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Greenkeeper

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

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Greenkeeper

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

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The advertising copy deadline for inclusion in the February 2001 edition of Greenkeeper International is Monday, January 29, 2000

Greenkeeper International:

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Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £35 per year, Europe and Eire £46. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.

ISSN: 0961-6977

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The Dyke Golf Club won the 2000 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone. Judges Bob Taylor and Jonathan Hart Woods report on this year's event

Communication is the key

I don't know if you followed the US Presidential election and all the amazing problems it produced. As I write it hasn't yet been resolved but hopefully, just hopefully, by the time you read this the most powerful man in the world will be known.

You may call me a cynic but I'm sure through all the legal toings and froings the two men, who traded on the strength of their convictions and the clarity of their policy declarations, would have had no qualms in arguing the opposite case in the courts, if that was what was needed to be done, just to get elected.

"Pregnant chads to be included in the ballot." against, "If people can't complete a simple ballot paper properly their vote shouldn't count."... or "If overseas ballots arrive without postmarks they should be omitted." against, "If ballots from American servicemen arrive on time but a technicality left them without a postmark they should still be counted".

Cases were built around the desires of the person making the case and not the merits of the case itself.

It got me thinking about how it works in normal run of the mill situations. Would you, as greenkeepers for example, take a different view of your golf course if you were a regular club member, and not on the greens staff?

Would you see, for example, an area of the course which has been left untended for 12 months as a conservation area or just unkempt? Would you see aeration work as being to the long term betterment of the greens or just a damn nuisance always coinciding with a regular round, or temporary greens as a logical safety net to ensure members can play in poor weather or an admission of failure to keep the main greens open? Would your thinking change just because of your personal circumstances and not because of the rights and wrongs of the particular case?

There is usually more than one way to look at the same situation and it may be that a side is taken because, as in the US election, it suits someone to argue a particular case, or alternatively that not enough information is available to come to another conclusion.

So the best way to influence a person's thinking, other than to dangle the prospect of high office in front of them, is to give them enough information to come to a different conclusion to the one they originally came up with.

That can happen in a number of ways, formal and informal, but all boil down to the same thing - Communication. Get that right and more people will be on your side of the fence when it comes to differences of opinion. It might not win you a Presidency but it might make your job a little less stressful.

Happy New Year and may all your problems over the next 12 months be the type which make you look good when you solve them!

Scott MacCallum
Editor

Awards for US distributors

American distributors were presented with awards from Bernhard and Company while enjoying a night-time cruise on the Thames through London.

Top north American distributors were presented with the awards for their exceptional sales efforts.

"It has been a great experience visiting the UK," said Pat Duggins, of Florida-based Wesco Turf.

"This is my first trip and the weather here is certainly very different from Florida," he said.

"Sights such as the Houses of Parliament and Tower of London are just great and I had a wonderful time."



Above: Pat Duggins of Wesco Turf, Florida winner of an award from Bernhard for his exceptional sales

Busman's holiday for Irish GKs



A group of Irish greenkeepers made a trip to White Hart Lane, home of Tottenham Hotspur FC to tour the ground and stadium. The trip was sponsored by Advanta Seeds and Lindsay's Turfcare. The picture shows the group with Darren Baldwin, Head Groundsman at White Hart Lane, in the middle of the back row.

Committed to Green recognition

Following a meeting of its International Advisory Commission on 21 November 2000 in Brussels, the Committed to Green Foundation is pleased to announce the first ever awards of Committed to Green Recognition. Fifteen pioneer golf clubs from five European countries will receive the Recognition, which is valid for three years. They are:

Scotland: Kilmacollm GC; Linlithgow GC; Gleneagles (3 courses); Elmwood College
England: Kenwick Park GC; The Belfry (3 courses)
Denmark: Faaborg GC
Finland: Kurk Golf Club; Rantasalmi GC; Ronnas GC; Tarina GC; Sarvik GC (2 courses)
Portugal: Belas Club de Campo; Vilamoura (4 courses); Carveiro Golf (2 courses)

"All these clubs have shown a commendable effort to prove their

concern and care for the environment. Many of these are 'typical' small golf clubs, simply wishing to be seen to be responsible managers. But whatever their situation, large and small clubs alike have devoted time and effort to achieving worthwhile environmental improvements," said David Stubbs, Executive Director of the Committed to Green Foundation.

"It is still an early stage in our programme and we are delighted to have such committed pioneers to help us in our mission."

The Recognition process involves clubs submitting an Environmental Statement reporting on their policies, achievements and future targets across eight environmental management categories. To ensure the credibility of the programme, each Statement is subject to on-site verification by

Mountfield joins Europe's largest

Mountfield, the UK's largest petrol engine rotary lawnmower manufacturer, has been acquired by Stiga UK Limited, which is part of an international garden machinery Group currently being formed that includes Stiga of Sweden and Castelgarden and Alpina of Italy.

Mountfield currently manufactures over 100,000 lawnmowers a year retailed through a UK wide servicing dealer network and DIY chains.

Duncan Martin, Mountfield Managing Director, describes this exciting development as, "the most obvious step forward for our dealers, our products and our brand."

This new addition to the Group, retaining all the sales, service, marketing and financial personnel. The new company will have its headquarters in Plymouth and trade as Stiga UK Limited with Duncan Martin as MD.

A move for British Seed Houses

British Seed Houses is moving its Warrington-based amenity seed business to improved facilities at its Swindon site in Lincolnshire following the purchase of adjacent land and buildings.

The move will bring all British Seed Houses amenity seeds processing, packaging and distribution under one roof, improving logistics and efficiency and reducing dependency on third party storage.

The Warrington site is being retained by British Seed Houses parent company Germinal Group for rental to a third party.

appropriately qualified, independent specialists. A network of National Ecology Officers is helping the Committed to Green Foundation to deliver the programme throughout Europe.

The Environmental Statements of each Committed to Green golf club will be published on the Committed to Green Foundation web site over the coming months: see www.committedtogreen.org

Several more clubs across Europe are in the final stages of preparing their Committed to Green Statements. Further awards of Recognition will be announced during 2001, and it is hoped that the example set by these first clubs will be an inspiration for the rest of the golf community to come forward and demonstrate its commitment to responsible environmental management.

John Deere to supply 2001 Ryder Cup

John Deere has been appointed the official supplier of turf maintenance equipment for the 2001 Ryder Cup at The De Vere Belfry.

The De Vere Belfry - world-famous venue of the 1985, '89 and '93 Ryder Cup matches already uses a full range of John Deere machinery for course preparation and maintenance throughout the complex.

A staff of 40 operates a total fleet of more than 50 machines to maintain three 18-hole golf courses - the Brabazon, Derby and PGA National - on 500 acres.

"We are delighted to be associated with De Vere Hotels and with the Ryder Cup, one of the world's greatest golf events at one of the world's greatest courses," said Alec McKee, Managing Director of John Deere Limited.

"This exciting partnership underlines the remarkable progress we have made as a business since entering the golf



equipment market seriously in the mid 1990s."

John Deere is the official golf course equipment supplier to the USA PGA Tour, providing a full range of machinery on an exclusive basis to the tour's network of Tournament Players Club (TPC) courses around the world. The company is also the title sponsor of the

John Deere Classic, a regular stop on the USA PGA Tour, which was played for the first time in 2000 on the new TPC at Deere Run course in Silvis, Illinois.

John Deere Limited will also be supplying equipment to The De Vere Belfry for the Benson & Hedges International Open in May 2001.

BIGGA AGM

The Bigga AGM will be held on Wednesday, 24th January 2001 at 5.45pm in the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate. Entry by BIGGA Membership Card. Papers for the AGM can be obtained in advance of the meeting on request to BIGGA HOUSE, Regional Administrator or Section Secretary.



Winners announced

The five lucky winners of a superb BIGGA Sports Watch from those who pre-registered for BTME 2001 are:

Graham Hodson, Delamire Forest GC, Northwich, in Cheshire; Paul Robison, Head Greenkeeper, Ryton GC, Tyne and Wear; Iain Carson, Course Manager, Nairn GC, Nairn; Paul McDowell, Head Greenkeeper, Burnham & Berrow GC, Somerset and Simon Osbourne, Head Greenkeeper, Wildwood GC, Worthing.

Rigby Taylor are appointed exclusive Maxicrop distributor

Rigby Taylor has been appointed exclusive UK mainland distributor for the market-leading Maxicrop range of seaweed extract based bio-stimulants for amenity use.

The new partnership will help ensure that research and product development activity by Maxicrop is available to greenkeepers and groundsmen, through Rigby Taylor's nationwide sales and distribution coverage.

Maxicrop which was recently acquired by Algea, part of the giant Norsk Hydro group, has already taken the opportunity to introduce a new improved formulation of its flagship product, Maxicrop No.1 Triple

Seaweed. This product now contains increased levels of trace elements, which Maxicrop claims will help ensure better season-long turf micronutrition, especially where clippings are regularly removed.

Shane Deaville, Maxicrop UK Sales and Marketing Director, said that the new partnership would ensure that what is a well researched and highly effective established brand reaches a wider audience.

"We believe we are seaweed extract experts and highly product focused; Rigby Taylor is the market leader in the golf and turf sectors. Thus it makes sense to forge a relationship with a

commercial partner that is closer to the end-user and can deliver what he needs," said Shane.

"This appointment represents further recognition by leading multi-national companies that the best route for products into the UK amenity market is through a dedicated nationwide organisation such as ours," said Rigby Taylor Chairman, Bernard Hedley.

"Algea and Maxicrop have invested heavily in an on-going R&D programme into the benefits of seaweed extracts and this fits well with our strong science and research-based philosophy for product development."

Susannah is the latest BIGGA recruit

Membership Services Assistant, Susannah Sweeney, is the latest recruit to join the BIGGA HOUSE team.

Susannah joined the Membership Department in mid December, but had spent a month before that on the BIGGA reception desk.

Susannah, 32, lives on the RAF base at Linton on Ouse, just a short distance from BIGGA HOUSE, with her husband, Mark, who is a Chef on the base.

They have recently returned to the UK from a posting in Cyprus where Susannah worked with the Ministry of Defence. Previously they had been stationed at a number of RAF bases in England.

A real lover of watersports Susannah learned to water ski while surrounded by the warm waters of Cyprus and also enjoys snorkelling and scuba diving.

Now back home they are looking forward to settling in the York area.



Simon joins Advanta

Simon Harrison has joined Advanta Seeds UK as regional sales manager for the North of England. Simon, who is 31, is based in Leeds and has a career background of sales in the sports trade industry. He has previously worked for Puma sportswear, and latterly for the Asics Sports company.

A keen sportsman, Simon has played rugby for Yorkshire - at fly half and centre, and continues to play the game socially.

"We are delighted to welcome Simon to Advanta," said Dave Phillips, Amenity Sales and Marketing Manager.

"His sales experience and contacts within the sports sector is impressive, and he has already established himself as a valued member of our team."

Philip picks up first Toro Student GC Architect Award

PGA professional Philip Sparks beat off stiff competition to win the first Toro Student Golf Course Architect Award. While runners-up Jeff Young and Jamie Sharp each received the associated Barenbrug Award. The annual competition is open to students studying for a two-year post-graduate diploma course in golf course architecture at Merrist Wood College.

Philip is the first golf professional in the world to have gained this qualification. With six other finalists, Philip presented a verbal dissertation to judges on his diploma course thesis, as well as his design ideas, detailed drawings and costings for the site of a new golf course near Bournemouth.

As his prize, Philip enjoyed an all-expenses-paid trip to The Toro Company's worldwide headquarters in Minneapolis and California.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

www.tonyhusband.co.uk



Stephen gets set to scale the heights

Weed Free is the first major supplier to support a greenkeeper in his bid to climb mount Kilimanjaro.

Stephen Thresher, Deputy Superintendent at Mill Green Golf Club, (part of American Golf UK Ltd.) will spend 10 days in February tackling Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa in aid of NCH Action for Children. In order to raise the necessary fund-raising target of £2,200,

Stephen has contacted all suppliers to the club, and already raised £765, mainly from local companies, and members of the club itself.

"Our last year's Lady Captain has raised £100, and the club are running a monthly medal golf competition which we are hoping will bring in £500. The club have been brilliant. I shall be taking my company waterproofs with me, along with thermal bottoms, a micro fleece and boots with special linings."

Below: Stephen set for his trek



Weed Free have pledged 1% of all net invoices relating to worm control on American Golf complexes.

"I don't want to lean on my family and friends too much," says Stephen. "I'm sure that now Weed Free have set the ball rolling, many other companies will follow suit."

Temperatures on the 5,896 metre peak range from 28 degrees Celsius to well below zero, and Stephen expects to begin his ascent in shorts and finish by sleeping in a tent pitched in snow.

"We take four days to go up, two to come down and have a days rest before flying home," he said.

At 54 years of age, Stephen is taking no chances, and has been in training since September.

"I've joined a local running club and the local gym, Harpers at St. Albans, have given me full use of all their facilities free of charge until I leave for the trek

Stephen's family have rallied round. His 80-year-old mum has collected over £100 from the old people's complex where she lives, despite her view that her son is mad, and his son, who manages a pub, has had the tin can out for some time.

If other suppliers of services or equipment would like to support Stephen's trek they are invited to write to him at Mill Green Golf Club, Gypsy Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. AL74TY.

Parts restructure at Textron



Above (L-R): David Brown, Mark Poppleton, Wendy Forsdyke, Jim Snell

Textron has reorganised and restructured its Parts operation which will now be known as the Service Parts Organisation.

This restructuring follows the recent appointment of David Brown as International Parts Manager with a brief to achieve improved customer service in conjunction with a 95% pick rate for the parts operation.

To help achieve this, Wendy Forsdyke has been promoted to

Customer Services Manager and a Customer Services Help Desk has been established and is the first point of contact for customer parts enquiries.

Mark Poppleton has been appointed Inventory Control Manager, heading a team responsible for all parts stocking levels with Jim Snell completing the management team in his role as Warehouse Operations Manager controlling the goods in, parts picking and dispatch functions.



George Pitts, flanked by Paula Humphries, BIGGA Regional Administrator, and Terry Horne, Senior Lecturer of Cannington College, is pictured receiving the BIGGA Cup for Top Student and also the South West Cup for Best Project at the Cannington Awards ceremony. George, who works at St Mellion, also received a College Certificate with a distinction.

New business venture for Kate

Kate Entwistle, still known to many in the turf industry as Kate York, has recently left the STRI where she had worked since 1990. She has now relocated to Hampshire where she will continue to work in turf pathology under the name of The Turf Disease Centre.

"Starting my own business allows me to really focus on providing a thorough and personalised turf disease management service," said Kate.

"I studied plant pathology, plant physiology and microbiology at college and have developed a specialist knowledge of turfgrass pathogens over the last 10 years."

As well as providing analysis of turf samples for disease identification, Kate will continue to offer lectures, take part in seminars and produce articles on turf diseases.

In addition, one of the main areas that she is keen to develop is site visits, aimed

specifically at discussing turf disease problems directly with the turf manager.

"Although many of our turf disease problems can be diagnosed from sample analysis, supported by general discussions with the turf manager or agronomist, there are an increasing number of persistent and unusual problems which would be better investigated through an on-site inspection", she says. "We are now seeing diseases which were not a problem only a few years ago and changes in grass types and cultivars used are likely to lead to further novel disease outbreaks. Disease development is heavily affected by local environmental conditions and these can not always be adequately appreciated by looking at a turf sample in the laboratory", explained Kate. "Seeing the problem at first hand can lead to a more rapid diagnosis of the disease and can assist in offering specific information on

Westurf 2001

Pre-registration tickets for Westurf 2000 were entered into a random draw for a fourball of golf at St. Mellion on the Jack Nicklaus course. The prize, which also included two buggies and a meal afterwards was won by Dave Everett of Lyme Regis Golf Club.

Westurf 2001 is on March 14th - make sure you pre-register!

New Association aims to provide quality assurance

Britain's leading rootzone and top dressing manufacturers have formed an organisation to be known as the British Rootzone and Top Dressing Manufacturers Association.

The Association is a collaboration of experience and expertise in the manufacture of Rootzone materials to offer architects, constructors and agronomists a recognised focal point for the industry.

The aims of the Association are:- to appoint its own technical advisors to agree and standardise testing procedures; to develop a quality management scheme to be used by its members; to promote the use of appropriate materials and offer the best working practices in manufacture in order to offer a consistent and repeatable standard; to promote materials offered within a quality framework; to develop the use of environmentally friendly products; to promote research into effective UK rootzone specifications and to liaise with other organisations involved in the specification and purchase of rootzones and top dressings.

Members of the newly formed Association include Bailey's of Hevingham; Bathgate Silica Sand Ltd; John Bourne & Co Ltd; Roffey Ltd; Stewart & CO Seedsmen Ltd; Banks Amenity Products Ltd; Boughton Loam Ltd; Prestige Sports Surfaces Ltd; Rufford Soil Technology and White Moss Amenities Ltd.

Further information on the Association can be obtained from Tim Banks Tel: 01858 464346.



the best ways to control the disease on that particular site".

Contact Kate by telephoning 01256 880246, Fax 01256 880178, email kate@theturf-disease-centre.co.uk or visit her web site, www.theturf-disease-centre.co.uk



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

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IDEAL FOR

INCREASING THE FERTILITY OF ROOT ZONES AND TOP DRESSINGS IF REQUIRED

A TYPICAL ANALYSIS

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

TRACE ELEMENTS (PPM)

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

MICROBIAL CONTENT

VERY LARGE NUMBERS OF MICRO-ORGANISMS ARE PRESENT (MORE THAN 1,000,000,000 PER GM OF FERTILISER)
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"ENVIGRO made a difference within weeks - and the difference has lasted!"
Phil Siddle, Head Greenkeeper, Rossendale Golf Club (inset)

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Ronnie's praise for Toro Excellence Award winner

The photograph published in last month's issue of the Toro finalists was one of smiling faces proud of their achievements and pleased that the process of selecting a national winner was over, win or lose. It was the end of six weeks of anticipation and saying "Maybe, just maybe." Finishing runner-up is disappointing yes, but if the truth were told they were still chuffed with their lot.

