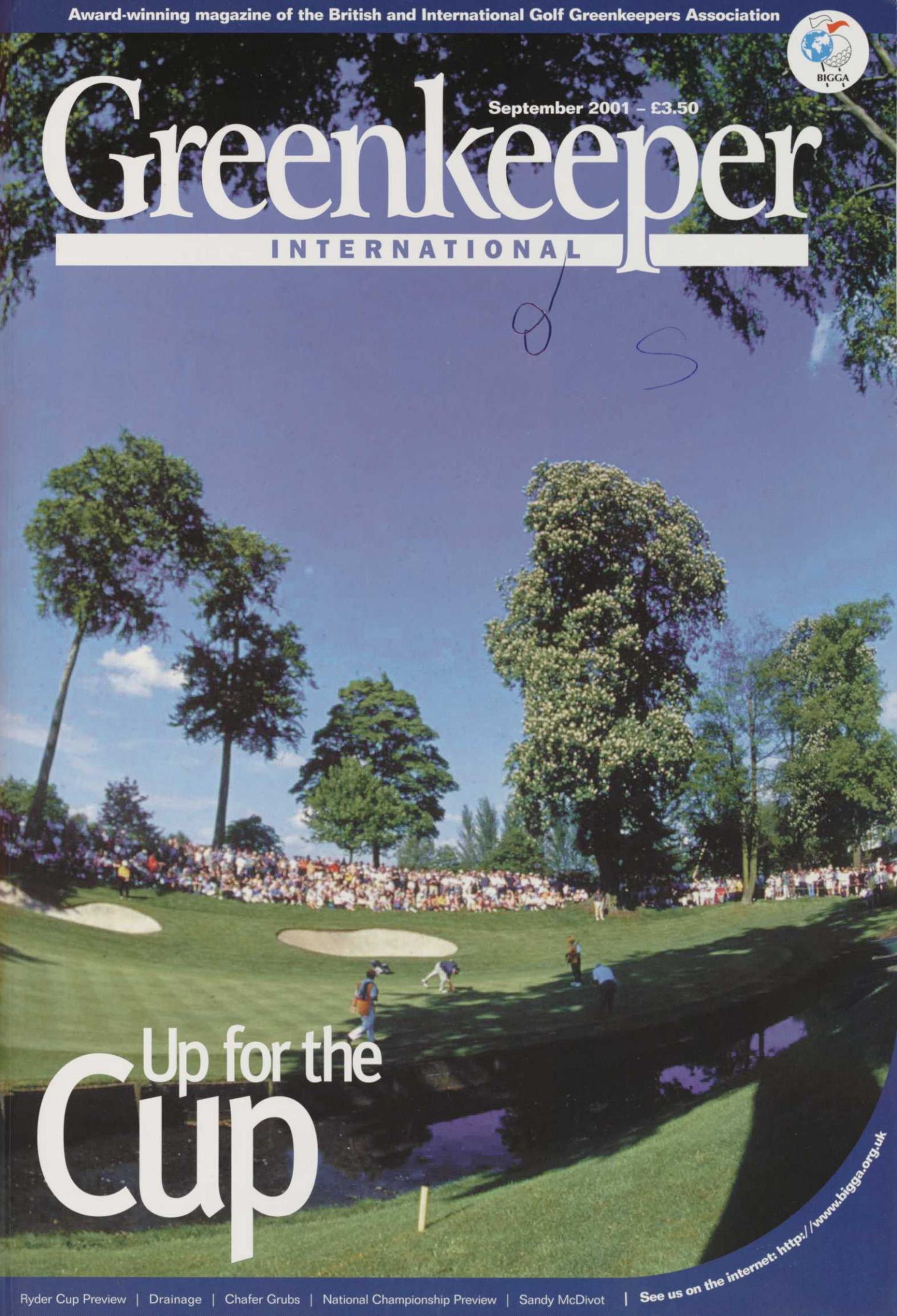




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# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS CHAT GREENKEEPERS

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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The advertising copy deadline for inclusion in the October 2001 edition of Greenkeeper International is Wednesday, September 12, 2001

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Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear.

Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £36 per year, Europe and Eire £46. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.

ISSN: 0961-6977

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### 18 Wild Things

Roland Taylor takes time to smell the flowers

### 20 Drain Power

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The entrants in the 2001 BIGGA National Championship are in for a real treat.

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## Where does all the time go?

It seems amazing that as I sit writing this column David Toms has just been crowned USPGA Champion and the four Majors of the season have all been played. It doesn't seem like five minutes ago that I was sitting in this self same seat wishing you well for the start of the golf season.

Where does all the time go? I'm sure if we took time to look at it we could account for every second but it doesn't half seem like nothing more than a blink of an eye at times. I do think that the pace of life in this country, in particular, is a little manic at times and we could all do with slowing the pace down. Our sanity might then be preserved a little longer.

Talking of the USPGA Championship. The venue, the Atlanta Athletic Club, hosted the first round of the Hayter International Cup back in 1998. I recall the occasion quite vividly because there was a wonderful statue in honour of Bobby Jones, for whom the Athletic Club was a home golf club together with a fine museum in his honour.

It was a "big" golf course in every sense of the word and the players in the Hayter International couldn't help but feel privileged to have the chance to play it and all acquitted themselves well.

I remember standing on the 1st tee on a gloriously sunny morning watching them all tee off and not one of them failed to strike a fine tee shot despite probably being as nervous as they have ever been on a golf course. Well wouldn't you if you were representing either "The Rest of the World" or "The Americas"?

This month we include a preview of the Ryder Cup at The De Vere Belfry and the work of Dave Samuels and his team. The Brabazon Course will be hosting its fourth Ryder Cup and whatever you say about the rights and wrongs of the course hosting "The Greatest Show on Earth" so often you cannot but admire the transformation that has taken place on the course.

The course used to be defined by about three holes - the 10th, the 18th and, to a slightly lesser extent, the 9th. Elsewhere it was a bit of a slog with a lack of really memorable holes. It is only my opinion but if the '93 Ryder Cup hadn't seen so many matches go down the last and produce real drama I doubt whether the Ryder Cup Committee could have justified taking the Ryder Cup back to the course for an unprecedented fourth visit.

Now, however, there are any number of interesting holes any one of them capable of producing the sort of excitement for which the Ryder Cup is famous. So while 2001 will undoubtedly be The De Vere Belfry's Ryder Cup swan song I'm sure that the Brabazon's contribution to the 2001 Ryder Cup Match will be a memorable one.

Scott MacCallum  
Editor

## Textron unveil new branches

Textron is opening three branches in strategic areas of the UK in support of their dealer network.

Representing a significant investment in both people and premises the new branches will aim to enhance the quality of service, sales and parts support with direct links to Textron's headquarters in Ipswich.

The launch of the new branches comes following the termination of dealership agreements with ET Breakwell Ltd and Henton & Chattell Ltd by mutual consent in July.

"This latest move represents a major investment for Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products," said Harold Pinto Managing Director.

"It demonstrates our commitment to our municipal and golf customers in Warwickshire, the West Midlands, Hereford & Worcester, Leicester, Notts, Derbyshire and Yorkshire. The Nottingham facility will provide a strategically located service centre with Solihull and Pontefract offering a complete sales, service and parts operation for their respective territories," he explained.

The new branches in Redditch,

Worcestershire, Selby in North Yorkshire and Mansfield in Nottinghamshire are progressing at a rate of knots with the Redditch premises scheduled to open by the end of August.

Staffing is virtually complete with Textron having received an overwhelming response to press advertisements from applicants with experience of the turf and sweeper industries in general and their products in particular.

"We have reacted extremely quickly and efficiently to the termination of the dealership agreements with Breakwell's and Henton & Chattell. We nominated Alan Prickett, former Senior Regional Sales Manager to head up the Branch structure. He has already appointed a good number of quality people and found premises which suit our needs," said Glynn Patrick, Textron's Sales Director.

"We have taken a three month lease of Henton's former premises in Leeds to provide an immediate presence in this area and have leased a modern industrial unit of 8,500 sq ft at Selby that will be the permanent hub

for our Yorkshire operation. We already have a service team operational in this region.

"We have sourced a building at Redditch, which totals over 14,000 square feet that will be operational before the end of August. One of the new team, Peter Cooper, Breakwell's former Sales Manager will head up the sales team that will market our turf and industrial sweeper products. He will be supported by two Area Sales Managers responsible for Hereford & Worcester, Warwickshire and the West Midlands. A fully equipped workshop will accommodate a workshop manager, two technicians, two field technicians and a fully resourced parts department. Most of these people are already on board," explained Glynn

"We have been pleasantly surprised by the high number of quality people who have applied for a wide range of jobs. Most of them have experience of either the turf or industrial sweeper industry, and many are already familiar with our products," he added.

## Scotts to distribute Casoron in the UK

Uniroyal Chemical and The Scotts Company announce the signing and implementation of 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 U.K. This new arrangement is aimed at increasing product availability and service to customers.

Casoron, which contains dichlobenil, is a pre-emergence

granular herbicide widely used in the UK landscape and amenity sector. The product can be applied among established plantings, controlling annual and perennial weed growth for a full season.

"We are pleased to announce Scotts as our UK distributor, Casoron fits neatly into their herbicide product range and they offer us increased distribution opportunities. This is an important product range for us and as such, we are determined to pro-

vide the long-term availability of Casoron in the European Union in spite of the high related registration costs," said Marcus Meadows-Smith, of Uniroyal.

"We are delighted that Uniroyal has decided to support Casoron through the EU review process thus preserving the product. For our part, we will continue to distribute Casoron throughout the industry, and customers should experience no disruption of supply," said Dave Steward of Scotts.

## Top Award for Carraro Tractors

Tractors distributed in the UK by Charterhouse Turf Machinery have scooped a major European award for their innovative features. The Antonio Carraro Ergit TC and Ergit TN tractors triumphed in the 'Best of Specialised' category in the Tractor of the Year Awards announced during the recent FIMA exhibition in Zaragoza, Spain.

A panel of 12 trade journalists, representing a dozen European countries, considered 19 tractors from all over the world. To be eligible, a tractor had to have been publicly launched before the end of November 2000, and in production by the end of that year.

"We sincerely congratulate Antonio Carraro on winning this prestigious award," says David Jenkins, Managing Director of

Charterhouse Turf Machinery. "This confirms our belief that these tractors break the mould of conventional compact units,

with power outputs starting where others leave off and unique features that set them apart."





# Sisis and Lloyds form an alliance

Sisis and Lloyds, two of the trade's longest established British manufacturers, are getting together to make the popular Lloyds Paladin hand mower more widely available to smaller clubs.

Sisis will sell the Paladin to sports clubs while Lloyds will continue to supply Local Authorities, golf clubs and existing customers, direct from Letchworth.

The Paladin celebrates its 40th birthday this year, but has been continuously updated over the years and is recognised as a 'Rolls-Royce' among mowers. The Paladin is made from high grade aluminium castings which never rust. It has been designed for mowing excellence on fine turf with features for maximum operator comfort and safety.

"We are confident that the Paladin will complement our comprehensive range of high quality maintenance products for bowling, tennis and cricket clubs. We have always had a high regard for Lloyds and Co and the Paladin complies with the Sisis criteria of reliability and quality. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Lloyds," said Sisis Sales Manager Keith Vertigan.

"Lloyds and Sisis have always



had a very good relationship and have worked closely together over the years. We see this partnership as a good opportunity to make

the Paladin more accessible to the sports club market," said Lloyds Managing Director Clive Nottingham.

# Speedcut adds new trencher to their fleet

Speedcut Contractors Ltd has added another Mastenbroek 10/12D sportsturf drainage trencher to their fleet of company owned, specialist machinery. This recent acquisition is the latest in sportsturf drainage technology and comes fully fitted with soil elevator, extra wide tracks and state of the art laser grade facility.

Contracts Manager, Kevin Smith has put the machine to work immediately, and hopes this new addition will help them to satisfy the increased demand for their sportsturf drainage services.



# Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



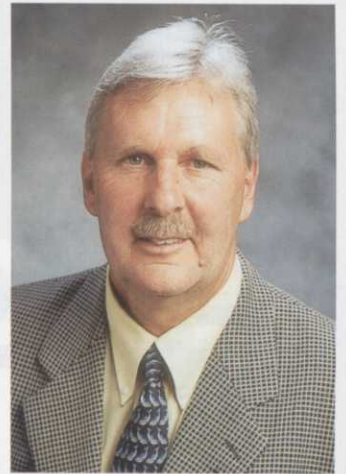
# The Phantom Pilot



Many of you will have enjoyed the piece in last month's magazine about our greenkeeping pilot. However, due to an oversight by the Editor, the excellent article went unattributed, so many people will not have known that the Flying Greenkeeper was in fact Jon Budd, of Ham Manor Golf Club, in Littlehampton.

Sorry about that Jon and good luck with the rest of the lessons.

# Chris joins Greenlink



Greenlink International has appointed Chris Wild as Regional Technical Sales Manager for the South of England.

Chris will be known to many in the sports turf and amenity industry having worked for Rhone Poulenc for many years and was the company's Technical Manager for its Environmental Products Amenity business. Most recently he has been working as Sales Support Manager for a major agricultural company in eastern England. He holds qualifications in ecology (MI BIOL), an HNC in applied biology and is BASIS registered in both Amenity Horticulture and Crop Protection.

Chris has returned to the amenity industry to provide a technical and commercial field resource to users and distributors for GreenLink's increasing range of specialist products such as Blazon, Integrate, Green-Relief microbials and a soon to be launched range of speciality foliar nutrients. Living in Essex, Chris is married with two children is a keen sailor and gardener and is an Associate of the Institute of Biology.

Latest news?

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



## Nothing left to chance by Barenbrug

Barenbrug UK's policy of 'zero zero' testing the grass seed mixtures that the company formulates for turf production reassures growers that their valuable crop will be of the purest quality possible, free of any undesirable material. Barenbrug's specialists will be on hand at Saltex to explain the concept, as well as giving full details of the quality mixtures the company has developed especially to meet turf growers' needs.

Seed quality is crucial for turf production. It is essential that a mixture is completely free from diseases and unwanted varieties that could weaken or damage the sward. Carried out under the scrutiny of Andy Sadler, Barenbrug's Production Manager, zero zero testing ensures quality is maintained at two key stages in the production process: the harvesting of the original seed and the formulation of the final mixture.

In the first stage, grass is grown for seed production by approved growers who are carefully chosen by Barenbrug for their ability to produce yields of high quality and quantity. Two 30g samples are taken of the seed crop, one of which is tested at Barenbrug's laboratories and the other being assessed independently by MAFF. If the sample passes the analysis, then the rest of the crop is stored carefully at Barenbrug's warehouses at Bury St Edmunds and assigned to individual turf producers.

The second stage of the zero zero process begins when the seed is mixed with varieties at Barenbrug's specialised mixing plant, in strictly regulated proportions for optimum turf production. Again, two 30g samples are tested, one in-house and the other by MAFF. This ensures that the zero zero standard has been maintained and that Barenbrug's mixtures are completed free from any undesirable seed or diseases.

### Section Event?

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

## New role for Chris



Chris Turpie has been appointed Sales Representative for Turf Management Systems, a division of Boughton Loam Ltd.

Chris will cover the area of West London and the Home Counties and will be able to offer his advice to clients from his experience with the London Golf Club.

## Textron claim top exporters award

Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products has won the prestigious Anglia Business Awards Exporter of the Year for 2001.

Organised jointly by Barclays Bank and the East Anglian Daily Times and sponsored by Eversheds solicitors, the award was presented to Marketing Director, Peter Bell by TV presenter Helen McDermott, at a gala dinner at Hintlesham Hall Hotel.

"I am absolutely delighted that we have won this prestigious award as it recognises the superb team effort here at Textron, from manufacturing through sales and marketing to the management team," said Harold Pinto, Managing Director.

"We have worked particularly hard

on our export marketing strategy and have witnessed significant growth in sales to the former USSR states and Eastern Europe. Overall, export sales accounted for 56% of our business last year, with sales to the Czech Republic increasing 10-fold in the last two years. Our golf car sales have remained very strong, especially to the warmer climes of Southern Europe, in particular Spain and Portugal," he explained.

"None of this could have been achieved without the commitment and enthusiasm of the tremendous team of people here at Ipswich and I am thrilled that their combined efforts have been recognised by this award," added Harold.



## Midland Region Golf Management Trophy winners

The winning Hartsbourne Golf & Country Club team clinched the first Midland Region Golf Management Trophy events held at Verulam Golf Club recently. The picture shows Shaughn Whyte, Club Secretary; Allan Wagman, Club Captain; David Futerman, Greens Chairman; David Stenton, Head Greenkeeper and Mike Jupp, of sponsors Scotts. The portrait behind the winners is of Samuel Ryder, of Ryder Cup fame. A fuller report of the event appears in the Midland Region area of *Around the Green*.



## Sales boost for Scottish Grass Machinery

Scottish Grass Machinery has driven past the £3 million annual sales mark for the first time with its range of fine turf mowers for golf courses.

Having notched up the 100th sale of Jacobsen machines to some of Scotland's leading golf courses, Inverkeithing-based company estimates that the sales of Jacobsen equipment accounted for 55% of all fine turf equipment sold in Scotland last year.

SGM's fine turf success comes on the back of it setting up a specialist golf division which ensures that greenkeepers and other staff at courses only ever deal with dedicated Jacobsen salesmen, after care, parts and services personnel.

