

Award-winning magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association



August 2001 - £3.50

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

Island life on

Machrie

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A guide to who's who at BIGGA

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

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www.bigga.org.uk

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Visit www.bigga.org.uk and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

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Exceedingly Good Greenkeepers

Have you caught the advert on television which shows two greenkeepers watching an inept golfer knocking divots out of the course. One turns to the other and asks why the club had allowed him to become a member. The other says something along the lines of "Mr Kipling? He can't play golf but he does make exceedingly good cakes."

Now there are three elements to this advert. One. Mr Kipling's cakes, which I have no doubt are exceedingly good. Two. Golf, which is being used as a vehicle for selling the product. Three. Greenkeepers, who are central to the plot.

Now it may be argued that it would have been nice to see them doing something a little more dynamic than drinking tea, a bit of aeration work or top dressing, bunker edging perhaps but let's not be greedy. The advert may be for Fondant Fancies or Cherry Bakewells but at least it recognises the fact that golf courses need to be maintained and that the job is done by greenkeepers.

That is a huge stride forward because any recognition for the work that you do is positive and if someone like Mr Kipling, the cake manufacturer not the inept golfer, feels that greenkeepers can help them sell cakes, then great!

As we have said many times communication is the key, using cakes or anything else, and the need for that has been hammered home once again through the excellent aeration survey produced by the Berkshire College Greenkeeping Liaison Committee by Ray Clark and Martin Gunn and the BB&O Section. It appears on page 17 this month.

The response to one particular question leaps out. "If you do not aerate your greens as often as you would like, which reason best describes why?" The overwhelming response - some 54% - was "Golfer Pressure" which was 30% higher than the next highest answer "Lack of Resources". Now you can accept lack of resources as a practical reason, particularly at smaller clubs, but the fact that golfer pressure is making such an impact is frankly appalling.

Golf club members should hang their heads in shame and if that doesn't tell us that communication about the need for aeration, and many other greenkeeping practices, is desperately needed to be improved I don't know what does.

It would be interesting to see if the BB&O results, and I understand Ray and Martin had a 100% response rate, are reflected over the rest of the country so please let me know via snail mail, email or fax.

If it is the case it shows that we have a really huge education job to do.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to use this column to congratulate Paul Smith and his team on the magnificent condition in which they produced the course. It was a wonderful Open, made all the more so by a course which reaffirmed its place as one of the finest links courses in the country.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

Henton & Chattell and Breakwells sign up to John Deere

John Deere has signed ET Breakwell Ltd and Henton & Chattell Ltd as Commercial and Consumer Equipment dealers in the Midlands. The two dealers had previously been part of the Textron stable.

Between them Breakwells and Henton & Chattell have over 120 years in the groundscape industry and both will now be selling and servicing John Deere's full line of professional, golf and turf and domestic equipment, including the Roberine and Sabo brands.

"We are delighted to welcome these two leading dealers, with such a strong history of machinery, sales and service to the John Deere network," said Graham Williams, Deere's C&CC Division Manager.

"Their experience and established customer base will strengthen our position in the Midlands and enhance our continued growth in the UK groundscape market," he added.

Breakwell's employs 65 people across the business, with 22 in service and parts. It will now be covering the West Midlands, Staffordshire and part of Leicestershire for John Deere.

"In order to maintain a high level of after sales service and ensure our continued success in the grounds maintenance industry we see our future with John Deere," said Len Breakwell, Managing Director.

Henton & Chattell also



John Chaloner and Len Breakwell with Graham Williams seated

employs 65 people with 28 in service and parts. Its new territory for John Deere covers Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and part of Leicestershire.

"We have taken a commercial

decision that our long-term future lies with John Deere, and its plans for expansion in the groundscape marketplace," said John Chaloner, Managing Director.

A new 'yellow patch' of bent grass

A new problem of bent grass has recently been identified across the UK and Ireland.

Mark Hunt, Product Manager, Headland Amenity Limited, initially spotted the unusual patch problem back in 1998 on a small number of recently constructed courses and with the support of Headland Amenity began looking into the problem.

During the next two summers, more courses began to show up the symptom extending across England and Ireland. With the assistance of Cropcare, Headland's Irish distributor, samples were taken and analysis began.

"It became apparent during that period that the problem didn't fit a specific recognised turfgrass pathogen, though it closely resembled a particular turfgrass disease, a situation that led to a number of 'dead ends' and inevitable frustration," said Mark.

Towards the end of last summer, Dr Kate Entwistle, The Turf Disease Centre, UK, was called in to identify its cause, but because

of its period of activity, it wasn't until this summer using fresh samples from the UK and Ireland that progress was made.

Kate was, however, able to discuss the problem with Dr Joe Vargas Jr., Michigan State University, during last year's Myerscough Turf Conference, since Joe had been independently asked to become involved in the identification of this peculiar phenomenon. Work is still ongoing to determine the complete nature of this new condition, but they have found that the symptoms are definitely associated with the establishment of a root knot nematode of the *Meloidogyne* genus.

"This is an extremely exciting discovery for us," explained Kate.

"I have been aware for some time that several types of nematodes increasingly appear to be associated with problems on amenity turf, but this is the first time that I have seen *Meloidogyne* causing such dramatic symptoms on putting greens in the UK and in Ireland.

"We hope to have further details

very soon and are looking at publishing an article on the condition in a forthcoming issue of *Greenkeeper International*," said Kate.

The problem shows itself as pale green or yellow/green patches or rings which appear around May/June and remain throughout the growing season until they disappear from the putting surface around November time. Only very occasionally does the sward thin or show dead areas within the affected patch.

"We fully appreciate the concerns of the Course Managers presently involved in this investigation with regard to finding a cure for this disfiguring problem. However, we need to be absolutely certain what we are dealing with before we can make any recommendations. Misidentification and incorrect advice at this stage for control could actually exacerbate the problem," said Kate.

For further information contact Kate Tel: 01256 880246.

BIGGA takes a Walk on the Wildside of Golf

The Wildside of Golf - the latest publication to be produced by BIGGA - was officially released during the Open Championship.

Financed by the Association's Education and Development Fund, which is supported by companies within the fine turf industry; the full colour booklet highlights the positive contributions golf courses make to the environmental management of the British Isles. This is achieved through photographs, text and quotes to show that golf courses are being managed to help with the preservation of wild flowers, native heathland, varied woodland and a range of other flora and fauna.

Written by Bob Taylor, Senior Ecologist with the Sports Turf Research Institute, Malcolm Peake, Course Consultant, Temple Golf Club and Lee Penrose, also the STRI, with a forward by Michael Parkinson. It also contains quotes from many sporting and golfing figures, among them Ian Botham, Sir Jackie Stewart and former Open



Champion Nick Price, who all appreciate the benefits golf does for the environmental wellbeing of the country as a whole.

Printed on 80% recycled paper the

28 page booklet is an ideal compliment to the successful BIGGA Golf Environment Competition; the golf environment video and posters which have all combined to help raise the pro-

file of the wonderful ecological work being carried out on many of the country's courses.

Copies of The Wildside of Golf can be obtained from BIGGA HOUSE.

Damage repaired

Flood damage, affecting irrigation control system satellites on all 36 holes at both the Wisley and East Sussex National clubs has been repaired by golf course irrigation specialists TIS (Southern) Ltd.

Put out of action by flood water, created by recent record rainfall levels the satellites, 72 in total were replaced in time to enable course watering to be implemented at the onset of dry warmer spells of weather.

"Satellites are able to cope comfortably with seasonal rainfall but continuous immersion in deep flood water caused the problems," explained TIS Operations Director, John Roberts.

Thanks to Alan for Royal Lytham pics

Greenkeeper International would like to acknowledge the wonderful Royal Lytham & St Annes photographs which appeared in last month's magazine. They were taken by Alan Birch, a long time friend of BIGGA, who is known to many greenkeepers particularly in the north west.

Thank you Alan for your efforts and apologies for not acknowledging you at the time.

Hard work pays off for Ian Willett



The eighth person in the country to complete successfully a pilot course on Amenity Horticulture has been awarded a certificate for his achievements.

Ian Willett, a part-time tutor and assessor for Otley College took considerable care collecting evidence from his role as East Anglia Section Secretary and in his job as Course Manager at Thorpeness Golf Club to build his NVQ Level 4.

"I wanted to keep up to date with my professional qualifications and to

remain competitive in the employment market while continuing my professional development," explained Ian, who was particularly indebted to his golf club for contributing towards his training costs and to Harry Dean his assessor at the college.

Ian, who also completed his Level 3 training and development qualifications at Otley now intends to take up further qualifications in Health and Safety, aiming for a degree course in future.

He's a Master!

Such is the esteem in which BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper certification is held that Brian Sullivan, Superintendent of the Bel Air Country Club in Los Angeles, flew to Royal Lytham and St Annes from California to be presented with his Master Greenkeeper Blazer.

Brian qualified as one of the 31 Master Greenkeepers worldwide - there are 18 in the UK, 11 in the United States and two in Germany - in November 2000, following his success in the October 2000 examination but could not make it to BTME, at Harrogate, last January, and was presented with his award by BIGGA President Sir Michael Bonallack at the Open Championship.



Brian has been involved with golf course maintenance since 1979, when he worked at the Arnold Palmer Bay Hill Club, while attending junior college. Following the award of a Bachelor of Science Degree by the University of Michigan, Brian moved to the Beverley Country Club, in Illinois before moving to the Desert Horizons Golf Club, in Indian Wells, California. He then moved to the Monarch Bay Resort in 1986, working as the Golf Course and Project Superintendent, finally moving to Bel Air Country Club in 1994.

Brian, who joined BIGGA and the Master Greenkeeper Scheme in 1997, is married, to Marybeth and they have four children.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year www.tonyhusband.co.uk



New man for Scotts



Scotts has appointed Mike Jupp as its new Areas Sales Manager, Turf and Amenity for London and the South East, succeeding John Joyce who left the company in January.

Mike's background is in quarry products but for the past few years he has concentrated specifically on developing a range of aggregates designed to meet the needs of the turf and amenity market.

Prior to joining Scotts, Mike worked for Prestige Sports Surfaces Ltd with responsibility for marketing and selling top dressings, rootzones, bunker sands and drainage aggregates to the turf and landscaping industry. He is 32 and lives in Portsmouth.

Honour for Donald

Golf Course Architect, Donald Steel, has become only the third Life Member of Turnberry Golf Club, following in the illustrious footsteps of Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson. The head to head battle between Nicklaus and Watson in the first Open Championship to be played over the Ayrshire links in 1977 is regarded as one of the seminal occasions in all of sport and Donald must be congratulated on joining two such luminaries.

It is a busy time for Donald who has also been chosen to make the Founder's Day speech at his old school - Fettes College in Edinburgh. It is not known whether another "Old Boy" Prime Minister Tony Blair will be in the audience to listen to him.

New offices

Cebeco Oliver Seeds has relocated to much larger premises at Skellingthorpe, near Lincoln following a growing demand for its technically based products.

"We had completely outgrown our previous premises at North Carlton and were finding it impossible to provide our customers and agents with the level of service we expect to provide," said Managing Director, Gerry Cook.

"Our investment at Skellingthorpe, which includes new mixing machinery capable of 10 tonnes per hour of finished product has reassured our customers and our own staff of the commitment we have to expand market share across the agricultural and amenity sectors, while maintaining industry leading customer response and service levels," he added.

Golf Bravo Echo, cleared for take off!

These were the words which on July 2, gave me permission to open up the throttle of the Piper Warrior aircraft which I was sitting in on the end of Shoreham runway and launch myself into the most exhilarating experience of my life.

Only five minutes before all this my instructor had stepped out of the aircraft and informed me that I was about to go solo.

Well, if you've not already guessed, I'm learning how to fly, (with the aid of an aircraft)

This all started on May 1st this year when I passed an exam and then my medical, not long after my first lesson commenced in the very experienced hands of James Crabbe, of Sussex Flying Club.

Flying has been a bit of a passion of mine for most of my life, but it has not been until recently that I have had the chance to do something about it.

One of the first things you need to do is find a good school to learn at.

I was lucky in that I had some buddies in the game who directed me to a very good school. You first start off with the very basics and are given the controls almost straight away. After an hour of flying over a certain golf course we headed back towards Shoreham Airport. At this point James asked if I would like to have a go at landing. Well I thought that I was either a complete natural (much like Tom Cruise) or that James was completely insane. Well it turned out that James was not insane, and that I was definitely not Tom Cruise (only in height). I did have a go at landing but all the time the controls were very well guarded by James who pulled off a very nice landing.

So one lesson down, many many more to go. Funny thing about launching yourself into the big blue



sky in an aircraft, which has the internal capacity of a golf buggy, it is very addictive.

This will probably explain why two months later there I was all on my Jack Jones sitting on the end of the runway.

If anyone reading this has had the opportunity to have flown an aircraft you will understand what I'm trying to explain. If you don't like flying you will never understand but to say that I felt like I could have taken on Tyson when I climbed out of the aircraft would have been an understatement (and probably very painful for me).

It took 15 minutes to complete my solo and two days to get rid of a very stupid grin.

Well back to reality. I have to complete four more exams and many more lessons (seven exams in total and 50 hours of flight training approximately before I'm truly let loose to go and get a bird's eye view

of all those golf courses we have dotted around the countryside.

It took my approximately 15 hours of flight training to get me this far which is around the average. It's now back to flying around the airport and perfecting my new found skills before I move on to the navigation and a few more solo hours.

It's strange when I think about it that I managed to land an aeroplane which is 10 metres wide onto a runway which is 18 metres wide and managed to keep on the centre line but give me a golf ball which is 42mm wide and a fairway which is, let's say on average, 30 metres wide and for all the will in the world I just cannot get the same result.

So perhaps flying is not as hard as I think ... or I am just garbage at golf!

The picture was taken just as I got out of the aircraft with that silly grin, which I maintained for two whole days.

STRI has appointed Conor Nolan to help cope with STRI's advisory services in Ireland. Conor joins Ian McClements, who has worked as STRI's Advisor for Ireland since 1991. Ian will continue to cover areas north of Dublin from his base in Hillsborough while Conor will be located in Tipperary and cover the southern half of Ireland. A graduate of University College Dublin, Conor has a degree in Agricultural Science specialising in Landscape Horticulture and has considerable work experience covering regular maintenance of golf courses, grown-ins, construction and golf course design.

Clever Cleverly

Mature student Neil Cleverly, 42, from Shoreham-by-Sea has just graduated from the University of Central Lancashire in Preston with an upper second class degree in Turf Grass Science.

After 15 years of army service Neil was seeking a challenged job where he could use his previous skills and knowledge of golf course management. He started his studies at Plumpton College in East Sussex taking an NVQ and working at West Hove GC.

He finished his studies in Preston, after spending the first year at Myerscough College, one of the University's partner colleges. He was also lucky enough to secure a five month placement, managing a golf course in Madeira during his second year.

"Working with the turf on a golf course is an art form. You are faced with the challenge of maintaining different surfaces. We also have to be more eco-friendly now, so we act as stewards of the environment," said Neil.

Most of the graduates from the course will be going to



Above: Neil with tutors Martyn Jones and Louise Clegg from Myerscough College

work either in an advisory or consultancy position or in golf course management. Some, like Neil, will be considering further research and a higher degree.

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A LOOK BACK TO A DECADE AGO Back Lapping FROM GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Take a time-honoured look back through the pages of Greenkeeper International from a decade ago



AUGUST 1991

Britain's First Master Greenkeeper

The magazine reported that Laurence Pithie had become Britain's first Master Greenkeeper. Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club, Laurence wrote that 'Education, has, and always will be the foundation upon which BIGGA exists, for through training and education it can promote confidence, improve technical knowledge and engender motivation, which leads in turn to greater respect. Managing today's golf courses requires not just practical experience but a wealth of technical expertise in understanding the theory and practise of turfgrass management. If we are to change the public conception of being 'the greenkeeper that cuts the grass', we must improve our image'.

Today Laurence Pithie is Director of Maintenance for American Golf.

Diminishing Prospects?

Greenkeeper International was downbeat about the prospect for new golf course projects. A report estimated that some 30 golf course cum hotel sites were in the hands of the receiver. It was understood that one estate specialist had no less than 80 potential courses and 40 existing courses on its books with precious few buyers. Developers were being chided for having responded too soon to the 1989 R&A report predicting a need for 700 new courses by the end of the century.

Speaking of the Architect

'Those beautifully turfed golf courses that you enjoy are not laid out casually on the back of an envelope. Nor are they the result of pushing a little dirt around and throwing some grass seed on the ground. They are the result of talented and skillful people devoting what is often the better part of three years to plan, design and construct ... Just as becoming proficient as an expert golfer requires years of play and countless hours on the practice tee, so too is a long apprenticeship needed to be a real golf architect in fact. Just as the great player makes the game look easy, so the best of golf course architects often make their work look easy too. Don't you believe it. I have a lot of dirty clothes and worn out shoes to prove how tough it really is!'

Robert Trent Jones Jr.

Top student for Gaunt and Marnoch

Golf course architects Gaunt and Marnoch have recruited the top graduate from this year's European Institute of Golf Course Architects' Professional Diploma course. Dimitri Van Hauwaert, 32, from Belgium, who won the 2001 Toro Student Golf Course Architect Award, will head up the new Gaunt and Marnoch office in Antwerp and will spearhead the company's activities in Continental Europe.

"We're delighted to welcome Dimitri to our company. He is exactly the kind of person we are looking for - fluent in many languages, strong business acumen, tremendous golf design achievements in only a short space of time, not to mention his golfing prowess as an amateur international," said Co-Director Steven Marnoch.

"In recent months we've conducted a very frank assessment of our business and the future market potential. The progress we're making in the UK is really pleasing but we want to expand further the company's activities on the Continent," explained



Steve's partner, Jonathan Gaunt.

As part of his prize Dimitri will fly to the Toro Company's Headquarters in Minneapolis and its irrigation division in Riverside, California and attend the GCSAA Show in Orlando.

The winner of the associated Barenbrug Award was Richard Myers, who will visit Barenbrug's Dutch Wolfheze breeding station and tour links courses on the east coast of Scotland.

Swan Golf Designs land new contracts home and abroad

Swan Golf Designs Ltd has secured a commission to renovate Brickendon Grange Golf Club in Hertfordshire.

While a significant project for Howard Swan, Brickendon Grange will fail to help him to add to his growing collection of air miles.

The practice now looks after 25 courses including some as far afield as Reykjavik, Beirut and the Continent of Europe although his furthest commission is half way round the world.

The practice is redesigning the Ras Al Hamra Golf Course in Muscat, Oman where the nine hole brown course is being revised and is likely to become the Sultanate's first green and grassed layout.

The course is being lengthened and a full irrigation system installed to allow effluent water from a nearby refinery to be used to water the new grass. The course is designed to allow the recycling of all water so conserving to the maximum a resource whose value is immense in such a part of the world.



RainBird hold seminar at Gleneagles

Gleneagles was the venue for RainBird's annual Training Day attended by Course Managers and greenkeeping staff from courses across Scotland and Northern England.

The event, now in its second year, provides an introduction to new users of Rain Bird's computerised irrigation control systems and is also a refresher course for those already familiar with the systems offered by the company.

"Here at Gleneagles we have invested over £500,000 in our Rain Bird irrigation system and it has proved a worthwhile investment but only because we have received the relevant and necessary training," said Scott Fenwick, Golf Courses Superintendent.

"Effective water resource management, with its associated environmental implications is vitally important - hence the massive advances in irrigation technology over the last decade," said Mark Ganning, RainBird's UK Field Service Manager.



Do you recognise this face?



Past Chairman Elliott Small, unearthed this photograph in a copy of Golf Illustrated from sometime back in the 70s with the picture of a younger version of someone many in the greenkeeping industry know very well - George Brown from Turnberry. George, a 2-handicap member of Prince's at the time, had just retained the Aces High Cup held by the Hole in one Golf Society. George had accumulated 40 points and beat the internationally assembled field.

David joins Lantra Scotland

Lantra National Training Organisation has boosted its Scottish operation this week with the arrival of David Stevenson as the new Executive Director for Scotland.

David joins Lantra from his previous role as Group Training Manager at BSW Timber Plc, the UK's largest timber harvesting and sawmilling company. Prior to his role at BSW, David held senior positions with the Road Transport Training Board and the Food and Drink Training Board and brings with him an impressive wealth of training experience.

David has been quick to identify the needs of the Scottish sector and is keen to begin work on transforming Lantra's role within Scotland, especially since the advent of devolution in the country.

"My aim is to raise the profile of Lantra NTO in Scotland, to maintain and expand the network within it and support the land-based sector in every way possible," said David "It will be challenging, due to the sheer spread of activity across the range of industries, but they all require effective support from us and I aim to fulfil that. Coupled with my field-based team of Regional Development Consultants we can offer greater levels of support in Scotland for all of these industries."

Based in Lantra NTO's regional office for Scotland, David is charged with the task of creating and expanding partnerships with the Scottish Executive, key partners, government agencies and all land-based organisations to secure funding and ensure learning and skills targets are met within the land-based sector.



Address your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or email them to reception@bigga.co.uk

Harry Diamond is gone but certainly not forgotten!

It could be said that Sunday July 8 was a day to be remembered in the annals of greenkeeping history. Harry's family thought long and hard about some sort of memorial in his remembrance and came to the conclusion that a golf tournament in perpetuity would have been Harry's wish.

His wife, Jessie, and daughters, Ann, Linda and Rosemary, his brother, Hugh, and a host of grandchildren all turned out at Belleisle Golf Course to witness the first ever presentation of the Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich. The tournament was played over Belleisle as a Stableford, with 110 golfers taking part.

It shows the status Harry was held in at Belleisle when everyone took part in the competition and others who had a special invitation to the presentation of prizes, knew Harry personally and could relate some story or other about the man. Even the Provost of Ayr turned up to present some of the prizes to the worthy winners and, what I considered quite exceptional, each winner got a kiss from the Provost, just as one would expect from a Lady Provost.

Harry's three daughters each in turn presented prizes and Jessie had the honour to award each with a large silver quaich and each winner also received a personal usable(!) smaller quaich (which is a Scottish vessel to partake of a large whisky).

It is unique in that I cannot remember a Golf Club which has respected the life of their greenkeeper by holding a competition in his memory.

From the way the competitors were talking the Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich will go on to become one of the most enjoyable fixtures in the Belleisle calendar.

Come next year I am hoping to arrange teams from the Scottish Sections of BIGGA to take part in the Stableford. I am sure Harry would have endorsed this suggestion.

Harry Diamond is missed in this greenkeeping fraternity. We in BIGGA wish to thank all his family and friends for having the insight and understanding in instituting this excellent tournament in Belleisle in his memory.

Cecil George, Lenzie.

Testers wanted for new trials

We have been appointed to import and distribute a new range of organic growth stimulants that provide the benefits associated with a microbial soil inoculants and a highly humified growth stimulant.

The product has been used successfully by golf courses and turf growers throughout the USA and we have numerous testimonials to this effect. However, we would like to field test the product under conditions in the United Kingdom and would welcome contact with any member of BIGGA who can assist in this regard. Any such test will be undertaken without financial risk to the user.

The product comes in a ready to use liquid form and is supplied in 20 litre drums for easy handling. It is diluted and applied with sprayers in a conventional fashion and it has an economical low application rate. It can be applied with the standard fertiliser programme.

Dacan Agripharm Limited
Contact: Ian Slatter - Commercial Director
Phone: 01303 891 995
Fax: 01303 894 139
E-mail: dacan.ag@tesco.net

Wellingborough's rash problem

During the early summer each year one or two of my members complain to me of rashes on legs after playing golf at Wellingborough but this year there appears to be in the region of 20 people involved, mainly ladies.

Below I list treatments used on the course, the dates and the times and the quantities involved:

Tuesday May 22 - all fairways were treated with fertiliser 28-0-0 at 80 litres per hectare and Estermone at four litres per hectare. This work was carried out at 4.30am

Tuesday May 22 - all greens and aprons were sprayed with 320g of Shortcut per hectare and 2.4 litres Amistar per hectare diluted with 600 litres of water. This work was carried out at 7.30pm.

Thursday June 19 - the same treatment was applied, again at 7.30pm

Monday June 25 - all greens were treated with 28-0-0 fertiliser at 40 litres per hectare, Pro seaweed at 20 litres per hectare and Breaker wetting agent at 20 litres per hectare - all diluted with 900 litres water.

Following the several complaints received Mr Paul Tolman, the local Environmental Health Officer visited the club and was perfectly satisfied that correct procedures had been followed.

Unfortunately this does not solve the problem of the rashes so I am hoping you might be able to throw some light on the matter.

Roy Tolman, Secretary/Manager
Wellingborough Golf Club

Open thank you from Mike

Just a little note with a BIG thank you, for letting me have the opportunity to assist in this years 2001 open support team. Once again it was a honour and a privilege to represent BIGGA in the most important major championship of the golfing calendar.

I was fortunate enough to have a

chat and get the autograph of Gary Player, this may be his last open championship, and this alone made the week.

An experience never to be forgotten.

Mike Gash, Deputy Course Manager,
Moseley Golf Club.