Back to the photographer, smile, smile, smile. Just one more to make sure everyone's happy.

December 4. Received the magazine. Front cover, two worthy winners Iain Ritchie and Jonathan Clelland. Turned to page 18, a group picture and 11 smiling faces and ME! Yes the one with the disappointed, glum, couldn't care less, sleeping, drunk, camp look. I never had this problem when I was in Playgirl magazine!



Above: Ronnie's more usual expression

To Iain Ritchie, well done and a pat on the back to Jonathan Clelland from Helensburgh Golf Club. As for everyone else I look forward to seeing you all at BTME.

Ronnie Bunting, Course Manager, Kilmacolm GC

Friendly advice for Sandy McDivot

I was pleased to see that Sandy McDivot had replied to my letter that you so kindly printed in the previous month's letters page and would like to respond with a few points of my own. Firstly, Mr McDivot can rest assured that I have no need to lighten up and my sense of humour is perfectly intact, but thanks for the concern.

My second point is still to do with the content of your article (Friendly Advice). I am well aware of the need for Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers to be able to communicate with as many of their membership as possible, but your interpretation of "net working" gave the impression that you should not voice any of your opinions if it was likely to rock the boat.

Speaking from personal experience I have found that if you are honest and up front with your membership you will gain just as many friends and you retain your self-respect.

We as greenkeepers must stand up and be counted and not be afraid to correct someone, whom ever it may be, when they do or say something that we know to be incorrect. This seems to be the approach that Mr John Nudds used so successfully to manage Gerrards Cross CC, a person for whom you have obvious respect and admiration.

The other debatable area in your article was your comments about Professionals and Lady Captains. These remarks were unprofessional

and very disrespectful. The BIGGA publication is read not only by its greenkeeping members but by many people connected with golf clubs, so how are we expected to gain the respect of other professional organisations and our employers with articles like this. Surely a more productive use of these two pages would suit our magazine.

I have to agree with you on your final point, the marvellous thing about advice is that you don't have to follow it, so it will come as no surprise for you to find out that I will not be taking any of your friendly advice.

A J Mannon, Deputy Course Manager, Southerndown CC

BIGGA's invaluable education opportunities

I would like to reply to a letter in last month's edition, (December 2000). I would reiterate what Anthony Kyle said about the Education & Training Department run by Ken & Sami at BIGGA HOUSE.

I will have to agree with him on the excellent and most hospitable way in which we were looked after while on the course.

The two-day course I was on was Golf Course Design 1 presented by

Howard Swan & Simon Gidman. To them many thanks. The course was excellent, informative and it was made light hearted and fun. It was hard work (but you're not there for a holiday, are you), above all it was value for money, and I would have no hesitation in recommending these courses to anyone willing to learn. As for the knowledge gained, it will most certainly be used in the future. This was my first course at BIGGA HOUSE and it certainly won't be my

last. I can't wait to get on with Golf Course Design 2.

It's nice to have a little insight into their side of the profession. Sadly there are too many Greenkeepers out there who aren't taking advantage of these courses designed by professionals for professionals.

Once again, many thanks to Ken and Sami, see you all at BTME.

Mike Gash, Deputy Head, Moseley GC

A tribute to Fred Hawtree

As a past employee of Addington Court Golf Club, I was saddened to read of the death of Mr Fred Hawtree in the November edition of Greenkeeper.

Mr Hawtree was a very enlightened and progressive employer, who encouraged his staff to develop their knowledge and experience of Greenkeeping, not only on his courses but by facilitating external training wherever it was available. This was during the sixties when the Greenkeeper training depended on the benevolence of the employer.

Mr Hawtree, through his Head Greenkeepers, fostered a competitive spirit and enthusiasm for Greenkeeping which has stayed with me for the last 30 years. His knowledge of, and contribution to, the world of golf will be sadly missed.

Joe Findlay, Head Greenkeeper, Royal Portrush GC

After all, what's in a name?

In the December issue, Elliott Small asked for examples of unusual names of golf clubs. Well while waiting for the frost to lift in Vancouver I decided to check out the North American Golf Directory for unusual names and came up with this selection.

Shaganappi GC, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Supestation Springs GC, Arizona; Fountain of the Sun GC, Arizona; Mad Russian GC, Colorado; Furry Creek GC, Vancouver; Beaver Creek GC, Arizona; Singing Hills GC, California; On top of the world GC, Florida, and Hanks Swank GC, California.

Keen up the good work!

Ian Bennion, Carnoustie Golf and Racquet Club, Vancouver, Canada

Thanks from Bob, as he begins to enjoy retired life

I would like to thank the Committee and Members of Mid Anglia for the generous presentation made to me after the Christmas Scramble at Chesfield Downs Family Golf Centre.

My contributions to the founding of the Section in the late 1970s was indeed a joint effort with a number of other local

greenkeepers and none worked harder, throughout the 1980s, than my long-time friend, Ken Bunting, who looked after the golfing side for Members. It was, indeed, a great pleasure for me to sit alongside Ken for dinner at Chesfield Downs on this enjoyable occasion.

More than 40 years have passed since I

started work at Cocks Moor Woods Golf Course, Birmingham and in that time I have known some wonderful characters. Now in retirement, I will play more golf and can look back on many happy times with so many good friends.

Bob Goodwin, Hemel Hempstead, Herts



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BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, Tracey Maddison, starts the new year with a warm welcome to some new members of the Association, and some important renewal information to existing members...

HAPPY reNEWal YEAR

Welcome to the first Membership Update for 2001. BIGGA would like to wish all existing members and prospective new members, a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Your 2001 Membership Renewal Pack contains important information, which as a Greenkeeper Member of BIGGA, you need to be aware of. For example, all Greenkeeper Members are covered by a personal accident insurance scheme. You can increase this personal protection benefit yourself by reading the form in your pack and using the tear off slip attached. A simple, one off payment could secure you up to £50,000 in increased benefits in addition to your standard BIGGA personal protection package.

For 2001 BIGGA have joined forces with Westfield Health Scheme to bring you a specially designed health care plan. You can choose a plan that most suits your lifestyle, to cover you for the cost of minor medical treatments not normally covered by the NHS. In this way, you will always have the funds to pay for dental treatment, glasses or contact lenses, physiotherapy and a whole host of other treatments, including consultation by a specialist. By ensuring that you have the funds, you can ensure that you have the treatment when you most need it, as opposed to when you can afford it.

When your 2001 Renewal Pack arrives check the contents carefully. The address card in the front contains your membership card - **DO NOT THROW THIS AWAY**. All Greenkeeper Members are required to sign the card and attach a passport size photograph to the card before sealing it in the wallet provided.

Finally, a reminder to all Greenkeeper Members whose membership expires this month. You should have received your renewal pack through the post for completion. If you are still awaiting your pack, please telephone the Membership Services Department on 01347 833800.

BIGGA welcomes...

Scottish Region

Robert Brown, West
Scott John Henderson, Ayrshire
Gordon Ewan Logan, West
Robert McDowell, West
Michael McLerie, West
William Hamilton Muir, West
Michael Bruce Romaszkiwicz, Central
Darren Welsh, West

Northern Region

Andrew Chambers, N West
Adam Richard Lamb, N West
Andrew Lee Morrison, N East
Darren Rimmer, N West

Midland Region

Shaun Bodkin, E Midland
Steven Cherry, BB&O
Sam Stephen Harris, BB&O
Steven David Hiron, BB&O
John Osborne, E of England
Scott Pritchett, E Midland
Ian Smith, Mid Anglia

South East Region

David John Barnes, London
Gary Branchett, Kent
Daniel Burrows, London

Ian Cole, Sussex
James George Gardner, Surrey
David Jones, London
Steven Denis Levermore, Essex
Steven John Moss, Surrey
David Joseph Newman, Surrey
Derek Robson, Surrey
Les Salmon, Surrey
Louis Arthur Tranter, Sussex
Daniel Robert Walder, Surrey
Kevin Mark Weller, Sussex

S West & S Wales Region

Neil Bennett, S West
David B Findlay, S West
Graham Anthony Henson, S West
Jamie Starr, S West
Roger Derrick West, S West
Graham David West, S Coast

Northern Ireland

Robert Crooks
Gordon McBride
Paul McFadden

International Members

Jovan Antunovic, Austria
Ian James Mitchell, Austria
Douglas L Nelson, Germany
Agust Jensson, Iceland

Gavin Edward Matthews, Norway
Roy Trydal, Norway
Craig Alexander Mackay, Spain
Ph Rasmusson, Sweden

Associate Members

Andrew Astle, E Midland
R Donald, BB&O
Graham Miller, E Anglia
Philip Ryland, South West
Adisai Ngamjitsukri, Far East

Student Members

Elisabeth Sowler, East
Jonathan Scott Crook, N West

Check out your February edition of **Greenkeeper** for all of the new members from December 2000!

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, Gary Willson of Avisford Park GC.

Get online, it's

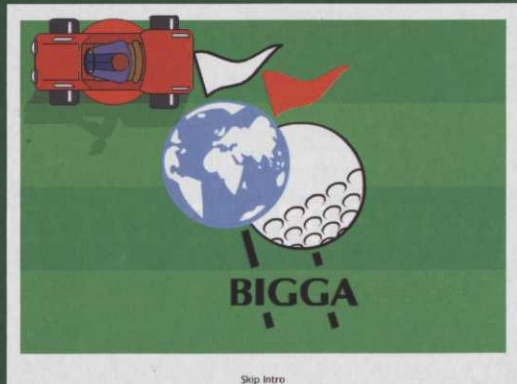
Since BIGGA relaunched its website in June this year, we have been constantly updating and adding new and improved content for members and visitors alike. As part of our continual programme of improvement we are now proud to announce the launch of our brand new 'Time to Talk' Bulletin Board. This service will enable all Greenkeeping members of BIGGA to discuss any topic of interest relevant to their profession, online.

How do I chat online?

'Time to Talk' is located in the BIGGA website Members' Area, and can be accessed by logging into the Greenkeeper Members Area. Simply enter your surname and date of birth, and once in the Members' Area, click on the Bulletin Board icon. A second window will automatically open, from where you can either register (if you are new to the Bulletin Board), or Login, if you have previously registered.

Once you have completed the registration process, you can login, and go to the Home Page of the Bulletin Board. From here you can organise your home page to meet your own requirements and select and view any of the discussions ongoing. You can create a new topic, or reply to an existing one. How about;

- Getting help and advice from fellow members?
- Renewing friendships with colleagues?
- Sharing ideas and challenges online?
- Car sharing to BTME 2001?



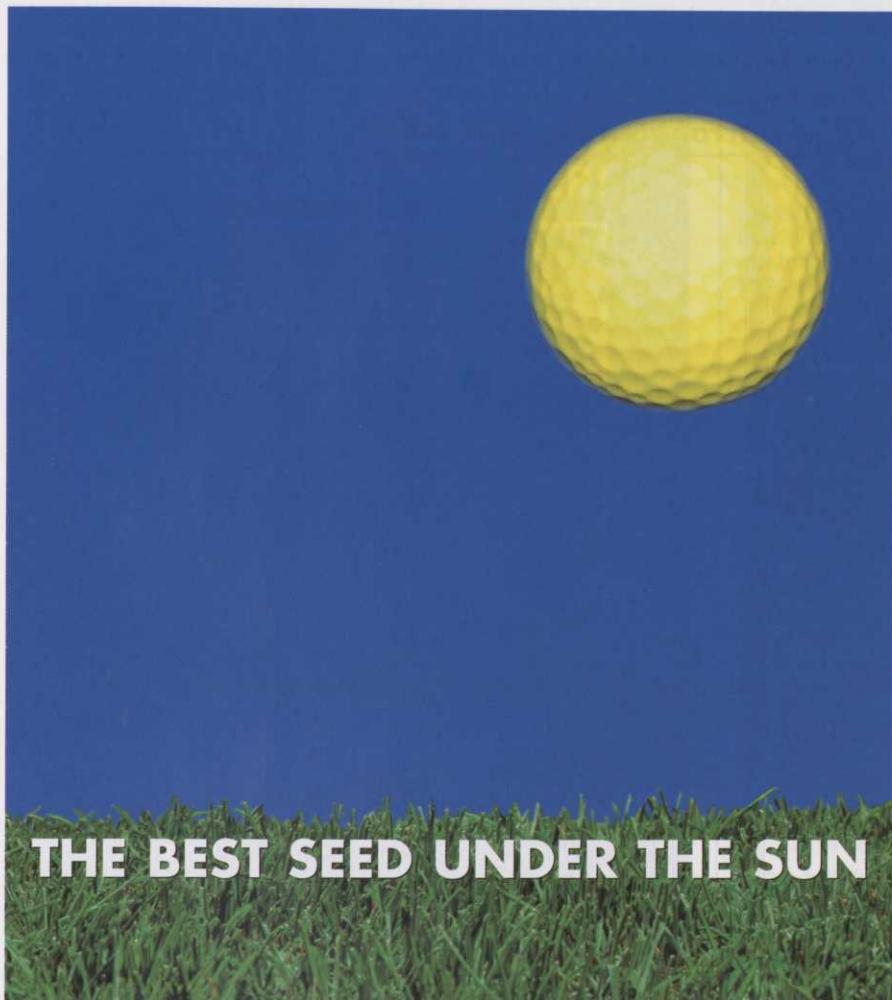
TIME TO TALK

www.bigga.org.uk

Whatever your question, BIGGA's 'Time to Talk' Bulletin Board is the place to ask it. So visit www.bigga.org.uk and login to the members area for an exciting and communicative experience!



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COMPANY WEBSITE PROFILES FROM THE TURFCARE INDUSTRY

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Company: Turf Seed UK

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The website lists the entire range of products offered by Rigby Taylor Limited, a BIGGA Gold Key member. In addition, there is more detailed information on individual products within the MASCOT Fertilizer, Chemical, Specialities, Grass Seed, Line Marking and Dressings ranges. It is also possible to call up Safety Data Sheets on these products and one can also request free copies of relevant product literature direct from the site. The site also provides information on its national regional office network as well as frequently updated news items and special product promotions.

RT
rigby taylor



BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, reports on the latest education and training developments and gives details of the education and training opportunities on offer at BTME in Harrogate later this month...

Sami and I would like to wish all our readers a very Happy, Prosperous and Educational New Year

Richard is an experienced speaker and excels in project management. Find out what it is like to be strapped to a jet engine at more than 600 MPH when you attend this free session.

You get even better value for money on Thursday morning, 25 January when five speakers will present seminars. Chrys Bird from Milliken Chemical will speak on the relevance of Soil Structure Management to Improved Drainage, from 11.00 to 11.30 and Simon Barnaby, from Scotts UK Professional, will follow speaking on USGA Spec. Does it Work?

Students and Lecturers should note that entry to all seminars is free on production of a Student Membership card, Student Union card or other relevant documentation.

Continuing Professional Development

Attending the National Education Conference, Workshops and BTME Seminars will give you BIGGA CPD credits.

The BIGGA CPD Scheme runs from July to June each year and is designed to allow greenkeepers to:

- Adapt outdated skills
- Keep in touch with changes in legislation
- Accumulate evidence towards further qualifications
- Regularly update knowledge
- Show their professionalism

The scheme is open to all BIGGA members who must have a minimum level of qualification of N/SVQ or equivalent.

You can get further information on the BIGGA CPD Scheme at the BIGGA Stand in Hall Q, from the BIGGA Website or from BIGGA HQ.



BIGGA Environment Competition

Congratulations to the Dyke Golf Club on winning the Year 2000 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. Full detail are given elsewhere but I would like to express my thanks to the Dyke for hosting the presentations.

The day was joyful and sad as Mr Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone and instigator of the Environment Competition, announced that he was leaving Amazone Ground Care. Rod has been the driving force behind the competition for six years and we shall miss his enthusiastic support.

It is encouraging to think that over 300 golf clubs have been encouraged to manage their golf courses in an environmentally friendly way thanks to this competition. The Media would have us believe that there is only bad news about the environment but they do not look at golf courses. Rare birds, flowers, butterflies, grasses and a whole range of flora and fauna are returning to the countryside thanks to golf courses.

A full report on the Dyke GC and the other finalists in this year's environment competition appear on page 34. You can also get information on previous winners, and on how you can enter, by visiting: www.bigga.org.uk



Water, Water, Water

The R&A could not have chosen a more apt title for the first of their roadshows on the use of water on golf courses, which was held at the Marriott Dalmahoy Hotel on 2 November 2000. Organised by Michael Barrett for the Golf Course Advisory Panel, the Roadshow attracted more than 70 delegates, mainly from Scotland to listen to a range of expert speakers on subjects ranging from the Environment to Water Shortages.

The whole event was summarised by Mr George Brown, Course Manager at Turnberry, who said that water was needed to keep fine turf growing. However, the use of irrigation should be kept to a minimum and used only when nature did not provide.

Further Roadshows will be held in England Wales and Ireland during 2001.

Myerscough Turfgrass Foundation Annual Conference

Blackpool was the venue for this year's Myerscough Turfgrass Foundation Annual Conference which took place from 13 to 16 November. Titled 'In pursuit of Excellence' the Conference covered a range of subjects from Poa Annua, through Rootzones to Construction. Speakers from Ireland, the United Kingdom and the USA presented some very technical papers which raised many points of discussion (some quite heated) which continued into the night, over dinner in the Hotel and even into Blackpool's famous (or is it notorious) nightclubs.

Feedback from speakers and delegates show that the Conference was a great success and it has become a key part of the Fine Turf Education Calendar.

Important news about The Learning Experience 2001 brought to you with the continued support of Textron Turfcare and Amenity Products

There is still time to book your place on this year's Learning Experience. The closing date for applications is 10 January 2001. Contact Ken or Sami at BIGGA HOUSE if you need an application form.

