

Award-winning magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association



August 2002 – £3.50

Greenkeeper

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

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

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Advertisers' Index

ADVERTISER	PAGE
Agco Ltd	47
Allett Mowers	33
Angus Horticulture	33
Aventis	47
Barenbrug	11
Bernhard & Co	39
BTME/ClubHouse	18 & 19
Cranfield University	33
Dennis	43
Greensward	17
Gremac	31
Groundex (IOG)	31
Headland Amenity	39
Hunter Grinders	45
Kubota	2
Lastec	54 & 55
Lely	56 & 57
NPTC	31
Perryfields	9
Renault Agriculture Ltd	29
Textron	13
Tillers Turf	7
Wardle Consulting Engineers Ltd	33



8 New name at BIGGA!



12 Win the thrill of a lifetime!



14 BIGGA's annual Golf Day



28 Indepth look at compact tractors



40 See you at Saltex

August 2002

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by September 4, 2002

REGULARS

News

Pages 4, 5, & 6

8 BTME and Clubhouse

10-11 Education

Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, explains how the Toro Student of the Year Finalists are selected and profiles the successful eight

12 Membership

Invites you to meet the team at Saltex and offers you a chance to win the thrill of a lifetime

48-49 New Products

Showcasing some of the great new products recently released onto the market

50-51 Talking Heads

Six Head Men talk about their education and training programmes

52-57 Around the Green

66 Features Listing

Helping you track down some of Greenkeeper International's past articles.

66 As I see it ...

BIGGA National Chairman, Richard Barker, makes two visits to the Lothian area of Scotland for the Scottish Championship and the Open and welcomes the renewed Bernhard sponsorship and BIGGA's acquisition of Clubhouse

FEATURES

14-16 A Remarkable Day

A pictorial review of BIGGA's annual Golf Day

20-21 A Patch of Discoloured Turf or a Patch Disease

Dr Kate Entwistle highlights the difficulties involved in diagnosing problems

22-27 Rough Justice

Review of this year's Open at Muirfield, along with the Great BIGGA Bunker Competition!

28-30 The Tractors Boys

Roland Taylor looks at what compact tractors are currently in the market place

32 Weather Planning for Professional Greenkeepers

The Weather Index, headed by legendary weatherman, Bill Giles, is offering dedicated weather information for individual golf clubs.

34-37 Best of Both Worlds

Scott MacCallum travelled to Pwllheli in west Wales, to visit a golf club which is moving in the right direction

38 Tremendous Advice

John Nicholson offers up some practical advice with your tree planting projects

40-46 See You at Saltex

A comprehensive preview of what you will find at Windsor this year



Welcome

A VERY SIGNIFICANT MONTH

In years to come July 2002 will be recognised in the BIGGA annals as one of the most significant months in the development of the Association.

That was the month when the ClubHouse Exhibition was purchased by the Association and joined with BTME to create a "Super" week at Harrogate each year.

Now it may pale into insignificance alongside the other transfer which occurred that month - that of Rio Ferdinand from Leeds United to Manchester United - but within our particular industry it may just create a similar impact.

Hyperbole? I don't think so, and if you consider the fact I think you may agree.

Next January 21-23, Harrogate will be the place to visit for everyone concerned with golf on the non-playing side. Now, to the layman, that may sound a little daft, but if you take the golf professionals and the club and ball manufacturers out of the equation there is still a vast amount of "golf" to consider.

Through BTME the golf course side has always been well catered for, with machinery, agronomic aids and products, advisory services, indeed everything required to ensure that the golf course can be maintained to the highest possible specification.

Now ClubHouse, which will be housed in Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre, will provide exactly the same opportunities for those seeking the latest information and product advice on what goes on inside the clubhouse.

For those people with overall responsibility for both sides of a golf club's management Harrogate will provide a unique "one-stop" shop for all their professional needs, while Club Owners, Managers and Secretaries will be able to accompany their Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers to Harrogate and extract just as much from the week as their colleagues.

The much vaunted "Continue to Learn" programme which runs during the week will be augmented to ensure that educational opportunities are also available to clubHouse, as well as golf course staff.

As I said it is a hugely significant development within our industry and I hope that, as BIGGA members, you can take pride in what your Association has achieved on behalf of the golf industry in general.

While I am in the business of issuing good news I'd like to thank Bernhards for the continuation of the very successful Bernhards Scholarship programme for a third year. Over the last two years it has seen 20 BIGGA members attend first the Canadian Conference and Show and last year the GCSAA Show to develop their knowledge and experience as greenkeepers. Next year the 10 successful candidates will again travel to the GCSAA Show and will return full of new found knowledge and ideas. Thanks to Stephen Bernhard and his team for making this possible.

Finally I'd like to congratulate Colin Irvine and his fine team for the truly stupendous condition in which they presented Muirfield for the 131st Open Championship. It was absolutely fabulous and did so much to represent the greenkeeping profession to the highest possible standard.

Scott MacCallum, Editor



We reported on the Volvo PGA Championship Support Team last month but we are now in possession of photographs of the team with the Champion Anders Hansen, together with a picture of Anders with Chris Kennedy.

IT'S A PENALTY!

It was the final practice day before the PGA Volvo Golf Championships at Wentworth and what was going on? Football on the fairway?

Well, seeing is believing and history was made that day when Shoot for a Million, the exciting new penalty shoot-out competition, set up a full-sized goal post in the picturesque setting next to the 18th hole of Wentworth's East course.



The greenkeepers, who had already entered a team in this competition, were the first to test their skills.

Golfers were intrigued by the spectacle and were soon lured down to take a few shots and to enjoy the tremendous feeling of putting the ball in the back of the net. Among others who joined in were Aaron Baddeley, the young Australian Pro, Jamie Spence and his caddie, Janet Squire.

In goal was Nick Beasant, whose father, Dave, was the first goalkeeper ever to save a penalty to win his team the FA Cup.

Shoot for a Million is open to anyone over the age of 16 who fancies their chances to test their penalty skills in teams of six with the ultimate prize of £500,000 to be won in a televised pre-Christmas final at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. With 10% of all entry fees going to the Variety Club of Great Britain it makes it not only a fantastic fun competition to be involved in but a worthwhile one too.

To enter the competition and for more details on when and where you play, event news and updates, visit the Shoot for a Million website at www.shootforamillion.net or telephone for an entry form: 0870 442 1451

TEXTRON PROMOTION

David Withers has been promoted to the position of Director, Sales and Customer Support, with immediate effect.

He will take responsibility for Textron turf sales and distribution throughout the world, excluding North America, focusing on the market leading Ransomes and Jacobsen brands.

In addition to responsibility for turfcare sales, David will also be appointing a new Customer Support Manager to ensure that customers receive the best possible assistance and attention. It will be a cross-functional role with a commercial rather than technical emphasis, and very strongly committed to customer satisfaction.

A new UK Sales Manager will also be appointed.



EIGA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects was held this year in Vilamoura, Portugal.

Peter Harradine was elected President, succeeding Simon Gidman, and Alain Prat was elected Vice President.

During the AGM the recipient of the Toro Student Golf Course Architect of the Year Award was announced as Rolf-Stephan Hansen. The Barenbrug Award was awarded to Steve Pope.

The three-day event included a Continuing Professional Development Seminar. The topics covered included ecology, architecture and the commercial aspects of golf and EIGA welcomed speakers from two of their sponsors, Toro and Textron, as well as their own members and Antonio Henriques da Silva, Managing Director of Lusotur Golfes SA.

Email press releases and new product updates to:
scott@bigga.co.uk

BILL BYTES THE BULLET

Bill Paterson is Head Greenkeeper at Beaconsfield Golf Club. He started work as an apprentice greenkeeper in 1964 and was one of the first students to study for the newly formed City and Guilds qualification in greenkeeping.

Throughout his career he has been fortunate enough to work for clubs who realise the importance of continual training to keep abreast of the latest legislation and improved practices.

"I have certificates for everything from first aid (to save things) to spraying (to kill things)," said Bill.

But the one skill he never learned was how to use a computer.

"My wife and two children have been using them for years and when I asked them to show me how they worked they used to say that it was much quicker to do the job for me. I just dictated my report or whatever it was and they did the clever bit with the machine," said Bill.

In January 2000, he tried the computer skills course at The Learning Experience in Harrogate, but found there was too much to take on board in two days – "I couldn't even use the spell checker!"

But Bill was determined not to give up, so when he came home he found an evening course run by

Buckinghamshire County Council called "A Gentle Introduction to Computing for Older Students".

"I phoned up and asked whether, at 52, I was too old. The young lady at the other end of the phone giggled, said that I wasn't and immediately signed me up. I turned up at my first class expecting to be with a bunch of twentysomethings only to find that I was the youngest in the class – by some years!"

"There was a husband and wife with a combined age of 150 and an old boy of 86 who was writing a book and wanted to use a keyboard because his hands were too shaky to hold a pen."

He soon became 'Young Bill' and for the next 10 weeks had the time of his life learning about keying-in, saving, printing, cutting, pasting, copying and numerous other aspects.

The following year he again tried the Harrogate course and this time ended up using spreadsheets, graphs, file management, databases and PowerPoint.

"I now use my computer to produce reports, articles



for the club newsletter, presentations and for record keeping as well as for reading Hazard Data Sheets and information from suppliers."

Club Secretary Keith Wilcox added "Bill's enthusiasm has always been first class and his new-found skills are a bonus. He can present reports in a professional and businesslike way and this all projects a good image for the club."

Bill concluded, "You're never too old to learn, and you meet some smashing people while you're at it. If old 'Young Bill' can do it, anyone can!"

OSPREY WATCH

One of Britain's rarest birds is a regular visitor to Piper Dam Golf Club, near Dundee, and Head Greenkeeper, Gordon Mitchell, has become very used to watching them "Ospreys have been using Piper Dam, near Dundee, for about 30 years for feeding only as the dam is ideal and stocked regularly with Brown and Rainbow trout," said Gordon.

In 1997 Piper Dam constructed an 18 hole golf course around the dam and this was opened in August '98 and although there was all the activity normally associated with a golf course it did nothing to affect the Ospreys behaviour or pattern of feeding.

"In '99 the Directors of Piper Dam, Tom Smith, Phil Mullholland and Murdie Smith decided to erect a nest and Osprey Centre so that the birds could be studied and also give visitors the chance to see these magnificent birds," explained Gordon.

"That year a pair of birds took to the nest and although no eggs were laid the thought was that perhaps the female was too young and this same pattern was followed for the next two years."

"However this year a new pair of birds arrived and

ousted the resident pair, who had worked hard at improving the nest which had been provided for them to the extent that they stole divots from the fairway to line it."

The new pair also improved the nest and in May there were three eggs which hatched in June.

"Sadly two of the chicks were lost, possibly because of the weather but we now have one thriving chick."

The nest is about 150 yards from the 18th tee and security is extremely tight and the nest is monitored 24 hours a day seven days a week with cameras and a very sophisticated alarm system.

"I will never get tired of watching them catch fish in the dam and feel very privileged to be able to observe such stunning birds," said Gordon.

HSS

HSS, the UK's largest equipment hire group, has appointed Steve Hailing as divisional manager of HSS Ground Care.



Steve Hailing has worked for HSS since 1992 and joins HSS's GroundCare division having previously set up the company's Lift and Shift trailer hire service.

"Everyone from the enthusiastic DIY gardener to the professional groundsman or greenkeeper can hire a range of specialist equipment from HSS GroundCare to get the job done," said Steve.

DIVING FOR GOLF BALLS

Recovery of lost golf balls from golf course water hazards is covered by health and safety legislation, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) points out as the golf season hits its peak.

Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers have a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all their employees, and that persons not in their employment are not exposed to risks to their health and safety.

This includes other contractors working on or visiting the golf course as well as members of the public.

The guidance on the general health and safety topics are in HSE's booklet: Health and Safety in Golf Course Management and Maintenance.

"This guidance does not have a specific section on the recovery of lost golf balls from golf course water hazards. However, a general risk assessment of any

water hazard associated with the golf course should have included risk control measures to prevent foreseeable incidents like drowning," said Nigel Hammond, acting head of HSE's Local Authority Unit.

If the recovery of lost golf balls requires the use of divers who are at work then the Diving at Work Regulations 1997 apply and an Approved Code of Practice for Commercial diving projects inland/inshore gives further practical advice on how to comply with the regulations.

If the divers are not at work then the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 still applies and a similar duty of care standard would be expected.

NEW MAN AT THE NEW

Euan Grant has been appointed Head Greenkeeper on the 107-year old New Course at St Andrews Links Trust. He was selected from around 50 applicants. In his new position, he will be responsible for a team of seven greenkeepers who maintain the New Course, which in 2001 was rated among the top 50 golf courses in the UK by Golf World.

Coming from a greenkeeping background, Euan, 32, has worked on several

different golf courses in the UK. His previous job was as Head Greenkeeper at Marriott Forest of Arden Golf & Country Club. Before that he was responsible for building two 18 hole golf courses for Westerham Golf Club and Happy Valley Golf Club.

As a student, Mr Grant was awarded Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award in 1994.

"We are delighted to have found a candidate with so much experience and a good eye for detail," said Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent at St Andrews Links Trust.

"Euan has very good course presentation skills and is used to managing large teams. We are looking forward to his contribution to greenkeeping at St Andrews Links."



Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



MOX UK

Mox UK has set up a division for the operational hire of grasscare products.

Heading up the division is Ray George, Product Development Manager (Grasscare).

"We are delighted that Ray has joined us. He brings with him a wealth of experience in the hire and the grasscare industry as well as significant management skills. With his knowledge, enthusiasm and drive, he will play a major role in Mox UK and contribute greatly to our expansion plans," said Campbell Young, General Manager for Mox UK.



JOHN DEERE

John Deere has appointed three people to the new territory based position of area manager, parts & service sales (AMPSS), reporting to parts marketing manager James Morley.

Clare Brindley and Philip Selby, appointed from within Deere Limited, and Andy Rostron, from Vapomatic, are primarily responsible for promoting parts sales through the John Deere dealer network. They cover both the agricultural and commercial & consumer equipment (C&CE) business divisions, and work closely alongside the existing sales and service field teams.

They also provide support for all types of after-market sales, including PartsCountry, merchandising and PREP (parts retail environment preparation), as well as service programmes such as PowerGard, which also involve dealer development.

Clare joined John Deere in 1998 after several years' commercial experience in the textiles business. She has worked in the credit department and as parts marketing assistant. She covers the south of England.

Philip joined John Deere in 1977 and worked his way from warehouseman, through the parts and complete goods departments to his last position as team leader in complete goods. He looks after central England, Wales and the whole of Ireland.



SISIS

Sisis has announced that the Sisis Rotorake 600 combined thatch remover and linear aerator now has "Registered Design" protection status.

Export sales of this new machine continue to grow. In addition to the many sold in Britain, users can now be found in USA, Canada, South America, Egypt, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, France, Ireland and even Papua New Guinea.



THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Scottish National Championship at West Linton Golf Club, south of Edinburgh, was an outstanding success. The quality of the golf played by certain members at least was matched by the magnificent condition Course Manager Chris Yeaman and his team had produced the course, the hospitality of the club and staff, and the organisational acumen of Peter Boyd, the Scottish Regional Administrator.

West Linton is the home course of former Open and Masters Champion, Sandy Lyle who is a regular visitor to the club and it is no exaggeration to say that he certainly would not have been unhappy to have posted the winning scratch score of 71 which Robert Patterson, of Royal Aberdeen, made to win the SGGA Challenge Cup and be crowned new Scottish Champion. In conditions which ranged from beautiful sun to torrential rain, Robert was more than a match for anything and fully deserved his victory.

The Friendship Trophy for Best Nett went to Steve Nicol, of Winterfield, with a score of 71, winning on the better inward half.

The prizes were presented by Scott McKay the West Linton, Vice Captain, who expressed his and the club's pleasure at hosting the event and promised everyone a warm welcome should they decided to make a return visit.

Results SGGA Challenge Cup, Scratch, Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen, 71; Friendship Trophy, Best Nett, Steve Nicol, Winterfield, 71 (bih); Ransomes



Trophy, Cat 1. 1. George Mitchell, Newmachar, 71; 2. David Leith, St Andrews, 73 (bih); 3. Daniel Murray, Dalmahoy, 73. Pattisison Trophy Cat 2. 1. Stephen Brown, Newmachar, 75 (bih); 2. Dale Norquay, Irvine Bogside, 75; 3. Chris Yeaman, West Linton, 77. STRI Trophy Cat 3. 1. Mark White, St Andrews, 74; 2. Albert Amott, Lochore Meadows, 81; 3. David Mowatt, Glasgow, 83; Dick Aitken Trophy Best Head Greenkeeper, George Brown, Turnberry, 73; M&M Trophy Best Assistant, Robbie Breingan, Muchart, 73 (bih); Souter Trophy Best Apprentice, Ben Brookes, Newmachar, 91; SIGGA Trophy Best Veteran, George Thompson, Goswick, 75; St Mungo Cup Team Trophy, North - G. Mitchell, S. Brown, R. Patterson, G. Lornie; Trade, Ian Henderson, Golf Finance, 71; Guest, Scott McKay, West Linton, 75. Nearest the Pin, Ronnie Frame, Rigby Taylor and Longest Drive Daniel Murray, Dalmahoy.



NEW DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR

BIGGA's new Design and Production Editor is 27 year-old Marie Whyld, who took up the post at the beginning of July.



Marie has extensive design experience and joined the Association from a Consultancy in Pontefract. Prior to that she worked in her home town of Derby where she designed material for among others Derby County FC and the David Lloyd Racquet Centre. Two

other well known names for whom Marie has undertaken work are Sainsbury's and Harvey Nichols, whose gift vouchers she designed.

She was born in Nottingham and went to school in Bromsgrove in Birmingham before attending Derby University where she completed a Foundation Course in Art and Design and then Wigan and Leigh College where she took a Graphics and Communication Design HND.

She now lives in Ellerton, south of York, with her boyfriend, Johnny - also a graphic designer - where their interests in the two "Gs" gardening and golf keep them occupied.

"I'm looking forward to working on the magazine, the website and all the other BIGGA promotional and educational material," she said.

BIGGA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2002

Hillside Golf Club – 30th September

Hesketh Golf Club – 1st October

Only a very few more entries can be accepted. If you want to play book today!

Contact Sarah for further information: 01347 833800

Available October this year

Tillers Rootzone Turf

If you're planning to turf your new greens, talk to us now.

Our new Rootzone Turf produces firm, fast, free draining greens. It ensures compatibility with the rootzone used in your construction. And avoids the problems of layering and soft, waterlogged greens associated with normal turf.

Tillers Rootzone Turf will be available this October. It's grown on three commonly specified rootzones:

1. USGA spec rootzone from Prestige, using sand from Messingham, plus peat.
2. USGA spec rootzone from Banks, using sand from Leighton Buzzard, plus Fensoil.
3. 1742 Grade rootzone from Rufford, using sand from Messingham, plus soil.

A full particle analysis for each rootzone can be supplied on request, or visit our website. The grass used in our rootzone turf is a Barenbrug 50/50 bent/fescue seed mixture, giving a bent dominated sward at maturity.

Custom-grown Rootzone Turf

In addition we can grow any mixture of grasses on any rootzone to match your individual specification. But you do have to

plan ahead as it takes 6-8 months from sowing to delivery.

Trouble-free establishment

Maintained at a height of 8mm, all Tillers Rootzone Turf is regularly top-dressed with the same rootzone that it's grown in. This produces a dense, firm sward that can be brought into play within a short time after lifting and relaying. Compared to washed turf, root damage is kept to a minimum, leading to healthy, trouble-free establishment.

Main agent Rigby Taylor

Tillers Rootzone Turf can be ordered now through our main agent, Rigby Taylor. Please call your local representative, or Freephone 0800 424919. Or contact us on 01652 678000.

Further information is available on our website at tillersturf.co.uk



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Neil Thomas (right) Executive Director, BIGGA signing the contract for ClubHouse



ClubHouse



In a major industry development BIGGA has successfully brought together the two principal trade shows in the fields of fine turf and golf club management and will host them in Harrogate as from January 2003.

The Clubhouse Exhibition will move to Harrogate next January after the rights were acquired by BIGGA, who will run the Show alongside BTME.

The Clubhouse Exhibition, which was previously owned and staged by the NEC, Birmingham, will have its own identity within Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre while BTME, which is now entering its 15th year, continues to expand into the other Halls. Routing will allow visitors to take in both exhibitions making it the major event of its type in Europe.

Commenting on this important development BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas said: "I am excited that the Clubhouse Exhibition will be moving to Harrogate where it will merge with our existing Golf Club Show under the Clubhouse banner and complement our extremely successful BTME. It gives visitors a genuine one stop shop for their clubhouse and golf course needs at a time of year which is ideal for visitors.



I am delighted that this exhibition will have the backing of both the Association of Golf Club Secretaries (AGCS) and the Association of Golf Course Owners and I look forward to welcoming many new companies and visitors to Harrogate.

We have monitored the progress of Clubhouse since its early days based at the National Agricultural Centre in Stoneleigh, through its move to the NEC in Birmingham. We have always considered that the ideal location for this exhibition would be the Harrogate International Centre alongside BTME and we have worked hard to achieve this end.

