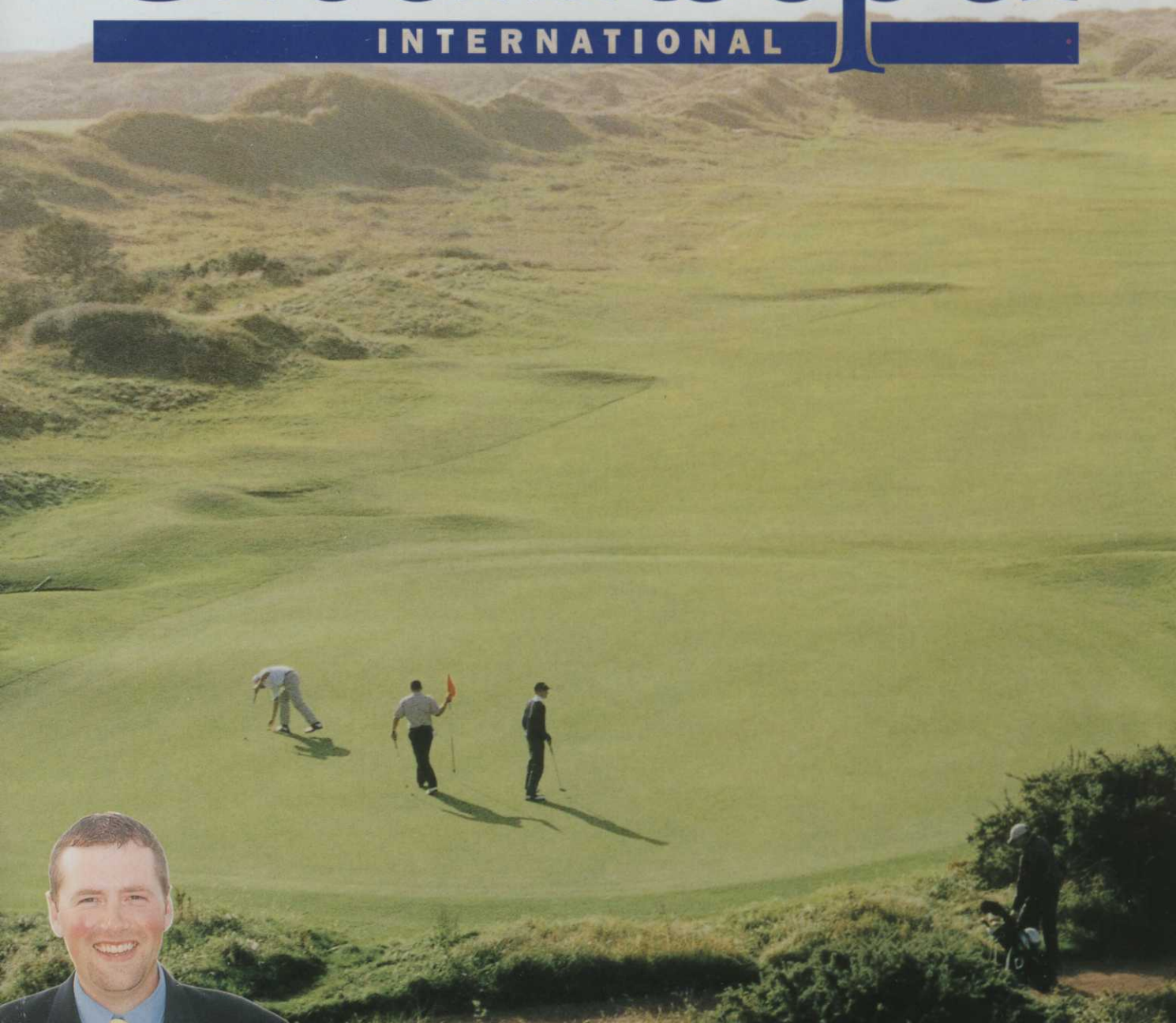




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Greenkeeper

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Past Chairman - Elliott Small

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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



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FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS CHAT GREENKEEPERS

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The results of the most comprehensive survey ever undertaken by the Association have now been digested. Mike Williamson, who undertook the survey, explains the work that went into it while Neil Thomas reveals what happens next

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Meet the four finalists for the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping



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A Memorable Year

As we edge towards the end of a year which will be memorable for a great many reasons - record flooding in many parts of the UK; the first Foot and Mouth Outbreak since 1967; the horrific atrocities in the United States and what has subsequently followed - there are still a number of reasons for we in BIGGA to feel positive.

The BIGGA National Championship was probably one of the best in the time I have been with the Association. Two outstanding golf courses in Royal Birkdale and Southport and Ainsdale and a strong field featuring some of the finest golfers this Association is lucky enough to boast.

Chris Ball showed that there is no substitute for local knowledge. He played superb golf over Birkdale, where he was once a junior member, and at SS&A, which overlooks Hillside, where he earns his living as an Assistant, to be crowned the Association's Champion Golfer.

The desire to do well on his home patch was there for all to see and it is great that the BIGGA National Championship can produce that sort of passion and commitment.

Tribute must also be paid to Ian Semple who produced the round of the Championship in gales gusting up to 50mph. Ian, who plays off 1, was shot better than anyone else with his score of 74 round Birkdale. He couldn't reproduce it the next day but hung on for a very well deserved win in the the Scratch competition.

Around about the same time as Chris and Ian were lifting trophies in Southport, Dr Keith Duff, Principal Judge in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, supported by the R&A, was concluding his deliberations.

His decision, and as ever it was a close run thing, was to award the title to Broadstone Golf Club, in Poole, a club which has been edging closer to the top prize over the last few years. It also marks another triumph for the south as Broadstone, which is managed by Adrian Archer, succeeds The Dyke Golf Club, from Brighton, as BIGGA's environmental Champion.

The STRI's Lee Penrose has written a report on this year's competition on page 16 of this month's magazine, while you can read about The Dyke on page 24.

The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition is one of the most important events run by the Association as it showcases, to the wider golfing community and indeed the general public, what a great job is done by golf clubs up and down the country to maintain and enhance the flora and fauna which everyone, golfers and non-golfers alike, can enjoy.

While those two BIGGA events have come to a conclusion for 2001, as I write, we still await the final of two other extremely prestigious competitions - the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student of the Year Award. Knowing the quality of the finalists in both we

are guaranteed two more outstanding Champions and at the end of the year BIGGA will be able to look back with satisfaction at some wonderful competitions which will have produced excellent winners and ambassadors for the Association.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

Dublin the venue for Sportsturf Ireland

'Sportsturf Ireland' staged by The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland (GCSAI) will be the largest turf management and groundcare exhibition ever to be held in Ireland. This bi-annual Trade Show is being held at the RDS in Dublin on November 14 and 15 and due to the increased demand for space is for the first time being run over two major exhibition halls at this prestigious venue, the Main Hall and the new modern Shelbourne Hall.

Sportsturf Ireland will act as an important shop window for all major machinery manufacturers, dealers, the supply industry and

many ancillary exhibitors of interest to those involved in fine turf maintenance. It presents an ideal opportunity to discuss at first hand both the problems and the developments of the trade between the supplier and the end user.

In addition to those connected with the golf market it will interest a wide section of the fine turf industry including sports clubs, parks, local authorities, education, landscapers, contractors and leisure complexes.

There should be something to interest everyone from secretary/managers, golf course superintendents to assistant

greenkeepers and grounds people to students.

The GCSAI is a non-profit making organisation set up for the education and improvement of those involved in Irish golf greenkeeping. It has now expanded into sports clubs and landscaping and other areas of fine turf management covering the whole of Ireland. As this is a bi-annual event a large attendance is expected from every corner of the country over the two days.

Admission is free.
Wednesday 14 November, 10am - 6pm
Thursday 15 November 10am - 5pm

Hair today...

Master Greenkeeper Anthony Davies, Course Manager at Prestbury Golf Club near Manchester, will be hoping for a mild winter having had his head shaved in the name of a cancer charity.

"I decided that because October is Breast Cancer Awareness month I would have my golden locks shaved for charity and hopefully raise funds at the same time," explained Anthony.

No shrinking violet, Anthony opened the doors to his friends and supporters on the evening of the big snip.

"Over 50 people attended, either to gloat or to make sure I didn't do a runner!" joked the by now follically challenged Anthony.

On the night of the 'BIG CUT' £500 was raised and since that evening the amount has reached £1,100. All the proceeds are heading for an early detection Ultrasound scanner for the Breast Screening unit at the Macclesfield District General Hospital.

Anyone wishing to support Anthony's fund raising exploits can send a donation to BIGGA HOUSE where we shall make sure any money is forwarded to Anthony.



Above: Professional hairdresser Dawn Hill gets cutting!



Receiving the cheque is David Gibson from the Macclesfield Round Table.

Cumbria Cup goes to Graham Forbes

Graham Forbes, Head Greenkeeper of Maryport Golf Club, emerged as winner of the Course Care Cumbria Cup which was finally played at Penrith Golf Club having been postponed due to the Foot and Mouth epidemic earlier in the year.

Graham lifted the prestigious Whitelaw Bowl with a score of 37 Stableford points winning on a better back nine.

Graham is pictured with the Whitelaw Bowl between BIGGA Chairman Clive Osgood and Penrith Captain, Donald Birkett.



Textron Managing Director resigns

Harold Pinto (right), Managing Director of Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products - International, has resigned and left the company at the beginning of this month.

His decision is purely voluntary and he is returning to the USA to head up one of the subsidiaries of the Boston-based Goldman Industrial group reporting directly to their Chairman and CEO, Greg Goldman.

"We are all really sorry to see Harold go and wish him the very best in his new career opportunity. He has done a tremendous job in the past four years where he has successfully managed the integration of Jacobsen and Ransomes, bringing together the two organisations under the Textron umbrella and creating a distinct identity for the two major brands in their respective market sectors," said Peter Bell, Marketing Director.

"He leaves behind a superb team of people in a stable and progressive business with high expectations of continued growth in their respective markets.

"We all echo the thoughts of Greg Hyland, the President of Textron Golf and Turf in the States who, in thanking Harold for his outstanding contribution said that he will miss his business insight, his leadership and his efforts to consistently move the business forward, while wishing him great success in his future endeavours."

Following his departure Textron announced a series of temporary organisational changes until the reorganisation of the International division is finalised. This will result in the senior management team at Ipswich reporting directly to Greg Hyland, the President of Textron Golf and Turf in the USA.



Scotland North take Norrie Whytock Trophy

The Norrie Whytock Team Trophy, sponsored by Aventis, was once again held at Auchterarder GC by kind permission of the Captain and Committee.

The Sections were all represented and the players were looking forward to taking part in what has become a regular fixture in the Region's golfing calendar. The weather was kind but prior to the day, the Course Manager, Archie Dunn, was not hopeful as the rain had made conditions pretty awful. Thankfully they cleared up on the day.

The event consists of teams of four from each Section within the Scottish Region taking part on a Stableford basis with the best three scores counting. Conditions were ideal and with the European Tour event taking place next door at Gleneagles the players were in good company. Some of the scores returned would not have disgraced that field.

At the end of the day the North Section again emerged as winners with an aggregate of 104 points. The winning team comprised of Iain MacLeod, Steve Sullivan, David Marnoch and Stuart Hogg. Runners-up were the West Section on a countback from the Ayrshire Section.



Mention should be made of young John Mair, Beith GC, of the Ayrshire Section who amassed 40 points but unfortunately missed out on the team prizes.

Our thanks go once again to Aventis and David Drummond, the Regional Manager Scotland, for hosting this event and providing such excellent prizes. Their support of this tourna-

ment is appreciated by the players who wish to pass on their thanks and appreciation to Aventis and David for the day.

Our thanks to Archie Dunn and his staff at Auchterarder GC for preparing the course for our visit. Thanks are also due to the club for the use of the clubhouse.

Peter Boyd

Membership Subscription Rates for 2002

Please note that from January 1, 2002, BIGGA Membership Subscription Rates will be as follows:

Job title	2002 rates
Course Manager/ Head Greenkeeper	£85
Deputy Course Manager/ Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£67
All other Greenkeeping staff aged 21 years and over	£54
Greens staff aged 20 years and under	£33
International Greenkeeping Member	£63
Full-time Students	£18
Associate Member	£60
Corporate Membership (up to 4 trade members)	£180

Myerscough College Annual Turf Conference postponed

This year's Myerscough College Annual Turf Conference 'In Pursuit of Excellence' has been postponed due to the events that occurred in the United States of America on September 11th. The continuing unstable situation affects all overseas visitors adversely and was seen to be an unnecessary journey at this difficult time.

The Conference was due to be held at The Norbreck Castle Hotel in Blackpool on the 12th to 15th November 2001.

Myerscough College will endeavour to re-arrange the Annual Turf Conference in the spring of 2002.

For further information, please contact Myerscough College on 01995 642222 or via email: turfconference@myerscough.ac.uk

BIGGA on the move at Scotsturf

In the October edition of Greenkeeper International, it was stated that the BIGGA stand at the Scotsturf Exhibition, 6-7 November, would be situated on the East Balcony. This is not the case and visitors to the exhibition will be welcome at the stand's new location of C28, where Cheryl and Susannah from BIGGA will be promoting the benefits of membership, BTME, The Golf Club Show and Greenkeeper International.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

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

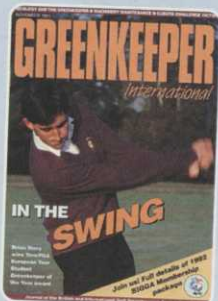


A LOOK BACK TO A DECADE AGO

Back Lapping

FROM GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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



NOVEMBER 1991

Greenkeepers and Superintendents Tournament

Fulford Golf Club in York was the location for the seventh Ransomes International Greenkeepers and Superintendents Tournament, when Canada snatched victory by one point from the United States with England third, two further points away. Remember the players? The Canadian squad comprised Tom Charters, Bob Heron, Doug Meyer and Robbie Robinson with manager Ken Olsvik. Representing the USA were Ed Walsh, Roger Null and Frank Moswell. England's team, managed by Past BIGGA Chairman Ivor Scoones, included Mike Hughes, David Wood and Mark Diment. Scotland, as did Wales, finished joint 7th, and Elliott Small commented 'we seemed to be seeing borrows which weren't there and lipped a lot of holes'.

ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award

Five well-known BIGGA members were competing for the prestigious ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award - Richard Barker, Laurence Pithie, Timothy McCreadie, David Whitaker and Arne Van Amerongen. And the winner ... David Whitaker. Meanwhile the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year was named - Brian Story from Silloth on Solway Golf Club.

Night time golf at Aldwark

Night time golf came to Aldwark Manor when an invited audience saw the chemically illuminated golf balls struck, with various plastic covered lights of a similar nature used to aid the golfers sight. Greenkeepers were reported as far from happy with twelve or more hours of golf during the summer and the problems of overplaying and compaction. Added to this was the problem of footprinting on delicate and perhaps frosted greens and, of course, divot replacement. Overall impression? A bit gimmicky and not for the serious golfer.

Key appointment for CWC

Complete Weed Control has appointed Richard Minton as Business Development Manager.

Richard is a well known face to many greenkeepers up and down the country from his attendance at the Greenkeeper of the Year competition and National Tournaments when they were supported by his company.

This new post involves provision of technical and practical support for the 40 plus national franchise network including advertising and promotional activities, development of new market areas and the formulation of training initiatives aimed at enhancing overall business performance.

Richard, who joins the company with a sound background of over 12 years in the industry and has professional credentials of BASIS, BAA part 3, FACTS and NPTC, is looking forward to the challenge this new role will offer. Formerly UK Sales Manager for Scotts Turf and Amenity, Richard brings with him an impressive portfolio of business achievements.

"I am joining Complete Weed Control at an exciting time for contracting. Due to the imposition of legislative restraints, the need for professionally qualified contractors is vast and offers tremendous market potential for our company. Complete Weed Control has always set the highest standards and my aim is to ensure that quality remains a key focus for our service provision," said Richard.

A key area for business development will be promotion of CWC's WeedIT machine. Launched in 1997 and winner of 'The Best New Landscape Product' at SALTEX 97, WeedIT offers major environmental benefits through targeting only the weed for treatment, thus ensuring the minimum use of chemicals.

Managing Director, Roger Turner, said of the new appointment:

"We are exceptionally fortunate that Richard has joined our ranks and are confident that his professional knowledge and expertise will complement our successful weed control business."

Carnoustie renews Toro partnership



Carnoustie has renewed its three-year partnership with Toro in a deal which has seen Course Superintendent John Philp replacing his entire Toro fleet, apart from nine of his Greensmaster greensmowers. The new kit was put to good use straight away in preparation for, and during, the recent Dunhill Links event. "Overall Toro still has the machines with the right pedigree and has offered us another excellent deal with the right support so I am delighted to continue our relationship," said John. Pictured are: John Philp centre right, with from the right Gordon Skea, of Toro dealer Allan Gammie, distributor Lely's George Macdonald and Les Gammie with Carnoustie greenkeepers.

Portugal venue for EGD annual meeting

The European Golf Distributors held their 8th Annual Meeting in Porto, Portugal during October, with members from eight different countries present. Principals of Amenity distributors from throughout Europe make up the group, whose objective is to share information, market trends and product development.

A wide range of topics were discussed, including the adverse weather conditions last winter and how it affected the amenity market throughout Europe and as a group how they can further the excellent technical service offered to the benefit of customers throughout Europe.

For further details contact Rod Feltham, Secretary, European Golf Distributors 01934 820868.

Scotsraig appoint George to new role

Scotsraig Golf Club has appointed George Paterson as its first Course Manager. George, who takes up the post in December having fulfilled his notice from his position of Course Manager of Sligo Golf Club in north-west Ireland, was previously Head Greenkeeper at Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC in the north of Scotland.

"We are confident that George will be an excellent addition to the management team at Scotsraig. He is very ambitious and dedicated to his work," said Club Secretary Barrie Liddle.

He will inherit a new full irrigation system which has recently been installed on the Final Open Qualifying Course.

George, 34, is a one handicap golfer and is married to Annie with two children Leah, 6, and Gregor, 2.

Conference set to be resounding success

Textron, principal sponsors of the inaugural Turf Care Conference to be held at the Gleneagles Hotel from November 18-20, has reported that the event is now fully booked and looks set to be a resounding success.

Over 120 delegates will be attending the conference, which is the brainchild of Jimmy Kidd, Golf Courses and Estates Director at the world-renowned resort complex. The format has been designed to appeal to, and address issues, facing both business entrepreneurs who wish to build a golf course as well as those already involved in the industry.

"This three-day conference is the ideal forum for representatives from all areas of the course construction and maintenance sectors to meet and expend their knowledge and understanding of each other's role. We are absolutely delighted that demand for places has outstripped supply and this bodes well for the future of the event," said Jimmy.

Peter Bell, Marketing Director of Textron was equally delighted with the Conference's impending success.

"As principal sponsor we are equally thrilled with the response from delegates. Through the hard work of Jimmy and his staff, this inaugural conference looks set to become an annual event with delegates and speakers attending from all parts of the globe. This international perspective will ensure that all participants can exchange views and discuss issues that affect this burgeoning industry," said Peter.

New title for Gordon

Following a decision by the Links Management Committee Gordon Moir, who oversees the management of all six St Andrews Links courses, has had his job title changed to Links Superintendent.



Previously Head Greenkeeper of the Eden Course, Gordon, a past Chairman of the Scottish Region and National Board of Management member, took up the post last October inheriting the all-encompassing title of Links Manager but it is hoped that the new title will highlight the focus of his responsibility which is the management and maintenance of the courses.

"With his background and ability, Gordon is ideally suited to his role," said Alan McGregor, General Manager of St Andrews Links Trust.

"The job is one of the most significant in greenkeeping worldwide and I am confident that Gordon will help ensure that St Andrews Links raises its reputation as a world centre of excellence."

Grade A Club benefits for Dartmouth G&CC

Membership of an innovative club is helping Dartmouth Golf and Country Club Course Manager Terry Farkins supplement his annual staff training budget. Soon his in-house training library will boast the full range of BIGGA greenkeeper training videos. Terry employs eight full time staff and one casual worker at the 27-hole golf and hotel complex situated at Blackawarton, near Totnes in Devon. Investment in training has always been a priority for both Terry and his employer BBC Director General, Greg Dyke, who owns Dartmouth G&CC.

"We are constantly looking to move our greenkeepers up the NVQ qualification scale. At the moment, half our staff are qualified and the rest are keen to progress right up to NVQ level three. We run regular in-house training days and attend short courses where appropriate," said Terry. In fact, Terry is so committed to continued career education that he plans to set up his own library within the course



workshop area, and introduce a personal computer so that staff can regularly access the Internet for information.

