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# Greenkeeper

## INTERNATIONAL



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



# Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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

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Through genetic modification, science will ensure the ideal grass for every occasion and use

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## HAVE YOU CLICKED ON YET?

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

FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS WITH GREENKEEPERS



## Every (rain) cloud has a silver lining

The Masters is now behind us and thoughts can turn to the traditional start to the British and European golf season and what 2001 might have in store for everyone.

Before moving on though we must pay tribute to the stupendous achievement of Tiger Woods. Sure, people have quibbled about it not being a Grand Slam as the four Majors he now holds were gathered over two seasons and not one, but let's face it, did anyone ever think they'd see the day when one person could display all four trophies on his own mantelpiece? I'll answer that one for you. No. Standards in golf have risen so dramatically over the last 30 years that many people are now capable of low sustained scoring and for Tiger to come out on top in the four weeks when everyone is aiming to peak is truly remarkable. Sure, it might not be a true Grand Slam but it's the next best thing and far exceeds any other achievement in golf... including, and this may be a tad contentious, Bobby Jones's original Grand Slam back in 1930.

Incidentally, it would be asking a lot, but could it be a sign that this year's USPGA Championship is being played at the Atlanta Athletic Club, Bobby Jones's home club?

The good news is that Tiger's achievements will guarantee golf a place at sport's top table for quite some time and hopefully the increased profile will rub off on the game at grass roots level. I say this because it is perhaps the one positive aspect the UK golf industry has to hang on to at the moment.

Our report into the problems brought about by the Foot and Mouth Outbreak will give those of you lucky enough to have avoided the problem a feel for the anguish some of your colleagues are going through at the moment.

For some there is little prospect of their courses even opening until the end of the summer - some are only allowed to cut greens every ten days - and with annual subscriptions currently due, the disincentive for many golf club members to renew will be great.

Of course, compensation packages are in place for the agriculture industry as well as tourism but I'm sure I won't be far off the case if I say we'll be waiting a mighty long time until any of the money reaches the more badly affected golf clubs.

Golf, I predict, will be left to pick up its own pieces and the repercussions will be deep and long lasting for many.

With such grave issues afflicting us as an industry it would be nice to think that we would at least have a warm, sunny summer to make up for it. The signs are there. Apparently the Met Office has promised us a decent few months, those seaweed watchers are spotting all the right signs and, let's face it, by the law of averages we must be due one.

So let us hope that we are now through the worst of the bad weather, the Foot and Mouth epidemic has, at least, peaked and that Tiger Woods will continue to wow the world.

It gives us some positive thoughts to hang on to at the very least.

**Scott MacCallum**  
Editor

## BIGGA Student Chapter launched at Gleneagles

The first BIGGA Student Chapter was inaugurated at a meeting at Gleneagles Hotel last month when the students on the Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award scheme were welcomed into the Association.

The Chapter which is designed to encourage student greenkeepers to become involved with the Association, and, as well as utilising the many opportunities available to them through the Association, gain experience from organising and running their own meetings, seminars and golf days.

The Chapter will work closely with the Scottish Central Section, and its Secretary, Past



Above: Scott MacCallum, Jimmy Kidd, Jenny Morgan, Scott Fenwick, David McInroy with six of the eight inaugural members of the Gleneagles Student Chapter

BIGGA National Chairman, John Crawford, and Scottish Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd. The first Chapter notes,

containing more information on the Gleneagles Chapter, appear in *Around the Green* on page 46 this month.

John Deere commercial & consumer equipment dealer Parks & Grounds Machinery has officially opened its new premises in Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

In addition to John Deere's full line of domestic, golf & turf and professional ranges of equipment, including Roberine and Sabo machines, Parks & Grounds Machinery is now an official supplier of John Deere 5000 Series tractors from 55 to 80hp. These are particularly suitable for use with heavy duty aerators and trailed gang mowers on large areas of amenity and sports turf.

Parks & Grounds Machinery was one of John Deere's earliest grounds care dealers when directors Andy Perkins and David Tullett originally signed up in 1989, operating out of a garden centre near Bromsgrove. The business then moved to Redditch in 1993, and finally to Bidford last September. The dealership has a full time staff of 10, including four mechanics.

## New premises for Deere



## FEGGA joins Excellence Scheme

FEGGA has joined the Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award Scheme (GEGAS), a 12-month educational and practical training programme for young greenkeepers from around the globe.

Sponsored by Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products, the course is based at Gleneagles Hotel and runs from 1 September until 31 August. It is open to highly motivated students who are looking beyond a basic greenkeeping career and wish to develop their skills to become golf course managers or superintendents.

The scheme can accommodate a maximum of eight students, who will be selected from colleges and educational facilities in the UK and now, with FEGGA as a partner, from across Europe.

The scheme was established in 1994 and has grown year on year providing students with all the

necessary greenkeeping skills together with a unique opportunity for personal development during the year-long work placement.

"One of the main objectives for the students during the year at Gleneagles is to experience the alternative styles of maintenance required for soil and sand based greens".

"Every student will work on the three courses at Gleneagles for eight months of the placement and then decide which style of maintenance they wish to develop further and join their preferred greenkeeping team for the remaining four months. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring together students from all over Europe to train and gain experience at one of Europe's finest golfing resorts," said Dean Cleaver, FEGGA Secretary.

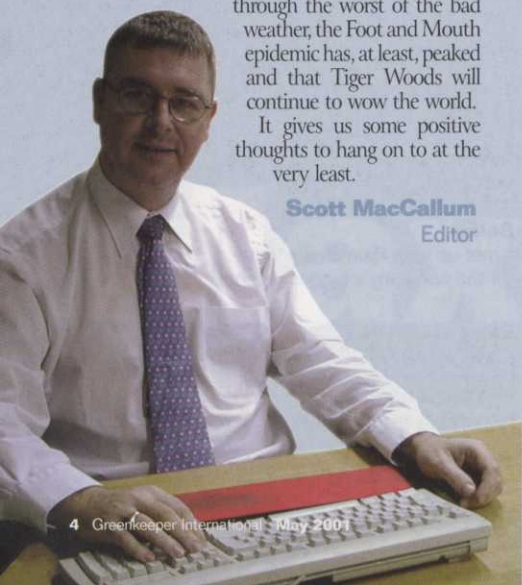
"I am particularly delighted that FEGGA have joined us and added their support for this scheme. Over

the coming year we will be hosting three national and European Tour events and the successful applicants will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the many different aspects of course maintenance and preparation at the highest level," added Jimmy Kidd, Director of Turfgrass Management at Gleneagles.

Applications are invited from students in greenkeeping and related subjects and should include a typed CV with personal details, experience, qualifications and other interests, together with a covering letter from their head tutor.

They should be sent to: Jimmy Kidd at Gleneagles - see [www.gleneagles.com](http://www.gleneagles.com) for details - or Dean Cleaver, Secretary, FEGGA, 3 Riddell Close, Alcester, Warks B49 6QP.

The closing date for applications is Monday, May 28, 2001.





# BIGGA Section Secretaries Meeting

The biennial Section Secretaries Meeting at BIGGA HOUSE, held at the end of March, was the ideal opportunity for BIGGA headquarters staff to update the 20 Secretaries who were able to attend on the work and initiatives currently in place.

The meeting, spread over an afternoon and a morning covered all aspects of Association business and also gave the Secretaries the opportunity to have their say.

It began with a talk on how the Association works from Executive Director, Neil Thomas, before Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, outlined the current education and training initiatives including BIGGA's own CPD scheme. Further talks were given on use of the membership disc and the website before the session closed with group discussions on the Training Needs Analysis currently being undertaken.

Refreshed by dinner in Aldwark Manor Hotel, the next morning began with a talk on membership benefits from



Membership Services Officer, Tracey Maddison, before Administration Manager, John Pemberton, spoke on finance and pension provision.

Ken Richardson then outlined the latest recommendations by the Greenkeepers' Salaries Review Body.

After a coffee break the meeting broke into two and Neil Thomas, on BTME and Editor, Scott MacCallum,

on Greenkeeper International, spoke separately to both halves of the group.

The occasion ended with a question and answer session and lunch.

"It was an ideal opportunity for Headquarters and Sections to come together and I'm sure that everyone benefited from the information sharing which took place," said Neil Thomas.

## Two prodigals return to BIGGA

Two familiar faces - one with an unfamiliar name - return to the Association this month.



Jennifer Whichello, better known in the industry as Panton, returns to BIGGA HOUSE as Sales Team Leader after a spell away during which she got married to Scott.

## Nick lands new and varied role at Textron

Textron Specialty Product's new Regional Sales Manager with responsibility for golf cars, golf utility vehicles, personnel carriers and light industrial vehicles is Nick Brown. His territory encompasses East Anglia, the southern counties of England, Scotland and Ireland.

He joined the Ipswich-based manufacturer in September 1998 as Sales Planning Co-ordinator for the company's Specialty Products range and Iseki tractors. Last year he took on additional responsibilities as Demonstration Fleet Administrator managing the logistics of the company's demonstration fleet of turf maintenance equipment, golf cars and compact sweepers. Previous to joining Textron he spent a year as a professional rugby player in Australia.

Nick, 29, graduated from Brunel University with a BSc Hons degree in Forestry Products Technology and worked on oil palm plantations in Sumatra for a year before moving to Australia. He now lives in Woodbridge near Ipswich and in his spare time is a keen supporter of his local Premiership football team, Ipswich Town. "Nick's promotion to



this position demonstrates our commitment to providing structured career opportunities here at Textron. His previous experience within the Specialty Products division will add

strength to the sales team and he has our best wishes for a successful career in his new role," said Richard Tyrrell, International Sales Manager, Textron Specialty Products.



Peter Larer is also welcomed back into the fold, returning to his role as Midland Regional Administrator. He succeeds Les Emery, who has taken on a full time role at a Midland golf club, and who had succeeded him some 18 months ago.

## Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



## Unfair dismissal ends with £5,000 compensation

BIGGA member Aaron Mackenzie has won almost £5,000 in compensation after an industrial tribunal ruled that he had been unfairly dismissed by Abernethy Golf Club, at Nethy Bridge, Inverness-shire.

The reason the club had given for his sacking was that he had refused to work on Sundays.



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

Welcome to a brand new series in which we look back through the pages of Greenkeeper International from a decade ago



**MAY 1991**

**BIGGA's Third National Education Conference**

The magazine reported on BIGGA's third National Education Conference held in York University's Langwith College. 170 people had attended from around the globe and 17 papers were presented. Amongst the speakers were David Stansfield, Martin Hawtree, Larry Gilhuly from the USGA Green Section, Dr Bill Adams, Joe Paulin, George Shield, Ken Seims and Peter Jones. A panel on The Way Forward Document and Subsequent Developments was chaired by Nick Park. The historic Merchant Adventurers Hall was the location for a memorable banquet.

**Toro Greenkeeper of the Year**

David Norton, the Toro Greenkeeper of the Year, reported on his two months at the University of Massachusetts. The trip from Beverley had taken 20 hours with the journey on Boston's underground proving a nightmarish experience. This represented the lowspot of his trip and David concluded his report wishing that all future winners enjoy equal pleasure and delight and most important of all gain true and lasting benefit from the learning experience which such a trip affords.

Today David is Head Greenkeeper at Forest Pines Golf Club in Brigg, Lincolnshire.

**Hillside GC profile**

In a profile, the magazine reported on Martin Twist, Head Greenkeeper at Hillside Golf Club over which the first ever European Amateur Championship was to be held in 1992 and which had been selected as a qualifying course for The Open at Royal Birkdale. In addition, successful competitors in the Iseki-BIGGA Championships would be exposed to its charms when their Grand Final was held there in September. It was reported that Martin had been Head Greenkeeper for four years, was very happy and enjoyed the continued confidence of the club.

In May 2001, Martin continues as Head Greenkeeper at Hillside Golf Club.

## Students aim for architects award



An international line-up of students has designs on becoming the winners of the 2001 Toro Student Golf Course Architect Award, and the associated Barenbrug Award.

The nine students from Belgium, Chile, Slovenia, Germany and Croatia as well as the UK are studying on the two-year Diploma Course in Golf Course Architecture - organised by the European Institute of Golf Course Architects (EIGCA) - at Merrist Wood College, in Surrey.

The award was launched in 1999 in recognition of the important role played by golf course architects in the creation of quality golf courses around the world.

All the final year students have presented a written and verbal dissertation to the judges on their diploma course thesis, as well as design ideas, detailed drawings and costings for a new golf course.

The judging panel comprised David Williams, Ken Moodie and Martin Gillett, representing EJGCA; external

examiner Nigel Rudd, dean of environmental studies at Herriot Watt University and Edinburgh College of Art; Bruce Jamieson, representing Toro and Paul Johnson, of Barenbrug.

David Williams commented: "The diploma course is extremely competitive and has attracted students from many different backgrounds, from all over the world. The relatively small intake allows for constructive discussion among the students and enables them to share valuable skills".

## Lastec UK Ltd

Lastec, Inc., a division of Wood-Mizer Products Inc., has opened a factory branch in the UK. This branch "Lastec UK Ltd" can be found at Court Lodge Farm, Kenward Rd, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent ME18 6JP.

Lastec are the manufacturers of the Articulator Range of rotary mowers for the golf and amenity turf industry. With its patented belt drive system the Articulator range gives an excellent finish to grass cut from 25mm to 110mm over flat or undulating ground.

Lastec UK will be selling its range of Articulator rotary mowers through a network of dealers and its own salesmen. For demos, sales or spares please contact the Operations Manager John Millen on 01622 812103  
 Email: jmillenlastec@aol.com



## Section Members get Club Captain status

Two North Wales Section members have become Club Captains in the same year. Wyn Mostyn is the current Captain of The Plassey Golf Club while Terry Adamson holds the same position at Northop Country Park Golf Club. The two men are pictured sporting their club blazers.

## Carden hosts Sportsworld Educational Event

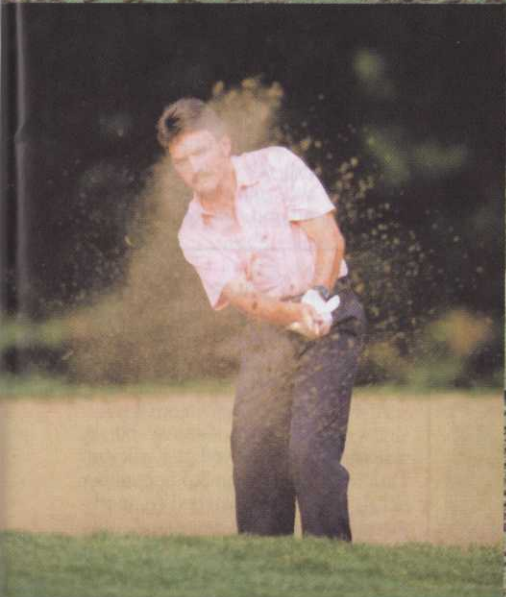
Sportsworld Amenity held its second Annual Educational Seminar at De Vere Carden Park at the beginning of April. Seventy delegates comprising of Greenkeepers, Secretaries and Club officials enjoyed presentations from Tracey Maddison of BIGGA, Peter Jones, Duncan McGilvary and Brian Butler.

Mathew Burrows, proprietor of Sportsworld Amenity, also gave a short presentation outlining his aspirations with regard to customer service and educational support for the industry including the continued development of the day's event.



Photo shows left to right: Brian Butler, Terry Adamson, Mathew Burrows, Bill Lawson, Tracey Maddison, Duncan McGilvary, Peter Jones, Trevor Helm, Andy Mardie, Dave Raman, Andy Campbell MC and Mike Whitehouse.





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## Top record for Longhirst Hall

Longhirst Hall has just accepted its 2000th member making it the golf club with the largest membership in England.

Managed by BIGGA member, Graham Chambers, the members were attracted by the fact that not one day has been lost to rain during the winter and the prospect of another nine holes opening this July. It is anticipated that a further nine, bringing Longhirst Hall up to 36 holes, will be opened in the summer of 2003.

## Latest news?

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

## Bernhard's offer Stateside trip

Bernhard's and Company is offering three students on turf-related courses the chance to win a trip to the States. Any student on a full or part-time course which leads to a turf-related recognised qualification is eligible to apply.

The fortnight's prize will include return air fares to the States, food and accommodation. During this period students will have the wonderful opportunity to work on a top US golf course and learn more about their practices.

The competition is based on researching current UK golf maintenance practices and proposing suitable improvements.

## Section Event?

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

## Richard joins Gem Professional

Gem Professional has appointed Richard Page as its new Technical Services Representative for Surrey and West Sussex.



Richard was previously Head Greenkeeper of a private members' club and holds the D32/D33 National Greenkeepers Assessors qualification. Over the forthcoming weeks and months he will be spending time with the customers in his area.

## Phone a friend?

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

# Recent appointments at Rigby Taylor



Peter Read

Rigby Taylor Limited has made three recent appointments. Peter Read has joined as Local Authority Technical Sales Representative for Herefordshire, Essex and the London Boroughs. Peter has substantial experience in the amenity and agricultural market sectors having worked as assistant contracts manager with Canterbury City Council and as Head



Warren Jefford

Greenkeeper at Vivary Golf Club

Warren Jefford has qualifications in business studies and computers and having gained sales experience in the car electronics industry joined Rigby Taylor where he will be covering the fine turf sector in Cheshire, the North east of Wales and Rochdale areas.

Jamie Applegarth first entered the amenity market as an apprentice



Jamie Applegarth

Greenkeeper at Dinsdale Spa Golf Club. This was followed by a further three years at Headingly Golf Club, half of that time as Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

He has gained NVQ Levels 1-3 in Amenity Horticulture and Greenkeeping. He covers the local authority and golf sectors in North East England and Cumbria.

## TGA to have a field day

An extensive array of static and working exhibits will greet visitors attending this year's Turf Grass Growers Association's Field Days, taking place in Worcestershire on Thursday, 21 June and Friday, 22 June 2001.

To be held at Teal Farm, Wadborough, near Worcester, courtesy of TGA member, Peter Lole, the two day event is open to anyone with a professional interest or involvement in the growing, marketing, specifying, installation or after-care of quality seeded turf.

Two events which will be of value to anyone growing, specifying or installing cultivated turf are the turf grass species identification workshops being hosted on both days by independent turf consultant and agronomist, Robert Laycock, (right).



## Raycox Turf awarded Rolawn authorised distributor status

Rolawn has appointed Raycox Turf as authorised distributor for the Bristol area. This new arrangement follows the scheduled closure of the Rolawn depot on the same premises in Bristol at the end of February.

The arrangement benefits both parties as it allows Rolawn to concentrate on turf production and marketing, while Raycox takes care of customer service and distribution.

The partnership will cover training and marketing support for the sale of Rolawn loam and preturfing fertiliser as well as Rolawn's turf.

Both parties are confident that the high level of customer service, distribution and product presentation will

be maintained for old and new customers in the area.

"We're very optimistic about our distribution agreement with Raycox. It maintains our long association with our customers in Bristol and the South West. It was a big decision for us to change from having our own staff in the area, but we needed to reexamine the way in which we sell our products in the light of last year's appalling weather, but most of all the sheer enthusiasm and customer focused approach of the partners at Raycox have convinced us that this is the right step at the right time", said Terry Ryan, Rolawn's Sales and Marketing Director.

## English Boys County Finals venue change to Longcliffe GC

The English Boys County Finals, scheduled to be played at Kedleston Park in Derbyshire on 3-5 September 2001, have been switched to another venue. The three-day round robin event will now take place at Longcliffe Golf Club in Leicestershire on the same dates.

Kedleston Park operates a strict soft spikes rule, which they felt they could not relax for the Finals.

Longcliffe was approached and although the club hosted the Reid Trophy only last August, it agreed to take the Boys Finals, moving its Club Championship and two other fixtures to accommodate the English Golf Union.

This is the second occasion in recent times that an EGU event has been switched because of the soft spikes rule.

## Bourne Amenity's Telesales division receives a boost

Bourne Amenity has appointed Trevor Monk to work alongside Roger Burrows to help run the company's telesales division.

Trevor, who is a Sussex County bowler and reached the last 16 in the National Indoor Champion of Champions Bowling Finals, was National Contracts Manager at the Department of Environment before joining Bourne Amenity.

Peter Bourne, Managing Director, said that the company had developed its telesales division to enable it to provide a fast and efficient back up to its area sales managers.



## Miniature golf: The way ahead?

The world's first commercial golf court will be opened later this month at Lensbury conference centre, at Teddington Lock, by Laura Davies.

A golf court is a new concept in golf, designed by Compac Golf Ltd, that enables a full 18-hole round to be played on 18 acres of land compared to the average 150-acre golf course. The concept can also be adapted to fit smaller areas of land.