Yelverton update

I thought I drop a line regarding the foot and mouth article which appeared in the May magazine. We reopened at Yelverton on May 5th after been closed for 10 weeks.

All my staff were kept on with full pay which was a credit to the golf club while we are still following strict disinfectant procedures.

I have also sent you a photograph of a rather famous footballer who I met on a recent well earned break to Barcelona. The day after our encounter he scored a hat-trick for Barcelona against Valencia!

Steve Evans, Yelverton GC, Devon



Editor's Note: The player in question is Rivaldo and the hat-trick Steve mentioned has been rated the best hat-trick ever scored. If only Steve could have the same effect on some of his native Welsh players!

This month, Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, looks at the exciting 'Continue to Learn' education programme on offer at BTME2002

Continue to Learn

Continue to Learn with BIGGA at Harrogate, in January 2002, when the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme runs alongside the extended BTME Exhibition.

The formal conference is presented in a new format to allow delegates maximum flexibility to gain the most from their visit. The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition Seminars provide

an opportunity to mix the Exhibition with a range of Seminars allowing all delegates the opportunity to Continue to Learn.

New for 2002 will be the Golf Club Show Education and Training programme which is aimed primarily at Golf Club Owners, Golf Club Secretaries and Chairmen of Green. This programme incorporates the very

successful Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century, run jointly with STRI with a range of seminars. Both programmes are open to all delegates, although members of BIGGA receive preferential rates.

The Key Note speaker is Roger Black and this Session is free to all delegates. Finally, the very successful Careers Clinic will run alongside BTME.



Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, please contact Neil Thomas, Executive Director on 01347 833800 or via admin@bigga.co.uk

BTME2002 National Education Conference Programme

Monday 21 January, 2002, Majestic Hotel – National Education Conference - Day 1

Session 1 0850 - 0900 Introduction <i>Clive Osgood BIGGA Chairman</i>	Session 2 13.30 - 16.30 Global Warming and the Golf Course <i>Keith Weatherhead, Cranfield University</i> <i>John Bradwell</i> <i>Augustino Gaude, Turf Seeds UK</i> <i>Ruth Mann, STRI</i>
0900 - 12.00 Turf Science <i>Dr James Beard</i>	
Two Day Workshop 0900 - 1230 Golf Course Design 1 <i>Howard Swan, Simon Gidman</i>	1400 - 1700 Golf Course Design 1 <i>Howard Swan, Simon Gidman</i>
One Day Workshop 1 0900 - 1230 Emergency First Aid	1400 - 1700 Emergency First Aid
One Day Workshop 2 0900 - 1230 Environmental Management <i>Bob Taylor STRI</i> <i>Fiona McIntyre Scottish Golf CourseWildlife Group</i> <i>Jonathan Smith Scottish Golf CourseWildlife Group</i>	1400 - 1700 Environmental Management <i>Bob Taylor STRI</i> <i>Fiona McIntyre Scottish Golf CourseWildlife Group</i> <i>Jonathan Smith Scottish Golf CourseWildlife Group</i>

Tuesday 22 January, 2002, Majestic Hotel – National Education Conference - Day 2

Session 1 0900 - 1200 Redesign and Construction <i>Jim Moore USGA</i> <i>Brian Pierson</i> <i>TBD</i>	Session 2 1330 - 1630 Preparing for Winter <i>Ed McCabe, Course Manager Brokenhurst Golf Club</i> <i>George Shiels, Consultant Agronomist</i> <i>Arthur King</i>
Two Day Workshop 0900 - 1230 Golf Course Design 1 <i>Howard Swan, Simon Gidman</i>	1400 - 1700 Golf Course Design 1 <i>Howard Swan, Simon Gidman</i>
One Day Workshop 1 0900 - 1230 Emergency First Aid	1400 - 1700 Emergency First Aid
One Day Workshop 2 0900 - 1230 Environmental Management <i>Bob Taylor STRI</i> <i>Fiona McIntyre Scottish Golf CourseWildlife Group</i> <i>Jonathan Smith Scottish Golf CourseWildlife Group</i>	1400 - 1700 Environmental Management <i>Bob Taylor STRI</i> <i>Fiona McIntyre Scottish Golf CourseWildlife Group</i> <i>Jonathan Smith Scottish Golf CourseWildlife Group</i>

BTME2002 Continue to Learn Programme – Spa Royal Hall

Wednesday 23 January, 2002

BTME Seminar Sessions - Day 1

Session 1 0930 - 1000 Presentation of Awards 1000 - 1045 Keynote Speaker	Session 2 1115 - 1155 Bunker Renovation <i>Jim Moore USGA</i> 1200 - 1240 Biological Disease Control <i>Dr David Drahos</i>
Session 3 1330 - 1410 MSc in Sports Surface Technology The Facts <i>Alex Vickers Cranfield University</i> 1415 - 1455 TBD 1500 - 1540 A Career in Greenkeeping <i>Frank Ainsworth,</i> <i>Hilton Templepatrick</i> 1545 - 1625 Gizmos Gadgets and Inventions <i>Kevin Ross Golf Club of the Rockies</i>	

Thursday 24 January, 2002

BTME Seminar Sessions - Day 2

Session 4 1000 - 1040 Sweet Water with Sulphur Burning 1045 - 1125 Preparing for the Ryder Cup <i>Paul Crowe, The K Club</i> 1130 - 1230 Strategic Planning <i>Brin Bendon, Vector Training</i> <i>David Winterton MG</i>	Session 5 1330 - 1540 Turfgrass Science and Culture <i>Dr James Beard</i>
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Friday 25 January, 2002

BTME Seminar Sessions - Day 3

Session 6 1000 - 1040 Training and professionalism go hand in hand <i>Mike Cannaway Chairman GTC</i> 1045 - 1125 Technical Panel TBD <i>Clive Osgood, Immediate</i> <i>Past Chairman BIGGA</i> 1130 - 1210 TBD <i>Andy Campbell MG, Golf and</i> <i>Estates Manager Carden Park</i>
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Keep checking www.bigga.org.uk for the latest news on the various education and training options available at BTME2002

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Five hotels, 15,000 miles, thirty two interviews and the hottest week of the year so far, all contributed to this year's TORO Student of the Year Regional Interviews. However, as Ken Richardson found out, the quality and variety of finalists made the task of selecting the National Finalists an enjoyable rather than an onerous task.

A superb selection of students

Monday 25 June saw the first set of interviews, held in Edinburgh, when Jim Paton, BIGGA Education sub Committee Chairman, Pete Mansfield from TORO and myself interviewed the six Scottish entrants. At the end of the day, Mark Cummine, representing Langside College was picked to go forward to the Final. Mark, who is an assistant greenkeeper at Buchanan Castle Golf Club, nr Glasgow, has been in greenkeeping for 11 years and is currently studying for his HNC. Mark's other claim to fame is as an accordion player in a Scottish Dance Band, which has given him the chance to travel widely both in Scotland and around the World.

Tuesday 26 June saw the Roadshow arrive at the Hilton Hotel, Manchester Airport, where Pete and myself were joined by Andy Campbell MG, Golf and Estates Manager at Carden Park, to judge the Northern Region Entries and the Irish Entries. The excellent entries in the Northern Region saw both John Stuttard, representing Askham Bryan College and Mike Robertson represent-

ing Myerscough College selected for the Final. Mike is the Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Penrith Golf Club, where he has been for almost five years. John is an assistant greenkeeper at Wyke Ridge Golf Centre nr Leeds, where he has been for almost three years.

Ireland produced four very high quality entries and the judges selected two to progress to the final. John Williams represented Teagasc in Dublin and he works at Athy Golf Club in Co Kildare. He has been studying for his NVQ Level 3 and has ambitions to study for a Masters Degree with Penn State University. James Murphy works at the Old Head Golf Links in Kinsale, Co Cork and it is a case of an old head on young shoulders as James is the youngest of the finalists.

Back on the road again saw us travel to St Albans, where Pete and I were joined by Ian Semple to interview the six candidates from the South East where Andrew Pledger was selected for the Final. Andrew took up greenkeeping as a second career after several years in retailing. Andrew said that he wished that he had

Following the dream



The prize was a seven week trip Stateside, the first six weeks of which, I would be based at the University of Massachusetts, followed by a week of travelling. Although very excited by this opportunity, I was at first understandably apprehensive. However, once meeting some of my fellow classmates who were also staying in the same accommodation as myself, it didn't take long for me to settle in. There was no time however to sleep off the jetlag. No sooner had my feet touched the ground, and I was straight into a full day of lectures.

The six and a half week Winter Turf School covered eleven subjects including: studies in Turf Grass Physiology and Ecology, Soil Science and Fertilisers, Irrigation, Diseases, Entomology and Weed Management. Each subject was lectured by a specialist in their own field, and often required long hours of background studying outside the classroom to keep up with the amount of scientific detail examined. Nevertheless, it was quite normal for everyone to come back from class, grab a bite to eat, and hit the books once again. There were no final examinations as such, but a continuous progression of quizzes and assignments, so the group study and

discussion sessions were of real benefit to everyone, and were a vital factor in guaranteeing success in the course.

My time in Massachusetts was not entirely confined to a classroom. Since this was my first trip to America, I was keen to visit as many places as I could. Fortunately, two of my classmates invited me to Boston, Rhode Island and Ottawa, Canada at the weekends.

This resulted in me having to spend only two weekends at the motel I was staying: but I managed to take in some of the local culture: seeing a basketball game and an ice hockey game.

I was kept very well occupied during this six and a half week period, and the Graduation Dinner and the presentation of certificates was quick in coming around. Although it was difficult to say goodbye to everyone, I was looking forward to the next stretch of my travels, and to having a rest from the books. After considerable celebrations at the graduation I flew out of Hartford to head for Dallas, Texas.

The Golf Course Superintendents of America Association (GCSAA) Trade Show and Conference was my next port of call. The show was enormous, and was certainly bigger than anything I've seen at home. Also attending were Toro representatives, BIGGA repre-



Mike Robertson



Andrew Pledger



John David Williams



James Murphy



John Stuttard



Mark Wilshire



Mark Cummine



Ewan McCabe

made the decision to swap careers much sooner as he enjoys his job so much.

Thursday saw Pete and I in Cheltenham where we were joined by Richard Barker, Vice Chairman of BIGGA to judge the South West and South Wales Region entries. Mark Wilshire, a South African, working at Llanishen Golf Club was selected from a very high quality group. Mark who represents Pencoed College has only been working in Britain since 1999 feels that his NVQ course has given him the foundations to progress to the highest level in Greenkeeping.

The final journey saw Pete and I travel to Kettering where we were joined by BIGGA Board of Management Member, David Walden. The eighth finalist, selected from the five Midlands entries is Ewan McCabe. Ewan represents the College of West Anglia and works at Gog Magog Golf Club. Ewan started his working life as a greenkeeper, left to join the Army and finally returned to his true vocation five years ago.

The National Final will be held on Tuesday 28 October at the Crown Hotel in Boroughbridge, alongside the Final of the TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition.

The National winner will be awarded the TORO Scholarship and travel to the United States for six weeks of study at the University of Massachusetts followed by trips to the TORO HQ in Minneapolis, and the TORO Factory in California and to the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando.

Although judging is strenuous, this Competition gives me, and my fellow judges a great boost when we hear how greenkeepers are using their education and training qualification to further their careers, improve their pay and conditions of service and to improve the status of greenkeepers. The industry has continued to progress thanks to GTC ensuring the range and quality of greenkeeper qualifications, to BIGGA for encouraging greenkeepers to study and learn and to TORO for supporting this competition.

I would say that winning the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2000 Award is a great honour, and one that was very unexpected. To those who believe that it could only be a dream, I would say follow that dream. Apart from the accomplishment of winning such a prestigious award, it was a great opportunity to attend The Winter School for Turfgrass Managers at the University of Massachusetts. This experience has fed my professional development, and given me a renewed enthusiasm for the problem solving nature of our business. It has changed the way I now look at my career. Jonathan Cleland

representatives and my college lecturer Chris Bothwell from GOSTA in Glasgow. On exhibit were a large range of turf care products and machinery. Not only was the show very informative but it allowed me to question representatives about their products and advances in technology. I was glad that my schedule had allowed me a full day, as it would not have been possible to see everything in any less time.

While in Dallas, I was also invited to attend the President's Dinner Show at the Adams Mark Hotel to celebrate 75 years of GCSAA. I felt very privileged to have been invited to such a prestigious event, and the entertainment wasn't disappointing. Before dinner we were given a presentation of how the Association has evolved over the last 75 years, and during dinner we were entertained by a fantastic ice display, which involved a huge block of ice being carved out using chainsaws into the GCSAA logo. After dinner entertainment was just as extravagant, with the World Classic Rockers entertaining us until the early hours.

My next destination was Minneapolis. For the remainder of my trip I was accompanied by Ian Ritchie, Links Superintendent at Portmarnock, Ireland who was award-

ed the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping, as well as Pete Mansfield and other Toro representatives. Over the next few days our itinerary included visits to the Toro Headquarters, the Shakopee Production Plant and the Tomah Manufacturing plant. However, our first day was free so we took the opportunity to visit the Mall of America that was once the largest undercover shopping mall in the USA.

The following morning we visited Toro Headquarters, where we were given a tour of the facility in which over 1000 people are employed. This is where all the research, development and equipment testing and trials are performed. It certainly made me appreciate how much work goes into the research and design of the machines we use on our golf courses. The Shakopee was where they manufactured various steel components such as the cutting reels and sole plates. My final excursion was to the Tomah Plant in Wisconsin, which is where all the machines are finally assembled, painted and placed in crates ready for consignment. I'll never take one of these machines for granted again!

The final destination of my eight

week trip was California. It was bizarre to leave Minneapolis where the temperature reached 40 degrees below and then to arrive in California where the temperature was mid 70's.

We were greeted at our hotel by Kenne James, from Toro who had arranged for us to visit Oak Valley Golf Club. There we were given a tour of their maintenance facilities and golf course. The Superintendent was available to answer any of our questions in relation to maintenance regimes.

During our time in California Ian Ritchie and I were also able to play a round of golf at the Hidden Valley Golf Club. This course was literally constructed in the middle of a desert. As you can imagine this made quite a dramatic backdrop to the golf course. However, our main purpose of being in California was to visit the Toro Irrigation Division where all irrigation components and sprinklers are designed, manufactured and tested. The highlight of our last night in California was the salsa dancing, which I have to say; Ian Ritchie was exceptionally good at!

Being home for a couple of months now, I can reflect on how much I believe I have gained from being named the Toro Student Greenkeeper

of the Year. The trip fulfilled all of my expectations, but it's been intangible areas that I feel I've benefited most from; such as increased confidence, contacts and a revitalised enthusiasm for my work. This coupled with the knowledge gleaned from working practices in the States will certainly help me with my career in the future.

Among the benefits the prize has offered me, the longest lasting and most valuable will be some of the relationships I struck with my colleagues and classmates. I plan to get over to the USA again as soon as I can, to check the next generation of developments taking place that we can learn from.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ken Richardson, Education and Training Manager and everyone else involved at BIGGA headquarters, as well as all the Toro representatives, especially Pete Mansfield. In addition I would like to thank my friends and family, Helensburgh Golf Club, and particularly Chris Bothwell from GOSTA for all their encouragement and support.

Jonathan Cleland, Toro Student of the Year 2000

This month, Tracey and Susannah, from BIGGA's Membership Team, welcome over 70 new members to the Association and give some important news about the 2002 Membership cards.

Picture perfect membership cards

Get prepared. It's coming your way! The new plastic Membership Photocard is what you've all been waiting for! As from 1st January 2002, BIGGA's Membership Department will be issuing plastic

credit card size Membership Photocards (at no extra cost to the member). This will not only provide you with an extra form of ID but it will continue to promote the professional image that the Association has achieved.

The Challenge...

to obtain 6,400 passport size photographs, that is one photograph for each Greenkeeper Member, to enable the Membership Services Department to scan each photograph onto each members file, which can then be reproduced onto your new card!

The Challengers...

Tracey and Susannah from the

Membership Services Department have accepted the challenge, but they need your help. To start preparing for the launch of the new card, they need a photograph of each of you! If you have a passport size photograph please send it to Tracey or Susannah, Membership Services Department, BIGGA, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, don't forget to write your full name, date of birth and membership number on the back. Alternatively, if you have mastered the art of digital cameras why not send us a photo by email to tracey@bigga.co.uk or susannah@bigga.co.uk

Watch out for more information on the new Membership Photocard next month.

LIVE OSGOOD
 Course Manager
 Walton Heath Golf Club
 Membership number: 00001
 Expiry date: Dec 01



[Signature]

BIGGA British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

New BIGGA merchandise now in stock

Polo Shirts

BIGGA can now offer BIGGA logo classic polo shirts. Made by Cutter & Buck and available in sunflower and navy for only £29.95 inc. VAT, post and packing. Sizes Medium, Large, XL or XXL available.

Jumpers

Add to your range by purchasing a BIGGA logo jumper, made by Peter Scott and available in three styles:

1 Round neck, available in navy and charcoal, sizes from 40" to 48". £34.95 inc. VAT, post and packing.

2 V-neck long sleeve, available in navy only, sizes from 40" to 46", larger sizes available on request. £34.95 inc. VAT, post and packing.

3 V-neck no sleeves, available in navy only, sizes from 40" to 46", larger sizes available on request. £29.95 inc. VAT, post and packing.

Waterproof Suits

Due to popular demand BIGGA have restocked this suit. Available in navy consisting of a jacket with matching trousers with a drawstring waistband. Sizes from M to XXL. £59.95 inc. VAT, post and packing.

Baseball Caps

BIGGA have re-stocked this popular Slazenger baseball cap. Khaki with navy peak, one size fits all with adjustable strap. £12.95 inc. VAT, post and packing.

BIGGA Members Lapel Badge

BIGGA have introduced a new "Members" enamel lapel badge. Available to all members at the special rate of £2.50 inc. VAT, post and packing.

The new BIGGA logo merchandise can be seen at the BIGGA stand at the Saltex Show on 4/5/6th September. For further information contact Tracey or Susannah in Membership Services. Watch this space!

July's Monthly Membership Draw Winner

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch. Our congratulations go to July's winner, Charles McKay of Aberdeen Petroleum Club.



BIGGA welcomes ...

Scottish Region

Iain Elliott, West
 Keith Gray, North
 Roy Green, North
 Archie Hempstead, West
 Michael McCabe, North
 Alexander McCaw, North
 Ritchie Morrison, West

Northern Region

Michael Ian Averill, N West
 Timothy John Barnes, N West
 Gary Lee Clowes, N West
 James William Cope, N Wales
 Paul Matthew Farrelly, N Wales
 Robert Galloway, N Wales
 Andrew Gannon, N West

John C F Mather, N West
 Jason John Mitchell, Northern
 Kenneth Geoffrey Moreland, N East
 Simon Olver, N East
 Kevin Platt, Northern
 Ian Sidebottom, N West
 Christopher Sperrin, N West

Midland Region

Matthew John Axton, Midland
 Colin Michael Beech, Midland
 Carl Broad, Midland
 Christopher Brown, E Midland
 Thomas Brown, Midland
 James Causer, Midland
 Luke Spencer Davis, Midland
 James Evans, Midland
 Jonathan Peter Farrell, Mid Anglia
 Luke D Foley, Mid Anglia

Neil Hawkins, Midland
 Matthew Johnson, Mid Anglia
 Andrew McLaren, Midland
 Adam Christopher Moss, Midland
 Matthew Newton, BB&O
 Joe Sheward, Midland
 Kelvin Lee Walker, Midland

S East Region

Martin John Acres, Kent
 Tony Clark, Surrey
 Ian James Coote, East Anglia
 Terry Edmonds, Essex
 Martin Pearson, Surrey
 Matthew Philip Rich, Surrey
 Tony Sharman, Surrey
 James Peter Skinner, Kent
 Stuart James Waite, Surrey
 Richard Mark Young, E Anglia

S West & S Wales Region

Robert Leslie Cole, S Wales
 Ben Dilling, S Coast
 Sean Peter Prior, Dev & C'wall

International Members

Paul Darren Marsden, Austria
 Kevin John Barsley, Germany
 Brian Phillips, Norway
 James J Nicol CGCS, USA

Corporate Members

David Drummond, East
 John Somerville, West
 Peter Hall, North East
 P Cawood, East Midland
 Paul Clifton, Midland

Alan Robertson, Midland
 Dave Clarke, Kent
 Austin Davies, Essex
 John Hall, Essex
 Brian Richardson, East Anglia

Associate Members

Stewart Clayton, Sheffield
 Richard Newman, E England
 Gavin P Judge, Surrey

Student Members

John Gregor Smith, Ayrshire
 Peter Jones, Rep of Ireland
 Nicholas Holmes, Northern
 Jacqueline North, Essex

Next month ...
 July's latest members

You may have heard their names mentioned in conversation, or even seen them in print, but have you ever wondered who the individuals are who help BIGGA to run so smoothly as the leading Association in the fine turf industry? Read on...



Paul Jenkins

BIGGA Board Member for the S West/S Wales region

Name: Paul Jenkins

Golf Club: Lilleybrook GC

Association Position:
 Board Member for South West and South Wales Region

How long have you been a member of BIGGA?
 Since its inception in '87.

Where do you hope the Association will be in 10 years time?
 Equal or better recognition and profile within the industry

For what would you most like to be remembered?
 Good greenkeeper, good Board member and all round a good egg!

For what would you least like to be remembered?
 Letting a Past Captain of Lilleybrook tell a joke at a BIGGA event!

Why did you take on a more involved role in the running of the Association?
 Having benefited from BIGGA I wanted to re-invest some time and commitment to the Association and help it move forward in the coming years.

Name one thing which would improve the Association?
 I would like to see every British greenkeeper join the Association and for a higher percentage of international greenkeepers to become members.

What is your claim to fame (None, not acceptable)?
 Supporting Gloucester RFC when they win the Premiership and the Heineken Cup (It will happen)

Describe BIGGA in 15 words.
 An Association run for members, by members for the benefit of members

BIGGA launches the Golf Club Show

BIGGA has launched The Golf Club Show offering golf club owners, managers and secretaries all they could possibly need to ensure their clubhouses are as well equipped inside as their golf courses are outside.

The Golf Club Show will run in the Harrogate International Centre from January 22-24, 2002, alongside, and complemented by, the existing and tremendously successful BTME (BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition) which has been established there since 1989. The unique "double header" will offer visitors the opportunity of taking in both Shows during a must-visit week for everyone connected with the running of golf clubs and courses.

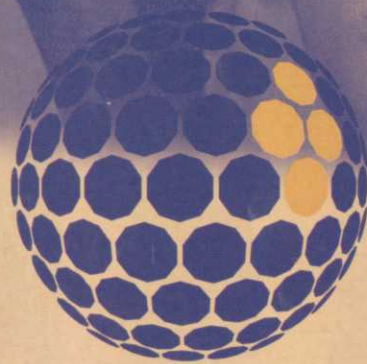
A dedicated educational seminar programme will be run in conjunction with the show and will feature a Key Note Speech by 400 metre Olympic Silver Medalist, Roger Black, and a much anticipated session with the world renowned agronomist, Dr James Beard.

"Many Golf Club Secretaries, Chairmen of Green and other senior club personnel already attend BTME with their greenkeeping staff and for some time we have been considering the possibility of offering a complete golf club experience for these, and the many more visitors who will be attracted to Harrogate by the advent of the new Show. Now is the time to make it happen," said BIGGA Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

"While BTME will continue as an exhibition with the whole range of products and services for the golf course, The Golf Club Show, which will have its own Hall within the Exhibition Centre, will offer all the additional equipment, furnishing and service needs for a golf club," explained Neil.

Bookings are currently being taken from companies wishing to exhibit in The Golf Club Show.

For further information contact Neil Thomas or BIGGA Press Officer, Scott MacCallum Tel: 01347 833800



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AF Trenchers Ltd	Lloyds & Co
Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd	Letchworth Ltd
Allen Power Equipment Ltd	Logic Irrigation
Allett Mowers	Long Equipment Ltd
Amenity Land Services Ltd	MJ Abbott
Amenity Technology	Major Equipment Ltd
Angus Horticulture	Merrist Wood College
Arden Lea Irrigation Ltd	Mitchell Hire Ltd
Aventis Environmental Science	New Holland
Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd	Nickerson UK Ltd
Barenbrug UK Ltd	North Staffs Irrigation Ltd
Bathgate Silica Sand	Ocmis Irrigation UK Ltd
BCA	Oliver Seeds Ltd
Bernhard & Company Ltd	Pentagon Amenity Marketing Ltd
Better Methods Europe Ltd	Prestige Sports Surfaces Ltd
Bickers plc	PSD Agronomy Ltd
BLEC Landscaping Equipment Co Ltd	Rain Bird Europe S.A.R.L.
Boughton Loam Ltd	Reasheath College
Boyd Golf Course Accessories	Richard Campey Ltd
British Seed Houses	Rigby Taylor Ltd
Cannington College	Risboro Turf
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Preparations for BTME2002 are cruising along, but you'll have to step up a gear to catch our Keynote speaker ...