"Ultimately, I'd like to undertake 90% of the training in-house and this means investing in educational materials. The British Seed Houses training credit scheme is an excellent idea has been well received by

both the staff and the company. We've redeemed our first batch of points and will be using the money to build up a library of BIGGA training videos," he revealed.

As a member of the British Seed Houses Grade A Club, Terry has built up his points as a loyalty bonus based on the on-going seed business he has done with the company.

Estimated £60k damage caused by vandals

Five greens were decimated overnight in an act of mindless vandalism at Llanymynech Golf Club when weed-killer was thrown over them.

The greens will now need to be rebuilt and new turf laid at a cost of approximately £10,000 to £12,000 per green.

Course Manager Allen Lewis could not believe his eyes on the morning of September 18 when he was alerted by a member of his staff to a white powder on the greens. This is now thought to have been Sodium Chlorate.

In the following three weeks the greens changed to yellow then white and finally brown as the grass covered died off over 60% to 70% of each green.

Officials at the club can think of no reason why anyone should want to do such a mindless act. The golf course is situated on the top of Llanymynech Hill with three greens in England and 15 in Wales.

Turfgrass Seed 2

TURFGRASS SEED 2002
SECOND EDITION

STRI

Published by STRI, BINGLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE, BS18 1AU, ENGLAND

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STRI has produced a second edition of Turfgrass Seed 2002.

The new booklet has revised information describing the performance of perennial ryegrass cultivars for use in winter games pitches.

For further details telephone: 01274 565131.

Top marks given to Thiefbeaters

Thiefbeaters has launched the Thatcham Permanent Security Marking and Database registration system.

Designed to protect valuable vehicles and equipment, Thiefbeaters acts as a theft deterrent. The new system can be applied to a wide range of landscaping and amenity items, including mowers, chippers, tractors and hand tools.

It works by applying unique alphanumeric numbers, electronic

tags and microdots to the structure and fabric of an item. This identification put in numerous overt and hidden locations, make it impossible for the thief to conceal, or remove the identity and legal ownership of the property.

Full details of the property and its unique markings are held on a national database which the police can access in the event of a theft.

Further information can be obtained Tel: 0870 794 0111.

Latest brochure now available from Tonick

The new, full colour brochure from Tonick Watering features a comprehensive range of irrigation control products and accessories for golf course, sports grounds, garden centres and landscapes.

The range includes decoders with programmer/testers, irrigation controllers, lightning protection modules, field-wiring connection and fault-finding kits.

The text provides useful technical information for both greenkeepers and installers.

All of the products described are designed and made in the UK by Tonick Watering and most items are available from stock.

The brochure is available free, on request, telephone: 01269 832325.

Andrew joins Advanta Seeds UK



Andrew Hodgskiss has joined the Advanta Seeds UK amenity sales team, to support the Advanta "MM" and "Designer" distributors, and their customers, in East Anglia and the South East.

Based in Ely, Cambridgeshire, Andrew has many years experience working in the grass seed business, selling to local authorities, major turf growers, architects and other landscape specifiers, as well as private sports and golf clubs.

High flotation tyres from Nokia

New Nokia high flotation tyres - yes that's Nokia - are helping to reduce the round pressure of the Carraro TRX 8400 tractor, which is a 74hp machine weighing 2100 kg, to 6 psi. The Nokia tyres, which fit comfortably into the Carraro tractor's frame, boast a lifespan which is typically equal to or greater than the vehicle to which they are fitted.

"Even when the TRX is working with one of the larger Verti-Drain deep aeration machines mounted on the back, it still creates less disturbance to the grass than an empty turf utility vehicle moving personnel around," said Dustin Houghton,

Head Greenkeeper, at Seaford Head Golf Club, who purchased a Nokia shod machine recently.

Like other Carraro tractors, the driving position and controls are fully reversible. This means that attachments can be fitted at both front and rear, and the operator can switch from using one to the other almost instantly.

This saves time and boosts productivity, with various tasks being carried out quickly and efficiently, without damaging the turf.

Carraro tractors are distributed in the UK by Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd.





BIGGA market research study: The story to date...

As readers will know from reports in Greenkeeper International earlier this year, BIGGA commissioned specialist golf consultancy MW Associates in March to carry out a detailed market research study on behalf of the Association. Funding for the research was provided by the R&A, whose financial support is gratefully acknowledged. Many people also assisted with the study, either by completing questionnaires or by taking part in telephone interviews, and a good number expressed interest in hearing about the findings of the research – and how BIGGA planned to follow up the study. So, in the first part of this article, Mike Williamson, the Director of MW Associates responsible for the study, describes how the research was carried out and summarises his main findings and conclusions. BIGGA's Board has discussed these findings, both with Mike Williamson and at its own meetings, and, in the second part of the article, BIGGA's Executive Director Neil Thomas highlights the priorities the Board has identified for more detailed assessment and follow-up action.

Mike Williamson takes up the story...

The general aim of the study was to establish how BIGGA, and its current policies and activities, are regarded by its members and the major companies and organisations in the golf industry that it has dealings with. A further specific aim was to identify ways of tackling problems, and exploiting opportunities, in the areas of marketing and revenue generation.

A key element of our survey work was a detailed questionnaire sent to a sample of just over 2,000 BIGGA members, representing all membership categories and all regions of the country. 574 completed questionnaires were returned – a response rate of 28%.

In addition, we carried out about 150 telephone interviews, which covered:

32 potential BIGGA members, ie greenkeepers who have not joined BIGGA;

31 lapsed BIGGA members, ie greenkeepers who had previously been, but were no longer, BIGGA members;

BIGGA Board Members, senior staff, and regional administrators;

32 commercial contacts, ie representatives of Golden and Silver Key company members of BIGGA, companies advertising in Greenkeeper International, golf operating companies, media etc;

14 representatives of golf organisations, ie golf unions, the colleges, professional associations, GTC, STRI, etc;

23 representatives of golf clubs, ie representatives of Association of Golf Club Secretaries and individual golf clubs.

The completed questionnaires and telephone interviews yielded a great deal of information and opinion – some of a strategic nature and some at a very detailed level – and this is reflected in the structure of our report. We highlight a number of general, and common, themes that emerged from many of the questionnaires and interviews, but also list the many detailed comments and suggestions – often made by only one or two people, but well worth considering nonetheless – relating to specific BIGGA services or aspects of Greenkeeper International or BTME.

The 'big issues' that emerged from the research can be summarised as:

The Way Forward?

A feeling came across in many of the interviews – perhaps prompted by the very fact that the research was being carried out – that, having come a long way in its first 14 years, BIGGA had reached a point where important decisions had to be made about its future direction, and at a time when finances are tight in the golf industry generally.

Membership – quality or quantity?

On balance, the research supports the direction BIGGA is already taking, ie introducing a minimum qualification for full membership and focussing on education and training as the core membership service, with the aim of positioning BIGGA clearly as a professional association for greenkeepers at all levels and stages who want to pursue greenkeeping as a professional career. This could enable BIGGA to play a key role in co-ordinating the design and delivery of all levels of education and training, and strengthen the Association's relationship with the commercial sector.

Policy priorities

Two BIGGA services clearly emerged from the research as the top priorities in terms of spending any extra money that becomes available, and being protected against any cuts if savings have to be made. These were education and training – locally delivered so far as possible – and working to improve the professional status, and the pay and conditions, of members.

A centralised or devolved organisation?

BIGGA now has a large and very dispersed membership, who are looking for membership services (as well as recruitment efforts and liaison with employers) to be as locally based as possible. Having smaller (and therefore more) regions each with its own administrator could help, while members need more information about 'who does what' in BIGGA HOUSE, and how all the work done there contributes to member benefits.

Funding and the relationship with the commercial sector

Much more of BIGGA's funding now comes from BTME and Greenkeeper International than from members' subscriptions. With financial pressures in the commercial sector, businesses looking for more commercial return on the money they spend with BIGGA, and some unease among members about potential over-dependence on commercial funding – but all combined with an expectation that BIGGA will continue to expand its services to members – there are clearly financial challenges to be faced. Efforts should therefore be redoubled to obtain more funding for greenkeeper training in particular from the people who ultimately benefit most from it – professional and amateur golfers.

Working links and public relations

The research suggests BIGGA should strengthen its working links with colleges and the GTC on education and training, and with the PGA and the Association of Golf Club Secretaries as the other two associations representing the professionals in golf management. The evidence also suggests BIGGA needs to devote more resources to professional PR to raise the profile of the Association and get its messages across more effectively to members, golfers, and companies and organisations in the golf industry.

Greenkeeper International and BTME

While these are both clear success stories, there was a strong body of opinion in favour of the magazine having more technical, research, educational, and business management content – and with more of this being related to 'ordinary' golf courses.

BTME is seen as providing excellent service to the industry and good commercial opportunities for companies. While Harrogate is generally accepted at present as the most appropriate location for the BTME, this needs to be regularly reassessed while there needs to be a focus on attracting members from further afield to Harrogate as well as ensuring that fresh faces and as many potential buyers as possible appear from year to year.

A final word from Mike Williamson

This brief summary has had to leave out most of what is in our 40-page report, but hopefully it will give a flavour of the broad findings. Again, my thanks on behalf of MW Associates to everyone who completed questionnaires or took time to speak to us.

Neil Thomas continues the story...

BIGGA's Board of Management has given detailed consideration to the market research study and has identified the following as priority areas for more detailed assessment and follow-up action as a result of the market research.

More effective communications and public relations, including the possible use of professional PR services to "get the Association's message across" to its various target audiences, closer working relationships with other bodies where mutual interests could be clearly identified, and more use of techniques like roadshows and contact with employers at the County Golf Union level to promote membership recruitment, services and general support for BIGGA.

A review of BIGGA's current three-tier structure, particularly with the aim of identifying cost-effective ways of strengthening the Association's local "identity" and service delivery.

A review of the commercial funding generated by the Association, including a review of the concept of Golden and Silver Key company membership, in terms of features like the number of companies involved, the level of payment to BIGGA and the services offered in return.

Further strengthening of BIGGA's key service of education and training, including the funding of this service and the role of the Association in relation to the colleges and the GTC.

For the Board's next meeting in December I have a brief to make recommendations as to how the Association should proceed with the assessment and any follow-up action. There is no doubt that this will involve, as it should, members at all levels when we will need to look back at BIGGA's operation over the last 14 years and then decide on how best to take the Association forward in the years that lie ahead.

The work involved will be significant and while there will be expectations, there also needs to be a degree of realism. There will be no quick fixes and we are certainly looking at a medium/long term process whereby we can envisage coming to decisions, and implementing them, over a period which may be in excess of two years. It also needs to be said at the outset that there will undoubtedly be resource implications to consider and this will be a major factor in determining the timing for implementation of recommendations once approved by the Board of Management.

This should, therefore, be an exciting period when, far from resting on its laurels, BIGGA will examine its progress and development since 1987 and look to move forward progressively for the benefit of its membership in this new century.

Should we lead or should we be led?

Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager at Potters Bar GC, has some concerns involving the profession. Do you share his views?

I have become extremely concerned about our profession of late – there appears to be a kind of complacency which I do not wish to be a part of – an “acceptance of our lot” attitude which serves no-one – least of all our industry.

We have come too far in the last 15 years or so to now sit back and not gain strength and confidence from the advances made already in the acceptance of responsibility in managing golf courses.

So why am I so concerned?

I believe there is a serious omission in the management of golf courses – I see it in the average private members golf club, which make up approximately 90% of the golf played in this country.

There appears to be few who have the necessary confidence to stamp their authority and ensure that the right things are carried out on golf courses and therefore ensure the best conditions are available to players.

At this point I do not want people to misinterpret me – I am not a power hungry autocrat! – I just want wonderful golf courses – is that not what we all want?

My argument is that we can only achieve this if the course is managed efficiently and that is not achieved by reactive management, which I come across whenever I hear of problems on golf courses.

Proactive management demonstrated by properly empowered Course Managers is an absolute necessity if golf course management as a profession has any chance of survival or even taken seriously in future.

Alarmist? – I don't think so.

A conversation heard recently at a prominent college – “We are looking at management courses specifically targeting managers both inside and outside the golfing industry to train to ensure that golf courses in the future are managed properly.”

And then the bit that hurts the most – “We are looking at attracting golf professionals and interested club officials, because greenkeepers do not appear to want to take on this demanding role.”

I hope there are now greenkeepers who are fuming at the previously stated comments – if there are not then I see no hope for us in the future.

I have lived through a time when so called experts tried to manage golf courses and had unbelievable catastrophic affects on golf course conditions.

I believe this will happen again but maybe this time they will use us as their technicians and make it work this time – unless of course we do something about it!



Duncan McGilvray

BIGGA have heavily subsidised management courses to fill this gap in training only to find that when offered to our membership these opportunities are not taken up – or certainly not taken up to any extent that would make any appreciable difference.

The excuses given are not worth repeating – it would only infuriate my like minded colleagues.

For a time I was very confident in our future but I am not so sure now.

I recently, by chance, met two colleagues from the past whom I believed to be two forceful young potential future proactive Course Managers – they have now sadly left the industry, and when pushed for a reason, had been let down by ineffective reactive management from above.

“Don't rock the boat” – “Take the salary and do as you're told” – “Blame the green committee when things go wrong”... etc, etc.

These may appear to be easy actions (or non-actions) but as every successful manager knows it is a very short-term view.

At the moment I have a very pessimistic view of our profession – am I wrong?

My intention through this article is to get some sort of reaction from our profession – tell me and other concerned colleagues through Greenkeeper International whether I am right and what we should do about it.

Am I worrying unduly? – unfortunately I do not think so.

Please respond in your hundreds and show the “powers that be” within the golfing world that we are ready and willing to take on the responsibility necessary to ensure not only the efficient management of our golf courses but our own futures.

Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager
Potters Bar Golf Club, 26.09.01



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

Phosphate Clarification

Since my recent article was published in Greenkeeper International entitled “Soil Analysis: Unravelling the Mystery” (September 2001) I have received a number of enquiries regarding the role of phosphates in soil. The article states that phosphates have a negative charge and thus cannot be held by soil clay organic matter thus leaching quickly through the soil.

Phosphates do indeed have a negative electrostatic charge, in fact, in sandy soil, with relatively little organic matter, certain forms of fertiliser phosphate eg phosphoric acid and ammonium phosphate are relatively soluble. Such products can be leached readily into the rootzone. They provide an ideal method of getting phosphate to bentgrass roots without building up the surface phosphate concentrations which would lead to a promotion of poa annua establishment.

Despite this, soluble phosphate gradually becomes immobile in most soils. When an application of phosphate is applied, a chemical reaction takes place in the soil which creates other forms of phosphate that are relatively insoluble. In acid soils phosphate tends to react with iron or aluminium to form iron phosphate or aluminium phosphate. In alkaline soil phosphate reacts with calcium to form calcium phosphate. These chemical reactions create the insoluble forms of phosphate that we associate with as managers of turfgrass.

The article was certainly not intended to encourage excess phosphate application but to clarify the confusing issue of soil analysis. I hope this has cleared up any confusion that the article may have caused.

Daniel Binns, STRI, Turfgrass Agronomist

National Championship thanks

Having just returned from the National Championship at Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale, I would like to congratulate the organisers at HQ for a superb week. I played with various people over the two days and thoroughly enjoyed the company of these guys. Hopefully I can meet them sometime in the future and play their courses as they can come and play mine.

The courses, the championship dinner, the organisation, the friendship of all the competitors there was second to none. This was my first National Championship and it certainly won't be my last and that goes

for all the competitors from Scotland, and all of our members from wherever they came from across the UK and Europe.

The friendliness of everyone there that week shows that there are no individuals in this Association. We are all equals and that is what BIGGA is all about. So once again thanks for a great week and keep up the good work.

PS. You can put my name down for next year as I will certainly be there. Thanks also from Craig Pennyquick and Gary Rodgers.

Chris Yeaman, Course Manager, West Linton GC

A thank you from Denmark

In the beginning of October, six of us from Denmark decided to go and visit my good friend Matt over in Bristol and play some golf.

We would all like to thank Matt Hawker, Head Greenkeeper Bristol & Clifton GC, and Gary Hawley, Head Greenkeeper Filton GC, their Pro shop and their

members for the warm welcome we all got.

For some of us it was the first time in England, and the weather was with us.

Hope to see you all in Denmark next year.

Mick Steele, Head Greenkeeper Morse Golf Club, Denmark

You've got m@il!

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

Send an email to: reception@bigga.co.uk

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

This month, Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, gives details of the latest Health and Safety regulations which could impact on your daily working practices ...

Get the most from your education

Don't lose out

Following an extensive consultation process between the Education and Training Department and BIGGA Regions and Sections on the content of training courses, their location, their cost and when they should run, approximately 50% of Sections requested that we run a range of one and two day courses. Details of courses and application forms were sent out with the October edition of Greenkeeper International with the first course, Abrasive Wheels, due to be run, in Bristol on 25 October. Unfortunately, the response has been so poor that we have had to cancel this course. Further courses may have to be cancelled if sufficient delegates have not registered by the deadline dates which are:

Location Bristol
 Course Health & Safety Awareness
 Date 3 & 4 December
 Deadline 9 November

Location Pencoed College
 Course Health & Safety Awareness
 Date 5 & 6 December
 Deadline 9 November

Location Staffordshire
 Course Soil Science
 Date 22 November
 Deadline 8 November

Fortunately, some courses are full and others are almost full allowing greenkeepers to attend quality training at minimum cost thanks to a massive subsidy from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund.

Remember, all courses need a minimum of 6 delegates to run. Any course with less than 6 delegates will be cancelled

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:
 ken@bigga.co.uk
 sami@bigga.co.uk

Golf Course Health and Safety

Changes to the Health and Safety at Work Act continue to have an impact on golf greenkeepers. The Government and the Health and Safety Commission have recently announced a series of targets that are designed to reduce work related deaths, accidents and illnesses in the biggest shake up of health and safety for 25 years.

The initiative comes soon after Home Office proposals to introduce a new offence of corporate killing.

The targets are:

To reduce the number of working days lost from work related injury and ill health by 30% by the year 2010 (a decrease of 7.5 million working days)

To reduce the incidence of people suffering from work related ill health by 20% by the year 2010 (80 000 fewer cases)

To reduce the rate of fatal and major injury accidents by 10% by the year 2010

To achieve half of each improvement by 2004

To achieve these targets, the Government has introduced a 10 point strategy supported by a 44 point action plan which will provide incentives and practical support to employers, together with a range of measures to tackle employers who do not meet their health and safety responsibilities.

The plan will include:

Tougher penalties to deter health and safety offences, including imprisonment to be available for most health and safety crimes and the increased maximum fine available to the lower court (£20 000) to be extended to most health and safety offences.

An examination of innovative penalties such as fines linked to turnover and suspension of managers without pay.

A directors Code of Practice that will make a named person responsible for health and safety matters within every company (golf Course).

New help for small businesses, including sector specific health and safety guidance.

Exploring, with the Insurance Industry, incentives to reward good health and safety performers at the expense of the bad.

Copies of 'Revitalising Health and Safety Strategy Statement' are available from 'DETR Free Literature, PO Box 236, Wetherby, LS23 7NB (tel 0870 1226236).

Many greenkeepers suffer from the effects of hand arm vibration and managers needing help with understanding the risks can acquire a new electronic product to assist them.

The CD ROM The Successful management of Hand Arm Vibration uses video clips, sound and animation to illustrate how to identify and reduce the risks. The CD ROM can be obtained from HSE books www.hsebooks.co.uk (tel 01787 881165) priced at £95 +VAT).

A new standard test to validate training for fork lift truck operators has been developed by accrediting bodies and the Joint Industry Council for Lift Truck Operators. Advice on training of lift truck operators and details of accrediting bodies is contained in Rider Operated Trucks: Operator Training is available from HSE Books.

Local Environment Risk Assessment for Pesticides

The Local Environment Risk Assessment for Pesticides regulations (LERAP) state that where drift from pesticides which could affect water quality or be harmful to birds or aquatic life, you should limit the use of such pesticides near watercourses. A buffer zone of 6 metres must be left unsprayed unless sprayer equipment is used which reduces the risk of drift. Equipment is given a 1, 2 or 3 Star rating depending on how much the buffer zone can be reduced with 3 Star equipment giving a reduction to 1 metre.

British Standard EN907

BS EN 907 require that all new sprayers must be fitted with a chemical induction hopper. Where this is not possible, the height from the ground or platform to the filling hole should not be more than 1500 mm and the horizontal reach between the rim of the tank and the hole should not be more than 300 mm. In addition, BS EN907 require that all sprayers be fitted with a clean water tank of at least 15 litres capacity.

