

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

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