Mathematically designed to include four greens and eight tee areas, a golf court offers players all the challenges of a full 18-hole course, incorporating Par 3, 4 and 5 holes on a smaller area and can be completed in far less time. The game on a golf court is very easy to follow, the tee and yardage markers and flags are all colour coded. Each hole is different they vary in both length and perspective. A golf court is as safe as a golf course and each golf court will undergo a PGA safety audit.

Like a tennis court, a golf court can be booked by the hour offering the golfer the flexibility of playing six holes in one hour, 12 holes in two hours or a full 18 holes in just three hours. The game is considerably quicker than on a conventional golf course because the system of play means waiting time is virtually eliminated.

The potential for golf courts is enormous. Hotels, conference centres, property developments, universities, inner city areas and leisure clubs are just some of the areas with limited space that could feature a golf court.

A golf court is around £300k. It is inexpensive to maintain, requires very little watering and, being so compact, is easy to floodlight for night-time golf.

"It means having the opportunity to play golf safely and it will bring golf to a whole new category of players for whom golf has not been feasible or available before," said Bob Hunt of PGA Golf Management, who advises on the building of golf courses.

## Kawasaki launch new online service

A new, online, engine service is now available from Kawasaki Commercial Products Division.

Full specification, dimensions and performance curve details are available to visitors to the site who will be able to download data and request further information with a direct link to Kawasaki's head office at Bourne End, Buckinghamshire.

"It's another significant step forward for us in the ongoing development of our engine business in the UK and one we intend to take even further in the months ahead," commented Jack Ford, Sales and Marketing Manager for Kawasaki Commercial Products Division.

Having extended its liquid-cooled engine range - horizontal and vertical shaft, Kawasaki introduced two further models during the autumn. The 13 hp, FE400D engine is a natural extension to the FE family of engines while the liquid-cooled FD791 D, at just under 30 hp, is at the top end of the FD series. Both models have been designed specifically for turfcare, agricultural, industrial and municipal applications.

Further information from: [www.kawasaki.co.uk](http://www.kawasaki.co.uk)



Address your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York YO61 1UF, or email them to [reception@bigga.co.uk](mailto:reception@bigga.co.uk)

## A mountain to climb

I have been selected for a place on the Seven Summits Project, a series of international expeditions for Venture Scouts and Young Leaders aged between 16 and 22 where we plan to climb the highest summit in each continent.

With the summits of Mount Elbrus, in the Russian Caucasus; Mount McKinley, in Alaska and Aconcagua, in the Argentinean Andes already completed I will be part of the team of seven other boys, five girls and three Mountain Leaders attempting to scale Mount Kilimanjaro, in Tanzania - the highest mountain in Africa, planned for this July.

The aim is to complete the project by the year 2010, although it is hoped that

the ascent of Mount Everest will be in 2007 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Scouting.

The expedition is to be funded entirely by the member's own efforts - approximately £1500 each, with a personal contribution of £500. Sponsors are being sought for specialist equipment which is essential when mountaineering at altitude.

I work at Broomieknowe Golf Club near Edinburgh and have been a BIGGA member for almost five years and I would be delighted to hear from any member or company within the industry who feels they might like to make a contribution towards the trip.

Paul Davidson, 7 Greenhall Crescent, Gorebridge, EH23 4AL

## Work acknowledged

In the March issue, you carried an article entitled 'Are your greens up to scratch?'. In this article the author somewhat obscurely referred to "research work carried out by Steve Haake...". To enlighten your readers Steve Haake was then a research student working at the STRI and the University of Aston under the University Interdisciplinary Higher Degrees Scheme.

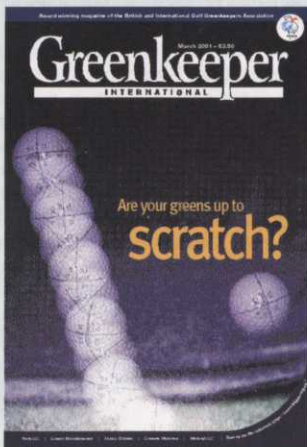
I was his industrial supervisor at STRI

and Dr Alastair Cochran was his University supervisor and also author of the ground breaking book on the physics of golf 'The Search for the Perfect Swing'. The project arose out of the realisation that there was considerable information about the impact by the club-head on the ball and its subsequent trajectory but no-one had any quantitative information about the impact of the ball on the turf and the consequences of different turfgrass species and management factors on ball behaviour. Steve Haake's project was the first to address these issues. The work was reported in the STRI Journal and elsewhere.

The front cover photo is copyright of the STRI. The work was done under grant aid from SERC with additional financial support from the R&A and the Acushnet Corporation which should also be rightfully acknowledged.

Dr Mike Canaway, Former Chief Executive, STRI

Editor's Note: Apologies for not acknowledging the copyright of the front cover picture and the involvement of the STRI and others in the paper which acted as a basis for the article in March's magazine. We were unaware of the information listed above



## High praise for Scottish Conference

I would like to pass on my congratulations to all concerned with organising The Scottish Conference on March 6, in Dunfermline.

It was my first visit and despite some technical hitches it was a well run and enjoyable day. All the speakers involved were excellent.

Personally, I especially enjoyed John Philp's ideas on how a golf course should be run. Controversial? Maybe, Humorous? Definitely, Thought Provoking? Without a doubt!

Jim McKenzie's talk on The Celtic

Manor was a real eye opener. A harsh lesson that money can't buy everything. It stands as a reminder that we are all at the mercy of the weather. Fortunately it all came good in the end.

A special mention should go to Tim Colclough. Asked to stand in at the last minute due to illness, Tim gave an excellent and professional talk, working from a colleague's viewpoint. No mean feat.

Finally a message to greenkeepers everywhere who tend not to get involved much, if at all, with BIGGA

## YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

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

Simply send an email to:

[updates@bigga.co.uk](mailto:updates@bigga.co.uk)

quoting your name and Membership number, and we'll do the rest - it's that easy!

## Work recognised

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the team at BIGGA HOUSE for the very informative Section Secretary's meeting held at the end of March. I left with a better understanding of the teamwork required to run the Association and how all the staff are there to help the members with benefits, education, employment problems and many other services.

At present our industry is taking a battering with the wet weather and the foot and mouth outbreak, but it is nice to know that all the team at BIGGA HQ are working hard for all the members.

Ian Willett, East Anglia Section Secretary

## Help required

I require information for a dissertation. I am working on the subject of organic content in rootzone materials, except for peat, that are used within the golf or general sports turf and agricultural industry. If anyone constructs or maintains terrain of the above criteria, I would be interested in any information and also any possibilities of using such a site for a case study.

Dan Wheeler, [jvwheeler@uk.packardbell.org](mailto:jvwheeler@uk.packardbell.org)

functions - and I include myself in that. Go along to an outing, conference or whatever. I always find a warm welcome awaits. The knowledge available through all concerned, from organisers, to fellow greenkeepers is invaluable. The camaraderie, I believe is unique to our own trade and I always come away with new friends.

Have a good season everyone. Keep up the good work.

Derek Hoskins, Camperdown GC, Dundee



This month, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, reports on some of the latest education and training developments available to Greenkeepers, and gives updates on the entry progress of our various competitions

# Top Level Greenkeeping degree

## UPDATE



### TORO Student of the Year Competition

The deadline for entries to this year's TORO Student of the Year Competition is

approaching. Make sure that your entry is sent to reach BIGGA HOUSE by 11 May 2001.



### TORO Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping

All Head Greenkeepers/ Course Managers/ Superintendents in Britain and Ireland should have received a copy of this year's Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping Entry form. If you have not received a copy then contact BIGGA HOUSE, if you live in Britain or the GCSAI, if you live in Ireland and you will be sent an entry form by return.



### BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

Entry forms for this year's Golf Environment

Competition are arriving at BIGGA HOUSE. If you wish to enter and have not received an entry form then contact BIGGA on 01347 833800.



### Continuing Professional Development

The BIGGA Continuing Professional Development

Scheme is rapidly approaching the end of its first year. Certificates are being prepared for those who have accumulated 10 credits and will be dispatched soon. More details on BIGGA CPD will appear in future editions of Greenkeeper International, and on the BIGGA website at [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

## 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](mailto:education@bigga.co.uk)  
[ken@bigga.co.uk](mailto:ken@bigga.co.uk)  
[sami@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sami@bigga.co.uk)

Observant readers will have noticed an announcement, in the April edition of this magazine, about an exciting new course for greenkeepers which starts in September this year when Cranfield University introduce a Master of Science Degree in Sports Surface Technology.

The course aims to combine academic and technical skills, covering advanced principles of soil, water and vegetation management plus mechanisation, irrigation, construction and business management.

The course is split into 12 modules.

Soil/Plant/Water relationships  
Soil Science  
Mechanisation for Sports Surfaces  
Sports Surface Playability  
Irrigation and Drainage for Sports Surfaces  
Irrigation Management and Optimisation  
Management of Sports Facilities  
Turfgrass Science and Technology  
Management Accounting  
Project Planning and Operations  
Human Resource Management  
Sports Surface Construction for Natural and Artificial Surfaces

Assessment will be two three hour examination papers, continuous assessment and a project based module.

The course may be full time ie. 45 weeks of full time study or part time ie. the equivalent of 45 weeks full time study, which may be distance learning. The duration of the course will normally be one year with a maximum duration of five years.

For entry to the course, candidates should hold a first or second class honours degree from a UK university or an equivalent qualification. In certain cases, a blend of qualifications and relevant experience may be accepted.

For further details contact Alex Vickers, Course Director MSc Sports Surface Technology, Cranfield University, Silsoe, Beds, MK45 4DT.

### New Learning Innovation From Myerscough College

Myerscough College recently launched their Internet learning platform. Piloted in Knowlsey at the Greenkeeping Academy from the college's Croxeth Park Centre -Liverpool, the system currently has over 40 stu-

dents studying varying NVQ's from level 2 to level 4 amenity management, from the UK to Williamsburg USA. Endorsed by the GTC the system can be adapted to suit everyone's learning needs from craft level 2 to NVQ 4 for Course Managers.

The Myerscough on-line System is a web-based learning platform that helps the teaching and learning of sportsturf NVQ's Levels 1 - 4. Students can be engaged in an effective learning process involving sophisticated software and interaction with other students as well as their on-line tutor. Students are supplied with their own personal password that will log them into their specific chosen qualification where they can access various relevant course materials and support packages enabling them to complete the NVQ qualification.

Interaction between the student and teacher is achieved by the teacher using specific web-based tools. Students can access support material, complete unit tests and quizzes, send e-mails to other students and much more. Students that submit their work on-line can have it graded and sent back along with the tutors feedback. Any problems the students may have with the course or a particular subject area can be dealt with by either using the 'bulletin board', where all on-line students can monitor and critique the answer or by using private e-mail between a particular student and his/her tutor.

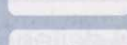
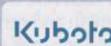
The beauty of on-line learning is that course material is accessible almost any time of the day, and more so, material is often available for courses not currently being taken, giving the student the opportunity to preview them in advance. Students can also link searching for information on the world wide web with their course work, enabling more information to be analysed. Qualifications can be attained outside normal working hours which may suit certain employers, but at the same time giving the student chance to collate information from work-based experiences.

For further information on online learning from Myerscough or details on NVQ sportsturf workbooks, contact: Paul McGrail (Training Co-ordinator) Croxeth Park Centre: 0151 228 7162 or e-mail: [croxeth@croxeth.fsbusines.co.uk](mailto:croxeth@croxeth.fsbusines.co.uk)



## Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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

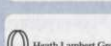


### Golden Key Circle Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Amazon Ground Care	01579 351155
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd	01428 661222
Gem Professional	01254 356611
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Kubota UK Ltd	01844 214500
Massey Ferguson (AGCO Ltd)	02476 851292
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rain Bird	01273 891326
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 394888
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
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, Iain A MacLeod, Robert Maibusch MG, Richard S Mullen, Elliott R Small, Steven Tierney, Raymond J Warrender, WJ Rogers, Kenneth Jones

## ON COURSE WITH BIGGA EDUCATION

Golf Course Preparation Video  
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£29.95 to non-members

Ecology Video  
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£29.95 to non-members

Golf Course Reconstruction Video  
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£29.95 to non-members

Raising the Standards of Mowing Management Video  
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£29.95 to non-members

Ecology Book  
£3.00 to BIGGA members  
£7.00 to non-members

Setting the Standard in Spraying Application Video  
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Irrigation Video  
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£29.95 to non-members

### ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

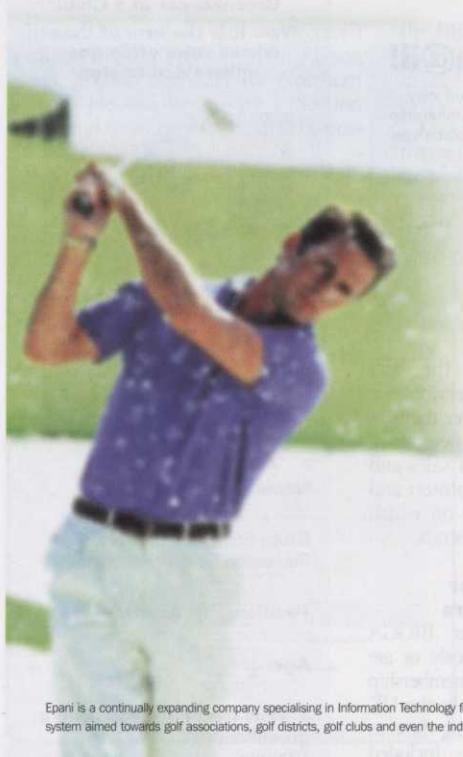
Education Dept, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801 Email: [education@bigga.co.uk](mailto:education@bigga.co.uk)





# OnCourse

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Staff records	Diaries	Stock controller	Course data	Report analysis
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**ken@bigga.co.uk**      **01347 833800**

Epani is a continually expanding company specialising in Information Technology for the game of Golf. Bringing satisfaction and enjoyment to golfers around the world is our highest priority. In doing so, we offer a complete national IT system aimed towards golf associations, golf districts, golf clubs and even the individual golfer. We want to utilise our system's accessibility, simplicity and cost-effective management in boosting the world of golf in the 21st century.

**Epani**



## HARDI Amenity Sprayers

### New Specifications to meet the HSE and Groundwater Regulations

**Boss with Defender boom**



**NOW WITH LERAP 3 STAR APPROVAL**

The HARDI Defender booms are the **ONLY** amenity shrouded sprayers to have 3 Star LERAP approval, which will allow you to reduce the buffer zone around water from 6m to just 1m.

**Cooper Pegler**



Cooper Pegler is the preferred choice for professional users, with a range that consists of knapsack, compression and defender type sprayers.

**Mini Defender**



**NOW WITH LERAP 3 STAR APPROVAL**

Ideal for greens, cricket squares or other fine turf areas, the Mini Defender is self-contained with a 1 metre wide shrouded boom and 30 litre capacity tank.

**Specialists in the field of Amenity Spraying**



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 4-5 Watling Close, Sketchley Meadows Industrial Park, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 3EX  
**Tel: 01455 233811**



**Tracey Maddison, BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, would like to welcome over 130 new members to the Association and encourage them to take part in their section's events**

## Section seminars well worth a visit!

In March and April I had the opportunity to visit three fantastic and informative Educational Seminars at section level. This not only gave me the opportunity to meet BIGGA members and for them to meet me, but it also provided me with a valuable insight and an essential overview into what a skillful job greenkeeping is. That's why it is important for you to try and attend and support these seminars, they provide an excellent opportunity to improve knowledge, mix with fellow greenkeepers, the trade and to engage in interesting conversation regarding your chosen profession. Many people spend a lot of their own personal time organising these seminars and section events. Don't let them down, please make every effort to attend.

We realise you cannot attend them all but it would be nice to see you at one or two. I know it can be difficult if you are new to the section, but if you never go along you will always be new and never meet your fellow section members! Go on take the plunge, check your fixture card for the next section event and go along. If you haven't got a fixture card contact your section secretary, the numbers can be found in March's Greenkeeper International.

### Don't Drift Away ...

If you're membership expired on 31 December 2000, 31 January 2001, 28 February 2001, 31 March 2001, don't miss out any longer, renew your membership this month. Providing you are working as a greenkeeper, we will still have your details on our



database and can renew your membership with a new expiry date, you can even pay by direct debit if you wish. Don't leave it any longer, if you need a renewal form or further information contact Tracey or Susannah in Membership Services today, ring 01347 833800.

### This was your chance ...

... did you take it? As mentioned in both March and April's magazine BIGGA have commissioned an independent market research study. Financially supported by the R & A and carried out by Mike Williamson of MW Associates, based in Edinburgh, 2000 questionnaires were sent out to a random sample of members. If you received one of these surveys from Mike and have returned it - thank you for taking part! Just to remind you of the two main aims of this survey:

We want to know what our members, and those with whom we

### You've got m@il!

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

**Send an email to:**  
 membership@bigga.co.uk  
 tracey@bigga.co.uk  
 susannah@bigga.co.uk

work most closely in the golf industry, think of the services we offer and the way we deliver them.

We are also looking for new ideas, particularly in the areas of sales and marketing, so that we can protect and enhance the income base on which our continuing growth depends.

### Eurocheque reminder to Overseas Members

For all those overseas BIGGA members who have previously or are thinking of paying for their membership by Eurocheque, unfortunately, the UK banks are no longer accepting these as valid forms of payment. Included within your renewal form should be information on other ways to pay including BIGGA's banking details.

If you are in any doubt please send an email to either tracey@bigga.co.uk or susannah@bigga.co.uk, for further information.

### April'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 April's winner, Tony Gerrard of Halifax GC.

## BIGGA welcomes ...

#### Scottish Region

Derek Adams, East  
 James A Aitken, Central  
 Andrew M Brake, East  
 Gary A Bryden, Ayrshire  
 Daniel M Campbell, East  
 David J Drummond, East  
 Blair Edgley, East  
 David Gibson, West  
 David Hannan, Wests  
 Graeme D Hope, West  
 Steven Laird, West  
 Tony McCourt, West  
 Iain McFarlane, West  
 Gary McKenna, Central  
 Andrew Muir, West  
 Paul C Murray, North  
 Andrew H Ramsay, Central  
 Heenan Scott, Ayrshire  
 Edward Smith, East  
 Alexander Stewart, East  
 Stuart J Thomson, Central  
 Gareth Williams, Ayrshire  
 Jim Wilson, West

#### Northern Region

Neil J Austin, N West  
 Christopher Barnacle, Northern  
 David Bateman, Northern  
 Tom R Bennett, Northern  
 Leigh Dyson, N West  
 Gary Dyson, Northern  
 Martin Eccleston, N West

John Grainger, Northern  
 Simon J Grugan, N West  
 Graham Kellett, N West  
 Carl Matthewman, Sheffield  
 Brain P McCrae, N West  
 Grant T McDougall, N West  
 Liam A McGeough, Cleveland  
 Steven Millar, N West  
 Stuart A Morrison, N East  
 Paul Rendle, N West  
 David B Sayer, Northern  
 Shaun Stokell, Cleveland  
 Michael S Thomas, N West  
 Steve Trowsdale, N East  
 Robert Turner, Northern  
 Kristian Webster, N West  
 Peter J White, N West

#### Midland Region

Timothy Bloodworth, E Midland  
 Michael D Chua, BB&O  
 Liam M Daley, Mid Anglia  
 Richard Dexter, E of England  
 Matthew D Forbes, Mid Anglia  
 Gregory Swan, Mid Anglia  
 Iain J McNab, Mid Anglia  
 Stewart D Pendleton, BB&O  
 Pasquale Ruocco, BB&O  
 Neil Stevens, Mid Anglia  
 Daniel J Waterman, Mid Anglia

#### South East Region

Wayne Batson, Sussex  
 Andrew R Brown, Sussex  
 Douglas Budd, Surrey  
 Stuart A Collins, Kent  
 Adam Flood, London  
 David Freestone, Surrey  
 James R Hickmott, Kent  
 Oliver D McAllister, Surrey  
 Keith A McQuillan, London  
 Robert J Middleton, Surrey  
 Matthew Nutter, Surrey  
 Lee Russell, Surrey  
 Robert Sadler, Surrey  
 Chris Smith, Kent  
 David M Tomlin, Kent

#### SW & S Wales Region

Kevin Arnold, S Coast  
 Andy Balcombe, S Coast  
 Dave Bell, S Coast  
 James Davies, S Coast  
 Andrew J Dunstan, Dev & C'Wall  
 James Hoyer, Dev & C'Wall  
 James Kennedy, S Coast  
 James Kennedy, S Coast  
 James Lang, S Coast  
 Lawrence W Osborne, S West  
 Richard D Parsons, S Coast  
 Thomas Prosser, S Coast  
 David Ross, S Coast  
 Matthew Stewart, Dev & C'Wall  
 Mark Woolley, S Wales

#### Northern Ireland

Michael Feeney  
 Edmund A J Morrison  
 Gordon E Nimmo

#### International Members

Sean D Baxter, Austria  
 Mark A Mascolo, Norway  
 Peter Standen, Spain  
 Bo Goransson, Sweden  
 Leif Mattsson, Sweden  
 Fredrik Seeger, Sweden  
 Tapio Tuoma, Sweden  
 Len Curtin, USA  
 Kenneth B Ingram, USA  
 Stephen Matuza, USA  
 John O Keefe, USA

#### Corporate Members

Jock Eddington, Central  
 Michael Eddington, Central  
 Steve Isaac, North  
 Neil MacDonald, Central  
 Willie Whitfield, Central  
 Richard Windows, West  
 Henry Bechelet, Northern  
 Emma Beggs, N West  
 Alistair Beggs, N West  
 Daniel Binns, N West  
 Stuart Ormondroyd, Northern  
 Jeff Parris, Northern  
 Robert Taylor, Northern

Tim Lodge, E Anglia  
 Steve Gingell, S Coast  
 Neil Squires, S Coast  
 Peter Winter, Dev & C'Wall  
 Ian McClements, Rep Ireland

#### Associate Members

Gary Cooper, N East  
 Peter J Davison, E of England  
 David Robins, Dev & C'Wall  
 Kevin M Kenny, Rep Ireland  
 Eva Meyle, Denmark  
 Santesson Gerber, Sweden

#### Student Members

David P Edmondson, N West  
 Alastair B Gauld, N West  
 Ashley A Williams, N Wales  
 Glen J Brooks, E Midland  
 Wally Sweetman, Sussex  
 Oliver Butler-Henderson, S West  
 Gregory Jackson, Australia

Check out June's edition of  
**Greenkeeper**  
 for all of the new  
 members from:  
 April 2001!

