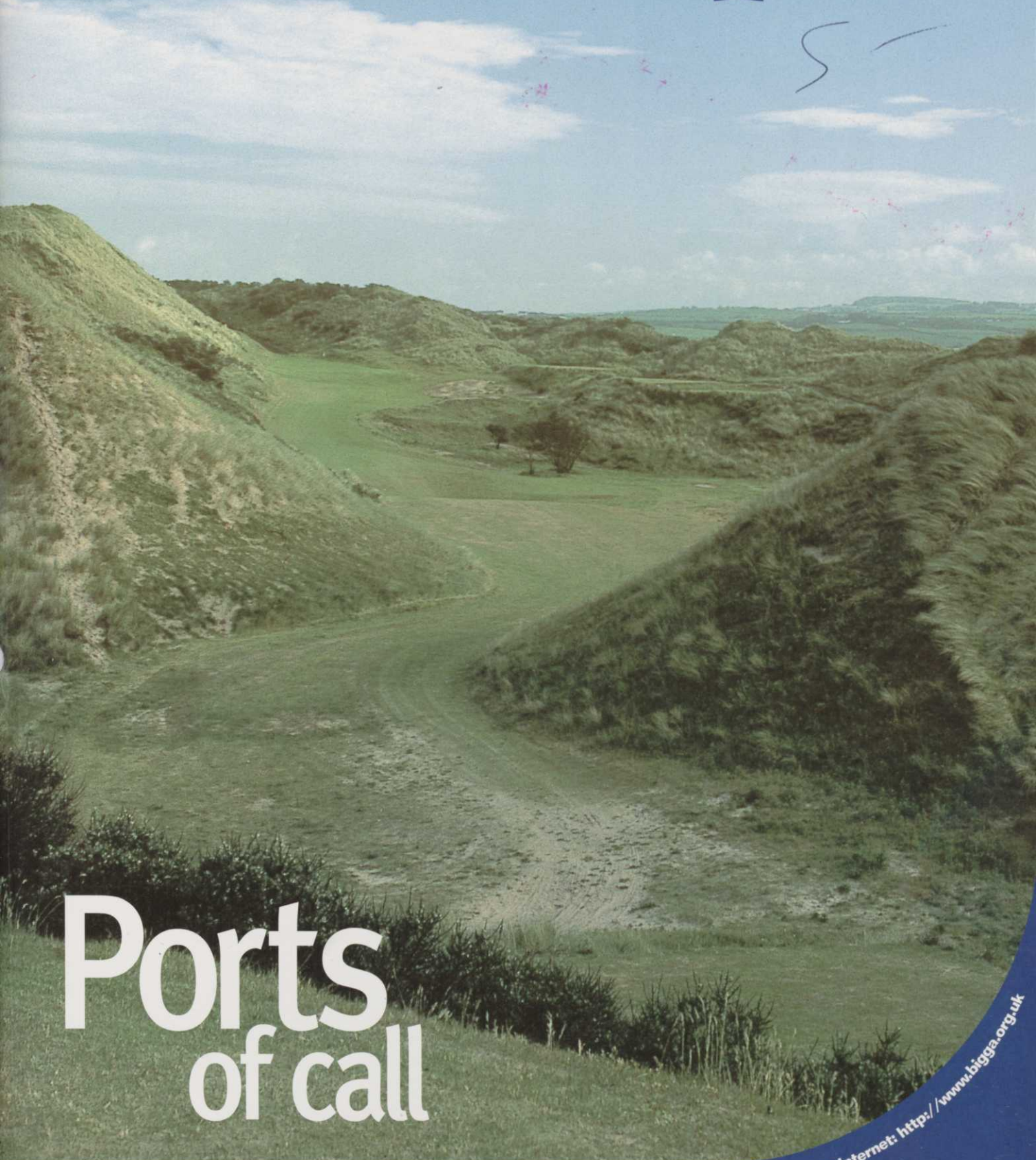




October 2001 - £3.50

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



Ports of call

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B I G G A M E M B E R S H I P

HOW CAN YOU **benefit?**

BIGGA membership isn't just for greenkeepers. We have four main categories to suit everybody. All membership categories are utilised by people seeking to create a greater understanding and awareness of greenkeeping, the skills, knowledge and training involved, and the rewards to be gained from this profession. All categories of membership benefit from a monthly copy of our award winning magazine Greenkeeper International and an annual copy of the BIGGA Golf Directory.



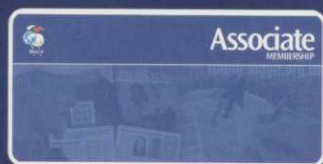
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For full information on any of the four categories of membership, please ring Tracey or Susannah in the Membership Services Department on 01347 833800, email tracey@bigga.co.uk or susannah@bigga.co.uk or find us on the web at www.bigga.org.uk or write to us at BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF



A guide to who's who at BIGGA

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TIME TO TALK

HAVE YOU CLICKED ON YET?

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

FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS THAT GREENKEEPERS

Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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

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8 Top award for Walter Woods



Photography: Brian Morgan 0141 221 0236

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Neil Thomas pays tribute to Walter Woods who has just been awarded the GCSAA's highest accolade

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Discover some of the new products which were launched at Windsor this year



27 Shake 'n' Vac



32 Soil Biodiversity

Taking the time to reflect ...

I sit in front of this computer composing my regular Editorial just five days after the horrific events in the United States and it is fair to say that my mind, as well as those of my colleagues in BIGGA HOUSE, is still a little numb.

Sure, I didn't have any relatives or friends caught up in the nightmare but such has been the scale of the horror, the stories which have emanated from the States of personal and collective tragedy, have touched me, and many others, in much the same way as if we had.

What has happened will impact on many aspects of our lives from now on whether it be travel and the restrictions we will face every time we leave these shores to the possible recession such a strike on the world's principle financial centre could accelerate.

But in our world of golf one of the immediate casualties has been this year's Ryder Cup which has just been postponed for 12 months. I'm sure you will join me in sending our best wishes to Dave Samuels and his team at The De Vere Belfry who have just seen all their work, aimed at three days in September 2001, knocked on the head.

Such a crushing let down, even if it is seen in the entire scheme of such a disaster, must be extremely difficult to take and motivation over the next few months will undoubtedly be hard to come by.

I recall talking to Dave a couple of months ago and him telling me that every eventuality had been considered and contingency plans put in place. It would have required a crystal ball of considerable sophistication to cope with these developments.

One can only imagine the thoughts of everyone involved as they dismantle the grandstands and the tented village knowing that the job of erecting them again will be done not 10 months on.

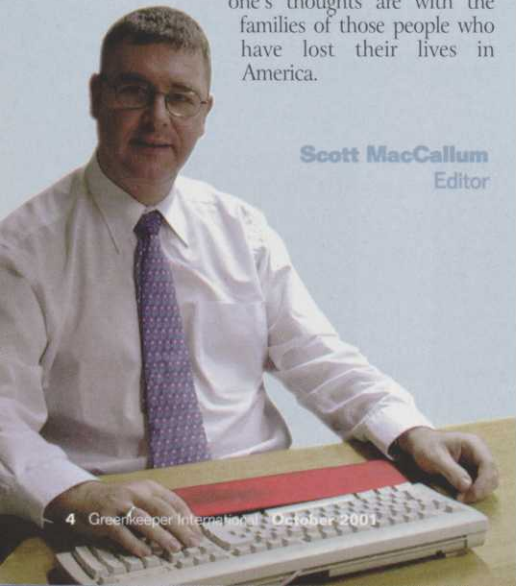
That is not to say that it is the wrong decision. Had the match gone ahead on the scheduled date the result would have been of little significance to many of those taking part. While the quality of golf from both sides would have been applauded equally by the European galleries, the fact that the significance of victory would have been downgraded in the minds of the 24 players makes postponement the correct decision - outright cancellation would have made too much of an impact on the finances of both the PGA and the PGA European Tour.

No, the thing which makes the Ryder Cup so special is that victory means so much to the players, the respective Tours and those they represent, whether it be the Continent of Europe or the United States of America.

Come September 2002 victory will mean everything once again and the golf will reach the levels we have come to expect from one of the greatest sporting events on earth.

But for now it is right that everyone's thoughts are with the families of those people who have lost their lives in America.

Scott MacCallum
Editor



Clive visits latest Golden Key supporters

BIGGA Chairman, Clive Osgood, caught up with the Association's two newest Golden Key members the Stoke Park Club and AGCO to present them with their plaques.

He travelled first to Stoke Poges to make the presentation to Alex Miller, the Estate Director (left) and Hartford King, the Managing Director of Stoke Park outside the famous clubhouse before making a similar presentation to Tim Lawrence, Agco's Sales Manager - Grounds Care during Saltex.

"We are delighted to have the support of both of these companies and the money they donate to the Education and Development Fund will go a long way to making our proposed educational projects a reality," said Clive.



The Stakeholder Pension Scheme

John Pemberton, BIGGA's Administration and Finance Manager gives some important information about company pension schemes.

As you may be aware most employers with five or more employees must, by law, offer a Stakeholder Pension arrangement to their staff after October 8 of this year.

Employees can choose whether or not to join the scheme. BIGGA has a solution that could be of assistance to you and your club.

Stakeholder Pensions have been introduced by the Government to encourage people to provide financially for their own retirement through a low cost savings scheme.

A Stakeholder Pension is a savings fund that belongs to the individual. The Government encourages savings into the fund by proving tax incentives. A gross contribution of £100 actually costs £78 after tax relief at standard rate. Anyone below normal

pension age, working or not, can invest up to £3,600 gross each year, the contributions can be invested in a range of different funds to suit the savers requirements. Contributions can be as little as £20 per month. On retirement the fund is used to provide an income for life. There is usually also an opportunity to take part of the fund as a tax free cash sum.

The advantage of the Stakeholder pension over other plans is that there is no initial charge. The annual charge is limited to a maximum of 1% per year and there are no other charges. There are no penalties for stopping or changing contributions and there is also no penalty for switching the pension fund to another provider.

To fulfil the legal requirements an employer must offer a scheme but does not have to make a contribution, although many employers may choose to do so. The main duty of the employer is to deduct contributions from

wages and pay the pension provider the premium within fixed time limits.

BIGGA have enlisted the help of an Independent Financial Adviser, Walsh Lucas and Co of York, and chosen Standard Life as a preferred provider. Standard Life is one of the world's leading mutual financial services companies whose mutual status is a key to their success. Walsh Lucas and Co has been known to BIGGA for several years and has the expertise to provide the additional financial advice that will be required by many Clubs and members.

Arrangements have been made that any member of BIGGA or employee of a Club joining the scheme can have free independent financial advice over the telephone. Anyone wishing to join the scheme can also do so by telephone.

Further details are available from Geoff Steel of Walsh Lucas and Co, 33 Micklegate, York YO1 6WE. Tel: 01904 610495

Andrew and Ian receive special medals

Andrew Wood and Ian Smith have each been awarded a special medal by the City & Guilds in recognition of the high standard of work they have achieved during their studies. These awards only go to one in every 3,000 people.

Andrew is studying NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance at Plumpton College while Ian, who is now at Mentmore Golf and Country Club, is studying for his National Certificate in Greenkeeping at Oaklands College.

Pictured are: Andrew, centre, and Ian, right, with Ian Merrick, Curriculum Team Leader at Oakland College.



National Championship qualifiers go through

The Northern Ireland Section had a very successful day at Royal Portrush at the end of August at which Andrew Wray, from Castle Rock GC, and Noel Crawford, Royal County Down, each won a place in the BIGGA National Championship field following fine performances over Portrush's Valley course.

Cyril Johnston and Co donated a fine Golf Trophy to Section, which will go to the best golfer from the competitions played this year. Sam Thompson from the sales team presented the trophy to Chairman Jonathan McCabe.



Sam Thompson presenting Jonathan McCabe with the Trophy plus the Northern Ireland Section with winners Andrew Wray and Noel Crawford front centre in the Royal Portrush clubhouse

Bunker Competition winner presented with Hayter prize

Mark Garrod, winner of the Great BIGGA Bunker Competition held during this year's Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes was presented with his prize by Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter Ltd at Brocket Hall.

Mark, who in addition to being the Golf Correspondent for the Press Association is the Secretary of the Association of Golf Writers, came closest in his estimate of how many balls would find sand during the four days of the Championship.

A grand total of 1585 balls found

one of the 197 Lytham bunkers and Mark's accurate estimate earned him a superb Hayter Harrier lawn mower donated for the seventh successive year by Kim Macfie.

Many thanks to Hayter for their wonderful support of a competition which always attracts a lot of attention in the Open Championship Media Centre and to John Wells and Brocket Hall for providing the venue for the presentation and for kindly giving a tee time on the Melbourne Course so Kim, Mark and your Editor could show off their skills.



Surf to Turf relaunch from Avoncrop Amenity

Avoncrop Amenity Products has re-launched its range of seaweed products Surf to Turf.

The new improved range will offer turf managers a wider choice of liquids and a new enhanced Soil Improver. Both Avoncrop Amenity and Aitken's will jointly market the New Surf to Turf range, giving nationwide availability.

The New range consists of one granular Composted Seaweed Soil Improver with 7% Potassium and five Seaweed liquids, Triple Seaweed containing 27% seaweed extract, Seaweed plus 6% chelated Iron; Seaweed with 20% Nitrogen, Seaweed plus 12-0-7 + 1% chelated

Iron and finally Seaweed plus 2-0-15 + 0.5% chelated Iron. This liquid range offers the turf manager analysis to compliment almost all nutritional programmes for use throughout the seasons. They will encourage deep-rooted healthy turf as well as stimulating beneficial organisms.

The Soil Improver is a powerful fermented seaweed rich in trace elements, carbohydrates and plant growth stimulant, providing sustained nutrition for plants and beneficial micro organisms. Soil Improver also releases alginate gel once moist, which helps tilth and crumb structure in all soil types, aid-

ing aeration, moisture and nutrient retention. The added potassium helps to produce tougher harder wearing turf.

For further details contact Chris Briggs, Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd on 01934 820868



Matt appointed new Scotts MD



The Scotts Company has appointed Matt Reed as its new Managing Director of Scotts Professional Business Group UK and Ireland. This follows the departure of Bernie Ford, Managing Director of UK & Ireland Professional Business Groups, who has left the Scotts Company and returned to the USA.

Matt, who takes up his position from immediate effect, has been responsible for business development and legal activities across the international division of Scotts and has previously help senior financial roles within both the UK and the international management teams. He has worked for Scotts since 1997 when Miracle Garden Care was acquired and has been heavily involved in building Scotts' international business through a series of acquisitions and strategic supply agreements over the last five years.

He will be based at Scotts Headquarters at Bramford near Ipswich.

Parkstone GC launch website

Parkstone Golf Club has launched its own website and members are invited to take a look on www.parkstonegolfclubgreens.fsnet.co.uk

Latest news?

www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

The Missing Link

The final paragraph of Daniel Binns' article in on Soil Analysis in last month's magazine should have read;

There are now a plethora of green-keeping products available on the market and we are constantly bombarded with information on the latest development that will make all the difference to our turf. In terms of nutrition, try not to be blinded by science; instead keep it as simple as possible. The most important factors in maintaining healthy, disease tolerant turf are the physical maintenance of the rootzone and sensible nitrogen fertiliser applications.

Apologies for any confusion that may have arisen.

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



OCTOBER 1991

'Just where is all our water?' was the question posed in 'Greenkeeper International' as greenkeepers faced another year - the fourth - of water shortages. Rainfall for August in England and Wales had been only 32% of the average when taken long-term while the rainfall for the first 19 days of September was 1% of this long term average ... The main sufferers were in the south east and East Anglia - reeling from hosepipe bans and with tougher restrictions set to be imposed. The forecast for most of England read doom-laden for the greenkeepers - continuing dry!

Roger Evans of the STRI wrote on a problem created by concern for the environment - WORMS. He concluded that earthworm control is more difficult now than in the past, due to the increasingly responsible attitude taken by public opinion towards environmental matters. Effective chemicals may well be banned but there is every possibility that we may be able to keep worm populations down to acceptable levels by other means which are not ecologically unacceptable.

A leading American golfer turned golf course architect was reported to have sent one of his experts to report on the building and maintenance of a course in Scotland. His report concluded 'and if you follow my instructions you will have the best greens in England' ...

Tribute to former Turnberry Head Greenkeeper, Jimmy McCubbin

Jimmy McCubbin, who died after a long illness, borne without complaint and cared for by his devoted wife, Agnes, on July 29 aged 85, was a great friend of mine.

We first met when he took over the head post at Turnberry in the run up to their 1977 Open. He was responsible for the huge success of that event and in particular for restoring, in a very short time, links which had been neglected and mis-managed.

We had three years to get what was almost total disaster into condition suitable for the world's most important Championship. This was achieved to the surprise of many pundits, and illustrates how it could be done in very short order by following traditional methods and not taking too much notice of the members!

Although Jimmy had served his greenkeeping apprenticeship at Maybole, when he joined Turnberry Hotel in 1935 he started literally at the bottom in the kitchens before becoming Head Gardener, from which post he moved to take on the management of the course. When he retired in 1982 he had 47 years service with the Hotel.

When the R&A gave me the task of getting back MacKenzie Ross' wonderful links I needed someone with an instinctive feel for traditional greenkeeping and Jimmy came with no baggage! For over two and a half years I walked the course every month with Jimmy and for his part he built up a devoted team, faithfully implementing an agreed policy. The result was a highly successful Open for which

Jimmy rightly took his deserved plaudits, showing what could be done in a very short time to restore any course ravaged by the feed and water school. The 1977 Open was indeed the jewel in Jimmy's crown!

Jimmy was a quiet man of total integrity, who could and did inspire loyalty in his staff and got the best out of them. He trained many youngsters in the sound basics and many of them have gone on to very senior positions.

I am not alone in remembering him with affection and respect but so many of his contemporaries have left the fray. One things of the old Scots toast ...

Here's tae us, Whae's like us?
 Damn few. An' they're all deid!

Jim Arthur

David Stansfield

Agronomist David Stansfield has announced he is now carrying out consultancy work on behalf of a new company, David Stansfield Ltd. Although this is a new venture it will be a continuation of David's 23 years' experience of providing input into established course management, new course construction and course redevelopment projects. Over these years David's clients have included many of the leading established golf clubs throughout Europe. In addition he has been appointed Project Agronomist for new works in locations ranging from Canada to Poland and from Northern Scotland to Southern Portugal. More details can be obtained by telephoning 01535 656849 or on www.dstansfield.co.uk

GCA commission

The UK's Golf Consultants' Association has won a prestigious commission to assess potential golf course sites in Greece. The GCA has been appointed by the Fuji Bank (London) who are currently undertaking a tourism study on behalf of the Greek Government and Hellenic Tourist Organisation. One objective is to develop Rhodes as a golfing destination. "This is great news for the GCA, it effectively means that we will be helping to develop golf course sites in Greece and putting Rhodes on the map in terms of golfing excellence," said Bryan Griffiths, Chairman of the GCA. The GCA boasts a collective experience of 275 years client service in more than 50 countries involving 2,150 assignments.

Sisis' silver staff



Andy Walker, Product Evaluation Manager with Sisis, clocked up 25 years service with the Macclesfield-based company and begins his second 25 years with a gold watch presented to him by Joint Managing Directors Robert and William Hargreaves. Territory Manager, Robert Chesham, also celebrated his Silver anniversary with the company in May making a total of 10 Sisis staff with service of more than 25 years.

Sulphur burner installed at St Andrews

St Andrews Links has installed a sulphur burner to improve the quality of the borehole water which is used to irrigate the courses.

The burner, no bigger than a domestic cooker, heats raw organic sulphur in the form of small yellow pellets and converts it to a gas - sulphurous dioxide - which, mixed with water, becomes sulphurous acid. When this,

entirely safe liquid with an acidity level similar to lemonade is added to the irrigation reservoir it reduces significantly the pH level of the water from around 8 to between 6.5 and 7.

"We are always looking at ways of improving the condition of the golf courses. This is an environmentally friendly and effective solution to a problem which affects all the courses on

the Links," said Links Superintendent, Gordon Moir.

"As there has been high rainfall this summer we have conducted only a small trial but this showed early signs of improvement in targeted areas. I am looking forward to seeing the overall results in the long term."

The company providing the burner is AquaSO2.



Oundle GC clinch trophy

Oundle Golf Club clinched the final Midlands Region Golf Management Trophy day at Ryston Golf Club, Downham Market. Pictured at Oundle Golf Club are: Head Greenkeeper, James Dair; Club Secretary, David Foley; Chairman Of Green, Mike Scholefield; Club Captain, Tony Hilton. Also pictured is Nick Martin, of Scotts.



After a recent East of England Section event at Spalding Golf Club the Order of Merit winner for the year 2000, Les Howkins, Head Greenkeeper at Cleethorpes, along with the '99 winner, David Hornsey, of Woodhall Spa, were finally presented with their BIGGA Blazers, kindly donated by Tower Sport. Pictured left to right are: Gary Cooper, Tower Sport, Les Howkins, David Hornsey, Kevin Hodges, Chairman of EOE Section and Graeme MacDonald, Section Secretary.

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

Amistar: Guidelines clearly defined

I am writing in reference to the August edition letter titled "Wellingborough rash problem" where Roy Tolman wrote about the club applying the fungicide Amistar on their golf greens.

The bare facts are that Amistar is not approved for use on Amenity Turf. It is only approved for Agricultural use. Please could you issue as statement in respect of this in your next issue.

Also, from the information provided below would it be possible it issue an explanation of the facts about the usage of Agricultural pesticides to make greenkeepers aware of the facts.

The reasons for not using correctly approved products can be summarised as follows:

It is illegal - Pesticide manufacture, supply, sale, storage, and use is heavily regulated. Prosecution may result in a fine, imprisonment or both. There are various acts of Parliament that cover pesticides. These are:

1. Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
Obliges the employer to provide training, safe equipment and safe working environment for the use of approved products and practices.
2. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH).
Regulations to control the risks in the workplace, arising from substances hazardous to health eg pesticides.
3. Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985 (FEPA).
To protect the health of humans, animals and plants, to safeguard the environment and ensure safe methods of controlling insects, weeds and diseases.
4. Control of Pesticide Regulations 1986 (COPR). Defines the conditions on those that advertise, advise, sell, supply, store or use pesticides. No product may be used unless it has Government approval on the grounds of safety and efficacy.

Everyone must comply with the conditions of approval. The conditions of approval, including recommendations for use, are given on the Product label attached to every product pack.

Only pesticides with a recommendation on the label for use on amenity sportsturf can legally be supplied, stored and applied.

Without this label recommendation the product has not been tested on sportsturf - it will leave you open to prosecution and insurance cover will be void.

