



December 2001 - £3.50

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



# The Creme de la Creme



# Experience



The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition has been held in Harrogate, each year, since 1989 and is the biggest indoor show of its kind in Europe. More than 7,800 visitors were present at the Show in 2001 and this figure is set to increase in 2002, due to extended exhibition space in Hall B accommodating an even greater number of exhibitors, and the addition of the Golf Club Show running alongside BTME.



The Golf Club Show, will take place for the first time in 2002. Whilst BTME will continue as an exhibition with the whole range of products and services for the Golf Course on display, The Golf Club Show will aim to succeed as an exhibition wherein Secretaries, Managers and Club Owners will find that all their additional equipment, furnishing and service needs for their golf clubs can be fulfilled.

## the most comprehensive Golf Club exhibition in Europe

### 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.

### National Education Conference

Monday 21 January and Tuesday 22 January, The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

**Causes and Prevention of Turfgrass Stresses**  
Dr James Beard, President and Chief Scientist, International Turfgrass Institute

**Global Warming and the Golf Course**  
Keith Weatherhead, Cranfield University, John Bradwell, Turf Seed UK and Augustino Gaude, Turf Seed UK Ltd, Ruth Mann, Turfgrass and Plant Pathologist, STRI

**Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features**  
Jim Moore, USGA Green Section; Brian Pierson, Golf Course Constructor; Donald Steel Group, Golf Course Designers

**Preparation for Winter Play**  
Ed McCabe, Course Manager, Brokenhurst Manor GC; Arthur King, Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club; George Shiels, Consulting Agronomist

### Workshops

Monday 21 January and Tuesday 22 January, The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Golf Course Design 1; Environmental Management; Emergency First Aid; Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century. All workshops run concurrently with Conference Sessions

### BTME Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Spa Royal Hall, Harrogate International Centre



Keynote speaker: Roger Black M.B.E. 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.

Seminar topics are as follows;

Bunker Renovation, Biological Disease Control, Higher Education in Sportsturf - MSc, 24 Staff, 18 Holes and a 6 Month Season, A Career in Greenkeeping, Gizmos, Gadgets and Inventions, Sulphur Burner Technology, Is It Right for You?, Preparing for the Ryder Cup in 2005, Designing the Future with Strategic Planning, Turfgrass Management, Training and Professionalism go Hand in Hand.

### Golf Club Show Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Majestic Hotel

Programme includes: Health and Safety, Working Time Regulations, Minimum Pay, the Rules of Golf and Financial Aspects of Golf Course Management.

### Two Exhibitions

Running the Golf Club Show alongside the well established BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition is an exciting new concept which will enable golf club industry personnel of all disciplines to research and meet their product and service needs under one roof at the Harrogate International Centre. As such, visitors will be well rewarded for attending an event which enjoys a unique atmosphere and continues to be eagerly anticipated by exhibitors, delegates and visitors alike.

### Banquet

The weeks events are rounded off on Thursday 24 January by the BTME/Golf Club Show Banquet, which is open to delegates of both shows. Returning to the Majestic Hotel, the Banquet stars the comedy duo Brahms and Liszt supported by the Nightjars.

# JANUARY 22-24, 2002

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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## You've got m@il!

If you've got an email account, and want to keep up to date with the latest news and events from the turfcare industry, drop us an email, and we'll add you to our ever increasing list of online subscribers. We'll then inform you of any forthcoming features and events via email.

Simply send an email to:  
**updates@bigga.co.uk**  
quoting your name and Membership number, and we'll do the rest!

# Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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

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# December 2001

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by January 8, 2002

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## HAVE YOU CLICKED ON YET?

Visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS WHAT GREENKEEPERS

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#### And the winner is ...

Scott MacCallum chats with new Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping winner, Huw Morgan



#### Supermarket Swap

New Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner, Andrew Pledger swapped a managerial position with Sainsbury's for the golf course and is already reaping the rewards

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Prepare yourselves for the highlight of the year as the Harrogate looms up over the horizon



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48 Sandy McDivot



Duncan McGilvary's article in last month's magazine under the heading "Should we lead or should we be led" has already produced exactly the type of response he requested.

He ended the piece by urging you to respond and "show the 'powers that be' within the golfing world that we are ready and willing to take on the responsibility necessary to ensure not only the efficient management of our golf courses but our own futures."

As I write, the November issue has only been with you a few days but we have seen, by our standards, a huge post bag. You can read some of the responses on the Letters' page.

All agree that the job would be far easier if qualified, professional Course Managers had the autonomy to make decisions on the well being of the golf course without having to consider the opinions of a group of lay people in the shape of a Green Committee.

However, Duncan's point was also about how to get to that ideal state of affairs and how do qualified professionals persuade golf clubs that they should be given a freer rein to get on and do the job..

As one of the correspondents says, "we wouldn't tell an electrician how to wire a house or a mechanic how to fit a new engine".

The difference in golf, however, is that while an electrician and mechanic have one right way to do a job and many wrong ways, in greenkeeping there is a perception, rightly or wrongly, that you can choose from a range of approaches. That brings "opinion" to the table and, let's face it, everybody has one.

The Course Manager has, therefore, to persuade the Green Committee that his opinion carries more weight than that of the collective group of club members who make up that Committee.

Put it another way. The Committee can feel that, unlike on issues such as wiring houses or fitting engines to cars, its opinion on matters agronomic is worth hearing. Of course that, in the vast majority of cases, is nonsense and a typical case of little knowledge being a dangerous thing. However, subjects on which a Committee can, and does, have valid comments to make are the obvious matters of course tidiness and fault finding.

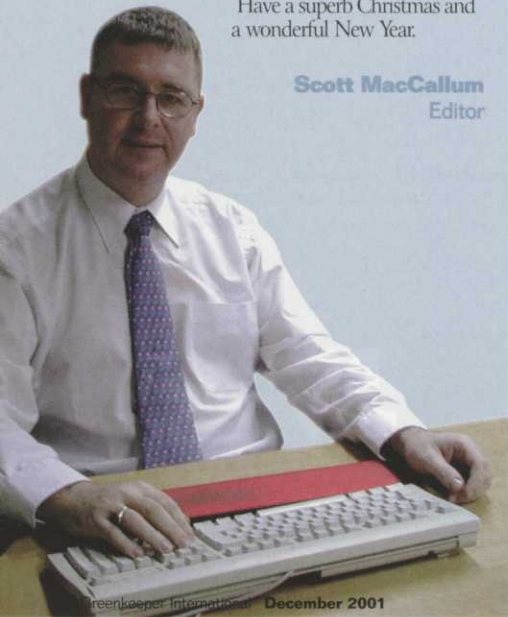
If the Committee can tell a Course Manager about a broken sprinkler head, or a litter bin which hasn't been emptied for weeks, it can then make the jump to wondering if the agronomic welfare of the course is also being "neglected".

One of the answers, therefore, is not to give a Committee any ammunition. By beating the committee to the punch on what might be otherwise regarded as the small things, it might ultimately give you more freedom to look after the more important issues.

I hope this doesn't come across as a case of teaching egg sucking methods to mothers but more a case of adding a few personal thoughts to the interesting issues raised by Duncan.

Have a superb Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

**Scott MacCallum**  
Editor



## Gentleman's dinner a big success

The average golf club might have about 20 Members in the Spikes Bar when a proud golfer returns from his round having scored a hole-in-one. Not so for John Cook, the Chairman of Green at Orsett Golf Club, who chose the 155 yard par 3 17th hole at Walton Heath Old Course for his magical moment. On this occasion however there were 100 golfers plus another 20 guests ready to enjoy the evening banquet and entertainment at the South East Region's Gentleman's Dinner. Needless to say, in keeping with tradition everyone enjoyed a drink with John in the form of an after dinner brandy!

The event should have happened last March but had to be postponed due to the Foot and Mouth epidemic but the Region was indeed fortunate that Walton Heath Golf Club could accommodate us later in the year. With very heavy rains on the Saturday and Sunday things were looking very doubtful. Neighbouring courses had been closed due to the rain but Clive Osgood, Mick Haynes and their Staff did a

tremendous job in having ready for us on a beautiful sunny autumn Monday morning a course in superb condition and the Region's thanks are very much due to them for enabling the event to take place.

The Region's thanks are also due to the Trade who stayed with us during the postponement. It was nice to see Alan Stow who came out of retirement to renew a lot of old friendships.

The golf was incredible. The "Shullockie Putter" was won by James Seisun, Highgate Golf Club, with an unbelievable 42 points playing off 8. A full list of prize winners who received their prizes from Walton Heath Captain Peter Souster after first enjoying a superb banquet and after dinner entertainment from Bob Webb were:-

Cat 0-9. 1. James Seisun, 42 pts; 2. David Badham, 40 pts; 3. Mark Harvey, 37 pts. Cat 10-17.1. George Brown, 43 pts; 2. Lee West, 41 pts; 3. Richard Dunmow, 38 pts. Cat 18-24. 1. Malcolm Smith 35 pts; 2. John Jennings 31 pts; 3. Rae Sergeant

35 pts. Guests. 1. Gary Ogilvie, 39 pts; 2. Peter Russell, 36 pts.

Greenkeeper/Club Official. 1. John Davidson/Rae Sergeant; 2. Jon Hill/Chris Allen Longest Drive. Ian Semple. Nearest Pin 7th. John Payne. Nearest Pin 11th. Tony Bremer. Nearest Pin 17th. John Cook.

Lastly the Region must mention and thank the Companies that sponsored this event and provided so many wonderful prizes:

Aventis Environmental Science; Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd; Bioseed Ltd BSP Landscapes Ltd; CMW Ltd; Ernest Doe And Sons Ltd; E. & S. Sports Grounds Ltd; Farmura Environmental Products; GEM Professional Ltd; Grass Roots Trading Co. Ltd.; Prime Irrigation Ltd; Rigby Taylor Ltd; Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd; The Scotts Co (UK) Ltd; John Shaw (Machinery) Ltd; Sheerwater Leisure Ltd; Sherriff Crop Care; Sisis Equipment Ltd; Tacit Ltd; Vitax Ltd.

Derek Farrington  
South East Regional Administrator

## Turf industry recovers

According to the Turf Growers Associations 11th market survey, carried out during the summer, members are well-placed to meet this demand over the coming year, having recovered well from the floods of autumn 2000 and the cold, wet start of 2001.

Autumn and spring sowings are largely in balance with crops heading towards maturity at sufficient levels to meet projected sales during 2002.

However, the survey shows that a market slow-down was being anticipated by members with sowings planned for this autumn leaning towards prudence.

According to TGA spokesman, Graeme Forbes, events occurring in the USA and Middle East since the survey was completed have heightened concerns also of a global slowdown and even a recession.

"Any fall in consumer confidence is likely to have a knock-on effect on the house building market, which is a key outlet for cultivated turf," he commented.

"Clearly, turf growers will be watching home and world events closely as they go through the winter and approach the spring sowing period."

## New man for Reco

Reco has appointed a specialist demonstrator for the Kioti range of compact tractors launched at Saltex this autumn.

David Broad has a degree in agricultural engineering from Harper Adams College and previously worked in the European export department at Renault Agriculture.

He has practical experience of tractor operation, including shop floor assembly, servicing, in-field operation and dealer product training.

He will be available to demonstrate Kioti tractors and provide detailed training to dealers and end-users as part of Reco's support for its range of ground care equipment.

## Happy retirement to Claus

Claus-Detlef Ratjen has been a long time friend of BIGGA and many of its members. Many years ago now he had a vision for uniting greenkeepers on a European basis and as Chairman of the German Association he worked unceasingly to that end.

His efforts came to fruition in March 1996 with the formation of the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations. Claus was the guiding light behind this Association and went on to become its Chairman. Greenkeepers throughout Europe have much to thank him for as today there is a close unity amongst greenkeepers and their Associations.

At the recent German



Greenkeepers Association Conference in Dortmund, BIGGA Chairman, Clive Osgood expressed the Association's appreciation of all that Claus-Detlef had done for greenkeeping and greenkeepers. In making a presentation to him on behalf of his many friends in BIGGA, Clive thanked him and wished him a very happy retirement.



# A call for regulation

Donald Steel reiterated his call for regulation of clubs and balls at the sixth American Society of Golf Course Architects International Golf Conference held in St Andrews recently.

During the same conference in 1997 he had urged the lawmakers to exert tighter control on the manufacture of clubs and balls, and suggested that the lawmakers consult with architects on the subject.

At St Andrews this year, he reminded Society members, who include 150 leading North American golf course architects, of his earlier statement and what has happened in the interim.

"In those four years, the advance in the realms of the manufacture of clubs and balls has perhaps been more dramatic than in any other four year period in the entire history of the game. There is no wish to be over dramatic, but there is a definite fear that the situation is riding out of control," he said.

After its latest St Andrews meeting the Society declared that there should be a "line drawn in the sand soon" or technology could render many courses obsolete.

In his talk Donald pointed out that five players on the European Tour were averaging 300 yards on their drives.

He noted that Donald Ross had said, "the most dramatic shot in the game is the well-struck long iron" and added that modern equipment has made that shot almost extinct.

Donald stressed that the American Tour players all have averages well above Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus when they were in their prime.

"Taking Jack's driver distance as 260-265 yards, and bearing in mind he was regarded as blisteringly long off the tee throughout his distinguished career, it is a sobering thought that the first 140 on the current European Tour are longer than Jack was in 1970," he explained.

"If a course could be created that demanded that Tiger Woods had to hit long irons for his second shots to the par 4s, mid-irons to the par 3s and the par 5s were all three-shotters you would need a course of at least 8,200 yards, and even then I doubt they would contain him," said Donald.

"Golf course architects are not magicians. Not so long ago, we positioned fairway bunkers about 240 yards from the back tees, then 260, and I recently watch on television while two young professionals gave not a second thought about carrying two bunkers at 280 yards.

"My own personal feeling is that golf and the length of courses were at their best when Tom Watson was at the height of his powers, a time when he needed a perfect drive and 2-iron on

the final hole - 473 yards - at Birkdale to win the 1983 Open. Perhaps that can be kept in mind as a model, but a question nobody has answered is why it has always been the courses and clubs, at great expense, that have had to adjust to cater to new equipment when a far easier solution has been at hand: Control the ball," he concluded.

The ASGCA called for the USGA and R&A to develop reasonable parameters for both clubs and balls.



## SGM Masterclass

The latest innovations on the newest models of Textron machinery were unveiled to greenkeepers and officials from 90 top golf courses at a recent Scottish Grass Machinery Fine Turf Masterclass.

The open day followed a recent announcement by SGM that it had sold 100 Jacobsen fine turf mowers, in deals topping the £3 million mark, in the past 12 months. SGM estimate that the sales of Jacobsen equipment accounted for 55% of all fine turf equipment sold in Scotland last year to top courses including the Roxburgh, Royal Burgess, Airdrie, Alloa and Blairgowrie.

The event was split into three fine turf areas where specialists in tees, fairways and greens had the opportunity to exhibit the latest innovative designs. Ian Bridges, Regional

Manager of Textron, demonstrated the new Greensking VI greens machine, which is the lightest mower in its class due to the resourceful use of metal and components.

The day ended with an opportunity to participate in the machinery driving competition and the chance for delegates to perfect their golf swing with John Caven and Neil Marr, from Meldrum House Golf Club. Each delegate left with a computer-generated profile of their golf swing.

"The day was one of our most successful open day's yet. Again, Textron had a great range of new products and it was a good opportunity for our customers to meet with the experts," said David Melroy, Managing Director of Scottish Grass Machinery.

## Satellite operation

To extend the areas serviced by their existing specialist distributors, Sovereign Turf has set up a number of new satellite operations to supply turf and grass seed.

Mill Race Nurseries, one of the largest wholesale nurseries in the South East of England, and Sibleys Green Nurseries based at Thaxted operate under the umbrella of Sovereign's distributor Crowley Turf. Significantly extending the area previously covered, clients from Harlow, Bishops Stortford, Braintree, Chelmsford and Colchester right out to the East coast can be serviced.

"This move is part of our on-going expansion plans designed to double the business in five years. It provides experienced agents who can promote our turf and seed to landscapers, local authorities and sportsturf managers," said Steve Williams, Sales Manager.

## St Andrews Bay

Sam Torrance, Europe's Ryder Cup Captain has opened the Torrance Course at St Andrews Bay the £50m golf resort, spa and conference centre, his first ever course design.

The 7020 yard, par 72 course set on cliff tops overlooking St Andrews will be joined next summer by its sister course the Devlin providing 36 holes of true championship golf.

"I've been asked to design courses previously and said no, but it's only once in a lifetime that you get asked to build a course with such a dramatic setting - especially at St Andrews. This time it had to be yes," said Sam.

The £7m design is part of the exciting new resort that opened earlier in the year, the vision of Don Panoz, an American pharmaceutical magnate. St Andrews Bay is the first European property of Chateau Elan Hotels and Resorts.

"Our investment has been significant at St Andrews Bay and our next phase of development is on schedule including the Devlin course. Although this year has been a difficult one for the entire UK tourism industry, we've developed a product and level of service that provides a point of difference to both the business and leisure sectors," said Don.

## Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year [www.tonyhusband.co.uk](http://www.tonyhusband.co.uk)





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



**DECEMBER 1991**

Elliott Small paid tribute to Cecil George on his retirement as 'a man 'o many parts: greenkeeper; educator; committee member; secretary; chairman; president; editor; poet and sometime singer of 'auld Scottish songs'. Cecil had begun his greenkeeping career in 1943 at Whitecraigs Golf Club finally settling at Lenzie Golf Club where he spent 37 happy years. Above all perhaps Cecil remains synonymous with greenkeeper education with his active interest continuing to this day. He remains closely involved with BIGGA and his contribution to each AGM remains eagerly anticipated.

Jim Snow, as National Director of the USGA Green Section, covered the topic of winter play on greens. It is common knowledge that three topics are simply too controversial and should never be brought up at social functions; politics, religion and winter play on greens. The last mentioned topic - few subjects raise such an emotional response from greenkeepers and golfers alike. Jim concluded that winter play can do an inordinate amount of damage to the health and playability of the greens in relation to the number of rounds. Every club considering winter play should question whether or not it is worth the risk of damaging the greens and affecting their playability for a significant period of the regular season by allowing a relatively small percentage of the Club's members to use them all the time. In the view of most head greenkeepers, turf grass scientists and agronomists, it is not.

## Allen Power open day

Allen played host to nearly 200 dealers and their salesmen in a recent series of demonstration days in Scotland, the north and south of England. The first day at Murrayshall Hotel and Golf complex near Perth was well attended by dealership representatives from all over Scotland and the far north of England.

The entire range of Allen equipment was at the disposal of dealer sales personnel to test and try the machines in a variety of demanding situations.

Also in attendance from the suppliers was Mark Barnett from Honda who went through the new engines and Tim Mitchell from Friendly Robotics who manufacture the Robomow robotic mower recently taken on by Allen.

The culmination of the road shows came at Blenheim Palace, near Oxford. Over the two days 100 dealers and their staff had the Allen range presented to them against the stunning background of Blenheim.



## Try the Samuel Ryder Cocktail!

Celtic Manor has developed a cocktail in honour of the club's successful bid to host the Ryder Cup in 2010. The 20/10 might well have appealed to seed merchant, Samuel Ryder, as it is produced with ingredients which are based on grasses and herbs.

They include Zubrowka vodka, each bottle of which contains a blade of Bison Grass, Pikesville Rye Whiskey, and Galliano, the famous Italian herbal liqueur in a distinctive bottle.

### Preparation

25ml Galliano  
 25ml Zubrowka Bison vodka  
 25ml Pikesville Straight Rye Whiskey

### Preliminaries

Stirred not shaken over ice. Chill the glasses and shaker with ice and drain when ready for use. Add ingredients to shaker and stir vigorously for 30 seconds then strain into glass.

### Presentation

Garnish with the tip only of a sprig of fresh mint and a 1cm twist of lemon, preferably organic.

## Support boost for Hydroscape

Simon Squires has joined, the Hydroscape Group as the company's UK Technical Support Manager.

Simon's brief covers all technical aspects of the Hydroscape Group's distribution interests, ranging from Toro golf irrigation products, Otterbine Barebo (water) aerators, Global Atmospherics electrical storm warning systems to Sweetwater International sulphur burning units.

Simon recently worked closely with St Andrews Links Trust officials as Contracts Manager responsible for the second phase of the £940,000 irrigation update of the Old, New and Jubilee courses, completed in May of this year.

Prior to that, he managed phase one of the St Andrews project, involving irrigation for approaches, greens, tees and fairways on the Eden, Balgove and Strathyrum courses which was completed within budget and ahead of schedule, in 1999.

"We are delighted that Simon has become part of our team. He will ful-

fil a key role in providing technical support for the complete product range which we, a national distributor specialising in the use of water resources and its management - primarily in UK sports turf markets - view as extremely important," said Graeme Francis, Hydroscape's Marketing Manager,



## Leading the way

I read Duncan McGilvary's article in November's Greenkeeper magazine with interest and found myself agreeing with much that he said, as well as being very concerned. It seems strange that as a profession we have progressed so far in developing ourselves in the last 10 or so years, yet many greenkeepers are respected less now than their predecessors of 30 years ago. Then the greenkeeper's words were law. As you talk to many greenkeepers the recurring statements seem to be "It's what our members want", "We can't do that as it upsets our members" or "I want to keep my job".

There are far too many people writing about, and teaching, greenkeeping principles with those statements in mind. I can't think of many other industries that employ professional, well-trained managers to manage their major asset, and then expect them to be told by committees and members how to manage this asset and, of course, if this asset is in poor shape then it's the manager's fault.