Groundwater

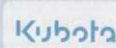
The latest regulations on groundwater state that sprayer operators are not allowed to flush spray washings down drains or onto waste ground. Unless a washing system is fitted, the tank must be fully filled and the washing disposed of either into purpose built tanks or by spraying over the previously sprayed area.

To reduce the time needed to carry out these operations, some manufacturers fit tank flushing nozzles, which mean that only 10% of tank capacity is needed for flushing.

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund



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

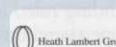


Golden Key Circle Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Amazon Ground Care	01579 351155
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd	01428 661222
Gem Professional	01254 356611
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Kubota UK Ltd	01844 214500
Massey Ferguson (AGCO Ltd)	02476 851292
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rain Bird	01273 891326
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 377777
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Stoke Park Club	01753 717171
Textron Turf Care	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01202 319967

Individual Members

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



Silver Key Circle Company Members

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

Individual Members

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

Keep checking www.btme.org.uk for the latest news on the various education and training options available at BTME2002

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This month, Tracey and Susannah from BIGGA's Membership Services Department, remind you of the fantastic BIGGA Waterproof suits for sale and introduce members from Germany

Remember remember the rain in November!

Do you remember last November? How much rain did the UK have? Don't leave it too late to order your waterproof suits from BIGGA. Made by Sun and Rain, the suits are available in navy colour consisting of a jacket with inside pocket, the BIGGA logo is subtly placed on the left chest with a small logo on the back of the collar, matching trousers with drawstring waist complement the jacket making this a smart looking suit. Sizes available are medium, large, extra large and extra extra large and at £59.95 inc VAT and post and packing this a great value suit. To order suits or for further details contact Tracey or Susannah in Membership Services on 01347 833800.

BIGGA Membership Photocard Update

Keep those photo's coming in! Once again, thank you to all those members who have sent us a passport photograph of themselves for processing. Don't wait for the rush to begin, please help us by sending us your photograph as soon as possible to Tracey or Susannah, Membership Services Department, BIGGA, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF. Don't forget to write your full name, date of birth and membership number on the back so we know who you are!

October'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 November's winner, Andrew Miller, Stockbrook Golf & CC



BIGGA has almost 300 international members situated throughout the world in as many as 31 different countries. This month we would like to welcome our members from Germany and give some interesting facts about the country

Willkommen – Focus on Germany



Location: Central Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea and the North Sea, between the Netherlands and Poland, south of Denmark
Currency: Deutsche mark (DEM); euro (EUR)
 Note: on 1 January 1999, the EU introduced the euro as a common currency and from 1 January 2002 the existing national currency will be replaced by the euro resulting in the deutsche mark no longer being legal tender.
Population: 83,029,536 (July 2001 est)
Official Languages: German
Time Zone: 1 hour later than GMT
Capital: Berlin. Other main cities include: Hamburg, Munich, Cologne, Essen
Places of Interest: The Black Forest, Harz Mountains, Erzgebirge (Ore Mountains), Bavarian Alps, Fichtelgebirge. Rivers include: the Rhine, the Danube, the Oder, the Elbe and the Ruhr.

Golf Clubs: There are over 600 Golf Courses located throughout Germany, with over 250 listed in the R & A Golfer's Handbook 2000.
Useful contacts: Greenkeeper Verband Deutschland e.V., the German Greenkeeping Association have more than 700 members, they can be contacted at: Greenkeeper Verband Deutschland e.V. Geschäftsstelle, Viktoriastrasse 16, D-65189 Wiesbaden, Germany Tel. +49 611 901 87 25 Fax: +40 611 901 87 26
On the German Menu Westphalia ham with buttered bread and Steinhager (juniper-flavored brandy) Wurst, sausages: Brunswick Mettwurst (Smoked pork), Weisswurst (veal & herb), Leberwurst (liver sausage). Tafelspitz = braised beef with horseradish Rosti = potato pancakes fried with onion and butter Himmel und Erde = Heaven and Earth: pureed apples and potatoes topped with blood sausage Schwarzwald = Black Forest Cake, a chocolate cake with cherries, whipped cream, grated chocolate **Prosit!** Cheers! Whatever language you use, raise a toast of either beer or wine. German beer is clearly the beverage of choice, with hundreds of varieties produced. Dark, light, aged, young, berry-flavored — the varieties are endless. Part of the fun of travelling through Germany is tasting the wide range of these brews. Look for those with full heads that leave foam, known as Brussels lace, clinging to the sides of your glass.

Scottish Region

David Leys, West
 Lorraine Paterson, Central
 Andrew Paterson, West
 Eric Wilson, Central

Northern Region

Richard Barnes, N Wales
 Matthew J Dobbs, N West
 James R High, Northern
 Mark A Jones, Midland
 Steven Pickering, Sheffield

Midland Region

James Arthur, Midland
 Paul Bowen, Midland
 Glyn Buckley, E Midland
 James Canham, E of England
 Paul J Crowther, BB&O
 Barrie J Darsley, Midland
 Robert Duval, E Midland
 Wayne Gun-Munro, Midland
 Gary Hill, Midland
 John Hislop, Midland
 Philip Lewis, Midland
 Robert Massey, Midland
 Mark Minton, Midland
 Richard Osgood, BB&O
 David Rotheram, Midland
 Dennis W Sherlock, Midland
 Keith Swan, Midland
 Frank Tong, Midland
 Andrew Tudor, Midland

South East Region

Ashley Clark, E Anglia
 Niall J Costello, London
 Paul Edwards, Essex
 Graham Goldrup, Surrey
 Ivan J Killip, Surrey
 Timothy D Maynard, Kent
 Barry Sharma, London
 Matthew D Thomas, Surrey
 Jason D Woodger, Surrey

S West Region

Thomas Glover, Devon & Cornwall
 Paul Hazell, S Coast

Republic of Ireland

Eamonn Delaney,

International Members

Johnny Mortensen, Denmark
 Eva Ek., Sweden
 Karel Marik, Czech Republic

Associate Members

George J Uzans, N West
 Paula N Dickson, London
 Lynda Green, E Anglia
 Jeremy R Cole, S West
 Tor Senstad, Norway

Willkommen...

Gareth Anwell, Southern Golf Bad Waldsee
 Colin J Atkinson, Gut Rieden GC
 Henry Baldwin, GC Bonn
 Kevin J Barsley, Golf Akademie Dusseldorf
 David F Bartley, Golf C Schloss Myllendonk
 James Borders, Oberheisscher GC
 Denys P C Bristow, GK Braunschweig
 Andrew Buck, Golfsport Willich
 Peter W Cairns, Golf Klub Braunschweig
 Markus Christ, G C Lobenfeld-Heidelberg
 Carl S Clayton, LBN Landschaftsbau
 Paul E Crispin, G C Schloss Weitenburg EV
 Iain Douglas, GC Sylt
 David Duke MG, G & CC Seddinersee
 Andrew Foyle, GC Im Chiengau
 John France, Golf Und Landhotel
 Peter A French, GC Feldafing EV
 Robert A Gorwill, Golf Park Rittergot
 Kevin Grainger, Baden Hills
 Robert Hargreaves, GC Treudenberg
 D Hart, John Deere Ltd
 Jeffrey I Heath, Golfanlage Schloss
 Andreas Heising
 Gordon J Howat, Munchener GC
 Bryan Inglis, Am Alten Fliess C.V
 Andrew T Jeffery, Golfclub Munchen Nord-
 Steven C Jones, Herford GC
 Herr U Kayser, Bernhard & Co Ltd
 Terence Kelleher, Baden Hill GC
 Ronald K P Kennedy, Gc Reichmannsdorf
 Andreas M Krichel, Bad Eilsen
 Rolf Kruger, Rain Bird Deutschland GMBH
 Malcolm Lewis, Jakobsberg Golf Hotel
 Norbert Lischka, Hamburg-Falkenstein GC
 Gordon MacGregor, Sennelager GC
 Stewart MacIntosh, GC Leverkusen
 John MacKay, Gut Wissmannshof GMBT
 David Mallinder, Schloss Myllendonk EV
 Neil L Millward, GC Mannheim
 Trevor J Mitchell, Golf Park Winnerod
 Colin Moseley, RAF Bruggen GC
 Douglas L Nelson, Andy Clark's Golf Center
 Kevin L Phillips, GC Hohenpahl
 Christopher W Ramsden, GC Hubbelrath
 Christopher J Raper, GC Hossel EV
 Jonathan M Roberts, Golf-Und Country Club
 Peter Robinson, Park Village Golf Anlagen
 Frank Schafer, Hamburger GC
 Klaus D Schmitt, GfA Of Germany
 Severin Schmitz MG, Essener Haus Oefte GC
 Hermann Schulz, Gut Kaden
 Neil C Shawcross, Baden Hills
 Graham R Shiel, GC Schloss Elkofen
 Craig L Smith, Cormorant International
 Craig H Stewart, Wittelsbacher Golfplatz
 Paul E Summers, Sennelager GC
 Joseph R Swing, Golf U.Land Club
 Mark Timberlake, Zu Gut Ludwigsberg
 Colin G Turner, GC Herford
 Karl N Waddell, Golfanlage Iffeldorf
 Andrew J Wilkinson, Brodauer Muehle GC
 Raymond E Williams MBE, Gutersloh Garrison GC
 Paul Woods, Sennelager GC

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



David Walden

Board Member

Name: David Walden

Golf Club: Thorpe Wood GC, Peterborough

Association Position: Board of Management Member for Midlands Region

How long have you been a member of BIGGA? From humble beginnings in Brighton as EIGGA

Where do you hope the Association will be in 10 years time? Improved profile and recognition as the only club for greenkeepers with ambition

For what would you most like to be remembered? Helping BIGGA to move forward and further greenkeepers' careers

For what would you least like to be remembered? For achieving nothing while a Board member

Why did you take on a more involved role in the running of the Association? Helping to put something back into what has been a good career for myself

Name one thing which would improve the Association? All members working together to improve all grades of membership and profession

What is your claim to fame (None, not acceptable)? ICI Greenkeeper of the Year for 1994

Describe BIGGA in 15 words Beginning of an extremely Interesting life in Grasses and Grounds maintenance within a good Association

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| Angus Horticulture | LS Systems Ltd |
| Arden Lea Irrigation Ltd | M J Abbott Ltd |
| Askam Bryan College | Major Equipment Ltd |
| Association of Golf Club Secretaries | Maxxis International UK |
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As the countdown to BTME 2002 continues, the education programme is now coming to the forefront of many minds. Sami Collins gives details of the education opportunities on offer

TUE
22
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23
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THU
24
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Continue to Learn

Check out the Education opportunities available at Harrogate

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

Advertised under the new name 'Continue to Learn' the programme and booking form is now available.

Highlights of the National Education Conference include the morning session on Monday 21 January which will be presented by Dr James Beard on the subjects of Water and Temperature Stresses and Shade and Wear Stresses. Tuesday 22 January sees the return of Jim Moore from the USGA Green Section. A popular and informative speaker, Jim will be discussing the Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features. Other sessions at the Conference include the effects of Global Warming and the Golf Course and Preparation for Winter Play.

Three Workshops will be presented on the 2002 Programme offering delegates a choice of subjects. Due to popular demand the two day Golf Course Design 1 Workshop, presented by Simon Gidman BSc and Howard Swan MSc, makes its return to the programme. New for 2002 are one day Workshops, available on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 January. Emergency First Aid will give delegates the opportunity to gain their Emergency First Aid Certificate, while the Environmental Management Workshop looks at the impact of ecological management on the golf course.

The STRI continues to run their popular course 'Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century'. For 2002 the course will take place on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 January at The Majestic Hotel.

The BTME Seminars commence on Wednesday 23 January with Keynote Speaker, Roger Black. The seminars will cover a wide range of subjects from Sulphur Burning to Strategic Planning. An extended seminar on Turfgrass Management will be presented by Dr

WEDNESDAY 23, THURSDAY 24, FRIDAY 25 JANUARY 2002

Careers Advice Clinic
 King's Yacht, Harrogate International Centre

Banquet voucher exchange

Social Programme
 Entertainment and Events at BTME2002

Activities for delegate partners

BTME2002 Payment policy

James Beard on Thursday 24 January. Seminars conclude on Friday 25 January with presentations from Dr Mike Canaway, Andy Campbell, MG and Clive Osgood.

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

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

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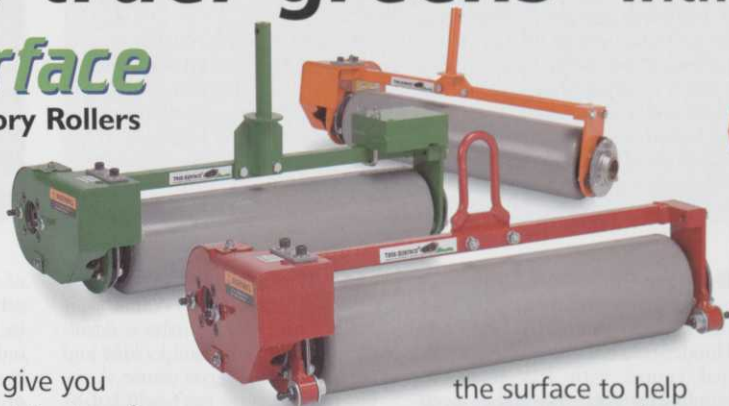
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**Lee Penrose, STRI, gives a round up
on the clubs who took part in the 2001
BIGGA Golf Environment Competition**

Environmental concerns

The votes have been counted and the results are in! This year's golf course environment competition has finally come to its end and proved to be the closest contest yet. The scale of environmental issues tackled by golf clubs is astounding; irrigation pond creation, woodland clearance and extensive species auditing are but a few examples of the kind of large scale commitment to environmental issues seen from this year's applicants. However, the projects unseen by the members and general public were the deciding factors in this year's competition; golf clubs across the British Isles are showing excellent initiative with regard to environmental improvement with projects ranging from office and clubhouse waste, energy saving to some very progressive composting schemes.

Of all the applications received by BIGGA only a few from each UK region could be visited for further consideration, so the tricky decision of who would play no further part in the contest was passed on to the ecology team at the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI). Scoring was difficult and it seemed as though all the clubs should win the competition for their own special initiatives, however financial and time constraints forced a decision to be made and a selection of clubs from each region were duly chosen. The next stage was to visit the golf clubs in question.

Bradley Park Golf Club

Of the three northern clubs visited, Bradley Park Golf Club near Huddersfield is the smallest; a municipal course with less than two hundred members and only six green-staff, Bradley Park is a shining example to other small clubs. A dedicated Head Greenkeeper, Mr David Brierley, has performed wonders in his nine years at the club; his enthusiasm has manifested itself onto the course in the shape of 25,000 indigenous trees planted within the last few years and as a comprehensive species list of every plant and animal seen on site. Through relaxed rough cutting regimes and the introduction, and management, of wildlife ponds on the course Mr Brierley has ensured that a variety of flora and fauna call Bradley Park 'home'

Wilmslow Golf Club


Wilmslow Golf Club is a private members club in Mobberley, near Wilmslow, and was the second of the

northern clubs to be visited. The Head Greenkeeper at Wilmslow is Mr Stephen Oultram who is devoted to creating a natural looking and ecologically sound golf course. A visitor to this course can't help but be impressed by its situation in the surrounding countryside, Wilmslow reflects the adjacent areas to such a degree that, on a walk around the course, one could be forgiven for forgetting that you were at a golf club at all. Areas of rough containing a host of colourful grasses and wildflowers bank the fairways, and the greens and tees are surrounded by thriving woodlands; all this on a course with a playability factor second to none! Mr Oultram's enthusiasm is backed up by an ever-increasing knowledge of environmental issues and excellent turfgrass management skills.

Kenwick Park Golf Club

The third, and final club, to be visited in the north did not make judging the region any easier, being

of an equally high standard to the other two. Kenwick Park Golf Club in Louth, is a private club that has only been open for nine years and yet has already established itself as one of the most progressive environmental golf clubs in the country; being one of the first two English clubs to gain 'Going For Green' accreditation. Having set up an environmental panel in 1999 things are really moving forward at Kenwick Park. The panel (chaired by Mr Ian Shephard) raise their own funds for ecology projects through barbeques, quiz nights and other initiatives and deal with all the environmental problems at the club. Habitat creation has been the major project for the panel at Kenwick Park in the last two years, with the introduction of a woodland glade, skylark nesting areas, an island on a large pond for nesting water birds and an irrigation/wildlife pond planned for the near future; Kenwick Park is an oasis in an agricultural desert for birds, animals and flowers.



Above: St Andrews Links Trust. The five courses run by St Andrews Links Trust are committed to environmental good practice, minimal use of fertilisers and chemicals, record keeping and ecological rough management.





Below: Luffenham Heath Golf Club. The grassland rough is being gradually extended towards the playing line through sympathetic management



Parkstone Golf Club

Golf clubs in the south west of England maintained the high standard set by their northern counterparts. Parkstone Golf Club, in Poole, now has its own website dedicated to environmental issues (www.parkstonegolfclubgreens.fsnet.co.uk), hence their commitment to environmental issues is obvious even before a visit was made. Large scale tree clearances and heather/gorse heathland regeneration projects take up the majority of the greenstaff's time and effort; projects that are showing excellent results. The club are also well aware of the rarities in butterflies, reptiles and flowers present on their course and are especially proud of their colonies of bog asphodel, sundew and sand lizards; all of which are monitored annually.

Broadstone Golf Club

The other golf club visited in the south west was Broadstone Golf Club, a couple of miles up the road from

Parkstone in Poole. The staff there have an infectious enthusiasm for the environmental issues within the club and have captured the interest of the members remarkably well via organised nightjar and bat walks, posters, videos of wildlife found on the course and a notice board on which members can record wildlife sightings when playing golf (an idea that has worked surprisingly well!). A host of environmental topics have been addressed at Broadstone including progressive clubhouse management i.e. energy saving light bulbs and recycling, excellent waste oil and chemical reprocessing, and an organic matter composting scheme that is working well. An idea that should be applauded is the re-use of bunker sand as a habitat for reptiles and insects; when a bunker is replaced the old sand is placed into a 'pit' out of play and acts as a perfect home for sand lizards and adders. The list of extra habitats created on the course is long and impressive, but perhaps the most

impressive aspect of the club is the continuing influx of new projects that are being planned and undertaken successfully.

Beaconsfield Golf Club

The visits to the south east clubs continued in a similarly impressive way. The ecological sub-committee, headed by Bill Patterson, at Beaconsfield Golf Club have achieved a great deal over the last few years. Formal plantings of larch, pine and lelandii trees are being removed and replaced with indigenous tree species such as; ash, oak, holly, hazel and hornbeam and this is leading to a much more natural feel about the course with an increase in wildlife. The creation of extra rough areas around the fairways and relaxed mowing regimes in wooded sites are leading to the regeneration of heather, gorse and grass species on the course, which in turn is encouraging many butterflies and bird species. It is encouraging to see that

members at the club are taking an interest in the extra wildlife by noting any interesting sightings in a recording book, kept in the clubhouse. Environmental newsletters, display tables and a well known ecological committee also help the members to appreciate the movements forward and the importance of the ecological issues.