The new division works closely with greenkeepers, club secretaries, greens conveners and captains to ensure that Scottish golf makes a quality contribution to the Scottish tourism industry.

"We at SGM do not see ourselves just as suppliers of equipment to our customers, but partners in ensuring that every course we supply always looks its very best. With the Scottish tourism business apparently not having its troubles to seek this year, the perfect presentation of a course is now more vital than ever, whether the ambitious local course looking to boost its visitor income, to courses like the Roxburgh, Turnberry and Gleneagles, which act as



tourism magnets for all of Scotland," said David McNroy, Managing Director of Scottish Grass Machinery.

The company has also appointed Brian Kemp as its new Service Manager.

Brian joins SGM with an intimate knowledge of Textron's Jacobsen brand having managed a workshop for 15 years in the ground care machinery supply business.

"Before working in the ground care machinery supply business I worked in the motor industry for 25 years, 15 of which were as service manager. I am delighted to join such a forward thinking company allowing me to use my vast knowledge and experience to help SGM ensure that all of their customers continue to receive first class service," said Brian.



# One shot



## more kills

Holster will control more problem weeds in your turf than any other turf herbicide. Specifically developed to target hard-to-kill broad-leaved weeds in amenity turf, Holster has the unique combination of 3 powerful killing ingredients that provides effective weed control with low application rates.

But whilst Holster is tough on weeds it is also gentle on grass. In fact it's safe to use on newly sown grass after just two months and has excellent grass safety.

So keep Holster by your side and win your war on weeds.

# HOLSTER

keep it by your side



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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



**SEPTEMBER 1991**

**'The Day A Golf Course Drowned'**

was the startling headline ten years ago. On January 5th 1991 Jim Paton's nightmare came true, caused by a monstrous storm dumping its full icy wrath directly over West Kilbride golf course during the afternoon. The destruction took less time than it takes to play a round of golf, the desolation indicating a score of 'two under', two holes gone to a watery grave. A 16 hole Championship course seemed a distinct possibility. Like many a good drama this one had a happy ending, for on April 1st - just 84 back-breaking days after the tempest - a proud Jim Paton and a relieved club committee, presented a rebuilt West Kilbride to the cream of Scotland's youth for the Scottish Boys Matchplay Championship.

**'The Great Debate'** on putting green construction was taking place within 'Greenkeeper International'. Jim Snow, National Director, USGA Green Section wrote that, "Admittedly, there is little that is foolproof in the world, but USGA greens are by far the safest bet when it comes to green construction. For all of the criticism, no-one has come forward with a scientifically based, time-tested method that's better, or even cheaper. During the past year we've heard from every imaginable corner of the game about how the USGA ought to change its specs to make them easier, faster and cheaper". Rest assured, however, that the USGA is not going to put its name on construction methods designed primarily to make green construction easy, fast and cheap - without including the foolproof.

# Confessions of a Greens Chairman

There can be more more fitting author for this latest STRI publication than Malcolm Peake, a man whose passion for golf course conditioning and knowledge of what is required to achieve the best possible results are second to none.

Without mentioning any names, many Chairman of Green-Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper relationships are adversarial but Malcolm takes a more enlightened approach - finding out what needs to be done and then working closely with his Course Manager to make it happen. In Malcolm's case at Temple Golf Club with Course Manager Martin Gunn, the relationship between the two is as good as you would find anywhere and the results they have achieved at Temple bear testimony to the quality of their working relationship.

Confessions of a Greens Chairman includes brief history of Temple Golf Club but not in the usual sense. It describes the course management practices and philosophies including minutes from Greens Committee meetings and charts how the course's came in the 1970s with the introduction of an irrigation system coupled with new harder golf balls.

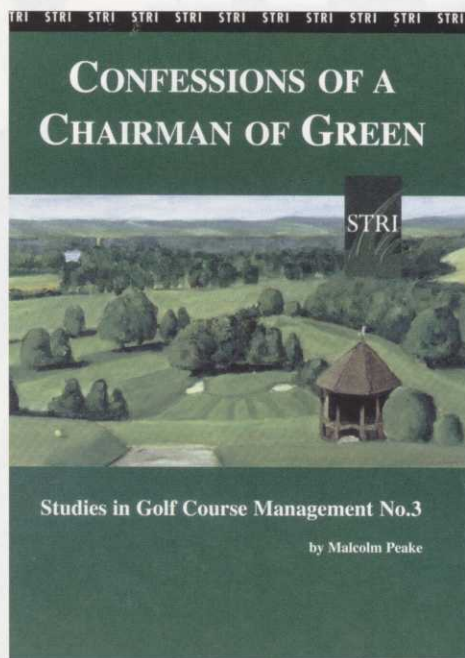
Malcolm then reports on the resurgence of the club from 1990 beginning with the arrival of Jeff Peris of the STRI as agronomist and Martin Gunn as new Head Greenkeeper.

The book looks at the approach

required to reinstate the course - intensive aeration programme, hefty investment in staff, machinery and compound - none of which were popular with much of the membership and all relevant to other golf clubs which need to take the same approach.

The book then takes in the new holistic course management approach and the ecological management which has gone on at Temple together with practical advice on Greens Committees and the need for continuity as well as the politics which often cloud the issues.

Confessions of a Chairman of Green by Malcolm Peake is a must read for anyone taking on such a role but it should also be required reading for everyone involved at committee level at golf clubs. In addition greenkeepers themselves for whom Malcolm has the utmost admiration, should have a read as the book gives an insight into the thinking of Chairmen of Green which could be invaluable. SM.



Published in full colour the book contains 34 illustrations and six cartoons. Copies can be obtained direct from STRI or via the on-line bookshop on the STRI website [www.stri.co.uk](http://www.stri.co.uk) priced £11.95 plus post and packing.

## The Oatridge Eight



The recent Oatridge Agricultural College prize giving ceremony saw eight student greenkeepers being honoured for their achievements. They are Back Row Left to right: Jeffrey Bailey, Steven Ness, Lee Girbon, Paul Dumma, Adam Sherwood. Front row: Steven Gray, James Spiers and James Shanks.

## New device comes to the aid of bunker rakes



An idea aimed at encouraging golfers to use the rakes provided for them has been introduced by Newart and Accessory Distributors.

"Rake up" is a clip on support lifting the hand clear of the sand and preventing the handle from lying in often damp or wet sand.

The clip is designed to self adjust and fit a variety of handle thicknesses and can be reused when the rake is eventually discarded.

Lifting the handle clear of the sand also allows the ball a clear run into the centre of the bunker with minimal obstruction.

The Rake Up is priced at £3 each and is packed in 10s and 50s.

For further information Tel: 020 8275 0018.



## Avoncrop re-launch seaweed products

Avoncrop range of seaweed products Surf to Turf is to be re-launched.

The new improved range will offer turf managers a wider choice of liquids and a new and enhanced soil improver. Both avoncrop and PutIcons 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 complement 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 fermented seaweed rich in trace elements, carbohydrates and plant growth stimulants, providing sustained nutrition for plants and beneficial micro organisms.

## Grade 'A' success

Turfgrass professionals trading with British Seed Houses are starting to claim over £5000-worth of free industry training thanks to the outstanding success of the company's Grade A Club launched at the start of 2000.

Customers have been amassed training credits based on the value of Grade A seed mixture business done with the company. Partners in the scheme include JOG, BIGGA, STRI and LANTRA and the credits generated can only be redeemed for training courses and materials available from these organisations.

British Seed Houses' Director, Simon Taylor, said that the company had been delighted by the response to the scheme and was now keen to ensure that customers get the best value for their training credit.

"The club has proved to be extremely popular with the full spectrum of ground care professionals employed within the landscape industry. Membership is still growing and customers are now starting to redeem their credits to help fund training courses and educational materials from our four partners," he said.



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)

## New NGCAA Secretary

It is with great pleasure that I write to inform you that the Executive Committee have appointed my successor, Michael Shaw, who will take up his post on Monday. Michael lives in Cheshire but will be working from the Bakewell office for the foreseeable future and I shall be working alongside him until I retire at the end of September.

Michael has a unique set of skills. He is a qualified solicitor who has recently held an academic post delivering law degree courses. He is a past secretary, captain and president of Regent Park Golf Club and is cur-

rently a member of Fairfield Golf Club playing off a handicap of 10.

Michael is keen to continue to maintain close relationships with the governing bodies and other organisations in the game and he will be contacting you in the near future to introduce himself and to discuss current matters.

May I thank you for the kind consideration that BIGGA has always shown to our Association, and to me personally over the last ten years.

Jean Brock, Secretary, National Golf Clubs' Advisory Association

## Open thanks 1

Hugh Campbell and I would like to pass on our thanks to everyone at BIGGA who was involved in making this year's Open Championship run so smoothly.

Without the assistance of our volunteers, it would have been impossible to stage the event and the efforts of everyone involved are most appreciated.

Peter Dawson, Secretary, R&A

## Open thanks 2

I would like you to convey my grateful appreciation to all the members of the Open Championship BIGGA Support Team

Your assistance was most welcome, duly rewarded by some thrilling golf and hopefully some fond memories.

Paul Smith, Head Greenkeeper, Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club

## Open thanks 3

Just a quick note to send all concerned my congratulations for the hard work done during The Open Championship where everyone did a splendid job and added so much to the elegance and running of the Championship.

Peter Alliss, Farnham, Surrey

## Stamp out golfer pressure

In your editorial in the August issue of the magazine you invite comments on the need for communication with members of golf clubs on the subject of aeration.

You may be aware that I have been asked to talk at Harrogate in January and give a member's view on the subject of "Preparation for Winter".

I have been exercising my mind as to what to talk about and how to approach the subject and had already concluded that one of the main thrusts, if not THE main thrust, should be communication, and how

it can be improved to get better cooperation from golf club members.

Like you I am horrified, and that is not too strong a word, to learn that greenkeepers do not aerate as much as they would like because of "Golfer Pressure". Obviously there is something wrong which has to be addressed. I hope I may stimulate some interesting questions on this subject in January.

Arthur King, Former Chairman of Green, Lympington, Hants

## You've got m@il!

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

Send an email to: [reception@bigga.co.uk](mailto:reception@bigga.co.uk)

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

## Next month: Amistar response

The letter which appeared last month under the heading Wellingborough's Rash Problem has come to the attention of a number of people, individuals and interested bodies, because it highlighted the fact that the golf club had been using a product - Amistar - which is not

cleared for amenity purposes

Due the fact that the deadline for this magazine was so close to the circulation of the August issue it has not been possible for those people to formulate a written response in the time available and so these contributions will appear in next month's magazine.



## 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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This month, Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, puts the finishing touches to the comprehensive education programme at Harrogate

# Get the most from your education

September is the month when the Education and Training Department begins to finalise the arrangements for the Continue to Learn Week in Harrogate, co-ordinate the final stages of the Golf Environment Competition, organise the Country Finals for the TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition, encourage members to submit their entries for the BIGGA Essay Competition, compile and publish the findings of the Standing Committee for Greenkeepers Pay and

Conditions of Service, arranging the Education Programme for the Golf Club Show and organising regional and section training courses.

Regular readers of this column will have seen that the Continue to Learn programme for Harrogate has a range of opportunities for all levels of greenkeeper to continue to learn and develop. There is a wide range of options throughout the week and you will need to study the Continue to Learn brochure very carefully, when it is deliv-

ered with your October copy of Greenkeeper International. Remember to book early to reserve your place(s) on the sessions of your choice.

Thanks to the committed members who contacted BIGGA HOUSE requesting a range of subjects which they would like to see presented at local venues. Full details will be sent to Sections and Regions in early October and will appear in Greenkeeper International.



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



#### Golden Key Circle Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Amazon Ground Care	01579 351155
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd	01428 661222
Gem Professional	01254 356611
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Kubota UK Ltd	01844 214500
Massey Ferguson (AGCO Ltd)	02476 851292
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rain Bird	01273 891326
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 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



**Bob Taylor and Lee Penrose** have been busy judging the entries in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, visiting clubs around the Country and trying to select Regional Winners, prior to Dr Keith

Duff judging those winners to select a National Winner. Standards continue to improve each year, which is very well illustrated in BIGGA's latest publication *The Wildside of Golf*. The competition has continued to run thanks to the support of the R&A but a major sponsor is still required to give the competition a long term future.



Country winners in England, Scotland and Ireland have been selected for the TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition with the Country Finals taking place

early this month. Judges will select four candidates for the National final which takes place in Boroughbridge on 30 October.



by contacting Sami at BIGGA HOUSE and you could be earning credits towards your Certificate of Continuing Professional Development.

Remember, that the BIGGA CPD Scheme started the year 2001/2002 on 1 July. Register on the scheme



There is still time for you to write and submit your entry for the BIGGA Essay Competition, one of many activities

sponsored by the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, which, in turn, is funded by Golden and Silver Key members of the fund. The title of the essay is 'Poa Annua, friend or foe'. All entries must arrive at BIGGA HOUSE by 26 October 2001. Get thinking and writing. You could win £500 for your 1500 to 2000 words essay.



After extensive research, the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Employment has produced its recommendations for 2002. Based on the annual rate of salary inflation, the recommendations include three levels of recommended salary, ie.

those clubs within 30 miles of Big Ben, the rest of the South and the remainder of the UK. A copy of the scales should be included in this magazine. Further copies may be obtained from the Committee or from the Association of Golf Club Secretaries.

## You've got mail!

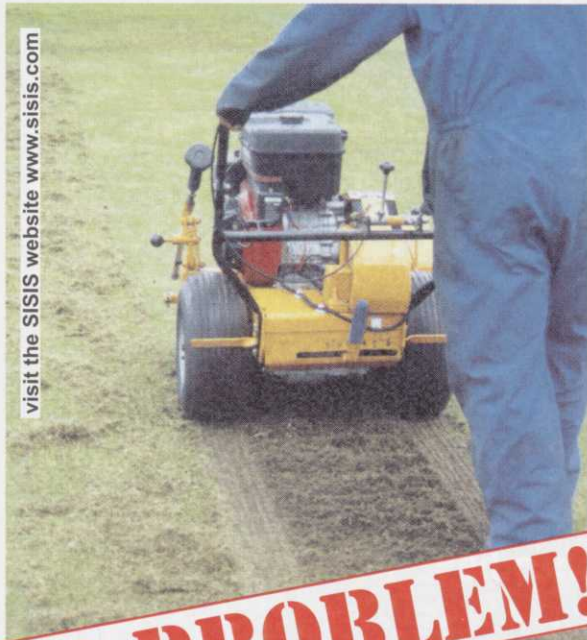
If you've got an email account why not send an email to the education department, where we can place you into our exclusive education email address book. We can then keep you up-to-date with education news and events as they happen.

Send an email to: [ken@bigga.co.uk](mailto:ken@bigga.co.uk) /or/ [sami@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sami@bigga.co.uk)

Keep checking [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) for the latest news on the various education and training options available at BTME2002

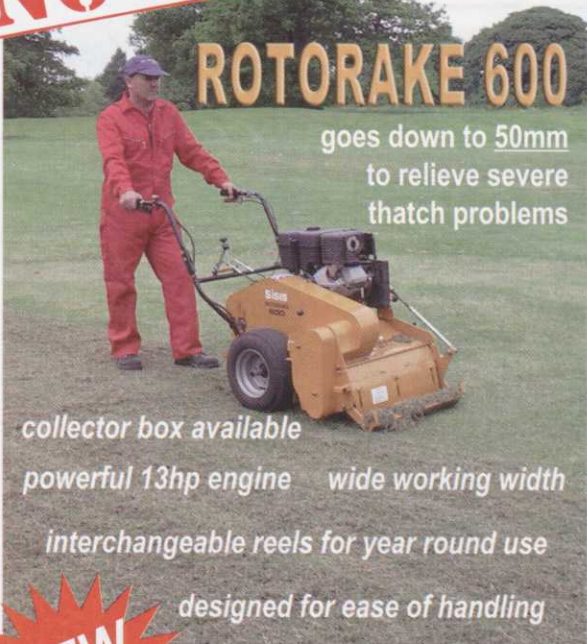


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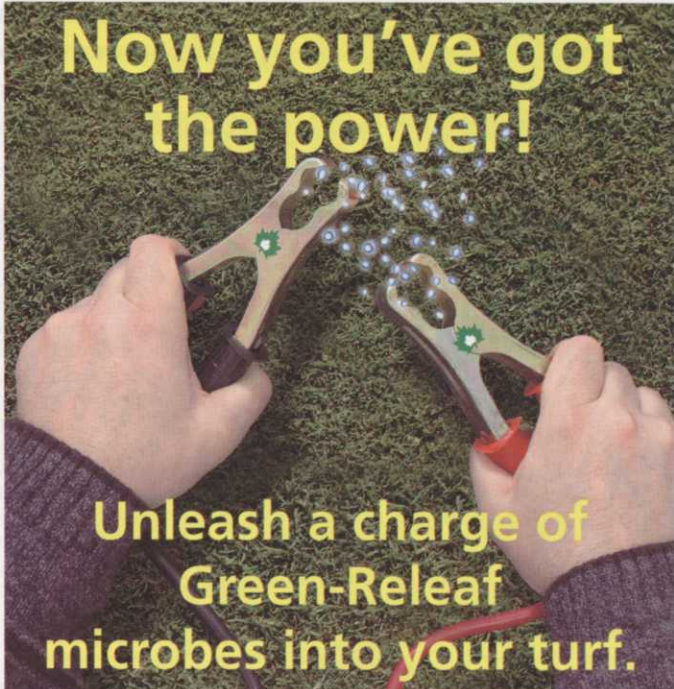
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**Tracey and Susannah from BIGGA's Membership Services Department, would like to welcome almost 70 new members to the Association and update you on the new Membership Photocard**

## Membership Photocard update

A big thank you to all of you who have been quick off the mark and have already sent us your photograph. Although you won't be receiving your new card until next year, this has given us the opportunity to scan your photograph and file it in your record ready for reproducing onto your new card when you renew.

