



February 2002 - £3.50

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



What a
week!

WHEN YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
MOST IMPORTANT ASSET ON THE COURSE,
YOU NEED A PARTNER YOU CAN COUNT ON.



For every job on your course, there's a John Deere unit made especially for it. A full line of quality equipment, born out of the suggestions and critiques of thousands of superintendents and technicians worldwide, from quality mowers and tractors to aerators and utility vehicles. It doesn't end there. We supply you with the industry's best operator manuals and technical literature. We deliver quality parts 365 days a year, with a 99.5% fill rate overnight. And we offer John Deere Credit, the most cost-effective way to acquire golf and turf equipment. To see how John Deere can make a difference on your course, call your local John Deere dealer or John Deere Limited, Langar, Tel. 01949 860491.



JOHN DEERE LTD., HARBY ROAD
LANGAR, NOTTINGHAM NG13 9HT
TELEPHONE 01949 860491

WWW.JOHNDEERE.CO.UK



Preferred Supplier to the
2001 Ryder Cup Matches

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE



JOHN DEERE



A guide to who's who at BIGGA

President
Sir Michael Bonallack, OBE

BIGGA Board of Management
Chairman - Richard Barker
Vice Chairman - George Brown
Past Chairman - Clive Osgood

Board Members

Ian Semple
Paul Jenkins
Ian Holoran
David Walden
Iain Macleod

Executive Director

Neil Thomas
Email: neil@bigga.co.uk

Administration Manager

John Pemberton
Email: john@bigga.co.uk

Editorial/Media

Scott MacCallum
Email: scott@bigga.co.uk

Education & Training Manager

Ken Richardson
Email: ken@bigga.co.uk

Membership Services Officer

Tracey Maddison
Email: tracey@bigga.co.uk

Contact us

You can contact The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association in any number of ways:

Post: BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF

Email: reception@bigga.co.uk

Internet: www.bigga.org.uk

Tel: 01347 833800

Fax: 01347 833801

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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

Editorial

Editor: Scott MacCallum
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801
Email: scott@bigga.co.uk

Advertising

Sales & Marketing Department:
Jennifer Whichello, jennifer@bigga.co.uk
Cheryl Broomhead, cheryl@bigga.co.uk
Meredith Foster, meredith@bigga.co.uk
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802
Email: sales@bigga.co.uk

Design

Design & Production Editor: David Emery
Tel: 01347 833800 ISDN: 01347 830020
Email: david@bigga.co.uk

Printing

Hi-Tec Print, Units 9-10, Houghton Road,
North Anston Trading Estate, North Anston,
Sheffield S25 4JJ ISDN: 01909 550561
Tel: 01909 568533 Fax: 01909 568206

The advertising copy deadline for inclusion in the March 2002 edition of Greenkeeper International is Friday, February 15, 2002

Greenkeeper International:

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission. Return postage must accompany all materials submitted if return is requested. No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication.

Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork.

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

Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £38 per year; Europe and Eire £50. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.

ISSN: 0961-6977

© 2002 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

Advertisers' Index

Advertiser	Page
Advanta Seeds	33
Allen Power	11, 44-45
Allett Mowers	11
Bernhard & Co	63
British Seed Houses	13
Cranfield University	27
Ecosolve	21
Greensward	31
Hardi	7
Headland Amenity	11, 29
ING Lease	27
John Deere	2
Kawasaki	17
Lastec	42-43
Lely UK	46-47
MJ Abbott	21
National Proficiency Tests Council	33
Perryfields	7
Pittland Technology	33
Rufford Soil Technology	13
Textron	64
The Jolly Machine Company	11

February 2002

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by March 12, 2002

Regulars

News

Pages 4, 5 & 6

8&9 Letters

10 Education

Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, identifies some of the education and training which is currently available for greenkeepers

12 Membership

42-47 Around the Green

62 Features Listing

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

62 As I see it ...

New BIGGA National Chairman, Richard Barker, takes over the reins at Harrogate and is looking forward to an action packed year in office



25 BIGGA's Golf Experience



14 Encouraging Barn Owls



19 Decent Drainage



48 Plan for Success

WIN WIN WIN!

THIS EXCLUSIVE SQUALL JACKET

Don't miss your chance to win this fantastic jacket worth £60 in our exciting new Buyers' Guide competition in association with Allen Power -

'THE TURFTIME TEASER'

DETAILS ON PAGE 51



Features

14 Birds of Prey

Emma Beggs, of the STRI, looks at what you need to do to encourage these wonderful birds to your course

16 Heaven 17

Prestbury GC Assistant Greenkeeper, Colin Denny, describes the work that went into the new 17th hole at the Club

18 Recycle

Roland Taylor takes a practical look at what steps clubs can take to re-cycle

19 Decent Drainage

Nigel Wyatt looks at how to create harmony and stability between drainage and irrigation

22 King of the Castle

Scott MacCallum meets Charlie Edgar, Course Manager of Castlerock GC, on the northerly coast of Ireland

25-37 BTME2002 - The BIGGA Golf Experience

A comprehensive look at all the activities at the best Harrogate week in the Association's history

38 Meet the Chairman

Scott MacCallum chats with new BIGGA Chairman, Richard Barker, a man born to be involved in golf.

40 Making Trax

Latest BIGGA Golden Key Supporter, TurfTrax, is a company which may revolutionise the way you go about your business.

