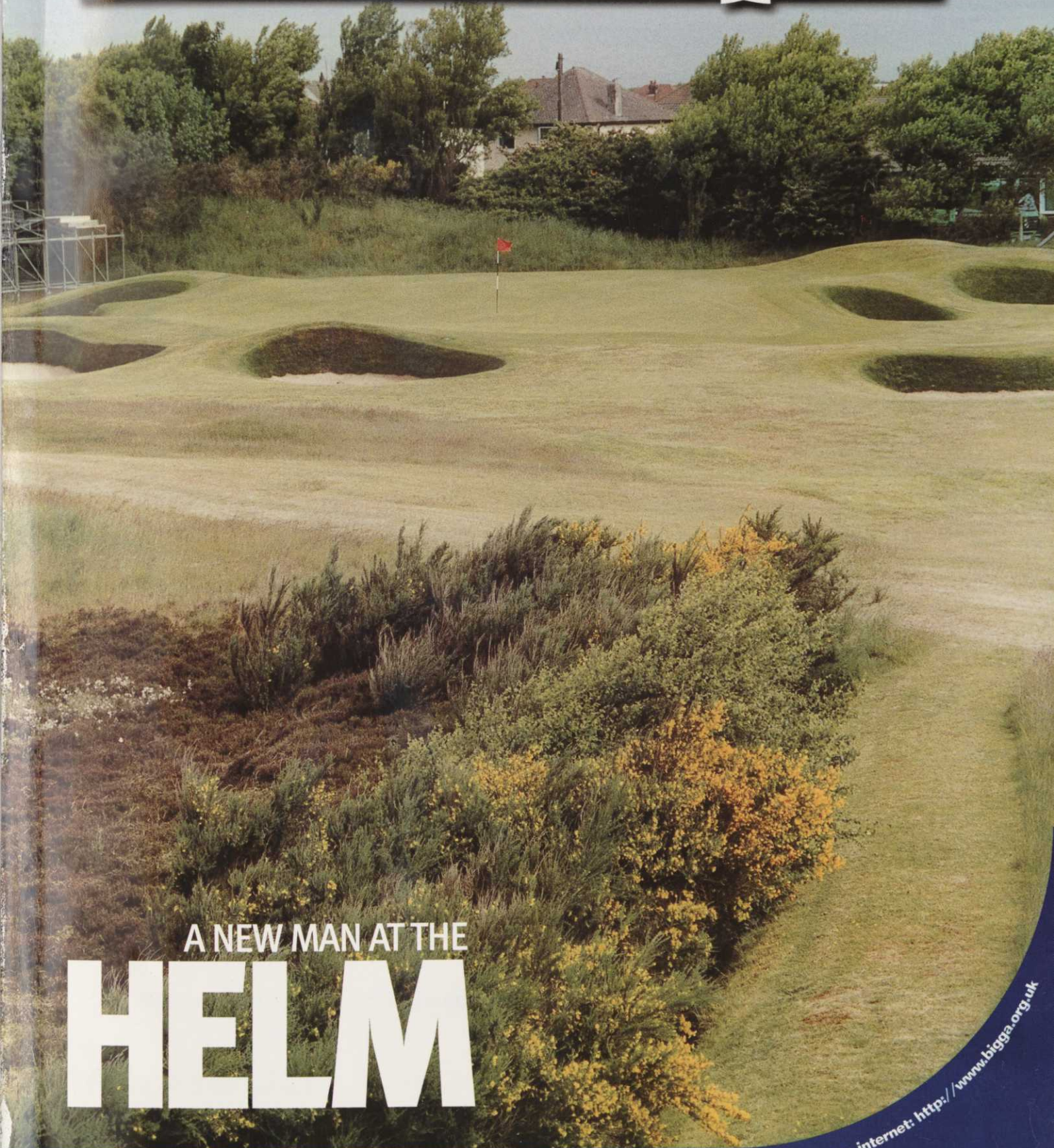




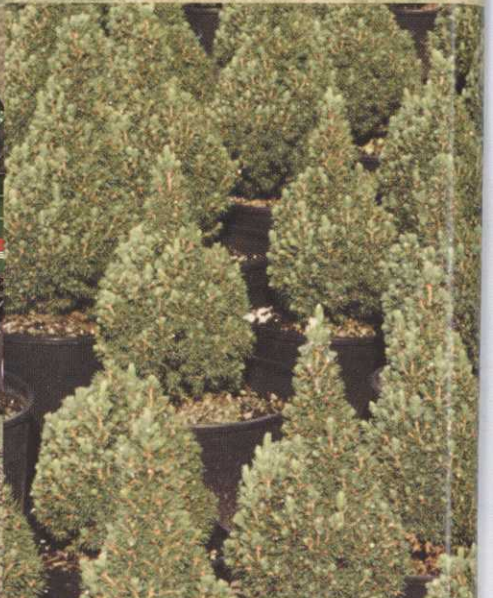
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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



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Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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

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The advertising copy deadline for inclusion in the August 2001 edition of Greenkeeper International is Monday, July 16, 2001

Greenkeeper International:

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Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £36 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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July 2001

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by August 13, 2001

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TIME TO TALK
www.bigga.org.uk

HAVE YOU CLICKED ON YET?

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

FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS CHAT GREENKEEPERS

It's hard work, but well worth the effort

The month of July is the highlight for many, with The Open Championship acting as a magnet for golf lovers from all over the world.

It is a marvellous event both on and off the course as it's the perfect opportunity to see the world's finest exponents of the game up close and also meet friends you perhaps haven't seen for the entire 12 months.

In this regard BIGGA is extremely fortunate. Not only does the hard working BIGGA Support Team have the chance to play a key role in one of the biggest events in the sporting calendar but the BIGGA marquee is a superb base for members to meet and enjoy a bit of refreshment between watching live golf.

Having said that, with television sets in the marquee some people do tend to settle in for an afternoon in front of the box and the delights of Peter Alliss and Alex Hay, rather than seeing the action first hand.

This year, Lytham St Annes plays host to the Championship, and the course has been prepared for an Open for the first time by Paul Smith and his team.

Paul was First Assistant to Jimmy MacDonald MBE last time the Championship was played there in 1996, and that experience, coupled with that acquired since he started out in the profession as a 16 year old apprentice at St Annes Old Links, will stand him in good stead when the media spotlight falls on the course.

You can read about Paul's preparations for The Open elsewhere in this issue but you can be sure that the conditions which face the 156 competitors, who tee it up on Thursday, July 19, to face Lytham's daunting opening par-3, will be as good as the weather in the run up to the Championships has allowed.

My first experience of Royal Lytham came in 1988 when Seve Ballesteros went head to head with Nick Price and produced some miraculous golf to win. We can all recall the wonderful chip he played from the side of the green which all but went in.

In the midst of such heroics it was easy to forget that Seve held the Claret Jug aloft on the Monday afternoon and not the Sunday. Horrendous rain caused Saturday's third round to be washed out and we all had to amend our diaries to allow for another day. While this was inconvenient for many it was nothing compared to the work Jimmy Macdonald and his team, with the help of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team had to do to make the course playable for the Sunday and the Monday. In such occasions people can show their true qualities and it was not just

Seve who deserved all the accolades that year, behind the scenes there were a great many more.

Hopefully Paul and his team will not have to pull the stops out to such an extent this year and will have a successful, and quiet Open Championship.

Scott MacCallum
Editor



BIGGA survey: An excellent response

As this edition of Greenkeeper International goes to press, Mike Williamson of MW Associates is busy analysing the responses to the market research survey we reported on in March.

"The response to the survey has been excellent," said Mike.

"We have received completed questionnaires from 570 BIGGA members, and have conducted about 150 telephone interviews with companies and organisations in the golf industry, as well

as representatives of golf clubs and greenkeepers who are not currently BIGGA members. A lot of people have applauded BIGGA for having the survey carried out - and are looking forward to hearing the outcome!"

As a first step, Mike Williamson will be reporting key findings from the research to the BIGGA Board at their June meeting. The Board will then decide on the best way of considering, and responding to, the detailed

results that will be in the full report.

In the meantime, Mike passes on his thanks to all those who took the time to respond, often very fully, to the questionnaires and interviews. And Mike's commiserations to the 569 members who did not win the £100 voucher in the questionnaire prize draw.

(The lucky winner was Stephen Curtis, Head Greenkeeper of Richmond Park GC in Norfolk.

Scottish National Championship



Results

Scottish Champion, SGGA Challenge Cup, Scratch, Stuart Raeburn, Tulliallan, 73.

Friendship Trophy, Best Net, Stephen Brown, Newmachar, 68.

Category One, Ransomes Trophy
1. George Thompson, Goswick, 72;
2. James McCormack, Kirriemuir, 73BIH;
3. Archie Dunn, Auchterarder, 73.

Category Two, Pattison Trophy.
1. Craig Pennycook, Winterfield, 72;
2. Colin Irvine, Muirfield, 74;
3. Alan Russell, Torphin Hill, 76 BIH.

Category 3 STRI Trophy.
1. Andy Wilson, Brechin, 73;
2. Albert Arnott, Lochore Meadows, 76;
3. Colin Scott, Glasgow, 80.

Best Head GK, Dick Aitken Trophy, Stuart Taylor, Glasgow, 73.

Best Assistant, M&M Trophy, Kenneth Mitchell, St Andrews, 74.

Best Apprentice, Souter Trophy, Richard Love, Kilmacollm, 74.

Best Veteran, SIGGA Trophy, Duncan Gray, Pines, 75.

Team Trophy (Best four net scores) St Mungo Cup, North - Stephen Brown, James McCormack, Andy Wilson and John Urquhart.

Trade: Pat Allan, Stewarts.

Guest: Scott MacCallum, BIGGA.

A superb round of 73 around the long and testing Drumoig Hotel Golf Resort in Fife by five handicapper Stuart Raeburn clinched the 2001 Scottish National Tournament.

The 22 year-old First Assistant to current National Past Chairman Elliott Small, played near the back of the field and overhauled the scores of Stuart Taylor, from Glasgow Golf Club, and Richard Love, of Kilmacollm, who had been out earlier in the

day and posted fine scores.

Although windless, the home of the Scottish Golf Centre tested everyone with its succession of long par fours and fives not to mention an array of par-3s in excess of 200 yards.

Beautifully maintained by Ian Menzies and his team the 10 year-old course, just a few miles inland of St Andrews, required proficiency with every club in the bag to achieve a score anywhere close to handicap.

Stephen boxes clever at John O'Gaunt

Stephen Thompson, of John O'Gaunt Golf Club who has previously reported on the success of the bird boxes installed on the course has further good news to report.

"So far 11 out of 14 tit boxes have been accepted and we have 84 young blue tits ranging in age from half a day to 14 days. 31 blue tits were ringed and we also had a nest containing three young great tits," said Stephen.

The majority of the boxes were put up in February and March this year to give the birds time to get used to them and possibly to roost in them.



"Out of six open fronted boxes one was used and a complete nest found, presumably used by a wren," said Stephen.

"This was the first year for these boxes and it was very suc-

cessful," said Stephen who works closely with Peter Wilkinson of Bird life International, who was able to ring some of the birds.

PGA team: A real credit to their Association

Greenkeepers came from Denmark, Scotland, Wales and England to volunteer their services for the Volvo PGA Championship held at The Wentworth Club at the end of May. Their work are much appreciated by the European Tour as by relieving caddies of the bunker raking considerable time is saved on a round, speeding up play to the advantage of all concerned.

They are also a great comfort to Course Manager, Chris Kennedy, who apart from all the worries that he has during a Championship such as this knows that in the event of heavy rain he can call on tremendous support from this team to get the squeegees out and keep play moving by keeping the greens playable.

The Championship in the past has been plagued by such weather and was one of the reasons that the Tour asked the Association if Greenkeeper Support could be made available for all four days this year. Thankfully that was not the case this year and the event was blessed with four days of almost continual sunshine. More volunteers would have been useful over the first two days as there were 52 matches to provide for and it was a great effort by those Greenkeepers who covered two rounds in temperatures around the eighties.

There was a great atmosphere in our little office, nobody being unkind to the Regional Administrator when he gave exhibitions of controlled panic and an even better one, especially on the last day in the hospitality suite overlooking the 18th green generously provided for our use by the Tour, for apart from the Support Team we seemed to 'pick up' lots of Greenkeepers there just for the golf (including Jack and Rita McMillan!) and who managed to talk their way past security.

On a serious side eventual winner Andrew Oldcorn must feel eternally grateful to Rob Boyce, Newmarket, who was the only person to see his ball catch a branch while he was playing out of trees and land near him, still in the trees and finishing up covered in leaves. As Andrew and his caddie walked towards the green Rob called out "Where are you going? The balls here."

Oldcorn then played a great shot on to the green and holed the putt. At least the caddie bought him a



Above: The 2001 Volvo PGA Championship Support Team relaxes with Nick Faldo

Below: The team poses with new Volvo PGA Champion Andrew Oldcorn



drink afterwards but I reckon the two shots that he would have incurred without Rob's help were worth thousands.

The week seemed to run rather smoothly especially with Andrew Oldcorn and Nick Faldo posing for the cameras with the Team. I'm sure that all of the Greenkeepers, including Willy Harder who had made the trip from Denmark to work all four days, will want to return next year, hopefully with a few more volunteers to make those first two days a little easier. A great effort by all concerned.

Finally, the following conversation was overheard between a greenkeeper inside the ropes, who was accompanying the Lady Official marker during one of the days play ...

GK: What Club are you from?

Lady Official: Wentworth

GK: Do you live on the Estate

Lady Official: Yes

GK: You don't live in one of these £3

million houses do you?

Lady Official: No darling. I live in one of these £10 million pound houses!

Derek Farrington

Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



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



Jim Paton

BIGGA Board Member for Scotland

Name: Jim Paton

Golf Club: West Kilbride GC

Association Position: Board Member for Scotland

How long have you been a member of BIGGA? Since its inception in 1987.

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

Having a greater regional identity with full time Regional Administrators and their own regional offices.

For what would you most like to be remembered?

Being on the board at a very important time in the Association's development - moving into our own offices and taking giant leaps forward generally.

For what would you least like to be remembered?

Some of the pictures Scott has taken of me for the magazine.

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

Being more involved has enabled me to assist in bettering the lot of the greenkeeper.

Name one thing which would improve the Association?

If every greenkeeper joined the Association.

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

Former Open Champion Mark Calcavecchia giving me his clubs after a round in the '91 Open at Royal Birkdale. Any offers?

Describe BIGGA in 15 words.

(15ish!) Better greenkeepers through education, Improved golf courses, Gains for members, Great social opportunities, Advances in standards throughout.

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

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



JULY 1991

Award for Walter Woods.

It was reported with great pleasure that the Association had learnt of the award of the British Empire Medal to Walter Woods in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. The award had been made to recognise his services both as Links Supervisor at St Andrews and to the greenkeeping profession. Walter had played a leading part in the establishment of BIGGA in 1987 and had been the first Chairman of the Association. The magazine commented on his forthright views, warmth of personality and his determination to enhance the greenkeeping profession and the well-being of greenkeepers. It was hoped that the Association would continue to enjoy his practical support and be able to call on his technical expertise for many years to come. *Although 'retired', Walter remains very active today both in a consultancy role and as one of BIGGA's Guardians on the Board of Management.*

The Open Championship.

Greenkeeper International previewed the Open Championship to be held at Royal Birkdale with the golf course in the excellent hands of Tom O'Brien B.E.M. It is interesting to note 'Royal Birkdale's Working Calendar' at the time.

Aeration: Throughout the year Tom aerates the greens weekly, stepped up at the back end of the year to 2/3 times a week.

Top dressing: He dresses the greens once a month before The Open with a Buxton Sand of a consistent grade and particle size, specified by the STRI.

Verticuts: Every two weeks until two weeks before the tournament.

Turf grooming: He uses Turf Groomers all the time. The height is adjusted according to grass growth.

Grass growth: Greens are cut every day. In January, February and March there isn't much growth because the turf is links grass and east winds retard development. It is more a case of trimming than cutting - he calls it 'topping'.

Grass cuts: He cuts in two directions at 90 degrees. During The Open weeks he cuts the greens three times a day - once early morning, twice at night.

Length of cut: Before The Open - three-sixteenths, during The Open - one-eighth of an inch.

Watering: Yes, he uses water, but only if absolutely necessary.

Gleneagles to host new Turf Care Conference

The first ever Turf Care Conference will be held at The Gleneagles Hotel this November.

The Conference, the brainchild of Jimmy Kidd, Director of Turfgrass Management at Gleneagles, is designed to appeal to and address issues facing both the business entrepreneur who wishes to build a golf course as well as those already involved in the industry who can turn the developer's ambition into reality.

"There are a lot of different individuals required to build and maintain a golf course each with their own area of expertise and all with an important role to play in the development process," said Jimmy.

"The Conference is the ideal springboard for representatives from each part of that process to meet and expand their knowledge and understanding of one another's role.