**TUE
22
JAN02**

**WED
23
JAN02**

**THU
24
JAN02**

Making a sprint to Harrogate

Keynote speaker announced for BTME2002

Roger Black M.B.E. will be the Keynote Speaker next January at BTME 2002. For 14 years Roger represented Great Britain at the highest level in the world of athletics, both as an individual 400 metres runner and as a member of 4 x 400 metres relay team. He won 15 major Championship

Focus on Grandstand, "The Black Run" for skiing enthusiasts and is presenting at all major Athletics Championships, most recently at the Sydney Olympic Games.

By combining his close understanding of motivation and self-development with his personal experiences both on and off the track, Roger now inspires, motivates and entertains audiences throughout the country. Once again, the Keynote Speaker session looks set to start the BTME off on a high note and we look forward with anticipation to welcoming Roger Black.

Dr James Beard at the BIGGA Learning Week at BTME. The BIGGA Education and Training Department can announce that Dr James Beard, PhD will be making two presentations as part of the Learning Week at BTME to be held in Harrogate in January 2002.

Dr Beard will be presenting a Master Class at the National Education Conference on Monday 21 January and will present an extended Seminar session on Thursday 24 January.

Watch out for further Learning Week announcements in your monthly copy of Greenkeeper International,

in the News and Events section and the BTME section of our website.

Speaker Update

The Continue to Learn Week at BTME is approaching fast. The Education Programme is starting to take shape with most speakers confirming their attendance.

Those speakers confirmed include Dr James Beard, who will speak on both the National Education Conference and Seminar Programme. Jim Moore, from the USGA, will also make two presen-

tations, again at the Conference and on the Seminar Programme. His subjects include green construction and bunker design and construction.

The Conference will also feature sessions on Global Warming and the Golf Course and Preparation for Winter.

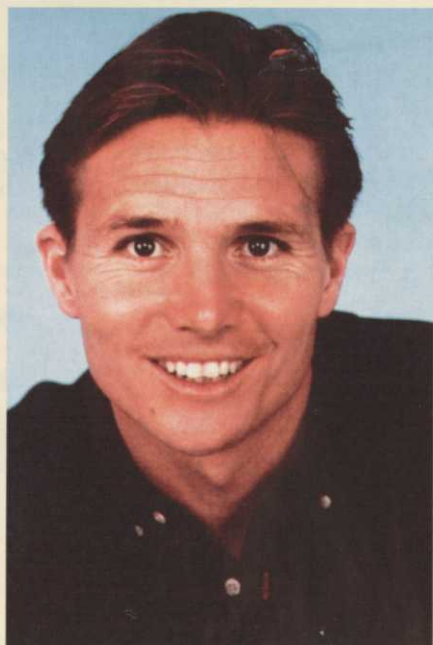
Workshops include a two day Golf Course Design 1 workshop, presented by Howard Swan and Simon Gidman and two, one day workshops on the subjects of Emergency First Aid and Environmental Management. These one day workshops will run on both Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 January.

The Seminar programme will commence on Wednesday 23 January and will include speakers from the USA, Canada and Ireland. Paul Crowe will be making a presentation on Preparation for the Ryder Cup at The K Club and in contrast Kevin Ross from the Country Club of the Rockies in Colorado will be discussing Gizmo's, Gadgets and Inventions.

An extended seminar session on Thursday morning will be presented by Brin Bendon, Vector Training and David Winterton, MG, Maidenhead Golf Club on the subject of Strategic Planning.

The seminars continue on Friday morning with Dr Mike Canaway presenting Training and Professionalism go Hand in Hand. Additional presentations will also be made by Andy Campbell, MG and Clive Osgood, BIGGA Chairman.

The 2002 Education Programme offers maximum flexibility to delegates allowing them to mix and match the Conference, Workshops and Seminars.



medals including European, Commonwealth and World Championship Gold medals. His greatest achievement was winning the Olympic 400 metres Silver medal in 1996 and he is particularly admired for his triumphs over adversity, successfully overcoming several serious injuries and setbacks throughout his career.

He was British Men's Team Captain and was awarded the MBE. in 1992.

Roger is now a presenter for BBC Television Sport and works on a range of programmes including Athletics

This survey, produced for the Berkshire College Greenkeeping Liaison Committee by Ray Clark, Course Manager of Harleyford Golf Club and Martin Gunn, Course Manager of Temple Golf Club and the BB&O Section, underlines the need for better communication and education of golfers ...

Aeration survey digs deep

It was planned that the foundation of this review would make use of Head Greenkeepers/ Course Managers considerable local knowledge and experience, acknowledge their recommendations and identify whether or not their proposals were being utilised fully by their employers. If not, the survey was designed to seek their opinions as to why their suggestions were being overlooked.

Our intention was to contact and question at least 50% of the Head Greenkeepers/ Course Managers within the Berks, Bucks and Oxon (BB&O) region. 105 affiliated golf clubs were identified, with 62 clubs actually targeted for the survey. It was agreed by the survey team that although the number of clubs taking part would not provide conclusive proof, 65% represented a large enough

number (and therefore the evidence) to provide a good indication of what was happening within the industry.

The survey was to be carried out somewhat covertly, under the pretext of Berkshire Colleges-Industrial Liaison Committee and was therefore not able to use such direct questioning as perhaps would be required.

Aim

The main aim of the survey was to gain insight as to what is considered the correct amount of aeration (for individual golf courses) as perceived by Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers.

Along with this, the survey was designed to highlight which areas of conflict (if any) were most often encountered and how that conflict impacted on aeration objectives and scheduling.

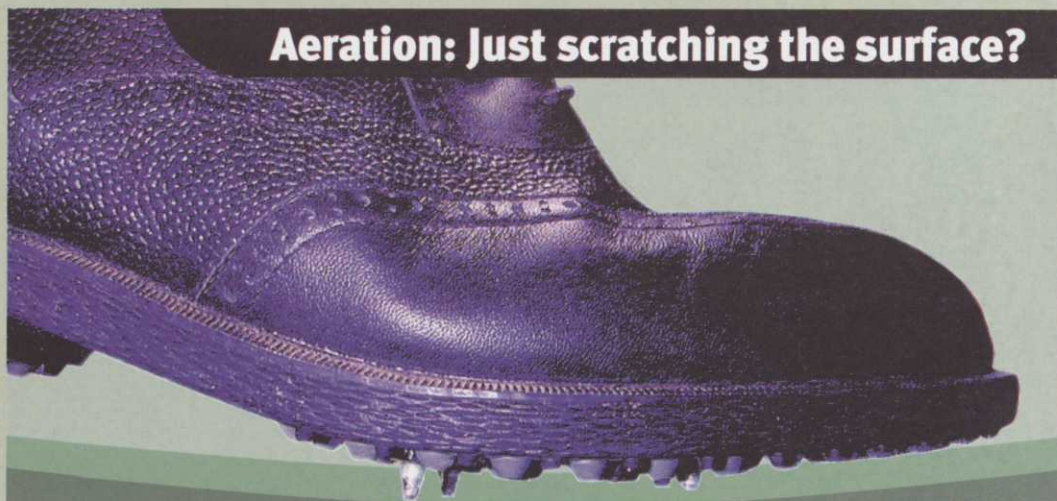
Implementation

It was felt that the most effective way to achieve the high level of responses required, would be to conduct a telephone survey. A wide variety of clubs (from PGA tournament venues to local authority) were surveyed during the first two weeks of February. From the 62 clubs targeted a success rate of 100% was achieved. Please refer to the graphs for our findings.

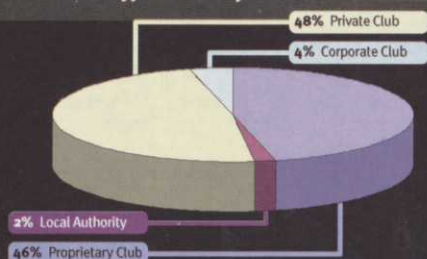
Discussion

There appears to be a very accurate match of information gained from Questions 1 and 2. The link between those facilities playing on pure sand greens and the percentage of corporate clubs surveyed is too obvious to ignore. Likewise, the links between soil greens and private clubs and

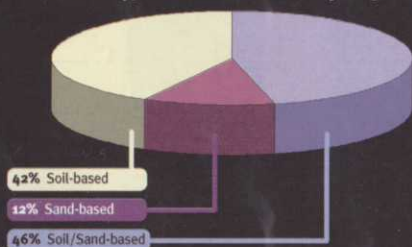
Aeration: Just scratching the surface?



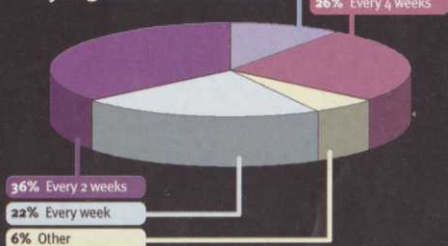
1. What type of club do you work at?



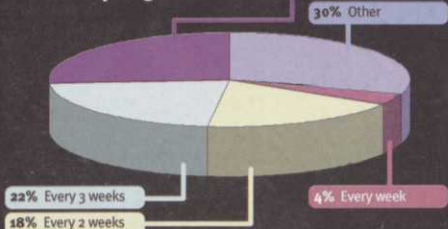
2. What type of soil best describes your greens?



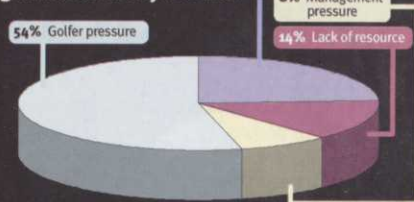
3. How frequently do you feel your greens should be aerated?



4. How often do you actually aerate your greens?



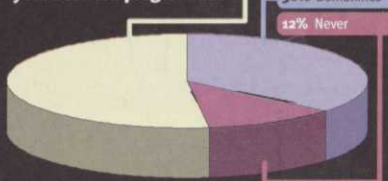
5. Why do you not aerate your greens as often as you'd like?



6. List the aeration methods in order of frequency used by you



7. Are golfers notified of your aeration programme?



8. Do you receive enough support from your industry to achieve your aeration objectives?



sand/soil greens and proprietary clubs are also similar.

Given the information so far, it would be fair to suggest that Questions 3 and 4 would clearly identify the frequency of aeration required for the different types of growing mediums associated with the above facilities especially as these questions use the Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers local knowledge of ground conditions and their collective experiences.

Surprisingly, there appeared to be no direct correlation between the frequency of aeration operations and the specific soil type. It could be argued therefore, that greenkeepers are either unsure of their aeration frequencies relating to soil type, or that there is a lack of an accepted industry standard.

In Question 3 the vast majority surveyed (62%) felt that their greens should be aerated every two or four weeks. It is also interesting to note that 22% felt their greens should receive some sort of aeration on a weekly basis. Only 6% felt that the period between aeration operations should be greater than four-week intervals. Of these it is worth pointing out that one individual suggested that their greens only needed aerating two to three times per year, while another suggested that his golf greens should receive 60 aeration operations in any twelve month period.

In Question 4 we observed a noticeable swing between that of the ideal aeration frequencies and those that are actually being achieved. The immediate comparison is between greenkeepers who would like to aerate every week (22%) and those who actually aerate every week (4%). The majority of those surveyed (58%) felt that they should aerate at least every two weeks, of which only 22% achieved this.

What is also clear is that 94% felt that they should aerate their greens between one and four times a month. Of that percentage only 22% reached their objectives.

By far the largest difference came in the category of 'Other' from 6% to a staggering 30%. Of those, the worst case recorded was one person who had not aerated within the last three seasons!

Question 5 revealed that over 50% of those surveyed failed to meet their aeration objectives due to golfer pressure. When 'management pressure' and 'lack of resources' are added to this, the figure becomes an overwhelming 76%. Of the remaining 24% the majority (implied) that their failure to meet objectives was due to a combination of the aforementioned factors. However, several did state that they received no pressure from either golfers or from their management team.

The main observation from Question 6 is that the majority of aeration undertaken is of the least disruptive type (slit tinning). When linked to the issue of 'golfer pressure' discussed in Question 5, a worrying pattern begins to emerge.

Despite the fact that 88% of those surveyed in Question 7 are communicating with their club members, it appears that these communications are clearly not helping greenkeepers achieve their aeration objectives. This raises many questions, particularly those of communication methods, the timing of communications, the authority of those communications and how they are supported.

Although the initial results in Question 8 seem promising, it is worth bearing in mind that the majority of those who answered yes, were in fact talking about receiving support from either BIGGA, their agronomists, machinery manufacturers or STRI.

The 30% who answered in a negative way suggested a number of areas where improvements could be made. These included: -

- Better education of the golfer
- Better education of golf club secretaries
- Better greenkeeper education
- More help from the R&A and Home Unions
- Improved liaison with the golf professional organisations
- More exposure in golfing journals

There can be little doubt regarding the information gained in Question 9. Clearly there is an opportunity to build on this survey and perhaps in future, questions should be more direct and challenging.

Conclusion

From the survey we can see that the main issue to be addressed is 'why are we underachieving on our aeration objectives?'

According to those surveyed, aeration is an essential operation necessary if quality sports turf is to be provided. However, it would appear that the frequency of aeration operations and the type of aeration

required for each soil category is a mystery to those even with intimate knowledge of their specific environments. Obviously this does not provide a good foundation for greenkeepers to argue a positive case regarding aeration timing and scheduling. This comes as quite a shock, particularly as greenkeeper training and education has clearly moved in the right direction over the last few years. Perhaps another more nebulous issue now dominates this subject. Could it be that job security and continuity are now so important to greenkeepers that they do not actively follow what they know to be correct or what they know their employers will resent?

Possibly, the blame for underachieving should be targeted at those who are responsible for developing industry standards. After all, if the majority of greenkeepers were intrinsically motivated, it would follow that they would try hard to implement correct procedures. If clear research exists to confirm type and frequency of aeration relating to soil type and season, greenkeepers seem unaware of its validity. Further research and development may therefore be needed so that everyone associated with the industry has a higher understanding of this topic.

The most concerning issue drawn from the survey appears to be the pressure administered by the golfer. It is painfully obvious that aeration affects the putting surface, but the survey indicates that the balance between getting oxygen into the soil and producing an even putting surface has been entirely lost to the golfer. Shorttermism has taken centre stage. Tactical and strategic objectives for green aeration are the casualties of this naive situation. A concerted effort must be made if things are to change. With golfers paying more for their round, pressure to produce ideal conditions undoubtedly increases. If we are to right this situation, the question of industry leadership once again comes to the fore. Without it, it would seem that circumstances could only deteriorate.

A plea to others

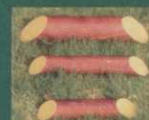
It would be of great benefit to know if the information revealed by the survey in the BB&O Section is reflected elsewhere in the country. Please take time to answer the eight questions and mail, email or fax your answers to Scott MacCallum at BIGGA HOUSE or simply pass on anecdotal evidence you've experienced personally to the magazine. The more widespread the problems identified in the survey are seen to be the greater the attention which can be given to them.

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Carol Dutton meets up with new Master Greenkeeper Phillip Helmn who has a novel way of testing new products

The Masterplan



Master Greenkeepers don't grow on trees. With just 31 qualified individuals worldwide - despite the fact that it is now 13 years since BIGGA devised the scheme - it is logical to assume that successful candidates possess more than the experience, education and practical greenkeeping and management skills demanded by the award.

Phillip Helmn, one of this year's new Masters is a case in point. He has come up with one of those simple ideas which is so obvious you wonder why nobody thought of it before.

As Course Manager at Overstone Park in Northamptonshire he is often approached by trade representatives, extolling the virtues of the latest products their companies have to offer.

"I wasn't happy about

putting anything new on my greens without testing it first," he says. "I know the companies conduct their own rigorous trials, but no two golf courses are the same, and the chances of soil conditions at the testing grounds exactly matching those here, were slim."

Encouraged by David Barraclough, Group Managing Director at Overstone, who has backed Phillip throughout his Master Greenkeeper studies, Phillip decided that what he needed was his own trial green, built as closely as possible to match the 18 on the course. Vitax put their support where their representative's mouth was, giving practical help and technical advice, which has resulted in the construction of a new testing area. At 16 by 10 metres, it is situated directly in front of Phillip's office window. "Although the rootzone has not been constructed strictly to a USGA specification, in all other aspects, conditions, including fully automatic

irrigation, are identical to those on my greens.

The area is subject to the same maintenance regime, and is effectively our 19th green.

One aspect in which the trial green differs is the amount of poa resident within the sward.

Having decided to build his own testing green to assess new products, Phillip realised that he now had an opportunity to safely investigate methods of combating poa annua.

"In the fight against poa invasion there is no real substitute for good, traditional greenkeeping techniques, but outside pressures can reduce the effectiveness of an Integrated Disease Management Plan, and I was keen to experiment."

For this reason, the trial plot was deliberately sown with a large percentage of poa.

"We can even put paraquat on it if we want to. The whole area has been sectioned into grids, and we are keeping detailed records of every application administered," he says.

The first step was to establish the percentage of poa in each grid by using a point quadrant frame which is simply a piece of softwood 60cm long with two rows of 10 pins five centimetres apart.

Where the pins landed the grass species was recorded, and although results varied, on average poa coverage was found to be 60%.

"One area has been left untreated as a control and other grids subjected to treatments ranging from high to low doses of Glyphosate total weed killer. We have also applied excessive rates of chemical and biological fungicides to some areas, to see if this has a detrimental effect on the poa. Already some interesting things have started to happen," said Phillip.

Although he will offer the results of research carried out at Overstone to fellow greenkeeping professionals, given the space, time and resources, the only way to assess the effects of applied products with total accuracy may be to try them on your own soil.



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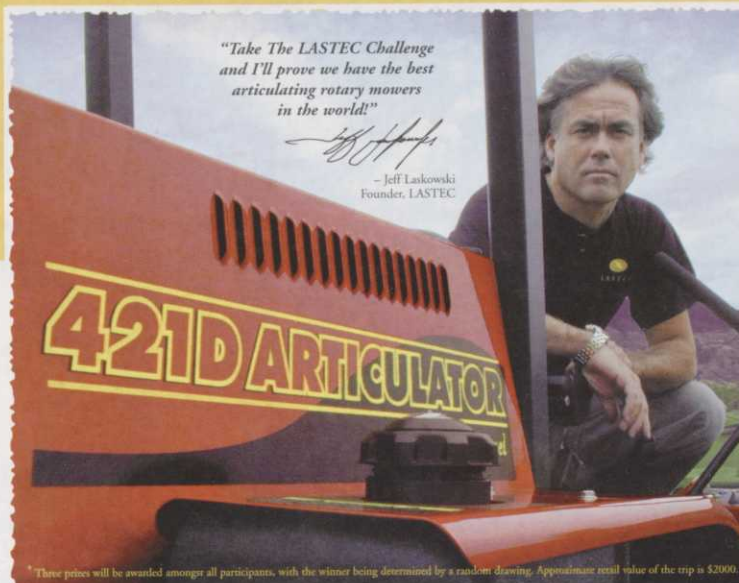
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Roland Taylor cuts up rough as he looks at the best ways of maintaining those areas off the straight and narrow

Cutting up rough

Looking through a magazine dated 1927 recently I found a series of essays written by greenkeepers as part of a competition. They were asked several questions about their work and one in particular wanted to know what equipment they used. Hand machines were used by all for their greens and tees. The fairways were cut with a petrol-powered mower but no mention was made of the rough, in all cases. Gangmowers were available around this time, but the rotary mower was yet to be invented so one has to assume on some courses once the ball went off the fairway players were in deep trouble.

Being man-made a course has to harmonise into the natural landscape and this can be parkland, heathland, moorland or seashore which if left to its own devices will start to encroach on the playing surfaces. While the areas immediately adjacent to the fairways, the rough are under a tight management programme beyond these other areas needs have to be taken into account as far as control is concerned.

The rough is a significant part of the game, the wrong kind can have distinct disadvantages, especially on courses where player numbers are of major importance. The main reason being wayward shots that take a long time to find slow up the game considerably. This can be the controlling factor when it comes to deciding the type of rough produced.

The areas adjacent to the fairways require a similar turf management

schedule with only the major difference being in the height of grass left after mowing. There is an abundance of equipment now on the market to deal with these areas and those outside the main playing surfaces.

Cylinder mowers

These were and still are the traditional method of cutting and now come in various configurations. Trailed gangmowers are still used on many courses and little has changed in their basic design. The development of hydraulic systems and drives lead to the introduction of the new units that, whilst still being towed, have the advantage of constant power to the cutting units and the ability to lift the

mowing units for working around obstacles or transportation. A number of these types of machines are available.

The next progression was the launch of self-propelled mowers with either three or five cutting units, probably the most common type of equipment used today.

On all cylinder units there is a limit to the length of grass they can handle. A major governing factor is the number of blades on the reels - the less there are the longer the grass that can be tackled. The down side of this is that the quality of finish is affected as the cuts per metre drops. The introduction of the rotary principle offers an alternative mowing solution.



Cutting up rough



Rotary mowers

The first trailed rotary mowers appeared on the scene in the early fifties. These belt driven units were powered from the tractors PTO and had a mowing width of up to 14ft and were originally developed for orchards.

Greenkeepers soon recognised the benefits this type of machine offered when it came to cutting their rough - the length of grass and other vegetation was no problem.

Today, there are a number of trailed machines available including ones made up of small independent cutting heads that freely float and are said to follow the ground contours closely. Recent years have seen the introduction of high output wide self-propelled ride-on rotaries. These are made up of independent hydraulically driven cutting heads. Like their cylinder



counterparts these machines have all the benefits of ease of operation.

Other developments of the rotary principle have been recycling systems. These chop the cut material into fine pieces and are said to deposit it back deep into the sward.

A point worth remembering is that gang mowers have been doing this since they were first introduced.

Whilst collecting grass is not generally a viable proposition on the areas under review there are a number of high output ride-on rotaries with collection and high lift emptying now on the market.

They also have the advantage that they can be used for leaf collection and some have attachments such as wide scarifiers and rotary brushes for hard surfaces like car parks.

Flail

The flail principle will deal with a wide range of vegetation lengths and the trailed versions usually have a collection facility. They can also be used for scarifying and leaf collection.

Further back from the fairways growth can often be thicker and whilst it may not be cut very often there are times when this is necessary. Both rotary and flail machines will deal with this situation. For steep banks, ditches or river sides there are the tractor mounted long arm flail heads which can also be used for hedges. For confined areas smaller pedestrian rotaries and flails are readily available.

Brushcutters are ideal for clearing scrub, bracken and heather. These are now available as handheld units or ride-ons. The former should not be confused with the grass trimmers.

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They are more powerful and were originally designed for harvesting small trees. Nylon line cutting heads are available in addition to saw blades. Some manufacturers offer back-pack models for use in difficult areas.

The ride-on brushcutter is designed to deal with all types of vegetation including saplings and is compact enough to get into tight spots. They are the answer for clearing woodland paths or cutting fire breaks. On courses that have small tree plantations this type of machine is suitable for grass and weed control.

Flicking through recent issues of this magazine it is evident that there is now considerable emphasis being placed on creating natural havens on courses where flora and fauna can thrive. These areas require specialised

management and the occasional use of machinery to ensure dominant species do not completely take over. When considering equipment for the rough it is a good idea to also take into account these areas, as often there is a machine available to cope with both types of conditions.

Talking to golfers it is clear that they are out to enjoy themselves and the average players are going to finish often, or sometimes, in the rough. While it is designed to keep them on the straight and narrow if it is too high or thick then they are going to be unhappy and will be lodging complaints or not be coming back. A point worth taking into account when deciding how long to leave it and how often to cut it.



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Golf courses are not just areas for playing the game, but also act as protectors of the environment and are important in nature conservation. Is this statement true or false?

The answer depends on who you ask, but here Alan Gange and Della Lindsay, of Royal Holloway, University of London present some scientific evidence to support it

The & birds bees



Golf courses are perceived by some as being bad for the environment. Vociferous anti-golf lobbies often claim that large amounts of water, fertiliser and pesticides are used and that little thought is given to the management of the non-playing areas of the course. We suspect that virtually every greenkeeper in the country knows that these statements are not true, but what is the opinion of the general public?

When one starts delving into the literature on this subject, it is immediately apparent that there is very little published information on the broader aspects of golf course conservation and even less on the public understanding of it. We therefore decided to perform a survey of local people, to ask them their opinions of

golf courses. We spoke to several hundred people in Surrey and south east London and among a series of questions, asked them if they thought that golf courses are good or bad for the environment and whether they play golf.

The results were very interesting, but worrying at the same time. Among golfers, 77% thought golf courses were environmentally friendly, but among non-golfers, this figure dropped to an alarming 43%. This result is perhaps not surprising to readers of Greenkeeper International, but shows that there is a lack of knowledge among the general public. The majority of golfers know that courses are good for conservation purposes, but of those people who have never been on a course, the

majority think they are bad for the environment.