Berkhampstead Golf Club

As the course at Berkhampstead Golf Club is situated on common land, the greenstaff there have a particularly difficult job when it comes to some environmental issues. Therefore Gerald Bruce, course manager, and his team are dedicated to educating the local public about environmental management and that tree removal is sometimes necessary! Many heather management techniques have been tried in order to reinstate some of the lost heathland, and a bracken management plan is in place to stop bracken dom-



Above: Ipswich Golf Club. A variety of conservation projects are being implemented at Ipswich Golf Club

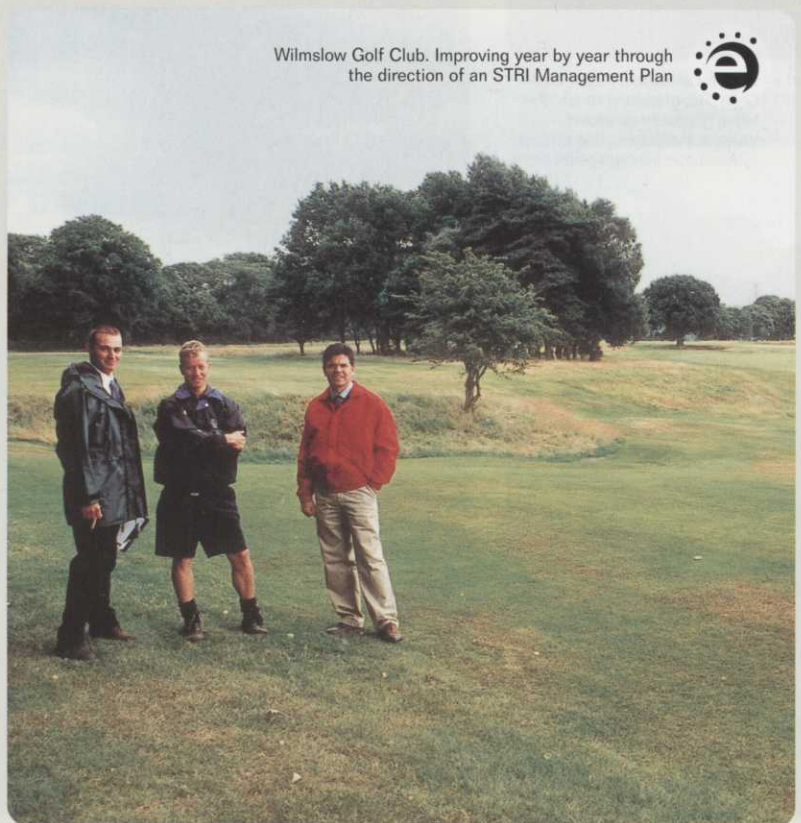


Above: Thorpeness Golf Club. A variety of habitats can be found within this predominantly heathland environment



Beaconsfield GC.
Improving gradation from fairway to deep rough

Below: Kilmacolm Golf Club. Interested members listen to Bob Taylor discussing habitat management. This Club has a very open and enlightened membership and displays a very high level of outreach



Wilmslow Golf Club. Improving year by year through the direction of an STRI Management Plan

inating large areas. A commendable bird box erection and monitoring scheme is already in place and is a good indicator of how useful the course is to local wildlife. There is a good relationship between greenstaff and members when it comes to ecological issues, which is displayed by the annual clean up of the ponds on course undertaken by the members, supervised by Mr Bruce. Policies that are not seen by the public are equally important to the club such as minimal water and fertilizer usage on greens and energy reduction policies in the clubhouse.

Thorpeness Golf Club

The course at Thorpeness fits wonderfully into the surrounding countryside, and is a pleasure to walk around. Mr Ian Willett, course manager, has an enthusiastic membership and club backing him when it comes to environmental issues, thus the course is a haven for local wildlife. Thorpeness is lucky to neighbour

RSPB managed fenlands which adds extra birdlife to the course with such species as; bittern, osprey and even a white-tailed eagle recorded on the course! English Nature rewarded Mr Willett's enthusiasm with the designation of the course as an SSSI site, due to the diverse habitats within the course, and now the club work closely with English Nature to manage the course as ecologically soundly as possible.

Ipswich Golf Club

The dedication toward environmental issues of Ipswich Golf Club is unquestionable and is reflected by the employment of two full time conservation officers. Their hard work is fully backed by the club and appreciated by the members, and the results can be seen throughout the course by the incredible amount of habitat creation and varied flora and fauna. The diversity of habitat types within the course would impress even the most sceptical golfers, and

a tour of the course with Mr Neil Sherman, conservation officer, and his staff is an eye opening experience even for an experienced ecologist. Two 'nature trails' have been created on the course, with associated information leaflets, for the members and public to walk and enjoy, and local schools are invited onto the course to walk the trails and learn about ecological issues. Ipswich should be an example to other clubs of the things that can be achieved with the dedication of a club and its members.

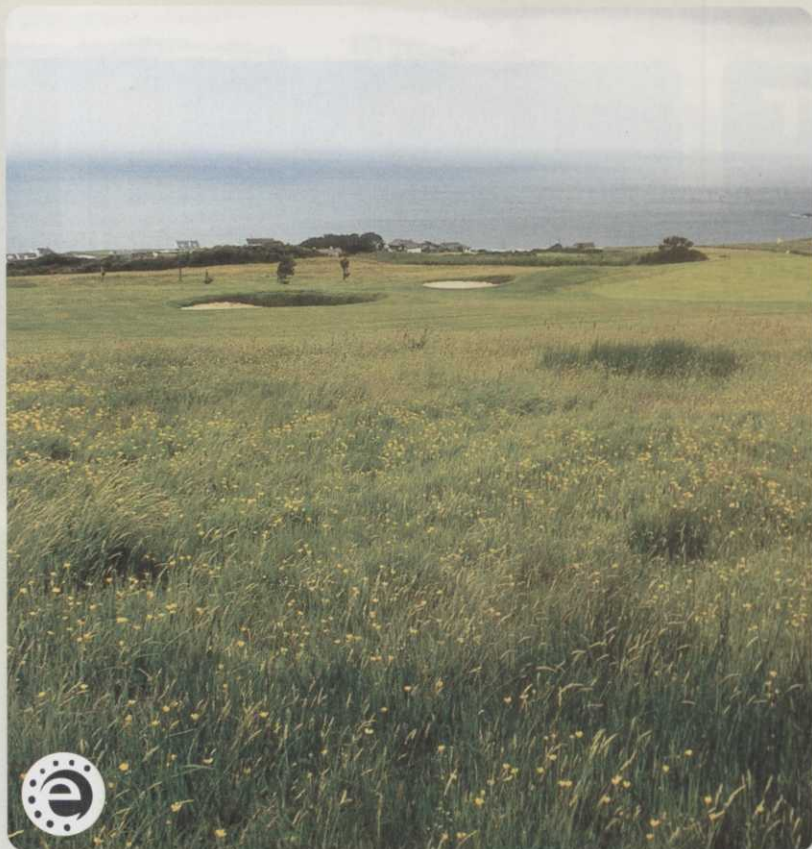
Luffenham Heath Golf Club

Much has been done in the way of habitat creation and conservation at The Luffenham Heath Golf Club, especially for the many species of butterflies found there, not least the black hairstreak butterfly – a rarity in the UK. Mr Fogg, Head Greenkeeper, has been with the club for thirty years now and has gained the total trust of the members,

hence extra rough area creation and woodland clearances are allowed to go ahead without complaint from the members (usually!). There is a small amount of heather beginning to regenerate near the third and fourth hole, something which the club are proud of and are doing their utmost to encourage more of, via careful management and making the members aware of its value.

The Luffenham Heath course has recently (1998) been awarded SSSI status due to its acid grasslands, heathland and its colony of black hairstreak butterflies, therefore the greenstaff work closely with English Nature to upkeep the areas of special interest on the course.

The planting of 400m of native hedgerow along the north of the course is an excellent project and will create homes and movement corridors for many songbirds, especially when taking into account the intensive agriculture in the surrounding areas.



Above: Cardigan Golf Club. Emphasis at Cardigan is being given to restoration of grasslands, gorse management, composting and minimalisation of fertilisers and water

Parkstone Golf Club. Annual tree removal and scrub control is gradually reinstating the true open heathland character of the course



Kilmacolm Golf Club

A long drive 'up the road' to Scotland was well worth while, as the golf clubs north of the border were, again, of an excellent standard. Over twenty interested club members, local councillors, residents and representatives of local nature groups turned out at Kilmacolm Golf Club for the judging of this year's competition. The interest displayed by these people is a credit to Mr Ronnie Bunting, Head Greenkeeper, and his club; he has successfully transformed the course into a haven for wildlife and gained the trust and respect of the club and its membership by many successful projects and constant liaisons with the members. The area is managed primarily as a golf course and has excellent putting surfaces and fairway definition, however it is also managed as though it were a nature reserve hence every decision is assessed for its impact on the environment and taken very seriously. Kilmacolm is only a twenty minute

drive away from the hustle and bustle of Glasgow centre, although visitors to the course feel as though they are miles from anywhere!

St Andrews Links Trust

All five of the courses at St Andrews Links Trust were entered into this year's BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition, showing an extra keenness toward environmental issues. Of the five courses; the Eden Course is the most progressive in terms of habitat creation, with good gorse management techniques establishing several areas of great use for songbirds, invertebrates and reptiles. The most impressive aspect of St Andrews environmental policy is the attitude toward risk assessment and the recording of chemical and water usage. No expense has been spared in the setting up of a computerised irrigation system, the machine washdown areas are also a credit to the club; these ensure safe cleaning and disposal of all water and oil wastes.



Above: Broadstone Golf Club. Extensive areas of woodland have been cleared to reinstate the heathland, dragonfly ponds created and sand lizard and reptile habitats developed. Gradual progress has been made over a number of years



Berkhampstead Golf Club. Heathland restoration is a priority objective

Below: Bradley Park Golf Club. An excellent municipal course giving due consideration to sympathetic grassland and tree management



Cardigan Golf Club

The last region to be judged was Wales giving rise to a very progressive entry from Cardigan Golf Club. This club is devoted to allowing natural regeneration of gorse and grassland areas upon it, by following a newly created environmental management plan. The creation of three irrigation lakes is also a commendable and worthwhile project and will provide excellent habitats for a variety of wetland flora and fauna. Environmental training of staff, good communication with members and a sound waste management plan, including a high-quality composting scheme that is beginning to show commendable results establish this club as an example to clubs throughout the UK.

Finally ...

Choosing the winners from these outstanding clubs was not an easy task! However, inherent in every competition are winners and losers therefore, with quantitative scoring and much discussion, the very best of the clubs were selected to receive the prestige of winning the regional and national finalist awards. I hope that this article goes some way to show how much golf can do for the environment and that the real winners in this competition are the golf industry and the environment.

The following clubs were selected to receive awards:

- Northern winners**
Wilmslow Golf Club
- South east winners**
Ipswich Golf Club
- Welsh winners**
Cardigan Golf Club
- Scottish winners**
Kilmacolm Golf Club
- Overall winners**
Broadstone Golf Club

Understanding how grass is damaged during the mowing process is critical when trying to create an improved playing surface, consider costs and examine the quality of cut. Maureen Keepin reports ...

Sharp Practice



Above: Cal Callaby, Head Mechanic at Celtic Manor, finds he can tell how mowers are performing by looking at the grass. He can then adjust accordingly

Above right: Making adjustments in the in-house grinding facility

Below: Jim McKenzie, Course Manager at the impressive Celtic Manor resort



Increasingly golf takes place 365 days of the year and mowing is an essential practice used by greenkeepers to ensure greens, tees and fairways are well maintained for their members, benefit and enjoyment.

Improvements to quality of cut are continually being sought - to achieve these aims it is vital mower blades are kept really sharp as well as correct height adjustments maintained. These help to ensure a perfectly uniform height of cut.

Global warming predictions have far reaching implications for grass management. A lengthened growing season will mean mowing needs to be carried out even more frequently. The importance of having sharp cutting units will take on even greater significance.

Maintaining an optimum cutting performance means ensuring the

mower cuts to perfection day in and day out.

Mowers may be sophisticated and technically advanced but two components are key for the highest level of presentation - the cylinder and bottom blade.

For courses considering environmental issues these points are highly significant. Fertilisers, top dressing, aeration, drainage, machinery are all part of the golf club's armoury - but mowing is critical. Mowing is generally the last thing done before the judges come out to inspect the course condition, before the course goes public - and in the case of major tournaments this is highly public.

Mowing at a Major Event

With the news that the Celtic Manor Resort in Wales will be hosting the 2010 Ryder Cup, Jim

McKenzie, Director of Golf, explained what he is trying to achieve on his championship course.

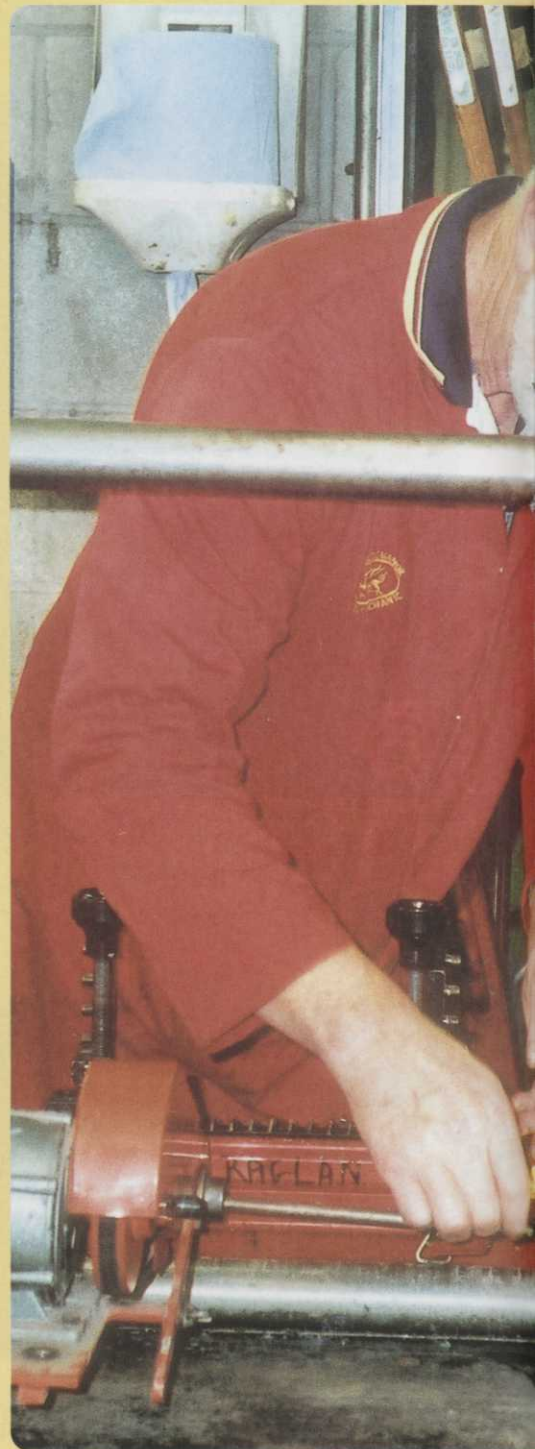
"Players prefer consistency from green to green and for play to be quick and true," said Jim.

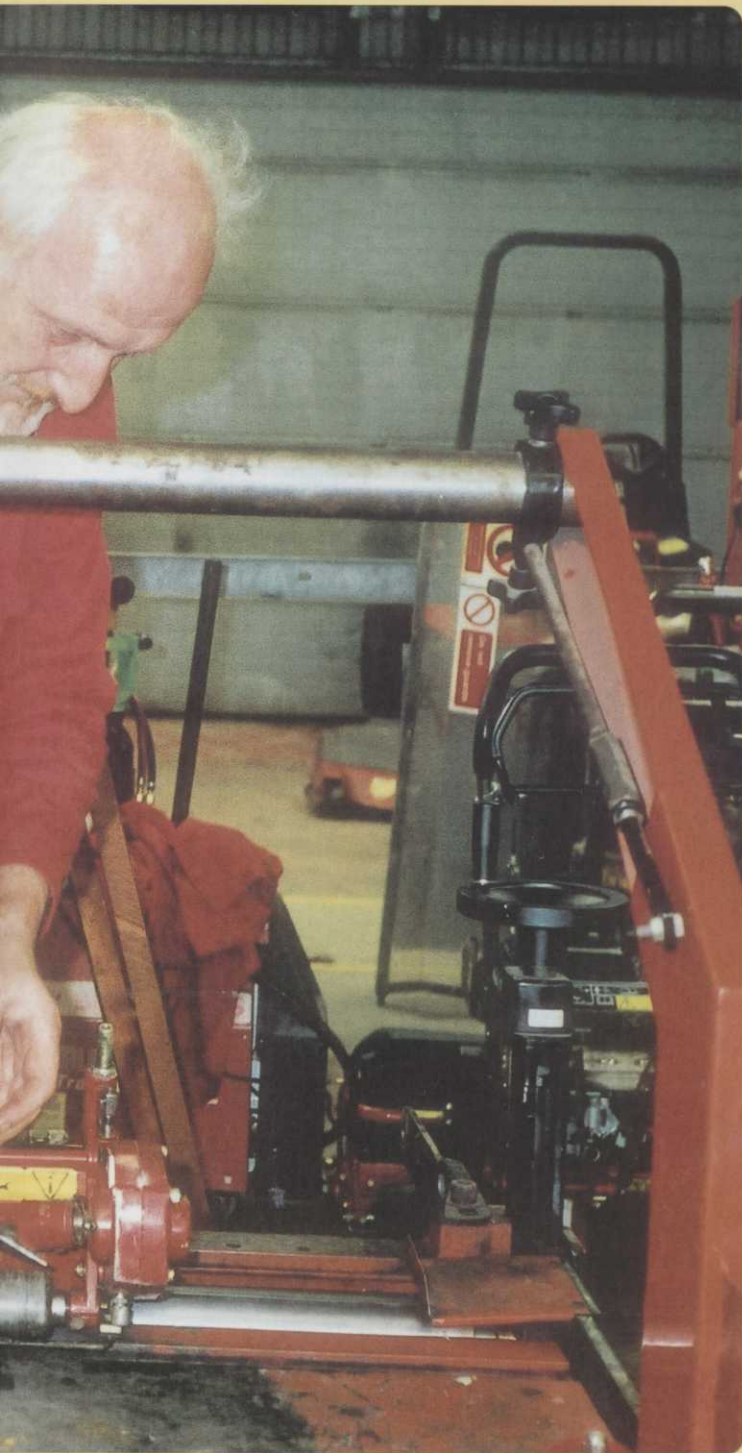
"We need a very clean cut as it helps stop disease getting into the grass. Normally we cut at around 5mm but we cut at 2.5mm for the Wales Open event in August, four times a day.

"Greens are Providence creeping bent and the fairways and tees predominantly rye grass and the roughs predominantly fescue.

Celtic Manor's workshop was set up in 1993 and they find having their own grinding facility saves a tremendous amount of time and money.

"Our greens units are ground every time they are bladed which is usually every three weeks," explained Cal Callaby, Head Mechanic.





"We keep everything super sharp, so a lot of grinding and sharpening goes on here.

"The height has been dropped gradually, taking it down by around 1/2mm a time, as very fast greens are needed for professionals. Grass is not cut this height outside a tournament," he said.

"It is normally 4-5mm depending on how the speed is showing.

"When I joined eight years ago a decision had already been made to purchase Bernhard's Express Dual and Anglemaster grinders. I was pleased, as I had experience of using them at the St Pierre Golf Club, near Chepstow, where I worked previously.

"We do more grinding here than the average main agent," he revealed.

"Generally we grind in batches of six to seven units, as once the mode is set there is a minimum amount of

adjustment and the next unit can usually go on straight away.

"We take off the minimum amount to be economical with the reels, which are somewhat expensive to replace.

"It is vital we maintain the quality of cut and we do not contract out any grinding.

"Indisputably it saves us time and money and I do not know how other golf courses carry on with contracting-out grinding. We can be back on track with the minimum amount of down-time."

In the eight years since Jim came to the Celtic Manor Resort from Wentworth, £120m has been spent creating three courses, a golf academy and the largest golf clubhouse in Great Britain.

His responsibilities include complete maintenance and development

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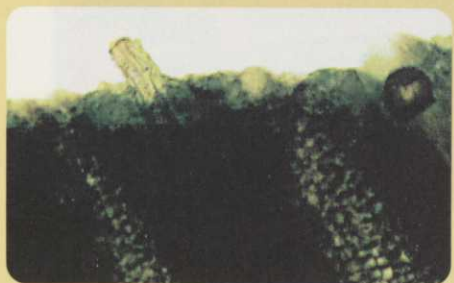
*Subject to availability

SHARPER SOLUTIONS WITH BERNHARD

Sharp Practice



Above: Both lapped and non-lapped grass



Above: Magnification of a non-lapped cut



Above: Magnification of a lapped cut



Above right: Part of the Championship Course at the Celtic Manor resort, Wales, who will host the next Ryder Cup

of the golf courses, gardens and estate - everything outside the hotel or clubhouse building.

"Sir Terry Matthews has bought 1,400 acres of land here bit by bit. I have three Head Greenkeepers, Gary Connell is one, and he is also my Deputy, Paul Davies and Nick Vickery.

"We are all here to help put Celtic Manor on the map so the Wales Open is our own event.

With more than 120 cutting units, mainly Toro machines, Jim feels his four mechanics have a great deal of experience in sharpening.

For the Open the team increased their regular maintenance regime - much the same thing but far more often.

"Four times a day we cut and the sward was rolled twice.

"This is for speed and it worked

fairly successfully. We were out from 5am to 9pm every day for a couple of weeks. Some staff were finishing at midnight.

"During this time we were also carrying out a lot of renovation tasks and quite a lot of course construction, two new bunkers and a new tee. This pre-tournament preparation is not quite as they teach you to do it at college," said Jim.

Benefits of clean cut

A critical factor in producing a high quality cut with cylinder mowers is keeping the correct relationship between cylinder and bottom blade.