48 Plan for Success

Antony Strawson outlines their benefits and management implications of trees and woodland which often form an important component of the golf course landscape

TIME TO TALK
www.bigga.org.uk

Visit www.bigga.org.uk and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS CHAT GREENKEEPERS

Setting ourselves challenges

I find it hard to believe but I've just experienced my seventh Harrogate. It seems like only a few months ago that I was meeting so many of you for the very first time, but now it is friends of quite long standing whom I bump into each January.

This year, of course, the week took on a new form with a three day show, beginning on Tuesday morning, and the inaugural Golf Club Show joining BTME in the Harrogate International Conference Centre.

Both innovations could be deemed unqualified successes with record numbers attending the Show - 8,629, more than 10% up on last year's record total - and the feedback from the Golf Club Show exhibitors extremely positive. It must be hoped that after such a promising launch this Show will go on from strength to strength and reinforce the belief that Harrogate is the "one-stop shop" for greenkeepers and golf club officials alike.

I, like so many of you I met during the week, am already looking forward to BTME 2003 - my eighth - although to surpass the quality of what we have just experienced it will take a fair bit of preparation and imagination. Still, as Sir Edmund Hillary might have said as he stood on the foothills of Everest, what would life be like if we didn't have challenges? Between now and next January every effort will be made to ensure that your week in North Yorkshire is as rewarding, and as entertaining, as it can possibly be.

This month I must pass on my congratulations to you on providing the magazine with the strongest Letters' page since I have been Editor. In fact, calling it a Letters' page is doing it a severe injustice as it stretches to two full pages and is packed with well expressed arguments on a range of subjects.

Credit for much of this must go to Duncan McGilvary, Course Manager at Potters Bar GC, whose article, "Should we lead or should we be led" was the catalyst for a flood of correspondence stretching over the last three months.

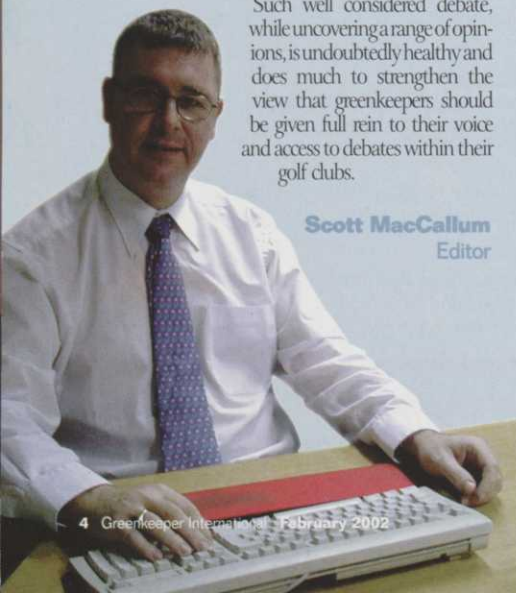
It is a topic which obviously struck a cord with you all and, as the debate continues to develop, I'm sure the letters will keep flooding in.

Following on from the article Duncan hosted a couple of meetings at Harrogate at which many of those who had commented up until that point, as well as several other interested parties, discussed the issues raised by the piece. Feedback from those meetings will be aired in the magazine in due course.

The article also made its mark outside the green-keeping fraternity and was discussed at the EGU Masterclass at Woodhall Spa in early January, where more greenkeepers and golf officials were given the chance to air their views.

Such well considered debate, while uncovering a range of opinions, is undoubtedly healthy and does much to strengthen the view that greenkeepers should be given full rein to their voice and access to debates within their golf clubs.

Scott MacCallum
Editor



Brian's ordeal at hands of armed robbers

Brian Woodhouse, Head Greenkeeper of Chalford Golf Club, in Buckinghamshire, endured a terrifying ordeal late last year when, early one morning when he was first to arrive at the club, he was attacked, handcuffed, beaten up and asked if he wanted to die by robbers armed with a shotgun.

Speaking in his local paper, the Bucks Examiner News and Advertising, Brian, 54, said that at first he resisted but they had started hitting him around the face.

"One of the guys threatened to shoot me in the legs and asked if I wanted to die. They got the handcuffs on me and kicked me in the stomach," said Brian.

Since the attack new security measures have been put in place at the golf club and Brian has

Police took 'too long' to get to scene of gun-raid

report by Helen Osborne

MANAGERS have criticised police after it took them nearly 20 minutes to travel two miles to a golf club to tackle a violent armed raid, in Little Chalfont.

Greenkeeper Brian Woodhouse, 54, was handcuffed, beaten up, and asked: "Do you want to die?" by the would-be robbers armed with a shotgun.

The victims at Chalfont Golf Club, called three times before police officers from Amersham arrived.

"It's disgraceful," said owner of the club Mike Dunne, who chased the intruders after discovering the battered and bruised Mr Woodhouse.

Manager, of the club in Lodge Lane,

she explained.

"We received a call about the robbery at 6.54am. Nine officers were on their way to the incident within one minute of that call being made even though they were not yet officially on duty.

"Police were in the vicinity within two minutes and surrounding locations including the railway station were checked very quickly.

"An officer attended the scene itself at 7.12am, by which time we had been able to confirm that the shotgun used in the incident had not been discharged and there was

Flashback to the chilling headline in Brian's local newspaper

shifted his hours so that he arrives at the club during daylight.