We therefore believe that there is a distinct need for information on the role that golf courses play in the landscape and so recently, a number of our students have performed habitat surveys of courses. Looking at the literature, we decided that in many previous studies, the wrong ecological questions had been asked. Usually, workers have compared the diversity of species on a course with a nearby area of natural habitat. However, we believe that a more ecologically realistic question to ask is - How does the species diversity of a course compare with the nearest piece of habitat, which the course would be, if it was not used for golf? In many cases, the nearest piece of

The & birds bees

Captions for slides

1. [slide label: Haverfordwest GC]
Haverfordwest GC is situated amongst farmland and provides a varied selection of habitats, particularly for bumblebees.
2. [slide label: pitfall@Berks]
Pitfall traps are a simple way of monitoring populations of ground-dwelling insects
3. [slide label: carabid adult]
Carabid beetles may look fearsome, but they are some of Nature's most useful predators
4. [GC, Trinidad]
Set amongst natural habitats, St Andrews GC, Trinidad is a haven for bird life
5. [slide label: Egrets, Trinidad]
Avian spectators on St. Andrews GC.



habitat which the golf course would have been is not undisturbed habitat, but farmland or semi-natural habitats such as set-aside land.

Faunal surveys of golf courses are ideal for final year student research projects and with suitable training, students can walk golf courses on a defined route, identifying and counting target groups as they go. Such survey techniques are well established in Ecology, and the data produced can be subjected to a variety of statistical techniques. Certain groups of insects and birds are easy to identify in the field and for larger insects, such as bumblebees and beetles, the specimens can be captured, marked with a small spot of non-toxic paint and released. Counts of these insects can therefore be very reliable, as we know if the same insect has been caught before.

At Royal Holloway, a number of these surveys have been performed in the last couple of years and in this article we present the results from four case studies, from different parts of the world. In all cases, we record

the number of species and the numbers of individuals of each species. These two quantities are then used in the calculation of an index of Diversity. Diversity is an often misused term in Ecology and is frequently (wrongly) equated with the number of species in an area. In fact, diversity is a composite term, which takes into account the number of species and the spread of individuals across species. A habitat that has a similar number of each species is considered to be more diverse than one in which one or a few species dominate, even if the total number of species in each habitat is the same.

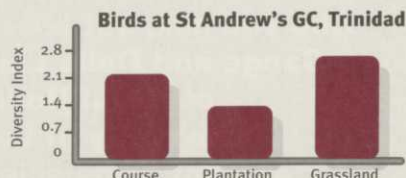
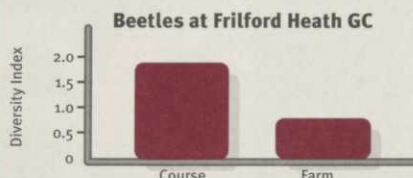
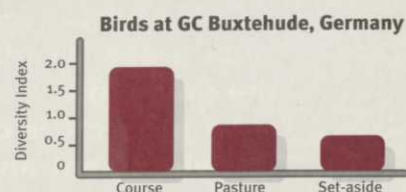
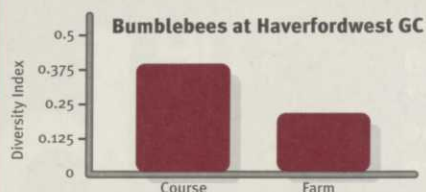
Case study 1: Haverfordwest Golf Club, South Wales

Haverfordwest GC is nearly 100 years old and is surrounded by pasture grassland, supporting sheep, with some beef and dairy cattle. Therefore, if the golf course did not exist the land would most probably be used for livestock farming. In this study, we compared the bumblebee fauna of the course and an adjacent farm over one summer.

The diversity of bumblebees on the golf course was significantly higher than that of the farmland (Fig. 1). Two reasons accounted for this fact – more bumblebee species were found inhabiting the golf course and the number of individuals of these species was also higher. Table 1 shows the mean number of individuals captured per day over the summer for the five commonest species. Most species were significantly commoner on the course and only one species was more abundant on the farm.

Bumblebee species	Golf course	Farmland
<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>	93	17
<i>B. lucorum</i>	77	38
<i>B. pascuorum</i>	67	40
<i>B. terrestris</i>	56	54
<i>B. pratorum</i>	44	17
<i>B. hortorum</i>	21	34

Table 1. Average number of bumblebees caught (and released!) per day



These data are very interesting because in recent years there has been much concern over the decline of bumblebee populations in the UK. These insects are extremely important pollinators of a number of our crops and agricultural intensification has often been cited as a reason for their loss. It appears that golf courses may provide valuable habitats for these insects, because unlike farmland, the habitat structure is more varied, providing nest sites and abundant flowers for food. The former reason is certainly the case for *B. lapidarius*, which prefers to nest in dry, stony areas, with little vegetation. Such microhabitats were rare on the farm, but common in banks on the course. Flowers for foraging bees were available all summer in the natural habitats on the course, but the only flowers in abundance on the farm were thistles and clovers, neither of which flower all summer, meaning that there were gaps in the availability of food.

Case study 2: Frilford Heath GC, Oxfordshire

Frilford Heath possesses three 18 hole courses and we compared the most recent course, opened in 1994, with a nearby arable farm. Our target insects this time were ground beetles, known scientifically as carabids. These beetles are predatory and there has been much recent research aimed at enhancing their numbers on farmland, where they can act as important control agents of pests, such as slugs and cereal aphids. Carabids are easy to catch in pitfall traps, where a small plastic cup is inserted into the ground so that its rim is flush with the soil level. The beetles are mainly active at night and an early morning survey reveals those beetles which have fallen into the traps.

As with the bumblebees, we found that carabid diversity was much higher on the course,



being over twice that of the farmland (Fig. 1). Carabids were also more abundant on the course; we caught an average of 5.6 beetles per trap per week on the course, compared with only 2.9 per trap per week on the farm.

Golf courses could therefore act as potential reservoirs of these predators in an agricultural landscape. On farms, special areas are often created, known as 'beetle banks' in which carabids can breed, before dispersing into a crop. From a beetle's point of view, the course could represent the Bank of England, but we need more research to determine whether these insects can disperse from courses on to neighbouring farms.

Case study 3:

Golf Club Buxtehude, Germany

Golf Club Buxtehude is situated in Lower Saxony, Germany and is about 15 years old. Nearby are two habitats which the course might have been, one is pasture grassland and the other is a large area of 'set-aside' land, where farming has ceased and natural habitat regeneration is occurring. In theory, the latter habitat should encourage species diversity, as the use of pesticides and fertilizers is banned there.

Birds were our target group here and

the diversity was recorded over a summer season. As can be seen from Fig. 1, the golf course had a considerably higher diversity than the pasture or set-aside. It may seem surprising that the set-aside, which is designed to encourage diversity, actually had the lowest value. The likely reason is that a greater variety of habitats existed on the golf course, because shrubs and trees had yet to establish on the set-aside area. A total of 19 bird species were recorded using the golf course (i.e. either feeding or breeding there), compared with 17 in the pasture and 14 in the set-aside area.

Agricultural intensification has also been cited as the main reason for the decline in populations of many farmland birds. However, by construction of the appropriate habitats on courses, we believe that many of these declines could be reversed in the future.

Case study 4:

St Andrew's GC, Trinidad, West Indies

Our most exotic location was St Andrew's GC, a mature course situated on the island of Trinidad. The course forms part of a large estate and is surrounded by cocoa plantations and areas of natural grassland. At the time of our study, the grassland had been earmarked for a housing devel-

opment. We recorded bird diversity in the three habitat areas during the latter part of the wet season (June-September).

This was the only example where the golf course habitat did not exhibit the highest diversity (Fig. 1), being slightly lower than the grassland. However, diversity was higher than the plantation habitat and shows that if the grassland must be lost, it would be better to convert this land into a golf development, rather than plantation, or indeed, bricks and mortar. Eighteen bird species were found using the course, compared with 19 in the grassland and 16 in the plantation.

We found a great similarity in the identity of the bird species using the golf course and the grassland habitat, but those in the plantation were quite different. The bird faunas of course and grassland were dominated by insectivorous species, while that of the plantation was dominated by frugivorous species. These data suggest to us that golf courses are able to maintain the species diversity that is normally associated with natural habitats and this could be very important in maintaining the fragile faunas on islands such as Trinidad.

Conclusions

We realise that we may be preaching to the converted in this article, but our aim here has been to stimulate interest in the subject. Many golf club members are excellent natural historians and perhaps in the future they could combine their rounds with some bird, butterfly or bee surveys. If any clubs are interested in such surveys, please contact us. Perhaps such surveys could be promoted locally, thus bringing them to the attention of non-players.

Undoubtedly, it is the non-golfing public that we need get this information to as well. We are currently in the minority, as neither of us play golf, but both believe that courses are good for the environment. It would be nice in future to be in the majority!

Alan Gange is Senior Lecturer in Environmental Biology at Royal Holloway, University of London. Della Lindsay is studying the conservation of heathland on golf courses for a doctorate degree and is funded by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

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Fiona McIntyre, of the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Group, gives some advice on making the most of the water on your course

The name's pond...



This winter's heavy rainfall has produced many new and often unwelcome ponds, wetlands and bums on Scotland's golf courses. However water can be an asset to your course, in the right place.

Ponds and wetlands for example can provide golfing features, reservoirs for the irrigation system, a catchment to alleviate drainage problems, or simply an attractive addition to the course. In reality many ponds on golf courses will serve more than one purpose. Whatever their purpose on the course it is likely that ponds will support wildlife, and with careful management could be further enhanced for wildlife and golfer alike.

Throughout Scotland many ponds are being lost, and many more suffer damage through pollution and inappropriate management. This means that golf course ponds can be important wildlife resources within the wider countryside. Ponds provide breeding areas for frogs, toads, newts

and dragonflies. If they are large enough ducks and moorhens may breed and other fauna such as deer, foxes and birds will welcome a source of drinking water.

So what makes a good pond? There are a number of features that are important such as irregularly shaped edges, shallow margins well stocked with native plants and a variety of depths. A good pond should look like it has always been there, and that the golf course has been built around it. Ponds that do not already have these features often look unnatural and fail to mature. There are many examples of 10-15 year old ponds that still look as though they were built last year, and will always look like this due to poor design. However, such ponds can be enhanced through creation of shallow margins and planting, which can be done by excavation or partial infilling.

The position of a new pond on a golf course needs to be carefully select-





ed to ensure that a hole is enhanced by it. It can be completely out of play, and solely for the benefit of wildlife and the landscape, or it can be brought into play to create challenge and interest on the course. Position may be determined by factors such as drainage problems and the desire to alleviate those. However, if it is intended to enhance the course, it will need to be carefully positioned, designed, constructed and managed to ensure that it becomes an asset to the course, and of benefit to wildlife. Ponds can be important elements of the drainage system on the course. They can provide localised catchments for flood water, acting as a sink to draw excess water from playing areas. Excavation of the pond will provide topsoil that can be used to build up and re grade in other wet spots, further alleviating the problems. When ponds are created in areas that are already wet, they may not need to be lined to hold water.

However in well drained or seasonally wet areas a liner will be necessary. Butyl is the most common material used, and is usually suitable for most situations. Other possible liners are heavy duty black plastic, a clay based material known as bentonite and concrete. Plastic usually has only a short life span often to 15 years, whereas butyl is often guaranteed for up to 50 years. Bentonite is expensive but can be useful in situations prone to vandalism or other damage as it is self sealing when punctured, and repairs can usually be made successfully. Concrete is not generally recommended, as it is difficult to ensure that it does not leak. If leaks do occur repair is difficult and usually requires a complete reconstruction. Creating a new pond provides the opportunity to incorporate the shallow margins, irregularly shaped edges, and variety of depths which are ideal for wildlife. Wildlife ponds do not need to be deep (one metre at most),

unless of course they are also required for irrigation or drainage. Introducing appropriate plants into the pond will enhance it further, helping it to mature, soften and become integrated into the surrounding landscape. Native species such as branched bur-reed and bottle sedge, along with attractive flowering marginals such as Purple Loosestrife, Meadowsweet, Marsh Marigold, Yellow Flag, Ragged Robin and Water Lilies will all improve the pond for wildlife and create an attractive feature that will enhance the course. Care should be taken not to plant inappropriate species. Many ponds have become accidentally infested with vigorous aliens such as Canadian pondweed, Floating Pennywort and New Zealand Swamp-stonecrop, that choke out native species. These usually arrive accidentally when plants are introduced from garden centres. It is always best to acquire plants from natural sources (with the landowners

permission) or reliable native plant suppliers specialising in aquatics. Like all habitats it is important to manage ponds well. Over management, through clearing out too much of the pond too often, will reduce plant, invertebrate and amphibian populations. Long term lack of management can lead to silting and drying of a pond. All wetlands need protection to ensure they are not polluted or damaged. There is much that golf courses can do to enhance and protect their wetlands for their value to wildlife and golfer alike. One of the highest risks to any wetland on a golf course is the possibility of accidental contamination from chemical applications on the course. This most commonly occurs through runoff from treated surfaces or leaching of chemicals through the soil from treated areas into wetlands. There are two ways to reduce chemical pollution of water bodies.

The name's pond...



No-spray zones can be created around and alongside water bodies and water courses. Buffer strips of rough vegetation should also be allowed to develop alongside ponds and water courses. These measures help to protect the pond from direct contamination and runoff, and help to give bums and ditches more character and definition, contributing to the overall interest of the course. Certainly, some banks will need to be more intensively managed but those areas should be minimised, also saving on time and management effort.

Vegetation also helps stabilise eroding banks by increasing soil binding. There will be places where such strips are not possible e.g. where bums cross fairways, but careful adherence to the no-spray zones, and allowing rough vegetation to develop immediately the bum is out of play will all help to reduce potential problems.

Herbicides and pesticides can affect wildlife directly, through toxicity to the plant life and invertebrates that are the basis of the food chain. They can persist in water bodies, adversely affecting amphibian reproduction

and even causing deformities. They have a cumulative effect, leading to high mortality in animals at the top of the food chain.

Fertilisers can cause unsightly 'algal blooms', which are undesirable ecologically, as they can strip out the oxygen from the water causing drops in invertebrate populations and sometimes even fish kills, but these are extreme cases and careful management can avoid such problems.

Golf course ponds and wetlands can enhance the course for both golfer and wildlife, but they do need to be well designed and managed to be a long term asset to the course. Importantly, what is best for the clubs and golfer in terms of pond creation and management is usually best for wildlife, thereby resulting in a better playing environment for all.

Furthermore it may be possible to obtain funding for pond creation or enhancement through the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, or Scottish Natural Heritage, where these ponds will benefit wildlife as well as the golf club.

If you have any questions about ponds and their management please contact Fiona McIntyre or Jonathan Smith at: The Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Group, The Stables, Dalkeith Country Park, Dalkeith, Midlothian, EH22 2NA Tel: 0131 660 9480.

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TALKING

Six of the country's top men talk about the grasses on their courses and plans for the future...

Grasses

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE



Name: Ian Menzies
Region: Scotland
Course: Drumoig Hotel and Golf Resort, Leuchers, near St Andrews.
Course Type: Parkland (18 holes plus Scottish National Golf Centre, approx 12 holes)



Name: Richard Hollingworth
Region: Northern
Course: Ridding Park, Follifoot, Harrogate
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Head greenkeeper plus five, plus casuals



Picture not available at time of print

Name: Kenny Mackay
Region: Midland
Course: Merriott Forest of Arden, Meriden, nr Coventry
Course Type: Parkland (36 holes)
Staff: Course manager plus 23, plus mechanic



Name: Don Wilson
Region: South East
Course: Dyrham Park, Galley Lane, Barnet, Herts
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Course manager plus six



Name: Steve Evans
Region: SouthWest & South Wales
Course: Yelverton Golf Club, Devon
Course Type: Moorland
Staff: Head greenkeeper plus 4



Name: Emmett Curran
Region: Northern Ireland
Course: Downpatrick Golf Club, Northern Ireland
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Course manager plus two, plus mechanic

1
What grasses do you have on your course - greens, tees and fairways?

On greens, tees and fairways we have 40 per cent slender creeping red fescue, 40 per cent chewing fescue, 20 per cent tenuis bent (Highland browntop bent on fairways).

Fescue, and bent on greens, plus a lot of natural grasses still there including 50 per cent meadow grass. Tees are predominantly rye grass with some smooth stalked meadow grass. Fairways are a mixture of fescue, predominant rye grass, plus smooth stalked meadow grass.

Our greens are a mixture of poa annua and bent, the tees are dwarf rye grass and the fairways a mixture of bent, rye grass and poa annua.

A mixture of bent and poa annua on greens, though I try to eradicate poa as much as possible; dwarf rye on tees natural rye on fairways which was originally agricultural land.

Bent and annual meadow grass on the greens and we have oversown with fescue in recent years. Tees - dwarf rye grass, natural bent. Fairways are natural moorland with bent, fescue and annual meadow grass.

On greens we have meadow grass and a little bent. Tees meadow grass and rye grass and fairways meadow grass and bent.

HEADS

2 What would be the ideal grass types you would include in your course?

Our course is only five-years-old and as I was involved with the construction I am very happy with the existing grasses.

I would have a mixture of fescues and bent for the greens, dwarf rye grass and smooth stalked meadow grass for the tees, with dwarf rye grass and smooth stalked meadow grass for the fairways.

Bent on greens, rye on tees and the fairways a mixture of rye grass, fescue and bent.

Predominantly bent on greens with a touch of fescue, dwarf rye grass on tees as it is hard wearing with a quick recovery and bent fescue on fairways.

Ideally I would like bent and fescue only on greens. Tees as they are at the moment and fairways would be bent and fescue in an ideal situation.

On greens I would like creeping bent and the rest of the course dwarf rye grass with a little fescue in the rough.

3 What attempts are you making to change the grass type profile on your course?

None whatsoever as we have had excellent results with the mix we originally decided on, supplied by Barenbrug.

I believe in leaving well alone, because you would be fighting a losing battle as there are so many grasses in the air alone. Meadow grass is too strong, to eradicate. You put up with it otherwise you would have a bald golf course.

On the fairways I am trying to get a more evenward with rye grass, fescue and bent. I have a lot of poa annua on the back nine of the Arden course and so I am hopeful the introduction of the others will do the trick.

We have spent a lot of time on this. Greens are overseeded with bent twice a year and tees overseeded with dwarf rye once a year. Fairways are overseeded with dwarf rye and smooth stalked meadow grass once a year.

We overseed tees each year with sand and soil mix and dwarf rye grass. On fairways we overseed with bent and fescue each year and greens are overseeded twice a year with bent and fescue mix. We have 50 ponies on the course who eat the greens which we top dress 20 times a year because of this problem.

None, we are quite happy to live with what we've got. It would cost a lot of money to change things and finance wouldn't allow it.

4 What are your views on poa annua - learn to live with it or try to eradicate it?

I would learn to live with it. Poa annua is kept at an absolute minimum on our course by verti-cutting as often as we can.

We must learn to live with poa annua, especially in this country where there are ideal growing conditions for meadow grass in autumn and spring.

We can't eradicate it. If I tried to do this on the greens the overall quality would drop. I believe in trying to manage what you have and make the best of what you have got.

I would say on our soil type learn to live with it. I produce the course as good as I can and if I eradicated poa annua I wouldn't have much left!

It is impossible to eradicate poa annua in my opinion, but we overseed with bent and fescue coupled with aeration and verti-cutting. There is no irrigation on the course and I think our greens are better for that.

Definitely learn to live with it. If your management programme is dedicated to meadow grass your course will be fine.

5 What qualities would you like to see from new grasses which are currently in development?

I believe that the grasses currently on the market are excellent when it comes to the battle against disease. Perhaps for sand based greens like ours there will be a development with resistance against drought and close mowing - we are cutting at 4mm.

Finer grasses to have better winter tolerance and also grass to have better recovery.

Research has been very good over the years and I have tried a number of new grasses. I am not looking for anything special in the future.

Greens - quick recovery and less susceptible to disease and drought. Tees - hard wearing and quick recovery. Fairways - hard wearing, quick to recover and cope with wet conditions.

Some which resist disease, particularly fusarium. Someone will make a fortune if they can do that! Also one which is drought resistant.

Disease resistant and compact growth. I can't remember any drought - we have more water than most! I would also like to see a grass developed which is more tolerant to close mowing. We cut at 4mm on our greens.



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Scott MacCallum travelled to Islay to talk with the Machrie Head Greenkeeper, Simon Freeman, about living and working on an island

Island life



Photography: Simon Freeman

Machrie was voted 56th in the most recent Golf World rankings. One visit proves why.

Below: Simon, seated centre, has been blessed with a talented hard working team



Think about life on an island and you might conjure up images of Robinson Crusoe; Sue Lawley; Father Ted or indeed the stars of *Castaway* or *Survivor*. But how would you fancy managing a golf course on a remote Scottish island?

Simon Freeman did just that. Two years ago he moved from his home town of Crieff to take over as Head Greenkeeper at the Machrie Golf Links, on the island of Islay off the West coast of Scotland, and he hasn't regretted his decision one bit.

Access to the island, which is on the same latitude as Glasgow is not always easy. The half hour twice daily flight from Glasgow can often be

delayed or even cancelled by fog or low cloud or the ferry which sails from Tarbert, itself a three hour drive from Glasgow. But once there you can appreciate why people make the effort. The beauty of Islay is stunningly natural with wonderful beaches and friendly islanders.

"This is as good as it gets as far as I'm concerned," said Simon, as we sat discussing his life and work shortly after returning from a strictly alcohol-free lunch in the restaurant of one of the island's six distilleries.

"I'd been over here once before I applied for the job. The son of the previous owner of the Machrie was an assistant pro at Crieff Golf Club

Far right: A rolling fairway

Right: Some standing stones laid out by the team near the nine hole par-3 course and with which the Machrie Captain engineered a very successful April Fool

Below: The Machrie greens are generally set in hollows rather than humps



Above: They attempted to alleviate the dry patch by hand forking the greens

Below: A core taken from turf close to the shore shows good root depth



and I came over with a group to play the course. That one visit was enough to convince me that if the job came up I should go for it," said Simon, who began his career as an apprentice under Jimmy Kidd at Gleneagles.

While the quality of the golf course quickly won over the four handicapper - it was ranked 56th in the UK in the most recent Golf World rankings - the complications of island life, and their impact on his course maintenance procedures gave him something into which he could really get his teeth.

"We have to source our top dressing from between the peat bogs and the sand dunes at the top end of the island, but while the chemical analysis of the material shows it is perfectly suitable the particle size is really too fine to be used as a top dressing.

"We've run into problems with it. When we get a period of dry weather after we've top dressed we find that the surface starts to seal," admitted Simon.

"If the course was on the mainland

we'd simply get the rootzone which was best suited to growing healthy bents and fescues. On the island however the cost is prohibitive to get lorry loads of top dressing coming over by boat, so we have to use what is available."

One option is sand from nearer the shore which is sharper, but they have found that the pH and the calcium content is too high. However it has created something of a puzzle.

"Strangely although the pH is technically too high to grow healthy grass it appears to be the tees and greens which have the sand off the shore blown over them which seem to be our healthiest," mused Simon.

The other main area of complication resulting from island living is machinery maintenance.

"I've got a basic grounding in mechanics and some of my guys are also quite good but once something technical goes wrong it becomes very difficult to get someone to fix it. When it comes to grass cutting machinery, the mechanics on the

island are no better than us so we have to get someone over for it, but you can't just phone up and expect someone to be there within two hours."

Such a scenario perhaps only happens two to three times a year but always at an important time.

"We can be looking at the machine being down for a week instead of a day as it would be on the mainland."

However, Simon does find that dealers are very good at talking them through problems over the telephone. "AM Russell's and Scottish Grass Machinery are good at this and it is a great saving. They are now also excellent at getting parts to us."

Simon also tries to ensure that he has machinery which can do more than one job so he has cover if machines go down.

"I have tried to work out which machinery would cover my back - for example being able to use cutting heads on more than one machine so if one breaks down the heads can be transferred over and the job still completed."



The main disease problem the team has to contend with is dry patch.

"We have a build up of thatch on the greens and a build up of waxy material which caused a hydrophobic layer on the greens," he explained.

"It is a problem which isn't at the front of greenkeepers' thinking as much as it was in years gone by, but in our situation, where we haven't got the necessary aeration equipment or an irrigation system, it's the scariest thing that happens to us.

"When it strikes, as it did recently, we have to go out with hand and aeration forks and fork up all the patches and then water them. We borrow a bowser from a neighbouring farmer, strap a pump to it and spray with a fire hose which is very time consuming and when it's hot we can never really keep in top of it."

Simon is already looking at longer term solutions.

Getting access to aeration equipment is the key and the lure of the island has proved useful in ensuring one of Simon's contacts is a regular visitor.

"We have a very good relationship with Kevin Brunton, of Greentech Sports Turf, who has taken to the island to the extent that he is keen to come over with his aeration machinery and offer me any technical advice I might require," said Simon.

"But we are going to have to think about purchasing aeration equipment soon because the situation is going to have to be tackled otherwise it is just going to get worse."

They will also be installing a rudimentary irrigation system with a pump at each end so they can have a box at each green from which to hand hose.

Although only measuring 6,200 yards, the course, originally designed by Willie Campbell who also designed Brookline which hosted the 1999 Ryder Cup, doesn't play short. (Donald Steel also designed five holes in the 70s when land was lost to farmland). This is because it is laid out across the dunes rather than down valleys and long hitters often have to

lay up between blind hills to give themselves the best chance of hitting approach shots close.

It has a reputation of being one of the very finest links courses and as a result does attract some of the more intrepid golfing pilgrims.