Over several years many trials have shown that setting mowers with no contact reduces mower fatigue, lowers hydraulic pressures and generally prolongs the life of the cylinder and bottom blade. This also reduces the

stress on the mower engine, reducing engine wear.

"A clean cut causes less stress and damage to the grass, reducing the need for water and chemicals and improving the appearance of the sward," explained Stephen Bernhard, Managing Director of Bernhard and Company.

"Fundamentally, grass does not like being beaten up by a mower and on the golf course it can get beaten up very regularly.

"Grass is often stressed during the process, spores are present and there is considerable tissue damage. A macroscope (small microscope) can be used to look closely at the grass and see the results of mechanical damage.

"Looking at grass in this way clearly demonstrates why it is vital to have mowers which cut well," he explained.



Scything action

Mowers can function with either a scissor or scythe-type action - but usually a much cleaner cut is developed by a scything cut.

Scissoring demands that the two blades operate against one another. To cut effectively they have light contact or the grass will just be pinched.

This method is often less precise and may cause tissue damage and excess transpiration. As a result, messages go to the crown requiring that more nutrients be used to sustain the plant and repair damage caused.

Grass mown in this way can show as much as four times the surface area of damage compared to the relatively low area of damage caused by a clean scything cut where the two blades have no contact at all.

"Scissoring may cause a higher rate of water loss, resulting in the need to water the sward more regularly," said Stephen.

If the mower is set up correctly a scything instead of a scissoring action can be produced.

"With bottom blade and cylinder kept apart only one blade moves through the sward like a set of horizontal razors. The bottom blade holds the grass blades in an absolutely uniform pattern and height," he explained.

"Being cut in a surgical fashion reduces damage to the extent that usually the grass will root better and therefore will more readily withstand the damage caused by play or heavy pedestrian traffic," he added.

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The Devil may care

Visit The Dyke Golf Club, on the Devil's Dyke, high above Brighton on the Sussex coast, and you get the feeling that you are entering a place that is cared for. The modern clubhouse is well appointed, the course in tip top condition and the staff eager to please. And that's all before you take into account that you are in the presence of the 2000 BIGGA Golf Course Environment Award winner.

The Dyke is a perfect example of what can be achieved in both course conditioning and environmental management, and listening to Course Manager, David Ansell, you can't help but feel that here is a man who laps up every single aspect of his job.

"We have a holistic approach at The Dyke where we look not just at the normal work that needs to be done but at all aspects of the land we have in our care," explained David, whose infectious approach to his job seems to have rubbed off on his team.

"If I, or any member of staff, is out on the course and comes across something we haven't seen before we go and find out exactly what it is. It's a job, but it's almost a hobby within a job," explained David, who is also aware of the dangers of becoming too wrapped up in it all.

"You should always keep one foot on the ground in this business and remember that we are a golf club. Golf comes first but fortunately I haven't found any problem with that."

The "We are a Golf Club not a Nature Reserve" faction which operates in many environmentally aware

golf clubs doesn't get the chance to build up much steam at The Dyke.

"In all cases the golf course wins any arguments when there is a conflict," he said firmly.

In any event David ensures that, wherever possible, work dovetails so that conservation work is often done on the back of course construction work.

"For example recently we were building some bunkers and we took the soil and chalk for these from a very stale, poor piece of woodland which contained mainly hawthorn. We cleared that area, took the soil out, and now that area is a nice coppiced woodland. There will also be some replanting of other species to mix it up a bit and more importantly the grassland will be allowed to come through.

"While doing one job to improve the golf course we did another to improve a key part of the woodland."

David is well aware of the unique nature of the land of which he is custodian.

"The Devil's Dyke is a formation from the last ice age and was grassland from early in its existence.

Much of it was turned over to the plough to produce cereal during the war efforts in both the first and second world wars and the grassland lost but the area on which the course now

stands was spared as it became a training area for the Canadian Army.

"As a result the Dyke area is famed for its ancient grassland. We've got species in abundance which you don't find anywhere else," explained David, as we sat in a committee room within the club house which was festoon with photographs, books, magazine articles and plaques all evidence of the importance the club places on its environmental action.

David is convinced that even without the importance he places on conservation matters golf has a real positive impact on it.

"The beauty of golf is that just by working on grass cutting you create a protection to the wild flowers because there is some management input whereas in other areas there might be none.

"The rough is cut on a regular basis, which almost mimics what the sheep were doing. Maintained areas stop the scrub, hawthorn and brambles coming in because they are cut in a





cycle whether it be once a year or once a month," he explained.

David and his team have gone one step further.

"It's now gone from just cutting, collecting and scarifying to looking at timings and heights of cut and monitoring how it may affect the butterflies, invertebrates and wild flowers. There are now areas which we don't cut on a regular basis and leave more tussocky for three to four years. It is trial and error and we have one or two trial plots so we can assess progress.

"This has only just started but I'm certain within five or ten years the results will be very evident.

"Where we have a good crop of orchids we're keeping those areas and trying to time our work to coincide with their growing habits," he added, by way of an example.

Looking back the 10 years to when he first joined The Dyke from Shirley Park Golf Club, in Surrey, David believes that the most sensible thing

they did was to bring in outside bodies to look at the course.

"At the beginning we had to explain to members what was needed to be done and while many people were sympathetic and others had been on the committee for a number of years and were aware of what was required it was good if they could hear it from respected outside bodies like the STRI, the South Downs Conservation Board.

"As much as it seems like common sense to everyone it is only when you've got an outside body who come in, like the STRI, and gives advice that things get done," he said, adding, "Once you've been through that period often there is a bit more trust in your own way of doing things."

He does admit that initially when it came to communicating with members they made many mistakes.

"I think we communicated extremely well with the committee but didn't do quite so well with the rest of the membership.



The Devil may care



"We probably didn't let them know what the work would involve and what the main outcome would be. We'd perhaps explain that an area was to be coppiced but didn't explain that there would be an unsightly area on the golf course until the plants came back."

The club's conservation programme was launched with some fairly small scale scrub clearance.

However, they did learn some tricks of the trade in terms of doing

some of the clearing work in areas where perhaps the golfer doesn't view very often.

"We'd take some before and after photos so that when we ask to do other more major areas, in higher profile areas of the course, we had some examples of the work that we'd done."

He also used some coppicing techniques to minimise any adverse reactions.

"Instead of going straight into a

poor piece of hawthorn woodland we'd perhaps come in from behind or from an acute angle that the golfer wouldn't notice when he was playing his round. We'd do the clearance work inside, wait for the process to grow in and then take out the front trees at the end.

"I wouldn't say it was sneaky but you needn't draw attention to yourself or the work, as it is being done. We did a number of things in that sort of vein to enable us to get the





job done without causing much of an issue within the golf club," said David, who produced a wonderful view over Brighton by clearing an area of trees at the bottom of the course.

David stressed the point that it is not just a case of returning the golf course back to grass at the expense of the other woodland.

"That has never been our aim although that was the fear among some of members when we started out ... that we were going to end up with an open field."

David has aerial photographs of the site going back to 1937 and can chart the change from small open coppiced areas to really thick woodland.

"In some areas this woodland is nice and mixed up with ash, oak and willow coming in but in other areas it is just pure hawthorn which is stale with no undergrowth plants or herbs," he explained.

He added that aerial photographs are taken of the entire country every ten years and are available at minimal cost or from the local library.

"The intention was to look after the woodland so that we get the best out of it over a long period and also get the best out of other surfaces. Most of the rarity is in the transition areas between woodland and grassland."

Since those early days many of those who originally had doubts have been converted.

"A number of people have noticed that the rough areas of the course are becoming full of wild flower and flying activity and that it looks so much more attractive now. That is one of the regular comments we hear with feedback from the members. It would be fair to say that we have increased the wild flowers by three, four even five fold in the last 10 years."

Winning the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition meant a

great deal to David and to The Dyke Golf Club as a whole.

"I was a bit worried when we first entered because I didn't think we'd done enough work to merit an award but it was silly really because, looking back on it, if we'd gone into the competition earlier we'd have got free feedback, in the shape of a report, from Bob Taylor much earlier."

The Dyke won a special commendation in its first year and the next two years was the South East regional winner before winning the whole competition last November.

"We were absolutely thrilled to win it and wanted to mark the year, which coincided with the club's centenary, by doing something special," explained David.

"So we decided to host a workshop for local clubs on the environment hoping to get them involved a little bit more. It went off very well and we are still getting feedback from it and have even heard from clubs who didn't make it on the day. Hopefully it might become an annual event."

The other main project which the club undertook on the strength of winning the competition was to produce a document on the conservation of the course which is colour coded and showing every single feature on the course.

While it may appear the majority of effort The Dyke's greenkeeping staff does goes into conservation work it should also be stated that the team has built 50 new tees, 30-40 bunkers and rebuilt five or six greens.

"There has been a massive amount of work done here regardless of the conservation work. We're lucky that we're on a site on which we can work most winters, but even then, I can't believe any golf club which says it hasn't got the time to go into its woodland and do some conservation work," said David.

Quality Golf Course Signage



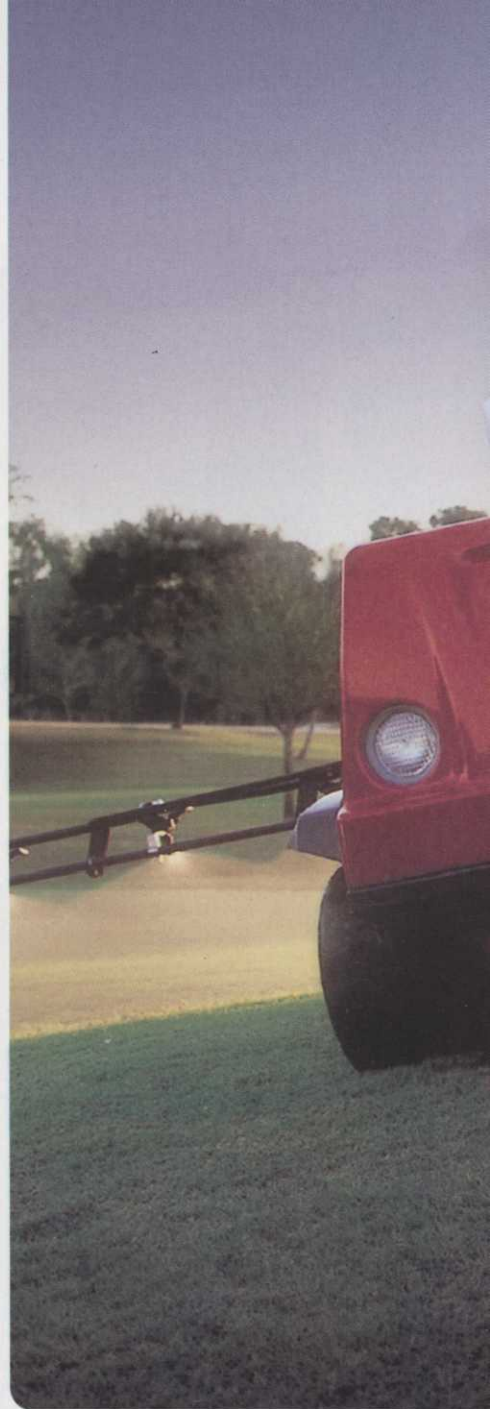
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Roland Taylor dons the latest safety clothing, calibrates his typewriter and dives into the world of the sprayer ...

Spray away



Old A N Other dragged his sprayer from the back of the machinery-shed ready for its annual outing only to discover leaking hoses. So, a little more liquid seeped out on to the grass, no harm would be done.

He took last year's can of chemical

down from the shelf. The label had long gone and with it the dilution rates.

"Never mind, the dilution rate is approximately this," he muttered as he splashed the liquid into the tank.

"Suppose I should have calibrated the sprayer but I've forgotten how to do it," he moaned.

"It was only done a couple of years ago, so it should still be all right."

"What to wear? I've doing this job for as long as I can remember and never worn any special clothing, so why start now?"

This scenario is over the top, although it illustrates the possible area that in the past could have been neglected. The picture today is entirely different, as is the equipment. Strict legislation has forced

manufacturers to reduce the amount of chemicals used and spraying has to be accurate and only carried out by trained operators. Sprays have to be stored in approved containers and under security. The modern sprayer and all its related accessories such as nozzles conform to the highest of standards to ensure accurate application of the chemicals.

Choosing a sprayer, like all equipment, is best done after an analysis has been made of what is required, plus a comparative demonstration of similar makes has been carried out. Specialist advice is available and, if there are any doubts, this should be sought.

The DEFRA (MAFF) have introduced new codes of practice, which state the following. "All pesticides must be contained within the area of application." Not an easy task in this country, where wind can often be a major problem.

There are some new introductions for 2002, which could be the answer to readers' requirements.





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Sisis

The company worked closely with Cranfield University in developing their Ecospray system, which is designed to be used safely close to flowerbeds, water-courses and other sensitive areas.

According to Sisis a patented perforated shroud is used for optimum airflow and to maintain the spray pattern, plus drift is virtually eliminated. Bubble jet nozzles are used to help give a uniform droplet pattern across the full spraying width.

On undulating terrain the height of the spray boom from the ground can alter dramatically. To overcome this the Sisis Ecospray units are fully floating to follow the contours closely. The company says that accurate chemical placement reduces wastage and the amount of chemical required, with the knock-on effect of limiting costs.

A number of models are available with a choice of five or three units, which can be used with a wide range of vehicles, tractors and trucksters. For more confined areas, or where access is restricted, there is a pedestrian powered model.

Charterhouse

Managing Director, David Jenkins says. "Many enclosed boom products simply do not work because they have no shroud or aerofoil over the top of the sprayer hood. This maximises the efficiency of the unit and eliminates a major problem - eddies of turbulence behind the boom enclosure."

The problem is similar to that experienced by many estate car owners, who find their tailgates get surprisingly dirty or dusty owing to the vortex they leave in their wake. A sprayer enclosure without an aerofoil pushes air upward. This creates an eddy that throws the spray droplets up into the air causing drift - a situation that they are meant to overcome.

Charterhouse says that the Rogers Drift Containment Spray Systems have aerofoils on the enclosed booms that are the result of extensive wind tunnel trials. These redirect the air downward, and the spray is targeted towards the ground.

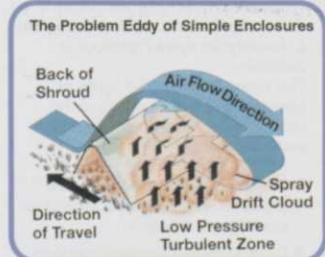
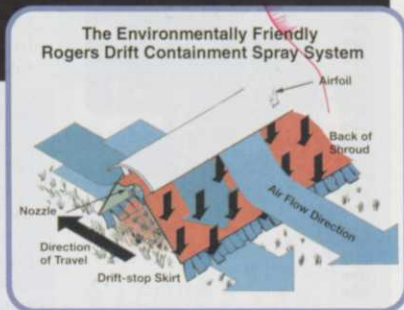
Spraying can start early in the morning, but because of gusty breezes later on, it has to be stopped. It is claimed that with this system the operation can continue until it is finished.

The Rogers Sprayers have a number of other features. The units follow the ground contours closely and visible spray monitors show whether individual nozzles are performing correctly.

There is a choice of manual, electrically or hydraulically operated booms available in 4.5 metre, 5.5 metre and 6 metre lengths. Each section has a break-back to avoid damage should they come into contact with an obstacle.

For spraying greens two models are available. If you already have a sprayer there is the Rogers Greenfoil which can be linked to it and is supplied from its tank.

The alternative is the Turf Electric, which has a 12voltage pump and control valve spray monitor and pressure gauge.



David Jenkins stresses the importance of having the right equipment for accurate and safe spraying. He says that mistakes can lead to embarrassing and costly turf damage plus the possibility of contaminating adjacent property, water courses and the operator.

Spray away



Toro

The new Multi-Pro 1250 is a dedicated sprayer based on the Toro workman utility vehicle. It has been designed to handle all the spraying applications required on a course regardless of its size. Powered by a 20hp Kohler petrol engine, the sprayer has a 605 litre tank and the unique spray control system is gear driven off the wheels, so application rates are instantly in proportion to changes in the vehicle's speed. With its small turning circle the Multi-Pro 1250 can work in confined spaces such as golf greens. There is a 4-wheel hydraulic braking system for stable, safe braking, even when fully loaded.

Toro say they have overcome the problem of spray drift in windy conditions by making available an optional enclosed boom, on which shielded nozzles are fitted to ensure the spray reaches its target area. This easy-to-use sprayer has another important feature. Because the spray tank is mounted in a low position, the operator has a 360 degree unobstructed view. A range of dedicated spraying attachments is also available.

Allman

For spring 2002, Allman has launched its six metre Drift Master shrouded boom. The company has introduced this lightweight boom shroud as an add-on kit for all-electric and hydraulic folding 6 metre booms. It can also be fitted to existing booms. Allman says that with this system greenkeepers will be able to maximise windows of opportunity for spraying.

The company's Spray King Turf Truck demountable will fit most turf vehicles on the market.

It has a 600 litre fibreglass tank with

60 litre per minute Comet 60/20 diaphragm pump. According to Allman, the unit can be easily and quickly de-mounted. Tractor powered models are also available

Micron

This company designs and manufactures portable and vehicle mounted controlled droplet application (CDA) equipment including the Enviromist range. Micron say that the CDA system virtually eliminates the production of small driftable droplets. This is achieved by using centrifugal forces which are generated by speed selected rotary atomisation to break up the liquid into uniform droplets of non-driftable dimensions. The company says that the system achieves weed control at significantly reduced volumes (as low as 12 litres/Ha) compared to high volume hydraulic sprayers. The addition of a shroud also minimises loss of spray droplets into the atmosphere.

The sprayers have a 60 litre tank and are light enough to be mounted on an ATV as well as a tractor.

Hardi

According to the company, the Defender tractor and mini versions are the first shrouded boom sprayers to be awarded Local Environmental Risk Assessment for Pesticides (LERAP) 3 star approval, for drift reduction at pressures of between 1 and 10 bar.

When spraying LERAP approved chemicals with a Defender, the buffer zone near watercourses can be reduced from 6 metres to 1 metre (up to a 97% drift reduction). It is also claimed that potential savings in chemical costs can be as high as 30%. The Defender booms can be fitted to all sprayers. Manual electronic or hydraulic folding versions are available. The self-contained Mini

Defender has a 30 litre tank and a 12 volt rechargeable battery-operated 8 litres per minute pump. Nozzle size and pressure govern the application rate and any excess liquid is returned to the tank.

Hardi also offer a comprehensive range of amenity sprayers.

Gambetti UK

Two tractor or truckster mounted sprayers are available with a choice of 4.5 metre or 5.5 metre working widths.

A robust backbone is fitted to the outside of the boom canopy to minimise contamination. The company says that one of the major features of their units is a hydraulic tilt, which is fitted as standard. This gives access under the canopy for testing and cleaning. It is said to also make changing nozzles and power washing out ready for storage easy for the operator. There is a built-in suspension system to ensure smooth operation and the booms have PVC skirts their entire length for contact with the ground. Anti-shock break-back protects the side covers.

All the sprayers come with twin stainless steel tank rinsing nozzles, which are open spinning vanes to avoid choking up. An optional hydraulic system for folding each wing is available.

The company also makes a 2 metre wide walk-behind boom version which will link to most sprayers and a drawbar is fitted for use with an ATV.

Finally ...

The application of chemicals is continually under the spotlight and no doubt we will see continuing restrictions and regulations regarding their use. It is important to ensure your sprayers conform and are operated within the present and any future legislation. The days of Old A N Other are long gone.

HAND-HELD & AMENITY SPRAYERS HANDBOOK

A complete guide to smaller-scale spraying



A booklet produced by the British Crop Protection Council, entitled Hand Held & Amenity Sprayers Handbook is available.

This covers the different types of sprayers, looks at nozzles and the control of droplets. There are other sections dealing with:

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Two superb golf courses played in testing conditions by a strong field containing some of the finest golfers BIGGA has to offer. Photography: Alan Birch

What could be better?

Yes, the 2001 BIGGA National Championship was a wonderful occasion and in Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale we had two golf courses which ensured that the entire field were tested but most of all felt privileged just to be there.

Played on the Monday and Tuesday after the Ryder Cup was scheduled to be played it shouldn't be forgotten that between them Birkdale and S&A had hosted four Ryder Cups and in Birkdale's case a host of memorable Open Championships. So it was with a sense of real history and awe that the maximum field - reduced slightly by last minute call-offs - teed off at Birkdale on the Monday.

