

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



December 2002 – £3.50

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



## Beauty and the beasts

Pennard GC | BTME & ClubHouse Preview | Dr Kate Entwistle | R&A Golf Course committee

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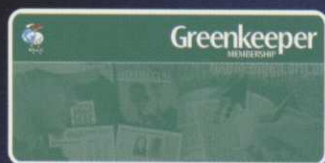




# B I G G A M E M B E R S H I P

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



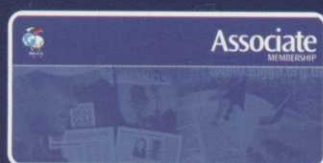
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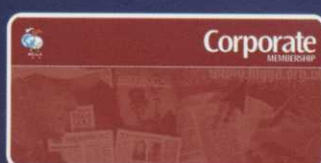


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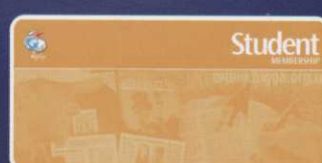


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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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of the British & International  
Golf Greenkeepers Association

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**'THE TURFTIME TEASER'**  
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## December 2002

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International  
will be with you by January 8, 2003



## REGULARS

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Thinking about furthering your education? The BIGGA College Listing can help select the best college and course for you.

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The new R&A Golf Course committee has been set up to offer guidance and leadership on matters of golf course management. Michael Barrett explains all to Scott MacCallum.

### 40 New diseases are developing - fact or fiction?

Dr Kate Entwistle delves into the murky world of fungi and reports the startling fact that there are more out there than you might believe.





Welcome

## THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN WORK

So here we are at the final magazine of 2002. It doesn't seem more than a couple of months ago that I was listing all my new year's resolutions in the January magazine.

I was going to take golf lessons, rededicate myself to jogging and get back into the book that I started writing about 10 years ago.

Well my report card on the above doesn't make very good reading. I haven't had any golf lessons, although I did get some new clubs for my birthday which are not working too badly at the moment. I've jogged twice, although if it stops raining tonight I might make that thrice. And the book? It remains an untouched, potential masterpiece.

So there you are. That's my confession. I do feel there are mitigating circumstances though, the main one being that I happen to be living in the UK in the 21st century, a time when work increasingly seems to dominate every other aspect of our lives.

Twenty years ago the crystal ball gazers more or less promised us more leisure time by now - even a four day working week - such was the advance of the computers that were going to take much of our workload from us. But the reverse seems to be happening. Computers allow us to do much more in a much shorter space of time, but the time saved is taken up by yet more work, not the promised leisure time. The demands on us are certainly much greater than they have ever been.

I see it when I visit golf courses and people in the trade. We must always be seen to be doing more, achieving higher standards and becoming more efficient. Status Quo is not good enough, even if it is to be achieved with reduced resources. We must produce higher quality golf courses, we must grab more of the market share...

But perhaps if we did make time for golf lessons, a keep fit regime or even writing a book, we would be in a more relaxed frame of mind to tackle our day-to-day jobs and with less pressure to achieve the achievements would come all the more readily. But will we ever get the chance to test out this concept?

One man who is leaving behind all the pressures and strains of full time employment is Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter, and one of the best known and most popular men in the industry. Kim has decided to take early retirement and I know I speak for everyone in the industry, when I wish him well for the future. Hopefully, as he's not excessively old, the pipe and slippers will remain in cold storage for a while longer and we might still see him out and about occasionally.

It just remains for me to wish all Greenkeeper International readers a relaxing and enjoyable break over the festive period, and remember there's more to life than work!

Scott MacCallum, Editor

## EARLY RETIREMENT FOR KIM MACFIE



Kim Macfie, one of the most recognisable figures in the fine turf industry, and one of greenkeeping's biggest supporters, has opted to take early retirement.

Kim, Sales and Marketing Director for Hayter, will step

down just before Christmas.

"Nothing stands still. In Hayter, the winds of change, (mostly gentle breezes in my recollection), are now forecast to increase markedly. The "drum beat has to be picked up", the "talk walked" etc. etc. Having been, inexorably, part of the company's philosophy for nearly 20 years, it is inappropriate for me to be part of the next stage. Consequently, I will leave the company before Christmas," said Kim.

"I have had an immensely happy and rewarding time with Hayter, due largely to the personal relationships established over the years.

I will be very sad to leave yet I will be parting with many happy memories. Hayter has an

abundance of good people to take it into the future and I wish them every success," said Kim.

Derek Boulton, Hayter Managing Director, paid tribute to Kim's distinguished career at Hayter.

"We have much to thank Kim for. Indeed Hayter's success over several decades and its market position today can be directly linked to Kim's leadership, loyalty, hard work and dedication.

"He has been the face of Hayter for a considerable time and is renowned, loved and respected throughout the industry," said Derek.

Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA commented, "I am sorry that I will no longer be working with Kim. He was the driving force behind the Hayter Challenges and International Cups in the 90s, which to this day are still much talked about by BIGGA members.

"Kim was a vibrant member of the BTME Steering Committee and contributed greatly to the exhibition's on-going success. His empathy with BIGGA's members and the profession at large was marked and singled him out as someone with whom the individual greenkeeper was immediately at ease.

"All of us at BIGGA wish him well for the future in whatever direction his retirement may take him," said Neil.

## TRAINING THE TRAINER

Two train the trainer days have been hosted by the GTC recently. A follow-up to a recent successful 'train the trainer' day was hosted by the GTC last month.

In September, 11 local greenkeeping assessors attended the first part of the event, at Aldwark Manor, and were instructed on how they could improve as trainers, with a follow up at the beginning of November.

Greenkeeping assessors - normally Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers - help implement greenkeeper training in the workplace.

They were taught how to identify the trainee's needs, agree their objectives and goals and eventually help them to achieve National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications

(N/SVQs).

"Sometimes people are natural trainers and they do not recognise it. This course will help these course managers/head greenkeepers formulate what they do naturally every day," said Sue Gudgeon, the GTC's National N/SVQ Co-ordinator.

In November these assessors were asked to demonstrate how they had implemented the skills they learned in September.

"The GTC's work to promote formal work-based training started with the assessor training and the latest initiative to 'train the trainer' will again raise the profile of course managers/head greenkeepers which, in turn, will improve the skills of their staff and the condition of the golf course," added Sue.

Those of you with keen eyesight may have experienced a little confusion in Steve Isaac's excellent article in last month's magazine "Hell is a Wet Place".

Unfortunately the colour coding to both graphs has been transposed and contradicted the text. In the two graphs on page 37 the blue should have been red and the red should have been blue.

The captions to the photographs on page 38 have also been transposed.

Apologies to those people who were confused by the error and sincere apologies to Steve Isaac.

Email press releases and new product updates to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)



## RANSOMES JACOBSEN AND T H WHITE LINK UP

Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd and T H White Ltd have announced that they have entered into an agreement whereby the Ransomes Jacobsen direct sales business at Redditch will become owned and managed by T H White with effect from the beginning of December.

To ensure continuity and a smooth transfer of responsibilities, all staff at the Redditch branch have been offered the opportunity to become employees of T H White. It is hoped and expected that most, if not all, will do so.

Redditch is the most southern of the three Ransomes Jacobsen direct sales branches. The other two, located at Mansfield in Nottinghamshire and Selby in North Yorkshire, will continue to be owned and managed by Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd.

"We view this as a very positive step for both parties. T H White is one of our premier dealers with an excellent reputation for sales and customer support. They will be inheriting a superb, highly equipped 14,000 sq ft facility manned by quality staff with significant industry experience," said David Withers, Sales and Marketing Director at Ransomes Jacobsen.

"We have always stated that we would sell direct if we could not find dealers that met our consistently high standards, both financially and in terms of customer support. We have now found an organisation from within our own network and I'm confident that they will continue to build upon the success established by Alan Prickett and the management team at Redditch."



## ROLAWN

In 1995 Rolawn began an independent testing programme with the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI), Europe's leading turf research body. Rolawn is the only turf company that submits itself to regular independent testing in this way. This is the conclusion from the STRI's most recent survey which was conducted in August 2002.

"In 2002, seven fields of Rolawn turf were examined all of which were presented to a high standard, uniform and attractive in appearance and free of weeds. There were also very few weed-grasses. In terms of weed-grasses some

7,000 spot identifications were made and within these only 4 weed-grasses (all *Poa annua*) were recorded. It would be impossible to produce turf that was 100% free of weeds and weed-grasses. However, the near impossible has been achieved in growing turf that was better than 99.9% free of weeds and weed-grasses."

"I am delighted by these findings. Rolawn have always sold on product quality and it is extremely gratifying when you get as distinguished a research body as the Sports Turf Research Institute coming to this conclusion," stated Terry Ryan, Rolawn's Sales & Marketing Director.

## WAYNE VINCENT

Paul Worster and all the greenstaff at Minchinhampton Golf Club are delighted to announce the promotion of their Deputy Course Manager, Wayne Vincent, to the post of Head Greenkeeper at Cotswold Hills GC, Cheltenham.

Wayne joined Minchinhampton in 1994 as an assistant greenkeeper, straight from Cannington College Bridgewater where he studied greenkeeping on an N.D. course. He progressed to Deputy Course Manager in 1996, mainly as a result of his enthusiasm and determination to succeed. A measure of this determination has been the 44 mile round trip to work every day, including weekends, for the last nine years.

He has been an extremely popular member of the Management Team and thoroughly deserves this promotion. Wayne himself knows that this is probably the hardest step to take on the career ladder – moving from Deputy to the Head's position at another club.

"This was a real team effort. Paul put together a package showing management and budget techniques; another member of the team, Sam Kennedy, put together an ecology document, again showing all that we do at Minchinhampton," explained Wayne.

"I am so pleased that I have probably been insufferable for the last couple of weeks."

Wayne took over his new position at the end of November, and carried with him very best wishes from the membership and staff at Minchinhampton.

## THE CHAIRMAN'S YOUNGEST FAN

Some 20 years ago National Chairman, Richard Barker, and Gavin Robson both started work together as Assistants at Longcliffe Golf Club and despite moving on to other clubs, both remained local to each other and are still very good friends.

However, despite Gavin being a keen and involved Association member he has some competition when the postman delivers the magazine each month as it is his six year old son, Callum, who wants it first not to read the articles but to see how many times he can spot the Chairman!

This is sometimes followed by a phone call to the Chairman to let him know the answer... but this month the roles will be reversed.

You never know, Callum, it might be your photo inside the back page in 30 years time or so.



## Royal Inverdivot GC...

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





## ALAMO BOOST FOR MCCONNEL

The buyout of a French company by Alamo Group Europe (AGE) will provide a further major boost for Shropshire manufacturer McConnell.

Alamo has acquired Faucheu, one of France's leading tractor front-end loader and attachment manufacturers, and it will use McConnell, one of its subsidiary companies, to capture 25 per cent of the UK and Irish market for such products within a year, and dominate the sectors within three years.

"It will certainly create more jobs at McConnell - we cannot say how many at this stage - and it will lead to some substantial increases in business," said Geoffrey Davies, Managing Director of Alamo Group Europe.

"Our research has revealed scope to move into the front-end loader market in the UK. In addition, there are strong synergies between Faucheu, McConnell and other AGE companies in Britain. This is a significant and logical acquisition which gives us a tremendous range of both front- and rear-mounted products for tractors."

Alamo will make significant immediate investments to modernise the building and machinery at Faucheu's 15,000 square metre factory at Chartres to ensure McConnell receives the service it will require.



## WINNER OF THE GREAT BIGGA BUNKER COMPETITION



Chris Smart, (left) of Mid Glamorgan Press Agency, the eighth winner of the Great BIGGA Bunker Competition, at The Open was presented with his Hayter Harrier Mower by Kim Macfie, (right) Hayter's Sales and Marketing Director, at Celtic Manor recently.

It was very much a case of "Anything you can do, I can do the same", for Chris whose wife, Kay, won one of the mowers in the same competition several years ago.

Chris' estimate of the number of bunkers raked during the Championship of 1043 was the closest to the actual number of 1078 of the media who took part in the competition. Among the entrants this year was Peter Allen, of Radio 5 Live, who entered live on the Drivetime Show on the eve of the Championship.

For the first time Hayter also provided a Hayter Harrier for the BIGGA Open Support Team and, showing more of a flair for the prediction game than the media, Steve Ultram, Course Manager of Wilmslow Golf Club, was just one out and secured the mower for his club and a bottle of whisky for himself.

Many thanks to Kim Macfie and Hayter for their support of this popular competition and to Jim MacKenzie and Celtic Manor for their hospitality.



Graeme MacDonald, Secretary of the East of England Section, receives the Toro Cup from Nigel Lovatt, Toro UK, with some of the EoE Section looking on.

## HUNTER SHARE IN SUCCESS

The 34th Ryder Cup Matches recently played at The De Vere Belfry proved an absolute sensation, arguably the finest sporting event this year. The vital factor in hosting a successful golfing tournament is the quality of the course.

"Our objective was to ensure that we had the capacity to not only prepare the greens preceding the event, but to maintain the highest standards during the Tournament," said Bevan Tattersall, Courses Manager.

"We achieved this by working closely with our

own greens staff, the team from John Deere and the engineers from Hunter Grinders. We operated a 24 hour on-call system that allowed us to react to whatever situation arose and deal with it quickly and efficiently."

Hunter Grinder engineers, David Mitchison and Ian Robson, were in residence for ten days leading up to and during the Ryder Cup Matches to provide the capacity to grind and re-sharpen as many cylinders as was required to keep the grass in perfect condition. In addition to the

Jupiter 2000 already on site at The De Vere Belfry, Hunter Grinders supplied an additional Jupiter 2000 and an Orion Bottom Blade grinder, which has subsequently been purchased by the group.

"It was necessary to use top dressing to ensure that conditions were perfect," explained Bevan.

"This can result in additional sharpening requirements, so it was essential that we had the extra facilities provided by Hunter Grinders and the men to carry out the work."





Pike Fold Golf Club, near Bury, and Meltham Golf Club, near Huddersfield, were the lucky winners of the Campey Turf Care Prize Draw announced at the Campey Open Days in June.

The Head Greenkeepers of the two golf clubs were flown around their respective courses to view them from the air.

Nigel Potter, Head Greenkeeper at Meltham, was very enthusiastic about his prize.

"Aspects of the course lay-out and condition become easily apparent from the air, so I really enjoyed seeing the course in all its glory. It's a shame more Course Managers can't view their golf courses this way."

Geoff Firkbank and his daughter Lisa piloted the prize winners.

## SECTION SECRETARIES' MEETING AT BIGGA HOUSE

The Section Secretaries Meeting at BIGGA HOUSE, held every 18 months, proved to be another successful and thought provoking event.

Split over an afternoon and a morning the first portion took in presentations covering the overview of the Association delivered by Neil Thomas; Operating the Legal Helpline, presented



by Debbie Emmerson, of General Legal Protection; and advice on preparing Section Accounts given by John Pemberton. Thereafter, following an introduction by Ken Richardson, the meeting was split into three groups to discuss education and training.

Following dinner, and further discussions, in Aldwark Manor Hotel Day Two started with a review of the previous day before the groups split again, to discuss "Sustaining and Strengthening BIGGA Sections" before feedback and a final question and answer session involving the BIGGA Management Team.





# Education



## Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

**BIGGA GOLDEN KEY and SILVER KEY MEMBERSHIP**

Unlock the doors to progress through BIGGA's Education and Development Fund - the key to a great future for greenkeepers, golf clubs and the game of golf.

Golden and Silver Key Membership is available to both companies and individuals.

For details, please contact Neil Thomas on 01347 833800 or via [neil@bigga.co.uk](mailto:neil@bigga.co.uk)

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With Christmas fast approaching, Sami and I are working hard to clear our desks before the Festive Break. At the end of a busy year, we can look back at a great deal of success, seeing far more greenkeepers entering formal and informal education and training, at least one new Master Greenkeeper joining the group of 32 and the continuing successful co-operation between BIGGA and the GTC. The end of the year does not mean the end of our work, however, and we have been working hard to bring you the the education and training opportunities that you have asked for.

## Continue to Learn

Continue to Learn, the largest education and training event for greenkeepers, Golf Course Managers, Golf Course Superintendents, Golf Club Managers and fine turf experts will be held from 20 to 23 January 2003, in Harrogate.

Starting with the Workshop Programme, Education Conference and the STRI - Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century. The programme has something for everyone. Moreover, with flexible access, delegates have more choices than ever.

Learn how to hire, fire and manage staff at the Conference on Monday 20 January, discover the latest golf course management techniques on the second day or gain an insight into the intricacies of golf course management at the STRI Managing Golf Course in the 21st Century Course on Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 January. Together with workshops on Soil Science, Environmental Management, Golf Course Design and the Master Greenkeeper Scheme, the first two days of Continue to Learn, supported by John Deere, have something for everyone.

Tuesday 21 January sees the start of the BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions which include, for the first time, a Careers Fair, supported by TORO, where you can access information on careers in greenkeeping and golf course management, golf club management, further and higher education, professional golf, agronomy,

machinery sales and maintenance, and the chemical industry. Add the always popular Careers Clinic and this stand in Hall Q is a must for all delegates to both the BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions.

Another first for January 2003 is the introduction of an Education and Training stand in Hall M, where you can book your Seminar session, watch a demonstration of OnCourse Golf Course Management software, check on the availability of training in your Region, collect a copy of the BIGGA Field Guides or discuss your education and training plan.

The BTME/ClubHouse Seminars will be held in the Royal Hall. Following suggestions from previous delegates, we have introduced several changes that should make the experience even better. We intend to improve the seating by increasing leg room, however, this will mean less seats so book early. Each session costs a maximum of £5 with several session completely free of charge. Each session will be 'stand alone' and the Hall will be cleared at the end of each session. Sessions are concentrated around the middle of the day, allowing delegates plenty of time to visit both shows.

If you have not received details of Continue to Learn then contact Sami or myself at BIGGA House. Remember, the deadline for all Continue to Learn bookings is 8 January 2003.

## Regional Training

This Autumn and Winter Regional Training Courses are almost complete but there is still time to book your place onto a course in the Spring. Places are available on the following courses:

February 11 & 12	Chainsaw Maintenance and Croscutting	Stirling
February 12 & 13	The New Supervisor	Newark Golf Club
February 19 & 20	Further Management Skills	Manchester Airport
February 19 & 20	Basic Computer Skills	Old Fold Manor GC
February 26	Abrasive Wheels	De Vere Carden Park
February 26 & 27	Further Management Skills	Luton Airport
March 4 & 5	Further Computer Skills	Berkhamsted GC
March 4 & 5	Project Management	Ross on Wye GC
March 4 & 5	Coaching Skills	Potters Bar GC
March 4 & 5	Management Skills for Course Managers	De Vere Carden Park
March 4 & 5	Presenting a Professional Image	De Vere Carden Park
April 16 & 17	Budgets and Finance	De Vere Carden Park

Each one day course costs £30 + VAT and each two day course costs £60 + VAT. Remember that Golden Key Companies are offering £30 training vouchers to their customers.



# OnCourse

BIGGA has been joined by Cobalt Concepts to sell OnCourse Golf Course Management software in the UK. Selling for just over a year in the UK the OnCourse Management package is now being used at 10 golf courses and at 14 colleges. Designed by greenkeepers for greenkeepers, the package has a range of facilities to help you to manage your golf course including:

- Staff Records
- Time Sheets
- Supplier Database
- Machinery Inventory and Service information
- Stock Inventory
- Golf Course Details
- Golf Course Maintenance
- Diary of Events
- Budgets and Finance
- Report Generation

Each module links to all other modules and updates any changes. For further information, contact me at BIGGA House or visit the BIGGA Education Stand in Hall M or the Cobalt Concepts Stand in Hall D, at the BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions, where you can also see demonstrations of OnCourse.

## Liaison Officers

The GTC is still looking for liaison officers. The Role of Liaison Officers is to:

- Liaise with GTC Headquarters on any matters affecting greenkeepers training
- Be the GTC representative within designated areas of the country, to visit Training Provider Centres twice each year and communicate with greenkeeping lecturers and students.
- To attend liaison meetings at Training Provider Centres
- To act as a GTC advisor.
- To co-ordinate moderation meetings for assessors.
- To attend annual update meetings at GTC HQ.

Liaison Officers are still required in the following areas: Cumbria and Lancashire; Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire; Devon and Cornwall; Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk; Dorset; Gloucestershire and Wiltshire; Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire; Leicestershire and Northamptonshire; Shropshire and Herefordshire; Bedfordshire; Cheshire and Isle of Man and Warwickshire and Worcestershire

These are part-time posts and attract payment of £12 per hour and 40p per mile expenses.

Anyone interested in becoming a GTC Liaison Officer should contact the GTC on 01347 838640.

Sami and Ken wish all of their readers a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in Harrogate next month.

## Free Money for Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has launched a pilot scheme to help small businesses to improve their health and safety standards. It aims to help plug the Health and Safety gap by providing businesses with matched funding of up to £1000. The Small Firms Assistance Scheme is open to those thinking of starting a new business and small companies with fewer than 10 employees. Companies must have an annual turnover

not exceeding £4,500,000 or an annual balance sheet not exceeding £3,200,000. Pilot areas are West Yorkshire, Essex and Devon and Cornwall. For further information contact the local Business Link:

West Yorkshire 0113 3837733

Essex 01245 241400

Devon and Cornwall 0845 6009966.