No longer will golf clubs have to justify the expense of sending their personnel to shows at separate locations on different dates. Now the focus of the industry and the game will be on one place at one time with the

additional benefit of less expense for golf clubs. Key personnel with responsibility for the club's budget, whether it be on the course or in the clubhouse, can target one or both shows as well as take in our "Continue to Learn" education programme which will be broadened to ensure that we cater for specific Clubhouse visitors.

We believe that BIGGA's acquisition of this exhibition will prove to be a significant development for golf clubs and the game in general while being widely welcomed within the industry at large where the need for the two shows to come together has long been recognised."

Neil Thomas
Executive Director, BIGGA



Commenting on the move to Harrogate, Andrew Gibb, Divisional Director of Centre Exhibitions at the NEC, said: "This decision has been made in the best interests of the industry and we fully support the move to Harrogate."



Keith Lloyd, Secretary of the AGCS, said: "We, at the AGCS are very pleased that Clubhouse is moving to such a venue. It is clearly in the best interests of our members enabling them to visit both exhibitions at the one location and to resource all requirements for their golf clubs."

The Clubhouse Exhibition and the BTME will be held at the Harrogate International Centre, January 21-23, 2003.

BTME EXHIBITORS TO DATE:

MI Abbott Ltd
Advanta Seeds UK
AFT Trenchers
AGCO Ltd (Massey Ferguson)
Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd
Allen Power Equipment Ltd
Allett Mowers
Amenity Technology
Angus Horticulture Ltd
Arden Lea Irrigation Ltd
Askham Bryan College
Association of Golf Club Secretaries
Aventis Environmental Science
Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd
Barcham Trees
Barenbrug UK Ltd
Barrellfield Golf Ltd
Bathgate Leisure
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Ecosolve Limited
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A Public Disgrace – Why?

After reading Sandy McDivot's article on the US Open, in the July edition of Greenkeeping International, I was embarrassed to show my Association's monthly publication to any of my colleagues here in the USA. Just exactly why was it a public disgrace?

Beth Page is situated just 35 miles outside the centre of Manhattan an area renowned for a host of golfing gems such as Shinecock Hills, Winged Foot, Quaker Ridge, National Golf Links, Garden City and Westchester Country Club to name a few. These all may be great courses but they certainly are not accessible to the public. Beth Page however is a genuine "municipal" course with daily fees set at \$31 and fixed at that by the USGA since 98 and until 2005 during which time it can only rise with inflation.

As for the 35,000 rounds a year, courses in this area are usually only open from April through to November. This isn't an Augusta National type closure so they can maintain bentgrass fairways during the Georgia summer heat. It's one dictated by extreme cold weather conditions and around 100 inches of snow. Another point to remember is that Long Island is situated further south than the UK and daylight hours are somewhat shorter. Take these two points into consideration and the 35,000 rounds a year no longer sounds like a walk in the park for the maintenance crew.

It was actually the USGA investing the money in the course and not the Tax Payers money as you article implies. Now rather than the USGA investing \$3 million in this "Country Club for the people" I'm sure Mr McDivot would have rather seen the USGA paying the normal \$4 million to one of the more affluent courses on the open roster to open their doors to the USGA for 10 days for their little tournament.

As for Mr McDivot's views on tournament preparation that was the real disgrace! Aren't we professionals trying to do the best we can with whatever resources we have, be it \$3 million dollars or £30,000s?

Glenn Kirby,
Oak Hill Country Club, An Englishman in New York

Editor's Reply: Regular readers of Sandy McDivot's columns will know that he takes a tongue in cheek look at the world and I am sure he meant no offence to Beth Page or its Superintendent and staff. He was merely making a rye comparison between the course presented for the 2002 US Open and what is the widely held perception of a British "Muni".

Many Thanks

May I, through the BIGGA Magazine, thank all concerned regarding the organisation of this year's 131st British Open at Muirfield. The occasion was a huge success and memorable to all those who attended and took part.

On a personal note, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to those Greenkeepers who donated various items of memorabilia from the Open to go towards a Promises Auction, which I am trying to organise this coming autumn. The Auction is to raise much needed funds for a local Hospice and as soon as the boys found out about my intentions they freely donated anything they had collected during the four days. I am truly grateful to all those who have contributed in any way you have shown as always true, unselfish spirit and I thank you for this.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next BIGGA event.

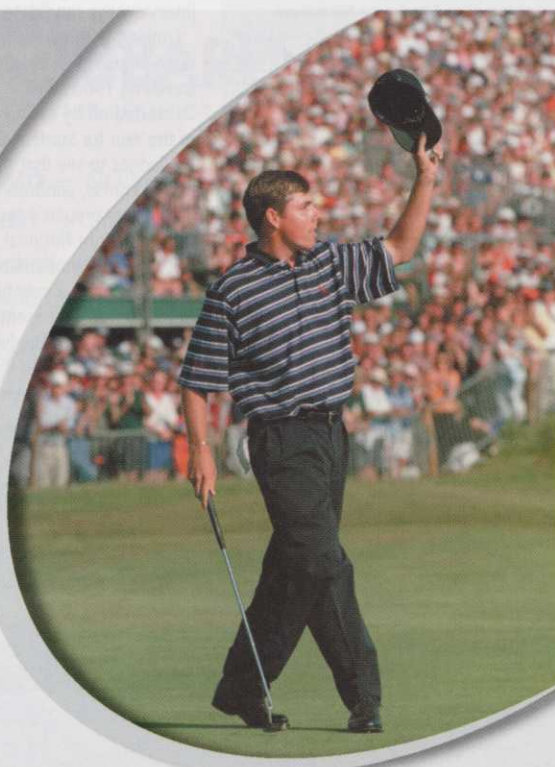
Yours in Greenkeeping
Anthony Davies MG
Course Manager, Prestbury GC

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For details, please contact Neil Thomas on 01347 833800 or via neil@bigga.co.uk

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BIGGA Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, explains how the TORO student finalists are selected and profiles of the successful eight.

The TORO Student of the Year Competition 2002

The Highlight of the Year for many student greenkeepers, the TORO Student of the Year Competition, moved into its second stage, the Regional Finals, during the last week of June. The Competition starts at BTME each year when Training Providers are asked to nominate their choice of Student Greenkeeper. This year saw 38 entries, from 21 Training Providers, all hoping to become the TORO Student of the Year 2002.

This year's interviews began at Luton Airport, on 20 June, when Peter Mansfield, from TORO, BIGGA Board Member, David Walden, and I interviewed three candidates.



The Regional Interviews continued in Edinburgh where Jeff Anguie, from TORO, BIGGA Board Member, Iain McLeod, and Ken Richardson, spent a full day interviewing the 9 entries from Scotland.

Manchester Airport was the next venue with Trevor Chard, from TORO, BIGGA Master Greenkeeper, Andy Campbell, and I interviewed a Total of nine candidates from the North of England and from Ireland.

Back in the car for the next trip to St Albans where I was joined by BIGGA Board Member, Ian Semple, and again by Trevor Chard to interview the candidates from the South East.

Another car journey to Cheltenham followed the Interviews in St Albans where I was joined by Peter Mansfield and BIGGA Master Greenkeeper, Gordon Irvine, to interview candidates from the South West and Wales.

Yet another car journey took Peter and I to Peterborough where we were joined once again by David Walden to interview the candidates from the Midlands.

Looking at the statistics shows that a total of 38 candidates were interviewed by nine judges at six venues with me travelling 1600 miles.

I started off by saying that the Competition was the Highlight of the Year for Student Greenkeepers. It is also a great boost for the judges to see that the standards of training, both on and off the course, continue to improve. Moreover, candidates are now better prepared for interview, making the judges job of selecting eight National Finalists ever more difficult.

This Year's Competition was difficult to judge as all candidates met a very high standard and they should be very proud to have represented their club and training provider in the Competition. The judges can, however, select only eight National Finalists and they are:

Representing Scotland

Graham Winter, who works at Kingsbarns Golf Links and attends Elmwood College. Graham has seen Kingsbarns develop from a field for grazing cows in summer and a ski run in winter to a high class links golf course, as he has all of his life in the town. Graham is just starting his career in greenkeeping and hopes, one day, to manage a prestigious golf club.



Representing the North of England

Peter Cross, who works at Woolton Park Golf Club in Liverpool. Peter has been a greenkeeper for 11 years, attending a range of courses to improve his knowledge and skills. His most recent course has been an HNC in Golf Course Management at Reaseheath College.



Representing Ireland

Two candidates have been selected to represent Ireland in the National Final. They are Gary Finnerty and Mairaid Coleman.

Gary now works at Fota Island recent venue for the Murphy's Irish Open. A student at Elmwood College, Gary has recently completed his HND in Golf Course Management. Although only 22, Gary has worked on five golf courses two of which are in the US.



Mairaid Coleman is the third female greenkeeper to reach the National Finals. Now the Head Greenkeeper at Killarney Golf Club in Co Carlow, Mairaid has been involved in greenkeeping for three years. She was raised on a farm and trained as a horticulturist before turning to greenkeeping. Mairaid has recently gained her Certificate in Greenkeeping from An Grianan College of Horticulture.



Representing the South East of England

Another Region with two National Finalists, the South East will be represented by Murray Long and by John Gubb.

Murray Long entered greenkeeping in 1986, studying for City and Guilds Phases 2 and 3. He then spent some time establishing his career, becoming Head Greenkeeper, at Coombe Hill Golf Club in 1997. Murray returned to education to study NVQ Level 3 at Merrist Wood College, which he has recently completed.



John Gubb has been involved in greenkeeping since he left school 1993. A native of Devon, John is now the Deputy Course Manager at the Bedfordshire Golf Club. He has, recently, gained his NVQ Level 3 at Merrist Wood College to add to a National Diploma in Turf Science and a D32/33 assessor qualification.





Representing the South West and Wales

Duncan Brown is a relative newcomer to greenkeeping having joined High Post Golf Club, Salisbury, in 2000. Duncan has recently completed a National Diploma in Horticulture and Greenkeeping, at Sparsholt College. Duncan aspires to travel continuing to gain experience towards becoming a Course Manager.



Representing the Midlands

The Midlands Region will be represented by John Osborne, who is an assistant greenkeeper at Boston Golf Club in Lincolnshire. John has worked at Boston Golf Club since 1997 but mainly on a part time basis while he studied to become a probation officer. John decided that he preferred the outdoor life and joined Boston, full time, last year. John has, recently, completed his NVQ Level 2 in Sportsturf through the Myerscough 'Mollnet' distance learning.

The next step to becoming the TORO Student of the Year is the National Final, which will be held at BIGGA House on Monday 23 September, when a panel of judges will select the winner of the TORO Scholarship. This includes six weeks of study at the University of Massachusetts, a trip to the TORO factories in Minneapolis and in California and a trip to the GCSAA Exhibition in Atlanta in February 2003. Two runners-up will receive an all expenses paid trip to Continue to Learn and BTME at Harrogate in January 2003.

REGION AND SECTION TRAINING COURSES AUTUMN 2002 AND SPRING 2003

Thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, we can, once again, this Autumn and Spring, offer high class training courses for a very low price. The full brochure will be inserted into the September Edition of Greenkeeper International and will be available at Saltex. However, as some courses are due to run in October, I thought that I would give you some advance notice so that you can be prepared.

OCTOBER COURSES

	DATE	AREA
PA1, PA2a and PA6 Spraying Course	14 -18 October	Midlands
PA1, PA2a and PA6 Spraying Course	21 -25 October	Mid Anglia
Basic Computer Skills	16 & 17 October	South West
Tractor Driving	30 & 31 October	South Wales
Health and Safety at Work	30 & 31 October	Northern England

NOVEMBER COURSES

Basic Computer Skills	5 & 6 November	Mid Anglia
Essential Management Skills	18 & 19 November	Luton Airport
Reel Sharpening	28 November	Carden Park

DECEMBER COURSE

Essential Management Skills	12 & 13 December	Manchester Airport
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Remember, this is only a partial list of courses that will be run this Autumn and next Spring. These courses are guaranteed to be popular and places will be limited. Reserve your place by contacting Sami or Ken, at BIGGA House.

BULLYING AT WORK

What is it? How big a problem is it? Why does it occur? What are the consequences? How can it be prevented?

These are just some of the questions posed and answered on a fact sheet available from the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work.

This and other factsheets can be downloaded from their website:

<http://agency.osha.eu.int>



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This month Rachael Palmer, from BIGGA's Membership Department, would like to welcome 56 new members to the Association and announces a fantastic prize draw.

JOIN THE HORDES AND VISIT US AT SALTEX 2002

BIGGA will once again be exhibiting at SALTEX at Windsor Racecourse on September 3-5 and no doubt the BIGGA stand - G01 - will be busier than ever before.

I will be on hand to collect in renewal and application forms, take photographs of members who have still to get their picture taken, change your personal details such as address and employer changes and answer any questions you may have with regard to your membership and the benefits you receive.

Sami, from the Education and Training Department, will also be on the BIGGA stand to deal with any education queries, discuss the BTME Continue to Learn Training Programme, Continuing Professional Development, the Master Greenkeeper Certificate and Regional Training.

Copies of the educational/training videos that BIGGA has produced will be available for purchase along with three of the most popular books borrowed from our library, Practical Greenkeeping by Jim



Arthur, Golf Course Presentation by John Hacker and George Shiels and A Practical Guide to Ecological Management of the Golf Course by Bob Taylor.

Once again items from BIGGA's leisurewear range including the ever popular Cutter & Buck BIGGA Logo Classic Polo Shirts in either sunflower or navy and a variety of pullovers from Peter Scott will also be on sale.

Cheryl Broomhead, from Advertising/Media Sales, and Pauline Thompson, from Exhibitions, will also be available throughout the week if you wish to discuss advertising in Greenkeeper International or BTME and Clubhouse.

Also in attendance will be BIGGA Chairman, Richard Barker; Executive Director, Neil Thomas and Editor, Scott MacCallum, all of whom will be delighted to talk with you on any aspect of BIGGA business.

The BIGGA Stand is located at G01. Why not pick up a free copy of the BIGGA field guides on production of your membership card, or how about a new membership application form so you will be able to enter the Rally Driving Prize Draw.

AUGUST'S 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 Clock/calculator/calendar and alarm. Our congratulations go to August's winner, Alan Kellet, of Bentham Golf Club. Don't forget until November not only will you be entered into the draw to win this clock you will also have the chance to win a day out rally driving!

WIN A DAY RALLY DRIVING!

How do you fancy a day behind the wheel of a race-prepared rally car? You will learn speed and control in an environment replicating what the professionals face including skid control and hand brake turns.

To enter the prize draw all you have to do is introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA. Make sure your name goes on their application form as the person who referred them and we will enter your name into the draw. Remember the more new members you refer the more chances you have to win! It doesn't stop there either, if you win the Rally Driving experience then the new member you referred also receives a RED LETTER DAY VOUCHER that can be used on an experience of their choice from a range of at least 20. Typical experiences include Gliding, Bungee Jumping or Bird of Prey Handling.



Important: You must be able to drive a manual transmission car. Other requirements vary according to location; most centres require a full driving licence. The Rally Driving Experience is available at sites UK wide. The car you will be driving will not necessarily be the car featured. The voucher experiences available are subject to change.

The draw will take place on November 5 and the winners will be announced in the December edition of Greenkeeper International.

Call either Rachael or Gemma today in Membership Services on 01347 833800 to request a new member application form or fill out the slip on the outer cover of this magazine and remember you will also be entered into the monthly membership draw already featured on this page.

BIGGA welcomes...

Scottish Region

Nicholas Brown, East
David Brown, East
Grant Donaldson, Central
Neil Jacobs, East
James Naylor, Central

Northern Region

Robert Coates, N East
Robin Cornforth, Northern
Stuart Earnshaw, Northern
Dave Earnshaw, Sheffield
Ben Grayson, Northern
James Heeley, Sheffield
Chris Hodgkinson, N West
Richard Jones, Sheffield

Chris Percy, N Wales
William Righton, N West
Paul Spencer, N West
Frank Stewart, Northern
Richard Vaughan, Sheffield

Midland Region

Brian Bailey, BB&O
Johnathan Fryman, E Midland
Stephen Green, E England
Anthony Hunter, BB&O
Danny Phillips, E England
Daniel Tanser, Mid Anglia
Daniel Wren, E England

South East Region

Paul Barber, E Anglia
Robert Barnes, E Anglia
Graham Homewood, Surrey
Joseph Kevin, Surrey
Richard Martin, Surrey
Chris Wells, Sussex

S West/S Wales Region

Robert Brown, S Coast
David Cartwright, S West
Colin Devlin, S West
Duncan Fox, S Coast
Simon Hann, S West
Justyn Kennedy, S West
Neil Willmetts, S Coast

International

Walter Woods, Netherlands
Erik Stromsmoen, Norway
Mr Mats, Sweden
Christopher Hutson, South America
Bruce Mungle, Africa

Associate Members

Damian Brown, Sussex
Robert Bruce, Ayrshire
Richard D'Arcy, S West
Richard Fortmuller, BB&O
Richard Fulford, E Anglia
Pablo Villa, Spain
Garry Worrall, N West

Silver Key Members

Richard Lawrence, Midland

Student Members

Ben Chamberlain, E Anglia
David Lafferty, W Scotland
Lionel Oliver, N West
Adam Tunmore, S West
Neil Williams, S Coast



How well do you know the people who work for the Association?

In this new series we give you a chance to learn a little more about a member of BIGGA's Headquarters staff



Jennifer Whichello

Position:

Sales Team Leader.

What does your role involve?

Playing an active role in generating advertising sales for Greenkeeper International, the BIGGA Golf Directory, BTME as well as being involved in other promotional activities.

How long have you worked for the Association?

Four and a half years plus one year (I rejoined in 2001).

Where were you born and brought up?

Ripon, North Yorkshire.

Where did you work before you joined BIGGA?

Yorkshire Evening Press in York.

What are your hobbies? Going on holiday, photography and watching football (Man U and Millwall!).

What is your favourite food?

Seafood.

What is your favourite film?

True Romance and Last of the Mohicans.

What was the last book you read?

Faceless by Martina Cole.

Who is your all time hero?

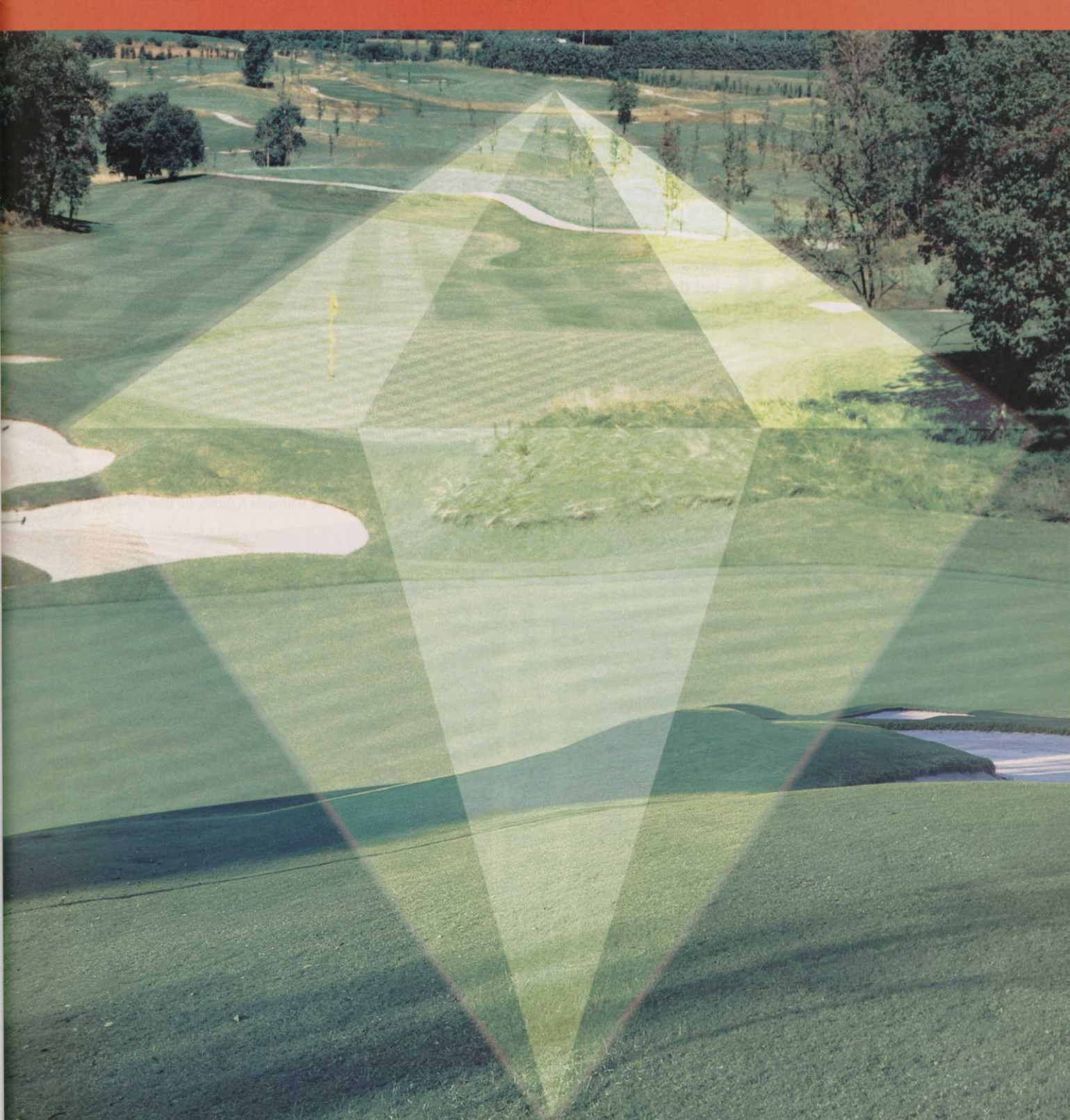
My Dad!