In answer to Duncan's question we should, of course, lead. We are well-trained professionals who have been trained to understand how our courses should be managed. But we need strong minded greenkeepers who have a sense of tradition and of what is right, who want to lead and if they are not out there already then managers from other professions will eventually end up managing many golf courses with dangerous implications. These managers will have no sense of tradition and will undoubtedly change the face of British golf. As greenkeepers we need good training and first-rate leadership to help us in these difficult times. Where this comes from is the real question.

Golf clubs also need to look at themselves very closely too, as their aspirations for their golf course are far too often wide of the mark and against what is traditionally right. We live in an "environmentally friendly" world yet many clubs want to produce a totally artificial environment instead of a natural course that enhances it.

First and foremost we, as greenkeepers, need to come to the front and lead the way forward. We then need our members, committees and professionals to leave us to do what we do best, without having to pander to them and work our management around them.

They are the ones who need education. Who does that is the next question...

Alex McCombie  
 Deputy Course Manager  
 Parkstone Golf Club



## Professional concern

I would like to thank Duncan for having the guts to stand up and say what he believes and to air his views in public.

I have spent most of my greenkeeping career working on the continent except for three years when I returned to work in the UK at one of Duncan's average members' clubs. All I will say is that the politics at this club caused a constant fight between me, trying to do my job as a professional, and amateurs trying to tell me what to do. We had four Club Secretaries in two years! I am not saying that all members' clubs are like this but I believe that, after talking with many colleagues, the majority are.

I talked with a leading consultant who advised me to return to the continent. His reasons were quite clear. The greenkeeping profession has come so far in the last 15 years but the attitude of the committees has not changed for the last 30 years and herein lies the problem. So where does that leave us. Good Course Managers become disillusioned and yes many are leaving the industry. Last year a drainage company advertised for a contracts estimator. I talked with the Managing Director of this company and he asked me what on earth is going on within the greenkeeping industry. He informed me that 70 Course Managers had applied for the vacant position. Need I say more.

We have a choice in life. You can either accept your present position or do something about it. In my case I left my club in the UK and am now working in Scandinavia where I am treated as a professional and allowed to exercise my abilities and management skills that I have acquired over the last 27 years.

So what is all this nonsense about golf professionals and interested club officials wanting to get involved in greenkeeper training?

Where were these people 20 years ago when we as an industry were educating ourselves as they did not want to know? As for greenkeepers not wanting to take on the demanding role of training here is one greenkeeper who did the opposite.

When I worked in Switzerland there was no greenkeeper education system at all and no contact between the greenkeepers themselves. The greenkeepers learned their profession by making mistakes and learning from them. I brought all the greenkeepers together by organising the first Swiss Greenkeepers' Golf Championship, and followed this up by organising education days at my club. I then helped create the Swiss Greenkeepers Association and set up the first ever greenkeeper education programme in Switzerland with David Golding at the GTC, using the Level 2 Training log book that we had translated into French and German. I did all this without any help from golf professionals or club members. I did all this for the love of my profession and to help my fellow colleagues and the end result is better maintained golf courses for the Swiss golfers and a greenkeeping profession that is now recognised by the Swiss Golf Association, with a far higher profile for greenkeepers in their country.

So after 15 years of going forward do we now need amateurs telling us what to do? Do these people not realise that if there is a problem today that they are the ones who have created it? What are golf club committees afraid of? It really is quite simple. You employ the best Course Manager that you can, give him the budget, staff and materials that he needs to maintain the course to the standard that everyone wants and then leave the professional to get on and do his job unhindered.

It would appear though that this solution is difficult to accept at members' clubs in the UK. I believe that it is something to do with "power".

Education of greenkeepers. Let's look at a recent advert in the October issue of Greenkeeper International. Hartpury College are looking for an experienced greenkeeper/sportsturf specialist to teach the skills and management of golf courses. The college is committing substantial resources to the development of its sports facilities. So why do I feel insulted when I see a salary of £16,800 offered for this position when a Course Manager can demand between £30,000 and £35,000? Do these colleges not understand that if we are to raise the standards of greenkeepers' knowledge today then the only way is to attract the top people from the industry into the education system to impart their knowledge. Offering £16,800 is hardly an incentive, is it?

So is Duncan right or wrong? I believe that he is right to be concerned about our profession. The way forward for the future is always going to be difficult until golf clubs accept the fact that today's greenkeepers are professional, educated and very committed to giving first class playing conditions if only they are allowed. They do not need interference from a Chairman of Green, Club Secretary or Golf Professional. By implementing a golf course policy document which will guarantee continuity on the course when committees constantly change and by communicating with members can we assure that the course will be maintained and managed correctly for the next generation of golfers.

Ian C Tomlinson  
Course Manager  
Rungsted Golf Club  
Denmark

## Leave it to us

Re: Duncan McGilvray's article in the November issue.

I could not agree more with Duncan's article. After being a Chairman of Green for 10 years at my own golf club and now working on another I have first hand knowledge. Chairmen of Green and Green Committees interfere far too much with greenkeepers.

They would not tell an electrician how to wire a house nor would they tell a mechanic how to fit a new engine. Greenkeeping is a very professional job with lots of skills.

Let's hope a lot of other greenkeepers write in.

We must lead. Not be led.  
Well done, Duncan.

Harold Blackshaw, Assistant Greenkeeper  
Onneley GC, Staffs

## Run by committee

With reference to Duncan McGilvray's article in last month's magazine.

I feel that the issue is a very complicated one. As a greenkeeper of nearly 30 years I think that while we still have an industry that is run by mainly well meaning amateurs we have got a problem. Committees change too often and they don't have the right credentials to do the work that they put themselves up for, and there's the problem.

However I feel that will change as they become aware of their responsibilities in law. We are already seeing the shift in secretaries from the retired RAF types to the ex banking men and even women.

Only when the present private members' club structure changes will any of us be allowed to take on the responsibilities that we crave and know we can do.

It will happen but it will be legislation that will force the issue in the average members' golf club.

Dave Goodridge, Head Greenkeeper  
Denbigh GC

## Redexim clarification

I enjoyed the piece in the September issue about the Bargoed Golf Club, but I think the writer must have had trouble reading his short-hand!

I was somewhat bemused by the statement "the course uses a Wiedemann verti-drainer" as there being no such animal. VertiDrain is a Redexim Trademark and while it has been used as a verb over the years the name cannot be used in conjunction with Wiedemann.

The piece of equipment used at the

Bargoed Golf Club is indeed a Redexim VertiDrain, and is verified by turning the page and finding a picture of our machine in storage on a pallet!

While pleased to see our machine featured, I wonder if there is some way you could clarify the situation regarding the VertiDrain name and the correct company that manufactures it.

David Jenkins, Managing Director  
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Limited

## You've got m@il!

If you've got an email account why not send an email to us here at BIGGA, where we can place you into our exclusive email address book. We can then keep you up-to-date with news and event information as soon as it happens.

Send an email to: [reception@bigga.co.uk](mailto:reception@bigga.co.uk)

Remember to include the word 'updates' in your subject field



Neil Thomas reports on the selection of the second BIGGA Delegation – this time to the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando ...

# Bernhard's ten to hit Orlando



Neil Thomas

## The Delegation

### Midland Region

Philip Gates - Trentham Golf Club  
David Winterton MG - Maidenhead Golf Club

### Northern Region

Tony Smith - Hurlston Hall Golf Club  
Patrick McAteer - Nefyn Golf Club

### Scottish Region

Ronnie Bunting - Kilmacollm Golf Club  
Jim Paton - West Kilbride Golf Club

### South West & South Wales

Ivor Scoones - Long Ashton Golf Club  
Jeff Mills - Taunton & Pickering Golf Club

### South East Region

Ian Willett - Thorpeness Golf, Hotel & CC  
Tony Dunstan - Mill Hill Golf Club

Was it really a year ago, I thought, when my diary showed the October week allocated to the selection of the second BIGGA Delegation in association with Bernhard & Company? A year since we selected the ten BIGGA members to visit the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association Conference and Show in Vancouver?

What a memorable event that had turned out to be, greatly benefiting our delegates who have since passed on their experiences in a number of both formal and informal ways to fellow greenkeepers. It was a pleasure, therefore, to hear from Stephen Bernhard of the success of the visit from his company's perspective and of his wish to support a second Delegation, this time to the 73rd GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida.

The itinerary looked daunting and the geography considerable, with the five BIGGA Regions to be covered in five days but with much to be gained - not only for those selected but also for the runners-up who will be assisted with their trips to BTME 2002 in recognition of their being worthy representatives of both Section and Region. It is not only the candidates who gain but also those who undertake the interviews.

From my own viewpoint, I interviewed 23 members during the week and again this year that proved to be a valuable learning experience. I feel sure, also, that both Stephen and Sam McLean learnt much from the exercise. Two Regional Board representatives joined each Regional Panel. I was ever present while Stephen joined us for the Northern and Midland Region interviews with



Above: Flashback to last year's Bernhardt's delegation to Vancouver, Canada

Sam taking over in the South East, South West and South Wales and Scottish Regions.

Members had been asked to submit a personal profile including details of education and training and career summary as well as membership history within BIGGA. They had been asked to explain why they warranted selection for and would benefit from the Orlando visit. They would need to demonstrate an ability to represent BIGGA in a public relations role at an international event. From these criteria we developed wide ranging interviews which proved both demanding and stimulating.

At the end of each day, difficult decisions had to be made, decisions on the one hand which would elicit elation while on the other disappointment would be marked. I believe the chosen delegation represents a broad cross-section of our membership and there is every reason to believe that they will be equally as successful as the Vancouver Delegates in representing both BIGGA and the greenkeeping profession.

No jolly is this - as last year's inter-

pid travellers found out. The ten selected are already embarked on researching the visit - in terms of such issues as climatic and geographic differences, budget comparisons, personnel employed on American golf courses and educational development of staff. All this will contribute to the knowledge and experiences to be gained during the trip which they will need to record with notes and photographs for presentations to fellow greenkeepers on their return.

Bernhard & Company are a leading supporter of our educational and training programmes and we at BIGGA greatly appreciate this initiative over the last two years. Members can only gain from the experience as will the Association. The impact of the Delegation in Canada was considerable and I have no doubt this will again be the case in Orlando. Coupled with the Old Tom Morris Award to Walter Woods during the Show, BIGGA's international standing and leadership role within the greenkeeping profession will most certainly be further enhanced.



Stephen Bernhard



Sam McLean

## Bernhard's Managing Director, Stephen Bernhard, explains his thoughts behind the scholarships

Earlier this year Bernhard & Company were delighted to host 10 British greenkeepers to represent our industry by attending the Canadian National Turf Show in Vancouver. The visit was a great success, new friends were made and the connection between the British and Canadian greenkeepers was strengthened.

Bernhard's are delighted to again take the initiative in further developing this relationship with international greenkeepers by sponsoring another group of ten BIGGA members to travel to the GCSAA National show in Orlando next February.

The interview process has again been enlightening. As before, many personal views have been expressed by candidates. Certainly the need for more effective local communication has

become widely felt. Education is being asked for but at a local level and with greater involvement from suppliers. Bernhard's embrace this view.

We believe that involvement of this type in the British industry and sharing knowledge and experiences of our American customers, will boost standards of working practices and knowledge of participants on both sides of the Atlantic.

As the world is moving again into a cycle of economic constraint, we will all need to become more effective. That will mean working smarter and with greater flexibility. By hosting events of this type, Bernhard's enjoy the opportunity to listen to what our colleagues in the industry are saying, learning how best to help them by supplying grinding equipment that also works smarter

and meets the real needs of the market.

During this trip to Orlando, visitors will enjoy an opportunity to see a totally different type of "destination golf experience". Hopefully the information that they gather will be disseminated to their colleagues at home, for that is the objective of this venture.

Bernhard's feel that it is essential, this year, that each BIGGA Region and every individual Section ask the locally selected representatives to spend some time with members sharing the experiences of the trip during an evening presentation.

Once again, we have a varied and interesting group of British Greenkeepers who will represent our industry in Orlando. Bernhard & Company are proud to be the sponsor and wish all those travelling an interesting and thoroughly enjoyable experience.



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Tracey and Susannah from BIGGA's Membership Services Department, would like to welcome over 70 new members to the Association and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## December and January membership renewals

If your membership expires on 31 December 2001 or 31 January 2002, you should have received your membership renewal pack by now. If you haven't please contact Membership Services. Your pack will contain a pre-printed renewal form, please check

all your details are correct, if you have any changes please use the spaces provided. Don't forget to sign the form on the reverse and return to BIGGA HOUSE with a passport sized photograph of yourself.

Also included within your pack will be a Time to Renew Newsletter informing you of any new benefits and services or any changes to existing ones. Please take the time to read this, as it is aimed at keeping you up to date with all the latest news in membership. If you require new application forms please contact Tracey or Susannah, in the Membership Services Department, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or ring us on 01347 833800, fax 01347 833801, email, [tracey@bigga.co.uk](mailto:tracey@bigga.co.uk), [susannah@bigga.co.uk](mailto:susannah@bigga.co.uk) or click on [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)



### December'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 December's winner, Jonathan J Scoones, of Caversham Heath Golf Club.



## BIGGA Christmas Gift ideas



BIGGA's leisurewear, branded with the BIGGA logo, would make perfect gifts for Christmas. Quality clothing made by Cutter and Buck, Peter Scott and Sun and Rain with prices starting from £29.95 inc. VAT, post and packing. Choose from ...

### Cutter & Buck BIGGA logo Classic Polo Shirts

Available in sunflower and navy for only £29.95 inc. VAT, post and packing. Sizes Medium, Large, XL or XXL available.

### Peter Scott BIGGA logo Jumpers

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.

### Sun & Rain Waterproof Suits

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.

### Slazenger Baseball Caps

Available in khaki with light blue 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.

## BIGGA WELCOMES...

### Scottish Region

John Bateson, Central  
Euan MacDonald, North  
Craig MacKay, North  
Kevin McColm, Central  
Alexander Steven, West  
Graham Sutherland, West

### Northern Region

Lee Fletcher, N West  
Scott Pavis, Northern  
Lee Richardson, Northern  
David Robson, Northern  
Andrew Slade, N West  
Kyle Stocker, N West  
Andrew West, Northern

### Midland Region

Harold Blackshaw, Midland  
Graham Blum, Mid Anglia  
John Button, Mid Anglia  
Philip Byers, Midland  
Benjamin Cumberland, E Midland  
Maxwell Fuller, BB&O  
Chris Garnett, Mid Anglia  
John Glover, Midland  
Richard Hawkins, Midland  
Aaron Pears, E Midland  
Jonathan Poole, E of England  
David Seals, E Midland  
Henry J Starkey, E Midland  
Stephen Tunnicliffe, E Midland  
Andrew Wood, E Midland

### S E Region

Stephen Coates, Surrey  
Edward Davison, London  
Gregg Hall, Kent  
Neil Kortas, London  
Sean O'Connell, Sussex  
Mark Poland, Sussex  
Jason Sarna, Sussex  
Michael Scriven, Kent  
Eric Simmonds, Surrey  
Roger J Smith, Kent  
Raymond Victory, Sussex  
James Webster, Kent  
Benjamin Whibley, Kent  
Jamie Wright, Kent

### S West Region

Keiran Dewbery, S West  
Martin Lane, S West  
Howard Mogridge, S Wales  
Dale Northway, S Coast  
Kevin Sturney, S Coast

### Northern Ireland

William Black

### Republic of Ireland

Daniel Crowley  
Keith Lowson

### International Members

John Jackson, Austria  
Francois Pujot, France  
Edward Kutt, USA  
Kenneth Nice, USA  
Troy Russell, USA  
Dean Baker, Canada

### Associate Members

James Finlayson, Central  
John Dobson, Northern  
John Marriott, Northern  
Simon Squires, Northern  
Les Emery, E Midland  
Daniel Beckley, London  
Colin Murphy, S Wales  
Oliver Sutton, Rep Ireland

### Corporate Members

Stewart Finney, Sheffield  
Neville Pearson, Sheffield  
Martin Buckland, N West  
Chris Stansfield, BB&O

### Student Members

Alasdair McLeod, West  
Michael Robinson, N West  
Scott A Wildman, N West  
Robert Dunkley, Midland  
Christopher Brownlow, N Ireland



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...



## Elliott Small

Immediate Past Chairman

Name: Elliott Small

Golf Club: Tulliallan GC

Association Position: Immediate Past Chairman

How long have you been a member of BIGGA?  
From the start

Where do you hope the Association will be in 10 years time?

Still working for the good of all members and being given credit by some for work that has been done.

For what would you most like to be remembered?

Being Chairman in the Year 2000 and hopefully for doing the best I could over the last 30 years to improve our lot.

For what would you least like to be remembered?

For along with the late Harry Diamond and Bert Cross being the b\*\*\*\*\*s who woke poor greenkeepers at 5am for duties at The Open (poor souls only had two hours sleep). Sorry lads!

Why did you take on a more involved role in the running of the Association?

I'm old enough to remember terrible conditions greenkeepers used to work under and wanted to do something about it.

Name one thing which would improve the Association?

Bring the GTC in with BIGGA and make every golfer play for education and training.

What is your claim to fame (None, not acceptable)?

Riding in the Royal cavalcade in the Duke of York's security car to the opening of BIGGA HOUSE. I even had the cheek to wave to the crowds.

Describe BIGGA in 15 words

An Association where all the members are of equal importance from apprentice to Course Manager.





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**This month, Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, explains the new minimum BIGGA membership qualification which should be introduced next year**

# Education the key to membership

## Education opportunities at Harrogate

Continue to Learn 2002 has been specifically designed to give all delegates maximum flexibility on their education choices, offering one and two day options for both the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme.

Advertised under the new name 'Continue to Learn' the programme and booking form is now available. Highlights of the National Education Conference include the morning session on Monday 21 January which will be presented by Dr James Beard on the subjects of Water and Temperature Stresses and Shade and Wear Stresses. Tuesday 22 January sees the return of Jim Moore from the USGA Green Section. A popular and informative speaker, Jim will be discussing the Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features. Other sessions at the Conference include the effects of Global Warming and the Golf Course and Preparation for Winter Play. Three Workshops will be presented on the 2002 Programme offering delegates a choice of subjects. Due to popular demand the two day Golf Course Design 1 Workshop, presented by Simon Gidman BSc and Howard Swan MSc, makes its return to the programme. New for 2002 are one day Workshops, available on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 January. Emergency First Aid will give delegates the opportunity to gain their Emergency First Aid Certificate, while the Environmental Management Workshop looks at the impact of ecological management on the golf course.

The STRI continues to run their popular course 'Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century'. For 2002 the course will take place on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 January at The Majestic Hotel. The BTME Seminars commence on Wednesday 23 January with Keynote Speaker, Roger Black. The seminars will cover a wide range of subjects from Sulphur Burning to Strategic Planning. An extended seminar on Turfgrass Management will be presented by Dr James Beard on Thursday 24 January. Seminars conclude on Friday 25 January with presentations from Dr Mike Canaway, Andy Campbell, MG and Clive Osgood.

The Social Programme offers two events for 2002, The Education Dinner on Monday 21 January at The Majestic Hotel, with after dinner speaker Dr Keith Jones. The Show Banquet will take place on Thursday 24 January with a welcome return to The Majestic Hotel, featuring comedy duo Brahms and Listz, Harrogate band The Nightjars and a disco from Funtime Music. This is one event you won't want to miss!

**For further details on booking your place please contact Sami Collins on 01347 833833**

### TORO Competitions

Full details of the TORO Student of the Year and Excellence in Greenkeeping Competitions are given elsewhere in this magazine but I would like to add my and Sami's congratulations to Andrew Pledger and Huw Morgan.

Details of the Student of the Year Competition for 2002 will be sent out in the New Year and copies of brochures and entry forms will be available at BTME.

### Minimum Qualifications

The BIGGA Board of Management meeting, held on 9 October 2001, endorsed the introduction of a minimum qualification of N/SVQ Level 2 Sportsturf, or equivalent, for all NEW applications for membership received after 1 February 2002. This decision will be subject to the approval of the AGM, which will be held on Wednesday 25 January 2002, at the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate.

### Why introduce a minimum qualification?

- It is Government policy that all adult workers should hold or be working towards, at least, an N/SVQ Level 2 qualification.
- The GTC is encouraging employers of greenkeepers to train all new entrants to N/SVQ Level 2 Sportsturf.
- BIGGA aims to improve the qualifications and status of greenkeepers.
- Greenkeepers want greater recognition and better pay.
- Anyone working as a greenkeeper at a golfing establishment should be competent ie. should be able to do the job without supervision.
- N/SVQ Level 2 Sportsturf comprises seven Units which include basic greenkeeping tasks such as mowing, raking, brushing, scarifying, applying top dressing, fertilising, repairing divots, irrigation, applying pesticides, rolling, course preparation, machinery, construction, estate maintenance and plant identification. Therefore, competent greenkeepers can easily become qualified.

### BIGGA Membership after February 2002

- All current greenkeeper members will retain full qualified greenkeeper membership
- All greenkeepers, not currently members, applying for full greenkeeper membership, from 1 February 2002 will need a minimum qualification of N/SVQ Level 2 Sportsturf.
- All greenkeepers, not currently members, applying for membership, from 1 February 2002, who do not hold a minimum qualification, will be offered Greenkeeper Assistant Membership.
- The subscriptions for both full Greenkeeper Membership and Greenkeeper Assistant Membership will be the same ie. Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper £85, Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper £67. Greenkeepers aged 21 and over £54, Greenkeepers aged 20 and under £33 and International members £63.
- Greenkeeper members and greenkeeper assistant members will receive the same membership benefits except that unqualified members will not be able to vote at National, Regional and Section meetings nor will they be able to hold office.
- Greenkeeper assistant members may request to be upgraded to full greenkeeper membership once they become qualified.
- Any full greenkeeper member who is unqualified and leaves the Association for two years or more will be offered Greenkeeper Assistant membership on re applying.
- All current full greenkeeper members, whether qualified or not, will be enrolled onto the BIGGA CPD Scheme automatically.
- All greenkeeper assistant members will have their Membership reviewed after five years.
- All full greenkeeper members will be granted continued membership if they continue to pay a subscription and work as a greenkeeper at a golfing establishment.
- Those greenkeepers who have held full greenkeeper membership but are not currently working as a greenkeeper at a golfing establishment but remain connected with the Association, greenkeeping or the fine turf industry, should be granted continued full membership.