"Many golf clubs are isolated so I would caution any greenkeepers

who tend to be first to arrive at the club to take care," said Brian, who has yet to recover fully from the trauma.

A second series of training courses planned by TGA

Following a successful launch last year the Turf grass Growers Association (TGA) will be holding a second series of half-day training courses at venues in the West Midlands, Yorkshire, Berkshire and Surrey between March and June.

Targeted primarily at professionals who supply, specify or install quality sports, amenity or ornamental turf surfaces, the courses are being hosted by independent turf consultant and agronomist, Robert Laycock, the appointed advisor to the TGA.

Course content has been carefully chosen to help attendees understand and achieve optimum selection, installation and after-care of cultivated turf. Specific attention will be paid to the importance of turf quality and the various methods of quality assessment, including the TGA standards for cultivated turf, independently drawn up in 1996. Robert will also look at the selection of turf for different

lawn situations together with lawn design, establishment and long-term care, including the most suitable equipment for the job.

The first TGA training course of the 2002 season takes place at Birmingham City Football Club on March 18. Further courses will be held on April 23 at a venue near Bradford, Yorkshire; on May 22 at a venue near Reading, Berks; and on June 18 at a venue near Reigate, Surrey.

To register for or receive further details on the TGA conference or the TGA's 2002 training courses, contact TGA headquarters, telephone 01728 723672 or e-mail: david.clarke@turfgrass.co.uk



GTC article gets Chairman of Green thinking right 'On Course'

An article in the new issue of the GTC newsletter "On Course" has set at least one Chairman of Green thinking.

Management consultant Frank Newberry had argued that better management skills were allowing Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers and their Deputies to cope with the ever-increasing demands put upon them and Brian Jackson, Chairman of Green at Bishop Auckland GC, read the piece and immediately contacted David Golding, the GTC's Education Director, to say how much he enjoyed the article.

"My time in industry has taught me that training is very worthwhile. Anything which motivates people and inspires self-confidence has to be good," said Brian.

"Frank's article rang bells with me and reinforced in my mind that training is the way forward for the industry."

David retires from industry after 45 years

David Smith, a Director of Atherton and Ellis, has retired after a career which spanned 45 years having joined the company in 1956 as Secretary.

From the start of his career David was involved in sales, and attended exhibitions to keep abreast of industry developments. The main event in those days was the Institute of Groundsman Exhibition at Motspur Park, now SALTEX held at Windsor. He holds what must be a record of never having missed an exhibition in 45 years.



David pictured with Clive Osgood and Stephen Bernhard at last month's BTME

Lely is new UK irrigation distributor for Toro

The Toro Company has appointed Lely (UK) Limited as its Irrigation products distributor for the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Philip A. Burkart, Toro Vice President and General Manager, International Division announced the move. He said that the development, effective from February 1, enhanced and expands the partnership between Toro and Lely, which began its role as UK distributor of Toro Commercial equipment, such as professional turf mowers, aerators and utility vehicles, in 1983.

"Lely has been an outstanding partner handling Toro Commercial products, and we anticipate the Lely team will deliver similarly exceptional performance with Toro Irrigation," said Philip. "The Lely staff now includes a team of irrigation professionals whose experience and expertise, combined with their operational excellence, will make a positive difference for Toro irrigation customers in the UK and Ireland."

In its new role, Lely, of St Neots, Cambridgeshire, distributes Toro Irrigation products such as sprinklers, valves and controllers to Toro Irrigation dealers throughout the UK and Ireland. Lely also provides dealers and end-users with next day parts, service and technical support from its



Lely Managing Director, Graham Dale

in-house staff and the Toro National Support Network (NSN) Global computer support service.

"Toro is the only brand to offer both commercial equipment and irrigation, and Lely now becomes the UK and Ireland's source of Toro Total Solutions," said Philip. "Everyone at Lely shares the Toro commitment to provide value, productivity and strong product support. We feel fortunate to expand our relationship with such a quality partner."

Toro Irrigation was previously distributed over here by TIL Irrigation Limited.

Toro personnel such as Andy Brown, Irrigation Manager for the UK and Northern Europe, are working closely with Lely to ensure the newly appointed distributor provides Toro Irrigation customers with excellent customer care.

Lely Managing Director, Graham Dale, who started in the turf industry in 1973 and has been involved with Toro products since 1980, welcomed the opportunity to expand the Lely-Toro partnership.

"We have enjoyed a long and rewarding relationship with Toro and are pleased to increase our role as a Toro distributor," said Graham.

"A primary focus of our Toro Irrigation business will be to strengthen partnerships with existing golf customers. We also see significant opportunity for large-turf and golf customers to renovate and upgrade existing irrigation installations with products such as the Toro Gemini-Trident control systems."

Lely assumes responsibility for supporting Toro Irrigation in use by several high-profile UK golf properties, including the St Andrews Links Trust, Wentworth Golf Club, Royal County Down, Celtic Manor, and the K-Club, which will host the 2005 Ryder Cup, as well as stadiums that are home to many leading football and rugby clubs.

IOG conference goes back to basics

The IOG Conference 2002 "Back to Basics" takes place from Friday March 22 to Tuesday March 26 at The Holiday Inn, Newport, South Wales.



Among those speaking on the programme over the course of the Conference are Gareth Davies, Chair of the Sports Council for Wales; Dr Stephen Baker, of the STRI; Giles Wardle, Irrigation Consultant; Dr Alan Gange, of Royal Holloway College; Martin Jones, of Myerscough College; Justin Smith, of TurfTrax; Douglas Shearer, of Elmwood College, and Jim MacKenzie, of Celtic Manor Golf Course and Resort.