What was the best event you've ever attended?

My wedding to Scott in August 2000 - cruising down the river in York.

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

Clubbing in Lily Bordoello's nightclub in Dublin alongside Bono, Van Morrison, Lisa Stansfield and The Hothouse Flowers.



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A Remarkable Day



Already this year there have been some outstanding golfing performances to admire, but there are few which will measure up to that of the Lincsgreen team in the 2002 BIGGA Golf Day at Aldwarck Manor.

While many other teams struggled to harness the windy conditions in the Texas Scramble format, Lincsgreen were oblivious to the weather and were a remarkable 14 under-par gross - a score of 57 - when they finally holed out.

Even allowing for the low scoring nature of the format it was a stupendous achievement and the four man team of Philip Wilkinson, Graeme Macdonald, Les Howkins and Mike Love certainly deserved the plaudits and the prizes on the day.

The Golf Day, again sponsored by the Harrogate A Group of Hotels, has an outstanding record of good weather and once again it didn't disappoint and, even allowing for the wind, it was the hottest day of the year to that point.

With a record number of teams entering the sixth BIGGA Golf Day was undoubtedly a huge hit and it is safe to say that it has well and truly cemented its place in the industry calendar.

A special thank you to everyone who took place and in particular to the Harrogate A Group, for their generous sponsorship.

1. Lincsgreen - Philip Wilkinson, Graeme Macdonald, Les Howkins, Mike Love
2. Hunter Grinders - Keith Cann-Evans, Tony McLure, Bevan Tattersall, Gary MacDonald
3. Haifa Chemicals 2 - Scott Garnett, Mark Horner, Alun Davis, Brian Acconnley

Putting Comp Tied 1st Mike Fenney/Peter Wessel/John Lelean



The winning Lincsgreen team display their trophy in the presence of BIGGA Chairman, Richard Barker, and Frank Flaherty, Manager of the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate.



The Hunter Grinders team.



Haifa Chemicals team.



The Warners Midland team, printers of Greenkeeper International, prepare to tackle the Aldwark Manor course.



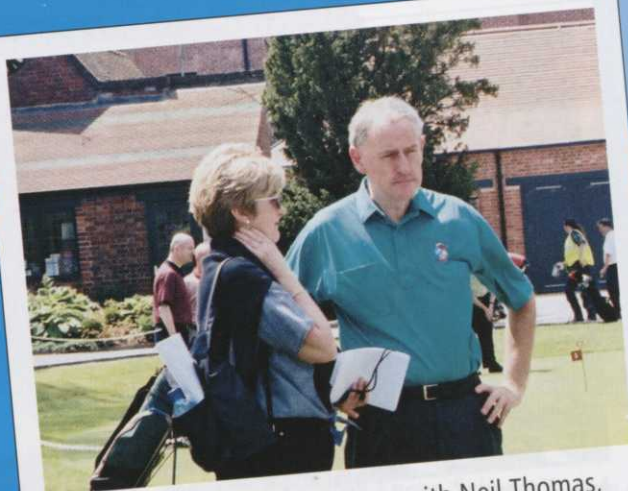
Richard Barker presents a bottle of champagne to his team member and father to commemorate his outstanding tee shot at the 18th.



The prize table.



Ex Newcastle United Captain, Bobby Moncur, tees off at the 1st.



Anne Wilson, of the STRI, chats with Neil Thomas, with the new Aldwark Manor extension on the background.



Activity on the 15th green.



Post round refreshments.



Richard Barker hones his putting stroke.



Our feathered friends.



Walter Woods and Iain Macleod warm up.



Keith Cann-Evans, Managing Director of Hunter Grinders, and Bevan Tattersall, Head Greenkeeper on the Brabazon Course, De Vere Belfry, prepare to crack open a bottle.



The winning team before their remarkable round.

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Peter Broadbent,
Head Greenkeeper
Effingham Golf Club,
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Fertilisers
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GC Vehicles
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Landscaping
Mowers
Seeds

Spraying
Cultivators/Rotavators
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21-22-23 JANUARY 2003

EXHIBITOR OR VISITOR ALL ROADS LEAD TO HARROGATE



'Continue to Learn'

BIGGA's comprehensive education programme offers interesting, informative and practical educational opportunities throughout the week. It is designed to offer maximum flexibility to all visitors allowing them the chance to combine their visit to the Exhibitions with their own professional development.



CLUBHOUSE

- comes of age being staged alongside the BTME. A 'must visit' for golf club personnel.

Commenting on the move to Harrogate. Andrew Gibb, Divisional Director of Centre Exhibitions at the NEC, said: "This decision has been made in the best interests of the industry and we fully support the move to Harrogate."



Keith Lloyd, Secretary of the AGCS, said: "We, at the AGCS are very pleased that Clubhouse is moving to such a venue. It is clearly in the best interests of our members enabling them to visit both exhibitions at the one location and to resource all requirements for their golf clubs."

Your company will need to be there if its interests include:

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Financial Services	Hotels and Leisure
Signage	Bar Systems
Course Accessories	Flags or Banners
Clubhouse Design	Insurance Services
Kitchen Equipment	Beverage
Vending Machines	Proshop

HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

TECHNICAL Issues

A patch of discoloured turf or a patch disease?

Dr Kate Entwistle highlights some the difficulties involved in diagnosing problems

Several times a week I receive telephone calls from both Course Managers and agronomists, describing turf symptoms to me and asking if I can suggest the likely disease that is affecting their sward. Which disease do I think is present and which fungicide should be applied to control it? Although I am more than happy to discuss the symptoms, their development over time and the conditions of the sward in general which may have contributed to the current problem, suggesting the name of a likely disease on that basis is something that I would never recommend that anyone ever does. A complete and accurate diagnosis of a turf problem can only ever be provided once a sample of the turf has been looked at in the laboratory. However, these situations do highlight some extremely important concerns over problem diagnoses that need to be seriously considered.

A complete and accurate description of the problem is an essential first step to its correct identification. However, if you ask several people with experience in the turf industry, to describe the same turf problem, I can guarantee that they will all provide significantly different descriptions. They will use different words to describe what they see and certain characteristics of the turf problem will come across as more important to some than to others. Confusion arises when this information is passed to someone else (like myself) for their opinion on the cause, because the words used to describe the problem will automatically rule out or may even suggest certain potential candidates. As an example, I was recently asked to comment on a 'turf disease' problem that was present across an entire field. The symptoms were described to me as large patches which themselves were not increasing in size, but which had "appeared" and remained at a given size for several weeks. To me, a large patch implies something approaching 0.5 m diameter, fairly regular and circular in outline with the entire sward inside that circular boundary affected in a similar way.

As I found out on visiting the site, what the client meant by a large patch, was completely different. They meant that large parts of the field (patches) were affected but within these parts, the turf was showing signs of localised discoloration, sometimes only individual plants were affected. Of course the 'patch' was not increasing in size because, in actual fact, there was no patch. The area of the field affected remained the same regardless of the number of localised infections present.

All professions have their jargon and turf pathology is unfortunately no exception. In the study of turf disease we use a variety of words to describe the symptoms of the disease as well the fungi that cause them. Many of these words have common everyday meanings which may well seem perfectly reasonable to use, but which may have little to do with the 'pathologists meaning'. The utterance of a single word can send a pathologist running excitedly down a diagnostic path that you may well have not intended them to head!

Sometimes, even seeing symptoms first hand can draw you to an incorrect diagnosis of the problem, if the general symptoms alone are used for the identification. I recently saw an area of *Poa annua* in which the plants

themselves were upright (turgid) and showed no visible signs of foliar rotting but the leaf tissues were fantastic shades of yellow, orange and red. Instantly, you may consider anthracnose basal rot – the above ground symptoms were so obvious. However, on removing a few plants from the area, I failed to find any which showed the blackened crown tissue that is characteristic of this fungal disease. It was only on examination with a microscope that I convinced myself that these symptoms were not related to disease but were actually caused by severe droughting.



Diurnal pattern of heat-stress bands on leaves exposed to intense solar radiation and high humidity

It doesn't matter how many times you may have seen a particular problem before, it is always possible to confuse the symptoms with something that could well be totally unrelated. Simply by altering the height of cut, the symptoms of some turf diseases can be dramatically changed and some of the 'characteristics' you generally use to diagnose a problem, may not be present or not quite so obvious.

In my opinion, anyone who believes that they can correctly diagnose all turf problems by merely looking at the above ground symptoms, are not only fooling themselves but perhaps more importantly, run a very real risk of making a diagnostic mistake which the turf manager will ultimately have to deal with. This raises another concern. If a problem is described and/or diagnosed incorrectly, it can only be by chance that the correct course of action is advised. If that advice includes pesticide application,

you may be applying a product illegally, you may have wasted your time and money on something that was not needed in the first place or you may even have encouraged a disease by the application of an inappropriate product.

The majority of the 'incorrectly described' and misdiagnosed turf problems come in the form of 'patch disease'. Over the past 12 years I have seen hundreds of turf samples from areas that have been described as having a patch disease problem, only to find out through analysis that no fungus was involved in the problem at all. There are a whole range of turf problems that can express themselves as patches and serious fungal disease problems are definitely in the minority.

How well can you identify the grasses in your sward? It is not as easy as you think. You may be fairly certain of your ability but it is very easy to misidentify plant species in close-mown turf and misidentification can send you on a definite wild goose chase when trying to identify any problem. In one

recent case, a turf manager called me up and said that fusarium patch had developed rapidly on three of his greens, almost overnight and he was concerned that the problem was going to spread to the other greens. Before applying a fungicide, he asked if he could send samples of turf to me to confirm the disease and to ensure that there was no other disease problem present. On receipt of the samples, I could see that the sward contained *Poa annua* and that the majority of the sward on each of the samples was uniformly dark brown with little deformity to the leaf tissues. On turf affected with fusarium patch, you are likely to see a deterioration of the sward with the leaf tissues becoming rotten and matted towards the centre of the affected area. Generally speaking, you would see a dark brown border of active disease development surrounding bleached and dying plants. In the early stages of infection, the plants are indeed dark brown and catching the disease at this stage would lessen the chance of scars developing in the sward. But experience told me that this damage didn't look right for disease. Analysis using the microscope confirmed that the dark brown plants in the sward were in fact pearlwort, a weed that grows in discrete patches and that can tolerate close mowing but which had discoloured due to the adverse weather conditions. By looking down on the sward from a height, the *Poa annua* and the pearlwort can be difficult to differentiate but under close examination their differences are quite apparent.

By far, the most common 'patch disease' problem that I see comes from greens that have a problem with surface or rootzone drainage. Large patches of the sward, up to 0.5 m across, can discolour very quickly if the roots are trying to grow through a waterlogged rootzone. Even pure sand rootzones can have problems with water movement and symptoms of waterlogging can be seen equally on these as on soil-based greens. Patches tend to develop on the surface of these affected areas for one of two reasons. If the sward is of variable composition, any patches of *Poa annua* will show signs of stress more readily than the other grasses present in the sward. Alternatively, the green may have localised low areas or areas of compaction which tend to hold water longer than others and it is these that may be showing the symptoms. Either way, analysis of the rootzone will show a characteristic symptoms on the roots and in the most extreme of cases, a sulphurous or sickly smell that indicates that the rootzone conditions are anaerobic. Further analysis of the plant material can confirm whether or not and fungal disease is developing on the turf in these adverse growing conditions although generally, if any fungus is present, it will be colonising the stressed turf as a saprophyte rather than as a parasite.

Other misidentified patch disease problems include the frequently observed patches of bleached or banded leaf tissues that occur during late spring/early summer. Again, it is often patches of *Poa annua* that show up most clearly as being affected by this bleaching of the leaf tissues. Extensive analysis of plants in samples received with these bleached tissues has failed to show any associated fungal pathogen, either on the leaf tissues themselves or colonising the root and crown tissues. In all cases of this problem that I have seen, samples of affected turf will green-up on their own if they are placed inside a laboratory for a few days. On the course, the plants will eventually green-up and generally the bleached symptoms only last for a week or so. Many possible causes have been proposed for these symptoms, including virus damage (which has never been substantiated), but it is most likely that this is a physiological effect caused by the difference between day and night temperatures (possibly in association with available nutrients) on the chlorophyll production within the leaf itself.

So, if a patch of discoloured turf appears on the sward, how do you tell if it is fungal disease? Firstly, identify the grasses in the affected and adjacent unaffected areas. If, for example, you have patches of *Poa annua* in an otherwise bentgrass sward, could the prevailing environmental conditions have caused a specific change in the leaf colour of the *Poa annua* and made it more apparent? Patches of *Poa annua* (or Pearlwort) in a sward may well change colour rapidly with changes in temperature, moisture and nutrient availability. If you have a uniform sward and discoloured patches appear in it, there is, generally speaking, more of a chance that the symptoms have been caused by fungal disease – but not always! Check that the rootzone freely draining. Any small, localised areas that tend to hold water can cause dramatic changes to the sward over a relatively short period of time. The best way to

check this is by smell. Take a hole-cutter core sample out of the affected area, open it up and smell it. If it makes you throw your head back violently (and you suddenly don't fancy your lunch), maybe there is a slight drainage problem. Grass roots need to breathe and if the rootzone is holding too much water they can't and the plants will show you that they can't. Bleached leaf tissues can be caused by fungal disease, for example red thread and fusarium patch (established infection) but it is probably fair to say that if the affected leaf looks healthy apart from it being white, there is a good chance that the problem has a physiological rather than fungal cause. Fungi will cause bleaching of the tissues once they have removed the nutrients from them and they will often leave the leaf tissue dry and desiccated or water-soaked and rotting. Alternating heat and cold will affect the ability of the plant to produce chlorophyll (the green pigment in leaves) and so, if

'banding' or uniform 'bleaching' occurs, check the recent weather conditions for a likely cause. If the leaf tissue is discoloured on the upper surface but the lower surface remains green, the problem is almost certainly physiological. With all so-called physiological problems, it is possible to have related fungal disease. One of the most obvious is development of fusarium patch disease on a sward that is suffering stress due to a waterlogged rootzone. Patch disease can therefore develop over local physiological problems. It is always worth getting a sample checked if you are in any doubt at all. Everyone, no matter what their experience or background, can be fooled in to making a wrong diagnosis if they go by the foliar symptoms alone.

Some patches that develop on the greens, tees and fairways will be caused by fungi. Many fungal diseases will occur, for example, in one place on a green and spread across the entire surface, or the initial outbreaks will remain fairly unchanged but increase in number over time. Presently in the UK, we are unlikely to see some of the severely disfiguring and rapidly-damaging turf diseases that are a constant worry for turf managers in warmer climates, but it is possible for some of these to show up here as our climate changes. Since new fungal diseases are continuously being identified in the areas of horticulture and agriculture, it is naive to assume that the range of disease problems we encounter in turf will always remain constant. New fungal diseases will develop and the actual cause for some problems that we are presently aware of, will be formally identified. Insects and other invertebrates can also cause patch damage to turf, with some causing a discrete, distinct and very regular yellowing of the turf that you would swear was caused by a fungus. If a patch develops on the sward, don't automatically assume a fungal cause, consider the potential options before you decide on any course of action and if you want to know for sure, get a sample analysed – you may be surprised what we find.



Selected grass clones were killed by flood stress when an early spring heat wave warmed a water-logged soil



Grant Moir, of the R&A Rules Team, explains some of the finer points of the rules to the team flanked to his right by Colin Irvine, Muirfield's Course Manager



Craig Gilholm, Muirfield's Deputy Course Manager explains to the team how the bunkers should be raked

Rough Justice

Ernie Els was the man who coped best with the rough weather and the penal Muirfield rough and fought off three play-off rivals who had progressed up the leaderboard in easier conditions on the Saturday

Few people could possibly have felt that Ernie Els' victory in the Open Championship at Muirfield was not deserved. The big, likeable South African coped with the roughest of the weather on the Saturday better than anyone and, although he wobbled on the Sunday, he had the wherewithal to survive the wonderful devil-may-care approach of Thomas Levet with whom he eventually went head-to-head in the sudden death element of the play-off.

The final day produced excitement of the highest order, even if everyone's pre-match favourite, Tiger Woods, wasn't in the shake-up. He suffered an off day in conditions which amplified every mistake and he endured his worst round as a professional - an 81 which put pay to his genuinely realistic hopes of a Grand Slam.

That a player of Ernie's quality - he has been a top ten in the

world player for most of the last 10 years - did finally lift the Claret Jug is a tribute to the test that was set the players.

Colin Irvine and his team presented the course to perfection, despite rainfall totals in the lead up to the event which would not look out of place in Equatorial forests. The rain meant that the course may have been a little greener than he would have liked but Colin must have been delighted that the only comments that came from the players were positive... even considering the fact that the rough was of man-eating scale!

As ever the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team was in attendance, providing invaluable support to Colin's own team as well as enjoying the great privilege of seeing the world's greatest players from inside the ropes.



The 2002 BIGGA Open Support Team

The Great BIGGA Bunker Competition entered its eighth year and to celebrate Kim Macfie put up an extra Hayter Harrier mower - a rear roller rotary - for the Support Team member whose estimate was closest to the actual number of bunkers found during the week.

The Media mower was won by Chris Smart, of the Mid Glamorgan Press Agency, whose wife, Kay, won it three years ago. The Support Team Mower was won by Steve Oultram, of Wilmslow GC. Steve also won a bottle of whisky.

Among the entrants in the Media Competition was Peter Allen, of the Drivetime Show on BBC Radio Five Live, who entered the competition live on air at the end of an interview with Greenkeeper International Editor, Scott MacCallum, on the Wednesday

afternoon. Unfortunately Peter's estimate, of 990, was just a little shy of the total, which probably could be put down to the large number of people who made the cut.

Another man to be interviewed by Five Live during the week was Bert Cross, who, along with Peter Boyd, manned the BIGGA Cabin. Bert explained the role the Support Team did and this assisted with the smooth running of the Championship.

* The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team has provided support to the resident greenkeeping team at every Open Championship since St Andrews in 1984.

Bunker History

Year	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02
	St A's	Ly'm	Troon	B'dale	C'stie	St A's	Ly'm	Muirfield
Bunkers	112	185	84	117	115	112	197	148
Rd 1	214	501	344	355	539	148	557	359
Rd 2	201	577	272	406	468	164	547	372
Rd 3	130	269	107	226	202	65	224	175
Rd 4	156	271	136	153	265	71	257	169
Total	701	1618	859	1140	1474	448	1585	1078



Chairman Richard Barker congratulates fellow Beedles Lakes man Matthew Cort on his fine performance in the Championship



Tiger Woods comes off the final green on the Sunday



Tiger's caddie Steve Williams hands a ball to Iain Gunn



Iain walks off with the ball tucked away in his pocket



The BIGGA Marquee got particularly busy on the Saturday afternoon



The Muirfield team switch the first fairway prior to play



Peter Boyd completes some paperwork while Richard Saunders relaxes



John Deere is the official supplier to Muirfield and the green and yellow machinery was visible throughout the week

Quote of the Week

"There's Ellis in Bunkerland". Support Team Member, Scott Reeves, on seeing colleague Mark Ellis, on TV in the final day working on the Thomas Levet match.

News Snippets

- Every BIGGA member who worked on the Tiger Woods' match was greeted by the great man himself with a shake of the hand and a, "Hello, I'm Tiger Woods." They were Gavin Robson, Steve Oultram, Fred Deamen and Iain Gunn. Each was also given a ball with "Tiger" embossed upon it.
- Gavin Robson, Course Manager at Lingdale Golf Club, is owed £1 by Justin Rose who borrowed the coin to act as a ball marker on the opening round and then forgot to return it at the end of the round.
- Another man who lost out financially was David Beardwood, of Kingsbarns GC, who lent a penny to Warren Bennett to act as a ball marker. He promised to return it later but that was the last David saw of his money. Information supplied by David Beardwood, of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.
- A Referee was red faced in a match accompanied by Support Team member Stuart Hogg, of Fortrose and Rossmarkie GC, when his mobile went off as they were walking down the 3rd fairway. Information supplied by Stuart Hogg, of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

- Pierre Fulke got the knack of Muirfield's four par-3s by the final round making 2 at each of them. Information supplied by Bill Merritt, of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.
- Paul Lawrie let his temper get the better of him during the final round. After finding a bunker on the 5th he smashed his 4-wood into the ground snapping the head clean off. Information supplied by Paul Neve, of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team
- Tom Watson was discussing popular music with eventual runner-up Steve Elkington, during the second round. "Why is it always 'Raining Men' that is mostly listened to with the youth?" asked Tom. "Something to do with the weather," came the reply. Information supplied by Anthony Davies, of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.
- It was a really Welsh reunion during one match on the second day. Player Bradley Dredge was Welsh; the Scoreboard carrier was Welsh (and the son of Walker Cup Captain Clive Brown), and the Support Team member was Welsh. Information supplied by Welshman Peter Lacey, of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.
- Open Hero Gary Evans' caddie was adamant that he wasn't going to wear the red bib allocated to him on the second day as it was Manchester United colours. He was given a white one instead. Information supplied by Kevin Hodges, of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.
- A bees' nest appeared on the tee at the 14th during the first round and bees were emerging from it as the players hit their shots. Information supplied by Kevin Hodges, of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.