Address letters to: **Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF**, or email them to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

### How can we Progress?

Am I the only reader to see the connection between the Neil Thomas' piece (November issue page 19) and that incredible feature on St Andrews Bay project (pages 14-18)? We note that the owner of this project, Dr Panos, laid down his prime remit that they "have to maintain the golf course with stripes and make them green". This surely says it all! Admittedly Neil Ballingall does not claim that his courses are links. Planting 30,000 trees proves this! The whole project is a travesty of good greenkeeping and traditional standards. The site is no more exposed and subject to much less traffic than scores in the same area. Ryegrass fairways forsooth. There is an old (Scottish) proverb that you cannot play a golf shot off a football pitch. Ryegrasses (dwarf or not) are not golf grasses. They are not natural and never blend with native species to form fine turf. Neil (Thomas) comments, as I have for decades, on the iniquity of Chairmen of Green sacking competent head greenkeepers because they want to impose their ideas (stripes and lush green) over sound good practices. I note an article 16 years ago pointing out that the real enemies of greenkeeping were yobs and yuppies. They start playing at an age too

advanced to receive a clip on the ear when transgressing rules and traditions. Their ambition is to be Captain - and they will use any step on the ladder to achieve it. They will take no advice yet listen to all the latest gimmicks and if opposed, move the earth to move the offender. I know! It is not only head men who are wrongfully sacked (and what paltry compensation is awarded those who win wrongful dismissal claims). I have had my share - a brief note from a secretary (after 30 years of advisory connection with the Club) to say "so and so is now our adviser with immediate effect. Thank you for your past help". Not even management programmes with constitutionally backed authority can save those who speak their minds and expose "new golfers". Whether you are a traditionalist (as I and many others are), or an opportunist prepared to prostitute science to commerce the news is that new golfer is your enemy and exposing him risks the sack. How can we progress in this atmosphere?

**J. H. Arthur**  
Honorary Member  
Budleigh Salterton



Rachael and Gemma from the membership department welcome 68 new members to the Association and would like to take this opportunity to wish every member a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



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



**Rachael Palmer**

**Position:**  
Membership Services Officer

**What does your role involve?**  
Processing renewals and new members; dealing with queries and responding to members' requests. Also developing initiatives for expanding the membership base; improving members' benefits and giving presentations to members and non-members

**How long have you worked for the Association?**  
Since March 2002

**Where were you born and brought up?**  
Born in Thornbury, Gloucestershire, but brought up on the Isle of Whyte from 18 months old

**Where did you work before you joined BIGGA?**  
Royal Corinthian Yacht Club, Cowes

**What are your hobbies?**  
Watching Leeds United; keep fit, cycling and going to the pub

**What is your favourite food?**  
Mexican

**What is your favourite film?**  
Grease

**What was the last book you read?**  
"Cat" by Freya North, a book based on the Tour de France

**Who is your all time hero?**  
Haven't got one

**What was the best event you've ever attended?**  
My wedding to Stuart

**What is your claim to fame? (None not acceptable)**  
Appear very briefly on the 2001/2002 season Leeds United video


**Time to renew**

If you are one of the many members who renew their membership in December or January every year then you should very shortly be receiving your renewal pack. If you haven't received it by the middle of December please contact Membership Services and we will issue a replacement. You should find a pre-printed renewal form within your pack. Please check the details are correct and if not there are spaces provided for your changes. You will be pleased to note that you do not have to provide a photograph this year. A Time to Renew Newsletter is also included within your pack informing you of any changes to your membership package. If you have any questions regarding anything to do with your membership, then please do not hesitate to contact us on 01347 833800.





**Do You Pay Your Own Subs?**

If the answer to the above is yes then you can apply to the tax office for a refund of 23% of your subscription amount. To make sure you benefit from this all you have to do is either inform your local tax office that you are paying your own subscriptions or fill out a completed form available from BIGGA House and send it in to them. You are entitled to this refund because BIGGA is recognised by the Inland Revenue as a legitimate professional body and membership fees to such bodies are eligible for tax relief.



## RALLY DRIVING COMPETITION WINNER

**Rob Rowson, of Marriott Forest of Arden Hotel, is the delighted winner of the Rally Driving Day. When BIGGA rang to inform Rob he was absolutely speechless. Martin Pitt was the new member referred to BIGGA by Rob and he wins a voucher so he can go on an activity day of his choice. Martin said he was "over the moon" with the win.**

Rob Rowson
Martin Pitt

**DECEMBER'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 December's winner, Robert Boyce, of Links (Newmarket) Golf Club.

**Message of the Month Winner**

Each month the person who has written the best message on the BIGGA Bulletin Board, which is found on the BIGGA website [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk), receives one of these FM desktop scan radios.

Our congratulations go to December's winner Marc Haring from Cumberwell Park Golf Club who's message was posted on the 7th October under the Talk about Turf section.



- BIGGA welcomes...**
- |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Scottish Region</b></p> <p>Mark Littlejohn, East<br/>Ryan MacDonald, East<br/>Joe Robertson, East</p> <p><b>Northern Region</b></p> <p>Jeffrey Cullen, N East<br/>Neil, Goodman, Mid Anglia<br/>Iain Leary, N Wales<br/>Richard Lewis, N West<br/>James Lord, N West<br/>David Turner, Sheffield<br/>Leslie Vardall, Sheffield<br/>David Weir, N West<br/>Alexander Wishart, N East<br/>Michael Wiszniewski, N West</p> | <p><b>Midland Region</b></p> <p>Christopher Bailey, E Midland<br/>David Bangham, Midland<br/>Derek Beba, E of England<br/>Asa English, E Midland<br/>Jonathan Hubbard, E of England<br/>Adam King, BB&amp;O<br/>Johnathan Lloyd, Midland<br/>Jon Sharp, Midland<br/>Jon Volans, Midland</p> <p><b>South East Region</b></p> <p>Greg Adams, Essex<br/>Paul Andrews, Surrey<br/>Scott Bibby, Essex<br/>Michael Bower, London<br/>Martin Brightwell, E Anglia<br/>Gregory Evans, London<br/>Richard Forbes, Surrey</p> | <p>Glenn Gardiner, Essex<br/>Daniel Graham, E Anglia<br/>Nicholas Hammond, Surrey<br/>Mark Henderson, London<br/>Richard Kennaird, Sussex<br/>Paul Massey, Kent<br/>Kevin Morris, Kent<br/>John Oram, Sussex<br/>Sillito, Sussex<br/>Malcolm Thomasson, Surrey<br/>Craig Wretham, Kent</p> <p><b>S West/S Wales Region</b></p> <p>Susan Dow, Devon &amp; Cornwall<br/>Roy Dow, Devon &amp; Cornwall<br/>Steven Edge, Devon &amp; Cornwall<br/>Scott Gregor, S Coast<br/>David Patrick, S Coast<br/>Michael Patrick, S Coast</p> | <p>Michael Sage, S West<br/>Kevin Shilston, Devon &amp; Cornwall<br/>Martin Slater, Devon &amp; Cornwall</p> <p><b>Republic of Ireland</b></p> <p>Johnathan Palmer<br/>Martin Travers</p> <p><b>International</b></p> <p>Antoine Challe, Denmark</p> <p><b>Student Members</b></p> <p>Cristina Battisti, West Scotland<br/>Judith Colley, N West<br/>Paul Owen, N West<br/>Graham Wickes, Essex</p> | <p><b>Associate Members</b></p> <p>Keith Berners, Mid Anglia<br/>Christian Moughan, Northern<br/>Matthew Salmon, Mid Anglia<br/>Howard Stephenson, Northern<br/>Brian Tebbutt, N West</p> <p><b>Corporate Members</b></p> <p>Scott Banks, East Scotland<br/>Andy Church, London<br/>Dave Cryan, N East<br/>Barbara Jarman, Surrey<br/>David Jenkins, Surrey<br/>Graham Mace, Midland<br/>David Watson, Surrey</p> |
|---|---|---|---|---|



# SealSkinz 100% Waterproof Breathable Socks and Gloves

Have you ever wondered how to keep your feet warm and dry during the Winter months without wellingtons or bulky waterproof footwear?

Porvair International Ltd based in Norfolk, manufacturer's of the porelle waterproof, breathable membrane have now developed a waterproof sock to offer the latest technology in the protection from wet conditions.



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The socks are designed to fit and behave like a normal sock but are made with the porelle membrane sandwiched between two textile layers.

The finished product is **100% waterproof** and breathable, similar to wrapping a waterproof jacket round your foot but a lot more comfortable! They are most comfortable when worn with light weight non waterproof footwear, and will protect your feet from getting wet all day long. Ideal for both work and golf!

The gloves are made from a similar 3 layer construction and are **100% waterproof**. Designed to offer excellent grip and dexterity in wet conditions.

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The socks and gloves offer the latest technology in waterproof protection:

- SealSkinz keep the hands and feet warm and dry all day
- Less chance of blistering as the skin will not become soft
- Wear SealSkinz as a flexible liner inside boots or shoes
- Wear a light weight boot or shoe and SealSkinz for the most comfortable combination - no more heavy wellingtons!

**BIGGA have teamed up with SealSkinz to offer you an exclusive deal on these unique products**

**SOCKS - £16.00** pr +£1.00p&p

BIGGA are offering a discount off the RRP of £20.00 to members

**GLOVES - £16.00** pr +£1.00p&p

BIGGA are offering a discount off the RRP of £22.50 to members

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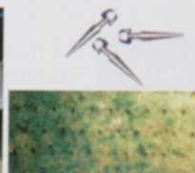


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# BIGGA Delegation Heads for the Deep South...

## Neil Thomas reports

In 2001 the first BIGGA Delegation in association with Bernhard & Company ventured forth to the west coast of Canada and the wonderful city of Vancouver to the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association Conference and Show. Such was the success of this visit that a further 10 BIGGA members formed a second Delegation in 2002 to the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando. To date 20 BIGGA members have greatly benefited from an international experience which has taken in a trade show, enabled them to attend educational seminars as well as visit golf clubs to view facilities and maintenance regimes at first hand. To a man they will tell you just how much they have benefited from the opportunity.

### INTERVIEWING PANEL



Neil Thomas



Stephen Bernhard



Sam McLean



David Haskell-Craig MG

Now a third Delegation has been selected, this time to attend the forthcoming GCSAA Conference and Show in Atlanta, Georgia. These ten members emerged from a keenly contested competition which culminated with in depth interviews. It was encouraging to observe the professionalism of the interviewees whilst their dedication to their jobs and the greenkeeping profession was marked. From a personal point of view I learnt much from their views as members of BIGGA and not a few pointers for the future.

So for the successful ten, work can now commence on researching the visit, looking at issues such as climatic and geographical difference to this country, comparing budgets and personnel as well as educational provision. Much knowledge will be gained and with 'homework' completed, the experiences of the trip should be enhanced when meeting and talking with American Golf Course Superintendents.

Bernhard & Company are to be thanked once again for this ongoing initiative. The company is a major supporter of education and training programmes for greenkeepers. There is not just a financial commitment. Those who have met and spent time with Stephen and Sam will vouch for their very real hands-on approach and enthusiasm. They have a global perspective, are widely travelled and each contributes greatly on an individual basis to the success of the Delegations. The company is now a familiar name in the greenkeeping world and many of our members are the beneficiaries of their drive and support.

So the BIGGA Delegation heads off to the Deep South - it should prove to be an informative and fulfilling experience.

### The 2003 BIGGA Delegation:

Kerran Daly MG - Gog Magog Golf Club - East Anglia Section  
 Mark Ellis - Stocks Hotel Golf & Country Club - Mid Anglia Section  
 Kevin Hodges - Weston Park Golf Club - East Anglia Section  
 Jeremy Hughes - Vale of Llangollen Golf Club - North Wales Section  
 Colin Mackay - Vejle Golf Club, Denmark - International Section  
 Alex McCombie - Parkstone Golf Club - South Coast Section  
 Gordon McKie - St Andrews Links Trust - Scotland Central Section  
 Tony Mears - Dinsdale Spa Golf Club - Cleveland Section  
 Duncan Smith - Cotswold Hills Golf Club - South West Section  
 Anthony Woolley - Piltown Golf Club - Sussex Section

### NOW IN ITS THIRD SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Stephen Bernhard comments...

A selection committee met recently to select the ten Greenkeepers who would travel to Atlanta in February 2003 to visit the GCSAA Conference and Show, as part of the Bernhard sponsored delegation.

The highly enthusiastic and interesting group included for the first time an overseas member from Denmark, who was awarded a place on the trip.



2002 BIGGA Delegation

From the increased number of applicants, it is evident that BIGGA members realise that this opportunity is open to all. It is important to the development of BIGGA that more people participate in these opportunities to learn from overseas greenkeeping practices.

I hope that the sharing of ideas and the exposure to an altogether different life style and work ethic will be immensely helpful to the group and to the superintendents who they meet as the tour progresses.

We are fortunate to have a wonderful relationship with several of the GCSAA Board and their management. These leaders of the American golf industry have been generous with their support for the arrival of the British group. They set a great precedent for us all to embrace as we seek to improve international understanding and shared education.

The enthusiasm displayed by the participants of the previous trips has been overwhelming, and this has certainly begun to rub off on us and on the new applicants, I am happy to say.

The participants of this year's BIGGA group to Atlanta have a lot to look forward to. They will have extensive homework to do before leaving for the USA in February - but it will be rewarding and fulfilling as the group develop long-term relationships with like minded colleagues from across the "pond".

I am proud to be part of the enthusiastic team at Bernhard and Company who sponsor the group to Atlanta and I hope everyone enjoys a fun filled and informative trip, returning with new experiences and stories to share with colleagues back home. We certainly hope many more greenkeepers will apply to join this successful trip in ensuing years.



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# Course Feature

## BEAUTY AND THE BEASTS

Pennard Golf Club boasts one of the most beautiful settings in golf but, as Scott MacCallum found out, it also has more than its fair share of four legged friends.



Peter Lacey

When picturesque settings for golf courses were being handed out Pennard Golf Club, on the Gower peninsula, near Swansea, in south Wales, must have been very near the front of the queue. The Gower peninsula was the first location in the UK to be designated a site of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the 106 year-old cliff top links course is as excellent as it is beautiful.

The course overlooks three bays - Pobbles, Three Cliffs and Oxwich - all with idyllic beaches; while playing the 7th hole you aim between the 14th century castle, which gives the club its emblem and appears in a lot of golf magazines and a similarly aged church; furthermore the valley floor, also owned by the club, is a SSSI, with the looks of a film set.

Renowned American golf course architect, Tom Doak, rated Pennard as one of his all time favourites in his book "Confidential Guide to Golf Courses" while he also scored the course highly in the "Best finishing holes" and "Most hospitable golf club" categories.

But if you are already jealous of Head Greenkeeper, Peter Lacey, it must also be said that when the gun went to start the race for an easy life Peter must have been bending over to tie his shoe laces.

Why?

Well, while the course is owned by the club the deeds still contain commoners' rights to graze livestock and Pennard has always had around 30 horses roaming over the course. This has been a recognised feature of the course but since the Foot and Mouth

epidemic, however, farmers have been restocking and the golf course has had to entertain the overspill of cattle. This has resulted in 80 head of cattle roaming over the course and munching their way through whatever they can find and, of course, planting their size nine cloven hooves wherever it takes their fancy.

With 110 head of cattle and horse, calling the course home at any one time you don't have to be David Attenborough to work out what one of the main duties is each day for the greenkeeping staff.

"The first job every day is clearing the mess and presenting the course for play. I have to set aside a full day for two men to do it. If there is no damage it's a bonus and they can go on and do something else but it uses up two men just from an animal point of view," sighed Peter.

Each green has a small fence around it with an electrified 12 volt wire - switched off between 7am and 7pm - but, although the horses do take notice of the slight shock they might receive if they venture too close, the cattle are more inclined to treat it as a minor inconvenience on their way to marching over the green.





The Pennard Team

"Also, they eat everything in sight and this year it has been particularly bad because of the number of cattle we've got. We've got no rough and getting any definition of play has been an issue for us. And then of course there is the mess and the damage," explained Peter, with the air of a man who takes this abuse of his golf course in his stride.

"We had an alliance meeting this morning, with 90 golfers teeing off from 9am, and when we came in we discovered five greens damaged by animals and another vandalised. Today it wasn't too bad as it was basically animals walking on the greens and we just have to prise up the hoof prints and roll them and they don't generally interfere with the roll of the ball but if they break the surface and get into the soil we've got to top dress them out and spend a bit of time on them. Obviously it's a lot worse in wet conditions. If it's dry they can walk on the greens and you don't even know they've been there."

The other area of the course which does take a hammering, and which has resulted in a very pragmatic solution, is the bunkers.

"I believe our bunkers are unique. Whereas most links courses revet their bunkers and leave a grass face on them to hold them in place we have to strim off all grass cover and present them with a soil face because the animals were spotting the grass, climbing into the bunker, clambering up the face and nibbling the grass. They then caused even more damage clambering out," said Peter, who added that the downside was that the soil faces meant that the bunkers had

to be re-done more frequently.

"Damage always looks worse than it actually is. We had an instance last year when 30 areas on the 1st green were dug up and turned over. I don't know the reason but it was absolutely shocking to be confronted by it first thing in the morning. It looked terrible but within two or three hours we had it repaired to the extent that most of the golfers didn't even realise there had been a problem.

"You have just got to tolerate it and not let it get to you. Obviously we can't present to Augusta standards, that's impossible in the circumstances we're in, but it's all about making the best of the situation."

The delicate issue of the natural fertiliser, and where it is disposed of, draws a laugh from Peter.

"It is a problem because we take it into the non-playing areas and the heavy rough and spread it but it is having a detrimental affect as a lot of these areas contain natural fescues, marram or heather which all like infertile conditions and we are literally fertilising them by spreading the manure. You can see the heather thinning and grass coming between it because it doesn't like it. It is going to have a huge impact in years to come," said Peter, who has been at the club for 20 years and followed his father, Colin, as Head Greenkeeper.

"My whole regime has had to be a lot more flexible in the last 18 months," he said, with a degree of understatement.

"We tend to maintain the course in a lean manner anyway in terms



The bunkers are revetted normally then the faces are strimmed to prevent animals clambering to eat the grass



# Course Feature

of modern greenkeeping practices and we are traditional. I've got men tied up in aeration all the time, one on a vertidrain and one on an aerator doing tees and greens basically flat out but because of the animals it has had a knock on effect.

One of the most striking features of Pennard are the rolling fairways but, while they are challenging to play and attractive to look at, from a greenkeeping perspective they do cause more problems.

"Unlike many links courses where the landing areas tend to be flattish our undulations are right the way through and we can go from eight feet above level to eight feet below level in the space of 20 yards.

"We had to cut our fairways with a Toro 206 which is a surround mower because it can cope with the undulations although we have recently upgraded to a Toro Sidewinder which again is known as a surrounds and aprons mower. It's a great tool but it does mean it takes us twice as long as if we were able to use a conventional fairway mower," said Peter, who added that they demoed all the fairway mowers a couple of years ago but none of them could cope with the demands.

Because of the undulations the hollows do tend to suffer from wear - golfers are naturally more inclined to use a hollow rather than a hump to get from A to B and also balls naturally collect there - particularly when you consider that there are 1000 members most of whom are regular golfers.

"We also tend to be busier in the winter than in the summer as we have partner clubs in the area and as we are fairly free draining we are open when others are closed."

With that in mind there is a programme of taking away some of the mounding, which also reduces some of the blind shots, always with the proviso that the overall natural look of the course is not adversely affected.

Taking into account the heavy workload imposed on the Pennard greenkeeping staff it would be fair to assume that there is the odd extra body employed to ensure everything gets done. Not true, as Peter has a staff of five, including himself plus a full time part timer who is employed to maintain the bunkers and collect litter.

"It's a case of having to prioritise. Top of my list is aeration but if we've got animal damage that comes first and the aeration has to



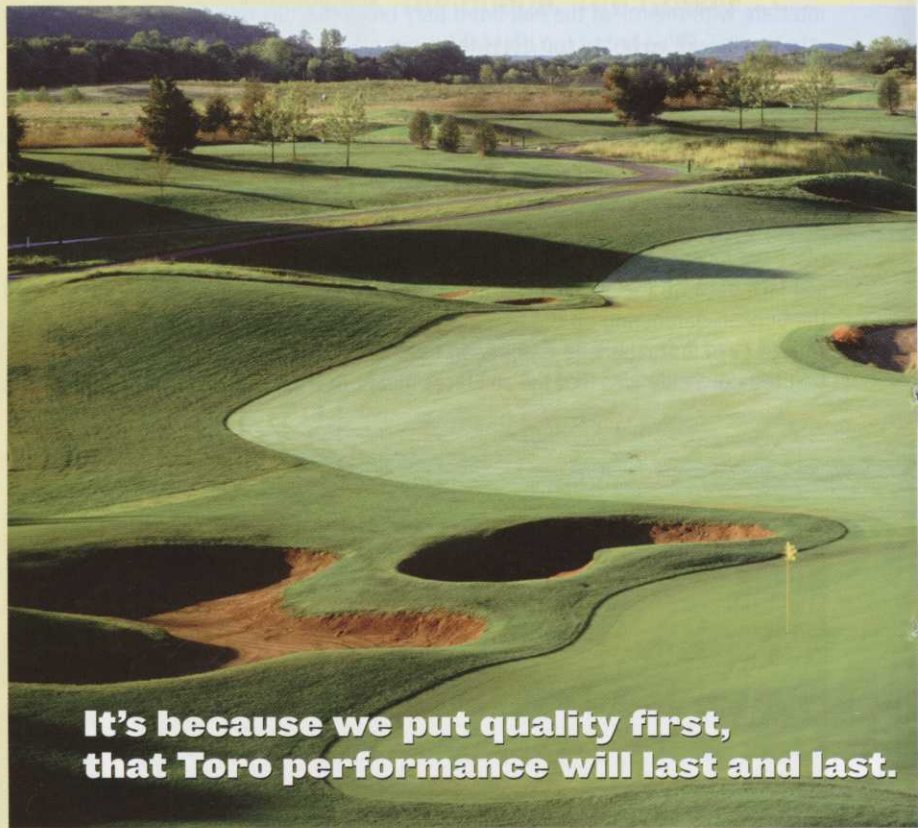
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[www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com)





# Course Feature

take second place and that approach runs right the way through the programme. We can also pull our bunker guy off and have him divot for a couple of days."