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:** Stephen Smees

**Club:** Southwick Park Naval Recreation Centre, Portsmouth

**Position:** First Assistant

**Age:** 31

**1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?**  
 10 years

**2. What education are you currently undertaking?**  
 NVQ Level 3, Sparsholt College

**3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?**  
 Irrigation

**4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?**  
 Digging Ditches

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

**6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?**  
 Head Greenkeeper, Nick Beadle

**7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?**  
 Better understanding between golfers and greenkeepers

**8. What are your hobbies?**  
 Football and darts

**9. What do you get out of BIGGA?**  
 Good magazine and a chance to meet other greenkeepers from the area

**10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?**  
 Be a Head Greenkeeper of a course somewhere





**Want to see what events are going on in your Section? Find out on the BIGGA website today, but be sure to keep popping back, there could be even more the time you visit!**

## Information updates: Blink and you'll miss 'em!

Towards the end of April, we received a call at BIGGA HOUSE from Allison Sloan, Section Secretary for Northern Ireland. He was organising a Section event, and wondered if it would be possible for us to help him publicise it.

Within minutes of receiving his call,

the BIGGA website was being updated with the relevant information, and within the hour, the new page had populated every major server, worldwide.

That's just a small demonstration of the speed of the internet, and the power of the BIGGA website. Absolutely packed to the brim with news, events, features and information, the BIGGA site is so much more than just a collection of web pages and digital pictures.

It's a powerful information tool which can be accessed by every member and visitor alike, and any of the content contained within it can be searched using the online search engine, contained at the bottom of every page.

Indeed, scrolling through the online events page, with so many events taking place, both socially and educationally, it's a wonder where you manage to find all that time!

The site statistics continue to amaze us here at BIGGA HQ. Since the launch of the

new site, (nine months ago, in July last year), we have welcomed over 50,000 visitors to the site, and each month, the number of visitors continue to grow.

As more and more people get online, start surfing and join up to the digital generation, they find the possibilities of distributing information and sharing knowledge become a reality.

As a member, by logging on to the BIGGA site, you can have instant access to a whole host of education and training information. If you have a query regarding your membership, you can access the FAQ area (Frequently Asked Questions), or even send us an email.

If you just can't bear to wait for your copy of Greenkeeper International, simply log on to the website, and check out the previews, before the magazine hits your doorstep!

The BIGGA site is yet another tool to help you get the very latest information about your Association, your membership, regional and section events and the turfcare industry news. So why wait? Get online, and start surfing today!

### 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**  
admin@bigga.co.uk

**Design Services**  
david@bigga.co.uk

**Website**  
webmaster@bigga.co.uk

**General enquiries**  
reception@bigga.co.uk

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

**NEW FOR 2001/2**

The 2001/2 BIGGA Golf Directory

# Order ONLINE

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

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# COURSE

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FOOT & MOUTH DISEASE



# CLOSED



The economic cost reaches far beyond the slaughter of Britain's livestock.

Golf, as a recreational business and tourist attraction, has suffered a major blow.

This countrywide investigation by John Lelean uncovers how the industry is coping...

Two years after serving King and Country and for the first time legally entitled to vote I was given what I thought at the time was some pretty sound advice.

"Listen to what they all have to say, take your pick and no matter which party you vote for it won't make a scrap of difference. Politicians don't run the country - it's the Civil Service."

They may have done so reasonably efficiently in the early 1950s, but having researched this report on the affects of 'foot and mouth' on the game of golf, I have come to the conclusion that the State machine has grown into such a gargantuan bureaucratic autocracy, the country is no longer run, it is being strangled!

Without hopefully being too political, it would appear that the Prime Minister did eventually recognise the problem, which is why he moved the centre of operations away from Whitehall into Downing Street and gave the Army a significant role as the only organisation capable of cutting through the 'red-tape'.

The spread of the virus infection caught most in the know by surprise, not least the civil servants at the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food. Though it was their policies involving the closure of local abattoirs and the encouragement of nationwide livestock dealing that transmitted the disease from Northumberland to Essex, Cumbria and Devon overnight.

There are many tales to tell, some golf related others worth an airing in print, all point to one of the most serious economic crises since the middle-eastern sheikhs shocked the world by jacking up the oil prices in the 1970s.

One lady in the office of a golf club secretary in Devon was almost in

tears as she related the affects of the disease in her village. Every aspect of business and the social life of the community had come to a stop. The shops and pubs were empty, darts matches cancelled, all the guesthouses and hotels reported cancellations, even the Women's Institute meetings were postponed indefinitely.

"It is just like a ghost-town, people have been laid off, there is no money to spend and no end in sight".

Devon has been hit very hard, with Westward Ho, Torrington and Yelverton forced to close before the end of February. Not because there has been an outbreak of foot and mouth on their land or near it, purely because both are on common land with footpaths crossing the course.

Head Greenkeeper Mark Evans at Royal North Devon has 120 sheep on his course that the local graziers refuse to move. They could if they applied for a licence, but by mid-April refused to act. This has led to the Torridge District Council who own the land banning access.

Mark, who normally operates with five staff, has been forced to lay-off two and cut the working hours of those still employed. To add insult to injury a council official has ordered that no maintenance work can take place, apart from cutting the greens once every ten days. Even the grass cuttings cannot be removed, they have to be deposited in a designated storage area.

"It is very frustrating, added Mark. "If we could only carry out our normal daily work schedules, the course would be in first class condition when play is resumed. We have painted just about everything that doesn't move. There is disinfectant in the club car park and we all go through the procedures on entering the course and leaving it."



COURSE  
CLOSED

At Torrington, a 9-hole course with 400 members, Tony Gouch is also on common land, but in contrast to Royal North Devon there are no sheep or cattle on the course, but that has not influenced the decision of the 16 strong committee of Torrington Conservators. They banned golf and closed the whole of the 400 acres of Torrington Common.

Tony has also had to lay-off his three part-time staff and is naturally worried about his own job.

"If there is no income coming into the club, how long can the staff expect to be paid a salary?"

"The inconsistency in the ground rules made by official bodies is hard to understand," added Tony.

"Our members, deprived of play at their own club, are going elsewhere in Devon. A party went to Oakhampton, which is much nearer the heart of the epidemic."

At Oakhampton the Club Secretary, Clive Yeo, said that MAFF were quite happy with their precautions. All cars go through a vehicle dip and the golfers disinfect shoes and trolleys before teeing off at the 1st and again after playing the 18th. At only one place does the course abut farmland and no-one can retrieve a ball from the field or the hedge.

They have also offered a temporary membership facility to the members of Tavistock and Yelverton who are both closed.

It is these two clubs in the Dartmoor National Park who have suffered most. Within three days of the first reported case in Devon, the park closed and that also included the golf courses, where sheep and ponies graze freely.

Shaun Getson, Head Greenkeeper at Tavistock, is permitted to carry out essential maintenance, cutting the greens and maintaining the three new holes recently constructed. He runs the course with only two assistants, but the club have said there is no question at present of laying anyone off. They are fortunate to have a strong social membership to keep the club staff in business, but the only golf being played is on an enclosed putting and chipping green.

At Yelverton, seven miles south of Tavistock, Steve Evans said the Dartmoor National Park Authority say it could be August or September before the course can reopen. Again only essential maintenance is being permitted by MAFF, cutting greens and repairing the normal damage caused by the grazing animals, which in effect amounts to about two hours a day.

He has four staff who have all been told their jobs are safe for the time being. However, the loyalty of the golfers will come into question this month, as the subscription renewal is due in May, putting considerable financial pressure on the club if a substantial number decide not to renew their membership.

As a holiday course, loss of casual green fee income, plus a down turn in the bar profit could add up to over £5,000 a month during the spring and summer.

Steve is following the MAFF guidelines strictly to the book, washing down all machinery every day and then spraying disinfectant on the equipment and themselves.

What he cannot understand is why MAFF have not taken any steps to prevent the sheep and ponies from roaming at will.

"I suppose there is a reason, but wherever you go on the roads around here, there are sheep. There is nothing to stop them wandering up to Princetown where there is already a reported outbreak."

Wrangaton, where nine holes are on moorland and nine on parkland, have been able to open half the course, but because the club car park abuts the moorland, members are now changing their shoes in a temporary park

almost two miles from the clubhouse and not using the bar and catering.

"Subscriptions became due on April 1," said Head Greenkeeper, Gerald Ayliffe, "and by the middle of the month barely half had renewed their membership. With the loss of bar revenue and green fees this has made income very tight."

"The club were considering putting the green staff on a four day week, but one member left to join another club and so far we are all working full-time."

On the 9 moorland holes, there are 300 sheep and MAFF have restricted maintenance to essential work only.

There is an entirely different situation at the Manor House Hotel course at Mortonhamstead. The proprietary club is fully operational, although it is within the Dartmoor National Park it is totally enclosed and on private land. The club have introduced a disinfectant system, but not because of MAFF instructions.

A former Devon farmer, Martin Petherick who owns the Waterbridge Golf Club at Crediton has been able to keep his course open and continues to welcome visiting golfers, though there is a rigid infection prevention procedure. He believes MAFF were far too slow to react after the scale of the outbreak became obvious in the first two weeks.

As someone who has a working knowledge of the disease, Martin is convinced the way it spreads is not fully understood. A farmer friend, two miles from his course and ten miles from the nearest outbreak took every possible precaution, but his livestock became infected. His flock of sheep had not left the land and the last animal he bought in was a ram, back in June last year.

In Cumbria, the centre of the highest concentration of the disease, a few courses are closed, but there are a number under pressure to shut up shop. Appleby, a 9-hole moorland course on common land bordering north Yorkshire was forced to close from the outset although there were no sheep grazing. When Head Greenkeeper, Steven Campbell, was contacted on his mobile as he was cutting the 17th green, he said nego-

## Foot-and-mouth could cost UK £7.6 billion

The livestock epidemic is set to cost the tourist industry £5 billion in overseas and domestic earnings and £1bn in lost fares to British carriers – estimates of the cost to British agriculture range up to £1.6bn. Tourism employs 1.85m people and agriculture employs 440,000 – a total of 6.3% of the workforce

Overseas visitors' spending (1999)  
Total: £12.5bn



© GRAPHIC NEWS

Sources: BHA, BTA, MAFF

FMD  
Can you believe this?

A Cumbrian farmer suspected foot and mouth disease when he started early morning milking and reported it to MAFF within two hours. A vet arrived next day and confirmed an outbreak. Two days later incineration material arrived, followed by seven slaughtermen the following day, accompanied by a health and safety official who stated that the cull couldn't begin because there were no toilet facilities for the workers. Portable loos arrived at 6pm, too late for the cull to begin. The infected herd was eventually culled five days after the infection was first reported.

A 21-year-old woman from Dumfries has been charged with an assault on a police officer after she came home and found him standing over the dead body of her pet goat, slaughtered by order of MAFF officials because her family property bordered an infected farm.

Residents in a West Yorkshire town had five weeks accumulation of rubbish uncollected because they live on an unmade up road classed by the local authorities as a bridle way. The fact that it only links two main roads and the

surrounding farmland was fully built on over 40 years ago has made no difference to the official who slapped a prohibition notice at both ends.

Golfers throughout the country are under attack from ramblers and dog walkers who are incensed that they are banned from the public rights of way while the golfers continue playing. They cannot accept there is a difference between using footpaths on golf courses – many with continuations to farmland, compared to the golfers walking the same





Above: Tavistock GC greenstaff have to wear protective clothing. Even then, they can only carry out essential maintenance work.

tations were taking place to re-open, but that very morning adjacent farmers had opened their gates and let on two separate flocks and allowed them to intermingle.

His reaction was quite predictable. One can only wonder what advice MAFF gave or if they had been consulted.

At Penrith to the north, the course is open for the simple reason the danger of infection has ceased. All the livestock for miles around has been killed, either because they were infected or as part of the culling policy to stop the spread southwards.

Silloth-on-Solway, one of Britain's finest links, is still in play. John Hill, the club Secretary said the Committee were reviewing the situation daily, but only a small part of the course backed on to farmland where there was an outbreak. Access to the course was through the town, with the sea as the major boundary, so there was nothing to be gained by closure.

The majority of the members at Silloth are in the farming community and for them it must be very distressing to see their quality herds transformed overnight to rotting carcasses with no foreseeable end to the problem. They are being compensated, but it is working capital that is going into the bank without the means of re-investing back on the land.

With the main area of infection so far confined to the west side of the country from the Borders to Devon,

a confusing situation has arisen in Wales where the Welsh Golf Union web-site reports nine courses closed, mainly in north Wales, though the Vale of Glamorgan Council closed Southernness for five weeks. It reopened in time to stage the prestigious Duncan Putter with an international field after MAFF carried out a 'risk assessment', but said no golfers from infected areas could take part.

Course Manager, Garry Scott, has 500 free roaming sheep on the course and has instigated a fully operational washing down procedure for all machinery, plus the usual disinfected mats and beds of straw.

At Pennard, the Swansea Council closed the course and footpaths for three weeks because there were ponies on the fairways. With the nearest infection over 50 miles away, it was allowed to reopen on March 24 despite farmers putting on sheep and cattle, said club Secretary, Morley Howell, though they are hoping to have them removed.

No doubt as part of the pressure to counter the fear that Britain is in quarantine, the footpath ban at Pennard was lifted on April 10.

From this review of the country, Cumbria has lost the most livestock, Devon suffering the greatest financial setback as far as tourism and golf is concerned. The South West Region also lost its annual Westurf Show as a direct result of the outbreak.

distance on privately owned property. One Daily Telegraph reader wrote that he and other local residents had considered making a citizen's arrest, until they were advised, that, to get to the golfers would mean committing an offence by using the footpath.

**We'd like to hear from any BIGGA member with similar stories to tell, perhaps in different parts of the country.**

**You can contact us by any of the following methods:**

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**MASSEY FERGUSON**



The introduction of the utility vehicle as an alternative method of transporting materials, tools, people and powered equipment is investigated by Roland Taylor...

# A2B? ATV



Above: Textron's E-Z-GO Workhorse has the ability to transport people, tools and equipment with relative ease around the course

Transporting materials, tools, people and powered equipment can absorb a lot of time during the day plus in some cases tying up the towing vehicle when it could be used for other jobs. As mowing equipment has increasingly become self-powered the

need for the conventional tractor has, and is, gradually diminishing. This has led to the introduction of the utility vehicle as an alternative method of transportation. These have many similar features to ATVs, which are also used on some courses.

In its most rudimentary form the utility vehicle is a carrying platform with its own power source and today this can be petrol, diesel, electric or LPG. From this basic form each manufacturer has added their range of refinements.



# A2B? ATV



Above: The Mule 2510 combines a diesel powerplant with spacious practicality

Below: The large loading boot area of Textron's E-Z-GO Workhorse



When considering one of these as a prime mover of materials the first item on the buying checklist should be - carrying capacity. Determine your specific requirements throughout the year and add a percentage for the unforeseen. This will provide a realistic figure from which to start looking at the choices available. There seems very little point in investing in a piece of equipment with a large carrying capacity that is not going to be fully utilised. Another point to take into account at this stage is the method of unloading. Does it have a tipping facility and is this manually or hydraulically operated?

Once the weight range has been established it is time to consider the ground pressure specifications of each of the machines that can take the payload you require. As a unit will very likely be travelling over some sensitive grassed areas, the lesser the ground pressure when loaded the better it will be for the turf.

Good traction without damage to the turf is also another factor to be looked at. Some terrain may be uneven or steep so the unit's stability and balance will be important. These vehicles are designed to travel over all types of ground conditions but some do it better than others and with less chance of damage to the surface. There are two and four wheel versions available and a differential lock for more traction is offered on some models. Which to choose will depend on the type of work and the areas on which the vehicle is going to be used.

Manoeuvrability and turning circles are also important aspects to consider. Whilst most units have a four-wheel configuration there are some on the market with three - these may be the answer if there are a lot of confined areas involved. Power steering is a must on any of these units, if only to make life easier for the operator.

Given the undulating surfaces these





Above: Along with fairways, Textron's E-Z-GO Workhorse also handles loose terrain

types of vehicles often have to travel over user comfort is a point worth considering. Check out the following on the units you are considering; type of suspension, user friendly and safety features, plus the availability of optional cab and ROPS. Three-point linkage is either standard or an extra on many of the utility vehicles now on the UK market. The addition of this system or another towing facility enables a host of turf care attachments

to be used, so finding out the towing capacity is another item for the buying list.

Some manufacturers offer a choice of flatbeds and these are available as full size, 2/3 or 1/3 beds. A range of sides can also be added.

There are a number of sprayers and spreaders now designed specifically for use on a utility vehicle's flatbed. These add-ons can make this type of vehicle a more cost-effective proposition.

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# A2B? ATV

## All Terrain Vehicles

While many of these fall into the same category as utility vehicles there are a number of models that are in a class of their own. The question has to be asked - do these have a place in the golf course machinery shed? The answer has to be that they are not everyone's cup of tea, but for some an ATV is the solution to a particular problem. One suspects this type of vehicle is more at home on a links or moorland courses although having said that any course with a great deal of woodland could also benefit. A redeeming feature of ATVs is their size and ability to go virtually anywhere and because of this they can save time and money when it comes to onsite work, such as greens, tees and bunker maintenance. Their low ground pressure means that materials and equipment can be transported at times when, because of waterlogged or soft ground conditions, it would be unwise to use larger equipment.

Models are now available with selectable two and four-wheel drive, plus automatic transmission. Ground clearance is important on these types

of ATVs so pay particular attention to the suspension systems being offered and the protection the engine and transmission units have from damage.

A trailer can be towed and some units have a built on carrying platform. Sprayers are a popular and useful addition and a number of manufacturers now have units in their ranges for these machines.

Apart from being a workhorse an ATV is also useful in an emergency and with most courses stretching over a considerable acreage, they can be a very fast way of travelling to the furthestmost points.

There is still the perceived idea that these machines are more for sport than working units but as many users have discovered this is a complete myth.

It is clearly evident by the number of new utility vehicles and ATVs coming onto the market that manufacturers have recognised there is a need to offer alternative methods of transporting materials, equipment and people in the amenity sector. As a result there are now plenty of models to choose from.

To ensure you get the right one for your requirements it is worth spending time formulating just what you actually want from a utility vehicle or ATV, the ground conditions it is likely to be used on - then test driving some before deciding. The right one for your requirements can save a lot of time and money.



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Left and above: Kawasaki's latest flagship model, the KVF650-A packs features not out of place in most modern saloon cars



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## Revised arrangements for 2002 breakdown

Following representations from a number of companies, BIGGA, in conjunction with the BTME Steering Committee, has announced revised breakdown arrangements at BTME 2002 next January. Breakdown by companies will now be permitted from 5.00pm on Thursday 24th January, the final day of the show. BIGGA Executive Director, Neil Thomas, commented 'We listened to the views of certain companies who were not happy with the original plan to breakdown on the Friday. We were conscious of the extra costs that would be incurred with breakdown personnel having to stay an extra night in Harrogate. It has therefore been decided to permit breakdown on the Thursday evening. However, companies are requested to give due consideration as to whether they do in fact breakdown on the Thursday evening or wait until the Friday. It may well be that the larger machinery companies, for example, determine that Friday will be a more suitable day given the considerable early evening traffic problems experienced in Harrogate and the possibility of adverse weather conditions'.