"Experts in the field of golf course design, construction, turf care and golf management will provide professional advice on each aspect of the development process, taking them from the initial idea to the first tee shot," he explained.

Among the speakers confirmed are Fred Green, Developer of Queenwood Golf Club, England, Nantucket Golf Club, USA; David McLay Kidd, Designer of Queenwood GC and Bandon Dunes GC in the USA; Project Manager/Membership Structures, Melvin Thomas, of Barrefield GC; Dr Albert Kausch, Rhode Island University; George Shiels, Consultant Agronomist; Melodee Fraser, Director of Research - Pure Seed Testing Inc; Paul Latshaw, US Open and Masters Course presentation and Jan Beukema, Rain Bird Irrigation Design and Operation.

The main sponsor of the Conference is Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products.

"I am delighted on behalf of Textron to offer our full support for the Conference. It's a phenomenal idea. I am confident that the speakers from the UK and USA will inspire delegates and undoubtedly nurture examples of good practice from day one which will benefit their golf course venture and the industry in the long term," said Peter Bell, Marketing Director.

Simon and Jim get expanded roles at Advanta



Advanta Seeds has handed Simon Harrison and Jim Fulton expanded roles within the company.

Based in Leeds Simon is now responsible for after sales in the north as well as managing Advanta's advertising and PR spend, attendance at shows including BTME and SALTEX and all promotional activities.

Jim, who lives near Grantham, will look after his customers in the east but also manage sales on a nationwide basis.

New man for Eammon Wall

Eamonn Wall and Co has appointed Antony Strawson to its new English office in the Midlands, where the company has now concentrated its English based consultants.

The company now has two offices, at Dollar in Scotland and Retford in Nottinghamshire.

Antony, 30, is an experienced woodland design and management consultant having worked for another company in the East Midlands for the last five years. He is a graduate of Reading and Oxford Universities and is a native of Lincolnshire. He is a keen mountaineer and a member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters.



Rolawn website is a real hit

Rolawn opened its web site just over a year ago and has steadily built up awareness of the site to the extent that in recent months their site has received record numbers of visits rising to 16000 page requests in May alone.

Recent developments have included using the site as a means of recruiting stockists for both turf and the recently launched loam products, which are sold in to the topsoil market. Potential stockists register their interest via e-mail.

"We are delighted with progress and the variety of ways we are able to use the web site. It is such a flexible medium and it is particularly interesting to use it to support the development of a product as basic as topsoil. We see the web as an invaluable aid in

helping us to both recruit and provide ongoing support for stockists" said Terry Ryan.

"It's all too easy to dismiss technology but we believe that in the future there will be only two kinds of business. Those that develop technology as their servant and those that are going out of business."

- OVERVIEW
- WHY ROLAWN?
- HOW ROLAWN?
- PRODUCT RANGE
- CORPUS YOU CAN TRUST
- STOCKISTS AND DISTRIBUTORS
- THE BLADE
- ROLAWN NEWS
- HELP AND SUPPORT
- VISITING ROLAWN
- CONTACT US
- HOME



Section Event?
www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

Apologies

Last month we inadvertently described the AEA as the ABE. This was as a result of a scanning error not picked up at a later date and we apologise to the Association for any embarrassment caused.

Latest news?
www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

Management buy out at AF Trenchers

A.F. Trenchers has been the subject of a management take-over from its co-founders Bruce and Rodney Fulford. The 35 year old company will be continued to run by Harry Jurgens and will be renamed A.F.T. Trenchers and will continue to operate in both the domestic and exports markets.

The company has also appointed Angus Macdonald, who will be responsible for marketing in UK and Ireland and to service the company's existing customer base and with developing the plant and agricultural sectors for all A.F.T. Trenchers' attachments.

Rothley trespasser turned medal winner

A dog walk which took in land owing to Rothley Park Golf Club resulted in the trespasser being offered a job at the club. Six years later that trespasser, Sue Antcliffe, now Deputy Course Manager at the club has been awarded a Medal of Excellence for her outstanding NVQ Level 3 work undertaken through Brooksby College.

The medal is not just for greenkeepers but is open to everyone undertaking NVQs to Level 3 in outdoor work with only a select few out of the 18,000 in the category being awarded medals.

"I finished the course last year and the college entered me for the award. I didn't hear anything for quite a while and thought not more about it until the letter arrived," said Sue, 33.

Her unusual entry in the greenkeeping profession - she had just been made redundant from a garden centre and was looking for work - says much for Course Manager Stav Woodings ability to spot potential.

"We were stretched at the time and talking with Sue I thought she could do a good job for me. We gave her two days a week and then added another day and before we knew it she was working full time.

"Sue then asked if she could attend college and she actually reached the regional finals of the Toro Student of the Year Award, then my Deputy left



Left to right. The Rothley Team. Jordan Roman, David Holling Paul Falk, Stav Wooding, Sue Antcliffe, Dave Doherty and Nick Smith.

and as Sue was doing so well, every good at ever task and very thorough, she became Deputy. From trespasser to Deputy in three years," said Stav. "Now she is a key member of the team and I don't know how we would manage without her," he added.

Stav works a rotation system at Rothley Park in which every one of the seven man team does every job.

"I don't look on myself as a female. I'm must one of the lads and can lift as well as they can," said Sue, who also

sails at a national level.

"I like the variety of this job, no two days are ever the same. Each day is a challenge and you never stop learning. I also like the environmental side of the job and I write articles on this in the club magazine."

In future Sue would like to continue her education perhaps undertaking more specialist courses covering irrigation.

She will be presented with her medal later this summer.



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

Safety in the sun

If anybody else has suffered the problems of trying to keep a fair skin, or any other skin, protected on a long summer day outdoors, then check out an excellent product which only needs to be applied once and is effective for the whole day.

Despite covering up with hats, it takes the worry out of all that outdoor exposure to dangerous rays. An added bonus is that it isn't sticky and all that lovely bunker sand stuck to your skin with normal sun products won't be a problem! It's a Danish sun filter called P20 and it works! ... although it needs to be applied well before exposure to allow it to bond with your skin.

James Hall, currently on student placement in a very hot Italy.

PGA thanks

I was privileged to be part of the Support Team at Wentworth for the PGA Championship and I would like to congratulate Derek Farrington for his efforts in making the team work for the entire four days of the Championship as opposed to the final two for which it had operated in previous years. He was ably assisted by all and sundry who couldn't do enough for the cause.

I personally had a great day and feel certain that everyone else did so as well. A few more volunteers next year I'm sure would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks also to our standby photographer in the shape of Mrs Farrington.

Peter Biscoe, Kent

BIGGA keep up the good work

I want to take time to congratulate all of the staff at BIGGA for excellent service, prompt action to my membership enquiry and for putting together a magazine that is informative, up-to-date and has retained its English feel over the 12 years I have enjoyed it.

The fact that I'm in Hong Kong and can still find out what is happening in the UK in this industry and keep a little finger on the pulse makes England feel a little closer.

I take my hat off to you all.

Ian Bruton, Skek O Country Club, Hong Kong

Happy Birthday

Banks Amenity Products is celebrating 40 years in the golf course and landscape industries. Founded in 1961 by Reginald Banks, the company has been owned and managed by Tim Banks since 1981.

"Banks Amenity Products has been providing high quality bulk materials for four decades," said Tim.

Banks Amenity Products was one of the founder members of the BAGCC (British Association of Golf Course Constructors) and the newly formed BRTMA (British Rootzone & Top Dressing Manufacturers Association).

Today the company enjoys the benefits of having an excellent reputation for supplying quality materials to some of the most prestigious golf courses throughout the UK.

Pest and Disease Audit undertaken by the STRI

The number of outbreaks and the severity of pest and diseases on sports turf throughout the UK is currently an unknown factor so the advisory team and research staff at the STRI have vowed to rectify the situation.

Part of a surplus from the STRI's advisory work is being used to fund an internal research programme into the spread and severity of pests and diseases on sports turf throughout the UK and Ireland. The programme is being co-ordinated by Dr Ruth Mann, the STRI Turf Pathologist.

Initially the research will centre on a comprehensive questionnaire which will determine the major pests and diseases across the country and any hot spots of certain problems. Questionnaires have been sent to all clubs in the UK and Ireland.

Once the replies have been collated on a database the Research Staff will be able to determine if there are any correlations between disease occurrence and management practices or weather conditions. Initial results, showing the spread of pests and diseases will be published on the STRI's website www.stri.org.uk and in the Turfgrass Bulletin early next year.



Runner-up showing for East Section

Congratulations and well done to the BIGGA East Section team who were competing for only their second time in the Dispatch Trophy which is played over the Braid Hills Golf Course in Edinburgh for over 100 years at the Braids. Last year, their first, they were beaten in the 1st round but put up a very good performance against one of the former winners so they did not disgrace themselves. This year they did even better, beating former winners and tournament favourites Silverknowes in the semi

finals en route to the final where they were narrowly beaten 6 & 5 in the final by the Barnton Hotel who themselves were playing in only their second time in the competition. So well done to the team.

The team consisted of four section members and they were Tom Murray, Ratho Park; David Drummond, Muirfield; Stevie Nicol, Winterfield, and Iain Laing, Kingsknowe.

Well done lads and we hope you can go one better and lift the trophy next year.

Chris Yeaman

**National Championship
October 1-2, 2001
Royal Birkdale and
Southport and Ainsdale GCs**

All greenkeepers should have received the brochure including application form for the National Championship with the May copy of Greenkeeper International magazine. If any member has mislaid the brochure please contact Sarah at BIGGA HOUSE for an additional one. The response to date is such that early booking is essential to guarantee a place in the Championship.

Tel: 01347 833800
Email: sarah@bigga.co.uk

This month, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, congratulates the first group of successful CPD delegates, and invites entries for the forthcoming CPD year.

Continuing Professional Development

Congratulations to all of the greenkeepers who successfully achieved the standard required for the BIGGA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Certificate. The second year of the BIGGA CPD scheme commences on 1 July 2001 and ends on 30 June 2002.

The BIGGA CPD Scheme is designed to encourage greenkeepers to:

- Adapt outdated skills.
- Keep in touch with changes in legislation.
- Show employers that greenkeepers are professionals.
- Accumulate credits towards further National Qualifications eg. N/SVQ, HNC, HND etc.
- Cope with change.
- Attract higher salaries.

Certificates are awarded to all those BIGGA greenkeepers who accumulate a minimum of 10 CPD credits annually. BIGGA greenkeeper members who have been awarded 5

successive BIGGA Certificates of CPD will be awarded a BIGGA Diploma of Continuous Professional Development.

The Scheme

1. Greenkeepers must be members of BIGGA.
2. Applications must be on a CPD Registration Form.
3. Applicants must hold a minimum qualification of N/SVQ Level 2 or equivalent.
4. CPD credits are awarded for a wide range of education and training courses. eg. an approved 1 day course attracts 3 credits, a two day course 5 credits. Attend the full week of education and training at Harrogate in January 2002 and you would receive your 10 credit requirement.
5. Each greenkeeper must accumulate at least 10 credits per year.
6. All training must be related to National Standards.

Thanks to the contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, (details in the panel on the right) the Scheme is free to all members.

CPD Certificates Points

CPD Certificates	Points
Jonathan Hamlet	54
Gordon Irvine MG	53
Ian Willett	48
Andy Campbell MG	29
Stuart Hogg	23
Michael Smith	21
Nigel White	18
John Quinn MG	17
Alec MacIndoe	15
Mark Broughton MG	13
Nathan Marsh	13
Seve Schmitz MG	13
Lee Strutt	13
Antony Bindley	12
Chris Carpenter MG	11
Iain Macleod	11
Nigel Potter	11
John Wells MG	11
David Winterton MG	11
David Bougen	10
Kevin Hodges	10
Graeme MacDonald	10
Ian MacMillan MG	10
Andy Smith	10
Denis Tweddell	10



Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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

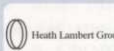
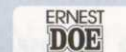


Golden Key Circle Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Amazone Ground Care	01579 351155
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd	01428 661222
Gem Professional	01254 356611
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Kubota UK Ltd	01844 214500
Massey Ferguson (AGCO Ltd)	02476 851292
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rain Bird	01273 891326
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 394888
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Stoke Park Club	01753 717171
Textron Turf Care	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01202 319987

Individual Members

Mike Eastwood, J H Fry, J H Greasley, David S Robinson, Stuart Townsend



Silver Key Circle Company Members

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

Individual Members

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

BTME2002 EDUCATION UPDATE

BTME2002 outline education programme

Wednesday 23 January, 2002	Thursday 24 January, 2002	Friday 25 January, 2002
Seminar Session 1 This Keynote session will be FREE to all wishing to attend.	Seminar Session 4 Paul Crowe Brin Bendon David Winterton MG Content TBC	Seminar Session 6 This session will be FREE to all wishing to attend.
Seminar Session 2 Jim Moore Content TBC	Seminar Session 5 James Beard Content TBC	Andy Campbell MG Mike Canaway Clive Osgood Content TBC
Seminar Session 3 Frank Ainsworth Alex Vickers Content TBC	Keep checking www.bigga.org.uk for the latest news on the various education and training options available at BTME2002	

YOU'VE GOT m@il!

If you've got an email account why not send an email to the education department, where we can place you into our exclusive education email address book. We can then keep you up-to-date with education news and events as they happen.

Send an email to:
education@bigga.co.uk
ken@bigga.co.uk
sami@bigga.co.uk

One day learning options at BTME2002

Monday 21 January, 2002	Tuesday 22 January, 2002
National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate	National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
Emergency First Aid Workshop	Emergency First Aid Workshop
Environmental Management Workshop	Environmental Management Workshop

The National Education Conference includes four sessions over two days, including a Master Class from Dr James Beard, sessions on Global Warming and the Golf Course, Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features and Winter Preparation. Golf Course Design 1 will be presented, by Howard Swan and Simon Gidman. Bob Taylor, Jonathan Smith and Fiona McIntyre have agreed to co-host the Environmental Management Workshop. Seminar speakers will include Frank Ainsworth, James Beard, Brin Bendon, Andy Campbell MG, Mike Canaway, Clive Osgood, Paul Crowe, Jim Moore, Alex Vickers and David Winterton MG

Watch out in further editions of this magazine and on the BIGGA Website for more details of speakers and how to book your place

Two day learning options at BTME2002

Monday 21 January, 2002	Tuesday 22 January, 2002
National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate	National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
Golf Course Design and Construction 1	Golf Course Design and Construction 1
National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate	Emergency First Aid Workshop
National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate	Environmental Management Workshop
Emergency First Aid Workshop	National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
Environmental Management Workshop	National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
Emergency First Aid Workshop	Environmental Management Workshop
Environmental Management Workshop	Emergency First Aid Workshop

The 13th BTME, held in January this year, proved to be the best ever with record attendance figures over 7,800. In our series of countdown articles to BTME2002, Meredith Foster gives some vital information for exhibitors both new and old ...

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION
BTME 2002
EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME
JUST 7 MONTHS TO GO

Don't miss Out!