When it comes to divoting Peter can also call on an army of members to help.

"We have a fairly relaxed environment within the club and if we feel we have to get on top of it we put on divoting parties from the members and they'll perhaps come in on three consecutive Monday evenings. We put on a free buffet, the Captain will come along and buy them a drink and we thank them in the newsletter. We do things like that quite often."

Max Faulkner learned his golf at Pennard where his father, Gus, was the club's professional and 50 years to the day after winning The Open at Royal Portrush he opened the new clubhouse. The club also boasts among its membership, Vicki Thomas an eight times Curtis Cupper and Sarah Jones, who won her first Curtis Cup cap earlier this year.

If you felt that Peter had his hands full at Pennard also bear in mind that he has been the South Wales Section Secretary for the last 10 years and he has just received a Ransomes/Jacobsen Scholarship to part fund the HNC for which he has enrolled at Pen Coed College. He was also fortunate enough to be selected for the first Bernhard's Scholarship trip to Vancouver in 2001.

"The club is very go ahead and pay our BIGGA membership and put them through college. We've a fairly established team, I've been here 20 years, Dean has been here 13 years, David, 12 years, Bob, four and Richard, three, while David ("Dai Bunker" as he is known) has been here 18 years, but there is no chance of anyone stagnating, The nature of the course means they won't stagnate," said Peter.

Never a truer word could be uttered.

## MACHINERY INVENTORY

John Deere 1070 Compact Tractor (with cab).

John Deere 1070 compact tractor (with cab & front loader).

Kubota ST 30 Compact Tractor (with front loader).

John Deere 455 compact tractor (with rear lift kit & mid mounted mower).

Toro Greensmaster 3 QOD ride on green mower (with variable speed kit).

Jacobsen Greensking V ride on green mower.

Toro Reelmaster 23 QOD ride on tees/aprons mower.

Toro Reelmaster Sidewinder 3 IOD ride on fairway/surrounds mower.

John Deere gator utility vehicle (fitted with electric tipper).

Kawasaki Mule 3010 utility vehicle.

Amazone GS 10 top-dresser (used on Kawasaki mule).

Sisis Technicore multi-tine aerator.

Charterhouse/Redexim verti-drain multi tine aerator.

Sisis 5ft Green slitter.

Ransomes TM 80 5ft fairway slitter.

Amazone 5ft fairway slitter.

Sisis 5ft shallow green slitter.

Sisis overseeder.

Sisis 10ft green brush.

Thatch-away scarifying units.

Agrex Vicon type fertiliser spreader.

Royer soil shredder.

Dowd swell 352 rotavator.

Ryan junior turf cutter.

Marshall 4 tonne tipping trailer.

Marshall 4 tonne tipping trailer.

Marston 2 tonne tipping trailer.

Ransomes back-lapper.

Bernhard & Co Rapid facer 1000.

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BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION  
**BTME**  
& EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME

&

ClubHouse

# PREVIEW 2003

## Hurray for Harrogate

**It may not be Hollywood but to thousands of people involved in the golf industry Harrogate is the place to be seen in the third week of January.**

For people in the "non-playing" sector of the golf industry the third week in January is the highlight of the year - ring fenced at the expense of any other engagement from one year to the next.

That's when the North Yorkshire spa town of Harrogate attracts everyone connected with the course maintenance and administration of golf clubs to two of the biggest events in Europe.

BTME and ClubHouse, the new addition to the Harrogate experience, will draw visitors and exhibitors from all corners of Great Britain, Ireland and beyond, as well as delegates from the rest of the world to hear papers from the leading authorities in their respective subjects and view the latest developments in an industry that doesn't stand still for a second.

Combined, the two Shows create a unique "one-stop-shop" for all those involved in the running of the golf course and clubhouse respectively and to, return to to the Hollywood analogy, the names of BTME and ClubHouse will soon be linked as inextricably as Crosby and Hope; Bogart and Bacall and Fred and Ginger. Each complementing the other but being a star in their own right.

As ever education, in the shape of the Continue to Learn programme, is at the forefront of the week and highlights of the Education Conference, supported by John Deere, on the Monday and the Tuesday include Frank Newberry, Brin Bendon, Tony Mears and Kerran Daly on the first day and

Keith Happ, Steve Cook and Ken Siems on the second. Workshops include the popular Golf Course Design, Environmental Management, Soil Science and Master Greenkeeper.

The Keynote speaker, supported by Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd, sees Debra Veal, who rowed across an ocean - most of it alone after her husband developed a fear of the sea and had to leave the boat - describes her experiences.

The Seminar Programme in Harrogate International Centre consists of nine sessions each offering the delegate something different.

A new innovation for 2003 is the Careers Fair, supported by The Toro Company, which will provide information on careers in all parts of the industry and offer assistance in making the most of the opportunities which lie ahead.

On an entertainment front, as well as all the delights Harrogate has to offer, the two main events of the week are Former PGA Captain John Stirling who will be addressing the Education Conference Dinner and the Counterfeit Stones who will be playing to guests at the Exhibitions Banquet in the Majestic Hotel.

As ever, Harrogate Week is not to be missed, but in 2003 the reasons to attend are greater, and more compelling, than ever.

Hurray for Harrogate!



## AGCO Ltd (Massey Ferguson)

Stand: M11 & M22

Massey Ferguson has a comprehensive range of grounds care equipment ranging from high quality medium/high specification cab tractors to a wide range of petrol and diesel ride-on mowers designed to meet the needs of a variety of customers. An ideal higher horsepower range of tractors is the MF 2200 Series from 55 - 80 hp which are ideal for golf course use on grass tyres.

Lower down the horsepower range are the MF 1200 compact tractors 16.5 to 40 hp with mid-mounted decks, offering maximum operating efficiency, comfort and economy for year-round work in grounds care. We must not forget to include the redefined range of MF Ag.TV's which have more powerful engines, fully independent suspension throughout the range, selectable 2/4WD on all models and a revolutionary new rack system.

## Bayer Environmental Science (formerly Aventis Environmental Science)

Stand: C33

After the successful acquisition of Aventis Environmental Science in June of this year by Bayer CropScience, Bayer Environmental Science has been the new Company name from the Saltex Launch in September 2002. The Turf and Amenity Business will now have the signature branding of Chipco Professional Products, which will be highlighted and explained on the stand. Come and talk to us on stand C33, 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 quality jacket promotion for Rovral Green /Capricorn. 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.

We have a website with product information, calibration, weed death movies, printable safety data sheets and other useful information. Environmental Science continue to strive in answering Questions from the industry with New Novel Solutions.

## Bernhard & Co Ltd

Stand: B31

LEADING grinding specialist Bernhard and Company will show a top line-up of grinders for the workshop facility and offers golf clubs FREE ON-SITE DEMONSTRATIONS - which can be booked at BTME As used to support the PGA Tour 2002, the Express Dual 3000 spin grinder and Anglemaster 3000 bottom blade grinder help ensure cylinder mowers cut to tournament perfection.

Completing the highly cost-effective line-up are - Express Dual and Anglemaster 1000, Gear Rite, Rapid Relief, Rapid Facer, together with dedicated rotary grinder Rota Master.

As grass is often stressed during the mowing process - sharpen up the healthy future of your fine turf by using precision grinders from Bernhard.

## Gem Professional

Stand: A25

For 2003, Gem Professional will be expanding their current product portfolio to include the very latest in turf fertilizers and turf dressings which will continue to be of consistently high quality and for 2003 we will introduce some unique microbial turf treatments. Gem Professional look forward to welcoming you to stand A25 at BTME.

## General Legal Protection Ltd

BIGGA Stand

Q69

General Legal Protection Ltd will be at the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibition. If you have any legal problems or wish to seek advice, we are available on the BIGGA stand where phone facilities are available for you to call our free advice line.

We will also be offering you the chance to purchase an exclusive and unique product in SilverKnight Repair, the only Home Breakdown and Assistance Package of its kind. As well as this, there is also SilverKnight Rescue, the highly competitive Breakdown and Assistance package.

Don't forget to come and visit us at the BIGGA stand.

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## Grass Science

### Stand: Q28

Grass Science is a UK based independent agronomy consultancy, offering a complete service for the design, construction, maintenance and renovation of all types of sports surfaces including golf courses, soccer & rugby pitches. It can also assist in amenity, recreational and environmental projects. Grass Science also offers expertise in many other areas including project management, recruitment & training. Their consultants will be on-hand to help and advise on customers' individual requirements.

## Hayter Limited

### Stand: C41 & C22

Designed and built for European conditions, the Hayter range of grass cutting machinery is at home in the toughest municipal conditions or manicuring the finest golf courses. With removable or hinged covers allowing access to all components and many service parts being common throughout the range, routine and major maintenance can be carried out quickly and efficiently. Hayter will be showing a wide range of their machines including the FM524, fairway mower, GM56 pedestrian greens mower and R314 three unit rotary, all of which will be of particular interest to those responsible for the maintenance of golf courses.

## Haztek International

### Stand: D53

This year, Haztek International are delighted to launch the 'Safe Greenkeeper of the Year' Challenge. Open to all golf clubs and featuring great prizes for the top clubs, application forms will be available on the stand to put forward the nominees. Haztek will also be offering complimentary surveys to all clubs visiting the stand and our Senior Health and Safety Advisors will be happy to discuss all health and safety concerns and offer expert advice on any relevant subject.

Jerrard Winter will also be presenting a paper at the Seminar titled 'Eliminating the Hazards' detailing correct risk assessments for safer clubs.

## Hunter Grinders Ltd

### Stand: E1 & C11

Hunter Grinders Ltd are the leading authority on relief grinding, which is accepted as the most accurate and effective way of producing a sharp cut. BTME 2003 sees the launch of the new Amazon bottom blade grinder. A first in the market place, the Amazon is a major development in bottom blade grinding, designed to save time without compromising performance. It is the only bottom blade grinder that will grind both edges of the bottom blade simultaneously. The automatic traverse and, most importantly, automatic in-feed on both grinding heads, allow the grinder to run independently. Also on display will be the renowned Jupiter 2000 and Juno relief grinders.

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## John Deere Limited

### Stand: M9 & M10

Among a range of quality equipment for the professional greenkeeper and groundsman, John Deere's new 41hp and 45hp 4610 and 4710 large chassis compact tractors will be officially launched at BTME. These will be available with a choice of advanced eHydro and ePowrReverser transmissions, featuring the same innovative electronic controls and performance benefits as the smaller 4310 and 4410 mid chassis models introduced at the beginning of this year. Another new launch is the HD200, John Deere's own low-profile mounted sprayer specially designed for the ProGator utility vehicle. Details of all types of equipment finance will also be available from John Deere Credit.

## John Greasley Limited

### Stand: C21

The Company's first foray into Europe was undertaken during the summer with the reconstruction of 9 greens in Brussels at Royal Waterloo Golf Club. The new 9 hole course at Ballingalloch Castle was seeded down in the spring. This delightful course will rate as one of the best in the Highlands of Scotland.

Business continues to expand in the refurbishment and alterations market. This autumn a total of 40 greens have been reconstructed including all 20 greens at West Surrey Golf Club. All construction was to USGA specification under the watchful eye of agronomist George Shiels. The second 9 greens with surrounds were rebuilt at Abergele completing reconstruction over 2 years plus a further 6 greens at Chilwell Manor in Nottingham, the penultimate stage of this 18 hole project.

## Ocmis (UK) Ltd

### Stand: A4

Irrigation Service, Irrigation Installation, Irrigation Spares, Irrigation Design.

These are the four cornerstones of this successful irrigation company. As Rain Bird main distributors, Ocmis are able to offer durable, efficient, reliable and cost effective packages for progressive golf courses throughout the UK and Europe. ISO 9001 registered and with Professional Indemnity on all technical design, Ocmis offer their customers quality irrigation systems at affordable prices. Also specialising in pump-stations, aerators, fountains, landscape irrigation systems, storage tanks and pipe installation. With a spares stock of some £500,000.00 most items are available on a 24 hour delivery service. Contact Ocmis on 0870 600 5131.

## Rain Bird Europe SARRL

### Stand: Q1

Spanning six continents and touching more than 100 countries with its products and services, RAIN BIRD has grown to a position of industry leadership through a 60-year commitment to uncompromising quality. Dating from the introduction of its first product, the original impact sprinkler the company has been known for its innovation in both design and application of its products. Today, RAIN BIRD offers landscape and golf the widest choice of pop-up impact or gear driven sprinklers, electric valves and water management control systems. Whatever your irrigation needs are there is always a Rain Bird solution.

## Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd (formerly Textron)

### Stand: A23

#### ALTERNATIVE POWER FOR THE GOLF COURSE

The theme of this year's Ransomes Jacobsen stand is alternative power for golf turf maintenance applications and will feature a selection of electric and LPG powered equipment.

Making debuts at BTME under the Jacobsen brand are a new all-electric, walk behind greens mower, the E-Walk and the LF-1880, the very latest five reel, super lightweight fairway mower.

Other key products on display include the Jacobsen E-Plex II electric triplex greens mower; an electric E-Z-GO Workhorse 1000E utility vehicle; Turfco's UTM-60 top dresser mounted on a Cushman Turf Truckster; the walk behind GK522, the ever-reliable GKIV triplex and the G-Plex II. Also featured will be an LPG TXT golf car with ProLink's onboard GPS information system.

## Rigby Taylor

### Stand: Q29

Rigby Taylor, a BIGGA Golden Key Member, will be displaying their broad spectrum of products and services supplied to the amenity and landscape markets. Products featured will be specific problem-solvers e.g. For black layer treatment (Blockade G1000) for selective weed control (Bastion T & Greenor), for compaction problems (Integrate & Profile), for turf stress relief (Amino-Sorb) and for promoting general plant health (Activate). Their range of high quality Mascot grass seed mixes will be highlighted, many of which have a high STRI rating. See computer demonstrations of nutrient and product application programmes that can be tailored to individual requirements.

## The Scotts Company

### Stand: B34

The Scotts Company, the leading authority on turf nutrition and peat control in the UK and Europe, will be demonstrating a particularly rare event at BTME next January – the launch of a brand new active ingredient approved for use against turf diseases in the UK Sports and Amenity market. Recently, the trend has been for companies to withdraw active ingredients due to the high cost of registration and approval.

Greenkeepers are invited to the Scotts stand for a complete briefing on the benefits and application of this brand new turf fungicide, which is especially effective against Fusarium.

In addition, the stand will display the benefits of the complete Scotts turfcare armoury, including the turf management tool Shortcut, which can halve the amount of time grounds and greenkeeping staff need to spend mowing grass.



## Top Green & Prodana Seeds A/S

### Stand: Q30

Top Green distributes a range of seed and treatment products for the creation and maintenance of lawns and sports fields around Europe, North Africa, the Middle East & Eastern Europe.

Prodana Seeds A/S are specialists in the Scandinavian market, supplying seeds, fertilizers and machinery for the creation and maintenance of all landscape & sporting areas.

Both companies draw from their extensive research & development sites situated around Europe, enabling them to provide products that have been thoroughly tested.

## Toro Irrigation Products

### Stand: M12

#### TORO POPS UP WITH NEW SIMPLESET SPRINKLER

Toro is unveiling the SimpleSet Rotor, an exceptionally cost-effective pop-up sprinkler which delivers outstanding performance.

Ideal for golf courses, sports fields and landscaping applications, the new SimpleSet is very easy to adjust – just a simple twist of the adjustment band on the pop-up confirms the spray direction.

The unit has a full pop-up height of 127mm, which means it can deliver an effective spray, even in tall turf.

Also on show is the new 'decoder' version of Toro's 800S Series golf sprinkler. The new model had been developed for the UK, where the decoder is the preferred method of sprinkler control.

## TurfTrax Ground Management Systems Limited

### Stand: Q55

TurfTrax Ground Management Systems Limited is part of the TurfTrax Group Limited, which was founded in 1997 to commercialise research undertaken with Cranfield University.

TurfTrax's unique scanning technology delivers a non-invasive assessment of soil properties through to a depth of 1.2 metres. The precision technology and data enables the Greenkeeper to prepare and maintain 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 Systems create detailed and specific information about every part of the playing surface, enabling the appropriate management to optimise quality, cost effectiveness and environmental factors.

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To	
<b>Prevent</b>	leaching of nutrients
<b>Prevent</b>	hydrophobic soils
<b>Eliminate</b>	dry patch
<b>Reduce</b>	maintenance operations
<b>Reduce</b>	material Costs

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# 20-23 JANUARY 2003

## OPENING HOURS

Tuesday 21 January 2003	9.00am to 6.00pm
Wednesday 22 January 2003	9.00am to 5.00pm
Thursday 23 January 2003	9.00am to 5.00pm

## NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Monday 20 January and Tuesday 21 January, The Majestic Hotel

## WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Monday 20 January and Tuesday 21 January, The Majestic Hotel

## MASTER GREENKEEPER CERTIFICATE WORKSHOP

Tuesday 21 January, The Majestic Hotel

## SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 January, The Royal Hall

## Highlights of the Week

### The National Education Conference

Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 January,  
The Majestic Hotel

The National Education Conference commences on Monday 20 January at 8.45 am, in the Ballroom, at the Majestic Hotel with a theme of Management. Day One will cover People Management whereas Day Two will concentrate on Golf Course Management. The Conference concludes on Tuesday 21 January at 3.45 pm allowing delegates the opportunity to visit the BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions.

Delegates will be offered the flexibility of attending both days of the Conference or selecting one day which is of particular interest. Delegates may also wish to consider a combination of the Conference and Workshop Programmes.

### Workshop Programme

Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 January,  
The Majestic Hotel

The Workshop Programme offers delegates the chance to attend a two day Golf Course Design Workshop, a two day Environmental Management Workshop or a one day Soil Science Workshop.

Delegates will be offered the flexibility of attending either a two day workshop or mixing and matching the one day Workshop with the National Education Conference or Master Greenkeeper Certificate Workshop.

### Careers Fair

New for 2003 the Careers Fair expands on the successful Careers Clinic. Looking at careers across the industry including greenkeeping and golf course management, agronomy, golf professional, further and higher education and supporting industries. It also includes workshops on preparing CV's and letters of application, interview techniques and negotiation.

### Seminar Programme

Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 January, The Royal Hall

The Seminar Programme will run alongside the BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions offering delegates the opportunity to listen to speakers from the UK, Canada, the USA and Australia who will be presenting papers on a variety of subjects ranging from Grants and the Law to Turf Tips from the USGA Green Section.

### Social Programme

Two major social functions will take place this year, which are open to all visitors. The Education Dinner will take place on Monday 21 January in The Majestic Hotel with After Dinner Speaker John Stirling. The Exhibitions Banquet will take place on Thursday 23 January, also at The Majestic Hotel, starring The Counterfeit Stones followed by a disco with Funtime Music.

### Dress Code

To help promote a professional image it is requested that all delegates observe the following dress code. Conference and Workshops - Smart, casual attire (eg. No Jeans, T-shirts or work wear). Exhibition and Seminars - Casual attire. Dinner in Majestic Hotel and Banquet - Jacket and tie (or equivalent)

All delegates must register at the Conference Office in The Majestic Hotel before attending the National Education Conference or Workshops.

Sunday Arrivals - Delegates arrive and register at The Majestic Hotel, Conference Office between 4.30 pm and 6.30 pm on Sunday 19 January followed by dinner at 7.30 pm (Jacket and Tie must be worn). The Conference will commence on Monday 20 January at 8.45 am.

Monday Arrivals - Delegates arrive and register at The Majestic Hotel, Conference Office which will be open between 8.15 am and 5.15 pm.

Tuesday Arrivals - Delegates arrive and register at The Majestic Hotel, Conference Office which will be open from 8.15 am.



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## What's On?