Further information can be obtained from the IOG Tel: 01908 312511.

Illegal chemical use: Are you breaking the law?

Simon Barnaby, Technical Manager for The Scotts Company, has experienced an increase in the number of enquiries received relating to the potential use of pesticides not approved for use on turf areas. Scotts took the opportunity at BTME to bring the facts relating to the issue to the attention of their customers, and to warn them of the possible consequences.

Pesticide manufacture, storage, supply and application are regulated by law. There are a number of Acts of Parliament and Regulations that cover the above points. These include: Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH), Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (FEPA) and Control of Pesticide Regulations 1986 (COPR).

The legislation requires that no product may be used unless it has

government approval on the grounds of safety and efficacy. Everyone must comply with conditions of approval. Only chemicals with a recommendation on the label for use on Managed Amenity Turf can be legally advertised, supplied, stored and applied to Managed Amenity Turf situations. It is illegal to use any other chemical that does not have approval.

Why are there different products for different situations?

Chemicals used on Managed Amenity Turf situations are specifically formulated and designed for use on turf. Each product has to undergo extensive research on turf in order to ascertain product efficacy e.g. does it work. Stringent research is also carried out to ascertain human, animal and environmental safety - this work can take a number of years to complete. Once above criteria is met PSD (Pesticide Safety Directorate) will reg-

ister the chemical with a specific Approval e.g. For Use On Managed Amenity Turf.

What if a non approved chemical is used?

The user, the club or site manager, supplier and advisor are all liable; and may suffer any or all of the following:

Heavy fines. Unlimited amount (a recent misuse case resulted in a £220,000 fine plus costs)

Imprisonment. Up to two years in prison for each case

Insurance void. All cover void

Turf damage. Products not formulated for turf use may cause severe damage

No efficacy. Products not designed for use on turf may not work or could increase the risk of resistance

Environmental damage. Products not used for the specific purpose for which they were designed or labelled, may harm the environment

Operator exposure. Non approved products may carry inappropriate advice for the situation

Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



Reduce annual expenditure by joining Golf England

Golf clubs throughout England will soon get a chance to join Golf England - and to save money on their annual club expenditure.

Invitation packs are being mailed at the beginning of February to 1,900 clubs, along with a preview of the first of many offers available through the group-buying scheme. Clubs are being offered 15% off the cost of a range of fertiliser and ground-care treatment products; as well as catering equipment items at less than half price.

Clubs will also receive a reminder copy of the Golf England presentation made in November and December at roadshows around the country; promotional material to inform club and committee members; and finally two copies of the contract together with explanatory notes.

"Clubs should receive two copies of the pack in early February, and we know from our telephone calls that many clubs are ready to join as soon as they have their contracts," said Dale Clements, Marketing Director for Golf England.

Once a club returns its application to join, it will receive a welcome pack. This will include a CD-ROM catalogue of all the current products and services available on the group purchasing scheme which will allow them to place their first orders.

Paul appointed Finance Director

Paul Bray has been appointed Rolawn's Financial Director when Rolawn's current Financial Director, Paul Hopewell stood down after ten years with the Company. Paul joined the company as Financial Director Designate last October.



"I have enjoyed having the opportunity of getting to know the business and the people in it prior to formally taking over the role of

Financial Director. I am very much looking forward to being involved in the exciting opportunities which lie ahead for Rolawn."

Before joining Rolawn, Paul worked as Group Financial Controller for Higgins Agriculture Limited, the UK's largest independent potato merchant with growing, selling and distribution operations in the UK and mainland Europe, dealing with many European blue chip companies. Paul (39) is married with one daughter, and lives in Cawood, North Yorkshire.

Ken Dawson, Rolawn's Chairman said, "we are extremely pleased that Paul has joined us. His expertise and experience will be important elements in supporting the future growth of our business".

Latest news?

www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

William joins Eammon Wall

William Garrett has recently joined consultants Eammon Wall & Co at their Dollar office in Scotland. William replaces Alastair Seaman who is now in Nepal and remains an e-mail consultant with the firm.



William, 33, brings useful experience to the company in the fields of arboriculture, woodland conservation and continuous cover silviculture. Previously he worked for Coillte (Irish Forestry Board)

completing their inventory of native and historically significant woodlands before returning to the UK in December 2001. After graduating from the University of Wales, with an M.Sc. in Environmental Forestry William spent some time working for the Mersey Forest and Warrington Borough Council. Prior to his M.Sc. he obtained an NCH in Arboriculture from Merrist Wood and a BA from University of London. He has travelled extensively living and working in Spain and Italy and enjoys rock climbing, snow boarding and mountain running.

Rigby Taylor Matchplay Competition

The South Wales Section Rigby Taylor Matchplay Competition finals were played at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. The eventual winners were the father and son combo of Jamie and Herbie Probert, of Pontaradawe GC who won the RT Rose Bowl. They defeated David Bray, of Morriston GC and Steve Mills, of Gower GC in the final.



L-R: David Carvey, Rigby Taylor Rep; Daryl Bray, Herbie Probert, Steve Mills, Roy Barker, Rigby Taylor rep with Jamie Probert, kneeling.