Greenkeepers who use products on sportsturf with no label recommendation for that use are fully responsible and liable for any damage caused to property, persons and animals.

Be within the law, particularly now that the Government has decided to allow the industry to regulate the use of pesticides and not to bring in a pesticide tax. This could change with irresponsible usage.

John Hall, European Sportsturf Market Development Manager, Aventis Environmental Science

Toro Award thanks

I would like to thank the team at BIGGA for the effort that is put in to the Toro awards. In spite of not being a "Championship" course, or being "steeped in golfing history" I was honoured to receive a visit from Gordon Child for an assessment.

While extremely proud of our work and my staff, I never really had "greenkeeper of the year" aspirations, but saw a visit as an opportunity to learn from my peers. Many valid points were made and all hints, tips and advice were gratefully received. It was also the catalyst for the best tidy up the workshops had ever seen! I strongly recommend filling out your form next year.

R Challacombe, Mortehoe & Woolacombe GC

Wildside praise

I would like to say what an excellent booklet The Wildside of Golf is. It just goes to show that long grass in its proper place is not untidy.

Nice to see the Association getting on the right track.

Kevin Heslop, Head Greenkeeper, Brancepeth Castle GC

A tribute to Roy Spencer, March 1932 – 26 July 2001

Roy a true gentleman well liked and loved passed away after a long illness aged 69. Until recently Roy was an active member of the Northern section and last played in the Spring Tournament at Filey GC this year. Life for Roy first started out in the RAF but later moved on to fulfil his passion in greenkeeping. The start of his 30 year career was at Fulneck GC, where he ended up becoming Head Greenkeeper. After around 15 years he moved onto Calvery for a few years and then moved onto Hanging Heaton GC for 7 years before retiring.

As well as attending section events

Roy is a past section secretary, which he did for quite a few years and then moved on to be the section chairman. To offset all this work Roy was married to Sylvia for 50 years and between them raised 8 children, 15 grand kids and also became a great grandfather.

During his spare time Roy's other passion was fishing and as you can see a decent fisherman as well being a good golfer (16 hcp at the age of 69).

Life will not be the same without Roy and will be missed by all who came in contact with him.

Danny Lindley/Andy Smith



The finest turf from tee to green

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

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

If rapid establishment, high wear tolerance and slow regrowth after mowing are important to you – specify Rolawn Medallion for your tees.

For a quote, sample and peace of mind
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BRITAIN'S FINEST TURF

www.rolawn.co.uk

Major American Award for Walter Woods

Neil Thomas writes an appreciation of BIGGA's first Chairman

'How fitting it is that as we celebrate GCSAA's 75th year of existence we recognise a person who was entrusted with maintaining the birthplace of golf. Walter Woods has given much to the game and the golf course superintendent profession. We are pleased to honour Walter for his lifelong commitment to golf.'

**GCSAA President
 Tommy D. Witt, CGCS**

Below: Presentation of the BEM - Walter, Lord Elgin, and BIGGA Chairman at the time, George Malcolm

Centre: Walter in younger days with Glen Campbell, Ben Crenshaw and Jack Nicklaus

It was with much pleasure that BIGGA received the news that Walter Woods has been selected to receive the 2002 Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America during that Association's 73rd International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando next February. GCSAA's most prestigious honour is presented each year to an individual who 'through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf has helped to mould the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris'. As well as being the professional and golf course custodian at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, Old Tom (1821-1908) was a four-time winner of the Open

(1861, '62, '64 and '67) and ranked as one of the top links designers of the 19th Century.

It is a fitting time then for us to pay tribute to Walter's services to the greenkeeping profession as well as to BIGGA. For many years now he has been regarded as one of the leading figures in British greenkeeping. Although officially 'retired', this is an incongruous term to apply to Walter as he continues in a consultancy role and is still hugely influential with his advice and guidance to greenkeepers and within BIGGA where he remains on the Board of Management in his capacity as a Guardian. When one recalls that he was BIGGA's first Chairman in 1987, it is surely testimony to his dedication and commitment that he remains so actively involved with the Association today.

I first came to know Walter when appointed Executive Director of BIGGA in 1987. My first impression was of his total enthusiasm for the cause and it did not take me long to conclude that I was to have the privilege of working with one who was at the very pinnacle of his profession. In a large member organisation, concern is for the individual and Walter stands out in this regard, ever willing to support and guide the greenkeeper, whether young or old, in times of adversity. Generations of greenkeepers have benefited in this regard as have those privileged enough to have received training under Walter's supervision. Practical training on the golf course at St Andrews where he was Links Supervisor for 21 years has produced many fine greenkeepers who now occupy top positions within the game, while Walter's work at Elmwood College in Fife was instrumental in raising the standards of greenkeeper education. He has been a major contributory force in establishing that college as one of our leading greenkeeper training colleges. Today, greenkeepers can gain first class qualifications and commensurate salaries and conditions of service. Much of the good work for this

enhancement of status can be traced back to the seventies and eighties when Walter and a few like-minded professionals grasped the nettle in leading the way as far as greenkeeper education and training were concerned. Their pioneering work led on to the structure which has produced the trained professional greenkeepers ever more apparent within the game today. In the past 20 years the greenkeeping profession within the United Kingdom has been transformed from a 'know your place' attitude to greenkeepers within many golf clubs to today when those working within the profession enjoy a status commensurate with their technical skills, knowledge, qualifications and dedication. To this changed scenario, Walter has contributed so much.

At St Andrews, Walter hosted numerous tournaments including four Open Championships and 11 Dunhill Cups and he remains an instantly recognisable figure to whom you are immediately directed on mention of his name. He is a true and worthy successor to Old Tom Morris,



Right: Two old friends and the first two Chairmen of BIGGA. Jack McMillan MBE and Walter Woods BEM

Bottom: The essential partnership - Caroline and Walter

Previous Old Tom Morris Award Winners:

- 1983 Arnold Palmer
- 1984 Bob Hope
- 1985 Gerald Ford
- 1986 Patty Berg
- 1987 Robert Trent Jones, Sr.
- 1988 Gene Sarazen
- 1989 Chi Chi Rodriguez
- 1990 Sherwood Moore, CGCS
- 1991 William C. Campbell
- 1992 Tom Watson
- 1993 Dinah Shore
- 1994 Byron Nelson
- 1995 Dr. James R. Watson
- 1996 Tom Fazio
- 1997 Ben Crenshaw
- 1998 Ken Venturi
- 1999 Jaime Ortiz-Patiño
- 2000 Nancy Lopez
- 2001 Tim Finchem

not only as a former 'Keeper of the Green' on the links of the Old Course at St Andrews, but in the legacy he will leave for the greenkeeping profession and the game of golf as was the case with Old Tom. As did his revered predecessor, he has taken greenkeeping forward albeit in different times and perhaps a world apart from Old Tom's days. However, the profession must continually evolve in line with the game and its increasing demands and expectations in relation to course maintenance and presentation. Walter is at the forefront in this regard in the finest tradition of Old Tom Morris.

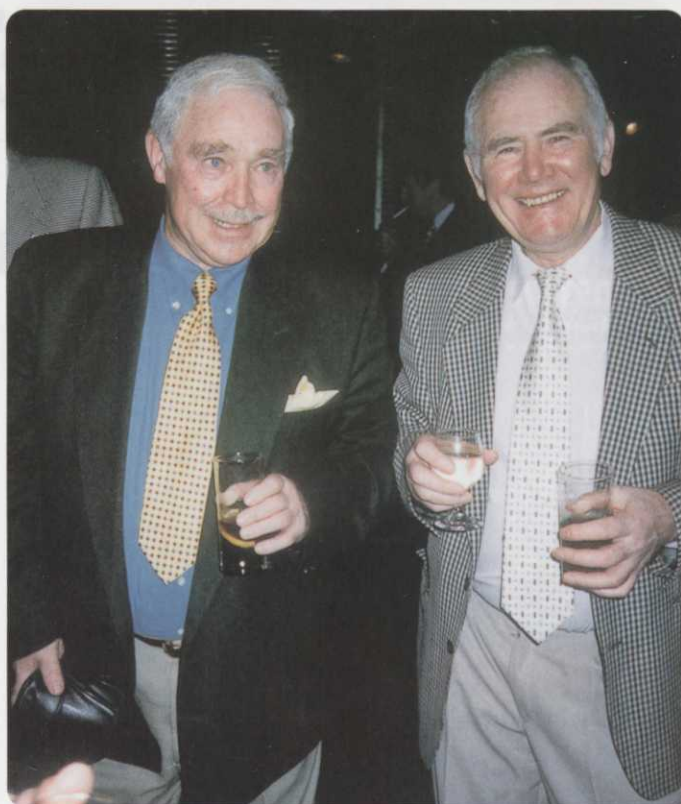
Walter had already served as President and Director of Education for the Scottish and International Golf Greenkeepers Association when he first took up the reins as the first Chairman of BIGGA in 1987. He had an unenviable task. The preceding two years, at the instigation of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, had finally seen the coming together of three previous greenkeeping Associations - the British, the English and International and the Scottish

and International to form the new British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association. These had been difficult times before the three previously volunteer led Associations finally united to form the first professional Association for greenkeepers in the United Kingdom. Walter was charged with the task of establishing the new Association and he spared no effort in this regard. BIGGA inherited 1200 members from the old Associations and today it has some 7300 members worldwide. Walter's work in BIGGA's formative years was crucial and I personally owe much to his wise counsel and leadership in those early days. We worked closely together and the embryo Association set off on a rapid growth curve. Moving through the intervening years, BIGGA today has its own national headquarters, employs 21 staff and has members in some 32 countries. As a professional body within the game of golf, BIGGA now stands shoulder to shoulder with its fellow organisations in the United Kingdom. This is a tremendous source of pride to Walter and BIGGA owes much to his drive and influence during the past 15 years.

In reflecting on BIGGA as an international Association, it is pertinent to reflect on Walter's global outlook. He has long viewed greenkeeping from a world perspective, has visited many countries and spoken to numerous greenkeeping and allied bodies on greenkeeping and his own experiences. He has spread the word abroad and I would venture to suggest that his influence stretches far beyond our own shores to many distant places.

Walter would be the last to extol his golfing achievements but they are significant. He has won many Championships, played at County level and been a scratch golfer. He has been able to bring the golfer's perspective to his role as a greenkeeper and this has been greatly beneficial both in his own career and latterly during his role as a consultant.

At home in St Andrews, the wel-



come to visitors is unsurpassed. Countless numbers of greenkeepers and their families have enjoyed the hospitality of Walter and Caroline. Guests have lifelong memories of playing the Old Course with Walter and learning much of greenkeepers and greenkeeping in the process. It is always 'open house' as far as Walter is concerned. Walter is never afraid to voice his opinions within the game of golf and has always promoted the greenkeeping profession in membership of influential committees within the R&A at St Andrews and elsewhere. His kindly and considerate manner masks a fierce determination to protect and enhance his profession. At times he may be perceived to move in 'mysterious ways' but I have long since realised that, with his intimate knowledge of all matters golf and greenkeeping and of the powers that be, his tried and trusted methods have stood the test of time and they work.

Essentially Walter has a love and passion for greenkeeping and the game of golf which come second only to his family. His integrity and concern for his fellow men are widely acknowledged and he was recognised in 1991 for his contributions to golf and greenkeeping when he received the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Now he is a most worthy recipient of the Old Tom Morris Award. Within BIGGA and the profession in the United Kingdom, there will indeed be much pleasure derived in learning that the GCSAA's most prestigious honour has been given to Walter and he joins a role call of illustrious names who have previously received this Award.

For me it has been a great privilege to have known and to have worked so closely with Walter in the development and progress of BIGGA and to have enjoyed his company and friendship throughout the years.





This month, Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, updates you on a number of Association initiatives

Get the most from your education

Continuing Professional Development

BIGGA's Continuing Professional Development Scheme is now in its second year. The Scheme is open to all members of BIGGA who hold a minimum qualification of N/SVQ Level 2 Sportsurf or equivalent and, thanks to contributors to the Education and Development Fund, it is free.



The scheme has several benefits as it allows greenkeepers to:

- Adapt outdated skills.
- Keep in touch with changes in legislation.
- Show current and prospective employers their commitment to education and training.
- Promote greenkeeping as a profession.
- Cope with change.

A certificate is awarded to all members registered on the scheme who accumulate 10 credits between 1 July and 30 June each year. Credits are awarded for a range of courses, seminars and conferences.

Contact BIGGA and ask for an application form.

Regional Courses Autumn 2001

Thanks to the continued support of company and individual members of the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, we can bring you Education and Training Courses at minimum costs whilst ensuring high quality training. The Education and Development Fund is providing a subsidy of £15,000 for this Autumn's courses which means that we can provide the following courses at the very low price of £35.25 for a one day course and £70.50 for a two day course (both inclusive of VAT).

- October**
- TBD Woodland Management Aberdeen
 - 23 Risk Assessment & COSHH Awareness Aberdeen
 - 25 Abrasive Wheels Bristol
 - 30 & 31 Basic Computer Skills North West
 - 31 Risk Assessment & COSHH Awareness North London

- November**
- 1 & 2 Health & Safety Awareness Mid Anglia
 - 8 Soil Science South Wales
 - 12 Soil Science North West
 - 13 & 14 Basic Computer Skills Ramsdale Park GC
 - 15 & 16 Essential Management Skills Manchester
 - 20 & 21 Basic Computer Skills (Full) The Burstead GC
 - 22 Soil Science Staffordshire
 - 26 & 27 Essential Management Skills Luton
 - 29 Mower Maintenance and Operation Lincs/Notts

- December**
- 3 & 4 Health & Safety Awareness Bristol
 - 5 & 6 Health & Safety Awareness South Wales
 - TBD Basic Computer Skills Ireland

Remember to apply early as places are going very quickly.

Minimum Qualification

The BIGGA Board of Management has agreed to introduce a minimum qualification of N/SVQ Level 2 Sportsurf or equivalent for greenkeeper membership of the Association for all NEW applications received after 1 February 2002.

All current members will retain their current level of membership.

Any applications for greenkeeper membership received after 1 February 2002 will have to include proof of competence in greenkeeping eg. a copy of an NVQ certificate.

Non greenkeepers ie. those who have not proved competence, will be offered a lower level of membership until such time as they become qualified.

BIGGA Essay Competition

The closing date for the BIGGA Essay Competition is rapidly approaching. However, you still have time to write and submit your essay on the subject of Pba Annua Friend or Foe by 26 October.

Thanks to contributions to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, we can, once again offer 3 First Prizes of £500 for the winners in the 3 categories of Golf Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, Assistant Greenkeepers and Students over 25 and Assistant Greenkeepers and Students under 25. With runners up prizes of £100 in each category, this is a chance not to be missed.



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

Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Employment 2002 Recommendations

Following the publication of the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Employment 2002 Recommendations in last months Greenkeeper International, there seems to be some confusion on how to use the scales for Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers and their deputies.



The recommendations give a range of salaries and include the words depending on experience, range of duties, qualifications and size of course.

This means that a Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper at a 9-hole course, who has a minimum level of experience, is not qualified and has only a limited range of duties should be paid a salary near to the bottom of the scale. Whereas a Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper on a 36-hole course who has several years of experience, is fully qualified and has a wide range of managerial duties, should be paid a salary near or at the top of the scale. Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers on an 18-hole course, who are qualified, have several years of experience and a reasonable range of managerial duties should be paid a salary near the middle of the scale.

Any greenkeeper being paid a salary based on the 2001 Recommendations should, as a minimum, be paid an extra 4.9% for 2002 (the annual rate of wage inflation for June 2001).



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 319987

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 Maibusch 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

Myerscough Annual Turf Conference

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Our Annual Turf Conference will be held from 12th - 15th November 2001 at The Norbreck Castle Hotel in Blackpool.

Bookings are now being taken for this prestigious event.

Please contact us for further information or to book your place on

01995 642222 or email us at

turfconference@myerscough.ac.uk.

www.myerscough.ac.uk



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This month, Tracey and Susannah from BIGGA's Membership Services Department, would like to welcome almost 75 new members to the Association and keep you up to date on 2002 Membership news

Get the most from your membership

If you have renewed your membership or joined BIGGA this year, you will have received a Membership Pack through the post which includes information on all the benefits and services offered to you as a BIGGA Member. This pack is important and needs to be referred to if you require further information, or in the case of a full greenkeeper member, require the use of the legal helpline or need to claim from the personal accident insurance cover. A second membership pack will not be sent unless requested.

From 1st January 2002, the Membership Department are going to issue plastic Membership Photocards for all Greenkeeping Members of BIGGA. This card will be sent to you together with a renewal letter and a leaflet updating you on the benefits and services of membership to BIGGA. If you have mislaid your membership pack you will need to contact Membership Services for a replacement. We cannot send you your membership card until we have a photograph of you! Beat the rush and send your photograph to Tracey or Susannah in the Membership Services Department today! Don't forget to write your name, date of birth and membership number on the back.

BIGGA to introduce Minimum Qualification

As from 1st February 2002 all NEW applicants applying for Greenkeeper Membership will need to state on their application form whether they hold a minimum N/SVQ Level 2 Sportsturf qualification (or equivalent) and enclose proof of competence e.g. a copy of an NVQ certificate or indicate whether they are in training to achieve this minimum qualification. This will effect the category of membership for which the applicant is applying.

The application form, although longer than in previous years, will be easy to complete and will include guidelines. See Education Update on page 10 for further information on the minimum qualification.

Increase your personal protection benefit

As part of the Greenkeeping Membership, all Greenkeeping Members are covered by the standard BIGGA personal protection package. This provides cover for Greenkeeper Members for any accident they may have at home, work or even on holiday. Each member can increase this personal

Increase your personal protection benefit
 A simple, one-off payment could secure you up to £50,000 in increase benefits in addition to your standard BIGGA personal protection package.

Important news for members
 The December and January membership renewals will be mailed out in November, if you have moved and need to advise us of your change of address please contact Membership Services as soon as possible to amend your records. BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwick, Aine, York YO61 1UF, telephone 01347 833800, fax 01347 833801 or email: tracey@bigga.co.uk/susannah@bigga.co.uk

protection by completing the tear off slip attached to the information leaflet in the membership pack. A simple, one off payment could secure members up to £50,000 in increased benefits. If any member would like further information please contact the Membership Services Department.

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...



Ian Holoran

Board Member

Name: Ian Holoran

Golf Club: Middlesbrough Municipal

Association Position: National Board of Management

How long have you been a member of BIGGA? Since 1987

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

To have an improved image, so that every greenkeeper wants to be an active member

For what would you most like to be remembered?

Apart from being a lottery winner, it would be making a contribution to running a members' Association that we can be proud of. And for the Whitelaw Bowl Golf Tournament in Cumbria

For what would you least like to be remembered?

The Section golf match with North East Section and being beaten by Jimmy Richardson who has never let me forget

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

To give something back after taking so much out

Name one thing which would improve the Association?

Members to have immediate access to support systems if problems arise in the course of their work

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

Being asked to present Prince Andrew with a gift on behalf of the Association

Describe BIGGA in 15 words

Association forming a communication link for all greenkeepers. Helping to improve standards in the greenkeeping profession



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Peter Scott BIGGA logo Jumpers

Available in three styles:
 1. Round neck, available in navy and charcoal, sizes from 40" to 48", £34.95 inc. VAT, p+p

2. V-neck long sleeve, available in navy only, sizes from 40" to 46", larger sizes available on request. £34.95 inc. VAT, p+p

3. V-neck no sleeves, available in navy only, sizes from 40" to 46", larger sizes available on request. £29.95 inc. VAT, p+p

Sun & Rain Waterproof Suits

Available in navy consisting of a jacket with matching trousers with a drawstring waistband. Sizes from M to XXL. £59.95 inc. VAT, p+p

Slazenger Baseball Caps

Available in khaki with navy peak, one size fits all with adjustable strap. £12.95 inc. VAT, p+p

BIGGA Members Lapel Badge

BIGGA has introduced a new "Members" enamel lapel badge. Available to all members at the special rate of £2.50 inc. VAT, p+p

For further information contact Tracey or Susannah in Membership Services.

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 October's winner, Martin Mabey, Wareham Golf Club.



BIGGA welcomes ...