### 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](mailto:admin@bigga.co.uk)



### Golden Key Circle Company Members

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Amazon Ground Care	01579 351155
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd	01428 661222
Gem Professional	01254 356611
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Kubota UK Ltd	01844 214500
Massey Ferguson (AGCO Ltd)	02476 851292
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rain Bird	01273 891326
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 377777
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Stoke Park Club	01753 717171
Textron Turf Care	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01202 319987

### Individual Members

Mike Eastwood, J H Fry, J H Greasley, WJ Rogers, David S Robinson, Stuart Townsend, Douglas Smith



### Silver Key Circle Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Ernest Doe & Sons	01254 380311
Heath Lambert Group	0113 246 1313
Ocmis Irrigation	01460 241939
Sisis Equipment Ltd	01625 503030

### Individual Members

Clive A Archer, John Crawford, Bruce Cruickshank, Douglas G Duguid, Alan Holmes, Kenneth Jones, Iain A MacLeod, Robert Malbusch MG, Richard S Mullen, Elliott R Small, Steven Tierney, CJ Yeaman

**www.btme.org.uk**

**Keep checking the BTME microsite for the latest news on the various education and training options available at BTME2002**





With all the skill of Klondike prospectors during the gold rush the judges for the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award unearthed two nuggets as the 2001 Toro Champions.

# Toros 2001



Huw Morgan, Course Manager of Wildernesse Golf Club in Sevenoaks, and Andrew Pledger, First Assistant at the Hertfordshire Golf Club, are worthy winners of two of the most prestigious competitions the Association has to offer.

Each year the quality available for the judges to "pan for" becomes higher and higher, a real sign that the industry is in rude health and that the golf courses of Great Britain and Ireland are in safe hands.

Huw has been a prominent BIGGA member for many years while Andrew has transferred for a successful career in retail management to make a similar impact in his new profession. Both are ideal ambassadors for the Association for the next 12 months.

Huw, who won a trip to the GCSAA Conference and Show and visits to Toro's Headquarters in Minneapolis and California, a Toro Workman 2100 utility vehicle and £250 for his team, emerged for a strong group of finalists which included Alan

Purdie, Head Greenkeeper of Crail Golfing Society; David Murdoch MG, Course Manager of Liphook Golf Club and Alan Strachan, Head Greenkeeper of Royal County Down.

Each received a Toro 1000 Greensmaster pedestrian to mark the achievement of reaching the National Final.



Main: Huw Morgan and Andrew Pledger

Inset: Excellence finalists and judges: (Back) Walter Woods, Bruce Jamieson, Bob Buckingham, Neil Thomas. (Front) Alan Strachan, David Murdoch, Huw Morgan and Alan Purdie





## Toros 2001

continued from page 13

Andrew won a six week study course in Massachusetts and visits to the Toro headquarters in Minneapolis and California as well as the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando

Runners-up in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Competition were John Stuttard, of Askham Bryan College and Wyke Ridge Golf Centre, near Leeds, and Ewan McCabe, of College of West Anglia and Gog Magog Golf Club. Each wins an all expenses paid trip to Harrogate for BTME 2002.

The other student finalists who each won through to the National Final from their regions were Mike Robertson, of Myerscough College and Penrith Golf Club; John Williams, of Teagasc, in Dublin, and Athy Golf Club; James Murphy, of Old Head Golf Club; Mark Wilshire, of Pencoed College and Llanishen



Above: Runners up: Alan Purdie, David Murdoch and Alan Strachan

Golf Club, and Mark Cummine, of Langside College and Buchanan Castle Golf Club.

Thanks to all the regional judges who took part in the early stages of the event and the final judges - Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping: Bob Buckingham,

Toro's European Sales Manager; Bruce Jamieson, Toro Consultant and former PGA European Tour Director of Agronomy; Walter Woods, former Course Superintendent of St Andrews Links, and Neil Thomas, BIGGA's Executive Director. Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year

Award: Andrew Brown, of Toro; Pete Mansfield, Lely (UK) General Manager Turf Products; BIGGA's Education Sub-Committee Chairman, Jim Paton, and BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson.



Above: Student finalists and judges: (Back) Mark Wilshire, John David Williams, Jim Paton, Andrew Brown, Ken Richardson, Pete Mansfield, Mark Cummine (Front) Mike Robertson, John Stuttard, Andrew Pledger, Ewan McCabe and James Murphy



**New Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, Andrew Pledger, swapped the world of retail management for the life of a greenkeeper, and is delighted that he did.**

# Supermarket Swap

It takes a lot of guts to throw up a successful career and go back to square one in a job about which you know the bare minimum for a significant pay cut.

That's what Andrew Pledger did, and what's more he announced his desire to make the radical step to his wife when they had just returned from honeymoon. But for both Andrew and his wife, Karen, this bold step paid off, less than two years later, when he was announced as the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner for 2001.

Andrew had been working his way through the managerial ranks of Sainsbury's when he got the urge to find a job in the golf industry and having looked at both the general management and the greenkeeping sides of the business decided that greenkeeping offered the better long term prospects.

He had started with Sainsbury's as a butcher but his talents were soon spotted and he was soon running the beers, wines and spirits department, and then the dried goods and fresh foods departments in addition to working on a special internet shopping project.

Very much on the promotion ladder it was a sudden climate change within Sainsbury's which saw pressure placed on stores to achieve that persuaded Andrew to look elsewhere.

"It became clear that you could no longer have ideas of your own and make a difference individually and I wasn't enjoying it any more," he said.

He was Sainsbury's golf event organiser for the South East region and he decided that golf was where he wanted his future to lie.

"I didn't start playing golf until I was 19 and I really fell head over heels with the game and realised that I wanted a career in the game. Given my retail management training, general management might have been an easier option for me but I believed that in greenkeeping, once you've been trained, there are opportunities

for you around the world and it was a career that you could pick up and take wherever you wanted to take it," said the 30 year-old, as we chatted, along with Karen, in the Key Room in BIGGA HOUSE the morning after his triumph.

Having made that decision the difficulty would perhaps have been finding a golf club willing to take on a 28 year-old with no greenkeeping experience to his name whatsoever but in this aspect his bravery deserved the piece of luck which came his way.

"I saw a position advertised in the local paper for an assistant at the Hertfordshire Golf Club and Karen told me to apply for it. I spoke to both sets of parents to get their opinions and told Karen that the money would be considerably lower than what I was on at the time. But she said just to do it."

They were both concerned about how Andrew's CV would look to a potential employer given that it contained little of direct relevance to the position for which he was applying and how he could convince them that he deserved an interview.

"He made a point of going to the club to present his application personally so that they could put a face to the letter when they came to read it and see the personality behind it," explained Karen, whose own well paid job was able to cushion Andrew's drop in salary.

The man to whom Andrew now owes quite a debt of gratitude is Richard Shepherd, Course Superintendent at the American Golf-owned course, who took a chance on him.

"Richard was a plumber before he became a greenkeeper so perhaps he saw something of himself in me," said Andrew, whose golf handicap, you won't be surprised to learn, has gone up since he started his new job.

He can still recall the cold and wet November day in 1999 when he took



Above: Andrew Pledger

his first steps as an assistant greenkeeper.

"When I came in I didn't really know what the job involved but I did know it was about caring for grass and not just cutting grass. The first job I did was changing holes and tee markers but it was more a case of going round with one of the guys and helping him."

Andrew was well aware that to make a success of his new career he would have to learn as much as he could as quickly as he could.

"I got the promise that I would go to college at my interview but just missed the intake for that year's day

release at Oaklands College. So I started in September of 2000 which helped quite a lot because it gave me a few months to learn about greenkeeping before beginning to learn it formally. Once I got there I was able to throw myself into it more."

And throw himself into it he has to the extent that when the application forms were sent out for the Toro Student of the Year Award Andrew's lecturer, Andy White, approached Andrew as the student they regarded as having the best chance of winning.

That confidence was well placed as Andrew impressed the regional inter



# Supermarket Swap

view panel of BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson; Lely (UK) General Manager Turf Products, Pete Mansfield; and BIGGA's National Board Member and Course Manager of Old Folds Manor GC, Ian Semple, and won his way to the National Final.

"I felt the interview had gone well and was confident as I'd put a lot of effort into my portfolio and it has gone forward for a City and Guilds award and I was delighted when the letter arrived saying I was through."

Having arrived at the final he revelled in meeting his seven fellow finalists as well as the Toro Award Excellence in Greenkeeping finalists and the judges.

"It was nice because it was the first time I'd been in a situation where I'd socialised with greenkeepers and been in a room with so many elements of the golf industry and meeting people like Walter Woods who is right at the top of the profession."

"When the two runners-up were called my heart was thumping but, literally, a couple of seconds before Ken Richardson said my name I felt inside that I'd done it."

He is looking forward to his prize, a six week study course in Massachusetts and visits to the Toro headquarters in Minneapolis and California as well as the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando but feels that one of the most important elements is that his CV will now stand out from the crowd.

"Now all of a sudden it is Andy Pledger, Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year."

He was seated at the same table as last year's winner Jonathan Cleland and before the night was over they had enjoyed a long chat on what the new incumbent would expect over the next 12 months.

"He said to throw myself into it as it is such a good opportunity and said that while in America people would be interested in me as I was a foreigner and they'd be keen to know how I'd got there," explained Andrew, who is looking forward to perhaps meeting up with Karen, who may well be in the States on business during his stay.

Andrew was promoted to First Assistant a month before the final but his ultimate goal is to become a Course Manager at a 36, 54 or even 72 hole complex.

"It would be then that the skills I learned in retail management would become more useful - managing people, managing budgets and dealing with the customers and the hierarchy within the golf club.

"American Golf is such a large company - you could liken the company to a supermarket chain - there are the opportunities for me and others to move within the group."

Listening to Andrew and Karen you sense that they are delighted that their gamble has paid off. Let's leave the last word to Karen.

"I'm just so thrilled because when Andrew made this career change it was such a big decision for us to make. We'd just come back from honeymoon when Andrew decided that he didn't want to carry on retail management...and many friends and family asked why he wanted to leave such a good job to start a new career in greenkeeping which is not particularly well paid.

"I just believe there is more to life than earning a lot of money and if you find a job which you have a passion for you should go for it."



# And

When BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson uttered the two words "Huw" and "Morgan" around 7.15pm on Tuesday, October 30, the man who had least expected to hear them at that particular moment was Huw Morgan, Course Manager of Wildernesse Golf Club, in Kent.

The reason? Huw was so sure that he wouldn't be named Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping winner for 2001 he'd even made a bet with a colleague that one of his rivals would win. Many would have tried to hide the shock and attempt to look a little bit nonchalant but the 35 year-old Welshman wouldn't have even made the final if it had been the Toro Award for Excellence in Acting.

He looked absolutely dumbstruck and it was a great credit to him that he pulled himself together enough to make a more than passable winner's speech before settling down to enjoy his dinner and let the impact of his triumph begin to penetrate.

Talking the next morning in the foyer of the Crown Hotel, Boroughbridge, which had hosted the final interviews and the presentations, it was still only beginning to sink in.

The four finalists had been brought to the centre of the room at the appropriate moment for the big announcement to be made and Huw was thinking about the bet that he'd struck with Carden Park Course Manager Andy Campbell MG, who was at the finals as one of the regional Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year judges.

"I was sure one of the other finalists was going to win so when we got to our feet all I was looking forward to taking £5 off Andy then when the words 'Huw Morgan' came out of Ken's mouth I virtual-

ly passed out. Surprised was not the word, I just could not believe it," admitted Huw, whose pessimism was born from the fact that he felt his course inspection, carried out in October and in the week after the club's course maintenance week, may count against him.

Asked what his next thought was and you get another honest answer.

"Nothing went through my head, just emptiness. It didn't sink in until I left the room after dinner and went into the bar for the first proper drink with the lads. Everything else was a blur."

The "lads" were the other three finalists Alan Purdie, Head Greenkeeper of Craik Golfing Society, who won the Scottish Final; David Murdoch MG, Course Manager of Liphook GC Huw's fellow finalist drawn from England and Wales, and Alan Strachan, Head Greenkeeper of Royal County Down GC, the Irish Champion.

"I don't know if this has happened before but the four of us sat together at the dinner rather than be spread out among the rest of the tables and that was genuine friendship. I do believe I've made three great new friends during the day and a half we were together for the final and we have promised to get together for a drink at Harrogate in January."

Huw is well aware of the doors such an Award can open and is sure that if he continues the upward path his career is taking he has the potential, and the ambition, to progress even further.

"Although I've won this Award I wouldn't class myself as being at the top of the profession, but it can be a massive step up for me in my career as long as I go with the flow and keep on doing what I've been doing for the last couple of years."



**Huw Morgan couldn't believe that the next two words were "Huw Morgan" but he's getting used to being known as the 2001 Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping winner**

# the winner is ...



Above: Huw Morgan

Looking long term Huw has a vision of what he'd like to be doing in his career.

"I'm ambitious and anyone with a passion for the job would want to be standing on the 18th green at the presentation to a new Open Championship with the television camera on my face having prepared an Open venue. Long term I'd like to do that."

Huw does have experience of working on a links course having spent three years at Southerndown.

"I love working on links land, it's more of a hands-on craft job and it is drier. The wet course in the winter is every greenkeepers nightmare and you don't get that on a links. Southerndown was a lovely golf course but the only way to progress my career with regard to pay and conditions was to move to the sunny south east and that was only possible because the Wildernesse, at Sevenoaks, in Kent, had accommodation with it."

Huw had always wanted to be a greenkeeper, encouraged by his father who was Honorary Secretary of Pontardowe Golf Club in Swansea and a former Chairman of Green.

"I used to work at the golf club in the summer holidays and went straight to college from school to study greenkeeping," he explained.

It was through his father that he got his first big break in his career.

"I'd just finished college and got a job with Swansea City Council looking after a nine hole course on my own and my father was playing in a member guest day at Fairwood Park Golf Club. It had just been bought by an oil millionaire but all the staff had left when the farmer who'd owned it previously sold, so the guy was left with a golf course but no staff. My father told him

about me and he said to go and see him the following day. He looked at my credentials and said 'The job's yours. You start tomorrow'," recalled Huw.

"I told him I'd have to hand my notice in first but he said if I couldn't start that Friday he'd give the job to someone else so I spoke to the council and managed to get out of my contract."

So at the age of 19 he was put in charge of an 18 hole golf course with two experienced men who he took on and the backing of his father, whose greenkeeping knowledge and passion for the game was invaluable.

The faith the oil millionaire in a raw 19 year-old was repaid in full as the course was awarded the Welsh Professional Championship - televised by BBC Wales - five years later, just before Huw moved to Southerndown.

"For a club like Fairwood to have a tournament like that was absolutely fantastic," said Huw.

Since moving to Wildernesse in 1993 Huw has assembled what he describes as a "fantastic team" who will benefit with a cheque for £250 as part of the prize. This recognises that success in the Toro competition is not down totally to the individual.

"This is a team Award as well as recognition of the money the club has spent recently on facilities."

Again displaying an honesty which you don't always find Huw said improvements to the course had slowed over the last four years.

"It is behind the scenes that has been the main focus of our effort, particularly in creating our new Course Maintenance Facility," said Huw, of the club and its members who have enthusiastically entered into the long term investment in excellence.

"The superb end product justifies all the earlier meetings and consultation necessary to push ahead with the project and I am only sorry that one of the prime movers, Kevan Dougal, 1996 Captain, sadly died before the final completion."

The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping is not the only national award Huw has won as he was also the 1987 Young Groundsman of the Year. So what is it that marks him out from the crowd to the extent that he wins two prestigious industry awards?

"I've always been a confident person and I'm lucky that I do tend to pick things up quickly. For example I completed my phase one and phase two in the same year at college and I picked up computing quickly after a two day course at Harrogate," said Huw, who admits to being a controversial character, when it comes to BIGGA.

"I know a lot of people on the Regional and National level have to be fairly sensible about how they approach new ideas and can't

always go for radical change but we, down at Section level, like to fire ideas at the Association and say what we should be doing. Sometimes it can be construed that I'm firing a bit from the hip but it would be a pretty dull world if we said nothing and nothing moved forward. It's important that we keep bombarding the National Board and the staff with things as it keeps everyone on their toes."

He is looking forward to his trip to the States while he is sure the Club, particularly the treasurer will be delighted with the Toro Workman it will receive as part of the prize but he doesn't feel winning the Award will make a massive difference to him personally.

"The golf club are so good to us anyway. All the staff are treated with respect and I don't think the membership could be any more pleasant to us than they are already. I'd like to thank BIGGA, and Toro for the work and investment they put into staging this event," he concluded.



# Specialty

## Roland Taylor looks at the machinery that is available to tackle those specialist jobs.

Recently, flicking through an exhibition catalogue, it was clear that for virtually every manual type of operation that is needed to keep a golf course, estate or garden in top condition there is now a machine to carry out the work.

Winter is for many a time of renovation, refurbishing and clearing up after Mother Nature has done her worst. Having machinery for doing a specific task saves time and makes the job far easier and more pleasant to carry out.

### Pumps (portable)

With the high rainfalls we now have in this country, flash flooding is becoming quite common and the removal of unwanted water a fairly regular task for many. There are plenty of pumps on the market, but how portable are they? If you are having to manhandle a pump on your own then its weight is going to be foremost in your mind, especially when carrying it over long distance. So, it is important to check the weight and dimensions (the addition of fuel needs to be taken into account) before making a choice.

There are other specifications also to consider. In emergencies the flow rate should be top of the list so that the removal of unwanted water off the site is as fast as possible. The distance from source to where you want to dump it will have a bearing on size. There is very likely to be another problem that the pump is going to have to deal with - the water will be full of foreign matter. A pump that can handle both liquids and solids is the best option. Continually having to unblock filters in freezing water is not a job anyone would relish. A self-priming trash pump can effectively move large volumes of water containing sludge, sand and solids. The size of the solids they can handle can be as large as 40mm. If a unit is going to be left unattended then it should have safety features to protect it. If the water source dries up will the pump run dry without damaging it? As far as the engine is concerned an



oil guard needs to be fitted to stop it in the event of the oil level dropping to a dangerous low. There are plenty of pumps on the market that meet all these requirements.

### Digging holes

Whether it is planting trees or putting up fences when, it comes to making holes you can throw away the spade. Earth augers are the answer and take all the backache out of creating a hole. They come as portable, one or two-man units or as an attachment for a tractor or skidsteer and are available in a wide range of diameters and depths.

As one manufacturer says there is an art to creating a hole with an auger and they advise that it should be done in stages rather than a straight bore. Where trees are being planted the

sides and bottom of the hole need to be loosened, so the roots of the tree can easily grow into the surrounding soil. This is especially important where clay is present.

### Woodland work

At this time of the year there is every chance of wind damage and branches often get torn down or are left hanging dangerously. Clearing this up does not always warrant the cost of bringing in a specialist, so there are occasions when it has to be dealt with in-house. Chainsaws will take care of any large diameter branches on the ground. For the smaller branches caught in the tree there are manually operated or power driven pole pruners. These are especially useful as they are operated by one person and eliminate the use of ladders, which



# Equipment

would require another member of staff to be in attendance for safety reasons.

An engine driven pole pruner is basically a 10" chainsaw head that is driven through a telescopic shaft, which can be extended, to any length up to about 5 metres. The units are said to be light and easy to handle and more importantly the operator keeps his feet firmly on the ground.

Other extendable equipment now available includes long reach hedge trimmers. The cutterbar can be set to an angle and the length of the extension shaft varies depending on the model. In addition to hedges these are especially useful for trimming tall shrubs and evergreens.

For those courses that include areas of woodland, clearing dead bracken and undergrowth is likely to be necessary at some stage and for this the answer is a heavy-duty brushcutter or clearing saw. In recent years there have been a number of ride-on brushcutters coming onto the market. These units have a wide cutting width and can speed up the operation considerably. Some models are said to cope with saplings up to 4cm in diameter and reduce the vegetation to mulch.

The hand-held units are especially useful for areas where access is limited. On very rough terrain the back-pack versions are a better





## Specialty Equipment cont...

proposition. With clearing saws there is generally a choice of interchangeable heads that will deal with grass, undergrowth and saplings.

Old tree stumps can be a problem as they usually take years to rot away. The answer in their case is a stump grinder. If the diameter is relatively small then a hand-operated model will be suitable. For larger ones there are the bigger pedestrian machines. They are easy to use and will quickly grind the stump down to well below the surface and out of sight.

### Trenches

When it comes to laying new drainage pipes, water or electrical supplies, a mechanical trencher is the answer. For a larger operation there are tractor attachments available, but on short runs a pedestrian unit or one fitted to a mini skidsteer type of machine might be more practical. These units are capable of taking out a 12" wide and over 36" deep trench, fast.

As many of the tasks mentioned here are one-off situations it is worth considering short-term hire as a more cost-effective solution.

If labour resources are limited or time is short then mechanisation can provide the answer, so it is worth investigating what is available locally to either buy or hire.