If you missed last month's Membership Update, as from 1st

January 2002, BIGGA's Membership Department will be issuing plastic credit card size Membership Photocards (at no extra cost to the member). This will not only provide you with an extra form of ID but it will continue to promote the professional image that the Association has achieved. To start preparing for the launch of the new card, BIGGA need a photograph of each of you! If you have a passport size photograph please send it to Tracey or Susannah, Membership Services Department, BIGGA, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Ane, York YO61 1UE.

Don't forget to write your full name, date of birth and membership number on the back. Alternatively, if you have mastered the art of digital cameras why not send us a photo by email to [tracey@bigga.co.uk](mailto:tracey@bigga.co.uk) or [susannah@bigga.co.uk](mailto:susannah@bigga.co.uk)

### 2002 Membership Renewal form with a difference...

Because of the new Membership Photocard, next year your renewal form will be different. For convenience your renewal form will continue to have your personal and Golf Club details already printed, however, you will need to check that these are correct. To help us ascertain education and training needs, we have asked you to complete a section on education and training and for convenience this will be a tick box section. Most importantly, to process your membership you will need to return your form with a passport size photograph of yourself, with your name, date of birth and membership number written on the back. This can be the photograph on your current membership card, or send us the whole card. Finally it is important that you sign the form in the space provided.

The form has been designed for easy completion and should only take a few minutes to check and complete.

**CLIVE OSGOOD**  
Course Manager  
Walton Heath Golf Club  
Membership number: 00001  
Expiry date: Dec01




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...



## Richard Barker

Vice Chairman

Name: Richard Barker

Association Position:  
Vice Chairman

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

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

With an improved profile and greater recognition among other golfing bodies

For what would you most like to be remembered?

For leading a 36 hole scratch tournament in the morning after a round of 71, for which I won a prize

For what would you least like to be remembered?

For adding an 86 in the afternoon, for the worst score of the day

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

I wanted to put a little something back into an Association which had provided me with a lot of help and education over the years

Name one thing which would improve the Association?

More active support from members at grass roots level and continued expansion into Europe

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

Playing eight rounds and six holes - 150 holes in total - in one day and raising over £1,000 for a local charity

Describe BIGGA in 15 words

Only members organisation providing specialised education and support for all members and their golf clubs

## Leisurewear that's well worth a look!

BIGGA now offer you a fantastic choice of BIGGA logo Leisurewear

### Cutter & Buck Classic Polo Shirts complete with BIGGA logo

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### Peter Scott BIGGA logo Jumpers

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

The new BIGGA logo merchandise can be seen at the BIGGA stand at the Saltex Show on 4/5/6th September. For further information contact Tracey or Susannah in Membership Services.

### August'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 August's winner, Alastair Logan of Galgorm Castle Golf Club.



## BIGGA welcomes ...

### Scottish Region

Graeme Ferguson, East  
Scott L Horal, East  
James C MacIntosh, East  
Lee Maxwell, East  
Andrew McCleary, East  
Steven Peppers, East  
Christopher Noble, Central  
Peter M Paton, Ayrshire  
Steven Peppers, East  
Scott I Poole, East  
Christopher Smith, North  
Bruce Summerton, Central

Edwards Coulthard, Cleveland  
Christopher Courtman, Northern  
Michael R Dealtry, Northern  
Paul A Gledhill, Northern  
Robert A Herro, Northern  
Thomas Ibison, N West  
Colin Jessop, Sheffield  
Gwilym H Jones, N Wales  
James Kershaw, Northern  
Joanne Kershaw, Northern  
Paul Nelson, Sheffield  
Simon Sayner, Sheffield  
Steven Walker, N West  
Timothy Ward, Northern

Paul J Crouch, Mid Anglia  
Stephen J Donoghue, E Midland  
Mark R Faulkner, BB&O  
Luke Foskett, Midland  
Derek Ganning, Midland  
Paul Harden, BB&O  
Gregory J Lansbury, Mid Anglia  
Alistair Main, BB&O  
Philip C Newman, Mid Anglia  
Paul A Stiff, BB&O

### South East Region

Nicholas Barton, Essex  
Rodney D Beautyman, Essex  
Phillip R Garrod, London  
Stephen W Goode, London  
Daniel P Hughes, Surrey  
Phillip G T Hunter, Surrey

Sun Kim, Surrey  
Chris M Little, Essex  
Brendan Morgan, London  
Jay Motta, Kent  
Douglas J Tate, Surrey  
Colin R Wait, Kent  
Barry Williams, Surrey

### S West & S Wales

Jamie Bowler, S West  
Paul Sargeant, S Wales  
Robert M Shaw, S Wales

### Northern Ireland

Harry Creighton  
James H E Eager  
Rodney McKay

### International Members

Lars M Westlund, Norway  
Ulf Orjoh Utterstrom, Sweden  
Randal Gai, USA

### Associate Members

Blair S Cornthwaite, Far East

### Student Members

Andrew Fraser, East  
Greg Sutherland, Ayrshire

Paul G Bradshaw, N West  
Paul Brown, Northern  
Victor Buck, N West

### Midland Region

Justin Adams, BB&O  
Jonathan Axten, Mid Anglia  
Ben Brown, BB&O

Next month ...  
August's latest members





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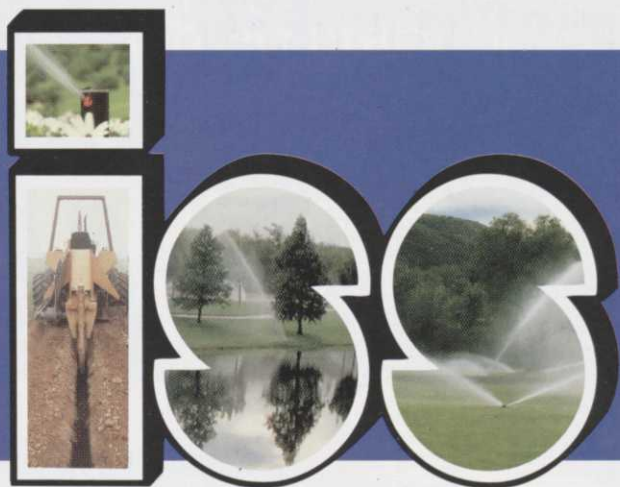
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- Eagle Promotions Ltd
- Barenbrug UK Ltd
- Simon Tullett Machinery Co Ltd
- Allen Power Equipment Ltd
- Textron Golf Turf & Specialty
- Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd
- Gem Professional
- Wiedenman (UK) Ltd
- Supaturf Products Ltd
- Risboro Turf
- Trelleborg Wheel Systems
- Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd
- Inturf
- Vitax Ltd
- Lewis Equipment Ltd
- Boyd Golf Course Accessories
- Kubota (UK) Ltd
- Ocmis Irrigation Ltd
- Allett Mowers
- Amenity Land Services
- PSD Agronomy Ltd
- TACIT
- Turf Seed UK Ltd
- Lincmaster Thief Stoppers
- Rufford Soil Technology
- Club Car - Ingersoll-Rand
- LS Systems Ltd
- North Staffs Irrigation Ltd
- Logic Irrigation
- Irrigation Control Ltd
- The Golf Sign Company
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- Bernhard & Co Ltd
- Port Agric Ltd
- Charterhouse Turf Machinery
- Scotts UK Professional
- Richard Campey Ltd
- Long Equipment Ltd
- Turfmech Machinery Ltd
- Cleveland Sitesafe Ltd
- Symbio
- Lindum Seeded Turf Ltd
- Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd
- DGT/Volmatic
- Scotts UK Professional
- Rousseau Equipment Ltd
- Hunter Grinders Ltd
- Arden Lea Irrigation Ltd
- Links Leisure Ltd
- Maxxis International UK
- Tildenet Ltd
- York & Martin
- Speedcut Contractors
- Course Care
- Heron Electric Co Ltd
- Verde Sports Ltd
- Mitchell Hire Ltd
- John Greasley Ltd
- Hayter UK Ltd
- Farm & Garden Machinery Ltd
- Dennis
- Yamaha Motors
- Geosynthetic Technology Ltd
- Sportsworld Amenity
- Fern House Marketing Ltd
- Golf Car UK Ltd
- Advanta Seeds UK Ltd
- GPS Services Ltd
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- Bathgate Leisure
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- Amenity Technology
- Seoul Nassau UK Ltd
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- Sheppy Fertilisers Ltd
- Association of Golf Club Secretaries
- Elmwood College
- Hardi Ltd
- Smallholder Tractor Company
- Turf Masters
- British & Internat Golf Greenkeepers Assoc
- Wolf Garden
- Greenkeeper Training Committee
- Barcham Trees
- Berkshire College of Agriculture
- Warwickshire College
- Ken White Signs
- Merrist Wood College
- Myerscough College
- Askam Bryan College
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- Reasheath College

BTME 2002 sees a superb innovation designed to make attending the Show as an exhibitor or a visitor far easier than ever before ...

TUE 22 JAN 02

WED 23 JAN 02

THU 24 JAN 02

# Micro site Maxi info

## Major new developments to the BTME microsite

As part of BIGGA's existing website - [bigga.org.uk](http://bigga.org.uk) - a BTME Microsite has been added to make pre-registering for the Show, booking accommodation, and reserving stand space, just a few clicks away. It also means that exhibitors can have their stand and company information available to everyone much earlier than in the past, while visitors can familiarise themselves with the show layout months before they arrive in Harrogate.

In a new departure for 2002 and in response to the queues, which were a direct result of the record numbers who visited Harrogate last January, everyone who attended BTME2001 will automatically be pre-registered for BTME2002.

If you didn't attend January's show, however, or your personal circumstances have changed - new job or residential address for example - you can pre-register using the Microsite.

### Pre-registration

Simply click on the Pre-registration option in the navigation bar at the left hand side of the page. You'll then go to the pre-registration page where you will find a number of ways in which you can sign up for your free ticket. By clicking on the email link, you will open up a separate page containing an easy-to-use form. Fill this in, click the submit button, and there you are. You will receive confirmation that your form has arrived and that your registration will be processed.

Please note that all badges will be mailed in early January 2002

Alternative means of registering are the telephone option Tel: 01423 856062 Fax: 01423 528686 or the mail option by calling BIGGA HOUSE Tel: 01347 833800 and asking for a pre-registration card.

### Exhibitor information

The new BTME Microsite gives so many added benefits for exhibitors.

Existing exhibitors can list important contact information for themselves, plus 100 words on their new launches or general company details. These are then activated by microsite visitors when they click on the relevant stand within the on-site Show map.

Visitors to the site can then access individual company websites using this advanced function.

Potential exhibitors can identify an available stand and click on it to learn the size and cost - as space

Above: Finding stand information

Right: Booking a stand online

Below: The online pre-registration form

only or with shell scheme. If they wish to proceed, they can then fill in an online form and reserve that stand for themselves. Easy!

The site also includes an online accommodation booking service, up to the minute information on the Education Programme and important information about the social side of the week.





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**Dr. Ruth Mann explains how the problem with Chafer Grubs could soon be a thing of the past ...**

# Chafers:

## Have they met their match?

In 1983, an article appeared in the Sports Turf Bulletin concerning pests in turf. Chafer grubs (also called white grubs) were included only as a minor pest in the British Isles, although, at this time, they were causing major damage on continental golf courses. Since this article, chafer grubs seem to have been appearing with more regularity, sometimes being an incidental pest and sometimes causing severe damage. This year, perhaps due to a rather mild winter, chafer grubs have become a major pest on some golf courses.

Chafer grubs can be identified by their creamy white bodies with a swollen tail end that is usually darker due to the intestinal contents and lie in a characteristic comma shape (Fig 1). They have three pairs of brown legs and a distinctive shiny brown head with large chewing jaws. They lie just

below the turf surface and feed on the roots. As the roots are severed the turf becomes prone to drought in dry weather. They like to live in sandy soils and thatchy areas with adequate moisture as they can easily move up and down the soil profile. They are most commonly found in roughs, semi-roughs and fairways. They also favour less disturbed areas, such as the sides of bunkers or infrequently used championship tees. Adult females do not tend to move over vast areas. This can lead to the same areas being infested year after year. So far, they have been found from Guernsey, Cornwall and Devon up through East Anglia across to the West coast of Wales and as far North as Cumbria. At this point I have no reports of chafers in Scotland, although I suspect it is just a matter of time before they begin to appear.

We have five species of chafers, the cockchafer, garden chafer, summer chafer, brown chafer and Welsh chafer. The two species that seem to be commonly found on golf courses are the cockchafer and garden chafer. The cockchafer is the largest species. Adults have black heads and reddish-brown wing cases. They are nocturnal, emerging in May and June. The female burrows back down into the soil to lay eggs which hatch 5-6 weeks after laying (around July). Cockchafer grubs take three years to mature and can grow up to 48 mm in length. Therefore, any grubs found actively feeding in springtime, will be cockchafers.

Garden chafers are thought to be the most abundant species on golf courses. The adults are smaller with a metallic green head and reddish-brown wing cases. Grubs are also smaller (around 18 mm when fully grown) and only take one year to mature. The

grubs feed from hatching around July until late autumn when falling temperatures cause them to burrow down the soil profile and hibernate. They do not resume feeding in the spring as cockchafers do, but pupate and emerge as adults in May and June.

Small grubs do not really cause much damage to the turf, unless they are in very large numbers. In such cases, they can weaken turf leaving it prone to increased injury from wear and tear and environmental extremes. Also, once they have grown quite large, small numbers of grubs can kill areas of turf which then encourages the influx of weed grasses and broad leaved weeds. On golf courses, feeding grubs do not tend to be the major problem. Birds and small mammals searching for juicy grubs can rip up large areas of turf, leaving unsightly scars. To moles and badgers chafer grubs are a delicacy and so they may be encouraged to take up residence in chafer infested areas, causing more problems.

There are no chemicals approved for the control of chafer grubs at the moment which presents a major problem in itself. It has been proposed that physical control methods could be attempted, such as heavy rolling to squash the grubs when they are actively feeding just below the surface. However, research carried out at the University of Kentucky showed that liming, fertilisation, heavy rolling and aerification had no effect on chafer grub numbers over four years. Aluminium sulphate applied just before adults emerged did reduce grub numbers, perhaps showing that, similar to earthworms, chafer grubs do not like acidic conditions.

One control measure currently available in the British Isles is parasitic

Above right: Chafer grubs

Below and far right:  
Damage caused by birds  
looking for chafer grubs







nematodes. Nematodes are microscopic round worms. Just like fungi and insects there are 'bad' species that parasitise turf leaving the area weak and prone to drought damage and 'good' species that parasitise other turf pests. *Heterorhabditis megidis* is a good species of nematode as it searches for and kills chafer grubs. This nematode naturally occurs in our soils but the numbers are not large enough for chafer control. It is also specific and so does not affect other beneficial insects or animals and humans. The nematodes search for chafers in the soil and enter them through natural openings such as the mouth and anus. Once inside they release a bacterium that multiplies and kills the chafer in a couple of days. The nematodes then feed on the bacteria and reproduce releasing more nematodes into the soil to begin the search again. However, nematodes do not come without their problems. At initial application the soil temperature must be 12°C or above for activation. The nematodes are destroyed by ultra-violet light and high temperatures and so are best applied in early morning or evening when it is not too hot or sunny. The turf needs to be well irrigated after application to wash the nematodes into the soil and

kept moist, but not flooded, for two weeks as the nematodes need a film of water for movement. The nematodes may be easily washed into the soil on areas with short grass, such as greens and tees. However, on areas with long grass like fairways and roughs there have been problems with getting the nematodes into the soil.

Nematodes are being successfully used in gardens here but as yet we have no information regarding usage on golf courses in the UK. However, in Denmark, nematodes have been successful on greens and tees but not on fairways, possibly due to the nematodes failing to penetrate the long grass and thatch. They are expensive for treating large areas. The aforementioned golf course in Denmark spent £25,000 treating the whole course. However, work carried out by Imperial College, Berkshire on garden chafers infesting a golf tee showed that the grubs aggregated under grassy areas. They suggested that this may be due to the female laying eggs which hatched in batches and the grubs did not move far from their preferred food source of grass roots. The grubs were less associated with bare areas or areas colonised by broadleaved weeds. Therefore, spot treatment of grassy

areas infested with chafer grubs may be possible.

Research is required here to determine whether nematodes are successful at treating chafer infestations on golf courses and if the longer grass on rough areas presents a major problem in preventing nematode penetration into the soil. If, and when, this research occurs we will let you know the outcome! Other research at STRI, such as our Pests and Disease Survey 2001, will help to determine which years chafers cause the most

damage and if they are slowly moving North into Scotland as we suspect. Therefore I would like to remind all greenkeepers about returning their questionnaire. There is no time limit on these and the more we receive the better the results we can give you. If you have not received a copy of the STRI questionnaire please contact me.

