

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



Address your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York YO61 1UF, or email them to 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.

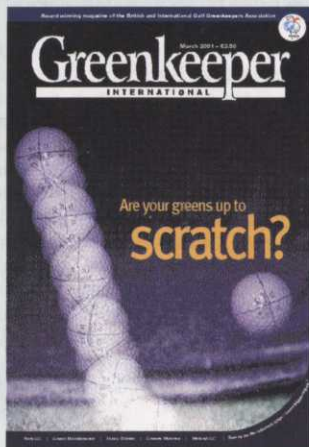
I was his industrial supervisor at STRI

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

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, jwheeler@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