### Monday 20 January

National Education Conference  
Golf Course Design 2 Workshop (Day 1)  
Environmental Management Workshop (Day 1)  
Soil Science Workshop  
Education Dinner

### Tuesday 21 January

National Education Conference  
Golf Course Design 2 Workshop (Day 2)  
Environmental Management Workshop (Day 2)  
Soil Science Workshop  
Master Greenkeeper Certificate Workshop  
BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions Open  
Careers Fair

### Wednesday 22 January

BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions  
Keynote Speaker  
Seminar Session One  
Seminar Session Two  
Seminar Session Three  
Seminar Session Four  
Careers Fair  
BIGGA AGM

### Thursday 23 January

BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions  
Seminar Session Five  
Seminar Session Six  
Seminar Session Seven  
Seminar Session Eight  
Seminar Session Nine  
Careers Fair  
Exhibitions Banquet

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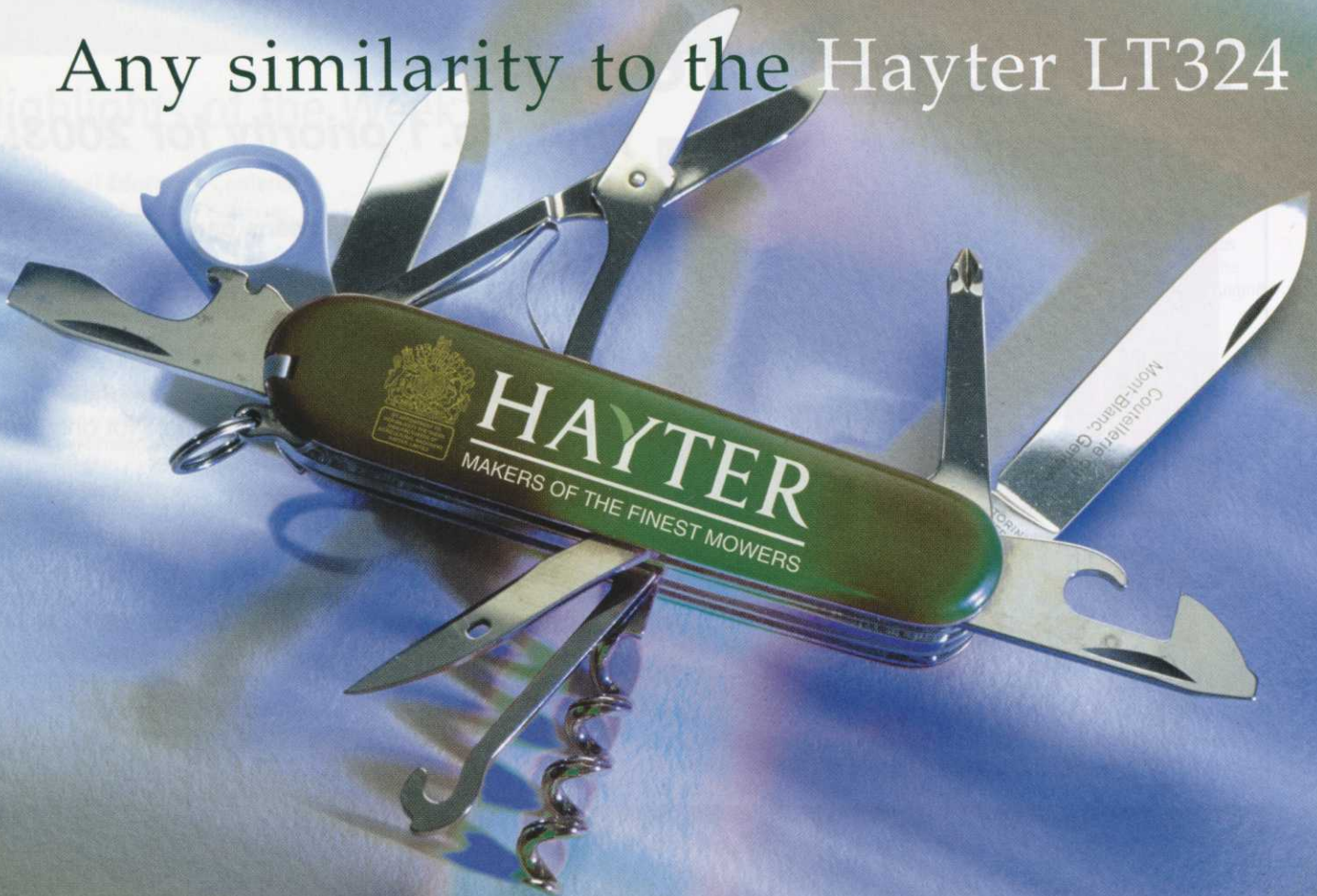


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Any similarity to the Hayter LT324





# DEBRA VEAL MBE announced as keynote speaker



Following the presentation of BIGGA Awards on Wednesday 22 January in the Royal Hall at 10.00am, Debra Veal will tell an epic story.

Debra was recently heralded as 'Britain's latest sporting heroine' when the media world reported the story of a young lady who carried on rowing alone when her husband, an international oarsman, left the boat after developing an uncontrollable fear of the ocean. Debra saw no reason to stop and rowed on to become unofficially the fourth woman in the world to have rowed an ocean solo.

The 3000 mile journey from Tenerife to Barbados that was initially supposed to take six weeks took Debra three and a half months and saw her battling with 30 foot waves, force 8 squalls and sharks, while having to dodge tankers that came too close for comfort on more than a few occasions.

Debra will speak on achieving the best with the support of a team and the need for first class preparation in order to be successful, as well as recounting an epic story of her 111 days at sea.

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## Social Programme

Monday 20 January

Education Dinner - Majestic Hotel



With after dinner speaker - John Stirling,  
PGA qualified Golf Professional

John has been a Golf Professional since 1954 when he started his career at Woking Golf Club. He was PGA Captain in 1989 and is now an Honorary Life Member of the PGA. Most recently Senior Professional at Meon Valley Hotel, Golf and Country Club Resort, where he was also President.

7.00 pm for 7.30 pm in the North Lounge.  
Dress - Lounge Suit / Jacket and Tie.  
Cost: £ 32 per person.

Thursday 23 January

Exhibitions Banquet - Majestic Hotel

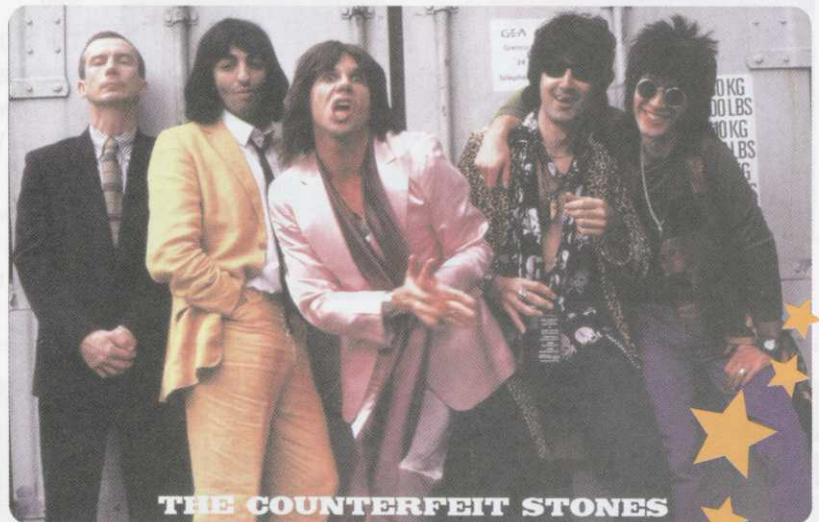
Starring The Counterfeit Stones, followed by a Disco with Funtime Music until 12.15 am.

More than a tribute to the Rolling Stones, the Counterfeit Stones are a complete re-enactment. Their attention to detail has earned them critical acclaim from a multitude of sources and whether it be a lick on the guitar or the wipe of an eyebrow, no stone is left unturned. The result "Probably the Second Greatest Rock 'N' Roll Band in the World". The Exhibitions Banquet will once again prove to be the year's social highlight.

7.00 pm for 7.30 pm in the North Lounge of the Majestic Hotel.

Dress - Lounge Suit/Jacket and Tie.

Cost: £ 32 per person.



THE COUNTERFEIT STONES

## How to get to historic Harrogate

### BY RAIL:

Train information for all services, call 08457 484950. Main line services to Leeds and York, then regional railways to Harrogate. The Majestic Hotel is 15 minutes walk from the station; Taxi fare is approximately £3.50.

### BY AIR:

Leeds/Bradford airport is 12 miles/20 minutes drive away – you can take the airport bus to Leeds, then a train to Harrogate. Taxi fare direct is approximately £18. Manchester airport is 56 miles from Harrogate/one hour and 15 minutes drive away. Take a train from the airport via Leeds.

### BY ROAD:

From the north and south on A1M, exit A59 to Harrogate (five miles from town centre).

M1: To Leeds – 15 miles from Harrogate (A61). From Manchester: M62: To Leeds – 15 miles from Harrogate (A61).

### BY SEA:

North Sea Ferries, from Rotterdam/Zeebrugge to Hull, 59 miles away.

### Accommodation

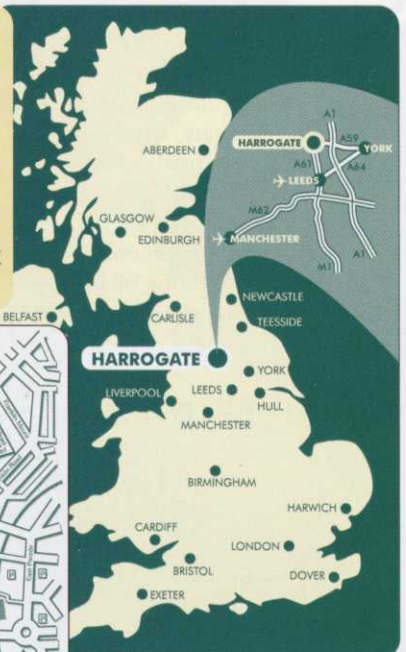
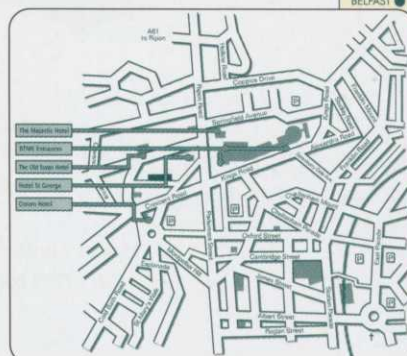
All delegates and exhibitors wishing to book their own accommodation should contact Reservation Highway on:

01423 525577

or via:

[www.reservation-highway.co.uk](http://www.reservation-highway.co.uk)

Access code: bigga





# Learning

Education & Training for Professional Greenkeepers



As a member of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, BIGGA is actively involved in raising the Standard of Greenkeeper Training. The range and quality of training now available means that there is a training course for every greenkeeper which should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce quality golf courses.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards, beginning by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC. There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and if you think that training is expensive then try ignorance.

Ken Richardson  
Education and Training Manager,  
British and International Golf  
Greenkeepers Association

Tel: 01347 833800  
Email: [education@bigga.co.uk](mailto:education@bigga.co.uk)  
Website: [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)



The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) is continually striving to raise the standards of Golf Course Maintenance and Management and they are totally committed to ensuring that the range of qualifications are relevant to the Sportsturf sector and used by Employers for recruitment and by trainees for their own personal development.

The Government endorsed awards range from National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications (N/SVQ's) to the more academic Higher National Certificate (HNC)/National Diploma (ND)/Higher National Diploma (HND) in Golf Course Management and the Degree in Sportsturf Science.

The qualifications are continually under review by the National Training Organisation (NTO) in association with

the GTC. The quality of the delivery of these awards by the network of GTC Approved Training Providers is also constantly monitored by the GTC. For up to date independent advice on qualifications, education and training courses contact the GTC on:-

Tel: 01347 838640  
Email: [golf@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:golf@the-gtc.co.uk)  
Website: [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)





# GREENKEEPER TRAINING

abingdon-witney college

**ABINGDON AND WITNEY COLLEGE** Warren Farm Campus, Horton-cum-Studley, Oxford OX33 1BY **Contact:** Alan Brown or John Revis **Tel:** 01865 351794 **Fax:** 01865 358931 **Email:** alan.brown@abingdon-witney.ac.uk **Web:** www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk **Information:** Warren Farm Campus is the base for Abingdon and Witney College's education and training in Greenkeeping, Sportsturf, Amenity horticulture and allied land based courses for the whole of Oxfordshire. Courses include: NVQ Levels 2 & 3 in Sportsturf, Landscaping and Nursery. We also offer a range of short courses for the Industry including Health & Safety, pesticide training and chainsaw operation. For more information contact either Alan Brown or John Revis on Tel: 01865 351794 or Fax: 01865 358931.



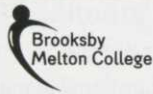
**ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE** Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 3FR **Contact:** Central Admissions **Tel:** 01904 772211 **Fax:** 01904 772288 **Email:** sf@askham-bryan.ac.uk **Web:** www.askham-bryan.ac.uk **Information:** National Certificate in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture (Turf Option), Higher National Certificate in Horticulture (Golf Course Management): part-time study. Higher National Diploma in Horticulture (Golf Management Option) all available full or part time. Block release courses: NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance, NVQ Level 4 Amenity Horticulture. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.



**BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE** Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 6QR **Contact:** Laurie Brown **Tel:** 01628 824444 **Fax:** 01628 824695 **Email:** enquiries@bca.ac.uk **Web:** www.bca.ac.uk **Information:** Located in the Thames Valley, BCA has excellent resources for horticultural based training including a six-hole golf training facility opened by HRH The Duke of York. Programmes include the First Diploma, National Certificate and National Diploma in Horticulture, with Landscape Design and Greenkeeping options plus Higher National Diploma/Certificate programmes. Part-time programmes include NVQ Level 2 and 3 Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf. Residential accommodation is available.



**BRINSBURY CAMPUS, CHICHESTER COLLEGE** North Heath, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 1DL **Tel:** 01243 786321 **Fax:** 01798 875222 **Email:** info@Chichster.ac.uk **Web:** www.brinsbury.ac.uk **Information:** FULL-TIME: National Diploma Horticulture (Sports Turf), National Certificate Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sports Turf options), BTEC First Diploma New Entrant Horticulture. PART-TIME: NVQ3 Sports Turf Maintenance (Work based), NVQ2 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sports Turf options), plus varied Short Courses including Chainsaw, Brushcutter/Strimmer, Spray Courses PA1/PA2/PA6/PA9 etc.



**BROOKSBY MELTON COLLEGE** Brooksby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE14 2LJ **Contact:** Ann Hurt/Jo Lees **Tel:** 01664 850850 **Fax:** 01664 855355 **Email:** course.enquiries@brooksbymelton.ac.uk **Web:** www.brooksbymelton.ac.uk **Information:** Situated on the A607 between Leicester and Melton Mowbray. Programmes available include NVQ Level II, III & IV in Greenkeeping. Work based emphasis for all of these programmes. Short courses available in Arboriculture/Chainsaw work, TDLB training and Pesticide application training.



**CANNINGTON COLLEGE** Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2LS **Contact:** Philip Sharples **Tel:** 01278 655084 **Fax:** 01278 655055 **Email:** sharplesp@cannington.ac.uk **Web:** www.cannington.ac.uk **Information:** Edexcel National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture (Sportsturf), Certificate of Higher Education in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Turfgrass Science and Technology, NVQ Level II Golf Greenkeeping, NVQ Level III Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management, NVQ Level IV Horticulture (Sportsturf), FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Off-road Vehicle Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics. Certificate in Irrigation (BTLIA) 1 week course; National Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping (1yr FT). Note: Certificate of Higher Education and Foundation Degrees both available as part time option.



**EAST DURHAM AND HOUGHALL COMMUNITY COLLEGE** Houghall, Durham, DH1 3SG **Contact:** Tony Milan **Tel:** 0191 386 1351 **Fax:** 0191 386 0419 **Email:** enquiry@edhcc.ac.uk **Web:** www.edhcc.ac.uk **Information:** Full-time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship - 1 year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option - 2/3 years. Part time courses: Greenkeeping and Sportsturf maintenance NVQ Level 2 - Day Release. NVQ Level 3/4 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance Day Release. Short courses: FEPA Modules, Chainsaw certification, Tree inspection, Horticultural Machinery, Safe Lifting and First Aid.



**HADLOW COLLEGE** Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL **Contact:** Norman Croasdale **Tel:** 01732 852152 **Fax:** 01732 853207 **Email:** normancroasdale@hadlow.ac.uk **Web:** www.hadlow.ac.uk **Information:** First Diploma Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Horticulture (Sports Turf Option) National Award, Amenity Horticulture.



**HARTPURY COLLEGE** Hartpury House, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL19 3BE **Contact:** Lucy Cable **Tel:** 01452 702132 **Fax:** 01452 700629 **Email:** enquire@hartpury.ac.uk **Web:** www.hartpury.ac.uk **Information:** Courses available: College Certificate Greenkeeping, First Diploma Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Award Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Award Greenkeeping & Groundsmanship, National Certificate Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Certificate Greenkeeping & Groundsmanship, National Diploma Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Diploma Greenkeeping & Groundsmanship, National Diploma Sport (Performance and Excellence)(Golf Studies). Work Based Training NVQ's, RHS examinations City & Guilds, TDLB Assessor Awards as well as a full range of amateur, leisure and day release courses.



**MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE** Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey, GU3 3PE **Contact:** Joe Paulin **Tel:** 01483 884088 **Fax:** 01483 884001 **Email:** info@merristwood.ac.uk **Web:** www.merristwood.ac.uk **Information:** Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visits/assessments at Crawley, Level 2 Edexcel National Diploma college day release for those without qualified workplace accessories, NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visits/assessments, Level 3 Edexcel National Award college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors, Edexcel HNC Turfgrass Science and Management college day release over 2 years plus various short courses throughout the year. Edexcel HND Turfgrass Science and Management college day release. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice. Career Evenings held monthly at the college.



**MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE** Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY **Contact:** Colin Stanfield **Tel:** 01995 642222/642305 **Fax:** 01995 642333 **Email:** mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk **Web:** www.myerscough.ac.uk **Information:** Full time courses: BSc (Hon's) Turfgrass Science, HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management; Foundation Degree Sportsturf Science, ND Turf Science & Sportsground Maintenance; NC Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping; First Diploma; Turf Science: NVQ Level 2, 3 & 4 Greenkeeping Management delivered both in the work place and over the internet using the colleges 'Mollnet System'. Part-time courses NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance (Day/block release or Fast track work-based training qualification). All higher education courses can be accessed on a part time basis: HNC Turf Science: FEPA Short courses. NPTC Certificates of competence in the safe use of mowers and turfcare equipment.



**NESSCOT - NORTH EAST SURREY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY** Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 3DS **Contact:** Mr S Smith **Tel:** 020 8394 3220 **Email:** info@nescot.ac.uk **Web:** www.nescot.ac.uk **Information:** NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options). Part time Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses. Also available - RHS General and Advanced Certificates in Horticulture. RHS Diploma in Horticulture.



**OAKLANDS COLLEGE** St Albans, Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA **Contact:** Ian Merrick **Tel:** 01727 737000 **Fax:** 01727 737752 **Email:** ian.merrick@oaklands.ac.uk **Web:** www.oaklands.ac.uk **Information:** Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping, Modern Apprenticeships. Evening Courses: leading to NVQ Level 4. Short Courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw.



**PLUMPTON COLLEGE** Ditchling Road, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 3AE **Contact:** David Blackmur **Tel:** 01273 890454 **Fax:** 01273 890071 **Email:** enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk **Web:** www.plumpton.ac.uk **Information:** HNC (Sportsturf, subject to validation) National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture, National Award (Garden Design), First Diploma in Horticulture. Part time courses: NVQ Level 1; NVQ Level 2 in Amenity and Sportsturf; NVQ Level 3 Landscaping and Sportsturf; NVQ Level 4. Also available are RHS General and RHS Advanced; IOG National Technical and Intermediate National Diploma. Short courses are also available for FEPA spraying and chainsaw.



**REASEHEATH COLLEGE** Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6DF **Contact:** Brian Jones **Tel:** 01270 613236 **Fax:** 01270 625665 **Email:** brianj@reaseheath.ac.uk **Web:** www.reaseheath.ac.uk **Information:** Full time First Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 1 year. National Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 2 years. BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management - 3 years. Part time: HNC Golf Course Management with Open Learning option, NVQ Levels 1-4 Greenkeeping with Fast Track options. IOG courses available. Short courses: FEPA, Chemical Safety; Safe Lifting; Chainsaws, Off-Road Vehicle Driving; First Aid.



# Training providers guide

## Available courses guide

This guide is not exhaustive and a full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of training providers offering greenkeeper training courses. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeeper Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, Tel: 01347 838640 or visit their website at <http://www.the-gtc.co.uk>

### ENGLAND



**SPARSHOLT COLLEGE HAMPSHIRE** Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 2NF **Contact:** Ray Broughton **Tel:** 01962 776441 **Fax:** 01962 776587  
**Email:** [rbroughton@sparsholt.ac.uk](mailto:rbroughton@sparsholt.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.sparsholt.ac.uk](http://www.sparsholt.ac.uk) **Information:** NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase IV Management Studies, National Diplomas in Golf Course Management and Golf Studies, National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management. GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC: Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FEPA: Short courses, Chainsaws. Phase IV and NVQ Level 2 are offered on block release and day release. Full residential facilities available. Sparsholt College provides education and training in the land-based industries.



**THE COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA** Milton Campus **Contact:** Bob Young **Tel:** 01223 860701 **Email:** Student Support at King's Lynn on 01553 761144 Ext 271  
**Information:** The College of West Anglia offers a full range of courses for Greenkeepers including: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf (Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship), NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance. GTC Craft Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, TDLB Assessors awards. FEPA, Chain Saws, MO1. Other Courses: National and First Diploma in Horticulture and Garden Design.



**WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE** Royal Leamington Spa & Moreton Morrell, Moreton Morrell, Warwick, Warwickshire, CV35 9BL **Contact:** Brian Cook **Tel:** 01926 318268  
**Fax:** 01926 318300 **Email:** [enquiries@warkscol.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@warkscol.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.warkscol.ac.uk](http://www.warkscol.ac.uk) **Information:** Greenkeeping Courses: HNC Sports Turf & Golf Course Management (Day Release 2 year Programme also distance learning option); NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and Workbased Option (we come to you); two year ND in Horticulture with Turf Option; BTLIA Certificate in Turf Irrigation. Short Courses: Introduce your Committee to Turf Culture; Computing for the Greenkeeper - various times throughout the year - ring for details. FEPA: Spraying Certification, Chainsaw Certification; TDLB; First Aid. Also RHS General and Diploma, PA1, PA2A and PA6. Professional Certificate/Diploma in Greenkeeping.

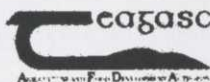


**WRITTLE COLLEGE** Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR **Contact:** David Campbell **Tel:** 01245 424200 **Fax:** 01245 420456 **Web:** [www.writtle.ac.uk](http://www.writtle.ac.uk)  
**Information:** SPORTSTURF PROGRAMMES NVQ Level 2 - Sportsturf; NVQ Level 3 - Sportsturf Maintenance. NVQ Levels 2 & 3 - Amenity Horticulture. HNC - Sportsturf Science. HND - Sportsturf and Golf Course Management. Other Programmes: National Certificate, National Diploma (with Sportsturf Option). BSc (Hons) Sportsturf Science and Management. BSc (Hons) Horticulture. BSc (Hons) Landscape and Amenity Management. MSc Landscape and Amenity Management. NVQ 2 and 3 Service Engineering. First Diploma Agriculture (Mechanisation), C & G Agricultural Mechanics Certificate. FEPA. Chainsaw. Tractor Driving.

### IRELAND



**GREENMOUNT COLLEGE** Antrim, County Antrim, BT41 4PU **Contact:** Declan Gallagher **Tel:** 028 94 426794 **Email:** [declan.gallagher@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:declan.gallagher@dardni.gov.uk) **Web:** [www.greenmount.ac.uk](http://www.greenmount.ac.uk)  
**Information:** Day release courses to (a) NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf, (b) NVQ Level III Golf Course Supervision, (c) Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture (Sportsturf), (d) National Diploma & Higher National Diploma turf options FEPA, Health and Safety and a range of short courses.



**TEAGASC COLLEGE** College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin, DUBLIN 9 **Contact:** Pat Suttle **Tel:** 00353 16376133 **Fax:** 00353 18040212  
**Email:** [college@botanic.teagasc.ie](mailto:college@botanic.teagasc.ie) **Web:** [www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie) **Information:** Block release courses in greenkeeping providing Level III Certificates by the National Council of Vocational Awards. Level III Certificate in Golf Course Management. 3 year full-time course. National Council for educational awards a National Diploma in Horticulture (Greenkeeping specialisation).

### SCOTLAND



**ELMWOOD COLLEGE** Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB **Contact:** Ann Bain **Tel:** 01334 658842 **Fax:** 01334 658888 **Email:** [abain@elmwood.ac.uk](mailto:abain@elmwood.ac.uk)  
**Information:** Full time National Certificate Greenkeeping; Block Release SVQ Level II, SVQ Level III Sportsturf block release and Outreach available, and SVQ Level IV, HNC/D Golf Course Management available as full-time, block release and distance learning. HNC Golf Facility Management, HND Golf Facility Management, PDA for football and cricket available both block release and Outreach. FEPA and COSHH, chainsaws, tree climbing and rescue techniques and Health and Safety short courses also available.



**GOSTA TRAINING LTD** 5E Clydeaway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow, G3 8JU **Contact:** Chris Bothwell **Tel:** 0141 248 2772 **Fax:** 0141 248 2453  
**Email:** [learn@gostatraining.co.uk](mailto:learn@gostatraining.co.uk) **Information:** SVQ II, III and IV also Modern Apprenticeship in Sportsturf including other options and GTC Training Manual. Attendance Day/Block release from November - March. Distance Learning also available. Short courses with certification include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Risk Assessment, Abrasive Wheels, Full Range of Machinery Courses, Manual Handling and Fire Extinguisher training. Consultancy service for Health and Safety Policy development, Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use system, COSHH and Noise Assessment.



**LANGSIDE COLLEGE** Rutherglen Campus, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen, Glasgow, G73 3PF **Contact:** Colin S Urquhart **Tel:** 0141 647 6300 **Email:** [colinurq@perseus.langside.ac.uk](mailto:colinurq@perseus.langside.ac.uk)  
**Information:** SVQ, SGA, HNC, HND. Full time and part-time courses in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Land and Environment and Applied Ecology. Short courses for land-based industries including Risk Assessment and Pesticides.



**OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE** Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn, West Lothian, Edinburgh, EH52 6NH **Contact:** Steve Miller **Tel:** 01506 854387 **Fax:** 01506 853373  
**Email:** [info@oatridge.ac.uk](mailto:info@oatridge.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.oatridge.ac.uk](http://www.oatridge.ac.uk) **Information:** HNC In Golf Course Management (Part-time): Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management: SVQ Level II and GTC Manual (Day and Block Release): SVQ Level III Sportsturf (Day and Block Release) SVQ Level III in Ground Care Machinery, full range of Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping and other land based subjects at HND and HNC, National Certificate and SVQ Levels; Short Course - FEPA, Chainsaw, Forklift, First Aid.

### WALES



**PENCOED COLLEGE** Pencoed, Bridgend, Cardiff, CF35 5LG **Contact:** Paul Discombe or John Sullivan **Tel:** 01656 302672 **Fax:** 01656 302601  
**Email:** [pdiscombe@bridgend.ac.uk](mailto:pdiscombe@bridgend.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.bridgend.ac.uk](http://www.bridgend.ac.uk) **Information:** NVQ Sportsturf Level 2-3, HNC/HND Turf Management. National Certificate/Advanced National Certificate - Sportsturf Management. Short courses: PA1, PA2, PA6a and Chainsaws.



## The Grass is Greener with Myerscough Sportsturf!



Myerscough College

Providing opportunities for all.

### Why Myerscough?

At Myerscough College, in Lancashire we are good at what we do! We have an outstanding reputation for our diverse range of courses and excellent facilities. Pioneers in delivering Sportsturf education at degree level, we are renowned for our state-of-the-art facilities. Needless to say, our graduates are highly sought after!

### What Can I Study?

#### Courses include:

- BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science
  - BA (Hons) Golf Course Management (1 year top-up from 2004)
  - Foundation Degree in Sportsturf
  - HND/HNC Turf Science & Golf Course Management
  - National Diploma Turf Science & Sportsground Management
  - National Certificate Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping
  - First Diploma Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping
  - NVQ Level I, II, III & IV Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping
  - NPTC Mower and Turf Care Equipment Certificates
- We also offer work-based training and research trial opportunities.

### Our Facilities

- State-of-the-art Toro equipment
- Nine-hole golf course
- Golf driving range
- State-of-the-art computer software
- Variety of sports pitches
- Purpose built turf technology unit & storage facilities
- Extensive laboratories

### Careers Advice Sessions

You are welcome to visit our campus and meet our friendly staff to discuss your options on any of the following days:

- |                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Saturday 2nd November 2002  | 10.00am - 12.30pm |
| • Saturday 7th December 2002  | 10.00am - 12.30pm |
| • Saturday 18th January 2003  | 10.00am - 12.30pm |
| • Saturday 22nd February 2003 | 10.00am - 12.30pm |
| • Saturday 8th March 2003     | 10.00am - 12.30pm |
| • Saturday 12th April 2003    | 10.00am - 12.30pm |



Call us for more information on

01995 642211

Myerscough College, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY  
www.myerscough.ac.uk mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk



The GTC is responsible to ensure the Greenkeeping sector has a range of qualifications appropriate to the needs of the industry and maintain a partnership with a network of Approved Training Providers who offer training courses to complement qualifications.

To improve its communication structure the GTC has recently been appointing part-time Liaison Officers across the United Kingdom however some posts are still available (see website).

For independent advice on any matters relating to Greenkeeper training or the role of the Liaison Officer please contact the GTC at the address below.

You can also check out our website [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk) for the most up to date information or email us with any questions to [golf@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:golf@the-gtc.co.uk)



The Greenkeepers Training Committee Ltd  
Aldwark Manor, Aldwark  
Alne, York YO61 1UF

Tel 01347 838640 Fax 01347 838775



## GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Can help you fill the following vacancies

- COURSE MANAGER
- HEAD GREENKEEPER
- DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER
- ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER
- SALES REPRESENTATIVES AND SALES MANAGERS
- ENGINEERS, TECHNICIANS AND MECHANICS

*In return we will offer you:*

- Unrivalled exposure in the turfcare industry's leading magazine
  - A specific target market with a circulation of 9,000
  - Free online advertising with every advertisement placed

Please telephone Jennifer Whichello or Cheryl Broomhead in the first instance, to discuss your requirements on:

**01347 833800**

Email: [jennifer@bigga.co.uk](mailto:jennifer@bigga.co.uk) or [cheryl@bigga.co.uk](mailto:cheryl@bigga.co.uk)

## Get in the Swing of things at Hartpury College...

Hartpury College is an outstanding provider of Further Education land-based, sports and related courses. We pride ourselves on our portfolio of programmes which provide you with the best choices and the qualifications you need to realise your full potential.

### You can study for these qualifications...

- Foundation Modern Apprenticeships
- Advanced Modern Apprenticeships
- City & Guilds
- RHS Qualifications
- NVQ's
- National Awards
- National Certificates
- First Diplomas
- National Diplomas
- Higher National Diplomas
- BSc (Hons) Degrees

### ...in the following subject areas...

- Greenkeeping
- Sportsturf
- Amenity Horticulture
- Landscaping
- Sport (Performance & Excellence) (Golf)
- Outdoor Education
- Sports Conditioning & Coaching

### Higher Education Information Days

Lecturers are on hand to give course-specific tours and answer any questions on a one-to-one basis.

### Careers Mornings

- Saturday 11th January 2003, 10am - 1pm
- Saturday 8th February 2003, 10am - 1pm

- Wednesday 15th January 1.30pm - 4.30pm
- Saturday 15th February 10am - 1pm

For further information,  
Tel: 01452 702132  
E-mail: [enquire@hartpury.ac.uk](mailto:enquire@hartpury.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.hartpury.ac.uk](http://www.hartpury.ac.uk)  
Hartpury College, Hartpury House,  
Gloucester, GL19 3BE

**HARTPURY**  
**COLLEGE**





# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

## THE TURFCARE INDUSTRY'S LEADING MAGAZINE

- In depth editorial features
- Comprehensive and effective classified section
- Up to the minute education and training reviews
- Extensive Recruitment pages
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# HYDRAULICS

**Roland Taylor looks at the history of something which has made all our lives easier**

**In these days of high technology it is easy to forget all the research, time, sweat, sleepless nights and money that was put into developing something we use everyday and simply take for granted. Hydraulics is a case in point.**

**By having a better understanding of hydraulics, how they work and their maintenance requirements is of considerable benefit in achieving optimum performance and identifying the possible cause of a failure.**

Hydraulic power, or fluid power as it is sometimes known, involves liquids in motion or under pressure. This force has been used for centuries, but it was not until the 1650s that a Swiss scientist Pascal, and physicist Bernoulli, formulated hydraulic power laws which are still used in modern applications. It was nearly 200 years before these laws could be applied, thanks to the invention of mechanical pumps. By 1882 the City of London had installed a pressurised water system that delivered supplies, through underground mains, to factories, for running the machinery. The next milestone was in 1902, when the American warship, the USS "Virginia", was fitted out with an oil hydraulic system to control its guns. Eighteen years later the first self-contained unit was introduced.

A man who played a significant part in the development of hydraulics, was tractor manufacturer, Harry Ferguson. Although there was no direct link with golf then, his tractors and other manufacturer's models, that used his system, eventually found their way onto most courses. These units were the forerunners of those now found on modern machines.

In 1936, Ferguson launched the "Black tractor" onto the agriculture market, it had a unique integral hydraulically controlled three-point-linkage. Within a decade most tractor and implement manufacturers throughout the world, had copied the system.

Since the last war the growth of fluid technology has been phenomenal and when it comes to transmission systems, hydraulic power leads the way.

## HOW DOES FLUID POWER WORK?

It basically involves controlling the circulation of a pressurised fluid, to a motor, which converts it into a mechanical output that works satisfactorily under load. The main benefits of this system are its flexibility, the ability to multiply a force efficiently. In addition, response is accurate and faster than any other power transmitting system. Even under varying loads a precise speed can be maintained. A single lever controls the transmission unit's speed and smoothly alters the direction of travel without a clutch being engaging and the manually changing of gears. This is a big plus when working in confined areas or using a loader. As part of a piece of

machinery's overall design the number of mechanical drive components is greatly reduced.

The link between the pump and motor is not rigid so a hydraulic system is very flexible. Often the motors are a considerable distance from the pump. These features can be seen in machinery such as, long reach flails or a ride-on triple with floating cutting units, so they closely follow the terrain.

A hydraulic system consists of the following, a tank or reservoir, pump and motors, plus control valves and hoses.

The tank has to be large enough to supply the whole system plus a reserve supply. As the oil passes round the system it heats up, mainly due to the friction, created by the moving parts, so it needs to be cooled before being re-circulated. At some point before it is returned to the tank, the oil passes through a cooling unit, which generally consist of a fan, either blowing or drawing cold air through cooling fins.

The pump's function is to create a pressurised oil flow.

Depending on the application, there are generally of two types of motor used, in hydraulic systems - linear or rotational.

The linear unit consists of a piston inside a cylinder (RAM). A piston rod connects the force that is created to the external load. As these units generate force in a straight line they are used on turf machinery for lifting or lowering units. On tractors this type of motor is mostly used to operate the three-point-linkage and power steering.

In a rotational motor, pressurised oil drives the gears, vanes or pistons, this produces torque on the output shaft. They are used to drive cutting cylinders and wheels.

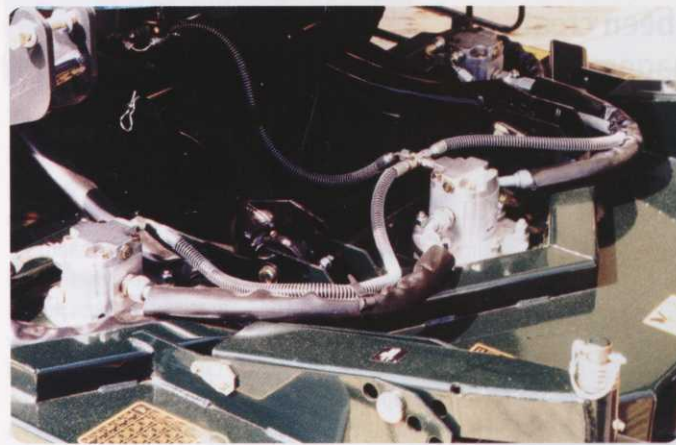
Special hoses and connectors have to be used because the oil is under considerable pressure.

Self-contained hydrostatic transmissions are very popular and these are generally found on the small estate and garden tractors, some ride-ons and pedestrian rotary and cylinder mowers.

All systems have some form of by-pass valve for moving the machine, without the engine running. These are also generally used to bleed the system of air.







#### TAKING CARE

On most systems, maintenance is relatively minimal, there are however a number of other factors that need to be taken into account to ensure continued optimum performance and long life.

The components of the pumps and motors are manufactured to very fine tolerances so if the oil becomes contaminated with dirt, then serious internal damage can occur. If water gets into the system it will create major problems.

From time to time the reservoir tank will need to be topped up. Make sure the recommended hydraulic fluid, as shown in the manual, is used.

The manufacturer will have carefully routed all the hydraulic hoses and secured them with some type of fastening. During work these fasteners can become damaged, break or lost, as a result a hose may then chafe against another part of the machine. If this is not spotted and dealt with, a hole eventually forms and bearing in mind that the oil is very hot and under pressure a very unpleasant situation could occur, which endangers the operator and also badly damage the turf.

Connectors are a point where foreign bodies can enter the system, so these need to be kept clean and checked regular to ensure they are working correctly.

As already mentioned, it is important that the oil is kept at the correct temperature. Two things can affect this - the lack of oil or an ineffective cooling system. To avoid the first one, it is necessary to check the levels periodically, as recommend in the instruction manual. Also be on the look out for any signs of leakage, such as small pools of oil on the floor area where the machine is stored. Some manufacturers such as John Deere, now offer a hydraulic oil leak detection kit for some of their machines. If these detect a leak an audible alarm and a warning light warn the operator.

Cooling fins are often used to keep the fluid at the correct temperature. These can become clogged up with dried grass and dirt, as a result the airflow across them becomes either restricted or non-existent. Regular inspection, and cleaning if necessary, will avoid these hot spots occurring.

#### OTHER WARNING SIGNS

There are other signs that may indicate a problem to watch out for. If a unit is showing loss of power, noisy, not working or the oil is foamy, then air may have entered the system. The answer in this case will be to bleed

the system. As each machine has a different system it is necessary to consult the users manual.

A point that is shown in the John Deere instructions, for bleeding a system, is obviously very important and should be checked out regarding other makes of machines. They state that pumps should never be bled or purge under load as this could seriously damage them. It also says that the machine needs to be jacked up so the tyres are off the ground when carrying out this operation.

#### BIODEGRADABLE OIL

Apart from the environmental issue, these have another advantage. In the event of an accident where hydraulic oil is sprayed onto the turf, damage will occur because of the heat, but there is a high chance of recovery.

Before proceeding to use biodegradable oil you need to check with the supplier or manufacturer of the equipment to ensure they endorse the use of it. There are some operations where it is not recommended. The other down side is the cost, it is more expensive than normal oils.

John Deere says in their literature, that there are other factors that should be taken into account, these include, increased oil change costs and possibly higher maintenance bills, especially where systems are working at high temperatures and with heavy loads.

Where biodegradable oil is being used there are signs to be on the lookout for. If the fluid becomes black there is probably an overheating problem. Where it is milky then the chances are water is in the system. The fluid needs to be cold to obtain its correct level.

Hydraulic power has over the last few decades played a significant part in the efficiency and cost effectiveness of a majority of equipment used on a golf course. Maintenance requirements and schedules have been considerably reduced in recent years, but it is still important that if maximum output and long life are to be achieved, regular checks are carried out and any faults identified and rectified as quickly as possible.

With any hydraulic system a watchful eye can often spot a minor problem before it becomes a major one, so always be vigilant.





# R&A Golf Course committee

## LEADERSHIP AND GUIDANCE

Scott MacCallum meets Michael Barratt, the public face of the R&A's new Golf Course committee which has been created to offer leadership and guidance on course management issues



Everyone knows that the R&A organises The Open Championship

Approach any group of golfers and ask them who is the governing body for the game and most will be able to tell you that it is the R&A. Ask the same group what the R&A does and some will be able to tell you that they set the rules of the game and organise The Open and several of the largest amateur events on the calendar like the Walker Cup and the Amateur Championship.

But the R&A's input into the game now stretches much further and deeper than that to the extent that, with the formation of a new committee, clubs everywhere – particularly in Europe to begin with – can look forward to receiving best-practice guidelines on course management, an accreditation system and co-ordinated research effort.

The Golf Course committee has been born out of R&A Secretary Peter Dawson's desire to offer genuine leadership on vital golf-related matters.

The public face of the Golf Course committee, which replaces the R&A Advisory Panel, which had a similar, if less dynamic, remit, is a man whose face is, indeed, very well known to the public. Michael Barratt's experience in television and media communications is second to none and for several years now he has been working with the R&A. Now he has become Communication Consultant to the new committee.

"We aim to promote best practice guidelines on those issues and also create a system of accreditation to be used across Europe and eventually beyond."

Some time ago, the Advisory Panel identified six key issues affecting course management in these changing times: Climate or climatic change; water; chemicals, planning; levels of play and finally the environment.

Michael was initially responsible for a three-pronged campaign to spread the word and instigate debate on the issues - a video, "A Course for All Seasons"; an accompanying booklet with the same title and two





Michael Barratt, the public face of the new R&A Golf Course committee

Conferences, one in St Andrews, "On Course for Change" (covered in the March 2000 issue of Greenkeeper International), and the other on the continent.

The video and booklet explained the real fundamentals of golf course management and showed how different types of golf courses were managed. This was sent to each golf club in Great Britain and Ireland as well as to each of the Federations in Europe and was fully funded by the R&A.

It was followed up by the St Andrews Conference, in early 2000, which received quite a bit of publicity for what emerged - especially on coastal erosion. But it was the second Conference, held near Lisbon towards the end of last year, which was to prove the catalyst for this new committee.

'Changing Course in Europe' was one of the most exciting conferences I've ever had anything to do with. It was very evident that there was a strong feeling from delegates of looking to the R&A for leadership on a whole number of issues," recalled Michael.

Peter Dawson was in attendance and was initially surprised by what he was hearing, and then greatly moved.

"As a consequence, at the end of the conference, instead of just saying what a great conference it had been and thanks for coming, he said he had been moved and that it had given him a vision," said Michael.

Peter Dawson then outlined this vision of establishing a new R&A body which would concern itself with key issues on behalf of Great Britain and Ireland and the whole of continental Europe and eventually a wider field than that.

"He was speaking very much from his own heart and, I thought, very bravely because he knew it would be recorded and people would be looking to see what he would do," recalled Michael.

Since then things have moved remarkably quickly considering what needed to be put in place to make it happen. It's a fact that Michael is keen to emphasise, reinforcing the importance that is placed on the new committee by the R&A.