Dr. Ruth Mann is the Turfgrass and Plant Pathologist at STRI. Ruth and the rest of the STRI team can be contacted on 01274 565131; e-mail [info@stri.co.uk](mailto:info@stri.co.uk); or visit our website [www.stri.co.uk](http://www.stri.co.uk)





Roland Taylor gives some tips on establishing wild flower areas on your golf course ...

# Wild things

A golf course is ideal for developing areas of wild flowers, but if these floral havens are to continue to flourish, they need to be carefully managed. If left to their own devices the dominant species will eventually crowd out the other plants. Most of the wild flowers found in today's mixtures originally thrived in old meadows where farmers grazed livestock and had made hay. This meant, that periodically, the top growth was removed and any nutrients this would have produced were not returned to the soil. Strange as this may seem, it encouraged many species, especially the rarer varieties to survive. The removal of the cut material is critical for another reason - left on the surface it suffocates the plants underneath.

When establishing wildflower areas, this scenario has to be created and managed. It is not just a matter of hurling on the seed and sitting back expecting results. This is a sure-fire way to failure.

When a site is being considered, it is important to sow or plant indigenous species to the area. At this stage calling in the experts is strongly recommended. There is a wealth of experience out there to draw from and suppliers can advise on suitable species and the management necessary to ensure success.

Preparation of the site is similar to that for most seeds, but there are important differences. A fine weed free tilth is necessary if healthy germination is to occur. The soil should be low in nutrients. In areas known to have high fertility, annual weeds need to be eradicated with a systemic herbicide and then allow the ground to remain fallow if possible. There are two alternative methods: use subsoil or remove the topsoil. Whichever one of these is used the final seedbed needs to be cultivated to a depth of 10cm with a fine surface tilth.

Sowing can take place any time of

the year as long as the right seedbed conditions can be created, but the best time is from mid August to the end of September.

The seed will need mixing thoroughly to ensure an even distribution of the different species of wild flower.

Recommended sowing rates are 5grams per m<sup>2</sup> for mixtures that contain grasses and 0.5 to 1 grams per m<sup>2</sup> for pure wild flower. Broadcast the seed and follow by raking or harrowing to a depth of 5 mm. Finally, roll with a ribbed roller to cover the seed and ensure its contact with the soil particles. There are machines on the market that will carry this out in one operation.

If the mixture is made up of small seeds, this can be bulked out with silica sand or ground barley at a ratio of 4:1. Irrigation is not recommended - let nature take her own course.

The seeds have germinated and everything is looking good, so what next? Bearing in mind this is like growing a crop, it is necessary to remove any competition from weeds and grasses. As herbicides cannot be used, an alternative is necessary and this is where mowing comes in. In the first year begin cutting in March or April depending on conditions. Cut down to a height of 5cm every two months or when the sward reaches 15cm. It is important that all the cutting material is removed.

The final cut will be between September and October. Something else that needs to be taken into account is that any persistent weeds, like docks, will require spot herbicide treatment or removal.

By the time the second year comes round the wildflowers should be well established and the mowing regime is completely different. Between March and April the first cut and collect

should be carried out leaving the sward at a height of 7.5cm. The second cut is done at the same height at the end of the flowering season, which can occur somewhere between August and October depending on climate. A further tidy up operation may be required in the autumn.

Failures can occur especially in the first year and amongst these is that the high levels of maintenance required have not been realised plus all the cut material must be removed. This later operation can be extremely expensive and labour intensive if the right equipment is not used.

In this country you cannot bank on the weather, and if the past few years are anything to go by, more often than not it's going to be soaking wet and thick lush growth. Cutting and collecting can be a nightmare in these situations. Machinery continually has to be stopped and the system unblocked, thus considerably slowing down the operation. When considering mowers for this type of work there are some important points to take into account. The rotary principle relies heavily on moving grass out of the cutting deck fast, otherwise it quickly builds up and slows down the blade, this compounds the problem and results in the unit finally stalling. During this process, both engine power and fuel are soaked up, plus components are placed under considerable loading.

Bearing all this in mind, the ideal machine is one that gets rid of cut material from the deck fast, so the outlet chute needs to be as wide and as deep as possible with no obstructions between blade and the back of the collector. In addition, the cutting system has to be designed so that the maximum power is constantly available to

the blades to maintain tip speed.

When considering machinery for this type of application, demonstrations should be carried out on the same day in the same conditions, preferably wet, then a true picture can be seen of each one's capabilities. Cutting dry, fairly short vegetation is relatively easy. It's the tough, lush, wet growth that sorts the men from the boys.

## Conclusion

- Get the initial seedbed right.
- The quality and purity of the mixtures is vital, so only the best should be used. As with most products today, cheapness can be a recipe for disaster as some projects have proved in the past.
- Check the mixtures that you are buying are clean and not just harvested straight from a meadow. Use reputable companies who specialise in wild flowers.
- Follow the correct mowing schedule.
- Before deciding, have mowers demonstrated in the worst possible conditions, i.e. wet and thick growth. The wrong equipment can turn it into a very expensive labour intensive operation.

After the first year, the maintenance programme is relatively straightforward and a wild flower site will virtually take care of itself, providing the correct mowing programme is carried out. Because suitable conditions are available, other species than those sown will often colonise it.

The key to success is to seek expert advice from day one and ensure you have the right mowers to maintain the sites.







Jim Crabbe explains how taking care of drainage issues can reduce course closures when the rains come...

# Drain power

Hands-up all those clubs who have tried to hire a drainage contractor this summer, only to be told that somebody beat them to the top of the list. After the wettest autumn and winter since records began at the Met Office, there can be little surprise that drainage has suddenly become a hot topic and a priority for many clubs around the country.

We will all have witnessed the adverse effects that the very wet weather has had on sports turf facilities, many clubs through last winter were forced to close, with surfaces lying under pools of water, causing damage to the sward that would take many months to recover, in fact some establishments are still suffering, and

no doubt are now having to placate some very unhappy members, not to mention the revenue that has been lost.

Yet some sporting facilities did remain open and courses and pitches were played upon. How? Because of efficient drainage, and unless you are fortunate to have a naturally free draining facility then a drainage scheme should be a priority.

Effective drainage is vital to all Sportsturf whether an existing facility or a new construction. A system, which has been carefully designed and installed by skilled contractors, will have enabled many courses and pitches to provide a service to its members and attract valuable revenue to the club despite the appalling weather conditions.

In 1998/1999 St Mellion in Cornwall installed an intensive piped drainage system, when the club records began in 1995 1100mm rain fell, since then the club has seen a significant increase in the rainfall, last year an overwhelming 1600mm fell. Despite this huge increase the course was only closed for a handful of days. Simon Marsh, the Course Superintendent explained that had the work not been undertaken it would have meant the closure of the club for some four to five months. The loss of revenue for any

business having to 'close shop' for such a period would be catastrophic, according to Simon "the drainage installation has made the world of difference to St Mellion".

So a clear example of the benefits for undertaking the work, but what does it actually involve? Firstly, the design. A site investigation will be undertaken to assess the actual problem and the needs. The designer will work closely with the client to decide upon the intensity of the actual scheme as the selection of drain spacing is often based on experience and soil type as well as the site location and the underlying soils, the sporting activity, frequency of use, and the rainfall. For example the club that relies solely on membership will have to consider the overall value it provides for its members and therefore what proportion of its spending may be allocated to a specific area, where as the course that has to open its doors at set times for set events cannot afford not to take all the necessary actions to ensure that the course will be available at the required time and not closed due to water logging.

The scheme should be suitable for machine installation; pipe junctions should be kept to a minimum in order to avoid blockages and breakdown, and where possible main drains







should be located outside the playing areas. The location and condition of any existing land drains should also be determined during the planning and design stage, as they may be incorporated into the new design.

The depth of the surface drains depends on their function as well as soil type. For example where the drains alone are used, the soil type is an important consideration, where other secondary treatments are used subsurface drains act mainly as carriers and the soil type has less importance. In free draining soils, deeper drains may allow wider drain spacings. In heavy clays with poor filtration, drains should be shallower and closer together.

The appointment of a well-established consultant/design and build contractor will ensure that the client receives a comprehensive design service and that a suitable system is installed, providing the necessary infrastructure for any subsequent secondary drainage operations.

Once the design has been agreed and the costs approved its time to get the job underway. It is worth making the effort to find a specialist Sportsturf Drainage Contractor, as it is important that those who undertake the project are properly trained, equipped and fully experienced. Contacting associations like The

Land Drainage Contractors Association is a good starting point. Their members include companies such as, White Horse Contractors Limited, with over 43 years experience in the industry. These specialist contractors will have invested in the most up-to-date equipment and plant specifically adapted for working on sportsturf and as members of the association their workmanship has already been assessed and won the approval of many bodies within the industry.

On an existing site there may be some surface disruption. However, this must be kept to a minimum, the trenching machines should be fitted with elevators and conveyors in order that the trench spoil can be conveyed to suitable trailers to avoid contamination or damage to the playing surfaces. On new constructions before topsoil placement it may be possible to spread the excavated soil on either side of the trench line. Trench spoil may also be used to create a landscape feature, but all unsuitable spoil must be removed.

This year the ground conditions for trenching are as near perfect as they could be on many sites, the damp subsoil layer mixed with the dry top layer creates a crumb effect which helps to provide smooth sides and bottom which allows the pipe to sit

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# Drain power



level in the trench. Today's modern trenching machines are fitted with lasers, which take away the guesswork in levelling and ensure that a true fall is achieved.

Once the primary system has been installed secondary drainage may also be a consideration. These range from sand slitting and banding, which consists of an intensive matrix of narrow sand or gravel bands running at right angles to the under drainage. The trenches some 250mm

deep are normally filled with suitable coarse sand or with 5-10mm washed gravel topped with sand. Sand grooving may be used in areas of high usage.

If the drainage system is to be efficient a certain amount of maintenance will be required. For an intensive piped drainage system to work efficiently, it is important to try to maintain an 'open' surface to all drain lines; regular applications of approved sand top dressing in conjunction with vertidressing can help to delay the natural capping process. This should be carried out twice a

year for a minimum of three years then reviewed. It should be noted that on heavy clay soils, settlement of the trench lines might occur during dry periods. This may lead to future requirement to top up these trench lines and must be budgeted for.

Funds invested in quality schemes will from the outset provide value for money and produce lasting improvements to the facility, allowing greater use throughout the year.

Most new builds will benefit from the installation of a comprehensive piped drainage system. This must be of prime importance and should be given due consideration at initial design stage.

Is it too late to get help? The answer of course is: - it is never too late to take action to maintain and renovate the surface. However funds invested in preventative measures are always more cost effective in the long term. The only difficulty you may have now is trying to find the right contractor to do the job, as many are inundated with enquiries and requests for work.

Everyone has a budget and as stated earlier you might be tempted to cut costs, but if you already have a problem, why add to it. Face the problem now and with the help of an experienced drainage contractor your facilities will be enhanced and leaving you content in the knowledge that whatever the weather you are prepared.

The many clubs and facilities that have invested in primary and secondary drainage schemes are reaping the benefits now and will continue to do so in the future.



Jim Crabbe is Contracts Manager for White Horse Contractors Ltd Tel: 01865 736272



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**Greenkeeping on a tight budget does not have to be restrictive and can be the driver for best practice. Kevin Marks visited Bargoed Golf Club to look at the innovative equipment maintenance regime that is reaping great benefits for the members at the Mid Glamorgan club.**

# Maximum impact

Bargoed Golf Club is located 15 miles north of Cardiff, 350 metres above sea level in the Rhymney valley with stunning distant views of the Brecon Beacons. The club was formed in 1913, but it took a further 10 years to raise the funds to build the initial 9-hole course. In 1972 a further nine holes were added, at a cost of just £8,000, to produce the 6,049 yards long, par 70 course that is in use today. There are over 500 playing members including a very

strong junior section of 60 very keen youngsters.

The original nine holes were created from the rocky valley slopes following the natural ground contours, while the 1972 addition was built on nearby farmland and this has resulted in two distinct characteristics for the course. Head greenkeeper Robert Wilkinson often describes it as one half 'mountain links' with natural fescue grasses and heather and gorse lining the fairways, while the other half is a typical parkland course punctuated with trees and bushes.

Clive Poole has been the Greens Chairman at Bargoed for the past three years and said, "We have one of the best inland courses in South Wales, with immaculate greens and fairways. Although not the longest course in the region it offers an excellent challenge for golfers of all levels, while offering easy walking and spectacular views."

Like many smaller clubs, Bargoed has to keep a tight rein on finances, so it is vitally important that the annual greenkeeping budget of £18,000 is used to maximum advantage. This budget covers all greenkeeping requirements such as fertilisers, grass seed, top dressings, spare parts and lubricants but excludes wages and capital expenditure on new equipment. Far from constraining Rob Wilkinson and his

Below: The greenkeeping team of Paul Jeffries, 22 years at the club; Rob Wilkinson, 10 years, Richard Greenway, 14 years and the most recent member of the team, John Davey, who has just completed his first year at Bargoed



three-man team, working within the demands of the budget actually inspires them to be innovative in the way that they undertake their daily tasks.

A new 600 square metre workshop and storage facility was built in 1996 at a cost of £40,000 and integral to the design is a small kitchen and rest area, together with shower and toilet facilities. A special chemical store was also constructed to comply with H&S legislation. The workshop is the responsibility of Assistant Head Greenkeeper and Mechanic, Paul Jeffries, a self-taught technician from his days as an amateur rally-driving enthusiast. Paul has been with club for 22 years and will tackle any job however large or small, he even services, repairs and maintains the club's JCB. The workshop is a testament to his commitment; there's a place for everything and everything was in place, from hand and air tools to welding equipment and cylinder grinding machines to gang mowers



Below: Assistant head greenkeeper and mechanic Paul Jeffries on the pristine, 10 year old Ransomes GT Classic



and trailed aerators. They have also purchased an hydraulic pipe repair kit and carry out all their own puncture repairs, making it almost totally self-sufficient. However large a storage area is, it's never quite large enough and equipment has to be double-parked. This means that it has to be moved frequently to access equipment at the back. Paul Jeffries has looked at this and devised a clever method to alleviate the problem.

Every item of equipment, however large or small, is stored on wooden pallets. A hand-operated pallet truck is used to lift and move the equipment around the shed. There's no need to hitch any of the larger trailed or hydraulic equipment to a power unit or for any manual heavy lifting of smaller items, which is excellent from a health and safety perspective, a point emphasised by the inspector during their last H&S review.

Looking at the turf maintenance equipment is yet another revelation. Much of the equipment is over five

years old, but from the immaculate condition you would never realise it. This is epitomised by a pristine Ransomes GT Classic, now entering its 10th season, and looking as good as when it left the factory. Paul has lavished considerable care on this machine, including a complete overhaul, rewiring, respray and new decals.

The course uses predominantly Textron equipment including Jacobsen greens, tees, surrounds and rough mowers, Ransomes hydraulic gangs, an Iseki compact tractor and a Cushman Turf-Truckster with various attachments. However, head greenkeeper Rob Wilkinson also runs a Kubota G1900 rotary, an Allen National triplex, a Wiedermann verti-drainer, a Massey Ferguson 240 tractor, a Wessex greens sweeper, a Sisis scarifier, a 3-tonne 4-wheel drive dumper and the JCB already mentioned.

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# Maximum impact



Above: Equipment is stored on pallets and a hand-operated pallet truck is used to lift and transport the items around the shed. This prevents any manual lifting and saves time and effort hitching to a power unit

Below: A section of the 'Mountain Links' part of the course featuring natural fescue grasses with heather and gorse lining the fairways



consuming task, it's just a case of a regular maintenance regime that everyone on the team buys in to. Oil and water checks and a visual inspection are carried out daily and it is the responsibility of the operator to wash down each piece of equipment used during the day. This is a policy that is followed with an almost religious zeal as the corrosive nature of macerated grass is fully appreciated by the team. This is done in a special wash down area using an industrial, heavy-duty steam cleaner, powerful enough to reach the most inaccessible areas on any machine.

"We purchased the steam cleaner second-hand about 5 years ago and it has been excellent. Being of industrial quality it is much more powerful

than most other machines and cleans the equipment brilliantly," says Rob Wilkinson.

Every week, each machine receives an extensive lubrication, with every grease nipple located and lubricated with a transparent grease. This involves putting the machines on ramps to get to every lubrication point, not just those that are visible.

This is followed every month by an intermediate service including the resetting of blades and back lapping with both an 80 and 120 compound, if required. Each winter, every machine is stripped down, completely overhauled and rebuilt for the following season. Every second year the machines are resprayed.

There's a report board in the workshop where notes indicating any faults or problems are posted so that rectification can be carried out as soon as possible. Each machine has a detailed logbook designed by Paul Jeffries containing a complete history of every service, maintenance and repair carried out. He also has parts books for every machine and ensures that when parts and spares are ordered, a part number is quoted every time, thus ensuring that the correct part arrives. Over time he has built up an extensive stock of parts and consumables, mainly items that are used regularly such as hydraulic filters, oil filters, drive belts, plastic drives, etc.