TUE
22
JAN02

WED
23
JAN02

THU
24
JAN02

Confirmed Exhibitors

Details correct as of 18.06.01

Advanta Seeds UK Ltd	Lindum Seeded Turf Ltd
AF Trenchers Ltd	Links Leisure Ltd
AGCO (Massey Ferguson)	Lloyds & Co Letchworth Ltd
Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd	Logic Irrigation
Akham Bryan College	Long Equipment Ltd
Allen Power Eq Ltd	MJ Abbott
Allett Mowers	Major Equipment Ltd
Amenity Land Servs Ltd	Merrist Wood College
Amenity Technology	Mitchell Hire Ltd
Angus Horticulture	New Holland
Arden Lea Irrigation Ltd	Nickerson UK Ltd
Aventis Environmental Science	North Staffs Irrig Ltd
Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd	Ocmis Irrigation UK Ltd
Aztec Chemicals Ltd	Oliver Seeds Ltd
Barcham Trees	Pentagon Amenity Marketing Ltd
Barenbrug UK Ltd	Port Agric Ltd
Bathgate Silica Sand	Prestige Sports Surfaces Ltd
BCA	Psd Agronomy Ltd
Bernhard & Company Ltd	Rain Bird Europe S.A.R.L.
Better Methods Europe	Reasheath College
Better Methods Europe Ltd	Richard Campey Ltd
Bickers Plc	Rigby Taylor Ltd
Blec Landscaping Equipment Co Ltd	Risboro Turf
Boughton Loam Ltd	Rolawn (Turfgrowers) Ltd
Boyd Golf Course Accessories	Rousseau Equipment Ltd
British Seed Houses	Rufford Soil Technology
Cannington College	Same Deutz-Fahr UK Ltd
Capari Pumps (UK) Ltd	Saxon Industries
Charterhouse Turf Machinery	Scotts UK
Cleveland Sitesafe Ltd	Sheppy Fertilisers Ltd
Club Car - Ingersoll Rand	Shirley Aldred & Co Ltd
Course Care	Simon Tulleit Machinery
Dennis	Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd
Dgt-Volmatic A/S	Spaldings UK Ltd
Distinct Manufacturing	Speedcut Contractors
Dif Perryfields	Sumi Agro (UK) Ltd
Dw Tomlin	Supturf Products Ltd
Eagle Promotions	Swan Golf Designs Ltd
Elmwood College	Swan Plant Services Ltd
Etesia (UK) Ltd	Symbio
European Turf Technology Ltd	Tacit
European Turfgrass Laboratories	Talbot Farm Landscapes Ltd
Evenproducts Ltd	Teg Environmental
Farm & Garden Machinery	Textron Golf Turf And Specialty Products
Farmura Ltd	The Association of Golf Club Secretaries
G P S Services Ltd	The Golf Sign Company
Gambetti Barre UK Ltd	Til Irrigatoin Ltd
Garfitts International Ltd	Til Irrigatoin Ltd (Hydro)
Gem Professional	Tildenet Ltd
Geosynthetic Technology Ltd	Tonick Watering Ltd
Golf Car UK Ltd	Toro Commercial Products
GTC	Totrax Ltd
Greenlink International	Tower Sport (Europe) Ltd
Groundsman Industries	Trelleborg Wheel Systems
Hallmarket Ltd	Trimax Mowing Systems Ltd
Hardi	True-Surface Rollers
Hayter UK Ltd	TT Proturf Ltd
Headland Amenity	Turf Masters
Hunter Grinders Ltd	Turf Seed UK Ltd
IOG	Turfgrass Services International Ltd
Irrigation Control Ltd	Turfmech Machinery Ltd
John Deere	Tyre-Line Original Equipment Ltd
John Greasley Ltd	Verde Sports Ltd
John Hinton Associates	Vitax Ltd
Kawasaki Motors (UK) Ltd	Waste 2 Water
Ken White Signs	White Horse Contractors Ltd
Kestrel Golf	Whitemoss Amenities Ltd
Kubota (UK) Ltd	Wiedenman UK Ltd
L S Systems	Wolf Garden
Lastec UK Ltd	Yamaha
Lewis Equipment Ltd	York & Martin
Lincmaster Thief Stoppers	

BTME is an essential event for all those connected to the turfcare and, in particular, the golf greenkeeping industry. 200 manufacturers and suppliers of turfcare and golf course/club related products and services were present at the 2001 show unveiling new products, services and techniques.

Much more than a trade show, BTME incorporates extensive educational programmes and seminars which have a broad appeal for visitors to the show. The speakers are experts in their particular fields and include international academics and UK greenkeeping professionals with extensive practical knowledge on many of the top golf courses. There are also workshops on a wide variety of subjects from golf course design, plants and soil science to machinery maintenance and computing for greenkeepers.



Exhibitor benefits and details of stand bookings

Once you have booked your stand, the extra benefits you will receive are:

- Free 100 words entry into the BTME catalogue with optional company logo
- Free 100 words entry on the BIGGA website with your contact details and a hyperlink to your website
- Preferential advertising rates in Greenkeeper International and the BTME catalogue
- Free Exhibitors manual and BTME catalogue
- Free stand cleaning
- All full shell scheme stands include the following: Facia Board, Carpet tiles, melamine wall panels.

Why not send me an email, and I'll place you into our exclusive BTME address book. I can then keep you up-to-date with the very latest BTME news and events.

Send your email to:
meredith@bigga.co.uk



BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION
BTME 2002
EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Why exhibit?

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) is the largest indoor show of its kind in Europe attracting thousands of key decision makers from the turfcare and golf course/club industry every year.

Attendance figures increase dramatically year on year with a record 25% increase achieved for the 2001 show.

A comprehensive education programme and series of interesting seminars is always in place to attract visitors in their droves, and with BIGGA membership always on the increase, the show is certainly set to grow year on year.

For the very latest BTME2002 news and event information visit: www.bigga.org.uk



BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, Tracey Maddison, welcomes almost 80 new members to the Association and highlights some interesting facts regarding Direct Debit

Do you do it by Direct Debit?

BIGGA now operate a Direct Debit scheme, offering members the opportunity to spread their payments over 10 months rather than having to find their membership fee in one lump sum. This facility is available for all members, and extra application forms are always available from the membership department, here at BIGGA HOUSE.

Did you know...

- Usage of Direct Debit has grown fourfold over the last ten years.
- Almost 32 million people in the UK now use Direct Debit.
- People pay an average of six bills by Direct Debit.
- To use the Direct Debit Scheme, a customer must usually hold a current account with one of the UK's Banks or Building Societies.

What is Direct Debit?

Direct Debit is a simple, safe and speedy way to pay regular bills and subscriptions automatically from your bank account.

How do I set up a Direct Debit with BIGGA to pay my membership fees?

You will need to obtain from BIGGA, and then complete, a Direct Debit Instruction and return it to BIGGA together with your membership form. BIGGA currently works with a company called Premium Credit and will send your completed Direct Debit Instruction to them to forward onto your bank authorising them to make payments from your account to BIGGA. Your payments will be spread over a 10 month period and will commence on the 1st of the following month from your membership start date e.g. Membership expiry date 31st May, therefore membership start date is 1st June, Direct Debit will commence 1st July.

STOP PRESS

BIGGA now have a brand new supply of waterproof suits in stock. Sizes available are Medium, Large, Extra Large and Extra Extra Large and they are in navy and consist of a jacket with matching trousers with a drawstring waistband. Contact the Membership Department for more details or to make an order.



Tel: 01347 833800 Email: membership@bigga.co.uk

The Direct Debit mandate form is very easy to complete, as you can see from the example below:

What do I do if I already pay by Direct Debit?

Your payments will continue. However, BIGGA will send out a renewal pack with a renewal form approximately one month prior to your expiry date. Your renewal form will be stamped as an "Existing D/D Account" and you will need to check all your details are correct and make any changes necessary, complete the reverse part of the form regarding payment, ticking the box indicating that you wish to continue with this method of payment, obtain a Golf Club stamp or some other form of authorisation that you are a working greenkeeper at the Club, sign and return to BIGGA.

Can I cancel a Direct Debit?

If you need to cancel the Direct Debit, simply write to

your Bank or Building Society, but don't forget to send BIGGA a copy so they can update their files. However, if you do cancel your membership halfway through your membership year please contact BIGGA to advise them of this.

June'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 June's winner, Alexander Donaghy of Erskine GC.



BIGGA welcomes ...

Scottish Region

Ian Flint, North
William C Hudson, East
Michael A Mann, North
Robert McCulloch, Ayrshire
Christopher Pryde, West
Martin R Smith, North
David Sterricks, East

Bryn Roberts, N Wales
Mark Smith, Sheffield
Martin Thompson, N Wales
Stan Todd, N West
Andrew Turner, N Wales
Paul S Wood, Northern
Matthew J Young, N Wales

Midland Region

Ian A Brown, E Midland
Leon J Dalton, E Midland
Craig K Hallam, E Midland
Daniel Hashie, BB&O
James E Hearn, BB&O
Andrew J Hill, BB&O
Lionel Jewkes, E Midland
Graham Partridge, E Midland
David B Pritchard, BB&O
Peter D Stokes, E Midland

South East Region

Ronald K Ansall, Sussex

Kenneth A Bagnall, Surrey
Tony Brace, Surrey
Richard A Constable, Surrey
Alan Elliott, Surrey
Kenneth A Herbert, Surrey
Simon P Lambert, Sussex
Jon Linscoe, Sussex
Mark Logan, Sussex
Gary A Rowe, Surrey
Jamie Stewart, Surrey
Graham R Thatcher, Surrey
Luke Thompson, Surrey
Darren Wales, Surrey

S West & S Wales Region

John Batchelor, S West
David Baugh, S Coast
Martin Frost, S West
Robert W Hughes, S Wales
Richard M Newton, S Wales
William Owen, Dev & C'wall
Derek A Ross, S Coast
Wyn Selby, S Wales

Northern Ireland

Gary Johnston
Andrew Wray

Republic of Ireland

Trevor Norris

International Members

Willy Harder, Denmark

Golden Key Members

Tim Lawrence, AGCO Ltd
Phil Evans, AGCO Ltd

Associate Members

Dr Mike Canaway, N West
Phil Greenway, Midland
David H Bates, Midland
Philip Newcombe, BB&O

Phil Sharp, BB&O
Charles E Worsfold, Kent

Student Members

Christopher Griffiths, N West
James Liversidge, Sheffield
David McCaffrey, N Wales
Ross J Sullivan, Northern
Daniel Sullivan, Sheffield
Ben Bouchier, Midland
Andrew J Turner, Midland
Matthew N Chatterton, Dev & C'wall
Christopher Moran, N Ireland



Profile

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club.

Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star.



Name: Richard Love

Club: Kilmacolm GC

Position: Apprentice

Age: 21

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?

Two and a half years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?

Finished Level 2 and 3 at GOSTA over the winter

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?

Cutting approaches

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?

Divoting fairways

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?

Professional golfer

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

Ronnie Bunting

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?

Beter working conditions, pay and education

8. What are your hobbies?

Golf and socialising

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

Interesting magazine and golf days

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?

Working abroad, maybe on a golf course





BTME2002 will be upon us all too soon, and here at BIGGA we're aiming to provide the most up-to-date information to both visitors and exhibitors with a brand new BTME microsite ...

btme.org.uk: What a site for an exhibition!

Each January in Harrogate, BIGGA hold their annual Turf Management Exhibition (BTME).

With an extremely diverse range of visitor, ranging from the fine turf professional right through to the golf shop pro, we must always ensure that the information produced for such an all-encompassing event can encapsulate every aspect of the show, whilst holding the attentions of each specialised visitor group.

With that in mind, we are currently developing a brand new BTME 'microsite' within the already familiar BIGGA website. Accessible for both exhibitors and visitors alike, the new microsite will contain specific information for both categories of website visitor, which will make for an informative and enriching web experience, containing updated exhibition news 24 hours a day.

Organising the largest and most successful fine turf exhibition and education conference in Europe, has galvanised our commitment to providing both visitors and exhibitors with the most up-to-date information possible, and the new BTME microsite will be a breeding ground of information about next year's event, and with the power of the internet, can, and will be updated as soon as news becomes available.

Already a successful feature on the microsite's parent site, a customisable email request form will be available for all BTME web-visitors to fill in.

By using this facility, visitors can ask to be kept informed of the very latest exhibition news and event information via email. An extremely useful feature if you don't have the spare time to surf the microsite everyday, and would rather just have a look when specific information is available.

Another feature planned for the BTME site is a mini-exhibition directory which will contain;



- Company names
- Contact names
- Contact numbers
- Email links
- Web hyperlinks
- Hall location
- Stand location
- Company profile and product details for each exhibitor

and comments we receive from BTME delegates, visitors and exhibitors, and firmly believe that the spread of information by traditional print methods can continue to be enhanced by digital means through the internet and email.

If you are interested in receiving details when the new BTME microsite launches, please send an email to: btme@bigga.co.uk and include the word 'update' in the subject field.

The brand new site is set to be launched later this month, and will be accessible from the familiar hyperlink on the BIGGA parent website (www.bigga.org.uk), but will now also have its own website address of www.btme.org.uk

This will enable faster access of specific BTME information for both visitors and exhibitors alike, but will help maintain the inherent links under the umbrella of the BIGGA parent website.

Every year, we are continually encouraged by the positive feedback

EMAIL ROUNDUP

Got a question to ask or have some information or comments to pass on? Contact us via email at the relevant address below.

Membership Services
membership@bigga.co.uk

Education & Training
education@bigga.co.uk

Editorial/PR
scott@bigga.co.uk

Sales & Marketing
sales@bigga.co.uk

Finance/Accounts
admin@bigga.co.uk

Media Services
david@bigga.co.uk

Website
webmaster@bigga.co.uk

General enquiries
reception@bigga.co.uk

TIME TO TALK
www.bigga.org.uk

HAVE YOU CLICKED ON YET?

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

FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS CHAT GREENKEEPERS



The finest turf from tee to green

Medallion turf for golf tees is typically sown as Aberelf (Perennial Ryegrass) 25%, Bargreen (Chewings Fescue) 20%, Barcrown (Slender Creeping Red Fescue) 35%, Limousine (Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass) 20%.

All the cultivars we use are highly ranked in independent testing by the STRI (see "Turfgrass Seed 2001" published by STRI).

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Above: Paul Smith prepares to welcome Tiger and his colleagues
Left: The familiar Royal Lytham Clubhouse taken by Philip Medcalf
Right: A commemorative plaque in honour Bobby Jones

Royal Lytham and St Annes has a Championship history which is second to none, but for this year the course will have been prepared by a man in charge for his first major Championship ...

A NEW MAN AT THE

HELM

Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club is a Rolls Royce among Championship venues. There is barely a significant event in golf which hasn't visited the north west coast course and it can always be guaranteed to produce a worthy winner ... Tony Jacklin, Gary Player and Seve Ballesteros spring readily to mind.

So when the Open Championship returns later this month we can expect more of the same. Nothing much changes at Royal Lytham, certainly not for the worse.

There is one difference this year, however. A significant one, but one which to many may only become apparent when they see a young man standing a few yards from the soon-to-be-crowned Open Champion at the presentation table on the 18th green around 6pm on Open Sunday...no play-off permitting.

For the Open Champion it will be a thrilling moment, the culmination of a lifetime's endeavour ... or perhaps even the sixth consecutive Major Championship and the third leg of the mythical Grand Slam, while for new Head Greenkeeper, Paul Smith, it will signal the end of months of preparation and hard work and confirmation that he is the worthy successor to one of greenkeeping's own legendary figures.

Paul's predecessor Jimmy MacDonald MBE, had been there and done that in greenkeeping over the 26 years he was Head Greenkeeper. Not only had he prepared Lytham for some of its biggest Championships - four Opens, a Ryder Cup, a Curtis Cup, four British Senior Opens, a Women's

British Open and both British Amateur ladies' and men's Championships - but he had presided over a finishing school whose Old Boys are now Head Greenkeepers at some of the biggest and best clubs in the area.

Paul was one of these, being Jimmy's First Assistant when the Open was last played at Lytham in '96, before he left to add management to his greenkeeping credentials with a spell as Course Manager at Furness Golf Club.

Incidentally, many of those Old Boys return during Open week to add their considerable expertise and experience to Lytham's own team.

"They will be rolling, cutting and cutting and I'm certainly looking forward to having them with me for the week," said Paul.

So what thoughts will be going through his head when he walks out onto the 18th green with the new Open Champion?

"Ideally I'd like all my staff to be with me but I know that's not possible. I know I shall be very proud of my own achievements and very proud of the staff's achievements," mused Paul, as we talked in his office, some six weeks before Open week.

"It will be a tremendous highlight



Above: Paul (centre) with the rest of the Royal Lytham greenkeeping team

and I'm sure I'll feel quite emotional when it happens. I'll definitely have to pinch myself.

"I always set myself high, but achievable, targets so I always thought that one day I might be in the position."

The pride will also, no doubt, be tinged with relief after preparations for the Championship were complicated by a couple of nerve testing episodes of near Biblical proportions - flooding which would have had Noah's ancestors dusting off their work tools and the Foot and Mouth Epidemic, which would have had Paul seriously questioning what he'd done to deserve such a headache, but which ultimately remained a safe distance away.

The flooding caused the course to be closed for a total of 40 days because of it - in addition to the 16 days for

which it was closed because of frost and snow.

"The Fylde plane is relatively flat anyway and typically the water table comes close to the surface but this winter it was quite literally at the surface. We were continually pumping water, in vain really, but we felt we had to make the effort," explained Paul, who added that he was also aware of the need for a "tread softly" approach to using machinery on the course when it was closed.

"To have the course closed for such a long time is unheard of and this was just my second winter here," he added ruefully.

The complications this introduced to The Open planning meant Paul had to be adaptable, a skill he honed while at Furness when he had to learn how



A NEW MAN AT THE
HELM



Above: Spectators won't miss a putt, thanks to the high vantage point the seating affords

Below: Lowering in the specialised seating units is a precise business

Right: A green surrounded by some of Royal Lytham's formidable bunkers



best to maximise his resources, both human and financial.

"I had laid down schedules but those went out the window and it was a case of prioritising what I thought were the essential jobs to do and undertake them when possible as well as targeting the drier areas of the course."

Surprisingly, considering the amount of standing water on the course, there were no lasting problems, at least not on the main playing areas.

"There are some areas which we had to turf late on in the spring which haven't quite recovered but these haven't been in play."

The golf course will not be presented markedly differently from the '96 Open.

"I don't have any particular style ideas for presentation and conditioning other than those based on sound links philosophy. I'd like to think that

the general condition of the golf course will be the mark that I leave on the 2001 Open - although that's not to say there won't be room for improvement.

"I'm my own worst critic and there are a million and one things that I see every day that I'd like to act upon but it's a job of prioritising. There are only so many hours in the day."

Indeed the golf course itself will also not be significantly different from the one which faced Tom Lehman five years ago although remarkably the course which boasts the most bunkers on the Open Championship rota has added to its armoury.