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# Coast to Coast

**Scott MacCallum headed to the west of Scotland to visit a new course designed by the same man who gave us Kingsbarns on the east.**

There is a degree of rivalry in the MacCallum household based on the fact that I come from the east coast of Scotland while my wife is a west coaster. I have to put up with little homilies like "East is east, but West is best" and complaints about how cold she finds the east. But I counter with official Met Office statistics which confirm that it rains 365 days of the year in the west, while the east coast has sunshine records which better even the Bahamas. Usually we agree to differ.

Recently I was able to blow the east's trumpet about the wonderful new Kingsbarns Golf Club which just happens to be on the east coast, just a couple of miles from St Andrews, the Home of Golf ... which is also to be found on the east.

However the west is fighting back with a new course designed by the same man who gave us Kingsbarns.

Kyle Phillips is casting his spell over Southern Gailes which is currently

under construction in Irvine, in an area which already, even to this East Coaster, must rank as one of the richest golfing seams to be found anywhere in the country.

It borders two fine courses, Western Gailes and Glasgow Gailes with Barassie not too far away and Royal Troon and Prestwick within shouting distance. The ambition is that the new course will more than earn its place among such exalted company.

Ironically the man charged with ensuring the project comes in on schedule and on budget is from the east. Alistair Connell, was brought in as Golf Course Director and is relishing the opportunity of being involved in such a wonderful project.

"There would be no point in building a new course which was inferior to the great courses it has around it. Southern Gailes is going to be a traditional Ayrshire golf course with a traditional Ayrshire clubhouse while we also have 40 executive style villas and a hotel with leisure facilities," said Alistair, who explained that it would be a pay and play course aimed at the American market as well as local golfers.

"The land is probably one of the last traditional links sites in Scotland and

is certainly one of the last traditional links sites in the west of Scotland.

"It is not on the actual coast but is within 400-500 yards of the sea and the aim is to create a links golf course," he explained, as we drove around the course.

Southern Gailes was conceived when Irvine Development Council decided that it wanted to develop an area of wasteland and put the project out to tender.

"It could have become industrial units or anything really but our company, the only one which was proposing a golf course, was the successful bidder.

The next step was to appoint an architect and such was Kyle Phillips' reputation, having made such a magnificent job with Kingsbarns, he was asked to look at the site.

"Everyone knows he designed Kingsbarns on the east coast which is a pedigree golf course and the Directors of the company felt he was the man for this one. He looked at it and was very upbeat about what he found," he recalled.

The original routing plan was completed in June 2000 and the sod cutting ceremony performed in August of last year.

Kyle has visited the site every four or five weeks since and there have been considerable changes to his original thoughts and designs.

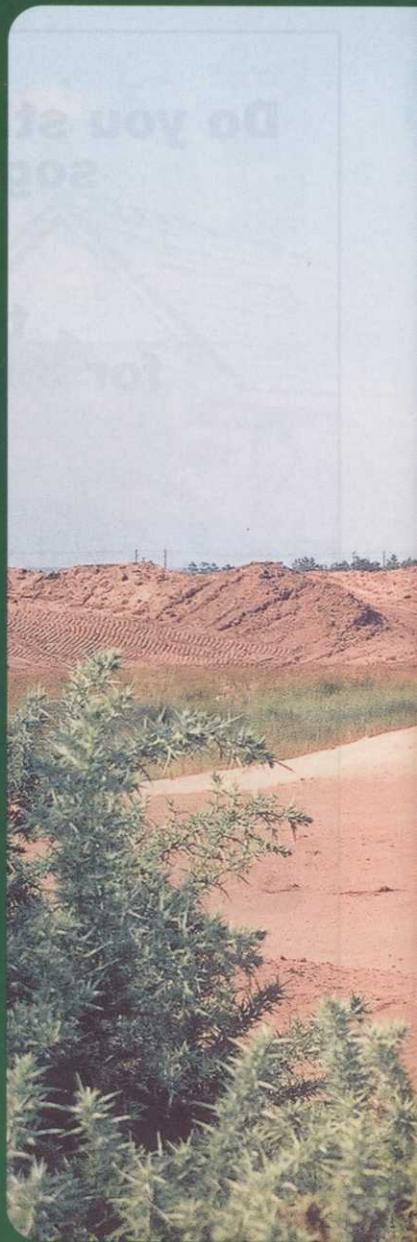
"You can easily do contour drawings but when you see the earth moving you can tweak the design then," explained Alistair.

Kyle Phillips has used the four corners of the compass on the design and has cleverly shielded the golfer from the massive paper mill building which is a few hundred yards from the site on the vast majority of the holes.

"It is a bit of an eyesore and if people are here to play golf they'd rather be looking out to sea than at a paper mill," he said.

The course also boasts the distinctive Phillips' greens.

"He has his own thoughts about greens. You could say that some of







One of the distinctive Kyle Phillips greens under construction.

into," said Alistair, who currently works four days a week at Southern Gailes.

"My role now is Golf Course Director and I'm part of a team of directors and it is my role to oversee the construction of the course, act as the middle man between Kyle Phillips and the Directors and grow in the course to a playable standard."

One of the main decisions taken was to put together an in-house team to do the construction.

"To construct a golf course you can have an open cheque book but we had a budget to build a course and felt that it could be done in-house at a cost that wouldn't frighten anyone off. We've proved it can be done. We've used a subcontractor to do some of the muck shifting and hauling of materials and we're still on target to come in on budget.

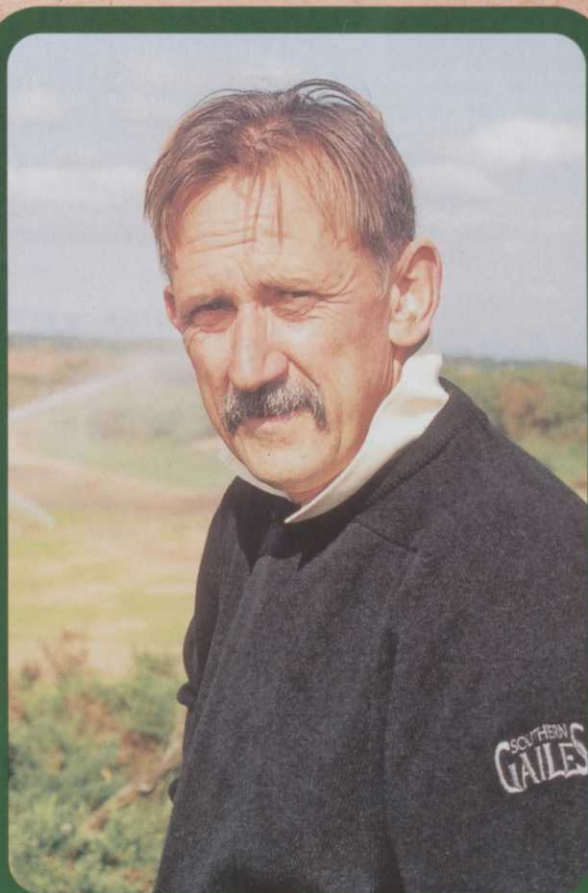
"We also employed one shaper, Jeff Ppaff, an American based in Wales

who was brought in on the recommendation of Kyle Phillips and he does all the shaping to the architectural drawings and works closely with Kyle."

Alistair put together a crew comprising greenkeepers from neighbouring clubs who can do the finishing work and the growing in of the course and they have all had to get used to the problems of working on pure sand.

"Wind is the problem. The name Gailes says it all and for a large percentage of the year there is a wind blowing from one corner of the site and it sometimes proves difficult to stabilise the sand. At the early stage we had a state-of-the-art irrigation system from RainBird installed with which we've managed to minimise the blow-out.

"We have 85% take at the moment and the other 15% can be done during the work carried out over the winter."



Alistair Connell





The rolling dunes are all man-made

The team stripped a 15 acre site on the edge of the course of rootzone and used some of this to build the two and a half metre high dunes which define much of the course's perimeter. Such is the quality of natural rootzone Southern Gailes has been able to sell some of it to off-set cost.

"It's been used to construct football pitches in Glasgow including Murray Park the new state-of-the-art Glasgow Rangers training facility while we've also offered it to other local golf clubs."

Part of the site includes EEC grassland areas and the planning restrictions meant that no dune structure could be higher than two and a half metres above ground.

"We are now on those critical grassland areas which were part of the old overgrown Dundonald golf course over which Southern Gailes is laid out and the grasses have lovely fescues in them and we want to retain those indigenous grasses to retain the links feel."

Another element which had to be taken into consideration was the trees with 32 acres of fir trees on the site.

"The site is about 320 acres but about 33 acres were fir trees planted when the Government were giving tree planting grants in the 70s.

"We had no problem with the planners who said the trees were a blot on the landscape and a contractor came in and gave us a price for removing them and the money we made from the job gave the construction crew and the rest of the staff a nice Christmas party last year."

The areas around the proposed villas are Scottish Natural Heritage and SSSI sites boasting some fine flora and

fauna and Alistair is working closely with Jonathan Smith, of the Scottish Wildlife Group, to ensure everything is done to maintain these areas while there are also trying to establish wetland areas on the course as well.

"Areas of the course are rife with heather and gorse and we are taking plugs of these to transplant in other parts of the course to create an older look," he explained.

At the moment the winter work will be continuing, weather permitting with turf from their 60 area turf nursery being used to for the bunker revetment.

"Hopefully we will have some play in July of next year and if not we'll wait until the August but as we speak we are quietly confident that a given a good break with the weather in the winter and spring we will remain on course."

One of the aspects which pleases Alistair the most is the employment the new project is bringing to the area.

"We feel we are putting something back into Ayrshire by way of jobs. We've got a clubhouse, a golf course and will have a hotel and it will

bring tourists to the area and that brings jobs."

On a personal note Alistair hasn't yet made up his mind about the future.

"I would like to stay for three years and by then this course will be complimenting the other very good courses it has around it, but beyond that I don't know what will happen."

Once matured the new Southern Gailes course will, undoubtedly and some might say unfortunately, become another valuable addition to the west coast's case when it comes to the great east-west debate.





# Learning

## Education & Training for Professional Greenkeepers



As a member of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, BIGGA is actively involved in raising the Standard of Greenkeeper Training. The range and quality of training now available means that there is a training course for every greenkeeper which should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce quality golf courses.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards, beginning by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC.

There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and if you think that training is expensive then try ignorance.

Ken Richardson  
Education and Training Manager,  
British and International Golf  
Greenkeepers Association

Tel: 01347 833800  
Email: [education@bigga.co.uk](mailto:education@bigga.co.uk)  
Website: [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)



The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) is continually striving to raise the standards of Golf Course Maintenance and Management and they are totally committed to ensuring that the range of qualifications are relevant to the Sportsturf sector and used by Employers for recruitment and by trainees for their own personal development.

The Government endorsed awards range

from National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications (N/SVQ's) to the more academic Higher National Certificate (HNC)/National Diploma (ND)/Higher National Diploma (HND) in Golf Course Management and the Degree in Sportsturf Science.

The qualifications are continually under review by the National Training Organisation (NTO) in association with

the GTC. The quality of the delivery of these awards by the network of GTC Approved Training Providers is also constantly monitored by the GTC. For up to date independent advice on qualifications, education and training courses contact the GTC on:-

Tel: 01347 838640  
Email: [golf@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:golf@the-gtc.co.uk)  
Website: [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)

[www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)





# GREENKEEPER TRAINING

**abingdon:witney college**

**ABINGDON AND WITNEY COLLEGE**, Warren Farm Campus, Horton-cum-Studley, Oxford, OX33 1BY **Contact:** Alan Brown or John Revis **Tel:** 01865 351794 **Fax:** 01865 358931 **Email:** alan.brown@abingdon-witney.ac.uk **Website:** www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk **Information:** Warren Farm Campus is the base for Abingdon and Witney College's education and training in Greenkeeping, Sportsturf, Amenity Horticulture and allied land based courses for the whole of Oxfordshire. Courses include:- NVQ Levels 2 & 3 in Sportsturf, Decorative Horticulture and Hard Landscape. We also offer a range of short courses for the industry including Health & Safety, pesticide training and chainsaw operation. For more information contact either Alan Brown or John Revis on Tel: 01865 351794 or Fax: 01865 358931.



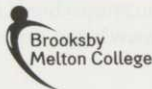
**ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE**, Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire YO23 3FR **Contact:** Central Admissions **Tel:** 01904 772211 **Fax:** 01904 772288 **Email:** sl@askham-bryan.ac.uk **Website:** www.askham-bryan.ac.uk **Information:** National Certificate in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture (Turf Option), Higher National Diploma in Horticulture (Golf Management Option) all available full or part time. Block release courses: NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance, NVQ Level 4 Amenity Horticulture. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.

**Berkshire College of Agriculture**

**BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE**, Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 6QR **Contact:** Tel: 01628 824444 **Fax:** 01628 824695 **Email:** enquiries@bca.ac.uk **Website:** www.bca.ac.uk **Information:** Full-time programmes - BTEC First & National Diploma. Part-time programmes - NVQ 2 & 3 Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf (day and block release). Short courses - Greenkeeping for golfers, NPIC Chainsaw Competence Certificates, Spray Operators Training Courses.



**BRINSBURY COLLEGE**, Pulborough, West Sussex, Sussex RH20 1DL **Contact:** Tel: 01798 877400 **Fax:** 01798 875222 **Email:** Student-services@brinsbury.ac.uk **Website:** www.brinsbury.ac.uk **Information:** FULL-TIME: National Diploma Horticulture (Greenkeeping option), BTEC First Diploma New Entrant Horticulture (Greenkeeping option), First Diploma New Entrant Horticulture (Greenkeeping option). National Certificate Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sportsground option), PART-TIME: NVQ3 Sports Turf Maintenance (Day release or work based), NVQ2 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sports Turf options), plus varied short courses including Chainsaw, Brushcutter/Strimmer, PA1/PA2A/PA6A/PA9 etc.



**BROOKSBY MELTON COLLEGE**, Brooksby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 2LJ **Contact:** Ann Hurt/Jo Lees **Tel:** 01664 850850 **Fax:** 01664 855355 **Email:** course.enquiries@brooksbymelton.ac.uk **Website:** www.brooksbymelton.ac.uk **Information:** Situated on the A607 between Leicester and Melton Mowbray. Programmes available include NVQ Level 1, II, III & IV in Greenkeeping. Work based emphasis for all of these programmes. Short courses available in Arboriculture/Chainsaw work, TDLB training and Pesticide application training.

**Cannington College**  
SOMERSET

**CANNINGTON COLLEGE**, Cannington Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2LS **Contact:** Philip Sharples **Tel:** 01278 655084 **Fax:** 01278 655055 **Email:** sharplesp@cannington.ac.uk **Website:** www.cannington.ac.uk **Information:** BTEC Higher National Diploma in Sports Science (Golf Option), BTEC National Diploma in Sports Science (Golf Studies), Higher National Certificate Golf Course Management, BTEC First Diploma, BTEC National Diploma in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Turfgrass Science and Technology, NVQ Level II Golf Greenkeeping, NVQ Level III Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management, FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Off-road Vehicle Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics. Certificate in Irrigation (BTLIA) 1 week course; National Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping (1yr FT). Note: Foundation Degree - part-time option (tba). HNC now 2 yr day release course.



**EAST DURHAM and HOUGHALL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**, Houghall, Durham, DH1 3SG **Contact:** Tony Milan **Tel:** 0191 386 1351 **Fax:** 0191 386 0419 **Email:** enquiry@edhcc.ac.uk **Website:** www.edhcc.ac.uk **Information:** Full-time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship - 1 year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option - 2/3 years. Part time courses: Greenkeeping and Sportsturf maintenance NVQ Level 2 - Day Release. NVQ Level 3/4 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance Day Release. Short courses: FEPA Modules, Chainsaw certification, Tree inspection, Horticultural Machinery, Safe Lifting and First Aid.



**HADLOW COLLEGE**, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL **Contact:** Norman Croasdale **Tel:** 01732 850551 **Website:** www.hadlow.ac.uk **Information:** First Diploma Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Horticulture (Sports Turf Option). NVQ Level II and Level III. Part-time Day Release or evenings. Level II in Groundsmanship evenings. NVQ III Golf Greenkeeping. Centres at Hadlow, Canterbury, Maidstone and Mottingham.



**HARTPURY COLLEGE**, Hartpury House, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL19 3BE **Contact:** Sara-Jane Watkins **Tel:** 01452 702132 **Fax:** 01452 700629 **Email:** enquire@hartpury.ac.uk **Website:** www.hartpury.ac.uk **Information:** Courses available: First Diploma Horticulture, National Certificate Horticulture, National Diploma Landscaping, First Diploma Greenkeeping, Certificate in Greenkeeping, National Diploma Greenkeeping, National Diploma Golf Studies, Modern Apprenticeships, Route 2 Work, NVQs available in Amenity Horticulture, Commercial Horticulture, Amenity / Turf, Amenity / Sportsturf, Decorative Horticulture, plus RHS General Examination, City & Guilds Certificate in Gardening, TDLB Assessor Awards and a full programme of amateur, leisure and day release courses.



**MERRISTWOOD COLLEGE**, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE **Contact:** David Rhodes **Tel:** 01483 884003 **Fax:** 01483 884001 **Email:** info@merristwood.ac.uk **Website:** www.merristwood.ac.uk **Information:** Full-time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Greenkeeping & Sports Turf Management. Part-time courses: NVQ Amenity Horticulture Level 2 and 3 in the workplace - we come to you, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 2, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3 (afternoon/evening release), HNC Turf Science (afternoon/evening release), new for 2002 - HND Turf Science and NVQ Level 4, various short courses throughout the year. Please contact us for up-to-date listings and information.



**MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE**, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY **Contact:** Tel: 01995 642211/642222 **Fax:** 01995 642333 **Email:** mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk **Website:** www.myerscough.ac.uk **Information:** Full time courses: BSc (Hon's) Turfgrass Science, HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management; ND Turf Science; NC Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping; First Diploma; Turf Science; NVQ Level 2, 3 & 4 Greenkeeping Management delivered both in the work place and over the internet using the college's 'Mollnet System'. Also offer D32/D33 in the work place. Part-time courses NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance (Day/block release or Fast track work-based training qualification), HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management; HNC Turf Science; FEPA Short courses.



**NESCOT - North East Surrey College of Technology**, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS **Contact:** Mr C Smith **Tel:** 020 8394 3220 **Email:** info@nescot.ac.uk **Website:** www.nescot.ac.uk **Information:** NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options). Pesticides Application - Certificate of Competence. Part time Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses. Also available - RHS General and Advanced Certificates in Horticulture.



**OAKLANDS COLLEGE**, Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 0JA **Contact:** Ian Merrick **Tel:** 01727 737000 **Fax:** 01727 737752 **Email:** ian.merrick@oaklands.ac.uk **Website:** www.oaklands.ac.uk **Information:** Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping, Modern Apprenticeships. Evening Courses: leading to NVQ Level 4. Short Courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw.



**PLUMPTON COLLEGE**, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE **Contact:** David Blackmur **Tel:** 01273 892044 **Fax:** 01273 890071 **Email:** enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk **Website:** www.plumpton.ac.uk **Information:** National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture (options in Landscaping and Sportsturf); National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture; First Diploma in Horticulture. Part-time courses: NVQ Level 1, Level 2 Amenity Horticulture in Decorative, Nursery, Hard Landscape and Sportsturf, Level 3 Amenity in Decorative and Sportsturf, Level 4 Amenity. Also available are RHS General and Advanced and IOG National Technical and National Diploma (Int). Short courses are also available for FEPA spraying and chainsaw courses.



**REASEHEATH COLLEGE**, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF **Contact:** Tel: 01270 625131 **Fax:** 01270 625665 **Email:** brianj@reaseheath.ac.uk **Website:** www.reaseheath.ac.uk **Information:** Full time First Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 1 year. National Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 2 years. BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management - 3 years. Part time: HNC Golf Course Management with Open Learning option, NVQ Levels 1-4 Greenkeeping with Fast Track options. IOG courses available. Short courses: FEPA Chemical Safety; Safe Lifting; Chainsaws, Off-Road Vehicle Driving; First Aid.



# Training providers guide

## Available courses guide

This guide is not exhaustive and a full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of training providers offering greenkeeper training courses. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeeper Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, Tel: 01347 838640 or visit their website at <http://www.the-gtc.co.uk>

### ENGLAND



**SPARSHOLT COLLEGE HAMPSHIRE**, Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 2NF **Contact:** Ray Broughton **Tel:** 01962 776441 **Fax:** 01962 776587 **Email:** [rbroughton.sparsholt@ac.uk](mailto:rbroughton.sparsholt@ac.uk) **Website:** [www.sparsholt.ac.uk](http://www.sparsholt.ac.uk) **Information:** NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase IV Management Studies, National Diplomas in Golf Course Management and Golf Studies, National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management. GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC: Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FEPA: Short courses, Chainsaws. Phase IV and NVQ Level 2 are offered on block release and day release. Full residential facilities available. Sparsholt college provides education and training in the land-based industries.



**THE COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA**, Milton Campus, **Contact:** Bob Young **Tel:** 01223 860701 **Email:** Student Support at King's Lynn on 01553 761144 Ext 271 **Information:** The College of West Anglia offers a full range of courses for Greenkeepers including: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf (Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship), NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance, GTC Craft Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, TDLB Assessors awards, FEPA, Chain Saws, MO1. Other Courses: National and First Diploma in Horticulture and Garden Design.



**WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE**, Royal Leamington Spa & Moreton Morrell, Moreton Morrell, Warwick, Warwickshire CV35 9BL **Contact:** Brian Cook **Tel:** 01926 318268 **Email:** [enquiries@warkscol.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@warkscol.ac.uk) **Information:** Greenkeeping Courses: HNC Sports Turf & Golf Course Management (Day Release 2 year Programme); NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and Workbased Option (we come to you); two year ND in Horticulture with Turf Option; IOG Intermediate Diploma (evening class); Certificate in Turf Irrigation. Short Courses: Introduce your Committee to Turf Culture; Computing for the Greenkeeper; Various throughout the year - ring for details. FEPA; Chainsaw Certification; TDLB; First Aid. Also RHS General and Diploma, PA1, PA2A and PA6.



**WRITTLE COLLEGE**, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3RR **Contact:** David Campbell **Tel:** 01245 424200 **Fax:** 01245 420456 **Website:** [www.writtle.ac.uk](http://www.writtle.ac.uk) **Information:** SPORTSTURF PROGRAMMES NVQ Level 2 - Sportsturf; NVQ Level 3 - Sportsturf Maintenance, NVQ Levels 1, 2 & 3 - Amenity Horticulture, HNC - Sportsturf Science, HND - Sportsturf and Golf Course Management. Other Programmes: National Certificate, National Diploma (with Sportsturf Option), BSc (Hons) Sportsturf Science and Management, BSc (Hons) Horticulture, BSc (Hons) Landscape and Amenity Management, MSc Landscape and Amenity Management, NVQ 2 and 3 Service Engineering, First Diploma Agriculture (Mechanisation), C & G Agricultural Mechanics Certificate, FEPA, Chainsaw, Tractor Driving.

### IRELAND



**GREENMOUNT COLLEGE**, Antrim, County Antrim BT41 4PU **Contact:** Declan Gallagher **Tel:** 028 94 426794 **Fax:** **Email:** [declan.gallagher@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:declan.gallagher@dardni.gov.uk) **Website:** [www.greenmount.ac.uk](http://www.greenmount.ac.uk) **Information:** Day release courses to (a) NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf, (b) NVQ Level III Golf Course Supervision National Diploma in Horticulture with Turf options FEPA, Health & Safety and a range of short courses.



**TEAGASC COLLEGE**, College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin DUBLIN 9 **Contact:** Pat Suttle **Tel:** 00353 16376133 **Fax:** 00353 18040212 **Email:** [college@botanic.teagasc.ie](mailto:college@botanic.teagasc.ie) **Website:** [www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie) **Information:** Block release courses in greenkeeping providing Level III Certificates by the National Council of Vocational Awards. Level III Certificate in Golf Course Management. 3 year full-time course. National Council for educational awards a National Diploma in Horticulture (Greenkeeping specialisation).

### SCOTLAND



**Elmwood College**, Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB **Contact:** Ann Bain **Tel:** 01334 658842 **Fax:** 01334 658888 **Email:** [abain@elmwood.ac.uk](mailto:abain@elmwood.ac.uk) **Information:** Full time National Certificate Greenkeeping; Block Release SVQ Level II, SVQ Level III Sportsturf block release and Outreach available, and SVQ Level IV/HNC/D Golf Course Management available as full time, block release and distance learning. HNC Golf Facility Management, (HND Golf Facility Management subject to validation for 2002). PDA for football and cricket available both block release and Outreach. FEPA and COSHH, chainsaws, tree climbing and rescue techniques and Health and Safety short courses also available.



**GOSTA TRAINING LTD**, 5E Clydeaway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow G3 8JU **Contact:** Iain Forbes **Tel:** 0141 248 2772 **Fax:** 0141 248 2453 **Email:** [learn@gostatraining.co.uk](mailto:learn@gostatraining.co.uk) **Information:** SVQ II and III also Modern Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture for all options including Sportsturf and GTC Training Manual. Attendance Day/Block release from November-March. Short courses including Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Abrasive Wheels, Manual Handling, Fire Extinguisher and Assessor Training, Consultancy service for Site Risk Audits, Machinery Risk Assessments, Machinery Permit to use system, COSHH and Noise Assessment, Health & Safety, Policy development.



**LANGSIDE COLLEGE**, Rutherglen Campus, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 3PF **Contact:** Colin S Urquhart **Tel:** 0141 647 6300 **Email:** [colinur@perseus.langside.ac.uk](mailto:colinur@perseus.langside.ac.uk) **Information:** SVQ, SGA, HNC, HND. Full time and part-time courses in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Land and Environment and Applied Ecology. Short courses for land-based industries including Risk Assessment and Pesticides.



**OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE**, Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn, West Lothian, Edinburgh EH52 6NH **Contact:** Steve Miller **Tel:** 01506 854387 **Fax:** 01506 853373 **Email:** [info@oatridge.ac.uk](mailto:info@oatridge.ac.uk) **Website:** [www.oatridge.ac.uk](http://www.oatridge.ac.uk) **Information:** HNC In Golf Course Management (Part-time); Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management; SVQ Level II and GTC Manual (Day and Block Release); SVQ Level III Sportsturf (Day and Block Release) SVQ Level III in Ground Care Machinery, full range of Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping and other land based subjects at HND and HNC, National Certificate and SVQ Levels; Short Course - FEPA, Chainsaw, Forklift, First Aid.

### WALES



**PENCOED COLLEGE**, Pencoed, Bridgend, Cardiff CF35 5LG **Contact:** Paul Discombe/John Sullivan **Tel:** 01656 302672 **Fax:** 01656 302601 **Email:** [pldiscombe@bridgend.ac.uk](mailto:pldiscombe@bridgend.ac.uk) **Website:** [www.bridgend.ac.uk](http://www.bridgend.ac.uk) **Information:** Courses: NVQ Sportsturf Level 2-3, HND/HNC in Turf Management. Short courses: Pesticide application, Chainsaw Operation and many others. TDLB Assessor Courses



**WELSH COLLEGE OF HORTICULTURE**, Northop Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6AA **Contact:** Graham Wright **Tel:** 01352 841034 **Fax:** 01352 841031 **Email:** [graham.wright@wcoh.ac.uk](mailto:graham.wright@wcoh.ac.uk) **Website:** [www.wcoh.ac.uk](http://www.wcoh.ac.uk) **Information:** Full-time - Higher National Diploma in Turf Management. Part-time - Day release Higher National Certificate in Turf Management. Block Week - NVQ Amenity Sportsturf Levels 2-3. Briefing Days - NVQ Level 4, TDLB Assessor Courses D32, 33, 34. Day Courses - FEPA, Chainsaw Certification, First Aid, C.I.E.H.



## love. learn. live@myerscough

### love



... the golf course, the gym, the animal academy, the IT suite, equine centre, the racing cars, the library ...

### learn



... BSc(Hons) Turfgrass Science, HND Turf Science & Golf Course Management, National Diploma Turf Science & Sportsground Management, National Certificate Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping, First Diploma Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping, NVQ Level I & II Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping ...

### live



... on campus or near campus within the countryside but close to Preston, Manchester and Liverpool, with great entertainment at the student union.

Come and see our facilities and talk to our tutors at our Career Advice Session on Wednesday 20th February 2002 3.00pm - 8.00pm and Saturday 2nd March 2002 10.00am - 12.30pm

Call us now on 01995 642222

www.myerscough.ac.uk  
mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk



Myerscough  
College

MYERSCOUGH HALL, BILSBORROW, PRESTON, LANCASHIRE PR3 0RY



## Get in the Swing of things... at Hartpury College

Course available include:

- National Diploma Golf Studies
- First Diploma Greenkeeping
- College Certificate in Greenkeeping
- National Diploma Greenkeeping
- HND Recreation & Leisure Management
- HND Sports Conditioning & Coaching
- BSc Sports Conditioning & Coaching

For further information

Tel: 01452 702132

E-mail: [enquire@hartpury.ac.uk](mailto:enquire@hartpury.ac.uk)

Web: [www.hartpury.ac.uk](http://www.hartpury.ac.uk)

WELCOME TO BCA



## Enjoy Your Greens?

BCA is a BIGGA (British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association) approved training centre for greenkeepers, with industrial links and training agreements with top-ranking golf clubs in the area as well as our own Greenkeeping Group.

Our golf training facilities are full size and open for play, but are primarily there to train professional greenkeepers. The greens are each of a different design and construction with architecture covering the whole of the 20th century and beyond. Computerised irrigation systems complement this unique training resource.

### We have full & part-time programmes, including:

- *First Diploma, National Diploma and National Certificate in Horticulture, with specialisms in Greenkeeping and Garden Design*
- *NVQ Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf Maintenance, Levels 2 & 3 (part-time)*

You can start these programmes in early February. Call us now for more details.

Residential accommodation is available.

BCA, Hall Place, Burchetts Green,  
Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 6QR  
T 01628 824444 F 01628 824695  
E [enquiries@bca.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@bca.ac.uk)  
W [www.bca.ac.uk](http://www.bca.ac.uk)



Quality Training for Leisure  
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## GREENKEEPING PROVISION

Oatridge has an excellent reputation for the quality of teaching in greenkeeping and sportsturf management. The College maintains strong links with local golf clubs, local councils and national bodies such as BIGGA (British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association) and IOG (Institute of Groundsmanship). Oatridge is ideally suited to meet training needs of students and employers from throughout the UK.

### The facilities

At the College there are extensive practical facilities and resources including a nine-hole "pay and play" parkland course. A four hole par three practice golf layout, a practical putting green and a bowling green. The College is well equipped to meet the requirements of greenkeeping and sportsturf management courses.

### The courses

**HNC in GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT**  
This advanced level course is offered on a part-time basis. It is suited to applicants who have completed their craft level training and wish to attain technical, financial and managerial skills necessary to perform effectively as modern head greenkeepers and course managers.

### SVQ LEVEL 2 SPORTS TURF

The course normally lasts two years and consists of a planned programme of SQA units. The programme is designed for people entering or at an early part of their career in the industry and offers practical instruction supported by technical knowledge in a range of skills.

### SVQ LEVEL 3 SPORTS TURF MAINTENANCE

The course normally lasts two years and is appropriate for people who have completed their Level 2 or have been involved in the industry for some time. The programme is based on organisational and supervisory skills with the emphasis placed on the creation and maintenance of sports turf including maintenance, repair, renovation and setting out.

### CERTIFICATE in GREENKEEPING and SPORTSTURF MANAGEMENT

The course is designed for persons wishing to gain entry into the Greenkeeping and sportsturf management industry for the first time, or as a change in direction for their careers.

The content is based on a range of SQA modules devised to meet industrial needs by providing students with sound, hands-on practical experience, maintaining, renovating and developing sportsturf and amenity facilities both on and off the College site. A wide range of opportunities are available in this diverse and expanding industry with the potential to progress for those people with commitment, qualification and appropriate experience.

Oatridge Agricultural College, Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn, West Lothian, Edinburgh EH52 6NH  
Tel: 01506 854387 Fax: 01506 853373 Email: [info@oatridge.ac.uk](mailto:info@oatridge.ac.uk) Website: [www.oatridge.ac.uk](http://www.oatridge.ac.uk)



Richard Windows takes up the cudgels against the dreaded thatch

# IN THE GROOVE



An essential attribute of golf greens is that they are firm underfoot and free draining. Unfortunately this condition is often difficult to obtain due to the presence of thatch beneath many putting surfaces. Thatch restricts drainage and naturally holds water, producing a soft, spongy turf. Consequently, thatch control is one of the main aims of the greenkeeper. The recent availability of two deep scarification units in the UK will provide the greenkeeper with a much more efficient and less disruptive form of thatch removal, providing golfers with higher quality putting surfaces.

#### The fight against Thatch!

Thatch is an organic material, which can naturally accumulate in the soil profile, as grass leaves and roots go through a continuous process of senescence and death. Organic build up is possible in every kind of plant community, but in intensively managed turf areas the process is accelerated due to excess growth from possible over application of fertiliser and irrigation water. In a healthy soil/turf situation, natural microbial action will start to break down this organic 'litter' and it will subsequently become

incorporated into the organic fraction of the soil. When the rate of dead plant tissue accumulation exceeds that of natural microbial digestion, thatch in the soil profile accumulates.

Excessive thatch can restrict the free passage of water through the soil profile as the pore spaces between the soil particles can be reduced or blocked. This type of damp, often nutrient rich environment is a relatively attractive place for grass roots to colonise, especially those of annual meadow grass. Therefore thatchy' soil profiles gen-



erally support weak rooted, drought susceptible grass swards that require more applications of irrigation water and fertiliser to recover from stress, which subsequently initiates the vicious circle that contributes to more thatch build up.

As every greenkeeper knows, the key to producing good quality playing surfaces is the production of a free draining, homogenous soil profile, containing little or no thatch. Historically, the favoured and arguably the most effective method to remove thatch was by hollow coring. Not only is this operation largely unpopular amongst golfers, as the surface is disrupted and levels often compromised, it is also a relatively inefficient technique for thatch removal. A recent survey carried out by the USGA Greens Section has highlighted this inefficiency. For instance the total surface area impacted by a hollow coring operation using 12 mm tines with an intensive hole pattern of 50 x 50 mm is only 4.91% (Hartwiger & O'Brien). Obviously this means a large amount of the surface (95%) remains totally untreated and therefore little improvement to these areas is made.

### The next generation of Thatch removal

The advent of the newly developed deep scarification machines will provide Greenkeepers with a more effective method of thatch removal; the Graden VS003 Verti-cutter and the Sisis Auto-Rotorake 600 are the two machines currently available. Both operate similarly and can achieve penetration to a depth of 40-50 mm on most types of soil. The former was developed for use on Australian cricket pitches. The study by the USGA Greens Section showed that a deep scarification machine fitted with 2 mm blades impacts 7.9% of the turf surface and one fitted with 3 mm blades impacts 14.1% of the surface. It is clear to see that these figures are almost double and triple the surface area impacted compared to more conventional 12 mm hollow coring. These statistics are impressive but the question often asked by turf managers is 'how much disruption does the operation cause?'. The answer to this is simple, invariably very little. Essentially the grooves look like a severe verti-cut operation and if the operation is achieved during periods of active grass growth the 'grooves' quickly recover and the surface is back to normal within a few

days. The 'grooves' have proved to be excellent preparation to work top dressing into the surface and provide an ideal seedbed for over sown grass seed.

A further benefit from such an operation is the grinding effect of the rapidly revolving blades against buried sand and thatch. This is similar to a 'chewing' action as the sand particles rub against the thatch, which hopefully exposes a greater surface area of thatch to the enzymatic action of the natural soil micro flora, i.e. bacteria and fungi. Therefore the natural rate of thatch breakdown is often increased by microbial action at the same time of physically removing the unwanted material.

### Grooving for Golf

Many golf greens contain thin 2-3 mm layers of buried thatch in the top 40 mm of the soil profile, which are very difficult to remove by conventional coring as the layers re-seal themselves soon after treatment. These thin layers can inhibit the free passage of water through the soil profile and encourage lateral rooting and differential drying amongst the layers resulting in the loss of surface uniformity. This is wholly undesirable as free draining, homogenous soil profiles that can support deeply rooted, uniform grass swards are one of the fundamentals of turf management. Therefore it is vital to remove these layers and the deep scarification operation is proving to be effective and popular among greenkeepers to achieve this goal.

The 2 mm blades used during late August/ September, when grass growth is still active, is providing a very effective approach to removal of these layers. This operation should then be combined with the top dressing of a good quality sandy material so that surface level disturbance is minimal. For serious thatch problems, or management of creeping or velvet bentgrass greens, use of the 1mm blades through the main playing season will also provide the greenkeeper with an effective tool against continual thatch build up and removal.

### The concept

The concept of a deep scarification is a good and exciting one. It has been popular in the U.S. and Australia for a while now and early assessments in the U.K. are very encouraging indeed. The simple fact that more thatch material is removed, allowing more air and



therefore natural thatch break down to result makes it very popular amongst Greenkeepers. These desirable attributes are further complemented by the fact that disruption is minimal and superb grooves for top dressing and over seeding are left behind. Therefore the concept of deep scarification provides the greenkeeper with a valuable tool in the constant battle against the arch enemy that is thatch.

References; Hartwiger, C. & O'Brien, P. (2001) Core aeration by the numbers. USGA Greens Section Record. 39-4. Pages 8-9. Richard Windows is an STRI Turfgrass Agronomist covering South Scotland. Richard and the rest of the STRI team can be contacted on 01274 565131, email; info@stri.co.uk or visit our website <http://www.stri.co.uk/>



# Are you Ready?

## BTME is coming up fast!

Well, what do you know? It's December so look at what's right around the corner... apart from Christmas and New Year! Yes, it's Harrogate time again and this year the week is shaping up to be bigger and better than ever before.

At the time of going to press 175 exhibitors have confirmed their attendance at the Show while the new Golf Club Conference and Show, aimed at Golf Club Secretaries, Managers and Owners giving Harrogate a unique one-stop-shop feel, looks set to make a promising debut.

Of course, the fact that the Show now extends to three full days - starting on Tuesday morning and finishing on the Thursday afternoon - gives everyone more time to get round the four halls and more time to conduct business. In this day and age when time is such a precious commodity the opportunity to meet so many of your suppliers under the one roof at the same time is not one to be missed, while the chance to see at first hand the plethora of new products which the greenkeeping industry keeps developing is again invaluable.

The education side is also one not to be missed with the visit of Dr James Beard, for the first time in a number of years, sure to guarantee a large audience each time he speaks on the programme.

The now traditional Key-Note Speaker is also a sure fire winner. While last year we had Richard Noble, who developed the fastest car in the world, this year we have a man who was one of the fastest 400 metre runners in the world - and an Olympic Silver medalist and World

Championship 4x400 Gold medalist to boot. Roger Black is a familiar face on BBC Television and his presence is sure to add even more excitement to the occasion.

The Golf Club Conference has a specially tailored educational programme taking in many of the issues at the forefront of a Golf Club Secretary's or Manager's job, while the Show has been moved from Hall D to the more conveniently located King's Suite to give better access to visitors. The Golf Club Show is supported by the Association of Golf Club Owners while the English Golf Union has also booked a stand. The Greenkeepers' Training Committee has moved from the main BTME Show into the Golf Club Show to be more accessible to the employers. The GTC Stand Number is now K18.

**TUE**  
**22**  
**JAN02**

**WED**  
**23**  
**JAN02**

**THU**  
**24**  
**JAN02**

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**BTME 2002**  
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**Confirmed Exhibitors**  
Details correct as of November 24, 2001

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- Advanta Seeds UK Ltd
- AFT Trenchers Ltd
- AGCO Ltd
- AGCO Ltd
- Atkins Sportsturf Ltd
- Allen Power Equipment Ltd
- Allett Mowers
- Amenity Land Services
- Amenity Technology
- Angus Horticulture Ltd
- Arden Lea Irrigation Ltd
- Askam Bryan College
- Association of Golf Club Secretaries
- Aventis Environmental Science
- Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd
- Actec Chemicals Ltd
- Barcham Trees
- Barenbrug UK Ltd
- Barrefield Golf Ltd
- Bathgate Leisure
- Berkshire College of Agriculture
- Bernhard & Co Ltd
- Biosseed Probation
- BLEC Landscaping Equipment Co Ltd
- BMS (Better Methods) - Europe Ltd
- Boughton Loom Ltd
- Boocom Limited
- Boyd Golf Course Accessories
- BIGGA
- British Seed Houses Ltd
- Carspey Turf Care Systems
- Cannington College
- Caspar Pumps (UK) Ltd
- Cobeco Oliver Seeds Ltd
- Chartreuse Turf Machinery
- Claytek Ltd
- Club Car - Ingersoll-Rand
- Complete Weed Control
- Cooper Clarke Group Ltd
- Course Care
- Cranfield Centre for Sports Surfaces
- D W Tomlin
- DENNIS
- DGT/Valmatic
- Eagle Promotions Ltd
- Earthquake Turfcare Ltd
- Ecosolve Ltd
- Elmwood College
- Essau UK Ltd
- European Institute of Golf Course Architects
- European Turf Technology Ltd
- European Turfgrass Laboratories
- Everproducts Ltd
- Farm & Garden Machinery Ltd
- Farmura Ltd
- Fern House Marketing Ltd
- Floresine Products Group
- FMW
- Gambetti/Berre UK Ltd
- Garden Innovation Products
- Garfitts International Ltd
- Gem Professional
- Geosynthetic Technology Ltd
- Golf Car UK Ltd
- Golf Course News International
- GPS Services Ltd
- Grass Science
- Green Pride Ltd
- Greenlink International Ltd
- Greenscape (UK) Ltd
- Groundman Industries
- Hadlow College
- Hardi Ltd
- Hayler UK Ltd
- Hayler UK Ltd
- Headland Amenity
- Heron Electric Co Ltd
- Hewitt Sportsturf
- Hunata International
- Hunter Grinders Ltd
- Hunter Grinders Ltd
- Institute of Groundmanship
- Inlurf
- Irrigation Control Ltd
- John Deere Ltd
- John Deere Ltd
- John Gressley Ltd
- John Hinton Associates
- Johnsons Grass & Wildflower
- Kawasaki Motors (UK) Ltd
- Ken White Signs
- Kestrel Golf Ltd
- KSM Sailer Surfaces
- Kubota (UK) Ltd
- Kubota (UK) Ltd
- Lastic UK Ltd
- Lanis Equipment Ltd
- Lincmaster Turf Stoppers
- Lindum Seeded Turf Ltd
- Linka Leisure Ltd
- Lloyds & Co Letchworth Ltd
- Logic Irrigation
- Long Equipment Ltd
- LS Systems Ltd
- M J Abbott Ltd
- Macro Groundcare Equipment Ltd
- Major Equipment Ltd
- Maxco International UK
- Mermet Wood College
- Mitchell Hire Ltd
- Mogplant Ltd
- Myerscough College
- National Proficiency Tests Council / Vale Engineering
- Netlon Group Ltd
- New Holland UK Ltd
- Nickerson (UK) Ltd
- North Staffs Irrigation Ltd
- Oasis Irrigation Ltd
- Pentagon Amenity Marketing
- Port Agric Ltd
- Prestige Sports Services Ltd
- PSD Agronomy Ltd
- RainBird Europe SARL
- Reiskam AS Ltd
- Reasheath College
- Renault
- Riko UK Ltd
- Ribston Turf
- Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd
- Roussseau Equipment Ltd
- Rufford Soil Technology
- Same Deutz-Fahr UK Ltd
- Saxon Industries
- Scotts UK Professional
- Seoul Nassau UK Ltd
- Sheltons Sportsturf Drainage Solutions
- Shepley Fertilisers Ltd
- Shirley Aldred & Co Ltd
- Simon Tullett Machinery Co Ltd
- SIDS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd
- Smallholder Tractor Company
- Spaldings UK Ltd
- Speenkat Contractors
- Sportsworld Amenity
- STR
- Sunni Agro UK Ltd
- Sugarturf Products Ltd
- Swan Golf Design Ltd
- Swan Plant Services Ltd
- Symbio
- TACIT
- Talbot Farm Landscapes Ltd
- TEG Environmental
- Texas UK Ltd
- Terton Golf Turf & Specialty
- The Golf Sign Company
- The Greenkeeping Supply Company
- The Hydroscape Group Ltd
- Tideman Ltd
- Tonick Watering Ltd
- Toro Commercial Products
- Toro Irrigation Products
- Troxas Ltd
- Tower Sport (Europe) Ltd
- Trelborg Wheel Systems
- Trimax Mowing Systems
- True Surface Rollers
- TT Proturf Ltd
- Turf Masters
- Turf Seed UK Ltd
- Turfmack Machinery Ltd
- Turftrax GMS
- Typ-Line Original Equipment Ltd
- Ultra Plant
- Venke Sports Ltd
- Vitax Ltd
- Warwickshire College
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- Water Proofing Services
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**For the latest BTME information, visit [www.btme.org.uk](http://www.btme.org.uk)**



**TURF CARE HISTORY ON DISPLAY AT BTME 2002**

BIGGA will be allocating stand space at the forthcoming BTME in January to a display of items which will capture the history of turfcare. Whilst machinery from the old days comes immediately to mind, the Association would like the display to be essentially broad-based and many smaller items will be of intrinsic interest. Can you help in setting up the display? If so, please contact Pauline at BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833820, or e-mail Pauline@bigga.co.uk

Join us in Harrogate for what should be a fascinating trip down memory lane.