"This might appear to be an unnecessary expense," he says, "but it has been built up over a number of years and ensures that we have as little down time as possible. If I don't have an item in stock I can always call R S Bird our local dealer in Cowbridge

and they normally get the part to us within 24 hours."

Paul continued, "Readers might think that our maintenance regimes are excessive, but our policy is little and often; we never let things deteriorate. Regular maintenance at any club, large or small, is essential but here on our limited budget we have to get as many hours out of each machine as possible and this system works for us."

Rob Wilkinson added, "We used to lease purchase the machines in the past, but by making sure that we maximise the life of the kit we have been able to accumulate funds and we now purchase new equipment outright, as we have done when we bought the Jacobsen Turfcut and Iseki tractor last year."

News of the success of the service and maintenance work undertaken at Bargoed has spread to some of the smaller clubs in the valleys and they now use Paul Jeffries for some of their more difficult repair tasks. "This has worked well, as we sometimes carry out servicing and repairs in exchange for an unwanted piece of equipment which I know I can refurbish and use here at Bargoed," he said.

The final words are left to Club Secretary, Geoff Williams, "The club is very proud of the greenkeeping team, the way they maintain the course and look after the equipment. Lifelong learning is becoming the norm in all professions, especially greenkeeping. I hope that by sharing some of the practices adopted here at Bargoed that every club, however large or small, can benefit in the longer term."



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Those lucky enough to be entered in the 2001 BIGGA National Championship have a real treat in store with the rare opportunity to play two of the finest courses in the country possibly on the way to winning some of the most prestigious silverware in the Association's possession. Royal Birkdale is regarded by many as the finest course in the country while Southport & Ainsdale, a two time Ryder Cup venue in the 1930s., but a scan of the web produces other tributes to both of these great courses...

# Just Champion



I know everyone at Royal Birkdale is looking forward to hosting the first day of the BIGGA National Championship and my team and I will be making sure that the course is set-up so that everyone will enjoy their visit. We shall certainly look forward to meeting up with fellow greenkeepers from all over the country

**Chris Whittle** Head Greenkeeper,  
Royal Birkdale GC



We are delighted to be hosting the final round of the 2001 BIGGA National Championship and I am sure the players, whether in contention for a prize or not, will thoroughly enjoy playing the course we shall be preparing for them. I am also looking forward to meeting fellow greenkeepers from around the country and I'm sure it will be a superb occasion

**Mike Mercer**, Head Greenkeeper  
Southport and Ainsdale GC

Southport & Ainsdale (S&A), situated in the famous belt of linksland near Southport, lies adjacent to the main Southport to Liverpool railway line, across from Hillside.

Established in 1906, Southport & Ainsdale soon became famous. Having already held several tournaments, S&A was chosen to host the Ryder cup in 1933 and 1937. Few changes have taken place since then and many of the holes are still as they were when Sam Snead and Percy Alliss graced a course which was regarded as the toughest in the country by professionals at the time.

S&A also hosts many local and national championships, including the Open qualifying rounds. A links course by nature, S&A is a fair test of golf, stretching to 6,687 yards in length off the championship tees and 6,285 yards off the yellow tees.

Royal Birkdale is a championship course par excellence. It provides a most formidable, yet always fair, test of links golf and fully deserves the accolade of recognition as a venue for the one of the world's golf classics.

The test it provides is a complete one. It tries the golfer's skill, character, nerve and intellect.

Along with Muirfield it is justly regarded as the fairest of all the British Championship links courses. It is modern and progressive without

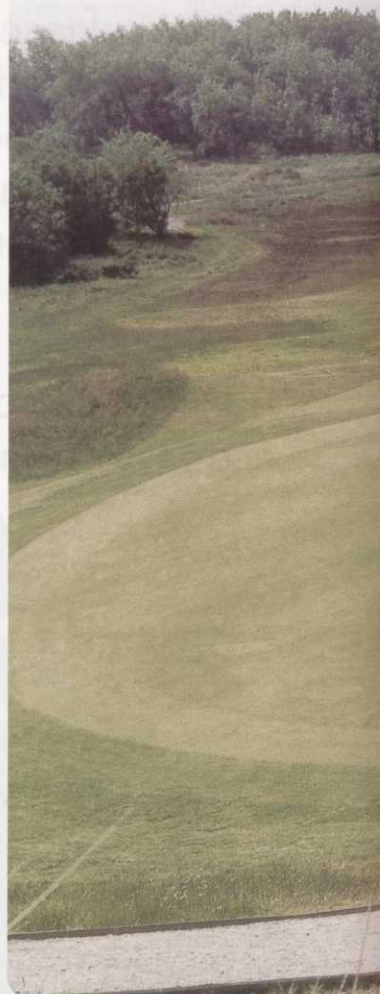
betraying the game's heritage. If ever the Open were to be given a permanent venue, Royal Birkdale would have a widely-accepted claim.

Birkdale exploded onto the championship scene in 1946 with the Amateur Championship and celebrated its centenary in 1989. Since then it has staged numerous championships and international matches for the best amateur and professional, men and women golfers, including the biannual matches between teams representing GB&I and America; the Curtis Cup; the Walker Cup and the Ryder Cup. Above all though, Royal Birkdale is an established venue for the Open Championship.

Each hole runs in the valley between towering sandhills. The problems are clearly stated but if you stray from the fairway, the sandhills, buckthorn and scrub can be punitive. The signature hole at Royal Birkdale is the 17th – a 547-yard par 5. Great accuracy and boldness are required – the twin sand dunes, some 240 yards from the tee, pose a real challenge, even with help from the prevailing wind.

Royal Birkdale can also boast the accolade of being voted number one in the top 100 golf courses in the British Isles.

Information from:  
[www.golf-england.co.uk/golf/sanda.htm](http://www.golf-england.co.uk/golf/sanda.htm)



Pictures by Alan Birch





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**Scott MacCallum met up with Dave Sammels, Courses Superintendent at The De Vere Belfry to talk about the forthcoming Ryder Cup match**

# C Up for the Cup

You could make a strong case for arguing that the biggest sporting event of the year - and I haven't forgotten the Lions Tour, or the Ashes Series, or Wimbledon or the Super Bowl - will take place in Wishaw, near Sutton Coldfield, in the Midlands.

That is the home of The De Vere Belfry where the recently remodelled Brabazon Course will be the stage on which 24 of the world's finest golfers will compete for the Ryder Cup.

It may last only three days and have no prize money at stake but in each of the matches since the early 80s, it has never failed to produce drama which wouldn't be out of place at the Globe Theatre in nearby Stratford-upon-Avon.

The teams are now so evenly matched that every one of the 24 players, who tees it up during the two series of foursomes and fourballs and final day singles, knows that every single shot may prove to be of vital importance when it comes to tallying up the points at the end of the match.

With that in mind the condition of the course takes on almost mind numbing importance. What if a perfect 350 yard Tiger Woods drive finishes up in a divot... or a hole-bound Colin Montgomerie putt on the 18th green to win a match misses its target after being nudged off line by an old pitch mark? The fact that golf is an outdoor game and the rub

of the green is a major element wouldn't come into it. Perfection is what is expected and perfection is what is demanded.

You would think such a weighty responsibility would have the man in charge of getting the course close to that perfection waking up in a cold sweat at the very thought. Not so.

"I don't get sleepless nights thinking about the Ryder Cup and everything that goes along with it," revealed De Vere Belfry Courses Superintendent Dave Sammels.

"If I were to worry about it I'm sure I wouldn't sleep but I'm confident that we have everything covered and have contingency plans to cover all eventualities."

And if anyone is in a position to ensure every i is dotted and tee is cut it is Dave, who lives in a flat above his office and rarely leaves the gates of the De Vere Belfry during his working week.

He does admit, though, that the one thing that could go wrong is the one thing he can't control and that, as every greenkeeper knows, is the weather.

The problems that can cause were demonstrated dramatically at the Benson & Hedges International Open held earlier in the season, a tournament which acted as a dress rehearsal for the Ryder Cup.

Those watching the BBC coverage

on the final day will recall the heavy skies under which the last few matches completed their games. Minutes after the final putt was sunk the thunderstorm struck with such venom that lightning hit the television commentary box at the back of the 18th stand and pictures were lost.

"We were standing under the stand at the time and there was a huge bang and a bright light at the same time as the lightning hit," recalled Dave, who works closely with Brabazon Head Greenkeeper, Bevan Tattersall.

"It also struck a huge Scots pine on the main drive 12 feet from the top and completely shattered the tree, blowing pieces 50 yards in all directions. I'd never seen weather like it before."

Having said that, should the Weather Gods once again decide to turn their attention to the Midlands at the end of September the team will be as ready as they can possibly be.

"We have got plans in place for everything from getting water off the course to what happens if fog delays the start as happened in an earlier Ryder Cup match here," explained Dave, who is in charge of The De Vere Belfry's three courses, the Brabazon, the Derby and the recently-built PGA.

That planning has been underway virtually since the day Dave took over with meeting galore with the Ryder



# Up for the Cup



Cup committee and European Ryder Cup Captain Sam Torrance himself.

"I've already had several meetings with Sam on how he would like the course set up for the match," revealed Dave.

"When I was in Boston for the last Ryder Cup I was interviewed by a television reporter who asked if I would be the 13th man on the team. I asked him if the Brookline Superintendent was the American's 13th man and although he didn't answer the inference was clear," revealed Dave.

"The set-up on the Brabazon will be done fairly... but in our favour," he smiled.

"Sam knows quite a bit about greenkeeping and he knows what he wants to give his guys the best chance of winning the Cup. For example, he knows how far the Americans can hit the ball and he knows how far we hit it. He knows the speed of the greens the Americans are used to and the speed of greens our guys are familiar with."

In short Sam will make sure the Europeans have everything in their

favour as much as possible with the longer hitting Americans perhaps finding the fairways narrowing the further down they go or the greens not quite as fast as they would expect on their own Tour - all of it no more than the Europeans expect when they are the visiting team.

The players will find the rough four inches long with the semi an inch and a half while the likelihood is that the greens will be stimping at between 10.5 and 12.

During the week of the match the greenkeeping team will comprise of the 13 permanent members of the Brabazon team, supplemented by the 15 from the other two courses - nine on the PGA and six on the Derby - six students, who do strimming and fly mowing in the summer, and six additional greenkeepers from Slaley Hall and Carden Park, two other De Vere resorts.

"Normally there is quite a bit of banter between our three teams - each team has a name, the Brabazon staff are called Brabwrackers, there is the PGA Scum and the Derby Dingles - but we will all be pulling together to make sure everything is right during the week," said Dave, hinting at the wicked humour that flies around the maintenance facility.

They will not be short of equipment to make sure the standards are met with John Deere, the official supplier

to the De Vere Belfry adding to the regular armoury of machinery leading up to and during the week itself.

"We will be hand mowing all greens and tees and will have 18 machines, plus a couple of spares, to do the job. We will also be using greens triples to cut the fairways," said Dave.

The team will begin at first light and cut the entire course. On the first two days, when there is a foursomes series followed by a fourball series, the greens, tees and fairways will be cut again midway through the day and all divots replaced. This will be repeated at the close of play.

"We can cut the entire course in around an hour with an individual green taking about 20 minutes."

While it is easy to appreciate the nerves the players will be feeling during the week it would also be easy to underestimate the pressure the greens staff will be under. With high in the sky camera positions and huge grandstands any less than perfect mowing lines will be blatantly obvious but Dave knows his team are up to the job.

"We have some of the best green-







keepers anywhere in Britain here - one of them is known as "Laser" Luke because his lines are so straight - and everyone is up to the job. They are all buzzing about the Ryder Cup," said Dave, who expects many of them to move on once they have the Ryder Cup on their CVs.

"I've told them I don't mind as long as they go away from here to be Head Greenkeepers - if they move sideways I'll kick them out the door. All are good enough to be at least First Assistants. We train them all on side here and I'm proud of our record for training."

While the course is being brought to a peak for the week of the Ryder Cup the general standard is something The De Vere Belfry strives to maintain day-in-day-out

"We operate a five day shift rather than a five day week so we've always got cover on the golf courses. It saves the courses going up and down and we can keep the standard high all the time," said Dave, who likes nothing more than getting out on to the golf course and doing whatever job needs done.

"People see the course on television and expect it to be the same when they arrive for a game. It is our job to make sure it lives up to expectations 365 days a year."

When Dave is not working he heads back to his home in Edinburgh, where his wife and brother run the family business, Edinburgh Landscapes.

It was through Edinburgh Landscapes that Dave first became involved with the soon-to-be four time Ryder Cup venue.

The company had worked closely with Dave Thomas, the original co-designer of the Brabazon with Peter Alliss, on a number of other golf courses including Westerwood near Cumbernauld and the Roxburghe in the Scottish Borders, and he asked Dave to give him a price for growing-in the new PGA course.

"At the end of that contract I was asked if I wanted a job here, initially as Course Manager of the Derby and PGA courses. I was asked as we walked around the course and the further we walked the more I fancied the idea. I can't tell you why I wanted to come here. It was a big challenge and

I suppose I was getting older as well and didn't want to lose what was a great opportunity for me," explained Dave, who took on the additional responsibility for the Brabazon six months later.

A visitor to this year's Ryder Cup, not having visited The De Vere Belfry since the last match was played there in '93 might be forgiven for thinking he'd shown up at the wrong venue such has been the number of changes to the course since then.

"It would be easier to say what we haven't changed about the course rather than go through what we have," smiled Dave, hinting at the extensive nature of the face lift the Brabazon had been on the receiving end of, costing almost £2.5 million.

With that he runs through a list which covers virtually every hole, sometimes fundamental amendments, other times mere tweaks. Indeed included among the changes are two completely new holes in the 3rd and 4th. The 3rd has moved from being a straight par-4 to being a dog-legged par-5 with a pond in front while the 4th used to be a par-5 but

is now a par-4, again with a pond guarding the green.

"The work has been done for the betterment of the golf course as a whole and not just for the Ryder Cup and now it is a mature course which is going from strength to strength," said Dave, whose personal input included the addition of 14 magnificent brick bridges around the course.

Pleasingly, both Dave and Bevan have been invited to all of the official engagements during the week, including the Opening and Closing ceremonies but Dave isn't fazed by the prospect of rubbing shoulders with the likes of Tiger and Monty.

"I think being a Scotsman you think 'A man's a man for a' that'. They might play golf better than me but I can do other things better than them so as far as I'm concerned we're equals. I do admire them though."

Such is the excellence of the work that has been done at The De Vere Belfry recently, coupled with that during the week of the match itself Dave Sammels and his team will have the admiration of all the players and the rest of the greenkeeping fraternity.





# Soil analysis

Unravelling the mystery

Daniel Binns leads  
you through the  
confusing path  
of soil analysis ...





Periodic soil analysis is important in order to review trends of pH and nutrient levels in the soil. There are currently a variety of testing alternatives available to the greenkeeper but few of these are independent. Furthermore the information they provide is often confusing and difficult to understand. The purpose of this article is to help interpret the minefield of information which can often accompany the results of your chemical analysis once it returns from the laboratory.

As far as we know there are 13 essential elements in the soil necessary for plant growth. These are

required in addition to three nutrients, which are not derived from the soil but from the atmosphere and water. These are carbon (C), oxygen (O) and hydrogen (H) and form the largest percentage of the plant, on a dry weight basis. The plant carbohydrates are composed of these elements. The only reason we usually don't think of these as being essential nutrients is because we do not have to supply them through fertilisation and they are not derived from the soil.

The 13 soil-derived nutrients are divided up into macronutrients and micronutrients. Macronutrients are

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# Soil analysis

Unravelling the mystery

required in largest quantity and include nitrogen (N), potassium (K), phosphorus (P), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg) and sulphur (S). Micronutrients are present in very small quantities within the plant. These trace elements (micronutrients) are chlorine (Cl), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), boron (B), zinc (Zn), copper (Cu) and molybdenum

attached to the negatively charged surfaces of clay and organic matter in the soil. When cations become attached to these cation exchange sites on clay and organic matter, they become temporarily retained by the soil. These nutrients can then be utilised at a later time by the plant.

There are also negatively charged plant nutrients. These include

we need to make repeated light applications of fertilisers under sandy soil conditions. The nutrients are not retained by sandy soil because it has a very low CEC. However, in heavier or more organic soils we find that the need for nutrients from fertiliser is lower because they typically retain a lot of these cationic nutrients. These nutrients remain in the soil and are available to the plant for a longer period of time.

Although CEC is of interest, it is not the most important factor in determining nutrient holding capacity of soil. It is the amount of organic matter present which determines the quantity of nitrogen and other nutrients held within the soil. For example the organic matter under a golf green has far more of an impact on the turf's fertility rather than CEC. It is the organic matter which holds the nitrogen reserves.

The majority of greenkeepers undertake routine soil analyses to monitor nutrient levels on their greens. Regular (perhaps yearly) testing has the greatest value especially on sandy rootzones where changes can occur rapidly. Ideally, samples should be submitted from each green on the course. Representative sampling may be appropriate if all the greens are constructed and managed the same way, also helping to keep analysis costs to a minimum. Identifying the best, worst and one average green.

Collect the samples at the same time each year, to the same depth and use the same laboratory - preferably an independent one. This process eliminates a few variables that can compromise the value of the data. Samples should be obtained at least three weeks after any fertiliser application.

Nutrients can be extracted in the laboratory in a number of ways but in sports turf we are now seeing standardisation of these extraction methods. It is the interpretation of the results that often causes confusion.