## Secret's out on BTME Steering Committee...

There was general amusement at BIGGA HOUSE recently over allegations in a rival publication that the names of members of the BTME Steering Committee appeared to be a state secret. Indeed readers of the article in question will realise that the editor concerned was indeed 'barking up the wrong tree'. The BTME Steering Committee has operated very successfully over the past decade and some original members still attend the regular meetings held in Spring and Autumn at BIGGA HOUSE. The Association has benefited considerably in taking on board suggestions emanating from the Committee for the general benefit and enhancement of the BTME. The strength of the BTME today owes much to the industry's support and input through the Steering Committee and long may this continue. Recently membership of the Steering Committee was revised and we are now able to exclusively announce to readers of 'Greenkeeper International' the names and their companies of current Steering Committee members. Please contact them with any suggestions or ideas for the future of the BTME as its success remains very much dependent on the continuing strength of the relationship between BIGGA and the industry as a whole.

### CURRENT BTME STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Peter Bell - Textron Turf Care  
John Hall - Aventis  
Steve Hall - Rigby Taylor Ltd  
Jonathan Harmer - Farnura  
Roger Hargreaves - Sisis Equipment Ltd  
Simon Harrison - Advanta  
David Jenkins - Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd  
Kim Macfie - Hayter Ltd  
Peter Mansfield - Toro Company/Lely UK  
Richard Manby - Joe Manby Ltd  
Sam McLean - Bernhard & Co  
Richard Minton - Scotts UK Professional  
Clive Pearson - Gem Professional  
Lorna Tyson - Myerscough College  
Joe Weston - Amazone Ground Care

The dust may not yet have settled from BTME2001, but here at BIGGA, planning is well under way for next year's event. In a brand new BTME series, Neil Thomas gives a progress report on preparations for BTME2002.

# The clock's ticking...

## BTME2002: Greenkeepers Week set to continue

BIGGA's annual Turf Management Exhibition has been held at the Harrogate International Centre since 1989. The fourteenth such exhibition to be held in January 2002 will see a major change with the traditional Wednesday, Thursday, Friday morning show being replaced with a three day show opening from Tuesday through Thursday. This change of opening days for the BTME follows detailed discussions within the Working Party set up by the BTME Steering Committee and subsequent consideration of its recommendations by both the Steering Committee and the BIGGA Board of Management. There were two prime reasons for the change. First and positively, it is considered that with the success and growth of the BTME, the show can now sustain three days of trade activity and visitor traffic. Secondly, Friday morning has not been viewed as a success by the trade and Friday breakdown has remained unpopular with long journeys having to be made late in the day. So the change has been made and the Association, together with the exhibiting companies, will employ their best endeavours to ensure the success of the new format.

'This brings us on to the concept of the 'Greenkeepers Week'. Over the years, greenkeepers have come to regard the week of the BTME as the major event in BIGGA's calendar. They come to Harrogate through various packages and by various means. Some come for six days whilst others come in smaller combinations of days right down to the day visitor. BTME kickstarts the year for both trade and greenkeepers. BIGGA is very anxious to protect and strengthen the concept of the 'Greenkeepers Week' and as such will make only minor modifications to the week for BTME 2002 bearing in mind that the new show format will be subject to review after next year's event. The National Education Conference will continue



on the Monday and Tuesday along with the workshops programme although in both instances there will be enhanced options together with the ability to visit the exhibition at the conclusion of the educational programme on the Tuesday. The seminar programme will operate through Wednesday and Thursday while there will be an attractive educational programme on the Friday morning before greenkeepers depart for home. Social highlights will include the Conference Dinner on the Monday evening and the BTME banquet on the Thursday evening. The BIGGA AGM will be held at its normal time on the Wednesday evening. So greenkeepers' plans for the 'week' can continue as before but with more time available on the show floor and this will surely be appreciated with the growth of BTME.

The growth curve was significant at this year's BTME. We need to continue to build upon it and the demand for space at BTME 2002 is indeed encouraging. BTME needs to meet the expectations and aspirations of the greenkeeping profession, golf course



personnel in general and the exhibiting companies. There is a groundswell of support from all concerned to take the BTME forward and build on its success but this will only be achieved by a real 'partnership' of greenkeepers and trade. To this end each needs to understand and appreciate the other's perspectives with regard to the BTME and to be mutually supportive. Many forget that BIGGA does not employ an exhibition company to organise and run the BTME. It is all done in-house and it is therefore our key role to pull the whole operation together whilst creating an ambience which will allow the show to prosper and grow for all concerned.

TUE  
22  
JAN02

WED  
23  
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24  
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For the very latest BTME2002 news and event information visit: [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

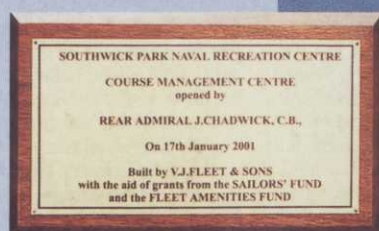


**Scott MacCallum travelled to Portsmouth to see at first hand Southwick Park Naval Recreational Base's excellent new Course Management Centre**

# Ship shape at Southwick

Right: Rear Admiral J. Chadwick C.B. chats with Southwick Park's Head Greenkeeper Nick Beadle (centre) at the grand opening

Below: A commemorative plaque marks the auspicious occasion



It was a marvellous occasion. The sort of thing the Royal Navy does so well. Pomp, ceremony, precision timing and a decorated dignitary to say a few well chosen words and seal the moment with a well propelled bottle of champagne or, as on this occasion, a neatly snipped ribbon.

But this wasn't the launch of a new frigate, nor was it the passing out parade for the season's new officer cadets, but the opening of the brand new Course Management Centre at Southwick Park Naval Recreation Base, alongside HMS Dryad, near Portsmouth - the Navy's own municipi-

pal golf club. The opening was carried out by Rear Admiral J. Chadwick C.B. watched by several other high ranking Royal Navy Officers.

They also marked the end of an era during which the greenkeeping team had operated from three less than satisfactory buildings spread out over the golf course, a situation which did much to test the team's survival instincts and little to extend the life of machinery.

The new facility includes all that could have been asked from a building and was achieved at a cost which didn't make the Navy baulk.

The morale boost provided by the new accommodation was apparent as

soon as I arrived. Surprised to see everything closed up I entered by the side door to find Head Greenkeeper Nick Beadle delivering a fine off break which assistant Simon Berry could only edge onto the back door of the main facility which, in the rules of the game, meant he was out caught behind.

I hasten to add that, in the interests of safety and damage limitation, a soft ball was in use.

"We like to play a bit of cricket at lunchtime or football, as we've got a goal down on the pitch and putt course," explained Nick, who was blowing a bit after his bowling stint.



Right: The old maintenance facilities were badly in need of renovation, which resulted in a brand new complex (far right)

Below: A purpose built wet room provides the team with facilities to change and dry work gear in comfort



#### Equipment Inventory

##### Tractor Units

Hayter LT324  
2 John Deere 2653As  
Toro 216-D  
John Deere 455  
Huxley Greenstar  
Huxley Huxtruck  
LF3800  
Ford 1910  
Ford 1220  
2 Kawasaki Mules

##### Attachments

Bobcat Shredder/Chipper  
Charterhouse Rapid core  
Huxley Topdresser  
Hardi Sprayer  
Allman Sprayer  
Wessex Brickbox  
Wessex Trailer  
Wessex Rotovator  
Two Tonne Trailer  
Lewis Landlugger 33  
John Deere Brush  
John Deere Blade  
LF3800  
Sisis Fairway Slitter  
Huxley Scarifier  
Rotary Deck  
Huxley Back Box

##### Hand Machinery

4 Supercertes  
GS55  
2 Stihl Blowers  
Stihl Chainsaw  
Husqvarma Chainsaw  
Robin Dagger  
Allen Strimmer  
Stihl Stimmer  
Allen Flymo  
Push Leafblower  
Jetstar Blower  
Hedge Cutter

##### Suppliers

Tacit  
Sheerwater- Headland  
Avoncrop  
Grass Roots  
Rigby Taylor  
Winchester Gdn Mach  
TH White  
DJ Scott

"We have a rule that there is no smoking and we must change our footwear in the drying room and at the moment everyone is sticking to it," he explained as we sat in his well appointed, and remarkably tidy, office.

The genuine enthusiasm and rapport within the team has been enhanced by the new living and working environment which is a far cry from what was in place before.

"We had three separate sites - the Top Shed, the Tea Shed and the Boat House. The Top Shed was made of tin and was old, rusty and small. We used to keep the greens mower, two John Deeres; a Toro, a Hayter a Hux Truck and two mules in there so we had seven or eight pieces of equipment stored in there. But it only had one door so we had to work out what we were going to do the next day then rearrange the machinery so the appropriate pieces were at the front. We also had the chemical safe up there," said Nick.

The Tea Shed, named after the favourite beverage of the occupants, looked like an old stone bothy and boasted stone floors and ivy growing through the roof.

"We kept the Certes in there as well as racks of hand tools while it was also our Mess Room. It was very cold in the winter and heaven knows how many heaters we got through."

The Boat House was exactly what the name suggests as it is located on the edge of the attractive lake which runs through the middle of the course.

Obviously there is no real need for a boat house to be particularly water tight and, in this

case while extremely attractive with the sun streaming through it, protection from the elements was not its strong suit.

"This was where we kept the big stuff," explained Nick.

As well as the obvious complications, being split over three sites was not ideal from a logistical point of view.

"I cut fairways and it was a case of setting everyone up then going all the way down to the boat house to collect the equipment then going back up to cut the 1st and 3rd before golfers got out so it was about 20 minutes before I'd get any work done."

The catalyst for change came when the Navy's Establishment Safety Advisor, together with the Dryad's First Lieutenant in charge of all environmental and health and safety issues surrounding the base, visited to carry out an independent health and safety assessment on the team's working conditions.

#### What they saw caused them to take action.

"They said that it wasn't good. All our wet gear was always stored in the Tea Shed which was against health and safety regulations and we had no facilities for drying so we'd come in absolutely soaked and have other clothes dripping down on us and the stone floor."

Having looked at the situation and agreed that something would have to be done about it the Navy revealed that funds were available and that the club should make a bid for the money.

"We explained what we wanted to an architect who did the work and came up with a costing for the project.

Initially, the Navy rejected the plans because the plans didn't fit into the proposed budget so we did more work but were rejected again and it was only on the third attempt that we got approval - third time lucky," said Nick, who added that it took two and a half

years to finally secure the funding.

The key to the success was approaching the civilian builders, VJ Fleet and Sons who had built several of the stone built bridges on the course and who had been contracted to undertake the work, and ask what they could do for the money available - £144,000 from the Navy and £50,000 raised by the club itself, as in addition to being Southwick Park Naval Recreation Centre it is also Southwick Park Golf Club with civilian members.

"We already knew what we wanted - a mess room, drying room, office, workshop, storeroom and the main storage space and this is what we came up with," said Nick, adding that he'd be more than happy to talk with other greenkeepers who were looking at new facilities.

Prior to going ahead they did visit other clubs with new facilities and once they were happy with the final plans ground work began last June with the team moving in on November 1.

"We carried out the move ourselves and with the course being closed for a couple of months due to the flooding we were able to concentrate on making it happen. We had a skip down at the Boat House and were ruthless



Head Greenkeeper Nick Beadle (right) and Simon Berry inspect the course





about throwing things out - nuts and bolts, old tractor weights and wheels all went," he recalled.

The course itself is exceptionally busy with 40-50,000 rounds a year on a lay-out which only stretches to 100 acres.

"Not so long ago it used to be a mind boggling 70,000 rounds a year so you can imagine how busy it was then. When a ship comes into port we often get a party coming up for a game, although many of those who play are not regular golfers," said Nick, who arrived at the course in April '96.

Prior to his arrival a policy of replacing the existing push-up greens with sand based had been in place but Nick decided to spend more time on the existing greens instead.

"We had no aeration equipment when I arrived so we got hold of some and started scarifying and rapid coring, putting an aeration programme in place. The majority of the course is on clay which doesn't help and when they attempted to stop the flooding in Fareham they backed the water up to us, so we caught the brunt of it," explained Nick, whose contract states that he must attend BIGGA Golf Days and lectures.

One interesting feature of the course

is the fine bridge which spans the lake at one of its narrowest points - it was previously the disabled ramp at HMS Victory which is permanently berthed at Portsmouth.

The course does see its fair share of celebrities with the Royal Navy's most famous golfer, the Duke of York, playing a few rounds while he was stationed at HMS Dryad for a time.

HMS Dryad has a unique place in the country's history having been where Churchill, Eisenhower and Montgomery planned the D Day Landings and the three men used to adjourn to the village pub for a light refreshment after a long day's work.

"We've also had the Jim Davidson British Forces Foundation Day here with a whole lot of stars," said Nick, who, together with the team, has recently built some excellent new tees on the course.

The Course Management Centre is a fine example of what modern day maintenance facilities should be and Southwick Park Naval Recreation Centre has shown what can be done with a sensible budget. And those responsible have every right to look on with the same pride as the Royal Navy would of a newly commissioned aircraft carrier.



Above: The beautiful lake at Southwick Park narrows to allow access across, via the old disabled ramp from HMS Victory (right)





**Jeremy Pilcher, Course Manager at Copt Heath Golf Club in Solihull, describes the background and work that went into producing their superb new greenkeeping facility...**

# Top of the Copts



Copt Heath Golf Club was formed in 1907, with the great Harry Vardon invited to contribute towards the laying out of the 18-hole course. In 1912 Harry Colt, the prominent golf course architect, made an inspection of the course and advised on what could be done to develop the existing layout. Over the next 20 years he would return to Copt Heath on several occasions to upgrade and improve on the layout.

Following the war, during which land was used for farming purposes, the firm of F G Hawtree and Son was given the job of reconstructing the course.

In 1934 an opportunity to purchase Longdon Hall and its farm with 91 acres arose, this land adjoined the golf course and a decision was made to pro-

ceed with the purchase. Sometime in the mid 60s a milking parlour that had served the farm was converted to be used for greenkeeping use.

Over the next 35 years or so this building remained little changed, and during that time housed the greenkeepers and their machinery in increasing discomfort.

During 1998 two things happened, one was the club decided that new greenkeeping facilities were overdue and the second was a new Course Manager was appointed.

The latter half of 1998 an architect was appointed to design with the help and input of the greenstaff a completely new greenkeeping building that would meet our requirements for many years to come.

The siting of new buildings can often be a difficult decision, in our case we were already well situated with our present building as it sits almost in the middle of the course.

As things turned out our new building was actually erected just two metres from the end of the existing building.

The initial drawings produced by the architect were based upon what we thought would be the most practical use of space and movement in and out of the building.

This resulted in a building approximately 30m x 30m in total with a block

constructed of brick attached to one end which would house such things as an office, mess room and shower/drying room.

The main building would be constructed of brick and cladding over a steel frame. From our point of view this would be a very practical building and would easily house our machinery plus allow some expansion room for additional machinery. It would allow space for a fully equipped workshop and stores room.

Looking back we may have been a bit naive to think that the local planning office would allow such a building on what is greenbelt land and within the vicinity of Longdon Hall which by this time had acquired a Grade 2 listing.

However, the plan was submitted in December 1998, the planning office advised the architect that if the plans were to come before the planning meeting in January they would be turned down.

The club withdrew this application thereby saving the application fee which exceeded £2,000. Following extensive talks between the architect the club and planning officials guidelines were drawn up as to what the council would allow in terms of size of the building, the materials and the design of the building.

What planning officers had in mind was very far removed from our original ideas, they wanted to see something that when finished would resemble a group of farm buildings or stables, that in many ways would resemble the nearby barns and out-buildings attached to Longdon Hall. The materials specified were to include such things as a mixture of slate and tiles for the roofing and the bulk of the building to be constructed of brick that would closely match the brick of Longdon Hall.

As all this was going on we were still working out of the old milking parlour and preparing the course for such

Below: The new maintenance facilities were designed to blend sympathetically to the surrounding buildings of Longdon Hall, and were fashioned on old stable blocks





Right: Spacious storage areas mean all the equipment can be housed in a tidy fashion

Below: Building from scratch enables the inclusion of 'wish-list' items like this machinery lift



things as The Peter McEvoy Trophy and holding the Regional Qualifying Round for The Open Championship.

In the summer of 1999 Jim Tomkins, the architect, came back to us with his interpretation of the planners guidelines. The transformation was stunning! We now had before us a design showing a group of buildings around a courtyard, just as you might find on a farm or at a stables. Because of the design, some space had been lost, but after careful consideration we came to the conclusion that the overall design and the much improved prospects of obtaining planning permission made it a worthwhile sacrifice.

At this stage I would like to point out that at no time did the golf club put restrictions on our relationship with the architect, he always approached the greenstaff with any designs and drawing which were then left with us to consider, and if needed we then added our suggestions which would then be incorporated into the design.

After lengthy consideration and consultations with the planning officer the golf club agreed to submit the much revised design and apply for full planning permission.

The planning sub committee met on August 9, 1999, our concerns were misplaced, the design went through without comment, we now had our much prized planning permission. The next stage was to prepare detailed drawings and submit these to the contractors that had been chosen to tender.

In the meantime a builder's estimate was obtained to give a general idea of costs. This appeared to be within our budget.

Structural Engineers appeared on site along with landscape designers things seemed to be going along at a good pace, building work was expected to be started in October of 1999 with a completion around March 2000 in readiness for the new season.

October came and went then the wet weather started, other delays included such things as detail design and approval of drainage both foul and rainwater, the regulations and laws concerning the installation of fuel tanks in the ground.

Eventually tenders were sent out to four contractors including the one who had submitted the builders estimate, they were received back after a period of four weeks and duly examined by the architect. Winter was giving way to Spring and a start in the summer now seemed favourable. Out of the four tenders only one was within the anticipated cost range, strangely the contractor who has submitted the original builder's estimate now submitted the second highest price.

As there was a considerable difference between the lowest tender and the other three some time had to be spent examining the reasons behind this.

Finally in April 2000 the general committee of the golf club took the decision to recommend that the club proceed with the contract and agree with the main contractor a price and possible dates for starting the work.

To ensure that the members of Copt Heath were kept informed of developments we arranged to hold two open evenings in the committee room where, we made available full colour drawings of the buildings and in attendance was members of the committee and myself as well as the architect.

Contracts were signed on May 18, 2000 a start was made on June 19, 2000.

The summer of 2000 will be remembered as a wet and dull summer, although it did not cause many problems to the contractor some unforeseen difficulties did arise early on in construction with unstable ground conditions being encountered during the excavation of the foundations. This involved the importation of around

440 tonnes of stone in one day alone.

Site meetings were held every month so that any problems or queries could be aired, progress was checked at these meetings, which were attended by the chairman of the buildings and developments committee for the golf club, along with the architect and myself, the contractor was represented by his site manager and project director.

Thankfully the golf club readily accepted the need to change various things as the project was developing, for an example it soon became apparent that the three tonne capacity lift due to be installed in the workshop was not going to accept our fairway mower, a Toro 6700 due to the width of the units.

Consequently we upgraded this to four tonnes, giving not only a greater lift capacity, but also the required width to drive the machine onto the lift.

Another change that became apparent was the need to upgrade the heating system in the staff block, originally the specification called for a number of wall mounted electric heaters placed in the office, mess-room/kitchen and drying room.

I had always opposed these, favouring instead a oil fired central heating system, gas was never an option as we are some distance from the nearest gas supply.

The contractor supplied cost comparisons between the two heating systems, obviously the oil fired boiler system was more expensive to install but over a longer term would result in lower fuel bills.

Also it had the advantage of supplying hot water in unlimited quantities.

Security of the site was always going to be a problem, apart from London Hall the site is fairly remote, during the construction phase several attempts to break in to site cabins and storage areas took place, unfortunately this also bought unwanted attention to our existing greenkeeping building.

One incident that could have been far more serious occurred one weekend, two youths obtained the key to a rough terrain fork lift truck. After breaking their way out of the compound, they decided on a quick tour of the golf course via several greens.

After being spotted by a member who then gave chase, they abandoned ship, only to be apprehended by another member whose house overlooks the course.

The club after due consideration decided not to press charges, a decision also taken by the contractor.

These incidents did in no way hamper construction and as the end of October approached the building was nearing completion.