EGU host successful Greenkeeping Masterclass

The EGU Greenkeeping Masterclass, held at Woodhall Spa, in early January gave over 60 greenkeepers the chance to hear papers from Rex Kimberley, Terralift Ireland Ltd; Kate Entwistle, The Turf Disease Centre; John Nicholson, John Nicholson Associates; Graeme Francis, then of the Hydroscape Group, and Sue Ingram and David Watling, of the Environment Agency, who discussed Water Abstraction.

Organised by Neil Cockbill of the Golf Services Division and chaired by Colin Spurr, Chairman of the Golf Services Committee, the Conference also involved some team tasks with eight groups splitting up and preparing short presentations on four greenkeeper related subjects.

The sessions were split by a superb dinner in the EGU Headquarters and excellent after dinner entertainment from a rules expert.



Roland wins first Clive Edwin Smith trophy

At the Essex Section AGM held at Channels Golf Club the Section were able to add an impressive piece of silverware to their trophy cabinet. Clive Smith had been a Member at Frinton-on-Sea Golf Club until his premature death aged 52 earlier this year and had also been a Member at several other clubs during his working life.

Wherever he played his golf Clive had always had a kinship with the Greenkeepers and Clive, a modest 16 handicapper had always appreciated that whenever he did have a good

round it was generally attributed to the Greenkeepers and the condition that they had prepared the course. His widow Carol who often walked the course with him when he played knew of his appreciation of Greenkeepers and has donated to the Section a magnificent silver cup to be awarded to the Section's "Golfer of the Year". The first winner of the Trophy was Roland Hughes of Forrester Park Golf Club.

Right: Mrs Carol Smith presents the "Clive Edwin Smith" Trophy to Roland Hughes (Forrester Park GC)

Lancaster Uni launches brand new modular training course for Industry

Lancaster University has launched a Modular Training for Industry programme, specifically for professionals working in the area of Plant Sciences and Agrochemistry, which aims to transfer knowledge and understanding from their research activities into industry.

The one to three day intensive courses are supported by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and have been designed to provide a new perspective to develop a sound understanding of the fundamental functioning of plants.

Full details of the current courses are shown on their website (<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/deptS/PSi>) together with the relevant registration forms.



LERAP
3★☆☆
Approved

BIG BOSS



Save money with the
Big Boss Package Deal

- * 300 or 600 litre tank
- * 4.5; 5.5 or 6.0m Defender shrouded boom
- * HARDI 2500 automatic spray control
- * Electronic solenoid in-cab controls

HARDI Ltd

4-5 Watling Close,
Sketchley Meadows Industrial Estate,
Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 3EX
Tel: 01455 233811
Fax: 01455 233815



Up to
6 months Pause Payment

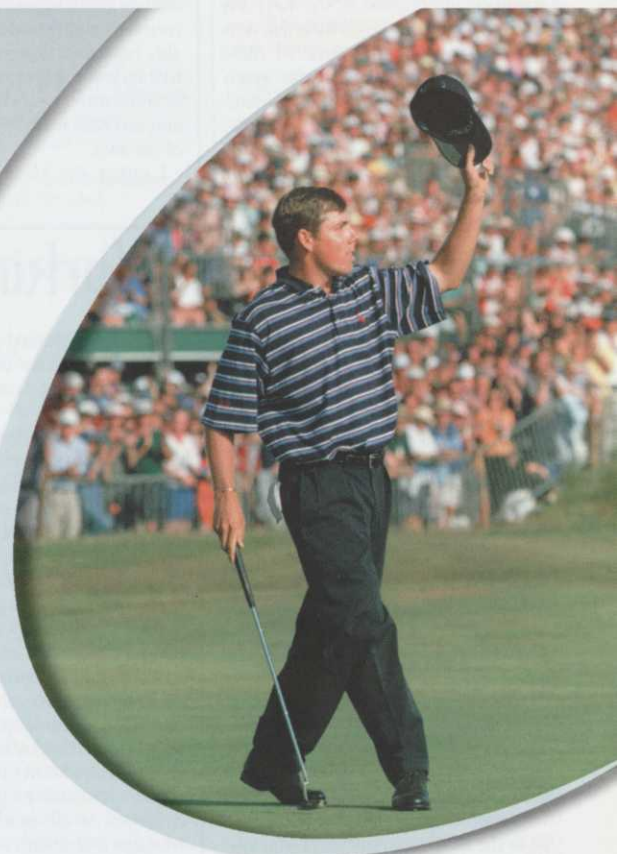
Finance is available on the Big Boss sprayer with a pause payment until July 26th at 0% based on January 2002 price list. The offer is subject to 65% of the RRP and acceptance by Humberclyde Farm Finance.

Sow Time...



The new Johnsons Sport and Amenity range of grass seed mixtures represents excellence in turfgrass.

The J Range is now available from our National distributor network, supported by our experienced team of technical advisors.



...Show Time

Johnsons Seed puts success at your feet

Tel 01386 793135
Fax 01386 792715

Address your letters to: The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or email them to: scott@bigga.co.uk

Education is the key

Ian Tomlinson's excellent article in the January issue of *Greenkeeper International* was a breath of fresh air for those of us who believe in traditional greenkeeping, and should be a warning for those who rely on the combination of fertilisers and chemicals. Working abroad where pesticides have been banned and fertiliser use is being closely monitored would surely change the approach of many greenkeepers, and I firmly believe no matter what our suppliers tell us it is only a matter of time before we will be in the same position.