Scottish Region

Kevin Bunyan, Ayrshire
 Mark Carey, Ayrshire
 David A Jeffrey, Ayrshire
 Sandy Laurie, Ayrshire
 Ian McEwan, North
 Andrew W Nixon, North
 Euan Scott, Central

Northern Region

Stephen Cresswell, N West
 Anthony V Gibson, N East
 Thomas W Melia, N East
 Paul M Roberts, N Wales
 Richard Storey, Sheffield

Midland Region

Robert A Coppack, Midland
 James W Martin, Midland
 James Newton, E Midland

Malcolm O'Brien, Midland
 Neil A Robinson, Mid Anglia
 Gary D Salisbury, E of England
 John L Walters, Midland

South East Region

David Ballantyne, Kent
 Darren J Batchelor, Sussex
 Paul A Brown, Essex
 Robert S Burr, Kent
 Andrew P Butcher, Kent
 Neil M Coleman, Kent
 Roy J Eaton, Surrey
 Steven Everett, London
 Mark Foster, Kent
 Kevin Francis, Kent
 Alastair Hollingsbee, Kent
 Darren J Kenward, Surrey
 Alexander E McDermott, Kent
 Andrew Orme, Kent
 Mark A Pattenden, Kent
 Gary P Sargent, Kent

Ian Smith, Surrey
 David R Stenton, London
 Michael T Wheaton, Sussex
 Christopher Wright, Kent

South West Region

Kevin P Cailles, S Coast
 Paul J Cooper, S Coast
 Christopher P Desmond, Dev & C'wall
 Philip Duckett, S West
 Paul J Heath, S Coast
 Kevin J Hensman, S Coast
 Craig Reeve, S West
 Ian P Reeves, S Coast
 Justin M Smith, S Coast
 Barry Stevens, S West
 Wayne Townsend, S West
 Dan J Young, S West

Northern Ireland

Gerard Cooper

Republic of Ireland

Christian J O'Sullivan
 Alan Walsh

International Members

Gordon MacGregor, Germany
 Paul E Summers, Germany
 Joseph R Swing, Germany
 Donald J Bain, Norway
 Mikael Waldner, Norway
 Michael Arat, USA
 Gareth J Davies, USA
 Brian R Haum, Canada
 Rhod Trainor, Canada
 James M Farrar, Africa

Corporate Members

David P Snowden, Northern
 Ken Day, France
 Bill Bybnes, USA

Brian Goodwin, USA

Associate Members

David Storey, Northern
 Peter Helps, BB&O
 Ryan Peddle, Surrey
 A Liddiard, S West
 Kevin N Munt, S Coast

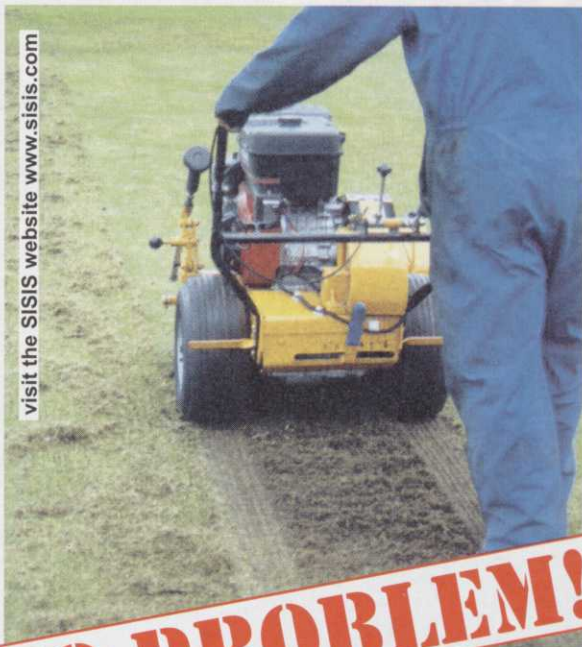
Student Members

Mark S Crossley, N West

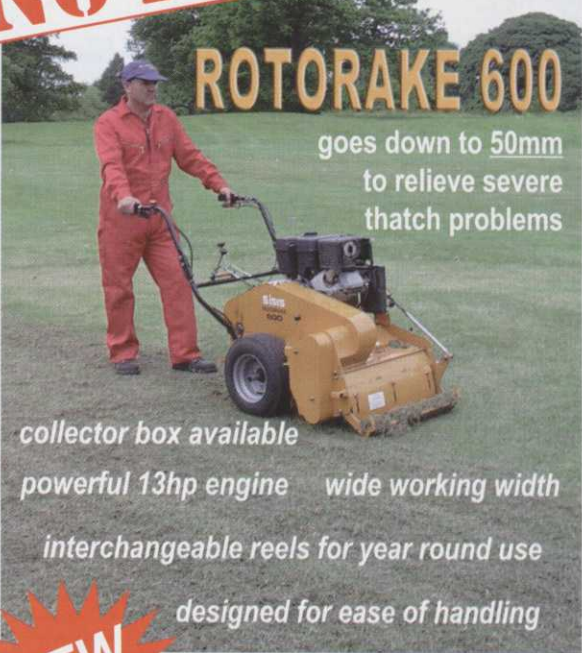
Next month ...
 September's
 latest members

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Confirmed Exhibitors

Details correct as of September 24, 2001

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| AcornGolf.com | KSM Safer Surfaces |
| Advanta Seeds UK Ltd | Kubota (UK) Ltd |
| AFT Trenchers Ltd | Lastec UK Ltd |
| AGCO Ltd | Lewis Equipment Ltd |
| Atkins Sportsturf Ltd | Linmaster Thief Stoppers |
| Allen Power Equipment Ltd | Lindum Seeded Turf Ltd |
| Allott Mowers | Links Leisure Ltd |
| Amenity Land Services | Lloyds & Co Letchworth Ltd |
| Amenity Technology | Logic Irrigation |
| Angus Horticulture | Long Equipment Ltd |
| Arden Lea Irrigation Ltd | LS Systems Ltd |
| Askam Bryan College | M J Abbott Ltd |
| Association of Golf Club Secretaries | Major Equipment Ltd |
| Aventis Environmental Science | Maxxis International UK |
| Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd | Merrist Wood College |
| Artec Chemicals Ltd | Mitchell Hire Ltd |
| Barcham Trees | Myerscough College |
| Barenbrug UK Ltd | New Holland UK Ltd |
| Bathgate Leisure | Nickerson (UK) Ltd |
| Berkshire College of Agriculture | North Staffs Irrigation Ltd |
| Bernhard & Co Ltd | Omis Irrigation Ltd |
| Biossed Probiotics | Pentagon Amenity Marketing |
| BLEC Landscaping Equipment Co Ltd | Port Agric Ltd |
| BMS (Better Methods) - Europe Ltd | Prestige Sports Services Ltd |
| Boughton Loam Ltd | PSD Agronomy Ltd |
| Boyd Golf Course Accessories | RainBird Europe SARL |
| British & Internat Golf Greenkeepers Assoc | Reaseheath College |
| British Seed Houses Ltd | Renault |
| Cannington College | Richard Campey Ltd |
| Caprari Pumps (UK) Ltd | Rigby Taylor Ltd |
| Cebeco Oliver Seeds Ltd | Risboro Turf |
| Charterhouse Turf Machinery | Rolamw (Turf Growers) Ltd |
| Club Car - Ingersoll-Rand | Rousseau Equipment Ltd |
| Cooper Clarke Group Ltd | Rufford Soil Technology |
| Course Care | Same Deutz-Fahr UK Ltd |
| D W Tomlin | Saxon Industries |
| DENNIS | Scotts UK Professional |
| DGT-Volmatic | Seoul Nassau UK Ltd |
| Eagle Promotions Ltd | Sheppy Fertilisers Ltd |
| Ecosolve Ltd | Shirley Aldred & Co Ltd |
| Elmwood College | Simon Tullett Machinery Co Ltd |
| Etesia UK Ltd | SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd |
| European Institute of Golf Course Architects | Smallholder Tractor Company |
| European Turf Technology Ltd | Spaldings UK Ltd |
| European Turfgrass Laboratories | Speedout Contractors |
| EverProducts Ltd | Sportsworld Amenity |
| Farm & Garden Machinery Ltd | STRI |
| Farmura Ltd | Sumi Agro UK Ltd |
| Fern House Marketing Ltd | Superturf Products Ltd |
| Florant | Swan Golf Design Ltd |
| FMW | Swan Plant Services Ltd |
| GambettiBarre UK Ltd | Symbio |
| Garden Innovation Products | TACIT |
| Garfitts International Ltd | Talbot Farm Landscapes Ltd |
| Gem Professional | T&E Environmental |
| Geosynthetic Technology Ltd | Textron Golf Turf & Specialty |
| Golf Car UK Ltd | The Golf Sign Company |
| Golf Course News International | The Greenkeeping Supply Company |
| GPS Services Ltd | The Hydroscap Group Ltd |
| Green Pride Ltd | Tildenet Ltd |
| Greenkeeper Training Committee | Tonick Watering Ltd |
| Greenlink International Ltd | Toro Commercial Products |
| Groundman Industries | Toro Irrigation Products |
| Hardi Ltd | Totrax Ltd |
| Hayler UK Ltd | Tower Sport (Europe) Ltd |
| Headland Amenity | Trelleborg Wheel Systems |
| Heron Electric Co Ltd | Trimax Mowing Systems |
| Hewitt Sportsturf | True Surface Rollers |
| Hunter Grinders Ltd | TT Profurf Ltd |
| Institute of Groundsmanship | Turf Masters |
| Inturf | Turf Seed UK Ltd |
| Irrigation Control Ltd | Turfmech Machinery Ltd |
| John Deere Ltd | Tyre-Line Original Equipment Ltd |
| John Greenley Ltd | Verde Sports Ltd |
| John Hinton Associates | Vitax Ltd |
| Johnsons Grass & Wildflower | Warwickshire College |
| Kawasaki Motors (UK) Ltd | Waste 2 Water |
| Ken White Signs | Water Proofing Services |
| Kestrel Golf Ltd | White Horse Contractors Ltd |
| | Whitewoss Amenities Ltd |
| | Wiedenman (UK) Ltd |
| | Wolf Garden |
| | Yamaha Motors |
| | York & Martin |

TUE 22 JAN 02

WED 23 JAN 02

THU 24 JAN 02

Packed with information

Check out the latest on the BTME microsite

With BTME2002 fast approaching, recent weeks have seen a surge in interest from exhibitors both past and new enquiring about available stand space. Three halls are now sold out with space still remaining in the recently extended section of Hall B, the Kings Suite and Hall Q. The extra space in Hall B can accommodate only two more central island sites which are ideal for companies wishing to exhibit large pieces of equipment.

The BTME microsite, which can be accessed at www.btme.org.uk, is proving to be extremely useful and time efficient for exhibitors and visitors alike. It has streamlined the stand booking and pre-registration processes considerably and allows every visitor to the site access to clear and accurate information which is regularly updated.

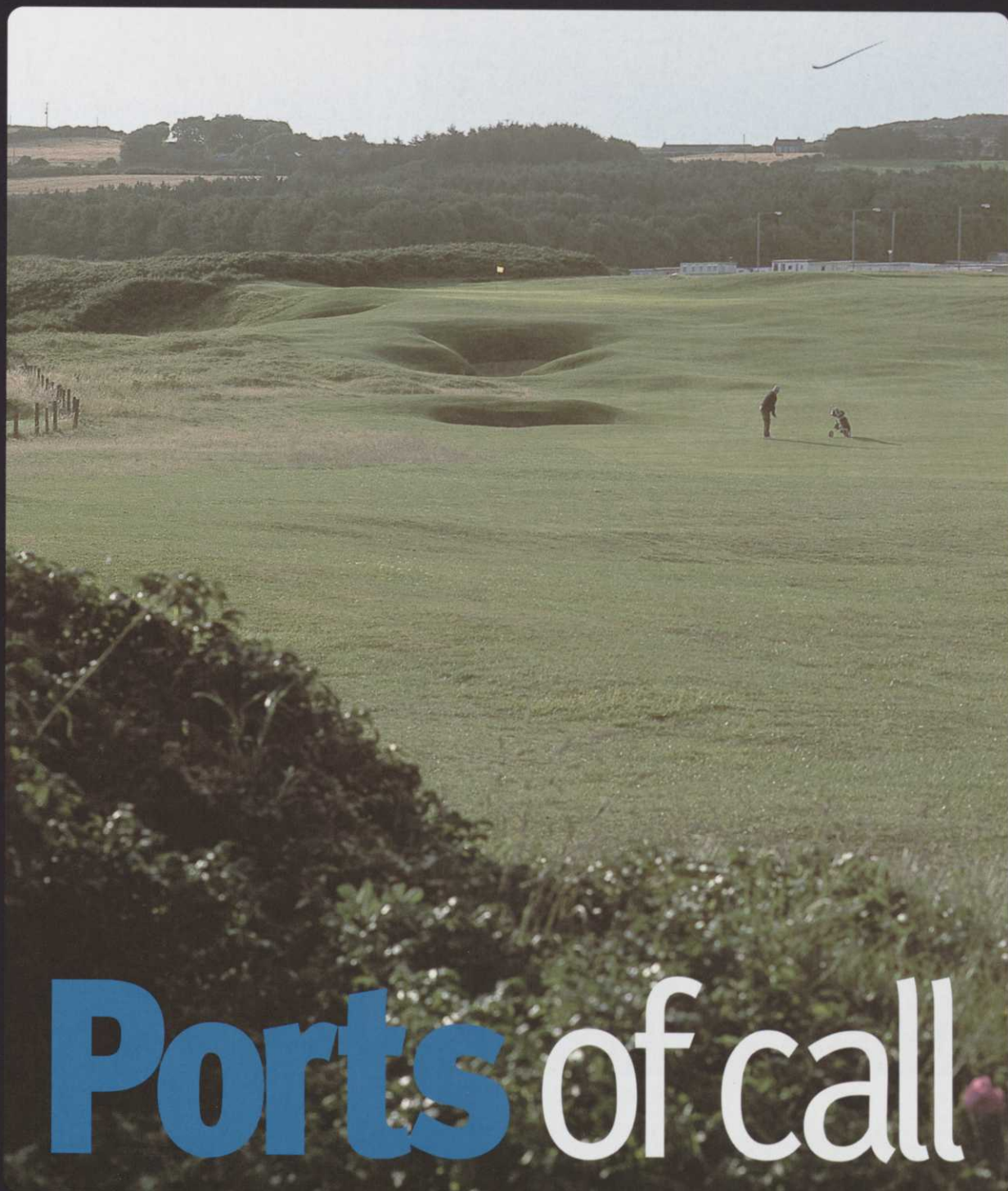
If you have not already booked for BTME2002, take a look at the web site and see for yourself who's already exhibiting, where they're exhibiting and which stands are currently available. Stand size, cost and location details are all available at the touch of a button.

Some exhibitors have yet to send in their 100 words editorial which will appear both on the Web Site and also in the BTME show catalogue.

Remember, the sooner you send them in, the sooner they will appear on the Web Site along with the rest of your company information for your customers and all visitors to the microsite to see.

- Top: Finding stand information
- Right: The online pre-registration form
- Far right: Booking a stand online

Scott MacCallum travelled to Northern Ireland to meet two brothers managing two of the finest courses the country has to offer



Photography: Brian Morgan 0141 221 6236

Ports of call

Northern Ireland is true golf country and one of the areas rightly regarded as a jewel in the crown is the northern most coast which boasts some of the finest golfing land to be found anywhere.

Two of the golf clubs which occupy this land are Royal Portrush and Portstewart. Only seven miles apart the clubs are a dream double act for golfing visitors from all over the world who make the golfing pilgrimage to Ireland.

Surprisingly the clubs are independently managed by two South London-born brothers, Joe and

Bernard Findlay. Perhaps even more surprising is the fact that although the clubs have so much in common they are also so very different.

Joe, who is in his second stint as Head Greenkeeper at Royal Portrush, sees himself as custodian of a historic links which hosted The Open Championship exactly 50 years ago, while Bernard, Course Manager at Portstewart has piloted many fundamental changes at the Club including the building of a fine new nine holes for the Strand course and as well as a new parkland layout.

"I am very conscious of my responsibility as Head Greenkeeper looking after a course like Royal Portrush. I take that responsibility very seriously and feel almost like a custodian," says Joe.

By contrast Bernard's job is completely different.

"Portstewart has not stood still since I arrived. The club is never frightened to change, and I sometimes joke that it's been like a building site since I got here," explained Bernard, who at 44 is the younger Findlay by six years... although Joe is quick to point out that he is the one with more hair and teeth.



As the only course to have hosted an Open Championship outside of the British mainland - Max Faulkner lifted the Claret Jug in 1951 - Royal Portrush has a pedigree unmatched by any course in the Province and anyone visiting the Club now will find a challenge very similar to that faced by the extrovert Champion it crowned.

Any change that has been carried out on the course in the intervening 50 years has been done merely to preserve the challenge that is Royal Portrush.

"The club employed Donald Steel a few years ago to do a hole by hole report on the course just to assess what changes were needed and all it amounted to was the repositioning of a few bunkers and the odd case of lengthening holes," explained Joe Findlay who began his second stint as Head Greenkeeper when he took over from Philip Baldock, some three years ago.

An example of this tweaking came at the feature 5th hole where a new Championship tee, adding about 27

yards to the hole, prevents players cutting the corner and forces them to play the hole as it was originally intended.

"Using Donald Steel was very good because he has a very objective and critical eye and is very much tuned into the traditions of the game," explained Joe.

Royal Portrush has long been regarded as one of the best courses in the world and certainly one of the finest links and Joe is in no doubt why this is the case.

"The site is on a particularly beautiful section of land between the main Bushmills road and the sea and it is absolutely fabulous, a very dramatic area of outstanding beauty."

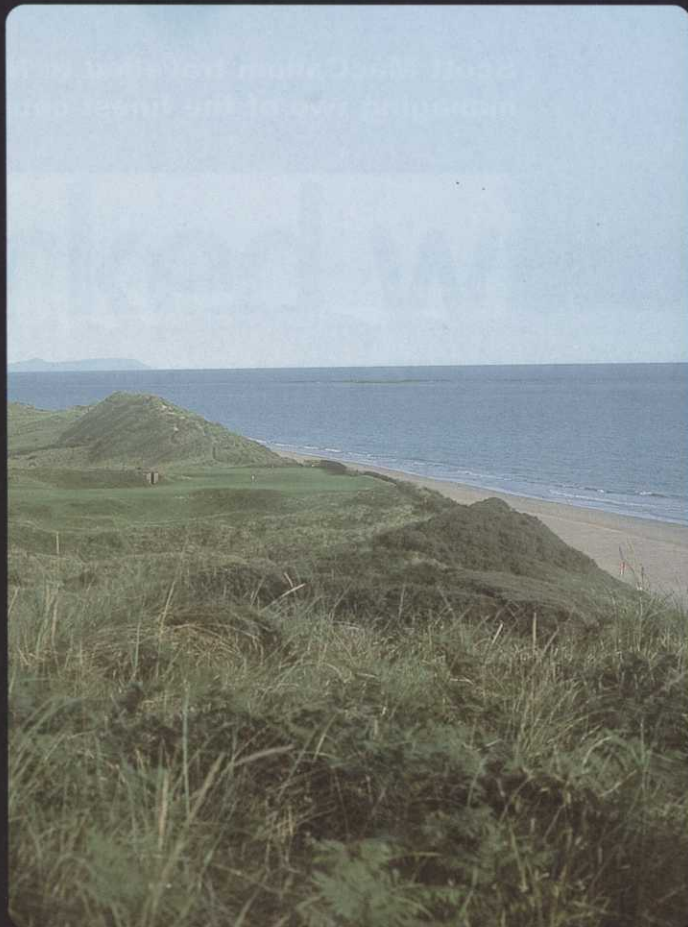
Royal Portrush boasts two fine courses, the Dunluce, which is the senior Open course, and the Valley which is very similar but tighter with narrower fairways and smaller greens.

"If the Dunluce wasn't there the Valley course would be rated very highly in its own right as it's a stereotypically links course constructed with minimal earth movement, cut through the valley."

As well as a rich golfing history Portrush also contains artefacts from an age way before the time when the first golf balls were being knocked down fairways.

"We have one large open area known as the War Hollow where there was once a Viking battle and we regularly find ancient scrapers and knives. Archaeologists have also been involved in uncovering finds."

The Northern most tip of Ireland would have been one of the first land masses that Viking invaders would come across during voyages south.



Joe first moved to the course in 1977 to take up the position thanks to the persistence of his Northern Irish wife.

"I was working at Hindhead Golf Club in Surrey at the time and noticed the job advertised in Golf Illustrated magazine. The next thing I knew I received a letter inviting me for an interview. My wife had applied for the job on my behalf," recalled Joe with a smile.

Even then, brave man that he was, once he had been offered the job he didn't accept straight away reasoning that he was still very happy at Hindhead. However, he was forced to think again when the club came back to reinforce the job offer.

"I was working on a tee at the time and my wife walked out over the golf course carrying our newly born son and holding the letter from the club asking me to reconsider. I suppose I underestimated by wife's desire to return home," he said.

When he did arrive he discovered a course labouring under a feed and water policy which had been in place for some time.

"I still have reports recommending a pound of iron and three pounds of sulphate of ammonia per 100 square yards at six week intervals and advice to use preventative applications of fungicide," he revealed.

Prior to arriving at Portrush Joe had read much of Jim Arthur's work and he started to apply those methods to the course.

"The best piece of advice I was given by Jim Arthur was to buy a spiker and try to wear it out as quickly as I could."

"Very quickly we got rid of the inch and a half to two inches of thatch and





swung the botanical composition back towards the desirable grasses. Prior to that they were 90% poa and had all the associated problems with poa annua.

"Everything we do now is done to favour the fescues and the bents. We keep nutritional levels down and do a lot of aeration with various implements. We have a verti-drain, a Toro Pro Core, a Toro Hyrojet and a Ryan Greens Air and we use them," he explained.

Over the season Joe only applies five grams of nitrogen per square metre and they top dress five or six times per season.

"I haven't seen fusarium on the course since I've been here and in all confidence don't expect to see it.

"I don't believe in miracle cures in greenkeeping. I believe in good husbandry - try to look after the soil and if the soil is healthy the chances of growing anything become greater.

"I've got a great deal of respect for Jim Arthur's general philosophy because I've proved at Portrush that it works," said Joe.

The biggest greenkeeping problem Joe and his team of 14, plus summer casuals, encounter is ryegrass contamination and erosion.

"This is partly due to the fact that when I came in '77 they were using rye grass on the fairways. It had been introduced through misguided advice and because it was cheaper and we are working to eradicate it from Portrush."

The erosion could prove a more dif-

ficult and certainly more expensive hurdle to overcome.

"During the 80s we lost the back of the 5th green. I came in one morning and the irrigation ring main was hanging out into space where the sea had taken away a substantial area of sand dune. It was an interesting problem as we had to reconstruct the green which was right on the edge of the dune ridge," said Joe who is blessed with an extremely talented team of greenkeepers and a fine First Assistant in Alec McCooke.

They installed some stone armourment with financial help from the R&A and through an appeal made to the wider golfing world.

While that was emergency rebuilding the longer term prognosis has serious financial implications for the golf club but Portrush, like so many of Britain's finest links courses cannot and will not bury its head in the sand.

"Part of the problem is that Portrush is a holiday town and very popular with visitors in the summer who like to walk around the dunes and play in the sand. This breaks down the marram grass and leaves the dunes vulnerable to erosion," said Joe, who worked for the late and much respected architect, Fred Hawtree, at Addington Court.

The club has commissioned a report from a professor based at the University of Colrairie which recommends remedial work the cost of which will run to hundreds of thousands of pounds.

"We will probably take action in the

worst and more vulnerable areas first and then see where it goes," said Joe.

Joe's initial period at the club lasted 10 years before he left to manage a company for a Monastery which produced digested farmyard manure which the Club had been using as an ingredient in their top dressing.

"The monastery was interested in its application in amenity horticulture and they offered me the job, which after a lot of deliberation I accepted. I was particularly interested in working for a charity and the fact that it was an environmentally friendly project while I was keen to experience the opposite side of the business, that of supplier rather than consumer," he explained.

He worked there for four and a half years before the lure of practical greenkeeping pulled him back.

"I underestimated how much I missed preparing a golf course and seeing the long term benefits of management practices," he says.

So he left and took over at the parkland Roe Park Golf Club in County Londonderry before moving to Ballyliffin Golf Club in County Donegal where he oversaw the growing in of a brand new 18 holes before reapplying for Royal Portrush when Philip Baldock moved to Ganton.

"I'm delighted to be back and I think my experiences in working in the supply industry and on a brand new golf course has meant that I've brought a lot of additional experience to the job. Certainly the thought of reconstructing greens or tees doesn't

hold any horror for me."

It was Joe who was responsible for bringing his brother to Ireland.

"I knew there was a vacancy at Portstewart and suggested to Bernard that he apply. He was a Head Greenkeeper at a small course in Berkshire and I knew that his ability was being wasted.