Commonly soil chemical analysis can be interpreted in two ways. The first is the more proven, traditional method of predicting the quantity of plant available nutrients in the soil. Basing a sound fertiliser programme on pH values and level of available nutrients will provide an accurate assessment of nutrient requirements in the rootzone.

The second method of interpreta-

tion uses the base cation saturation ratio.

Recommendations are made by ranking the calculated percent cation saturation with an ideal base saturation taken from research in agriculture. The percentage base saturations are those likely to be found in a soil of neutral pH. They are not necessarily the optimum ratios for plant growth and are simply derived from the natural element concentrations in soil.

As a consequence recommendations from this method assume a pH of 7.0 is desirable because nutrient availability is increased in neutral soils. Unfortunately this fails to recognise that most greenkeepers in the UK aim to have mildly acidic soils where favourable grass species will dominate, disease incidence can be reduced and weed growth inhibited. Having mildly acidic soil may have a detrimental effect on the availability of some nutrients, but it may be this very fact that gives the poverty grasses a competitive edge in a *Poa annua* dominated world.

As you can imagine this method can often highlight a number of anomalies in the soil, for example copper or boron deficiency. In reality, it is extremely rare to find deficiencies of any of the micronutrients on turf in the UK.

The only way to be sure that any soil test predicts nutrient availability for turf is to carry out the basic research. Interpretation of analysis results must be based on trials with turf grasses growing under varying nutrient regimes such that deficiency symptoms are actually induced.

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 resistant, disease tolerant turf are the physical maintenance of the rootzone and sensible nitrogen fertiliser applications.

Daniel Binns is an STRI Turfgrass Agronomist covering the Midlands. Daniel and the rest of the STRI team can be contacted on 01274 565131, e-mail: [info@stri.co.uk](mailto:info@stri.co.uk) or visit our website [www.stri.co.uk](http://www.stri.co.uk)



(Mo). All of these nutrients need to be present in adequate quantities for concentrations are measured in parts per million of leaf material.

Soil pH is, of course, the single most important chemical factor that influences turf management. It is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of the soil, determined by the concentration of hydrogen ions in a soil solution. Acidic soils (pH below 7.0) have a high concentration of hydrogen ions while alkaline soils (pH above 7.0) have a low concentration of hydrogen ions.

In more acidic soils, certain nutrients become less available, namely nitrogen, phosphorus, calcium, potassium and magnesium. Potentially toxic elements such as aluminium and manganese are made more available through acidification. Many species of grass will not thrive under these conditions and as a consequence soil pH has a significant effect on the species that dominate the turf.

Most of the nutrients that we supply to the turf through fertilisers are positively charged ions. We call these cations. These cations can become

nitrate-nitrogen, phosphates, sulphates, chloride and molybdenum. Due to the negative charge, they cannot be held by soil clay organic matter and these nutrients tend to move more quickly through the soil along with soil water. Thus they are prone to leaching losses, and once they leach beyond the rootzone of the turfgrass roots, they are no longer available to the plant.

One essential plant nutrient is neutral, meaning it has neither a negative or positive charge. This nutrient is boron in the form of boric acid, but the plant requires it nonetheless, although grasses need much lower amounts than broad leaved plants.

The ability of a soil to retain cation nutrients is important. As the content of clay and organic matter in the soil goes up, so does the soil's cation exchange capacity. Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) is an indicator of the nutrient holding capability of the soil and can be a useful indicator in its own right. The term refers to the ability of negatively charged soil particles to attract the positively charged ions.

Sands have lower CEC than soils containing clay. It is for this reason





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

**North**

At the time of writing the forms for the Section Autumn Outing were going out to all members, and by now the event at Keith GC will have probably been played. Results will be in the October magazine as will be the report from the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Auchterarder GC. Next month is the National Championships at Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale GC, I will be playing and hope to see a few members if you can make the trip.

I have a few details of the Seminar we are running in November. It will be held at McDonald GC Ellon on Friday November 9 in the early evening, confirmed speakers are Gordon Moir, Links Manager at St Andrews, Ronnie Bunting, Course Manager at Kilmacollm GC and Peter Boyd, BIGGA Regional Administrator for Scotland. One more speaker will make up the programme and we hope to be able to provide refreshments for delegates. All in the Aberdeen area are urged to support this Seminar and bring Greens Convenors etc. along as it should be very interesting and educational. A full programme and application form will be sent out in due course. Thanks must go to John Geddes and Hugh MacLachrie for setting this up.

Next month I hope to reveal the two lucky members of the Section who have won this year's Patrons' Awards of a trip to BTME 2002. Watch this space.

The Open Championship was great again this year and the Support Team did a great job as usual, I hope George Mitchell, Newmacher enjoyed his first experience of being a part of it.

This year has been one I will be glad to see the back of workwise as it took us so long to get going with the weather and such, so let's hope for a good Autumn to get all our end of season work done.

Iain Macleod

**Central**

This month we extend a warm Section welcome to Bruce Summerton, Bruce is Head Greenkeeper at King James VI Golf Club on Moncrieffe Island in Perth and as there are quite a few Section events taking place over the next few months, he will get a chance to meet some of his fellow members.

Here's a list of dates to add to the one you already have for the Autumn tournament on September 27 at Murrayshall, the Grand five-a-side Football Tournament will be held at Forthbank Stadium, Stirling on Sunday October 14, the AGM will be held at Celtic Park, Glasgow on Tuesday October 23. Incidentally no one came up with the answer to the puzzle set in the July magazine regarding the venue. Was the clue too cryptic or did no one really want to win a Club 2000 ticket? Tell the truth now! Surely with a venue like Celtic

Park for the AGM we will get a better turnout than the usual 10 to 12 stalwarts who always give us their support, just think about it some of you really staunch football supporters will get the chance to see the European Cup at close quarters for the first time! The first really social golf tournament or Turkey Trot, as Gordon Mitchell keeps calling it, will be held on Saturday, December 1 at Pipersdam Golf Club in Angus. As before if you are going to attend any of these events would you please return the reply form at the bottom of the letter by the date given, it makes it a whole lot easier for catering etc. Thanks. Two men on the move are Stuart Smith, from Lundin Links, and Fraser Wright, from Lundin Ladies. Both have moved to the new course at Kingask, St. Andrews. Best wishes and every success for the future from everyone in the Section.

Stuart, I gave your bottle of vodka (from the Spring Tournament) to the "Heroes From Fife" and they have promised to replace it if they can get "Deek" to cash in some of the dollars he never spent in Florida!

A man who has been in the wars recently is one of our Patron's representative on our committee, Kevin Brunton. Kevin sustained a broken ankle while attempting to unload something from the rear of a trailer and ended up in hospital. Best wishes from everyone for a speedy recovery, Kevin! I thought because he was laid up with a broken ankle that I would get peace from his usual sales patter for a while, but no, he came hobbling in on crutches the other day "Just to see if there is anything you're needing." You can't keep a good man down!

John Crawford.

**Phone a friend?**  
[www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html](http://www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html)

**Ayrshire**

Just a brief note this month to remind everyone that our Autumn Outing will be played at Brighthouse Bay Golf Club on Thursday, September 27. The format will along the usual lines. Our Secretary, Derek Wilson, will have a letter with you soon to confirm all the final arrangements and I hope to see a better than average turnout especially from our southern members with the venue in their locality. See you at Brighthouse. Any news call me on 01505 683278  
Iain Barr



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

**Northern**

Only a few days ago at the time of writing this report, it was with shock and great sadness that I was informed of Roy Spencer passing away. Roy will be sorely missed by the Northern Section members. He was a Past Chairman of the Section and main-

tained his links and supporting the Section right upto his passing away. As well as being well loved by the Section members Roy left behind a wife, Sylvia, eight kids and 15 grandchildren. A full tribute will appear in next month's magazine.

A couple of weeks ago the annual Roses match was played at Sandmoor GC. A match report and hopefully a happy one to follow next month.

September is busy month on the old calendar with Invitation Day next week and the Cumbria Cup at Penrith GC on the 19th.

Important changes to your diary concerning the AGM At a recent committee meeting it was decided to move the AGM to coincide with the financial year and also make the winter golf more of a fun day. Notice is hereby given that the Northern Section AGM will be on Thursday, October 18 at 11.30 am at Woodsome Hall GC.

The Autumn Tournament will follow with bacon sarni and coffee following the AGM from 12.30 with a tee off at 1.30 followed by the evening meal. Closing date for entries is October 10 with payment in full (cheques made payable to BIGGA Northern Section) and sent to my address please.

Tickets are now being sold for the Section's annual dinner dance on Saturday, November 10, at Bradford GC, Carvery + Disco 7 pm till 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

Congratulations to John Studdard on making it through to the final of the Toro Student of the Year. John, from Leeds Golf Centre (Wike Ridge), will be going to the final in October after coming through the regional heats.

Matt Booth, from Howley Hall GC, along with his wife Alison are expecting a baby in January to add to their clan including Jack (8) and Matthew (14).

The Section website is now up and running, to log on just send me an e-mail and I'll give you it, as it is not yet registered at the time of writing this.

We welcome new members in Robert Herrero, Heworth GC; Paul Brown, West Bradford GC; Michael Dealtry, Skidby Lakes GC; Paul Gledhill, Halifax Bradley Hall GC.

That's all for now, if anybody as any then let me know.

My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188; Mobile 07790 678572, E-mail: andy\_smith21@hotmail.com

Andy Smith

**Section Event?**  
[www.bigga.org.uk/events.html](http://www.bigga.org.uk/events.html)

**North West**

I have not long returned from a very enjoyable week at The Open at Royal Lytham and feel I must congratulate

Paul Smith and his staff on the fine condition of the course. Most of my time was taken up either in the porta-cabin, or at the 1st tee, so not seeing a lot of the course I decided to go divoting a couple of nights with a few of the Support team. This is the best time to see the course, as you are able to meander across the greens, which are in great condition, and see probably the best constructed bunkers in the country. Certainly none of the players took the course to pieces, even though the strong winds which were forecast never arrived. Last time The Open was played at Royal Lytham, Jim Macdonald was Head Greenkeeper, and although many years younger, Paul Smith has kept up the tradition of producing a first class course for The Open.

In the July issue of Greenkeeper International all members of BIGGA were given the opportunity to submit a personal profile to win a trip to Florida and the GCSAA Conference and show. The profile had to be submitted to me by July 31, and although the North West Section has 600 members I only received three applications. The trip is sponsored by Bernhard & Company, and two BIGGA members will be selected from each Region. This was a rare opportunity to go to America completely free of charge, and to find out what greenkeeping is like on the other side of the pond. Three out of 600 is not good enough, and I am sure that many of you would love to go but did not apply, well remember these opportunities are open to all members of BIGGA, so if the chance comes again, lets have a better response.

The next golf meeting will be the "Stewards" match at Hazel Grove Golf Club on Monday, September 10, and we need a team of 16 to retain the trophy. This will be followed by the "Whitelaw Bowl" to be played at Penrith Golf Club on Wednesday 19th September. If you are available for any of the above matches, or have any news or job vacancies please ring me on, 07761 583387 or 01517 145412.

Bert Cross

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

**North Wales**

Apologies once again for lack of notes but I have moved house and for the last month have had no fixed abode, all my belongings are spread around North Wales and my life is a bit upside down at the moment.

Apologies go to Darren Anderson, who has been trying to track me down without much success. In saying that though he is the only one who has tried (C'mon committee, I need dates etc. of things to relay)

It is the first week of August and I should be moving into my new house this week when normal service should be resumed. I can still be contacted on my mobile on 07787 586084.

Dave Goodridge





**Midland Region**  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01480 437507

The first of this year's Midland Region Golf Management Trophy events was held at Verulam Golf Club on Tuesday, August 7 when 16 teams comprising a greenkeeper, Club Secretary, Club Captain and Chairman of Green competed for a tonne of fertiliser for the winning golf club and other team prizes.

Many readers may not be aware that Samuel Ryder, a local seed merchant, Mayor of St. Albans, Club Captain and the instigator of the Ryder Cup, was a member of Verulam Golf Club at the time he had the idea of playing a match against the USA for which he donated the trophy, which is in everyone's minds in the lead up to this year's Match at the Belfry.

The event was sponsored by Scotts who in their fourth year of supporting these competitions, represented by Mike Jupp who was attending his first BIGGA golf event. Despite a dreadful weather forecast, most of the teams completed their round in the dry and the course was superbly presented by Head Greenkeeper Geoff Smith and his staff.

The winning club was Hartsbourne Golf & Country Club with a superb team score of 133, 11 under par, with the Mid Herts Golf Club a close second on 134 and Mill Hill Golf Club third on 136, on a count-back from the host club. An excellent day was had by all and our thanks go to all at Verulam Golf Club for their hospitality and cooperation in staging the competition.

Peter Larter

### Phone a friend?

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

### Mid Anglia

The Section's autumn golf tournament is to be held at Letchworth Golf Club on October 11th. The format will be 18 holes of golf in the morning, followed by a meal and the Annual General Meeting in the afternoon.

Those wishing to attend the AGM only, should arrive for 4.00pm. Entries to the golf tournament should be sent to Richard, using the usual form.

Paul Lockett

### Section Event?

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

### East Midlands

Not a great deal of news to report on this month. At the E.T. Breakwells golf day on July 25 several members were invited courtesy of Len Breakwell for a business day's game of golf. The winner was BIGGA Vice Chairman himself Richard Barker. Unfortunately the East Midlands team could only finish in third place. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kevin Kinzer, of E.T. Breakwells, for helping to organise

this event. Please remember that this year's Autumn tournament is to be held on September 14 at Lingdale Golf Club. If you wish to confirm your Tee-Off time then please give me a ring.

Antony Bindley

### East of England

Woodhall Spa was the setting for the Burdens Golf Trophy.

The members played over the new Bracken Course, which was in superb condition. It was well defined and manicured and an excellent test of golf. Sam Rhodes and Peter Wisbey were thanked for their efforts and asked to thank all of the EGU Headquarters for courtesy on the day.

Prize Winners:- 1. Richard Owen, Boston West, 39 pts; 2. Jodie Forster, Thorpe Wood, 38 pts; 3. David Hornsey, Woodhall Spa, 37 pts; 4. Brett Cornelious, Seacroft, 35 pts. Nearest The Pin, Richard Owen. Trade prizes went to Duncan Beall and Gary Cooper, the prizes were presented by Peter Warner and Chris Lee, of Burdens, and many thanks to them and all other sponsors on the day.

The Peterborough Garden Machinery Trophy was played at Spalding Golf Club. A good turn out of members played an excellent conditioned course prepared by head greenkeeper Tony Ward and his staff.

The winner on the day was new Head Greenkeeper to the section Ian Batty of Sleaford GC. Welcome and well done on winning the PGM Trophy.

1. Ian Batty, 35pts, Sleaford GC
2. Les Howkins, 34 pts, Cleethorpes GC;
3. Graeme Macdonald, 33 pts, Newark GC.

Trade Prize. Gary Cooper 34 pts  
Longest Drive. David Hornsey, Woodhall Spa  
Nearest the Pin. Simon Hedley.

Thanks to all sponsors on the day, especially Keith from PGM.

Others were:- Tower Chemicals, Greenpride, Aitkens, Boughton Loam, Alpha Amenity, Lincsgreen, Rigby Taylors, Mansfield Sands, Burdens and Midlube.

After the prize giving Gary Cooper, of Tower Chemicals, presented David Hornsey and Les Howkins with their BIGGA Blazers. Tower are now the Order of Merit sponsors which first prize is a new Blazer. Thanks to Gary and Tower Chemicals.

G Macdonald

### BBO

Humblest of apologies for missing the last few months. It must have been all that sunshine going to my head - just not used to hot sunny weather especially down here at Costa Del Caversham. Anyway straight onto business and it seems that Colin Hutt is trying to do his own impression of Tiger Woods by winning all the Section competitions. Not satisfied with success at Caversham Heath back in April, he then went on to win at Maidenhead with 43 pts, closely followed by Carl Small with 41 pts and myself in the prizes (at last) with 37 pts. Many thanks to Maidenhead Golf Club for their hospitality and also to David Winterton and his team for producing

such an impressive course.

We would also like to thank Bernie Wall, of Gem, for sponsoring the competition. You may also be aware that the Rigby Taylor Pairs is in full swing at the moment, (no pun intended, honest) and at the time of writing is at the semi-final stages, which consists of the following pairings: Alastair Higgs & Simon Robinson, Calcot Park, v David Goodchild & Charlie Wright, Ellesbrough. Ian Robins & Carl Small (Defending Champions), Ellesbrough) v Tony Steven & Andy Reason, Castle Royle. Chris Lomas & Mark Hancock, The Berkshire. v Gary Armstrong &

Mark Steels, Cherwill Edge. Lee Bishop & Brian Payne, Burnham Beeches. v Lindsay Anderson & Simon Austin, Badgemore Park. Good Luck to those involved as soon as I can find out the results I'll try and get them in a report.

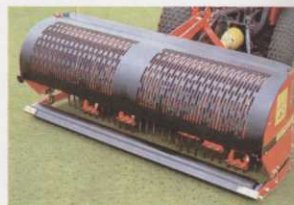
Well that's about it for this month. You would have thought that after three months or is it four? that I might have something interesting to write about but unless you want to hear about shooting myself in the thumb or the episode with Steph and the tattoos... no I'll stop there. Hopefully more next month.