Indeed before I returned to the mainland I listened to three Americans starting their day with a breakfast table reading of text from a golf book extolling the virtues of the Machrie.

They displayed the same passion that the club's own Head Greenkeeper has for the game.

"I was taught to play golf as soon as I could walk as it was an excuse for my father, who was a county player. In the winter he used to take me off to the seaside to get away from the drudgery of playing winter greens. That gave me a love of links golf and I always wanted to work and play on a links course," said Simon.

Indeed John Freeman did more than just introduce his son to the delights of playing the game, he bred

into him a love of golf course design.

"My father is an architect but his hobby is designing golf courses. He helped design the new holes at Crieff Golf Club about 20 years ago and he and I both had input into designing the new nine hole extension at Crieff Hydro, where I worked before coming here. I did the original plans and he touched them up for the final design. Golf course design is a great interest for him and it has turned into a great interest of mine."

Those skills have been put to good use at the Machrie.

The team plan to build two new greens for the 12th and 14th holes as the existing greens are the least popular with the members and Malcolm King, the owner.

"The current greens, built when five new holes were required when the club lost land to farmland in the 70s, are on the tops of mounds while the original greens were in hollows. No-one thought about irrigation in those days and put the greens in the wettest areas so they wouldn't dry out in the summer."

Machinery Inventory

Toro 2300D Triple Fairway Mower
Ransomes 160D with Greens units and verti-cut units
Ransomes 160 Petrol (used for spare due to island petrol prices 98p per litre!)
Set of Ransomes 160 tees units
Kubota 3800 compact tractor
International 484 tractor
Ransomes 20" Super Certes
Ransomes 20" G850
Saxon Baroness 22" with groomer
Set of five Ransomes Sportscurter gangs
2 Allent 218Si Flymos
Komatsu Strimmer
SISIS Auto-Rotorake
SISIS Supaturfman
Cushman Turf Truckster (Diesel)
Cushman Top-dresser
Richard Long Finishing Mower
Alfa Laval Slurry Spreader complete with Honda WP20X Pump and Fire Hoses for Irrigation
Honda 300 Quad Bike
Allman Boom Sprayer
CP20 Knapsack Sprayer
Two and a half tonne trailer



"We want to see if we can restore the original philosophy of the course. We're not going to be bullish and say that we're going to make them better holes but it's worth a try and if it works it works and if it doesn't it doesn't," said Simon, who is delighted that Malcolm King, a golfing enthusiast who reads up on whatever subject he takes an interest, gives him 100% support.

The other major development is the new nine hole par-3 course which Simon and the team have built.

"We wanted to build a mini replica of the main course complete with blind shots and run and bumps so we found a bit of unused links land and Ewan Logan and Bobby Brown, of the greenkeeping team, and I designed the course into it.

"We are currently at the stage where we are ready to put the final cut on six of the holes with the other three still to be built. The holes will be between 120 and 180 yards with two or three holes together so we would have wide fairways, to enable the children to play, and narrow necks into the greens so good golfers could face a challenge hitting into the greens," explained Simon, who revealed that children get free membership of the golf club.

Before Simon, wife Catherine and young son Brandon - who has been joined by a brother, Bailey, since being on the island - arrived, Simon was told he might find it difficult to get people to work for him but he has found it to be the complete opposite.

"Ewan Logan, my assistant head was here under the previous regime, and has been very hard working and helpful; Bobby Brown was a farm worker most of his life and has been a God send; Chris Sather, the gardener, has produced miraculous

results around the front of the hotel while Stuart Pate has been working with us over the summer and has vast experience of the construction industry. I've been blessed with a good hard working team."

That team also turns its hand to whatever work is required and had decorated the bar in which we were sitting as well as doing similar work on the Hotel's chalets.

That demonstrates the close relationship Simon has with Hotel Manager, Ian Brown, with whom he conceived and organised the Machrie Team Challenge which filled all the Hotel's chalets and half the hotel itself last year and was won by Gleneagles greenkeeper, Simon Crawford and his team.

If Simon misses out on anything it is contact with other greenkeepers and he is keen to encourage green-keeping colleagues to visit.

"It is prohibitively expensive for me to leave the island and keep up-to-date with current greenkeeping issues by visiting other golf courses so I do feel a little isolated but if any Section Secretary wants to organise a visit to the Machrie we'd certainly be able to sort out some sort of preferential rate for them."

I can guarantee anyone who takes up the offer would feel it a rewarding experience.





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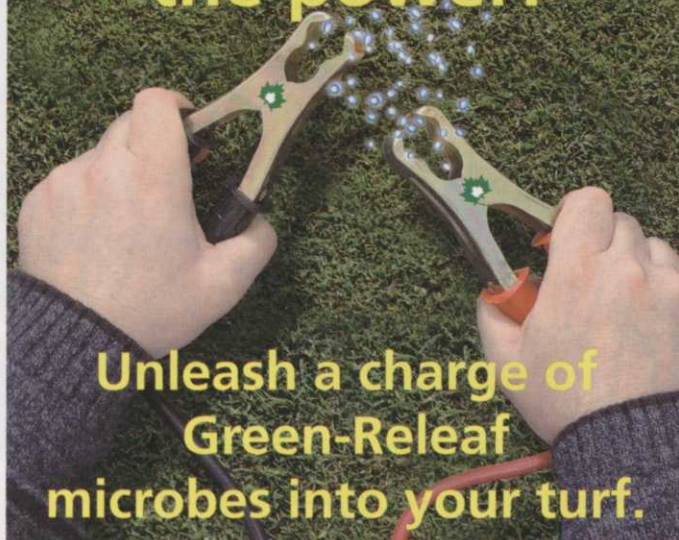
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David Duval may have been crowned Champion but it was Ian Woosnam who was singing the blues at the Lytham Open Championship

Lytham & blues

The Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club may have ended with David Duval endearingly searching for his name on the old Claret Jug as he took the applause of the galleries but the player many people will remember most from the 2001 Open will be that of Ian Woosnam.

Being Welsh he is no doubt equipped with a fine voice but it was more likely to be the Blues rather than anything more uplifting he was singing on his way home. Having started the final round as joint leader and almost holing his initial tee shot things were looking up only for his caddie to discover a 15th club in his bag. The two shot penalty, and two bogeys he suffered immediately after, as he struggled to come to terms with his misfortune, represented the difference between himself and the eventual winner.

It was just one of the incidents witnessed by the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team which once again took an active role in ensuring that the Championships ran as smoothly as possible.

Lytham is the most heavily bunkered of any of the Open rota courses and the team raked a total of 1585 bunkers during the four days of the Championship - a total only beaten in the seven years statistics have been kept by the Lytham Open of 1996.

HRH the Duke of York took a keen interest in the Support Team talking

to a number of the team on the Saturday. He asked Billy Merritt, of Beacon Park GC, how many bunkers he had raked and Billy was able to consult his bunker card and tell him that it was five. Prince Andrew said he'd had a fairly quiet day then.

He also asked to have a look at the pictures drawn by Duffy Waldorf's children of his golf balls which he had given to Alan Halfyear of Rother Valley Golf Club in Sheffield. He was particularly interested in one which sported a Union Jack.

He had a long chat with Graham Whyllie, of Malone Golf Club, in Belfast, which was captured on television about the work of the Support Team with Graham asking him about his own game.

Sir Michael Bonallack BIGGA President, visited the Marquee to present Brian Sullivan with his Master Greenkeeper Blazer and plaque. A short time later Jamie Patino President of Valderrama Golf Club popped in to collect a copy of Wildside of Golf and the Bunker statistics.

	'95 St Andrews	'96 Lytham	'97 Troon	'98 Birkdale	'99 Carn'istie	'00 St Andrews	'01 Lytham
Bunkers	112	185	84	117	115	112	197
Rd 1	214	501	344	355	539	148	557
Rd 2	201	577	272	406	468	164	547
Rd 3	130	269	107	226	202	65	224
Rd 4	156	271	136	153	265	71	257
Total	701	1618	859	1140	1474	448	1585

Open divots

Des Smyth had a superb Championship but it did not get off to a particularly auspicious start when he produced a 50 yard drive at the 2nd on the first day. Put it down to 2nd tee nerves! Information supplied by Gareth Roberts, of Hankley Common Golf Club.

BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member Steve Wenlock, of North Worcestershire Golf Club could be forgiven for thinking it was a strange and wonderful world when he was asked by an official to rake a bunker at the side of the 15th green because there was a "six foot strawberry in it". Information supplied by Steve Wenlock. Volvic had a promotion which involved giant fruit.

Stuart Appleby was so enamoured with the Saturday pin placements that he asked if Ray Charles had selected them. Information supplied by Richard Saunders, of St Neot's Golf Club.

Daren Lee encountered a small problem during the second round when a small boy picked up his ball which was in the rough and ran off. Information supplied by George Barr, of Ham Manor GC.

That same George Barr was helping Peter Lonard find his ball in the right rough on the 17th hole in the final round and stood on it. George told the referee and Lonard got a free lift.

What gratitude! Lee Westwood threw his ball to the crowd on the 4th hole during the final round only for a little boy to pick it up and throw it back to him. Information supplied by Neil Woolfrey, of Great Lever & Farnworth GC, Bolton.

Mark Garrod, of the Press Association and Secretary of the Association of Golf Writers won the Hayter Harrier lawn mower for being closest in his estimation of how many bunkers would be found during the course of the four days. Mark will be presented with his Harrier by Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter in the near future.

The competition within the greenkeepers was won by Andy Smith, of Howley Hall Golf Club, in Leeds, and Secretary of the Northern Section.



Top: The Cabin Crew. Bert Cross, Peter Boyd and Past Chairman, Elliott Small, who just couldn't stay away

Above: The BIGGA Marquee contained some familiar faces

Left and below: Alan Halfyear with the two Duffy Waldorf golf balls which so intrigued the Duke of York





Above: The Support Team.

Left: Jimmy Neilson and Cecil George may have retired from 1st tee duties but they were just as active throughout the week

Below: Peter Boyd, John Pemberton and Bert Cross discuss contingency plans for poor weather with David Rickman, Rules Secretary of the R&A.





Above: An action shot from the third round

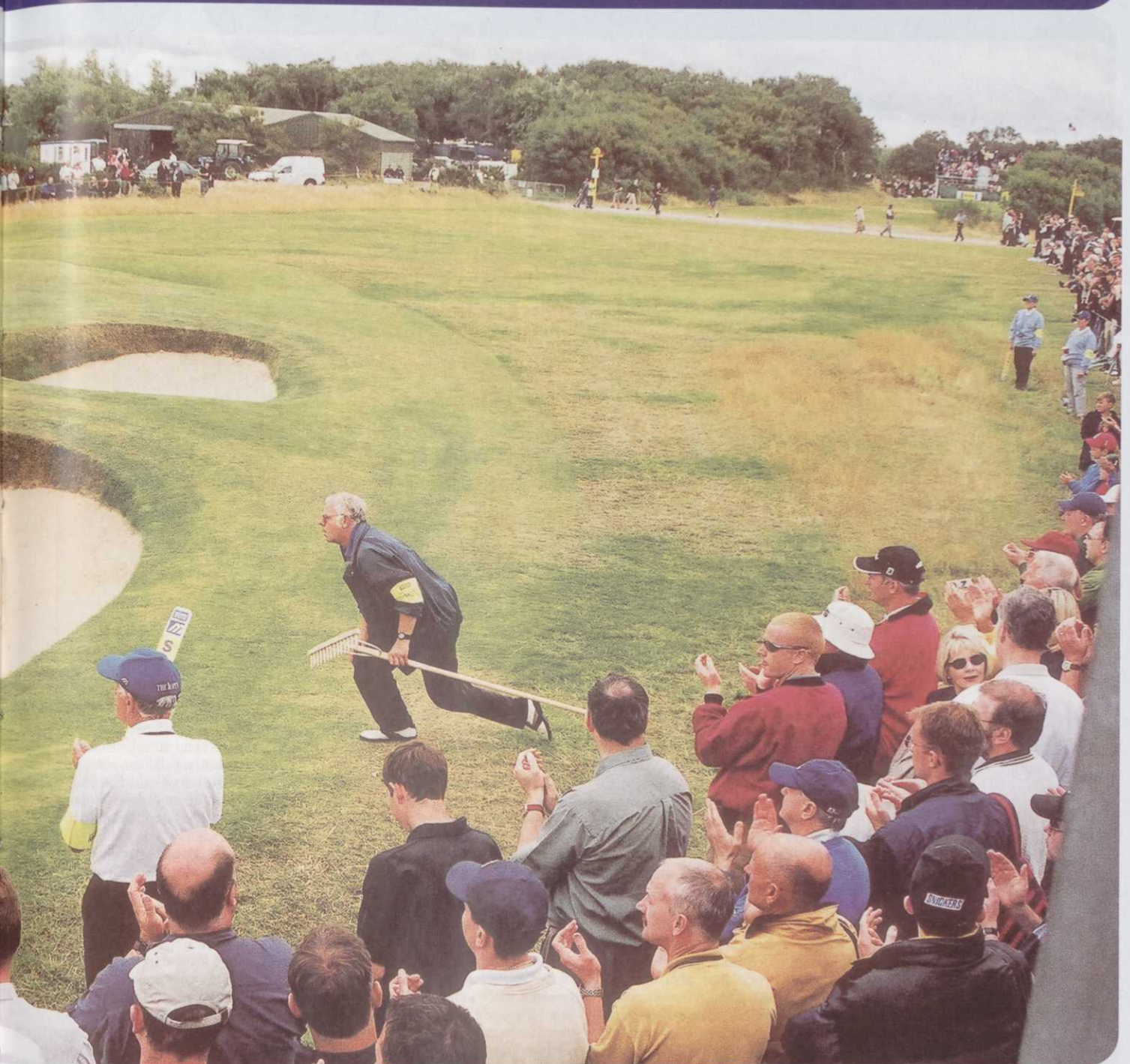
Right: Sir Michael Bonallack, Marybeth and Brian Sullivan with Clive Osgood

Below: Start 'em young! Young Cameron Campbell son of Master Greenkeeper Andy, gets in some practice for the 2015 Open.



Below: Tony Woolley enjoyed his Saturday at the top of the leaderboard





Above: Chris Reid springs into action

Below: The BIGGA marquee provided a magnificent view of the practice range and Tiger Woods trying to solve his swing problems





Scott MacCallum met up with Hayter Sales and Marketing Director, Kim Macfie to chat about the company, the industry and the memorable Hayter Golf Competitions...

Quality assured



Above: Kim Macfie checks his busy schedule
Below: The participants in the second Hayter International Cup in Atlanta

Mention the name Hayter to many greenkeepers and you might see their eyes begin to glaze over and their minds drifting off.

Don't be too concerned though as they are probably just thinking back to a wonderful memory from some Hayter Challenge or Hayter International Cup match they'd played in.

With 25 regional finals, five finals, not to mention all the Section qualifiers in the Challenge matches and two International Cups, one at West Lancashire Golf Club and the other in Atlanta, Georgia, the events, played over a five year period in the 90s, touched many BIGGA members and helped forge many lasting friendships.

At the heart of it all was Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter, who also retains wonderful memories of the events.

"I have to say that I cannot think of any particular instance throughout

the five years that we did it, that wasn't an absolute joy and pleasure to be a part of," said Kim, who personally attended all bar one or two of the regional finals plus all the finals.

The Hayter International Cup in America was contested between teams of 10 greenkeepers representing the Americas and the Rest of the World - which was played on some superb courses including Peachtree and the Atlanta Athletic Club, which this month hosts the US PGA Championship.

"The match in America was just out of this world but having said that the one that sticks in my mind more than anything else was the excitement of that last match as it came down the 18th at West Lancashire. All the staff from the clubhouse, plus many of the members and all those who were playing in it were standing on the balcony and the atmosphere was electric. I'll

never forget that until the day I die. It was just outstanding," reflected Kim, as we sat in the BIGGA Marquee at this year's Open Championship.

Hayter had taken the original decision to sponsor the Challenge Tournament - which gave every greenkeeper in the country a chance of competing for his Region in a team event which was always fiercely contested - in a bid to break into the golf market and add that particular sector to that of the municipal market where they were already strong.

"It was our vehicle to get

our name accepted in the golf market and I really do think it achieved that. It might have been an expensive way of doing it but we did set out what we achieved to do," said Kim, who estimated that Hayter spent between a quarter and half a million over the five year period.

Towards the end of the sponsorship agreement however Hayter concluded that in terms of golf you had to be a world player to make significant strides into the market.

"Hayter were never going to be a world player. We were going to be a niche player as we were in other markets. We are more interested in having a quality business than a quantity business and know we can't compete with the likes of John Deere and Toro in particular and with Textron, when they brought Jacobsen and Ransomes together."

Hayter therefore made the decision to keep its focus on the municipal business and to keep a finger hold in a couple of sectors within the golf market, particularly with its greens machine and its fairway five machine.

"I think that was the right decision. We had to make sure that the Hayter name stood for what we believed in. It had to be quality, and it had to go through the specialist dealers so people received a package of after sales and not just bought a product which cut grass. The customer had to be confident that the purchase was a decent investment and that perhaps wouldn't have happened if we'd tried to be all things to all people," he explained.

And with the golf market experiencing a temporary blip the policy has reaped dividends as Hayter has found itself weathering the commercial storms relatively well.





"It's been a funny old year on both sides of the business - commercial and consumer. We are on budget and still profitable which bucks a lot of the trends because the industry has been going through a tough time with the weather and foot and mouth.

"Whether it has been by luck or good judgment the markets we are in have held up quite well. I'll leave others to decide which one it is," he joked.

Looking back at the Hayter Challenge and International Cups Kim admits that they didn't see a return on their investment over the period of the sponsorship agreement.

"In actual fact we've done more business with golf clubs since we stopped sponsoring that we did during the it."

A slow sell?

"A very slow sell! I know the gestation period in this business can be very long but that's a bit much," said Kim, displaying the sort of humour which has made him so many friends within the greenkeeping industry.

However, he does see a potential market within golf clubs for another Hayter product which they perhaps didn't push until recently.

"The titivation of golf courses has become ever more important, and rightly so, but you don't have to cut those areas with a cylinder mower our Hayter Harrier was the first rear rotary to stripe the lawn when it was introduced in 1970. It doesn't have all the maintenance costs of a cylinder mower and it cuts bents as well and, low and behold, it will also collect leaves in the autumn. Over the years it has virtually wiped out what used to be the Suffolk Punch market.

"So there is no reason why that kind of machine, which costs less than the machines they are currently using, couldn't be used to cut ornamental and other similar areas and still have a nice finish. We are the market leader with this type of machine," said Kim, who kindly donates a Hayter Harrier as the main prize in the Great BIGGA Bunker Competition which is run in the Media Centre during The Open and has done for the last seven years.

Hayter changed hands last October but such is the autonomous nature of the company there has been no outward signs of any changes.

"Our previous owners Tomkins did a deal to sell ourselves and Murray, one of the three volume domestic grass cutting companies in the States, to D'Long an American based Chinese owned investment group.

"If anything we are even more autonomous now than we were before. Tony Burke, our Managing Director, and a man also well known to BIGGA members through the Hayter events, has only been to one board meeting in the States since we were bought over. We as a Board of Management for Hayter are left to run our company," explained Kim.

"We are still a British registered company in our own right although we are part of Murray, and now part of D'Long and we intend to remain that way because I think that gives us a strength," he added.

Kim is a true BIGGA enthusiast and as a respected voice within the industry is worth listening to when passing opinion on the Association.

"We've always had a good relationship with BIGGA but I think that we, as a supporter of the Association, have got to be aware of the limitations an organisation like BIGGA can have. It is so easy for people to snipe at organisations like BIGGA and I think it is unfair because it is like everything else - you only get out of something what you put into it and the people who are the most vociferous opponents of BIGGA are the people who do least for the organisation. It is up to us to find the right way to bring out the maximum benefit for both parties.

"I've always been very clear in saying that BIGGA does a good job for its members and I think that as a supplier to the industry, albeit a small supplier, I think we've got a part to play in ensuring that BIGGA is supported."

There is one area in which he does feel that BIGGA could make more of an impact.

"I think that the organisation has to look constantly at what it is offering its membership and I think that there are areas of lobbying that could be strengthened to give the membership a path to the powers that be.

"In our trade organisation, the AEA, we spend an inordinate amount of time trying to influence and keep up to date with all the legislation coming out of Brussels. We are weighed down with a plethora of legislation but lobbying is one of our main purposes and I think it could play a bigger role within BIGGA," said Kim.

Coming to the end of the interview the \$64,000 question has to be posed. Is there any chance of the Hayter International Cup being resurrected? You can see that Kim is desperate to give a different answer to the one he delivers.

"I would love it to be resurrected but that is the heart ruling the head. I think that unless we could find another sponsor to help us I don't see it happening," said Kim, who actually approached fellow Troon man and personal friend, Colin Montgomerie, to ask his assistance in finding sponsorship.

"I'd love it to happen because I really do think it did so much good for international relations in the fraternity of greenkeeping."

Hayter, and Kim Macfie, have a permanent place within that fraternity.

Below: The unique Macfie follow-through



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A fine day to remember

Now established as a firm date in the diary the annual BIGGA Golf Day proved once again what an enjoyable occasion it is. Friends from all corners of the industry gathered for a relaxed, but competitive Texas Scramble followed by Aldwark Manor Hotel's speciality barbecue.

Having said it was a relaxed game of golf players had to brave their way past the imposing sight of our two Starters - Ex British Lion lock forward Peter Larter and Ex-Strathclyde Policeman Peter Boyd - BIGGA Regional Administrators for the Midlands and Scotland respectively.

Once past those two I suppose the golf didn't seem so daunting. Congratulations to the STRI team under the Captaincy of Alistair Beggs who clinched the top prize, weekends for two in a top Harrogate Hotel, with a score of 56.9, more than a shot clear one of the two European Turf Technology teams, which itself beat the home Aldwark Manor team, containing home pro Phil Harrison and former Newcastle United Captain, Bobby Moncur.

BIGGA Golf Day 2001, sponsored by The Harrogate A Group of Hotels

1. STRI - 56.9
Alistair Beggs, Emma Beggs, Connor Nolan, Andy Newell
2. European Turf Technology Team 2 - 58.0
Richard Fortmuller, Dave Goodchild, Carl Small, Ray Day
3. Aldwark Manor - 58.4
Phil Harrison, Geoff Platt, Bob Moncur, Wayne Palmer
4. Whitemoss Amenities - 59.2
Andy Law, Gary Tomlinson, Mike Crabtree, Adrian Sweeney

Longest Drive - Stephan Manson, Haifa Chemicals
Nearest the Pin - Marc Gardner, St George Hotel

Teams that participated in the day were:

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Shirley Aldred & Co	New Holland
LS Systems	European Turf Technology 1
Heath Lambert	European Turf Technology 2
Hunter Grinders	Arco
Hi-Tec Print 1	STRI
Hi-Tec Print 2	Aldwark Manor
Whitemoss Amenities	Majestic Hotel
Haifa Chemicals 1	St George Hotel
Haifa Chemicals 2	Moat House Harrogate





Above: Ian Semple and Peter Boyd in deep discussion as to whether it's 14 or 15 clubs you are allowed.

Below: Neil Thomas and Jim Fry enjoy a well-earned drink. Cheers!



Below: Some of the BIGGA Staff team relax after a hectic day. From left; Brad, Rachael, Jennifer, Sarah, Cheryl and Sami



Above: The victorious STRI team, from left: Conor Nolan, Andy Newell, non-playing captain Anne Wilson, Emma and Alistair Beggs





Below: BIGGA Vice Chairman Richard Barker, leads his team to the 16th tee



Above: Aldwark Manor Pro, Phil Harrison shows the rest how it's done



Above: European Turf Technology Team 2
Below: Aldwark Manor Team minus Bobby Moncur who had to dash away



Above: Whitemoss Amenities
Below: The 'A' Group's Frank Flaherty (centre right) presented the prizes and entertained everyone in his inimitable style.





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Saltex 2001

Windsor Racecourse, 4-6 September 2001



With much of the summer season been and gone - amazing isn't it? - we can turn our attention to SALTEX 2001, the show which compliments BTME so well. With one outdoors in the south in the late summer catering for the entire sports amenities and landscaping industry and the other indoors, in the north in the depths of winter catering for the specialised fine turf industry the two shows fit like a glove. Top experts from different sectors of the sports, amenities and landscaping industries will lead the seminar programme at IOG SALTEX, Windsor Racecourse on September 4-6.

This year's line-up of expert speakers is as follows:

- Jon Allbutt, Health and Safety at Work Consultant
- Wolfgang Bopp, National Botanic Gardens, Wales
- Alan Dallas and John Sharrock, Bolton-Brophy Partnership
- Peter Heseltine, Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA)
- Paul Kerr, British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI)
- Dr Ruth Mann, Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI)
- Liam McEwan, International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)
- Alan Riley, Horticultural Trades Association (HTA)
- Eddie Seaward, Wimbledon's All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club
- Robin Sutcliffe, Association of Play Industries (API)
- Chris Trickey, Sports & Play Contractors' Association (SAPCA)
- Martin Walker, Leeds City Council

The seminars contain a wealth of expert knowledge and a rare opportunity to question experts on how they've solved problems, ask for advice and opinions on specific situations, hear about latest research results and future chemical, mechanical and legislative developments. In response to research among visitors and speakers, changes have been made to the seminar programme to make it a vital and more accessible part of the show. Later start times (1030 hrs) have been put in place and all seminars will finish at 3.15pm. Four daily seminars will be held in the Grandstand, near the hard area section of the show, which will be clearly sign posted at the entrances and listed on the back of tickets.