Ian describes in detail the causes of his Poa dominated greens and their subsequent failure. Excessive use of fertiliser and water combined with a minimal aeration programme is a recipe for disaster and Poa domination as well as a soaring chemical bill. It is surely time for us all to embrace these traditional principles he talks about and take a more cultural and environmentally friendly approach to greenkeeping. These principles are by no means new and have been the ones that Jim Arthur has long advocated. One of the most important factors, if we are to embark on such a radical change in policy and management, is the support of our members. Education is the key! We need strong leadership to form a nationwide education programme to make members understand that the 'green' courses they see every week on satellite television are neither the way forward or possible on our limited budgets and that a radical review is needed. This education programme must be carefully designed to promote the qualities of traditional British golf courses both from a playing and environmental perspective.

More importantly, it must be drawn up and presented from either the Home Unions or the R&A as they invariably have more respect among members than our Association. So let Ian's article be a catalyst for us as an Association and an industry to take a long hard look at the way we manage our golf courses and to put pressure on those governing bodies to help us educate our members on why there is a need for change.

A. McCombie, Parkstone Golf Club

Northern Seminar thanks from Longhirst

Just a small note to say thank you to Doug Bell and Bert Cross for bringing the recent Northern Seminar to Longhirst Hall GC. The speakers were entertaining and very informative. A thank you must also go to the 25 or so greenkeepers who travelled on a particularly cold and frosty day. It just goes to show the club members that greenkeepers do actually think of educating themselves! Looking forward to hosting next year's autumn competition. Regards, Graham Chambers, Course Manager, Longhirst Hall, Northumberland

A Golf Club Manager's view

Prior to becoming a Golf Club Manager I spent 20 years as an electronics engineer. When I became a manager in this environment I was aware of the skill sets of my key managers and employees. It was not my job to manage their areas rather to make sure that they did it right and that they had everything that they needed to do it.

When I came to golf, the one area where I had no skills was greenkeeping so I filled this gap by attending courses run by BIGGA and STRI. The information gained has been supplemented by becoming an Associate Member of BIGGA and actually reading *Greenkeeper International*. I also spend time talking to my greenstaff and learning from them. I am now in a position that I can discuss and question matters intelligently with my Head Greenkeeper and communicate information in detail to the membership (which hopefully they pass on to other members!).

I have worked with Head Greenkeepers from both ends of the spectrum: A young man who was happy to formulate our greens management policy with me and then to discuss greenkeeping matters with the members and the other who was probably capable of doing this but accepted that he was going to be told what to do by the committee and therefore sat back and accepted it and made no decisions of his own.

I expect my Head Greenkeeper to

come to me and tell me what we should be doing, be prepared to discuss the line he is taking and why he has eliminated other options, then get on with it and that is why he is being paid the salary commensurate with the job.

More and more golf clubs are changing their management structures to have small management committees. Because golf clubs have become businesses, the amount of legislation has escalated dramatically and is specific to the environment plus there are less and less volunteers for positions on the committees because of the pressures on time of modern life. These changes mean that the staff these clubs employ have an increasing self determination of their role as they become solely responsible, through higher management, for their department. 'Course Development' documents are rapidly becoming the norm as a way of eliminating the changeable nature of the Green Committee. These allow the greenkeeper to advise on the best management policy for the course and get it down in print. He can then be left to perform the job he is paid to do, with the committee/s only being involved with exceptions to the plan.

In some clubs these changes will happen slowly so the long standing Head Greenkeeper will have a chance to adapt if that is what is expected of him.

But in other clubs this will happen overnight and Head Greenkeepers should be preparing themselves for the change now! For existing Head

Greenkeepers, the majority of the change will have to be by self help, but for the staff being trained now, there should be an emphasis on applicable management techniques so that, as they become Deputy Heads and upwards, they are confident enough to be able to discuss the management of the links with senior management and not be afraid to stand their ground, backed by fact, if they feel they are correct. At the end of the day, if a company wants to go against specialist advice there is little you can do to stop them, but it is probably time to look for a new job!

The final thing that we have to remember is that WE have chosen a profession where the shareholders in the company are also the customers and can have direct daily access to the workforce which is not something that you will find in Lloyds Bank or ICI! Therefore, we have to deal with the situations that that environment brings accordingly.

Ian Tomlinson should be aware that the Secretary/General Manager is responsible for the running of the whole company and not just one part of it, therefore he should question what one of his heads of department is doing, but I wouldn't expect him to overrule that manager unless he has good reason.

As a small aside for Dave Goodridge, my 20 years engineering were spent in the RAF.

Richard Penley-Martin, Secretary, Stoneham Golf Club

Working together for mutual benefit

I have been reading your recent correspondents' remarks with great interest and thought that I could provide some different angles.

While I agree that Course Managers must lead with authority, they will always be limited by the level of authority invested in them by their employer and can only act as they wish if appropriately empowered. It is an unfortunate fact that Greens Committees do not always have the best interests of the golf course in mind when they make important decisions.

I know of several instances where the use of temporary greens is diminishing because Captains, committees etc, are overriding Greenkeepers' decisions in order to fulfil the day's intention of playing golf. I also know of two local courses where temporary greens are not employed at all, much to the Course Manager's vexation.