"It was agreed by the R&A General Committee that there should be the formation of a golf course committee and the Advisory Panel was dissolved."

The new committee, comprising R & A members is Chaired by Tim Taylor, with Deputy, Nick Park (who carried out the same roles on the Advisory Panel), Jaime Ortiz Patino, Michael Reece, Robert Webb and Bo Wickberg, with Peter Dawson, Golf Development Secretary Duncan Weir and Financial Secretary Mark Dobell on an ex-officio basis. The R&A is in the process of recruiting a full time Secretary to serve the committee.

"Everyone has a great deal to offer with vast R&A experience and outside business skills while Bo is a leading figure in Scandinavian and European golf affairs.

"Our first priority has been to find out what the Europeans expect of us.



Amateur Champion Alejandro Larrazabal

So we first of all sent out a simple questionnaire to every Federation and Union. Among the things we wanted to know was whether they would appreciate a visit from us so that we could really get to understand what their needs were and how they thought we could help. The response was unanimous. Yes, they said, let's get together. So we have already instituted a series of meetings on their home ground. I've been to Holland, to four Scandinavian countries with Bo Wickberg and (by the time this article appears) Spain, Portugal and Italy with Tim Taylor.

"An ad hoc committee has also been formed, chaired by Bo Wickberg, which is to report very soon on how to establish best practice guidelines, an independent accreditation body and how to improve the image of the game with EU legislators, national governments and local authorities," said Michael.

It is this latter role which is perceived to be one of the biggest challenges, particularly in continental countries where golf doesn't have a real history and established reputation.

"One of the big problems is that much legislation out of Brussels and elsewhere doesn't differentiate between farmland and golf - so golf often suffers".

The ad hoc committee is looking to bring in help from inside and outside the game. "We learned some time ago that it was very important to work with other bodies, especially in the environmental and ecological field. For example, Keith Duff, from English Nature, has been a wonderful support for us."

Looking at the make-up of the committee, and appreciating its remit, a concern could have been the lack of any greenkeeping representation - Walter Woods and George Brown sat on the original Advisory Panel - but this is explained by Michael.

"Tim Taylor wanted the committee to be small and dynamic and to pull people on board when we needed them and I can say that BIGGA and its members will be involved. BIGGA has a lot to help us with, particularly on the best practice guidelines. BIGGA features large in our thinking."

Asked how the success of the committee will be measured in five years' time, Michael is clear on the matter.

"Success is easily measured. In five years' time, in fact long before five years, we will have established a series of flexible best practice guidelines.

We face two difficulties. One is making it simple. Any attempts I've seen already have been far too complicated. The other is that they have got to be broad enough and comprehensive enough to embrace very different conditions. There's the hot and dry Mediterranean Basin and then there's Finland where they can only play for five months of the year. But people we have talked with have agreed that it is an achievable objective.

"I have to say it is all very exciting," concluded Michael, as he prepared for his next visit.



# NEW PRODUCTS

## MASSEY FERGUSON

More power at the top end, fully independent suspension all round, selectable 2/4wd on all models and a revolutionary new rack system are included in the redefined range of Massey Ferguson Agricultural Terrain Vehicles unveiled for 2003.

Called AgTVs rather than ATVs because they have been specifically developed for use in agriculture, forestry, grounds care and related industries, the MF range features six models including three with automatic transmission. For 2003, the range now offers many common features while maintaining class-leading ground clearance, suspension travel, carrying and towing capacity and more powerful engines.

At the top of the range, the three MF 500 models produce more performance from their 493cc engines across the complete power spectrum. The extra power comes from higher compression, new carburetors, a new cam and changes to the ignition timing and gears. The result is improved acceleration and a higher top speed, which can be used to advantage with the machines' towing, handling and terrain-following capabilities.

The mid-range MF 400 AgTVs now get their power from 376cc four-stroke air-oil cooled engines - an all-new engine in the case of the 400 manual 5-speed transmission model. These provide ample power for tackling wide-ranging tasks in all manner of terrain.

All six MF AgTVs now have fully independent double A-arm front and rear suspension. On the MF 500 and 400 models, this provides a massive ground clearance, making them the best in their class by a long way.

The ability to ride over obstacles and avoid bottoming out in ruts is assisted by the superb ride given by the unbeaten suspension travel of these MF AgTVs.

Front differentials with selectable 4WD or 2WD are now standard throughout the whole range of MF AgTVs. All models have the easy start-in-gear feature, so there is no need to select neutral when starting up.

The MF 300 has a manual five-speed transmission with high, low and super low ranges while the 400 and 500 machines offer a choice of manual five-speed with high and low ranges or dual-range Duramatic automatic constantly variable transmission.

All MF AgTVs provide users with a carrying capacity of 45kg on the front rack and 90 kg on the rear, while the MF 500 Automatic TBX, with its longer wheelbase, has a rear-mounted moulded tipping box with a capacity of 136kg.

Now, this best-in-class carrying capacity can work harder for users with the introduction of a revolutionary MultiRack Platform (MRP) on MF 400 Auto and 500



Auto machines. This new rack system, built to a patent-pending design, allows users to fit a range of accessories according to the task in hand. These slide-on attachments are fitted to the main rack to hold a wide variety of tools and equipment, eliminating the need for elastic cords and straps, and ensuring everything is held safely and securely.

Users can mix and match from the wide selection of versatile MultiRack components, enabling their MF AgTVs to be tailored to their work tasks.

High-density polyethylene skid plate protecting the underside of the MF AgTV. An electrical output socket providing power for equipment such as spreaders, sprayers, winches, and the MF Fieldstar terminal for precision tar niig operations. Top quality after-sales service for parts and servicing provided through the MF dealer network.

For further information Tel: 024 76694400 or visit the websites at [www.agcocorp.com](http://www.agcocorp.com) and [www.masseyferguson.com](http://www.masseyferguson.com)

## RECO

The SGG vacuum collector available from RECO can be used either as manually operated equipment for clearing leaves and lifter or as an integral grass clippings collection system.

The equipment is mounted on a tractor's rear linkage and incorporates a powerful fan and 1m<sup>3</sup> hopper with dust filter and viewing panel. Fan performance ensures grass and leaves are tightly packed in the hopper to reduce emptying frequency. Rear castor wheels with wide pneumatic tyres minimise damage to soft surfaces.

Leaves and lifter are collected with a heavy-duty plastic nozzle connected to the hopper by five metres of hose. For grass cutting operations, the system is typically used in conjunction with front-mounted finishing mowers.

Two tipping options are available - one for ground level and the other for reaching up to 2.2 metres.

For further information Tel: 0114 266 4668





## CHARTERHOUSE TURF MACHINERY

Health and Safety concerns mean that today's users of professional machinery require powered products that give lower vibration levels and longer usage times. A new range of post-hole borers from Charterhouse Turf Machinery fulfil these criteria and can also be used for other important tasks.

One- and two-person operated Ardisam augers are offered. They are lightweight and designed for fast performance, being not only able to work in hard earth, but also in concrete. The machines feature a special shock-absorbing system that protects the user from vibration, lessening fatigue and allowing longer usage times for maximum productivity. Machine life is also prolonged.

Power comes from 2hp and 5hp petrol engines made by Honda or Tecumseh, and augers can be fitted with diameters ranging from 2.5-14in (6-34cm) with an overall length of 32in (81cm). Auger extensions can be fitted for work at even greater depths.

A range of attachments are available which convert the Ardisam augers to work as ice-breakers, power drills and even as a cement mixer, giving year-round usage potential and cost-effectiveness.

For further information contact: Tel: 01428 661222



## PLM POWER PRODUCTS

Investing in a number of pieces of machinery for specific jobs can be expensive as each has an engine that requires regular servicing and maintenance. PLM Power Products have introduced a cost-effective solution to this problem- the Shindaiwa Multi Purpose Tool carrier which can be adapted to carry out a number of applications. One of the major benefits of this type of machine is that because of its versatility considerable space is saved a factor that is particularly important when working away from base, and using vehicles for transporting equipment. It also means that by having all the attachments readily available for those unforeseen jobs, both time and money is saved.

The M230 Tool Carrier has Shindaiwa's own 1.1hp engine, which has a dual ring piston, and chrome plated cylinder for long life and reliability.

A Walbro barrel-valve carburettor ensures a quick throttle response and that the engine runs smoothly in all positions. This lightweight power unit has a built-in anti-vibration system to help reduce operator fatigue.

Fitting an attachment to the tool carrier is easy and simple, the top end of the shaft is slid into coupler and locked in position. It is recommended that this operation is carried out on a flat surface so both assemblies can be fitted end to end.

Attachments include the SBA-AH230 Articulated Long Reach Hedgetrimmer. Cutting high hedges using conventional trimmers can be a labour intensive and time consuming operation. Ladders have to continually be moved and for safety reason often two people are involved.

The double-sided reciprocating blade is 22.3" inches in length and the unit total length of 7ft 10" inches. The blade can be adjusted to 10 different positions through 15 degrees and folds down for transporting and storage.

SBA P230 Pole Pruner has a length of over 9ft when fitted with a 10inch bar. There is a choice of 8", 10" or 12" bars and these are mounted on the left-hand side of the gear case so the operator has a better view of the cut.

SBA T230 String trimmer has a cutting swath of 16". A brushcutter conversion comes as part of the package. The splined, solid steel drive shaft is hard wearing and better for dealing with torsional loads that trimmers often encounter.

For further information Tel: 01543 414477



## GREENTEK

Where do you turn to when you suddenly find you need to install some additional drainage or irrigation pipes or lay an underground cable? Should you phone for a specialist contractor - or reach for your spade?

Now with the launch of the new Greentek Power-Trench PT8, an affordable self propelled trencher, you can do these jobs yourself, without waiting until a contractor can fit you one.

The PT8 has a Honda Bhp engine, hydrostatic drive, and will trench down to 18" x 4". Its wide floatation tyres tread softly on fine turf and a low centre of gravity makes the Power-Trench easy to handle in awkward areas that larger ride-on machines find difficult or impossible to cope with.

Here is CouncilsGreenTek a compact trencher designed to meet the needs of Greenkeepers, and Groundsman, at an affordable price.

For further information Tel: 0113 267 7000.



## MOTOKOV UK LTD

Two new TYM tractors have been introduced by Motokov UK Ltd to complement the existing range as well as, in the case of the new 70 HP T700, offering a more specialist machine from its newly formed Grounds Care Division.

The 31 HP T330 Hydro unit is powered by a 31HP Kubota engine, which has already been well proven to provide excellent traction, high lugging power and unbeaten mobility through its use in the TYM T290. The T330 is also supplied, as standard, with a mid Power Take-off (PTO) and offers triple range hydrostatic drive to allow for smooth and safe operation. As with the T290, the T330 has headland management, full road legal lights, a rear working light, seat belts, folding ROPS, flat floor, duff lock and cruise control as standard.

In response to an increasing demand for higher horsepower tractors for the ground care market, TYM has introduced the John Deere turbo powered 70 HP T700 to be supplied in the UK by the Grounds Care Division of Motokov UK.

A 16/16 shuttle gearbox which features creep speed makes the T700 ideal for turf maintenance as well as other horticultural, agricultural and leisure management applications. Accessories such as rollers, mowers and verti drains, etc can be fitted with ease as three rear hydraulic remotes are provided with a wing mounted switch control.

For further information contact: Tel: 01553 817701





# NEW DISEASES ARE DEVELOPING FACT OR FICTION?

**Kate Entwistle delves into the murky world of fungi and reports the startling fact that there are more out there than you might believe.**

I am quite sure that most people working in our industry could name up to ten common turfgrass diseases without too much trouble. However, naming all of the fungi that cause the diseases may be a little more of a challenge. Assume for a moment that you were asked to take a guess at the total number of fungi that could cause disease on turfgrasses. What would your answer be? Twenty, 50, 100, more than that? Actually, there is no correct answer to this because, quite simply, no one knows. However, I would not be surprised if the number were to be far in excess of any that you had thought and the reason for this is as follows:

'Most of the more than 100,000 fungus species known are strictly saprophytic, that is, they live on dead organic matter which they help to decompose. Some, about 50 species, cause diseases in humans and about as many cause diseases in animals, most of them superficial disease of the skin. More than 10,000 species of fungi, however, can cause diseases in plants. All plants are attacked by some kinds of fungi and each of the parasitic fungi can attack one or many kinds of plants.' Agrios, 1997.

It has been estimated that we have identified only around 10% of the total number of fungi on the planet. That being the case, it is fair to assume that there are likely to be about 1,000,000 different fungal species on the planet and although only a proportion will attack plants and a smaller number cause disease on turfgrasses, we are still talking about a large number of potential pathogens.

Although turfgrasses make up only a proportion of the total number of plants in the world, there are still a large number of potential pathogens that we know of. Changes in the pathogen populations and turfgrass cultivars, not to mention the introduction of new turfgrass species, means that the potential number of fungi capable of causing disease is increased still further.

So if any given fungus can cause disease on one particular grass, why can't it cause disease on all turfgrasses? The answer to this is genetics. The combination of genes within the turfgrass plant (the host) and the fungus (the pathogen) will determine firstly if disease is likely and secondly what type of disease it will be. The expression of any symptoms of disease will be modified by environmental conditions and this will ultimately determine the severity of the turfgrass disease.



Two of the mites recently identified as causing damage to Bermudagrass



The study of genetics is extremely complex but we can try to simplify it to see how this relationship between the host and the pathogen works in disease expression. Taking a step back for a moment, it may be worth considering what happens during the development and selection of a new grass cultivar. Turfgrass breeders select two parent grasses, each of which possess characteristics that the breeder wants to introduce in to the new grass. Through crossing these two parent grasses, sexual reproduction in the plants produces a number of offspring (the seed of the plant) each of which will be different from the other. Growing each of these plants to maturity will allow the breeder to select for some of the offspring that have the best characteristics from each parent. These few can then be studied further to see if they have new or enhanced characteristics over and above those that have been bred in to the plants. After many years of study, a new grass cultivar will be brought to the market which will be better suited to the requirements of the present conditions, whether that be tolerance to close mowing, colour, wear tolerance or whatever. The process is extremely time consuming and also very wasteful because many plants are produced by these crosses

that will never be considered for production of a new cultivar. However, one of the characteristics that will vary in the offspring of these plant crosses is their ability to resist fungal infection and therefore, disease development.

Plants can be regarded as being either highly resistant or not susceptible to attack by a pathogen or alternatively, highly susceptible and therefore not at all resistant. Resistance and susceptibility are two ways of expressing the same characteristic and so it is important to be aware of both. In selecting turfgrass cultivars that have inherited a characteristic that was intended from any two-parent crossing, it is inevitable that other characteristics, including disease resistance, will be affected too. The best outcome that any breeder can hope for is that any parental crossing will result in offspring (or new cultivars) that have inherited all of the best characteristics from each parent. I would guess that the chances of this happening are extremely low and even if it were possible, who decides on 'the best'? What you may require from a grass may differ markedly from what others think is important. Hence the range of grasses available today from which you can select those most suitable for your particular conditions.





Head and body of adult mite (actual size approx 1 mm)

But this story of genetics and the plants' ability to resist disease does not end there. This is a game in which there are two players, the grass and the fungus and the fungus has good reason to cause disease. If it is not able to do so, it will die out. Therefore it will (perhaps not consciously!) do all that it can to cause disease to plants even if their resistance has been enhanced through plant breeding. It does so in a very similar way to that which occurs in plants. Most fungi have the ability to reproduce in one of two ways, either asexually or sexually. Through asexual reproduction, the fungus can produce vast amounts of inoculum (or spores) over a very short period of time and this way it is able to take advantage of sudden changes in environmental conditions to cause disease epidemics. Each of the fungal spores produced by asexual reproduction is, however, roughly the same in its genetic make up and so if the environmental conditions change so as to prevent one of them from causing disease, it will prevent all of them in the same way. Through sexual reproduction, the fungus is able to alter the genetic make-up of the spores in much the same way that the turfgrass cultivars vary from the two parents. The change in the genetics of the spores produced by sexual reproduction means that new 'strains' or 'races' of the fungus are produced. Ultimately, the new fungal populations that result from sexual reproduction, may allow the fungus to cause disease under slightly different environmental conditions from the original population or on host plants that were previously more resistant to that fungus.

One of the greatest differences between the host and the pathogen is the speed at which variation can be introduced into the population. For the turfgrass cultivar, the introduction of new genes and thus new characteristics, can take about ten years from the initial parental crossing. For the pathogen, you could be talking about ten days, or a few weeks, for new strains or races to be produced. This massive advantage in the reproductive ability of the

pathogen means that disease is inevitable. Not only that, but it is occurring most of the time at levels which cause us no concern and that probably go unnoticed. It is only when there is an 'explosion' of activity from the pathogen that the symptoms of disease become all too apparent.

So, fungal disease is an inevitability. Diseases are likely to develop on the new grasses and cultivars that are being bred for use in amenity areas in much the same way that diseases affect all plants around the world. In turf, the environment and the way we manage the sward affect the severity of disease expression. The greater the pressure we put on the pathogen population to try and prevent it from causing disease, the greater the chance of selecting a strain or race of the pathogen that can overcome it.

New fungal diseases are being identified on turfgrasses around the world, due in part to our improved ability to identify the fungi responsible and also to our introduction of new turfgrass types and species. In addition, there are invertebrates (nematodes and insects) that are being identified on grasses that in the past were not known to cause damage to these plants. Apart from identifying that a root knot nematode, *Meloidogyne* sp., is causing extensive damage to creeping bentgrass swards throughout the UK and Ireland, I have recently found a mite that is causing damage to Bermudagrass turf. Although the latter may not affect you directly, it is another clear indication that there is still more to be learned regarding turfgrass pests, be they fungal or invertebrate and anyone that says differently, is, in my opinion, fooling themselves.

**Dr Kate Entwistle runs The Turf Disease Centre, Waverley Cottage, Sherfield Rd, Bramley, Hampshire, RG26 5AG**  
Tel: 01256 880246 Fax: 01256 880178  
email: [Kate@theturf-disease-centre.co.uk](mailto:Kate@theturf-disease-centre.co.uk)  
Website: [www.theturf-disease-centre.co.uk](http://www.theturf-disease-centre.co.uk)





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JOHN DEERE





## FEGGA Secretary, Dean Cleaver, reports on the latest work of the Federation

**BIGGA has kindly allowed me to participate in your magazine on a regular basis to cover the European perspective on behalf of FEGGA. It is planned for this to be a quarterly page allowing me to share news and information from around Europe.**

I have recently been in Iceland where FEGGA have launched the first of what will be a series of FEGGA road shows across Europe. The road shows will be done in association with Floratine and will take place over a period of possibly two years.

The road show in Iceland was a great success for all parties, and especially for the Icelandic Greenkeepers Association.

Iceland can at times because of its location be a country that is easily forgotten. This was the main reason for starting in Iceland, to make them feel part of the family and to see some of the good work they are doing and how this will benefit both greenkeeping and then ultimately the game of golf.

Iceland has some 55 golf courses serving a country population of 283,000, with some 101,000 living in the capital of Reykjavik. The Greenkeepers Association has 70 members and they are spread over quite a large area.

While on our tour we were able to visit the College in Akranes where they will start their own greenkeeper education next year. This will be done in partnership with Elmwood and marks a great step forward in Iceland for greenkeeping and the golf industry in general.

The education programme that was arranged for the members of the Icelandic Association as part of the tour was very well received. It was supported by their Golf Federation, in particular their Chairman who opened the day by informing everyone of the new fund being set up to carry out research on specific areas of turf related problems, in particular Winterkill.

Brian Goodwin, Vice President of Floratine, gave a very interesting presentation on plant needs and issues dealing with cold climate problems. This certainly got people thinking, judging by the questions that followed later.

Gerry Byrnes, Superintendent at the K Club in Dublin, Ireland. Gerry talked about the design and construction of the new course, followed by the grow in, both dealing with problems and looking at new techniques.

Joe Bedford, FEGGA Chairman and Superintendent at Hollystown Golf Club gave a very dynamic presentation on 'Motivation to enhance your

career. Joe looked at many issues regarding career and day-to-day life development. He looked at setting goals and how to achieve them.

I was able to talk about the role of FEGGA and how it's helping the industry. In particular I was able to talk about environmental issues, setting up an environmental programme and FEGGA's role within Committed to Green.

Looking ahead to next year we very much look forward to working with further associations in taking the road show to other Countries.

### GLENEAGLES EXCELLENCE IN GOLF AWARD SCHEME 2003

I am pleased to announce that the Gleneagles Excellence Award Scheme will once again be running in 2003. The Award Scheme is open to all greenkeepers, and provides a wonderful experience for potential Course Managers/Golf Course Superintendents.

Applications should in the first instance be sent to the secretary. They should include a typed curriculum vitae (cv) which includes:

1. Covering letter from your Head Greenkeeper
2. Personal details
3. Qualifications
4. Other interests

Final selections for places within the scheme will then be forwarded on to me as FEGGA Secretary. Students will then be selected for interview during December 2002.

If you require any further information including the full prospectus of the scheme you can contact myself on 0044 (0)1789 762912 or via email at dean.cleaver@btinternet.com

I am pleased to say that following the success of the Gleneagles Excellence Award, both Gleneagles and Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd are supporting another Excellence Award Scheme in Southern Europe. This will allow greenkeepers the opportunity to gain experience in both north and south Europe. I will keep you posted on how we are progressing in the near future.