With the arrival of Autumn most of you will remember that signalled the start of the wettest autumn on record, this affected the final stages of construction to the extent that the underground petrol and diesel tanks due to be installed have had to be temporarily postponed.

Also a new access road that has been partially constructed has had to be postponed. As I write this in February, these and the landscaping of the grounds still await completion.

Putting those aside, we have now a superb building which houses all the equipment and staff in very comfortable and secure premises.

The time taken in the planning and development stage along with the input of all the green staff has paid off, we have ended up with a building to be proud of.

Looking back the planning officials actually did us a favour in respect of rejecting the first design, as we now have a building that looks far better than we could ever have imagined, and with the use of materials probably far more in keeping with our surrounds and probably far more durable in the long term.



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Code: NBDJ  
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**Lightweight PVC/Nylon Overtrousers.** Fully taped with elasticated waist and access to pockets. Olive, Navy or Yellow to match NBDJ. S - XXL

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Code: SBDC  
**The Super B-Dri Coverall.** Zip front with storm flap. Elasticated wind cuffs and studded ankles. Olive, Navy or Yellow. S - XXL

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Code: MB

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## Alternative Waterproofs



Code: STJENG

**The Super Traffic Jacket.** A Hi-Viz jacket that is suitable for use on high speed roads and motorways. Conforms to EN471 (Appendix G). Provides the extra safety required when strimming or mowing on roadsides. Saturn Yellow or Hi-Viz Orange. S - XXL

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Code: WCENG

**Hi-Viz Waistcoat to EN471** (appendix G).

Not waterproof.

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Code: DWBS

**The Dickies Waterproof Quilted Boilersuit.** PVC/Nylon with stitched and tape welded seams. Heavy quilt lining. Zip front with Velcro fastening storm flap. 4 large bellows pockets, zipped ankle gussets, detachable hood and inside wallet pocket. Green only. S - XXL

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*Breathable*



REGATTA

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Code: WBC

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## Traditional Workwear



Code: PCBS  
**Poly/Cotton Boilersuit.** Concealed stud front, two breast pockets, two side pockets with through access, rule pocket, one back pocket and elasticated waistband. Navy, Royal, Spruce, Orange, Red and White. 36" - 54"

**£7.60**



Code: PCBSHW  
**Poly/Cotton Boilersuit.** Concealed brass zip front. Two zip breast pockets, two side pockets with through access, rule pocket, two back pockets, hammer loop and elasticated waistband. Navy, Royal, Red, Orange. 36" - 54"

**£8.90**

In Green as ZIP Front Code: DRBS  
**Dickies Redhawk Boilersuit**

**£15.00**



Code: QBS  
**Quilted Poly/Cotton Boilersuit.** Two way front zip, two zip breast pockets, two side pockets with through access, two rear pockets, one rule pocket, two back pockets and reinforced waistband. Navy or Royal. 36" - 52"

**£19.50**



Code: PCTHW  
**Budget Poly/Cotton Trousers.** Zip fly with hook bar and button fastening. Belt loops, two swing hip pockets and two rear pockets with stud flap. Sewn in crease. Navy, Spruce and Royal. 30" - 48"

**£5.85**



Code: PCJHW  
**Budget Poly/Cotton Drivers Jacket.** Zip front, two breast pockets with stud flap (one with pen divide). Double stud fastening cuffs. Elasticated waistband and two lower jettied pockets. Navy, Spruce and Royal. 34" - 52"

**£7.45**

All prices exclude VAT





Code: SSS  
**Short Sleeve Check Shirt.** Cotton rich with one chest pocket and button down collar. Green or Blue. M - XL

**£5.00**



Code: J194M  
**Short Sleeve 100% Cotton Twill Shirt.** Bone buttons, button down collar, left breast pocket. Red, Bottle Green or Navy

**£11.50**

As above but long sleeve  
 Code: J910M

**£12.75**



Code: RT  
**Dickies Reaper Quality Poly/Cotton Trouser.** Nylon zip and button fastening. Wide belt loops, two side pockets. One inset back pocket with button flap. Green or Navy. 30" - 48"

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As above but with full brushed polyester lining  
 Code: WRT

**£20.95**



Code: DWP  
**Dickies Deluxe Workpant.** Poly/Cotton Twill with Scotchgard protection. Permanent press crease. Two large pockets lined with heavy duty cloth. Wide waistband with substantial belt loops. Zip and clasp fastening. Two large back pockets. Green or Navy. 30" - 48"

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Code: DSWJ  
**Dickies Stonewashed Work Jeans.** 100% cotton denim. Five pockets, rivetted at stress points. Strong metal zip fly front. Blue only. 30" - 52"

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## Alternative Workwear



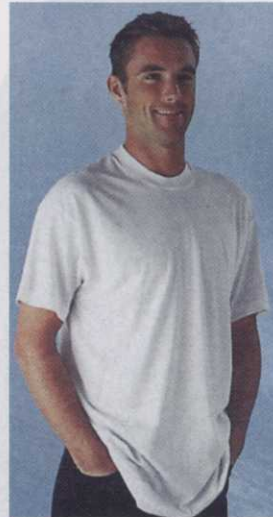
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br. royal	black	yellow	white
br. red	burgundy	bottle	purple

Code: J539M  
**Jerzees 539M Polo Shirt.** 175g Poly/Cotton. Cuffed sleeves and two button placket. S - XXL

**£7.15**



birch	white	purple	bottle	yellow
br. royal	black	br. red	fr. navy	classic red
fr. navy	burgundy	w. emerald	sky	

Code: J762M  
**Jerzees 762M Raglan Sweatshirt.** 260g Poly/Cotton. Twin needle stitch detail. S - XXL

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Code: FLJ

**Super Heavyweight Fleece Jacket.** 360g anti-pill fleece. YKK full front zip, two zip pockets. Shock cord at hem with toggle adjusters. Bottle, Navy and Black. XS - XXL

**£14.95**



Code: QFLJ

**3/4 Length Quilted Fleece Jacket.** 300g anti-pill fleece with quilted nylon lining. YKK two way full zip front. Two zip pockets and one zip inner pocket. Drawcord at waist and shockcord at hem with toggle adjusters. Bottle and Navy. S - XXL

**£24.00**



Code: RFLJ

**Reversible Fleece Jacket.** Pill resistant fleece one side and coated showerproof polyester reverse. Zip front fastening with two zip pockets. Elasticated drawcord waist. Black/Black, Forest/Forest or Navy/Electric. S - XXL

**£25.50**



Code: FLJSZ

**Half Zip Fleece Jacket.** Pill resistant polyester fleece. Two zip pockets, elasticated cuff. Open bottom style with drawcord. Red, Navy, Forest, Smoke or Black. S - XXL

**£14.95**

All prices exclude VAT





Code: ABW

**Action Bodywarmer.** Poly/Cotton quilted bodywarmer with matching poly/cotton lining. Five external pockets with lower handwarmers. One security pocket under flap. One internal pocket with flap. Olive, Navy or Black. S - XXL

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Code: RBW

**Reversible Bodywarmer.** Poly/Cotton bodywarmer with concealed zip front and stud storm flap. One breast pocket with zip. Two lower patch pockets. Elasticated waist. Navy/Green. S - XXL

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Code: LWCT

**Stylish Lightweight Chino Trousers.** 100% cotton. Single pleat front, two slant side pockets and button down hip pocket. Available in Stone or Navy. 30" - 42"

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Code: LWCS

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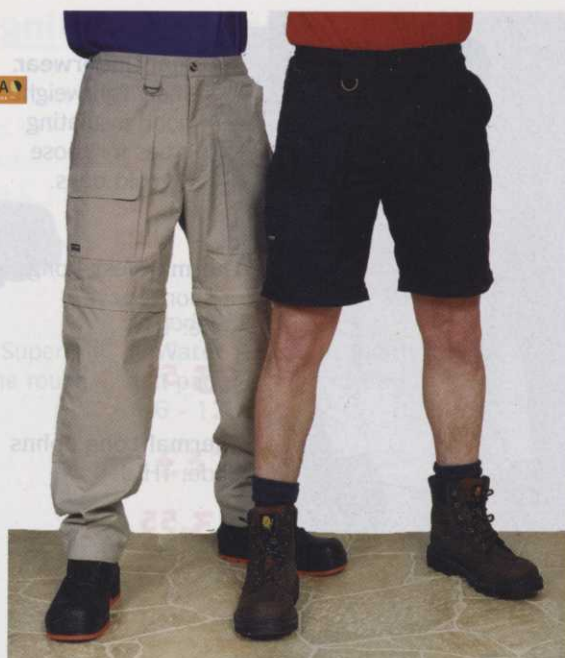


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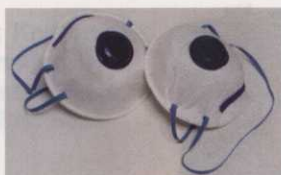
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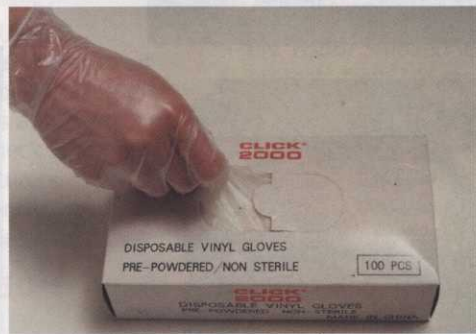
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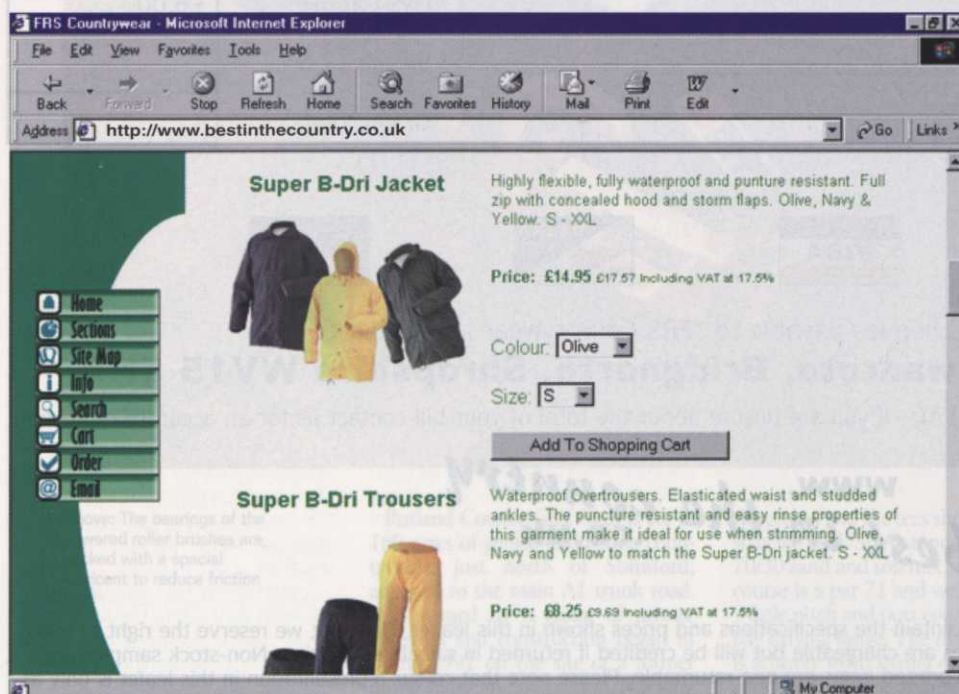
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The electric-powered mower has yet to grab the imagination of the UK and European greenkeeping fraternity. Chris Squires, Head Greenkeeper at Rutland County Golf Club, shares his experiences as he enters the third season using this alternative technology.

# A positive charge



Above: The bearings of the powered roller brushes are packed with a special lubricant to reduce friction

Rutland County Golf Club is set in 169 acres of gently undulating countryside, just north of Stamford, adjacent to the main A1 trunk road. It is owned by a group of private investors and construction began in spring 1991 on the site of a former mixed arable and sheep farm. Not long after that I joined the team to oversee the final construction phase and the subsequent growing-in period.

Cameron Sinclair was retained as the course architect and specified that

the greens and the tees should be constructed to USGA standards using a 70/30 sand and soil mix. The 18-hole course is a par 71 and we also have a 9-hole pitch and putt course and a 20 bay driving range. The main soil type is a heavy loam sitting on limestone, which is very free draining, although there is a small acreage of heavy clay that can cause minor water-logging problems.

We operate a mixed fleet of turf maintenance equipment with no par-

ticular allegiance to any one manufacturer, but select specialist machinery that best suits our needs and, importantly, our budget.

Therefore my greenkeeping facility houses a range of equipment from John Deere, Massey Ferguson, Deutz, Saxon, Kawasaki, Amazone and Textron. We also run a small fleet of E-Z-GO golf buggies, available for hire from the Pro Shop.

For turf maintenance around the complex we use two Ransomes Super



# A positive charge

Certes 61 pedestrian mowers and a GT Classic for the greens, a nine-year old Fairway 350D that's still performing faultlessly, a Ransomes 180 for the tees, and a set of Ransomes trailed gangs with Magna reels for the semi-rough and Sportcutter reels for the driving range and pitch and putt course.

Our final piece of turf maintenance kit, used exclusively for mowing the greens, is the Ransomes E-Plex II purchased in March 1999. It cost around £17,500 then, although I'm reliably informed that it now costs just over £1,000 less. I'm a great believer in keeping equipment simple whenever possible so we opted for the version without power steering, but we included as an optional extra a set of powered roller brushes. 11-knife cutting units completed the specification.

Many greenkeeping professionals reading this piece will be highly sceptical when it comes to using electric greens mowers, but from my experience over the past two years I can honestly say, from the outset, that I'd certainly buy another one.

Legislation, pressure groups and technology, not to mention the recent fuel crisis in the UK, are just some of the factors that will result in our profession looking a lot more closely at the use of alternative fuels – and in the not too distant future.

America is already leading the way with stricter laws on noise pollution and California in particular, one of the most environmentally-aware states in America, is introducing legislation

restricting the use of petrol/diesel-powered equipment within 250 feet of residential property between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Saturday and banning all use on Sundays and holidays.

Here, in the UK, with increased pressure on our green spaces for housing development, more and more golf courses will have residential properties adjacent to their borders.

So, even ignoring prospective legislation, what has convinced me that the electric greens mower is here to stay? Well, the key reasons are its utmost simplicity and operator comfort. Maintenance is absolutely minimal. There's no engine oil, so there's no need to check the oil filter, oil levels or carry out oil changes; there's no hydraulic oil, so there's no threat of leaks and ruined greens; there's no fuel, so there's no need for in-line filters or the possibility of fuel contamination; there's no radiator so there's no water level checks to worry about.

All we have to do when we've run out of charge is park up in the bay, loosen the cell caps on top of the batteries, check the electrolyte level and plug in. Next morning we unplug, tighten the battery caps and off we go. No routine checks or maintenance procedures; just drive out onto the course and begin work. Installation of the recharging unit presented no prob-

lems, all we had to do was select the position in the shed for the machine, install a standard 3-pin plug socket and plug in the charger unit. Recharging takes approximately 7 hours and there's an automatic cutout when recharging is complete.

Best of all, there's the absence of noise. In transport mode the machine is virtually silent and in mowing mode the only noise is from the cylinders, so operator fatigue is almost non-existent. The roar of a high revving diesel or petrol engine is a thing of the past and you can actually hear the cylinders rotating and can be aware of any potential problems simply by listening to the reels. Mind you, this does have its drawbacks as you can also hear what the golfers are saying about the condition of the course!

If proof is needed to support the argument about operator comfort this can be seen on any morning when all my team try to get in early so that they can have first option to use the machine.

I also believe that you get a better cut with the E-Plex. The reel speed is faster and constant because there are no losses due to any inefficiencies in the hydraulic system or reduction in engine output. Therefore, you get more cuts per metre and a consistent number of cuts per metre.

So, what's the downside?

Well, you can't verticut or scarify

Above right: The battery pack provides enough power to cut 22-23 greens per charge. Initial conditioning is crucial for optimum performance

Below: "The machine is almost silent", says Chris Squires. "Mind you, this does mean that you can hear what the golfers are saying about the condition of the course!"







with this machine. That's because you can't put too much load on the cylinders. The resistance generated by soil penetration will cause added drain on the power output. That's why it's vital that the machine is set to its optimum operating level at all times. We use a special lubricant; a very liquid grease for the bearings in the powered rear roller and brushes to lessen friction and the bottom blade to cylinder clearance is crucial, again to prevent too much load. However, this is best practice and helps prolong the life of the cutting units, whether you're running electric or diesel-powered equipment, so it's not really any different.

You'll find that you also have to plan more. You need to introduce a regime that ensures you run the batteries down to a minimum, every time. Here at Rutland, we cut all 18 greens and then use the remaining battery life to cut the pitch and putt greens.

Another aspect that requires thought, and indeed guidance from your dealer, is the initial conditioning of the batteries, and this should never be underestimated. It took us a month to condition ours from new, where we were able to cut just nine greens per charge before reaching our average of 22-23 per charge.

The machine now has over 590 hours on the clock and in the main has performed very well. There's been

the odd problem with a burnt out cylinder drive motor and a lift arm motor, but Textron's local dealer, Lawn Mower Services, has replaced these speedily and efficiently, under warranty.

After sales support was an important ingredient when we negotiated the purchase. We were entering into an area of new technology and it was vital that we had confidence in both the manufacturer and their dealer. Dave Hampshire fronts the sales operation for Lawn Mower Services and fully appreciated our wariness. He has provided advice and on-site support of the highest order supported by his team back at Wellingore, near Lincoln. My advice to any greenkeeper contemplating the purchase of an electric mower is be confident that your dealer can provide the service, back-up and moral support for your investment.

I'll conclude by restating what I said earlier and that is that I would definitely buy another E-Plex, especially with the advances in battery technology that will come on stream in the next five years. The benefits of effortless operation and operator comfort far outweigh any negatives and I'm sure that many more course owners and greenkeepers will be embracing this technology during the next decade, be it by choice or because of new legislation.

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**Dr Stephen Baker looks at the work that is being carried out to ensure you choose the most suitable sand for your bunkers**

# True

A frequent source of debate within golf clubs concerns the performance of bunker sands. Regular complaints about bunker sands include excessive crusting, soft and fluffy lies, excessive plugging of the ball on impact and unstable footing. Undoubtedly, some of these comments are influenced by the way in which the sand was installed and its subsequent maintenance. However, the physical composition of the sand also has major effects on the performance of golf bunkers. The objective of this article is to review research studies that have looked in detail on the effects of sand type within bunkers, particularly on playing performance.

Apart from playing characteristics, many issues need to be taken into account when choosing sands for bunkers. The sand should be free draining and in particular contamination with silt and clay may reduce drainage rates. High silt and clay contents may also contribute to the development of a surface crust following rainfall and subsequent drying. As a guideline, sands with more than 2% silt and clay should be avoided.

### Windblow

Windblow is an important consideration. On links courses, most of the local sands used within bunkers fall in the size range of 0.1-0.35 mm diameter. This may be appropriate for the generally deeper and narrow bunkers typical of a links course but this would be a potential disaster on



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# grit

many inland courses. The fine sands on links courses are usually a product of transportation by wind before stabilisation by vegetation. Therefore, their use on more open bunkers, particularly on exposed inland courses, would be a recipe for disaster.

In selecting a bunker sand, it must always be remembered that golfers are liable to blast sand out of bunkers while playing from the hazard. If the sand contains a lot of coarse material, greater than about 1.5 mm, this is liable to remain on the surface where it can interfere with putting and may also damage mowers. The localised accumulation of considerable quantities of excessively coarse sand splashed from a bunker may also make the turf more drought susceptible. Similarly, on inland courses, the lime content of the sand is important. If the sand contains appreciable amounts of lime (eg. as shell fragments), this may accelerate the invasion of annual meadow-grass and broad-leaved weeds, encourage earthworm activity and on newer, sand-dominated greens make the turf more susceptible to take-all patch disease.

Sands can stack at different angles. When moisture is present, a sand can easily be raked up and remain against a very steep bunker face. Fine sands retain moisture more readily and they can maintain a steeper angle for longer periods than coarse grained sands, which can quickly dry out. Dry sands have a maximum slope,

known as the angle of repose, above which they will not be stable. If the sand has a higher angle of repose, it remains against bunker faces more easily and thus less maintenance is needed.

## Colour

The colour of bunker sands can have a major visual impact on a golf course. In general, light coloured sands are preferred (tan, white or occasionally light grey). Light reflection and glare can sometimes be a problem with white sands, although perhaps less so with the British climate than in other parts of the world!