The Open's equivalent of Henman Hill



The Support Team divoted the course every evening



Craig Gilholm cuts the 17th green on the Wednesday evening



Saturday wasn't a good day to be outside

The Tractor Boys

Roland Taylor takes himself around the showrooms to see what's on offer in the world of the compact tractor

As this article was being prepared it was announced that AGCO, manufacturers of Massey Ferguson tractors, was closing its UK factory in Coventry. Sales of its tractors are to continue in this country and throughout the world. The reason given was the state of the agricultural industry, which has seen a considerable loss of sales over the last few years. It is little wonder that manufacturers have been turning their attention more and more to the turf care market. Companies, which have in the past not been very interested in this sector, are now introducing models specifically designed for it. This has led to some interesting developments as companies vie for what is a relatively small market.

From an end users point of view it is certainly worth looking carefully at what is on offer as there are some high specification packages around. Interest rates are still low so there are also some attractive financial incentives in the form of HP and leasing to be had.

With SALTEX on the horizon there is no better time than now to take a look at what is on offer. As an appetiser we have looked at the latest models and some of the stalwarts as well.



TEXTRON

Earlier this year the Iseki TK538 joined a range of models from 17hp to 66hp. This new arrival has a 38 hp diesel engine and a 16 forward and 16 reverse transmission with shuttle shift which means you can change direction from forward gear to reverse. There is a differential lock for extra traction on difficult terrain or when working in certain conditions.

The power steering has its own pump and there is a second unit dedicated to hydraulic rams, plus additional valves for the front lift and other hydraulically operated attachments. A Rear PTO is standard and there is an option of a mid-mounted one. Both are operated via a switch.

The tractor comes fitted with a ROP or there is the cab available.

For those readers looking for more power there is the 46hp TK546, with a lifting capacity of 1700kg.

JOHN DEERE

The new 4010 series is claimed to be the first in the industry to incorporate electronically controlled hydrostatic transmission. These new systems the eHydro(tm) and ePowrReverser(tm) (who thinks up these names) are only available on the 4310 (30hp) and 4410 (34hp) models.

These are a spin off from the larger agricultural tractors and they are said to provide greater productivity and easier adjustment of the tractor output to match more precisely the requirements of a specific attachment. Push button controls, more efficient diagnostic servicing and heavy-duty construction are also incorporated features.

The eHydro(tm) transmission includes eMatch(tm), a facility that enables the operator to customise the tractor's transmission response to meet the needs of the particular task being carried out. By combining the speed and load matching plus the optional cruise control, greater accuracy with less operator fatigue is said to be achieved, especially at low speeds.

The ePowrReverser(tm) transmissions provide clutchless shuttling between forward and reverse, especially useful when using a loader. Deere say this is the only true power reverser on a mid chassis tractor in the compact market.

Other features include, lateral floating 3-point linkage to follow the ground contours and fully independent PTO operation. Operator comfort has been taken into account with large uncluttered driving area and tilt steering wheel, plus all the controls are positioned within easy reach.

Tractors in the 4010 series are from 18hp to 48hp, some models offer a choice of hydrostatic transmission or gearbox.





RECO

Kioti have been building tractors since 1947. Their DK range spans from 35hp to 51hps and the power units are said to meet the strictest emission levels in the world.

All models have a mechanical gearbox with synchromesh shift and creep speed is standard. The hydrostatic power steering has its own pump and produces a maximum turning angle of 58 degrees.

The hydraulics and rear linkages have a number of features fitted as standard including, position and draft control, swinging draw bar and two double acting spools valves.

The design and layout of the driving area with its fully adjustable seat is said to keep operator fatigue to a minimum.

ROPS frames are included on all models and a luxury safety cab can be fitted to the top two models in the range.

Tractors in the Kioti DK series have a 2 year warranty with unlimited hours, parts and labour.

CHARTERHOUSE

The big difference of Antonio Carraro tractors is the facility to turn the driving position through 180 degrees so that the unit can be either used with out-front attachments, the same as a specialist built machine or, alternatively, as a conventional tractor. Another feature is a full oscillating chassis this, according to the manufacturers, makes them highly manoeuvrable with a tight turning circle. Four wheel hydrostatic drives with differentials to both axles give extra traction when required. There is plenty of choice of power within the range. The Supertrac 5400 and 8400 HTM are available with 48hp or 74hp diesel engines and the Ergit TRX/TTR offers a choice of 60, 64, 75 or 87hp.



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RENAULT

The Tractor Boys

KUBOTA

All models in Super B series are powered by the company's own E-TVCS (Three Vortex Combustion System) indirect diesel engine with a choice of 17hp, 21hp, 24hp or 27hp. This line up is said to have improved performance and easier to operate.

Main features include, integral power steering which is controlled by a micro-computer plus, Bi-speed turning, (not fitted as standard on all models) this automatically engages to give fast turning and reduce the risk of turf damage. Kubota say the hydraulic pump boosts power levels to those found on larger tractors. There is a choice of either hydrostatic or gearbox transmission depending on the model. Four-wheel drive and differential lock are standard throughout this series.

Top of the range is the M5700 designed for practicality, this tractor has no unnecessary extras to increase the cost.

AGCO LTD

The MF1200 series consists of six compacts with a horsepower range from 16.5hp to 40hp. Diesel engines are standard and there is a choice of either hydrostatic or mechanical transmission models. Depending on the specifications other features can include power steering, oil cooled disc brakes and hydraulics capable of lifting 550kg on the three-point linkage.

In the larger size, MF2200 series there are 47hp, 54 hp or 64hp diesel engines units available. Specifications include mechanical or advanced electro-hydraulic controls, plus low profile and centre of gravity models for situations where extra stability is required.

RENAULT LTD

All PALES tractors are now fitted with a Twinshift system that enables the operator to electro- hydraulically double each mechanical gear by activating two buttons on the gear lever. For travelling between sites there is now the option of a 40km/h transmission

There are a total of 24 forward and 24 reverse gears and these can be selected without loss of traction or momentum. All the controls are now colour coded and are sited to ensure they fall naturally into the hand, thus reducing operator fatigue. A dedicated hydraulic circuit for powering equipment can be fitted.

The PALES range has models from 52hp to 76hp.

NEW HOLLAND

At present this company lists a 27hp, 38hp and 45hp compact tractors, all are powered by liquid-cooled diesel engines. The small unit has a mechanical gearbox with a 9-forward and 3-reverse speeds, alternatively you can have 2 or 3 range hydrostatic transmission.

With the two larger tractors there is a choice of either hydrostatic or mechanical 24 x 24 creeper speed transmissions. Both these models have 1,486kg rear linkage lifting capacity. DualPower enables the operator to alter the power in the selected range, by flipping a switch. Another feature is SuperSteer(tm) front axle with SensiTrak.

MOTOKOV UK

Two new models of TYM tractors a 31 hp the HPT330 (hydrostatic transmission) and 70hp T700 are joining the present range of 31hp, 39hp 43hp and 55hp models. Either a 'Green' Kubota or John Deere diesel engine is fitted depending on the specification. The smaller powered units have ROP as standard and the larger ones come complete with an air conditioning cab. The company says that all models have flat floors for ease of access and operator comfort. TYM tractors come with a host of extra features as standard, plus 2 year warranty.



CLAYMORE GRASS MACHINERY

The Yanmar name has long association with compact tractors and many makes use the company's diesel engines as a power source. It is hardly surprising to find they also produce their own brand. Claymore offers four models 17hp, 20hp, 24hp and 28hp. All have hydrostatic transmission and a 2WD-4WD shift system.

SMALLHOLDER TRACTOR COMPANY

A new 37hp model the ST20040 has been recently released. Powered by a 37hp diesel, this 2-wheel driven tractor features 12 plus 12 shuttle transmission, 2-speed PTO and twin spool valves. ROP and power steering are standard. Another model about to be released, is the ST2050 a 52hp model with 2- and 4-wheel drives.

There are a number of important points to take into account when considering buying a particular model

- * A tractor is a relatively long-term investment, so future needs should be a consideration, plus the track record of the company who will be supplying it.

- * Tractor powered equipment is continually being improved and in some cases new models require more power so again this should be taken into account as far as lifting and PTO or hydrostatic drives are concerned.

- * Safety, noise, vibration and fatigue all need to be addressed.

- * The prices of replacement parts vary considerably between different manufacturers.

- * Check out exactly what comes with the tractor. Often the engine and drives are the same or similar. It is all those other bits and pieces, that are included in the price, that make the difference.

As said earlier, there are some value-for-money packages around so its worth delving a little deeper before deciding and SALTEX presents an ideal opportunity to start investigating.





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Weather

WEATHER PLANNING FOR PROFESSIONAL GREENKEEPERS

"Weather is obviously a most important factor for the management of golf courses"

(Source: March 2002 Annual report Rye Golf Club)

".....Higher Standards require resourcing. Greenkeepers should be pro-active in demanding information that helps decision making".

(Source Greenkeeper International Jan 2002).



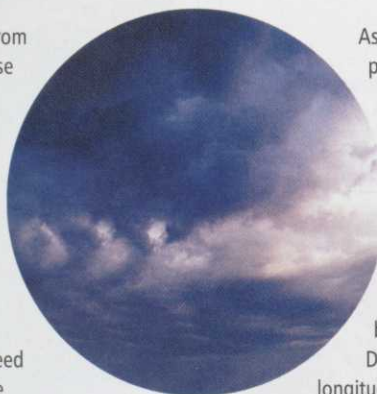
The successful running of a golf club requires expertise from management, especially Greenkeepers, to enable the course to be prepared and looked after, including seeding, fertilising, watering, alterations etc. This is of enormous importance especially where attention to detail, preparation and maintenance, is essential to the enjoyment of the final product, and when costs have to be very closely looked at.

However, whereas Risk Management is now an accepted, and in some cases a statutory, requirement for corporate management, only recently have professionals outside the business environment become aware of the need to access the best available information to enable effective decisions to be made.

And it is also only recently that modern technology has enabled information to be delivered direct to the people responsible for these crucial decisions at an affordable price.

Anyone who has to make plans that involve capital outlay must do so on the basis of the most up-to-date information available, and knowing when, or when not, to contract machinery or start spraying and seeding programmes is essential not only for the management of the course, but also to using money effectively and responsibly.

Although there is a great deal of free information now available particularly on the internet, it is mostly of a general nature i.e. 5 day forecasts, and in many cases is model output, which has not had input from a forecaster, and is not necessarily from a reliable source. Almost certainly it will not be in the correct format to enable quick decision-making.



As a result of the programmes established to assist the presentation of information to the corporate sector, Weather Index Ltd has developed software that enables the rapid assimilation and transmission of site-specific - i.e. at the exact latitude and longitude of the club - forecasts over a multitude of platforms. This means that previously prohibitively expensive forecasts can be provided at prices that are very affordable to a wider market.

Particularly for Greenkeepers, but also for golf course management, it is envisaged that the following package will be delivered daily, by automatic email:

Daily. 7 day detailed forecast at the clubs latitude and longitude. This will include expected 24 hour rainfall, divided into day-time, and night-time amounts, sunshine hours, wind speed and direction, max and min temperatures, humidity
Weekly. 30 day (monthly) forecast – national
Weekly. 30 day (monthly) forecast – regional
Monthly. 90 day (seasonal) forecast

A number of Greenkeeping indices to enable instant planning for course management. (e.g. Top Dressing; Herbicide spraying.)

Frost warnings (Sept – May).

This information will enable Greenkeepers and management to plan their course related programmes using the most up-to-date weather information available, and as a by-product, offers a useful service to club members.

Weather Index Ltd.
6th Floor
Bucklersbury House
83 Cannon Street
London EC4N 8ST
bill@wpindex.com
Tel: 020 7635 3232
Fax: 020 7635 3239



Bill Giles ▲



Dear Greenkeeper,

WHAT HAPPENED TO SUMMER?

With a much wetter season than normal and hardly a week of dry days.

What are the consequences for your Golf Course?

Moreover, what techniques should you be employing to make sure your courses will be in good condition going into the Autumn?

Nutrients have been taken out of the soil, in **much larger** quantities, than normal: more grass has gone in the box when cutting and also from leaching into the drains - particularly on sand based greens. With the weather, it has been difficult to get onto the Greens some days and the grass will very shortly be running out of "steam".

Application rates of nutrients should be increased over the next 2/3 months, possibly by up to 50% in order to maintain adequate nutrition in the soil.

Turf Rise Autumn - with an analysis of 3 - 0 - 22 - 4MgO - 3Fe - 6CaO made by Angus Horticulture Ltd is an ideal product designed to keep Greens up to scratch under these adverse conditions. The normal application rate of 50 grams per square metre should be increased to 75 grams per square metre split into two dressings applied August and September.

For more information contact your local distributor or speak to myself at Angus Horticulture Ltd 01241 829 049.

Yours sincerely,

Alistair Ballantyne

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Course Feature

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Scott MacCallum ventured west and came across an excellent, and very different golf course, with a very enlightened management philosophy



▲
Clive Moore (left)
with Steve Jones

If you haven't been to the west coast of Wales you have actually missed out on one of the more attractive areas the British Isles has to offer. And if you find yourself in the resort of Pwllheli on the Llyn Peninsula you will find a place, which has a great deal to offer on so many different fronts. For example, it boasts a bay, which is reputed to provide the best training area for yachtsmen anywhere in the world. Yes, I know. I was a bit surprised as well.

In addition there is a golf club which probably boasts the clubhouse closest to the sea in the entire country. Look out of one window and you can smell the sea and, if the window happens to be open, feel the spray, but if you look out of another window you will be equally impressed. On one side you will see a fine example of a beautifully manicured parkland course, but turn 45 degrees and you will be confronted by a typical links layout complete with fast running fairways, heather and revetted bunkers.

Now this isn't some fancy 36 hole club, which is fortunate enough to offer its members two distinct styles of golf under the same roof. This is a regular members' 18 hole course, which just happens to be made up of completely different styles.

The man who has the task of producing, what may be the most diverse, management regime in UK golf for 18 holes is 39 year old Steven Jones, a man whose enthusiasm for the job is matched only by his enthusiasm for the area in which he is fortunate to live and work.

"Pwllheli is a top quality resort with a superb marina and some of the best sailing to be found in the world. The peninsula boasts many fine courses and relies heavily on the tourist industry to support the local economy. With improved road networks the Club has extended its membership and attracts a large number of country members who value quality golf for a sensible cost," enthused Steve.

Those who have taken the opportunity to become associated with Pwllheli Golf Club find a unique course, and go-ahead club, which on both fronts offers other golf clubs a fine example to perhaps follow. The club's pedigree is extremely strong with the links side, the first laid down, being designed by Tom Morris and the parkland side having been created by another legendary figure in the history of the game, James Braid.

The Clubhouse was opened in 1981 by Welsh Ryder Cup star, Brian Huggett, and is represented on a professional front by the Pilkington family. The Club boasts two qualified PGA professionals John and his younger son Stuart, whilst John's eldest son Mark is competing successfully as a touring professional on the European Tour.

In 1998 in a survey for Golf Monthly magazine by a group of independent panellists, Pwllheli was listed as only one of seven Welsh Clubs to appear on the "Top 200 courses to play in Britain".

Steven, second from right, with his team



1st tee looking towards the green



Steve is provided with everything he needs to ensure that his Chalk and Cheese - Parkland and Links - course can be maintained to the highest possible standard while the entire structure of the club has been modernised to remove the conventional committee system and replace it with that of a more

professional and flexible management team.

"The first eight holes are all parkland on a clay sub base with the grasses tending to be bents and annual meadow grass while the remaining ten holes are everything you would expect of a links course and built on traditional sand through to a silt base with more fescues," explained Steve, who gives every impression of a man who relishes the challenge presented by his split personality course.

"The parkland side is low lying, and because of it's composition, slow to drain whilst the links part with its sand sub base drains freely. This provides us with two extremes both requiring differing weather conditions. This also makes planning and undertaking routine work difficult, especially during wet periods on the parkland side of the course" explained Steve, who was promoted to Head Greenkeeper two years ago.

On a more day-to-day basis the team has to differentiate the applications that are given to the course to quite a detailed degree.

"With soil conditioners, the links side will get seaweed while the parkland side will be given something like Energise."

Another complication is trying to make sure that green speeds are more or less similar under completely different conditions.

"We sometimes double up on the verticutting on the parkland side while just do it once on the other side depending upon growth levels and climate," he explained.

The bunkers are also maintained and presented in a completely different manner with the links side revetted and the parkland more shaped and contoured.

Steve is also very much the exception rather than the rule when the old truism about the existence of two types of greenkeeper is considered - a links man and parkland man, rarely do the two cross sides.

"I don't really feel that I have more empathy with one over the other. I'm very much in the middle and manage what is in front of me," he explained.

To that end he is supported by an experienced team in Alwyn Jones, Dylan Hughes, Iwan Williams, and Alwyn Jones, while at the time of writing the team was about to be joined by Tomos Tate, who at 16, was joining on a youth training scheme. During the interview Iwan popped his head round the door to ask if it were possible through the article for him to pass on his thanks to Geraint Thomas of Coed-y-Mwstwr Golf Club Bridgend, for introducing him to greenkeeping. No problem Iwan.

Steve began his working life as a groundsman working for the local council looking after sports pitches.

"After a while I began to realise that as a result of privatisation, the Council was suffering and I noticed an advert for a job at Pwllheli Golf Club. I liked the look of it because it mentioned that training would be provided and I hadn't been trained by the council."

14th green looking back up the fairway!





◀ 11th tee and Cardigan Bay



Steve joined as an Assistant and soon took advantage of the chance to get himself educated. He threw himself into his training by attending the Welsh College of Horticulture in Northop, 80 miles away, on block release, and ten years on he has achieved NVQ Level 4 and his D32 and D33 assessor qualifications as well as earning a host of other certificates.

The rest of the team are following his lead with two working towards Level 3 and another towards level 2.

"The club benefits from having people with the knowledge and the ability to do their job better and the staff benefit because the club scale their pay awards based on qualifications gained," explained Steve.

With the course maintenance in safe hands the club took the giant step towards a more modern management system by jettisoning the old style committee system at a specially convened EGM in favour of a management board of five with an individual assigned to each main area of responsibility - finance, house course etc.

"The feeling was that the old system wasn't working as efficiently as it could have been and that it perhaps was a little unwieldy," said Steve.

Steve now works closely with Clive Moore, a local architect and Member of the Management Board on all matters pertaining to the course.

"Clive is passionately supportive of what we are doing, and we have an excellent working relationship. The club actively encourage the staff to take advantage of all training opportunities and ensure that our BIGGA membership is paid," said Steve.

"Communication and general administration has become much

easier following the reorganisation." Clive is also well aware of the benefits of the new club structure.

"We used to have a very hefty Greens Committee (at one time totalling 22 members) who met on average once a month. Most proposals could only be sanctioned by the Executive Committee which often delayed matters with decision making becoming a fairly lengthy matter.

Now with only five members to consult, and with the sole authority granted to them to action matters, matters can be dealt with the minimum of delay, with sometimes decisions being made over the phone."

Clive stressed however that it was important to maintain communication with officials and members and the need to keep them informed and involved in political and policy matters affecting the course.

"The Club has taken a very progressive path, especially for a small club in a fairly rural part of Wales, and we hope that it will be of benefit and that others will be encouraged to follow our example," he added.

"Steven is allowed to get on with his work with a minimum of interference, and is allowed to do what he wants on the course within reason. It is about trusting and respecting people and getting the right people to do the job, and I feel that we can already see the benefits of doing it this way.

"As long as the course is playing well, is in good condition and he is spending within budget he is allowed to get on with his job," he added, in a common sense manner... which unfortunately isn't as common as it might be.

A policy document is being prepared which will hopefully outline the future plans for the course and its management.



Course Feature

Included in the possible future plans will be the improving of the drainage to lower holes, renewal of greens and upgrading and extending the irrigation system. After a brief absence the Club has re-established its association with the STRI and will consult with them regarding course maintenance and general improvements.

Over the last five years the Club has progressed with improving on their standard of machinery with a planned renewal programme. With the odd exception no item of machinery is over five years old and the Club is hoping to continue with the programme.

"The investment in the right type of machinery is important in order to ensure the men have the right equipment to do the job. Today's golfers expect and demand quality conditions, machinery is continually improving and it is important to keep up to date with the best and latest developments" said Clive.

While admittedly not located in one of golf's hot beds, Pwllheli Golf Club, and its go-ahead approach to management, offers much from which other clubs could learn, and in Steven and his staff they have a team keen to make the most of their abilities. It is a fine combination.

Machinery Inventory

In 1995 following an assessment of the machinery it was decided to embark on a capital expenditure and replacement programme. In preparing a programme certain parameters were set which would enable the club to achieve the objective of replacing our major items of machinery at a maximum five year interval. Available funds were limited and initially an allowance of £25000 per annum was set aside for machinery purchases. This enabled us to achieve the objectives, and by the year 2000 the five-year programme came to an end. In 2001 the programme continued

with the replacement of a rough triplex which was purchased in 1996. The improvement in the value of the machinery has enabled the annual commitment to be reduced to £20000 at which level it is hoped we will be able to maintain a similar programme for the next five years.