Jon Scoones Tel: 01189 723334

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

North Cornwall GC who will report back from his trip to Canada where he was a part of BIGGA's Bernhard's Scholarship earlier this year. The afternoon will hear from Dave Sammels, Courses Superintendent at De Vere Belfry, who will speak on preparing from the Ryder Cup. Question time will involve the listed speakers plus Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA and Past Chairman of the Association, Gordon Child.

Attendance at the seminar counts for three CPD points and cost is £17.50 for members and £25 for non-

members inclusive of lunch.

Further information is available from Paula Humphries Tel: 01288 352194

#### South Wales

The summer Competition was recently held at the Llanwern Golf Club in Newport. We were made to feel extremely welcome at the club by everyone and we had an excellent day all round. It was a first time visit to Llanwern for many of us and we found the golf course to be in excellent condition thanks to A Panks and his team. It's great when someone

goes out of their way to provide that little bit of something more, something different, something special!! Course Manager Adrian Panks certainly did this for us at Llanwern, I don't know how many noticed but for us the greenkeepers, Adrian cut the greens in backlap mode, yes really! Thanks!

Thanks Ade for this special treatment, you know what they say about a craftsman blaming his tools?

Results of the day: Winner of the Birdie Cup with a best gross was Peter Holmstrom from Newport GC; Winner of the Jacobsen Cup with a



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best nett was J B Jones from Dinas Powis GC; 2.nett. Chairman Adrian Panks; 3.nett. Steven Lloyd from Burghill Valley GC; 4.nett. Brian Jones from Pencoed College.

Longest Drive and Nearest the pin both went to Andrew Roach, of Haverfordwest GC.

Our sincere thanks to the committee at Llanwern for granting us courtesy of the course and to R S Bird Ltd our sponsors of the Summer Competition, to Steven Clifford, Julian Driver and Jeffrey Bird who all attended the day. The prize table was superb as always and we thank them for their continued support of what is our most established event/trophy.

On the 25th at the Grove GC, near Porthcawl our annual match Greenkeepers versus Secretaries took place. The weather was once again superb and the golf course was in excellent condition. This was our first visit to the Grove GC and everyone was pleasantly surprised at how good not only the course is, for it's only five years old, but the facilities that they have there are really top class. We were made to feel extremely welcome by all at the Grove but especially Directors Tim Jones and Mike Thomas, our sincere thanks to them for their splendid hospitality.

Grove Golf Club Captain, Mr David Jones paid special praise to Head Greenkeeper Henry Stead for his efforts in ensuring that the Grove GC is presented at it's best at all times and this was reiterated by everyone who was present. Well done Henry to you and your team!

The overall result of the day was a friendly half with the Greenkeepers retaining the Shield. My thanks to Ray Howells for organising the Secretaries team and for his kind words at the presentation.

Longest Drive went to - yes you guessed it? Andy Roach; Nearest the Pins went to: Steven Lloyd, Burghill Valley GC; Brian Jones, Pencoed College; Herbie Prober, Pontardawe GC and Jim Graham, Secretary.

Many thanks to Alan Abel, of Complete Weed Control, South Wales who kindly sponsors this annual event. It was pleasing for him (and me) to have a two full teams present after last years poor showing. Thank you Alan!

The Rigby Taylor Matchplay Doubles Competition is well underway. Through to the next round go :- Peter Lacey and Robert Hanford; Daryl Bray and Steve Mills; Robert Frater and John Borja; Henry Stead and David Morgan.

Kerry Jones and Daryl Jones; Jamie Probert and Herbie Probert; Adrian Panks and Julian B Jones and Russell Anderson and Angus Macloed.

The next round draw will have taken place and you will have been notified by now. Good Luck!

On Friday 13th of July, Paul Robinson, Head Greenkeeper of Pyle & Kenfig GC, officially retired. Paul was a greenkeeper at Pyle & Kenfig for over 35 years and was Treasurer for the South Wales greenkeepers for over 14 years. On Tuesday 17th I was privileged to be invited along to Pyle & Kenfig along with other BIGGA representatives, colleagues, friends,

greenkeepers and club members/officials to attend a retirement party for Paul. Our President, Colin Murphy, was invited to say a few words (if you know Colin, you know it won't be only a few) on behalf of our Association and Section.

Many kind things were said to Paul that evening and all were sincere, deserved and truthfull. Thanks to P&K and Steve Anthony for inviting us along. To Paul, we wish you well for a long, happy, healthy and well deserved retirement. See you soon!

Royal Porthcawl Golf Club greenstaff are just about recovering from a hectic fortnight of intense competitions. Firstly they hosted the Ladies European Tour event and then went straight into the Welsh Amateur Championships. I'm sure all went well for David Ward and his team and that Richard Hatcher will be fully recovered and ready to write next months notes.?

The Section would like to wish Jim McKenzie and the Celtic Manor Resort all the very best for the Wales Open which will have been played over the Wentwood Hills Course by the time you read this. Hopefully there will have been some very good news in relation to the Ryder Cup bid for 2009 for them and for Wales by then also.

On a personal note, I was unable to attend the Open Championship as a member of the Greenkeeper Support Team at Lytham this year due to the fact that Pennard Golf Club was opening its new clubhouse and there was a weekend of Competitions, frolicking and festivities. (those with keen hearing will have heard Peter Alliss mention the fact a few times throughout the duration of the Open). The Guest of honour was Open Champion Max Faulkner who opened the official plaque on the 50th Anniversary of him, winning the Open at Royal Portrush in 1951.

Gus Faulkner, Max's father was club professional at Pennard golf club and this is where Max Faulkner played his first golf and learned links golf.

One of my team members, Bob Hanford was present at The Open and had a marvellous time amid the sahara of bunkers around the Lytham golf course, (let alone Blackpool).

Congratulations to Paul Smith and his team for the brilliant golf course that they presented to the players. An excellent Open and I would recommend to everyone that to be a member of the support team is something that every working greenkeeper should do at least once, it's a great experience and one that you'll treasure.

### Devon & Cornwall

The evenings are now slowly drawing in which can only mean autumn is once again around the corner, this year our Autumn and Winter meeting programme starts a little earlier than usual with the first meeting taking place on Wednesday 3rd October at China Fleet Golf & Country Club. The morning's golf competition will be a singles tabled competition for the D O Hunt Trophy, our non playing members will be able to enjoy the usual course walk which will leave the club house at approximately 10.30am, lunch will be from 1pm followed by our afternoon

educational talk presented by Richard Whyman on his experiences on the Bernhard sponsored Canadian Trip.

Golfing members please note entry details for our forthcoming meetings;

After receipt of your completed entry form which will have been sent out to you or your Course Manager.

Golfing members to receive starting times before meetings, pairings will be accepted for any foursome & greensome competition.

A levy of £2 will be added to each entry received after the closing date.

As some members have problems paying before meetings, they will be able to continue to pay on the day without being levied as long as the entry has been received before the closing date, any member who doesn't attend after entering will be invoiced if no payment is received.

Richard Whyman

### South Coast

It's been quite a busy month with two golf fixtures being played!

The first was the Invitational Summer Tournament, which was played at a very well presented Broadstone GC.

The day received a good turnout, with 60 people taking part in the competition. Everyone was impressed with the standard of the course, so a big pat on the back to Adi Archer and his gang.

The day finished quite late, I didn't get back into the clubhouse until 9:30pm! So the meal was definitely needed by that time. A big thank you must go to the catering staff, who stayed on late to feed us all.

The results for the day are as follows;

1. 43pts Simon Ridland/Mark Davis. Rigby Taylor Trophy;
2. 40pts Alan Magee and Father. Course Care Trophy;
3. 40pts Bernie Emberley/P. Hector;
4. 39pts R.Wills and Father;
5. 38pts James Martin/Mike Cartwright. (Yes, that is me...)

The second event to take place was the Bigga Management Trophy, which was played at a truly magnificent Salisbury and South Wilts GC. (That's where I work!)

Twenty-five teams from around the Section took part. The teams comprised of The Course Manager, The General Manager, The Greens Chairman and The Club Captain.

The winning teams were; 1. Moors Valley GC; 2. Another GC; 3. Alesford GC. Some of you might not have heard of "Another Golf Club", I think it's one of those pseudonyms. I will investigate and reveal their true identity next month. I do apologise to all those at "Another GC".

So that's what has happened, now for what is yet to happen. The first is the Autumn Tournament, which is to be played at Petersfield GC, on Wednesday, October 3. The price for the day is £18. This includes 18 holes and a meal.

Cheques should be made payable to BIGGA and sent to Chris Sturgess at; 40 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton, Hants, SO19 6HB.

Starting times for the golf and the meal will then be sent to you once Chris has received your details.

Don't forget that if you need to cancel, you must give Chris at least 7 days notice. If you don't, you will lose your £18.

The second event is the Regional Seminar at Cannington College.

Everyone should receive details of prices and how to pay for the day in the post. But I will give more details in next months article, when I have more information myself.

Well that's it. See you at Petersfield. Mike Cartwright.



South East  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

### Kent

July 26 saw the summer Stableford at Chesterfield Golf Club. It was a rather hot day but the standard of golf not so hot. Well that's what I was told anyway. I was unable to attend so I don't have too much information about the antics of the day but I do have the results and reports back by my staff who did play and thoroughly enjoyed their day out. Well they don't get out much because I have them working so hard.

Right to the results. First place went to Andrew Guy, second to Lewis Till and third to Paul Larsen. Longest drive went to Chris Wright and Nearest the pin went to Keith Porter. Well done to all you guys. Not forgetting the trade who we thank for their continued support once again. And the winner of the trade prize was Derek (NOT SO) Keen of John Shaw Grass Machinery. Many people remarked that it made a nice change to see you out and about Derek. So on behalf of everyone who played at Chesterfield I would like to thank all of their staff for making the Kent section welcomed and I'm sure everyone enjoyed their day.

As I mentioned earlier I was unable to make the golf day because I had already excepted the great honour of playing in the exclusive Bob Cook Memorial Golf Day at Kings Hill Golf Club. Those who don't know Bob, would not know that his golf swing passed away several years ago after a long illness. A great day was had with some of Mr Cook's more colourful friends and drinking buddies. I had the pleasure of playing with Bob's good friend The 'King' say no more.

I have not been inundated with calls or e-mails from you guys but I did here from one Head Greenkeeper who is fed up with some of you reps who just turn up at his sheds without an appointment expecting to see him and I do think he has a point. So all you reps who travel around Kent please phone to make appointments.

No other news to speak of this month so please get in contact with me and tell me what's going on at your clubs or in your lives something must be going on somewhere out there.

My number is 01732 875020 or e-mail me at jbatkhgolf@aol.com please, not that I am desperate yet.

I look forward to seeing you all at



the Greenkeeper and Guest Day meeting at Boughton Golf Club on the 13th of September and I'm sure Gary Debenham will have the place looking good for our visit.

Jason Bean.

### Surrey

Our summer tournament was held on July 27 in warm and sunny weather at Farnham Golf Club. Many thanks to Peter McMorran and his team for presenting the course in such fine condition and to Farnham Golf Club for allowing us courtesy.

Top of the points were;

**Greg Richards, Hankley Common, 42pts**  
**Douglas Stewart Fernie, Royal Epsom, with an amazing 41 pts and two ricrochets; Mike Gould, Copthorne, 40 pts a very welcome visitor from Sussex Section. Nearest the pin; Anthony Rudolf Bremer, Dorking, Longest Drive; Dave Guy.**

Finally the Booby Prize for most golf played we congratulate Dan Wheeler. Many thanks to Sheerwater for sponsoring the day and supplying such good quality prizes.

Anthony Freeman our Surrey Section Chairman has arranged a visit to the All England Tennis Club at Wimbledon. This promises to be a most interesting excursion that will take place on October 17 from 2pm until about 4.30pm. Please contact Anthony before October 10 as all visitors must be registered prior to the day. Now other items of news from your roving reporter from around Surrey. Garry and Nicola Bishop at Tandridge Golf Club have celebrated the birth of a son, Ethan James, 8 lbs 13 ozs on July 11 and from Hindhead Golf Club Steve and Kerry Holmes happily announce that their daughter Jessica Michelle 8 lbs was born on Sunday, July 29. Local moves from club to club include Gordon Bell gone from Woodcote Park to take up his new position at Copthorne Hotel Effingham Park as Estate Manager/Head Greenkeeper and the new Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Bramley Golf Club is Barry Smith from Shillinglee.

By the time this is in print we will have played the McMillan Tankard at Sunningdale. Results in October's edition. The autumn Tournament is at Croham Hurst on October 4 and the Turkey Trot and AGM take place at Malden on November 30.

Please remember to contact Anthony Freeman about the All England Tennis Club visit at Wimbledon and we thank Eddie Seaward in advance for an opportunity to see the inner workings of one of England's greatest sporting attractions.

Brian Willmott.

### South West

This year's summer tournament was held at the Dendelshire Golf Club. It was a very hot and sunny day with about 30 people and myself sitting on the patio sipping my Pimms. A very big thank you must go to Craig Fudge and his team who had the course in a truly excellent condition, with the greens like velvet and magnificent to putt on. Craig also put the boys off the white tee's just to make it more interesting,

also the catering staff for an excellent meal.

A big thank you to Roger Davey and Ocmis Irrigation for sponsoring the day and supplying the trophy and prizes. In first place with a score of 40 points and winner of not only the Ocmis trophy but also the Assistants' Trophy was John Bachelor, second was Craig Fudge with 39 points and third was Jon Jarvis with 35 points. The nearest the pin was won by Ceri Richards but seeming he was a rep, we decided to award it to Don Southey, and the longest drive went to Gary Cook. We raised £52 in the raffle and many thanks go to those who supplied the prizes. Again many thanks go to Craig and all the staff at the Kendelshire Golf Club.

The next dates to look out for is Sept 12 match versus South Wales at St Pierre. Anyone wishing to play in this match should contact K James who will pass your name onto the team Captain. The other date to look out for is 16th Oct the autumn tournament and AGM which will be held at Cumberwell Park Golf Club anyone wishing to play can contact K. James on 01934 627 143/07788 427 677 if you do not receive any notification through the post.

K. James

### East Anglia

Firstly may I congratulate Paul Smith and his team at Royal Lytham & St. Annes for putting on a great venue for the 130th Open Championship. The course looked in splendid shape and certainly caused some problems for the professionals, and well done to the BIG-GA team for their sterling performance of bunker raking during the Championship. Matthew Gill, from Stowmarket Golf Club, represented Otley College as their candidate in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the year and got through to the interview stage. Well done Matthew.

Many Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers take pride in looking after their golf courses from year to year without any recognition, these are the backbone of the Association and I think that it is time to bring their names forward to the Section and others so they may feel that their hard work over the years gets the appreciation that it deserves.

This month there are three individuals that have accrued over 100 years of working experience between them, they are George Newson, Head Greenkeeper at Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club, with 39 years at the club; Roger Plummer, Head Greenkeeper at Royal Cromer Golf Club, with 36 years at the club and Roger Eade, Head Greenkeeper at Stowmarket Golf Club, with 35 years at the club. I hope you have enjoyed looking after your courses as much as your members and visitors have enjoyed playing on them, I know that it is one of the most difficult jobs to do because there is always someone there to criticise. My congratulations go out to you, you are an example to us all.

My little granddaughter is now ten weeks old and Christine and I were asked to baby-sit over the weekend on a Saturday night with my daughter picking Sky up on Sunday lunchtime.

After several bottles, Sky decides that she preferred to sleep being held, and would kick up a fuss if she was put down. Well granddad ended up carrying her around for the first five hours until 3:30am in the morning before Christine took her turn and I managed to get three hours sleep until Sky decided to wake the whole household. Then she decided it was time for another feed (Oh Joy), I thought that I had finished with all that 17 years ago. One thing she has her grandmother's temper and takes after me with a good set of lungs.

I did manage to watch Castaway and The Secret of My Success on video while walking around the room with her in my arms.

On our ramblings through East Anglia this year, we found ourselves at Eaton Golf Club near Norwich on August 1. The weather was perfect, warm and sunny with a slight breeze. Mick Lathorne and his team had worked hard to produce an excellent course, Mick was advised to take a fortnights holiday as the course looked better than it did on Captain's Day and that there would be plenty of flack from the members. (Ha Ha)

All the staff at the golf club made us most welcome and coupled with an excellent meal it rounded the day off perfectly. Jim Cook the club captain welcomed us to the Eaton Experience and everyone agreed it was well worthwhile.

Our main sponsor of the day was Toro (Lely UK) and Larry Pearman and Ian Willett worked tirelessly throughout the day to ensure nearly everything run as smooth as possible and Roger Plummer and Robert Whiting sat and patiently worked out the score cards and calculated the results. Results as follows:

#### 0-10 Handicap Section

1. Robert Whiting, 34 pts
2. Peter Howard, 33 pts
3. Mark Keysell, 28 pts.

#### 11-17 Handicap Section

1. Lawrence Wright, 38 pts
2. Paul Gould, 37 pts
3. Steve Millard, 33 pts.

#### 18-28 Handicap Section

1. Steve Crabb, 40 pts (Overall Winner),
2. Robin Baker, 38 pts
3. Ian Richie, 38 pts

#### Longest Drive - Mark Day

#### Nearest the Pin - Mark Turner

#### Captain & Club Official Shield

1. Glen Rayfield & Chris Pearsons 66 pts
2. Ian Willett & Robin Baker - 65 pts

For the first time in ten years one of our band got a hole-in-one. Keith Titshall holed out on the 9th hole - 194 yards with a 3 iron, one bounce and in. (Well done Keith.) The toilet seat was won by Pat Swinn from Rushmere Golf Club, only Pat could wear large light blue check shorts with matching shirt in attempt to put off every other golfer on the course.