Tuesday 4 September

- 1030-1115 hrs: Work Equipment: Choosing with Health & Safety in Mind - Jon Allbutt, Jon Allbutt Assocs (specialists in H&SAW)
- 1130-1215 hrs: The Challenges of Building a Botanic Garden in Three Years - Wolfgang Bopp, Curator, National Botanic Gardens, Wales
- 1330-1415 hrs: It's More Than Mow and Grow (research work at Wimbledon) - Eddie Seaward, All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club
- 1430-1515 hrs: An Introduction to the Construction and Maintenance of Synthetic Sports Surfaces - Chris Trickey, SAPCA

Wednesday 5 September

- 1030-1115 hrs: Pest and Disease Survey 2001 - Dr Ruth L Mann, STRI
- 1130-1215 hrs: Improving Safety by Improving Quality - Peter Heseltine, RoSPA
- 1330-1415 hrs: An API Progress Report on the Work of the Children's Safety Forum - Robin Sutcliffe, Chairman of the Children's Play Safety Forum
- 1430-1515 hrs: Why Hire a Professional Arborist? - Liam McEwan, ISA

Thursday 6 September

- 1030-1115 hrs: A Partnership in Delivering a Grounds Maintenance Service - Alan Dallas, Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council and John Sharrock, Brophy
- 1130-1215 hrs: Managing Heritage Landscapes in a Sporting Environment - Martin Walker, Leeds City Council
- 1330-1415 hrs: The Competent Landscaper - Paul Kerr, BALI
- 1430-1515 hrs: HTA Certification Schemes: Conformance and Confidence - Alan Riley, HTA

During the three days of IOG SALTEX, seminars will cover six themes of Sports surfaces; Play/Parks; Arboriculture; Horticulture; Groundscare; and Landscaping. Seminars are free, but pre-booking is advised, either on the web site: www.iogsaltex.co.uk or by telephone: +44 (0) 870 429 4524

How to get to Saltex

SALTEx is held at Windsor Racecourse. About 20 miles west of Central London, Windsor is easy to reach by rail, road and air. Heathrow is only a 15 minute drive away; Gatwick and Luton are within an hour's drive.

By road

From the M25. Leave the motorway at Junction 15, where you'll join the M4, heading west. From the M4: Westbound - leave M4 at junction 6. Eastbound - leave M4 at junction 8/9. Then follow brown and white signs for Windsor racecourse.

By rail

From London Paddington: Leave the train at Slough and join the local service to Windsor and Eton Central Station. Approximate journey time is 35 minutes. From London Waterloo: Leave the train at Windsor and Eton Riverside Station. Approximate journey time is 45 minutes.

Advanta Seeds

F22 - 24

Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7HA
Tel: 01529 304511
Fax: 01529 303908
Email: amenity@advantaseeds.co.uk
Web: www.headstart-advanta.co.uk

There will be lots to see and feel on the Advanta Seeds UK stand, with living examples of four new amenity grass cultivars, and a comparative demonstration highlighting the beneficial effects of Headstart. Based on a seaweed extract, with added enzymes, bio-stimulants and water attractants, Headstart speeds up germination, helps prevent disease, and can increase establishment by up to 20%, particularly in difficult sowing conditions. Advanta will also present their two amenity ranges – the premium Advanta MM's, used at many leading sports venues, and the Designer range, which offers quality with competitive pricing, ideal for local authorities and landscapers.

AGCO Ltd

U04

Banner Lane, Coventry, CV4 9GF
Tel: 024 76694400
Fax: 024 76851182
Email: uksales@uk.agcocorp.com

The AGCO exhibit will include.

- MF Quadbikes (AgTVs), which comprise models from 300 to 500cc.
 - MF Ride on Petrol Mowers, focussing on quality build, safety and ease of operation
 - MF2924D Lawn Tractor with NEW road lighting kit and grass collection system.
 - MF1200 series Compact Diesel Tractors, including the NEW MF1235, offer maximum operating efficiency, comfort and economy for year-round work in grounds care and horticulture.
 - MF4200 series Tractors have long been the mainstay of local authority fleets for their reliability and versatility.
- All models are equipped for duties with Local Authorities and professional amenity users.

Allett Mowers

C19

Baden Powell Road, Kirkton Industrial Estate, Arbroath, Angus, DD11 3LS
Tel: 01241 873841
Fax: 01241 877419
Email: sales@allett.co.uk
Web: www.allett.co.uk

At Saltex 2001 Allett Mowers will be displaying their range of professional cylinder mowers on Stand C19.

Aventis

G07

Fyfield Road, Anger, Essex, CM5 0HW
Tel: 01277 301115
Email: jenny.murphy@aventis.com
Web: www.aventis-environmentalscience.co.uk

Come and talk to us on stand G07, to find out the latest information on our novel new Amenity products, including the ultra-low dose fungicide Capricorn (winner of the Sportsturf product of the show award at Saltex in 2000), also Finale (the total herbicide which can be used in line marking preparation and around ornamentals, trees, shrubs and roses). Helmsman is our new 'plant safe' granular shrub bed herbicide. We also have a number of ready to use CDA herbicides including the glyphosate biactive based CDA Vanquish and the diuron/glyphosate based Xanadu. We have a CD Rom and associated website with product information, calibration, weed death movies, printable safety data sheets and other useful information. There will be an identification competition running (based on our premier selective Spearhead) with some premium prizes on offer.

Aventis Environmental Science continue to strive in answering questions from the Industry with New Novel Solutions.

Bernhard & Co Ltd

P68

Bilton Road, Rugby, CV22 7DT
Tel: 01788 811600
Email: info@bernhard.co.uk
Web: www.bernhard.co.uk

Leading grinding specialist Bernhard and Company will be at IOG Saltex with Express Dual and Anglemaster. These quality grinders were used at Southern Hills - where the prestigious 101st US Open was staged in June.

It is most definite the quality of the golf course would not have been what it was without Bernhard's efforts says Eric Smith, Equipment Manager, conditions had never been better and the course was at its best. Bernhards Express Dual and Anglemaster grinders, together with Blade Rite, Gear Rite, Rapid Relief, Rapid Facer, Rota Master and the latest Chain Master and Chipper Master will all be on show.

Charterhouse

W28

Weydown Industrial Estate, Weydown Road, Surrey, GU27 1DW
Tel: 01428 661222
Fax: 01428 661218

Charterhouse Turf Machinery will live up to their reputation for innovation with a brand new grounds care product at Saltex 2001, which is being kept safely under wraps until the opening day. In addition, machines on show from each of the company's divisions will offer something for everyone in the grounds care sphere. The Tractor Division will be showing their

extensive line-up of super-compact, versatile Antonio Carraro tractors, while the Machinery Division will be displaying their new range of Core Collectors, as well as their existing range of Seeding, Top Dressing, Aeration and Verti-Drain machines and Scarifier Sweeper Collectors. For tackling tough vegetation the Connoisseur Division offers the heavy duty yet highly manoeuvrable All Terrain Mower and DR Trimmer Mower.

Complete Weed Control

E33

Hackling House, Bourton Industrial Park, Bourton on the Water, Gloucestershire, GL54 2EN
Tel: 01451 822897
Fax: 01451 822587
Email: completeweedcontrol@compuserve
Web: www.completeweedcontrol.co.uk

Established since 1972, Complete Weed Control has been providing a specialist weed control service to the industrial and amenity markets. Both public and private sectors rely on our expertise and experience which ranges from total weed control and turf care to woodland, river and lake maintenance. With 40 regional offices covering the whole of the UK and Ireland, Complete Weed Control is the only truly national company to provide this highly specialised service. The company's philosophy is to employ fully trained skilled and certified personnel with the latest in sophisticated equipment. On the stand will be the company's innovative spraying system Weed IT, which offers major environmental and cost benefits, through targeting only the weed for treatment. The system which was launched at Saltex 97 won the award for the Best New Landscape Product at the Exhibition. Judges of the award cited it as the biggest advance in pesticide application, likely to have a major impact in its intended field.

Dennis

F21

Ashbourne Road, Kirk Langley, Derby, DE6 4NJ
Tel: 01332 824777
Fax: 01332 824777
Email: 01332 824525
Web: www.dennisuk.com

Dennis Mowers have been used on golf courses for well over fifty years and, like their predecessors, today's machines offer the finest in British engineering and innovation plus the ability to produce high quality playing surfaces. The unique interchangeable FT and G series cassette systems provide greenkeepers with a quick and easy method of transforming a fine turf mower into a verticutter, scarifier, sorrel roller, slitter or brush in under one minute. These highly versatile machines are ideal for greens and tees. Five minutes spent on our stand could be the best investment you make for your course.

CONQUEROR MK II

The Allett Conqueror combines impressive work rate, total stability on banks and the ability to cut long grass cleanly, even in wet conditions



- Hydrostatic transmission
- Wide wheel base and ATV type rear tyres gives great traction and stability
- 16HP twin cylinder engine
- 7" diameter, heavy duty cutting cylinders

AZTEC

The Allett Aztec is a superb pedestrian cylinder mower ideal for maintaining golf greens. A range of fully floating hydraulic attachments are available in both 20" and 24" widths

- 6 or 10 bladed cylinders with or without Groomer
- Scarifier, Verticut or Brush units available
- Changed in seconds, no tools required
- In-built back-lapping facility



ALLETT

Allett Mowers Limited

Baden Powell Road, Kirkton Industrial Estate
Arbroath, Scotland DD11 3LS

Tel: 01241 873841 Fax 01241 877419

Email: sales@allett.co.uk www.allett.co.uk



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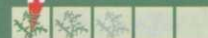
Complete Weed Control Ltd is the UK's recognised leader in weed control and specialised spray contracting

With over 28 years experience, we have always led the field with innovative ideas and systems making us the first choice for treating golf courses with guaranteed results.

Visit us at **SalTex** on **Stand E33** where our qualified representatives will be available to discuss our vast range of services and demonstrate our state of the art boom and target sprayers.

www.completeweedcontrol.co.uk

complete
weed control



Hackling House, Bourton Industrial Park, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire GL54 2EN
Freephone: 0800 783 2884 Fax: 01451 822587

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picking up leaves, litter, grass clippings and other debris using Turfmech's new, uprated TM5 High-Tip Vacuum Collector. And when the hopper is full, a 2.35m (7ft 9in) discharge height and 127deg tip angle allow rapid, convenient unloading into a trailer, truck or waste container.

The latest TM5 has a host of features designed to keep it ahead of the field and on top of your work load:

- Greater suction power (increased by 20 per cent)
- Higher quality alloy steels (6x more wear resistance)
- Wider collection head (up from 1.5m to 1.7m)
- Full-width brush (for a clean sweep, even in the wet)
- Fast change-over from suction head to optional side hose collection (positive action hand lever valve)
- Wider wheel base (improved stability on slopes)
- Revised side hose storage (neater and easier to handle)

We've loads more to tell you. Call Turfmech today for full information on the new, improved TM5 or visit Stand No. W38 at IOG SALTEx 2001. Demonstrations with pleasure.



Need to shift leaves, litter and other loose debris?
The Tornado Blower will save you hours and hours of manual labour. Don't sweep it.

TORNADO IT.

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

Eagle Promotions

D58

Unit 1, Clearway Court, 139-141 Croydon Road, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6PF
Tel: 01883 344244
Fax: 01883 341777
Email: eaglepromotions@cs.com
Web: www.eaglepromotions.co.uk

Eagle Promotions provide an extensive range of services to Golf Clubs from the initial Course Manager through to Scorecards, Yardage Books and other point of Play Accessories. This Exhibition enables us to show our exciting choice of signage for the Golf Industry. Our signage is developing around our ability to create any image etched into zinc plate. These mounted on Stone, Moulded Rock and Wood, create truly spectacular sign systems. For more information, please contact Phillip McInley on Stand D58 or call Mobile on 07860 239354, we look forward to seeing you at SALTEx 2001.

EnVigro - TEG Enviro Plc

F27

Crescent House, 2-6 Sandy Lane, Leyland, Preston, Lancashire, PR25 2EB
Tel: 01772 422220
Fax: 01772 422210
Email: teg-environmental.com
Web: www.teg-environmental.com

EnVigro, formulated to restore and maintain soil condition and to feed plants for a whole growing season, is an ideal organic fertiliser for summer and autumn bedding, sports turf and landscaping. EnVigro's analyses (N3.5%, P2.15, K3.4%) and trace elements provide all the nutrients needed by amenity plants and sports grasses. A high beneficial microbial population converts thatch and other organic material into stable humic compounds essential to healthy growth. EnVigro's fibrous structure encourages good drainage but retains moisture during dry spells. EnVigro will convert the poorest subsoil to a good growing medium removing the need to import topsoil for landscaping.

Gambetti Barre UK Ltd

Unit 5, Station Road, Duns, Berwickshire TD11 3HS
Tel: 01361 884288
Fax: 01361 882082
Email: sales@agsales.co.uk
Web: www.gambetti.co.uk

This year Gambetti are majoring an aeration equipment with TWO NEW machines: The Precision 1560, a new 6, high speed corer from Greencare, and Aeroking range of corer/soil relievers from Selvatici, a machine which can penetrate as deep as 10". The Gambetti Sprayers with NEW high powered rinse system will also be on display and an exciting new feature, a 2m covered EnviroSafe boom; which can be attached behind any sprayer for as little as £1,800 making it possible for the smallest clubs to own the latest, safest sprayer technology.

An up graded version of the Rotomec Cyclone flex (the 3.6m) hydraulic folding cutting deck will also be on the stand. Replacement tungsten tipped Verticut blades for Jacobsen, Toro and John Deere will be available at special prices during the period of the show.

Gem Professional

D62

Brookside Lane, Oswaldtwistle, Accrington, BB5 3NY
Tel: 01254 356611
Fax: 01254 356677
Email: sales@gemprofessional.co.uk
Web: www.gemprofessional.co.uk

Gem Professional will be using SALTEx 2001 to officially launch SATURAID, the unique water management system. SATURAID is exclusive to Gem Professional and available in Granular & Liquid formulas. In addition, Gem will be exhibiting a new range of chemicals from Sumi Agro. For more information on Gem Professional and the wide product range catering for every need, please visit us on stand D62 or call 01254356611.

Greenlink International

1 Rysley, Holybread Lane, Little Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 4DD
Tel: 01245 222750
Fax: 01245 222755
Email: greenlink@btinternet.com
Web: www.green-releaf.com and www.blazon-spi.com

GreenLink International will be exhibiting its specialist range of turf management products on a number of different stands at this year's exhibition. For visitors interested in the industry's leading spray pattern indicator Blazon and the Green-Releaf microbial range, Avoncrop Amenity Products and Sherriff Amenity Services are the stands to visit. Information on Blazon will also be available on the Farmura, Gem Professional and the Pentagon Group stands. For those visitors wishing to gain information on the soil conditioner Integrate and Syta-Green microbial products then the Rigby Taylor stand is the one to visit. One of the highlights of the show will be the presentation on the Farmura stand of a Gambetti Barre 300 litre tractor mounted sprayer to one lucky customer who entered this year's Blazon promotion.

Hayter

Spellbrook, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 4BU
Tel: 01279 723444
Fax: 01279 600338
Email: sales@hayter.co.uk
Web: www.hayter.co.uk

Hayter will be exhibiting a representative selection of products from their high work rate commercial range at Saltex this year. These products, designed to cope with

European grass conditions, have been designed with municipal and contractor customers in mind. They are however equally at home on golf courses and general amenity turf.

There is a great deal of standardisation of components within the range and considerable attention has been paid to access to all areas of the machines for easy maintenance. These features make the products very easy to carry out maintenance on, both from the operator's and engineer's perspectives.

Hunter Grinders Ltd

P55

Delta Works, Hobson Industrial Estate, Burnopfield, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE16 6EA
Tel: 01207 270316
Fax: 01207 270312

Hunter Grinders have moved to a larger site P55 to accommodate an even wider range of products. As the worlds leading authority on relief grinders, Hunters will be demonstrating a Jupiter 2000 to illustrate the benefits of their method of grinding. Hunter relief grinders are now to be found in over 90% of the UK's most prestigious golf clubs including; Sunningdale, The De Vere Belfry, Slaley Hall International Golf Resort, Glen Eagles, Turnbury, Troon, Carnoustie and St. Andrews. All of these clubs and more have recognised that keeping blades sharper for longer by relief grinding is the key to saving maintenance time and money.

ING Lease

Equipment Finance Division, Apex Court, Camphill Road, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6SO
Tel: 01932 350666
Fax: 01932 350569
Email: sean.jones@mail.ing.nl
Web: www.inglease.com

ING Lease are the leading provider of finance to the turf care and amenity sectors. ING sales staff have considerable experience and an in-depth understanding of the financial demands in this specialist sector. As such, ING offer flexible finance solutions with a full range of finance products. Loan, Hire Purchase, Operating Lease and Contract Hire.

In addition, a specialist finance product is available to assist Golf Clubs with their VAT situation. All deals can be tailored to match your cash flow. We also offer exclusive low cost finance programmes with many of the major turf care manufacturers. For further information on the services ING provide, please call our Sales Desk on 01932 359290.



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Efficient grinding keeps your mowers on the greens and out of the workshop, saving you time and money.



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perfection in performance
you can pay attention to detail*

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H U N T E R G R I N D E R S

Hunter Grinders Limited
Delta Works, Hobson Industrial Estate,
Burnopfield, Newcastle upon Tyne NE16 6EA
Tel: 01207 270316 Fax: 01207 270312

John Deere Limited

V4

Harby Road, Langar, Nottingham, NG13 9HT
Tel: 01949 860491
Fax: 01949 860490
Web: www.johndeere.co.uk

John Deere's new 1400 Series front mowers, featuring long life steel rotary decks, deliver high standards of traction, manoeuvrability, comfort and productivity for all commercial applications. They are based on a durable, high strength steel frame, heavy duty dual hydraulic cylinders and an award winning composite hood design. For greenkeepers, the stylish 3235B fairway mower with optional fairway tender conditioner and the Aercore 2000 - the company's largest tractor mounted aerator - are making their debut at Windsor. A revolutionary 'Spin Steer' SST™ lawn tractor is also being launched, complementing a new range of John Deere branded walk-behind lawnmowers manufactured by Sabo and Deere.

Jolly Machine Company

T98

c/o Horne Park Golf Academy Limited,
Creydonbarn Lane, Horne, South Gadatona,
Surrey, RH3 5JP
Tel: 01342 844443
Fax: 01342 844715
Email: hornepark@pncl.co.uk

This is the first showing of this exciting new multipurpose 4-wheel drive machine with over 40 different fittings from mowers to cement mixers, buckets to trenchers. Instead of buying different dedicated machines, one machine can be bought with fittings to match your particular requirements. The Jolly comes in a range of powers from 18HP to 30HP, petrol and diesel, with or without articulated chassis. There is even a 20HP Electric ECOPOWER jolly. This machine is simple to operate and can be used in many different businesses. The different fittings can be changed easily and quickly with the minimum of effort.

Kubota (UK) Ltd

W40

Dormer Road, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 3UN
Tel: 01844 214500
Fax: 01844 216685
Email: tomb@kubota.co.uk
Web: www.kubota.co.uk

Kubota is moving up in size with the introduction at IOG Saltex of the most powerful-ever tractor to be marketed by the company in the UK and Ireland. The four-wheel drive M5700 has a low noise, low emissions 58hp E-TVCS diesel engine, 12 x 12 synchro-shuttle transmission and spacious flat deck cab, sound-rated at just 78dBA. Offering big tractor features in a compact body, the M5700 retains the agility, flexibility and all-round visibility of Kubota's existing 17 tractor models from 14hp to 45hp. Low all-up weight is distributed evenly across the turf to minimise marking and compaction.

Lastec UK Ltd

A50

Court Lodge Farm, Kenward Road, Yalding,
Maidstone, Kent, ME18 6JP
Tel: 01622 812103
Fax: 01622 815534
Web: www.lastec.com

Lastec UK will be exhibiting its range of wide area Articulator rotary mowers. The concept is to provide a quality finish to turf cut from 25mm to 150mm, over flat, undulating and steeply banking terrain. The range includes out front, rear mounted and self-propelled models with a width of cut from 1.80 meters to 3.35 meters. Lastec's revolutionary patented belt drive system allows decks to articulate independently but without messy power robbing hydraulic deck drives. Self propelled, zero turn models powered by 38hp Kubota diesel engines are available with 208cm or 244cm cuttings width decks.

Prestige Sports Surfaces Ltd

T66

Congleton Road, Gawsorth, Macclesfield,
Cheshire, SK11 9ET
Tel: 01260 223004
Fax: 01260 222286
Email: sales@prestigesportssurfaces.co.uk
Web: www.prestigesportssurfaces.co.uk
Prestige Sports Surfaces have moved places at Saltex 2001 to T66, which should make it easier to find from the North Entrance. For the first time, Prestige Sports Surfaces will be welcoming its customers, both long standing and new, to its mobile exhibition trailer. Apart from the comfortable chairs to rest your legs, there will be new products on display and the latest developments in rootzones and top dressings produced specifically to enhance natural grass sports and amenity surfaces. The team of technical advisors will be on hand throughout the show to help to define your sports pitch and golf course requirements.

Rain Bird Europe SARL

CP 36/37

900 Rue Ampere, BP72000, 13792 Aix-en-Provence
Tel: 01273 891326
Fax: 01273 891327
Email: vjamieson@rainbird.fr
Web: www.rainbird.fr

The importance of efficient water management has never been greater and, as the industry leader in the manufacturing of irrigation equipment, Rain Bird is committed to the continuing development of more reliable and efficient irrigation products. Rain Bird will be showing the Maxi Cirrus Decoder computer control system with its enhanced graphics, smart weather and superior monitoring features, Freedom for Europe, radio control system and Rain Bird's new additions to its sprinkler range the Eagle 1100/1150 and 8005 sprinkler. Visit the stand of a leader.

Rigby Taylor Limited

S40

Rigby Taylor House, Garside Street,
Bolton, BW 4AE
Tel: 01204 398399
Email: sales@rigbytaylor.com
Web: www.rigbytaylor.com

RIGBY TAYLOR will be promoting their MASCOT brands including their Chemical (e.g. Rimidin), Fertilizer (e.g. Microflow) and Grass Seed products, as well as the Specialities range including Profile and the Syta - Green microbial products. Industrial herbicides will also be featured (Casoron G and Roundup Biactive) and the full range of White Lining products including their new True Mark range will be on show. Displays from Edwards Sports, Maxicrop UK, Ruffords, Tillers Turf and Verdi Sports will also be featured. New marketing initiatives will be launched and GRASS SCIENCE agronomy consultancy will also be present on the stand.

Rolawn

T16 & T20

Elvington, York, YO41 4XR
Tel: 01904 608661
Fax: 01904 608272
Email: info@rolawn.co.uk
Web: www.rolawn.co.uk

ROLAWN - BRITAIN'S FINEST TURF
Rolawn turf is specified by leading housebuilders and supplied to landscapers and golf courses form a national network of distribution depots, garden centre stockists and authorised distributors. Rolawn operate a no minimum order policy. Medallion is Rolawn's most popular and versatile turf, combining a fine appearance with high wear tolerance. Minster is a fine textured greens turf, suitable for golf and bowling greens. The company also sells screened and conditioned loam available in full 27 tonne motor loads. Rolawn's blended loam is available in convenient branded cubic metre 'tote' bags. These products are SAFE, available all year and derived from prime arable soils. For more information contact Customer Services on 01904 608661, Email info@rolawn.co.uk or visit our website www.rolawn.co.uk



Above: Turf quickly established by incorporating ENVIGRO into the soil/root zone prior to turfing

ENVIGROTM

THE HUMUS RICH ORGANIC FERTILISER

ENVIGRO is the new organic fertiliser produced by the rapid composting of nitrogen-rich manures and other organic materials. ENVIGRO can be used when seeding areas of very poor soil such as shale, and sand, so avoiding the need to bring in topsoil. A fine grade of Envigro is produced specifically for use on established turf on professional sports grounds.