"We now have 197 bunkers and in my time here we have added one to the left hand side of the 15th. Stan Eby of European Golf Design, undertakes course architectural alterations," explained Paul. The last Lytham Open



featured 185 of the blighters and they were found by a total of 1618 balls during the four days of the Championship, a record which kept the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team busy!

"Apart from that there are very few changes to the course, although it may be a little more forgiving in places in terms of set-up."

Following in the footsteps of someone like Jimmy MacDonald could have been a daunting experience but Paul takes nothing but positives for the fact that he has someone of Jimmy's experience to call upon.

"We speak a lot on the phone and he says it will be a proud moment from him when he's sitting up in the stand watching the golf this time.

"I know it was a massive wrench for Jimmy when he retired and I'm sure he must miss the place but he popped

in for the Lytham Trophy when we were changing holes and he pointed out a few spots which I hadn't considered. I've always tried to switch on to his, and other, knowledge and way of thinking. I do selectively utilise other people's ideas and this, allied to my own academic achievements and experience, is the key to success."

Jimmy told Paul that he was aware that whoever got the job would make changes and, while saying that the hand over was seamless, there are differences in their approaches to the job.

"Jimmy was very much a people's person and I'd like to think I am as well. I like to encourage active, constructive opinions from the people I work with. I think that's important because, in a positive way, it means that all potential angles are covered."

While accepting that the pace of life in general and stresses in work have

increased greatly, Paul is thankful that he has an innate ability to switch off when he gets home of a night.

"I think I'm fortunate because it's a genetic thing. I also try to keep myself on the one level all the time not getting too negative or too positive about things. I don't think you'd be too successful in this profession if you were thin skinned."

Having said that, he hasn't particularly needed a thick skin during his recent spell at the Club.

"The Chairman is the model Chairman and the Secretary has been very helpful to me, while the members, in general, have been very appreciative of the course condition over the last few months."

Unlike the last two Opens at Carnoustie and St Andrews Paul hasn't introduced artificial aids to protect the fairways.

"I think one of the benefits of the winter we have suffered is that we've not had the amount of play we'd normally have and we've come into spring with pretty good sward coverage."

While in a bizarre way the weather helped in this regard, Paul is looking for help over the next few weeks to ensure the world's finest players face typical links conditions when they arrive at the course.

"Firm to hard and hard in places," he says in a manner which suggests its a links land mantra that he has been hearing ever since his greenkeeping career began.

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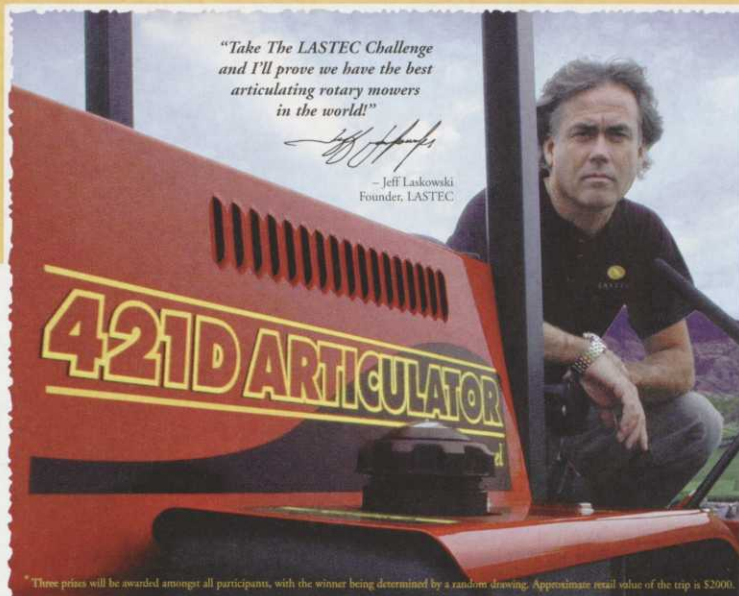
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Pound to a penny, a golfer will have some excuse relating to the tee's surface for a poorly played shot. The object of the exercise is to make sure that tee presentation is top rate. Roland Taylor takes a look at the many ways in which a greenkeeper can achieve this ...

Time for tees



Above: Preparation work goes on during the Benson and Hedges International at the De Vere Belfry

The dictionary definition of a tee is - a cleared spot from which the ball is struck at the beginning of each hole. It is the words 'cleared spot' that sound a discord when it comes to modern greenkeeping. However, this statement becomes clearer when taken in the context of the history of the game. Originally there were no actual tees and the rules stated that the ball be struck

from a given number of club lengths from the previous hole. Evidence indicates that formal tees first appeared in the records in the last years of the 1800s.

On many of the older courses, tees were down the list when it came to priorities and today this has resulted in a number of problems. They were not designed to accommodate today's

increase in players and demand for all-year-round facilities. Heavy traffic on a relatively small area plays havoc with compaction and this, combined with poor drainage, does not bode well for a resilient turf cover. It takes a lot of abuse. The design required a tee to be elevated and often no account was taken of mowing the banking which results in labour-intensive methods having to

Time for tees



Below: Various attachments can be added using the cassette method



be used to keep them looking good.

When it comes to mowing there are a number of choices, the most favoured system being cylinder mowing and collecting the clippings. A mower with a fairly high rate of cuts per metre is ideal and there are plenty of different cutting widths available to suit specific requirements.

In recent years there have been a number of units introduced that use a basic power source to which either cassettes or attachments can be added. They're usually a choice of cylinder mower units with various numbers of blades plus the advantage of being able to fit other turfcare equipment such as verticutters, scarifiers and aerators. These machines



are ideal for tee maintenance as they can be easily transported with a range of attachments by trailer or utility vehicle. When considering this type of system, the important feature to look out for is the time taken and tools required changing from one piece of kit to another. Some only take less than a minute.

Dare one suggest that the roller propelled rotary mowers that are now available could be considered for use as an alternative mower for some tees? These have the added advantage that they also pick up any leaves or other debris. It should be pointed out that if this cutting system is used the blade needs to be kept very sharp. The rotary principle is suitable for

banking, either in the form of a hover mower or wheeled model. For very awkward areas it may be necessary to use a hand-held strimmer and the backpack versions are especially worth considering for these types of locations.

On large tees the fairway style of unit can be used, especially if they have collection facilities. There are a number of smaller triple ride-on mowers now available using either cylinder or rotary cutting units and some of these have been specifically designed with tees in mind, especially where banking is involved.

If new tees are being considered, how they are going to be cost effectively mown needs to be addressed at

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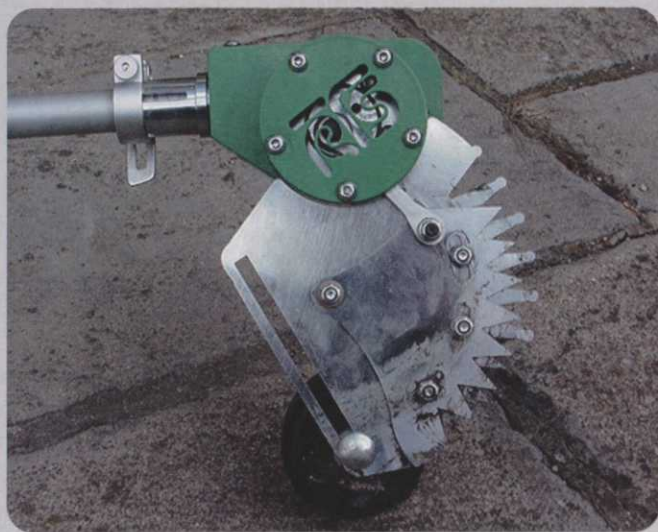
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Time for tees



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the point of planning. This will avoid a lot of problems that could occur after they have become established.

Cutting heights on tees is important, bearing in mind the volume and concentration of traffic using them.

The leaf cover needs to be kept high so the plants can gain as much nutrient as possible through photosynthesis. Somewhere between 6-13mm is the suggested scale.

Bunker surrounds are another area that will need special attention when it comes to mowing. Rotaries have already been mentioned in respect of any banking but often there is a lip or edge that will need to be kept trimmed. This could be done with a pair of edging shears but this is likely to be a long labour-intensive operation if there are a several bunker surrounds to be trimmed.

A number of edging machines are now available that would be ideal for this job. These generally use a vertical-mounted blade that operates in conjunction with an edging guide, either the wheels or rollers set to the depth of cut. As they are not self-propelled the operator can gauge his walking speed to obtain the best finish. This method of edging certainly speeds up the operation considerably.

It is easy to dismiss the role of tees. Generally they are the first sight the players have of a course, so their upkeep and general appearance are important as they say a lot about the rest of the course and how it is maintained.

From a golfer's point-of-view, the tee is the starting point of a trip into the unknown, certainly mentally and often physically. It is his introduction

to a particular hole, one that he hopes he will not fall into - his action can make or break what follows out on the course. Certainly on the first tee there can be an element of fear and trepidation plus there is often an audience of other players waiting to tee off. The tee is the one point where golfers cannot blame the results of their play on the condition of the playing surface. Why? Because the ball is on top of a plastic or wooden peg a few centimetres above the turf and the only time in the game when it is not in direct contact with the turf. Pound to a penny there will be some excuse relating to the tee's surface for a poorly played shot, so the object of the exercise is to make sure the presentation is top rate. There is plenty of equipment on the market to help achieve this, plus save time.

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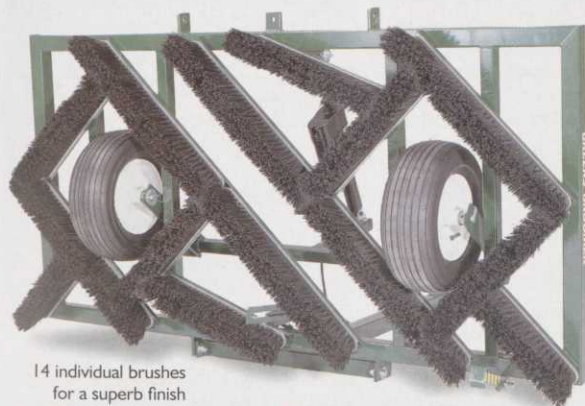
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Steve Gingell undertakes a review of the range of grasses commonly found on golf greens

Grasses for greens

Never before has there been such a range of different grass species and cultivars available to the Greenkeeper. This article seeks to clarify the usage of different grasses on greens and evaluates a number of new developments.



50% Dwarf ryegrass with Bent and Fescue cut at 6mm. Can you see the ryegrass?

Traditionally speaking (bents and fescues)

Traditionally, greens have been sown with 80% fescue, 20% bentgrasses (by weight) with the aim of eventually producing comparable amounts of these species in the sward. The seeding mixture ratio is due to the differences in seed weight between the tiny bentgrass and the much larger fescue. An even mix of the sown grasses is, however, unlikely for a variety of reasons – not the least of which are climatic influences. It is also worth noting that the fescue component initially dominates the sward although the slower establishing bentgrass soon catches up. Throughout the whole establishment process, the risk of invading rogue grasses will prevail, particularly if early excessive wear or inappropriate management prevails.

Poa annua

Poa annua is a serious problem for many Greenkeepers. The reasons for the domination of Poa annua are complex, but are usually related to open swards during the main flowering season of May-July (although flowering occurs throughout the year). Undoubtedly excess inputs of water and fertiliser also encourage Poa annua. It would be a brave person to suggest that good maintenance practices alone will reduce Poa annua as

it is one of nature's colonisers in the annual form and a survivor in the perennial form "reptans".

It is important to note that the desirable bent and fescue grasses predominate in the wild where one finds dryish soils, conditions of low nutrient availability and sometimes extremes of pH. So why don't bents and fescues survive as well as Poa annua in a golf green? Probably because Poa thrives in the conditions we provide and the wear the turf is subject to – it is an opportunist grass. Certainly the conditions which ideally suit our quality grasses can be difficult to manage and do not always respond well to wear. Links courses like St Andrews Old Course are testament to those desired, sandier, less fertile conditions and provide stunning greens of quality grasses as a consequence of appropriate management.

To combat Poa annua the answer is to carefully control fertiliser and water inputs to greens and reduce to a minimum where cover is maintained for the wear experienced. The water-logged areas where Poa proliferates in contrast to bents found in the drier regions indicate to a Greenkeeper the preferred conditions for bentgrass. Actions should always be taken to reduce winter water-logging by reconstruction, drainage etc. if you are ever



Traditional Bent Fescue turf

to develop and sustain the desirable bents and maybe fescue grasses. Just as important will be aeration and thatch control practices at appropriate times.

Sand dominated greens

Heathland, links and modern sand dominated greens invariably have the advantage of good drainage and less excesses of nutrients allowing swards rich in the favourable grasses to be grown. Nevertheless the sward must be kept dense and any operations which will open up the sward, such as hollow tine aeration, should be timed with overseeding and top dressing definitely outside of the main *Poa* flowering season.

The risks with sand dominated greens invariably come from constructing one or two such greens amongst the remaining soil based greens – in such scenarios the contrast in management requirement will test even the best Greenkeepers. Furthermore such “new” isolated sandy greens often prove a disappointment, certainly from the grass composition viewpoint.

Creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*)

Invariably, creeping bent greens succumb to *Poa annua* ingress. The *Poa* problem sometimes starts immedi-

ately after the bentgrass seeding if poor soil temperatures prevail. This often means that the best time to ensure success from bentgrass seeding is between June and August. Certainly the key is to establish a very dense cover of bentgrass in the shortest possible time. If a little *Poa* invades, this can be hand weeded. If take-all is avoided and sufficient water is available during germination, an excellent sward can soon be developed.

Creeping bentgrass can provide a superb putting surface with some of the new modern cultivars which are also better able to deal with lower mowing heights. However, it will require significantly different management practices than native greens. This includes a higher fertiliser input, strict control of thatch, disease control and management. The use of this species should be considered only with sand rich greens.

Velvet bentgrass (*Agrostis canina*)

Velvet bent provides an extremely dense and fine sward with outstanding year-round colour. A possible disadvantage is that it can produce excessive thatch and thus regular verticutting is required. It is expensive to purchase and often Greenkeepers will dilute it with a more traditional bent or bent/fescue mix.

Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*)

An interesting trial at the Berkshire College of Agriculture Greenkeeping Academy has produced a very good golf green surface of ryegrass and red fescue. The new cultivars of ryegrass can tend to look a little like fescue at certain times of the year and seem to be able to tolerate mowing heights of 4.5-5 mm. They are less susceptible to disease, recover well from wear and have good year-round colour. Some Greenkeepers would not be able to tell the difference between some very fine ryegrass cultivars and the fescue in a closely mown sward. While not a current recommendation for greens, we may have to eventually reconsider the use of ryegrass in certain situations, particularly if there are further significant improvements in future cultivars.

STRI cultivar trials

The STRI undertakes extensive turf grass cultivar trials with the findings published in the annual Turfgrass Seed Booklet. This publication allows comparison between cultivars and species commonly used on golf surfaces. It is therefore possible to check the main attributes of a seeds mixture and cultivars, ensuring it matches its intended usage.

A visit to the trials ground on one

of the Open Days or training events provides an opportunity to visually see the performance of the various species and their cultivars.

Seed mixes

In a given seed mixture, each species and cultivar will provide a set of features to produce a sward that meets the intended usage. For example, a dense sward with all-year-round greenness or a wide-ranging resistance to many turf grass diseases. The use of the STRI Turfgrass Seed Booklet to check the variety of characteristics in a seeds mixture is an invaluable tool in trying to develop anticipated turf performance.

Single species swards can be risky. If, for example, the species is particularly susceptible to certain turf grass diseases, then extensive damage could be caused or the need for excessive application of fungicides. The inclusion of a mixture of cultivars or even a small amount of another species may create a more robust green.

Overseeding

There is a current popular approach of overseeding *Poa* rich greens with bent only mixtures. The effect of this strategy can be slow and in some instances a waste of time and money. Many factors come into play in



A long established Poa-rich green showing bent overseeding success

determining success, not the least of which is the subsequent management after overseeding. To stand any chance of success, the seed must be sown when the soil temperatures are high, i.e. late spring to summer, with good water availability and a reasonable time period before inclement weather sets in. Appropriate maintenance favouring the over-sown grasses cannot be over-emphasised – it is simply a waste of money to over-sow *Poa annua* with fine grasses and subsequently manage it to sustain the *Poa annua*.

Sometimes the inclusion of fescue, which is relatively quick to germinate, fine-leaved and more resistant to many diseases common to both bents and annual meadow-grass, may, in certain cases, help the green adapt to a wider-range of influences.

There has been much debate on the success of overseeding. Numerous factors can contrive to hinder the establishment of the desired species. Obviously the correct seed choice, correct application and suitable conditions for germination will go a long way towards success. The use of broadcast seeding must be the least effective as much seed is removed from the surface by foot traffic and

by mowers. Better to use a slit seeder or broadcast following hollow coring and top dressing, when the seed will end up off the immediate surface of the green.