There have been three main studies in which the playing performance of bunker sands has been examined. The first was carried out by Brown and Thomas of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Texas A&M University and was reported in 1986. The second was a study at the Sports Turf Research Institute reported in 1994. While the most recent was from the now defunct Australian Turfgrass Research Institute that was initially reported in 1994 but which lead to a Bunker Sand Specification for Australian Golf Courses, which was published in conjunction with the Australian Golf Union in 1995.

The Texas study, carried out with the assistance of USGA agronomists, examined 42 sands from all over the United States including materials that were reported to perform well and others that performed very poorly. The size and the shape of the

grains were assessed and related to a number of physical properties.

The development of a crust on the sand surface detracts from its quality and this was examined by saturating samples of the sand by sprinkling with tap water, then drying for 24-48 hours until the sand was dry. Crust development was evaluated by sliding a spatula under the sand and lifting it up. Problems of crust development were greatest on sands containing more than 3% silt plus clay.

## Penetration

Ball penetration was evaluated by placing a golf ball on the surface of the sand and pressing it into the surface to half the depth of the ball. The force required was recorded using a penetrometer. Angular sands generally required greater pressure to force the ball into the sand and were most resistant to the so-called "fried egg lies", whereby the ball becomes deeply embedded with the sand after impact. Sands with ball penetration values less than 0.18 MPa were particularly susceptible to excessive ball penetration, while sands with values exceeding 0.24 MPa were preferred.

Our study at the STRI extended these principles to assess golf ball impact, surface stability for footing and the angle of repose of bunker sands. For each of the 23 sands studied, we assessed the average grain size, the uniformity of the particle size distribution, the angularity and sphericity of the grains, initial mois-

## CLASSIFICATION OF SAND GRAIN SHAPE



VERY ANGULAR



ANGULAR



SUB-ANGULAR



SUB-ROUNDED



ROUNDED



WELL ROUNDED



# True. grit

## VARIATIONS IN GRAIN SPHERICITY



HIGH SPHERICITY



MEDIUM SPHERICITY



LOW SPHERICITY

ture content and the packing density of the sands after compaction.

We measured golf ball impact by firing balls using a modified bowling machine into sand prepared under a variety of conditions. The machine had two independently rotating wheels that allowed us to simulate various conditions of ball velocity, backspin and approach angle. For the eventual tests we used an angle of 710, a velocity of 19 in/sec and a backspin of 597 radians/sec. This is equivalent roughly to the impact of an eight iron shot landing on a horizontal surface, although with slightly less backspin than would be achieved by the best players.

Plugging depth (ie the distance between the bottom of the ball and the original sand surface) averaged 31 mm on dry sand, 20 mm on wet unraked sand and 30 mm on wet raked sand. There was a tremendous variation between sands and, for example, on the dry sand, plugging depth varied from 21 mm (approximately half the diameter of a golf ball) to 44 mm, in which case the entire ball was below the surface. For the wet, raked sands the difference was even greater (9-37 mm) because

on a number of sands the ball bounced out of the initial impact mark and simply rested elsewhere on the surface.

We examined relationships between plugging depth and sand characteristics and found that plugging depth increased with coarser sands and those with a more uniform spread of particles. Stability of footing was measured as penetration resistance, i.e. the force required to push a 28.7 mm diameter probe into the surface. For dry conditions, results between sands varied by a factor of two and, for wet conditions, there was a four-fold difference in readings. The more unstable sands were those with a very uniform size distribution that lead to a low packing density. Sands with more spherical grains were also more unstable.

We also measured the maximum angle of dry sand. This ranged from 29.50 to 35.60. Rounded sands typically had values around 310 and sub angular sands had values averaging about 340.

This work enabled us to publish guidelines on the selection of bunker sands in my book "Sands for Sports Turf Construction and Maintenance."

The preferred particle size distribution for inland golf courses is given in Table 1. Because of possible sta-

bility problems, it was also recommended that there should be no more than 60% of particles in the rounded and well-rounded shape categories. Similarly, sands with a very uniform grain size distribution are probably best avoided, especially if there is a high proportion of material above 0.5 mm diameter or the content of rounded grains is high. In case of problems with sand splash, it was also recommended that lime content for bunker sands on inland courses should not exceed 0.5%.

The Australian studies confirmed many of our findings; in particular that the depth of plugging was dependent on the uniformity of sand grains and that the angle of repose was dependent on grain shape. They also found that the angle of repose was higher in bunker sands with increased clay content and the development of a surface crust was influenced by packing density and the presence of more angular grains. On the basis of their results and those of the previous studies, they were able to publish a specification for bunker sands and this is reproduced in Table 2.

The three studies have shown that it is possible to characterise the performance of sands for bunkers to give practical guidelines on how well different sands might perform. However, there have been reported cases of sands being accepted as excellent by members at one golf club while the same sand is considered poor on other courses. This may simply be a result of the fickleness of the golfer, but clearly further work is needed to improve our understanding of the effects of installation methods, sand depth and maintenance.

Dr Stephen Baker is Head of Soils and Sports Surface Science at the STRI

Table 1

### Recommended particle size distribution for bunker sands on inland golf courses

Sieve size (mm)	% passed
8.0	100
4.0	100
2.0	100
1.0	90-100
0.50	35-90
0.25	0-40
0.125	0-2
0.063	0-1

Table 2

### Bunker sand specification for Australian Golf Courses

Criteria under test	Recommended value
Particle size distribution	Inland courses 0.2mm to 1.0mm Coastal courses 0.1mm to 1.0mm
Particle shape	Angular
Surface crusting	Less than 1.0kg/cm <sup>2</sup>
Angle of Repose	Greater than 300
Material composition	Silica
Ball Plugging	Greater than 2.5kg/cm <sup>2</sup>
Hydraulic conductivity	Greater than 25cm/hr
Colour	Light without glare





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## **Longhand account.**

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**A revolution is taking place in turfgrass genetics. Exciting new molecular techniques are being developed that will accelerate conventional plant breeding. Scott MacCallum finds out more ...**

# Gene. genie

## Mapping out the future

Golf courses have taken a battering over the winter and many may have to come to terms with more frequent winter flooding and summer drought conditions if the global warming prophets are proved correct. But help is at hand, scientists are already able to develop grass varieties more tolerant to climatic and environmental stresses and the pace of innovation is accelerating.

A revolution is taking place in turfgrass genetics. Exciting new molecular techniques are being developed that will accelerate conventional plant breeding. And most of the progress is being made in this country at the Institute of Grassland & Environmental Research (IGER) – the site of the only UK-based turfgrass breeding programme.

Funded by British Seed Houses since 1988, the IGER turfgrass breeding programme – recognised for the development of AberElf and AberImp – is now benefiting from the latest advances in molecular biology, as well as an internationally-recognised grass genetic database and seed bank – all on site just outside Aberystwyth.

According to IGER senior research scientist and cell biologist, Dr Mike Humphreys, it is now possible to track precisely the transfer of genes for stress resistance from fescue grasses into ryegrass in conventional breeding programmes. A number of novel techniques are being developed which will allow the geneticist to test whether the fescue genes have been transferred successfully and are functioning normally in the genome of the ryegrass.

“Our objective is to identify molecular gene markers closely linked to particular desirable turfgrass traits such as drought and/or wear tolerance and fineness of leaf. These markers – or ‘genetic fingerprints’ – can then be used to identify potential grasses that possess the trait without expensive, laborious, and time-based testing over successive plant generations,” he explained.

What’s more, as they try to develop better cultivars, IGER turfgrass breeders have no shortage of natural grass plant material to choose from. IGER scientists have been collecting grass plants since 1974 and now have priority access to a genetic database

representing over 10,000 individual plant populations from all over the world.

“Each population has been catalogued together with details on its habitat, abundance, soil situation and growing environment. Habitats as diverse as quarries, monastery courtyards, football pitches, scrublands and mountain-tops have all been sampled so that we can identify novel, natural genetic material which turfgrass breeders can utilise,” said Mike.

Once material has been catalogued, there is now no barrier to better genetic understanding even though most of the traits that interest turfgrass breeders are complex and governed by a combination of genes of varying importance. Grass chromosomes can be viewed under the microscope and IGER has developed a technique that allows the observer to locate different suites of genes – relevant to a range of important traits – to specific regions of the chromosome. Once their presence has been confirmed, their effect may be determined.

Genomic In Situ Hybridisation





Above and previous page: A party of greenkeepers listen intently to IGER staff

**Our objective is to identify molecular gene markers closely linked to particular desirable turfgrass traits such as drought and/or wear tolerance and fineness of leaf. These markers – or ‘genetic fingerprints’ – can then be used to identify potential grasses that possess the trait without expensive, laborious, and time-based testing over successive plant generations.**

IGER senior research scientist/cell biologist, Dr Mike Humphreys

(GISH) may be a mouthful, but this exciting new ‘gene painting’ technique is currently being used to distinguish between chromosomes from ryegrass and those from fescues in a hybrid plant. In effect, DNA from the two species is labelled in

different colours.

“Access to this technology means that by using a combination of genetic markers and GISH, we can develop models which will allow our turfgrass breeders to more quickly assess the feasibility of transferring desirable genes to and from ryegrass and fescue in the future,” explained Dr Humphreys.

IGER – in collaboration with partners in France, Poland and Norway – is currently working on an EU funded project (SAGES)<sup>†</sup> looking at how grasses withstand environmental stresses. A major effort is being made

to identify the genes involved in traits such as cold and drought resistance in the fescues with a view to their transfer into ryegrass. IGER scientists are also aware of potential ‘flood tolerant’ genes in rice that may, theoretically, eventually offer benefits for amenity grass areas prone to flooding.

According to IGER turfgrass breeder Danny Thorogood, working in partnership with his Institute colleagues working in molecular biology means greenkeepers can expect to see an increase in the number of new, adaptable turfgrass varieties coming to the market.

“Over the last 20 years, traditional plant breeding has made an enormous difference to the quality of turfgrass cultivars available to greenkeepers and groundsmen. But just as the advances in molecular genetics have helped map human genes to help accelerate the development of new healthcare treatments, the new technology will do the same for turfgrass breeding over the next decade.

“For example, thanks to this

progress, traditional breeding objectives on the IGER ryegrass, fescue and bent grass development programmes are now being more easily combined with aesthetic and sustainability issues such as disease resistance, colour retention, and metal, salt and herbicide tolerance (eg. chemical control of *Poa annua* on golf greens).

“Until recently, the use of molecular tools in plant breeding was at the experimental stage, but now by utilising the gene identification capabilities of modern molecular genetics much of the ‘trial and error’ of conventional plant breeding is being removed. The future is bright,” he predicts.

<sup>†</sup> Further SAGES project information can be found on the following website; <http://www.iger.bbsrc.ac.uk/igerweb/SAGES/welcome.html>

Further information on the IGER turfgrass breeding programme is available in a technical publication. Free copies of ‘The IGER Advantage’ are available from British Seed Houses on 01522 868714



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Scott MacCallum met up with Victor Jamieson of Rain Bird at the home one of the company's highest profile clients...

# 'Bird's in The Belfry



The venue for a meeting with BIGGA Golden Key Company, Rain Bird, was not too difficult to agree. With a substantial distance between BIGGA HOUSE and the company's UK base, at Lewes, near Brighton a point between the two was the preferred option and where better than The Belfry, the scene of Rain Bird's biggest, and probably highest profile, UK contract to date.

Having won the initial contract to install full fairway irrigation to the recently-built PGA course, Rain Bird was in pole position to secure the contract when the famous Brabazon course was upgraded and a full wall to wall irrigation system was agreed upon. On a real roll now De Vere Hotels decided to go the whole hog and fit out the Derby course as well and again Rain Bird were chosen. So now the company can boast that it has supplied all 54 holes on the development which will be in all the headlines later this year when the Ryder Cup is played - for a record fourth time - over the Brabazon course.

"It was good news because the fact that we won one job, completed it and then won the next shows how pleased De Vere was with what we had done. Pleased with the product and pleased with the work carried

out by the contractor, MJ Abbott," said Victor Jamieson, Rain Bird's Area Manager for UK and Ireland.

However, it is not just the high profile contracts which brings a smile to Victor's face, he is also delighted at the number of regular golf clubs, many of which perhaps hadn't until recently considered installing automatic irrigations systems, which he now counts as clients.

"Smaller golf clubs like the Rain Bird product. They like what our new sprinklers provide and they like the reliability of the decoder systems which have been around now for around 12 years and have good track records."

Another benefit of the Rain Bird systems from a smaller club's perspective is that, like an over grown school boy's train set, you can start in a small way and then build on what you've got.

"You can start with our smallest wall mounted controller and at any time in the future add on to that system. Even our smallest system can be extended to a PC controlled system without changing the hardware out on the golf course," explained Victor.

He is also finding that more people from smaller golf clubs are asking for specific products having heard from neighbouring clubs on the benefits.

"It used to be only the big clubs who asked that. Smaller clubs just asked about an irrigation system in general terms," said Victor.

The company, which has its roots in Los Angeles, California, has enjoyed substantial growth in the UK

and Ireland over the last five years and Victor has a theory on why that should be the case.

"I would put it down to our insistence that our product is installed well and we only supply to certain contractors who we know will do a good job - companies like Ocmis Irrigation, MJ Abbott, Arden Lea Irrigation and a number of smaller but equally skilled companies. They have been doing a very good job for Rain Bird and this has helped to enhance and spread our reputation."

"After all you are only as good as your installer because if things go wrong, customers tend to blame the equipment rather than the installer," said Victor, who added that only 20% of a contract covers the cost of the equipment, the other 80% is the cost of the installation.

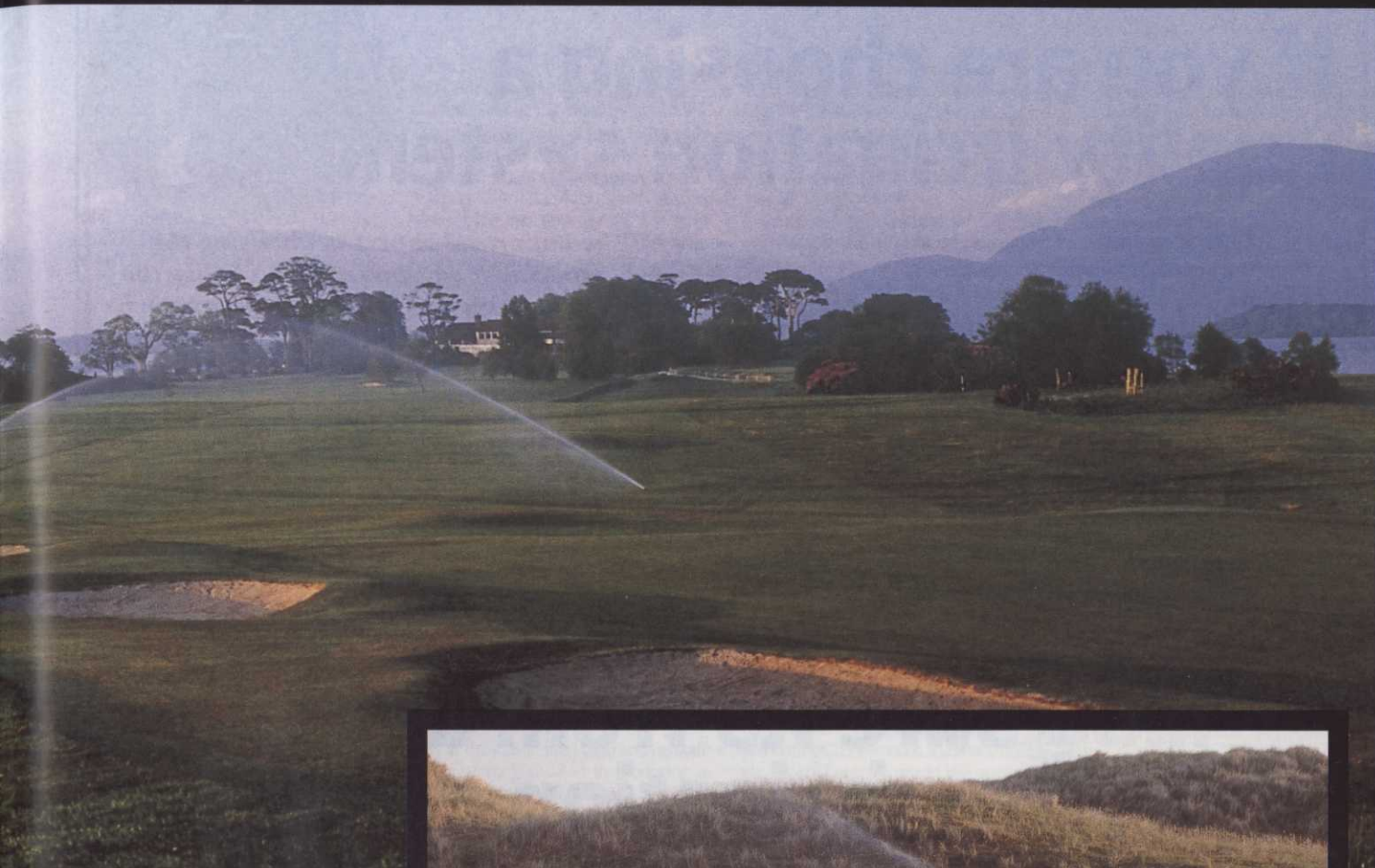
Having teams of good quality installers is not something that can be put down purely to good fortune. Much work is done on building sound relationships between Rain Bird and the contracted companies and ensuring that they are up to date on the innovations that emerge from the Rain Bird Research and Development boffins.

"We give a lot of assistance to contractors with regard to installing our equipment to our specifications. They get a lot of training, particularly on the control systems, from our full time Service Manager in the UK, Mark Ganning, who can be on hand to provide technical assistance at all times."

"Having said all that we are fortu-







nate that the contractors do take pride in producing a quality installation."

One of the benefits Victor finds in working for a privately-owned company is that they are not weighed down in as much bureaucracy as might be found in other companies of similar size.

"For example we can talk directly to the engineers who are developing our product and we can send requests to the States to develop new equipment for use in the European markets.

While Victor feels the current family of Rain Bird golf course controllers will probably remain much as they are for the foreseeable future they are having what he describes as the "bells and whistles" becoming attached to them now.

"It started with the radio remote control facility and we now have a telephone remote control so a greenkeeper can be sitting at home, discover it is raining, dial in and stop the system. Likewise he could start all or parts of the system from home if he wanted to."

Over the last five years Victor has witnessed a startling rate of progress in the industry much of it made possible by the increased knowledge and ability of the greenkeeper.

"More and more greenkeepers are trained to use PCs whereas a few years ago the technology did not appear relevant. A lot of them are using their irrigations systems properly as a result and taking full advantage of the control that is avail-



able to them. Five years ago a greenkeeper might have run all his sprinklers for five minutes every night in the summer regardless of whether it had been sunny or raining. If they were a little more conscious of their system they might make some percentage adjustments day by day to everything on the course.

"Now people are making adjustments down to the specific sprinkler head to cater for high or low spots and other factors that might prevail."

To assist in the development of the greenkeeper's irrigation knowledge Rain Bird puts on training courses.

"We put one on at Celtic Manor recently and it was great because they also act as refresher courses for people who perhaps need reminding of how to use the system at the beginning of the new season," explained Victor.

With as much rain as many parts of the country have endured in recent months you would have thought selling irrigations systems would have been set alongside the task of selling

ice cubes to the Eskimos and Victor admits he is praying for a long hot summer.

"It has been a tough time particularly for the contractors who often haven't been able to complete the work they began during the winter as quickly and efficiently as they would have hoped and I think if the wet weather does continue over the summer I think it is going to make it very difficult," he explained, adding that from his side he has attended several Extraordinary General Meetings at golf clubs torn between installing irrigation systems or not as the case may be.

"These have got heated at times and yes I have got involved at times as well. There is still the odd member who thinks that bowsers should still be used on links courses and doesn't see the benefits of irrigation as a management tool. Used properly it shouldn't change the condition of the course. For example, used for the establishment of overseeding the benefits are enormous. In the past overseeding work, and therefore

money, could be wasted if the weather was not as expected and irrigation gives a guarantee that there will be some success."

The benefits of responsible irrigation are becoming increasingly well known and that is why companies like Rain Bird continue to enjoy success - a brand new European headquarters have just been opened in Provence in France, to take advantage of the growing mainland Europe market.

The continued growth of golf there will be apparent in the Ryder Cup when Europe's finest 12 golfers, probably containing a few Continentals, compete against the Americans over the beautifully manicured Brabazon course at The Belfry. Victor will be watching, proud of the small part his company will have made to the success of the event.

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

The BIGGA Scottish Conference was held at the Business Learning Centre, Lauder College, Dunfermline on Tuesday March 6. This was our fourth visit to the BLC which over the years has improved its facilities and is now regarded as one of the best Conference venues in the Central belt.