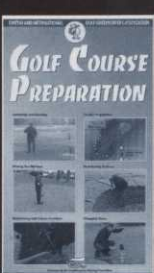
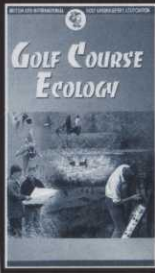
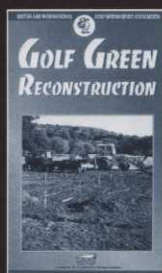
You can book places on seminars, on the day, at Harrogate. Anyone wishing to book a place on their choice of seminar, should contact Sami Collins on the Seminar Registration Desk in the Royal Hall, which is approached through Hall M.

The Careers Clinic was a proven success at the 2000 BTME and it will be held, once again, in the Kings Suite (note changed location). Manned by Brin Bendon and Frank Newberry, the Clinic should provide the knowledge and skills needed to find that new job.

The Royal Hall is the venue for this year's BIGGA Essay Competition and Master Greenkeeper Presentations which will take place at 10.40 with our President, Sir Michael Bonallack doing the honours.

Starting the BTME Seminar Programme off with a bang will be Richard Noble OBE, of Thrust I, Thrust II and Thrust SSC fame.

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Hydrostatic drive - manoeuvres in, around, through and under where others cannot reach.



With BTME almost upon us Bob Rendle, from Textron's Marketing Department, looks at how a major turf maintenance equipment manufacturer prepares for this prestigious event.

AND THEN, AS IF BY

It's a cold and frosty morning in mid January. You're standing in the middle of an almost deserted exhibition hall in Harrogate waiting for the stand contractors to arrive as the remnants of the last exhibition are finally cleared away. Yes, it's BTME time once again! That time when all the things planned for during the past months have to come together in less than two days for a show that will last just three days.

So why do manufacturers, like Textron, exhibit at shows and exhibitions and just what is involved in the planning and organisation of a stand? You don't need to be a rocket scientist to answer the first part of the question. Where else can you reach so many customers and potential customers at one time, launch new products, meet the press and media, cement existing relationships and generate new business?

Many of your dealers will also be among the visitors, so it is a great opportunity to get them together to discuss issues and, as Textron will

be doing, recognise their efforts over the past year.

Shows are also a great place to meet and greet old friends, some of whom you may not have seen since, well Saltext, all of 15 weeks ago! It's all good fun except for the stand organiser, for him or her it's a challenge.

So where do you start? Booking the stand space is always a good idea so, as soon as the booking form comes in, call a meeting - this is likely to be the first of many - to determine exactly what you require. You can usually book stand space in two ways. The first option is a "shell scheme", the cost of which includes walls around the stand, carpeting and lighting. All you have to do is move your products in, put pictures up, spread out your literature and away you go.

The other option is "open space", an area of bare floor on which to build the stand, quite literally, from the floor up.

Size and number of products along with your budget will determine the area you apply for. The position of your stand in the exhibition is also important so get into talks with the organisers and get the best for your company. Just as importantly decide who is going to the show and get hotel rooms booked, as accommodation can be very hard to come by during show week. If you can delegate this job to someone who will be on the show stand, they will then take a very personal interest in getting it right! (Managers' PAs and senior secretaries are usually very good at this, as they tend to know everyone involved).

If you have opted for an open space stand there's usually time for a breather after the application has gone in and before you have to start looking at the detail. However, don't get complacent and always read the exhibitors' manual

thoroughly. It will be full of important information including a list of deadlines that have to be adhered to. Then, at no less than three months before the show (longer if you've a really big stand), call another meeting and get everyone involved; sales, marketing, service, parts and manufacturing. Decide on your exhibits (making sure that the factory can supply them on time); look at any failings in previous stand designs and get input from everybody so that there are no nasty surprises later on.

Armed with all this information you can then set about planning the stand layout. It's not uncommon for the Sales Department to want everything bar the kitchen sink incorporated on a stand the size of a postage stamp, so draw up plan views of the products, cut them out if necessary and on a sheet of graph paper, draw the stand area to the same scale. You can then spend a couple of hours moving your little scale drawings around to see if everything will fit. Don't forget to allow a space for storage (coats, briefcases, literature) and perhaps a small office. Even with modern computer software packages available, this tried and trusted method is almost infallible.

Now that you have got to this stage, it's time to call in a stand designer

Below: Special functions, such as the Dealer of the Year Awards, can be organised as part of the Show



Above: Planning the stand layout in detail ensures that all products will fit

MAGIC

and exhibition contractor. Your stand can be simple or complex depending on the budget available, so get a maximum of three companies to look at the job to ensure that you get value for money. Stand building is an expensive business and a detailed brief including a copy of your product layout, any requirements for video or computer terminals and the budget available is essential.

While waiting for the designs to come back, start thinking about all the other things that will be required. Just about every trade magazine will carry a show preview and will be asking for press releases early in December and the publishing deadlines will have been brought forward due to the Christmas and New Year holiday. It is particularly important to get these in if you are launching new products. You'll also need press packs at the show and its best to get these professionally written and produced. New products mean new literature. Have you got enough stock of existing leaflets? What about photographs you'll need both for the press releases, stand and literature. All these things take time and there will be other things on going, so time will soon pass. Keep a check on any jobs that you have delegated. Particularly hotel accommodation!

We mentioned dealers earlier and it's not uncommon for a manufacturer to hold an evening function for them during the show. This means that demand for function rooms could be high, so get your booking in early. Things to think about here are getting invitations out, replies in, a menu chosen and perhaps a speaker or cabaret booked. You'll need to establish a programme for the evening as there are sure to be speeches and the MD will want to know precisely what's expected of him. The organisation of an event such as this is a job in itself and once again help from the managers' PAs and senior secretarial staff will prove invaluable.

You've now got the stand designs and quotations in so have another meeting and make your choice of preferred supplier. Now is there anything you've forgotten? Back to the exhibitors manual and that all-important check list. Whoops! The catalogue entry was supposed to be in 10 days ago and the deadline for ordering telephones is tomorrow. And that's how it goes right up to the show. Changes to accommo-

modation requirements are always necessary, so be prepared. (Why do overseas visitors always think that hotels have executive suites waiting for their booking the day before a show opens?) Don't forget the sales enquiry forms and what about name badges for the staff?

It's now time for the show build up and back to where we started. The contractors are in and you are just waiting (with a team of willing helpers) for your transport to arrive with all the products. Everybody is trying to get into the exhibition hall at the same time so be patient. As long as you have not forgotten anything it should all work like clockwork. It needs to, as it's really too late now to make any last minute changes. It may take a day, it may take a week to build the stand, but at the end of it you should feel a great sense of satisfaction.

Now you take on a new role from Stand Organiser to Stand Manager while the Show is open. It's an important one as accidents can happen and things can go wrong. Make sure that you know where the important services are in the Hall, organisers office, first aid, electricians etc. Make sure that someone on your team has a small tool kit so that you can quickly deal with small emergencies, because they will happen. Get though the next few days and then all you have to do is tear it all down. Breakdown is always achieved in a fraction of the time it takes to build.

So what has been achieved during the show? Well, hopefully, we've done what we set out to do. We've met many of our existing customers, making sure that we have met their expectations over the previous year and ironing out any minor problems that might have arisen. We've launched new products and gained valuable feedback on these and our existing product range. Potential new customers have come on stand and those sales enquiry forms have been analysed and followed up. The media, especially the trade press, have had the opportunity for one-to-one conversations with our senior people and we've even spoken with our competitors. And finally, we've met with our distributors, discussed various issues and, at the Dealer of the Year Awards, recognised their contribution to the success of the organisation.

It's been a huge team effort and hopefully it's all gone to plan and that's the secret. Plan, revise and plan again. And that's it until the next show.

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Duncan McGilvray has long preached the need for better communications. Here, he outlines the new approach he is taking at Potters Bar GC.

It's good to talk

Communication here we go again - pushing the boundaries further - or even taking chances. It may stir up excitement in the confident but probably concerns and worries in the not so confident.

Having covered communication some time ago in at least two different articles I was asked last year to do an update on the importance of this subject.

I had to be honest and say that I had not done anything any differently than I did back then (some 10 years ago) and had nothing new to offer in spite of taking up a new post at Potters Bar.

Well that was last year and how wrong I was in thinking that you could do all the things you've done before and succeed!

At the beginning here at Potters Bar the newsheet articles went down well, the photographs on the notice board were favourably commented on and one of our lady members (following my first presentation to the Ladies Section) suggested I was too young to manage a golf course! It may have been an insult - But I am taking it as a compliment!

Everything was progressing well until I was confronted by questions of the most obvious kind.

**How often are the greens cut?
Why don't you cut the greens shorter?
Why are you making holes in the greens?**

These questions made me seriously doubt my so called abilities in the communication area. All this information is of course available but nobody wanted to look for it.

Never a man to give up easily, we arranged for an info night first with the Board of Directors (to put their mind to ease about what I was going to say) and thereafter with the general membership.

The Board info night was excellent. Everyone (including me!) learned a lot. The first member information night however was not well supported. In fact staff and board members made up around 50% of the total!

The reason?

Because everything on the golf course was perfect no one wanted to complain?

Of course not.

The timing of the meeting (early

evening weekday) and a touch of general apathy was probably the reason. So what do we do ignore the situation? Not a good idea as I firmly believe through painful experience that if we do not communicate effectively (even to people who do not make the effort to listen). We will not succeed.

We therefore tried again with little more success than before (still early evening but a different weekday) so it was heads down to think of something a bit more radical. Through discussion it was commented on that most of the queries, or more accurately complaints were expressed following competitions and the vast majority of those are played at the weekend.

When you really analyse it why would anyone make the effort to come to the Club in the evening specifically to listen to me droning on about the golf course? In my experience the only way members will make a serious commitment to attend a golf course presentation is if there is a crisis situation, which requires urgent action, and people want to make their feelings known.

We have our problems - but we could not describe any of our problems as a crisis!

Along the lines of the "Mohammed and the mountain theory" it was suggested that I do a presentation during the day following a competition at the weekend. A good idea on the face of it but maybe not practical. I don't know what you're like after a game of golf but all I want to do is have a shower, a drink and a light hearted chat. I don't want to sit down and get a lecture about the finer points of golf course greenkeeping (and I'm a greenkeeper!)

So what was the answer?

One of the Board members suggested a more one to one situation where I was available at advertised times at weekends. A bit like an MP's Saturday morning surgery or clinic. I was a bit apprehensive at first but decided to give it a go - no choice really!

I have now done six (one Saturday and one Sunday each month linked to monthly medals/competitions and the occasional mixed match).

The format?

Signs at the entrance to the club (from the course).

Duncan is available for any golf course queries - you'll find him in the Room from 11am to 3pm.

I therefore station myself for at least a couple of hours in an appropriate room with:

1. Photographs of the course both past and present.
2. An A4 sheet listing all areas of the course to prompt queries even though I have found that few members require any prompting!
3. Anything else which may be relevant.
4. Simply answer questions.

For the last hour or so I have found it helpful to become a little less formal.

Drink at the bar (non-alcoholic - keep your wits about you!) - sandwich or meal in the restaurant - just being available really.

From the initial feeling of apprehension/waste of time I now feel it has become an extremely important area of direct communication and deserves the effort. There are no queues to speak to me - I'm not that popular! But I do get on average around 6 members with varying queries on each occasion.

If you do two days per month over 10 months with six members at each - that's 120 people a year! 120 member's discussions on a one to one basis in a year I believe is a very effective and worthwhile communication exercise. The added bonus of course is that whenever any previously related discussion on course matters is brought up in general play on the course there is a greater degree of knowledge on which to base comments.

A good tip is to keep brief records of subject matter - it focuses our attention on topical issues and is a good indicator of what to produce in future reports and newsletters/articles.

I recently read Sandy McDivot's article in the August issue 'Friendly Advice' and it certainly struck a chord which I had not really thought about before. The general message throughout the article was "make friends not enemies and you are likely to succeed in what you do." It reminded me of a conversation, which I had recently with a pretty good single figure golfing member.

Member: "Duncan there is an area to the left of the 5th hole (stroke 2) which has a large heap of seemingly abandoned cut branches, bushes and debris - a number of my drives have ended up in there never to be seen again - can you remove them asap."

Duncan: "We are of course aware of this, as all the cuttings from winter tree maintenance are there (the most out of the way area possible) for supervised burning at the right time of year. Unfortunately burning did not take place this year, as it was not safe to do so. It will therefore have to wait until the coming winter - there is simply no other area available."

Member: "But what am I going to do in the meantime? Lose more golf balls and therefore not win competitions or matches?"

Duncan: "As the area is some 50 yards off line it would probably be better if you spoke to Gary (our Professional) rather than me!" (Tongue stuck firmly in cheek and smiling!) - He found it quite amusing.

It would not have been possible to get this message across in the way it was intended unless I had been available on various occasions to discuss course matters both seriously and jokingly in the past.

Because of the strides being made in training within our profession in the areas of presentation and communication, conversations like the one I have just described should not be that difficult. We do, however, have to be extremely careful in gauging moods so that the right comment may be made at the right time.

Putting our big foot in it can set us back severely in what we are trying to achieve. It is however I believe essential for us to take the initiative and move forward even if we do make some mistakes.

All the other areas of communication are still carried out but this clinic surgery idea is certainly helping us "get the message across, and is certainly well worth the effort."

Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager, Potters Bar Golf Club

Roland Taylor dispenses some excellent advice on tyres and tyre pressure which might just save you major problems for machinery and turf in the future

Inflated ideas?



Most of us spend a great deal of our waking hours floating around on cushions of air, hardly realising how dependent we have become on this aspect of transportation. Often the only time any thought is given to the humble tyre is when it is flat or needs replacing.

In modern turf management it plays an important role in the battle against compaction. Not so long ago the only tyres available for use on sports areas were designed to give as much traction as possible. As a result, when used on turf, they could do considerable damage especially when ground conditions were soft. The

need for a tyre with less ground pressure did not originate from the grass industry. It came from the forestry industry who were experiencing problems with the deep ruts formed in woodland areas where the ground conditions were soft, plus the high levels of punctures because of the rough terrain.

Owners of vineyards were also finding that the conventional form of tread and weight transference was damaging their vines' shallow root systems. Tyre manufacturers came up with a solution - a wide section tyre that distributed the weight of the machine over a greater area at a low

pressure. Research also revealed that by altering the tread pattern ample traction was achieved with the minimum damage to the surface.

There are now wide ranges of low ground pressure tyres on the market but it is important to get the right ones fitted for your specific requirements. This is determined by where the piece of equipment is going to be used and the types of operations it is expected to carry out. For example: In the case of a tractor you must take into account all the machinery it will be operating, the towing capacities and how much time is going to be spent travelling on hard surface. Once

the requirements have been formulated it is time to call in a tyre specialist. He can advise on the best type and tread pattern to give maximum performance and long life in specific applications. If you are thinking of replacing your existing tyres with a different low ground pressure type there are a number of factors that need to be addressed.

Will the machine's chassis accommodate the new ones, especially in the case where wheel arches or mudguards are fitted?

Is the height of cut going to be altered? (The mower might be higher off the ground).

If fitted with wider tyres will the machine still be able to go through gates or work in areas where access is limited?

The tyres on trailers and other ancillary machinery should be given as much attention as those fitted towing vehicles. It is only after the turf has been damaged that a problem with these shows up.

What are the problems that can occur with tyres?

The correct inflation of a tyre is critical if it is to perform safely and correctly.

The most common problem is likely to be under-inflation.

* This places more pressure on the side walls, which as a result can be seriously damaged.

* The beading may come unseated so that air can escape, thus escalating the situation.

* There will be increased wear, so the life of the tyre is reduced and in addition, the ride will be more uncomfortable.

Over inflation brings with it even more trouble.

* Traction will be affected making the machine more difficult to control and increasing the likelihood of damaging the turf.

* There is every possibility that increased compaction will occur because more of the machine weight is being transmitted onto the turf.

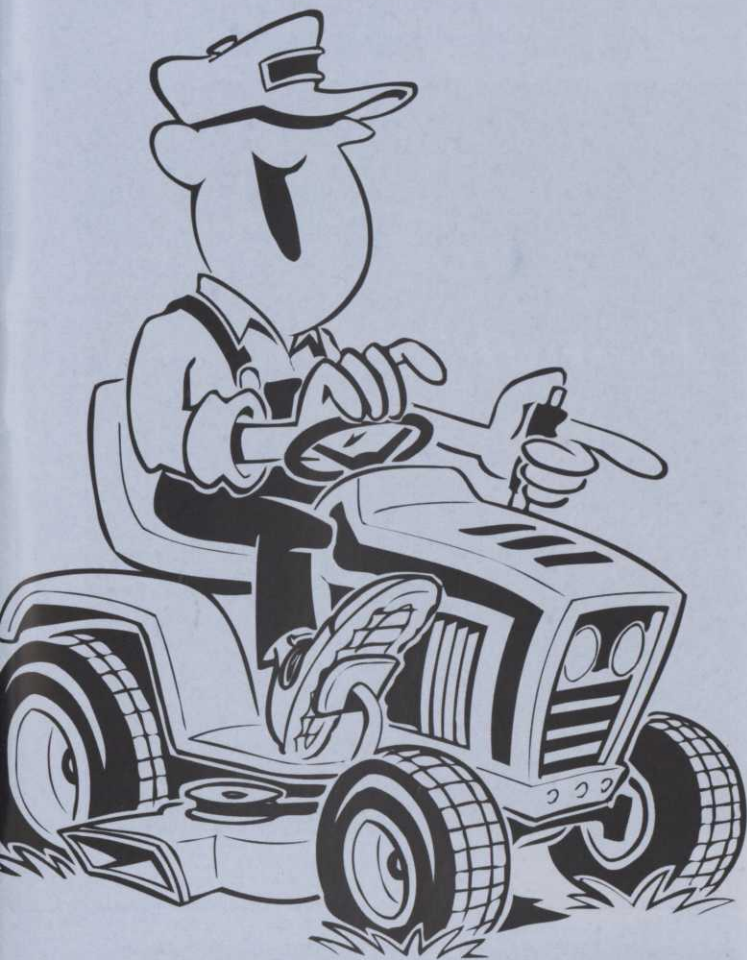
* Fuel consumption will go up as the engine adjusts to meet the greater stresses being applied to all the components.