"He's a younger brother but I've got more teeth and hair than he has. Our relationship works very well. We get together often and talk about work, sharing what is happening on each other's courses. We bounce ideas of each other and there is no real one-upmanship, certainly not on my behalf," said Joe who took Bernard on as an apprentice at Shirley Park.

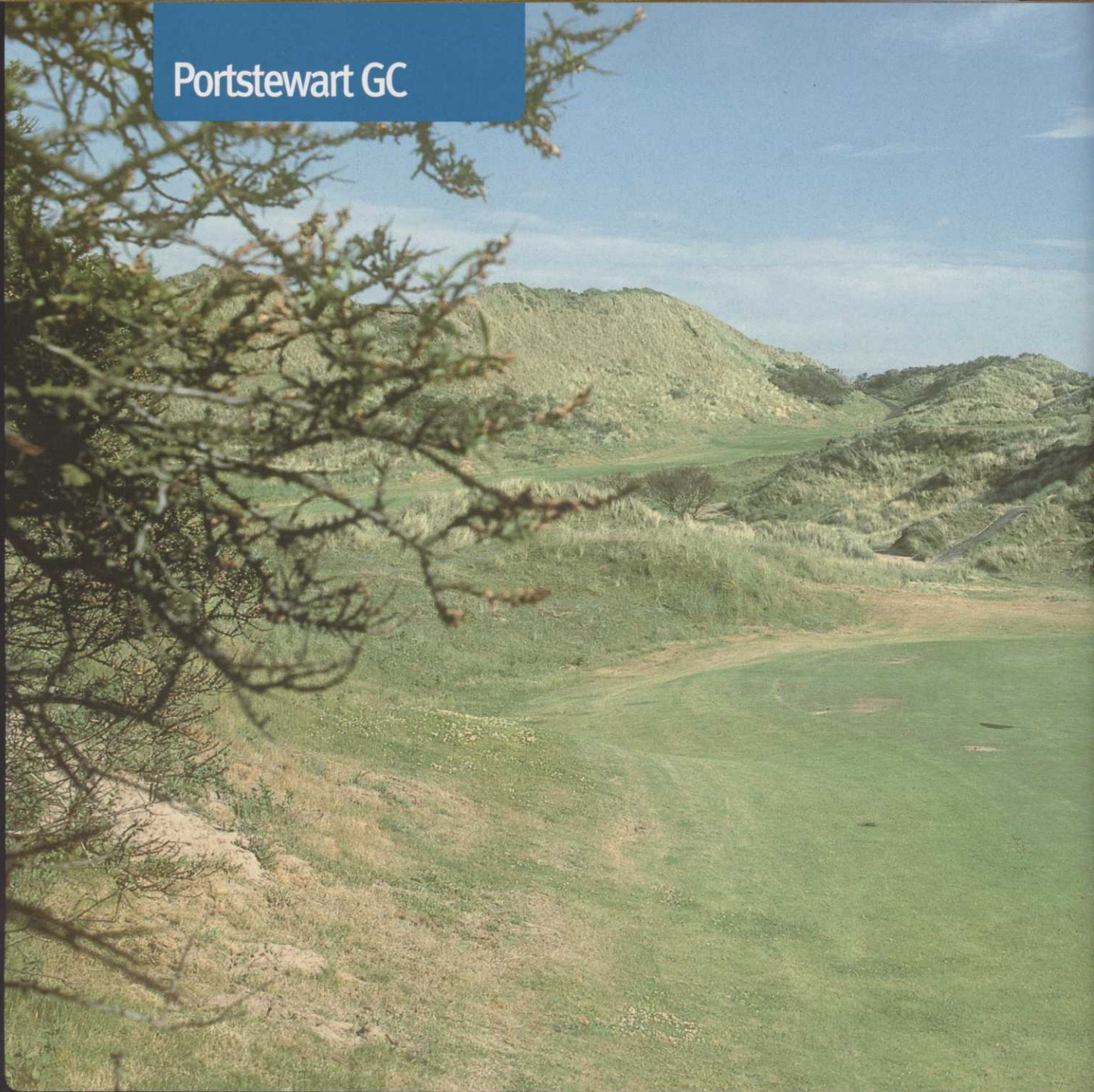
"I was Head Greenkeeper and he was a trainee and he hated me because I made him work. But he learned very quickly and soon became First Assistant.

"We agree on lots of things and disagree on others. Bernard is very organised as far as his office work is concerned whereas I prefer to be out on the course working, digging holes etc."

Talking to Joe you feel that here is a content man having returned, full circle to Royal Portrush, and enjoys his life outside the course through his sailing - he sails traditional working boats - kayaking and archery.

"I am very conscious of my responsibility as Head Greenkeeper looking after a course like Royal Portrush. I take that responsibility very seriously and feel almost like a custodian."

Portstewart GC



While Royal Portrush has a reputation which draws people from all over the world those with more than one day to spare often take the opportunity also to play Portstewart. When they do it is a decision they invariably don't regret.

"Portstewart is happy to be associated with Royal Portrush and to receive some reflected glory. Almost without fail whenever golfers come to Portrush they play Portstewart as well and then they make the comparison between the two. Many people do say that Portstewart is as good an 18 holes as Portrush," said Bernard Findlay.

You can tell, talking to Bernard, that he feels his charge, which includes two 18 hole links courses - the Old and the Strand - and a currently under construction parkland layout, doesn't lose anything by comparison with anyone.

"It's difficult not to be biased but I do think Portstewart is far more dramatic than Portrush. The dune system is very dramatic and the golf

at Portstewart is generally played from a height where you can enjoy the views whereas Portrush is set down in hollows between the dunes," he said.

One of the other benefits of the Strand Course is that with the towering dunes the holes tend to be well separated.

"I call it the Yellow Brick Road syndrome. Golfers like not knowing what is round the next corner and that is part of the appeal of the Strand."

When he was interviewed for the job in 1986 Bernard was asked if he thought he could build holes in the Thistlely Hollow - an area of dune land owned by the club.

"I said 'Not on my own but that I could if I worked to a specification drawn up by a golf course architect'," he explained.

It was certainly a clue but perhaps it didn't quite prepare him for the extent of the work he would be doing over the next 15 years. The initial project, mentioned at the interview, involved replacing some of the course's perceived weaker holes with

new ones built on the spectacular Thistlely Hollow land.

"The club didn't use a golf course architect at that stage but a fellow called Des Giffin, a member of the club, who had ideas of what he'd like to see on the course. The club formed a committee and we walked the dunes and decided upon the routing of seven new holes. In the end we built nine new holes," said Bernard.

"We listen to the views of all concerned and certainly weren't closed to any opinion but the routing was done mainly by Des and myself."

They stripped out the buckthorn and removed the marram grass to produce the holes taking photographs all the time to display on a board.

"We started by building a pilot hole - the 8th which was to act as the link from the existing course to the Thistlely Hollow - and from the lessons we learnt we were able to go on and complete the rest of the holes and that worked very well."

The work was started in '86 and the



holes were fully constructed and opened by 1990. In fact the Irish Closed Championships were played over the course in '92.

When looking at the new holes Bernard does feel that they are his holes such was the level of work he put into the project but rather than feeling pride he says he merely sees everything he would have done slightly differently.

"I never get a feeling of satisfaction in fact I always get a feeling of dissatisfaction because I always see, probably like most greenkeepers, areas for improvement. A golfer can come up to me and tell me that the course looks fantastic but I don't think to myself 'Oh. Thank you very much.' I just think 'Well he obviously hasn't seen that over there.'"

The innate talent he obviously possesses for golf design and construction has been honed through the experience of working on such an extensive project for such a forward thinking club.

"One thing I did learn was to listen



to the practical people I found around me. I didn't have the experience on my own to do this and what I found was that the Greens Staff had lots of practical experience of different elements of greenkeeping and the different elements of this environment and I found that by listening to them it was a great help to me.

Since the new Strand holes have opened they have been able to go back and correct some of the mistakes that were made.

"We had made some fundamental mistakes with bottlenecks. With the best will in the world with areas of dunes 30 metres high you will not avoid them but we are improving the situation all the time," said Bernard, who admits that even after 15 years he has yet not quite slowed down to the Irish pace of life.

The comment Bernard made more than once that the club never stands still is borne out by the fact that the latest project, a nine hole parkland layout called the Riverside, is well underway which will give the club 54 holes of golf.

"The Club sees the Riverside as the next big project," explained Bernard.

Their latest acquisition was in 1999 when 47 acres of arable land came up for sale next to the Riverside course. The main reason for the purchase was to extend the Riverside Course from 9 to 18 holes and thereby further accommodate the demand for the Club's golfing facilities. The Council and Members of Portstewart Golf Club were also aware that the purchase of this land would prevent development by those wishing to build 'hard structures' in an aesthet-

ically pleasing and environmentally sensitive area at any time in the foreseeable future. The ecological value of the general area has been limited by its agricultural use. However, the opportunity to enhance the wildlife and habitat value as a result of golf course development is considerable.

"The greens will be built to USGA specification and they will need more in terms of nutrient and require us to keep the finger on the pulse. From a playing point of view it will suit golfers who want to play a round of golf over flattish ground," explained Bernard, who added that the Riverside was due for completion in 2003 with regular play a year later.

"A big part of my job will be to educate the golfer who is making comparisons between the links and parkland courses in terms of grass colour, presentation style and bunker sand," he added.

He jokes that he is happy to live in the shadow of his older brother because Joe is bigger than him and adds that they do exchange quite a bit of tongue in cheek banter.

On a more serious note the two brothers do look after each other's back and never do or say anything which could cause any conflict.

"The neighbouring golf club is the one your own club is held up against but I certainly can't recall any occasion when Joe has made me feel bad about what I'm doing here and I haven't done the same with him," said Bernard, who adds that they also share equipment when the need arises.

Like his brother, Bernard is extremely content with his lot and delighted to be working for a club like Portstewart.

"It is a tremendous club to work for as the members take a genuine interest in what is going on and react well to anything that you tell them."

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*The draft Water Bill.

If there is one question about irrigation that always seems to arise it's – should I upgrade? Well, as is often the way, this one question raises many others. When is the right time? Should I extend the system? Which parts could I retain? Do I need a PC based controller? What are the water supply implications? Who do I choose to offer advice? Graeme Francis provides the answers ...

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Upgrade, replace or leave alone?



The first thing to remember is that every single system is different, irrigation has evolved as design and installation techniques, materials and specialised products have developed. You need to take a long hard view at all aspects of your existing system, its operation, its maintenance and whether it's still a viable and cost effective turf management tool.

For some greenkeepers the answer will be no, the system is old, unreliable, wastes water and takes up too much time and money in either repairs or in the need to operate it manually. Of course this is not always the case, but it could be that this scenario strikes a chord with you. If it does, then now is the time to think about replacement or upgrading, not

in the spring of 2002 with the growing season fast approaching, nor after the system has failed and the course is suffering because the essential water you need as part of your management regime is not available. Far too often it's a case of "closing the door after the horse has bolted".

Golf has become a far more competitive business. Golfers expect ever-higher standards of course presentation and quality and they have far more choice as to where to play. The course is what attracts golfers and as such it is the vital key in sustaining revenue and generating margin. Today, the decision to upgrade the irrigation system or extend it to other areas of the course, particularly fairways may be a com-

mercial one. This brings the need for thorough evaluation of what you have now, what you want to achieve and how you go about meeting those objectives.

The selection of the right system for your course is a complex exercise, too often the vast range of options result in a decision being made on one criteria – price. If you are 100% certain that the lowest priced proposal is the best option, provides everything you need today and as importantly, everything you want in the long term, then go with that company, but if not, don't allow price to dominate your choice. Heard it all before? Well, unfortunately this point is just as relevant today as it has ever been. Too many orders are placed with the low-

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Upgrade, replace or leave alone?

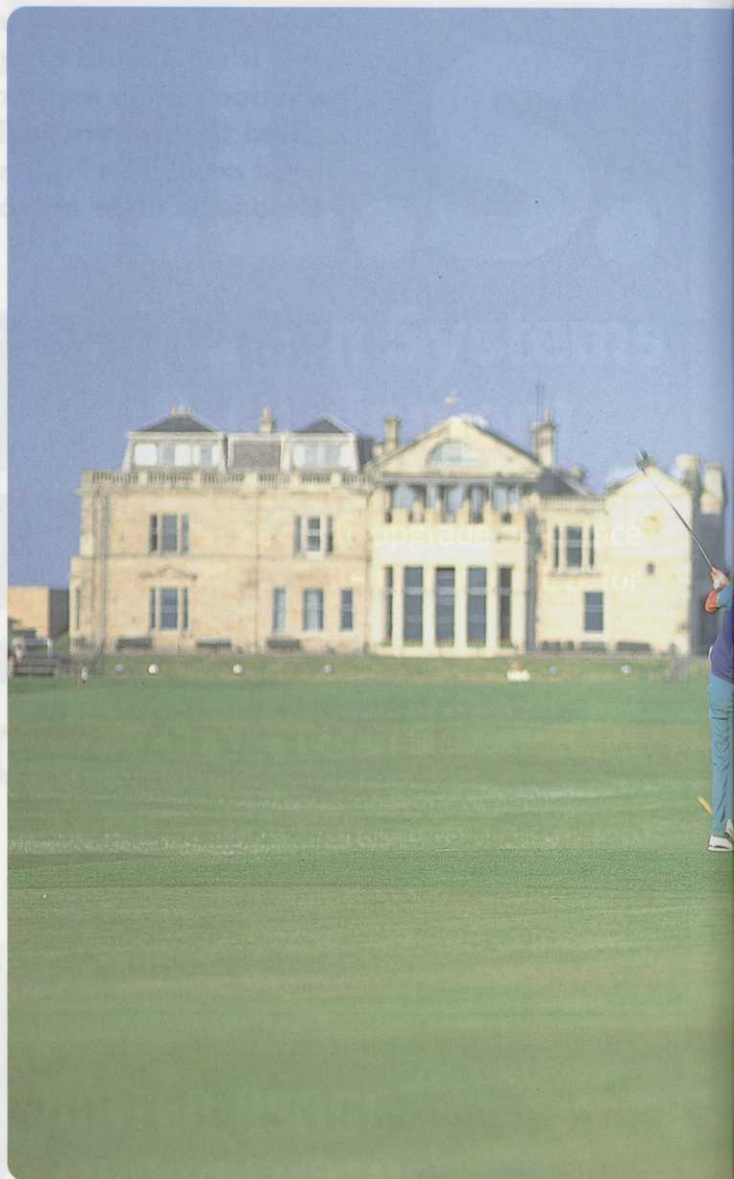
est bidder because those making the decisions are not given, or don't take, the opportunity to make the full technical and commercial evaluation that the intricacies of golf irrigation demand.

There are a number of ways in which you can set about the process of updating the system.

- Call upon the services of an irrigation consultant, there are several very well respected irrigation consultants in the UK and they offer a wide range of services including design, water sourcing, tender and quotation evaluation and site supervision.

- Go to individual irrigation contractors and ask them to prepare design and install proposals and then make a decision based upon their proposals and presentations. Make sure they provide all the technical information that you will need to compare the different designs. Details of such information can be found on the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association website at www.btlia.org.uk.

There are many good contractors and you should select a small number with whom you can establish system criteria and whose proposals you can comprehensively assess. I have heard of as many as twelve companies being asked to submit proposals for a single project. Quite frankly that is doing nothing except making the selection process unworkable.



- Talk to the specialist product supply companies who can provide valuable information on all aspects of their particular ranges and their support structures. The number of such suppliers is limited, but you may wish to choose the supplier and then ask contractors to bid using that company's products.

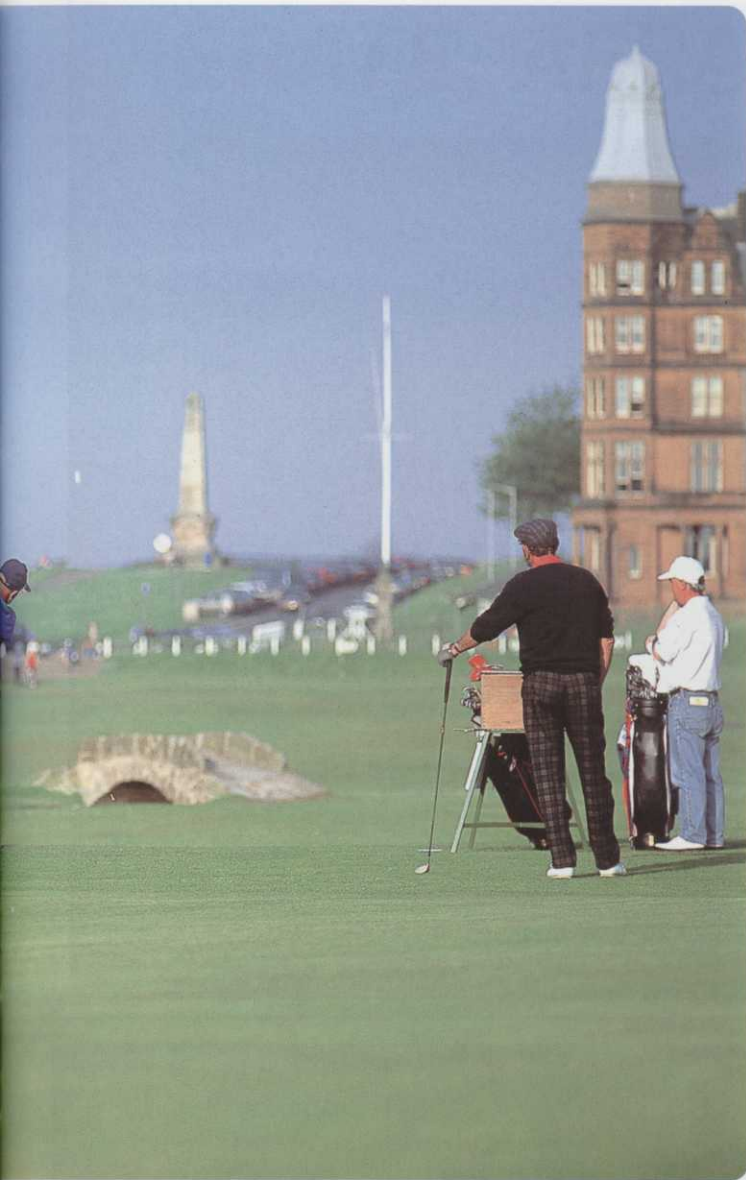
- Seek further education on the subject of irrigation to a level where you can undertake the design and proposal evaluation yourself. This can be achieved through the turf colleges or via the specialist BTLIA irrigation courses held regularly. These provide a very good grounding in sportsturf irrigation. Irrigation education is becoming well defined. It is becoming integrated into the turf education mainstream where its importance is being recognised.

Once again these options raised more questions. In each case you also need to make a reasoned decision as to which method and which companies you use. Investigate their backgrounds, recent projects and other aspects such as the level of longer term support the manufacturers and contractors offer. Use companies who are members of the BTLIA, as they are committed to providing proposals and installation services in accordance with the Associations

standards and membership requirements.

Can you keep parts of the existing system? Very careful consideration must be made when looking at retention of existing components. Partial upgrades require complete confidence that any parts retained, which may include pumps, pipework and control systems will provide durability and are properly suited to the new and often greater system demands. I have often seen new pumping systems and sprinklers fitted to existing pipework in an attempt to save money, only to hear that very shortly afterwards the pipework has not been able to withstand the increased pressures and flows modern systems create. The result? An expensive pipework replacement undertaking that will almost certainly erode all the previous savings and more-than-likely actually cost more than if the work had been done as part of the initial project. Hydraulic principles dictate that adding more sprinklers to an existing system without increasing pump and pipe capacity will result in extending the time needed to irrigate all areas. The normal maximum time is 10 hours, but some course managers end up with systems that have to run during the day and through the night just to get the water applied.





This makes no sense and can seriously impede other maintenance operations and play.

There is no doubt that the most topical aspect of golf course irrigation today and I believe for some time to come, is the availability of water. There are very significant potential changes coming as part of the Water Bill, currently in draft form and at present relevant to England and Wales. This Bill will almost certainly bring fundamental changes to the water abstraction licensing process for those courses that obtain water from lakes, watercourse and boreholes. In the future there will be an increase in the monitoring of water use and course managers could need to prepare water budgets, forecast water use for the next year or even longer and also may need to produce detailed records of actual water use against forecast and show how those figures relate to licensed quantities. It is not beyond the realms of possibility that longer term regulation could take place and the monitoring process could go further, to the point where clubs would have to demonstrate that they have put in place systems and procedures that optimise water use and eliminate waste particularly from unreliable system components and inaccurate application. System effi-

ciency through good design, installation, maintenance and operation needs to be a fundamental objective in any golf course irrigation system provision regardless of the scope of pending or future legislation. It is very important for everyone associated with golf course management to understand that the water issues are becoming crucial. Good irrigation practice must be given the attention it needs and the willingness to make a sound financial investment has to prevail to ensure that systems can stand up to potentially closer scrutiny and the ever increasing demands of course management and ever more discerning players. Even those many courses using potable water supplies to feed irrigation systems have to make sure that such operational efficiency is created to allow optimum water use from this more expensive source.