Finally can I wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to talking to you in 2003.





SCOTTISH REGION  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

## East

Welcome to December's column. Almost another year gone so here goes for the final one of the year. The Section held its final major of the year at Liberton Golf Club on October 10 - the first time we've been there since 1991 so we hope it's not as long till the next time. We would like to thank the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the course; the clubhouse staff for looking after us superbly, and Ronnie McCrindle and his staff for the superb condition of the course which was excellent, considering the weather we have had lately. Well done lads.

There was a good turnout of people, 44 in all present on the day who all enjoyed themselves, and would you believe it the weather was kind to us which was unusual! Well done to all the prize winners. Results:- Scratch (Stewarts Quaich) I. Bell, 67. 1st class (Watermation Cup) 1. I. Bell, 67-5-62 bh; 2. S. Greenwood, 70-8-62 ; 3. I. Laing, 71-7-64. 2nd class (SGM Cup) 1. A. Russell, 76-10-66; 2. N. Jacobs, 79-12-67; 3. C. Yeaman, 81-12-69 bh, 3rd class (STS/ Rigby Taylor Cup) 1. J. Neilson, 94-22-72; 2. S. Muir, 101-25-76; 3. G. Stavert, 107-28-79. Best Nett (Russells Quaich) I. Bell, 67-5-62. Veteran prize (Eddie Holt Trophy) J. Neilson, 94-22-72. Trade prize (Autumn Trade Cup) J. Zavinski, 94-28-66. New members prize R. Prowse 79-10-69. Guest prize G. Richen, 85-15-70, Highest Score of the day, J. Dalrymple, 107 wih. Aggregate Trophy Spring & Autumn (Bill Beveridge Trophy) A. Russell 131.

A big thanks to all the trade members in attendance and for bringing along some nice raffle prizes. Thanks also, and well done, to everyone who attended and we hope to see you all next year at all tournaments. The Annual Stewarts match against the North East of England Greenkeepers took place in late October. We lost this year, but only just, so you can have a loan of the trophy till next year, lads, when we will be looking to take it north of the border once again. A big thanks once again to Stewarts and Company for the sponsorship of this long running tournament, because if it wasn't for you we would not have this annual get together which is a bit of fun at the end of a long hard season.

The section AGM took place at West Linton Golf Club on October 30. First of all a big thanks to Captain, Bill Blackwood and the Council, for the use of the clubhouse facilities; Paul and Louise for looking after us at the bar, and as normal the excellent food, and finally, Richard Aitken and Co, for sponsoring the day and bringing along three very interesting speakers

who were all interesting and informative. Thanks also for putting on a super lunch. So Jim could you take back a big thanks to your company for a great day? The turnout was very poor with only 19 members in attendance and we would like to know why we don't get more at our AGM. If you know let us know why or is it just the trend as its happening in all Sections or we must be doing a good job for the section so let us know. The AGM went off quietly as normal with discussion on a few ideas which the committee will discuss at their first meeting in mid November so watch this space. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tom Murray, who has now completed his two years as Chairman and has now stepped down to take his place on the committee as Past Chairman. Thanks Tom for all your hard work and I hope you enjoyed your time and look forward to working with you on the committee over the next few years. Enjoy your well earned rest. So the new Chairman is your's truly and I can't wait to get started as I think we need to give the Section a revamp and try and get the members back to outings and events - back to how they were way back in the early 90s when we used to get 60-70 at an outing. We seem to be missing something so myself and the committee have some hard work ahead of us and any input from you is also very helpful. So come on let's start building for the future.

I am glad to announce that Graham Wood, Dunbar Golf Club, has taken up my offer of the position of Vice Chairman. I look forward to working with Graham over the next two years and welcome him on board. There was one place up for grabs on the committee as a result of Richard Mullen's resignation and as there was only one nomination, Iain Watson, Gullane Golf Club, was duly elected. Welcome on board, Iain, we hope you enjoy your time on the committee. The rest of the committee members were voted back on so welcome back lads. The committee now reads: Chairman, Chris Yeaman; Vice Chairman, Graham Wood; Secretary/Treasurer, Steve Dixon; Past Chairman Tom Murray; Stuart Greenwood, Jimmy Neilson, Stuart Crawford, Andy Forrest, Robert Hogarth, Craig Pennyquick, Peter Ormiston and Iain Watson. If you wish to speak to a member of the committee here they are.

So come on, let's get this Section back to work because it's your Section.

People on the move is Richard Mullen, from my old course, Swanston GC. I brought Richard to Swanston as my deputy just over four years ago so we all wish him all the best in his new job at Old Meldrum Golf Club, slightly north of Aberdeen. We wish him and Claire all the best for the future from the Section. By the time you read this we will have had the Annual Dance so hopefully we will have had a good night and I have no doubt we will. There will be a report

next month.

If you need to get in contact here is the contact is: Home, Westwyn, West Linton Golf Club, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EH46 7HN. Phone nos: home 01698 661313 work 01968 66172 mobile 07719580449 or e-mail [chriscjy263@aol.com](mailto:chriscjy263@aol.com).

Come on I would like to hear from you all about anything you want so come on I'm waiting. Well as this is the last Section news of the year it leaves me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year to you all from myself and the committee and we hope you and your families have a great time and all your dreams come true in the next year. All the best. I look forward to writing for you all in 2003.

PS. If your attending BTME 2003, I'll see you there from January 20-24, 2003. Thanks once again.

Chris Yeaman

## West

Welcome to this month's newsletter. First an apology for printing the wrong date with regards our Annual Dinner. The date should have read October 22 not 29. It has always been well attended and has always proven to be an entertaining event. A letter will be printed in next month's magazine if my powers of recall are not to badly affected by the evening's alcohol consumption.

Our AGM was held at Nairn Brown's unit in Busby on October 24. Before the AGM was held Dr Neil Baldwin, of Omega Sciences, and Sandra Stuart, from the Scottish Agricultural College, made two short presentations on Soil Microbes and Wild Flower Establishment. Both presentations were of the highest quality. I would like to thank Neil and Sandra for taking the time to speak to us on the day.

At the AGM several changes within the committee were made. Cecil George stood down as our Education Officer after three years of sterling service. His position has now been taken over by John Robertson, of Hilton Park GC. Gavin Jarvis, Lenzie GC, is now the new West Section Secretary, having taken over the reins from Sandy Bulloch, who has carried out the duties of this office for the past ten years and now feels he would like a rest. I would like to thank Sandy for all the hard work he has put in over the past ten years and hope he doesn't miss making all those phone calls and doing all that paper work too much. Sandy has agreed to stay on committee for at least another year. Our Past Chairman, Brian Hillen, has also decided to take a rest after having spent six years on committee, I would like to thank Brian for all the time and effort he has put in on behalf of our Section. Two new members to be welcomed on to committee are Douglas McIntosh, Cathkin Braes GC and Fraser Ross, of Renfrew GC. Your new West



Section Chairman is myself, Brian Bolland, East Kilbride GC.

On behalf of the Section I would like to thank Nairn Brown for making us feel most welcome on the day and for giving us the use of their facilities and for making sure our every need was catered for. A special thanks to Robert McEwen and his team for a guided tour of the premises. Thanks should also be conveyed to our sponsors of the day Rigby Taylor, Nairn Brown, David Bell Ltd. and Scottish Amenity Marketing. At the AGM the final draw of the 100 Club was made and that silver fox, Kenny Hunter, won the spoils.

On an educational note I would like to hear from members who would be interested in having regional training courses staged within our Section. These training days appear to be very popular within other Sections and a relatively cheap source of further education. A copy of the brochure was sent with your September addition of Greenkeeper International. Topics covered include chainsaw maintenance and cross-cutting, the new supervisor, further management skills, basic and further computer skills, abrasive wheels, project management, coaching skills, management skills for Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers, presenting a professional image and budgets & finance. Surely there must be some areas we can brush up on! If you would be interested please do not hesitate to call me on 01355266862.

Well, that's it for this month I hope you all have a cool Yule, yes I am afraid it's that time of year again. If you want anything added to the column I can be contacted at the number above.

Brian Bolland

## Ayrshire

No, your eyes do not deceive; this is news from the Ayrshire Section courtesy of Lazarus.

On October 10, Moffat Golf Club played host to the Autumn Outing and AGM. Favourable weather combined with a well presented and challenging course provided the ideal setting for the concluding second leg of the inaugural Harry Diamond Memorial Jug. The field included some formidable names such as Duncan Gray, Iain Barr, Wallace Mercer and Big Brian Aitken. After the smoke had cleared however, it left two North Ayrshire sharpshooters from the middle of the pack deadlocked at 67 points.

George Morrison, Largs, emerged victorious over the unlucky Paul Tulloch, W. Kilbride, after the back nine count back was concluded. Duncan blamed his poor play on a bad cold, while Big Brian had uncharacteristic problems with the putter and as for Iain Barr, and I quote Mr Morrison, "He always crumbles after three pints". Well done George! Other results are as follows: Autumn Trophy (Scratch Winner) M. Wilson, Moffat.

Souter Trophy (1st Class Winner) 1. R.

McMillan, Moffat; 2. G. Morrison, Largs; 3. B. Crawford, Old Prestwick; 4. B. Aitken, Turnberry; 5. D. Gray, The Pines. BIGGA Shield (2nd Class Winner) D. Norquoy, Irvine Bogside; 2. P. Tulloch; 3. G. Haughie, Southernness; 4. S. Mercer, Skelmorlie; 5. I. Barr, Largs. Visitor/Trade Prize – P. Boyd – Past Club Champion.

Our thanks to Robert and his staff for giving us excellent playing conditions also to the club for allowing us the day. Catering provided by Toby and Yvonne Downer and staff was of the highest order and much appreciated on the day.

A special mention must be given to Alex Cruikshanks who sponsored and presented, on behalf of Duval Industrial Products, the magnificent Harry Diamond Jug. Thanks for your support.

AGM business included the induction of Martin Lothian, as Chairman, with Vice Chairman still to be suchered into it, I mean named. Happy Hunting Dipper! Derek Wilson, to remain as Secretary and the rest of the committee pretty much unchanged.

Venues selected for next year's outings are Portpatrick – Dunsy in the Spring and, by kind offer of Alistair Connell, Southern Gailes in the Autumn.

Peter Boyd announced Monday March 3 to be the date for next year's Scottish Conference in Dunfermline so you can pencil that in your diaries.

Congratulations to Iain Barr and Brian Aitken on receiving the Patron's Awards for this year.

2003 promises to be an eventful year for the Section with George Brown taking the reins as National Chairman, I just hope he can cope with all that golf and socialising? Iain Barr also steps up from Chairman of the Section to Vice-Chairman for Scotland. Well done and all the best Iain!

Finally, next Summer we have the Scottish National Greenkeepers Championship being contested over Jimmy Johnstone's Kintyre Course at Turnberry.

A quick 'get well soon' to Marshall Schloss who recently underwent major knee surgery and will be laid up for a while. I didn't even know he was on Ranger's books!

I think that's everything so have a great festive season and don't expect all this every month – Oh! You can give me a ring with any news or even if you just want to chat constructively about Middlesbrough's chances in Europe next year.

Dennis Tweddell

## Central

Well, there must be plenty satisfied members in the Section, going by the numbers who attended the AGM, either that or there are an awful lot of you who just can't be bothered! Although the numbers were small there was quality in abundance and a very successful,

constructive meeting was held. Your committee for the next 12 months are Chairman, A. O'Hara, Vice Chairman. S. Cruickshank, Past Chairman, A. Dunn, committee, G. Mitchell, P. Murphy, D. Scott and I. MacMillan, Sec/Treas 3. Crawford, K. Brunron was invited to represent the Patrons on committee with P. Langdon and B. Finlayson representing Associate Trade members.

As always, if there are any events you would like organised in the Section, please get in touch with any committee member and we will do our utmost to organise them, even if you have any complaints let us know!

At the ten pin bowling, which followed the AGM, Phil Langdon ran out a worthy winner, some of the others simply just ran out of steam! Seriously though, we were playing in a lane next to a number of rather "mature ladies who had to use ramps, barriers or whatever you call the aids required to keep the bowl in the lane and they even came over and gave us some advice on how to play. I'm sure GM has arranged to return for further lessons in the not too distant future, he certainly needs them! Thanks to everyone at Deer Park for the use of their superb facilities and excellent catering.

Winners of "Club 2000" for October were D. Cartmill (ticket No.292 £30) and P. Murphy (ticket No. 76 £20), November winners were K. Crawford (ticket No. 450 £30) and N. Gibb (ticket No. 173 £20) and December winners were D. Scott (ticket No. 209 £50) and S. Lawrie (ticket No. 66 £50). Tickets for next year's draw must be sold and the money returned to me by 21st of this month, so please make every effort to buy/sell your allocation.

Best wishes for a speedy return to good health from everyone in the Section go to retired member David Sword, Bishopshire GC. David usually drops the money for his Club 2000 tickets in at the house but due to not keeping to well he had to post them this time. I hope it won't be too long before you are out and about again David.

This being the last report of this year I would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the past 12 months, especially the golf clubs who granted us courtesy to hold our tournaments; the Scottish Patrons for their continued support especially Daval Industrial Products for their sponsorship of Club 2000 tickets and the AGM; special thanks to those members who supported our events, and to Peter Boyd for another great year of Scottish events and the support he gives to all the Sections.

Here's wishing everyone "All The Best" for the coming year, I hope you all have a prosperous and drier one (on the golf course) than this year has been.

John Crawford



## North

One new member to report this month, and he is Allan Bange from Ballumbie Castle G.C.

The AGM took place at Stonehaven GC on October 24. The golf was cancelled due to the weather and a snooker match took place instead, whereby the Chairman's team emerged victorious.

Two new committee members were voted on, and they were Dale Robertson, from Newmacher GC, and Andy Wilson, from Brechin GC. The two departing committee members were Robert Hardie, from Craibston GC, and Dave Marnoch, Ocmis Irrigation. The new committee is as follows: Chairman, Stuart McBain Hazelhead GC; Secretary, Dougal Duguid, Westhill GC; Treasurer, Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC; 200 Club, Andy Wilson, Brechin GC; Outings and trophies Hugh Mclatchie, Peterhead GC; Raffles, John Geddes, Ellon GC; Match and Handicap, Dale Robertson, Newmacher GC; Magazine Reports, Iain Gunn, Strathpeffer GC. For any information on any matter or to put any problems or ideas you want discussed, phone Dougal Duguid on 01224 740329, or Iain Gunn on 01997 420155

The Patrons' points was also decided on, with the spring and autumn outings each carrying one point, and the Scottish conference carrying two, along with the Scottish Golf Championship also carrying two, which this year happens to be at Turnberry. Any seminars carry one point also.

Also at the AGM Abbie Walker was presented with crystal glasses as a retirement present. Abbie has been Head Greenkeeper for many years at Stonehaven GC and has been a great servant to the golf club. Many happy returns from the North Section for your retirement, Abbie.

Everyone should have received their application forms for Harrogate 2003. The cost for three nights accommodation is £160, and this also includes breakfast and the bus trip to and from Glasgow, and entry to all the seminars. The places on the bus are filling up fast, so if you would like to go and have not yet applied then do so quickly. It is a good week, and well worth visiting at least once.

Scotsturf has been and gone again, and it was busy as usual. Fortunately the weather was better this time round and made the travelling a lot easier.

The weather has been decidedly wet and windy since the last report, but has not been cold, with only a couple of days heavy frost. No doubt the cold snap is just round the corner.

Well that is all to report this month so I would just like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a hassle free New Year.

Iain Gunn.



## North East

On October 16, at Alnmouth Golf Club, we played our annual match against the old enemy, the East of Scotland Section. Both Sections would once again like to thank Stewarts of Edinburgh for sponsoring the day. This time we came out the winners by four matches to two.

My thanks to the committee for giving us the courtesy of the course and to the Secretary for coming up with the new date at short notice.

Tyneside GC recently had a vandal or vandals on their course, during the night or early morning and partially cut through 11 Scots Pine for the oncoming strong winds to attack. Bearing in mind these were 30 year old ones and could have caused serious damage to any golfers in that area. They then decided to do the same on seven silver birches on another part of the course.

Two new members have joined the Section both from Tyneside GC. They are Jeff Cullen and Alex Wishart. Movement in the Section is provided by Steven Richardson, from Birtley GC, who has moved to Tyneside GC as greenkeeper/mechanic we wish them all the best for the future.

I would like to remind all of you who win trophies to try and get them back the following year, either by giving me a ring or getting someone to drop them off if they are unable to play in the competition.

Jimmy Richardson

## North Wales

The end of October and start of November saw high winds and storm damage across many courses in the North Wales area along with most other parts of the country.

Fallen trees were the main problem and debris was blown around, the clean up operations included lots of sawing and chopping and many bags of logs were put into store for the winter months, but this made a welcome change from the routine grass cutting.

Dave Parry, at Prestatyn GC, has had a new roof on his maintenance dept.

Steve Jones, at Pwllheli, wants to wish Andrew Yates good luck in his new business venture. Terry Adamson has now been given a clean bill of health, thanks to many of you who enquired about his well being, the problem is believed to be stress related, probably caused by reaching down for his wallet at the bar (Just kidding, Terry).

Nobody from the Section has won the Lotto this month or if they have they haven't let us

know yet!

The Kerry bros, at Royal St Davids, are delighted to have been accepted to host the European Seniors event (now for its third year) which will take place at the course the first week of July next year. This gives credit to them for their presentation and management of a championship course, if only they could play darts to the same standard, they would be dangerous!

Our Christmas tournament will take place at Caldy GC on the 5th of this month. Caldy have had six new greens reconstructed and extensive draining work carried out this year under the watchful supervision of Head Greenkeeper, Ian Farrell, we have heard great reports of the course and look forward to playing there.

The results will be in the January edition, which brings me nicely onto the coach for the BTME at Harrogate. Please get in touch if you haven't already we need to finalise the numbers.

The courses for training at Aldwalk Manor still have one or two places available on certain aspects of education and as the greenkeeping role is going to require more knowledge and certification for the future, you really cannot afford to miss out! These courses run well into the new year so contact HQ for details.

This just leaves me to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a prosperous New Year and don't leave the shopping until too late

Mesen Cymru

Nadolig Llawen i bawb

Andrew Acorn

## Northern

The Autumn tournament, at Thirsk and Northallerton, was another top day out on our golfing calendar. The course played very well and was in good nick for mid October. A big thanks to Bill Rank and his greens team for producing a fine course. Thanks to Gordon in the clubhouse for his hospitality and good food and to our sponsors on the day Glen Farrow Irrigation. Once again the prizes were excellent. Last but not least thanks to the golf club for looking after us so well and giving us courtesy of the course.

The results of the day are as follows. Div 1-1st A Baxter, 2nd R Barker, 3rd B Hudson. Div 2-1st F Stewart, 2nd R Smith, 3rd A Speight. Div 3- 1st J Watts, 2nd J K Brown, 3rd I Pullan. D Clewes won longest drive and R Barker won the nearest to the pin. P Armatage and D Clewes won the trade prizes. We also presented the prizes for best over 50s player this year this was won by B Hudson and the best under 40s player this year this was won by A Slingsby.

Following the presentations the section had its AGM. I can report that the same committee



as last year was voted back in with the addition of Adam Speight. There is nothing else to report from the meeting.

I must apologise to everyone over the mix up with dates and days on the seminar in November I hope this did not inconvenience anybody too much. I am sure it will have been a great success and thanks to Cleckheaton Golf Club for letting us use their facilities and to the speakers for their time and food for thought they shared with us.

Last but not least may I take this opportunity to wish all the members of the Northern section, Sponsors and readers of these few lines a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Contact me at 16 Westwood Ave. Eccleshill, Bradford, West York's, BD2 2NJ

Tel No: 01274 640739

Mob No: 07976876264

E mail: Dthackray@aol.com

David Thackray

## North West

I find it difficult this month, as usual, to find anything to write about as we have not had any golf during October, and nobody has contacted me with any news. On my travels I have called in at several golf courses, and I see many of you are taking advantage of the mild weather and carrying out plenty of aeration work, and in some cases, big drainage jobs. I am sure you will reap the benefits of this work next year. By the time you read these notes we will have had the AGM and played for the President's Cup at Wilmslow Golf Club, on December 5, so I hope the weather will hold for a little longer and we have a good day. I am afraid that's it for now but I will take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a Prosperous New Year.

Bert Cross



MIDLAND REGION  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115

## East of England

The annual match against the Secretaries Association took place at Lincoln GC (Torksey). A win to the greenkeepers was the result for the second year running. The score was 5-3 and thanks to Derek and his staff for producing a testing course which was in excellent condition. The Longest Drive went to Rob Welford and Nearest the Pin to Phil Wilkinson. The event was sponsored by Toro and we thank Nigel Lovatt for donating the prizes on the day.

The last golf day of the year was held at Sleaford GC and was sponsored by Lawnmower

Services. We would like to thank Chris Overton and Dave Hampshire for donating the main prize. Thanks also to Ian Batty and his staff for a course in great condition. It must have been local knowledge because Ian was also in the winning team that took first prize with a score of 57 nett. In the team was Gary Poole, Simon Cardwell and Richard Dexter. Longest Drive went to Luke Hunt, of Sleaford, while Nearest the Pin went to Alan Buckley, of Newark.

The AGM followed the prize presentation and there was one new committee member, Rob Welford, of Cleethorpes.