The section sends its thanks to Jim, the Captain and all at Eaton Golf Club for a great day out.

I would like to thank all the other sponsors for their contributions to the day. Aventus, Rushbrooks, Prime, Turf Care, SISIS, Tacit, Atterton & Ellis, John Deere, Ben Burgess, Tomlinson Groundcare, K.B. Leach, Stalham Engineering.

I have confirmed all bookings for 2002 and Colin is working hard on the

venues for 2003. Our next meeting will be held at Purdis Heath on October 10th, see you there.

Ian Willett



I would like to first of all pass on my congratulations to Alan Strachan and his greenkeeping team at Royal Co Down Golf Club, for another successful British Seniors Open. After the installation of a completely new irrigation system at Royal Co Down last winter, it is nice to see all their hard work come to fruition with the excellent presentation of the course. This year's British Seniors Open was another resounding success boosted by the presence of Nicklaus, Palmer and Player.

The latest Section golf competition was held at Royal Belfast on July 6. This is a quite magnificent parkland golf course between Holywood and Bangor overlooking Belfast Lough. The afternoon competition was played in bright sunshine, light wind, with temperatures into the seventies. Head greenkeeper Jim Eager and his staff had the course in outstanding condition. Many thanks to Royal Belfast Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course. The competition was generously supported by our sponsor Graham Prosser of Tacit. The top four prizes went to

1. Andrew Wray, Castlerock Golf Club, 37 pts.
2. Gary Murphy, Silverwood Golf Club, 37 pts.
3. Noel Crawford, Royal County Down GC, 34 pts.
4. James Eager, Royal Belfast Golf Club, 34 pts.

Visitors prize went to Peter Smith, Royal County Down Golf Club, 34 pts. I would also like to thank all the members who attended, many travelling a considerable distance from City of Derry, Castlerock, and Portstewart.

Our Section qualifying competition for the National Championship will have been played at Royal Portrush on August 28 on the Valley course. The result will be in next month's magazine.

Past chairman Graham Wylie has just returned from The Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes. Graham was part of the BIG-GA support team at this year's Championship, and was featured on BBC television during the Saturday afternoon session talking to the Duke of York. He has informed me that the trip was a brilliant experience and would like to thank everyone at BIG-GA for giving him the opportunity to be part of this year's Support team.

Well that's all my news for this month but I would like to welcome new members Rodney McKay, Galgorm Golf Club; Jim Eager Head Greenkeeper, Royal Belfast Golf Club, and Harry Greighton, Deputy Head Royal Belfast Golf Club, to the Section this month.

I will feature the charity golf day at Clandeboye Golf Club and Championship qualifier on the Valley course in next month's notes.

Ken Henderson



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As Basil Fawlty might say, satellite television is an avenue of pleasure that has been closed off to me. I have attempted to persuade Mrs McDivot of its necessity by pointing out that amongst other little treats, it would make available to her a channel entirely devoted to shopping, but she immediately makes the assumption that this is a pathetic ploy to spend my evenings in unathletic pose while watching sport with beer can perched on rapidly expanding abdominal region. Her objection to televised sport centres around her argument that there is little point in watching someone kick or hit a ball around when you can enjoy real life drama unfold in the form of soap operas.

That is not to say that I am totally alien to the pleasures of the dish receiver. I have to admit to straying into the habit along with my work colleagues of partaking of the odd beverage or two on a Friday afternoon in the clubhouse. This we do as a team building exercise, a boost to morale and a celebration at the accomplishment of yet another weeks work. While engaged in this highly civilised accoutrement to the working week we often watch golf on Sky Sports. This is of the highest quality and a pleasure to watch but I must state my objection to two frequently shown adverts that are totally derogatory to our noble profession. In fact they put us into the same bracket as estate agents and tax inspectors; a minority group that it is perfectly acceptable to be prejudiced towards. The first advert depicts one of our brethren as an unkempt, drug crazed psychopath, hell bent on holding up poor Freddy Couples while he moves the hole to a small promontory of the green that juts out into a lake. The other shows a greenkeeper spending hours rolling golf balls up to the hole making sure the position he has just chosen is as crowned as

possible. In both cases, the message is given that the manufacturer's equipment can more than cope with our evil intentions. Unfortunately for us, the additional message is that we are all Charles Manson clones whose sole raison d'être is to irritate golfers. This is a viscous and totally unnecessary aspersion to the good name of our profession. Everyone knows that only a small proportion of our time is devoted to irritating golfers and in my experience golf clubs rarely employ more than one drug-crazed psychopath on the greenkeeping team.

But sometimes on Sky Sports, they show those films of old golf matches featuring the likes of Sam Snead, Roberto De-Vincenzo and Peter Alliss in the days when he had a backswing. At other times there is live golf of the latest US tournament and it is fascinating to see the difference in the two. Certainly the golf seemed a great deal less complicated in the old matches. None of your lining up putts from 20 different directions or consulting the yardage manual on chip shots. They just seemed to walk up and whack it in those days. But the thing that stands out most of all between the golf of the past and nowadays is the courses and their associated standard of presentation. Despite visiting some of the Worlds finest layouts, in the old days they all seemed to be presented in uniformly abysmal condition. Large areas of brown or dead turf, bare patches, untidy tufts of coarse grass and that's just the greens. In contrast, the modern day alternative is utterly immaculate. Perfect striped fairways where the sight of a weed would invoke a public inquest, manicured rough -if that's not a contradiction in terms- and bunkers and water hazards so perfectly edged and trimmed that the place seems to look more like some kind of surreal teletubbies set

rather than a golf course. I have to say to me the modern day championship courses can start to look a tad artificial, which is probably due to the fact that they are

designed, built and maintained in a totally artificial manner. In fact in a straight contest between these courses and Mother Nature, even playing from the ladies tees and receiving a shot a hole, Mother Nature would be well and truly thrashed by about the twelfth. Personally as I look out through the clubhouse windows, beyond the incessant downpour called spring and onto the more natural look of Sludgecombe, I opine that these courses are amongst other things, severely lacking in large areas of mud. However that's just a personal opinion and unfortunately one that doesn't always coincide with that of my members.

But what then has been the driving force behind these changes over the years? Golf courses change with vogue just like everything else in life. Take house architecture for instance. There is a surprising similarity between the fashion in house style and that of golf courses. Back in the early part of the last century, the simplicity of the arts and crafts and art deco movements came out of a rejection of the ornate stuffiness of the Victorian age. This was followed up with the 1930's urban sprawl which symbolised a need to return to the more simple life of the country albeit as a more sanitised version. Hence the main roads that reach out from the cities into the tranquillity of the countryside are lined with neat 1930's style housing, often with Tudor style beams and each surrounded by its own piece of countryside in the form of a garden on at least three sides. Golf course architecture was in its infancy at the time but Colt, McKenzie and Ross et



al, all produced courses that would be in similar compatibility with nature as much as was possible. The land on which they were laid out was never altered to any degree and intrinsic features were utilised in the design. Water hazards were rarely employed unless they were naturally present and bunkers were made to look indistinguishable from their links counterparts.

But often it is a rejection of the past that is the inspiration for future fashion. So in the old immediate post war days we had courses that were understandably lacking in colour and definition and though the 70's and 80's we experienced a rejection of such blandness with the resultant bright stripy green hues, brilliant white sand and that revolting blue dye in the lakes. Look at the amount of grass that was seen on the greens in the old film footage of the 50 's and 60's. A 50 foot putt required a backswing that some of Sludgcombe's regular members would struggle to achieve with a driver. Was the crude lushness of these decades a rebellion against the austerity of the pre and post war years. The fact is, in those days average golf clubs were not in the summer at least always able to afford the luxury of dense grass coverage and with just a couple of greenkeepers that had to mow the greens using push mowers, who would want it. Maybe the trend setting courses we observe in those old films had gone out of their way to create grass so as they were set apart from the ordinary golf club. They could afford grass and so they made damn sure they would get it. It would become a measure of wealth. Onlookers would say to themselves "Look at that. They've got real grass on their greens that stops the ball from continually running 30-foot passed the hole. I wish we had that on our course

The need to forget the war years also heavily influenced the building boom of the 50's, 60's and 70's. The housing at that time was cheap and modern and no one seemed to bother too much about visual appeal. If it was old, knock it down and stick up a few million tons of brick and concrete. Hence we had the seemingly

ludicrous building schemes of those times such as the Old Course Hotel on the 17th at St Andrews. Similarly the thankfully few golf courses that were built at this time, were often appallingly bad in both their construction and their design. Bunkering would generally consist of large saucer shaped monstrosities, often shallow and boring which was presumably an attempt to match the design philosophies of the day.

Then in the late 80s, housing developments attempted to reproduce country village like architectural diversity and we were inundated with features such as clock towers that were stuck practically everywhere, even on top of office blocks. At about this time we started to observe an almost mirror image traditional golf course fashion revival in the form of the odd double green a' la St Andrews and Pete Dye's bunker faces lined with railway sleepers. Even we greenkeepers indulged in a bit of ruralisation, as I seem to remember a severe outbreak of revetted bunkers at the time. It did not matter if the course was a hundred or so miles inland we all started to cut out acres of turf ready to pile up the faces of our bunkers.

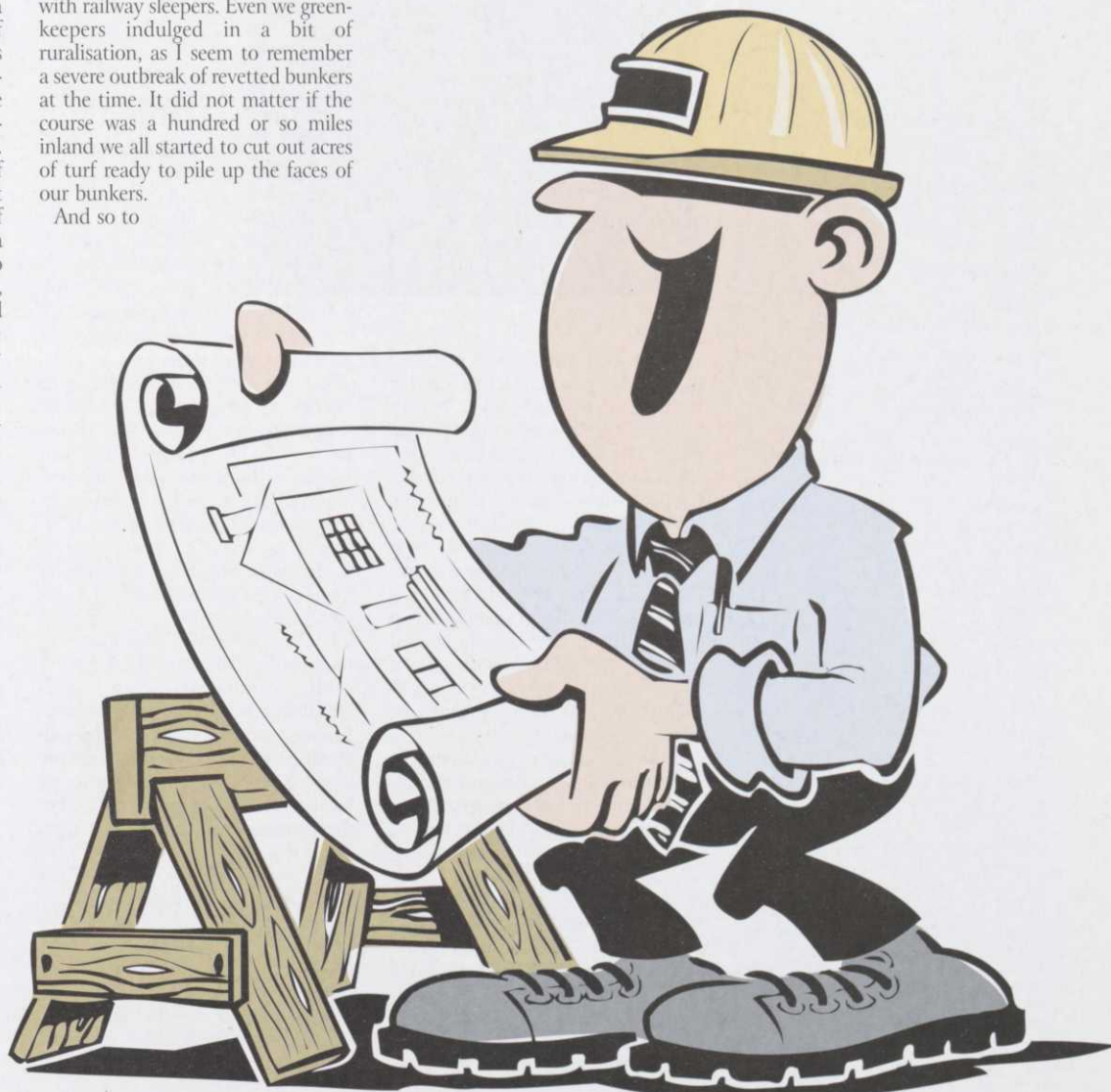
And so to

today. The key word in house fashion is authenticity. Houses are sold as having original features. The coveing, panelled doors and fireplaces that were ripped out in the 50's are now being replaced with a vengeance. It does not matter whether it is Victorian Gothic, Georgian or even 70's kitsch; it must be reproduced and conserved at all costs. It has even got to the stage where ghastly 60's tower blocks are listed as being architecturally significant. And so it is with golf courses. People are regressing to their roots and reproducing the original design features of old. Bunkers are remodelled with creative shapes and mounds and their edges allowed to grow wild. Large areas of rough grassland are recreated and in some cases even the dreadful lines of

leylandii and poplars are being replaced with the indigenous alternative.

The future? Well could we take things a logical step further and start to appreciate the more subtle shades of green that are to be found on our older more unaffected courses. A need for change and a rejection of the past has inspired us before. So now that the past is the multicoloured world of artificial courses, perhaps the future is to reject these synthetic abhorations and to embrace not only the design concepts of bygone ages but also their colours and textures as well.

Sandy McDivot. Head Greenkeeper,  
Sludgcombe Pay and Play





## Feature listing from September '99

**September '99;** Staley Hall; Tyres; Spotlight on Thatch; Elmwood College Awards; National Championship preview

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**November 2000;** Grass Cutting Machinery; Clandeboye GC; Drainage; National Championship review; Leatherjacket management

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Award month



Immediately after finishing this column I have the great pleasure of travelling up to Stoke Park to present the club with its Golden Key plaque. As we have said before we're all delighted that Stoke Park has shown the foresight in being the first golf club to contribute so generously to the Education and Development Fund through the Golden Key programme. We do hope that more clubs become involved because, after all, it is the golf clubs which ultimately benefit from all the good work that is carried out as a direct result of the existence of BIGGA's Education and Development Fund.

I'm also pleased to be making the visit because I haven't been to Stoke Park for many years and I'm looking forward to having a good look at the golf course.

Talking about presentations, I can't go on without congratulating Walter Woods on becoming the next recipient of the prestigious Old Tom Morris Award, made annually by the GCSAA. We're all very proud of Walter who was the Association's first Chairman in 1987 when he combined the role with his demanding "day job" of maintain-

ing high standards, at the St Andrews Links courses. He has done huge amounts to advance greenkeeping as a career in general as well as given so many young greenkeepers a boost in their own career development.

Past winners of the Award include Arnold Palmer, President Gerald Ford, Bob Hope and Jaime Ortiz-Patiño, while the last winner was Tim Finchem, Commissioner of the US Tour. So you can see the exalted company Walter is keeping. It is a great honour for Walter, particularly as it is in the name of a fellow St Andrews man, and a great honour for our Association.

I'd like to thank all the members who took part in the recent R&A funded survey conducted by Mike Williamson. The Board are currently looking at the responses and we shall report back at a later date on the findings. While in Yorkshire for the Board meeting to discuss the report I took the opportunity to call in on Simon Haynes, at Skipton Golf Club. Simon used to work for me and has been made welcome by the locals on his move north.

His golf course was surrounded by sheep but the course was still open. In contrast we've just returned from a short break in the South West - a bit like Tony and Cherie Blair - and there is still a great deal of evidence of the

Foot and Mouth outbreak. It seems there are different rules in place for different parts of the country.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish Dave Sammels and his team at The De Vere Belfry all the very best for the Ryder Cup later this month. Having been in the same position myself in 1981 I know the pressures involved in preparing a course for a Ryder Cup. With the way the Cup has grown over the last 20 years they are even greater now, so I hope that Dave and the team get the weather to show the course off to its best advantage and none of the problems adverse weather can bring.

Saltex is just around the corner and I look forward to seeing many of you in Windsor. You know you are all welcome at the BIGGA stand for a chat, information or just to say hello.

Just before I finish I'd just like to say that working on a heathland golf course I particularly enjoy this time of year when the heather is in full bloom and everything is looking very nice. It makes you forget the problems of earlier in the year... or very nearly does at any rate!

Clive Osgood, Chairman



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