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A TYPICAL ANALYSIS

N-3.5%	P-2.1%	K-3.4%
ORGANIC MATTER 95%		

TRACE ELEMENTS (PPM)

OCCURRING NATURALLY				
Mg-140	Zn-175	Mo-1.5	B-8.0	Cu-80

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Phil Siddie, Head Greenkeeper, Rossendale Golf Club (inset)

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E70

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RG17 0DX
Tel: 01488 689400
Fax: 01488 684317
Email: richard.horn@saxonind.co.uk
Web: www.saxonind.co.uk

The full range of Baroness and Sato greens, tees, surrounds, fairways and rough terrain mowers will be on show, all now featuring the newly introduced FIVE YEAR GUARANTEE. Additions to the range are the new Sato 60cm rotary rough cutter and powered crawler carriers. The recently introduced and highly successful 5 Chipper-Shredder-Blowers will be at the centre of the comprehensive Bearcat display, which includes a new range of pedestrian vacuum collectors. Snapper's unique ZTR riding commercial rotary mower is joined by a totally new Rough-Cut rider from the highly successful Lawnstar brand

Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd

B27

Hurdsfield, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 2LZ
Tel: 01625 503030
Fax: 01625 427426
Email: info@sisis.u.net.com
Web: www.sisis.com

SISIS ROTORAKE 600 - 3 machines in 1
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The ROTORAKE 600 will be at SALTEx for the first time. This new, powerful scarifier will work to a depth of 50 mm (2ins) for severe thatch problems or end-of-season renovation work, and is also a linear aerator. The new SISIS COMBIRAKE, dual purpose rake and brush, is a simple but very effective hand implement for smaller areas of fine turf such as cricket squares, bowling greens and lawn tennis courts.
Many of your favourite, well established SISIS products have been modified and updated so come and see the improvements for yourself on stand B27.

Stoke Park Club

Park Road, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire,
SL2 4PG
Tel: 01753 717170
Fax: 01753 717181
Email: info@stokeparkclub.com
Web: www.stokeparkclub.com

Stoke Park Club, in Buckinghamshire, is home to the famous Stoke Poges Golf Course, designed by one Harry Shapland Colt in 1908. Originally home to the Corinthians, the original sporting club, the Club is now also a Leading Small Hotel of the World and was voted best golf course in Britain in 1996. In addition, there are new Wimbledon specification lawn tennis courts, all weather courts, fishing and croquet. A new spa facility is currently being built. A wonderful venue for golf days, meetings and private dining, the Club is proud to be a Gold Key Sponsor of BIGGA.

SumiAgro Amenity

Merlin House, Baters Lane, Falconry Court,
Epping, Essex, CM16 5DQ
Tel: 01992 563707
Fax: 01992 563800

SumiAgro Amenity (formerly pbi Professional Products) markets a range of innovative products for the UK turf industry. As part of the Sumitomo Corporation global network, SumiAgro Amenity has access to a wide range of products that provide effective solutions for your individual requirements. HOLSTER turf herbicide is an example of a product that has set a new standard since its launch earlier this year. Designed specifically to control hard to kill weeds like slender speedwell, daisy and clovers, no other herbicide controls all the major problem turf weeds like HOLSTER. SumiAgro Amenity also markets a range of other leading herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and soil conditioners. For more information please contact SumiAgro Amenity on 01992 563700.

Textron

V15

Ransomes Way, Ipswich, IP3 9QG
Tel: 01473 270000
Fax: 01473 276300
Email: selina.flynn@textronturf.com
Web: www.textronturf.com

Textron - Innovative Products for the Turf Care Professional and the Municipal Sector. Visit Stand V15 to view a whole range of turf maintenance equipment, compact sweepers and light industrial vehicles providing a one-stop-shop for dedicated turf professionals and our municipal customers. One of the major themes on stand will be that of alternative energy with environmentally sensitive products on display including the LPG powered Highway and Parkway triple reel mowers for the municipal sector and the new Cushman Diabline multi-purpose, electric powered, utility vehicle. A visit to the stand will reveal a host of new, innovative products that demonstrates our philosophy of providing equipment that delivers performance, delivers productivity, delivers value.

Toro Commercial Products

W50

Toro (Lely (UK) Limited), Station Road, St Neots, Cambs, PE19 1QH
Tel: 01480 226800
Fax: 01480 226801
Email: toro.sales@lely.co.uk
Web: www.toro.com

TORO BOOSTS GROUNDMASTER RANGE WITH LAUNCH OF TWO NEW ROTARIES
Plus-new Multi Pro 1250 Turf Sprayer is launched
Toro's aim to provide a complete range of Groundmaster rotary mowers with a machine for every application is being boosted with the launch at Saltex of two new rotaries - the Groundmaster 228-D and 328-D Both mowers are designed to appeal particularly to landscape contractors and

local authority operators. The machines' high manoeuvrability makes them also attractive to golf courses for cutting around trees and other obstacles. Also being launched at the Saltex is the Toro Multi Pro 1250 Turf Sprayer, a dedicated sprayer styled on the popular Workman utility vehicle. Toro says that because it can handle any spraying job from small to large, it gives users in a single machine a sprayer that is perfect for all areas of the golf course, as well as for sports grounds and amenity areas too.

Turfmech Machinery Ltd

W38

New Road Industrial Estate, Hixon,
Staffs, ST18 0PJ
Tel: 01889 271503
Fax: 01889 271321
Email: sales@turfmech.co.uk
Web: www.turfmech.co.uk

More suction, greater wear resistance and faster emptying are three of the key changes on the new, improved TM5 high-tip vacuum collector from Turfmech. The original machine won many admirers for its ability to deal smoothly and efficiently with surface debris ranging from leaves and litter to pine needles and grass clippings. Now, the latest TM5 is even better, a fact which can be proved with a no-obligation demonstration to show its ability to work effectively across turf and hard surfaces and empty loads quickly and cleanly at a discharge height of 2.35m (7ft 9in).

Turfmasters

Q42

Sports Turf Services, Bellfield Park,
Kinross, Scotland
Tel: 01577 863864
Fax: 01577 864234
Email: sts@sportsturfsservices.com
or
R & K Kensett
4 Leazes Avenue, Caterham, Surrey
Tel: 01883 342632
Fax: 01883 340461
Email: kensett.fineturf@virgin.net

TURFMASTERS are the appointed European distributors for the Revolutionary Graden Scarifier/Aerator. These superb Pedestrian and Tractor mounted machines have the ability to cut down to depths of 13/4" thereby increasing the volume of thatch and fibre removal. This also increases the surface area impacted for aeration by 300% above that achieved by standard hollow coring. Zeolite, a natural soil amendment that is available from Turfmasters will also be exhibited. This has the ability to store nutrients and water until required by the plant, utilising fertilisers more efficiently. A prototype and soon to be launched drainage machine will also be on show: its concept is based on existing material being removed by cutting discs and then sand forcefully filled and compacted into the trenches within one quick operation.

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GAMBETTIBARRE UK LTD. HAS NOW INTRODUCED THE NEW AERO-KING DEEP TINE SOIL RELIEVER, TO COMPLEMENT ITS EXTENSIVE TURF RANGE OF PRODUCTS. DEPTHS RANGE FROM 10CM TO 40CM. 3-SPEED GEARBOX GIVES THE OPERATOR A WIDE RANGE OF TINNING SPEEDS TO SUIT ALL PATTERNS. REAR ROLLERS ARE FITTED AS STANDARD. SIZES RANGE FROM 1.2M TO 2.5M TO SUIT MOST TRACTOR SIZES.

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Greenkeeper International takes a look at the very latest products and services available from the fine turf industry

New spraying equipment from Allman

New from Allman is a range of equipment developed for the utility and industrial spraying sector. The range includes both trailed and skid mounted systems with tank capacities from 200 litres up to 3000 litres.

Trailers can be offered with single or tandem axles, braked or unbraked, and if required meeting road transport specification. Pumps are available from a low volume 12 volt DC diaphragm unit with single hand lance and hose reel to high pressure and high volume petrol or diesel engine driven pump sets, to meet higher demands which can be tailored to individual customer requirements.

For further information Tel: 01243-512511 or visit the Allman website at www.allman-sprayers.co.uk

Taking the weight off your feet

The range of park and street furniture available from Katella Ltd has now been expanded to include several new lines. These include bench seating in optional styles including some with traditional cast iron supports. Their latest wooden planters can now also be supplied as oak tubs in a range of diameter and height variations. A much wider range of finishes and timber options are also now offered. These include Larch, Douglas Fir, Summer Oak and Sweet Chestnut, as well as hardwoods, Pine and Deal. Some of the new timber varieties provide extended protection for outdoor use and obviate environmental issues associated with tropical hardwoods and pressure impregnated softwoods. The new products supplement an already extensive range of wooden benching, planters, timber litter bins, bollards, border edging, information boards and roundwood posts. Combination planters and seating units are also featured in the range, ideal for public access areas.

For further information
 Tel: 01538 304235

Deere's new improved range

John Deere's new 1435 and 1445 front mowers deliver increased standards of traction, manoeuvrability, comfort and productivity for all commercial applications. They are based on a durable, high strength, tubular steel frame, with cast iron front and rear axles and rear bumpers, heavy duty dual hydraulic cylinders, long life steel mower decks and an award winning composite hood design.

A foot activated duff lock gives extra traction on hillsides and in slippery conditions. Increased productivity is provided by the large capacity 14.5 gal fuel tank, which allows 10 hours of mowing without the need to refuel, and the durable hydrostatic transmission, with higher forward speeds up to 12mph.

The 1435 and 1445 claim the smallest front mower turning radius in the industry, at 50cm). Manoeuvrability is further enhanced by the exclusive rear clear trimming' feature on 1.82m deck models, which allows the steered wheels to stay within the path cut by the front mower deck.

A patent pending air intake system allows air to enter from the rear and side of the mower, also contributing to lower sound levels and giving less build-up of debris. An integral two post ROPS is standard equipment, and can be folded down for mowing under low hanging trees, for example.

Options include hydraulic weight



transfer and cruise control, a rear hitch and hard or soft cabs; heavy duty attachments include a 1.19m snow blower, 1.37m front blade and 1.52m rotary broom.

Base prices of the new John Deere front mowers are £9732 for the 1435 with 2WD, and £12,581 for the

model 1445 with 4WD. In addition, the 1.52 and

1.82m (60 and 72in) side discharge mower decks cost £2154 and £2500 respectively, and the 1.57m (62in) rear discharge deck costs £2268.

For further information Tel: 01949 860491

Sisis launches adaptable new Rotorake

The new SISIS Rotorake 600 is a superb thatch remover for regular routine use when used at a shallow setting, this powerful, heavy-duty machine also has the capability to work deeper when required. With a maximum working depth of 45mm, severe thatch problems, increasingly common with climatic changes and some of the newer species of grasses, can now be controlled with ease. A range of interchangeable reels is available for year-round use, including a heavy duty reel of extra-durable blades for deep scarification.

When used at maximum depth the Rotorake 600 retains the finesse of the SISIS AutoRotorake and leaves a clean cut groove.

It incorporates the SISIS Rotorake contra-rotation principle, whereby the reel rotates at high speed against the direction of travel. The blades therefore cut upwards continuously throwing fibre forwards rather than pushing it into the surface. The machine is also held to the ground to maintain a regular working depth.



It also contributes to aeration. The clean, continuous slits assist water and air absorption through a heavy thatch layer, and integration of top

dressings is also improved.

For further information
 Tel: 01625 503030

Core collection made easy

Hollow coring is one of the most important procedures for rejuvenating sports turf surfaces. By removing thin plugs of soil from the ground, thatch is removed, compaction is relieved and drainage improved. However, clearing away the cores left on the surface has traditionally been undertaken by hand. But not any more, thanks to the new CC20 tractor-mounted and CC30 walk-behind



Core Collectors now available from Charterhouse Turf Machinery.

The CC20 can be fitted to tractors of 11hp or more and is hydraulically driven. It attaches to the tractor's three-point linkage, allowing the collected material to be tipped into a trailer for removal. The CC30 is powered by a 8.30hp Kubota engine and has hydrostatic drive for infinitely variable forward and reverse speeds.



The CC20 and CC30 share key features that set them apart from other machines. Both incorporate a specially designed 'floating' rotary impeller collection head that adjusts itself automatically to suit the prevailing ground conditions and does away with lengthy set-up procedures. The impeller throws the cores into the collection hopper at such speed that they shatter, meaning that no

space is wasted and that the maximum volume of material is gathered before emptying is required.

The CC20 and the CC30 are designed for simple, one-man operation and will speed up what has previously been a lengthy task for the Greenkeeper and Groundsman alike.

For further information Tel: 01428 661222

Latest barrier range from Arunhithe



The Falco extensive range of bollards, posts, barriers and rails available from Arunhithe Ltd can be used to provide a wide range of public amenity and commercial property facilities covering security, protection, safety as well as general access control. The Falco Bowler posts, with the name derived from the distinctive post capping, are highly versatile products which can be either fixed, or removable with optional locking facilities. They are ideal as general barrier posts but can be supplied with chain loops or a variety of cross-bar arrangements to provide effective guide rail or fencing. Conical versions of these posts, together with hexagonal 'Rotterdam' barrier posts and more substantial low-rise bollards are also available. These are available in a range of sizes and finishes to suit a variety of location requirements.

For further information
Tel: 01538 304555

Innovative spray device from Delta Designs

Blackpool company, Delta Designs GB Ltd, has invented a new device which was used by Paul Smith at this year's Open Championship.

The Pot Painter which makes painting the hole a simple and easy job was developed by David Nadin and Philip Kirwan, the company Managing Director with the help and guidance of Eddie Adams and Roddy Baron, of St Andrews Links.

"The Pot Painter has been specifically designed to emphasise the topmost rim of the golf hole by highlighting in white paint the top 1.5 to 2 centimetres of soil directly below the grass rim.

The machine is hand held, very light and does not require any bending by the operator. It is also extremely quick and simple to use.

Adjustment to the height of depth of the spray required is by means of a thumbscrew on the side which also enables the main tripod and base plate to be raised and lowered at will.

Cost is less £160 which includes the machine and 12 aerosols of specially formulated, slightly thixotropic, bright white paint which does not run down the side of the cut and will highlight approximately 54 holes per aerosol.

For further information Tel: 01253 596303



Fancy a trim?

Two new lightweight Shibaura hedge trimmers for professional use have been launched. At 4.4kg the Hfl55D and the 4.3kg HTL75S are now available from Farm Garden Machinery.

The low vibration hedge trimmers provide complete operator comfort and are powered by an efficient 21cc engine with a special low noise muffler.

With a 22inch double-sided, double-reciprocating blade to trim hedges the HTL55D has a fixed loop handle and the HTL75S has a 30inch single-edged double-reciprocating blade and an easy to hold bar handle. The trimmers are priced at £270 ex VAT for the HTL55D and £295 for the HTL75S

For further information
Tel: 01244 671166

Please send your latest product release notes or press releases to: The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Airedale, York YO61 1UF
The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association. No responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information which may appear



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Central

We are up and running again on the new member front and we extend a warm welcome this month to Christopher Noble from Ladybank Golf Club, and we look forward to meeting you at some of our events in the near future Christopher.

While I am on about events, a five a side football tournament is being organised for mid October (Sunday afternoon, Sky television have even rescheduled their football so as not to clash with this event!) at Forthbank Sports Stadium in Stirling, so if you fancy yourself as a budding football star or you feel you are not past it, return your entry forms and get in training as I believe there are a few teams who are taking this event seriously. Invitations will also be sent to the other sections in Scotland to enter teams. What the h***, let's go nationwide and invite teams from any Section within BIGGA to enter! (Travel expenses will NOT be paid, unless this can be classed as an educational event, then we could apply to HQ for funding!) Any spare cash Clive? If any Section is interested in entering a team/teams please just get in touch and I will send you an entry form.

Forms for the autumn tournament at Murrayshall on September 27, the five a side football in October, the proposed Turkey Trot (Do they really run faster just before Christmas?) in December and the eagerly awaited "Club 2000" tickets have all been posted so everyone should have plenty of entries for their diaries. If you do intend to participate in any event, please return your forms promptly to avoid disappointment. And that includes PM! Winners of "Club 2000" for June were D.Sutherland with ticket No. 424 and A.O'Hara (Yes, he of football management fame!) with ticket No 017, both win £50 and the July winners were Mrs. Whitelaw with ticket No 010 (£30) and E. Small with ticket No 155 (£20). Well done folks, your cheques have been posted out. Remember, you can only win one of these fabulous cash prizes if you are in the draw and you can only be in the draw if you purchase a ticket so please support your committee in this fund raising venture.

John Crawford.

Phone a friend?

www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html

East

Well here's another column and another month. As I sit and write this in glorious sunshine 86 degrees (south of France on holiday) I wonder where time goes. It's the middle of July into the seventh month of the year, people are starting to think about winter pro-

grammes, the autumn outing at Monktonhall Golf Club is just around the corner, the match against the North East of England in the annual stewards match and the BIGGA national championship at Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale Golf Clubs are both in October. (If you are going to the national Championship I will see you there). So, as I said at the beginning, where does time go? Less than half a year to go. It's true what they say about years going quicker the older you get!

Well, the section held its summer tournament at Duns Golf Club and everyone had a good day from what I heard. I haven't got the results yet but I shall have them in time for next month's column. One or two people to thank, firstly the Captain and Council of Duns Golf Club for the courtesy of their course and facilities; the steward and stewardess for keeping us well looked after in the food and refreshment department. Ian Aitchison, Head Greenkeeper, and his staff for presenting the course in fine condition. Well done lads, and also to the trade members for coming along and bringing raffle prizes. A big thanks to everyone who made the journey to Duns and well done to all the prize winners.

I was told there were only 16 members which included four or five members of the trade which was a very poor turn out. Why is this? Is it the wrong time of the season as most clubs are staging their club championships at this time? Is no one interested in a summer tournament? Now if you would like to let the committee know, phone, fax or e-mail me with some ideas as it takes a lot of time and work to organise these tournaments and for such a small turnout maybe it's not worth continuing with the summer tournament. So come on, it's your section so let us know your views on this matter. I'm waiting to hear from you so come on do it now. Well done to section members who picked up prizes at the Scottish National Tournament at Drumoig in June.

A bit of news now for students who are attending college. Mike Doover under his new name Thorntrees Amenity (formerly Thorntrees Landscape) has offered the Section an award for best student greenkeeper attending the college in the eyes of the Section committee. The nominees shall possibly have to sit an interview in front of a panel made up of committee members of our Section (such as was done for the nominees for the Bernhard's trip to Canada or something along these lines). The committee will be meeting soon to decide on the final format for this award so students keep looking for details coming soon. The eventual winner will win a trip with the Scottish party to BTME 2002 in Harrogate in January 2002. On his/her return they shall have to give a presentation on their trip to BTME 2002 to section members as part of a winter lecture in early 2002. So come on it could be you! A big thanks to Mike for his generosity to the section and something any student should be proud to win.

Chris Yeaman (on location)

North

A few new members to welcome this month. Chris Smith the new Head Greenkeeper at Buckpool is first up, James Macintosh from Peterhead, Iain Flint and Martin Smith from Torvean, Roy Green from Royal Dornoch and finally Ritchie Morrison from Aberdeen Petroleum Club. On the move are Stuart Griffith leaving Letham Grange to work at Hankley Common and Iain Cowper, formerly of Tain, moving to Southport & Ainsdale. Apologies to George Mitchell of Newmarcher who represented the Section at the Open last month and anyone else from the Section I didn't know about.

There was a great turnout of Section members at the Scottish National Championships in Drumoig recently. Stephen Brown, from Newmarcher, won the Friendship trophy for best net score and Andy Wilson won the STRI trophy for best score in Category three. Further good scores from Jim McCormack, Kirriemuir; Jocky Urquhart, Tain, and Gordon Moir, St Andrews, ensured we retained the St Mungo Cup for the Section. My place, as winning Section Chairman, in the photo shoot was taken by Ronnie Bunting who was desperate to be photographed with a trophy! All in all it was a great day, well organised by Peter and his helpers and nice to see BIGGA Chairman Clive Osgood in attendance.

Committee members John Geddes and Hugh McLatchie are putting together a mini conference in Ellon to be held this November early evening time. More details to follow with date, speakers etc. next month.

The Section AGM will be held at Garmouth & Kingston GC on October 25. More details nearer the time.

Iain Macleod

Section Event?

www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

West

Welcome to the monthly news letter. The first item I have been asked to mention is the Section AGM which we hope to hold on October 25. The poor attendance at past AGM's has made us think that maybe a change of venue was needed to encourage more of you to come along. To this end an educational outing to Hampden Park is to be arranged with the AGM being held in a room within the stadium directly afterwards.

Scottish Grass Machinery have kindly offered to demonstrate some of their machinery on the day which should make the visit very worthwhile. Please try and attend as you should have a say in how our Section is run. Is the committee doing such a good job that there is no room for improvement. Ha!

On a sadder note it is with regret that I have to report the sudden death of Stewart Jackson who was an assistant at Dumbarton GC. Stewart who was only 21 years of age was involved in a road accident. The Section would like to pass on its condolences to

Stewart's family and friends at this sad time.

I hope all you assistants wanting to win the trip to BTME donated by Thorntree Landscapes have had your thinking caps on and have your essays well on the way to completion.

Remember the subject is "Preparing Your Course For Competition". See last month's report for details.

Well, that is it for this month remember if you would like anything added to the column please do not hesitate to call on 01355 266862.

Brian Bolland

Latest news?

www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

Gleneagles Chapter

My name is Andrew de Wet and I am writing this as the Secretary of the Gleneagles BIGGA Student Chapter.

My main topic for this month is to give an outline of the different visits that we, the students, have undertaken throughout the year and to also thank our hosts.

During the winter we visited Loch Lomond Golf Club to see, first hand, the re-construction of the new greens that they were building. During the springtime we visited Turnberry for a look round one of the premier Open Championship venues in the country.

We also had a trip up to Aberdeenshire to Meldrum House Golf Club for a look round and a game of golf.

We would like to thank the following people, Ken Siems and Doreen Williams at Loch Lomond Golf Club; Martin Lothian at Turnberry; and Kenny Harper and John Caven at Meldrum House, for all of their valuable time that they gave up for us and for the wonderful hospitality shown to us by the golf clubs.

Also, during the year we visited various different conferences and lectures, including the "From Cutting Edge to Leading Edge" lectures at the Scottish Grass Machinery House in Inverkeithing. BTME in Harrogate, which was not only attended by the students of Gleneagles but also the full time greenkeepers. We also attended the Scottish Regional Conference in Dunfermline, which was a very enjoyable and interesting day.

Perhaps one of the highlights for us this year was the visit or Dr. Joseph Duich, Professor Emirate of Turfgrass Science at Penn State University, who gave us a lecture into the research and development of the seed variety Penncross and other Creeping Bent grasses to come from the university.

Recently, Gleneagles has played host to the Scottish Championship. This tournament was a great success, with many positive comments coming back from both the professionals and the PGA which is a good sign for the upcoming Scottish PGA championship on the PGA Centenary Course in mid August. It is widely thought that if the course carries on maturing as it is then it will build up a reputation to match the Kings and Queens' courses also at Gleneagles.

Andrew de Wet



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Northern

Our President, Dennis Cockburn was well chuffed with the numbers that turned out for his day. We again had a large turn out with 45 playing at Harrogate GC for President's Day sponsored by Acorn Equipment (UK). Many thanks to Head Greenkeeper Tony Baxby and his team for the excellent condition of the course. We were also delighted that Harrogate GC Captain Brian Matthews could join us for the day. The weather was outstanding and it was good too some more new faces along with some old ones.

Results are as follows:-

President's Trophy

Shane Wells, Headley GC, 78 BIH

Division 1

1. Dave Collins, Temple Newsome GC, 66
2. Alan Baxter, Bingley St. Ives GC, 67 BB9
3. Robin Smith, Leeds City Council, 67

Division 2

1. Jim Brown, Cookridge G&CC 70
2. Nigel Wild, Otley GC, 72
3. Tito Arana, Riddlesden GC, 75

Division 3

1. Paul Wood, Clayton GC, 78 BIH
2. Steve Heaton, Otley GC, 78
3. Alan Gamble, Retired, 79

Trade Prize

1. Andrew Cornes, Acorn, 69
2. Mel Guy, Green Pride, 70

Longest Drive

Richard Harris, Elland GC

Nearest Pin

Alan Dyson, Farmura

Once again thanks to Harrogate GC and all the staff for allowing us courtesy and help in making our day a success. Thanks also to Andrew Cornes and Acorn Equipment (UK) for sponsoring the day for us.

Representing the section in the Regional Final at Birchwood on the 15th are Richard Harris, Peter Thompson, Alan Baxter, Brian Hudson, Mike Gregson, John Wood. This event is again sponsored by Richard Campey Ltd. Good luck to the lads who qualified via the Spring Tournament.

Invitation Day is coming up on Tuesday, September 11, at Howley Hall GC with a tee off at 1.30 pm. This day is designed for you to invite a club official eg Captains, Chairman of Greens, Directors etc. Another date for your diary is the Cumbria Cup at Penrith GC on September 19. The cost is £10 including evening meal and prizes and is sponsored by Course Care. To book for this event Contact Andrew Vincent on 07971 292626. Those of you who have put your names down for the Roses match on August 22 I'll be in touch with the team to play shortly.

Well done to John Waite on the recovery front by getting back into the swing of things by returning part time to work, after nearly 12 months since the horrific accident.

The finishing touches are being put to the Section's own website which will be on line next month, and thanks to H.Q. for their help in getting the site up and running. We welcome three new members in James Kershaw and Joanne

Kershaw, both from Castlefields GC, and Christopher Courtman, from Kirkstall Valley GC.