**AGCO Ltd M17**

The AGCO exhibit will include: a. MF Quadbikes (AgTVs), which comprise models from 300 to 500cc; b. MF 2924D Lawn Tractor with a new road lighting kit and grass collection system; c. MF 1200 series Compact Diesel Tractors with mid-mounted decks, offering maximum operating efficiency, comfort and economy for year-round work in grounds care. Includes the new MF1235; d. MF 2200 series Tractors from 47-64 hp providing the operator the opportunity to use a single tractor to work with many types of implement.

All models are equipped for duties with golf courses and professional amenity users.

Visit our website:  
[www.masseyferguson.com](http://www.masseyferguson.com).

**Aventis Environmental Science C33**

Come and visit Aventis Environmental Science on stand C33 to find out about our latest novel products for the Amenity Industry. There will be details of our forthcoming new Customer Rewards Scheme and also about the latest additions to our website. The ultra low dose Capricorn® Fungicide will be featured along with Rovral® Green (which together make perfect partners in a Programmed Disease Management approach). We also have our premier Selective Spearhead® with an associated offer. Finale® is our new line marking preparation product which can also be used for shrub bedwork. There will also be a competition on the stand, together with our current offers.

**Bernhard & Co Ltd B31**

New launch to the Golf Industry of very affordable grinding packages. Specialist grinding experts Bernhard will be

demonstrating at BTME how golf clubs with more restricted budgets can afford to have highly beneficial in-house grinding facilities - by using their ED500 and Knife Rite 1000. These quality machines help keep cylinder mowers producing that vital fine cut. The machines can be purchased - alternatively cost-effective leasing rates can be obtained. Bernhard invites all greenkeepers and golf course managers to Stand B31 at BTME to see their impressive range of grinders including Express Dual and Anglemaster- used world-wide by leading golf courses - Blade Rite, Gear Rite, Rapid Relief, Rapid Facer and Rota Master.

Details: 01788 811600 e-mail:  
[info@bernhard](mailto:info@bernhard).

**British Seed Houses A10**

Find out more about SO-GREEN - the unique new ryegrass-based seed mixture that will deliver turfgrass that stays green all year round. Described as a quantum leap forward in turfgrass breeding, Grade A26 SO-GREEN has been developed by the Institute of Grassland & Environmental Research (IGER) turfgrass breeding programme funded exclusively by British Seed Houses.

Trials with SO-GREEN have proven its ability to keep its green colour during summer drought. The new turfgrass will also stay greener in autumn and winter when other grass fades. BSH will also exhibit other outstanding varieties from the IGER portfolio as well as Avalon velvet bent, Providence creeping bent and more details on the Grade A Club training initiative.

**Charterhouse Turf Machinery B33**

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has been at the forefront of innovation in the sports turf market for some time. Whether maintaining existing turf or creating new areas, Charterhouse provide the greenkeeper with the full range of equipment from the versatile Carraro tractors, the Pro-seeders, the Scarifiers and the Verti-Drain Aerators which so dramatically improve drainage and stimulate grass growth, to the unique Sprayers which have the very special Rogers Spray Containment System, a vital tool for the ecologically and environmentally concerned. More than this and exclusive to Charterhouse is the mechanised Core Collector range, and new at BTME this year are the range of Top Dressers from Rink which provide excellent durability and versatility. Being established experts in their field, Charterhouse Turf Machinery can provide

equipment to meet every greenkeeping challenge. Staff on the stand are happy to answer all technical questions, providing advice.

**Cranfield Centre for Sports Surfaces Q85**

Cranfield University has established an advisory and educational Centre to meet the sports industry requirement for high-level training, consultancy and research in respect of maintaining, specifying and constructing natural sports surfaces, including golf courses. It has also successfully launched the first European MSc in Sports Surface Technology. The course has attracted a good number of greenkeepers and groundsman from all over the country.

With 40-years of scientific expertise and extensive industrial links in soil, plant and water management, the Centre is endorsed by the IOG and has the support of many leading national sports organisations.

Services offered:

- Industrial consultancy to optimise playability of sports surfaces.
- Contract and academic research to provide leading-edge, technological developments within the industry.
- Training and education

For further information, please contact Inga Wells.

**Eagle Promotions A19**

In recent years the presentation of the golf course has become paramount. Part of the manicuring relates directly to signage. On course signage needs to be able to stand up to the elements whilst doing a practical job. Our aim, using etched zinc and casted bronze, is to be able to offer every type of golf course whether it be parkland, moorland, heathland, or links, a signage system that suits their environment.

To contact us call 01883 344244. Email [info@eaglepromotions.co.uk](mailto:info@eaglepromotions.co.uk) or visit our website: [www.eaglepromotions.co.uk](http://www.eaglepromotions.co.uk).

Ernest Doe and Sons Ltd Ernest Doe and Sons Ltd are Textron's largest UK dealer, with branches covering the South East of England.

We are continuing our Strategy of investment and expansion with the opening in August 2000 our branch at Billingshurst which covers East and West Sussex.

All branches of Ernest Doe offer a comprehensive after sales service including on site servicing and parts delivery vans.

As well as the Textron franchise, Ernest Doe and Sons Ltd also hold other major franchises including New Holland, Wiedenmann, and Richard Long.

**Garden Innovation Products Ltd A12**

Garden Innovation Products UK is a well established company that supply innovative gardening products to both the domestic gardener and the commercial worker. Several years establishment has reinforced our belief that a 1st class service and customer etiquette is everything.

At present, we are enjoying huge success with UNIK(CIVA), the replacement brush cutter head and professional cutting line. This highly sought after product addresses all known problems involving nylon trimmer heads & metal cutting blades and solves them with a simple but very effective piece of kit.

View our product video demonstrations online at:  
[www.gardeninnovationproducts.com](http://www.gardeninnovationproducts.com).

**Gem Professional A25**

Gem are delighted to announce their new stand location of A25 at BTME 2002.

The show promises to be an exciting one for Gem as they exhibit not only the current range of Pro Formula fertilisers and turf dressings but also some exciting new developments in granular products.

Gem will continue to use BTME as their major launch pad for new products so come along to Stand A25 and find out what's new for 2002.

**Grass Science Q5**

Grass Science is a UK based independent agronomy consultancy, offering a complete service for the design, construction, maintenance and renovation of all types of sports surfaces including golf courses, soccer and rugby pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts, cricket facilities, racecourses and polo grounds. It can also assist in amenity, recreational and environmental projects.

Grass Science has formed extensive links with leading golf course and landscape architects, contractors and other specialists, enabling it to meet the increasing demand for a wide range of consultative projects throughout the UK.

Grass Science consultants will be on their stand to deal with customers individual requirements.

**Hardi Ltd Q6**



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- Our MSc in Sports Surface Technology is also available as a one-year full-time course. Apply now for entry in October 2001.

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New on the HARDI stand will be the Big Boss, a high specification specially packaged demountable shrouded boom sprayer, which is the only sprayer of its type to have LERAP 3 Star Approval for use near watercourses.

Standard specification includes a 300 or 600 litre tank, chemical induction hopper and clean water tank. Defender shrouded boom is available in 4.5, 5.5 or 6.0m working widths and has electric folding. The HARDI 2500 automatic spray controller, which maintains spray rate regardless of speed, and electronic solenoid in-cab controls is also included.

Prices for the HARDI Big Boss start at £9,000 and rise to £12,000.

## Hayter Ltd C 41 & 22

The Hayter range of grass cutting machines is of particular interest for those responsible for the maintenance of golf courses. For the greens there is the GM56 pedestrian greens mower and for fairways the FMS24 five unit ride on fairway mower is available.

For the rough and semi rough look no further than the R314 three unit ride on rotary. Hayter's range of ride on three unit and five unit machines designed initially with municipal users in mind, are equally at home maintaining large areas of turf on the golf course. For those smaller areas around the course the Harrier range of pedestrian rotaries is the first choice. All these machines can be viewed at the Hayter stand at BTME.

## Heath Lambert Group

Heath Lambert Group is one of the world's leading independent insurance and reinsurance brokers.

Our position as a major independent alternative to the mega brokers means that clients receive and risk management solutions in line with their business needs.

Our approach is simple jet refreshingly different. We listen to our clients, analyse and understand their requirements and provide leading edge risk solutions. Why? Because we know that's the only way to really focus on their priorities.

With an annual turnover of £250 m and 4,000 staff in over 80 offices in 40 countries the evidence of our expertise is underlined by the leading positions we holding in numerous insurance product areas.

We pride ourselves in the breath of our insurance broking services, our individual approach to risk analysis, our experience and our commitment to a high quality

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## Kubota (UK) Ltd A13/A35

Need more tractor power without adding excessive weight or dimension. The M5700's 58hp diesel engine uses Kubota's unique three vortex combustion system (E-TVCS) for enhanced power and torque with low levels of noise, vibration and fuel consumption.

For optimum productivity the M5700 has four-wheel drive, a fully-synchronised 12 forward - 12 reverse gearbox with separate synchro shuttle for smooth fast changes between forward and reverse without the need to stop. The superb flat-deck cab features air conditioning and a class leading sound rating of just 78dBA

## Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Ltd A4

Ocmis are experts in irrigation system design and installation for all golf courses, sports turf and landscapes.

We are distributors for Rain Bird irrigation products and can supply/service equipment manufactured by other companies. Ocmis have unique in-house design capabilities, ensuring that the requirements of each client are individually met, this coupled with a marketing agreement with Textron provides the ultimate irrigation package.

For more information or a no obligation survey and design, contact Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Ltd, Head Office: 01460 241939, Scotland Office 0131 2202102, Ireland Office: (00353) 234020.

## Rain Bird Europe SARL Q1

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.

Visit the stand of a leader and see for the first time at BTME, the new Eagle 1100/1150 35 meter cast sprinkler; fully adjustable non valve in head 8005 sprinkler and new FREEDOM-Pad.

## Renault M13

Providing professional vehicle solutions for professional users, Renault will be displaying models from its PALES and CERES ranges.

The high lift capacity and even distribution of weight on the 52, 67 and 76hp PALES has made it a firm favourite on turf, and with the right tyres, ground pressure can be less than from a smaller

compact.

The 67 to 97hp CERES with its high lift capacity, fast road speed, tough transmissions and the option of a clutchless shuttle, makes this the ideal reliable workhorse whether mowing or doing a multitude of other tasks, ensuring high productivity and low long term running costs.

## Scotts UK Professional B34

Scotts UK Professional is the UK's leading supplier of fertilisers and chemicals to the turfcare, landscape and amenity industry. Scotts has a heritage of product innovation, including pioneering development of turf treatments and fertiliser technology. Continued investment in Research and Development at Levington Research Station - including the completion of a USGA spec trials green this year - ensures that the chemical and fertilizer ranges continue to provide the very best in product efficacy, reliability, safety and ease of use.

Scotts offer the broadest selection of turf fertilizer formulations on the market, a comprehensive range of chemicals for amenity and turfcare situations and important treatments such as the innovative turf management tool Shortcut.

## SISIS Equipment M12

SISIS will exhibit a selection of machinery from their large range of turf maintenance and grass cutting machinery, including new introductions.

Last year we brought our prototype Rotorake 600, deep thatch remover and linear aerator, to BTME for evaluation. Your comments were duly noted and the final version went into production in the late Summer of 2001. The Rotorake 6000 now offers a working depth of 50 mm (2ins), powerful 13hp engine, wide working width, front or rear discharge, collection box, extra-durable blades - and a clean-cut groove whatever depth you work at.

Come and see for yourself the scarifier that everyone is talking about.

## Speedcut Contractors Ltd C17B

Speedcut Contractors Ltd are proud to celebrate 25 years and continue to offer a professional service for all Sportsturf Drainage and Renovation work's. Visitors to our stand, No C17B will be able to view displays of the latest Sportsturf Drainage equipment in action on recent contracts. Experienced Staff will be on

hand to discuss any requirements you may have and provide further details of our nationwide services.

## Textron A23

Textron: The one-stop shop for turf professionals

Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products are renown throughout the turf care industry for manufacturing high quality turf maintenance equipment, with a particular emphasis on the golf sector.

Visit Hall A, Stand 23 to see some of the key products from the Textron range including the Jacobsen AR250 Turbo fairway mower, the E-Z-GO Workhorse ST480 utility vehicle and Turfco's SP-1530 top dresser. There's also the first opportunity to see the ProLink course management system, a suite of software with major benefits for both the golf course manager and the golfer, including an E-Z-GO TXT golf car with onboard GPS monitor and information system.

Textron, sponsors of The Key-Note Speaker Session at this year's BTME, are the one-stop shop for turf care professionals

## Toro Commercial Products M10

Toro unveils the most flexible greensmowers ever.

Toro is unveiling its eagerly-awaited new Flex 21 greensmower. This revolutionary pedestrian machine is fitted with a 21in cutting unit that not only flexes from side to side, but also backwards and forwards. This enables the mower to closely hug the contours of the most undulating greens and cut lower than ever before - down to 1/16 in - with virtually no scalping. The result is a flawless finish and a faster, truer playing surface.

Also being launched is the new Workman 1100, the latest utility vehicle to incorporate Toro's exclusive 'twister' Active In-Frame Suspension that provides outstanding traction and manoeuvrability, a more comfortable ride and better control. The unit is powered by an 11hp Kohler engine and has a large 386kg load capacity.



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reliability, comfort and quality. A range which helps you to maintain control of your grounds – mowing and loading, cutting and spraying, and more. If your business is ground care, MF will suit you down to the ground.

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# Hedge cutter launched by Reco

A verge mower and hedge cutter suitable for use with compact tractors has been added to Reco's Ferri range of groundcare equipment.

The ZME machine can be used in-line or off-set behind the tractor for mowing and vertically for hedge cutting. The flail head can be rotated through 140 degrees from vertical to -50 degrees for mowing the sides of ditches, the position of the head being controlled hydraulically.

Two cutting widths are available - 1.25 and 1.55 metres. Maximum power requirement is 40hp. Cutting is performed by Y-shaped hardened steel flails attached to a rotor with internal bearings, which reduces wear.

Cutting height is set by adjusting the rear roller, and a mechanical breakaway device is fitted to protect the equipment from damage if it hits a solid object. The flail head is supported by a strong parallel linkage and U-frame.

For further information Tel: 01480 455151



## Redesigned hollow tines

SCH (SUPPLIES) LTD. has redesigned its HTC hollow tine corer. The new improved unit has a redesigned ballast carriage arrangement this allows for a more even weight distribution across the working area. It allows the use of four water ballast containers instead of the previous two.

The 760mm (30") working width is made up of 6 disc set in two groups of three with a centre bearing. Each disc has 6 closed spoons of 20mm (3/4"). A useful addition would be the purchase of optional slitter blades.

For further information Tel: 01473 328272

## Kawasaki engine launch

Kawasaki Commercial Products Division has launched the FJ Series of general purpose engines.

The first model in the series the FJ100D is expected to become widely available to the market next year.

The air cooled, single cylinder, horizontal shaft engines have been the subject of considerable research with design focusing on easy starting, robust performance and reliability.

The lighter weight engines represent another new direction for the Japanese manufacturer extending the model ranges further.

For further information: Tel: 01285 654777



## Major new gang mower

Major Equipment Ltd has launched the Groundsmajor TDR Rotary Gang Mower which comes in both 16' and 20' cutting width.

The machine cuts 12.5 and 16.5 acres per hour at seven mph with the timed overlapping blades leaving a fine cut and strip free finish.

All moving parts are totally enclosed and the aerofoil chambers control the cut material. The rollers not only level rough ground but also act as a safety barrier preventing stones and other projectiles from escaping the confines of the body.

The two outer decks (wings) are equipped with a three point pivot system allowing each deck to fit into ground contours. The machine can be used in tighter areas as the machine can operate with one or both wings locked in transport position offering a reduced cutting width of 12' and 8'.

For further information Tel: 01524 850 501

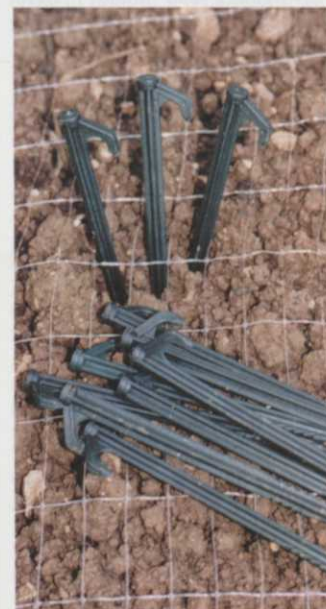
## Turf anchors from Turfmech

Turfmech has produced the EcoPeg, a fully bio-degradable stake suitable for securing turf, netting, plant supports, erosion control blankets, protective covers and many other materials on flat ground or slopes.

Manufactured from degradable plant resin, the EcoPeg measures 125mm enabling it to be hammered well into the ground to provide an anchor against movement or slippage caused by wind or water. As it is made from resin means that it can be used safely in maintained areas where a metal spike might cause damage to a mower blade.

The pegs take between 12 and 15 months to break down, ultimately disappearing completely into the soil. EcoPeg stakes cost £63.22 for a box of 500.

For further information Tel: 01889 271503



## Branches beware - new chainsaws about!

Two new heavy duty professional chain saws have been launched by Italian manufacturer Oleo Mac. The Oleo Mac 971 and 981 are aimed at the most demanding users who want reliable performance day in, day out in extreme conditions.

The two new machines with 70.8 or 80.7 cc engines pack a punch of over 5 hp each to cutting bars between 18 - 30". The chain saws combine power, performance and durability with features designed to improve their reliability. An electronic speed governor on the 981 machine guarantees consistent performance and both have an insulated high tension cable to protect the electrics from heat.

User benefits include a decompressor which demands less effort

at start up while a nylon air filter speeds and simplifies cleaning and the interval between cleaning sessions is extended thanks to a self-cleaning system which ensures the air reaching the filter is already

purged of the coarsest dust particles.

Accidental switch-off is prevented and improved insulation is provided by rubber insulation on the on/off switch.







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

**North**

The Section AGM was held recently at Garmouth and Kingston GC. We started the day with the annual Chairman verses Vice Chairman golf match for the Daval Trophy. I am pleased to report that my team emerged victorious, but only after a play off as it was a tie, so the last game replayed the par-3 18th to decide the winners. The course was in excellent condition and thanks must go to Richard Roy and his staff. Dennis Slater, of Daval, was in attendance to present the trophy and relay our thanks to the company for providing the cup to play for. We must also thank all at Garmouth and Kingston for a great day.

The AGM passed off smoothly with Stewart McBain taking over as Chairman from myself and John Geddes becoming Vice Chairman.

I stood down from the Committee altogether as in January, all being well, I should be elected to the BIGGA Board and can only spare so much time. It will be sad not to be involved, but I know I am leaving the Section in good hands and maybe, after over 15 years in various roles, they will be glad to see the back of me! Iain Gunn is taking over the Section notes and will name the new Committee, their roles and contact numbers in his first report in the January magazine. One point raised at the AGM was a request for Section members to know what points are available for each event counting towards the Patrons Award, so full details will be published in a future magazine report. The final four winners of the 2001 200 Club were:

September £30 no.153 A Ross, Dornoch. October £30 no.55 J Geddes, Ellon.