* The performance of the unit will rapidly deteriorate as it struggles to maintain equilibrium.

* Damage to turf escalates and there is increased tyre wear.

* Similar to under inflation, the ride will not be very comfortable.





Tyre care

This is an aspect that is often overlooked. It should be part of the general maintenance programme, as tyres need to be thoroughly inspected at least once a fortnight.

1. From the above it is clear that the correct inflation pressure is the number one priority and this needs to be done on a regular basis. The recommended psi can be found in the machine's instruction manual. If this is not available contact either the supplier or a specialist tyre company. Use a gauge to check - guessing the pressure will not solve the problem.

2. Valve caps should always be fitted. Dust or dirt can find its way under the seating and cause a leakage.

3. Always be on the look out for signs of damage to the tread and side walls. A bulge indicates that things are not right. If a stone or other foreign body has lodged in the tread it needs removing. Any deep cuts will also require attention.

4. Where equipment is laid up for a longish period the tyres will have to be rested. The whole unit should be raised on jacks or blocks to take the load off the wheels.

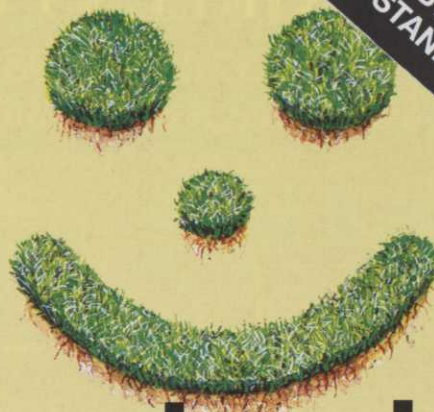
5. Correct storage is important. The tyres (or wheels with them fitted) should be kept in a dark place, away from petrol, oil and other chemicals. Electric motors give off ozone, which over a period of time will break down the rubber content of a tyre, so they should be stored well away from these.

If a puncture does occur there are tyre sealants and plug kits now available to carry out an on site repair. Having a stock of these readily available will save a lot of time. Your local specialist will be able to give details on these products and advise which are the best.

If equipment is going to be used on the public highway the tyres and any repairs must conform to the regulations.

After the engine the tyres are some of the most important components if a piece of equipment is to work satisfactorily. In the event of a flat due to neglect, wear or a puncture the machine is inoperable. A lot of time can be wasted getting it repaired or obtaining a new one, so it makes sense to look after them correctly and thus reduce unnecessary hassle in 2001.

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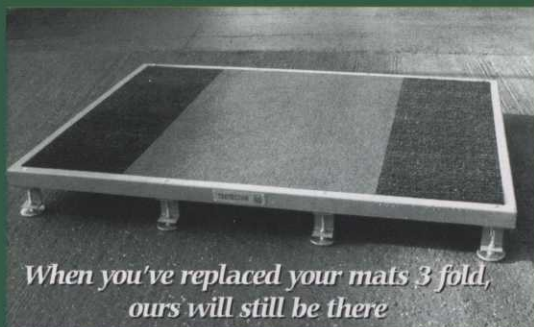
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Jenny Murphy helps identify the diseases you are likely to find in turf and explains how to maintain turf in good condition

Disease-free turf

Turf diseases are disorders which are usually caused by parasitic fungi invading plant tissues and robbing the grass of vital nutrients.

Alternatively, they can be caused by the indirect effects of fungi inhabiting the soil in the root zone and altering the availability of water and nutrients to the grass, as in the case of the fairy ring fungi. In either case they present a problem to the greenkeeper, who needs to take some form of remedial action in order to restore the turf to full health.

Intensively managed turf is often more prone to attacks of turf disease. In many cases, development of disease problems can be attributed to cultural causes, i.e. a failure to provide optimum conditions for plant growth. The long term remedy will usually involve changes in the cultural techniques employed, e.g. by increasing scarification. In the short term however, the use of fungicides may prove necessary to halt the disease and protect the grass from further damage.

This article aims to assist in the correct identification of turf disease and to detail the main factors encouraging their spread. Details of cultural measures and fungicides available for disease control are given.

General care of fine turf

In order to maintain turf in a healthy condition, particular attention needs to be given to the following areas.

Correct feeding

Left to its own devices, grass will survive on soils with widely ranging nutritional value. However, to provide the optimal growing conditions needed for fine turf, feeding needs to be carefully managed. The main nutrients which grasses need are nitrogen, phosphate and potassium. The precise requirements for nutrition depend on the grass species, time of year and the type of soil. Some diseases are encouraged by lack of soil fertility, e.g. Red Thread, while too much nitrogen in the soil can encourage other diseases such as Fusarium Patch.

Root systems

Poor drainage, compaction and the build up of thatch can cut down air supply to the grass roots, reducing plant vigour. This renders the turf more susceptible to disease attack. Turf soils need to be kept aerated by regular spiking or hollow tining, and the thatch controlled by routine scarification.

Shade

Plants need sufficient light to promote healthy growth. Where grass is shaded

by trees, hedges and other obstructions, vigour may be reduced and grass becomes prone to disease attack. Where possible, excessive shade should be controlled by pruning.

Soil pH

The optimum pH for grass growth is between pH 5.5 and 6.5, although grass can survive a much wider range than this. Outside this range, the pH will reduce plant vigour and in some cases, an alkaline pH (greater than 7) can encourage the disease Take-all Patch.

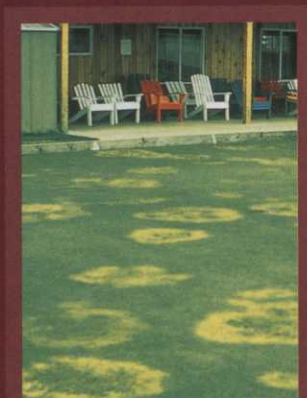
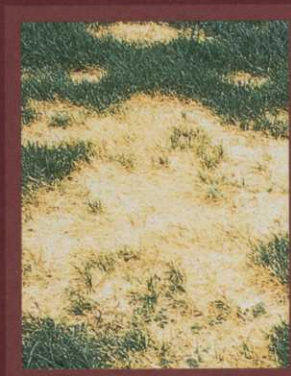
Disease resistance

Some cases of fungicide resistance have been observed, associated with fungicide treatments of food crops, where the same chemical has been applied repeatedly over a number of years. To date however, no cases of disease resistance have been identified in association with disease control in UK turf.

Rotation of fungicides will help prevent the problem of resistance occurring. A programmed approach, where a systemic fungicide is used during periods of strong growth, backed up by the use of a contact fungicide during the autumn and winter months, will maintain a balanced treatment.

The main diseases greenkeepers are likely to meet are outlined overleaf.

Disease-free turf



Fusarium Patch

Symptoms

Orange brown patches, 2.5 to 5cm across, increasing in size under suitable conditions. Can coalesce to affect large areas. Disease often very active following periods of snow cover, when it appears as an orange-brown ring surrounding a pale straw-coloured/slightly pink centre.

Occurrence

Any time of the year when conditions are suitable, but especially spring and autumn and after snow.

Grass species involved

Annual Meadow-grass (*Poa annua*) is the main species attacked but the fungus also attacks Bent Grass (*Agrostis* Spp) and occasionally other grasses. Host preference is diminished when disease attacks under snow cover.

Other influencing factors

Shade, humidity, alkaline surface, inefficient drainage, excess nitrogen.

Control measures

Identification of influencing factors and application of appropriate remedial measures.

Red Thread/Pink Patch

Symptoms

Ill defined patches of bleached grass. Pink mycelium often visible in morning dew cover. Red needles present, attached to leaf blades. Needles become brittle on drying and serve to spread disease into new areas. Rarely infected grasses killed out. The disease is now thought to be a 'complex' involving 2 species: *Laetisaria fuciformis*, where red needles are present – Red Thread, and *Limonomyces roseipellis*, where pink mycelium is present – Pink Patch

Occurrence

Very common. Occurs during summer and autumn and can persist into mild winters

Grass species involved

Can affect most lawn grasses, particularly Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*).

Other influencing factors

Low fertility – particularly low nitrogen

Control measures

Improve fertility. Select resistant cultivars.

Anthracnose

Symptoms

Leaves of affected plants turn yellow. The youngest leaves often turn red. The plants rot at the base and can be pulled out with greater ease. A black staining at the base of the plant can be seen when the disease is at the advanced stage. This black structure, known as an acervulus, is involved in reproduction.

Occurrence

Can be fairly common on poorly managed turf in late summer and autumn

Grass species involved

Annual Meadow-grass is particularly susceptible, especially when the management of turf is tilted towards starving out this grass species.

Other influencing factors

Poor growing conditions, especially where compacted soil restricts the air supply to the roots. Poor fertility is also likely to encourage this disease.

Control measures

Measures taken to relieve compaction, eg hollow tining/soil tining, turf conditioning etc. Application of a balanced autumn fertiliser.

Take-all Patch

Symptoms

Rings or part rings of orange/brown grass from 0.1 to 1 metre in diameter. The band of drying grass is usually about 0.1 metre across and is predominately the result of a fungal attack on the roots which become grey and discoloured, thereby allowing the affected plants to be easily plucked from the turf. At certain times, a black reproductive structure, known as perithecia, may be seen low down on the stem. This is usually found immediately below the leaf junctions. The perithecia contains many banana shaped asci, each containing 8 long ascospores which serve to spread infection. Infected patches become devoid of bent-grass species and contain only non-susceptible grasses.

Occurrence

Most common in late summer and autumn.

Other influencing factors

Waterlogging and surface alkalinity increase the likelihood of this disease

Grass species involved

Bent grasses (*Agrostis*)

Control measures

Avoid over application of lime during the summer. Liming is best done in the autumn and, after a suitable interval, should be followed by a dressing of fertiliser to re-acidify the surface. Attention to drainage of wet areas is recommended

Jenny Murphy is the Technical and Registration Manager of Aventus Environmental Science

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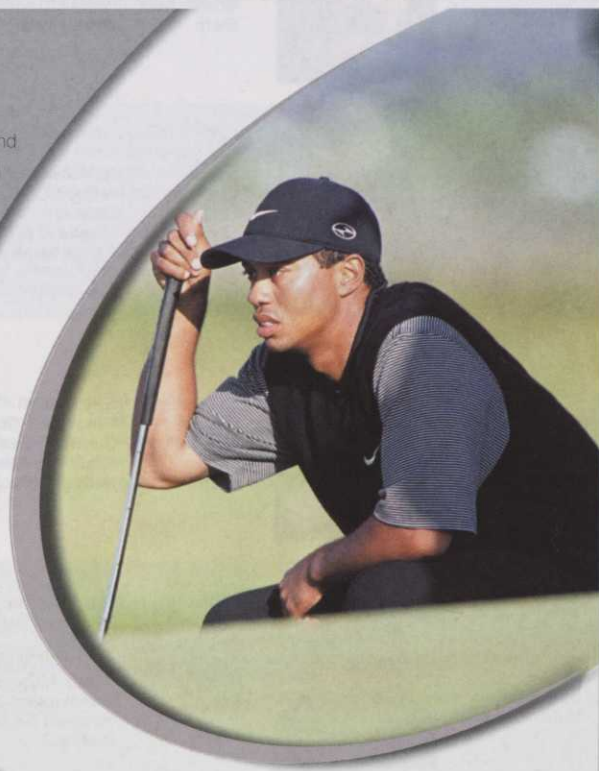


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TALKING

Six of the country's top men give their views on pests (Leatherjackets, chafers, worms, rabbits and moles) and how they combat them

Pests (Leatherjackets, chafers, worms, rabbits and moles)

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE



Name: Iain MacLeod
Course: Tain GC, Rosshire
Region: Scotland
Course Type: Links
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus four



Name: Pat Murphy
Course: Shipley GC
Region: Northern
Course Type: Parkland/heathland
Staff: Course Manager, plus six, plus two gardeners



Name: Neil Whitaker
Course: Arkley GC, Herts
Region: Midland
Course Type: Mixture of parkland and heathland
Staff: Course Manager, plus two (nine holes)



Name: Billy Mitchell
Course: Perranporth Golf Club, Newquay, Cornwall
Course Type: Duneland, links type
Region: South West and South Wales
Staff: Head greenkeeper plus three (365 acres)



Name: Billy McMillan
Course: Mannings Heath, Horsham, Sussex
Region: South East
Course type: Parkland (36 holes)
Staff: Course Manager, plus two Head Greenkeepers, eight greenkeepers plus mechanic (winter), plus three more staff (summer)



Name: Joe Findlay
Course: Royal Portrush Golf Club, Co Antrim
Region: Northern Ireland
Course type: Links
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus 13, plus five part-timers in summer (36 holes, nine-hole pitch and putt course)

Which pests give you the most problem?

1

Leatherjackets and moles. It used to be rabbits, but we employ someone to shoot them now and whereas we used to get as many as 30-40 in one night now we only see the odd one.

Moles are the main problem, but I also get damage from rabbits, badgers and deer.

Rabbits, closely followed by moles. We also have worms and a few leatherjackets in addition to quite a few foxes.

Rabbits and moles are the biggest problems and we get more moles if we have worms about.

Worms are by far the most debilitating problem on our courses and I see them as a major concern for many people in years to come if, as seems possible, winters get wetter. We don't get a lot of leatherjackets here.

Leatherjackets are the only real problem. There are no sign of worms because of our sandy soil.

HEADS

How do you identify them early?

We see the cranefly on the wing and also laying on fairways and greens and the presence of various birds, including the hooded crow soon let us know they are about.

Molehills give you a clear indication straight away, and there are scrapes and droppings from rabbits, badgers dig up the grass and deer eat parts of trees.

Rabbits are easily identified because of scrapes and droppings. Birds pecking are a sign of leatherjackets and sometimes worms when the birds turn divots over.

Rabbits are no problem to identify as there are scrapes and holes dug round bunkers. Molehills clearly indicate their presence.

Worm casting in early autumn and winter.

If you wait to see signs of damage it is too late. Crane-flies lay eggs in August and September. In late October or early November I spray with Chlorpyrifos insecticide to kill the grubs and also do a lot of aerating and also use a hydrojet

How do they affect play?

Not really at all. We try to nip things in the bud when possible. We didn't aerate in August, September and October this year so that there wouldn't be ready-made holes for craneflies to lay eggs. Instead we tine and verticut in November.

They don't affect play at all because damage is not done to the fine turf. Moles are usually in semi-rough and rough on our course.

Holes in bunkers are the usual problem concerning rabbits and divots lifted by birds, in addition to not being replaced by golfers, are a nuisance. But I would say that play isn't affected to any great extent.

Bunkers have to be raked regularly because of rabbits digging. We had nests built into the bunkers last year. But generally speaking they don't affect play that much.

The casting of worms can destroy any fine sward and detracts from the quality of the playing surface for members and visitors as you can quickly get a lot of mud. Some players tee up on worm casts!

Not at all. I maintain a very tight sward which is an excellent defence against the crane-fly. I never let it get to the stage of affecting play.

What measures can you take to prevent them?

We spray for leatherjackets in November and, if there is a major infestation, in March as well. Because we are on sandy soil we get few problems with worms but greens are sprayed to deal with what few we have.

Moles need water every four hours, so I suppose you could say cut off the supply! In dry weather they go down and you never see them and they come up looking for worms when it's wet.

Spraying with pesticides, repellants and retardants. We have someone coming in once a fortnight to shoot rabbits. Many years ago I used lead arsenic and later chlordane to control worms but there is nothing as effective as these nowadays. The present suppressants are costly and give minimal control. On a previous course we electrified fences to deter badgers.

I use Scuttle, a good animal repellant and I also have mole traps in addition to putting down Phostoxin. We have a resident badger which does a bit of digging but we tolerate him.

Short of keeping the playing surface dry and free from any leaf and grass litter, there is nothing more I can do. I could go on about low fertility, light and air, but that is a long story.

The most important thing is to have a good deep-rooted system and tight sward to withstand pests. We haven't used fungicides for the last three years, only pesticides.

What measures do you take to tackle them if they have hit?

We spray if leatherjackets have struck and if the signs are severe, with damage to the root system, we overseed or re turf. Worm casts are an ideal seed bed for weeds. Cutting fairways can be more difficult if there are worm casts about.

We trap moles, net rabbits but don't touch badgers, which are protected, or deer. I am a nature lover so I don't like to see shooting on the course. I am a bit worried that we may struggle to find something to deal with worms one of these days. There hasn't been anything as good as chlordane, which is now banned of course.

Rabbits are a major problem and it is a losing battle with them. We use conventional methods such as shooting and gassing.

We try to eradicate pests by conventional methods, shooting rabbits and gassing the burrows. But we will never beat them.

We restrict worm casts by chemical control as late in the season as possible in an effort to avoid multiple applications of chemicals on our courses. But always remember the old saying 'as custodians of the land we have to co-exist with nature.'

I spray with the appropriate pesticide if there is a sign of bird activity. Rabbits are a minor problem. We had a foot square of fairway damaged by a rabbit, but his time will come! And you may be interested to know there are no moles in Ireland.