The conditioning of both golf courses was a real tribute to Chris Whittle and Mike Mercer and their teams at Royal Birkdale and Southport and Ainsdale respectively. A wind gusting at up to 50mph meant it was never going to be easy so tribute must be paid to Ian Semple, National Board Member and Course Manager at Old Folds Manor who knocked it round in 74.

That score can be put into perspective by some of the high scores of his fellow competitors. One player actually holed a 20 footer to keep a 20 off his card at the par-3 12th while there was a 17, a 13 and numerous double figure scores.

Ian was joined at the top of the leaderboard by local man Chris Ball at the end of the first day whose fine 81 gave him a nett 73. He put his fine form down to finding an Irish penny at the back of the 1st green which he used as a ball marker for the rest of the round.

It was Chris, an assistant at Hillside and former junior member of Royal Birkdale who set a target on the second day that wouldn't be beaten. A 78 nett 70 was good enough for victory and it was the 29-year-old who lifted the majestic trophy at the end of the day.

"When I saw the Championship was to be played at Birkdale and S&A I knew I had to enter it," said Chris as he savoured his triumph.

"Since then it had been on my mind and I knew I had to win it. I hit it low and when the wind blew I told the guys at the club that I knew I had a chance," said Chris who won the event held at Royal Birkdale to celebrate Tom O'Brien's retirement a few years ago.

The fact that the Championship will again be held in the Southport area, on his own Hillside course as well as Hesketh, sees Chris already looking 12 months ahead.

"I'll definitely play next year and defend the title. There will be more pressure on me as it is on my own Hillside course and I never play well round there," he said, already trying to reduce the expectation that will weigh upon him.

Ian Semple couldn't reproduce the heroics of the opening round but he hung on to lift

the scratch prize following a second round 77 for a one shot win over +1 handicapper Tony McLure. Tribute must also be played to Walter Woods who played some sparkling golf on both days to finish high up the prize list and, more importantly, see him ahead of his old rival George Brown, of Turnberry.

Next year's National Championship will be played at Hillside on September 30, 2002 and Hesketh on October 1, 2002

Titbits

Barry Holt did a Justin Rose at Birkdale's 18th by holing a chip for a birdie. It produced scenes not seen since the 17th green at Brookline with a display of over enthusiastic celebrating from the delighted left hander. As a follow up he also birdied the 1st at S&A and completed his two days of work with another birdie on the 18th, on this occasion followed by a slightly more restrained punch of the air.

Even now Past Chairman Elliott Small is hot on the trail of the player who played his ball - a Titeleist 3 - on the 16th at Birkdale causing him to return. As the purple mist descended he finished his round birdie-eagle which perhaps only compounded his fury.

As yet it is not known whether any BIGGA members were responsible for Liverpool and England's Steven Gerrard getting into trouble prior to the England-Greece game. Gerrard was spotted out drinking in a Southport bar at 2am on Tuesday morning, around about the time many greenkeepers were also frequenting bars in the area.

36 HOLES AGGREGATE NETT

1st Chris Ball (Challenge Trophy Winner)	143
2nd Walter Woods (on 2nd round)	146
3rd Chris Bitten	146

36 HOLES AGGREGATE GROSS

1st Ian Semple (Challenge Cup Winner)	152
2nd Tony McLure (on 2nd round)	153
3rd Antony Kirwan	153

Category Prizes - Monday

0-7 George Brown	75
8-15 Jason Moody	76
16-23 Kevin Caples	79

2nd Round Prizes - Tuesday

0-7 Jon McMullen	71
8-15 Duncan Gray	69
16-23 Ben Knowles-Jackson	78

Nearest the Pin Competition

Thomas Comerford

Longest Drive

Alex Hawkes



Above: Alan Ravey, Captain of Southport and Ainsdale GC, congratulates our 2001 National Championship winner, Chris Ball



Above: A huge thankyou goes to all of our generous sponsors



Above: Chris Whittle, Clive Osgood and Mike Mercer

REGIONAL TEAM CUP

Winners - South East Region 623

Mick Haynes, Raymond Day,
David Murdoch, John Donnelly,
Nigel Colley, Antony Kirwan,
Jason Moody, Ian Semple

Runners Up

Scottish Region

George Brown, Iain MacLeod,
Steve Sullivan, John Mair, Walter
Woods, Duncan Gray, Alistair
Philp, Craig Pennycuik

3rd Midland Region

4th Northern Region

5th SWest & SWales Region



Above: The conditioning of both golf courses was a real tribute to Chris Whittle and Mike Mercer and their respective teams at Royal Birkdale and Southport and Ainsdale



Top: Barry Holt on fine form, and above, the Regional Team Cup is lifted by the South East Team



Walter Woods (above) and George Brown (right) battle it out



Above: Our National Championship winners take a bow!

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On course for some **WINTER SUN**



Hopes are high for a mild winter - but why chance it?

Fed up with the rain and the cold each year millions of Brits escape to some of the world's sunnier spots at this time. And despite the understandable concern over recent terrorist activity and its long-term repercussions, many will be taking a trip this year too.

Although there's plenty of competition from around the world, two of the classic winter sun holiday destinations are likely to be the real hotspots for late 2001 and early 2002.

Spain represents particularly good value at the moment. The strength of the UK pound means that travellers will be able to pick up great deals on accommodation and get more for their money while they are there - and of course, that applies to the ever-popular Canaries as well as mainland Spain.

That perennial favourite, Portugal, will also be the choice of many British holidaymakers. Always affordable, Portugal's many resorts boast excellent facilities in spectacular surroundings. Both countries offer plenty for golf enthusiasts too.

With more than 35 courses dotted along the coastline from Malaga to

Gibraltar, Spain's Costa del Sol is one of Europe's finest golfing locations. And with the region's thriving nightlife and top-class restaurants, there's plenty more to enjoy.

Catalonia is another Spanish golfing gem. Home to many high-quality tournaments (such as the pre-qualifying events for the Volvo PGA Tour), Catalonia offers great golf for both experienced and high handicap players in a picturesque setting, with views of the Mediterranean and the snow-capped Pyrenees.

For guaranteed sunshine it's hard to beat the Canaries - and at the top of the list is Tenerife. With courses to suit all abilities, excellent beaches and resort facilities, the island is sure to be a big attraction again this year.

Portugal's leading golfing choice is the popular Algarve, a region of highly developed tourist resorts but also get-away-from-it-all beaches. To the west of Faro airport, the sophisticated resorts of Vilamoura, Quinta do Lago and Vale del Lobo are a magnet for golfers - with the region's Moorish history, fishing villages and distinctive rock formations among the other attractions of the Algarve.



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approach

It is perhaps the most select band of greenkeepers to be found anywhere - only four members strong but with the collective knowledge and talents of an army. That number will be added to by one when the panel of judges meets to decide upon the 2001 winner of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping.

It will not be an easy task because already the four finalists have been through an arduous selection process just to reach this stage and when one of Alan Purdie, Crail Golfing Society; David Murdoch MG, Liphook GC; Huw Morgan, Wildernesse GC, or Alan Strachan, Royal County Down GC, is announced as the 2001 winner he will become a very worthy member of what will then become the Famous Five.

Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping Roll of Honour

2001 - Who will be named as our winner?
2000 - Iain Ritchie - Portmarnock GC
1999 - Brian Turner - Sunningdale GC
1998 - John Coleman - Abbeydale GC
1997 - Ian McMillan - Hankley Common GC

The Interview Panel

The final interview panel will consist of Walter Woods; former Courses Superintendent at St Andrews Links; Bob Buckingham, Toro's European Sales Manager; Graham Dale, Managing Director, Lely (UK) Ltd; Bruce Jamieson, Toro Consultant and former Director of Agronomy of the PGA European Tour and Neil Thomas, Executive

Director of BIGGA.

Each finalist will already have been judged at country level* and had their course visited by Walter and Bruce.

*David and Huw both won through in the combined England and Wales final.

The Prize

The winner will receive a Toro Workman 2100 Utility Vehicle, plus a trip to the States to visit the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida, and the Toro Headquarters in Minneapolis and California next February. The winner's team will also receive £250.

The three runners-up will each win a Greensmaster 1000 Pedestrian Mower.



Alan Strachan
Royal County Down GC

Alan is 34 years old and has been Course Manager at The Royal County Down Golf Club for the past six years. Born in Scotland, Alan has been in the industry for 16 years. He has held the Deputy Head Greenkeeper position on three of the best links courses on the east coast of Scotland, these being Montrose, Royal Dornoch and Carnoustie. A keen member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland he is currently on the National Executive. He has also been a member of BIGGA for the past 12 years. RCDGC is situated in an ASSI, an ANOB and a SAC, and the management programme involves minimum spraying of chemicals. Alan is a keen golfer, playing to a handicap of 8 and is married to Pauline with two children, Gregor (9) and Eilidh (6).



David Murdoch
MG
Liphook Golf Club

David is 32 and has been Head Greenkeeper at Liphook since 1995. He started work as a 16 year-old on a YTS scheme at Dunnikier Park GC in Kirkcaldy, Fife in 1985 before moving to Dunfermline Golf Club as an apprentice a year later before moving on to become Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Dunfermline in '91. He moved to Old Thorns Golf and Country Club in Hampshire later that same year. In '93 he moved to Liphook in Hampshire as Deputy Head Greenkeeper and became Head Greenkeeper in '95. He became a Master Greenkeeper in May 1999.



Huw Morgan
Wildernesse Club

Huw is 35 and has been Course Manager at the heath and woodland Wildernesse Club in Sevenoaks, Kent, since '93. Prior to that he had been at Fairwood Park GC, parkland course in South Wales, between 1985 and '90 where he was Course Manager before moving to become Course Manager at Southerndown Golf Club, a links course. He remained at Southerndown for three years before moving to his present club. He is currently waiting to sit the Master Greenkeeper exam and is studying an HNC Distance Learning Course with Elmwood College. His hobbies are golf, football and rugby. He is married to Salli-Anne and they have three sons.



Alan Purdie
Crail Golfing Society

Alan is 44 and has been Head Greenkeeper at Crail Golfing Society since 1991. Prior to that he was Head Greenkeeper at the Eden (links) Course at St Andrews for 3 years after moving there following an eleven-year stint as both Assistant Head and latterly Head Greenkeeper at Broomiknowe Golf Club, a moorland course. His greenkeeping experience has covered courses of most persuasions including Links, Parkland, Moorland and the Hills course at Lothianburn GC, where he started his greenkeeping career. Alan's hobbies include playing off 2 at St Andrews, where he is a member, collecting golf memorabilia books and supporting his beloved 'Heart of Midlothian' football team. Married to Margaret for 24 years, their daughter, Cara (20) is currently studying an Art degree, while their son, Craig (18) is a greenkeeper at the Old Course, St Andrews.



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

The Scottish Region is once again offering its members a subsidised package deal for BTME 2002. The package includes coach to Harrogate, entry to all seminars and exhibitions, three night's bed and breakfast in en-suite rooms on January 22, 23 and 24 in the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate.

The cost of the package is £189 with partners welcome at a cost of £129 for travel and accommodation. Bookings and full payments are due by December 17, 2001 with banquet tickets at an extra cost of £29.50 per person.

Further information from Peter Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Meams, Glasgow, G77 6TA. Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Peter Boyd

Central

We extend a warm welcome this month to Lorraine Paterson, from Callender, (Sharon at Elie won't feel so lonely now); Eric Wilson, Murrayshall, and Kevin McColm, from St Michael's. I've already met Eric as he attended our recent Autumn meeting, he didn't have far to go right enough, as the tournament was held at Murrayshall!

Hopefully we will all get to meet Lorraine and Kevin at some future events.

As said above, Murrayshall House Hotel and Golf Courses was the venue for our

2001 Autumn Tournament on September 27 and what a superb new course the Lynedoch is, with views over nearly half of Scotland - that's a bit of an exaggeration but on a clear day you can see for miles in every direction.

For a new course it was in great condition and the greens were really excellent with some very subtle borrows, well that's my excuse for taking so many putts! Our allotted tee times were oversubscribed well before the closing date (so we must be doing something right) and everyone who attended had a really enjoyable day - even the weather was kind to us for a change.

Before any of you say there was a bit of confusion regarding the closing date on some of the forms, I always make at least one "deliberate" mistake just to make sure you are all paying attention!

Prize winners on the day were as follows:

Best Scratch

G. Campbell, Murrayshall, 68+3-71;

Best Nett

D. Gillon, Tulliallan, 75-9-66

Best Nett S&A

K. Stirling, Kingsbarns, 74+68-142

Category 1

1. A. Philp, St Fillans, 70-2-68 bih;

2. K. Stirling, Kingsbarns, 69-1-68.

Category 2

1. D. Scott, Scoonie, 83-15-68

2. D. Smith, Glenalmond, 87-14-73

Cat 3.

1. S. Cruickshank, Deer Park, 99-23-76

2. M. White, Elmwood, 100-19-81.

Patrons' Prize

J. Darling, Richard Aitken's, 79-5-74.

Guests' Prize

J. Harley, Murrayshall, 80-10-70

Longest Drive: D. Simpson, Crieff.

Nearest the Pin: A. Philp, St Fillans.

We had a slight hiccup with the prize giving which has been rectified. I will withhold the name of those concerned to protect the innocent. Well, everyone said "It wisnae my fault" so I presume that they were innocent!

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Murrayshall for looking after us so well on the day with special thanks to General Manager, Tony Bryann, Lin Mitchell, all the clubhouse staff, especially Donald for his very warm welcome, the Pro, who cut the price of a buggy to £10, a real deal on wheels, and I must give a special thank you to Course Manager, Ian McMillan, and all his staff for the excellent condition of the course (that should really be courses) and for the very generous gesture of donating the green staff gratuities back into Section funds.

Well done to the greenstaff at Murrayshall! Also a big thank you to all the Scottish Patrons, without whose support our tournaments wouldn't be the same. I nearly forgot to mention the lads who sold the raffle tickets. Once again they did a superb job in raising funds to help fund our tournaments. Thanks everyone.

The winner of the August draw in Club 2000 were Bobby Fleming, from Dulatur, winning £30 and Sharon Lawrie, from Elie, winning £20. September winners were Alex Cruickshank, from Daval, with £30 and Andrew Crawford, from Kinross, who wins £20. A special mention and thank to Alex Cruickshank, from Daval, for donating his winnings back into Section funds.

Tickets for next year's lottery are going quite well at the moment. Only a few members have returned them, some have even put them in an envelope anonymously, but don't worry lads we know who you are!

Remember all monies and unsold tickets must be returned to me by the end of December. As this is the only fund raising venture which is run by the Section I hope that not too many tickets are returned.

I will give you an up date in December's news on the Grand Football Tournament and the Section AGM which were held last month (too late for this issue) and I may also have snips on an issue which has been quite a talking point at recent committee meetings with snip being the operative word. Watch this space.

John Crawford

North

The Autumn Outing to Keith GC was a great success, with reasonable weather fortunately, as rain fell either side of the day. The downside was our lowest turnout for a while with only 53 members, trade and guests in attendance. This was possibly due to the date being earlier in the month than usual, which had come about because the club had a double booking and moved us to the earlier date. We must thank Keith GC for their hospitality and congratulate Neil Kidd and his staff for presenting the course in wonderful condition. The winners on the day were as follows:

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Scratch

1. Gary Tough, Letham Grange, 73
2. and Committee Trophy Winner Steve Sullivan, Craigiehill, 75

Class 1

1. Neil Kidd, Keith, 76-5-71
2. George Mitchell, Newmacher, 75-2-73 bth
3. Michael Mann, Carrbridge, 78-5-73

Class 2. 1. Alan Grant, retired, 82-11-71

2. Patrick Wood, Newmacher, 81-9-72
3. Ken Kinnaird, Grantown-on-Spey, 84-11-73

Class 3

1. George Asher, Kemnay, 88-23-65
2. David Duggan, Fortrose, 93-26-67
3. Stuart Hogg, Fortrose, 93-21-72

Apprentice

1. E. Cameron, Elgin, 78-6-72
2. Colin Irving, Tain, 84-11-73

Veteran

1. Roy Donald, Oldmeldrum
2. Hugh Maclatchie, Peterhead

Trade. Pat Allan, Stewarts 80-5-75

Guest. F. Devine, Keith 78-10-68

Nearest the Pin. Steve Simpson

Longest Drives

Class 1. Neil Kidd

Class 2. Colin Irving

Class 3. Dave Marnoch

Ken Kinnaird also picked up the Spring and Autumn aggregate cups for best nett and best Head Greenkeeper, while Roy Donald won the Veteran aggregate.

200 Club winners were May no.188 £30 A Williamson Perth, June no.56 £30 M Gordon Braemar, July no.123 £30 J Geddes and H Maclatchie and August no.69 £100 A Grant, Fraserburgh. The card draw for the BIG-GA blazer was Robert Hardie, Aberdeen. Once again thanks to everyone at Keith for helping the day to run so well and thanks to the Section Committee for their organisation.

The National Championships at Royal

Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale were a great success with good weather apart from the stiff breeze each day. Along with myself representing the Section were Steve Sullivan and Gordon Moir and we helped the Scottish Region into runners-up spot for the team trophy.

There was a full entry apart from a couple of late call offs and the whole event was well organised and ran smoothly. It is a great opportunity to meet fellow greenkeepers from around the UK and Europe, so next year leave the first week in October free and put your name down to play in it at Hillside and Hesketh GCs in Southport.

This month we have our mini Conference which will have passed by the time you read this and of course Scotsturf at Ingliston, so I hope to see you all at one or the other event. The December magazine will have a report on the Section AGM.

Iain Macleod

East

Welcome to this month's column, we've a lot to get through this month so let's get going. The Section held their autumn tournament at Monktonhall Golf Club in September and a great day was had by the big turnout who were in attendance and it was also good to see a few new faces on the day. We hope you all had a good day and we hope to see you at more Section events in the future and not just golf days. Thanks must go to Captain and Council for courtesy of the course, clubhouse staff for the excellent food and refreshments, Tom Shepherd, Head Greenkeeper and

his staff for the condition of the course and the way it was set up on the day. A job well done lads. Also members of the trade for being in attendance and supplying us with raffle prizes and to Sam Morrison, Daval Products for keeping the 1st tee moving. Thanks to everyone on the day.

The results are as follows:-

Scratch Stewarts Quaich

K. Mail, 72 bth

1st class (Russell's Quaich)

1. S. Gray, 73-3-70
2. S. Nicol - 72-1-71
3. T. Murray, 75-3-72

2nd class SGM Cup

1. C. Irvine, 83-11-72
2. C. Yeaman, 85-12-74
3. A. Russell, 90-11-79

3rd class STS/ Rigby Taylor Cup

1. I. Cowan, 92-17-75
2. R. Hogarth, 96-17-79
3. S. Dixon, 97-17-80

Veteran: Eddie Holt Trophy, J. Manuel, 85-5-80. Trade: Autumn Trade Cup, N. Lawson, 92-16-76. Guest: G. Wright, West Linton, 70-+1-71. New member: S. Muir, 109. Best nett: S. Gray, 73-3-70. Worst score: E. Thomson, SGM, 124. Aggregate trophy spring / autumn, Bill Beveridge Trophy, K. Mail - 145 total.

Well done to all trophy winners. All handicaps will be adjusted for next season so beware! Congratulations also go out to John Gallagher, Merchants of Edinburgh Golf Club. John, who is an assistant greenkeeper and who plays off a scratch handicap won the Lothian Champion of Champions Matchplay title this year which is not a mean feat as this tournament comprises of all the Lothian club champions playing matchplay throughout

the season. Congratulations and well done and all the best in next year's competition. Congratulations also to newly weds Andrew Forrest, Head Greenkeeper at Oatridge College GC, and his bride, Kirsty, who were married on October 20.

Congratulations from us all in the East Section and all the best for the future.

More congratulations this time to Richard Mullen, Course Manager at Swanston Golf Club and his bride who were married in Las Vegas in September. Once again all the best for the future from us all in the East Section

The two lads who represented the section at the National Championship at Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale did reasonably well. They were Craig Pennycook, Winterfield GC, and Gary Rodgers, Glencourse GC. Gary didn't get in among the prizes but Craig did, helping the Scottish Region to second place in the team event. Other Section members taking part were yours truly - Chris Yeaman, West Linton GC, and Gary White, Baberton GC. We weren't among the prizes this time but hopefully next year will be our lucky year. Well done and let's see more from the Section next year at Hillside GC and Hesketh GC again in Southport.

Well that's it all this month, if you have anything of interest let me know on any of the following 01968 66 1313 (home), 01968 66 1721 (work), 07719 580 449 (mobile) or e-mail chrisjy26@aol.com

Coming your way next month - result of annual Stewart's match, East Section v North East of England at Goswick GC, patrons award winners 2001.