The Order of Merit winner for a BIGGA Blazer for 2002 was Ian Batty of Sleaford. The Jacket was again sponsored by Nigel Lovatt of Toro UK.

Graeme MacDonald

## Midland

The Summer Tournament was held at Bloxwich Golf Club, the course was in great shape thanks to Howard Middlebrook and his team. 1. Dave Gibbons; 2. Mike Hughes; 3. Vince Lee.

Steve Mucklow was Nearest the Pin and Mark Cutler took the longest drive, Peter Merainor won the trade prize. Many thanks to Bathgates for sponsoring the wine and John Hammond for starting us off in excellent fashion.

The Autumn Competition was held at the Forest of Arden. Many thanks go to Kenny McKay for not only presenting an excellent course but all the hard work in arranging the day. 1. Graham Wallace net 73; 2. Nick Bird. 3. Michael Bryan. Trade. Nigel Taylor.

Many thanks to sponsors on the day being Avoncrop Amenity, Chris Briggs and Mark Raynor. Wine was sponsored by Bathgates and long drive and nearest the pin Ruffords.

Our best wishes go to Howard Middlebrook in his new appointment as Course Manager at Stratford-on-Avon Golf Club.

This year's match against the East Midlands Section took place at Longcliffe Golf Club, where we were made extremely welcome. It was a gloriously sunny autumn day. The Midland Section came out winners at the end of the day so well done lads. For Peter Richmond it was also the chance to renew old friendships, and to play his bi-annual game against Mark Bindley. This year Mark came out on top, which just about puts them even. Thanks to Rigby Taylor for their continued sponsorship of this event.

Finally I would like to wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and a big thank you to all the Trade members who have sponsored, and supported us throughout the year.

Phil Gates

## East Midlands

This year's East Midlands v Midlands Section golf match was again kindly sponsored by Rigby Taylor and hosted by Longcliffe GC on October 3. The weather was a glorious, sunny Autumn day with 10 golfers from each side ready for a keenly contested match. The morning Greensomes resulted in a one point advantage to the Midland Section, with Martin Hopkins and Stephen Mackie coming from three down to win their match, and Mark Bindley and Gavin Robson comprehensively winning their's 7&5. After the lunch refreshments it was onto the singles matchplay, which resulted in five wins apiece, with Adie Porter, Russell Allen, Jeff Dickinson, Mark Bindley and Gavin Robson all winning their matches. Unfortunately the Section lost by the narrowest of margins 8 points to 7.

I would like to thank Rigby Taylor, and Longcliffe GC and to everybody from both Sections who took part. Our Section team was as follows. Jan Marshall, Russell Allen, Chris Brown Steve Goode, Jeff Dickinson, Adie Porter, Martin Hopkins, Stephen Mackie, Mark Bindley and Gavin Robson.

Results and news will appear in next months edition for the AGM golf tournament, but please could I remind all members that if they wish to attend Section events, please return your forms before the closing date.

Anthony Bindley

## BB&O

This month has been a busy one for all in this industry as the weather finally breaks from reliable sunshine. To see our golf course turn green again so late in October was a more unusual experience but gave firm putting greens and dusty bunkers. I know many of our Section have been busy clearing the debris and felling many trees after the recent gales but at least we got shot of lots of leaves. I am now convinced that someone has been around our course and applied superglue to all the Quercus leaves so that they fall late in the season and only at weekends. As you can tell by my inane banter I have little to report this month. Our next fixture at Southfield Golf Club is but hours away and I will bring a full report next month. I hope to see many of you at our regional seminar which Peter Larter has been busy putting together. Next week I attend my first Bi-annual secretaries meeting at Aldwark Manor which promises to be one looking for substantial change within the current set-up so I will report more on this next month.

I would like to welcome two new members as follows: Anthony Goodland, Bearwood Lakes GC, and Clive Robinson, Wokefield Park GC.

This just leaves me to thank all of those members who have attended our events in



2002 for your time and support. I would like to thank all those in the trade who have contributed generously and made sure these events really are different from your average game of golf. The camaraderie between us all is something I personally cherish and know many of you feel the same. I wish you, your family and friends a great Christmas and hopefully a very peaceful year in 2003.

David Haskell-Craig



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## Kent

Well, I guess it's a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. It does not feel like it yet as I'm writing this in November.

No news from you lot out there this month with no calls or e-mails again. I did notice that we have a new member in the form of Steve Hopper who is, in broadest sense of the word, working at Westgate Golf Club. Steve is a bit of a nomad working at several clubs in the Thanet area. I hope to see you, Steve, at a few of next year's golf days. Which leads me onto any club who would like to host a golf day or any other event you wish to see in the coming year. It would be nice to play at a few new venues next year so please help us if you can however small a club you are.

Congratulations to all of you who passed your spraying courses at Kings Hill Golf Club back in September. I guess you have been busy at your course since then.

Any news or views on anything remotely to do with anything please call me on 01732 875020 or e-mail me on [JRBATKHGOLF@AOL.COM](mailto:JRBATKHGOLF@AOL.COM)

Finally drink and eat loads this Christmas as I will be when I'm on holiday in LA for two weeks.  
Jason Bean

## Surrey

Congratulations paragraph this month starts with the arrival of a bouncing baby girl. Jessie Arnold gave birth to Georgia, 8lbs 15ozs, on September 17 and I am told her main priority in life, that's Georgia not Jessie, is to make sure her daddy is not late for work in the morning. Her daddy, Steve Arnold, from Redhill and Reigate Golf Club, has been advised to invest in extra telling the time lessons for Georgia or move down to the garden shed. Next, a big well done to the Surrey Section to Murray Long, Course Manager at Coombe Hill Golf Club, for winning this year's Toro Student of the Year award and we hope he enjoys his six weeks in America. The final congratulation goes to Chris Gosden, who after being Deputy at St. George's Hill Golf Club

for many years has now been appointed Course Manager.

Our last event was on October 18 at Effingham Golf Club, Peter Broadbent, the Course Manager and several of his staff joined almost 50 members to play this really excellent golf course. Many thanks to Peter, Effingham Golf Club for the courtesy and to the caterers for a delicious carvery. John Davidson won beating Paul Bacon on count back and the trade prize went to Lee West. Adam Watts was nearest the pin and Tim (pancho) Webb hit the ball further than the rest. The day was sponsored by Kestral Golf who supplied the quality prizes. Unfortunately I have to report that one complaint was received concerning the 2s competition. Peter Broadbent who got two 2s and complained that there was no 2s competition and that if he had been aware of this before he started he would not have bothered to play so well.

The AGM and Turkey Trot took place on November 21 and the South East Seminar on the 27th. The report on these two events will appear in the January edition.

May I wish a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members of the Surrey Section and one last congratulation to Terry Huntley and West Hill Golf Club on returning to the best 100 Golf Clubs in the United Kingdom at number 95.

Brian Willmott

## East Anglia

Yet another lovely day this time the venue was Ufford Park. The course was in good nick thanks to Adrian Holins and his team. Grub was lovely and Colin Albs made us all very welcome.

Then came the golf, (Didn't do too well this time). Others did however. I seem to write the same names down everytime, Plummer, Willett, etc. you watch.

0-9 Section. 1. Michael Buck, 39 pts; 2. Bob Barnes, 33 pts; 3. Roger Plummer, 33 pts (Told you). 10-18 Section 1. Ian Willett, 36 pts (Told you again); 2. Mark Broughton, 36 pts; 3. Steve Thompson, 35 pts. 19-28 Section

1. Robert Ransome, 37 pts; 2. John Pymmer, 34 pts; 3. Martin Brightwell, 31 pts. Trade & guests 1. Larry Pearman, 38 pts (fatherhood suits him) 2. Chris David, 38 pts; 3. Gary Turner, 36 pts. Nearest The Pin, Graham Brumpton.

Longest Drive, M. Buck. Seat. Keith Titshall, for putting the ball through the pro-shop window! Prizes were presented by Brian Wedsdell, the Club Captain and the sponsors were (take a deep breath and go for it). Textron, Bartram Mowers, Bayer, Sisis, Rushbrook, Toro, Tomlinson Ground, NEM, Driving Force Leisure, Atterton & Ellis, UTCAA (Easy this time)

Thanks again Ufford Park for a great day out.

Brian Richardson is retiring from Bayer, Aventis, Rhône Poulenc and May & Baker all at once we wish him well and look forward to seeing him at

our meetings. I think that is when most of us see him anyway. One rep for all of England no wonder he's worn out. Tight lines my son.

Larry had a nipper. Well done mate, Sleepless in East Anglia!

It's worm time again. How much weaker is this repellent going to get? I reckon if you connected the clubhouse urinal to a big tank and you diluted it 50-1, sprayed the greens, it would do the same thing. Well, it cures Athletes foot.

Mick Lathrope



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## South West

If I missed Around the Green last month I'm sorry, we had a technical fault. A total lack of flexibility. (Section Notes cannot be accepted in dictated form onto an office voicemail. This was explained to Robin, who was then granted an extension, giving him the opportunity to submit his Notes in a more conventional manner - Editor)

We had our AGM at the Gloucestershire Golf Club. Our thanks to the club and Mat Marion, the Head Grenkeeper, for the use of their fine golf course and clubhouse. The results of the competition are as follows:- 1. A. Knight and M. Phelps, 104 pts. 2. C. Sealey, R. Barker and P. Hampton, 101 pts; 3. R. Lane and R. Lowisson, 99 pts. Well done to everyone who played and turned up.

After the game we held the AGM. Members will be interested to know that Nobby Knight is now Section Secretary. We all wish Nobby the best in this difficult and not very popular job. Thanks Nobby.

There have been some anomalies in this year's accounts for the Section, this is being looked into by Paula, the Regional Administrator. Chris Sealy, the Chairman, has called an extra AGM to be held at the Christmas Meeting at Cirencester. Chris is hoping to be able to present a correct set of figures at this meeting, for the past year.

Our thanks should also go to Richard Barker, the National Chairman, for coming down and attending our AGM also thanks to Paula.

Finally thanks to the days sponsor Rigby Taylor. Also don't drink too much during the holidays.  
Robin Greaves



## Devon & Cornwall

Season's greetings to you all.

Many of you will already know that I have been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Burnham & Berrow Golf Club and will be standing down as Section Administrator at the end of the year. I would like to thank you all for the support you have shown me as section administrator over the last 13 years. You always hear members saying what is BIGGA doing for me? Well the old saying of you get out what you put in is true as the position of Section Administrator has allowed me to develop my own administration and organisational skills, with the added bonus of talking to members such as Walter Woods, Gordon Child, Kerran Daly the list just goes on. Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club also should receive credit for their positive approach to education over the years; I would like to thank them for 18 very happy years.

The Roffey October meeting was held at Portmore Golf Club. Members found the course in excellent condition with Colin Webber, the Owner, providing our non-golfing members with a very interesting course walk.

After a superb meal Jim McKenzie Course Manager at Celtic Manor presented his brilliant talk on the development of Celtic Manor to the present day. Don Hunt, of Roffeys, presented the golfing prizes for the D.O Hunt Trophy as follows; 1. T. James 37pts; 2. M. Child, 35pts; 3. J. Webber, 34pts. The Section would like to thank Colin Webber and all his staff for such an enjoyable day; to Don Hunt and Roffeys for sponsoring the day, and to Jim for making the long trip down to our Section.

Our P. J Flegg sponsored Christmas meeting will once again be held at Okehampton Golf Club on Tuesday, December 10, as in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members, so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible.

This is your opportunity to meet our magazine Editor Scott MacCallum as he will be present to enjoy the Section's hospitality. As usual the day will start with golfing members playing for the P. J Flegg Trophy with the format being greensome, for those of you not wishing to play golf the Course walk will start from the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. Following lunch Tank Sherman will once again be the entertainer with the raffles concluding the day.

The Barenbrug Seeds meeting will be our first meeting of the New Year and will be held at East Devon Golf Club on Thursday, January 16. The morning will start with a singles stableford golf, with the course walk for non-golfers leaving the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am.

Have you booked your place on the Regions package to BTME 2003, which includes

transport, accommodation & entry to the BTME show, some seminar sessions are extra.

On closing my report I'd like to inform members that Gordon Child has been unwell recently with a couple of emergency visits to Torbay Hospital, Gordon is currently waiting to have a heart by pass I am sure that I speak for all members in wishing Gordon a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him soon at our Section events.

Richard Whyman

## South Coast

The past month has been a very quiet one on the Section front. Most of us have been battling with the elements as usual as well as coping with the inevitable fusarium outbreaks in the unusually warm spell of weather we have been having.

On the news front, I have been very fortunate to have been chosen to represent BIGGA at next year's GCSAA Conference and trade show in Atlanta, in February. I will be part of a ten-man delegation, which is sponsored by BIGGA and Bernard & Co. This opportunity of a lifetime is an experience I am thoroughly looking forward to and will hope to share with you all. At committee, we are putting the final touches on next year's Section Seminar, which will certainly be a day not to be missed! With a new venue and an excellent line up of speakers and presentations it is a day to pencil in your diary already. February 26 at Canford Magna Golf Club. Let's make it a record turn out! Lastly it is time for me to wish you all a very merry Christmas from myself and all of your committee.

Until next month  
Alex McCombie

## NORTHERN IRELAND

With the season drawing to a close, the Autumn rains have come with a vengeance causing disruption to many inland courses. Even Links courses have suffered from flooding and erosion, that has caused closure for periods.

Some of our clubs in the province have embarked on major green and tee re-construction and course alteration projects, and the current weather has created problems. Malone, Clondeboye, Massereene, Portstewart, Bangor, Kirkistown and Royal County Down are leading the way. The majority of these projects are being carried out by the resident Course Manager and his Green staff which is a great credit to them. Through Training and Education

greenkeepers can now make a valuable contribution to these projects therefore saving their respective clubs a considerable amount of money.

Currently much of the larger projects are being overseen by golf course Architects like Howard Swan and David Jones, with the assistance of contractors with heavy plant machinery. Many of our golf greens and tees that were constructed over 25 years ago, just can't withstand the demands of today's game. Many of the greens were poorly designed and constructed and this is why experts like Howard Swan have been brought in to carry out the improvements.

Once again a party of greenkeepers from Royal County Down made the news at the National Championship played outside Southport in early October. Noel Crawford won the Gross award playing off +1. Noel has now won the gross prize at the National Championship twice in three years, which is an excellent achievement. Noel's nephew, Gary Crawford, won the best nett prize on the Hesketh Course for his handicap category.

Well done lads. The Irish contingent, led by Course Manager at Royal County Down Alan Strachan, would like to thank all the staff at BIGGA for organising the National Championship and for kindness and hospitality shown towards them by everyone at the championship.

Well our Section Seminar will take place at Massereene Golf Club in the next couple of days so I will give a report in next month's magazine. There is a total of 130 already registered to attend so it should be a resounding success.

Our AGM will take place in December so the new committee for 2003 will be included in my notes next month. Finally, I would like to thank Andrew Kerr for travelling over to BIGGA HOUSE for the Section Secretaries' meeting on November 11 and 12. Andrew stepped in at very short notice to represent the Section as I was unable to attend due to work commitments at my club.

Any news or information please contact me on 64 429001 during working hours.

Ken Henderson

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This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members. The solution to the November Turftime Teaser was 'UAP Amenity'. This was correctly answered by: Michael Perry of Dunstable Downs Golf Club.

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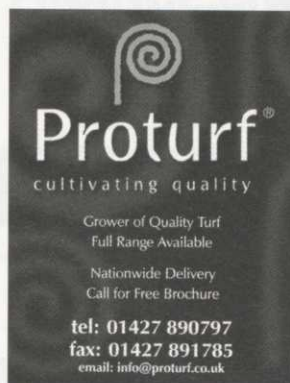
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**December 2000;** Toro Awards; Making the most of your Dealer; Budget Boosters; BTME2001 preview; BIGGA/Bernhards CGSA delegation preview

**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; Caldly GC profile; Multi-tasking machinery; Bunker Sand; Essay competition; Fijian GC profile; BIGGA Minimum qualification

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

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

**August 2002;** BIGGA Golf Day; Open review; Talking Heads - Education & training; Trees; Dr Kate Entwistle; Pwllheli GC; Weather; Compact Tractors; Saltex preview

**September 2002;** National Championship Preview; Irrigation; Non Grass Cutters; Hawkstone Park; Careers in Greenkeeping

**October 2002;** Saltex Review; Golden and Silver Key Supporters; Environment Awards; Health & Safety; Sustainable Use of Pesticides

**November 2002;** Toro Student of the Year; National Championship; Drainage; St Andrew's Bay; Autumn Problems



# Where Has all the Sun Gone?

Following last month's article you must think I've lost my mind and that I've put the kiss of death on the weather, for after six weeks sunshine we've had four weeks of rain. Instead of going into winter fairly dry it is now wet and courses around me have already been closed as I know they are in other areas of the country.

Unfortunately, on my travels, the majority of greenkeepers I speak to are experiencing difficulties explaining to committees the problems and a general lack of understanding of greenkeeping on those committees is not helping. With what could be a long winter it could be a difficult time, but keep your heads up! (certainly above the water).

Well, following on from last month in mid October, I was invited by the Institute of Horticulture to attend a Round Table meeting in London on the "Banishing Molecules of the Amenity Sector". Around 30 delegates from all aspects of the amenity sector attended and various papers were presented. These ranged from registration problems for niche markets for pesticides to problems facing contractors and large enterprises with a need to control pests and diseases.

I was also pleased to see one of our own Board members, David Walden, presented a paper on controlling casting worms in turf and his views of future practices. Well done David. But, despite all these discussions, I believe we are all aware that it is becoming increasingly difficult to reach for the bottle and have to start adopting more cultural practices whether the club members like it or not as products are becoming less available.

Moving on from London, it was down to the South West Section for their AGM and golf day at Tracey Park. Fortunately for all who attended it was a dry and super day, but like many other Sections I have visited, the numbers were a little low for the AGM. Believe me this was not through lack of enthusiasm from committee members in organising events.

From there it was to Denmark where I had been invited to present a paper about the Association at their conference in Viborg. Although the vast majority speak and understand English I had to speak through an interpreter which was quite an experience and one that I believe worked well!

We have many members in Denmark and I look forward to meeting them at BTME/ClubHouse in January where they will receive a warm welcome - something they will appreciate as it was beginning to get cold even in October. I also believe they will welcome a cheap pint of beer because in Denmark it was costing between £4-£5 for a pint.

Back on these shores once again, I was soon on my way North up to Edinburgh and the Scotsturf Exhibition. This was the first time that I had visited this show and was extremely surprised at the size and the amount of

visitors on the BIGGA stand. I was accompanied by Pauline and Gemma, as well as Peter Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator. The stand was extremely busy over the two days and it was nice to meet up with many of you who I don't see too often. It was also a great opportunity to visit all the Scottish Region Patrons' stands with Peter Boyd and thank them all for their support.

After a hectic two days it was back home again for a change of clothes and off again to our own headquarters for the Section Secretaries and Regional Administrators meeting. This could be best described as a briefing session of headquarters activities. Over the two days there were presentations from the Management Team and General Legal Protection. We also split into groups to allow discussions on the way forward but above all it gave everybody the chance to look around HQ and ask questions. After the two days I believe everyone left knowing more about the Association and its activities and with renewed enthusiasm. Again I urge all of you to take advantage of what is on offer. All the guys who attended these two days are very committed and will do their best to organise any courses for you - please give them a call.

As for the future I am going as a guest to the John Deere Team Championships in Scottsdale, Arizona, supporting Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club, I just hope it will be a little warmer and drier over there then it is in the UK. I will give you an up to date report in my article. Also in the next issue I hope to report on Gordon Child's good progress. Unfortunately Gordon is back in hospital awaiting an operation.

To conclude I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all in January.

Richard Barker  
National Chairman



## Reader reply card

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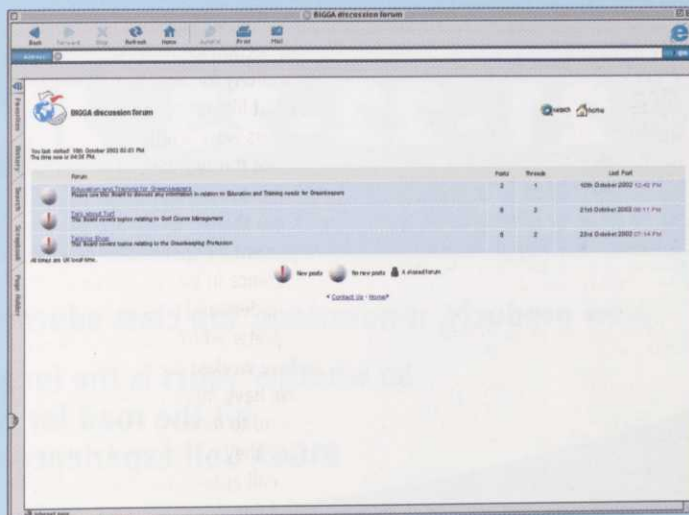
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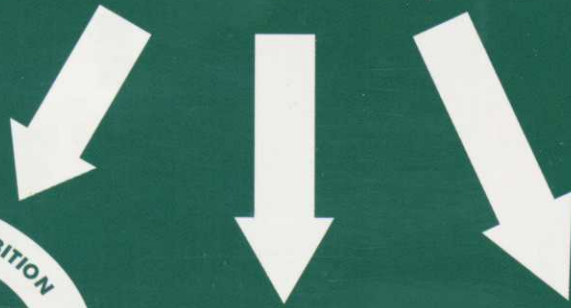
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