Grass identification

It is important to be able to identify the grasses in your greens. This should be to at least genus level, e.g. *Agrostis*, but preferably being able to separate *Agrostis tenuis* from *stolonifera* and *canina* (browntop from creeping and velvet). The most straightforward identification (once it is established) is via the ligule. *A. tenuis* is collar shaped, *A. stolonifera* is broad peaked and *A. canina* very pointed.

Fescues can be more difficult to identify but there is less need to know the differences between the various red fescues such as Chewings and slender creeping red fescue which form part of some golf greens. *Poa* needs to be distinguished between *annua* and *pratensis* (annual and smooth-stalked) as the latter sometimes colonises greens and is a key ingredient of some seed mixtures for tees. *Poa pratensis* has a broad, blunt leaf with a distinctive "blue" bloom giving its occasionally used common

American name, Kentucky blue-grass.

Ryegrasses and Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*, which is often a weed grass in greens) are relatively straight-forward to identify. However, the new cultivars of ryegrass can be confused with some fescues at the juvenile stage as both species can have a red base. Certainly Yorkshire fog can look like bentgrass but check the leaf sheath which will have fine purple or red stripes. It is also more hairy than bentgrass.

There are many good grass identification books available, but your Agronomist should be able to help you identify the above grasses.

Weed grasses

Apart from *Poa annua* there are a number of grasses able to withstand close cutting. The two worst weed grasses are perennial ryegrass (particularly coarse forms) and Yorkshire fog. Ryegrass may spread from the fairways and surrounds and quickly form coarse clumps of flattened grass. These invariably seem to grow faster than the surrounding green and can cause some unevenness on the surface. Control is often difficult ranging from some hand weeding where there

are small patches to extensive verticutting on larger areas.

Yorkshire fog is a particular problem if it successfully miniaturises and forms large spreading patches seemingly smothering all in its wake. Again, verticutting is the best way to reduce this problem.

In conclusion

The management of successful greens means the cultivation of the correct grasses. Undoubtedly it is easier to work with nature rather than against it. This means choosing a select number of species appropriate to the green construction profile, subsequent management and environmental effects. The complete management of a green needs to question all operations and modify those which fail to encourage the desirable grasses.

Steve Gingell is the STRI Regional Agronomist for the Thames Valley Region. His knowledge of turf grasses comes from experience in the field and through managing the construction of the Greenkeeping Academy at Berkshire College. He can be contacted on 01344 884167. The rest of the STRI Agronomy team can be contacted on 01274 565131. E-mail: info@stri.co.uk or visit the website www.stri.co.uk

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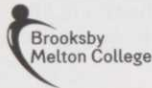


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HARTPURY COLLEGE, Hartpury House, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL19 3BE **Contact:** Sara-Jane Watkins **Tel:** 01452 702132 **Fax:** 01452 700629 **Email:** enquire@hartpury.ac.uk **Website:** www.hartpury.ac.uk **Information:** Courses available: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



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



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



NESCOT - North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS **Contact:** Dr S Shaw **Tel:** 020 8394 3038 **Email:** info@nescot.ac.uk **Website:** www.nescot.ac.uk **Information:** NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) Training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Pesticides Application - Certificate of Competence. Part time, Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses.



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



PLUMPTON COLLEGE, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE **Contact:** David Blackmur **Tel:** 01273 890454 **Fax:** 01273 890071 **Email:** enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk **Website:** www.plumpton.ac.uk **Information:** National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture (options in Landscaping and Sportsturf); National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture; First Diploma in Horticulture. Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 & 3 Amenity Horticulture in Decorative, Nursery, Hard Landscape and Sportsturf, Level 3 Amenity in Decorative and Sportsturf, Level 4 Amenity. Also available are RHS General and Diploma and IOG National Technical and National Diploma (Int). Short courses are also available for FEPA spraying and chainsaw courses.



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

A guide to the colleges and courses available

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

ENGLAND



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



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



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



WRITTLE COLLEGE, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3RR **Contact:** David Campbell **Tel:** 01245 424200 **Fax:** 01245 420456 **Website:** www.writtle.ac.uk **Information:** SPORTSTURF PROGRAMMES NVQ Level 2 - Sportsturf; NVQ Level 3 - Sportsturf Maintenance. NVQ Level 4 - Amenity Horticulture. HNC - Sportsturf Science. HND - Sportsturf and Golf Course Management. Other Programmes; First Diploma. National Certificate. National Diploma (with Sportsturf Option). BSc (Hons) Sportsturf Science and Management. BSc (Hons) Horticulture. BSc (Hons) Landscape and Amenity Management. MSc Landscape and Amenity Management. NVQ 2 and 3 Service Engineering. FEPA. Chainsaw. Tractor Driving

IRELAND



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



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

SCOTLAND



Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB **Contact:** Huw Parry **Tel:** 01334 658842 **Fax:** 01334 658888 **Email:** abain@elmwood.ac.uk **Information:** Full time National Certificate, Block Release following SVQ Level II and GTC training manual. SVQ level III Block Release and Outreach available with SVQ level IV coming soon. HNC/HND Golf Course Management available as full time, block release and distance learning. Professional development awards for football and cricket available by both Block Release and Outreach. FEPA and COSHH, chainsaws, tree climbing and rescue techniques and Health and safety short courses also available.



GOSTA TRAINING LTD, Unit 5E Clydeway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow G3 8JU **Contact:** Chris Bothwell **Tel:** 0141 248 2772 **Fax:** 0141 248 2453 **Email:** training@gostatraining.freeserve.co.uk **Information:** SVQ 1-4 and Modern Apprenticeship in all options. Attendance by day/block/evening or distance learning. From November/March Short Courses include Pesticide, Chainsaw, First Aid, Abrasive Wheels, Manual Handling, Fire Extinguisher and Assessor training. Consultancy covering Noise Assessment, Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use, COSHH, Health and Safety Policy.



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



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

WALES



PENCOED COLLEGE, Pencoed, Bridgend, Cardiff CF35 5LG **Contact:** Paul Discombe/John Sullivan **Tel:** 01656 302672 **Fax:** 01656 302601 **Email:** pdiscombe@bridgend.ac.uk **Website:** www.bridgend.ac.uk **Information:** Courses: NVQ Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Levels 1-3, HND in Turf Management in conjunction with the University of Glamorgan. Short Courses - include Pesticides Application, Chainsaw Operation, Machinery Maintenance plus many others. Outreach NVQ II & III in the workplace. Pencoed College is conveniently situated between Cardiff and Swansea J35 on the M4.



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



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provides you with an extensive guide to the products and services relating to the fine turf industry and the contact details of the major companies supplying those products and services. The Directory also includes a comprehensive greenkeeper membership section.

All BIGGA members are invited to attend the annual BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition event in Harrogate. With over 200 exhibitors and 6,000 visitors, this is Europe's largest indoor fine turf exhibition and features a showcase of the latest advances in machinery, products and services within the industry. On production of your membership card you can attend the seminars FREE of charge.

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For further details, contact Tracey Maddison, BIGGA Membership Services Officer

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Mark Hunt gives some useful advice when it comes to planning your greens fertiliser regime

Fertility

RIGHTS (NOT WRONGS)

Seldom a year goes past without the introduction of new products or new concepts in fertilisation for the sports-turf market. For greenkeepers and Course Managers, the choice is bewildering. Can these products really provide the improvements they seek or are they just fads, - here today, gone tomorrow?

Liquid fertilisers, as the name suggests are just that, liquid forms of nutrients, mixed into a spray tank and then applied to the turf



To begin to answer this question, we must first look at the basic principles that underpin the usage of fertilisers on golf courses and the factors that need to be taken into account.

If I was starting at a new course and was looking to put together a greens fertiliser regime for the coming season, these are some (but not all) of the details I would consider in order to 'shape' my thinking:

- Size and design of greens and associated wear patterns
- Construction and rootzone characteristics. Are all greens the same? (Unlikely), are there a mixture of types/ages of greens?
- Thatch levels, any signs of anaerobic conditions, drainage and percolation characteristics.
- Grass species present, sward density, root development.
- Soil nutrient levels, pH, nutrient retention, etc
- Planned events, aeration, tournaments, etc
- Machinery, labour and budget availability

These points all have a bearing on the amount of nutrient required in any one year. For example, smaller greens with less pin positions tend to concentrate wear and place more stress on the sward.

If fertility is lacking, the sward density may suffer, allowing encroachment of undesirable grasses and weeds, so it follows that these types of green will require more nutrient than larger ones.

Similarly, rootzone characteristics dictate nutrient demands. Take for example a modern USGA specification green with a high percentage sand-based rootzone - This has low nutrient retention and over the growing season, will need a higher fertiliser input, compared to a soil based green.

In addition, such greens will also require a higher nutrient input from September to March. During mild spells of winter weather, the sand warms up, initiating growth, which



There are many different types of fertiliser available for many different uses and application methods

requires nutrition, but because there is little holding capacity in the rootzone - nutrients have to be supplied. To ignore this simple fact on this type of construction is a quick route to a weak sward, - consistently thinning out over the winter, prone to disease (because it is under stress) and one which takes longer to regain strength and density the following spring.

On soil-based greens, nutrient retention is better, due to their higher organic matter content and during mild spells of weather, retained nutrients are made available to the plant. That is not to say that soil-based greens do not require autumn/winter fertiliser, but just a lower level.

Fertiliser applications made may vary in the type of product used (liquid, soluble or granular), its nutrient make-up (Quick release, slow-release or a combination) and the application rate.

Types of product

Fertilisers come in three main forms

- solid, soluble or liquid.

Solid fertilisers include granular, prilled and powdered products and are usually applied through a pedestrian spreader.

Soluble fertilisers normally consist of water-soluble powder or prilled products, which are dissolved in a spray tank and then applied to the turf.

Liquid fertilisers, as the name suggests are just that, liquid forms of nutrients, mixed into a spray tank and then applied to the turf.

Nutrient sources

Fertilisers are normally made up of different combinations and ratios of major nutrients, usually nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (but not necessarily all three). However, it is not unusual to see magnesium and iron as part of an analysis and sometimes, minor nutrients (trace elements). The major nutrients can be derived from different sources, for instance nitrogen in a conventional (quick-release) fertiliser

may be derived from sulphate of ammonia, ammonium nitrate or urea, or a combination of some or all of these.

The source of the nutrient will influence how the fertiliser 'works', that is to say, how quickly it is available to the plant, how long it will last, it's effect on pH, it's potential to scorch and so on.

Analysis isn't everything

Just looking at the analysis of a fertiliser tells us little about what to expect when we apply it. Take the following example. I have two bags of fertiliser, they both have the same analysis on the label - 8+0+0. This tells me that 8% of the bag contents is nitrogen, - but what does it tell me about how the products will work? The answer is nothing. If I look further, I see product A states that the nitrogen is derived from sulphate of ammonia, whereas the product B is derived from urea.

Sulphate of ammonia provides nitrogen that is immediately available to the plant and so works even if soil tem-



peratures are low (hence it's inclusion in many autumn/winter and spring starter formulations). It acidifies the surface of turf, but has a high scorch risk. Urea on the other hand, requires bacterial activity for the conversion of nitrogen to plant available forms. This in turn requires good soil temperatures and moisture levels.

So if I was looking for a product to apply as a spring starter to give me a good response, after coring maybe, I would use product A. However, if I was looking for a summer product to give gentle growth and less flush, I would choose product B.

Potassium Source

It's not just the source of nitrogen that can affect how a fertiliser works and how it should be used.

Potassium in fertilisers can come from one of three main sources - potassium sulphate, potassium chloride or potassium nitrate, and each have specific characteristics. Potassium chloride is

often used in fertilisers because it is readily available and cheap, but it possesses a high scorch risk compared to potassium sulphate. Thus, two fertilisers of identical analysis may have widely different scorch risks because of the potassium source utilised. Fertilisers derived from potassium nitrate are usually sulphur-free and contain nearly 50% oxygen as part of their analysis - both of these features are especially useful when dealing with anaerobic (Oxygen-lacking) rootzone's.

The take-home message is that rather than just looking at the analysis of the fertiliser, one should also look at the sources of nutrient it is derived from to get an idea of how it works.

Longer term Fertilisers

Some products release their nutrients over longer periods. These would include slow release, controlled release and organic fertilisers. They can rely on soil temperature, moisture, as well as bacterial activity (or all three) to regu-

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Different types of Potassium Nitrate Fertiliser

1. Coated (controlled release) for fine turf
2. Mini prill for fine turf
3. Coated (controlled release) for coarse turf
4. Water soluble fertiliser
5. Standard prill for coarse turf



1



3



2



4



5

late the release of nutrients over a given period of time. Such products can provide clear benefits, including the saving of time and labour, avoidance of growth flushes and low scorch potential.

Again, it is important to understand how the particular product works, i.e. what factors it depends upon for its release, how long it works for, etc, before making a product selection.

Coated or controlled release fertilisers are one such group providing long term nutrition and have become widely used over the last 12 years on tees, approaches, fairways - and latterly greens as part of a 'base feeding' fertiliser regime. Resin or polymer coated products release their nutrients through a semi-permeable coating, governed by soil temperature.

As temperatures rise, more nutrient is released into the rootzone, closely following the requirements of the grass plant. Release of nutrients are unaffected by increased moisture levels, making such products ideal for use in wet conditions. Other coated fertilisers such as (poly) sulphur coated ureas (PSCU/SCU) depend upon temperature as well as other factors such as soil moisture levels and microbial activity for nutrient release.

Base Feeding - A new approach

The concept of base feeding is relatively new on fine turf, but is becoming accepted as a different way of applying fertiliser, with particular relevance to high sand content rootzones. In this scenario, a controlled release minigran-

ular fertiliser is applied in the spring and autumn, at renovation time, to provide a long-term base feed of nutrients. (Some products feature controlled release potassium in addition to nitrogen). These applications provide a base of nutrients for the season, upon which supplementary applications, in the form of light rate granular, water-soluble or liquid fertilisers, can be made.

Advantages of base-feeding include;

- Granular applications can be confined to the times of year, when they interfere less with the playing surface (cutting heights are higher and the cutting frequency is less).
- Supplementary fertiliser applications can be made in the form and at the rate the plant requires for that particular part of the season, thereby maintaining control.
- The controlled release of nutrients ensures a gentle supply to the plant, in line with its requirements, because both the grass plant and fertiliser are dependent on soil temperature for growth and release respectively
- Continuous nutrient availability avoids 'peaks and troughs' associated with other fertiliser regimes, providing more consistent growth and more efficient fertilisation.
- Excessive rainfall will not effect the release, minimising the risk of leaching, ensuring excess nutrients are not lost. Fertilisation on golf courses is dependent on a wide range of factors, not least, the weather.

Knowing about the different types of fertiliser, their nutrient forms and release characteristics and applying this knowledge to get the best results is a key part of modern day greenkeeping.

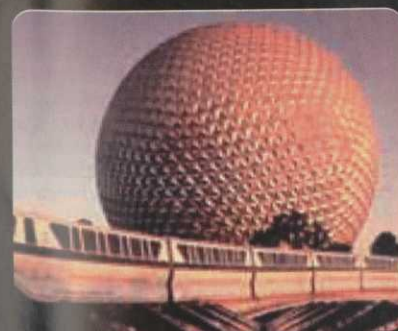
Mark Hunt is Fertiliser Product Manager for Headland Amenity Ltd

Following the success of the first BIGGA Delegation which took 10 BIGGA members to Vancouver for the CGSA Conference and Show earlier this year, courtesy of our friends at Bernhard and Company Ltd, 10 more BIGGA ambassadors will fly to Orlando, Florida next February for the GCSAA Conference and Show ...

Will you be flying to

Florida

in February?



Do you want to benefit from participating in the GCSAA Conference and Show?

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Will you be one of the 10 man Bernhard and Company Ltd BIGGA delegation?

To give yourself every chance, submit a personal profile - no more than one side of A4, and remember this must be received by your Section Secretary no later than July 31, 2001.

Good Luck!

Two BIGGA members will be selected from each Region and if successful all costs of travel, accommodation and entrance to the Conference programme will be met by Bernhard and Company Ltd.



Scott MacCallum met up with John Deere's new American boss at the company's Langar base

Room to grow



Above: Clay Sherrill, General Manager

Below: Clay with Graham Williams (seated) and some of the John Deere team



The last nine months in this country have been quite remarkable. Floods have been followed by a disease not seen here for 34 years and as I write we are still to see the evidence that the pronouncements of a scorching summer have any truth in them.

Into this unique set of British circumstances has arrived American, Clay Sherrill, the new General Manager of the UK John Deere headquarters.

Since taking over the reins at the beginning of the year Clay has seen the Langar base caught in the middle of a Midlands Foot and Mouth exclusion zone - there is still a disinfectant mat at the entrance to the company's superb building - while markets for much of the company's product have shrunk as revenue streams at many golf clubs have reduced to a trickle thanks to extended flooding induced course closures up and down the country.