There is no other news at the moment, so if anybody as any then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188; mobile 07790 678572, E-mail: andy_smith21@hotmail.com

Andy Smith

Cleveland

Sad news to start this month's column - the death of Maurice Grange, sales rep for Lloyds, formerly of Claytons. Maurice died on June 14 aged 51. He was well known and well liked by every greenkeeper in the area and will be missed.

More sad news. Tony Burge is out of this year's Cleveland Shield, having had to concede his match after injuring his back after slipping and falling at work. A lesson for everyone that carpet slippers are not suitable footwear for golf course maintenance. Tony's injury meant that Jim Thompson found himself in the quarter final, further than he has been in the competition before by several rounds. He wasn't fazed by this and he went on to beat Chris Powley, the current holder of the Shield and will play either myself or Brian Benzing in the semi finals. Martin Woods or Neil Rogers will play Graeme Salabank in the other semi final.

Arrangements for the match against the Northern Section and Autumn Tournament are well under way. Watch this space, any news please contact me on 07719 193381

Steven Jaques

Sheffield

This year's annual tournament was held at Gainsborough golf club with Mansfield Sands being the main sponsor of the day. Despite some poor weather conditions for the time of year the course was in excellent condition and the top five nett scores for the day were, 1. A. Sampson, 64; 2. A. Bunting 69; 3. K. Lock, 69; 4. I. Whitehead, 71; 5. J. Moorcroft, 71. The best visitor's score was P. Fell with nett 70.

Congratulations to the top five and to all other prize winners. The facilities of Gainshorough Golf Club from the course through to the clubhouse are absolutely first class and I would like to thank the Captain of the club Mr. D. Saxilby and everyone else concerned for their support and efforts on the day. Thank you also to all the trade members who supported the day and in particular to Russell Latham and Dave Smith of Mansfield Sands for all their efforts and a superb prize table.

Our next golf day is at Hillsborough GC on September 5 with a tee off time of 2.30 pm.

Finally the Section welcomes four new members. They are Simon Sayner, of Mid Yorkshire GC; Paul Nelson, of Renishaw Park GC; Andy Riley, of Hillsborough GC, and Daryll Curtis, of Lees Hall GC. We look forward to seeing you all in September at our next golf day.

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North West

May I apologise for the lack of Section news in the June issue of the magazine. The notes were submitted but were misplaced somewhere along the line. I had mentioned in the notes a report on the spring tournament at Mere Golf & Country Club, played on Monday, April 3. The night before the rain had hammered down and although the course was wet, Paul Hyde and his staff had done a great job preparing the course and keeping it open. We had 43 members playing and some excellent scores were returned. Best Nett. Alex Davies. Best Gross, Mike Davie. Over 55's. Arthur Moorey. Guests Prize. Andrew Cornes. The Longest drive and nearest the pin (both sponsored by Rufford) were won by Paul Pearce and Tom Lyons, and the prizes went down to 12th place thanks to our sponsors and other trade members. It was a little short of a miracle how Mike Davie even completed the course, because of a severe back injury, but he did and recorded the best gross score. Many thanks to Mere Golf & Country Club for allowing us courtesy of the course, Paul Hyde and his staff for a great course despite the weather and the caterers for a lovely meal.

The summer tournament was played at Mottram Hall on Tuesday, June 12 and what a fine course it is. The weather turned out fine and it was a shirt sleeve order all day. We had 45 members playing this testing course, especially the back nine and good scores were returned and we even tempted Barry Gregson out for a game. The winner of the Reg Vickers trophy was Steve Brownley with 39 points. The longest drive and nearest the pin (once again sponsored by Rufford) were won by Paul Harley & Steve Johnson, with Tony Howarth winning the guest prize. The prize table allowed us to go to 11th place thanks to our sponsors. Many thanks to Mottram Hall for allowing the courtesy of the course, and the efforts of Barry Gregson, Golf Operations Manager. Bob Moland and his staff for a great course, and the caterers for fine food.

There are still some places for the "Roses" match so contact me if you are available. The autumn tournament is at Ashton & Lea Golf Club on Monday, September 3, and all applications to be sent to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool, L4 9RB. Tel: 01512 844416, including a cheque for £15. Lunch at 12 noon. Tee off 1:30pm. Any news or complaints ring me on 07761 583387 or 01517 245412

Bert Cross



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

Mid Anglia

The Section's summer golf tournament is to be held at Hammonds End Golf Club, Harpenden, Herts, on Wednesday, August 22. Please note that the format for this event has

changed to 18 holes only, with the tee booked from 1.30 pm onwards. This will hopefully offer those who, due to work commitments, cannot attend an all day event, the opportunity to take part. We shall meet for lunch at around 12 noon - 12.30 pm and the golf will be followed by a meal and presentation in the evening. Entries by the usual form, please, to: Richard Saunders, Match Secretary, 55 Leys Road, St. Neots, Huntingdon, PE19 1EP (tel. 01480 473856). Costs are £15.00 for ages under 25 and £25.00 for 25's and over.

The Lodgeway Four Ball competition is well under way now. Would competitors please ensure that their matches are played within the time allocated and that the results are forwarded to Steve Mason.

Please note that the date for the Christmas Meeting on the fixture card is incorrect. It should read Thursday, December 6 and not the 7th, as listed.

On a sad note, Henry Herrington, formerly Head Greenkeeper at John O'Gaunt Golf Club (retired) and who was actively involved in setting up the Section in its early years, is unwell. On behalf of all members, I would like to wish him a speedy recovery.

Paul Lockett

Phone a friend?

www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html

Midland

The Midland Section summer tournament was played at Moseley Golf Club on June 29. The winner on the day was Nick Bird, 2. Dave Fellows, Longest Drive - Eddie Stant, Nearest the Pin - Vince Lee.

The day was sponsored by Alpha Amenity represented by Nigel Tyler supplied by Amenity Technology and wine through the evening provided by John Meres of Mitchells. Thanks to all the sponsors for their continued support of the Midland Section.

Our thanks and gratitude also goes out to all the staff and members of Moseley Golf Club for providing us with such an excellent day, in particular to Mike Gash and all the green staff who presented the course to a very high standard. Congratulations and thanks to you all.

On a final note, there is interest from the North West Section to hold a "go kart" challenge in Warrington. It is anticipated a team of around 12 people would be required to make the event a success. Anyone interested in participating please contact me on : 07989-566307.

Don't forget your entries for the autumn tournament at Trentham Golf Club on September 17. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Phil Gates

East Midlands

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Section to thank Alpha Amenity for their generous support. It is thanks partly to companies like these that we remain so successful.

This year's autumn tournament will be held on Wednesday September 12

at Lingdale GC. If by now you have not received your entry form please let me know and I will gladly send you a copy. The AGM is to be held at Mapperley GC on Thursday November 8 followed by the Christmas Meeting at Wollaton Park on Tuesday December 4.

Sorry for such a brief report, if you have any further news for this article please let me know.

Antony Bindley



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Essex

This year's summer tournament held at Bentley Golf Club and sponsored by Tuckwell and Avoncrop Amenity was combined with the qualifier for the BIGGA National Championship which is itself being held at the Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale Golf Clubs on October 1 and 2. Despite a gloomy weather forecast the sun shone down on the 38 competitors made up of trade and green keepers alike.

An already difficult course, Bentley was made even more testing by the strong winds which gusted down and across the tree lined fairways making a low score almost impossible. The course was very well prepared and a credit to new Head Greenkeeper Mark Stopps and his staff, Deputy Head Andrew Darnell and assistants Nick Pomfrite, Steve Adams and Nick Thompson who have worked wonders getting the course back into shape after a catastrophic winter and the odd attack of the dreaded fuzz.

The author had the pleasure of Mark's company for the round, along with Richard Lewis, DFL, and Martin Guy, Trent Park GC. I believe these three guys have the art of enjoying yourself while being serious when you have to be down to a fine art. I have not enjoyed a round of golf as much in a long while. Thanks guys, it was a pleasure and an education.

The two golfers who have qualified for the finals are Tony Kirwin, of Colchester GC, (best gross) who also qualified last year and finished third overall and Steve Crosdale, of Great Hadham Golf and Country Club, (best nett). Steve also won the overall prize of the Summer Trophy, which was presented by Neil Peachey of Tuckwells.

The results from the three handicap categories were, Cat 1 (0-12). 1. Andy Sheehan, Ely GC; 2. John Robinson, Crowlands Heath; 3. Roland Hughes, Forrester Park. Cat 2 (13-22). 1. Malcolm Smith, Channels GC; 2. Douglas (Maggie) Smith, Mardyke Valley; 3. Martin Guy, Trent Park GC. Cat 3 (23-28). 1. John Barnard, Theydon Bois GC; 2. Stuart Wren, Great Hadham GC; 3. Ray Goodsall, Upminster GC.

If any of the winning names look familiar it's because half of the people picking up prizes also collected silverware at our last golf day detailed in June's magazine.

The longest drive and nearest the pin turned out to be an all Orsett affair with Dominic Rodgers and Carl Crocher winning these prizes.

The trade prize for the second event running went to Mick Fance, of Driving Force Leisure, with a great score of nett 75. Well done Mick, a very close second was Richard Lewis from the same fine establishment as Mick.

As usual, members of the trade from Rigby Taylor, Sherriffs, Driving Force Leisure, E.Doe, Gem and Tacit supported the section and donated to the raffle prizes. Thanks guys.

While in thanking mode the bar and catering staff at Bentley GC deserve a mention as does owner John Vivers who allowed us to have our day on his course. Thank you all very much.

See you all at the next golf day which at the time of writing is yet to be confirmed. You will be notified by the usual method as soon as details have been sorted.

Latest news?

www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

Kent

Yes another report from the Kent Section and there is a fair bit to report on this month.

Walmer and Kingsdown was the venue for our first golf day of the year with a very poor turn out once again. We still managed to have a great day with the weather being very fine and little to no wind. That is very rare down on the south coast. The course was very tidy and for those who have not played there very hilly.

The tone of the day was set on the first tee by our South East Regional Administrator Derek Farrington, whose first tee shot was a lovely air shot followed by a glorious snap hook into a very expensive house's garden. He did, however, make a very good ten. Next on the tee was Neil Pullen, from Sherriff Amenity Services, who hit another superb snap hook but this one hit the wall of the garden and bounced at least 100 yards back onto the tee two yards behind from where he had teed off. Of course it gave everyone watching a good laugh. Not satisfied with that, Neil proceeded to lose his ball up a tree a bit further up the fairway and finally made a great putt for a nine.

The day finished with Trevor Hindmarsh winning Best nett with Barry Jackson second and Simon Saunders third. Best gross went to Paul Larsen with Duncan Kelso runner-up and Chris Marsh third. Nearest the pin was won by Barry Jackson who hit a great thinned 8-iron to 30 foot. Trade prize was won by Rhys Buckley and I have never seen him before so I don't know his company.

So well done to those guys and best of luck to those who play in the National Tournament. The real winners were everyone who made the effort to turn up and have a great day meeting new people and swapping ideas.

Well done to Gary Sidders who fin-

ished his first Medal round with a score of 107. Great stuff!

It was nice to see some new faces and I hope we will see more of you at Chestfield on July 26. A big thank-you to everyone down at Walmer for a great day's golf and the much-needed food. I would just like to congratulate Dan McGrath on getting married at the beginning of June and I hope you and your wife have a happy life together, which I'm sure you will.

So if there is any news please let me know or I will have to talk about myself, and that could take hours. So phone me on 01732 875020 or e-mail jbatkhgolf@aol.com

Jason Bean

East Anglia

A pleasant day greeted our happy band of wanderers as we descended on Richmond Park Golf Club near Wotton in Norfolk on the 13th June. Our thanks go to the main sponsors for the day who were John Deere, Tomlinson Ground Care, Ben Burgess, Steven Curtis and his staff had done us proud presenting us with an excellent venue for our summer meeting. The clubhouse staff made every effort to make the day a success and topped it off with an extremely good evening meal. Many thanks to the club Captain Brian Brand for helping me with the cards and for sorting out the winning scores. I had the good fortune to play with the winner of the day Brian Lemmon. He played a good round of golf and got a ribbing during the round from the rest of the group, sombreros and other banded attire were mentioned on several occasions, but the cheekiest thing that took place was when Brian realised how good his score was going to be, he tried to cook up the last two holes (bad luck Brian, 2 shots off the handicap). On to the winners;

0 - 12 handicap

1. A. Elliot 37 points
2. M. Virley 34 Points on count back
3. J. Wright 34 points

13 - 17 Handicap

1. B. Lemmon 40 points (overall winner)
2. S. Millard 36 points
3. N. Wonger 35 points

18 - 28 Handicap

1. D. Farrington 33 points
2. K. Titshall 32 points
3. J. Holiday 31 points

Trade and Guest

1. K. Timms 37 points
2. J. Humphrey 36 points
3. M. Davis 35 points

Longest drive - J. Wright

Nearest the Pin - M. Virley

My thanks to the other sponsors SISIS, Rushbrooks, Lely UK, Batrums, Nicholsons, K. Leach, Tacit, Banks Amenity, Rigby - Taylor, Sherriffs, Atterton & Ellis, Consultant Clarkson.

On behalf of our Section I would like to thank Richmond Park Golf Club for their hospitality and for allowing us to use their excellent golf course. Our charity collected £40.00 and this year we should pass the £1000 mark. (well done everyone).

Our next meeting will be held at Eaton Golf Club on August 1. There was no difficulty in choosing the winner of the toilet seat, it could only go

to Brian for his very poor attempt to muck up his card on the last two holes. As ever Ian Willett kept the day running as smooth as possible. (Well done Ian)

See you all at the next meeting.
Ian Willett

London

My apologies for missing the last two months but news has been a little bit sparse recently. It must be the change in weather, everybody's slowed down after months and months of dashing around like headless chickens. If you're cool, calm and collected (like me, obviously!) and you have everything under control then please ignore the headless chicken gag.

As you are reading this we will have already played our Summer Meeting here at Sandy Lodge so if you didn't bring plenty of balata balls with you it's too late. Don't say I warned you!

Our Autumn Meeting, however, is provisionally booked for Thursday, August 23 at Gerrards Cross Golf Club. My thanks to Course Manager Lee Robinson for his help in getting this one off the ground. Thanks also to Gerrards Cross Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course for the day. Tee off times will be from 2pm onwards and details of cost will be announced when the entry forms go out.

News from round the section sees Mike Bridge retiring from the helm at Children Forest Golf Club after many years of loyal service. Steve Horwood, formerly Lee's deputy at Gerrards Cross takes over as Course Manager. Smart move Steve, getting away from that awful Robinson fellow! Best Wishes and good luck to both for the future. It was nice to meet Gavin Kyle, from Hendon Golf Club, recently. Gavin is due to have some new tee construction taking place in October, the work being undertaken by Kestrel Golf. Gavin came along to see the work done by Kestrel at Sandy Lodge last year and I hope left with a good impression. On the other hand he could well have been spying for our neighbours Northwood Golf Club where Gavin's brother has just taken over as Course Manager!

Moving back to Scotland from Bush Hill Park is the ever popular Tony Taylor and replacing Tony is Graham Careford.

Congratulations to newly wed David (Monty) Montgomerie, Course Manager at Finchley Golf Club. David and his bride Kay honeymooned in Cyprus and on behalf of the London Section would like to offer the new Mrs Montgomerie all the luck in the world.

The Open pre qualifying at Hadley Wood will have taken place by the time you read this but I hope it went well Craig. I'm sure it did.

The VW Golf a la Hopkinson is still available and it is sickening to see such an honest and hard working guy looking so desperate. Keep reading and keep sending me the info. Hopefully dates to be announced shortly for the Turkey Trot.

Robert Phillips

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

Devon and Cornwall

Summer has arrived for the first time in years; hopefully you have all fixed those irrigation problems by now? The foot and mouth crisis prevented the section from holding its February Avoncrop meeting at Thurlestone GC and to correct this the section held a summer afternoon meeting at Trethorne Golf Club on Tuesday 19th June, which was kindly sponsored by Avoncrop. On arrival, members were welcomed with a bacon roll for lunch before competing for the Avoncrop Trophy, our non golfing members were treated to a guided tour of the course by Head man Maurice and owner Mike Davey. After an excellent meal John Palfrey on behalf of Avoncrop presented the golf prizes as follows: 1. Jeff Mills, Taunton; 2. Richard Shapland, China Fleet; 3. Graham Fitzpatrick, Dainton.

After the presentation, members who were able to stay on enjoyed a relaxing game of ten pin bowling which saw some great bowling from our Regional Administrator. The Section would like to thank Mike Davey for allowing us the use of his facilities and to Avoncrop and John Palfrey for sponsoring the day.

As in previous years the Section will be holding six meetings during the winter, which are listed below. October 3, Roffeys Meeting, China Fleet; November 7, DGM Meeting, Tavistock; December 12, P.J. Flegg

Meeting, Okehampton; January 16, Barenbrug Meeting, Perranporth; February 21, Avoncrop Meeting, Thurlestone; March 20, Aventus & Supaturf Meeting, Taunton & Pickridge.

Please note the following booking terms & information listed below for Section meetings;

- Golfing members to receive starting times before meeting with a draw for partners.
- For our foursome & greensome events you may enter with a partner with your opponents being drawn
- Company & golf presentation to conclude the day.
- 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 does not attend after entering will be invoiced if no payment is received.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

I seem to be suffering from writer's block this month. It's taken two cigarettes and 43 minutes just to write this line.

So what's happened this month? Well not an awful lot actually.

The 'Match v Secretaries' competition was played at Upavon GC, and congratulations to the winners. I think we won, but I've lost the information Chris sent me regarding the day. I do apologise for this so all the details of the day will be in next month's column.

The results of the Summer Tournament and the Management

Trophy will also be in next months report. These are to be played at Broadstone GC and Salisbury and South Wilts GC (my stomping ground) respectively.

Saltex is coming around again shortly, September 4-6, so don't forget to get your passes to avoid all the messing about at the front gate.

I know October sounds a long way off, but the autumn tournament is on the 3rd of that month. I don't have any details of the price at the moment, but it is to be held at Petersfield GC. Do you still work there Nick?

Well that's all there is for this month. Next month's report should be packed. Bet you can't wait!

Mike Cartwright.



Northern Ireland Section

Our golf competition at Galgorm Castle GC went ahead as planned on June 8. The course, which is situated just outside Ballymena, has been open for about five years. It has been developed on an established estate with the rivers Braid & Maine providing interest on quite a few of the holes. I achieved my objective of keeping my ball away from the water, but unfortunately the double bogeys began appearing with frequent regularity. But never the less an enjoyable day was had by everyone attending. I enjoyed the company of my fellow Greenkeepers and the hospitality shown by the staff

at Galgorm Castle was very much appreciated. I would like to thank Christopher Brooke for allowing the section the opportunity to come and play the course, and give us courtesy golf. To Course Manager David Snoddy and his staff, a big thank you for the excellent presentation on the course.

The day would not have been a success without support from our sponsor, Scotts of Toombridge Ltd, the sand and gravel company. They are specialist suppliers of sportsturf sand for golf courses, bowling greens and playing fields. The company Sales Manager, Alan Hewitt, attended on the day. I had the pleasure of his company in my fourball and fortunately my partner and I recovered from a very gloomy front nine to level our match on the eighteenth my lucky pound is safe for another day.

Thanks to all the members who made the long journey to the venue. The result of the competition was as follows, 1. Nick Webber, Portstewart GC, 37 pts; 2. Alan Strachan, Royal Co. Down, 36 pts; 3. Andrew Wray, Castle Rock GC, 35 pts; 4. Michael Feeney, City of Derby GC, 35 pts. The visitors' prize was won by Peter Smyth, Royal Co Down, 39 pts. The winner received a colour television while second prize was a radio/cassette & CD Player. Once again many thanks to Scotts our sponsor for providing such excellent prizes.

The result of our July competition at Royal Belfast will be featured in next month's magazine.

If any member has any news which they would like to be included in the "Around the Green" notes, please contact me at Allen Park on 02894 429001.

Ken Henderson

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E ANGLIA	Ian Willett	Thorpeness GC	Club: 01728 452176	
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S WALES	Peter Lacey	Pennard GC	Tel: 01792 233923	Mobile: 07971 914121

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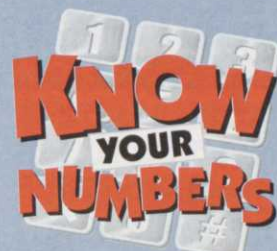
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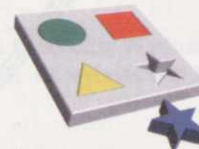
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For an application form, please call 01923 819444
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The Grove

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Alternatively, e-mail the Golf Course Manager on phillip.chiverton@thegrovehotel.com



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For an application form and further details please contact the Human Resource Division, Apex House, 30-34 Upper George Street, Luton, LU1 2RD. Telephone (01582) 546621. Answerphone (01582) 547250.

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Please write with full CV and salary details, to Caroline Gumble, HR Director, Textron Turf Care and Speciality Products, Ransomes Way, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9QG. Email cgumble@tip.textron.com Closing Date: 31 August 2001. Interviews will be held locally. Strictly no agencies.

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Feature listing from August '99

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

March 2000: Clebury 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; Aventis profile; Course Conditioning

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

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

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

November 2000: Grass Cutting Machinery; Clondeboy GC; Drainage; National Championship review; Leatherjacket management

December 2000: Toro Awards; Making the most of your Dealer; Budget Boosters; BTME2001 preview; BIGGA/Bernhards CGSA delegation preview

January 2001: Communication; Tyres; Turf diseases; Kingsbarns Golf Links; Environment Competition Winner - Dyke GC; Talking Heads - Pest Control

February 2001: BTME2001 review; Winter Mowing; Irrigation; Broadstone GC; Hedges; Security

March 2001: York GC; Greens Maintenance; Meland GC, Norway; Greens Mowers; BIGGA Essay Winner; Grass Science profile

April 2001: Lightning detection; Brockett Hall GC; CGSA report; Fairway Mowers; Irrigation; Sward renovation; BIGGA Essay winner; Turf Disease

May 2001: Foot and Mouth Disease Special Report; Maintenance Facility report; Bunker Sand; ATVs; RainBird Profile; Fineturf Genetics; BTME2002 countdown; Electric-powered machines

June 2001: Stoke Park Club profile; Stuart Cagle MG; Tractors; Leaf Spot Disease; Take All Patch; Construction

July 2001: Royal Lytham profile; Tees Mowers; Fertilisers; Green Grasses; John Deere profile; Sandy McDivot; College Listings



Lytham delights



the four days complaints from players were minimal. Quite a feat and a tribute to a group of greenkeepers who willingly take holidays and give up their time to be a part of the Open Championship.

They may have

had an even greater role to play if the early weather forecasts had been accurate. Heavy rain was predicted and contingency plans for squeegeeing teams were put in place by ourselves the R&A and Paul Smith but this rain didn't materialise and they team busied itself with its usual duties of bunker raking and post play divoting.

It was also appreciated that The Duke of York spoke with some of the guys out on the golf course during his visit on the Saturday. Having visited BTME in the past, as well as opening BIGGA HOUSE, he is a great friend of greenkeepers and he showed that with the interest he took in the work we were doing.

Among the visitors to the BIGGA Marquee was our President, Sir Michael Bonallack, who presented Brian Sullivan with his Master Greenkeeper blazer and plaque. It was a relief finally to unite Brian with his blazer as it has travelled many miles in failed attempts to meet up with him! However the happy ending saw Brian and his wife Marybeth visiting us at Lytham. Talking with Brian, who is the Superintendent at the Bell Air Country Club in Los Angeles, it was

interesting that he suffered from exactly the same problems as we do in this country.

Incidentally Jamie Patino, President of Valderrama Golf Club, also popped in to collect a copy of the new Wildside of Golf booklet we have produced with the support of the Golden and Silver Key holders. This was distributed in the Media Centre and to the BBC and is aimed at golf club members and non-golfers with the aim of encouraging a more positive view of the environmental benefits of the game.

On a personal note it was good to meet up with George O'Grady, Deputy Executive Director of the European Tour, at the Golf Writers Dinner earlier in the week. George was the Tournament Director for the 1981 Ryder Cup played at my course at Walton Heath. We recalled our experiences during that exceptionally wet week and I joked with him that I reckoned he was to blame for all the rain.

After the thrills of Lytham it was back to work where I was able to admire the summer aeration and top dressing work the team had done in my absence. As I've said before it is great to be able to schedule this type of work when I'm furthest away.

Clive Osgood, Chairman

I write this column just as I am about to leave Royal Lytham and St Annes after a wonderful Open Championship.

Many of the experienced men I've spoken within our excellently located Marquee - with the Practice Ground on one side and the Bollinger and Seafood tents on the other - have been fulsome in their praise of the golf course which really has been a credit to the work of Paul Smith and his team. The preparation was excellent and the players have also been quick with their praise.

Paul, in his first Open Championship in charge, should be really proud of the achievement of himself and his team.

The BIGGA Support Team performed marvelously as well. One of the comments I heard was that they wielded the rakes with all the precision of surgeons and when you watch them you can appreciate exactly what was meant by that.

Some of the galleries must have wondered what it was all about when they watched the guys using the rakes "the wrong way round" but they had been told to flat rake all the bunkers. Despite the fact that there were 197 bunkers which were raked 1,585 times during

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