

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



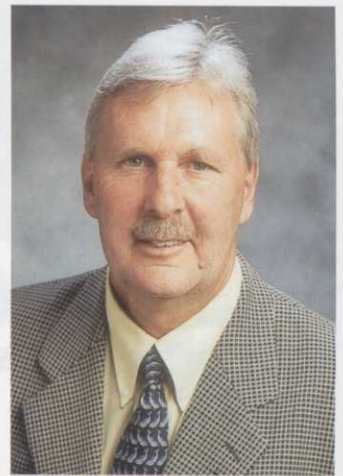
The Phantom Pilot



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

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

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, Tumberry 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.

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.

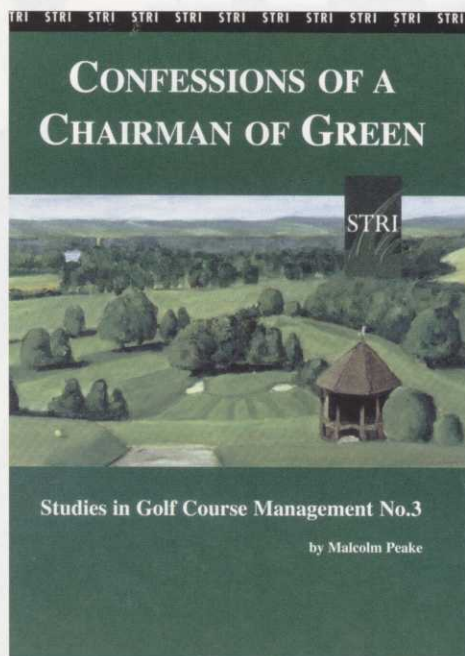
Malcolm then reports on the resurgence of the club from 1990 beginning with the arrival of Jeff Peris of the STRI as agronomist and Martin Gunn as new Head Greenkeeper.

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 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

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 co-operation 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

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%.

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

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

For a quote, sample and peace of mind call Rolawn on Tel: 01904 608661