Surprisingly this has not prevented Clay, previously the General Manager of the company's Minneapolis branch, from turning on his heels and heading back across the Atlantic and he is

delighted to have landed his new job.

"Earlier in my career I can remember being in Fargo, North Dakota, in the middle of winter with the temperature 30 degrees below and the wind blowing at 60 miles an hour. I started to think back to who I might have angered in the company. I certainly don't view the UK that way as it's an extremely important part of John Deere's business," said Clay, as we spoke in his new office, housing in a building which boasts five huge training rooms and state-of-the-art conference facilities.

And while many have suffered through the financial downturn John Deere seems to have continued to trade relatively unscathed.

"Actually, Foot and Mouth has not affected our business as badly as we thought. It has had an impact because without Foot and Mouth we think we would have had another really good growth year. With Foot and Mouth we're not going to have as much growth as we'd expected but we are still going to be slightly above where we were last year. So that's not bad," said Clay, who, although a non-golfer, is originally from South Carolina, an hour inland from the golfing hotbed of Myrtle Beach.

To reinforce the point on the state of the market, Graham Williams, Division Manager for Commercial and Consumer Equipment and the owner of a face well known within the UK greenkeeping industry revealed some interesting statistics.

"Figures around at the moment show a decline in the golf turf business brought about by the flooding of something like 20%. The effect of the Foot and Mouth has not been evaluated yet but budgets have been cut, that's for sure. However if we have a good summer season I don't think we'll have any long term problems. There is a lot of business being done

at the moment and in the Commercial and Consumer Equipment sector we're actually up 10% on last year, and that's in a down market," revealed Graham.

The C&CE Division is responsible for home owner products, including lawn tractors and walk behind mowers; commercial mowing equipment, which comprises the compact tractor range plus out front rotary and wide area mowers, as well as the golf and turf equipment.

"So the C&CE division encompasses all three of these different market sectors and right now we are ahead of last year which is good news," he explained.

For many years John Deere cast a huge shadow over agriculture, and the impact such a massive company would make if it did turn its attention to other areas could only be imagined.

When it did turn its attention to the market which encompasses the golf industry about five years ago it was not a case of half measures. A goal was set of becoming clear market leader, a target which they feel they will hit within five years.

"If you go back five years we were hardly a player in the golf and turf business. There were three main companies, Toro, Jacobsen and Ransomes. Now, with the merger of Jacobsen and Ransomes into Textron, there are still three main players and we are one of them and it is very difficult to pick out who is the market leader," said Graham.

Clay is very keen to grow the UK and European business as much as possible over the next few years.

"Part of my own goal is to support the company strategy which is growth, and the UK and Western Europe is an important part of that. We believe that Western Europe is a huge opportunity for us. There is enormous potential with the amount of business that is



Above: John Deere's brand new headquarters allow plenty of room to display their equipment
Right: One of the custom built training facilities at the Langar Headquarters



here, coupled with the ability of John Deere to increase its market share," he explained.

The delayed entry into the market was due in part to the fact that without diesel powered products - the staple fuel of the UK and Irish markets - they didn't have the product line to meet customer requirements.

A desire to grow into a completely different customer base and the knowledge that there was so much shared engineering technology between the agricultural business and the C&CE market hastened the change of focus, into four main sectors - agriculture, C&CE, construction equipment and John Deere finance.

"Our agricultural customer base is shrinking. We all know that there are fewer, bigger farms and fewer farmers so C&CE allows us to grow our business into a completely different customer base yet the design and engineering of quality power products and the services which go with them are very much our strengths," said Clay.

"It is a pretty good mix. The construction equipment and C&CE business track the general economy, whether it be in the UK or USA - house building, consumer confidence and more general factors while agriculture tracks the price of wheat, soya beans, corn and cattle.

"To us it has been a superb diversification as we have been able to spread our existing skills and technology over different markets," said Clay.

Graham believes that the key to the golf and turf markets was the introduction of the 2653 tees mower and the 3235 fairway mower.

"Those two machines changed the market with their concept. Prior to that, the only John Deere equipment on golf courses would have been compact tractors and out front rotary mowers."

Having made the commitment to

move into the golf and turf market the special nature of the industry meant initial progress was steady rather than spectacular.

"Frankly it took us a while, both in North America and Europe, to develop the products we needed to penetrate the market and establish relationships within the industry itself. That is key and you don't just do that overnight. You must earn respect and credibility," said Graham.

One of the great successes which has enabled John Deere to develop machinery and build relationships are the feedback trips which in recent years has involved large numbers of greenkeepers from all over the world converging on Germany and the States to ensure that the new machinery being developed was what greenkeepers wanted to buy.

"The feedback sessions do produce tangible benefits, there is no question about that," said Graham.

"For example a recent success for us has been the 2500 greens mower which has been fantastically successful. Without the input of greenkeepers that wouldn't have happened. The whole operator station, the controls and adjustable steering arm came about purely because of feedback. We went to an awful lot of trouble to ask them what the operator wanted and this was designed with those guys in mind," explained Graham.

Clay is quick to reinforce the point about the benefits that come from such events.

"One of the key components of our product development process is the early involvement of customers. The best way to get the attention of a design engineer is to put him in the same room as a set of customers. We do exactly the same in the agricultural sector," he said.

The company is also extremely proud of its parts support and recog-

nises the importance of minimising down time.

"Part of our commitment to customers is to keep their machines up and running to help protect our customers' revenue. We a substantial investment in parts supply and offer true 24 hour turn-around. I think we do a better job than anyone else in that score," said Clay.

Looking ahead, John Deere aims for steady innovation and evolution rather than any quantum leaps and this is likely to be seen in the area of environmentally friendly equipment.

"We introduced the electric Gator last year which has been a big success and I can see an extension of that technology into other machines as well," said Graham.

Uniquely among the major manufacturers John Deere sponsors an event in Tiger Woods' playground - the US Tour. The John Deere Classic is played on a TPC course Deere Run built on land donated to the US Tour and runs in the same week as The Open Championship here.

Another event which will be of great interest to BIGGA members next year is the John Deere Team Championship involving the club professional, a greenkeeper and two club officials.

"This is an established event in the States but one of the wishes is to extend it worldwide and the likelihood is that two teams from the UK will be sent over to play in next year's event," said Clay.

But there is another golf event, in which John Deere has an input, which is causing huge interest all over the world.

John Deere is the exclusive supplier

of equipment to The De Vere Belfry which this September hosts The Ryder Cup.

"We are running an incentive programme on a worldwide basis and a number of dealers will be attempting to win a trip to the Ryder Cup. Everyone is fired up about the Ryder Cup and from our point of view it will be the first time that the North American and European guys will have come together," said Graham.

The key question, however, is which side will the new General Manager of John Deere's Langer headquarters be supporting?

"I'm supporting Europe. I go where my customers are and my customers are in the UK and Europe. They're the ones who sign the cheques," said Clay, with just a trace of a smile.



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East

Sorry there was no article last month as I had one or two problems getting the column written up before the deadline, but don't worry as it is all here this month in its entirety so you won't miss a thing.

The Section held the first major of the year at Dunbar Golf Club at the end of April. As usually happens at our spring tournament the weather was terrible, with wind, rain and misty conditions greeting us on our arrival to the course and continuing throughout the day which made a lot of people decide not to play and stay within the confines of the clubhouse, which was a wise decision by the people who didn't go out. So next year we are going to book the decent weather in advance? We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the course and use of their facilities, the clubhouse staff for looking after us extremely well, and Head Greenkeeper Graham Wood and his staff for having the course in tremendous condition considering the weather we had on the run up to the tournament. Well done lads all credit to you all. We would also like to thank our trade patrons and sponsors for giving us so many prizes for our raffle table. If it wasn't for these guys we wouldn't be able to have such a good raffle at our outings so thanks once again to all of you.

It was also nice to have Peter Boyd our Regional Administrator in attendance on the day. Peter, you are most welcome to our events throughout the year so hurry back soon. There was some very good scoring on the day in very testing conditions so well done to all who played round and also all the prize winners on the day.

Results of the spring tournament:

Best Scratch- (Boyd Trophy)

D. Drummond 72 bh

First Class - (Souters Cup)

1. G. Rodgers 77-5-72 bh

2. G. Wood 78-6-72

3. K. Mail 72-+1-73

Second Class - (Lothian Tractors Trophy)

1. R. Mullen - 87-11-76

2. A. Campbell- 88-10-78

3. I. Watson -9-2-14-78

Third Class- 1. (Turf Care Cup)

1. K. Shiells-117-22-95

2. F. Forrest -122-23-99

Best nett of the day (Ocmis Cup)

D. Drummond- 72-3-69

Veteran (New Holland Trophy)

J. Manuel - 85-7-78

Trade (Patrons Cup)

A. White (Sheriffs) 85-8-73

New Members' Prize

A. Purdie 75-2-73

Guest Prize

P. Boyd (R.A.) 79-4-75

Highest score of the day

Bruce Joyce (TIS) 145

Well that's the report and results for spring 2001. Next tournament Texas Scramble Duns GC, Wednesday, June 6. Results next month.

The committee held there annual day

out at the Glen Golf Club on May 30. A fine day was had by all in attendance as normal the rain was heavy when we arrived but by the time we had played the 1st the rain had gone and the sun was shining for the rest of the day.

We would like to thank the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the club the caterers and bar staff for the superb food and the equally magnificent refreshments which I believe they had to re-stock the bar completely the next day (well it felt that way the next day). The bus driver for the day was an absolute gentleman, as he got us there safely and made sure we all got home safely. Thanks to our sponsors for the day SGM (Brian Goudie & Ewan Thomson) and Ian Henderson Finance (Ian Henderson).

Thank you gentlemen you looked after us superbly, and it was a pleasure to be in your company for a good social day, and we look forward to continuing this partnership next year. Thanks.

Last, but not least, Course Manager, Davy Coull, and his team for having the course in great shape considering the dry spell we had just gone through and also considering they had no water as they were having an automatic system put in at the time that we were there so it was a credit to you all, so I hope the system is up and running now.

I had the pleasure to play with Davy on the day and he is a new member to the Section so we hope to see him at some of the up and coming Section events.

Results: The individual competition (Eddie Holt Trophy) with 39 points was yours truly; Our Chairman, Tom Murray, in The Chairman (Tom Murray) verses Vice Chairman (Chris Yeaman) match, the result was a win for the Chairman's team. Well done to them for playing so well and they scored some impressive Stableford points (handicaps will be looked at).

The members of my team will have to improve next year as their coats are on a shooonly peg! Joking apart we all had a great day out and are looking ahead to next year already thanks again to everyone concerned.

Well that's it all for this month and hopefully I have not missed anything if I have let me know on all the usual numbers or you can e-mail me, so that's it till next month with news and results from the summer tournament from Duns GC.

Chris Yeaman.

Section Event?

www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

North

The spring outing to Brechin GC started off with a wet and breezy day, but most people were happy to see some rain at last and much fertilising had been done in the previous days. As the day wore on the weather got better and most got round dry.

Andy Wilson and his staff had the course in great shape especially after the awful Winter we had endured. We are indebted to Andy and all at Brechin for a great day out for the 74 members, trade and guests who attended.

Prize winners were as follows:

Scratch

1. S. Sullivan, 70

2. J. Urquhart, 71

Class one

1. R. Roy, 72-4=68

2. B. Cruickshank, 73-4=69

3. S. Williams, 76-5=71 bh

Class two

1. K. Kinnaird, 76-12=64 bh

2. P. Watson, 75-11=64

3. D. Macavoy, 78-8=70

Class three

1. D. Marnoch, 84-14=70 bh

2. S. Hogg, 90-20=70

3. M. Reid, 87-14=73

Apprentice

1. S. Pettigrew, 76-5=71

2. J. Swanson, 90-16=74

Veteran

1. R. Donald 81-6=75

2. R. Napier, 108-26=82

Trade

J. Darling, 78-3=75

Guest

G. Smith 82-11=71

Nearest the pin

K. Peace.

Longest drives

Class one N. Sadler

Class two K. Smith

Class three B. Cocker

Card draw winner for BIGGA blazer: R. Roy

The two Section members winning £100 toward a trip to the National Championships are S Sullivan and K Kinnaird.

Thanks to the Scottish Region for providing the prize for one of these winners. The first four prizes in the 200 Club were drawn and winners are: January £30 number 156 D. Slater, February £30 number 21 B. Cocker jnr, March £30 number 42 J McCormack, April £100 number 12 D Boyle. Thanks to our Patrons the raffle table was large and many went home with prizes. All in all a great day thanks to the committee for all their work and once again thanks to all at Brechin GC.

As promised in last month's magazine, congratulations to Martyn Cameron on succeeding Neil Ballingall as Head Greenkeeper at Moray GC, next month hopefully I can reveal who has replaced Martyn at Buckpool. This month sees the Open Championship at Royal Lytham and for the first time in 15 years the North Section might not have a member in the Support Team. I cannot make it as it clashes with my 25th wedding anniversary and I would like to stay married for the foreseeable future and as far as I am aware there is no one from the Section going, I might be wrong though.

Iain Macleod

West

Welcome to this month's Section news. First a report on the Spring outing held at Kirkhill GC on May 2. Although the sun shone on the day a strong wind made for difficult golfing conditions. John Scott and his staff are to be congratulated on the fine condition of the course. The Section would once again like to thank the members of the club for the courtesy of their course. The winners on the day were:

Scratch

S. Taylor, Glasgow GC, 73

Category 1

1. C. Gordon, Lenzie GC, 76

2. G. Bruen, Williamwood GC, 77

3. G. Kerr, Gleddoch GC, 79 bh

Category 2

1. G. Miller, Cardross GC, 72

2. J. Wilson, Langland's GC, 75 bh

3. B. Bolland, East Kilbride GC, 75

Category 3

1. G. Nisbett, Glasgow GC, 72

2. B. McCulloch, Bonnyton GC, 77

3. C. Black, Blairbeth GC, 80 bh

Other prizewinners were Robert Bruce (trade prize), G. Bruen, longest drive, L. Wilson nearest the pin & J. Govan visitor's prize. It was good to see a good turn out on the day

Those who read the Section news will remember me writing in the April report about the offer of a place at BTME next year made by Mike Dooner, of Thorntree Landscapes, to an assistant or trainee who is a member of BIGGA. To win this great prize the committee decided an essay competition be used to throw open the prize to all West Section assistants and trainees. The subject of the essay will be "Preparing my course for a major event". All essays should be sent to the Section Secretary Mr AJ Bulloch, 1, Crosslee Crescent, Woodend Park, Houston, PA6 7DT. The essay should be no more than 1,500 words and all entries should be in by September 1.

The committee would like to thank Mike once again for the kind offer made to the Section and I know whoever wins will enjoy the BTME experience.

Well that is it for this month, if you have anything you would like added to future columns please do not hesitate to call me on 01355266862.

Brian Bolland

Latest news?

www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

Ayrshire

The rescheduled spring outing was held at Routenburn Golf Club, in Largs, on May 15. This was necessary because of Foot and Mouth disease close to our original venue of Brighouse Bay. We will now visit Brighouse Bay on September 27, for our autumn outing. Thanks to all at Brighouse for your patience on this matter and we look forward to our visit.

Routenburn saw a small but improved turnout of the hardened regulars and a couple of new faces. An enjoyable day was had by all in the pleasant weather. Thanks go to North Ayrshire Leisure Trust for allowing us courtesy of the course, Pro Greg McQueen for arranging the tee times, the barstaff for keeping us refreshed, Chef Frank McKinney for the food and last but not least Head Greenkeeper, Colin Sutherland and his staff, for presenting the golf course.

The prize winners were as follows in a Stableford event.

1. John Mair, Beith, 37pts;
 2. Syd Mercer, Skermorie, 36pts
(Both John and Syd win a trip to the National Tournament courtesy of the Scottish Region and Ayrshire Section);
 3. Jack Paterson, Port Bannantyne, 34pts;
 4. Iain Barr, Largs Kelburn, 32pts;
 5. Barry Crawford, Old Prestwick, 32pts;
- Trade**
Ted McDonald, Hamilton Bros, 26pts.

Finally, good wishes go to Andrew Donnelly who has secured a full time job as an Assistant Greenkeeper at Millport Golf Club; Andrew was previously an apprentice with me at Largs Kelburn.

Any news call me on 01505-683278.
Iain Barr

Central

What's happened this month? No new members to welcome, this is the first time we have failed to increase our numbers this year, surely there are still a good number of greenkeepers within our area who are not members and don't know what they are missing. So let's make sure we welcome some new faces next month.

There is not great deal of news/gossip/information whatever to report at the moment as everyone seems to be too busy trying to combat this appalling weather that we have experienced so far this year, we are only two weeks away from the longest day and the wind is blowing like mad, it's raining, there are hailstones and frost is forecast for tomorrow. Who would be a Greenkeeper? Still it will soon be time for Harrogate again!