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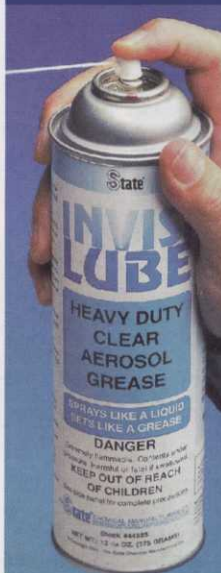
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Walter Woods reveals the trials and tribulations which went into producing the acclaimed new Kingsbarns course just outside St Andrews

Making of a masterpiece



Kingsbarns Golf Links is just six miles south of St Andrews on the east coast of Scotland. The village itself is picturesque containing a small church with a large steeple which dominates the skyline.

Being close to St Andrews it is not surprising that golf was a favourite pastime among the locals and this dictated that there should be a golf course of their own to allow them to improve their skills. To achieve this a compact but delightful nine hole golf course was created and founded in 1793 on a flat piece of land adjacent to the sea and protected by a large

grassy sea bank. This allowed golf to be played and enjoyed for many years but to their disappointment it would be closed down to allow war exercises to be practised.

The remaining Kingsbarns golfers then joined other local golf clubs but still to this day play annually for the original trophies at nearby Crail Golf Club. Since 1939 the golfing ground had been allowed to grow for cattle grazing purposes.

The new Kingsbarns was resurrected when a local businessman spotted its golfing potential. He contacted two American investors who soon realised

that an outstanding traditional Links embraced with coastal sea views could be constructed which would eventually reflect the heritage of Scottish traditional golf.

Following initial introductions, the first few months were occupied by meetings and planning. Kyle Philips who originally worked with Robert Trent Jones Jr was contacted then selected as the Architect to work in co-ordination with Mark Parsinen. Kyle Philips designed the routing from one to 18 with Mark following up by designing the mounding, slopes and hollows which are the features which

Making of a masterpiece

add character to rugged sea-side Links.

The design of the new course was split into two levels, the upper and lower, with the objective of having as many playing areas as close to the sea as possible. The upper level because of its more agricultural type soil required to have the heavy texture balanced by exchanging and mixing a plentiful supply of sand taken from the lower level. This was time consuming but would be beneficial in the long term.

When I was contacted by Mark Parsinen it was mainly to give advice and also to contribute my Links experience gained by working at St Andrews for over 20 years. I was also given the authority of promoting many projects which are required in the forming of a golf course.

Large bulldozer earth moving equipment operated with skilful trained shapers can grade any mound or contour specified to the plan or drawing. This can be applied to any golf course whether it be Links or inland - with the added benefit that sand can be easier to move than clay. Kingsbarns because of its location would be designed and created to have rugged natural appearance which has been sculptured by mother nature.

Following the first day of earth moving it was discovered to our concern that a thick band of clay which existed some four feet below the surface, was being disturbed and spread, contaminating all of the surrounding surfaces. Owing to this all work was stopped to allow

plans of contours and levels to be modified.

This discovery at first was alarming but did instigate discussions which indicated that a comprehensive drainage system be designed by a drainage expert then installed as work progressed. This decision paid immediate dividends as we were about to experience the wettest winter then following summer since weather records were initiated.

As the development progressed much slower than anticipated owing to excessive rain, it did provide the opportunity to plan and organise important side issues such as mains electricity large enough to supply maintenance and Clubhouse demands. Fresh water was piped from the village with irrigation water taken from underground aquifers by two 90 metre deep bore holes.

Maintenance buildings were sourced and investigated with the view that this building would be the nerve centre of the project, large enough to contain all necessary machines to serve a high standard well-maintained golf course.

Over the next few months frequent rain showers inflicted many delays which were frustrating. Every day, or each dry spell, had to be taken advantage of. Motivation and organisation were the key words required to drive forward every inch of progress.

Once a fairway green or tee was completed they were assessed by the Architects then passed onto the contractors for cultivation, preparing, then seeding. Large areas were seeded by machine drilling lines of seed at varying angles. The mounds or slopes were hydroseeded which is a machine containing a large tank which water seed and a paste-like substance is mixed then high pressure powered sprayed onto the surface at equal thickness allowing the seed to stick and germinate much quicker.

Owing to the traditional aspect fine blends of grasses were selected capable of blending to form a uniform sward. These were mainly consisting of fescue and bent grass which provide the seaside appearance but are also capable of withstanding the vagaries of our ever changing weather.

Seed selected for fairways would be 20% slender creeping red fescue, 30% chewings fescue, 30% strong creeping red fescue, 10% Browntop Bent with 10% Poa Pratensis for quick healing purpose.

For greens the seed selected would be 30% slender creeping red fescue, 40% chewings with 30% Browntop Brent grass

Tees were almost similar to greens but had a percentage of Poa-Pratensis added with a slight reduction to the creeping red and chewings.

Roughs on a Links, particularly the periphery mounds and dunes, is where the whole visual aspect can be highlighted like a beautiful lady all dressed up. We chose sheep's fescue as the main variety mainly because of its upright slender graceful stance which changes to a delightful pinkish hue towards the late summer.

During 1998 seeding continued to all areas. While achieving this two out-of-play locations were selected for heather planting by plugging small potted heathers into the ground but before doing so the selected ground was made acid by spreading aluminium sulphate. Gorse bushes which are common to links were also planted at chosen points mainly to provide strategic playing issues. Broom which has a similar appearance to gorse but is not so hardy, was attempted by adding the broom seed into the hydroseeder tank when seeding the outer perimeter mounds. This became surprisingly successful.

1998 progressed slowly often with unexpected difficulties experienced mainly by heavy rainfalls creating flooding then gathering force washing out many of the newly cultivated slopes finishing up with depositing large heaps of soil and seed. Patience





and hard work were necessary using the same motivation as a colony of ants. Soils had to be pushed back again to be prepared and seeded, sandbagging and silt fences erected with the same mental illusion employed by King Canute

Work regularly would be interrupted to the dismay of the contractors and owners patience would be stretched to the limit. Four golf holes and haulage routes remained incomplete but with the intention of cultivation and preparation ready for completion the following year. In the meantime bunkers, although roughly shaped by machines, required to have the dimensions agreed so that they flowed with the appearance matching the surrounding topography. Some were selected for revetment, others would have rounded grass faces. Drainage in the bases would be essential as would be the surround close area to prevent water running into the bunker. Sand used for filling was stockpiled from the lower bowl of the site. It was of good particle size, ideal for any golf course.

A decision was also taken to plan a series of network roads to run the length and breadth but mainly around the outer periphery designed specifically to accommodate maintenance machinery so that golfers would not be distracted. To install these roads a small track vehicle and operator would

grade and level the base for locally quarried hard-core to be delivered and then spread at equal thickness before being vibrated in solid then followed with a topping of compacting gritty ash material. Drainage to low lying parts of the road were also installed so that excess water could be removed quickly.

The old saying of March winds and April showers give way to May's flowers is usually an accurate prediction. March allowed us to cultivate, de-stone and prepare, April provided light beautifully spaced showers which assisted rapid germination. May arrived providing us with welcome sunshine which encouraged the grass to grow. Once established it was gently rolled followed up with a light application of sulphur orientated organic fertiliser. Once satisfactory grass cover became established it would be mutually decided by the contractors and owners that completion documents could be agreed and signed.

Following them another army of contractors arrived to build access roads, Clubhouse and other buildings, install separate sewage and water lines.

It never ceases to amaze when seed germinates, assisted by warm weather

and light rain showers, and this produces personal satisfaction to whoever seeded it. Our seeding was satisfactory, pushing through and growing vigorously dictating that properly skilled greenstaff be employed with the first appointment of a Golf Course Manager then a Deputy Manager right down to the labourers whose duties would entail the million and one jobs still to be completed.

Stuart McColm, who was the Project Manager with the contractors, was selected to become the new man responsible for the maintenance. Stuart was the ideal candidate having knowledge of the whole workings of the site. On top of that he was also a knowledgeable greenkeeper having

been employed by me to work on the St Andrews Old Course for a period of time. Staff now brimming with enthusiasm, all armed with the latest ride-on cutting machines, engrossed with the image of St Andrews fairways or the long snaking putts of Augusta greens, went forward in the creation of fast running Links-type surfaces which was our number one prime objective.

Growing the grass in to provide playing surfaces is a crucial factor.

Once contractors have left faults are usually discovered but allowances have got to be made. In our situation there were few owing to the professionalism of the company, Southern Golf, who have built many golf courses through-



Making of a masterpiece



out Europe. Having plenty of time is beneficial but could be termed a luxury to most. It is however inevitable that the owners will want to open sooner rather than later owing to financial commitment and who can blame them. In our situation we were reliably informed that Kingsbarns Links would have to be ready for play just prior to the Year 2000 Open Championship. With this directive we could assess that a large number of golf holes contained reasonable grass surfaces leaving only a few which would have to be managed discreetly without force being used.

Greens are the prepared part of the golf course where most discussion takes place. This is the area where they are good or bad, where scores are made or critical comments heard. Kingsbarns greens were designed to be extra large

with a similar strategy which could be found on St Andrews Old Course, put your drive into the correct position on the fairway or suffer the consequences with your approach shot. Before the greens and surrounds were built a thick layer of blown sand was placed onto the total area. It was on top of this that the layer of root zone material was placed. This was the method employed on old fashioned Links many years ago. The rootzone was made up of 70% local sand mixed with selected soil from the site. These were laboratory tested for drainage capabilities. Tees were also large, constructed exactly the same with a variety of shaping to provide a more interesting appearance. On both constructions wind interference was taken into account. Fairways were the areas where we anticipated we would experience most difficulty. Some of the upper level the soil still contained more than average silt levels indicating that problems may occur if we were to become complacent. On account of this we had already organised vertidrainage, solid-tining followed up with sand applications drag matted down the holes. Hollow-coring then removing the cores was also achieved on five fairways. Again we topdressed this time using soil and sand mix similar to rootzone mix. Overseeding on top of existing grass was also achieved with good results.

The week prior to the 2000 Open Championship and our opening date soon arrived. Cutting routines organised by the Course Manager were succeeding with the modern sit-on speed driven fairway mowers and pedestrian roller mowers on greens soon provided a polish. Heights of cut were kept higher than normal with greens being reduced to 6mm from 10mm Tees were set at 8mm with fairways gradually reduced to 14mm. Although the fairways were extremely

wide the band of semi-rough was extended at landing areas mainly to accommodate high handicappers but also to speed up play Fertiliser applications were kept deliberately light at regular intervals always using sulphur orientated mixtures spread on all areas throughout all of the golf course except roughs.

Irrigation was also frequently used during this period. Stuart McCollm, along with his First Assistant, would regularly walk the whole of the golf course once a week. When inspecting the greens Poa-Annua invasion was the biggest fear. On many newly constructed golf courses if the green structure was incorrect or if the maintenance attitudes were not properly implemented Poa-Annua would be the first to invade. In our situation we decided to pluck it out with the plan adopted of low fertility coupled to minimum irrigation applications. Aeration in the form of 8mm tinning was also organised on a monthly basis.

Although I am sure the owners along with everyone concerned were quietly confident of their product they received a massive boost when the R&A indicated that they would financially assist over the first five years, a deal which would allow their Members along with Local Club Members to play the golf course at a reduced green fee. However, they were overwhelmed with the reaction from the world's press, players and golfing bodies, almost everyone involved in golf, all indicating that this golf course was going to be great. To cap it all, Dunhill Company decided that changes should be made to their existing Tournament to make it into a Pro-Am concept, two Professionals combined with two Amateurs, similar to the AT&T played at Pebble Beach, organised to play at Carnoustie, St Andrews and Kingsbarns - Big Company indeed!





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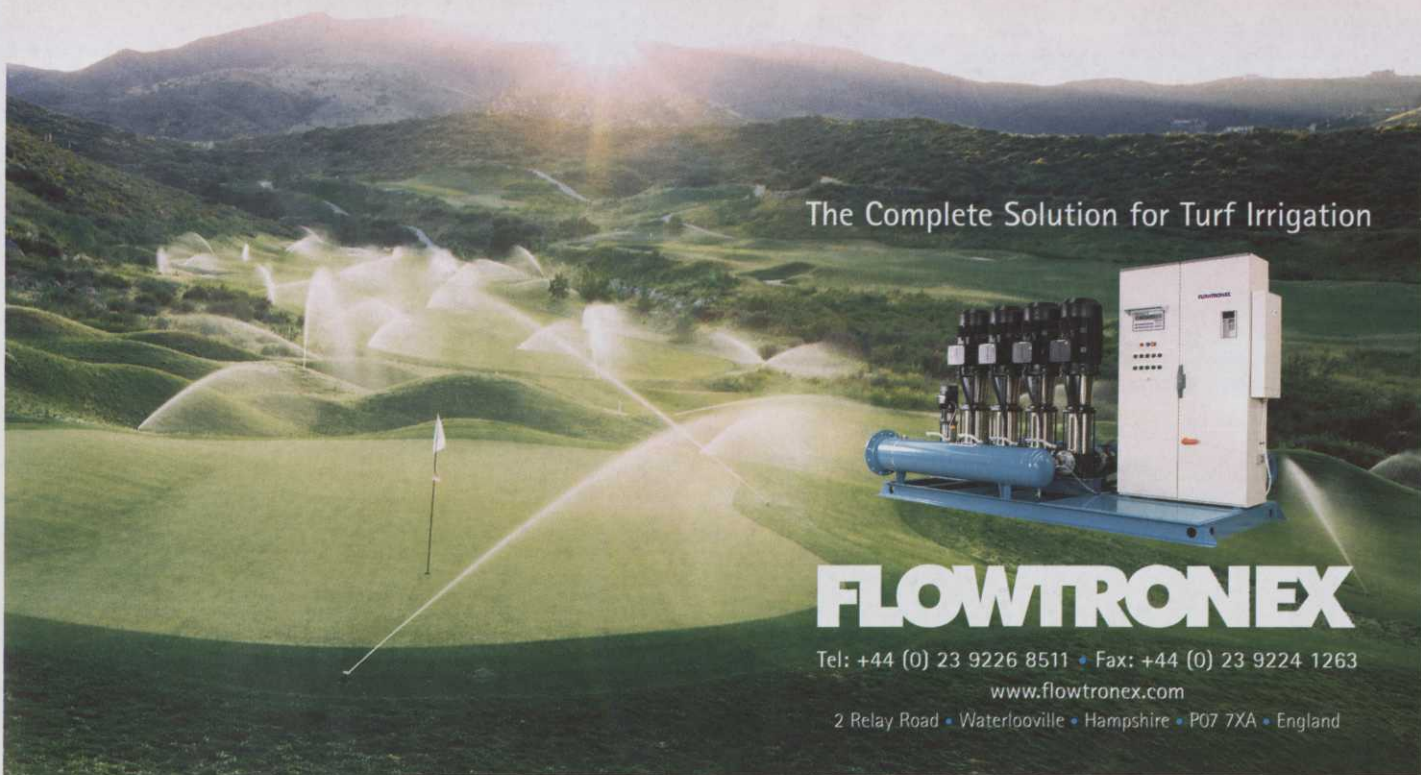
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With as much rain as we have endured over the latter half of last year it was perhaps fitting that a club named the Dyke won the BIGGA Environment Competition, in association with Amazone UK. But it was for its environmental excellence rather than its ability to hold back the tides which brought it its rewards...



It's only Natural

Persistence and a continuing progressive approach to environmental management paid off when The Dyke Golf Club, near Brighton, under the stewardship of Course Manager David Ansell won the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone.

The Dyke had consistently finished high up the standings in the competition but had lost out in the hunt for the main prize but such is the excellent work carried out by David and his team that the presentation of the trophy was merely being delayed. That was how it worked out and the much deserved award was presented

to Club Captain Gary Thompson.

The Dyke adds to an illustrious roll of honour going back to when the competition was run solely by Amazone - Purdis Heath and Ridding Park set the ball rolling before BIGGA took over the running of the competition and Hankley Common, Lindrick and Temple Golf Clubs were the winners in the previous three years.

The presentation, in the splendid Dyke clubhouse, was also a sad occasion in one regard as Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone and the inspiration behind the competition announced to the gathering that

he was stepping down as Managing Director and that his association with the competition would end.

"When we started the competition in 1994 who would have believed that it would have grown to what it is today. I am stepping down a week from today so I'd like to offer my congratulations to everyone who has been involved over the last six years.

"We are the third most populated country in the world after Bangladesh and Holland and oasis like golf courses are very important to us. After our three score and 10 we should leave the planet no worse than we found it," he told the gathering.

Bob Taylor and Jonathan Hart-Woods, two of the principal judges, report on The BIGGA Environment Competition sponsored by Amazone with support from the R&A

As the overall winner of the competition it is tradition that the winning club hosts the prize giving and to say that The Dyke rose to the occasion would not be overstating the case. The food and hospitality sampled by all those lucky enough to attend was outstanding.

The overall winners award was accepted by Gary Thompson, Captain of Dyke Golf Club and David Ansell the Course Manager.

"Today, environmental awareness and the concerns arising from environmental issues form part of our modern lives on an increasingly frequent basis," said Gary.

"No matter where we are, or what we are doing the environment, its protection and enhancement is of vital importance to us all. We at The Dyke recognised some years ago now that we must embrace such awareness and take an active, rather than passive role as custodians of a small part of an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB).

"Our own awareness

of these issues, and how we could respond to them, was greatly influenced and driven by the quietly determined attitude of one man, our Course Manager, David Ansell.

"David not only understood, but managed to convince first the Committee and then the membership of the importance of an environmental programme and our responsibility in taking effective measures to ensure that such a programme was not only implemented but sustained. His work has been tireless. At times it has not been easy but David has always known what was needed, how to plan and record what was done and, most importantly, how to carry out effective environmental management.

"On behalf of the club David may I thank and congratulate you and your staff for all of the efforts that you have put in and for which this award is the pinnacle of your achievements to date," said Gary.

"David was given an additional spur by the BIGGA Competition, sponsored by Amazone and our thanks must go to both of these organisations for initiating and carrying through what has quickly become a prestigious award," he added.