Chris Yeaman



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Ayrshire

Result of Autumn Meeting at Brighouse Bay Golf Club 27/09/01.

Best scratch and winner of the new Harry Diamond Shield

John Mair, Beith.

Category 1.

1. Dennis Tweddel, Turnberry
2. Duncan Gray, The Pines
3. Derek Wilson, Irvine Bogside

Category 2

1. Colin Murray, Brighouse Bay
 2. Dale Norquoy, Irvine Bogside
 3. Paul Tulloch, West Kilbride
- Best Veteran: Gordon Haughey, Southernness
Best Apprentice: Andrew Kirk, Brighouse Bay.
Best Trade: Robert Bruce, Stewarts.
Best Guest: Peter Boyd, BIGGA.

Wooden spoon - Last Autumn's Champion Jim Paton, West Kilbride. Where did it all go wrong, Jim?

After one of our driest Septembers for years, our luck didn't hold and the bad weather was to return with a vengeance on the above day with strong to gale force winds and persistently heavy rain. The event was cut to nine holes mid-stream in the atrocious conditions and most players battled valiantly to complete their round. At the prize giving the Complex owner Tom Gillespie was thanked for allowing us courtesy of the facilities along with Club Secretary, Ken Mercer, for arranging tee times. Head Greenkeeper, Colin Murray, was congratulated on the golf course and although the weather tarnished the day it didn't beat the course as it remained playable. Mr and Mrs Stanfield were also thanked for providing the catering and refreshments throughout the day and finally our

Secretary, Derek Wilson, was thanked for all the organising of the event. Ironically when I returned home 90 miles north, I was to discover that it had remained dry all day, Sods law!

By the time this reaches you it will be Scotsurf again, maybe I'll see you there. Any news call me on 01505 683278. See you next month.

Iain Barr

West

Welcome to this month's news letter. First a report on the Section Autumn outing held at Milngavie GC on September 20. The weather turned out beautiful to match the condition of the course so congratulations must first go to Bob Hindmarch, Wallace Wilson and all the other members of the greens staff. The committee would like to wish Bob all the best when he retires next year but I am sure he will miss working in such a beautiful place just a little. Thanks must also be extended to the committee and members of Milngavie Golf Club for the courtesy of the course.

Scratch Stuart Taylor, Killermont GC;

2. A. Clark, Hilton Park GC, 76-7-69;
3. G. Kerr, Gleddoch GC, 79-9-70.

Category 2.

1. D. McKechnie, Douglas Park GC, 79-12-67;
2. J. Wilson, Lamglads GC, 80-11-69;
3. T. Hindmarch, Cathcart GC, 85-14-71 (BIH).

Category 3.

1. W. Wilson, Milngavie GC, 93-18-75;
2. C. Scott, Killermont GC, 96-20-7;
3. J. Scott, Kirkhill GC, 95-18-77.

Trade D. Duthie, 72-4-68.

Visitor E. Wood, Killermont GC, 71-14-70.

Winner of 100 club draw J.Scott Snr.

Well done to all the winners - and a good turnout on the day. On November 30 our Annual Dinner will be held in Victoria's night club. Tickets are available from committee members, paid in advance of the actual dinner date. This has always proved an enjoyable and entertaining evening in the past with a choice of bars to suit all tastes and ages.

Congratulations are to be extended to Joe Bell, Millport Golf Club, and his wife who have been blessed with their second child Louise. Congratulations also to John Hart, (who replaced Joe as Deputy Head at Kilmaccolm GC), on the arrival of his baby son Callum. We are sure both of you and your wives are very happy with the new arrivals and are looking forward to the sleepless nights. Have they no television west of Houston?

Well that's it for this month hope to see as many of you as possible at the annual dinner, as always if there is anything you would like added to the column please give me a call on 01355 266862.

Brian Bolland



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North Wales

Our autumn meeting was held at Llangollen GC. There was a much reduced entry this year which was a shame because the course was in excel-

lent condition. Thanks go to Jeremy Hughes and his team, the Captain committee and members for having us, the stewards and definitely the caterers, after the amount of shots I took and the amount of walking I did, I was starving!

The results were;

1. Gem Shield and prize George Whitty, 38pts
 2. Andy Campbell 38pts;
 3. John Humphries, 38pts;
 4. Shaun Pritchard, 35pts;
 5. Ian Buckley, 35pts.
- Best gross score and the Major Owen Shield Jeremy Hughes with a 77. Guests Terry Dodd, 34pts; 2. Bert Spurling 34pts 3. The President Llangollen GC. Nearest the pin Allen Lewis, Guest Danny O'Neil.

Our thanks go to the sponsors Paul Walker, ALS, Gem, Acorn, Sportsworld, John Osman. Our next event is in the college on 14th Nov 13.30-1600 by Hardi sprayers.

The Christmas tournament and AGM is at Conwy GC on Tuesday, Dec 4. One final mention, the retirement of a man who made greenkeeping that interesting to me that I'm still doing it nearly 30 years later, not only me but many others including Andy Campbell and his own son, Peter.

I will always be indebted to Len Sproston for helping to make something out of me and giving me the encouragement and confidence to be a Head Greenkeeper.

Thanks Len here's to a very long and happy retirement.

Dave Goodridge

COURSE MANAGERS | GREENKEEPERS | STUDENTS | PROFESSIONALS | GOLF CLUB SECRETARIES | GOLF CLUB MANAGERS | GOLF CLUB OWNERS | NEW 3-DAY FORMAT | OVER 200 EXHIBITORS | 8 EXHIBITORS

Experience



the most comprehensive Golf Club exhibition in Europe

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



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

Continue to Learn

Continue to Learn with BIGGA at Harrogate, in January 2002, when the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme runs alongside the extended BTME Exhibition. The formal conference is presented in a new format to allow delegates maximum flexibility to gain the most from their visit. The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition Seminars provide an opportunity to mix the Exhibition with a range of Seminars allowing all delegates the opportunity to Continue to Learn. New for 2002 will be the Golf Club Show Education and Training programme which is aimed primarily at Golf Club Owners, Golf Club Secretaries and Chairmen of Green. This programme incorporates the very successful Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century, run jointly with STRI, with a range of seminars. Both programmes are open to all delegates, although members of BIGGA receive preferential rates. The Key Note speaker is Roger Black and this Session is free to all delegates. Finally, the very successful Careers Clinic will run alongside BTME.

North East

On September 20, we paid our first visit to Hexham GC for the Autumn Competition, as always Head Greenkeeper, Mal Lathan and his staff, had the course excellent condition, considering they had hollow cored and dressed the greens only three weeks prior to the competition.

Thanks to the committee for giving us courtesy and to Gary Finn, the Catering Manager for providing us with an excellent meal. Other thanks go to the trade for providing donations and prizes they are Thorntree Landscapes, Turf Care, Cropwise, Shorts, Aitkens, Greenlay, Amenity Technology, Border Turf Services, out of the sponsors there were only four on the doorstep who gave a prize out, sad isn't it that we have to rely on the same companies all the time, still thanks again - without you we couldn't manage.

Best Gross J. Hutton, 70, Whickham GC

Best Nett J. Richardson, Hexham GC, 75-7=68 (won the back nine from J. Hutton)

Greenlay Cup

B. Wilson 69 nett, Stocksfield GC

Fewster Shield

B. Hughes 73 nett, Whickham GC

Next year's Autumn Comp, will hopefully be at Longhirst spring comp. Not decided yet.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

I am writing this month's Section notes as the greenkeepers are competing at Birkdale in the National Tournament, and

they must be having a fair battle against the weather. The wind today has been almost gale force, and knowing how open Birkdale is, I would imagine that like the professionals, none of the competitors will be finding the course easy. I called in at Birkdale a couple of weeks ago for a sneak preview, not to play, and the course is in great condition as always so I hope everybody enjoys playing what I consider to be probably the best Open Championship Course in the country.

The autumn tournament was played at Ashton & Lea Golf Club on September 3, and although we had mixed weather the day stayed mainly dry allowing everybody to enjoy their golf. We had only 23 members playing which is a poor turnout considering the venue is just about central to the North West section area, but September is a busy time for greenkeepers, so maybe the timing was wrong, I would like to thank Ashton & Lea Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course and also the caterers Wendy & Ian for a lovely lunch and evening meal. The results were as follows:

Best Gross. Paul Pearce, 72 p/o scratch

Best Nett. Paul Walker, 68

Best Vets. Brian Turner, 82.

Guests Prize. Andy Cornes, 74.

The aggregate trophy was won by Paul Walker with 72 + 68 = 140 total.

The nett prize went down to 7th nett thanks to our patrons and other trade members. At last I have received some news from members, some good, some not so good. The good news is that Paul Worsencroft, Head Greenkeeper at Knutsford Golf Club, who was injured

in a car accident last February is making good progress, and is slowly getting back to work. His golf club has been a great help to him and his family.

The not so good news is that Peter Simpson, Head Greenkeeper at Fairhaven Golf Club, is not in the best of health at the moment, but I understand that the treatment he is undergoing is showing good progress. All our good wishes go to Peter for a speedy recovery. Finally I am informed that Paul Pearce, Head Greenkeeper at Penwortham Golf Club, takes over as Captain at Hazel Grove Golf Club this year. Quite an honour, hope you have a good year Paul.

Don't forget the AGM and President's Cup at Wilmslow Golf Club on Thursday, December 6.

All applications to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool, L4 9RB, Tel: 0151 284 4416, include your cheque for £15, and everybody bring a bottle so we all go home with a prize. Any news or views contact me on mobile 07761 583387 or 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross.

Northern

It seems a long time ago since Invitation Day was played at Howley Hall GC. This event was sponsored by Rigby Taylor. Head Greenkeeper, Simon Heppenstall, missed a great day with 48 enjoying the course, while sunning himself in France. Simon's Deputy, Mike Bussey, did a great job in setting the course up. I had better not say much more, as I am a little biased.

The results are as follows:-

1. Robin Smith, Bill Dalton 42pts

back 9-23pts, Leeds City Council

2. Joe Baxter, Allan Taylor 42pts

back 9-22pts, Bingley St. Ives GC

3. Tony Gerrard, Steve Wild 42pts

back 9-21pts, Halifax GC

Trade - Alan Dyson, Barry Askham 38pts,

Farmura

Nearest Pin on 8th Nigel Wild, Otley GC, 2.09m

Nearest Pin on 18th Mike Hannan,

Scarthingwell GC, 19 cm

2's Club Winners £10 each - Mike Hannan, Allan Baxter, Bill Dalton, Nev Scales, Joe Cassell.

Many thanks to the Directors of Howley Hall GC for the courtesy of the course, Robin Parsons and his staff for the doing us proud with the meal and also to the Pro Gary Watkinson for supplying the prizes. All of this wouldn't be possible without the Sponsorship from Rigby Taylor who was represented by Mike Brear. Hardlines to the team in the Northern Regional Final golf day at Birchwood GC. Representing the Section were Richard Harris, Tony Gerrard, Andy Smith, Brian Hudson, Mike Gregson, John Wood. We came a gallant fourth with the Cleveland Section winning again. In the Whitehall Bowl at Penrith GC. Dave Collins came in the prizes with 35pts.

Coming up this month on Saturday, November 10 at Bradford GC is the annual dinner dance. And on Wednesday 21st our section seminar at Howley Hall GC with arrival at 9.30am till 3pm. This will include coffee on arrival, lunch. The cost for this is free. Speakers include Jim Croxten, PGA; Martyn Jones, Myerscough College; Bob Taylor, STRI; Sam McLean, Bernards.

RENAS | CELEBRITY SPEAKERS | PRODUCT DEMONSTRATIONS | COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES | SEMINARS | WORKSHOPS | CONFERENCES | MASTERCLASSES

National Education Conference

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

Causes and Prevention of Turfgrass Stresses

Dr James Beard, President and Chief Scientist,
International Turfgrass Institute

Global Warming and the Golf Course

Keith Weatherhead, Cranfield University, John Bradwell,
Turf Seed UK and Augustino Gaude, Turf Seed UK Ltd,
Ruth Mann, Turfgrass and Plant Pathologist, STRI

Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features

Jim Moore, USGA Green Section; Brian Pierson, Golf Course
Constructor; Donald Steel Group, Golf Course Designers

Preparation for Winter Play

Ed McCabe, Course Manager, Brokenhurst Manor GC;
Arthur King, Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club; George Shiels,
Consulting Agronomist

Workshops

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

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

BTME Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Spa Royal Hall,
Harrogate International Centre



Keynote speaker:
Roger Black M.B.E.
represented Great
Britain at the
highest level in
the world of
athletics, both as
an individual 400
metres runner and as
a member of 4 x 400
metres relay team.

Seminar topics are as follows;

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

Golf Club Show Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Majestic Hotel

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

Two Exhibitions

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

Banquet

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

JANUARY 22-24, 2002

HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, ENGLAND

Visitor hotline 01347 833833 Exhibitor hotline 01347 833800 Online www.btme.org.uk Email reception@bigga.co.uk

To guarantee your place as numbers are limited and for the catering, the deadline is November 15. In December on the 5th is the Christmas Golf at Headingley GC. This is a bring and win with a minimum value of £5. There will be other 'prizes' on offer making it into a fun day. If for some reason the golf is cancelled, something else will be arranged. The deadline is Wednesday November 28 for booking for the Christmas Golf at £15 (cheques made payable to BIGGA Northern Section).

For those of you on the Net, the Section website address is www.northernsection.co.uk and we would welcome good or bad feedback about the site. Please note my email address has now changed. (see below)

Congratulations to Dennis Cockburn on becoming a Great Granddad again. All those grandkids must be what keeps Dennis looking so young? That's all for now, if anybody as any news or ideas then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188; mobile 07790 678572, Email: andy@northernsection.co.uk
Andy Smith



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

Mid Anglia

Teams wishing to enter the Christmas Texas Scramble event on December 6 at Dunstable Downs, should get their entries in as soon as possible (if you have not already done so). Costs of entry are £25 for BIGGA members and £35 for non-BIGGA members, guests etc. Please ensure that your team players pay the appropriate rate if they are not BIGGA members.

Jim Cassidy is organising some sectional education days for early next year. These include Basic Computing, Soil Science and a Chainsaw course. Should any members be interested in attending any of these events, please contact Jim for further details on 01442 842627. Once dates and venues are confirmed, they will be published in January's "Around the Green".

Golf meetings for 2002 are currently being organised by Gerald, with Ashridge, Abbotsley, St. Neots, Stocks and Berkhamsted as possible venues. Details will follow later in the year, once bookings are confirmed.

Finally, a couple of Section greenkeepers on the move: David Forsyth leaves Mid Herts for Penrith and Bob Butfoy takes on Heydon Grange after leaving Mount Pleasant. Good luck, lads!
Paul Lockett

Midland

Midland Region Autumn Cup was held on September 17 at Trentham GC. Thankfully the weather was kind to us, and congratulations go to

1. Vince Gilroy, nett 72; 2. Eddie Stant, 73; 3. Pete Holtham, 73. Trade prize went to Andrew Comes, of Acom Equipment, with nett 74, for the fourth year running.

Many thanks to all our trade supporters on the day: Sportsworld Amenity Products; wine was sponsored by Bathgates and John Hammond, most accurate drive and Nearest the Pin, Ruffords.

My personal thanks go to all my colleagues and members at Trentham. Our next golf day is the Christmas Tournament at Ray Hayhurst's Brocton Golf Club on Thursday, December 13 and of course will include the AGM. By now I am sure you have received details from HQ regarding regional training days. These have been organised in response to the call for more localised and affordable training. Therefore I hope many of us will attend and make them the success they deserve to be. As ever if you wish to contribute your suggestions are welcomed. I can be contacted on 07876 546638. I look forward to seeing you at Brocton Golf Club.
Phil Gates

East Midlands

This season's Autumn Outing was held at our Section Chairman's course Lingdale GC on September 12. The course was excellently prepared by Gavin Robson and his staff, and the poor scores were down to the difficult weather conditions. However we had a increased turnout of 37 which was a big improvement on last year's numbers. The scores were as follows.

Best Gross. Russell Allen, Horsley Lodge, 82
Best Nett. Steve Levers, Ramsdale Park, 87-13-74

Category 1

1. Jeff Dickinson, Leen Valley, 83-7-76

2. Chris Brown, Horsley Lodge, 84-6-78

Category 2

1. Steve Donoghue, Oakridge, 88-14-78

2. Robert Duval, Scraptoft, 87-12-75

Category 3

1. Mark Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 100-21-79

2. Gavin Robson 102-19-81

Trade & Associate

1. Kevin Kinzer, ET Breakwells, 100-23-77

2. Pete Fell, Aitkens, 91-12-79.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lingdale GC for courtesy of their fine course, the Steward and Stewardess for a great meal, and to those new members who joined us for the first time, Robert Duval and Chris Brown. Also a special thanks should go to Banks Amenity Products who generously sponsored the prize table, and to all those companies who supplied prizes for the raffle. Also on September 21, Banks Amenity Products sponsored a team of Greenkeepers in the Market Harborough AM-AM. Unfortunately the team did not score too well on the day finishing with a score of 139, 1 under par. On behalf of the three Greenkeepers who played I would like to thank Tim and Simon Banks for a wonderful day.
Antony Bindley

East of England

The match between the East Midland Section was played at Cotgrave Place Golf Club, and once again our rivals took home the trophy. The competition was sponsored by Ben Petitjean, of Barenbrug. Thanks to all who played for the East Of England Section, better luck next time on our home fixture.

The other matchplay fixture in the calendar was against the Secretaries' Association with an outstanding victory to the East of England Section. The match was played over an excellent Seacroft course and thanks goes to Michael Love and his staff for the hard work that they put in. This match was sponsored by Chandlers and by Nigel Lovatt of Toro.
G A Macdonald

BBO

The annual bring-a-long-a bandit, sorry, Invitation Day, took place at Harleyford Golf Club on October 4. At last, a golf day with no rain! A field of 34 took part and results are as follows:

1. Carl Small & Les Wallace, 49 pts;
2. J. Scoones & D. Kearney, 46 pts;
3. B. Smith & S. Scott, 44 pts;

I had the very great pleasure of partnering Carl and Les as they tore the course apart, and it's not the first time I have seen them do it. Last year they were level par around Caversham after 14 holes, and for those of you who have played the course will know that is good golf. Many thanks to Ray Clark and his staff at Harleyford. The course was in superb condition and also to Tim Webb and Mark Day, of Tacit, for sponsoring the day.

Also as promised, more news on the Rigby Taylor pairs. The semi-finals have been played with Ian Robins & Carl Small beating D. Goodchild & C. Wright and L. Anderson & S. Austin beating C. Lomas & M. Hancock.

The final is to be played at The Berkshire between L. Anderson & S. Austin against Ian Robins and Carl Small on October 22. Apparently this is something of a grudge match because the latter beat the former in last year's semi-final. The next golf day, the Turkey Trot, is to be held at Springs GC near Wallingford, and will be followed by the AGM. Be prepared, as we will be looking to recruit fresh faces on the committee.

Well that's all for this month, although I was surprised in the amount of people asking about Steph's tattoos. I'm not writing anything about them this month, but you could come along to a golf day and ask her yourself. Right, that's it I'm going to the pub. More next month (hopefully).
Jon Scoones



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Essex

If the author could offer you the chance to mingle with the stars, have sex on the beach and then play golf on two of the finest courses in the country you would probably jump at the chance, so why don't you. This all awaits if you enter the BIGGA National Championships as Tony Kirwin of Colchester Golf Club and myself did this year.

We were truly mixing with the stars standing in the same bar as Liverpool's Steve Gerrard, on the Monday before the England v Greece game; we also had sex on the beach plus many other exotic and alluring sounding cocktails!

Then to top it all we had two days of golf at Royal Birkdale then Southport and Ainsdale Golf Club. After nearly passing out on the 1st tee in front of many spectators and photographer I really enjoyed my round. Tony on the other hand emulated his great feat of finishing third overall last year by finishing third overall in the scratch prize and fourth overall proper. Tony put his success down to getting to bed early the night before, (I think not), and not using

a single wood all the way round Birkdale which had winds averaging at 55mph and gusting up to 70mph. You will be pleased to hear that the Southeast yet again won the regional event proving that we are undoubtedly the finest golfing greenkeepers around.

I must mention Mark Pyrah, of Sheriff Crop Care; Steve Denton, of Rigby Taylor; David Murphy, of Driving Force Leisure, and Simon Banks, of Banks Horticulture, who agreed to sponsor me during my participation in the event.