The speakers provided us with a variety of topics, all relevant to the industry today. In the morning session we had Peter Jefford leading the way with his talk on Top Dressing and Rootzones Today. This was a most informative and topical subject. Next we had Sandy Armit, from the Double A Trading Company, who explained in great detail the care and maintenance required in taking care of your machines.

After the break we had Jim McKenzie, Director of Golf for Celtic Manor Hotel G&CC, who led us through the construction of the golf courses at Celtic Manor and the problems associated with such a large project, but also the tremendous satisfaction in having been involved in constructing quality courses. Last in the morning session, and at very short notice, we had Tim Coldough, who stepped in for Neil Baldwin who unfortunately called off through illness. Tim presented a first class paper on Control of Black Layer in Fine Turf. Our thanks to Tim for taking the time and effort to attend with very little time to prepare.

After lunch we had David Golding, from the GTC. David kept us up to date with the present education and qualifications available in the industry today. Following David, we had John Philp, from Camoustie, whose enthusiasm and commitment to greenkeeping is well known. John spoke at length about greenkeeping, Camoustie, and the standards necessary in greenkeeping today. Finally, to finish the day, we had Peter Hampton, from Bernhards. With many clubs now with their own grinding machines, Peter's talk on the Benefits of Sharper Reels was most informative and relevant.

The Scottish Region of BIGGA would like to place on record their appreciation to the speakers for taking the time and effort to travel, in some cases quite a considerable distance, to attend and present their talks to us. This year's Conference had the highest number for many years with 168 attending.

The winner of the bottle of malt whisky was Sydney Mercer, who has our Vice Chairman, Richard Barker, to thank for drawing his badge from the box.

Finally, during the Conference, our Chairman, John Scott, had the pleasure of making a presentation to one of our long standing and most respected supporters of the Association in Scotland - John Souter, who has recently retired from Souters Sportsturf Ltd.

John, throughout the years, was a supporter of SIGGA and BIGGA and provided support in so many ways to greenkeepers and to the Association in general. The Chairman wished John well in his "alleged" retirement and assured him he would be made most welcome at any of our events in future.

The annual BIGGA Scottish v Secretaries' Association fixture took place at West Kilbride GC on Tuesday April 3. The Secretaries were looking for revenge as they had been beaten quite soundly last year in the corresponding fixture.

Things didn't look too good weather wise for the first three games that went out. It was pretty miserable at this point, however, things improved and it remained dry but windy which seemed to suit the Secretaries as their lead pairing convincing won the first match against our Chairman and partner. Things evened out and with one match still out on the golf course the Secretaries were leading by five matches to four and it was looking good for them. However, the stalwarts from the Kingdom came good in the shape of Derek Scott and Stuart Sime who squeezed home by one hole to earn us a draw.

We therefore retained our trophy! Wins were recorded by Archie Dunn and George Brown, Jim Paton and Ian Barr, Steven Sullivan and Douglas McIntosh and George Morrison and Derek Wilson... and, of course, the heroes from Fife.

Our thanks to the Captain and Committee of West Kilbride for affording us the facilities and use of the clubhouse. Considering that it is pretty early in the season Jim Paton and his staff are to be congratulated in producing a course in such fine condition.

Finally, and with the last word to Andy O'Hara, who was sharing a car with our heroes, Derek and Stuart, he states and I quote, "It was the longest journey of my life. They replayed every shot from the first to the last."

Peter Boyd.

## North

Another batch of new members to welcome to the Section this month. First of all Andrew Macrae and George Duncan, from Golspie GC; then Edward Brown, from Montrose GC; Colin Irving from Craggan GC, and Paul Murray from Ballumbie GC a new course near Dundee. I hope you lads can get along to our outing this month on the 17th at Brechin GC, where you will be welcomed by the usual large turnout of North members.

There has been a change of date for our Autumn outing to Keith GC, we now go there on September 6 instead of the 13th, so put that in your diaries, further details will be sent out in August.

Spare a thought for Stuart Robertson and his staff at Craigie Hill GC near Perth. They built a new tee this Winter and came into work one day to find vandals had taken all the newly laid turf off and ripped it up. Work this winter has been hard enough without added problems like that.

The Scottish Greenkeepers Championship will be held at Drumoig GC in Fife on June 12, not too far away from our area, so let's have a good turnout from the Section. The BIGGA National Championship is at Royal Birkdale and Southport and Ainsdale on October 1-2, so this is a chance to play at an "Open Championship" venue, which will be well worth the travel involved.

The evenings are beginning to stretch out and the weather warm up, so let's hope for a bit of growth and a good summer ahead to make up for the awful winter we have just endured, I didn't realise there were so many shades of green!

Iain Macleod

## East

Well here we are into another season and we are still looking for some decent weather!. The committee are putting the final touches to our list of fixtures for this year so if you haven't had it by now, apologies for the delay.

By the time you read this we will have had the first major of the year, the spring tournament at Dunbar Golf Club. The report will be in next month's magazine so let's have a big turnout and some good weather to go with it. I look forward to seeing you all at Dunbar as does our Chairman Tom Murray and the committee. We hope to welcome along some new faces to what is always a great day.

People on the move this month are Brian Divine who has been an assistant greenkeeper at Ratho Park GC for nine years. Brian is moving on to Niddry Castle GC near Winchburgh as an assistant greenkeeper so all the best to him for the future in his new job from the Section.

Also all the best to anyone else on the move that we don't know about. The Section committee has changed the time of their meetings to night times and not during the day as we previously had. I think this is better for everyone as we all have so many days away from work ie, golf outings, conferences, seminars, btme, etc, etc so if anyone would like anything brought up at the next meeting get in contact with a committee member and it will be discussed at the next meeting. The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, May 15 in the Harrow Hotel, Dalkieth at 7.30pm. the committee is hoping to run the annual dance this year after we had to cancel last year's due to unforeseen circumstances. Details will be announced soon, so come on support the annual dance and your Section. The social committee will be resurrecting the skittles nights and the quiz night that were so successful a few years ago so watch this space for forthcoming events in 2001.

## Section Event?

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

This winter I am thinking of running a winter pairs greensomes competition which would be played as a matchplay knockout competition with the first round in October and the final being at a neutral venue in April. If there is enough interest the entry forms will be sent out in the summer which you fill in with the partner of your choice and send back with the entry fee of £5 then after the closing date the handicap committee will make the draw and it will be on view at the autumn outing at Monktonhall GC and it will also be in this column in the September/October edition of Greenkeeper International.

I will be making an announcement at the spring outing at Dunbar about this tournament. If you can't make it, please get in touch and I will give you all the details, as it will extend the Section's golfing season to 12 months of the year. Well that's it all for now I hope everyone has a good season and we see you all at Section events throughout the year. Remember it's your Section so support it now! Here are all the usual numbers to contact me on -

Home: 01968 661313

Work: 01968661721 Mobile: 07719580449

Email: cly263@netscapeonline.co.uk

Chris Yeaman

## Central

This month we extend a warm welcome to another four new members and they are Andrew Ramsay, from Bishopbriggs Golf Club; John Myles, Chris Smith, and Gavin Speedie, all from Glenaeigs Golf Courses and, as I say every time, hopefully we will get the opportunity to meet you all at some of our events in the near future.

The proposed football match between the Central and West Sections did not take place last month as planned for some unforeseen reason (the West section felt that Dundee was too far away from Glasgow!). It's the same distance both ways! A practice match was played instead, when the Dundee boys (or should that be boys?) took on the rest of the Section, a hard fought game ensued, resulting in a four all draw, giving team manager, Andy O'Hara, plenty of choices when selecting his team for the challenge match when a suitable venue can be arranged. Andy is still seeking a successor for the position of team manager, so if anyone is interested, just get in touch with him and he will fill you in on all the details of what is involved, including salary etc.

Congratulations and every success for the future go to Section member Robbie MacMillan. Robbie who has had spells at Falkland, Balbirnie and Thornton golf clubs has decided to further his career and experience by accepting the post of Senior Greenkeeper at Leynir Golf Club in Iceland which is situated in the town of Akranes ten miles from the Icelandic capital of Reykjavik.

I recently attended a meeting of Section Secretaries at BIGGA HOUSE and although every Section organises events on numerous different subjects it appears that we all have the same problem in getting more members to participate in anything other than golf tournaments! So come on, how about letting your Secretary know what you want from your section. Even if it's a change of secretary!

On the subject of golf tournaments, it has been suggested that we organise another one in December, just before Christmas, with a social function (Lap Dancing was actually mentioned!) to follow. Anyone interested? Seriously, if you are interested in any event being organised please let us know.

At the time of writing entries for the Spring Tournament at Scotsraig Golf Club are fully subscribed, so if you wish to ensure your entry for the Autumn Tournament which is being held in September by courtesy of Murrayshall Hotel and Golf Courses in Perthshire, please return your forms in plenty of time. The views on and around the courses at Murrayshall are something else, so don't forget your camera.

On a personal note I would like to thank everyone who called/sent their best wishes during my recent stay in hospital, hopefully by the time you are reading this I will be back at work. Thanks everyone.

John Crawford

## West

Welcome to May's West Section news. Hopefully by the time this report is printed we will all be experiencing some warmth and good growing weather.

Football new's first, the West Section played Maryhill police on March 20 and



had a convincing 6-2 win. The goal scorers on the day were Kevin Collins (2), Sandy Brawley (1), Gerard Bruen (1), Eddie Devine (1) and one goal from the policeman who joined our team. Man-of-the-match on the day had to go to Alastair Taylor in goal who pulled off a string of good saves to keep our lead intact. Gerry would like to thank all who turned up on the day and hopes it will encourage more Greenkeeper's to put their name's forward for future games. Watch this space for future fixtures.

New member's to be welcomed to the Section are Steven Laird, Renfrew GC; Stuart Crossan, Pollok GC; Christopher Lammara, Pollok GC; John Kelly, Shotts GC; Andrew Muir, Paisley GC; Iain McFarlane, Whitecraig's GC, and Craig Drummond, Paisley GC. We hope to see you all at the up and coming section outing's 6 events.

Congratulations are to be extended to Gerard Bruen who has been appointed Deputy Headgreenkeeper at Williamwood GC. Gerry has worked with myself for the last eight year's at East Kilbride GC and I personally wish him every success in his new position.

A moderator's meeting was held in the East Kilbride Hilton Hotel on March 22. The meeting was well attended by D32/33 assessor's. Several key points about keeping your certificate current and better communication between assessor's and training provider's were covered.

Ronnie Bunting and Sue Gudgeon, GTC, stated they were pleased with both the turn out and the content of the meeting. Well that is about it for this month, I hope you all have a good season.

Brian Bolland. 013552 66862  
PS. I know I spelt Houllier wrong in the last report, apologies but, it's not as if it is the first, time Gerry's name has been miss-spelt.

### Gleneagles Chapter

My name is Ian Morrison and I am writing to introduce all students and full members to a new initiative created this month between BIGGA, Textron and The Gleneagles Hotel. The new chapter incorporates Gleneagles' own student scheme called the Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award Scheme (GEGAS), with the new student chapter initiative from BIGGA.

The GEGAS scheme has run for eight years and was originally conceived after a review of several college courses, which included golf management, turf science and sports turf management. The concept behind the scheme was to offer students a sandwich year that would identify their needs, skills and ambition to succeed in their chosen profession, whilst allowing them to develop within an environment that is committed to training and personal development.

Gleneagles select eight students from colleges worldwide, and now due to a new initiative from Dean Cleaver, Secretary of FEGGA, a proportion of candidates will be guaranteed from Europe.

While at Gleneagles, we have the choice of three championship courses to work on, the King's, Queen's and, the newly renamed, PGA Centenary Course (formerly the Monarch's). To add to this hands on work experience, there is a student training room which has been kindly supported by the schemes sponsors Textron Golf Turf and Specialty Products,

who along with Gleneagles have recognised the need for future development of potential golf course superintendents and managers.

Textron in conjunction with Scottish Grass Machinery not only fund library materials and lap top computers to aid with assignments, but they also provide a bursary award for the best students. This offers a financial award for our hard work and a fantastic opportunity to go to the annual GCSAA Conference and Show in the USA to network and gain industry contacts.

The scheme offers students the chance to invite external speakers to Gleneagles and to travel to some of Gleneagles' extensive contacts. Wesley Walker has just returned from Riffa Golf Club in Bahrain and we are running an exchange scheme with Bandon Dunes Golf Club in Oregon, USA.

Has the scheme worked and all the time and money invested been worth it, well that can be answered with a resounding yes. Previous students have not only been taken on by Gleneagles, but have gone on to represent their profession at the highest level. Examples include Todd Gilmour, who is now Deputy Superintendent of a new venture in Hawaii and Steve Johnson, who is the Superintendent at Riffa Golf Club in Bahrain. Also, last year's winner, Damian Brown, has recently returned from Australia with the sole purpose of maintaining the greens on the PGA Centenary Course for the Gleneagles Scottish Championship, the Scottish PGA Championship and the WPGA Invitational all to be held here this year.

The involvement from BIGGA has arisen from ideas by Ken Richardson, education and training manager for BIGGA, and talks with Jimmy Kidd, Director of Turfgrass at Gleneagles. Both have recognised the need for students to have their own representatives within the profession, for students to have a voice at BIGGA regional and national conferences as well as a network of managers, superintendents and experienced contacts throughout the industry that they can approach for ideas, help and support.

So that is the history, and why BIGGA, represented by Ken Richardson and Scott MacCallum, arrived at Gleneagles on April 3, to present the GEGAS students with their Student Chapter Membership. The students included Christopher Baldock, Robert Coughlan, John Milne, Lee Relf, Keith Walton, Andrew de Wet, who was appointed secretary, and myself, Ian Morrison, who has the honour of being the first Chairman of the Gleneagles BIGGA Student Chapter.

We intend to utilise all the opportunities that are now open to us and would like to hear from other students, colleges and employers who might be interested in setting up similar student chapters within their respective organisations. So until next month thank you to BIGGA, Gleneagles, Textron and Scottish Grass Machinery for the fantastic opportunity to prove that students are dedicated to making a difference within this great profession.

Please contact me on 01764 694429 for details or just to say hello.

Ian Morrison



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

### North Wales

Firstly, the following notes of appreciation should have appeared two months ago, however there seems to have been a mix up at HQ.

Two committee members have left the Association and industry to go to positions new. Phil Davies has left to

concentrate on his family-run business. We are all indebted to Phil for the professional way he went about his work in all aspects of our industry, from greenkeeper, through sales and education, his enthusiasm and knowledge always shone through as the winter lecture programmes he originated showed. He will be a hard act to follow.

Gary Edwards has also left. Our Section Secretary for the last three years, Gary took up the position when the Section was in decline and only ever missed one committee meeting. He was instrumental in getting our Section some of the best

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courses in the world to play on and tried to get a balance to cater for all our members to ensure people didn't feel left out. He achieved that and in the last three years there will have been a tournament not far from you. Our best wishes go to both of you.

In March, I went to a couple of free seminars. The first was organised by DCE Focus where papers were delivered by Rufford Soil Technology and Alderburgh Atlantis Systems among others. I know most of you are familiar with Ruffords but I'd never seen the Alderburgh drainage system before - it looked the way forward

to me. I think I was the only greenkeeper there and I even got a CPD certificate.

The next seminar was at Conry GC organised by the WGU. It was superb and well attended with speakers including Alistair Beggs, David Williams, Ken Richardson and Derek Green with the WGU President, Mike Cole, chairing proceedings. We are very lucky to have a governing body which is so committed to greenkeeping in Wales, remember they even give grants for greenkeeper training. Hats off to a very forward thinking Union.

Congratulations are in order to Tracy Schofield (nee Williams), greenkeeper at

Vale of Llangollen GC, on her wedding in Memphis in January and Paul Lowe on his appointment as Course Manager at Rduddlan GC.

Welcome to new members Alwyn John, Dylan Hughes, of Pwllhelli GC, and Chris Grain, of Borth Ynyslas GC.

Danny Fitzgerald has moved to Prenton GC (Hey this is good I'm getting information).

The Midlands Section has challenged us to either paintballing or carting - transport to be provided, cost approximately £20-£25, in the autumn/winter. Any interest contact Trevor Johnston Tel: 0151

336 6675. Also Sportsworld are organising a match against the Midlands at Northop on May 23. Anyone interested contact Terry Adamson Tel 07775 621272.

Talking of Sportsworld I attended their seminar at Carden Park in April. It was very well attended and very well put together, however, "Poa Annua. Our Friend," I think not.

Our spring tournament was held at Rhuddlan GC but unfortunately the rain came again and the comp had to be played over 11 holes. It was a real shame as the course was immaculately present-

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ed by the new Head Greenkeeper Paul Lowe and his team. Our thanks go to the Captain and officials of the club for having us, the caterers for the excellent meals and the steward for providing the liquid refreshment. I for one made full use of it seeing as how my round never even got to the 1st green.

Our thanks go to the sponsors, Acorn, ALS, Bathgate, Osmans, Sportsworld and Walkers.

The results were :- 1. Shaun Pritchard, 45 net; 2. Darryl Davies, 46; 3. Less Parry, 47; 4. Jeremy Hughes, 48. Winning guest was Terry Dodd and 1st trade member, Terry Adamson. There was only one 2 and that was Darryl Davies who chipped in out of a bunker!

Regional Qualifiers are 0-9 Darryl Davies and Jeremy Hughes. Reserves Allen Lewis and Dave Parry. 10-18 Shaun Pritchard and Les Parry. Reserves, John Humphries and Stu Hayley. 19-28. Eurwyn Vaughn and Chris Evans. Reserves, DA Roberts and Darren Anderson.

Bring me sunshine,  
Dave Goodridge

## Section Event?

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

### North East

April 5 was the day we played our Spring Comp at Warkworth GC. We would like to thank the committee for giving us courtesy once again, and to Alan Darby, Head greenkeeper, and his staff for the excellent condition of the course everyone who played will vouch for that.

The wind played its part on this testing 9 hole links with the scores been on rather the high side nevertheless I will only print the trophy winners.

Best Gross. John Hutton, 77, Whickham GC; Best Nett. Russ Black, 80-8-72; Best Assistant Nett. James Storey, 79-6-73 Foxton Hall GC.

Qualifiers for Northern Region Finals will be forwarded shortly to Bert Cross. Jimmy Richardson

### North West

The Mere Seminar in March was an excellent day, and although applications had been slow coming in, we finished with 80 including speakers.

The day started with an excellent talk by Jay Dobson on Disease Management, and Ken Richardson Education and Training Manager, and Tracey Maddison, Membership Services Officer of BIGGA, updated us on Education and Membership including the many benefits included in your membership.

After lunch we had a demonstration of Gravel banding by North Staffs Irrigation. The demonstration took place on the fairways, and although the ground was saturated the results were good using Lytag to backfill the slits. Peter Jefford, Managing Director of Rufford, guided us through the choice of sands and soils for top dressing and John Hughes, of Oliver Seeds, spoke about grass species and their uses.

I would like to thank all the speakers for their part in making it an outstanding seminar, and Mere Golf and Country Club for allowing us to use their superb facilities. The "Summer Tournament" will be held at Mottram Hall G&CC on Tuesday June 12. Please send your entries to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue,

Clubmoor, Liverpool L4 9RB. Including a cheque for £15 not later than Friday, June 8. Lunch will be served 12-12.30pm Tee from 1.30pm Any enquires please contact me on 07761583387 or 0151 7245412

Bert Cross

### North

By the time you read this I trust a good time was had by all at the Spring Tournament at Filey GC. This golf event was sponsored by G Adamsons and a report will be in next month's magazine.

Next month on Tuesday, June 19 is President's Day at Harrogate GC, kindly sponsored by Acorn. The closing date for entry along with full payment of £15 is 12 June 12, which can be made to any committee member.

Another change of date is Invitation Day, which is now Tuesday, September 11. We welcome John Grainger, Filey GC, as a new member.

There is another news at the moment, if anybody has 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

Hopefully everyone has managed to return their entry forms for our golf day at Bondhay GC on May 15.

Contacting the Competition Secretary would be a lot easier if I were to give out the correct number, which is 01302 371674 and not the one printed in last month's article. Apologies for the inconvenience caused.

Between March and April the Section welcomed 11 new members. They are: Dean Bagley, Alistair James Bolch, Joseph Cassell, Jamie Paul Harris, Christopher Long, John Douglas McCollum, Steven Nixon, Leonard Frith, James Hoyle, Derek Ollerenshaw and Philip J. Riley. We look forward to seeing you are our golf days and other events throughout the year.

On March 1 we held our third lecture day at Rotherham GC. A very big thank you to Tony Kvedras, of Symbio, for a very informative presentation and to Rotherham Golf Club.

Well that's about it for this month but don't forget to call me with any information on 01142 477976.