The investment in equipment has resulted in a general improvement in the quality of the course together with reduced maintenance costs and improved productivity.

John Deere 2653 Rough Triplex
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Trees

Treemendous Advice

John Nicholson gives some practical assistance with your tree planting projects



Total blockage of a field drain

During the 60s and 70s the planting of fast growing species of poplar became very fashionable with local authorities and the trend soon spread to golf courses. The fast growth and potential size of the mature tree seemingly being the answer to all the problems that golf clubs faced from members wanting instant results. How often am I faced with the question, 'Why don't we plant large expensive root ball trees or species such as poplar or cypress which grow quickly?' The answer is simple, short term fixes are never long term solutions. If a tree grows quickly, then it will normally have a short life span and the club will be faced with the same problem in 20 or 30 years. If large root ball trees are planted they will normally remain dormant for a good few years, allowing smaller stock to overtake them in a relatively short period.

The result of such planting is often homogenous stands of even-aged poplar, which then become the main management concern of the golf course. A common sight on many courses is the ubiquitous line of poplar around the boundary of the course which now is becoming a liability to both the club

and its neighbours. Today it is even more important not to be seen as negligent with the growing American trend of liability claims.

Commercial hybrid poplar have a rotation age of 40 years which means that beyond this point they will deteriorate very quickly. They will drop twigs and branches creating a possible hazard to both players and neighbours and often suffer from disease or fungal invasion. Poplar canker is the most common ailment. This predisposes the tree to snapping at the weakened point. Further, poplar is surface rooting which often results in damage to expensive machinery or disruption to neighbouring property.

It is often mistakenly thought that the poplar will solve drainage problems by soaking up water in wet areas. Although they have a high demand for water, short mown grass will normally require more water than a tree. Further, poplar will always find the easiest source of water, normally field drains, and will thus compound drainage problems by creating blockages. It is not uncommon to find 20m. of fibrous root completely blocking a drain. Poplar roots can be found at a spread of up to 2.8 times the height of the tree and, therefore, extensive damage can occur in areas thought to be well removed from the tree's influence.

Both from a landscape and conservation point of view, poplars have little value. Their shape, texture and colour all contrast with the native trees of the broader landscape. Their existing root system can create a long term management problem as they will regenerate aggressively from any remaining plant tissue, often to the detriment of any replanting as they will compete for water and nutrient.



Large poplar root

Finally, poplars in the wrong place can have a significant effect on the ecology and playing characteristics of the course. White poplar was planted on many coastal courses due to its hardy nature.

Unfortunately it is also an aggressive pioneer and will reproduce from its roots in the form of suckers quickly colonising the dune systems and shading out the native grasses which initially attracted golfers to the site. The result of their presence is a reduction in the quality of both the golf course and the ecological value of the site.

The removal of poplars is often an expensive project for they have little timber value and are therefore expensive to remove. In order to ensure that more desirable vegetation can be established in their place it is necessary not only to fell the tree, but also to remove as much of the root system as possible. This will avoid regeneration from any remaining plant tissue. Depending on the site and the species of poplar, this may entail felling and grinding the stumps or the mechanical removal of both tree and the root system by either winching or dosing, the latter being more appropriate to the removal of white poplar from sandy sites. It is not possible to be categorical as to the best method to deal with the problem without assessing the site and species involved.

However, it is certain that, due to the aggressive nature of poplar, it would be wise to allow for a programme of spraying to stop future recolonisation from sucker growth.

In conclusion, I quote the words of the great golf course architect, Alister MacKenzie, "Perhaps the most serious mistake made by a golf committee is the fallacy that they will save money by neglecting to get good advice." Col/Architect 1920

John Nicholson, of John Nicholson Associates Arboricultural Consultants, can be contacted Tel: 0191 384 2556



Poplar roots can extend up to 3.8 x the height of the tree



Blockage removed from field drain



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The annual trip to Windsor for Saltex gives everyone an ideal opportunity to check out what's new in the industry as well as catch up with friends and colleagues between Harrogate's.

The timing, location and nature of the show makes it the ideal foil to BTME and BIGGA staff will be their in force. Stand G01 will be open and welcoming to members, prospective new members and friends with answers to all BIGGA related questions on tap.

The IOG SALTEX exhibition for the open space management industry takes place on 3 – 5 September at Windsor Racecourse, Berkshire.

The show offers an overview of the latest developments, new products and issues affecting professionals working within or supplying the open space management industry. The show embraces diverse sectors including: fine turf & sports; children's play and safety surfacing; commercial vehicles; leisure & facilities management; modular buildings; turf maintenance equipment; IT software and security equipment.

At IOG SALTEX visitors have the chance to:

- Test the latest equipment on site
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- Attend FREE advice clinics
- Discover new methods of working

This year's show also features more demonstration plots than ever before.

During its history, IOG SALTEX has grown into a comprehensive open space management event. While still catering for specialist groundscape at a grass roots level, the show also covers every

aspect of space management from computer consultancy to contract cleaning and safety.

For more information and free tickets please visit www.iogsaltex.co.uk

HOW TO GET TO SALTEX

SALTEX is held at Windsor Racecourse. About 20 miles west of Central London, Windsor is easy to reach by rail, road and air. Heathrow is only a 15 minute drive away; Gatwick and Luton are within an hour's drive.

BY ROAD

From the M25. Leave the motorway at Junction 15, where you'll join the M4, heading west.

From the M4: Westbound – leave M4 at junction 6.

Eastbound – leave M4 at junction 8/9. Then follow brown and white signs for Windsor racecourse.

BY RAIL

From London Paddington: Leave the train at Slough and join the local service to Windsor and Eton Central Station. Approximate journey time is 35 minutes.

From London Waterloo: Leave the train at Windsor and Eton Riverside Station. Approximate journey time is 45 minutes.

IOG SALTEX 2002 SEMINARS

Tuesday 3 September

A1 Recycling – 10:30 – 11:15

Trelawney Dampney - Composting Association
Refining compost for top quality products.

A2 Health & Safety – 11:30 – 12:15

Douglas Shearer, Senior Lecturer - Elmwood College
Recent Developments in Health & Safety.

A3 Play & Parks – 13:30 – 14:15

John Yearly - RoSPA

Are we creating dangers for our children by trying to make play areas too safe?

A4 Ground Maintenance – 14:30 – 15:15

Ted Mitchell – Member of Hire Association Europe
Advantages of hire within the grounds maintenance industry.

Wednesday 4 September

B1 Landscaping/Groundscare – 10:30 – 11:15

David Spencer, Vice Chairman - BALI

The ROLO scheme and BALI: the answer to the 'rogue trader'.

B2 Regeneration – 11:30 – 12:15

Colin Cannon – Member of DTLR, Task Force Working Group of GSBP
Green Spaces, Better Places (DTLR Initiative).

B3 Major Project – 13:30 – 14:15

Dominic Cole, Landscape Architect, Eden
The making of the Eden Project.

B4 Stadium Design – 14:30 – 15:15

Steve Gingell – STRI Regional Agronomist, Thames Valley
Managing a sand dominated rootzone pitch for winter play.

Thursday 5 September

C1 Sports Surfaces - 10:30 – 11:15

Roy McLaren, Ground Manager – Malvern College
Resurfacing a cricket square.

C2 Horticulture – 11:30 – 12:15

David Brown, Chief Horticulture Advisor to the NFU
A better identity for Horticulture as an industry.

C3 Sports & Stadiums – 13.30 – 14.15

Keith Kent, Grounds Manager – Manchester United
High sided stadiums and the effects of its micro climate.

C4 Sports & Stadiums – 14:30 – 15:15

Mike McDonnell, Case Manager, Community Facilities Environment, Sport England
Accessing funds from Playing fields and community green spaces.



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After the successful acquisition of Aventis Environmental Science in June of this year by Bayer CropScience, Bayer will be the new Company name from the Saltex Launch. Come and talk to us on stand G07, to find out the latest information on our novel new Amenity products, including the ultra-low dose fungicide Capricorn (winner of the Sportsturf product of the show award at Saltex in 2000). There will also be information available on our latest promotions for Spearhead and the joint Capricorn/Rovral Green Promotion. Rovral Green and Capricorn can also be used in combination with a microbial approach as they have been shown (through trials) to be harmless to beneficial turf fungi. Rovral Green will have a new Global Tradename which will be Officially launched at the Show.

We have a website with product information, calibration, weed death movies, printable safety data sheets and other useful information. Bayer continue to strive in answering Questions from the Industry with new novel solutions.

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Bayer Environmental Science (formerly Aventis Environmental Science)

Stand: G07

214-224 High Street, Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire EN8 7DP

Tel: 01277 301115

jenny.murphy@bayercropscience.com

www.aventis-environmentalscience.co.uk

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Charterhouse Turf Machinery Limited**Stand: W28**Weydown Industrial Estate, Weydown Road,
Haslemere, Surrey GU27 1DW**Tel: 01428 661222****Fax: 01428 661218****sales@charterhouseturfmachinery.co.uk****www.redexim.com**

Charterhouse Turf Machinery are well known experts providing a broad range of products to the groundscare and landscaping industries. With well over 60 products, no matter what your requirement is, Charterhouse will be able to offer a solution.

Charterhouse's four Company Divisions include the Tractor Division with its versatile Antonio Carraro range. These super-compact machines have a high power to size ratio making them ideal for use on cultivated turf. The Professional Machinery Division have an impressive variety of units for seeding, top dressing and core collection and includes the Verti-Drain machines, a product range so well established it has become a generic term for deep-aeration.

For tackling tough vegetation, the Connoisseur Division offers the All Terrain Mower and DR Trimmer Mowers from the USA.

Finally Charterhouse Richmond, the fourth division, will be exhibiting their full range of arboricultural and forestry equipment, hand tools and sundry items.

Contact Philip Threadgold.

Cranfield University**Stand: CP22****Barton Road, Silsoe MK45 4DT****Tel: 01525 863381****Fax: 01525 863253****sportssurfaces@cranfield.ac.uk****www.silsoe.cranfield.ac.uk**

Cranfield Centre for Sports Surfaces is an advisory and educational Centre to meet the sports industry requirement for high-level training, consultancy and research in respect of maintaining, specifying and constructing natural sports surfaces.

The Centre offers the MSc in Sports Surface Technology (full and part-time) which is the premier qualification for those aspiring to a managerial/consultant role and attracts green keepers, consultants and groundsman nationally.

With extensive industrial links and 40-years of scientific expertise in soil, plant and water management, the Centre is recognised as a leading authority and endorsed by the IOG and many leading sports organisations.

Services offered:

- Industrial consultancy
- Contract and academic research to provide leading-edge, technological developments within the industry
- Training and education

For details visit stand CP22.

ZallysUK**Eco transporters - for Golf Courses**

The Zallys range of electric power units incorporates quality build and state of the art battery technology. Zero emissions, minimal noise and vibration coupled with the simplest controls ensure everyone can use them with ease and safety.

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full range of products or log onto

www.dennisuk.com

Dennis**Stand: F21****Howardson Works, Ashbourne Road, Kirk Langley,
Derby DE6 4NJ****Tel: 01332 824777****Fax: 01332 824525****sales@dennisuk.com****www.dennisuk.com**

Come and find out why many of the leading football, tennis, bowls and cricket groundsmen use Dennis Premier, FT or G series equipment to produce some of the best playing surfaces in the country. The unique FT and G series interchangeable cassette systems provide a quick and easy method of transforming a fine turf mower into a verticutter, scarifier, sorrel roller, slitter or brush in under a minute.

Additionally on the stand will be Eco powered carriers from Zallys UK. These strong, robust carriers have zero emissions, minimal noise and are simple to use. Ideal for indoor or outdoor situations, factories or farms, hospitals or horticulture, gardens to golf courses. The choice is endless.

The Dennis team will be delighted to talk to you about the range of machines on display and how they can assist you in creating the perfect playing surface. Contact Ian Howard.

Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd**Stand: V15 (Textron)****Ulting, Maldon, Essex CM9 6QH****Tel: 01245 380311****Fax: 01245 381194****www.ernestdoe.com**

Ernest Doe & Sons Limited are one of the leading agricultural, construction & grass machinery dealerships in the UK. Trading from their head office in Ulting, Essex, since 1898, the family-run business sells a wide range of turf maintenance equipment for the municipal and golf markets. Brand names include Ransomes, Jacobsen, EZGO, Cushman & Ryan, from Textron, as well as a range of tractors from 17 to 400 hp. To compliment these grounds care products, Ernest Doe also sell aeration & irrigation equipment. For more information call 01245 380311 or visit the Textron Stand at Saltex where Ernest Doe staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Ernest Doe & Sons Limited, the one-stop shop for turf maintenance solutions.

Gem Professional**Stand: D62****Brookside Lane, Oswaldtwistle, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 3NY****Tel: 01254 356611****Fax: 01254 356677****sales@gemweb.co.uk****www.gemprofessional.co.uk****Granular Fertilizers for Gem Professional**

Following significant investment at the Lancashire headquarters, Gem Professional has launched a range of granular fertilizers.

Micro-granular products are renowned for their ease and accuracy of application, making them the perfect formulation for fine turf surfaces.

Initially 8-0-0, an organic, fine turf fertilizer was the first to be granulated but this was soon to be followed by the rest of the Gem Professional fine turf fertilizer range making it one of the most comprehensive fertilizer ranges available. For more information on the latest developments come and see us at Saltex.

Hayter Ltd**Stand: W15****Spellbrook, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 4BU****Tel: 01279 723444****Fax: 01279 600338****sales@hayter.co.uk****www.hayter.co.uk**

Hayter will be exhibiting their comprehensive range of grass cutting machinery. The T424 five unit cylinder machine, will incorporate a totally new transmission system allowing it to be used in the most difficult, wet conditions. The seven unit trailed gang mower, now redesignated the TM749, will also feature significant enhancements in respect of stability and performance.

Also on display will be the range of ride on triples and the R314 three deck rotary. Hayter are market leaders in pedestrian rotary mowers and a representative selection for the commercial user will be available for viewing.

Contact Barbara Garton.

Headland Amenity Ltd**Stand: H44****Norfolk House, Great Chesterford Court,****Great Chesterford, Essex CB10 1PF****Tel: 01799 530146****Fax: 01799 530229****amenitysales@headlandgroup.com****www.headlandamenity.co.uk**

Headland Amenity offer one of the widest ranges of turf fertilisers available in the U.K. Using a range of different technologies, we can provide fertiliser programmes for all turf situations, with the emphasis on quality results. The market leading Multigreen range of controlled release fertilisers will be at SALTEx, alongside the newly launched Xtend outfield fertilisers, that have been a huge success with greenkeepers and groundsmen alike, by providing extended response at low cost.

As well as fertilisers, Headland will be showing its full range of amenity products including the new and much talked about turf wetting agent TriCure, available in both liquid or granular forms.

Hunter Grinders Limited**Delta Works, Hobson Industrial Estate, Burnopfield,****Newcastle upon Tyne NE16 6EA****Tel: 01207 270316****Fax: 01207 270312**

Hunter Relief Grinders are in over 90% of the UK's most prestigious golf clubs including; Muirfield, Sunningdale, The De Vere Belfry, Slaley Hall International Golf Resort, Glen Eagles, Turnbury, Troon, Carnoustie and St. Andrews. All of these clubs have discovered that keeping blades sharper for longer by relief grinding is the key to saving maintenance time and money. The latest Jupiter 2000 will keep your mowers at peak performance all year round. The accuracy of relief grinding is so effective that the need to bring the mowers into the workshop for sharpening is dramatically reduced.

Contact Keith Cann-Evans.

ING Lease
Stand: CP40
 Apex Court, Camphill Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6SQ
 Tel: 01932 359270
 Fax: 01932 359280
sean.jones@mail.ing.nl
 ING Lease is the leading independent finance company within the Turfcare market.

Working in partnership with many of the sector's key companies, such as Textron and BALI, ING offers the full range of finance products that are specifically tailored to the individual market sector requirements.

ING Lease has also established a clear understanding of the needs of local authorities, providing finance solutions that offer distinct advantages. Simple, clear and easy to understand documentation has been developed, together with realistic return conditions and the provision for early settlement of Operating Lease Agreements.

ING have a highly experienced team of employed field managers, who have an in depth understanding of the finance demands in the Turfcare market. In addition ING have recently developed an industry leading E-Commerce facility which will shortly be launched to the Turfcare market.

For further information on the services ING Lease can offer you, please come and visit the ING team at stand CP40. We look forward to seeing you there.

Contact Sean Jones.

John Deere Limited
Stand: V4
 Harby Road, Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HT
 Tel: 01949 860491
 Fax: 01949 860490
www.johndeere.co.uk

John Deere has Europe's biggest range of commercial and consumer equipment - from John Deere and Roberine cylinder and front rotary mowers, to a range of Gator utility vehicles and the 6020 Series tractors.

John Deere's stand at SALTEx 2002 features a number of new machines, including the X Series diesel lawn tractors, 1600 Turbo multi-purpose implement carrier, and attachments for the 1400 and 1500 Series front rotary mowers.
 Contact Peter Nell.

Kubota (UK) Ltd
Stand: W40
 Dormer Road, Thame, Oxfordshire OX9 3UN
 Tel: 01844 268111
 Fax: 01844 216685
tomb@kubota.co.uk
www.kubota.co.uk

Kubota will be unveiling a high performance rotary mowing package based on the 25hp F2560 diesel ride-on front mower. Supplied at a very competitive price complete with 54in (1.37m) side-discharge rotary deck and high-lift grass collector, the package has been put together for users needing a powerful, yet manoeuvrable machine capable of working comfortably in confined spaces or any area with restricted access. Also being shown for the first time by Kubota at IOG Saltex are three advanced mini tracked excavators of 3.2 tonnes, 4 tonnes and 5 tonnes respectively.

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HUNTER GRINDERS

Hunter Grinders Limited
 Delta Works, Hobson Industrial Estate,
 Burnopfield, Newcastle upon Tyne NE16 6EA
 Tel: 01207 270316 Fax: 01207 270312

Lastec UK Ltd**Stand: A50****Court Lodge Farm, Kenward Road, Yalding,
Maidstone, Kent ME18 6PJ****Tel: 01622 812103****Fax: 01622 815534****www.lastec.com**

Lastec will be exhibiting its range of wide area Articulator rotary mowers. The concept is to provide a quality finish to turf cut from 25mm to 150mm, over flat, undulating and steeply banked terrain. The range includes out front, rear mounted and self propelled models with a cut width from 1.80 metres to 3.35 metres. Lastec's revolutionary belt drive system allows decks to articulate independently without the power robbing hydraulic driven decks. Self propelled, zero turn models are powered by 36hp Kubota diesel engines and will out perform comparable machines on the market.

The Scotts Company (UK) Ltd**Stand: E1****Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich, IP8 4BZ****Tel: 01473 830492****Fax: 01473 830386****dave.steward@scottscos.com****www.scottscos.com**

The Scotts Company (UK) Ltd will be displaying at SALTEx the benefits of their new range of organic based turf fertilisers – formulated to give turf managers the benefits of both organic and inorganic fertiliser. New Greenmaster Organic fertilisers combine inorganic and organic nutrient sources with natural bio-stimulants, ensuring accurate, reliable provision of essential nutrients whilst also enhancing the soil micro-flora.

A brand new product – Scotts Sportsmaster Organic High N (13+5+10+TE) – will be launched at the exhibition. Designed for all turf areas with a mowing height of over 12mm, Sportsmaster Organic offers the balanced analysis appropriate for use throughout the growing season.

Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products**Stand: V15****Central Avenue, Ransomes Europark, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9QG****Tel: 01473 270000****Fax: 01473 276300****info@textronsolutions.com****www.textronsolutions.com**

Alternative power is the theme on Textron's Saltex stand and the spotlight will fall on electric and LPG powered vehicles from their respected turf care and specialty product brands.

From Ransomes, the new LPG powered Parkway 2250 triple mower is being unveiled, sharing the stage with a range of electric-powered Cushman Diabline and other electric utility vehicles from E-Z-GO.

The Jacobsen E-Plex II greens mowers and the E-Z-GO ST350 Workhorse golf utility vehicle, with an LPG option, both fall into the environmentally friendly category for the golf sector.

New products and enhancements feature across all products, so be sure to visit Stand V15.

Toro Commercial Products**Stand: W50****Lely (UK) Limited Station Road, St Neots, Cambs PE19 1QH****Tel: 01480 226800 / 00 353 (0) 4552 6170****Fax: 01480 226801 / 00 353 (0) 4552 6649****toro.sales@lely.co.uk / info@lely.ie www.toro.com**

Toro is launching what it says is the most economical diesel trim mower on the market today – the new and improved Reelmaster 2300-D. The triplex unit has been specially developed and improved to provide an affordably-priced mower that will deliver a superior quality of cut on sports fields and golf courses.

Also new are the Groundsmaster 4700-D, which delivers a precision cut on sports fields as well as rough and trim golf applications; the Groundsmaster 228-D rotary mower, fitted with 60in rear discharge deck and available with optional grass collector; and the Workman 2110 utility vehicle, which features four-wheel braking.