Discussions are taking place with regard to the venue for this year's AGM. but at the moment nothing has been finalised so I can only give you a clue as to its whereabouts. The location is referred to in one of Phil Collins's songs (I'm positive it is, well almost!) if anyone can work it out then send the answer to me on a post card and you will win a much sought after prize of a free ticket for next year's "Club 2000". Speaking of which, the tickets for next year's draw will be arriving with you shortly, I can just hear you all saying "I must remember to send John the money for my tickets this time.", well the 240 members who forgot last time! Next year's draw will be an even bigger bargain than before with the cost of the tickets being reduced by £1 to £5, but the prize money will remain the same, can't be bad can it, something coming down in price.

Entry forms for the Autumn Tournament at Murrayshall on Thursday September 27 will also be arriving shortly, and as the maximum number of entries will be 50, if you wish to play and test your golfing ability over one of the most scenic and testing new courses in Scotland, Please get your entries in Pronto!

That's it for this time! Hopefully there will be more next month.

John Crawford.

Phone a friend?

www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html

Gleneagles Chapter

Just a brief note this time to keep you all updated on the student chapter's progress after our inclusion within BIGGA as discussed in May's issue.

Last month (May 21) we attended a lecture here at Gleneagles hosted by Dr. Joe Duich. For those who are unfamiliar with the name, Dr. Duich is Technical Advisor and Consultant for TEE-2-GREEN in the USA. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Duich was Professor of Turfgrass Science at Penn State University for more than 36 years. While at Penn State he played a major role in the development of Pencross Creeping Bentgrass, which was released in 1955. Pencross was the first advanced creeping bentgrass cultivar exclusively for golf course use, and since then he has gone on to develop

Penneagle and Pennlinks Bentgrasses in conjunction with Penn State and TEE-2-GREEN. Dr Duich remains a consultant to Augusta Golf Club and is renowned for his forward thinking on Bentgrass development.

The talk started with the history of the turf care programme at Penn State and how development is financed and progressed. Dr Duich then talked about genetics, choosing seed, watering and fertilisation. Finally the point which he could not emphasise enough was the value communication and networking.

He was visiting Gleneagles with John Bradwell, from Turf Seed UK, to show new material which is at the development stage to the Gleneagles Golf Maintenance team who will be evaluating and commenting on the merits of these new Bentgrasses.

Students are going to have an opportunity to run trials and maintain these new developments by aiding in the construction, maintenance and management of a new test site.

Other student news involves Gleneagles looking into the possibility of employing three Chinese students for seasonal work, the students who attend Elmwood College in Fife are over here on work experience and are training to teach turfgrass management to colleges in China when they return. The students would gain invaluable experience and it gives them a chance to put all their theory into practice in a championship-working environment and equally important it allows the student chapter to develop links and contacts with one of the fastest growing golf markets in the world.

I can be contacted by e-mail on ian.f.morrison@gleneagles.com or Tel: 01764 694429

Ian Morrison



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North Wales

Sorry about lack of notes last month I was on me hols. I met Paul Massey in Corfu airport and he was telling me about his problems and vice versa. What a year, no spring, just the longest winter on record and then a flamin' heatwave, my poa has been laying in water for seven months and then gets roasted. It had no chance! The Bents have been happily growing away making some of the most uneven putting surfaces this side of the moon. If I threw top dressing on it would be fusarium city. Great job this greenkeeping lark!

Due to various reasons the annual Gem sponsored N. Wales vs N. West match was cancelled. However Gem will still be looking to sponsor the event again next year, we want our shield back, to go along side the one we won against the opposition of not just the N West but the Midlands as well in the inaugural Sportsworld sponsored event. Remember Bert, that Gem Shield is ours, and you only won it through default, because we have obviously got the best golfing team bar none.

Just one last shout to Andy Campbell and his team I hope it all went well for

your British Seniors event and to Roger Kerry and his team for the Welsh Seniors open and to all of you poor unfortunate fools out there that decided that greenkeeping in this climate was a good career decision.

Dave Goodridge

North-West

Not much happening in the N/W section, or so I assume, because nobody has contacted me with any news, good or bad. Further afield the staff at The Belfry must be congratulated on the wonderful condition of the course for

the recent Tour tournament, because they like everybody else must have suffered problems with the course, brought on by the atrocious weather over the last 12 months. Fortunately the weather picked up and allowed them to produce a course that was a credit to them, and British greenkeepers.

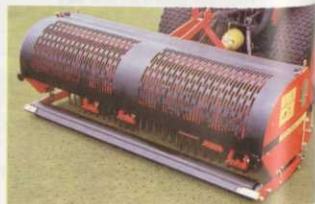
The next Section golf is the "Roses" match against the Northern Section at Sandmoor Golf Club, on Wednesday, August 22. I will require a team of 16 to win the Pattisson Trophy. If you are available contact me as soon as possible.

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tion page in the magazine gives lists of courses available at Regions and HQ.

If you feel there is a subject that particularly interests you, let me know and, through our Education Officer, Ken Richardson, we can arrange a venue for a course in our Region.

Before I finish how about Liverpool Football Club getting the treble. Worthington Cup, FA Cup, and the UEFA Cup. Not bad stuff (That should get my phone ringing).

Bert Cross
Mobile 07791 583387
Home 0151 7245412

Northern

Sorry about last month's entry, there was a glitch on the Internet. Back to the Spring Tournament and what a turn out at Filey GC sponsored by F & G Adamsons & Son. A record of 54 of you turned out to brave the weather for the pre-round bacon sarni and three course meal. I would like to thank Filey GC for being so accommodating and the presence of Vice-Captain for the prize giving. Thanks also go to Head Greenkeeper, Andy Flemmings and his staff, for their help on the day and the quality of the course.

The Results are as follows: Scratch Cup Alan Baxter, 41pts; Div. 1. 1. Richard Harris, 38pts; 2. Brian Hudson, 38pts; 3. Tony Gerrard, 36pts. Div. 2. 1. Johnny Platt, 40pts; 2. Philip Baldock, 36pts; 3. John Studdard, 35pts. Div. 3. 1. Mike Gregson, 34pts; 2. John Wood, 31pts; 3. Richard Wood, 28pts. The Trade Prize went to Mel Guy and the Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin sponsored by Aitkins Sportsturf Ltd. went to; Longest Drive, Mel Guy; Nearest the Pin, Alan Baxter. One of the lowest scores of the day was 5pts, and it wasn't me! So there is room for

all types of golfer, the main aim of the day is enjoyment and meeting other greenkeepers with golf coming a poor third. Thanks again to everybody at Filey GC and F & G Adamsons & Son for being main sponsor and Aitkins Sportsturf Ltd for the longest drive and nearest the pin.

The Roses Match against the North West Section which we are proudly

Section Event?

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defending and sponsored by Patissons is to be held at Sand Moor GC on Wednesday, August 22. This day is fully sponsored with food included, so all you have to do is turn up. The closing date for applications to be considered for the 16 man team is August 8.

Some more dates for your diary are the Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday November 10. Section Seminars on Wednesday 21st November 2001 and Wednesday, February 27 2002. More details of these events nearer the time. If anybody has any requests for subjects or courses they would like to go on then give us a bell.

Congratulations to Tito Arana and the missus who are expecting sleepless nights in the future with a baby on the way.

A report on President's Day sponsored by Acorn will be in next month's magazine. We welcome two new members in Timothy Ward, Mid Yorkshire GC and Gavin Parr, Leeds Golf Centre.

There isn't any more news at the moment, if anybody as any then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188; mobile 07790 678572. Email: andy_smith21@hotmail.com

Andy Smith

Sheffield

Gem Professional was the sponsor of our first golf day to be held at Bondhey Golf Club on May 15. A superb turn out of 47 came along to support the day, which we hope to see continue through the year. The day went very well, the course was in fine shape and the standard of golf wasn't bad either. The top five winners were:

5. J. Moorecroft, 32 pts
4. G. Wells, 32 pts
3. P. Dockerty, 34 pts
2. T. White, 36 pts
1. S. Brown, 36 pts

Well done to you five and to all the other prize winners. A presentation was also made to Ron Ullathorne for all his hard work as section secretary over the years.

Thank you to all the trade members who supported the day, to the green staff for a good course, to Tony Beaumont, of Gem Professional, for some excellent prizes and to the captain and Helen, of Bondhey Golf Club, for their support and hospitality throughout the day.

In addition to the prize winners, six players qualified for the regional finals. These are, 0-9 handicap P. Dockerty, and G. Wells, 10-18 handicap T. White and K. Hazlehurst, 19-28 handicap S. Brown and J. Moorecroft. The finals are to be played on August 15 and anyone not able to take part should contact Paul Dockerty as soon as possible so as he can arrange a replacement.

On behalf of the section I would like to wish David Wadkin a very happy retirement. David who is a long serving greenkeeper at Hallamshire Golf Club retired on May 18. We wish you all the very best. Finally a little bit early but will soon come round a reminder that the next golf day is at Gainsborough Golf Club on Wednesday, July 18 at a tee off time of 1.30pm.

A Sampson



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

Midland

This year's annual Spring Tournament was held at Great Barr Golf Club on the May 14.

Congratulations to Kings Norton's Nick Bird who took the net prize. Gross winner was Rob Shaw, of Gaudet Luce, 2. Eddie Stant of Penn GC and 3. Steve Mucklow, of Beau Desert. The trade prize went to Rigby Taylor's, Tony Cheese, with a net 70. Many thanks to Len Breakwell and Alastair Rathbone for sponsoring the day. Longest drive and nearest the pin sponsors, Rufffords, and drinks on the 10th sponsored by Sportsworld.

Sportsworld have also sponsored a golf day, which they intend to develop into an annual challenge match between Midland, North Wales and North West Sections.

This year's event was contested at Northop Hall Golf Club with North Wales becoming the victors followed by North West second and Midland third.

Our thanks go to Sportsworld's Matthew Burrows for sponsoring a first class day and to Mike Whitehouse, Terry Adamson and Dave Rahman for bringing together a new and exciting event.

Phil Gates

East Midlands

This year's Spring Tournament was held at Birstall GC on Wednesday May 9. On a pleasant spring day 40 members turned out for the competition which was quite an improvement on previous years. The winners were as follows.

Best Gross

Derek McJannet, Sherwood Forest, 72

Best Nett

Jamie Bedford, Birstall, 83-16-67

Category 1

1. Richard Barker, Kirby Muxloe 75-3-72

David Smith, Cotgrave Place, 81-8-73

Category 2

1. Adi Porter, Greetham Valley, 82-12-70

2. Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 87-16-71

Category 3

1. Gavin Robson, Lingdale, 91-19-72

2. Andy McGreal, Lingdale, 108-28-80

Trade & Associate

1. Simon Hedley, Boughton Loam, 86-15-71

2. Pete Fell, Aitkens, 88-12-76

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Birstall GC for allowing us courtesy of their fine course, and to Roger Willars and his staff for presenting a quality golf course in such difficult weather conditions. Also thanks should be extended to the Stewardess, Mrs Oswell, for a great meal. Last but not least a special thank you should go to our sponsors ET Breakwells.

Two dates for your diary Spring Tournament 2002. The Leicestershire GC Thursday May 2 and Autumn Tournament Tuesday September 17, 2002, at Horsley Lodge GC.

Congratulations should go to Jeff Dickinson who is on this year's Support Team at The Open at Royal Lytham.

Finally just some quick golf news I finished third in the Pitlochry Championship on May 2-4 and

reached the semi-final of the putting competition, Alan Roberts of the Midland Section was the overall winner of the Putting comp. Also on May 13 at Carholme GC. Alan Roberts and I finished third in the Carholme Open with a Better-Ball score of +7. If anyone as has any news they would like to see appear in this column please let me know.

Antony Bindley

Section Event?

www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

East of England

The spring seminar took place at Newark Golf Club.

A good attendance of Greenkeepers listened to Simon Barnaby, Technical Manager for Scotts, talk about Integrated Pest Management.

Everybody can now put into practice or attempt to control pests using various different proactive management strategies, considering everything that may affect pest development.

The evening was sponsored by Simon Hutton of Fine Turf Services. Thanks to Simon for the donation to the bar bill and the postage. Also thanks to Andrew Astle of Alpha Amenity for the raffle prize.

Next seminar will take place in Autumn/Winter and will probably be about Architecture/Landscaping of the Golf Course. Or let me know if there is a special subject or topic that the section should cover.

Graeme Macdonald



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Kent

Surprise! A report from the Kent Section. Well it's been a while since the last one and that's why I'm now doing the honours.

My name is Jason Bean and I'm the Deputy Course Manager at Kings Hill Golf Club. There may be a few of you who know me as I've been around a bit as they say. Anyway enough about me for now, because we have the rest of the year to talk about that. That is, if you don't send me any information about what you guys are up to at your golf clubs or anything else you want to talk about. Like me, who said to one of the committee, that no-one was writing this article, so here I am. Should have kept my mouth shut, but those who know me it would be out of character.

So if you have any gossip or news you can call me on 01732 875020 or fax me on 01732 875019 or for those who don't like talking, you can e-mail me at jbatkhgolf@aol.com. Please get in touch, even if you are trying to sell your car, anything is better than nothing!

Hope to see you at Walmer and Kingdown for the first golf day on June 14.

Jason Bean

Phone a friend?

www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html

East Anglia

Well now I feel as old as I look, my daughter Jenny gave birth to our first grandchild on Tuesday, May 15. Sky Christina weighed in at 6lb 10ozs and looks just like her father, David.

Congratulations to our winners of the National Championship Qualifier James Wright from Bungay and Waveney GC (best Net) and Alan Carter from Hoverhill GC (best Gross).

Can you please let me know if you have any ideas on what training you think is required for your continual professional development over the Autumn 2001 and Spring 2002, BIGGA HOUSE is hoping to provide courses in the Sections over this period. Discussions are in progress at this moment and I will let everyone know the results later in the year.

I would like to pass on my congratulations to the Greenkeeping Teams at The Belfry and Wentworth. After the terrible winter everyone had, it's nice to see all their hard work come to fruition with the excellent presentation of their courses.

We have provisional bookings for 2002, Thetford GC April 25; Stowmarket GC June 11; Gorleston GC July 30; Ufford Park GC October 9. Well done, Colin.

Ian Coote, from Bassingbourn Barracks Golf Club, is the latest greenkeeper to join our ranks. Hope to see you at a meeting in the near future Ian.

Well that is all for now, see you all soon

Ian Willett.

Latest news?

www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

Surrey

Spring and summer have arrived together and today, June 5, continues to be sunny and warm. The birds are singing, the irrigation systems are nearly working and if only it would rain at night Surrey would be the perfect place. One spot in Surrey on May 10 was such a place, Hindhead Golf Club, the venue for our Spring Tournament. Many thanks to Steve Holmes and his team for providing a course in fantastic condition. It was for many a first visit to Hindhead but with such a diversity of landscape, Flora and Fauna I am sure Surrey Section will be pressing for a return as soon as possible.

The better golfers were: Best nett - 69 Darren Lee, Sunningdale, Best Gross - 74 Nigel Colley, Roehampton, 2. Best net - 70 Gary Ogilvie 9th hole John Groombridge, Old Thorns. Longest Drive 18th hole Bob Rogers Laleham. Nearest the pin 6th hole Brian Gillespie, Petersfield. Nearest the pin 15th hole Eddie Oliver, Liphook. Thanks to our sponsors E&S Sports and Kestrel Golf.

Now other items of news from around Surrey, the latest member to have achieved his Master Greenkeeper is our current regional representative and course manager from Richmond Golf Club, Lee Strutt, and I am sure you would all join with me in offering Lee our heartiest congratulations.

Les Coombes, from Windlesham

Golf Club, would like to offer some assurance to any greenkeeper who is having irrigation leaks in our latest dry spell, for every one you have someone somewhere will have two and that if left they will be completely unnoticeable when the rain starts again in September.

Due to a delayed deadline for the magazine I am able to include the results of the Cresta Cup played at the superbly presented North Hants Golf Club. Everyone agreed that this is one of our outstanding courses in the south and confirms that we are very lucky to be able to play golf in clubs that are presented to such a high standard. We thanks Nigel Stainer and his Greenkeepers for an extremely pleasant day.

The above average golfers were: Cresta Cup Winner John Mathis Sunningdale GC, 48pts. Runner up Andrew Dennis, Laleham GC, 35pts. Nearest the pin Craig Mills, Hindhead GC, Longest Drive Gary Ogilvie (Avoncrop) The day was sponsored by Vitax whom we thank most sincerely for the high quality prizes.
Brian Willmott



South West and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

South Coast

The Spring Tournament has finally been played at Basingstoke GC. If you remember the original day had to be cancelled at The Army GC, so it was rescheduled to take place at Basingstoke on May 31.

A total of 28 players eventually played on the day, including the Club Captain Mr D Newman, and Eddie Fox, from Huxleys. Seven entrants had to withdraw, some at very short notice. One day isn't not enough time for Chris to inform the caterers of changes. I mentioned before that at least seven days' notice is required to cancel, any less time than this and you will forfeit your entrance money.

So who were the winners on the day?