A. Sampson



Midland Region  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01480 437507

### East Midland

On Monday March 19 at The Belfry, Brabazon course our Section Chairman, Gavin Robson, played for the E.T. Breakwell team in The Belfry Trade day. Also as part of the team was Kevin Kinzer and another E.T. Breakwells rep and the Head Greenkeeper at The Forest of Arden course. Despite some difficult conditions the team finished a very respectable third place, in a AM-AM format Stableford with 73 points. On behalf of our Chairman I would like to thank The Belfry and E.T. Breakwells for their invitation.

This month we see a few Greenkeepers on the move and I would, on behalf of the Section, like to wish them all the best for the future. Chris Weir moves from Assistant Greenkeeper Kirby Muxloe GC to Assistant at Scaptoft; Kristian Hibberd Mechanic/Greenkeeper at Birstall GC to Kirby Muxloe GC in the same position, David James, Assistant at Scaptoft to First Assistant at the delightful course of Luffenham Heath, and finally Martin Oliver, of Willesley Park, who as moved from Willesley Park GC into a new profession. Martin had spent several years in greenkeeping and was well respected by his fellow professionals. I would like to take this opportunity to wish him all the best in his new career.

Also on the move is Les Emery our Regional Administrator, Les has moved to the position of Secretary Manager at Beedles Lake Golf Centre, in Leicestershire. Again on behalf of the Section I would like to wish him well in his new position.

Anthony Bindley



South East  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

### East Anglia

By now everyone should have received a copy of the fixture list for this year, our first meeting will be over. Our thoughts will be concentrated on our courses and the season to come, no doubt that by July we will be in the middle of a drought and

there will be a hosepipe ban (Ha Ha). If any member has not received a fixture list please contact me on 01728 452759 and I will send you one.

On March 26 & 27 I spent two informative days at BIGGA HQ with nearly all the Section Secretaries throughout the country; the meeting demonstrated to me how hard all the staff are working on our behalf. As everyone knows last year was a bad year for all concerned in our industry machinery and fertiliser sales affected by the weather and a lot of our courses under water for long periods. This has caused some companies to cut back especially on sponsorship, but it is good to know that the team at Aldwark are out there fighting for the sponsorship and the income needed for the running of the magazine, competitions, awards and benefits for the membership. There is an open invitation to those who wish to visit BIGGA HOUSE, you only have to make a telephone call and you will be made most welcome, remember that all the staff are working very hard on your behalf.

If any member has a problem that BIGGA can sort out, the team will be there to help them in any way they can, also for more information try visiting the BIGGA website which is going from strength to strength.

Under Ken's watchful eye the Education Department is making huge strides forward with courses at HQ and others in Regions and Sections up and down the country. On this note did you know the everyone is entitled to help with training from the Government. The initiative is called and Individual Learning Account which entitles you to £200.00 of training per year. It pays 90% of the cost of computer training and various percentages off other training.

To apply for your account phone 0800 072 5678 and apply for an application form. Please remember that in order for our Association to progress, we must give the team our full support, they are there to help us all.

Ian Willett.

### Surrey

Surrey Section Committee met on April 4, the agenda was as follows,

1. Roles and Responsibilities 2. Tom Smith - Canadian Trip and SISIS Bowl (a report from Tom will be printed in next month's mag) 3. Fund Raising 4. Winter Lecturers, Visits, Quiz Night Etc. 5. Any Other Business.

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quoting your name and Membership number, and we'll do the rest!



The first golf event is or was, depending on when you get your May edition of Greenkeeper International, on May 10 at the Hindhead, North Hants Golf Club host the next competition on June 7. If any member has not got a copy of the events 2001 please phone Ian Sellars on 07855251047.

And now news from around Surrey, starting with marriage which took place on Easter Saturday in Worslop.

Congratulations to one of the more senior members of the Surrey Section, A Head Greenkeeper who has been at Maldon Golf Club for many many years, yes the one and only Mr Alec Bradshaw is now a happily married man. Alec's wife is Mary and we all wish her and Alec every happiness for the future.

After marriage a family and news of two births, Joshua Anthony the 6lb 10oz son of Tony Bremer and wife Tracey made his appearance on March 10 and increases the membership at Dorking Golf Club by one. Chobham Golf Club will also be pleased that the potential ladies' membership has also improved with the arrival of Alice May, 6lb 11oz on the 27th February. Scott and Tracey Reeves her proud parents and Tony & Tracey Bremer have our warmest Congratulations.

The date for the Mcmillan Tankard competition at Sunningdale has just been confirmed by Brian Turner as August 28. The numbers will be restricted so please get your application forms in as soon as you receive them.

Please remember to keep me informed of all your news.  
Brian Wilmott



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

#### Devon and Cornwall

Roserow Golf Club was the venue for the Aventis & Supaturf meeting held on Wednesday March 28.

Our golfing members competed for the Supaturf (Head Greenkeepers & Trade) trophy and the Aventis trophy for assistants over 13 holes because of the weather conditions, as usual our non golfing members course walk left the club house at 10.30am and enjoyed a most enlightening guided tour of the course by Neil

Taylor, Roserow's Course Manager.

After a superb lunch Paul Clifton, Aventis, and John Mullins, Supaturf, representing our sponsors for the day presented the golf prizes as follows.

Supaturf Trophy for Head Greenkeepers & Trade. 1. John Parr, Exeter; 2. Gordon Tambllyn, Mullion; 3. Jeff Mills, Taunton. Aventis Trophy for Assistants. 1. Neil Williams, Stover; 2. Tony James, Tehidy; 3. Neil Kent, St Enodoc.

Special Congratulations go to our Chairman, Cary Rawlings, for his hole-in-one on the 12th. Cary was presented with a Supaturf dart board and case by John Mullins.

Our afternoon educational talk rounded off the day, with Jeff Mills Course Manager Taunton and Pickeridge G.C. presenting his excellent talk on "Poa". The Section would like to thank Jeff for his superb presentation.

Also the Section would like to thank the day's sponsors Supaturf and Aventis for their continued support and to Roserow Golf Club for allowing the section use of their excellent facilities and to all of Roserow's staff who made our day run so smoothly, with special thanks to Course Manager Neil Taylor and his crew.  
Richard Whyman

### Phone a friend?

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

#### South Coast

By the time you get this issue of the magazine, we should be enjoying a heat wave. I would've won the lottery and will be lordling it up at my country mansion.

These are my dreams, to have both of them come true would be quite nice, but I'll make do with a heat wave.

After six months of misery and winter blues, and not to mention the foot and mouth disaster, I'm sure we could all do with it.

Hopefully the Spring Tournament would have been played by now (it's only the 5th of April when I write this!) Congratulations to the winners, I will reveal your identities in next month's article.

Forthcoming events to make a note of are the Match 'v' Secretaries to be played at Upavon GC on June 14. And I know the Spring Tournament has only just been played, but the Summer Tournament is only around the corner, July 12 to be exact.

This is to be held at Broadstone GC, details of the price and times for day will be in next month's issue.

Well that's about it, so I'll leave you all to work on your sun tans.

But the final word I have saved for myself, I would just like say hello to three avid readers. So hello Gerald, Judith and Steph (the office assistant!)

Mike Cartwright.

#### South Wales

The Summer Tournament is to be held at Llanwrn GC at 1.30pm tee off on July 11 & July 25 the match versus the Golf Club Secretaries at 1.30pm tee off at the Grove GC. Shortly a flyer will be sent out regarding the Rigby Taylor Matchplay Championship so sort yourselves out a partner. The finals to be held at Royal Porthcawl GC October 19.

Well what happened with Westurf I ask? What a disappointment.

Birds of Cowbridge held a Machinery Demonstration at Royal Porthcawl GC on April 4, Demonstrating Textron equipment. I recently had an opportunity and attended a John Deere training Day at their HQ at Langar, Nottingham, which was well worth attending and if you ever have the chance it is worth going along. To tell the truth I went with a gathering from Royal Porthcawl and Ross On Wye GC. Thanks to Frank Sutton's John Deere agent, not forgetting Mike Kealing for getting us there and back safely. Congratulations to Steve Monk in his new capacity at Carmarthen GC as Greenkeeper Supervisor. Bring you up to date with the Quiz night at Pencoe College and the golf at Southerndown the Spring Tournament next month.

Richard Hatcher

#### South West

When you all read this installment of Around the Green, Manchester City will still be in the Premiership, we will be basking in the sun with T-shirts and shorts, and we will have forgotten about the longest wettest winter we have encountered. If all of this doesn't happen then let me share a very useful phone number with you, 0345 909090, The Samaritans.

I could not attend the last event at Thoulstone Park because Cirencester have been chosen to hold this year's Ladies' County Championship before Easter. Here at Cirencester we pride ourselves on our Environmental Policy, so

much so ducks are paddling on the greens, birds are fed a good diet of chafer and leatherjackets, and any seeding we try to do on wear areas becomes the staple diet of friendly pheasants.

I'm sure that the people who played in the last tournament enjoyed their day, the results were very kindly sent to me by Kevin, these are his words.

With only 18 members turning up on a very wet day Steve Britton the Head Greenkeeper had the course in good condition for ducks. (it seems environmental issue is growing) After deliberating whether or not to venture out into the wet weather we all decided to change the format of 4BBB to an individual Stableford over 12 holes. This was a task and a half with the strong wind and occasional showers. I think that we all walked off quacking like ducks but we had great fun with it. The hospitality was second to none and our thanks go out to all who worked at Thoulstone Park and many thanks for the courtesy of the course.

The results of the event are as follows: 1. B. Shave, 28 pts, 2. C. R. Sealey (again), 3. J. R. Acton, 21 pts, 4. N. Bungay, 20 pts (back 3) and 5. S. Coles, 20 pts. Our thanks go out to Martin Townsend and Scotts for sponsoring the day and for supplying the prizes.

The next event for your attention is the Greenkeeper/Amateur at Woodspring GC Bristol. This is an opportunity to invite a non-member who receives courtesy of the course. If you have not received an application form by now contact Kevin James on 07788427677.

A new fixture for this year is a Inter Club Challenge; This will be held at Weston on Tuesday June 5 at 5.30pm. Each club can enter a maximum of three teams of two; these can consist of Greenkeepers, Secretaries and Captains/Chairman. Numbers will be limited any queries again contact Kevin James.

D Bougen



See you all next month!

### Latest news?

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



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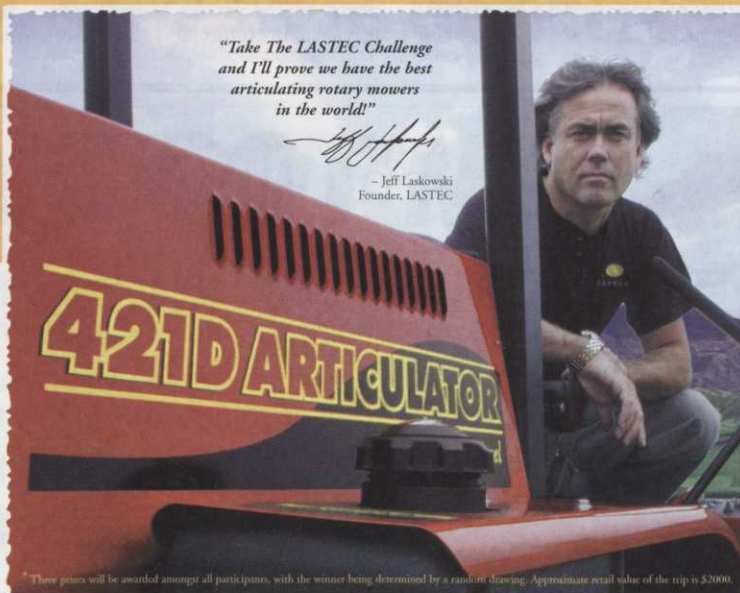
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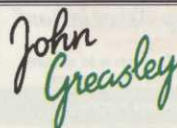
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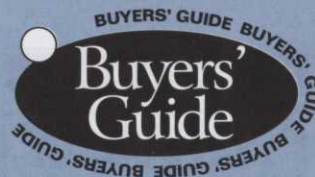


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*Closing date for applications is 9th March 2001*



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For further information tel: 01603 759701

or

Apply in writing with current CV to:

**Mr David Flawn, Managing Director,  
Autoflow Systems Ltd, Auto House, Ashtree Works,  
Mill Road, Barnham Broom, Norfolk, NR9 4DE**

Email: [flawn@autoflowsystems.co.uk](mailto:flawn@autoflowsystems.co.uk)



## Southport & Ainsdale Golf Club

Require a

### Qualified Assistant Greenkeeper

Applicants should have a minimum of 3-4 years experience and have NVQ Level 2/3 or equivalent.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

Head Greenkeeper, Southport & Ainsdale Golf Club,  
Bradshaws Lane, Southport PR8 3LG

## ARKLEY GOLF CLUB

Require a

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Arkley Golf Club has a vacancy for Head Greenkeeper.

The successful applicant will be self motivated with suitable experience and sound knowledge of all turf maintenance practices. They should be an enthusiastic and hard working person, reliable and capable of working in a small team environment. Salary negotiable. Accommodation available on site.

Please reply in writing with full CV to: The Secretary, Arkley Golf Club,  
Rowley Green Road, Barnet, Herts EN5 3HL

## DATCHET GOLF CLUB

Require an

### EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will be self motivated, hard working, with a sound knowledge of turf maintenance practices.

NVQ qualifications will be an advantage.

Apply in writing to:

Head Greenkeeper, Datchet Golf Club, Buccleuch Road,  
Datchet, Berkshire SL3 9BP

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A superb opportunity to join a leading, northern based distribution company.

We have distribution agreements with all the main UK manufacturers including Aventis, Advanta, Headland, Pattisson, Rufford, Scotts, Vitax and many more.

The successful candidate will be enthusiastic, disciplined, self-motivated and driven by results. The key role will be to call upon all prospective customers as guided by the company in order to secure supply arrangements for their requisites.

The area to be covered is North, West & East Yorkshire and Teeside and the candidate's ideal home location would be North of Leeds, but all applicants will be considered.

Please apply in writing to :

**Clive Heginbotham**  
**Alpha Amenity Ltd • Poplar Park • Cliff Lane**  
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## EASINGWOLD GOLF CLUB

*18 hole heath/parkland golf course set in the vale of York.*

Applications are invited for the newly created position of

### Course Manager

The working Course Manager will have overall responsibility for the course and be able to develop budgets, work schedules, course and machinery maintenance plans and have strong man management and motivational skills to lead a team of 4/5.

The successful candidate must possess the relevant qualifications, preferably HND or equivalent in Sports Turf Management but run NVQ3 with experience at supervisory level and all aspects of modern course management.

Free Golf Membership

Salary negotiable, no accommodation available.

Please apply in writing including CV to:

The Secretary, Easingwold Golf Club,  
Stillington Road, Easingwold, York

Closing date for applications:- Friday 25 May 2001





**WORLD OF GOLF**

*World of golf operate the UK's most successful golf centres and are recruiting for the following position...*

## Head Greenkeeper (Grounds/Maintenance)

Required to join the team which maintains the Range, Fairways, Short Game Practice Facility and course at our busy golf driving ranges in Gravesend and Sidcup. Conscientious self-starter, able to work on own initiative with the following essential skills: strong supervisory experience, sound turf and drainage knowledge, qualified to operate and maintain all types of greenkeeping machinery, health & safety knowledge and a full clean driving licence.

The successful applicant will be flexible and prepared to cover duties at either site, working a 40 hour week on a 5 days in any 7 rota.

Applications in writing with full CV including current salary to:  
**Michael Crockett, World of Golf, A20 Sidcup By Pass, Chislehurst, Kent.**  
Email: [lizwilliams@ashtour.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:lizwilliams@ashtour.freeserve.co.uk)

## MOOR PARK GOLF CLUB

Require

### TWO GREENKEEPERS

We are currently seeking 2 young and enthusiastic greenkeepers to join our existing team to help maintain and develop our two parkland courses to the highest standards for National Championships, members and visitors.

Applicants should be NVQ2 qualified with some relevant experience and knowledge in modern greenkeeping practices.

The successful applicants will be self motivated, reliable and have the ability to work well with an established team.

*Applications in writing enclosing a C.V. to: Stuart Bertram, Course Manager, Moor Park Golf Club, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 1QN.*

## Greenkeeper

An opportunity to put into practice all greenkeeping skills on a 9 hole course with two woods, four ponds and a 32 bay driving range.

Must be self motivated, have hands on experience and a sound knowledge of course machinery. Accommodation could be available.

Application in writing with CV to:

The General Manager, Thamesview Golf Centre,  
Fairway Drive, Thamesmead North, London SE28 8PP

## NEW ZEALAND GOLF CLUB

Requires a

### QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be qualified to NVQ Level 2. Salary and conditions are negotiable but no accommodation. Please apply in writing, enclosing a full CV to:

The Secretary, New Zealand Golf Club,  
Woodham Lane, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3QD

## FLACKWELL HEATH GOLF CLUB

Flackwell Heath Golf Club is a well established 18 hole private Members Club situated near the town of High Wycombe.

To compliment our Team operating from a well equipped and recently completed purpose built Greenkeepers facility, we have immediate vacancies for the following positions.

### Deputy Head Greenkeeper

Applicants for this key position should be qualified and experienced in all aspects of golf course management and the use and maintenance of modern machinery.

Spraying certification is essential.

### Two Assistant Greenkeepers

Applicants should possess, or be working towards, the appropriate qualifications and have a least two years experience of golf course maintenance. A mechanical background would be an advantage.

Remuneration commensurate with experience.

Applicants should apply in writing to the Secretary/Manager, enclosing a full C.V. and details of existing salary and benefits.

Flackwell Heath Golf Club, Treadaway Road,  
Flackwell Heath, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 9PE

*4 Star hotel with it's own challenging 9-hole golf course  
nestling in 40 acres of beautiful parkland.*

## ESTATE MANAGER/ HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant should display excellent man management skills as well as being "hands-on", and should be able to demonstrate experience in all aspects of modern green keeping, (N.V.Q. Level 3 standard) as well as possessing knowledge of machine maintenance.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone who already has the responsibilities of a deputy and who is seeking their first appointment as a Head Greenkeeper.

*Application should be made in writing to:*

Human Resources Department,  
Cophorne Hotel Effingham Park Gatwick,  
Cophorne, West Sussex RH10 3EU



## Feature listing from May '99

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Positive attitudes



With slightly fewer BIGGA functions over the past month - with so much packed into my first three months as Chairman I do think I'm due a bit of a breather - I have been able to join with the rest of the Walton Heath team in catching up on the course work which the unbelievable weather meant we couldn't do earlier in the year. We've found ourselves returfing and reseeding the isolated areas which have been puddling up. There are areas on the course which are still near saturation point but I must admit we are luckier than some as the heathland is on a hill. My heart goes out to those members working on courses which don't enjoy good drainage after the rainfall levels we've had.

We are currently in that awkward interim state on the golf course when play steps up but the weather is not quite warm enough to repair the damage caused by the increase in play quickly enough and we find ourselves slipping back a little.

This has been definitely the worst winter I have experienced in my time in the industry and looking forward we must hope for something better than

our recent summers. I know some weather forecasters have been saying we shall be in for a good one but in my experience you can't really predict what the weather is going to do much more than a week in advance.

However I suppose the law of averages says that we are due a good one and my fingers are crossed that the sun smiles on us for the next five or six months.

With the Foot and Mouth Outbreak coming on top of the rain many greenkeepers haven't had their troubles to seek over the last few months.

It really is biting deep and the implications for many golf clubs, and BIGGA members will be severe. I've been invited down to Cornwall in the next couple of weeks on a morale boosting visit to an area which has suffered more than most and I'll be keen to offer a few consoling words to the members. For many the knowledge that the Association is there and concerned about their welfare is a comforting thought in their hour of need.

I was at the AEA luncheon in the Savoy a few weeks ago and the speaker, Jonathan Miller, a writer, broadcaster and regular columnist in The Sunday Times, was scathing in his criticism of the Government, unions and other related bodies and their handling of the situation. A small holder

himself, he described the culling and burning of animals as medieval with the cost far outweighing the benefits.

It is also strange that we are told that slaughtering the animals will kill any disease they are carrying but that we are also told by other experts to beware of uncooked meat. Makes you think doesn't it.

On other matters, I was interested to read Dr Kate Entwistle's excellent article on diseases in last month's magazine. With the change in weather we can expect a lot of fungal activity and Kate's article will be a useful one to refer to when and if you get an attack. I note she also asks you to get in touch with her directly or through Scott at BIGGA HOUSE if you want any more assistance.

I'm also delighted to hear that the STRI has promised to submit more articles to the magazine on a range of subjects. The magazine is a good source on articles on problems you may be suffering from while you can always access the BIGGA Library which has a huge fund of books on all subjects available to you for no more than the cost of the return postage.

Clive Osgood



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