Previous letters on this subject have commented on "interference from Greens Committees" so this is clearly a common problem. (For "interference" should we be reading "ill-advised decisions"?). However, the Committee is in place to serve the best wishes of the mem-

bers; and the Course Manager is employed with the same end. Regrettably for many members (including those in authority) the distinction between the short and long term health of the golf course is a difficult one to realise. Bearing these factors in mind, surely Course Managers and Club officials should be working together for the mutual benefit of both the golf course and the members? It is not unreasonable to expect partnerships of this nature to operate successfully; indeed they already do in some enlightened golf clubs. Harold Blackshaw may well stand aside to let his electrician rewire his house, but I dare say he might indicate where he wants his power points.

In my view, there is an immense task ahead: We need to educate all those people in golf clubs whose business is with the golf course itself. Due to the ephemeral nature of committees, it would surely be sensible to target all golf club members i.e. future committee members. Whether BIGGA, for all its efforts, is large enough or influential enough to tackle such a task, is a tricky question. Maybe we need to enlist the help of other golfing authorities: could the R&A

commission The Way Forward for established golf clubs: could the EGU and the LGU help us to emphasise the importance of the golf course to their members?

It is evident in Central Government that power is cyclical and perhaps the rise in the greenkeeping profession that we have witnessed over the last decades is levelling off and the golf clubs are trying to reassert authority, trying to re-establish the power they have ceded. Only when those in authority are educated, and only when golf club members realise that the whole greenkeeping ideal is asseverated for the benefit of their golf game, will Course Managers be granted the necessary freedom to conduct their business to the fullest extent of their knowledge and ability.

I must thank the Editor of this magazine for respecting my wishes for anonymity. I have no reason to hide my opinions from greenkeepers, but as I am not a Course Manager, I feel this letter may be considered inflammatory at my golf club, and I do not wish to compromise my colleagues or myself.

Name and Address supplied

A stress reducing equation

It's a simple law of economics taught to every GCSE student in the country. What's all this about I here you ask!

Well over the last few months there have been several letters and articles written about the poor state of the greenkeeping profession. It seems to me that, apparently, this poor state is due to interfering committees and lack of respect from the golfing public.

All the letters go on about wanting to produce wonderful courses and how committees change too often and don't have the right credentials for the work they put themselves up for and several more comments of the same nature.

I believe it is the attitude of these greenkeepers that brings problems on themselves and not the fault of the whole industry. As Duncan McGilvary pointed out in his article in the November issue of *Greenkeeper* international 90% of golf in Britain is played on private members golf courses. The very nature of these clubs is a committee structure, and golf clubs have been run like these for over 100 years. Part of being a Greenkeeper is working with committees and Chairmen of the Greens Committee. All greenkeepers should realise this is part of the job just the same as top-dressing or applying fertiliser. Once this has been accepted a more harmonious relationship can be formed.

The committee structure is used widely in life, often known by another name, the government is a large structure of committees and sub committees, BIGGA is run by a committee structure, as are many golf clubs. The committees are the voice of the people, trying to run to the best of their ability whatever club, association or even country they are in charge of. As you will all know, committees never please all of the people all of the time

as different people have different ideas and views on everything in life. Golf club committees try to provide what they feel the members want from their course and they have to pass on or communicate these wants on to us the greenkeepers.

Is this the interference we hear so much about? I don't consider committee views, activities or even orders as interference. It is part of the communication process, which is set up within committee run golf clubs. This is where I get back to supply and demand. We, as greenkeepers, are the suppliers of a product (the golf course) and as suppliers we should produce the product that is demanded by the golf club members.

If they want slow, bumpy greens that they can stop the ball on with a driver, never wanting them aerated because of those blasted holes that makes them miss so many puts, if they want fairways cut so short the grass dies at the first sign of the illusive British sun, if they want rough so short they can rip a 3-wood 120 yards and never lose the golf ball they bought in 1985 who are we to argue.

We are not all producing top class championship courses for Tiger Woods and Co with long thick rough, narrow fairways and greens so fast the average club golfer would wet themselves! In this day and age where competition is tough for new members at golf clubs it is the role of the greenkeepers to provide what the golfers want and ensure the future success of your employer. Supplying the desired product is where we use all the skills, knowledge and experience that we have, even if it is not what we consider to be a good course or aesthetically pleasing. The finished product should be made to the highest standard within the parameters

set out by the clubs committees.

We cannot change the establishment and golf club structure so we need to be more adaptable to our surroundings and the clubs needs and the golfers ever changing desires. Other members of the clubs management team e.g. the pro and secretary should be used by us to get information to and from the members. These people should be classed as colleagues, not the enemy as some believe them to be. A pro or secretary with a little knowledge of greenkeeping can be a very handy partner on occasions such as hollow tining or course closure in the winter. These people are more on the front line of customer relations if they understand why, they can pass on the reasons to the golfers. Golf pros don't want to be greenkeepers any more than we want to sit in a shop selling sweets and tee pegs all day, so we should not feel threatened if we are, as I'm sure we all are, competent at our jobs.

Most golfers know what they want from a golf course and they don't want to know how to achieve it. That's our job to educate and enlighten them as to the needs of the grass plants they can see and the soils they can't. There are many ways to educate golfers. Open evenings, greens forums, a chat with Joe Smith on the 12 fairway. Use your imagination. The one thing we are all guilty of is poor or non existent communication. So come on greenkeepers, stop moaning about what a bad lot we have, and use all your skills to make the golfers happy. Remember ...