David, himself, then thanked the



Above: Clive Osgood, Dyke Captain Gary Thompson, David Ansell and Rod Baker
Below: The victorious Dyke greenkeeping staff





Club Committee and membership for their support and also acknowledged the massive role his greens staff had played in achieving the course's environmental objectives to date.

Martin Gunn, Course Manager of Temple Golf Club, last year's winners, urged the Club to enjoy the next 12 months while using the publicity of the success to positive ends.

He revealed that other clubs were still contacting Temple in connection with winning the competition just days before handing the trophy over. He also stressed how much they had enjoyed receiving the accolade and how much interest both internally and externally at the club the award had generated.

It was then the turn of the judges to give a brief outline of how the competition had fared during 2000. They also took the opportunity to raise some broader issues. "Today's presentations are very timely given that the world's major environmental decision makers are, as we speak, discussing global scale environmental management in The Hague," said Bob Taylor, STRI Senior Ecologist.

"Although at first this may seem far removed from this morning's celebration, the underlying message is clear. Environmental improvement starts at

home and that means good housekeeping. It is up to each and every one of us to take steps to do what we can to ensure environmental improvement. The BIGGA Environment Competition is instrumental in raising that awareness within the golfing industry. Through the continued progress of the competition we have been able to demonstrate the positive side of golf.

"However we must be aware that the golf industry is being faced with new legislation from Government and Europe and Clubs must be aware of these new pressures and remain alert to the sensitivities of the environment and act accordingly."

In summing up, Bob went on to say, "The competition is now over six years old and in that time has evolved to now encompass all aspects of environmental management ranging from the basic issues of nature conservation and habitat management to considering

issues such as pollution control and energy efficiency. Golf is a major land use, but it is one that has been criticised over the years for the way in which it has, as an industry undertaken this responsibility. The competition has been a very positive way in which we have been able to demonstrate the positive side of golf. The level of commitment to environmental management by golf clubs has largely

been unsurpassed."

Jonathan Hart-Woods, another STRI based Ecologist, who acts as a judge for the Environment Competition, outlined how the selection process had worked during the competition this year before Dr Keith Duff of English Nature summed up for the judges.

Keith expressed his admiration for the standard of entrants he had visited during the final judging and added

It's only Natural

Right: The Dukes Course: Extensive areas of natural looking water features

Below: Kilmacolm: A great example of a course that sits sympathetically in the surrounding landscape.

Bottom: Newmacher: Special initiatives award. The newly constructed island had swans nesting on it by early spring 2000

"These courses are making a real and practical contribution to the creation and maintenance of habitat continuity in the wider countryside."

He went on to stress the importance of corridors for wildlife that cross different land uses and identified golf courses as having a significant role to play in this capacity.

He pointed out the window at the course and said that it would not have changed significantly in 100 years whereas the surrounding land will have changed dramatically.

He reminded the gathering that we are a small over crowded island that needs to make the most of what little land we have wherever possible and responsible golf clubs were doing just that.

Though the day belonged largely to the Dyke and the regional winners, the announcement that Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone UK, was standing down from the competition after this year was met with genuine sadness from all those present.

How the BIGGA Golf Environment competition works

A record of 58 clubs entered the BIGGA Environment Competition this year. That is good news for the competition and shows that every year the competition is just getting bigger and bigger (no pun intended). By late July from the original 58 entries received, Bob Taylor, STRI Senior Ecologist and myself had highlighted 25 clubs from all over Britain that we felt were worthy of further investigation through a visit to the Clubs themselves.

It is worth saying from the outset that not only was there a record number of entries this year, that the quality of the entries received was even higher than those from the previous year. That is great news and very encouraging but it also makes the judges' de-selection process extremely difficult and sometimes very painful. It also meant that some very good clubs just missed out on a site visit by the narrowest of margins.

With 25 clubs to visit Bob and I split the country into five sections, Scotland, Northern England, Wales, south-east England and south-west England. Visits are then allocated on our personal knowledge of the clubs to some degree. If Bob has been to a club that I have not visited I would visit that one and vice versa, that way we have a good idea of how we compare when it comes to the final judging when we meet up later to discuss our findings.

To get a site visit has its advantages too even if the club does-



n't go beyond this stage. As Bob and I work as Golf Course Ecologists we are happy to discuss any aspects of ecological management during the site visit. The main object of the visit is to assess the golf clubs environmental credentials for the competition but we are both happy to offer constructive advice and answer any queries. It is our hope therefore that by acting on the advice and encouragement offered during these sessions the club may progress further in the competition next year. So even if you feel your club is at an early stage of development when it comes to environmental management you could still benefit from entering the BIGGA 2001 Environmental Competition.

A number of the 25 clubs that narrowly missed out at this stage but were of a very good standard indeed received a highly commended certificate and this year the clubs were in no particular order, Luffenham Heath, Parkstone, Wilmslow, Oulton Park, Southerndown, Royal Porthewll, Theydon Bois, Berkhamstead, Bradley Park, Teeside Golf Club and Arcot Hall. Anyone familiar with any of these clubs will quickly appreciate the very high standard the competition is addressing.

From the 25 site visits made we finally agreed on eight clubs from which to select the five regional winners and one overall winner. With Bob and myself at loggerheads and September giving way to October it is of great benefit that we can call at this stage on the services of Dr Keith Duff, Chief Scientist with English Nature. It is Keith's job to arbi-

trate between Bob and myself and to visit each of the eight clubs selected with either of us to determine the five regional winners.

This year the final eight were Thorpeness Hotel and Golf Club, Llanymynech, Kilmacolm, Broadstone, the Dyke, Kenwick Park, The Duke's and Merrist Wood. It is fair to say that there was very little separating these Clubs, but there has to be regional winners and in the end Kilmacolm, Scotland; Llanymynech, Wales; Kenwick Park, North; Broadstone, South-West, and Thorpeness, South-East, won through. Each of the regional winners received £250 and a wooden plaque. Newmacher Golf Club near Aberdeen won the special initiatives award in its first year, for the success of their pond island building scheme.

The overall competition winner deservedly went to the Dyke Golf Club and they received a cheque for £5,000 and a plaque. The award ceremony was held at the Dyke Golf Club on the 23 November 2000. We would like to congratulate all the clubs that took part this year and the Dyke in particular and hope they enjoy the next 12 months.

Keith, Bob and myself can relax now for a few months until the competition launches early in 2001. Lets hope it attracts even more entries this year. If you are thinking of entering give it a shot there is nothing to lose and plenty to gain.

Jonathan Hart-Woods



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Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Annual Conference. Business Learning Centre Lauder College, Dunfermline.

On March 6, 2001 BIGGA Scottish Region will once again be presenting their Annual Conference at Lauder College Dunfermline. This is the third year we have been at the Business Learning Centre which provides a ideal location for easy access from the motorway system and of course the facilities within the Conference Centre are first class.

This year's speakers are from a cross section of the industry and greenkeeping, all prepared to give their time and talents to providing us with an insight into greenkeeping related matters.

The speakers include Neil Baldwin, Omega Sciences, whose talk will be "Biology and Control of Black Layer in Fine Turf"; From the GTC we have David Golding whose talk is entitled "The GTC-Raising The Standards"; Peter Jefford, Rufford Soil Technology, his talk will be on "How to select top dressings and Root zones today"; Sandy Armit, from Double A Trading Company will talk about "Modern Machinery Maintenance"; From Wales and Celtic Manor, the Director of Golf and Courses Manager, Jim McKenzie, will provide an insight into the greenkeeping matters; and from Carnoustie, John Philp, Course Manager, whose talk and title will be on "Turf Quality. What it means to you"; Finally Joe Turner from Bernhards who will advise us on the Benefits of Sharper Reels".

As in the past we have tried to provide a variety of topics which hopefully appeals to the greenkeeping industry and this year we have tried to continue with this theme. The Conference has always been well supported throughout the years and hopefully this will continue. We look forward to seeing everyone at Dunfermline.

Application forms will be available in the early part of January 2001 and will be posted to all members in the Scottish Region.

North

Three new members to welcome to the Section in the New Year. Richard Cutler from Montrose GC, Barry Huydon from Braemar GC and Graham Mackie from Edzell GC, hopefully these will be the first of many this year.

Congratulations to Newmacher Golf Club who received an award in the Environmental Competition last year. The club get a trophy and £500 for their work on the pond that guards the 1st green. Well done to Dale Robertson and all at the club.

I recently attended the Annual Patrons' Lunch in Stirling, where we thank the members of the trade for their support throughout the year

and award the ten lucky members of the Scottish Region with a book and trip to BTME 2001. We had a great meal and once again Peter came up trumps with a quality speaker who had us in stitches with his stories. How will you top that next year?

Speaking of Peter, I hope he is enjoying his well earned break in South Africa just now.

As I mentioned last month, here is a list of the Section Committee, their duties and a contact phone number. Chairman & Magazine report - Iain Macleod 07788 923214; Secretary - Dougal Duguid 01224 740329; Vice Chairman & 200 Club - Stewart Mcbain 01224 733347; Treasurer - Stephen Sullivan 07760 191208; Education - Kevin Peace 01467 623125; Trophies & prizes - Hugh Maclatchie 01779 470173; Raffles - John Geddes 01358 723034; Outings & handicaps - Iain Gunn 01997 420155; Outings & handicaps - Robert Hardie 01224 783201.

I hope to see a lot of Section members at BTME in Harrogate later this month.

The football match is on the Tuesday evening now, so that the lads on the Scottish bus can play. See you all in the Majestic on the Sunday for what should be another great week.

Iain Macleod

West

Welcome to another round of West Section news. Firstly I would like to introduce myself, as Gavin Jarvis, on becoming Chairman, quickly delegated the duty of writing this column to me. My name is Brian Bolland and I am currently Head Greenkeeper at East Kilbride GC, having served my apprenticeship at Elderslie GC under Bob Scott before a brief spell as Deputy Head Greenkeeper under Donald Macleod at Pollok GC.

Having spoken to many of the previous writers of this column the main problem they have faced and I am sure I will to, is actually finding enough news to write about out with section outings and social events. (I am sure there was a smirk on Gavin's face at the meeting). I know you have all heard it before but if you do have news of any kind please give me a call on 01355 236335 or at home on 01355 266862 and I will be pleased to add your news to the column.

Now onto the serious business of reporting on the West Section dinner held in Victoria's in Glasgow on November 17. The night started sedately enough with a pleasant buffet style dinner washed down with a few light refreshments. Then on came the entertainment. Billy Porter the resident comedian prompted three distinguished gentlemen onto the dance floor to show off their abundant physiques. The dancing was of a high calibre but despite Gavin's frantic gyrations he could not pull Billy's attentions away from Gary Semple's perfect teeth. Mr. Porter's words not mine. After the cabaret there was a chance for all the greenkeeper's and trade to catch up on some gossip over even more

refreshments before moving into the various bars within the venue.

Victoria's again proved to be popular and everyone appeared to enjoy the night. Hopefully next year there will be more new faces to write about.

As Gavin mentioned in last month's column, Ronnie Bunting is arranging another moderator's meeting in January at the Central Station Hotel.

Well I am off to clean the webs between my toes before the next shower comes along.

Again I would like to emphasise that if you do have news or information you would like passed on to your section please feel free to call on the numbers mentioned earlier.

Brian Bolland

East

Well here we are into another year, where did the last one go? As they say it must be old age that makes the years go by quickly. Anyway on with this month's article.

I hope that everyone had a good festive season and you all got what you wanted. (I asked for some dry weather, but you can't get everything I suppose).

There's not a lot of news around at the moment but this is what I've got.

Congratulations to section committee member Andy Forrest, Oatridge College Golf Course, on winning one of the two Scottish places on the Bernhards & Co trip to the Canadian Greenkeepers Show in Canada in February. We all hope he enjoys this trip with the other nine winners from the UK. Well done to them all.

When he comes back we hope he will maybe give us a talk on his experiences in Canada and an insight into this show.

Well done to the winners of this year's Patrons' Awards for 2000 - they are Ian Bell, Glencorse GC and Richard Mullen, Swanston GC.

These awards are given to members of each Section who in the eyes of the Section Committee have attended all Section events such as lectures, AGMS, golf outings etc. Their prize for this award is a paid trip to BTME 2001, a book on greenkeeping and a presentation dinner. So if you attend all events next year you could be the winner of the 2001 Patrons' Awards.

So in the next couple of months I will get them to write a short article on their trip to Harrogate. Talking about BTME at Harrogate I hope Ian and Richard have been getting in some training for the week ahead. I look forward to meeting up with old friends at BTME and if any of you are going, we hope to see you there.

Well that's it all for this month.

If anyone out there has any news let me know asap on the usual numbers Home: 01968 661313. Office: 01968 661721. New mobile: 07719580449 as of 6/12/00 or you can email me at chriscej26@aol.com.

Chris Yeaman.

Central

I hope everyone has recovered from any self inflicted headaches over the

festive period and that you are all gearing up for the new season which lies ahead, let's hope it's a bit drier than the past 3 or 4 months!

We're up and running already on new members joining the Section with Gary Limes from Kingsbarns Golf Links being our newest member, Gary was formerly a student member, and we are glad to welcome to the section as a full member.

There is not a great deal of news at this time of the year what with holidays etc. no doubt a good number of you will be at BTME in Harrogate later this month for the annual "get together," after which I am sure there will be the usual newsworthy events to report on!

The Spring Tournament this year is being held by courtesy of Scotsraig Golf Club, Tayport, Fife in April, entry forms will be arriving with you in the not too distant future, and once again if you wish to compete in this event, PLEASE return your form as soon as possible.

If you can remember the forms which were sent out to every member last year, asking what type of events you wished your committee to organise, well out of nearly three hundred sent out twentyone members took the time to send them back, but unfortunately the three events we attempted to organise had to be cancelled due to the lack of support. Never mind we will keep trying again this year!

It is hoped to organise a football match against the West Section in the not too distant future, so if you fancy being involved you had better start training. With Andy O'Hara now being Chairman of the section he is looking for someone to relieve him of the duties of Team Manager, the wages are not great but if you fancy yourself as the next D.A. or M.O. you can make up your own mind what the initials stand for, just get in touch with Andy or myself and who knows what fame (or notoriety) you may achieve.

John Crawford.



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

I have just returned from a three-week trip abroad, and I expected to see a change in the weather, but things are just the same, cold and wet, and has been while I have been away so I am told. So the day after my return we were due to have the "President's Cup" and AGM at Wilmslow GC. Little chance I thought due to the amount of rain that we have had during the last two months. Steve Outram, the Course Manager at Wilmslow rang me in the evening, and I fully expected him to tell me the competition was off, but he informed me everything was OK, and that was

a relief. The day did go well starting with bacon baps, and coffee at 9.30am, tee time from 10am, and 18 holes of golf in good conditions without any rain. The course although wet was in great condition, obviously due to the amount of work Steve and his staff have put in, and was a credit to them. Their hard work certainly paid off for them, as Steve Oultram won the "President's Cup", Andy Bennett, and Steve Johnson won the longest drive and nearest the pin, they are also on the greens staff at Wilmslow, so between them they cleared up on the day.

The golf was followed by the AGM, and a great evening meal. The committee had decided at the last meeting, that due to the fact that because Wilmslow Golf Club have been so good to the N/W Section over the last four years, allowing us to hold this competition, and AGM, we would show our appreciation by presenting the junior section with a cheque for £100. The cheque was presented to the Chairman of Green, who attended the dinner, and he informed the meeting that the money would be used to purchase a cup, to be called the "The North-West Greenkeepers Trophy", to be played for annually by the

junior section.

I would like to thank Wilmslow Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course, Gwen and Dave Chason for great food and for keeping the bar open all day, and Steve and his staff for preparing a great course. That seems to be it for now, but don't forget the Mere Seminar in March. Any news or views give me a ring on 0151 724 5412.

Happy new year to everyone
Bert Cross

Northern

Unfortunately the Christmas Golf at Huddersfield GC was cancelled despite the best efforts of Alan Lofthouse and his staff, the weather beat us. The 15 who did turn up for the start of the day had an enjoyable day, down at the local Ten Pin bowling alley where we had three games. This was won by Simon Heppenstall and the bring and win was transferred to the bowling, so everybody was a winner with excellent prizes on offer.

The annual trade prize for the best trade golfer throughout the year went to Mike Brear. A prize to what we call the most 'dedicated' golfer went to Steve Heaton. I would like to thank Huddersfield GC for the day and for a superb meal enjoyed by all.

It was good to see John Waite looking so good and in good form giving everyone some stick for the meal and AGM.

Talking of the AGM, there were 26 members present and I would like to thank Ian Holoran from the Board of Management for coming down and answering the members questions put to him. There were quite a few points raised about the Association which will be taken further.

The committee for 2001 is as follows President - Dennis Cockburn; Chairman - Simon Heppenstall; Vice-Chairman - Jim Brown; Secretary/Treasurer - Andy Smith. Committee members - Richard Smith, Tito Arna, Steve Heaton, Dave Thackery. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank John Waite, Gary Potter and Liam Galway for all the work they have done this year and previous years for the Section on the committee.

Look forward to seeing you at future events.

The venues for next year are Spring Tournament - Filey GC; President's Day - Harrogate GC; Roses Match - Sand Moor GC; Invitation Day - Howley Hall GC; Autumn Tournament - Woodsome Hall GC; Winter Golf - Headingley GC.

On top of this there are plans

to hold 2 further section seminars this year.

Congratulations to Matt Booth, from Howley Hall GC, on passing his PA 2. On the movement front Gary Potter has left Woodhall Hills GC to go to Vitax as a rep. Jim Brown and all the lads from Cookridge Hall G&CC wish John Studdard all the best on his move to Wyke Ridge GC.

Looking forward to seeing you at Harrogate for the show. In the meantime, if you have any queries, don't hesitate in picking the phone up and giving me a call.

There is no other news at the moment. If anybody has anything then please let me know.