TurfTrax Ground Management Systems Limited**Stand: F44****Chequers Court 31 Brown Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2AS****Tel: 01722 434000****Fax: 01722 434040****colin.hood@turftrax.co.uk****www.turftrax.co.uk**

The TurfTrax Ground Management Systems Limited is part of the TurfTrax Group Limited, which was founded in 1997 to commercialise research undertaken in conjunction with Cranfield University. TurfTrax's world-class soil engineers offer unrivalled service in all aspects of soil and soil water management utilising bespoke scanning technologies that deliver non-invasive assessments of soil properties through to a depth of 1.2 metres. The precision technology to underpin a fundamental understanding of soil water analysis enables the preparation and maintenance of high quality surfaces with unprecedented cost effectiveness and care for the environment. The scanning results provide information on the soil structure and texture, nutrient status, cation exchange capacity, water holding properties, levels of compaction and drainage qualities of your playing surface. The processed scanning data highlight variability in soil type and condition.

National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC)**Stand: CP12****National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire CV8 2LG****Tel: 0247 669 6553****Fax: 0247 669 6128****information@nptc.org.uk****www.nptc.org.uk**

NPTC's aim is to deliver qualifications to people working in the land-based and allied industries by providing a professional, accessible, independent, assessment service. These qualifications are now accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority which means they are eligible for public funding, have been entered into the National Qualifications Framework and are nationally recognised. To achieve this we appoint assessment centres throughout England, Wales, Scotland, Republic of Ireland, Denmark and Bermuda who are able to link-up candidates with organisations/colleges where training courses are available, advise on the arrangements for assessment either at their place of work or a local assessment site.

NPTC is continuing to develop new qualifications and keep present standards updated as legislation is constantly changing.

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

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NEW PRODUCTS

KOMATSU ZENOAH

Komatsu Zenoah has introduced the Strato Charged two stroke engine giving 30% less pollution and 30% reduction in fuel consumption.

Now in time for the Autumn season, Allen introduce the Komatsu Zenoah model EBZ4800 back pack blower, the quietest available anywhere, thanks to the Strato-Charged engine and the specially designed muffler on the outlet pipe.

The 47.9cc engine produces 960cbm/h with a noise dB(A) rating of only 65.

The Strato-Charged engine gives 30% fuel saving compared to standard engine blowers of a comparable size and the free flow net around the fan reduces debris from being sucked into the engine enhancing durability and reliability.

Features such as styled-for-comfort low vibration back pad and single hand usage together with 2 litre fuel tank is bound to make this new addition a firm favourite with contractors and other professional users.

Launched at the same time is the World's most powerful back pack blower, the EB7000. This model enjoys a two stage, fresh flow air filter system minimising the intake of debris.

With a powerful 62cc Komatsu Zenoah engine and an air volume output of 1200 cbm/h, this machine is also extremely quiet with a dB(A) reading of just 75. RRP Model EBZ4800 £424 Model EB7000 £449

For further information contact Tel 01865 820731.



AQUAFLEX

Aquaflex is a flexible moisture sensor that is buried in the soil which measures soil moisture and temperature continuously so you always know what's going on in the root zone. The sensor has been used in the UK for some time and is now being increasingly utilised by turf managers internationally. As a direct result prices have been reduced and new entry-level products have been introduced to allow even wider use.

The Aquaflex gives accurate information for the first time on soil moisture over a given 10 foot section of a green. This data can then be used to determine irrigation needs and limits as well as confirm when irrigation comes or not.

Using Aquaflex to monitor soil moisture has proven to save water, and the energy required to drive pumps. Optimising water application also minimises leaching of fertilisers and chemicals as well as encouraging root growth.

For further information Tel 01274 733 145.



LILLEYBROOK GC

Lilleybrook GC has recently installed a Waste 2 Water model 750 recycling wash-off system, developed by ESD (Environmental System Design).

"The new environmental law came into force in April, with tight water pollution control (section 161 A-D of the Water Resources Act 1991). The fines for polluting a water course can be £20,000, but if a case goes to crown court there is no limit to the fine," said Course Manager, Paul Jenkins.

"This alone should make all golf clubs review their wash-off facility. Gone are the days when one could be tempted to wash machinery off 'round the back of the shed' especially if the maintenance facility is hidden away in the middle of the golf course. As professionals working with the environment we have a duty of care, not only to comply with the law, but to help set standards, not just react to them."

The contributing factors that influenced the design of the new facility, that incidentally includes new chemical and flammable liquids stores, were that the Lillybrook maintenance facility is situated at the top of a sloping car park, coupled with the fact that 100 yards away, runs a stream that feeds the Lilleybrook.

With only one part pesticide to 10 billion parts water constituting pollution, serious planning was put in place to eliminate "run off".

The ESD- Waste 2 Water recycling wash-off system is a complete wash unit high pressure wash hoses. Grass and dirt is separated by the Grass Separator and deposited into a wheelbarrow for easy disposal. The contaminated wash

water is then biologically cleaned and recycled, for continual re-use. The closed loop system rapidly breaks down all organic contaminants (oil, petrol, diesel, pesticides, fungicides etc.) into carbon dioxide and water.

"I believe, setting and maintaining high standards on the golf course goes hand in hand with setting and maintaining high standards off the course. To this end, an extension to the maintenance facility is planned to include a dedicated workshop, staff facility, grinding room and store," said Paul.

For further information Tel: 01782 373878.



MACCAFERRI LTD

Geotubes supplied by Maccaferri Ltd, specialists in retaining structures, soil reinforcement and erosion protection, have been used to create sustainable sea defences to protect a golf course. A 400 metre reinforced sand bank has been constructed to shelter the practice ground of the Royal North West Norfolk Golf Club from erosion and inundation during high Spring tides.

The golf course at Brancaster is in a designated SSSI. Until recently erosion protection was provided by the Environment Agency in the form of an existing coastal dune system with hard protection, but this had become expensive to maintain. A decision was taken to adopt a policy of managed retreat and with the demolition of banking to the west, the golf club practice ground would be left unprotected from the sea.

Using independent finance and working in close consultation with the Environment Agency, the Golf Club decided to construct its own new flood bank to protect the practice ground. The Golf Club appointed Peter Lawton of North Norfolk-based St La Haye Consulting Engineers with a brief to create a sustainable sea defence, using local materials and construction techniques, that would cause minimal disturbance to the environment. Local borrow pit material was found to be of poor quality and sand from adjacent tidal flats was suggested as an alternative. English Nature confirmed that there is an area designated 'barren sand' of little environmental value which might be used for this purpose.

Maccaferri was asked to look at a possible containment system for the sand, and the final solution using Geotubes was developed by St La Haye in



consultation with Maccaferri. Three geotubes were supplied to principal contractor J Breheny Contractors Ltd, each measuring 3.25 metres in diameter and 105 metres long. Filled with locally won sand, they form a solid core to the new coastal defences and will be able to withstand even severe winter storms.

Maccaferri is the exclusive UK distributor for Geotubes, which are manufactured in the Netherlands by TenCate Nicolon. The system is proven technology and has been used in many successful applications in Holland.

For further information Tel: 01865 770555.

WARDLE CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Irrigation consultants Wardle Consulting Engineers have announced the launch of a new venture, IrriPlan Ltd. an original concept in professional independent irrigation design for golf clubs with more modest irrigation requirements and limited budgets. IrriPlan is an irrigation "design studio" as opposed to a "consultancy".

"IrriPlan is a professional, independent design studio whose income, like a consultancy, is solely derived from client fees and not from the sale or installation of irrigation products and systems. However while an irrigation consultancy generally bases its fees as a percentage of the contract, IrriPlan charge an all inclusive fixed fee," said Giles Wardle.

Over the last few years Wardle Consulting Engineers has enjoyed success in the irrigation market with Royal Lytham & St. Anne's Golf Club, Carnoustie Links, The Gleneagles Hotel, The Turnberry Hotel, Queenwood Golf Club and Brocket Hall among its client reference list.

"However like other irrigation consultancies we have been guilty of neglecting the clubs with more modest requirements and limited budgets, who would nevertheless still benefit from professional, independent irrigation planning, design and monitoring.

We therefore established IrriPlan to meet the needs of exactly such a market and extend the benefits of professional, independent advice to a broader audience," said Giles.

Different clients want and require a different level and type of service. The club that just wants an irrigation system for their greens, tees and approaches often cannot justify the fees for a consultant to undertake a fully comprehensive service including contract administration, project management and site supervision.

Nevertheless such a client would still benefit from impartial, objective advice and a design and specification, to which all the contractors are bidding for, on a like-for-like basis, in a process of truly competitive tendering.

COMPLETE WEED CONTROL

Complete Weed Control's Weed-It machine uses optic sensor computer technology to detect weeds then delivers chemical only to the weed itself. This ensures an effective result with the minimum environmental damage. Resulting in chemical savings of 50 – 70% the

Weed-It system is proven to make significant savings on the cost of weed treatment. In addition, and perhaps more importantly, limiting the quantity of chemical used allows a high degree of safety to bystanders and operator as well as being kinder to the environment – an issue of great concern in today's improved awareness of environmental issues.

For more information contact: Tel: 01451 822897.

ZALLYS UK

Zallys UK expects that one of the most popular units in its new range of environment-friendly utility vehicles will be Jack. This three-wheeled, ride-on carrier has a zero turning circle, making it ideal for use in tight situations indoors and outdoors.

Jack helps give maximum working efficiency, being able to operate for up to eight hours from just one charge of its 24v, 80A battery. It is designed for ease of use, having fingertip control of forward and reverse travel, and the low footboard makes it easy to step on and off the machine. Maximum forward speed is a surprisingly high 6mph.

A wide range of platform and hopper options are available, making Jack suitable for transporting many different objects and materials in and around sports grounds, golf courses, parks, glasshouses, nurseries, theme parks, hospitals, airports and other facilities. Zallys UK can manufacture customised platforms to meet individual requirements.

Different wheel and tyre options can be specified for optimal performance on hard and soft surfaces.

Like other models in the Zallys range of powered carriers, Jack is driven by an 800W motor, powered by rechargeable, long-life batteries that give silent, non-polluting operation. The high specification batteries can be recharged in situ and are capable of at least 500 recharges.



TALKING HEADS

EDUCATION & TRAINING

1

How have you gone about establishing an Education and Training Budget which satisfies your needs?



Name: John Wilshire
Course: Tobermory, Isle of Mull
Region: Scotland
Course Type: Heathland and Parkland (nine holes)
Staff: One - me! (student in school holidays)

Don't have one. We couldn't afford it at our club where we struggle to balance our books with 120 members paying £115 subscription each year.



Name: Mike Davey
Course: Hazel Grove GC, near Stockport
Region: Northern
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus five (two casuals in summer)

Basically we put money in the budget for education and training and then it is done on a voluntary basis and anyone wishing to progress is offered every encouragement.



Name: Geoff Henderson
Course: Kenwick Park Golf Club, Lincs
Region: Midland
Course Type: Parkland and woodland (18 holes)
Staff: Course Manager, plus five

We have links with local training groups. We don't have a special training budget as such but if we need the finance for staff training it would be available.



Name: David Ansell
Course: The Dyke Golf Club, near Brighton
Region: South East
Course Type: Downland (18 holes)
Staff: Course Manager plus five

We finance day release courses at Plumpton College and also Chainsaw and First Aid courses etc. We also pay for staff subs to BIGGA.



Name: Carl Horrax
Course: Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club
Region: South West and South Wales
Course Type: Chalk downland (27 holes)
Staff: Course Manager, plus seven, plus mechanic

We have training and education programmes in place for everyone's requirements on the staff. We have appraisals to identify training needs.



Name: Bernard Findlay
Course: Portstewart Golf Club
Region: Northern Ireland
Course Type: 36 holes links, nine holes parkland
Staff: Course Manager, plus 12, plus mechanic, plus four part-timers

We have a budget which varies each year based on demand from the members of staff.

2

3

4

5

What training have your individual staff members undertaken in the last 12 months?

None. I see an agronomist, Steve Isaacs, from the STRI, once a year and act on his report, and also exchange views with a few other greenkeepers.

One staff member did an NVQ Level 2 course ending last summer. We are in a state of change with staff, so things may be different shortly.

A new member of staff is on an NVQ Level 2 at Myerscough College and another member has just finished one. On the job training I do myself.

We have a mature staff, most of whom have been here seven or eight years, so very little has been done in the last 12 months. They are all up to NVQ Level 2 or beyond.

We have had two on NVQ Level 2 and two starting this year. One on IOG Intermediate Diploma, plus chainsaw and spray courses and three on BIGGA essential management courses.

We had one on an NVQ Level 2 course, another on a supervisory Level 3 course and two more doing HNC which they are still on.

Does the motivation for education and training come from you, the staff themselves, the club, or all three in equal measure?

When I go on holiday I make a point of visiting other courses and learning what I can, but I am left to do everything myself and happily get on with it. I give each student some advice every year.

I would say that I would recommend staff to progress and learn as much as they can and then sort out the on-going learning after talks with the Chairman of Green.

I would say all three. When staff are taken on they understand that they need to take NVQs and the Club Secretary, Professional and myself get together and discuss any matters concerning this.

From myself initially, but all three eventually. I try to get a newcomer to get to know the ropes in the first 12 months before starting his educational programme.

Essentially from me. We take education very seriously and I am always pushing individuals to improve their knowledge.

I would say all three. I am always delighted when a staff member comes to me and asks for help in progressing.

What incentives does the club offer for staff who undertake education?

None. Running a small rural club such as ours is totally different compared with most other clubs. I have a small photography business and man the lifeboat station at times.

Things are changing since I started here 12 years ago. There wasn't a great deal of training etc, but now I have a very understanding Chairman of Green who believes we should do all we can to encourage learning because this in turn results in a better course.

No special incentive from the club. But staff understand that we want them to progress and there are no problems for people who want to improve their skills whether they are staying with us or perhaps being promoted elsewhere.

There are pay incentives attached to the level of competence following educational awards, college work and experience. Our pay levels are on BIGGA guidelines. The club is very supportive.

No incentive from the club as such, but I stress to staff that knowledge is for their own personal benefit and that I am trying to produce the best greenkeeping team I possible can.

The club is very happy to see staff go on courses and is very supportive. We want to see staff improve their skills and go on to positions of responsibility either at our club or elsewhere.

Do you believe the range of training which is available caters for all your needs?

Training is fine for those who can afford it, but I couldn't go on a course as there is nobody left to do the work. I have books on care of the golf course etc and do a lot of research and try to learn as much as I can.

Part of it is, but I believe the greenkeeper training schedule, so far as the actual syllabus available from BIGGA is concerned perhaps needs to be looked at.

Yes, I believe the range of training available is very good. As long as a person wants to get on, it is all there in place.

Yes. You can reach good levels of competence from the courses available and I am always looking for staff to improve their skills. The roadshows and seminars also help from time to time.

It could be improved. Education on offer is very basic and I think local colleges could organise more courses to improve skills, self motivation, dealing with complaints etc. I have in-house training and presentation days and seminars on delegating and assertiveness.

Yes, generally speaking at the local colleges, particularly with knowledge of teaching care of greens. But I would like to see more understanding from colleges with help with regard to links golf courses.

Around the Green



SCOTTISH REGION
Peter Boyd

Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

East

A few things to get through so let's get going.

We hope to find you all fit and well and your courses all in tip top condition for all the numerous competitions we all seem to have these days, considering the wet conditions we are having. For a change! But everything will be OK when summer comes around!

The Section recently had a visit to Muirfield, the venue for this year's Open Championship, in conjunction with Stewarts & Company. We had between 25 and 30 people on the day, which was good considering this is a busy time of year for all of us. I can reveal that it was a very informative day in the company of Course Manager, Colin Irvine, who gave up some of his precious time in the run up to the Championship. He took us through all the planning and work that goes into preparing a course, as well as all the other things associated with staging an event like this. Seeing the course with all the stands up etc gives you a sort of buzz as to what it is like playing and working on an event of this scale. Superb.

We also had a look around the Stewarts HQ at Mayfield, where they also laid on a nice lunch then bussed us down to Muirfield for the visit. So a big thanks to Colin Irvine and Stewarts & Co for a great day out and roll on the next visit like this, wherever it may be.

The Section presented Colin with an engraved tankard for giving us his time on the day. We wish him and his staff all the best for the Championship.

The Section would like to wish member Graeme Davidson all the best for representing Glencorse GC and Oatridge College in the regional final of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award. His interview was at the Jurys Inn Hotel at the end of June. So by the time you read this his interview will be passed and hopefully Graeme will have done well. I will report the result next month, here's hoping!

We welcome a new member to the Section this month and it is Glencorse GC apprentice greenkeeper, Neil Jacobs. Welcome to the Section, Neil and we hope to see you at future Section events. Thanks to Ian Bell, Head Greenkeeper at Glencorse, for these last two pieces of info. Cheers Ian, it is much appreciated.

Next event on the Section calendar is the Summer Tournament (Texas Scramble) on July 30 at Uphall GC. We hope to see a big turnout for this event as the date has been moved as not to clash with the Scottish National Tournament in June so you haven't any excuses this year. So you should all have your entry form as the spring, summer and autumn were all sent out together. So if you haven't got one give Steve Dixon a call and he will send you one out. We hope to see you there.

Well that's it all for this month. Coming up next month in this column are results of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award; Scottish National Tournament at West Linton Golf Club and any other news I can pick up on my travels over the next few weeks.

Chris Yeaman

Northern

Two new members to report this month, and they are Darren Ross, Boat of Garten Golf Club, and Graham Grant, Inverurie Golf Club. Welcome to the Section lads. A member on the move is Dean Mitchell, who has moved from Peterhead GC to Cruden Bay GC. Another good Celtic man at Cruden Bay then.

Congratulations are due to Dale Robertson and his staff who entertained the Northern Open this year at Newmachar Golf Club. The course was well praised and is a great credit to Dale and his staff and highlights were shown on Sky television at the beginning of July. The weather which had been wet the previous week turned dry during the competition week and made life easier to present the course. But the workload is still immense and standards are high, so a lot of pressure to deal with. Congratulations are also due to Steven Brown, of Newmachar GC, whose wife had their first child at the end of June.

The National Championships at West Linton were a success for the North Section, with several prizes picked up. Robert Paterson, Course Manager at Royal Aberdeen GC, scored the lowest gross of the day to become this year's Scottish Champion. George Mitchell, of Newmachar GC, won the first class handicap section; Steven Brown, Newmachar GC, won the class 2 section, and also Ben Brookes won the apprentices trophy. The North team also won the St Mungo cup for the best team. The team was made up of Robert Paterson, George Mitchell, Steven Brown, and Graham Lornie, Royal Aberdeen GC. The results could not have turned out any better for our Section. Well done lads. This report is rapidly turning into the Newmachar News.

The entry forms for the outing at McDonald GC, Ellon, in September, should be arriving shortly and I hope we will get as good a turnout as we did at Elgin in May.

The Patrons' Awards for this year should be announced in next month's magazine, and the lucky winners get a trip to Harrogate to see the BTME, which is an excellent award, and well worth going to see.

Well, now the World Cup is over and also Wimbledon, we have the golfing fortnight to look forward to, as the Loch Lomond event and the Open are played. The Open being at Muirfield is fairly close so, hopefully, some of the Section will be able to make the journey down. If so, try and visit the BIGGA tent, as it is usually busy and worth a look.

Have a good month and I hope the weather improves, and gives us at least some summer to remember 2002 by.

Iain Gunn

Central

It was pleasing to see a number of Section members among the prize winners at the recent Scottish Championships at West Linton Golf Club. David Leith, from St. Andrews, was runner-up in the Ransomes Trophy; Mark White, St. Andrews, won the STRI Trophy, with Albert Arnott, Lochore Meadows runner-up and Robbie Breingan, from Muckhart, winning the M&M Trophy. Not bad, four prize winners out of 15 entries! With nearly 300 members in the Section, 15 entries for the Scottish Championships is rather a poor percentage. Is there any particular reason why you are unable to attend? Are they held at the wrong time of the

year? Do you think they are only for the "better" golfer? Will your boss not give you time off? Do you only want to play on the more "prestigious" courses? If you have any views on why attendances are on the low side please get in touch with myself or Peter.

In last month's news we extended a warm welcome to Grant "Davidson" when in fact it should have been Grant Donaldson, Sorry Grant! What makes the matter even more embarrassing is that Grant actually works for me at Stirling. I'm convinced that this flaming computer can't spell properly!

It is intended to organise educational training courses throughout the winter months. Yes we are thinking about winter already, most of us are still waiting on summer arriving. The suggested dates so far are October 22 and 23 - Basic Computing Skills; November 27 and 28 - Manual Handling and Risk Assessment and February 11 and 12, 2003 - Chainsaw Maintenance & Cross Cutting.

It is imperative that these courses are fully supported as tutors have to be organised so if you are at all interested in any of the foregoing subjects, please give us some support. Further details will be circulated in due course.

A message for the six committee members who could not manage to attend the last committee meeting. Thanks Lads! I have been getting lasagne for my tea for the past fortnight. Still, it will soon be finished. The trifle didn't survive the night as Stuart was feeling slightly peckish!

As you will have surmised I am struggling for material for the Section news, so if you have anything you wish included in the October issue, please get it to me by the end of this month.

John Crawford



NORTHERN REGION
Douglas Bell

Tel: 0151 431 0433

North East

Recently the John Deere Team Championship was played at Ponteland GC and the four man team from Whickham GC is heading for the famous Brabazon course at The Belfry, having won the north east regional qualifier in the inaugural 2002 John Deere golf tournament.