November £30 no.68 J Herd, Banchoy. December £100 no.150 D Robertson, Newmacher.

No new members to welcome this month, but a belated good luck to Neil Sadler who has moved to Inchmarlo from Grantown-on-Spey.

The Section evening conference at McDonald GC, Ellon, in November was a great success with over 50 delegates present. The four speakers were excellent and it is hoped to have another one in the future with a different subject matter. Thanks to Amenity Technology, Aitkens and Daval for sponsoring the evening, to Gordon Moir, Ronnie Bunting, Peter Boyd and Tom Brannan for speaking and to Dougal Duguid, Hughie MacLatchie and John Geddes for their organisation of the event. Last but not least we must thank McDonald GC for allowing us to

use their clubhouse for the evening.

Next year's outings have been confirmed as Elgin GC in the spring on May 16 and McDonald GC, Ellon in the autumn in September, date not yet finalised.

Well, as this is my last report, I would just like to thank you all for putting up with my efforts over the years and ask you to support your Section Committee whenever you can by attending events etc. I wish you all a Happy Christmas and the hope that 2002 brings you all you wish for. Thank you.

Iain Macleod

**East**

Here we go then the last column of the year and where has the year gone?

The Section held its AGM on October 31 with the kind sponsorship of local Toro dealer Henderson Grass Machinery in Haddington, who gave a talk on all the equipment they sell and the big range of products they have. They then showed us around their premises which are substantial and where a lot of refurbishment is taking place at the moment to make them even bigger and better. They then took us to Haddington Golf Club for a demo of Toro equipment and then lunch. So a big thank you to Hendersons for a great day and we wish them all the best for the future.

The AGM was held in the clubhouse with the kind permission of the Captain and Council. Thank you. It went off very quietly as usual with 25 plus members in attendance which was a good number this year. The Chairman thanked the committee for their hard work and the members for attending events throughout the year. One member of the committee stood down from his position after a few years. That was Ian Bell who felt he couldn't give enough time to the Section and allowed someone to take his place. The committee wished Ian all the best for the future and looked forward to seeing him at Section events. There were two nominees for committee - Richard Mullen, Swanston GC, and Robert Hogarth, Cadrona G&CC. It was decided to elect both of them to the committee so we look forward to welcoming you both.

The committee now reads Chairman, T. Murray; Vice Chairman, C. Yeaman;

Secretary, S. Dixon; Past Chairman, S. Greenwood. Messers Forrest, Pennyquick, Crawford, Neilson, Townsend, Hogarth, Ormiston and Mullen. That's the committee for year 2001/2002 so we look forward to the next 12 months.

That's it all for this month and this year so the Chairman and Section Committee would like to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year so all the best to each and everyone of you. Don't

forget if your going to BTME 2002 I'll see you there. If not you all know my usual numbers so let's hear from you.

Last but not least the winners of the Patrons' Awards 2001 are Allan Campbell, Eyemouth GC; Ian Aitchison, Duns GC, and Richard Mullen, Swanston GC. As Richard was not able to take his place last year he is allowed to go this time.

One last thank you to our patrons and trade members and thanks for all your help and hard work throughout the season. Thanks chaps and all the best for the festive season.

Coming up next month, dance report, Patrons Awards dinner, photos and report. So speak to you all next year.

Chris Yeaman.

**Central**

We extend a warm welcome to our final new member for 2001, Brian Williams, from Kirkcaldy Golf Club, in Fife. Brian is Assistant Greenkeeper at Kirkcaldy and a former member of the Association.

The Grand Football Tournament held in Stirling on Sunday, October 14 attracted an entry of 12 teams, travelling from as far afield as Dundee, Coatbridge, Livingston and places in between. Unfortunately the weather couldn't have been much worse with constant rain throughout the whole tournament. Nevertheless, everyone enjoyed the day with the eventual winners being the team from Tulliallan, led by their non playing Captain, Kenny Thomson. There's going to be a stewards' enquiry into the authenticity of some of their players due to the fact that they were hardly out of puff at the end! Downfield were narrowly beaten finalists and I'm sure the medal (along with its ribbon) will take pride of place in PM's trophy cabinet.

On October 23, 33 members attended the AGM at Celtic Park, prior to which we were treated to an excellent seminar organised by Mike Dennis, from Rigby Taylor. The meeting was very constructive with a good number attending for the first time and your committee for the coming year is Chairman, Andy O'Hara; Vice Chairman, Stuart Sime; Past Chairman, Archie Dunn; Sec/Treas. John Crawford. Committee members S.Cruickshank, P. Murphy, D. Scott, G. Mitchell, A Collier, with the Patron's representatives invited to attend meetings being M. Dennis, K. Brunton and P. Langdon.

Following the AGM members were given a short tour of the stadium, which rounded off a very successful day. Thanks to everyone who attended and to Mike Dennis and Rigby Taylors for organising the venue and seminar.

Winners of the "Club 2000" draw for October were S. Sime with number 55 who wins £30 and B

Cruickshank with number 222 winning £20. The November winners were S. Cruickshank with number 219 winning £30 and T. Edwards with ticket number 256 being the winner of £20. And before you say "It's fixed" the draw for both months was made at the AGM! The winners of the last draw for this year will be in the January magazine. While I am on about "Club 2000" everyone who has not purchased their tickets has until the end of this month to do so, after which it will be time for the most read Section news of the year, the February edition of Greenkeeper International.

As we near the end of another year I would like to thank everyone who has supported the Section throughout 2001, with special thanks to the numerous golf clubs who grant us courtesy for our tournaments and all the Patrons for their support which is greatly appreciated by the Sections. Hopefully we can build on what we have achieved this year and grow stronger in years ahead.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

John Crawford.

**West**

Welcome to the last newsletter of the year, I hope you all have had a good one. Firstly I will get a couple of apologies out of the way. I personally would like to apologise to David Hindmarch for getting his name wrong in last month's newsletter, and again would like to wish him a happy retirement when it comes.

Secondly, I would like to apologise on behalf of the committee for our failure to mail-shot all our members with regards to the AGM which we had hoped to hold on October 25 at Hampden Park. We, the committee, did not realise at the time that it was unconstitutional to hold an AGM without informing all our members by mail. Like I say, we can only apologise for this oversight and hopefully learn from our mistake.

On a more positive note 21 members did turn up on the day which was a significant increase on last year's attendance so perhaps this type of venue could be used in the future. Our thanks must be extended to Scottish Grass Machinery for sponsoring the day and supporting the Section. The staff at Hampden should also be thanked for providing those that did attend with an interesting tour of the stadium and giving us an insight into the history of Scottish Football. The AGM which was rescheduled for November 15 will have passed but I hope you all managed to attend.

The committee would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members these being Alexander Steven, Torrance Park Golf Club; David Leys, Hags Castle Golf Club; Andrew Patterson, Hags Castle Golf Club and Graham Sutherland, Campsie



Golf Club. We hope to see you all at future Section events.

Well that is about it for this month. Next month I will report on the AGM and the annual dinner to be held at Victoria's on November 30. Well all that is left is for me to wish you a cool yule and hope all your hangovers at Hogmanay are small ones.

Brian Bolland



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

### North Wales

Welcome to new members Peredur Jones, Pwllheli GC; James Cope, Robert Galloway and Paul Farrell; Carden Park; Paul Roberts, North Wales GC; Gwilym Jones, Aberystwyth GC, and Richard Barnes, Hartford GC.

Not a lot to write about again. The college machine maintenance course is on Dec 17, well worth going to so contact the college. Bus to Harrogate no firm details as yet but contact committee members so they have some idea as to what numbers are involved. More info next month.

Well that's it folks except to wish you all Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year

Dave Goodridge

### Northern

The Autumn Tournament took place at Woodsome Hall GC, sponsored by Scotts UK. Everybody was impressed with the course, views and of course the clubhouse. Well done to Head Greenkeeper Jeremy Eastwood and his team for the course.

Results are as follows:- Div.1. 1. Robin Smith, Leeds City Council, 40pts; 2. Tito Arana, Riddlesdon GC, 36pts; 3. Rob Gee, Crow Nest Park GC, 36pts. Div.2. 1. Nigel Wild, Otley GC, 40pts; 2. Jeremy Eastwood, Woodsome Hall GC, 36pts; 3. Richard Smith, Clayton GC, 33pts. Div. 3. 1. Lee Graham, Keighley GC 37pts. 2. Paul Wood, Clayton GC, 34pts; 3. Mike Gregson, Keighley GC 33pts; 1. Trade/Guest: Mel Guy, Green Pride, 39pts; 2. Dave Storey, 35 pts. Nearest Pin on 7th. Mel Guy Green Pride; Nearest Pin on 10th. Robert Turner Halifax GC. Aggregate over Spring/Autumn. Over 50's Dave Collins, Temple Newsome GC.

Under 40's Mike Gregson, Keighley GC.

Once again, thanks to the officials and staff of Woodsome Hall for allowing us courtesy and looking after us so well on the day. Thanks also to Scotts U.K. for supplying the excellent prize table.

The AGM took place in the morning with 18 members present and thanks to Ian Holoran B.O.M and Doug Bell, Regional Administrator, for coming. The present committee was voted back, en bloc with the

addition of Mike Brear. Your committee in full is as follows: President. Dennis Cockburn; Chairman. Jim Brown; Vice Chairman. Dave Thackray; Secretary. Andy Smith; Treasurer. Steve Heaton; Members. Tito Arana, Mike Brear.

We welcome the following as new members Scott Pavis, York GC; David Robson, Lofthouse Hill GC; Andrew West, Ganton GC; Lee Richardson, Ganton GC; James High, Hornsea GC.

That's all for now, if anybody has any news or ideas then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188; mobile 07790 678572, Email: andy@northern-section.co.uk

Andy Smith

### North West

How does this weather suit you? Here in the north west we are having an Indian Summer, with temperatures as high as they have been for most of the summer, the only problem I can see is that the grass has not stopped growing. This, of course, means extra work when, I am sure, most of you want to get on with your winter work. Still, we must not complain because once again the south of the country is having heavy flooding with rivers bursting their banks and not only land becoming waterlogged, but houses flooded with three feet of water in some cases. I might add that I am writing these notes on November 1, and I am sure that no winter golf is being played in many cases, and possibly little winter work.

News from the North West Section is that we have a new President. Due to the retirement of John Walker, the North West Section committee decided to offer the position to Peter Jefford, General Manager of Rufford Soil Technology. The following morning I spoke to Peter informing him of the proposal, and he accepted the position without hesitation. Peter has supported the North West Section for many years and the committee felt that he deserved this reward. I feel sure that this appointment will be beneficial to Peter and the North West Section. The Section would like to thank John Walker for his support during his years as President and wish him well in his new venture in the motor racing world.

News of the trip to the GCSAA Conference and show in Orlando, Florida, sponsored by Bernhard & Co, is that the Northern Region selected Tony Smith, Hurlstone Hall Golf Club, the North West Section finalist and Patrick McAteer, Nefyn Golf Club, North Wales finalist, to represent BIGGA. They, plus eight winners from other Regions, will be ensured of a high profile, and on their return will be expected to pass on their experiences to other members.

On the education side HQ are

doing their best to provide local courses, but unfortunately they have had a negative response from the North West Section. If you are interested in education seminars, as was the feeling in the recent questionnaire, check the education pages in the magazine each month, as there is something there for everyone. If you have any news or require any information, you can contact me on 01517 245412 or mobile 07761 583387.

I think that is all for now except to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Bert Cross

### Cleveland

The Autumn Tournament was held last month at Teesside Golf Club. The event was well attended and a great day was had by everyone. The golf course was in immaculate condition and congratulations to Course Manager, Tony Smith, and his staff for preparing the course so well for us. The meal after the game was also superb, everyone agreed on that. Ian Holoran especially recommends the garlic mushrooms. A massive well done to Teesside Golf Club and thanks for allowing us to use your facilities.

The trade supported the event very well again by both playing and donating prizes. Thanks for your generous and continuous support.

The Winners were: 1. Gary Shaw, Ramside, 37 pts; 2. Dave Bickerstaff, Teesside, 37 pts;

3. Richie Hood, Mount Oswald, 36 pts; 4. George Salabank, Eaglescliffe, 35 pts; 5. Martin Woods, Wearside, 33 pts; 6. Anthony McGogh, Richmond, 32 pts; 7. Tony Smith, Teesside, 31 pts; 8. Neil Rodgers, Dinsdale Spa, 30 pts. Longest Drive. Jim Thompson, Darlington. Nearest The Pin. Richie Hood, Mount Oswald. Booby Prize - Alan Reed, Saltburn. Trade. 1. Bill Thompson, 31 pts; 2. Alan Cordingley, 30 pts; 3. Neil Thompson, 29 pts.

A special thanks to Barry Walker and Martin Woods for without their hard work none of this would happen. Anyone who would like to host either the Spring or Autumn Tournament should contact Barry Walker.

The Carrs sponsored Cleveland Shield was presented at Teesside to George Salabank who beat Neil Rogers in the semi-final 3 & 2.

I was narrowly beaten in the other semi-final by Jim Thompson and in the final George beat Jim in a close fought contest scraping through 6 & 5. Anyone not quite sure on how the scoring works in matchplay that means George was 6 holes up with only 5 to play! Well done George and thanks to Carrs for sponsoring the summer knock-out again and for the prizes they put on.

Ian Pemberton, Course Manager of Bedale Golf Club, got married recently. He and his beautiful wife

jetted off on honeymoon to the exclusive, sun drenched, sea side resort of Seatonia Carewio. Congratulations Ian. Ian says any belated cards and presents should be sent to his Golf Club.

That's it for this year so I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Any news call 07719 193381.

Steven Jaques



**Midland Region**  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115

### East Midlands

This year's BIGGA National Golf Championship was held on the first two days of October, at the prestigious golf courses of Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale GC. The Section was well represented by nine of our members which included the National Vice-Chairman, Richard Barker, Regional Chairman, Gavin Robson, Roger Willars, Steve Goode, Ian Needham, Alex Hawkes, Archibald Marshall, Dave Leatherland and myself. Unfortunately none of the team were in the prizes, but everybody once again enjoyed two excellent and well organised days of entertainment.

This year's Rigby Taylor sponsored golf match against the Midland Section was played at

Copt Heath GC on October 11. The forecast for the day was fine and dry which

proved to be the case. Despite some worry of competitors arriving late due to traffic congestion, the day ran very smoothly. After the morning Greensomes the Section trailed

by 3 points to 2 thanks to wins from Russell Allen & Jeff Dickinson and Chris Weir &

David James.

After an excellent lunch we were back on the course for the ten afternoon singles matches. Despite being in front in several games, we could not quite maintain the pace and our only winner was David James, with a 3 & 2 victory. Jeff Dickinson and Ian Needham halved their games, with the other seven all resulting in defeats. Perhaps the most keenly contested match was between Ian Needham and Alan Roberts which involved playing plenty of jokes and tricks on one another, (all in good fun I might add). Perhaps the best one being, Ian chasing his electric trolley, across another fairway after Alan had set it going. So the eventual winners once again by a margin of 11 points to 4 were the Midland Section.

I would like to thank Copt Heath GC for courtesy of their fine course and the Steward and Stewardess for an excellent meal, the Midland Section for helping to make this a successful day, and, of course, our very generous sponsors Rigby



Taylor. Our own Section was represented by the following members. Russell Allen, Jeff Dickinson, Ian Needham, Adi Porter, Steve Levers, Antony Bindley, David James, Chris Weir, Jamie Bedford and our Chairman, Gavin Robson.

Finally, I would like to thank all the companies who have supported our Section

throughout the year especially the following, E.T. Breakwells (Spring Tournament); Barenbrug (East Midlands v East of England); Banks Amenity Products (Autumn Tournament); Vitax Ltd. (AGM Tournament); Rigby Taylor (Christmas Tournament and East Midlands v Midland Section golf day) and finally Alpha Amenity (Stationery). Also I would like to wish all members a very Merry Christmas and New Year.

Antony Bindley

### Midland

Annual Tournament for the Rigby Taylor Salver. Midlands v East Midlands, held at Copt Heath Golf Club on October 11. Thanks to Rigby Taylor for their continued sponsorship of this event and in particular Steve Blakeman ably assisted by Tony Cheese for the organisation on the day. Thanks also to Copt Heath Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course, arranged through Paul Loffman. Thanks to the lads from the East Midlands, some of whom travelled considerable distances to continue the saga. The Midlands led by one point after the morning fourballs on what, weather-wise, turned out to be a glorious day. The Midlands increased their lead in the afternoon singles to finish eventual winners 11-4.

Congratulations also to the winners of the Rigby Taylor doubles competition Mike Hughes and Mark Cutter. It was also good to hear David Fellows, of Cocks Moors Woods Golf Club on the Ken Bruce Radio 2 Popmaster quiz. Well done, David.

Also a quick reminder to please send in your passport photos to HQ for next year's membership cards.

The AGM will be held on Thursday, December 13 at Brocton Hall Golf Club at approx. 4.15pm, following the golf.

Philip Gates

### Mid Anglia

The Section's Autumn golf meeting was held at Letchworth in early October, including the final of the Lodgeway four ball tournament, played over 18 holes. In the Lodgeway event, Mark Ellis and Darren Brown, of Stocks GC, came out winners by three and one, over Phil Judd and Dave Thompson of Buckingham GC. Our thanks to Robin Jackson, Head Greenkeeper, and his team at Letchworth, for an excellent course, and to the club for their hospitality.

Driving Force Leisure sponsored the day, represented by David Murphy. Thirty members attend-

ed. The results were as follows: 1. Robin Jackson, Letchworth GC, 36 pts; 2. Steve Mason, Mount Pleasant GC, 36 pts; 3. Nigel Phelan, St Andrew's Hospital GC, 34 pts. The Longest Drive was won by Nigel Phelan and Nearest the Pin by Bob Butfoy.

The AGM followed the meal and presentations with the following members being elected to serve the section for the coming year. Chairman, Jim Cassidy; Vice Chairman, Steve Mason. Secretary / Treasurer, Gerald Bruce; Match Secretary, Richard Saunders. Regional Representative, Paul Lockett. Committee Members: Stephen Hesk, Frank Scullion, Colin Robinson, John Wells.

Colin Robinson steps down as Chairman this year and Steve Mason steps down as Lodgeway Four Ball organiser. Gerald Bruce reported the Section to be in a good financial situation, although numbers for the golf events are down slightly on the previous year. The section has 257 greenkeeper members out of a national total of 7,252. Gerald thanked our main sponsors for their support once again this year, namely George Brown's, Turner Groundcare, Avon Crop Amenity, Driving Force Leisure, Rigby Taylor and Boughton Loam.

Look out for dates for our educational days in January's magazine. They will be held at golf clubs within the Section in February and March, the topics being Basic Computing and Soil Science.

Finally, a sad note to end on. Harry Herrington, who was Head Greenkeeper at John O'Gaunt GC, prior to Colin, and an active member of BIGGA in its infancy, has died. On behalf of the Section, I would like to extend our sympathy to his family.

Paul Lockett



South East  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

### Surrey

Surrey Section's visit to the All England Lawn Tennis Club at Wimbledon on October 17 was most interesting and we thank Eddie Seaward the Head Groundsman for a fascinating guided tour. There are so many alterations and new projects under construction at the club that have to be finished before the Championships in June that it was indeed most kind of Eddie to find time to fit our visit in.

The annual England v's. Scotland Golf Match took place at Hankley Common Golf Club on October 25. We thank Gareth Roberts and all his greenkeepers for once again allowing us to play on a golf course in such excellent condition. The match Shield has resurrected itself

and the last result engraved on it was 1992. The results from the matches played in 1998, 1999, 2000 can now be added. No matches were played in the intervening years.

The result from this year is probably not known to you all but if you have had your head in the sand or your Head Greenkeeper originates from the more northern latitudes England 1 Scotland Lost.

The Gentleman's dinner postponed from March because of the Foot and Mouth Outbreak took place on October 22 at Walton Heath Golf Club. Its annual venue was as always in pristine condition and many thanks to our current Chairman, Clive Osgood, his Head Greenkeeper Mick Haynes and their staff. This was a South East Region fixture so a full report will be issued by Derek Farrington, Regional Administrator. I would however like to make one observation and this directed at the Handicap Secretary of the Kent Section, Mr George Brown. One of your more senior members from Dene Gate Ridge, scored a wonderful 43 points off a handicap of 10. A slight incision might be considered appropriate!

Chris Webb, Deputy Course Manager at Burhill Golf Club, and his wife Angela are to be congratulated for on July 17 their third baby, Liam Barry, was born and weighed in at 6lb 8ozs. I understand that Chris will be taking the same advice offered at the end of the last paragraph.

It is with much sadness that I report the death of my companion and four legged friend, Lottie, the most travelled Cavalier King Charles Spaniel in the industry. Greenkeepers your sandwiches are now safe and, Barry Coveney, the damp spot in your office will always bring a smile to my lips as well as a tear to my eye.

Brian Wilmott

### Kent

I would like to start by congratulating Steve Suttle on a remarkable feat. Back in September Steve ran the London to Brighton race which is 55 miles of hard slog and in quite awful conditions of high winds and rain, the worst in the last 51 years of the race. Steve finished the race in a superb 7th place and a personal best in a time of 7 hours 30 minutes and 47 seconds. 165 runners entered and only 117 finished in the 10 hour deadline. So a big well done to you Steve and if any of you see Steve don't call his running jogging or you will never hear the last of it.