Control systems offering precise and reliable operation with comprehensive water use monitoring and recording are increasing being chosen for golf course irrigation. Water use records can of course be kept by noting water meter readings and equating those with agronomic factors particularly evapotranspiration, but controllers which can produce this information quickly and auto-

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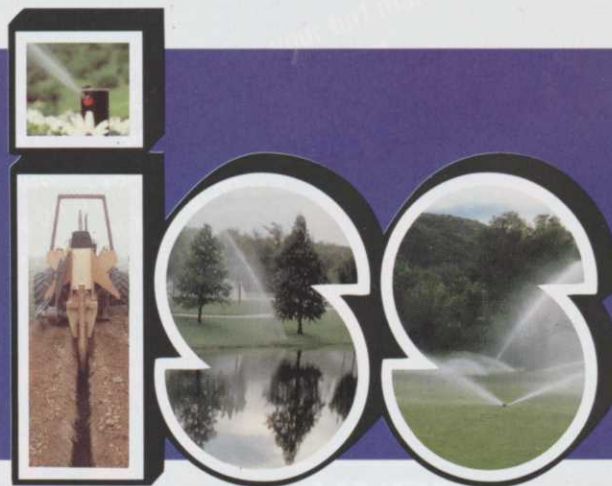
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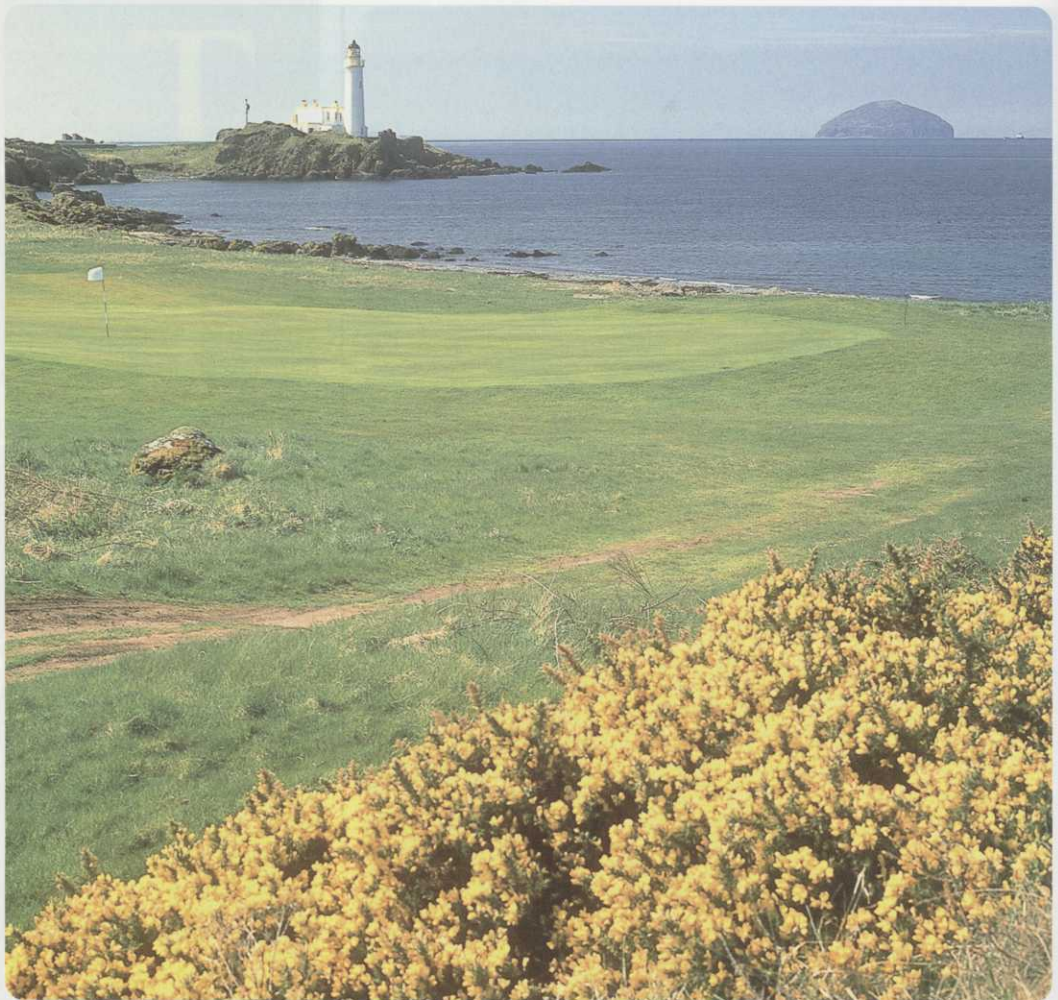
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IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Upgrade, replace or leave alone?



matically clearly make the exercise quicker and simpler. Some of these automated functions can be found in certain "box-on-the-wall" controllers, but many course managers choose a PC based central controller with specialist software that meets the requirements of modern irrigation operations. The PC can then be used for other tasks using spreadsheet and word processing packages creating a more general management tool.

When choosing a PC system, make sure it does what you need as simply as possible. Good support from the contractor, distributor and manufacturer must be in place and provide a service offering such things as fast component replacement, upgrade programmes, telephone helpdesks and all the other essential support infrastructures that you should expect. Hardware and software can be superseded relatively frequently, but choosing the right provider should permit upgrade options in the

future. In many cases the control options and precision of PC based control systems offset initial capital cost when the savings in water and the course manager's time are taken into consideration. It is not unreasonable to say that overall, water use can be reduced using better control, even when more of the course is being irrigated. More and more clubs are extending irrigation to their fairways; this is due to the higher maintenance requirement that heavier play brings and also to allow the best presentation of the course for the purpose of attracting visiting golfers and societies. With such fairway irrigation, the need for efficiency increases dramatically as the potential cost of water wastage becomes much larger. In addition, the use of licensed water sources such as boreholes and in-ground reservoirs is the only realistic way to get the volume of water required. Despite the need for more water, fairway irrigation will become

more important and consequently widespread and the current trend of established clubs having fairway systems installed will continue. With the larger systems, the capital expenditure involved means that careful selection is of the utmost importance and must be undertaken in an informed manner.

The pressures on golf courses make optimisation of all management tools vital for sustained course and club development. Irrigation is just one of those tools, but it is an essential one and extension of systems to larger areas of the course will be important in future course management. Its provision is specialised and requires extensive expertise. Choose carefully, invest wisely and make sure your system meets your requirements and works for you and not against you.

Graeme Francis is the Marketing Manager of The Hydroscape Group, Toro, Irrigation Distributors for UK and Ireland

Although it may not have been apparent in recent months, water is a precious resource and extraction is becoming increasingly difficult and expensive. At the same time irrigation is a vital tool to the greenkeeper and the 28 minute video looks at using it to its best advantage with the Why, What, How and Where of irrigation. The video features interviews with recognised experts in their field, graphics and film showing why irrigation is needed, when to

apply and what equipment to use. "This video is not only of benefit for training greenkeepers in the art of good water management and irrigation, it would also be very useful for communicating to the wider golfing community," said BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson. The other four video's in BIGGA's portfolio cover, spraying; golf course preparation; golf green construction and golf course ecology. The production of this video was only possible through the generous support

of the Association's Golden and Silver Key Supporters who donate to BIGGA's Education and Development Fund. Irrigation is produced by Goodwood Videos, who also produced the Golf Course Ecology video, and is priced at £15 for BIGGA members and £25 for non-members.

Contact the BIGGA Education Department for further details on 01347 833800 or via sami@bigga.co.uk

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Roland Taylor takes a leaf out of the old book using a variety of methods

Shake 'n' Vac



Leaves look good on trees - it is when they fall that the picture changes. With the large fluctuations in the present climate there now seems to be plenty to clear up throughout the summer. Mild autumns have also meant they tend to stay on the trees longer. In the past a sharp frost or high winds and the clearing up operation could be completed in a matter of days - now it is done piece meal and you can never foretell when the fall will finally be over.

Every course has different requirements when it comes to leaf collection and in most cases if there are a lot of trees more than one piece of equipment will be needed.

Three basic systems are used on machinery specifically built for leaf and litter collection and these are - suck, blow (sometimes both) and rotary brush. There is a fourth method - rotary mowers. Their efficiency depends on the sucking or lifting action of the blade and the sys-

tems ability and effectiveness to deliver the leaves into a collector.

With suck and blow units their efficiency depends on a number of factors involved. At the heart of the machine is an engine driven impeller, which creates the airflow.

This critical component has to be aerodynamically designed and perfectly balanced. The housing also has to be exact. When used in collection mode, the leaves and litter pass directly through the impeller so it

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must withstand a constant battering.

Therefore both the way it is constructed and the materials used are very important in relation to its longevity. Some companies offer extended warranty on this component so when considering particular models with this type of system ask how long the impeller is guaranteed for.

The volume and speed of the airflow created will determine the machine's efficiency - this can vary considerably between different makes. The best way to determine which is the best is to try more than one unit under the same conditions and then compare the results. The same applies when collecting is involved. A really good test of a machine's efficiency is picking up wet leaves.

Engine power is another factor that needs to be addressed and there is plenty of choice in the pedestrian range.

Hand-held Blow/Vac

Out on the course, these are going to be the best machines for clearing

greens and other sites where access is very limited. Whilst the hand-held units are good for some areas, if a machine is going to be used for long periods then the backpack versions are a better choice. The hand held can in most cases be adapted for use as a collector, the only disadvantage of this is the size of the bag. If there are a lot of leaves you continually have to empty it. Some models include an optional extension tube for clearing guttering and open drains.

Pedestrian

In this category the choice is either blowers or collecting units and these are available as push or self-propelled. With the blowers the leaves can be windowed or made into heaps ready to be picked up.

As most collection models pass the material through the impeller this makes the number of times the unit has to be emptied less. An optional wanderhose is generally available and this is ideal for sucking leaves off areas such as greens.

One possible disadvantage of this type of machine is that they are mounted on wheels and these could mark the turf, especially when the unit is full.

Tractor powered

There are a number of specialist leaf and litter units now available. These have pto driven impellers. Like their pedestrian counterparts there are models for blowing the leaves into windrows or heaps, whilst others suck them up into large collecting hoppers, some with moving floors to make emptying easy. They have high work output and are an efficient method for clearing large areas. A wanderhose is usually an integral part of the system and this can be used for clearing ditches and emptying waste bins. Another method is the flail unit. These have a large capacity collector and the big advantage of this system is that other operations can be carried out including cutting grass and scarifying.

Brushes

One area that can present problems



when it comes to mechanising leaf collection is bunkers. For obvious reasons blowers and vacs are not the answer. A possible solution is a powered rotary brush - a few of these are now available. A nylon brush is mounted on a long shaft similar to a brushcutter. Because they are hand-held the amount of pressure to move the leaves can be easily adjusted to avoid disturbing the sand. They are also useful for sweeping hard surfaces and one course has used them for clearing beechnuts.

For large areas such as car parks there are the rotary brush units - these can be either pedestrians, self-propelled or tractor operated.

Some ride-on rotary machines can be fitted with one of these attachments

Large self-powered units are available but whether their cost can be justified will depend on the specific applications and requirements

Loaders

These are a very useful piece of machinery. The loader is a powered unit, which is clamped onto the tail-

gate of a trailer or vehicle buck. A wide mouth suction hose is used to vacuum up the leaves and they are delivered directly into the collecting receptacle. This type of unit is ideal as part of a system that uses blowers to direct the leaves into either windrows or one spot.

Leaf collection covers only a few weeks each year so investing in specialist equipment has to be carefully considered. In most cases more than one type of machine is going to be required. If an attachment is available for existing or new machinery then for many clubs this may be the answer.

Another possible solution could be to consider hiring. The only problem here would be determining when the machinery was needed. As other organisations within your locality might be thinking along similar lines there could be a shortage of available equipment when you need it.

We might curse about clearing up leaves each year, but one sobering thought is without them we would not exist, plus the fact they set off the greens and fairways in their summer and autumn livery.



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Textron invest to support customers in the Midlands and Yorkshire

Textron, the Ipswich-based manufacturer of turf maintenance equipment, golf cars, compact sweepers and light industrial utility vehicles, are opening three retail branches in strategic locations in the UK.

The new branches, are located at Redditch, serving the West Midlands, Warwickshire and Hereford & Worcestershire; at Selby, covering North, East and West of Yorkshire; and at Mansfield covering Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, South Yorkshire and Leicestershire.

They are operating under the day-to-day control of Alan Prickett, who until recently was Textron's regional sales manager for the south and southwest of England. He has overall management responsibility for the 12 staff at each branch, which otherwise operate independently. The branch functions, in marketing, service, admin and accounts, are heavily supported by Ipswich.

Glynn Patrick, Textron's sales director commented,

"We have been considering the option of a possible retail operation for the past two years and when Breakwell's and Henton & Chattell tendered their resignations, it provided the opportunity to put it into practice.

We looked at the options in these regions and concluded that we could provide a higher level of service, ourselves. Manufacturer-owned dealerships are not new: they exist in other industries and in other parts of the world. In fact, in the States, Textron own dealerships in North and South Carolina and in California.



The Redditch branch has over 14,000 square feet of combined office, service and storage space.



The hub of the Yorkshire operation is the 8,500 square feet modern premises at Selby. This depot also has 18,000 square feet of secure outside storage.

With this new venture, our main objective is to provide top quality service support to all customers in these three regions, so the branches will be highly geared to technical and parts support. In order to provide a complete service we will also be selling non-Textron brands which complement our own product ranges, where possible."

Experienced teams have been assembled, with a number of sales, service and parts personnel moving to the new Textron branches, from Breakwell's and Henton & Chattell.

Glynn Patrick adds, "We would obviously prefer to sell and support our products through independent distributors as we do in all other regions of the UK, but the availability of dealers with the resources to handle a franchise with our product ranges in different market sectors, is very limited. There will be no special favours for our company-owned branches as they will sell and service on the same terms as the rest of our distributors; they will receive no more favourable terms and we are confident that they will soon become viable businesses in their own right.

These branches represent a significant investment in both people and resources, and I can promise our customers that they will see a much improved level of service, sales and parts support in their territories - a level of service that our customer base expects and demands from a major manufacturer in the golf, turf, sweeper and vehicle sectors."

Peter Cooper 58, has been appointed Key Account Manager at Redditch, reporting directly to Alan Prickett. Well known throughout the West Midlands he spent 14 years as Senior Sales Manager at E.T. Breakwell Ltd., Textron's former dealer for the region. Prior to this he worked for a Toro dealership after a career in the aircraft manufacturing industry.

His senior position at Breakwell's ensures that he has an industry knowledge and awareness second to none, especially in the local authority sector.

Julian Taylor is Area Sales Manager at the Selby branch. He has a wide knowledge of Textron's products having been a depot manager with Cliff Evans Ltd and he was also a Sales Demonstrator with Andrews of Sunningdale at the time when they were dealers for the Ransomes, Cushman and Ryan products. He comes from a technical background having worked as a service technician with Lister Wilder and Oaks Brothers horticultural and grass machinery dealerships in the south west of England.

'Spike' Spires is the Foreman/Technician responsible for the service operation at Mansfield. 12 years experience of Jacobsen equipment has been gained at Purdy Grass Machinery and



Peter Cooper

Henton & Chattell. He oversees a team of workshop based and mobile service engineers in the Mansfield territory.

Gary Whitney is one of the Area Sales Managers at the Redditch branch. He is responsible for Warwickshire and part of the West Midlands and has an extensive background in turf maintenance. For the past three years he has run his own hard landscaping company and prior to that worked for Brophy Grounds Maintenance, first as National Transport and Plant Manager, then latterly as Marketing Manager. He was an Area Sales Manager with Hayter on their commercial product range and also held the same position with Victor UK.



Gary Whitney

The three teams of field service engineers based at the new branches will have a fleet of fully equipped Renault support vehicles, plus a Land Rover Discovery Commercial with trailer allocated to each workshop.





Located at Oakham Business Park, the Mansfield branch serves the East Midlands region, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire.

Alan Prickett (right) is managing the branch operation and commented,

"There will be a high level of expectation from our customers now that the Textron name appears above the door of these three branches.

It is my intention that the dealerships will not only achieve this, but surpass customer expectations to provide a level of service that customers have not experienced previously in these regions. Huge investment has been made by Textron to make this possible.

We have fully resourced parts departments with high levels of stock items right across the Textron product range, together with an impressive fleet of demonstration equipment. This includes Jacobsen golf course equipment, Ransomes municipal turf maintenance products, Ransomes litter/collector sweepers and a range of golf and light industrial utility vehicles including the new range of Cushman Diabline electric vehicles.

The branches are housed in some of the finest dealer premises in Europe. I've been fortunate enough to start with a clean can-

vas, so we have all the latest equipment for our service parts operation, together with a new fleet of service support vehicles. We have recruited a team of excellent people with a vast combined knowledge and experience of the turf care sector.

The knowledge gained from my recent visit to our branches in the USA, is the model for the operation here in the UK. I was very impressed with their commitment to go that 'extra mile' to ensure that the customer receives the service levels that they demand. This is the ethos that the staff here will follow.

Having just returned from Saltex, it was interesting to hear the rumours and speculation surrounding this new venture for Textron.

Is it the beginning of the end for the UK dealer network? Will we be operating on more favourable terms than our UK dealers? Will we be competing head-to-head with the major hire companies?

The answer to this is simply No, No and No. As Glynn Patrick, my sales director stated we will not be, and have no intention of replacing our dealership network. Experienced dealers are very few

and far between and Textron is fortunate to have some of the very best and financially viable companies in this business and we intend to keep it that way.

The ending of our agreements with Breakwell's and Henton & Chattell has provided this opportunity, but it is strictly a one-off to ensure that our



Alan Prickett

customers have service levels superior to that which they have previously experienced.

These three branch operations

customer with no carriage charges, whether supplied from Ipswich or the branches.



will be treated solely as all other dealerships except that they will trade under the manufacturers name. My terms of agreement mirror those of our other dealers.

And finally with regard to the hire companies, we will definitely not be competing with them. We will stay firmly with our core business, which is committed to supplying quality products in all the sectors in which we operate, supported by exemplary levels of after sales service."

Alan Prickett also confirmed that Service Parts ordered by customers will be dispatched on overnight carriage direct to the

Experienced people have joined the new branches and pictured here are (l-r) Spike Spires, Foreman/Technician at Mansfield, formerly with Henton & Chattell; Tim Vaughan, Service Technician at Mansfield; Gary Potter, Service Technician at Selby; and Des Clarke, Service Manager at Selby, another former Henton & Chattell employee.

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While greenkeepers continue striving to maintain golf courses to the highest possible standard, research scientists are working in laboratories on projects that could ultimately eliminate some of the obstacles to perfect course conditioning. This month Dr Sue Grayston, Principal Scientific Officer in the Plant Ecophysiology & Rhizosphere Processes Programme at the Macaulay Institute in Aberdeen, gives an insight into some of the work that is being carried out at the Institute on soil biodiversity.

Small but perfectly formed

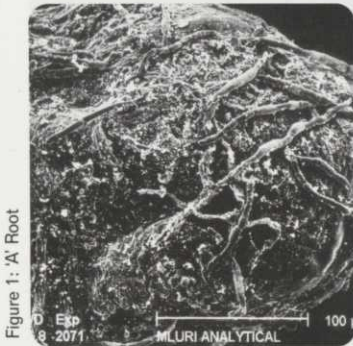


Figure 1: 'A' Root

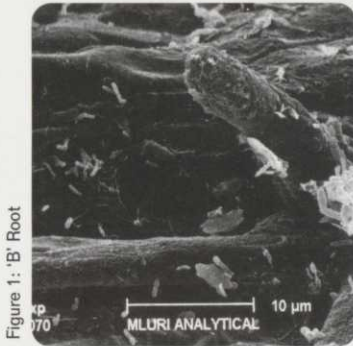


Figure 1: 'B' Root

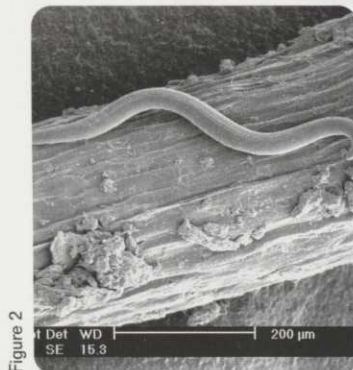


Figure 2

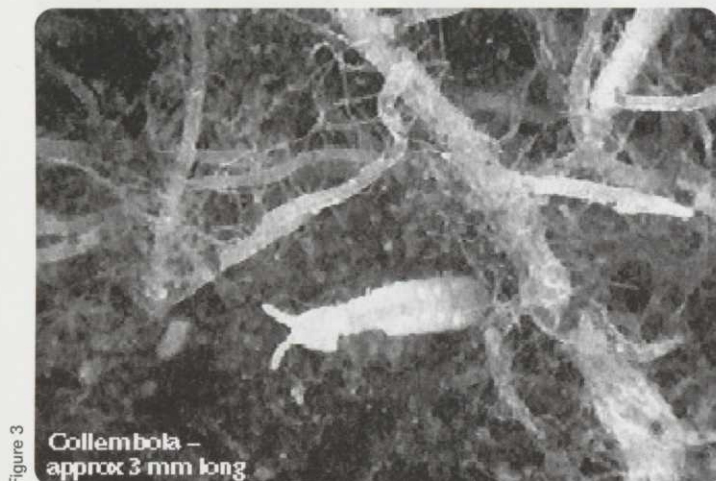


Figure 3

Did you know that soil probably harbours most of our planet's undiscovered biodiversity (Tiedje et al., 1999)? And yet we know very little about it. However, too small to be seen no longer means insignificant or valueless. Soil organisms are the key contributors to nutrient cycling, energy flow and storage in soil (Whitford, 1996). The soil biota recycle nutrients, produce and consume gases that affect global climate, destroy pollutants, treat wastes and can be used for biocontrol of plant and animal pests. Soil micro-organisms are the major sources of pharmaceuticals, antibiotics, immunosuppressants, enzymes and anti-tumour agents.

Soil organisms can be conveniently classified according to size. There are micro-organisms, which are invisible to the naked eye. They include bacteria, fungi and algae (Figure 1). These are the primary decomposers of plant and animal detritus in soil. The microfauna are the soil animals, less than 200µm long, therefore, also too small to be seen by eye and they include protozoa and nematodes (Figure 2). Mesofauna are animals of medium size (200µm - 1 cm in length) (collembola, mites, enchytraeids) (Figure 3) and macrofauna are animals who are cm's long, (earth-

worms, molluscs, arthropods, vertebrates) (Figure 4). Some soil fauna are predators of soil micro-organisms and other soil fauna, some are detritivores and others are plant herbivores.

Mature forest soils appear to have a diversity greater than any other habitat, with the possible exception of coral reefs (Behan-Pelletier & Bisset, 1992). The development and application of new methodologies to characterise, isolate and identify soil biota has indicated that we have only scratched the surface of soil biodiversity. Andre et al. (1994), using a new flotation method to extract mites from soil hypothesised that 10 million mesofauna in soil remained to be discovered. The situation is more dramatic with soil micro-organisms. Using molecular techniques it has been estimated that 1.5 million fungal species exist, yet only 5% are described. Similarly, for bacteria there may be 300,000 to 1 million species on earth, yet only 3,000 are described. A typical gram of soil contains 1 billion bacteria, only 10% of which are culturable (Torsvik, 1990a) and there may be 4,000 different microbial genomes present (Torsvik, 1990b). The total number of microbial cells on earth is far greater than individual animals and plants (Meyer, 1994). The survival of micro-organisms does not require plant or animal life, whereas the existence of micro-organisms is vital for plants and animals, including humans, and life on earth would cease if they became extinct. In fact, soil and its biotic component has been described as "our most precious non-renewable resource" (Marshall et al., 1982).