The team consisting of the Club Captain, Phil Byrne; Committee Member, Gary Macdonald; Head Greenkeeper, Tony McLure and Professional Graham Lisle beat off the challenge of 19 other teams.

The winners finished on 55 one shot clear of the field. Thanks go to Greenlay's for organising the competition on behalf of John Deere and on behalf of the Section we wish them the best of luck and hope they get to the world final in Arizona in November.

Don't forget the Autumn competition is at Longhirst Hall on September 19.

Recently the Great North Open was held at Slaley Hall GC and I reckon they deserve a mention. A lot of praise should go to Course Manager, Steve Cram, and his staff for the outstanding condition of the course. Comments have been exceptionally positive, not only from the players but also their greenkeeping colleagues on how the course was set up the best yet. Let's

hope they get the Northern Open again next year and perhaps even bigger tournaments in the future.

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

August is here and time to take a holiday if you haven't already had one, time out from the greens tees and Green Chairman to relax and recharge the batteries before the autumn programmes kick in.

Talking of which, our Autumn tournament takes place on September 4th at Pwllheli Golf Club and your entry forms will be in the post shortly, so get them back to Jeremy as soon as you can. It would be nice to see a few new faces showing up as we try to spread the golf days across the region and if you are local to Pwllheli or not come and have a knock! We are always hopeful for someone to give Terry Adamson & Sean Pritchard a pasting, on the course as well as in the bar.

Also if there is anyone travelling from afar, and wants to stay the night before, I think the word is 'acclimatise' yourselves, Haven Holiday Centre has rooms for rent available (the old Butlins that is) just down the road, or Steve Jones tells me his missus makes a mean big breakfast. Anyone requiring more information on 'Haven' please phone Steve at the Golf Club.

I had an e-mail from Gary Martin, working over at Westchester GC New York, maintaining the course over the playing of the Buick Invitational tournament and putting in over 108 hrs a week... or so he tells me. Is that dedication, or does he need to get a life?

Any views, news or information, please contact me on: Home 01925 263394 Fax 01925 269622 Mobile 07778 162162

e-mail acorn@golf@supanet.coma

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn

Northern

Well, we are already in August and, at the time of writing, we seem to have had very little summer, with a lot of cool and wet weather. Let's hope it improves somewhat.

President's Day was a great success with 44 competitors. We had several new faces, which is always encouraging to see. Otley golf course was in great condition on the day. A credit to Steve Heaton and his team. The weather gave us one of the few sunny and warm days we had in June so we were blessed there too. The food we all enjoyed after the round was fabulous and thanks must go to everyone at Otley for a truly great day out. The biggest thanks must go to our sponsor of the day, Rufford Soil Science. Without their continued support we would not be able to run this event. Special thanks to Paul Chadwick and Peter Jefford for coming along from the company and joining us for the day. The results from the day are as follows. 1st Div. Dave Collins, Richard Harris and Martin Heggie. 2nd Div. Phil Armitage, Andy Slingsby and Frank Stewart. 3rd Div. Dave Thackray, Steve Heaton and Ken Christie. The Bill Mountain Trophy was won by Tito Arana. Trade Prizes went to:- 1. Mel Guy; 2. Mike Brear. The Nearest the Pin was again won by Mel Guy and Longest Drive was won by Mike Doxy. The putting wizard of the competition was Richard Harris who won in fine style in a wig!

The night was rounded off with a presentation to Simon Heppenstall in appreciation for his services to the Northern Section.

The next Section golfing event is Invitation day at Bingley St Ives on Tuesday 10 September. £15 per person and cheques payable to BIGGA Northern section please.

That's all for now, but please try to give me some news or such like to help fill up these notes. Tel 01274 640739 Mobile 07976876264 E mail Dthackray@aol.com

Dave Thackray

North West

I have just returned from the hospital after visiting Doug Bell, the Northern Regional Administrator. Doug took ill while at BIGGA House on June 17 and was taken home a couple of days later by a member of staff, and a few days later was admitted to hospital. He is still quite ill but as yet it is still not known exactly what is wrong. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

The summer tournament was played at Ulverston Golf Club on June 20 and what a nice day it turned out to be. The sun shone all day, and the course was in beautiful condition thanks to Colin Parish and his staff. I must mention that members commented that the course is always in beautiful condition, which is nice to hear. We had a good turnout of members including guests, which I was very pleased about owing to the fact that we were almost as far north as our Section reaches. The course is quite hilly, and a great test of golf as the scores showed.

The winner of the Reg Vickers Trophy was Colin Parish with a 78-6-72 and his prize was a microwave. The Guests' prize went to Bill Brownley. Nearest the Pin, Paul Smith, Longest Drive, Bill Merritt. There followed 10 prizes for the best nett but as I mentioned earlier the course is a great test of golf, and only eight more players completed their cards. This is the first time we have ever run out of competitors instead of prizes! I would like to thank Ulverston GC, for allowing us the courtesy of the course, the caterers for great food, and Colin and his staff for all their efforts.

The "Roses Match" will be played at Stand Golf Club on August 15 and I will require a team of 12 to play this lovely course, and help to take the Patisson Trophy" off the Northern Section. If you are available please contact me on: 0151 724 5412 or mobile 07761 583387.

Bert Cross



MIDLAND REGION
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

B,B & O

It has been a better month for greenkeeping and golf with a short period of warmth & sunshine. It must be bad weather generally when I hear of several courses with fusarium! Does this disease not know when to lay low? I, along with many others, have been able to dry the putting greens out properly for the first time in many months resulting in of golfers having to change their attack to the putting greens, giving me immeasurable delight.

I would like to highlight the fact that I have recently changed my surname to Haskell-Craig, a point which can be best explained sometime over a pint! Winterton is now officially history.

No news from around the block so I will highlight our next Section event. This is the autumn tournament to be held at Ellesborough Golf Club on Thursday, October 3, starting with the first tee off time at 12.noon. Please contact me well before the event to secure a place. The cost is £25 per person with cheques payable to 'BIGGA BB&O Section'. The cut off date will be Thursday, September 26. This competition will be a three ball Stableford with the event being sponsored by Headland. This will include coffee on arrival and a meal in the evening. Before the meal we will have the AGM so it would be great to see some support for this with any ideas you wish to raise getting the attention they deserve. I have received feedback from Headquarters on the first meeting of the Futures Sub-Committee that consists of a number of greenkeepers who will be reporting back to the Board of Management with various proposals. The 11 members have been split into three groups who will diversify with their chosen subject. These are 1. BIGGA Name & Development of the Profession, 2. Education & Training and 3. Communication with the industry and the game. I see we have John Ross from our section on Education & Training so I wish him well in his role. The outcome of these groups will only help to make the association stronger in the future world of Greenkeeping and help to entice more greenkeepers to take up membership for the added benefits. Remember folks, any newsworthy items for other members to know - let's 'av 'em!

David Haskell-Craig

East Midlands

Not a great deal to report this month. By now you should have received your entry for this year's Autumn Tournament, which is to be held at Horsley Lodge GC. on Tuesday, September 17. Please contact me if you have not received a form. Please also remember to return your entry slip and payment before the closing date of September 3rd. The annual East Midlands v East of England Golf Match will be reported on next month.

Antony Bindley

Mid Anglia

A reminder to all members: There is a change of date and venue for the summer tournament, from the details listed on the fixture card. The new venue is John O'Gaunt Golf Club, and the new date is Tuesday August 27. It is a single round event, eighteen holes in the afternoon with a 2pm start. If you wish to play, please send your entries to Richard Saunders, at the usual address.

The Lodgeway competition, which was reduced this year to a singles event, has again met with a very poor response. After consultation with the sponsor, it has therefore been agreed to scrap the competition altogether. Apologies to those of you who did enter, but it is unrealistic to continue with such low numbers.

Paul Lockett

Midland

The spring tournament was held at Gay Hill on May 22, Nick Gilks took the net prize followed by Eddie Stant and Nigel Couchman respectively. The gross prize won by Paul Woodham; Trade. Tony Cheese; Nearest the Pin, sponsored by Ruffords, was won by Stuart Hall; Longest Drive, Darren Evans. Main sponsors for the day were Textron and Bathgates kindly sponsored the wine. Many thanks to Gay Hill Golf Club and all who attended.

Upcoming events are the Tri-Section challenge at South Staffs and Stewards v Greenkeepers at Harbourne Golf Club on September 9.

In addition to these events we have the opportunity to take advantage of the BIGGA training fund with a Pesticide Application training course organised for this coming October. If you or any member of your crew wish to make the most of this training please contact myself for details of dates and costs.

Peter Larter has organised the Regional seminar day to be held at Hinkley Golf Club in Leicestershire in November with a wide range of speakers attending. So be sure not to miss a good informative day.

All the Midland Section would like to pass on their best wishes to Roger Pullen, at Blackwell Golf Club, and to let him know they are all thinking about him.

Phil Gates



SOUTH EAST
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260 956

Surrey

There are two congratulation paragraphs this month and the first is not for Mark Pennels, at the Draft Golf Club, but for his fiancée, Nicki, who had the courage to marry him on June 29. May you both be very happy and I look forward to a piece of the wedding cake.

The second is for Brian Turner who won the Frame Trophy at Worplesdon Golf Club recently. This scratch competition for the over 50's had 96 entrants and was played over three days. Brian's scores of 73, 65 and 71 beat the previous record by two shots. He is now looking for an experienced caddie to help him win the British

Seniors Amateur Championship at Woodhall Spa in August. All personal expenses will be paid for by the caddie except if Brian wins and then he will pay for Brian's as well!

And now to Liphook on June 26 and the Cresta Cup. Forty excited Surrey members had been looking forward to playing this renowned course for we had heard from so many different greenkeepers about its excellence. We were not disappointed, for what Dave Murdoch and his staff had told us over the past years about its condition was true, Liphook Golf Club is a gem. Only one criticism was heard by me and that was that most players would have preferred more difficult pin position. The results were as follows:

1. Dan Lightfoot, 37pts; 2. Dan Wheeler, 36pts; 3. . Dave Langhiem, 32pts; Best Gross, Gareth Roberts, 78. Longest Drive, Paul Bacon; Nearest the Pin, Peter Craig. Longest Walk. Dangerous Dave Delderfield even after a magnificent 30 foot putt at the last witnessed by many from the clubhouse. I still wonder the meaning of his digital sign directed at the players in the bar.

Brian Willmott

Sussex

Tuesday July 2. Welcome to Ham Manor Golf Club! So Mr Barr and myself know that we already have a moist course in the winter so we have managed to adapt ourselves to presenting the course in top condition throughout the winter. So why should we still have to be using the "Damp" skills in July?

Especially as we were hosting the Sussex Team Challenge. Still it started off being fine weather as Mr Barr can tell you, being first off and having a 25mph tail wind for the Longest Drive Competition.

As for myself, by the time I got to the turn the wind had dropped, yippee, only to be replaced by a deluge of persistent rain coming in at a right angle!

Not only was that bad enough but I was also handcuffed to Robert (Laughing Boy) Short. Now no-one deserves that all in one day.

The only bright side about my round of golf was that my third member was the lovely Rose.

Anyway the day was not a total loss as 45 greenkeepers and guests seemed to have a very enjoyable afternoon.

First of all, a big thank you to the sponsors, Sheerwater.

Results. Nearest the Pin, Gary Ogilvie; Longest Drive (with tail wind), Simon Adby; Best Individual, Ray Day (also Best Dressed Man); Runner-Up Team, on countback, Ray Day, Phil Horsfield and Richard Burden, 97pts. Winners. Guess Who? George Barr, Peter Way and Alan Duffield, 97pts.

Well, that takes care of that. Next year the Challenge will be held at Liphook GC. Dates to be Confirmed.

Just a last note. By the time you read this the next meeting will be at Mannings Heath on Wednesday September 25. This will be 27 holes, including bacon rolls, lunch and evening dinner.

See you there
Jon Budd

Kent

I'm writing this days after I returned from Italy where I spent two sunny weeks in Venice and missed all this lovely English rain. So I hope this gets in this month.

The golf day at Kings Hill on June 18 was a great day out for the 36 of you who turned out. After a slight delay for the thunder to ease a fine day transpired. It was nice to see some new faces and a few old ones too when I was out and about round the course. I would like to thank all the greenstaff for producing such a well presented golf course. Can I say that about my own course? Well, I did get a lot of positive feedback from the people I spoke to. I'm glad you all enjoyed your day with us. Onto the winners: 1.

Jay Motta, from Sene Valley; 2. Andrew Pearson, from The London Club, who both qualify for the national tournament, 3. (but by no means least was a very nervous) Jo Silcock, from St George's.

I did see Jo on the 6th hole par 3 and he nailed a glorious 3 wood 155 yards to a couple of feet to make a nice par. The trade prize went to Tim Webb from Tacit. Nearest the Pin was Mike Shields, from Greenkeeper Services, and the Longest Drive went to Tony Julian from Broke Hill. A big thank you to all the days sponsors for some excellent raffle prizes. I hope to see you all at Wilderness on August 19 for the summer competition and have the couple of beers with you I missed at Kings Hill.

Any news or views contact me on
01732 875020 or
E-Mail JRBATKHGOLF@AOL.COM
Jason Bean

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East Anglia

Nice weather and a golf course perfectly set up greeted us at Stowmarket Golf Club. Roger Bade and his staff presented their course in excellent shape, running fairways, tight rough and good putting surfaces, gave us a testing round of golf.

Toro UK were the major sponsors for the day, supplying the prizes for the winners of the competition, Nearest the Pins and Longest Drive. Also a number of par-3s offered the entrants chances to win something more substantial. But alas no one could quite manage a hole-in-one.

Thanks to Larry Pearman, of Toro UK, for his support, and Kevin Leach, of K B Leach Garden Machinery, and Richard Fulford of Norfolk Garden Machinery our local Toro Specialists.

At a time so soon after the two day jubilee bank holiday, and the grass growing at such a rate, the entry for this competition was pleasing, with 41 players and a number of non playing participants, and the prize winners where as follows:- Overall winner G Rayfield 37 pts. 0-11 handicap, 1. N. Brewster 35 pts.; 2. M. Virley, 33pts. 3. M Gill 32pts. 12-17 handicap, 1. N Worger, 36 pts.; 2. J. Wright, 28pts; 3. I. Willett, 28pts.

18.28 handicap, 1. C. Rayfield 37 pts; 2. M. Mison, 22pts; 3. R. Mitch, 20pts
Greenkeeper/Captain 1. M. Gill/P. Jacklin 62 pts; 2. = 1. Willett/S. Robson, 61 pts. 3. P. Gould/M. Ayres, 61pts. Guest prize 1. M. Ayres, 34 pts. 2. S. Robson, 33pts. Longest Drive. A. Sharp. Nearest the Pin. I. Willett.

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sight,

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It's the golfing equivalent of a builder's bum!

Dedicated to Robert Tomlinson's golf bag, which earned him the Loo Seat.

Thanks to the trade for their continued support; Toro (main sponsor) Atterton & Ellis, Bartrum Mowers, Bauwer, Ernest Dowes, Driving Force Leisure,

K B Leach, Norfolk Turf Machinery, Rigby Taylor, Rushbrook & sons, Sisis, Tacit, Textron, Tomlinson Groundcare, Turfcare.

M Turner from The Suffolk Golf Club became a father on March 14 2002 to 71b 14oz Joe Michael

Turner, congratulations.

Next meeting is at Ufford Park on Wednesday, October 9, see you all there.

Steve Millard



SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352 194

Devon & Cornwall

The Rigby Taylor sponsored summer meeting was held at Trethorne Golf Club on Tuesday, June 18. On arrival members were welcomed with Bucks Fizz to celebrate Trevor Bennett's retirement from greenkeeping after 50 years of service at Trevoze Golf Club. As usual our golfing members played a Stableford competition for prizes kindly donated by Rigby Taylor. Trethorne's owner Mike Davey treated our non-golfing members to a guided tour of the course.

After an excellent meal Ceri Richards on the behalf of Rigby Taylor presented the golf prizes as follows:- 1. Simon Coombes, Dainton; 2. Trevor Bennett, Trevoze; 3. Joe Cole.

The Section would like to thank Mike Davey for allowing the Section use of his facilities and to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the day. Special thanks to Ceri Richards who was starter and for administrating the Nearest the Hole.

The Section would like to congratulate Dave Manley on being appointed Head Greenkeeper at Cape Cornwall; Jamie Stevens on his appointment as Assistant Head at Mullion and Chris Bland for his appointment outside the Section.

The Vitax match play competition has now reached the last eight. Congratulations to T. Bennett, T. Vokes, K. Dymond, G. Tuckett, N. Williams, G. Fitzpatrick, D. Harding, C. Rawlings, one of whom will win the weekend away in London.

As in previous years the Section will be holding six meetings during the winter and one summer meeting, which are listed as follows:- October 16, Roffeys Meeting, Portmore; November 13, DGM Meeting, Bude; December 10, P.J. Flegg Meeting, Okehampton; January 16, Barenbrug Meeting, East Devon; February 23, Avoncrop Meeting, Mullion; March 26, Aventus & Supaturf Meeting, Yelverton; June 17, Rigby Taylor Meeting, Trethorne.

Please note the following booking terms & information listed below for Section meetings; Golfing members to receive starting times before meeting with a draw for partners; For our foursome & greensome events you may enter with a partner with your opponents being drawn; Company & golf presentation to conclude the day; 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 and any member who doesn't attend after entering will be invoiced if no payment is received.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

It seems incredible that as I write this we are over halfway through the year. How time flies! I'm not quite sure how far through the summer we are though, as it certainly doesn't feel like it's started yet! What is certain is that the current weather is keeping most of us very busy as we try to keep on top of the growth on our courses. On the Section front, June 19 saw our Section's annual match against the Wessex Secretaries, which was kindly sponsored by Course Care. The Secretaries were looking to avenge last year's defeat and the two teams met at Romsey Golf Club. The matches were fiercely contested and the standard of golf was excellent as the Secretaries won 3-1. Many thanks to Romsey Golf Club for their superb hospitality, to Michael Osman- Wheeler and his team for preparing the course beautifully for us and a huge vote of thanks for Course Care's valued sponsorship.

Our annual match against the South West section has been moved to Wednesday, August 13, with the venue still being Long Ashton Golf Club.

July saw the retirement of one of our Section's founder members. Ted West has been both a valued part of Broadstone Golf Club's greenkeeping team for 40 years and long-standing supporter of our Section. Broadstone holds Ted in such esteem that they have presented him with honorary membership of the club as well as holding a golf benefit day in his aid.

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Around the Green

The golf day was attended by members of Broadstone and many of the greenkeepers that Ted has become friends with over his long career in greenkeeping. Those of us who were fortunate to be part of such a special day for Ted and the club had a thoroughly enjoyable day and it was wonderful to hear so many tributes paid to him by the members. Ted will be extremely busy playing golf and trying to keep to a busy fixture list, which has lengthened as many members have asked him to join them. As a Section we wish Ted well and look forward to seeing him at our golf days. If anyone has any news they wish to include in next month's column then please contact me.

Until next month,
Alex McCombie

South Wales

Our Spring Tournament was held at Pennard Golf Club on the Gower Peninsula and it was the first visit to the club for many of our members, me included. Having heard how good it was we were all looking forward to the visit and at the end of the day, nobody was disappointed. Some of the views are quite simply breathtaking. The condition of the course equalled the scenery and is a credit to Peter Lacey and his staff. We were well catered

for after the golf, in the new clubhouse, and enjoyed an excellent meal. The results of the Stableford comp were: 1. Steven Lloyd, Amenity Technology Shield; 2. Gareth Evans, Cardiff Cup 3. P. Hondy; Longest Drive, Alan Abel; Nearest the Pin, Bob (local knowledge) Hanford

Fairwood Park was the venue for our match against the Golf Club Secretaries and after a stiff talking to by Captain, Julian Bartlett Jones, the team of Greenkeepers went out and beat the Secretaries 4-2. Well done lads. Thanks to Phil Williamson and the staff, for the excellent condition the course was in and the sponsor for the day, Alan Abel, who flew back from Scotland the day before to be with us.

Nearest the Pin prizes went to. Kerry Jones, 6th; Peter Lacey, 12th; Leigh Davis, 16th and Tony Mears on the 8th.

The next competition will be held at Dinas Powis Golf Club and results will be in the next magazine.

Congratulations to Huw Morgan. Not content with winning the Toro Greenkeeper Award, he has just achieved Master Greenkeepers status. If you read this Huw, very well done from the South Wales Section.

Adrian Panks

South West

We all enjoyed our summer competition at Bath Golf Club and everybody was very impressed by the condition of the golf course. Our thanks go to Guy Woods, Head Greenkeeper, and his team.

The results were Head Greenkeepers comp. 1. Craig Fudge, 36 pts; 2. Steve Chappell 28 pts. The assistant comp. 1. John Jarvis, 39 pts 2. Paul Godwin, 35 pts. Nearest the pin was won by Dan Harding.

All the players were tested by the strong winds, but it was a very good day.

Our thanks go to Irritec who sponsored the day and supplied the prizes. It was good to see Paula Humphries at the event, flying the flag for the Region.

The next event is the Scotts Management Trophy on August 7. If you would like to enter a team call Paula.

Robin Greaves.



