are under a year old.

On Sunday July 16, I attended the Opening Ceremony of the World Junior Championships held at Craik GC in NE Fife. That was something to see as Sir Michael Bonallack opened the Championship with 75 youngsters from 75 different countries all lined up to listen to his welcoming words. There was a flag raising ceremony and instead of 75 different flags which could have been problematic, one flag had been made up with the flags of the 75 countries on it, what a souvenir that would be. What was just as impressive as that was when I returned on the Tuesday for the final day's play and prize giving ceremony. The play of these young people over a very tough course was of a very high standard as was their sportsmanship and the friendliness between themselves and also their hosts. I was privileged to be able to present the BIGGA trophy to Steven Jeppesen, from Sweden, and a name I will watch out for in the future.

From there to The Open for what was another great week in all ways. Scott covered most of the news in his report last month. Suffice for me to say a big thank you to all the Support Team for another job well done with their usual good humour and hard work. Did I say hard work, had it easy this year lads eh! Lowest total of bunkers ever, no wonder you had so much energy at night! It was almost a moist eyed (yes even among these hardened greenkeepers) farewell supper on the Sunday night when I was delighted to make a small presentation to Cecil George and Jimmy Neilson as this was their last Open as official BIGGA starters. They have officiated at every Open since we started in 1984 and it won't be quite the same without them but I hope they will grace us with their presence in the future.

Among the highlights for me during the week was attending the Golf Writers' Dinner with Scott on Tuesday night and seeing at first hand some of the people who, for me, brighten up any golf tournament. No, I'm not talking about Olazabal, Garcia, Torrance, Horton, Faldo, Jacklin and other pros who were there. For me it's reading the reports of Norman Mair, Michael McDonnell, Jock MacVicar and many others who start my day off.

On the Friday night I was invited along with Neil, to the Captain of the R&A's suite which overlooks the 18th fairway and green and a pleasant evening was capped as we watched Tiger Woods playing the last hole from one of the best viewing points in St Andrews.

On August 1, I had the honour of accepting a Gold Award at the Annual Green Apples Awards ceremony held in the luxurious surroundings of the Cafe Royale, in Regent Street, London. This award is in recognition of the contribution the BIGGA Environment Competition makes towards improving the environment in the UK.

During my travels this year I have had the opportunity to talk with many greenkeepers from all over the country and from all types of golf club, big and small. It is apparent that, in a large number of cases, the working conditions have improved tremendously with better wages and working environment, with many new facilities being built and provision of good clothing and footwear, not just wellies and rubber waterproofs.

Many of these improvements can be

put down to the better standard of educated greenkeeper who is able to argue his case for all these improvements than in years gone by.

However, there are still many poorly paid, poorly equipped greenkeeping staff working in badly lit, cold, damp maintenance facilities. Certain areas of the country fare worse than others, especially on the wages front. Cornwall & Devon, parts of Northern England, parts of Scotland and Wales are examples but it's probably fair to say that every area of Britain has its good and bad clubs.

In some of these cases it's annoying to hear that the club could find £30 to £35,000 for a dedicated fairway mower but could not give their staff a decent pay rise. Don't get me wrong, I'm not against fairway mowers, they make a wonderful job, the quality of cut is excellent and the fairways look lovely. Mind you, it makes no difference to 90% of the club members in the execution of the shot.

What I am against is that the look of fairways should be considered before the welfare of the greenkeeping staff. It is time that many of these clubs took a long hard look at themselves and asked the question: "How can we possibly ask our green staff to work in those conditions for that wage and would we do it?" It would be nice to hear of one club that said for £30,000 we could give each of our staff more money and help upgrade their facilities and conditions.

I am not for a minute saying clubs should not buy fairway mowers, I will be buying one myself next year, but they should be bought when the time is right for a particular club, after all the main priorities have been taken care of, not because club B along the road has one and their fairways are terrific. Certainly not before the green staff are well paid and have been provided with good facilities and conditions. A well paid, well equipped staff will always give greater return.

There is a time in the life of every problem when it is big enough to see yet small enough to solve

Sir Michael Bonallack

MEMBERSHIP REQUEST CARD



If you are employed as a greenkeeper, at college studying greenkeeping, or involved in any way with the fine turf industry, then BIGGA membership could benefit you. To find out more about membership, fill in this card and send it to us today.

☒ **Yes, I'm interested in joining BIGGA. Please send me details of:**

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