Tony asked me to send his thanks to Colchester Golf Club who did the same for him. Full results are on page 32.

New members this month are Brendan Morgan of Trent Park GC, Rodney Beautyman of Crews Hill GC and Paul Edwards of Stock Brook Manor GC. This year's winter trophy sponsored by Silver Key Members, Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd, was held on October 4 at Three Rivers Golf & Country Club. Thirty-two of us teed off in lovely conditions and played a course that although a bit wet in places due to obvious reasons held up well and presented a good opportunity to shoot some decent scores. This was not to be the case however as the majority of the scores were too low to be published especially after my earlier comments regarding how good the South East region is.

Results for the day were as follows:

Overall winner of the Winter Trophy was Arnold Phipps Jones, of Stock Brook Manor, with 36 points.

Category 1 (0-14)

1. Jon Selwood, Abridge GC, 35pts
2. Dominic Rogers, Orsett GC
3. Steve Crossdale, Great Hadham GC

Category 2 (15-28)

1. Mark Stopps, Bentley GC, 35pts
2. Doug (Maggie) Smith, Mardyle Valley GC, 35pts
3. Nick Pomphret Bentley GC 32pts

Trade Prize went to the ever-present Steve Denton of Rigby Taylor who donated the first prize for the competition. Longest drive and Nearest the Pin went to Mick Fance and Malcolm Smith respectively. Top score of the day went to my guest and father, Ian Crossdale, who despite blobbing the first managed to rack up 38 points off a 13 handicap closely followed by Tony Scott, General Manager of TRGC with a very credible 36.

Gem Professional, Banks Horticulture, Tacit, Sheriff Crop Care, Driving Force Leisure and Avoncrop once again supported the day with their much needed attendance and Raffle prizes.

A very well done to all prizewinners and a big thank you to all the trade members for their continued support. Our golf days could be very expensive but for the support of the trade and their financial contributions often go overlooked.

Thanks to Simon Banks who provided some light entertainment in the car park. You'll need to ask him for details yourself. The entire day went without a hitch and we have Three Rivers Golf Club to thank for that, special mentions to Ray Mitchell and his green staff, Tony Scott the General Manager, Liz and the Catering Staff and Marcus the Chef.

Our next golf day is at Channels Golf Club on Wednesday November 18 which combines with our AGM. If you don't normally go to our golf days then this would be a great one to start with. Come on celebrate Christmas early with us at Channels.
Steve Crossdale

Kent

Dark, miserable and wet and I'm not talking about my ex-girlfriend. Yes it's raining again and there must be a few of you who are already suffering with drainage problems and the winter is not even here yet. 92mm this month and more on the way so don't get to depressed. Well not yet anyway.

Well I have just got back from two glorious weeks in the Maldives and I was torn between going and playing in the Boughton Golf Day on September 13. The turnout for the day as put by one committee member was pitiful. A total of 33 turned out, but when you consider it was a guest day, it looks a little bleak. So where are all you guys? What's wrong with these golf days? Why does it seem that most of the eastern side of the county can't be bothered to turn up? It's the same few clubs who turn up every meeting which is just as well and I thank them for their continued support. Is it that the Head Greenkeeper does not play so the rest can't go? You tell me, please let me know your views. On to the results:

1. Jason Moody and Andrew Wood
2. Chris Mardon and Arthur Watson
3. Philip BJ Belton and Brad Parson

The individual prize went to Duncan Kelso again! Longest drive went to Andrew Wood and nearest the pin went to John Jehle.

A big thank you to Ernest Doe and Son for their provision of refreshments and the joys of Vic Maynard who entertained everyone while driving the drinks cart at high speed around the course. A big thank you too everyone involved down at Boughton Golf Club for a great day and a special thank you to Gary Debenham for all his efforts in presenting a very tidy golf course.

I did however miss the pleasure of Jason Moody's winners speech, which I understand did go on for a fair bit but well done for making one anyway.

Congratulations to Dave Critchell on his new appointment with Drake and Fletchers. After two years of being a Greenkeeping Mechanic he has decided to go back to the job he loves. Those who don't know Dave you will recognise him as the big ginger Yeti that will come and fix your machinery. He will not bite and he is a lovely bloke, so best of luck to you mate. Once again no calls or e-mails from you lot around the county so please surprise me next month with at least one. Call me on 01732 875020 or e-mail me at jbatkgholf@aol.com

For those who would like to write to me, you can: Kings Hill Golf Club, Kings Hill, Fortune Way, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4RG.

Hope to see you all at the turkey trot at Darenth Valley on December 6 and bring your wellies if this rain keeps up. Only joking Nigel. Looking forward to seeing you there mate.

Jason Bean.

Surrey

The SISIS Bowl knockout competition was concluded after an away and a home game at Hankley Common Golf Club and at Liphook Golf Club. The finalists in the red corner were David (the Hammer) Murdoch and his tag partner Adrian (Lawless) Locke and in the blue corner their formidable opponents were Gareth (Reckless) Roberts and Gregg (Rampant) Richardson. This two round heavyweight contest (sorry

Greg) was touch and go and after a close first round at Hankley Common Golf Club a flying drop-kick from Reckless Roberts edged them into a small lead, the bell for the final round at Liphook Golf Club was rung and with amazing versatility The Hammer and Lawless tagged several times and with a head lock from Lawless resulting in a submission. Victory finally went to the boys from Liphook Golf Club. Congratulations to David & Adrian.

Croham Hurst Golf Club were our hosts for the Autumn Tournament on October 4th and as yours truly was on holiday I really needed the rest. The sunshine and the blue warm Atlantic Sea, my report is not first hand but comes from a junior reporter, a youthful Scot who wishes to remain anonymous. The course was excellent, the greens were excellent, the grub was excellent and the beer was really excellent. Roger Tydeman and his team are to be congratulated and we ask him to pass on our thanks to Croham Hurst for allowing us the courtesy of their course. Roger played with the afore mentioned junior reporter but I do not believe Rogers generosity when buying drinks had anything to do with the compliments bestowed so overwhelmingly by my assistant. The day was sponsored by Avoncrop and we thank them for quality of the prizes. First past the post was Mark Harvey from that successful Epsom Stable with 39pts, a report that his success is due to his having been Gelded has since proved to be unfounded according to several local fillies, second, a disappointing Antepost favourite from Addington Palace, Ron Christie 37 Points and third also with 37 points, that useful hurdler from the Hindhead stables, Steve Holmes. Nearest the pin was won by that game old stayer, Jim Russell and the longest drive saw Ron Christie winning by a distance.

Your committee had a meeting on the September 19 and it is hoped that a quiz night will be organised for the December 5 at Walton Heath Artisans. Details to follow. Surrey Section will be hosting the 2002 Regional Seminar in October/November. Again full details will follow. Please remember that only written questions can be answered at the AGM so if you have any get them to a committee member ASAP. There are still some members who are not paying for golf days before the event. This will not be allowed in the future.

Finally a happy note on which to finish, Tony Shorman, from Shirley Park Golf Club, and his wife Sarah have celebrated the birth of their daughter Hope Louise on the August 11. Congratulations from us all.



South West and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

South West and South Wales

The South West & South Wales Region is once again running a coach to Harrogate and extend their thanks to Amenity Technology for sponsoring this. The coach will travel up on Monday January 21 and will return on Thursday January 24. Please take note of the change of days from the past.

Packages are available and anyone

who has not already received an application form should contact Paula Humphries Tel: 0288 352194. There are only 75 places available - first come first served!

Devon and Cornwall

The Section's Roffeys meeting was held at China Fleet Golf & Country Club on Wednesday, October 3. A good field of members took to the course to compete for the D.O Hunt Trophy in superb weather. As usual Course Manager Richard Shapland treated non-golfing members to a guided course walk. After lunch members were treated to yours truly presenting a PowerPoint presentation on the Canadian experience.

Unfortunately Don Hunt was unable to attend the day due to other commitments so his duty of presenting the prizes went to Bill Pile who presented the prizes to 1. Nathan O'Sullivan, 40pts; 2. Tony Gooch, 39pts; 3. Richard Daly, 38pts.

The Section would like to thank China Fleet G&CC for allowing the Section use of their excellent facilities, to the catering and bar staff and to Course Manager, Richard Shapland and his team, who had the course in superb condition. Also our thanks go to Don Hunt and Roffeys for their continued support of the Section and to Stuart Ashworth for the loan of the PowerPoint projector.

The Devon Garden Machinery Section meeting and AGM will be held at Tavistock Golf Club on Wednesday, November 7. The morning's golf will be of foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lely. As usual the non-golfer's course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am, the Section's AGM will conclude the day. Once again Christmas is fast approaching, so what better way to start the festive season then by attending our P.J. Flegg-sponsored Christmas meeting which will be held at Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 12. As in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members, so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible and before the closing date.

The day will start as usual with golfing members playing for the P.J Flegg Trophy with the format being greensome, for those of you not wishing to play golf the Course walk will start from the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. Following lunch our afternoon cabaret with Tank Sherman and raffles will conclude the day.

It's now time to book your place on the Region's Amenity Technology sponsored package to the BTME show & seminars, which will be held in Harrogate next January. The trip departs on January 21 and returns on January 24, with the cost of £110 plus seminars per member.

The Regional seminar will take place on Wednesday, November 21 at Cannington College. For more details contact Paula Humphries 01288 352194.

Richard Whyman

South West

A long awaited victory by the team on Welsh soil was achieved in September. (It's been four years!) Our thanks go once again to St. Pierre for courtesy of the course and excellent meal. One of the reasons for the result was the Welsh section only having seven men, as with the friendliness of these matches, one of the Southwest lads played for the opposition. He finally lost after a hard fought match on the 18th. I do believe he has since been crossing the bridge on a regular basis and he is known as 'WELSHIE'. The actual result was five and a half to a half.

Congratulations to Jim McKenzie and the Celtic Manor Resort for getting the Ryder Cup. I am sure that this is a boost for the region as a whole. Trips to BTME on the 'MAGIC BUS' are being organised once again by Paula so don't miss out. Our Christmas tournament will be played at Cotswold Hills GC on December 12. Please support this event and buy raffle tickets or bring along your own prizes, to be once again won by the lads at the Kendleshire.

Any news, views or information contact me on 01285 720168

D Bougen

South Wales

Autumn Competition held at the Newport Golf Club.

The course was in spectacular condition with many changes since our last visit. Despite the weather a great day was had by all. Our thanks to "Keith Morgan Mowers" Jon and Ben Morgan for sponsoring the day and to their representatives for attending on their behalf - Ray Harris and John Aspley.

Our sincere thanks to all at Newport GC for making us so welcome. To Eddie Trout for an excellent meal and to Angus Macleod and his team for the super golf course. Winner of the Morgan mowers Shield and Golf bag was Russell Anderson, Cardiff GC. Second place was, on home turf Angus Macleod winning the President's Cup and Ping Putter. Third place was Peter Lacey, Pennard GC winning the President's Shield and Callaway Holdall.

The Annual match versus the South West of BIGGA was held, as is tradition, at the Marriott St. Pierre G&CC. The day was sponsored by Amenity Technology and our thanks to Martin Harry who also contributed to the S Wales Team. A lucky win for the South West by all accounts! (by 5.5 to 0.5) Wait till next year! Our sincere thanks to all at the St. Pierre resort for making us so welcome and for booking the date for next year already (Wed August 21st 2002).

The hot running buffet proved to be a success even if the golf wasn't. Our thanks to the S West for their support and congratulations!

Dates for the diary: Wednesday December 12th AGM/Xmas golf Day at the Pyle & Kenfig GC. Book early as places are limited!

Peter Lacey



See you all next month

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FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have appropriate qualifications and experience inclusive of spraying certificate. No accommodation.

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY

Applications in writing with CV to:

The Secretary, Cleethorpes Golf Club,
Kings Road, Cleethorpes, North East Lincolnshire, DN35 0PN

TOWER CHEMICALS LIMITED

CHEMICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Established in 1984. Tower Chemicals are looking for sales personnel with previous experience in the Fine Turf Chemicals marketplace. We supply most golf courses with fine turf chemicals as well as cleaning and maintenance chemicals for the workshops.

Salary and benefits dependent upon experience.

Please reply in writing to:

Mr D Goldstone, Managing Director, Tower Chemicals Ltd,
First Avenue, Grangefield Industrial Estate,
Pudsey, Leeds LS28 6QN.

Tel: 0113 256 8111 Fax: 0113 256 9111
e-mail: david@towerchemicals.co.uk

ROMFORD GOLF CLUB

Has a vacancy for an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We currently have a vacancy for a greenkeeper with a minimum of NVQ Level 2 qualifications to join our existing team on our established 18 hole parkland course.

Salary and conditions negotiable.

Please apply in writing to:-

The Chairman, Romford Golf Club,
Heath Drive, Gidea Park, RM2 5QB.

HORSHAM GOLF & FITNESS

REQUIRES A

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Are you ready for a challenge?

Enthusiastic professional greenkeeper required to lead a small team at a nine hole golf course with 16 bay practice area.

Excellent package for the right person.

Applications including full C.V. to

**Alistaire Fitt, Horsham Golf & Fitness,
Worthing Road, Horsham, West Sussex. RH13 7AX**

WATERLOOVILLE GOLF CLUB

Requires a

QUALIFIED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

NVQ Level 2 required. Salary negotiable. Apply in writing with CV to;

The Secretary, Waterlooville Golf Club, Cherry Tree Avenue,
Cowplain, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO8 8AP

CLOSING DATE 16TH NOVEMBER

THE ROYAL BURGESS GOLFING SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH

Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicant should have a minimum of three years experience and NVQ/SVQ level 2. Spraying certificate an advantage.

Applications in writing enclosing a C.V. to:

Mr R.S. Morris, Course Manager,
The Royal Burgess Golfing Society,
181 Whitehouse Road, Edinburgh, EH4 6BY

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(Mansfield based)

We require an individual with experience, drive and enthusiasm to fill this important post that entails the day to day management of new branch premises and seven staff, together with sales and promotional work in Leicester, Nottingham and Derby. Applicants should have both management and relevant sales experience.

Due to internal promotion

International Trainer

(Ipswich based)

Working alongside the International Training Manager the successful applicant will be developing and delivering technical training course modules on our full product range. Experience in the industry is essential, as is a strong technical background and computer literacy. Applicants must be able to address an audience and deliver material in a public forum.

An excellent remuneration package, including company car, awaits each of the successful applicants. If you feel qualified to apply for either position please send your CV and covering letter to:

Caroline Gumble, Human Resources Director
Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products
Central Avenue, Ransomes Europark
Ipswich IP3 9QG England.

Closing Date for applications
is 30 November 2001.

Strictly no agencies



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Wetherby Golf Club Ltd

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Founded in 1910, this is a well established private members club with 650 members.

Applicants should be technically qualified to level 2/3 in Sports Turf Maintenance and have the Management skills to train, motivate and direct staff in all aspects of greenkeeping.

A proven ability to prepare and monitor budgets, inventories and work schedules, with a sound knowledge of Health and Safety regulations.

Remuneration is negotiable and accommodation is available.

Written applications with full C.V. to:

**Greens Chairman, Wetherby Golf Club Ltd,
Linton Lane, Linton, Wetherby Golf Club LS22 4JF**



ernest/DOE

PROFESSIONAL TURFCARE TECHNICIANS

Ernest Doe & Sons, a multi franchised agricultural, construction and Grass Machinery dealership covering East Anglia and the South East, have vacancies for two professional turf care technicians at our Sutton at Hone, Dartford Branch, and one at our Fulbourn in Cambridgeshire Branch.

Successful applicants will be skilled with several years experience working with professional grass machinery and have the ability to work alone and as part of a team.



The Fulbourn branch holds the
Textron franchise for Cambridgeshire.



The Sutton at Hone branch holds
the Textron franchise for Kent.

If you are interested in any of the above vacancies, please apply in writing with full CV to:

Kevin Butcher, Branch Manager,
Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd, Wilbraham Road,
Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire, CB1 5EX.

/
or
/

Richard Link, Branch Manager,
Ernest Dole & Sons Ltd, 83 Main Road,
Dartford, Kent DA4 9HQ

Feature listing from November '99

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; Clandeboye GC; Drainage; National Championship review; Leatherjacket management

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

July 2001: Royal Lytham profile; Tees Mowers; Fertilisers; Green Grasses; John Deere profile; Sandy McDivot; College Listings

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

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

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



Whirlwind tours



This has been another busy month with quite a bit of travelling involved.

It started with a visit to Penrith Golf Club in the Northern Region for the Course Care Cumbria Cup which had been postponed from earlier in the year. I'd never been to that part of the world before and it really was delightful. It was an extremely friendly and hospitable golf club and we were all entertained royally. It was also good to meet so many members from that area. They are a hardy bunch because the rain didn't stop anybody from enjoying their golf.

It was then off to another part of the world which was new to me. Sweden, where I'd been invited by Rolf Lowgren, President of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association to the Elmia Park and Golf 2001 Conference and Exhibition, in Jonkoping in the centre of the country.

I must thank Tommy and Helen Lindelof, long time friends of the Association, who collected us from the airport and showed us many of the sites of Stockholm. It was extremely kind of them and I certainly appreciated the time they gave over to looking after us.

The Show was excellent, quite large with parts of it inside and others out. I attended some seminars, which fortunately were in English, and was extremely impressed by the enthusi-

asm and dedication shown by many of the young greenkeepers in attendance and who were also presented with diplomas, during a presentation ceremony.

Golf is really taking off in Sweden and job prospects must be excellent as I understand there are proposals for 50 new courses to be built in the Stockholm area alone.

I had hoped to meet a couple of American friends at the show but due to the current situation and the travel concerns they had been advised not to make the trip.

The BIGGA National Golf Championship at

Royal Birkdale and Southport and Ainsdale golf clubs was a wonderful event. We were extremely fortunate with the weather and we had two great golf courses to play.

Chris Whittle and Mike Mercer had done a wonderful job on them although I'm sure Chris' comment that the first day gales were only a "stiff breeze" had a few of the players who had struggled to cope, cursing a bit!

Having said that there was some excellent golf played not least by two of the older hands, Walter Woods and George Brown, who were engaged in their own private tournament during the two days and then found they had finished high up the main leaderboard. St Andrews just edged out Turnberry in that other event.

Local man Chris Ball, who works at Hillside and is a former Royal Birkdale junior, won the main prize with a two round nett total of 143. Extremely fine golf under any circumstances. Board of Management member, Ian Semple, of Old Fold Manor, won the scratch prize having shot an outstanding 74 over Birkdale in Chris' stiff breeze - there were gusts of up to 50mph so I wouldn't want to find myself in a Whittle hurricane! - and followed it up with a 77. I was also delighted that the South East won the team prize. But then I would be, wouldn't I!

There were over 90 players in the Championship and I think everyone who played will be looking forward to going back to Southport next year when it is to be played over Hillside and Hesketh. I'd like to thank all the sponsors who helped make the event such a success and such an enjoyable experience.

On the professional tournament front I'd like to pass on my thoughts to Dave Samuels and his team at The Belfry, whose preparations for the Ryder Cup were cut short at the last minute. They have now to start building the course, not to mention themselves, up for another 12 months. And to Chris Kennedy who produced another superb test of golf for the World Matchplay. Congratulations to Ian Woosnam on that one. Some of the golf during the week and particularly in the final was quite unbelievable and it shows you don't need to have the very top ranked players to produce a great tournament.

One event I wasn't able to attend during the month due to other commitments was the Surrey Section Autumn meeting at Croham Hurst but I was told that Roger Tydeman had the course in immaculate condition.

I also had the pleasure of welcoming Stig Persson, a regular member of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open, and officials of Ljunghusens GC to Walton Heath. They were over to look at heather management on Surrey golf courses.

On the home front, we're well into our autumn programme and I've managed to miss yet more verti-draining work - it's pure coincidence I can assure you - and we're in the period of what I call soft growth. Hopefully by the time you read this you will be well into your winter programmes and I wish you all the best with the projects you are undertaking.

Clive Osgood, Chairman

Mycorrhizal structures associated with turf roots

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Harmless to beneficial turf fungi

Still effective against disease



Fusarium



Dollar Spot

Amazingly, some species of fungus are hugely beneficial to your turf.

Mycorrhizal fungi develop a mutually beneficial relationship with turf roots for effective nutrient exchange, and increased resistance to drought, insect pests and disease.

As a result, turf associated with Mycorrhiza tends to be healthier.

You'll be pleased to hear then, that Rovral Green leaves these 'friendly' fungi completely unharmed.

You'll also be glad to know that Rovral Green is still as effective as ever at controlling the harmful species like Fusarium, Red Thread and Dollar Spot. No wonder it's still the UK's No 1.

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