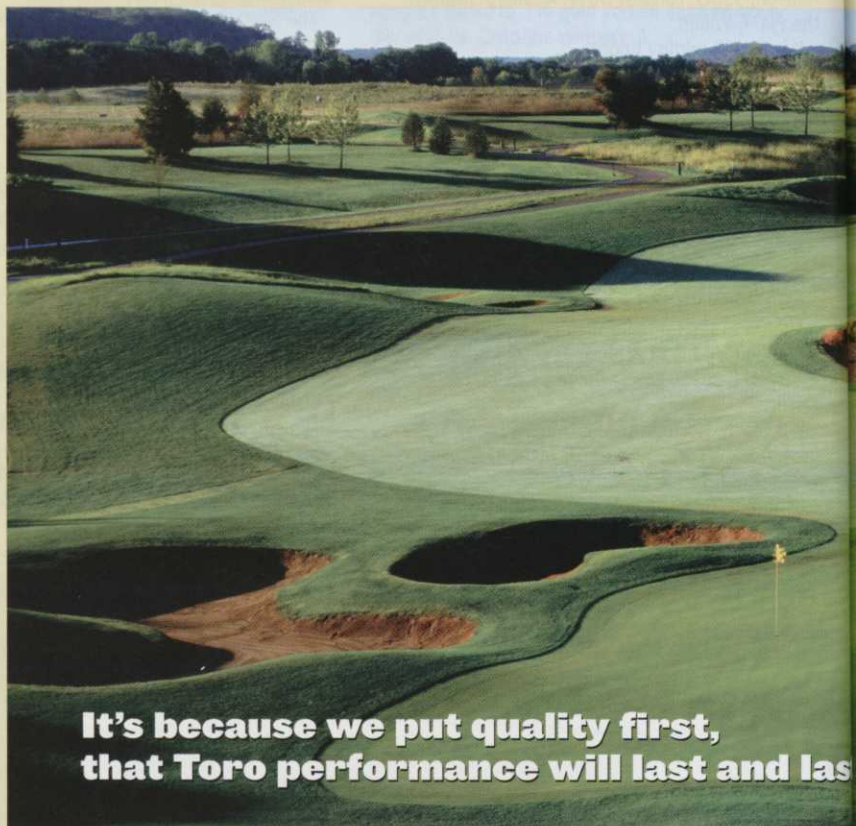
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NORTHERN IRELAND

Let me start this month's news by wondering how can we call this summer? On the first day of July the hailstones were pelting down and it felt like winter had come early. We haven't had any decent dry weather since April. As for sun cream, forget it, just put it away in the suitcase and head for Spain. I have one simple remedy. Organise a Section Golf Day somewhere in North Down, preferably near Bangor, for the sun always shines when we head for the seaside town.

The date was July 5 and Carnalea Golf Club just outside the town of Bangor was the venue. The sun shone throughout the afternoon which lifted everyone's spirits. While you play this picturesque course you can enjoy the views across the Irish Sea to the West of Scotland. However this distraction affected my concentration on the day and my playing partner was once again Mr Bogey.

Nevertheless everyone enjoyed playing the course and many thanks to Carnalea GC for giving us courtesy golf. Course Manager, Jonathan McCabe and his staff had the course in very good condition which added to the day.

Many thanks also to our competition sponsors Coburn's of Barnbridge. Sales Representative, William Eastmill was on hand to present the prizes.

The prize winners were as follows:

1. Paul Lappin, Kirkistown GC, 35pts;
2. Andrew Sloan, 34pts; 3. Martin Easement, Crossgar GC, 33pts; 4. Michael O'Neill, Fortwilliam GC, 32pts.

A warm welcome to Michael Norman who has been appointed Course Manager at Malone GC. Michael has moved to Northern Ireland from Lee Park GC in Liverpool. And congratulations also to Damien Docherty, who has been promoted to Deputy Course Manager at Malone.

Well, that's all my news this month. I will hope to see another good turnout at Massereene GC on July 25. Members will be notified soon of the Championship qualifier which will be played in late August, early September.

Ken Henderson

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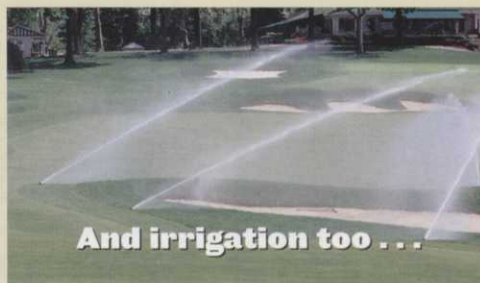
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This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members. The solution to the July Turftime Teaser was 'Verde Sports Limited'. This was correctly answered by: Mr E. Coulthard, Crook Golf Club, County Durham. Our congratulations, and a superb golf club 'tour bag' is on its way to you!

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Aldwickbury Park Golf Club

This proprietary club has recently obtained planning permission to construct a new maintenance facility and invites applications for

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Candidates require:

Experience of Course Management

Strong team leadership skills

The ability to control greenkeeping budgets

A sound knowledge of greenkeeping including

PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates, HND or HNC preferable.

Accommodation available, salary negotiable.

.....

Redbourn Golf Club and Driving Range and Aldwickbury Park Golf Club

currently have a vacancy for a

GREENKEEPER

to join our teams at these Hertfordshire Clubs. Consideration will be given to applicants with adequate experience and/or full or part qualifications.
Salary Negotiable.

Please apply by August 20th in writing with full c.v and current salary to:

Mr A Clarke, PO Box 376, Redbourn, St Albans, Herts, AL3 7ZX
Fax No: 01582 794208. e-mail: enquiries@badixproperties.com

St George's Hill Golf Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

St George's Hill Golf Club is a 27 hole course situated on St George's Hill, a private estate on the outskirts of Weybridge, Surrey.

A Harry Colt design dating back to 1912, it is a heathland course with Scots pine, deciduous woodlands and areas of heather.

This is a private Members' Club with a healthy and discerning society clientele.

Both members and visitors enjoy a very high standard of golf, which the club wishes to maintain and improve upon.

Reporting to the Secretary, the successful candidate will be qualified to at least NVQ Level 3 and have the man management skills required to lead and motivate an experienced team of greenstaff. Experience with the latest computerised irrigation system and other modern course machinery is essential.

Salary will be negotiable, no accommodation is provided.

Relocation expenses will be considered.

Applicants should in the first instance apply in writing enclosing a full Curriculum Vitae and all other relevant information.

The Secretary, St George's Hill Golf Club,
St George's Hill, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0NL

Stratford on Avon Golf Club

founded 1894

Invite applications for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Stratford on Avon Golf Club is a parkland course, set in 150 acres, and was designed by Course Architect, J H Taylor.

Sam Ryder was the first Club Captain of the Club.

The successful candidate must possess the following skills:-
Previous experience essential, along with appropriate qualifications.

Able to motivate and manage an enthusiastic team of 5.

Budgetary skills, preparing and monitoring.

Health & Safety issues, including risk management.

Must be enthusiastic with a hands on approach.

Salary negotiable in accordance with experience.

Closing date for applications - 28th August 2002.

Apply in writing with C.V. to:

Mr Shane Dodd, Secretary, Stratford on Avon Golf Club,
Tiddington Road, Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire. CV37 7BA.
Telephone - 01789 205749 Fax - 01789 414909.
E-mail - sec@stratfordgolf.freemove.co.uk.
Website - <http://www.stratfordgolf.co.uk>



HEAD GROUNDSMAN

Competitive Package

Guards Polo Club, set in Windsor Great Park is the largest polo club in Europe with 10 grounds set in 150 acres of well-maintained parkland. It plays host to some of the sport's most prestigious tournaments including attracting over 20,000 visitors for The Cartier International Day, a major event in the UK sporting calendar. Polo is one of the world's fastest growing sports and the club is now embarking on an ambitious development programme.

We now wish to appoint a well-qualified Head Groundsman to take a leading role in developing all our grounds. We see this as an exciting opportunity to broaden your professional experience leading a high calibre team who share a strong commitment to the success of the club.

Reporting to the Chief Executive you will have an excellent knowledge of grounds management with a proven track record in turf care and horticulture. You are likely to be qualified to NVQ level 3 or 4, or have acquired an HND in a relevant discipline. You will also hold appropriate spraying certificates. Well developed supervisory and communication skills as well as a current driving licence are all essential.

Please contact our retained recruitment consultant
Jamie Fagan at Conundrum on 01985 845031 for an initial discussion.

Recruitment

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Invites applications for the position of HEAD GREENKEEPER

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Candidates must have the following skills:-
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Have the ability to prepare & control budgets.

Possess good man management skills and work as part of a team.

Closing date for applications 30th August 2002. Applications in writing with full CV to:-

Tony Adams, Secretary, Alresford Golf Club, Cheriton Road, Tichborne Down, Alresford, Hants, SO24 0PN

SIDMOUTH GOLF CLUB

require a COURSE MANAGER - CIRCA £21,000

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Applications with CV in writing to:-

The Chairman, Sidmouth Golf Club,
Cotmaton Road, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 8SX



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Peter Duncan, President or Dick Adamson, Treasurer, c/o Croydon Bowling Club Ltd.,
10 Nottingham Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 6LN

WEST ESSEX GOLF CLUB

Has a vacancy for a GREENKEEPER

to join our team responsible for developing and maintaining one of the best courses in Essex. Applicants must be qualified to NVQ Level 2.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary, West Essex Golf Club,
Bury Road, Sewardstonebury, Chingford, E4 7QL

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The General Manager, Manchester Golf Club Limited,
Rochdale Road, Middleton, Manchester, M24 6QP.



ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

Ealing Golf Club require two Assistant Greenkeepers. Applicants should possess NVQ II qualifications and must have a minimum of 2 years experience and a knowledge of modern greenkeeping methods.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

Secretary/General Manager
Ealing Golf Club, Perivale Lane, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 8SS

SHOOTERS HILL GOLF CLUB

requires a GENERAL MANAGER/SECRETARY

This private members club, which celebrates its centenary in 2003 is seeking a person to replace the current manager/secretary who is retiring.

We require a person to manage all aspects of the Club's business and it would be an advantage if the applicant has greenkeeping qualifications and/or experience of supervising work on the course.

This position may suit a head greenkeeper wishing to move up into management.

Good salary negotiable

Applications should be sent in writing with CV to:-

The Chairman, Shooters Hill Golf Club Ltd, "Lowood" Eaglesfield Road, London SE18 3DA

BRICKENDON GRANGE GOLF CLUB

Require an ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Brickendon Grange is a private members golf club situated on the outskirts of Hertford. The course is located in 160 acres of mature parkland and we are looking to recruit an additional member to our greenkeeping team. We have the reputation of being one of the best golf courses in the county of Hertfordshire.

The successful applicant will be expected to hold relevant qualifications and experience of using modern machinery and irrigation systems.

The position is full time working 40 hours per week.

Please apply in writing with a full CV to :

Mr Trevor Booth, Course Manager, Brickendon Grange Golf Club,
Pembroke Lane, Brickendon, Nr Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8PD

Recruitment



An opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Established in 1892, this private 18 hole links course, revised by famed architect Alister MacKenzie, prides itself on year round quality golf. Applicants should be articulate, self-motivated and willing to work well as part of our young, forward thinking team.

Ideally applicants should be qualified to NVQ2, and hold PA1, PA2 and PA6 certificates.

Salary is £15,000 per annum.

Closing date for applications is: 9th September 2002.

Please apply in writing, with CV to:

Simon Cresser, The Head Greenkeeper,
Weston-Super-Mare Golf Club,
Uphill Road North, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset, BS23 4NQ.

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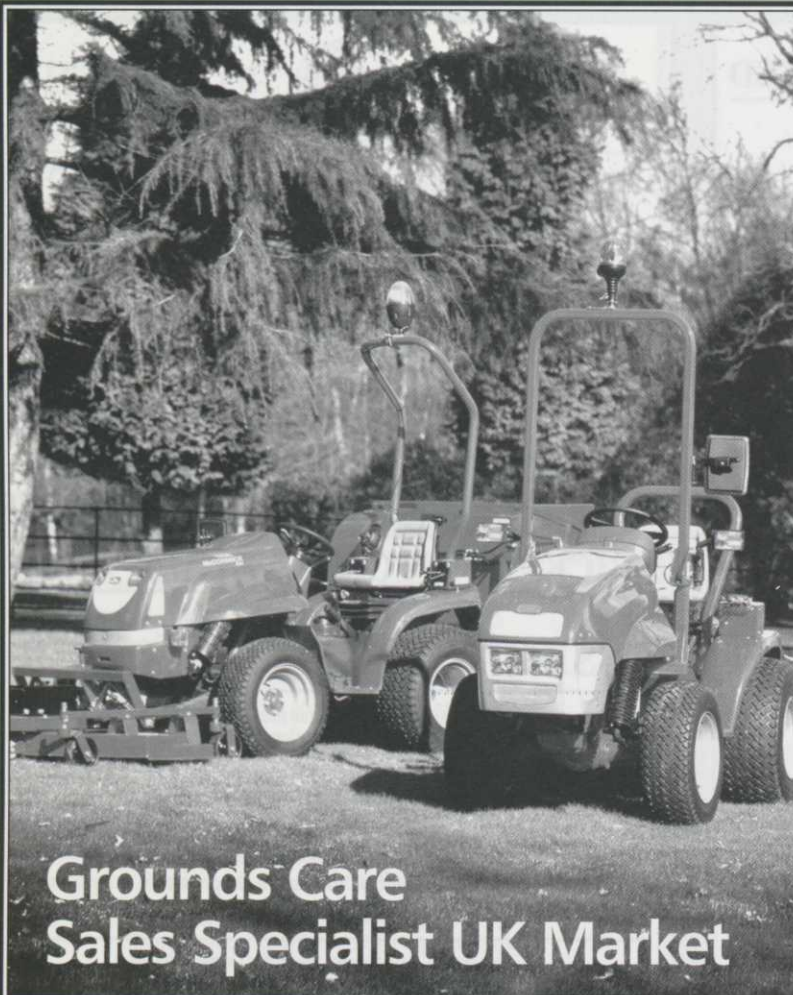
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As a key player in the sales team, the successful candidate will be tasked initially with developing and implementing a UK-wide sales and distribution strategy for our range of grounds care and specialist equipment and associated products. This will involve working closely with our current distribution partners and, where required, seeking out new dealers with whom we can collectively work to put McCormick at the forefront of the industry in the UK.

To be considered, you will be a highly influential individual, a strong team player and have at least 5 year's sales/product experience within the grounds care industry. A willingness to undertake frequent travel is essential and relocation may be required

To apply please send your CV to:
Hazel Cameron, Human Resources Manager,
McCormick Tractors International Limited,
Wheatley Hall Road, Doncaster,
South Yorkshire DN2 4PG.

Closing Date:
15th August 2002

McCORMICK

BRICKENDON GRANGE GOLF CLUB

Brickendon Grange is a private members golf club situated on the outskirts of Hertford. The course is located in 160 acres of mature parkland and we are looking to recruit an additional member to our greenkeeping team. We have the reputation of being one of the best golf courses in the county of Hertfordshire.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will be expected to hold relevant qualifications and experience of using modern machinery and irrigation systems. The position is full time working 40 hours per week.

Please apply in writing with a full CV to :

Mr Trevor Booth, Course Manager, Brickendon Grange Golf Club,
Pembroke Lane, Brickendon, Nr Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8PD

BRAMLEY GOLF CLUB

Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We are looking for an enthusiastic and hard working greenkeeper to join our existing team. NVQ level 2 qualification preferred.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

Mr Perry Smith, Bramley Golf Club,
Bramley, Nr Guildford, Surrey GU5 0AL

STOURBRIDGE GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Needs to be experienced and qualified to NVQ/City & Guilds Level 3 or equivalent plus PA1, PA2 and PA6. The successful applicant will have the ability to manage the course in the absence of the Head Greenkeeper. A practical knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems maintenance are essential.

Applications in writing with C.V. to:

Mrs M.A.Betts, Secretary, Stourbridge Golf Club,
Worcester Lane, Pedmore, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 2RB

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The successful applicant will be educated to NVQ 3 or equivalent, demonstrate a sound knowledge of modern Greenkeeping techniques, be able to lead and motivate our Greenkeeping team and be committed to service to our members through high quality presentation.

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GREENKEEPER

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Lingfield Park is an equal opportunities employer. Please apply to:

Anne Harwood, Human Resources Officer, Lingfield Park,
Racecourse Road, Surrey RH7 6PQ
Telephone: 01342 831701

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Feature listing from August 2000

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

November 2001; BIGGA National Championship review; Environment Competition winner; Spraying; Toro Awards Preview; Cutting regimes; Dyke GC

December 2001; Toro Award Winners; Southern Gailes GC; BTME preview; Specialty equipment; Thatch removal

January 2002; Walton Heath profile; Greenkeeping in Denmark; Moving materials; A first for Andy Campbell; New products

February 2002; Harrogate 2002 Review; Drainage; Castlerock GC; Trees; Recycling; TurfTrax profile; Barn Owl special report

March 2002; Donnington Valley profile; Utility vehicles; Essay competition winner; Irrigation; Seeds; Sandy McDivot

April 2002; Heyrose GC profile; Bernhard's Scholarship; De-stress your greens; COSHH assessments; Rootzones and topdressing; Maintenance facilities; Essay competition

May 2002; BIGGA Report; Nematodes; Caldyc GC profile; Multi-tasking machinery; Bunker Sand; Essay competition; Fijian GC profile; BIGGA Minimum qualification

June 2002; Finding Fungi; Greatham Valley GC profile; Tyres; Calabria GC profile; Lakes and Ponds; Poa Annua - Jim Arthur

July 2002; Open preview; Turf; Steve Isacss; Emissions; Grinding; Rotary Mowers; BTME preview; Sandy McDivot



A Successful Month

I am writing this piece from the 131st Open Championship at Muirfield where the BIGGA Open Support Team has been hard at work assisting Colin Irvine and his team to prepare the golf course and enjoying the privilege of accompanying players during their rounds to rake the bunkers they find.



The course has been absolutely superb and has provided a tremendous test for the best players in the world. I do think the height of rough and tight fairways made it extremely difficult for some of the field and Muirfield now holds the record of Tiger Woods' highest professional score - the 81 he shot in the third round. In Ernie Els, however, the course has yet again produced the knack of singling out one of the world's finest players to be its Champion

Colin and his team must be congratulated on the magnificent condition they produced the course, while I would like to say a big thank you to each member of the team - as well as the BIGGA staff - who attended, for all the work they carried out to such a high standard. It was a great success and I was proud that everyone of you represented the Association to such a high standard.

It is a hard week with early starts and late finishes but, as ever, the team members threw themselves into the work with great enthusiasm and were rewarded with experiences which will last them for the rest of their lives. For example how many people can say that Tiger Woods has walked up to them, shaken their hands and said, "Hello, I'm Tiger Woods"? That's something to tell the grandchildren!

Earlier in the month I was delighted to be invited to the Scottish National Golf Championship at West Linton Golf Club. This was a very successful day with more than 80 players taking part on a magnificently prepared golf course. Special credit must go to Chris Yeaman and his team for managing this unique moorland golf course to such a high standard. That standard was matched by Scottish Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, for whom the phrase

"Working like clockwork" might have been invented. All in all it was a wonderfully enjoyable occasion.

On another matter I was particularly pleased to learn that Bernhards are continuing their BIGGA Delegation sponsorship for a third year and that ten members will have the opportunity to attend the GCSAA Conference and Show in Atlanta, Georgia, next February. Having spoken to those who have attended in previous years I know that it is a superb trip and a great deal is learned from it. It is open to every single member of the Association from Assistants to Course Managers and all you have to do to put yourself forward for consideration is fill out the card which appears on the front cover of this magazine.

Finally, I am absolutely delighted to hear that negotiations have been concluded with the NEC in Birmingham and that BIGGA has now purchased the rights to the Clubhouse Exhibition, which will now join with BTME at Harrogate in January to make our biggest week of the year even more significant within the golf industry as a whole. A lot of hard work and discussion has gone into making this possible and I am pleased that the Association has been able to make this arrangement a reality.

I am sure that it will be a great success and I would urge all members to ensure that their Secretaries and golf club personnel attend.

Richard Barker

—	Agco Ltd	47
—	Allett Mowers	33
—	Angus Horticulture	33
—	Aventis	47
—	Barenbrug	11
—	Bernhard & Co	39
—	BTME/ClubHouse	18 & 19
—	Cranfield University	33
—	Dennis	43
—	Greensward	17
—	Gremac	31
—	Groundex (IOG)	31
—	Headland Amenity	39
—	Hunter Grinders	45
—	Kubota	2
—	Lastec	54 & 55
—	Lely	56 & 57
—	NPTC	31
—	Perryfields	9
—	Renault Agriculture Ltd	29
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—	Wardle Consulting Engineers Ltd	33

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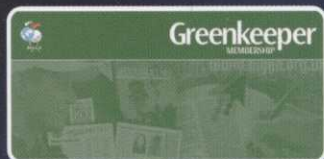
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Through Membership, BIGGA also aims to create a safer working environment for our members



Associate Membership
(any person who is not a working greenkeeper, but wants to be part of a growing Association, i.e. Chairman of Green, Secretary, Company Sales Representative etc.) offers:

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Exclusive discounts and benefits for Associate Members

Online information & opportunities for Associate Members



Corporate Membership
(for those companies who want to join up to 4 members of staff) offers:

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(for those who are studying full-time) offers:

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

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