Bearing in mind the importance of soil organisms in ecosystem functioning and the fact that we know so little about individual identities and their specific roles it is vital if we are going to be able to manage different ecosystems effectively, or realise some of the potential untapped wealth waiting to be discovered in soil, we need more information on the char-

acter and functional significance of the soil biota. This statement holds true whether one is managing, at the one extreme a high input intensive grassland ecosystem, such as a golf course, or at the other extreme, a low input extensive pasture used as a grazing resource for animals. We also need to understand the key factors which affect the diversity and functioning of soil organisms. Availability of carbon (C) is a key factor affecting the growth of soil organisms. Therefore, any factor affecting soil C inputs will impact on the soil organisms. These factors include a) plant species - which vary in the amount and type of C they release to the soil, b) above-ground cutting, whether this be by an animal or a machine, - which alters C fluxes to the soil, c) below-ground root herbivory by insect larvae and nematodes - which increases C flow to the soil and d) soil amendments - which are used in intensive systems like golf courses as microbial stimulants.

Until recently it was felt that trying to identify the diversity of the whole soil microbial community was an impossible task because the techniques were just not available to study these small organisms. However, with the development of new molecular techniques like denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis (DGGE) to produce molecular fingerprints of microbial communities (Figure 5) and new chemotaxonomic techniques like phospholipid fatty acid (PLFA) profiling, which identifies characteristic 'signature' lipids found in the membranes of specific microbial groups, it is now possible to identify the total microbial diversity in soil. In addition, methods such as community level physiological profiling (CLPP) are being used to assess the functional diversity of the microbial communities in soil. The technique measures utilisation of a number of different carbon substrates (Figure 6) by microbial communities and is therefore relevant to soils, where microbial growth is carbon lim-

Figure 4

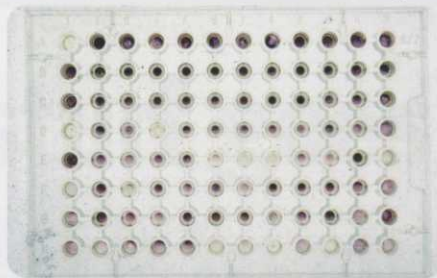


Figure 8: Bacteria



Figure 8: Fungi



ited. We have been undertaking this research at the Macaulay as part of these biodiversity programmes.

The use and further development of these techniques, applied to the research areas described above, is being undertaken at the Macaulay Institute in Aberdeen, as part of our core research programme funded by the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD) and in our role as partners in two major UK programmes on soil biodiversity – the SEERAD Micronet Project and the Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC) Soil Biodiversity Programme. Both of these programmes are centred on the grasslands at the Macaulay Institutes Research Station near Yetholm in the Scottish Borders. Although this research is being undertaken on upland grasslands the research and findings are equally relevant to intensively managed grasslands, such as golf courses.

The SEERAD Micronet Project (<http://www.scri.sari.ac.uk/MICRO>) is a major 10 year (1994-2004) co-ordinated programme on soil microbial diversity which is developing and applying a suite of molecular and phenotypic techniques to characterise the spatial and temporal diversity of soil microbial communities across a range of pastures differing in management intensity at 10 sites in the UK (Figure 7). The overall aim is to try to understand how soil microbial community structure affects the fertility of the soil and

the composition and productivity of the sward. This is a major programme of international significance; there is no other programme in the world applying a suite of both molecular and physiological techniques to the same soil samples to quantify spatial and temporal diversity of soil microbial communities.






We have been able to show that microbial community structure and activity is significantly influenced by grassland type and site, with intensively managed ryegrass, clover grasslands being a bacterial dominated system and the low input, extensive bent, fescue grasslands being fungal dominated (Grayston et al., 2001) (Figure 8). We have also shown that different grasses select for the microbial community in the soil surrounding its roots – 'the rhizosphere', through the variety of different carbon compounds they release from their roots (Grayston et al., 1998) (Figure 9).

The NERC Soil Biodiversity Programme (<http://mwnta.nmwa.ac.uk/soilbio>) is a five year programme (1999-2004), which aims to quantify the diversity of the whole soil biota in a bent fescue grassland in the Scottish borders, subject to a variety of management inputs (addition of nitrogen, lime, insecticide) (Figure 10). The key objective is to ascertain whether there is a link between biological diversity and function in soil. As part of this programme the Macaulay Institute, in collaboration with the Institute of Grassland and Environmental

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Small but perfectly formed



Figure 13

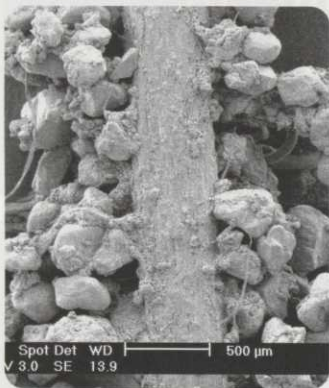


Figure 9



Figure 11



Figure 12



Gel



Figure 7

Research, North Wyke and Aberystwyth and Royal Holloway, University of London is quantifying the diversity of insect and nematode root feeders in grasslands and their impact on rhizosphere carbon flow and soil microbial communities.

This is the HUGBUG Project: (<http://www.mluri.sari.ac.uk/HUGBUG>)

Below-ground root herbivory by insects and phytophagous nematodes can result in qualitative and quantitative changes in soil carbon fluxes, which may impact on soil microbial diversity and functioning. We know something of the insect and nematode species that cause damage to agricultural grassland, and they are the same as those found in golf courses. However, the potential impact of root feeding by invertebrates on microbial driven nutrient cycling has not been evaluated.

Leatherjacket larvae (*Tipula paludosa*) are the dominant insect root herbivore in our bent fescue grassland (Figure 11). These larvae are also one of the biggest pests of turfgrass (see article by Yelland, Greenkeeper International, November 2000). In laboratory experiments at the Macaulay we have shown that root feeding by these larvae appears to be



Figure 10

plant species specific, the larvae significantly reduced the root biomass of ryegrass and clover, but not bentgrass. We have also shown, using miniaturised camera systems inserted into the soil, that these larvae differ in their root feeding patterns, preferring the laterals of ryegrass and the main roots of clover. Root herbivory by these larvae also resulted in increased C release to the rhizosphere beneath ryegrass and clover, which altered the microbial community structure in these soils. This change in microbial communities could obviously impact on soil functioning. Additionally,

the preferential feeding of this larva on different plant species could have an influence on plant community succession and explain why some plant species are better competitors. Currently, we are now assessing the impact of another insect root herbivore *Sitona* (Figure 12), and phytophagous (plant root feeding) nematodes on plant roots, rhizosphere C flow and the soil microbial community.

As part of our core funded research at the Macaulay we are assessing the impact of above-ground herbivory (frequency and height of cutting) on grass shoot and root growth, rhizosphere C flow, soil microbial communities and soil chemistry (Figure 13). We have been able to show that plants do differ in their response to cutting – e.g. bentgrass shows a significant reduction in root biomass with regular defoliation, ryegrass is more tolerant of cutting, in terms of shoot re-growth, than fescues, and bentgrasses, but not fescues can adapt their morphology in response to cutting, producing a shorter leaf growth zone. In addition, some plant species, like fescues lose more C from their roots into the soil after defoliation, which stimulates

growth of the soil microbial community.

All these responses can impact on the competitive ability of the different grasses, which we are trying to identify.

Microbes provide the underpinning of all ecosystems, therefore, it is vital we identify their diversity, function and the factors which affect their community size, structure and activity. By understanding how frequency and height of cutting, fertiliser, lime, pesticide application impact on the plant shoot and root growth, C fluxes and soil microbial communities and soil chemistry it will help us to understand why some plants are better competitors under different conditions and enable us to develop better management tools for our systems.

The Macaulay Institute receives funding from Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD).

Sue Grayston is a Principal Scientific Officer in the Plant Ecophysiology & Rhizosphere Processes Programme at the Macaulay.

The Macaulay's analytical division provide a wide range of QA soil chemical analyses. They also provide expertise on soil microbiological analysis, plant identification and analysis. They can also supply knowledge on the key processes governing plant growth and competition and welcome involvement in collaborative projects in these areas.

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Scotsturf goes from strength to strength

November 7-8, 2001, Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh

Scotsturf celebrates its 21st Birthday this year! This dynamic show has matured into a valuable resource for the Groundscare Industry in Scotland.

Last year the number of exhibitors to the IOG exhibition grew by 17% and visitors were up by 13% despite severe flooding throughout Scotland. This year promises to be even better, with many national manufacturers recognising the scope and scale of Scotsturf as a business opportunity.

A diverse range of machinery and services will be on offer at Scotsturf. If you are in the market for buying,

leasing or hiring any equipment, from tractors and mowers to strimmers, Scotsturf has the solution. It is the shop window for all Scotland's major dealers and manufacturers – come and talk to the experts.

Take the time to talk through a new venture with a golf course or landscape architect or find a solution to a problem with advice on the perfect chemical or product.

All sectors of the industry will be represented including professionals from sports and golf clubs, national stadia, local authorities, schools, colleges and universities leisure

complexes, caravan sites and forestry.

The demand for exhibition space has been so high that the balcony areas in Hall A have been reintroduced. The East balcony will host the Scotsturf Education Village, which includes the Seminar Suite, Trade Associations and Colleges. The West balcony will offer a variety of stands that will be popular with new and growing businesses. Halls B & C continue to be very popular, and some sponsorship opportunities are still available to increase your product profile.



Our Scotsturf Preview continues over the page with important announcements from exhibitors

Confirmed Saltex Exhibitors

Alpha Plus (Scotland) Limited	Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd
AM Phillip Spray Techniques	Sportsgrounds Ltd
Angus Horticulture	Sportsturf Services
BIGGA	Stewart And Company (Seedsman) Ltd
Blount UK Ltd	Swan Plant Services Ltd
Brian Young (Garden Machinery)	Teleshore UK Ltd
British Seed Houses Ltd	The Play Practice
Cleveland Sitesafe Ltd	Thomas Sherriff & Company Ltd
Complete Weed Control Ltd	Thorntrees Landscapes
CSC Amenity	Tonick Watering Ltd
Dennis	Toro Commercial Products
Eagle Promotions Ltd	Totrax Ltd
Elmwood College	Trimax Mowing Systems Ltd
Envigo / TEG Environmental	Turf Irrigation Services Ltd
Enviromulch	Turf Machinery Ltd
Eric Hunter & Co (Tools)	Ultra Plant
Etesia (UK) Ltd	Vaderstad Ltd
Fraser C Robb	Vitax Ltd
Garfitts International Ltd	Wiedenmann UK Ltd
Greentech (Sportsturf) Ltd	Central Tyre Ltd
Groundsman Industries	Nordic Tyres
Hayter Limited	Enginetec Ltd
Henderson Grass Machinery Ltd	Kersten UK Ltd
Henry H Sheach Lawn Mower Services	Indespension Ltd
Hunter Grinders Ltd	Playworld Systems
Irrigation Scotland Ltd	Double A Trading Co
Kubota (UK) Ltd	STRI
Links Leisure Ltd	Overton (UK) Ltd
Logic Manufacturing Ltd	PLM Power Products Ltd
Long Equipment Ltd	Huxley Golf
Major Equipment Ltd	Chelwood Tool Company Ltd
McConnel Limited	Growing Concern Scotland Ltd
McLays Playground Supplies Ltd	Cheviot Trees Ltd
McNab Sport / Scottish Groundcare	Valtra Tractors (UK) Ltd
Melvins Ltd	David Ogilvie Engineering Ltd
Midland Power Machinery Distributors Ltd.	Yamaha Motor (UK) Ltd
Nairn Brown (Glasgow) Ltd	BAGO / Robert Acton Product Developments
New Holland UK Ltd	Terra Firma Ltd
Oatridge Agricultural College	A Plant
Ocmis Irrigation (Scotland) Ltd	Farm and Garden Machinery
Pinnacle Power Equipment Ltd	Conifox Nurseries
Reaseheath College	Johnsons Sport & Amenity
RH Young	J & S Montgomery
Richard Aitken (Seedsman) Ltd	Fleet (Line Markers) Ltd
Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd	Blec Landscaping Equipment Co Ltd
Rousseau Equipment Ltd	SAC Plant Biology Dept.
Ryotec Industrial Equipment Ltd	Avant Techno (UK) Ltd
Scotbark	Scotia Golf Cars
Scottish Amenity Marketing	Saxon Industries
Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Group	NFU Scotland
Scottish Grass Machinery Ltd	Wilkie Recycling Systems Ltd
Simon Tullett Machinery Co Ltd	Russell Groundcare Equipment Ltd
	Turf Seed UK Ltd
	Logic Irrigation Ltd
	IPU Group



Garfitts International Ltd

Garfitts International Ltd will have a presence on Stand A20 where our Sales Team will welcome you and discuss the year ahead.

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Tel: 0114 251 3344 Fax: 0114 251 3000
Email: sales@garfitts.com www.garfitts.com



Stand Number A20



Henderson Grass Machinery Ltd

Henderson Grass Machinery Ltd will be showing one of the new Same Dorado Amenity tractors which range from 55hp to 85hp.

These tractors are also proving popular with golf courses for the heavy tasks such as vertidrainage. There will also be a selection of equipment from the Charterhouse range including vertidrainage, Rapidcore and overseeding machines.

For more information, please visit our Stand or contact us on 01620 823171.

Stand Number A24



British Seed Houses

Join the Grade A Club and go one up. Greenkeepers are now starting to redeem credit points that give them special discounts on approved BIGGA training materials. You can benefit too. Find out more about the velvet bent Avalon and hear how AberElf and AberImp - two ryegrasses bred at the UK's only amenity grass breeding programme at the Institute of Grassland & Environmental Research, contributed to a truly vintage Wimbledon this year.

Tel: 01522 868714 Fax: 01522 868382
E-mail: seeds@bshlincoln.co.uk

Stand Number A8



Valtra Tractors

The Valtra Tractor range, manufactured in Finland and distributed in Britain by Valtra Tractors (UK) Ltd of Runcorn extends from 60 to 200hp, all powered by Valtra engines. A range of transmissions can provide creep and high road speeds and auxiliary power is available from the PTO and hydraulic services. There is a choice of tyres suitable for all types of operation. Valtra tractors are supported by a trained, nation-wide dealer network. Contact 01928 594400 or see us at Stand C27.

Stand Number C27



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Stand Number A2



Scottish Grass Machinery

Top dealer Scottish Grass Machinery, part of the SGM Group, will fly the flag for Textron at Scotsturf as its top UK dealer.



The latest product innovations from Textron including the new Jacobsen orange for the golf market and Ransomes green for the municipal market will be on show at the stand.

Company representatives from Scottish Grass Machinery and the Group's other three divisions, SG M Finance, SGM Industrial and the Golf Division will be on hand to advise.

Scottish Grass Machinery distributing Textron products throughout Scotland



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RANSOMES

Also on display SGM Industrial will be showing the Ransomes Pathfinder Ride-On Sweeper, together with product information on the latest innovations from Renault, Spearhead, Ferris and Vermeer.

Customers will have the opportunity to talk to finance experts about spreading the cost of hiring and servicing quality ground maintenance equipment with the Group's Bank of Scotland backed finance division, SGM Finance.

Stand Number A35



Complete Weed Control

At Complete Weed control we offer a service using approved products designed to eliminate all your weed problems. We welcome the opportunity to discuss our full range of services including a free consultation.

To obtain your free copy of our award winning 'Weeders Digest' visit us at Stand B38.

Complete Weed Control Head Office:
Tel 01451 822897

Stand Number B38



Totrax

Totrax Ltd are pleased to announce that they have acquired the name of Undergear Equipment Tyre and Wheel Conversions for all Turf, Tractor and flotation, which will enable them to offer a more comprehensive service.

Visit the Stand A21 to learn about the new Keratex K500 tyre which has been developed to minimise punctures.

Tel: 01205 280578. Fax: 01205 280520.
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Website: www.totrax.co.uk

Stand Number A21



BIGGA

BIGGA will be giving visitors the chance to find out more about all aspects of the Association and its activities, with our team on hand to answer all your questions and provide literature highlighting the benefits of membership. If you are already a member, you can get information about the prestigious Master Greenkeeper scheme, education and training courses, as well as updates about the highlight of a greenkeeper's year - BTME at Harrogate.

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for further info tel: 028 9042 2274



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

North

Two new members to welcome this month, both from the Highlands. Andrew Nixon, from Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC, and Ian MacEwan, from Strathpeffer GC.

On the move is Colin Irving, who has left Craggan GC to continue his career at Tain GC taking over from Gavin Neill, who is off to America for a year to work on a new golf course in New York State.

I would just like to congratulate a past member of the Section, Walter Woods, on being chosen to receive the Old Tom Morris Award by the GCSAA. This is the highest award given out by the American Superintendents' Association and recognises an individual's work in the golfing world, and Walter is a worthy winner. (See feature on pp 8-9).

I recently played in the Annual match between Scottish Sections for the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Auchterarder GC and am pleased to inform members that we won the trophy for the fourth time in the six years that it has been going. Representing the Section were Iain Macleod, Tain 38 points, Steve Sullivan, Craigiehill 36 points, Stuart Hogg, Fortrose 30 points and David

Marnoch 29 points. Praise to Archie Dunn for the condition of the course, especially as so much rain had fallen in the days leading up to the tournament. Once again we must thank sponsor, Aventis, for a great day and some excellent prizes.

Later this month we have our AGM at Garmouth and Kingston GC and this is your chance to do your bit and have a say in how the Section should be run.

Anyone wanting to stand for Committee please get in touch with Dougal on 01224 740329 and put your name forward. Come on it's great fun really!

As promised last month, the two Section members who are to receive the Patrons' Award of a trip to BTME 2002 are Robert Hardie, Craibstone GC and Kenny Kinnaid, Grantown-on-Spey, points collecting for this award next year started at the autumn outing in September, the results of the golf of which will be in the November magazine.

Iain Macleod

East

Welcome to this month's column. Yes, another month has gone by and we're approaching autumn so can somebody tell me where has the summer gone?

Well, results time. The Section held the Willie Woods Invitational at Winterfield GC on September 5.

Firstly, thanks to the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the

course; the bar steward for looking after us very well; the catering staff, for the food which was excellent; Head Greenkeeper, Craig Pennycuik and his team for the superb condition of the course. It was a credit to you guys so well done. Thanks once again to our sponsor, Ian Henderson, of Ian Henderson Finance, for providing the superb prizes and looking after us well once more. It was a pity you weren't able to be with us on the day but we look forward to your continued support next year Ian.

A great day's golf was had by all 16 teams and the weather was superb, as usual, apart from the slight sea breeze! There was some terrific scoring on the day by the prize winners except my score, which we won't mention - or even the words NR.

The scores of the day were as follows:

1. S. Nicol/G. Turnbull, Winterfield, 62+2/3 - 62 2/3;
2. I. Elliot/G. Wright, West Linton, 61+ 3 1/3 - 64 1/3;
3. S. Crawford/A. Chainey, North Berwick West, 68 -1- 67.

Well done to Steve and Graham on an excellent performance as I had the privilege of playing with them. Also well done to the teams in second and third place on some superb scoring. As Winterfield has hosted the tournament twice and the rule states that

you can only host for two years on the trot next year the venue will go to the runner-up's course which was West Linton. So we look forward to welcoming you all next year and hope we can have an even bigger turnout.

The Section's four man team played at Auchterarder GC in the Norrie Whytock Trophy in August hoping to retain the cup they won last year. They played very well again this year against some formidable opposition from the other Sections but they had to settle for fourth place this time with the North Section grasping victory to take the Cup north. Well done to the north lads on a good performance, but the east lads will be up for it next year to try and win the trophy back. Roll on next year. Also a big thanks to Aventis for another great tournament.

Coming next month will be the Autumn tournament results; Patrons' Awards winners; BIGGA National Championship highlights of Section members who are competing and anything else including any news from the Section AGM.

That's it, until next time. If you have anything of interest let me know so remember you can e mail, phone, or write to me on all the usual numbers etc. Come on let's hear from you as, remember, it's your Section.

Speak to you next month.
Chris Yeaman

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.

West

Sorry there was no report last month but here is this month's report.

The autumn outing at Milngavie GC will have been played by the time this newsletter goes to print. The committee would like to thank the committee and membership of Milngavie GC for the courtesy of their course and I am sure our members will have had a most memorable day. Results will be printed in next month's report.

On August 27 the annual Club Stewards v Greenkeepers match was held at East Kilbride GC. The trophy was keenly contested on the day with the match ending all square which meant the greenkeepers retained the cup.

Our thanks again must go to the committee and membership of East Kilbride GC for allowing courtesy of the course. Personal thanks should also be conveyed to my playing partners on the day whose jovial banter kept me amused when the golf wasn't quite up to scratch.

I hear congratulations have to be extended to the North Section for winning the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Auchterarder GC on August 22. The West team were runners up so well done lads, better luck next year.

Praise must also be heaped on Kilmacollm GC, who again are to go forward as Scottish Regional Finalists in the BIGGA Environmental Competition. Well done Ronnie and his team. Hopefully all your hard

work will pay off this year and you will be given the recognition you deserve.

Our section AGM will be held later this month, details to follow. Please try and attend the AGM as the turn out has been very poor in recent years and you should have a say in how your section is run. The Section annual dinner will again be held in Victoria's night-club in Glasgow.

Tickets will be available from committee members but you will have to get in early to avoid the rush. The venue has always proved most popular in the past with all age groups catered for. The dinner will be held on Friday November 30.

The committee would like to welcome Archie Hempstead to the Section. Archie is a member of staff at Dumbarton GC. We all look forward to meeting you at up and coming Section events. Well that is it for this month. As always if you have anything you would like added to the column please do not hesitate to call me on 01355 266862.

Brian Bolland

Ayrshire

The Ayrshire Team of Derek Wilson, Irvine Bogside; Brian Aitken, Turnberry; Marshall Sloss and John Mair, both Beith, finished a commendable third to the overall winners, the Central Section, in the annual Norrie Whytock Trophy played at Auchterarder. John Mair had a fine Stableford score of 40 points and was

the best individual on the day. Unfortunately the remainder of the team wasn't so clever and we are still trying to get our name on this trophy.

News just in, and on the move is Lee Blackburn, from Southernness, who is going to the London Club as an Assistant. Lee was seven years at Southernness under David Woodbyrne and was a past Patrons' award winner, twice member of the Open Support Team and a staunch supporter of the Ayrshire Section. Congratulations and good wishes Lee on your new appointment.

Any news call me on 01505 683278. See you next month.

Iain Barr



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North East

At last we managed to provide a full team for the Northern Region Finals this year. Pity about the results but everyone tried their best at Birchwood. I would like to thank Terry Charlton, of Turf Care Services, for not only taking the North East down but also the Cleveland section. I'm sure both teams thanked him for his kind gesture.

My thanks to Richard Campey for again sponsoring the event.

The annual match against the East

of Scotland will be played at Goswick on October 10. Team members will be notified.