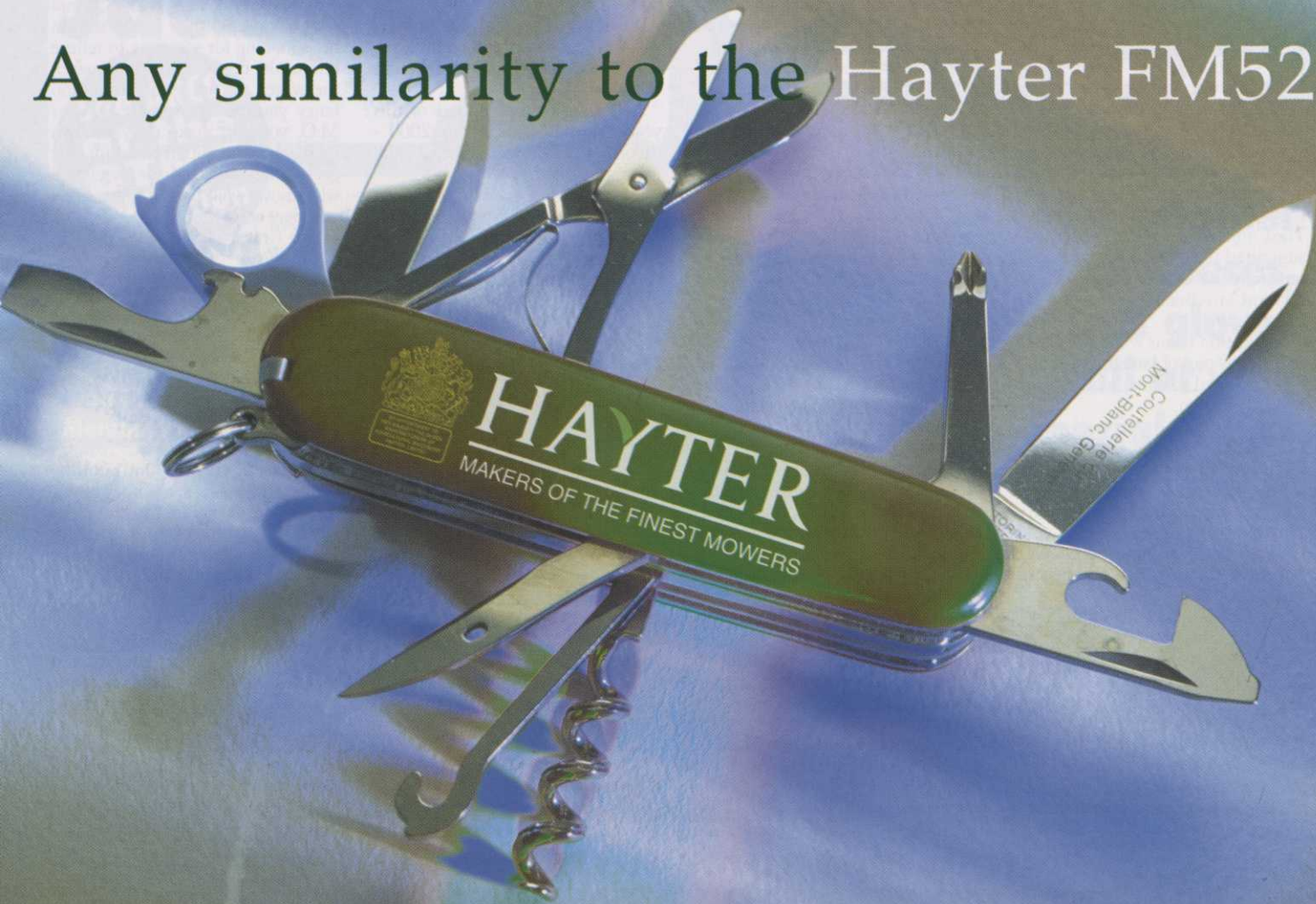
My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 2383188. My mobile is 07790 678572, and my email address is; andy_smith21@hotmail.com

Andy Smith

Sheffield

I would like to start by catching up on events missed over the last few months. On November 2, Farmura was our guest speaker for the first winter lecture at Rotherham Golf Club. Thank you to Alan Dyson and Farmura for a very interesting talk.

Any similarity to the Hayter FM524



Following this was our AGM from which the Section welcomes two new faces onto the committee. Paul Docherty, of Wheatley Golf Club, takes on the role of Competition Secretary and Chris Astle, also of Wheatley, takes over from Ron Ullathorne as the Section Secretary.

On behalf of the Sheffield Section I would like to thank Ron for all his hard work over the years as Secretary and to wish him all the very best in the future.

On November 27 we returned to Rotherham Golf Club for the Winter Golf Day and Christmas meal. Unfortunately the day was a wash out but the day went very well on the Snooker tables and once again the meal was excellent. Thank you to all the trade members for their support on the day and throughout the year, to the catering staff for a superb meal and to Rotherham Golf Club for use of their facilities.

Next meeting is on February 1 at Rotherham Golf Club where John Deere Machinery is our guest speaker. Start time 2.30pm

Lastly I hope everyone had a very good Christmas and wish you all a prosperous New Year.

A Sampson



Midland Region
Les Emery
Tel: 0116 287 9036

Berks Bucks and Oxon

I thought for one mad minute that a score of 80 points, based on two players from three playing reasonably well and scoring 40 points each around Frilford Heath which is never a pushover, would comfortably see my team somewhere in the prizes. How wrong could I be. 93 points, no that's not a mistake 93 points won the event I must be in some sort of dream world. Seriously though, fair play to the guys that won and if their handicaps are correct they must have played some decent golf, unlike myself and partners Alun 'ricochet' Wright and the young Ms Bell. Frilford was of course in magnificent condition and my congratulations to Sid Arrowsmith and his staff.

The results of the day are: 1. T. Brown, J. Davies, P. Small 93pts; 2. A. Masters, V. Riches, M. Ely 85pts (back 6); 3. L. Anderson, S. Austin, W. Nunn 85pts. Nearest pin: John Eggleton, longest drive: Lee Bishop.

Thanks to Bernie Wall, from Gem, for sponsoring the event

and also to Frilford Heath Golf Club for staging the event.

Not much other news about to report on I'm afraid except I'd just like to congratulate Peter McFadden who for the last year or so has been my First Assistant at Caversham Heath. As from December 1 he became Deputy Head Greenkeeper. Well done Pete and thanks for the hard work.

As this is coming out in January and I forgot to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year (because I am writing this in December) I hope you all had a good one and see you all in the new year, let's hope we get some more rain, the course is just too dry at the moment. Oh well back to the clinic!

Jon Scoones. Tel: 01189 723334

East Midland

This year's AGM Golf Tournament was held at Park Hill GC in Leicestershire on November 1. The weather leading up to the tournament saw us have rain nearly every day for several weeks, and it really is a credit to Dean Cooper and his staff for presenting us with a fine golf course played over 18 dry greens. The format for the day was a three man Texas

Scramble with a minimum of four drives per person. Not surprisingly the winners were: 1. Derek McJannet, Adrian Rhodes, both Sherwood Forest, and Les Emery, Regional Administrator, with a score of 63-0.9-62.1; 2. David Smith, Mansfield Sand, Russell Allen, Horsley Lodge, and Nick Root, The Leicestershire, 68-4.7-63.3;

3. Carl Chamberlain, Kilworth Springs, Adi Porter, Greetham Valley, & Andy McGreal, Lingdale, 70-4.8-65.2.

Moving on to the serious business of the AGM it was pleasing to see a much increased turnout for this event and it is hoped that numbers will now be on an incline. No real serious matters were brought up at the AGM and the committee is as follows for next year. Chairman - Gavin Robson; Vice Chairman - Adi Porter; Secretary - Antony Bindley, Treasurer - Richard Barker; Additional Committee members - Ian Needham, Andy McGreal, Jeff Dickinson, Derek McJannet, Chris Weir. I would like to thank two of our retiring committee members for all their hard work while in office, Dave Leatherland and Steven Heap.

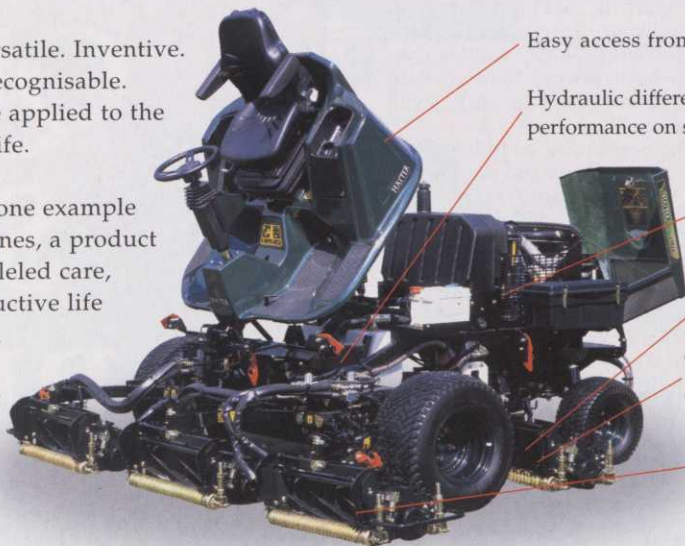
I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Park Hill GC for their hospitality,

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especially to Claire Hutson for all her help in organising every day, The Steward for a marvellous meal and our very generous sponsors Vitax for providing the prizes.

Five dates for your 2001 Diary. Go-Kart evening-Wednesday February 21, Wymeswold Ind Est; Spring Tournament, Wednesday May 9. Birstall GC; East of England Golf Match Cotgrave Place August 15; The Autumn Tournament at Lingdale GC on September 14th, and The AGM at Mapperley GC on November 8. If you would like to attend the Go-Kart evening which again has been kindly sponsored by Toro Lely UK, please get in touch with me and I will gladly send you an entry form.

Finally would all members who have an email address please let me know for my membership records, as this will enable me to get in touch with you, and send you any entry forms. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Antony Bindley



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

South West

I am writing this after returning from another day of wind and rain. I have been told the members from the Bristol area have taken up carpentry, and have started the search for Noah's original plans!

The Region's seminar at Cannington College was well supported and our thanks go to the speakers and to Paula for arranging it.

The Magic Bus will once again be heading North to BTME if you have not booked, please contact Paula to see if there are any places left.

Westurf is earlier this year, so make a note in your diary Wednesday, March 14. There is going to be a social gathering the night before in an Exeter hotel, again contact Paula for cost and arrangements.

The first event of 2001 is the Winter Tournament, at Stinchcombe Hill GC, on Wednesday 28 February, kindly sponsored by G Tinkler.

Application forms will be sent out along with the year's forthcoming fixtures, if you do not receive one let the Secretary know.

The Sections best wishes go out to Steve Britton and his family of Thoulstone Park GC after he suffered a heart attack. We hope for a speedy recovery. Any news or views please contact me on 01285-720112.

D Bougen

Devon and Cornwall

A happy new year to you all, I hope you have had an enjoyable festive season. The Section's first meeting of the new year is the Barenbrug Seeds meeting which will be held at The Royal North Devon GC on Wednesday, January 31. The day will once again be sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds and start with a singles Stableford golf competition with start times from 9.30am. For non golfers the course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 11am. After lunch our educational talk will cover golf rules. Our Devon Garden Machinery-sponsored November meeting was held at Launceston GC on Wednesday, November 15. This meeting was also the Section's AGM.

As always the day started with our golfing members competing for the Toro Trophy, which was played in a foursome format. Our non-golfing members walked the course and met up with Head Greenkeeper George Bailey and his team.

After an excellent lunch Alan Dommett from Devon Garden Machinery presented the prizes on behalf of Toro and DGM to: 1. Shaun Getson, Tavistock, and Garry Foster, Tavistock, 33pts; 2. Richard Parker, Ilfracombe, and Neil Turner, Ilfracombe, 29pts; 3. Simon Coombes, Dainton, and J.Mills, Taunton, 28pts.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsors Devon Garden Machinery for their support and to Launceston GC for allowing the Section use of their excellent facilities and to all of Launceston GC staff for making the Section so welcome. Special thanks must go to George Bailey and his crew who have worked hard to keep the course open in such awful weather.

The Sections AGM followed the golf presentation and was opened by the Chairman Terry Farkins. The Administrator started his report with the balance sheet for the year ending 30th September 2000. This year end balance of £1463.02 showed a profit of £195.05 compared with last year's balance sheet, but does not include the £200 outstanding to be paid for the fixture cards. In real terms the Section made a slight loss of around £5 for the year-end. Over the last year the Section held three very successful pesticide training days which saw all members achieving passes, unfortunately the courses made a slight loss of £17.83 due to the sponsor of the first training day going into liquidation.

Once again the Section remains indebted to all the trade companies who have sponsored our Section meetings over the last year namely. Aventis, Avoncrop, Barenbrug, Devon Garden

Machinery, PJ Flegg, Roffeys and Supaturf.

For the second year Rigby Taylor have sponsored our fixture cards and must be congratulated on the excellent quality of the cards.

Unfortunately during the last year one of our Cornish committee members stood down from committee. The committee decided to invite Bill Mitchell to serve as a Cornish member on the committee and were delighted

when he accepted.

On closing his report the Administrator congratulated the Chairman Terry Farkins whom this year reached the final of the Toro Award and his excellent achievement in finishing runner-up.

Also the Administrator thanked all the members who have attended meetings for their support over the last year. Hopefully the Section can get even more members to attend meetings over the

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coming year.

Last but not least the Administrator thanked the Committee for all their efforts over the year especially to Shaun Getson for organising the educational talks and Cary Rawlings for looking after the golf scores.

The Chairman opened his report by thanking everyone for attending the AGM meeting. He informed members that it had been a pleasure and an honour to serve as Chairman of the Section

over the past two years and felt it was time for someone else to take over as Chairman.

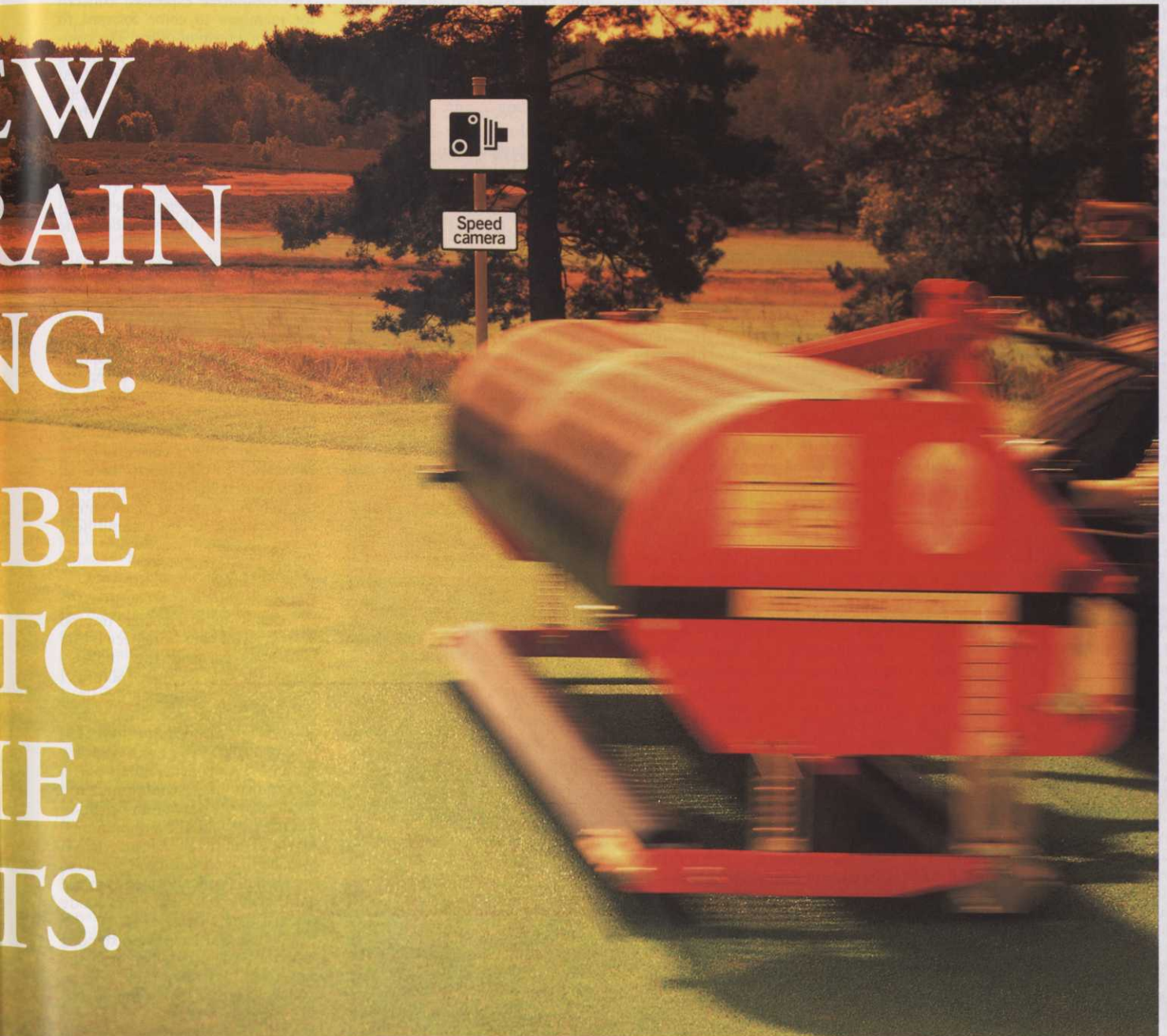
He continued by congratulating Tony Vokes, of St Austell Golf Club, on his tremendous achievement on reaching the national finals of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. Also, congratulated Richard Whyman of Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club on being selected to represent BIGGA at the Canadian International Turf Conference

and Trade Show in Vancouver next February.

The Westurf trade show this year was once again a success and West Point is an ideal venue for our members and hoped that all members will support the show next year. The Chairman congratulated the Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, for all her hard work over the last year and the Regional Board members who continue to promote our industry.