So this was my only second caller with information for these articles and I have now been doing this for five months. Pretty poor wouldn't you say. So please make a New Year's resolution and call me with some news whatever it may be.

I would like to welcome Barry Bradshaw back to Kent after spending 18 months working out in the

USA at Bellrieve Country Club, St Louis, where the World Golf Championships was to take place in September until the New York disaster accrued. Anyway Barry learned a lot about tournament set up and the American way of life. So a big welcome back to the miserable English rain. By the way Barry it is called petrol not 'gas'.

I see from the last greenkeeper magazine that their are a few new members to the Kent section and I hope we will be seeing you all at next year's golf days. Our club now has all its eight staff joined to BIGGA and we all pay our own subs, so if there is someone at your club who is not a member get them to join. You get out of the Kent Section and BIGGA what you put in yourselves so please let's make a big effort to support our Section next year and make it one of the best supported Sections and not the worst as it is at the moment.

I did witness something quite unusual the other day. Vic Maynard left speechless when he saw his son, Tim, hoovering the mess room and offices of the Greenkeeper building. Vic said his mother would never believe this and she didn't.

It just leaves me to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and once again, as every month, my contact details so you can send me news of how your Christmas booze ups went and all the trouble you got in with..... You tell me on 01732 875020 or e-mail jbatkhgol@aol.com.

Jason Bean.



South West  
and South Wales  
Paula Humphries  
Tel: 01288 352194

### Devon and Cornwall

Season's greetings to you all.

Our P.J. Flegg sponsored Christmas meeting will once again be held at Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 12. As in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members, so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible and before the closing date.

The day will start as usual with golfing members playing for the P.J. Flegg Trophy with the format being greensome. For those of you not wishing to play golf the Course Walk will start from the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. Following lunch Tank Sherman will once again be the entertainer with the raffles concluding the day.

The Barenbrug Seeds meeting will be our first meeting of the New Year and will be held at Perranporth Golf Club on Wednesday, January 16. The morning will start with a singles stableford golf, with the course walk for non-golfers leaving the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am.



Have you booked your place on the Region's package to BTME 2002, which includes transport, accommodation & entry to the BTME show. This year the seminar sessions are extra.

Richard Whyman

### South Coast

Firstly, many apologies for the lack of Section notes for the last couple of months. The problem has now been rectified and normal service has been resumed. As you read this many of you will have played in the winter tournament at Barton-on-Sea and been to the Section AGM. I know your committee work extremely hard on your behalf trying to make the Section a success, so it would be nice to see more people supporting the coming events. We, as greenkeepers, are always busy but we should put time aside to attend Section events. As the New Year approaches our minds turn to BTME. For those who have not made the journey to Harrogate then I can thoroughly recommend it. It truly is a week not to miss as the learning experience continues. Paula Humphries can be contacted for those interested in the South West coach trip, which is excellent value for money.

As a Section we must congratulate Adi Archer and his team at Broadstone Golf Club for their success in winning the BIGGA Environment competition this year. We were fortunate to play Broadstone this summer and were able to see how much hard work they have put in to their heathland restoration project over the past years. They are indeed a credit to our section and to all greenkeepers. Lastly, it just leaves me to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from your committee.

Alex McCombie

### South Wales

It is with great sadness that I have to inform the members of the recent sudden passing away of Paul Robinson, former Head Greenkeeper of the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club. Paul had been retired from the club that he devoted his entire working life to, for only 10 weeks.

Paul was a well respected father figure of the greenkeeping fraternity in South Wales and was renowned for his wit and sense of humour. Just being in his company was fun itself!

He was an ardent supporter of BIGGA and was the treasurer of the Section for over 14 years.

It is said that Paul took only one holiday in his entire working life, many years ago, to Malta for a week! From then on in he took his holiday entitlement in half days as he couldn't bear to be away from the course that he tended to and cared for so very much.

A lovely gentleman, generous and humorous, he will be sadly missed.

The final of the Rigby Taylor Matchplay Doubles Competition was held recently at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, where Daryl Bray and Steve Mills took on Jamie and Herbie Probert.

The match was a tight affair with the conditions making for an exiting finale to the competition. The high winds eventually overcame the driving rain and the sun shone for the remainder of the match, which saw Jamie and Herbie triumph on the 16th green.

The golf course was in excellent condition and those who weren't playing but who supported the match were lucky enough to be treated to a what's what and what's happening to the course in time for the British Amateur Championships next year, from Course Manager David Ward.

Our sincere thanks to Roy Barker and Dave Carvey, our Rigby Taylor representatives, for organising the day and for their splendid hospitality. A truly enjoyable day was had by all!

Congratulations to Kerry Jones, of Garnant Park Golf Club. Kerry who has been the Head Greenkeeper of the club for four years was recently promoted to Golf Manager at the course.

Congratulations also to Huw Morgan of the Wildernesse Golf Club, near Sevenoaks in Kent. Welshman Huw recently won the Toro sponsored Excellence in Greenkeeping award to add to his list of achievements.

Don't forget to book your place at the Winter Tournament/AGM/Christmas dinner, at the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club on Wednesday, December 12. Teeing Off is from 10.00am, the AGM is 3pm and the Christmas feast is served at 5.30pm. Numbers will be limited.

Peter Lacey



### Northern Ireland

The AGM will have been held at Rockmount Golf Club on November 29. The structure of the new committee for 2002 will be detailed in the January magazine notes.

I would like to congratulate Alan Strachan, Course Manager at Royal Co Down Golf Club on winning the Irish final of the Excellence in Greenkeeping Award which is sponsored by

Toro and Lely Ireland. Alan will go forward to compete in the Great Britain Finals later this autumn.

Our three members who travelled over to the National Championship at Royal Birkdale at the beginning of October enjoyed the experience immensely and would like to thank BIGGA for organising the event. Noel Crawford, Andrew Wray and Michael Feeney came in with reasonable scores in the difficult conditions but didn't feature in the prizes this year. Greenmount College in Antrim moved their annual prize day from June to September because of the Foot & Mouth crisis. This year, congratulations go to Jane Beattie on becoming the top student on the NVQ Level II course. Jane is the first female greenkeeper to complete the NVQ course at Greenmount College.

Another training option, which is now offered to greenkeepers in Northern Ireland, is the fast track Level II & Level III Greenkeeping course, run by Myerscough College in Preston. The two courses are currently taking place at Malone Golf Club in Belfast. The advantage of the fast track system is that each level can be completed in 12 months with classroom attendance reduced to six to eight days. The College Tutor presenting both courses, is Owen Mullins from Dublin. Owen is a final year student at Myerscough completing a degree course in Turf Science. If anyone would like further particulars on the fast track NVQ's ring Bernhard at Myerscough College on 01995642205.

Lastly, I would like to welcome William Black from Tandragee Golf Club to the Section this month.

Ken Henderson

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Last month, Shaun McMillan, from Kinghorn Municipal GC, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

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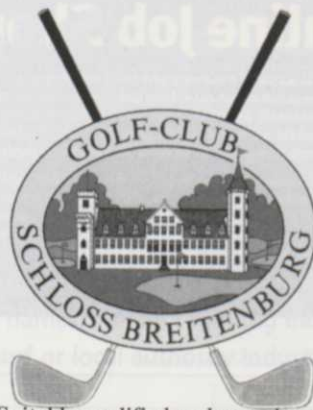
The structure and management of the green staff at Duddingston Golf Club has changed during 2001, and to support the ongoing development of the course we invite applications for an experienced greenkeeper to join the green-keeping team.

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## Wearside Golf Club require a **DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Applications are invited for the position of Deputy Head Greenkeeper. The suitable applicant will be experienced and qualified in all aspects of greenkeeping. A practical knowledge of turf management, machinery maintenance and irrigation systems are essential.

Good man management skills and experience in course improvements would be an advantage.

Please apply in writing enclosing a full CV by Friday, 28 December 2001.  
The Secretary, Wearside Golf Club, Coxgreen, Sunderland SR4 9LT

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2 Assistant Greenkeepers required. Qualification up to NVQ2 or equivalent. Spraying Certificate an advantage. Salary based on experience, salary scales based on the Standing Committee recommendations.

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## DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

### Worthing Golf Club

Applications are invited for the position of Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

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# Safe in the knowledge

## Sandy McDivot takes a positive look at the current economic climate

This month I would like, if I may, to comment upon the long-term job security outlook for we keepers of fine turf. I believe this to be a timely exercise seeing as the world economy appears to be in nose-dive mode at the present time. So making the assumption that we have not made any serious tactical errors recently, such as head butting the Lady Captain, or engaging in something other than social intercourse with the Chairman of Green's wife what is the likelihood of us being voted off as the weakest link. I would say that there are only three potential reasons for such a predicament. The first is incompetence, the second, golf course change of use and the third, a general public shift away from golf to other activities.

The first of these is somewhat irrelevant and should be highly unlikely given that nearly all greenkeepers of dubious abilities have thankfully vanished to other industries, such as the health service or politics. Many moons ago I once worked for a Head Greenkeeper who knew nothing about turf or indeed any other subject and who would only sporadically turn up to work in order to hurl some foul mouthed abuse at we long suffering assistants before falling into a nearby bunker in a drunken stupor.

He was to greenkeeping what Prince Philip is to foreign relations, yet remarkably he remained in the same position for some six years before all the greens started to take on the characteristics of evil smelling brown porridge and the committee had to reluctantly dispense with his services. Even to this day, one hears comments from old members of that far off committee stating that this moron was the finest greenkeeper the club had ever known, but I disregard such declarations as sad hazy romantic yearnings for the past, combined with acute senile dementia.

So what of the second cause for job loss, that of golf course change of use. Well given the current profit margins available in agriculture, I think the chances of courses reverting back to farmland are somewhat unlikely. But as more and more courses are proprietary owned and the industry becomes proportionally more competitive, then courses could start to be developed into other potentially more lucrative schemes, such as housing construction or equestrian sports facilities. In fact I have recently heard of a course undergoing such change of use. This I understand was brought about by negative market forces, cash flow uncertainties, questionable location and the fact that the course in question was c\*\*p. This I hasten to add, was no fault of the Course Manager but a result of chronic under funding together with employment of a course designer that looked like he had gained his qualifications at catering college.

An unfortunate case, but one that is by no means exceptional.

But what of the other potential threat to our livelihood. What are the chances of the game simply going out of fashion and thereby necessitating golf course closure on the grounds that no one would be seen dead playing the game? Preposterous you may think but wait, years ago the game of billiards was all the rage. Great halls housing dozens of tables were to be found in every town but who on earth plays the game now. More recently the sport of squash appears to be on a life support mechanism.

Even as we speak, sports centres across the land are knocking down the intervening squash court walls and filling the resultant void with trendy new exercise machines.

However, it is my humble opinion that on this front we have little to fear. The game of golf seems assured to grow in popularity for the foreseeable future and as a result we greenkeepers will be in ever-increasing demand with resultant theoretical wage increases to boot. The main threat to the growth of the game is expense but as skilled Course

Managers are able to maintain their courses to a high standard within tight budgetary controls, I see no problem here. Yes there are courses that cost ludicrous sums to maintain, but because they are in the minority and usually of championship standard, even they have a steady stream of affluent masochists ready to cough up the folding stuff in anticipation of five hours of ball searching torture. And if they don't, then the course simply reverts back to the more profitable pay and play option.

So how can I be so sure that more and more people will take up the game? Well with so many new courses on the scene, waiting lists have all but disappeared and anyone can obtain membership without having to spend several years in obsequious grovelling mode in an effort to get the dreaded interview. Then there is the fact that the game is starting to come to terms with its elitist image problems of the past. The social and dare I say it, ethnic barriers, have quite correctly departed from the game.

Tiger Woods may have complained of experiencing prejudice towards him in his formative years but that was far away. I remember recently listening to a radio interview of a young black professional golfer who had spent his junior golfing days playing at that well-known course near Reading, Calcot Park. The interviewer repeatedly brought up Tiger's past troubles in an effort to get the young golfer to dish the dirt on golf clubs in this country, but eventually this line of questioning was abruptly brought to a halt when the golfer stated that it may have happened to Tiger but he personally had never ever received anything other than total encouragement from the golfers of the Berkshire club, or indeed any other golfing venue.

Then there is the subject of role models that have taken to the game. What a huge benefit they have been. Certainly Tiger is one of the very best recruitment vehicles we could ever have asked for. Then there is Prince Andrew, he likes nothing better than



# Iron and Greenke



to play a round. The fact is the sport is appealing to people from the most unlikely walks of life. Alice Cooper for instance, the boa constrictor loving 70's rock icon of domestic fowl oral decapitation notoriety, has so devoted his life to the game that he has managed to get down to 4 handicap. Smokey Robinson, former soul singer has created his own miracle by replacing his drug addiction with golf addiction.

Robbie Williams the womanising, beer drinking rock star rebel that the youth of the day so admire for his moral standards, plays to a 14 handicap. Likewise that other figurehead of high ethics and gentlemanly behaviour; Chris Evans. Then what about the England football squad. Rumour has it that half of them play golf to single figure handicaps and seeing as they thrashed Germany 5:1,

we have living proof that mastery in the art of golf, brings with it the total co-ordination so requisite in the lesser sport of football.

With even the communist republic of Cuba embarking on a golf course construction programme, we can assume that the great game has received full social acceptance throughout the world. But will the public keep playing once they have taken it up?

Well here we have another couple of tricks up our sleeve. For one thing golf is a game that can be played right up to the moment of death of mind and body. Indeed many of the members at the great links of Sludgecombe appear already to have progressed to at least stage one of this condition, if not both. The other weapon in our armoury is that for some reason the game is highly addic-

tive. I do not know the time explanation for this phenomenon but once people get going they simply cannot stop. I have a friend who has been playing once every two weeks for several years and has yet to score lower than 50 over par. He hates the game with a passion. It destroys him both physically and mentally every time he plays. Yet can he give it up? No he cannot.

Because hidden within the depths of shanks, duffs, twitches and air shots, there is always an effortless stroke that sends the ball soaring towards the target. It is this shot that transports him briefly to his own personal Nirvana and this shot that brings him back a fortnight later for further punishment. Desmond Morris would probably have put the brief exultation of this experience down to our hunter instinct that

years to see projectile sent to target, as it was when our very survival depended on a well executed launch of the spear towards quadruped. Sigmund Freud would probably have us believe it is all down to childhood sexual repression and back this peculiar theory up with references to our utilisation of equipment such as balls, shafts and holes etc.

Either way, of all sports, few can match golf in getting the participant to those levels of emotion that explore the boundaries of incontinence. I remember the birth of my son, Dexter, the heir to the McDivot estate (an Austin Montego estate to be precise). Complications set in and towards the end of the 12-hour ordeal there were four doctors and two midwives, each with worried looks on their faces, engaged in a tug of war exercise in an attempt to get the little blighter out. Now that was worrying, but I have to say the tension levels for me did not quite match that experienced when faced with a tricky down hill four foot left to righter for the 20 pence greener. Still I have to say, the elation of actually seeing the little lad pop out was at least equal to that of slotting a 12 footer, for a birdie on the last.

Of course I play little golf these days, due to Mrs McDivot's grave concern that it could lead to me experiencing temporary enjoyment, but I still fully understand the levels of emotion that the game can inflict on the innocent.

So there you have it. Conscientious, learned professionals that we are, we have little to fear as regards us swelling the Job Centre queues. Just study hard, engage in friendly banter with the members, blame the odd brown patch on a mutant nematode and never take a fortnight's holiday in June.

Sandy McDivot:  
Head Greenkeeper, Sludgecombe  
Pay and Play.



## Feature listing from December '99

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**August 2000:** Open Championship review; Water Features; Saltext 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; Saltext Review; Pest Control; Woburn GC

**November 2000:** Grass Cutting Machinery; Clandeboye 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

**August 2001:** Aeration Survey; Machrie GC profile; Rough Mowers; Saltext Preview; Dr Alan Gange - environmental research; Hayter Profile; Ponds; Open Championship review; Toro Student of the Year profile;

**September 2001:** Ryder Cup preview; Chafer Grubs; Drainage; BIGGA National Championship preview; Sandy McDivot; Machinery Maintenance; Soil Analysis; Wild Flowers

**October 2001:** Major Award for Walter Woods; Royal Portrush GC; Portstewart GC; Irrigation; Soil biodiversity; Leaf collection systems; Scotsturf preview/ Saltext review

**November 2001:** BIGGA National Championship review; Environment Competition winner; Spraying; Toro Awards Preview; Cutting regimes; Dyke GC



# ... and so to Sutton United



Another much travelled month taking in Germany and Scotland and many points in between.

The German trip was to Dortmund as the guest of the German Greenkeepers Association at their annual Conference and Exhibition. As you would expect it was a superbly organised event with top quality speakers and instantaneous translation of the papers. Among those speakers was Bruce Williams, a Past President of the GCSAA who was there with another GCSAA Past President, Gerry Faubel.

We also had the opportunity to visit a local golf club and the Borussia Dortmund and Schalke 04 football grounds. The Schalke Stadium was particularly impressive because, like the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff it has a retractable roof, but in this case the turf is wheeled out on pallets between matches.

One point that was made was that they were still having problems with it because it is being stored too close to the stadium and shading was still a problem. We were actually asked not to go on the pitch because they didn't think the turf was up to it. Another point made was that the Bundesliga insist that the pitch is in place five days before a match. Having said all that it didn't seem to bother Schalke as they beat Arsenal a couple of days after our visit in the first phase of the

Champions' League.

The real reason for my visit was to speak on the occasion of Claus Detlef Ratjen's retirement as President of the German Greenkeepers Association. Claus is a wonderful fellow and a man who nurtured a vision of uniting greenkeepers throughout Europe. He worked unceasingly in this regard and was rewarded when FEGGA was formed in '96. He was a guiding light behind the Federation and went on to become its Chairman. Greenkeepers throughout Europe have a lot to thank him for.

It was a real pleasure to pay tribute to him as I always feel that with Claus he is so friendly that he makes me feel welcome even in my own country.

My next trip was to Scotland for Scotsturf which was very much a flying visit but a very enjoyable one.

Although not a BIGGA Show it is very much a greenkeepers' occasion with a great deal of relevance to our members. In fact I, although a long way from home, did a little bit of business during the day. It was a successful Show from BIGGA's perspective. The new location for the stand meant everyone had to walk past and Cheryl and Pauline were extremely busy making contacts for Greenkeeper International and BTME, while Peter Boyd, as always, was at the helm.

While I've talked about two trips I did make I must mention one I was unable to undertake. Circumstances dictated that I was unable to travel north for the final of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student of the Year Awards but I was absolutely delighted to learn that the two winners came from the South East. Huw Morgan and Andrew Pledger are two worthy winners and I'm sure they will be superb ambassadors for the Association during the

next year.

Nearer to home, those of you who know me well must be amazed that I've reached December before mentioning my beloved Sutton United, but one look at the Ryman's League table will show you why. We're not too good in the league and we're out of both the FA Cup and the FA Trophy. As a Vice President of the Club I haven't been able to get there as often as I should have been as BIGGA business has taken priority but perhaps with the season we are having that is just as well.

Even nearer to home, I thought I'd got away with it when the Gentleman's Dinner was cancelled earlier in the year but it came round again. We were lucky with the weather, as ever there was a good turnout and it seemed everyone seemed to enjoyed themselves. I must confess that I'd been away on my travels and Mick Haynes and the rest of the team had prepared the course and I was delighted that Mick and the team were given due acknowledgement and appreciation for the great work they had done.

Still on the course it seems that the season just gets longer and longer as, as I write, we are still cutting fairways as least once a week and we've only just got underway on our winter programme.

It just leaves me to wish all BIGGA members and their families a Happy Christmas and a wonderful and prosperous New Year.

**Clive Osgood, Chairman**



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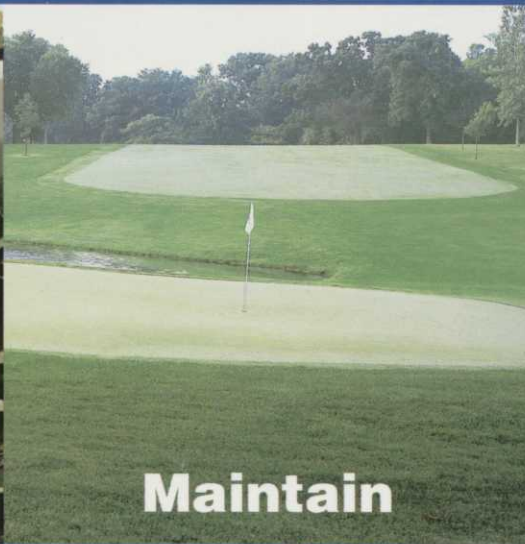
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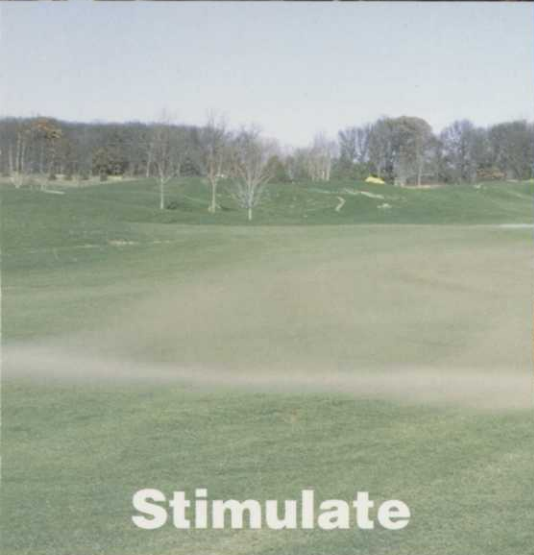
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