Robbie Williams, assistant at Slaley Hall, may be on the move in the autumn. Rumour has it he could be working in the States and I hope to have more news on that subject shortly.

Stocksfield GC are shortly starting work on drainage of the first ten holes - first the greens then the fairways lets hope it keeps dry. Whickham GC's extra two new holes are well on their way. A thousand trees have been planted and when in play they will be a good test of golf.

Longhirst Hall GC have also recently opened an extra nine holes. Hopefully we will be playing next year's autumn Comp there.

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

Well, yet again I have absolutely nothing to report, I know that I have been of no fixed abode recently, however my mobile is still 07787 586084 and now I've got a land line 01745 812691.

I don't know whether this arrangement is going to work with me not sitting on committee as no news filters through at all, I shall monitor the situation over the next couple of months, and, if nothing changes, I will give the job to a committee member who is nearer to the 'pulse'.

Anyhow if anyone has got anything they want putting in print then get in touch.

Dave Goodridge

VENUES | 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 Brahms
and Liszt supported by the Nightjars.

JANUARY 22-24, 2002

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

Northern

Northern Section 4 - North West Section 3. Well done to the victorious team in the recent Roses' Match, sponsored by Patersons, against the North West Section. It was a close one this year with good natured banter on both sides as is the tradition with this annual fixture. The weather at Sandmoor GC. was perfect for golf and congratulations must go to Head Greenkeeper, Gavin Clark and his team of three including Gavin. The other two members of the team are recovering from broken limbs.

This year a new tradition was started with each member of the team from both sides receiving a commemorative medal of the day, which was presented by Sandmoor GC. Vice-Captain Colin Littlewood. Well done to the following members of the team:- Tito Arana, Bob Bennet, Alan Court, Dave Collins, Ian Donaldson, Alvin Fawcett, Richard Harris, Martin Heggie, Simon Heppenstall, Brian Hudson, Johnny Platt, Peter Thompson, Andy Smith, Richard Smith, John Studdard, Nigel Wild. Once again many thanks to Patersons, Sandmoor G.C., Gavin Clark, and last but not least, the lads from Lancashire. Win or lose it's a good and most look forward to fixture for both sides, although it's nice to win again!

At the time of writing this, it is just a week away from Invitation Day and there appears to be confusion over days. Always check the latest magazine report / mail shot / Section website to make sure of the correct information.

This month is the AGM and Autumn Tournament at Woodsome Hall GC on Thursday, October 18 with the AGM starting at 11.30 am. followed by the golf in the afternoon.

Don't forget to book early as tickets are selling well for the Section's Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday, November 10, at Bradford GC. Carvery plus Disco 7.00 pm 'til late. This is an open event so bring along family and friends for a fun night out. The price for this is only £17. To book for this event contact our social man, Dave Thackray, on 01274 640739 or 07976 876264 or 16 Westwood Avenue, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD2 1NJ.

Also in November on the 21st is the Section seminar at Howley Hall GC. More details will appear next month.

Hard luck 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 4th with the Cleveland Section winning again.

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 as now changed. We welcome James High as a new member this month from Hornsea G.C.

That's all for now, if anybody as any news 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

North West

While I write these Section notes, end of August, you can feel autumn fast approaching and wonder where the summer went. Apart from the few good weeks in June and early July summer seems to have missed us. At least the two golf meetings that we had in August were fine days while we played.

The first golf day was the Regional Final played at Birchwood GC on Wednesday, August 15, and although the weather was great during the day after the golf finished the heavens opened and we had torrential rain. This made driving conditions hazardous on the motorways and with some of the Sections travelling long distances home, I just hope that everybody had a safe journey. The course at Birchwood was in great condition due to much hard work done by Andy Holt and his staff, in preparing the course and still carrying out work not completed due to the bad weather last winter. The final was the six qualifiers from each of the six Sections in the Northern Region. N/West, N/Wales, Northern, N/East, Sheffield and Cleveland. The par 72 course proved to be a good test of golf, which the best five scores out of six proved. The results were: 1. Cleveland Section, 376; 2. North West Section, 386; 3. Sheffield Section, 386; 4. Northern Section, 406; 5. North Wales Section, 412; 6. North East Section, 412.

The day was for the third year running sponsored by Richard Campey (Macclesfield) and although Richard could not make it on the day, two of Richard's representatives, Tony Cundall and Will Kidd, attended for the day. Many thanks to Richard for his kind sponsorship. Thanks also to Birchwood Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course, and the caterers for excellent meals. Congratulations to all the competitors, and I hope you all enjoyed the day. Back to the computer after seeing England beat Germany 5-1.

The second golf tournament was of course the 'Roses Match'. This annual match between the Northern Section and the North West Section has been going on for so long we seem to have lost count, nevertheless this tournament was played once again at Sandmoor Golf Club, and we could not have had better weather. The course was in great condition but not flat as promised, and my partner Chris Sheehan and I managed to get into more bunkers than "Rommel" therefore losing our match, but at least the scenery was nice. The final result was a win for the Northern Team 4 1/2 to 3 1/2. The N/W team would like to thank the Northern Team for their hospitality, the Sandmoor GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course, and of course the sponsor, Patissons, who have sponsored this tournament since its inception.

The final meeting of the year will

be the President's Cup and AGM at Wilmslow Golf Club on Thursday, December 6. Bacon baps and coffee before playing and the Tee is available from 10:00am. Applications to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Cubmoor, Liverpool, L4 9RB. Tel: 01512 844416. Including a cheque for £15. Everybody bring a bottle on the day so we all go home with a prize. Any news or views contact me on my mobile 07761 583387 or 01517 212454

Bert Cross

Cleveland

Congratulations to the Cleveland Section Golf Team who went to the National Final and retained the Trophy. The six man team was Jim Thompson, Anthony (Titch) McGeough, Alan Reid, Mark Brown, Richie Hood and Chris Powley. Well done lads.

As you would have read in your newsletter the Autumn Tournament will be on October 16 at Teesside Golf Club. The cost is only £10 and that includes a three course carvery. To book call Barry Walker on 0191 5650691 or 07968 308892. Places are limited.

This year's AGM will be at Darlington Golf Club on November 22 at 8pm. Please make an effort to attend. This Section needs you. A pie and pea supper will be served during the evening.

And finally. Congratulations to Martin Woods, of Wearside Golf Club. He got married this month then jetted off to Barbados on honeymoon.

Any news call me on 07719 193381 Steven Jaques



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

The remaining Scotts Golf Management Trophy Competitions were successfully held at the South Staffordshire GC on August 16, Rothley Park GC on August 31 and Ryston Park Golf Club on September 13. The winning club at South Staffordshire was Drayton Park Golf Club led by Head Greenkeeper Richard Lowe with a team score of 129 strokes, closely followed by Ross on Wye Golf Club on 130. The Rothley Park event was won by the home club on 130, with Glen Gorse second on 132. Ryston Park winners were Oundle Golf Club who scored 135 on a difficult day on a last 9 holes count-back from Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club.

Congratulations are due to Rhys Thomas and staff at South Staffordshire, Stav Wooding and staff at Rothley Park and Kevin Hodges and staff at Ryston Park for producing golf courses in superb condition.

The Region was pleased to welcome our National Chairman, Clive Osgood, to the Ryston Park day; and all present had appreciated the effort that Clive made to be with us. Our thanks go to Scotts for sponsoring

these events and particularly to Nick Martin, from Scotts, who was a great help in supporting these three competitions. These were all excellent days and our thanks go to all the host Golf Clubs for their hospitality and co-operation in staging the competitions.

Peter Larter

East Midlands

This year's East Midlands v East of England golf match was kindly hosted by Cotgrave Place GC on August 15, and generously sponsored by Barenbrug. On a fine dry summer evening 20 golfers took part in a keenly contested match. Most of the matches were very close, none other than my own against Fred Cobb and Alan Buckley. We were two up after six, then two down with five to play. Only to then win the next four holes, courtesy of some sterling golf from my partner, Kristian Hibberd. David James & Gavin Robson were also eventual winners 2&1, with Mark Bindley and Lee Mitchell winning the 18th hole for a hard fought half. Steve Levers and Ian Needham played some fine golf to win their match comprehensively. The only defeat in the side went to Richard Barker and Alex Hawkes despite a fine effort from them both. The eventual result was a 3.5-1.5 win for the East Midlands Section. But not to be outdone the East of England won both The Longest Drive through Graeme Macdonald and Nearest the Pin with Alan Buckley.

Congratulations to you both.

I would like to thank Cotgrave for allowing us courtesy of their fine course and to the Steward & Stewardess for a great meal. Pete Billings and his staff for a great golf course and to our sponsor Barenbrug. Finally I would like to thank everyone from the East of England Section who helped to make this such a great day.

Our Section was represented by the following members, Richard Barker, Alex Hawkes, Ian Needham, Steve Levers, Antony Bindley, Kristian Hibberd, David James, Gavin Robson, Mark Bindley & Lee Mitchell. This year's AGM will commence at 4.30pm at Mapperley GC.

Antony Bindley

Mid Anglia

The Section's Summer Tournament took place in August at Hammonds End GC, Harpenden and attracted an entry of 28 golfers. By all accounts, the course was in excellent shape, so thanks to Stewart Boyce and his team for their efforts. Also thanks to Hammond End, for courtesy of the course on the day and to our main sponsors, Boughton Loam, for once again supporting the day. The results were as follows:

1. A. Dancer, Slendish Manor
 2. C. Slimm, John O'Gaunt
 3. D. Houseden, Tilsworth
- Longest Drive: C. Yeoman
Nearest the Pin: C. Yeoman

Our next golf event is our Texas Scramble tournament, on Thursday December 6 at Dunstable Downs

GC. I'm sure that entry for this event will be as popular this year as in previous years, so please send your team entries to Richard in good time, to avoid disappointment.

Paul Lockett



South West and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

Devon & Cornwall

Breaking news as I write this report is that Rigby Taylor have agreed to sponsor our new summer meeting which will be held at Trethorne GC on June 18 next year.

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 club house at approximately 10.30am, lunch will be from 1pm onwards followed by the golf presentation and a short Company presentation by Devon Garden Machinery, our sponsor for the day. The Section's AGM will conclude the day.

The Regional Seminar will take place on Wednesday, November 21, at Cannington College, priced at Members £17.50, non members £25. Speakers will be Stephen Bernhard, Richard Whyman and David Samuels.

For more information contact Paula Humphries on 01288 352194.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Jeff Mills, Course Manager at Taunton & Pickeridge GC, on reaching the next stage of the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award.

Richard Whyman.

South West

Firstly, I would like to apologise for the lack of news from the Section. This was due to my being on holiday, moving house and Kevin James not faxing through the results from the Kendleshire to headquarters in time.

The team went to play the Southcoast in August and despite not having a full team they drew 2-2. The opposition claimed the first match. The Southcoast won for the first time this century. Good effort by the lads.

When you read this you may still have enough time to contact Kevin James about the autumn and AGM at Cumberwell Park on October 16.

Why not come and play golf or put yourselves forward for roles in the committee, or just come along and give us your views on how the Section is being run?

Two fixtures have been confirmed for next year. The Winter Tournament to be held at North Wilts GC and the Spring Tournament at Burnham and Berrow GC.

I hope everyone is in good health and any news, views or info contact me on 01285 720168 (Note number change).

D Boughen



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

South East Region

The South East Region's Annual Seminar is to be held on Wednesday November 28 at Mill Hill Golf Club.

The theme of this year's event is centred around "Information Technology" with items ranging from an introduction to Microsoft Office, Golf Course Maintenance Systems, to buying on-line.

All members in the South East will be notified shortly by post and when they do they are advised to book their places early as numbers will be limited to 100.

Derek Farrington

Surrey

Our annual visit to Sunningdale took place on August 28 for once again it was time to compete for the much sought after McMillan Tankard. The players, although not of international fame, were keen, well scrubbed and anxious to perform well. Pole position with a 2pm start was held jointly by John Mathis, Darren Lee and Dave Murdoch (SC) while at the back of the grind Jamie Bennet, Dave Worner and, last but not least, dangerous Dave Delderfield had the slower 2.54 slot.

Because of the time available only one circuit of this beautiful track was to be completed and so with only a few possible overtaking places it was a very brave drive that secured 1st place to Dave Goddard who came out of the pack to win with 39 points. Paul Bacon 38 points was second, Daniel Turner a close 3rd with 37 points and 4th with 35 points was James Partridge. Dave Murdoch (SC) had the longest drive - well over 150 yards - and Mark Harvey was nearest the pin - well under 150 inches. Many thanks, as always, to Brian Turner and his greenkeepers for an excellent Sunningdale and to the artisans for making us so welcome and well fed. Grass Roots sponsored the day and prizes were presented by Jim Russell (SC).

I have been informed by the new Course Manager at Northwood Golf Club, Anthony Kyle, that his brother Gavin, so well known to us all, was married on August 25 to Marnie and honeymooned in the USA.

Congratulations from all members of the Surrey Section.

Please remember that the visit to the All England Tennis Club at Wimbledon takes place this month on the 17th from 2pm until about 4.30pm. Please contact Anthony Freeman on 02084 804260.

Brian Wilmott

London

Not only a busy time once again on the Greenkeeping front with reports from around the Section of monumental grass growth (could this be the May we never had?) but also on the golfing front with two meetings being played since my last report.

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TURF GROWERS AND INNOVATORS OF TURFGRASS SYSTEMS

Our summer meeting was held here at Sandy Lodge Golf Club on Monday, July 23, under lovely blue skies. The winner on the day was Northwood's Ben (the bag) Knowles Jackson. Winner of the low handicap section was Richard Andrews from Highgate GC, Intermediate winner was our very own Richard Elderfield with Tony Dyke and Graham Dorwood, from Wyke Green, taking the high handicap and guest prizes respectively. We had an excellent turnout of 40 for this event so thanks to you all for your support. A big thank you also to Avoncrop Amenity Products and Barry McCloskey in particular for sponsoring the event.

Under leaden skies and high humidity we held our autumn meeting at Gerrards Cross GC and had a very enjoyable day at what was a new venue for us. Taking this into consideration it was disappointing to only get 30 players on the day. Although not a great time of year I know with the holidays etc. we did expect a few more. So come on all you London Section guys come along to some of the events and see just what a good day you are missing out on!

Winner on the day was myself I'm afraid and I will be popping along to Hendon soon to have a cup of tea with Gavin and tell him about it. Second prize was James Lomas, from Mill Hill, with the Guest prize going to 'my old man' Peter Phillips. Our sincere thanks go to Course Manager, Lee Robinson, for presenting the course to such a high standard and for his assistance in setting the day up. Thanks also to Gerrards Cross GC for looking after us so well and for giving us courtesy of the Course and, of course, Browns of Chesham and Peter Hopkinson in particular who kindly sponsored the event.

Food for thought for the AGM, a keen interest was shown around the bar at Gerrards Cross for re-introducing a Greenkeeper's Summer Competition like the old Summer League that we used to have. I did say at the time that I would be happy to run this next summer in whatever format was thought appropriate (i.e. Fourball, Foursomes, Knockout or League etc) have a think about it and maybe we can get something organised at the AGM.

The date and venue of the Turkey Trot and AGM are to be confirmed so watch this space.

By the way, the VW Golf has been sold - to a Traffic Warden of all people. This is surely a scandal of tabloid proportions.

Robert Phillips

Phone a friend?

www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html

Kent

The rain has started again as I write this column. I hope it is not going to be another wet one as we've already recorded 121mm in August. Enough about the miserable weather and onto the news around Kent. I have not been inundated with calls or let-

ters from you guys again but I did hear from one greenkeeper down on the south coast who told me a certain Mr Suttle is now using a Dwarf Rye Grass on his short course greens. I hope it works out for you Steve and I'm sure people will be interested in your results for there high wear problems too.

This is what this column is here for. For you to write or call in with your news or views on anything you want information on or views from others that have used certain methods or machinery and get their insight on how things went. After all we are all in the same boat and every little bit of information that makes our jobs easier has got to be a good thing.

Now don't get jealous when I tell you that Kings Hill has just taken on its first full time girl greenkeeper, Emma Parkinson, who has joined us after four months summer work at Chart Hills GC. Emma and her partner Jamie Wright, who is working at the London Golf Club, moved down from Blackpool earlier this year so a big welcome to you both. Don't worry Jamie she is in safe hands.

Piece of news just in is that the Government has just found the source of the Foot and Mouth outbreak. Last month Tim Maynard, son of the infamous Vic, had to see his Doctor who found Tim to have a very nasty rash on his inner groin. Tim had to take time off work for this and is now also having counselling. Any other funny true stories like this one let me know and I will try to get them printed, if they are not too rude!

Results of the Boughton golf day will be published next month along with a few observations of the day's golf.

To contact me please call 01732 875020 or e-mail jbatkhgolf@aol.com with all your news etc.

Jason Bean

Section Event?

www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

Essex

Our Autumn Trophy was this year staged at the majestic Five Lakes Golf & Country Club. The event was originally scheduled for Hanbury Manor but extortionate fees set by the owners prevented us from visiting. Five Lakes which is set out in the Essex countryside is one of the finest overall golf environments you could wish to be at, a lovely golf course, resplendent club house and beautiful scenery perhaps as good as Hanbury Manor without the big name. What more could we ask for? A sunny day perhaps, and we got that as well.

The sun shone down on the larger than usual field of 48 competitors, 20 of whom were made by our guests and a further nine being the illustrious trade members that support our Section so well.

Main sponsors for the day were Driving Force Leisure and Advanta Seeds who, as usual, supplied some lovely gifts, none of which came my way, I hasten to add.

Those that did play well enough to pick up prizes were,

Overall Winner. Nick Pomfret, Bentley GC, 42 points (I agree with you Nick, just because you were five points clear of your nearest rival that does not mean you are a bandit. Yeah. Right! Nick's prize was kindly donated by Rigby Taylor.

Category 1

1. Ray Clark, Channels GC, 37pts;
2. Nick Davies, Five Lakes GC, 36 pts;
3. Dominic Rodgers, Orsett GC, 35pts.

Category 2.

1. John Barnard, Theydon Bois GC, 32pts;
2. M.Kiff, 28pts;
3. Martin Forrester, The Essex GC, 26pts. Trade. Mark Day, of Tacit, with 38pts

Guest Prize went to young Thomas Fance with 42 points, well done Thomas with Chris Gurten only managing a meager 40 to come second.

Nearest The pin and Longest Drive Prizes were supplied by Advanta Seeds, Driving Force Leisure and Greenkeeping Supply Company, the recipients were Dominic Rodgers, John Knapman and Ray Clark, for Nearest The Pins and Chris Ward, Dominic Rodgers and Scott Colgate for Longest Drives.

A special prize should have gone to Roland Hughes who had to endure a sting from which must have been the largest bee in the world, I base this suggestion on the theory that no normal bee sting could have brought so many cries of pain. Hope you're better now Roland.

The Five Lakes Course was in great condition and a credit to Course Manager, Nick Davies and his staff. Well done lads. We should also take this opportunity to thank the catering staff who looked after us for the day and also to Five Lakes Golf Club itself for allowing us to visit their fine establishment at short notice.

New members this month are Brendan Morgan, of Trent Park GC; Paul Brown, of Ballards Gore GC, and Rodney Derek, from Crews Hill GC. You are welcomed into the Section with open arms and a suspicious look from the Handicap Secretary. See you at our Winter Trophy event which would have just been held.

Steve Crosdale



Northern Ireland

This year's Charity Golf Day was played again at Clondeboy Golf Club on August 3. The competition was played on the Dufferin course. Course Manager, Terry Crawford, had assembled 100 players to compete for a vast collection of prizes generously provided by the event sponsor, Clive Richardson, of Hortasoils. Greenkeepers from all over Ireland came to play from Dublin, Sligo, the K Club to name a few locations. The Dufferin Course as expected was in magnificent con-

dition. Many thanks to Terry and the Greenkeeping team at Clondeboy for presenting the course to such a high standard. The visitors that played the course for the first time are adamant that they are looking forward to attending again next year. Many thanks to Clondeboy Golf Club for allowing all proceeds from the day to go to charity, the sum of £1500 was raised which will go to the children's hospital at the Royal Victoria in Belfast.

The team prize was won by a Clondeboy member's trio of M. McDaide, T. McNeil and P. Agnew with a combined points score of 107 pts. Individual prizes went to:

1. William Smith, 40 pts;
2. Irwin Robinson, 38 pts;
3. M. McDaide, 38 pts;
4. K. Pollock, 37 pts;
5. T. McNeil, 37 pts;
6. N. Clarke, 36 pts;
7. D. Patterson, 36 pts;
8. A. Verner, 35 pts.

The Section's qualifying competition for the National Championship took place at Royal Portrush on August 28. The competition was played on the Valley Course, in ideal conditions. A strokeplay competition to find our true qualifiers and also combining a Stableford competition. Many thanks to Coburns of Bambridge, for sponsoring the competition. William Cartmill from Coburns was in attendance to present the prizes.

We also welcomed Scott MacCallum, our magazine Editor, who joined us on the day. Scott had come over to Northern Ireland to visit some of our links courses on the north coast. The articles will be featured in the magazine over the coming months. Many thanks Scott for making your visit. We thoroughly enjoyed your company.

The result of the Stableford Competition was: 1. Andrew Wray, from Castle Rock GC, 37 pts; 2. Noel Crawford, Royal County Down, 36 pts; 3. Eamon Crawford, Royal County Down, 35 pts.

Andrew had a 69 nett and Noel went round the Valley Course with a level par 70 playing off scratch. Andrew and Noel will go forward to the National Championship on October 1 at Royal Birkdale. Noel had the best gross scores in last year's championship and we hope he can retain his trophy this year. Good luck lads. I would like to thank Royal Portrush Golf Club for giving us courtesy of their fine course and special praise to Head Greenkeeper, Joe Findley and his staff, for the excellent course presentation. Finally I would like to thank Cyril Johnston and Co for presenting the Section with a fine Golf Trophy. The trophy will go to the best golfer from the competitions played this year. Sam Thompson from the sales team presented the trophy to Chairman Jonathan McCabe at Royal Portrush.

Well that's all for this month, I will see everyone again on September 28 at Holywood GC.

Ken Henderson

Latest news?

www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

I went to this

BIGGA enjoyed a successful Saltex Show with the on-site team taking every opportunity to promote the Association's services on the **BIGGA** Stand to new and existing members as well as pushing **BTME**, the **Golf Club Show** and **Greenkeeper International** to prospective exhibitors and advertisers.



Stewart receives 'Spray Watch' Award

Following an excellent response to the annual Blazon 'Spray Watch' promotion, Stewart McCollm, Course Manager at the Kings Barns Golf Links, Fife, Scotland won the first prize of a brand new, high specification, Gambetti Barre 300 litre tractor mounted sprayer.