The Chairman informed members of the sad loss of Mike Oliver who was a great supporter of the Section and past on the section's condolences to his family.

The Chairman on closing his report passed on the Section's thanks to all the trade companies who have supported the section over the last year this was very much appreciated and he thanked Section members for helping the Section to be one of



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the most successful in the Country. The Chairman thanked Richard Wisdom for representing the Section so well on the regional board, with the Chairman's final thanks going to Richard Wisdom, with the Chairman's final thanks going to Richard Whyman who has continued to do an outstanding job as Section Administrator.

Richard Wisdom opened his regional report by congratulating the Regional Administrator Paula Humphries for her outstanding efforts, which included the organisation of Westurf 2000, the BTME trip and regional seminar.

This year's Westurf was once again financially a success. Richard advised members that their support in attending Westurf is needed to allow the show to grow. The Region's trip to BTME 2000 was once again sponsored by Amenity Technology with two 55-seater coaches departing the Region, Richard also mentioned the planned trip to BTME 2001.

The President, Martin Samuel, opened his report by thanking members for their support over the last two years and wished the next president an enjoyable term in office. He thanked members on behalf of the trade for their support over the last year, he felt that the sections meetings had the right balance of golf and educational talks.

C. Rawlings, Chairman; S. Getson, Vice Chairman; R. Wisdom, Regional Board. J. Mills, B. Mitchell, R. Shapland, T. Farkins, Regional Board, R. Whyman, Section Administrator, A. Dommett, President J. Palfrey, Trade; C. Ralph, Trade.

Richard Whyman

South Wales

Very little to report this month. Hope you had a good Christmas and New Year celebrations. Bring you up to date with the info on the Christmas tournament and AGM next month as this would have gone to press before the day. Our Evening Lectures sponsored by Avoncrop continue on Wednesday, February 14 with John Foulton, of Advanta, talking on fine turf and Gerrard Cuncliffe, of Biotol, on Micro-organisms. Looking ahead to March 14 we have a Health & Safety update to keep up with changes and legislation. You might already have received a booking form for our Seminar to be held at Pencoed College on February 28. If you have, fill it in quick. It only costs £15 for BIGGA/I/OG members and £20 for non-members. Dr Bill Adams, of Aberystwyth University, Simon Barnaby, from Scotts, and Jim Arthur are confirmed speakers. Just to remind you on the 23 - 26 of this month it's the BTME show at Harrogate.

Richard Hatcher

South Coast

It's been a busy month here in the South Coast, with two major events taking place within two weeks.

The first was the annual seminar at Cannington College, the day was well attended, and the quality of speakers was the best I have heard at any seminar.

First, and last up was the familiar face of Frank Newbury. The morning session was all about miserable people in the work place, (and we all know one) and how to try and put a bit of happiness back in their lives without the use of Valium. The last session of the day was dedicated to presenting yourself, with very helpful tips on letter writing, CV's, and interviews.

The second speaker was Stuart Ashworth, from Amenity Technology. The subject was Soil Sampling and Interpretation. A very interesting topic, it was nice to see what happens to all the core samples that they receive, and to find out what they actually test for.

The third speaker of the day was the infamous Jim Arthur. Jim shared with us his views on traditional methods of greenkeeping, opposed to the methods being brought over from the other side of the pond. A topic, which I don't think, will ever be resolved.

The second event this month was the Turkey Trot and AGM. 54 players enjoyed a rare break in the lousy weather we've all been enduring. The venue was Hockley GC, which it has to be said, was in fantastic condition! Well done to Trevor and his team of professionals. Many thanks also to the bar and catering staff for a very enjoyable meal. And last, but by no means least, thanks to the members for allowing us courtesy of their course.

Thanks must also go to the sponsors of the day, Sheerwater Leisure and New Forest Farm Machinery. And well done Carl Horrax for organising an excellent raffle, I'd like to name all the prize givers, but unfortunately I don't have enough room. But everyone knows who you are.

Winners on the day were; Div 1. 1. Darren Miller 41pts; 2. James Krzanowski 39pts;. Div 2. 1. Andy Macdonald 41pts; 2. Kevin Glass 38pts. Div 3. 1. Alan Ridout 44pts; 2. Rob Crouch 38pts. Alan Ridout was also awarded 'Golfer of the Year', who else could it be?

There will be a report on the AGM next month, as I've run out room this time.

See you all next month.
Mike Cartwright.



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

The South East Regional Seminar was held at Thorpeness Golf Hotel in November and many of the delegates took advantage of the Hotel's generous special offer and turned up on Monday for 18 holes on their very fine course. Surprise, surprise it stayed dry!

Before the event there had been some criticism that the Seminar, with the theme of "The Future of Greenkeeping" was too "trade orientated". These fears, however, proved unfounded as all those who attended (and there was 74 from all Sections within the Region) thoroughly appreciated the Seminar content and a sincere vote of thanks was recorded to Ian Willett and the East Anglia Committee for such a good day.

Derek Farrington

Surrey

Prior to the Turkey Trot and AGM at Tyrrells Wood Golf Club your committee met on Tuesday 28th November to preview a number of written questions that were discussed at the A.G.M on November 30.

All members that attended the golf and AGM will agree that the turnout of nearly 80 was excellent and we all thank Burt Watson and his team for providing us with a golf course in a condition that was amazingly dry and so well presented, the weather was dry, which was a miracle, when one considers all the rain that we have had this Autumn. Thank you also to Tyrrells Wood Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course and to the catering staff for a splendid meal.

The sponsors for the day were Tacit and we thank them for the generosity that ranged from first prize, a portable colour T.V. to the sixth prize an electric sandwich toaster.

The prize winners were 1. Tony Bremer, 42 pts; 2. John Davidson, 40 pts; 3. Steve Gudge, 40 pts; 4. Paul Weston, 40pts; 5. Gareth Roberts, 39 pts; 6. Doug Fernie, 39 pts.

London

The Turkey Trot along with the AGM was held at Sandy Lodge Golf Club in late November. The course was in excellent condition and in remarkable shape considering all the major refurbishment work being carried out on the course. Robert Phillips and his staff did a wonderful job and I would like to thank the management at SLGC for allowing us courtesy of the facilities.

The overall winner for the day was Peter Phillips, ex sec/man of Porters Park Golf Club. Family connections coupled with a good local knowl-

edge of the course resulted in winning score of 37 points. In second place was Billy Smart with 36 points closely followed by Ben Knowles - Jackson also with 36 points.

I would like to thank the trade for their support and in particular, Mark Day representing Tacit, for paying for the bacon rolls on arrival. Rigby Taylor for providing the annual turkey for the event for the best score on the day by a greenkeeper. Billy Smart, from Aldenham GC, was the worthy winner.

The AGM was held prior to the meal and the accounts for our section were discussed in great detail. The committee expressed concern for members to come forward to stand for a term of office. The committee now consists of the following members. Ian Semple - Secretary, Tony Dunstan - Chairman, Craig Handyside - Treasurer, Robert Phillips - golf events coordinator/around the green article, Tony Dyke - Elected on the day, Larry Eden - Elected on the day, James Lomas - Offered to help occasionally! With the sale of raffle tickets etc.

A request from David Kirk with reference to winter seminars was taken on board by the committee and will be actioned ASAP. Our secretary appealed for forthcoming golf days for 2001 and asked members to contact local course managers with reference to securing three venues. Concern over members not appearing on the day was also discussed; this issue is currently being addressed. I would like to thank all our members for their support over the year and a special thank you to our Secretary, for his commitment to our Section.

Tony Dunstan.

Essex

Hopefully most of you are not too blurry eyed or hungover from Christmas to read this month's report, the first for three months. I must start by offering on behalf of the Essex Section committee sincere apologies to Bishops Stortford Golf Club who were the holders of our Autumn Tournament. Illness plus a breakdown in communication meant that the relevant information was not passed to the author in time for the details to go to print (thanks spice boy), sorry lads I was not there myself but I was informed that the day went well and everybody enjoyed themselves.

Apologies must also be extended to all the trade that helped make the day possible. Without these guys we would not have had any golf days at all. The only details still in my possession are the overall winner, Pete Blackaby, Head man at Manor of Groves Golf Club and Trade Winner, Simon Banks, of Banks Horticulture, your obviously both in the premierships, (Harrogate) as far as the golf goes. As mentioned previously I was unable to attend the Bishop Stortford day but did go to the UAP sponsored winter Stableford at Orsett GC on

December 5 for the last tournament of the year. So did 35 other members, guests and Trade golfers obviously hoping for a game on what was reputedly the driest golf course in the area and although we played on five temporary greens the rest of the course was indeed surprisingly dry, was this down to great green-keeping or the fact that they had over a foot less rain than most other courses in the area? Judging by the high standard of presentation over the whole of the course I would say it was a bit of both but Head Greenkeeper, Carl Croucher, would in his usual modest way put it down to being fortunate with the weather.

The high scores also reflected the condition of the course with the winners in all being around their handicap. Overall winner was Ray Clark, of Channels GC, with yet another great round coming in at 37 points one clear of 15 - 28 category winner Martin Guy and 2 clear of 0-14 winner Andy Sheehan. Richard Dunmow and Pete Blackaby came 2nd and 3rd behind Andy with Keith Chinnery and Martin Forrester finishing in the same positions behind Martin.

Trade winner by divine intervention was Richard Lewis with 34 points, a very popular winner from Drive Force Leisure (nice to see you can drill some paperwork in properly Rich). Greenkeeping Supply Company sponsored the Longest Drive, which went to Richard Dunmow and Nearest the pin, Keith Rowley. Guest prize went to a new name and hopefully next time a new handicap for S. Colgate who managed to notch up 40 points. Other trade sponsors included Sheriffs, Vitax, Banks, Rigby Taylor, Tuckwells, Driving Force Leisure, Avoncrop and Tacit who sponsored the breakfast. The strong trade presence at our golf days is part of the reason our days go so well, their support is greatly appreciated.

At the end of the prize giving Andy Sheehan was presented with a trophy for finishing up as Player of the Year, Andy won the Forrester Park and Theydon Bois golf days earlier in the year. Well done mate. Thanks to all the staff at Orset Golf Club for making our day so enjoyable, especially Martin Forrester's niece who fended off a very amorous Ray Clark.

Golf Days for next year are as follows: - Frinton On Sea, Bentley, Hanbury Manor, Three Rivers and Channels, five fine golf courses.

New members this month are Steven Levemore and Alan Smith, both from Clacton Golf Club. The annual AGM followed a lovely meal. All members of the committee who stood last year are remaining in their positions, the Section lost money last year but this was mainly down to the Go-Karting Day which has been cancelled. Derek Farrington indicated that the Section was still going strong. The Section is looking for golfing venues for 2001, Martin Forrester is a great bloke, Carl

Croucher talks funny and Dominic Rodgers is so far up... to date with all the handicaps giving most of us shot backs. The AGM went smoothly and all thanked Chairman Carl Croucher and rest of committee for all work done throughout the year.

See you all at Harrogate Steve Crosdale.



Well here we are in early December and the rain just keeps on coming. The last ten weeks have been difficult for most of us with flooded courses resulting in disruption for the golfers and

greenkeepers alike. I am hoping that the weather will turn a little drier for the rest of the winter and give us a chance to carry out improvement works on the course before the busy spring period comes along.

At Allen Park in Antrim we have only lost one and a half days play up to early December so the top-dressing of fairways with sand and extensive drainage work carried out by Head Greenkeeper Clem Beattie and the greenkeeping team with assistance of Clive Richardson and Horta Soils have really improved playing conditions. Many parkland courses throughout Northern Ireland are carrying out similar programs of improvements and hopefully the golfers will appreciate the effort greenkeepers and their respective clubs are making.

The Section had an educational

visit to very beneficial.

I would like to welcome four new members to the Section this month. Paul McFadden Head Greenkeeper, at Strabane Golf Club; Fintan Ward and John Ward, from DownPatrick GC, and Paul Johnston who has just moved from DownPatrick GC to Malone Golf Club.

Congratulations to Royal County Down Golf Club who have now been voted the number 2 course in the UK and Ireland by Golf World.

Course Manager Alan Strachan and his greenkeeping team can be immensely proud of this achievement.

Our next event will be a talk on irrigation systems by drilling and pumping irrigation at Allen Park GC Antrim on 9/1/2001 with a start time of 7.30pm. Hope to see you all there.

Ken Henderson

Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries

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Last month, Mr B Kilcline, from Notts GC, Hollingwell, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

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See "American Beauty" in Greenkeeper International, May & June 2000

Feature listing from January '99

January '99: Pesticide Usage, Life in Colorado, Lyshott Heath GC, Worm Research, Stylo Matchmaker profile, Temporary Greens

February '99: Westerham GC; R&A questionnaire results; Finland; grass cutting; BTME99 Review; Bernhard and Co

March '99: Loch Lomond, Worm update, GrassRoots, Softspikes, Maintenance facilities, Environment review, Architecture

April '99: Carden Park, Telecommunications, Water Management, Rolawn, Seeds

May '99: Security, Bude and North Cornwall GC, Spraying Regulations, Jim Arthur, The Acid Theory, Amenity Technology profile

June '99: Thorpeness GC, Millennium Bug Busting, Irrigation, Scotts profile, Company adaptability

July '99: Carmoustie, Golf Course Furniture, Spike Research, Toro profile, BIGGA Silent Auction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

November 2000: Grass Cutting Machinery; Clandeboy 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



Thorpeness would seem to be an awful long way out on the Suffolk coast but it didn't deter a large number of South East Region members from attending their annual Seminar there. This was another place that I have visited for the first time this year and another one pencilled into the memory box to return to, on a holiday next time. The Seminar was excellent, all the speakers were so interesting, talking about the 'Future of Greenkeeping'. Mind you its often a bit scary when you get a glimpse of what lies ahead and when I see the enormous advances made in recent years I sometimes think I'm glad I'm coming to the end of my career. My thanks to the South East Region - their Chairman, Ray Day, and RA, Derek Farrington, and especially to Ian Willett who seemed to be everywhere making sure all was well, he even appeared next morning to advise me on the road conditions. Thanks to you all I thoroughly enjoyed my time.

FEGGA, the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations held their annual Conference in Munich on the 24th and 25th November. Fifteen out of the 17 member countries were represented and each country had to give a verbal report on their education and training. After listening to all the other delegates give their reports in English I had that guilty feeling again at having never learnt another language. FEGGA is still a young body and therefore still growing but the fact that it is there gives the smaller European associations a focal point through which they can communicate and help each other in the process.

In the November column I posed the question of unusual names for golf clubs. My thanks to Ian Bennion from Vancouver for his prompt return shown on page 10 of this issue.

What a year!

Unfortunately because I had to go to Germany I was unable to attend the Presentation of the Environment Awards held this year at the winning club the Dyke GC. My congratulations to David Ansell and his team and congratulations also to the runners-up, although you did not win you must be pretty good to get this far. My thanks also to Clive for standing in for me.

I must offer a word to an old friend at this point after having won through to the final of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and then the Environment Competition and just missing out both times. Ronnie Bunting, from Kilmacollm, must have been a bit low so it was great news to see that he is one of the first to achieve the Committed to Green Recognition. Well done Ronnie. You deserve it and knowing your determination I know you will be back. Ronnie was my first assistant many years ago and I was amused one day on approaching the workshop to hear Ronnie talking to a piece of machinery which we were having a problem with. As he wrestled with a seized part his words were "You'll go." "By jingo you'll go." "You little b..... you'll go." by this time his voice was getting louder. However, another two threats not to be repeated here and an exultant "I told you you would go." A determination never to be beaten and a passion for nature, learning and education, qualities of Ronnie's which many young greenkeepers should aspire to.

Well this will be the last column that I will write as your Chairman before handing over to Clive at the AGM at BTME. The two main questions I have been asked are "Have you enjoyed your year?" and "What has been the highlight?" The answers are of course I have, and there have been no highlights as such, just a lot of educational and interesting and rewarding experiences. Attending the World Education Conference and the FEGGA Conference and communicating on greenkeeping matters with so many different nationalities, including delegates even from Russia where there is only one club.

Receiving the Green Apple Award on BIGGA's behalf for the Environment competition. Unfortunately Rod Baker, from Amazone, the originator and sponsor of the competition could not be there to receive the award with me, but it was a proud moment nonetheless.

Talking to the winners and runners-up at the Toro Awards and seeing the pride and confidence they had in their own ability. Watching members who had worked

so hard over a considerable period of time receive their Master Greenkeeper Award. Taking an ear bashing at a Section or Region event from a member not happy about something.

When I look back at all these experiences I think to myself you know 10 years ago greenkeeping never had these opportunities. As I have travelled round the country I have spoken with many guys, who give up some of their free time to run Sections and Regions. They are not doing it for their own good but for the better good of greenkeeping. An old friend of mine used to say that if every member of an association spent only two years on their local committee there would never be a shortage of committee members. One thing I have learnt in my many years involvement with greenkeeping associations has been that I could never change anything from the outside.

I would like to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as Chairman and I thank everyone who welcomed me and looked after me at all the events I attended this year. To all the staff at Headquarters and the Regional Administrators for their assistance and their hard work in running our Association and to my Vice Chairman, Clive, and the Board of Management and Trustees for their diligence and support throughout the year my thanks to you all.

I must also thank my club, Tulliallan, the Captain and Council for their tremendous support during this year and my staff Kenny, Mark, David, Stuart and William who have done an excellent job on the course all year. Thanks lads.

And finally to my family; Gary, who is not a greenkeeper and so we do not talk about it, which is a good thing at times. Craig, who is a greenkeeper, and who is not slow to let me know when he thinks I've said or written something wrong, and that is also a good thing at times and, of course, Edna for her support and encouragement as well as her practical work in many ways over many years. Thank you all.

My final thought is;

We make a living by what we get,
we make a life by what we give.

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