Div 1 (Huxley's Trophy)

1. Mark Hancock 52pts
2. Matt Blake 48pts.

Div 2 (Avoncrop Trophy)

1. Kevin Glass 55pts
2. Andy McDonald 54pts
3. Alan Magee 53pts

Div 3 (Roffeys Cup)

1. Kevin Ratcliffe 55pts
2. Adi Archer 45pts

Longest Drive

Stuart Hooker

Nearest the Pin

Brian Willmott

Everyone enjoyed the wonderful hospitality given by Basingstoke. The lunch and evening meal was very enjoyable. A special thanks must go to Julie Tribe, the Assistant Club Secretary, for all her hard work.

And last but not least to Harvey Tribe and his team, for providing the course at such short notice.

The next competition to take place is the The Secretaries 'v' BIGGA, to be held at Upavon GC on June 14. And then the Summer Tournament is to be held on July 12 at Broadstone GC. So look out for the results shortly.

Well that's it for another month.

Mike Cartwright.

Devon and Cornwall

What a month we were lucky to have the company of our Chairman Clive Osgood who attended the workshop on Health & Safety organised by our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries. Unfortunately the excellence of the workshop wasn't matched by the attendance. For the second time this year I have experienced the effects of an earthquake this time in my home town of Bude, although it only measured 3.6 it still made the bed shake, I thought my luck was in.

The Section is delighted to announce that Phoenix Irrigation will be sponsoring the fixture cards for the next two seasons. The new fixture cards will hopefully be with you during late August.

Richard Whyman

Section Event?

www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

South West

The Greenkeeper/Amateur Fourball Betterball Competition took place on a sunny short-wearing day at Woodspring Golf Club, Bristol. I was lucky enough to play with the Course Manager, Steve Chappel, Nigel and Chopper Harris (a very appropriate name!) from T. H. Whites. The course was in excellent condition, and the scores proved this.

Superb prizes provided by sponsor of the day Bioseed Probotics. These were presented to I. C. Tozer and D. Rendell 42 pts. 2. M. Hawker and C. Ross 41 pts. 3. J. Keenaghan and L. Cox, 38 pts. The longest drive went to C. Tozer and the Nearest the pin, J. Keenaghan.

We would like to thank everyone at Woodspring for a brilliant day in splendid surroundings. The next event for your diary is the Summer Tournament at the Kendelshire on July 24 please continue to support the Section and the events.

The team will play the South Coast on August 16 Contact; J. Keenaghan if you are available for selection.

Dave Bougen.



The result of our Golf competition at Galgorm GC on June 8 will be featured in our Section notes next month. The NI Section will be sending two representatives to this year's National Championships, to be held at Royal Birkdale, Southport and Ainsdale Golf Clubs. Members who intend to play in the qualifying competition for the trip to Birkdale, must have played in two of the competitions held over the spring and summer period.

The qualifying competition will be played on a links course around late August, probably on the north coast. The Secretary will be notifying all members regarding the venue and date in due course.

Our next Golf competition will be

held at Royal Belfast GC on July 6. Graham Prosser from Tacit has kindly provided sponsorship for the July competition. I would also like to remind members of the charity day golf competition being played at Clondeboye GC on August 3. Once again Clondeboye's Course Manager, Terry Crawford, has organised the entire day. All the money raised will go to a charity of Terry's choice. A four-figure sum has been raised on each Royal Victoria in Belfast. Greenkeepers, trade members, and Secretary/Managers all come together for this competition, so places are limited. Please contact Terry Crawford to arrange a tee time on Tel 91458380 and give your support for this event.

I would like to welcome new members Andrew Wray Castlerock CC and Gary Johnston City of Derry GC to the Section this month.

Ken Henderson



See you all next month!

YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

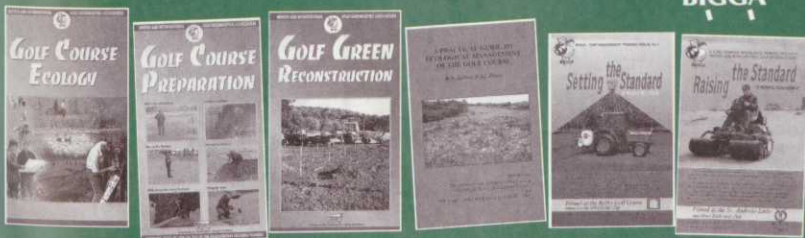
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This competition is not open to BIGGA staff or non-members.

Last month, Neil Oliver, from North Manchester GC, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

Our congratulations and a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch are on their way to you!



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If you didn't already know, BIGGA upload all recruitment advertising from the pages of Greenkeeper International to coincide with the launch of each issue. Many Greenkeeper members have found the online recruitment section to be of great benefit, particularly if they have left their magazine at work! They can simply log on at home, to the BIGGA website, and access all of the latest jobs available in the fine turf industry. Also, if a member is looking for employment, their advert will appear in this database for prospective employers to read.

Any member who has found themselves out of work as a direct result of the Foot and Mouth Outbreak may wish to take advantage of the BIGGA website to help find another club. As a special service to members the Association will allow you to post a Job Shop advert on the website, listing your experience and qualifications, offering your services free of charge. Further information can be obtained from the Sales & Marketing Department at BIGGA HOUSE Tel: 01347 833800 email: sales@bigga.co.uk

Please note: This offer only applies to website adverts and not those which you wish to appear in Greenkeeper International.

Please print clearly, and keep your entry to under 100 words.

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Recruitment

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Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be qualified to minimum NVQ2 with Spraying Certificates PA1A, PA2 & PA6.

Salary negotiable according to experience.

Applications in writing with CV to:

The Secretary, Knole Park Golf Club,
Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0HJ

LANGDON HILLS GOLF CENTRE

Requires a

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have appropriate qualifications inclusive of spraying certificate. Knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems would be an advantage.

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Head Greenkeeper, Langdon Hills Golf Centre,
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Sutton Green Golf Club

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Assistant Greenkeeper

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Nathan Kimsing, Head Greenkeeper
Sutton Green Golf Club, New Lane, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7QF

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The individual selected will be responsible for the co-ordination and construction of the golf course (presently under construction) and the training of local nationals. A willingness to learn the Polish language and communicate with management is a must.

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Applications which will be treated in strictest confidence, should include a detailed career history to date, current salary, and references, and sent to:

**Barrie D. Liddle, Managing Secretary, Scotsraig Golf Club,
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Closing date for applications - 6th August 2001

A full job description is available upon request.



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Please apply in writing by 6th August enclosing a full C.V. to;

Mr Peter Todd, Golf Courses Manager, The London Golf Club PLC, South Ash Manor Estate, Ash, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 7EN



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The Manager, Abridge Golf & Country Club, Epping Lane, Stapleford Tawney, Essex, RM4 1ST

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No accommodation available.

Please apply in writing including CV to;

The Secretary, Penrith Golf Club, Salkeld Road, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 8SG

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Signs are here to stay and Sandy McDivot has made full use of an array of such notices at Sludgecombe Pay and Play.

Sign of the times



I suppose if I was to be brutally frank with myself and using management consultant's parlance, I would have to be classified as a resistor to change. But as I enter the realms of doddering senility, even I have to occasionally make way for the unstoppable momentum of change.

For example, it was not many years ago that I was totally convinced that computers had little place in the lives of we greenkeepers. Today however I have come to the conclusion that greenkeeping life without them would be all but impossible.

Another item that I have in the past had little regard for is the sign. I have always possessed the deeply held belief that being artificial they detract greatly from the aesthetic appeal of the golf courses that we so painstakingly help to create. I also believe that they have little actual value as a means of passing on information to the golfing public. For example, a venerable former Captain once suggested to me

that a carefully worded sign placed in a certain position would help ensure the prevention of the odd accident or two. He was apparently oblivious to the fact that just such a sign had been in the very place he mentioned for the previous 12 months.

You see the fact is, golfers notice only a very few things when playing golf. They see the golf ball, they form in their minds eye a straight line to that golf ball and if that line crosses a directive in the form of a white line, sign or rope that suggests they take a detour from that line, they fail to make visual contact with it. Often they notice such things as the noisy machine that a greenkeeper is working with on an adjacent fairway but rarely have any awareness of the nearby busy road or the jet aeroplanes overhead.

Often on a ladies' day I have been instructed that no greenkeeper will be allowed within a five-mile radius of the golf course, but to my knowledge they have not yet rang up our county's international airports to inform them that due to their Summer Invitational the days flights will have to be suspended.

So you see the purpose of the sign had always seemed to me to be somewhat superfluous. But I write in the past tense as like the computer I have now arrived at the conclusion that signs can play a very important role in the lives of we greenkeepers. The reason for my about turn, is the trend in more recent years towards litigation. The fear of prosecution and associated public humiliation has

meant the sign has become to me what the shoe is to Imelda Marcos.

My course has become flooded with them. If we are spraying, signs are put out that not only warn of the perils of the murderous chemicals that we are applying, but also advise that those that suspect themselves of being susceptible to the effects of these evil toxins should effectively go home and never return. I have learnt that there are many who have convinced themselves that within the spray tank we have concocted a cocktail of dioxin and botulin in a plutonium carrier and so I err on the side of caution.

I have not as yet felt the need to post those gory skin disease photographs that can be found within the pages of "The Lancet" as evidence of the consequences of straying within the two mile total exclusion zone that surrounds the sprayer, but who knows what the future will bring.

But other areas come in for the sign treatment. Slopes, adjacent fairways, blind shots, bridges, you name it, at Sludgecombe Pay and Play there's a warning sign for just about everything. In short, I have come to treat the sign as something of an insurance policy against legal action. The way I see it is, if McDonalds can be successfully prosecuted for a million dollars or so because their coffee was too hot, then I am sure we greenkeepers are vulnerable to similar legal pursuance.

Now I have to confess I have not lost too much sleep over Mr McDonalds' misfortune but when you hear cases of children suing their

parents because they are too ugly and should therefore of been aware of the likelihood of their offspring suffering the same fate, then I do get a little anxious.

Of course such obsessive pursuit of damages can have its uses. A financial advisor friend recently informed me that anyone requiring instant wealth should break his or her leg in an American airport. Apparently such accidents result in an immediate, no quibble, out of court settlement of about a million pounds sterling these days. This one seemed to get Mrs McDivot somewhat excited, although I was not altogether sure whom she thought would meet with this unfortunate accident.

But the mere act of putting a sign up does not necessarily mean immunity from prosecution. In fact I do not discount the probability of the day arriving when we are sued for the entire wealth of ourselves and the next 20 generations of our families, because a golf ball has rebounded off one such warning sign and caused permanent disfigurement to someone in the form of a slight bruise.

There are other ways our signage could result in a visit to court. For example there is the question of the call through hole. This is a great favourite among committee men and women and involves a sign requesting that people call the following group through when reaching a par three green. The theory behind this one is that they are in some way speeding up play. This may or may not be the case but what the sign is



really saying is when you get near to the green you are required to invite the next group of golfers to hit golf balls at you. Now I don't know about you but in my humble opinion that is just asking for trouble.

A golf course near to me has an array of signs just about everywhere. As you drive into the car park, the first one you see states visitors must only park in the rear car park. This immediately gives the impression that visitors are an unwelcome parasite that are not worthy of the car park adjacent to the clubhouse but instead have to hide their beaten up old bangers around the back so as not to offend the members. The next one you see tells you that mobile phones are not allowed in the car park, clubhouse, golf course or any of the vertical air-space above the same.

This requirement was confirmed to me when someone I was with, accidentally had his go off while in the pro shop. He was immediately pounced upon by irate members and thoroughly admonished for bringing these symbols of Lucifer into their temple. But the thing about this course, was that it was located in a retirement area and had a steep slope at its furthest reaches affectionately known as "Cardiac Hill" due to the number of elderly members who while climbing up it had finally succeeded in conquering their habit of living.

The membership was to put it mildly, getting on a bit. In fact the worry was, an especially harsh winter could wipe half of them out in one go. Now the Head Greenkeeper had personal-

ly witnessed nine of them exit this world, so what would happen at this club, if while at the far end of the course someone suffered a heart attack and required urgent medical attention. If due to the prohibition of mobiles that person dies while their partner risks his or her own life in running back to the clubhouse to fetch help, then what is the clubs legal position.

Surely they were aware of the potential threat to life that they could be posing by the implementation of this ban. Would they then be open to prosecution?

Of course signs on golf courses are not only used to warn of potential danger. They are also needed as a means of direction. I am sure I am not alone in witnessing golfers walking onto a tee adjacent to the preceding green and not quite being able to work out how according to the card, the hole they face should be a short par three when all they can see is a green

some five hundred yards distant.

To such golfers the concept of numerical order is often a difficult one to grasp and so they require signage to direct them to the correct part of the course. I remember the story of how two visiting Americans once played golf at Royal St George's only to stray mid round onto the neighbouring Princes Golf Club. Amazingly they finished the round, had lunch in the wrong clubhouse and only realised something was wrong when they could not find their car in the car park. Then there was the unfortunate case of the poorly directed newly appointed greenkeeper at Sunningdale Ladies' Golf Club who was asked to rake bunkers.

He would of benefited greatly from a direction sign as somehow after raking the bunkers on the Ladies course he managed to end up on the Old course at Sunningdale.

This is a course that apart from bordering the Ladies Club was otherwise

entirely unrelated. The poor apprentice then worked his way through the bunkers on the Old and then onto those of the New Course. It appeared the actual Sunningdale greenkeepers who witnessed this, did not inform the hapless apprentice of his errors.

They reasoned that he was doing such a fine job of raking their bunkers why would they want to stop him.

But no matter how many signs we put out, we can never cover ourselves for every eventuality. A quick glance through the pages of Golfers Handbook reveals that two women once died on the course when an aeroplane hit them. In another three separate cases, golfers have died when their golf shafts have broken mid swing, rebounded off inanimate objects and plunged into their bodies.

Now try doing a risk assessment on those!

Sandy McDivot, Head Greenkeeper, Sludgecombe Pay and Play

Feature listing from July '99

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

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

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

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

November '99: Sir Michael 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; Clandeboye GC; Drainage; National Championship review; Leatherjacket management

December 2000: Toro Awards; Making the most of your Dealer; Budget Boosters; BTME2001 preview; BIGGA/Bernhards CGSA delegation preview

January 2001: Communication; Tyres; Turf diseases; Kingsbarns Golf Links; Environment Competition Winner - Dyke GC; Talking Heads - Pest Control

February 2001: BTME2001 review; Winter Mowing; Irrigation; Broadstone GC; Hedges; Security

March 2001: York GC; Greens Maintenance; Meland GC, Norway; Greens Mowers; BIGGA Essay Winner; Grass Science profile

April 2001: Lightning detection; Brockett Hall GC; CGSA report; Fairway Mowers; Irrigation; Sward renovation; BIGGA Essay winner; Turf Disease

May 2001: Foot and Mouth Disease Special Report; Maintenance Facility report; Bunker Sand; ATVs; RainBird Profile; Fineturf Genetics; BTME2002 countdown; Electric-powered machines

June 2001: Stoke Park Club profile; Stuart Cagle MG; Tractors; Leaf Spot Disease; Take All Patch; Construction



Don't panic!



I firmly believe that nature will sort itself out and I would urge everyone within our industry to remain calm. A good summer season from now on will help to put everyone in a positive mood.

Hopefully you all enjoyed it and can earn enough Brownie points at home between now and next year to be able to do the same in 2002.

On my own patch we held a Surrey Section event at North Hants Golf Club. I know it sounds as though it shouldn't belong to the Surrey Section but it is only just over the county border. The greens were in fantastic condition and a real credit to Nigel Stainer and his team who had done a great job. It was also good to see Doug Fernie, of Epsom Downs Golf Club, enjoying himself during the day. It is a tough time for him this time every year as his course is taken over for the running of The Derby with cars parked all over the course.

My next port of call was Drumoig Hotel and Golf Club, which is also home to the Scottish Golf Centre. It was great to meet up with old friends and meet so many new faces.

I stayed overnight in the hotel which overlooks the course which meant I had a grand stand seat when all the morning preparation work got underway. It started when I was woken by the sound of the sprinklers starting up at 3am and before long, I could watch all the normal tasks being carried out - hole changing, cutting the surrounds,

double cutting the greens. So much activity, all before a golfer set foot on the place. I was also able to enjoy some of the wildlife with a heron flying over the course. I loved being able to watch the goings on wearing a different hat, so to speak.

Talking about last month's magazine I was interested in the Stoke Park Club article and delighted to see a golf club becoming a member of the Golden Key Supporter of the Association.

Hopefully this will start a new trend and we as an Association and the game in general can only benefit from that. I believe that Stoke Park Club has shown real foresight.

On a more general note it is disappointing to see that Foot and Mouth has not gone away yet with more cases being discovered in Yorkshire. I firmly believe that nature will sort itself out and I would urge everyone within our industry to remain calm. A good summer season from now on will help to put everyone in a positive mood.

Clive Osgood, Chairman

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