Stewart travelled down from Scotland to the Show and the prize

was presented to him by BIGGA Chairman, Clive Osgood and Neil Thomas, the Association's Executive Director. Attending the ceremony also was Richard Aitken, whose company supplied the product.

Two runners-up prizes were also awarded at the same presentation; Paul Hobden, Course Manager at Chart Hills Golf Club was presented

with the second prize of an F25 battery powered sprayer and Chris Hunt (unable to attend) of Woburn Golf & Country will have delivered a Cooper Pegler 2000 knapsack sprayer.

Blazon has been at the forefront in the campaign for safer, more accurate spray applications and the 'Spray Watch' promotion has become an important part of the seasonal calendar.



Romance is in the air for Barenbrug

Barenbrug announced the launch of Romance, a perennial ryegrass with excellence wear tolerance and a reliable performance in both wet and dry conditions.

Available from spring next year Romance is rated highly as a new cultivar in the STRI's Turfgrass Seed 2002 showing excellence disease resistance and superb shoot density and a tight knit sward. Its fine leaves and dark green colour make it a good choice for turf producers and general landscaping applications.

For further information
Tel: 01359 272000

Bernhards launch new chainsaw sharpener

Bernhard & Co introduced the Chain Master, a fully automated chainsaw sharpener designed to sharpen chains in a single operation which takes around four minutes without operator attention.

All sizes and lengths of chain can be handled with a triple-sided scanner head recognising right or left teeth. If one is broken the Chain Master will stop automatically. Abrasive wheels ensure high quality sharpening while there is a diamond smoothing device for the tooth face of the abrasive wheel and a diamond dressing attachment which can be switched on separately to remove unwanted debris.

For further information
Tel: 01788 811600

Peter scores with IOG's top Football Award



Peter McCallion, Head Groundsman at Preston North End, has won the IOG's Football Groundsman of the Year title having already clinched the Nationwide Trophy earlier in the year.

Peter, 63, has been at Preston North End for 27 years and three years ago received the Sir Tom Finney Award for services to the club.

"I am delighted, honoured and very surprised at receiving this award," said Peter, who is originally from Donegal.

Etesia's compact design

Etesia launched the Bahia MHHE ride-on, powered by the Honda GXV390 13hp engine. The compact design of this 80cm mower means that it will go through gateways and passageways where other ride-ons can't access.

The highly manoeuvrable Bahia cuts and collects in both forward and reverse making it ideal for confined or difficult areas of grass. With exceptional cutting and collecting capabilities the machine is equally at home on uneven ground with anti-scalp rollers keeping the blades out of trouble. The low centre of gravity and even weight distribution provide excellent stability and performance on gentle slopes. The heavy duty deck with single cutterbar lifts and blows the clippings directly into the rear mounted 240 litres collector which can be emptied without leaving the driving seat. It will also collect leaves and litter.

For further information
Tel: 01926 403319

Slow release from Scotts

Scotts launched a new slow release fertiliser formulation following a request from a customer to investigate a nutritional problem on a fairway. About two years ago the K Club in Kildare contacted the Scotts distributor in Ireland about a specific problem with their fairways which has been constructed using a 100 mm layer of sand on top of the indigenous soil and seemed to be suffering from some form of nutrient imbalance.

Scotts asked for a soil analysis in order to ascertain the nutritional requirements and identified the problem but unfortunately the range of existing Scotts fertilisers didn't include a treatment that met all the requirements in a single application.

Not to be beaten Scotts undertook to produce a tailor made product containing a specific controlled release fertiliser with additional trace elements which proved successful.

As a result Scotts has decided to add the K Club mix, and its 19-5-18 + 2MgO + trace elements with a three to four month longevity, to the Sierrablend range. Scotts also announced a new distribution and marketing agreement for Uniroyal's Casoron brand dichlobenil, whereby Scotts will act as Uniroyal's distributor of Casoron products for the amenity market in the UK

For further information
Tel: 01473 830492

Toro unleash new machines at Saltex

Toro launched two new Groundsmaster rotary mowers - the GM 228-D and GM 328-D - which are both fitted with Kubota 28hp diesel engines.

Available in both two and four wheel drive versions, another feature of the machines is their outstanding manoeuvrability which is a great benefit when cutting around trees and other obstacles.

Toro also introduced the Multi Pro 1250 Turf Sprayer, a dedicated turf

sprayer that is styled on the Workman utility vehicle. The unit is capable of handling any turf spraying job, large or small which gives users a single machine that is ideal for multi-purpose use on sports grounds and amenity areas as well as the golf course.

The Multi Pro has a 20hp Kohler petrol engine which is powerful enough to handle the most demanding spraying jobs and is fitted with a 605 litre

spray tank. The proportional drive spray control system is geared to the drive wheels so that the application flow rate is instantly adjusted in proportion to the change in vehicle speed.

The spray tank is fitted in a low position to afford the operator an unobstructed 360 degree view.

For further information
Tel: 01480 226800



New weather stations unveiled by MJ Abbott

MJ Abbott unveiled two new Weather Stations, the Davis GroWeather Weather Station and the Rain Bird WS-PRO Weather Station.

The Davis Gro-Weather has been designed to collect and record weather data to allow the user to make informed decisions regarding irrigation scheduling.

The Station is supplied complete with a display console with barometer, anemometer, rain collector, temperature sensor, temperature/humidity sensor, solar radiation sensor, leaf wetness sensor, ET data logger and radiation shield.

The Rain Bird WS-PRO has been designed to work in conjunction with Rain Bird's weather-based central control systems Cirrus and Nimbus. The Station collects and records weather data to allow the automatic adjustment of irrigation scheduling using the

industry standard equation to determine evapotranspiration rates. The station is supplied fully equipped with a sensor array comprising anemometer, rain collector, temperature sensor, temperature/humidity sensor, solar radiation sensor and radiation shield.

The data logger is linked to the irrigation pc which allows it to respond to climatic conditions as they occur. The daily data is also archived for future reference. The advanced warning system also accepts user-defined sensor thresholds. If these are exceeded the user will be alerted that conditions are favourable for disease and pestilence.

Clubs which have installed a system have discovered a 20% saving in water usage.

For further information
Tel: 01722 716361



Kubota launch their most powerful tractor, ever

Kubota launched its most powerful ever tractor at the Show.

Known as the M5700 the mid sized four wheel drive tractor has a high power to weight ratio, tight turning circle and excellent all round visibility making it ideal for on and off road application. Power comes from the naturally aspirated five cylinder diesel engine developing 58hp which uses Kubota's three vortex combustion system.

The M5700 has a fully synchronised 12 forward/12 reverse gearbox with separate synchro-shuttle for smooth, fast changes between forward and reverse without the need to stop. Maximum speed is 21mph. Another feature is the integral flat floor cab, ISO mounted and fully insulated to produce sound level of just 78dBA.

For further information
Tel: 01844 268111



Charterhouse alliance with Rink

Redexim Charterhouse and Rink, the German manufacturer of the Rink Top Dressers used the Show to announce an agreement to a joint world-wide product engineering and marketing alliance.

Under the agreement the engineers of the two companies will work together on the development of top dressing equipment to be marketed throughout the world exclusively by Redexim Charterhouse through its network of over 150 dealers in more than 60 countries.

Charterhouse Turf Machinery is adding five specialist top-dressing machines as a direct result of the alliance.

The tractor trailed Rink 1010 has a one cubic metre, spreads to a width of 1.5m and is powered by the tractor's hydraulics. The 1005 model also has a 1.5 metre spreading width but fits either to the three-point linkage of a tractor, or to the Cushman, Toro Workman or Jacobsen SV utility vehicles. The 1005 has a hopper capacity of 0.65 cubic metre. For those using a John Deere Gator, the 0.85 cubic metre capacity Rink 1210 is available which has a 1.8 metre spreading width.

The larger Rink 1520 and 3045

have pto-powered hydraulic systems. "We expect a strong, positive response to the Rink range owing to their durability and versatility," said David Jenkins, Managing Director of Charterhouse Turf Machinery.

Right: Uli Bachmann, Owner and Managing Director of Rink with David Jenkins.

For further information
Tel: 01428 661222



Textron display new developments

Textron re-launched two of its fairway mower range giving both the 38hp Fairway 305 and the 46hp Fairway 405 a new look with a more aesthetically pleasing, rounded profile to reflect the styling of the other models from the Jacobsen brand.

Joystick control has also been introduced on the Fairway 405 for simple and easy lifting and lowering of the seven cutting units. The clean appearance and modern, ergonomic design of the joystick improves productivity with its ease of operation. Control of the seven 26" cutting reels becomes a simple operation and contributes to a productivity of up to 3.7 ha/hr at an operational speed of 12 km/hr.

Textron also introduced a new turbo-charged version of the Jacobsen AR250 rotary mower, which provides more power and results in improved performance on sloping ground and when cutting grass under heavier growth conditions.

This articulated rotary mower has five independently mounted cutting decks that closely follow ground contours which helps alleviate the problem of scuffing on high spots and provides a higher standard of cut.

Saltex also saw the launch of the Workhorse ST480, the most powerful turf utility vehicle in the E-Z-GO Workhorse range.

With its 16hp Vanguard V-twin air cooled petrol engine and payload of 363.2kg (800lbs), including operator, it has the power and performance required for a host of applications.

Robustly constructed the front axle is articulated to ensure that the front



wheels stay in contact with the ground, especially in steep approach and exit conditions.

In the generously spaced operator area, driver and passenger comfort is enhanced with twin bucket seats positioned either side of a centre console, providing a clear and uncluttered walk-through platform.

A new range of mid-mounted rotary decks for Iseki and Ransomes compact tractors was also launched.

The 60" rear discharge decks have been designed for use with Iseki TF325 and TF330 models as well as the Ransomes CT325 and CT333 derivatives and will fit all of these, with or without cabs.



York & Martin's Philip to retire

The retirement of Philip York, principal partner of York and Martin was announced during the Show. Philip becomes an Associate of the business. Michael Martin, Philip's partner for the last 10 years will continue this independent business as senior partner and has announced that Stuart Tate is joining the partnership.

As an associate, Philip's main role will be to see through to completion those projects with which he has been involved from their early stages and to continue to provide advice and assistance to the Partnership.

Stuart has been closely associated with York & Martin for a number of years and has expertise in applying up-to-date software to irrigation design, survey and management applications. The name of the business is being retained.

For further information
Tel: 01425 652087

Pattison puncture relief

Pattison introduced Seal-a-Wheel, a puncture preventative tyre sealant that works on all pneumatic tyres and which will seal penetrations up to 8mm.

When installed into the tyre, the glycol-based gel will provide on-going protection against air loss and will extend the tyre's life by regulating pressure while not damaging the tyre itself or the rim of the wheel.

When a foreign object penetrates a tyre air rushes to escape and interlocking fibres along with grouting agents contained in Seal-a-Wheel are pushed to the hole so sealing it.

It will work on all ride-on mowers, golf carts, utility vehicles, wheelbarrows, as well as all motor vehicles, ATVs, HGVs, motor cycles and scooters, caravans and trailers and bicycle inner tubes. It comes in one litre bottles and 25 litre drums.

For further information
Tel: 01342 301849

New National Code of Practice announced

A new National Code of Practice for operator training and assessment was launched by Andy Stewart, Chairman of Lantra Trust.

The Code of Practice has been developed by British Agricultural & Garden Machinery Association (BAGMA) in conjunction with and endorsed by BIGGA, IOG, the GTC as well as machinery suppliers including John Deere and Textron.

"The National Code of Practice has been a project led by the industry for the industry," said Ian Jones, Director General of BAGMA.

"There has been concern over the last few years that the grounds maintenance industry has not had any formalised guidelines or training courses to help either employers or operators meet their requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act," he added.

The code has been developed with the Health and Safety Executive who had demanded a reduction in accidents in all areas of the industry. The code, and new training courses, is the industry's way of meeting the targets to reduce fatal and major injury accidents.

For further information
Tel: 0121 446 6688

For further information
Tel: 01473 270000

Terrain Aeration Services' Bam Bam



Terrain Aeration Services demonstrated two new machines at the Show a year after the company was launched. Having acquired the manufacturing rights for their Terralift aeration equipment, David and Lynda Green launched the new three wheeled hydraulic model which they have developed specifically to treat large turf areas. Affectionately nicknamed Bam Bam the new machine retains the ability to inject air under pressure thus opening underground fissures, but has the added advantage of a hydraulic hammer making it more efficient and easier to handle. The Attiler the Hun is ideal for restoring small areas on golf courses and football fields. The key features of the light weight petrol fuelled tiller are a floating drive system to negotiate any large stones or obstacles in its path and a two horse power engine which drives two banks or five banks of five blades which rotate in opposite directions digging to a depth of 10 inches. It has a variable working width from 15 to 40 cms.

For further information
Tel: 01449 673783

Microbe-friendly fertilisers from Vitax

Vitax introduced two new microbe friendly fertilisers. The Microbial range is a combination of organics and minerals in powder form but with added humates to feed microbes present in the soil increasing their population and stimulating microbial activity. "Microbes assist in breaking down the nutrients in the soil making them more readily available to plants," said Clive Williams, Vitax Commercial Manager. Vitax Microbial is available in two formulations, both suitable for fine turf. Microbial N and 8-0-0 analysis and Microbial K with an analysis of 8-0-6.

For further information
Tel: 01530 510060

New STRI service

The STRI Irrigation Consultancy Service was launched at the Show. Boasting a strong team of Robin Hume, Adrian Mortram, Steve Dunlop and Penelope Hume the service provides independent advice in Irrigation System Audit; Environmental Impact Assessment; Site Survey using Global Positioning Satellite System; Tender and Contract Documentation and Administration; Training in System Operation and Use; Project Feasibility Studies and Budgeting; Water Resourcing and Management; System Design, Specification and Plans; Project Management and Supervision and Education of Client Staff. The new service adds to the Institute's current range which includes expertise in environment, golf architecture, construction as well as the well established agronomy service.

For further information
Tel: 01274 561891

New mower from John Deere

John Deere's new 1565 front mower is the latest addition to the company's commercial rotary mower range which includes the 1435 and 1445 models.

The 1565 features a 36hp Yanmar diesel engine that boasts maximum torque for tough mowing conditions. The mower features a durable hydrostatic transmission with forward speeds up to 15.5 mph for extra productivity when mowing or transporting and a 66 litre fuel tank provides the capacity for all day operation.

The operator can switch between on-demand four wheel drive, full time four wheel drive or full time two wheel drive. In the on-demand position, four wheel drive automatically engages when needed for extra traction on hill-sides or in slippery conditions and disengages at other times.

Other components include a high strength steel frame, providing extra durability and allowing major components to be located lower in the machine, resulting in a low centre of gravity that provides greater stability on slopes. It also incorporates a composite hood that will not dent, rust or fade and a cast iron rear bumper.

For further information
Tel: 01949 860491



Revolutionary scarifier/aerator launched by Turfmasters



Turfmasters has launched the Graden, a revolutionary scarifier/aerator, manufactured in Australia, into the United Kingdom market.

The Graden cuts down to depths of 45mm thereby increasing the volume of thatch or fibre removal. The surface area exposed for aeration purposes is 250% greater than that achieved by standard hollow coring while creating less surface disruption.

It also improves surface drainage and is ideal for overseeding purposes.

Developed by Australian Graham Dryden five years ago the machine has already caught the attention of some of the country's finest golf courses as well as the Test and County Cricket Board.

For further information
Tel: 01577 863864

Pedestrian greens mower from Farm & Garden Machinery



Farm and Garden Machinery launched the lightweight Shibaura pedestrian greens mower with 22 inch cutting width at the Show.

With a fixed head design a cutting height of 3.2 mm to 25 mm is achievable - a cutting height of 2.8 mm can be achieved if the optional tournament blade is fitted - while an angled bottom blade is offset to reduce turf stress.

The machine has a five inch 11 blade cutting reel and the front roller is grooved so that it doesn't compact the grass.

The frame is manufactured from pressed steel and a polyethylene grass collector is fitted. It is powered by a 4hp Robin single cylinder OHV, air cooled engine and the petrol fuel tank has a 3.6 litre capacity.

For further information
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Applicants in writing with full C.V. to:

Paul Lockett, Course Manager, South Beds Golf Club,
 Warden Hill Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU2 7AE.

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require an

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To join our existing team on the two Championship Courses. A keen interest in golf and environmental issues plus a desire to develop a Greenkeeping Career are essential attributes. Accommodation available.

Apply in writing to:

Clive Osgood, Course Manager, Walton Heath Golf Club,
 Deans Lane, Tadworth, Surrey, KT20 7TP.

FREE online Job Shop Ads!

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

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

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Applications in writing to:

**The Secretary, Chislehurst Golf Club,
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Mr Bryn Taylor, Burhill Golf Centres Ltd, Burhill,
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Closing date for applications 22 October 2001



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Assistant Greenkeeper

Based at our Glasgow centre, applicants should possess, or be working towards the appropriate qualifications and ideally have experience of golf course maintenance. A mechanical background would be an advantage.

Applications in writing with full C.V. including current salary and preferred location to;

Liz Williams, World of Golf, Beverley Way, New Malden, KT3 4PH
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MID HERTS GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Mid-Herts is a long established heathland course on Gustard Wood Common, Hertfordshire.

The successful applicant will possess minimum NVQ level 3 qualification and be able to demonstrate knowledge and experience in all aspects of modern golf course maintenance and management.

Commitment to the highest standards and proven ability to organise and motivate greenkeeping staff are essential.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

Richard Jourdan, Secretary, Mid-Herts Golf Club,
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or call - 0034 650 73 43 43

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require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be qualified to minimum NVQ2 with Spraying Certificates PA1, 2 and 6.

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Applications in writing with C.V. to:

The Secretary/Manager, Boyce Hill Golf Club,
Vicarage Hill, Benfleet, Essex SS7 1PD



Invites applications for the position of

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The successful applicant will possess the appropriate qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of Golf Course management. The ability to manage, lead and motivate a small team is essential. Also an enthusiasm for golf is a requirement for the post.

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Applications in writing to include full C.V. to:

The Secretary/Manager, Sherborne Golf Club, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 4RN

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HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for the above position.

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The Club invites suitably qualified applicants for the position of Head Greenkeeper for the 27 hole facility. The successful candidate will be responsible for the maintenance and continued development of the links to the highest standard. Applicants must have relevant experience in course management and good interpersonal relationship skills.

Completed applications accompanied by a full C.V. and two references should be forwarded to:

The Manager, County Sligo Golf Club, Rosses Point, Co. Sligo, Ireland

Closing date for receipt of applications: Monday 12 November 2001

Informal enquires to Mr Jim Ironside, Manager, Co. Sligo Golf Club. Tel: 00 353 71 77134



The Rees Jones designed Oxfordshire golf Club has vacancies for

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

Applicants should have a minimum of 2 years experience and be currently working towards or have NVQ2 or 3. PA1 and PA2 spraying certificates would be advantageous, although not essential.

The successful applicants will be hard working and be able to work as part of a large team. Pay commensurate will experience.

No accommodation available.

Applications in writing with full C.V. to:

David Gower, Course Manager, The Oxfordshire Golf Club, Rycote Lane, Milton Common Thame, Oxon OX9 2PU.



BUXTON & HIGH PEAK GOLF CLUB

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Applicants must be qualified to N/SVQ level 3 and be experienced in all aspects of golf course management, and have a practical knowledge of modern machinery, together with the necessary skills to lead and motivate staff.

Salary to be negotiated - No accommodation available.

Apply in writing with a full C.V.

Mr R Clark (Greens Chairman), Buxton & High Peak Golf Club, Waterswallows Road, Derbyshire, SK17 7EN

Closing date for applications October 21, 2001



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For an application pack please telephone the Personnel Department, on 01452 702135. Closing date for receipt of applicants is Monday 15th October 2001.

For further details please log on to www.hartpury.ac.uk

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Feature listing from October '99

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

November 2000: Grass Cutting Machinery; 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: Lighting 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



It makes you think



Just back from Saltex which was an extremely successful three days for all concerned.

From our perspective, Jennifer and Meredith had an excellent week each walking miles selling advertisement space in the magazine and stand space for BTME and our new Golf Club Show. On our stand, Tracey and Sami were also extremely busy fielding enquiries about membership and education matters. It was particularly pleasing to see so many people registering for the CPD programme.

For my part I thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many members, friends and friends of the Association who used the stand as a rendezvous point. That's great as that is one of the main reasons we are there.

I had the privilege of being a Stand Judge on the first day and I must admit I had my eyes opened. It's amazing what people can do with bollards to make things interesting! So much so, that one of them picked up a prize.

The IOG must be congratulated for a superb show. It seemed to be bigger than ever and although I had three full days I still didn't manage to get round it all. I was also a guest at the IOG

Awards lunch where the groundsman from Preston North End was presented with the Football Groundsman of the Year Award. Congratulations to Peter McCallion on a very well deserved achievement. The whole occasion was very pleasant and very enjoyable.

Talking of Shows, preparations are well advanced at BIGGA HOUSE for BTME 2002 and it looks set to be another outstanding Harrogate. The change to a three day show, finishing on the Thursday, is being well received, while feedback on the new Golf Club Show is positive and it is to be hoped that it will become another integral feature of an already busy week.

Back to my day job at Walton Heath, we've just finished hosting the Golf Illustrated Vase. One thing that the event brought home to me was the colossal distances the ball is being hit nowadays. Following a couple of tee adjustments this winter we will be able to boast two courses each over 7,000 yards long which should keep them at bay for the time being at least but it just makes you wonder where it will all end.

I spoke recently to one prominent member of our Club, a past Internationalist now in his 80th year, who considers that he is hitting the ball further with the modern equipment than he was in his prime. It really does make you think.

This month I also had the pleasure of visiting Ryston Park, in Downham Market, Norfolk, which was hosting one of the Midland Region's Golf Management Trophy events. I'd not visited the nine hole course before but I really liked the look of it, with its array of mature specimen trees which are a real feature, while we received wonderful welcome and meal in the clubhouse. I didn't spoil my day by playing, but the greens looked superb and the whole course was a real credit to Head Greenkeeper, Kevin Hodges. The day was splendidly organised by Peter Larter and won by Oundle Golf Club, who, I believe, now have the honour of hosting next year's event.

Talking about hosting events it is with some trepidation that we move towards the rearranged South East Region's Gentleman's dinner at Walton Heath, postponed from March because of the Foot and Mouth Epidemic. It is always worrying to have so many fine greenkeepers scrutinising the course but in light of the recent terrible events in America it shouldn't be difficult to put such worries into perspective.

Clive Osgood, Chairman

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