**Happy Golfers = Less Moans
= Happy Greenkeepers**

Leslie Howkins, Happy Head Greenkeeper,
Cleethorpes Golf Club, N.E.Lincs

Help with lawn sand?

Has anybody experienced problems with turf damage to their greens following an application of lawn sand? We have unfortunately used lawn sand, as usual, only for it later to be found to be contaminated with herbicides and over a period of 1-8 weeks thereafter suffered severe decline and ultimately death of significant areas on our greens. We were able to prove that the lawn sand was the cause due to the fact that the **one** green that was not treated was the **only one** that remained undamaged. More importantly we had left over sealed unused bags which we have had tested at two independent laboratories for herbicide contaminants. If we had not had any left over, nor had the one green untreated, we are unlikely to have been able to establish the cause, and certainly been unable to prove it.

Should you have cause to now suspect that a routine application of lawn sand may have led to damage on your greens, contact the magazine with details of your supplier and manufacturer and the batch number printed on the bag. Should it be the same as that used by ourselves it may be of great help to you.

Please respond through the pages of this magazine

Enviro thanks

Thank you for the excellent coverage (again) of this year's 2001 environmental competition and again we see the total commitment from numerous courses throughout the UK in promoting and enhancing environmental aspects. I would just like to point out a discrepancy in the article concerning my course, Bradley Park Golf Club. We have 300 members and not 200, plus the pay and play customers with being municipal. The number of rounds per annum is between 55,000 and 60,000. Thank you again and here's to the future promotion of environmental concern on our courses.

D. W. Brierley, Head Greenkeeper,
Bradley Park Golf Club

In defence of National Vocational Qualifications

I recently read with dismay a letter in the *Greenkeeper* International from John Ross. His views are that the NVQ system was failing and yet another qualification should be produced to test our greenkeepers. Having worked my way through the City & Guild to stage four, NVQ level four and beyond that, I believe that there is and always will be room for improvement and this should come in part from the Head Greenkeepers and not just the governing bodies.

The GTC have established working groups that already review the training. The groups have representatives from colleges, STRI and BIGGA. It is through this partnership that the employers and greenkeepers now have an excellent range of qualifications to choose from that they feel most appropriate to the trainee and the club.

As I understand it, the NVQ system is all about making sure the person being trained can actually do the job on the ground as well as holding their own in a committee room when necessary.

I have living proof at the course where I am that NVQ's do work. I have only been here for 16 months and already have

one of my staff well on the way to completing NVQ level two. This is a 37 year old man who had no ambition in the trade, he just used to come to work do the job and then go home. He now knows botanical names for trees, grass and plants and can identify them as well. He now uses many other skills that he had but was not encouraged to employ.

For the critics that say it's all so easy, what would you expect if a person has been doing the job for 11 years. He should know how to operate the machinery used to maintain the course. There are parts of the NVQ that need hard work and lots of it. What the NVQ system does is give them a chance to go forward, learn more and gain a recognised qualification on the way.

The other very important factor is that the Head Greenkeeper must put himself on the line and encourage the staff to ask questions. When a staff member goes through the NVQ system it will act as a refresher for all the staff (including the Head Greenkeeper). Questions that are asked in the tea room can be thrown open to everyone. It is up to the Head Greenkeeper not to be frightened that he

may not know the answer. There have been occasions when I have either forgotten the answer or have not known it. Nobody knows everything and we are all trying to improve are own lot in one way or another so let's share the real knowledge with each other that we get from our experience. I am not knocking the old system, but it is the real hands on knowledge that needs to be handed down along with the technical information from the text books and college.

As for the fact that John Ross seemed to find the NVQ 3 easy, as I have already stated a person doing the job should be able to do this. Level three is a stepping stone to level four and lack of theory, if any, should be dealt with at the appropriate levels. The governing bodies have put into place many other qualifications and perhaps he should have a go at one of them. At least then if any of his staff need his help he will be able to offer it.

Some of the other points about the need for support for the lonely greenkeepers is in my opinion justified. However I believe that too much information is being given back to the club members on how the course is maintained. Greenkeepers all

over the UK are measuring rain water and thatch levels etc. writing reports and putting them selves under unnecessary pressure. It is time to get back to work, if they don't ask, then don't tell them. No where else is it more true that a little information in the wrong hands can be most dangerous. A quick example is if you go for an operation the surgeon will tell you in the simplest way what he is going to do, he will not mention how many yards of cotton he will use or how sharp the blade will be, because you do not need or want to know.

Use the report writing time to work on the course or to help your staff and remember stop talking before you run out of things to say. Let the quality of your course do the talking for you. My final message is to those Greenkeepers who have no yet received the training to become a work-based trainer or even carried out an appraisal on their staff to identify training needs and in turn motivate that member of staff like my 37 year old! Get involved now, if you need help, it is out there for you, just ask.

T A Smith LCGI,
North Shore Golf Club, Skegness

This month Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, explains the many educational and training options that are available to the modern day greenkeeper

Education and Training update

The rush of correspondence, following the publication of Duncan McGilvray's article in the November edition of *Greenkeeper International*, has shown that there is still a lack of knowledge about the range of education and training available for golf greenkeepers. Moreover, many Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers seem to think that responsibility for training their staff rests with the GTC, BIGGA, Colleges, the Home Unions and/or the R&A.

Many Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers were educated and trained under the, now extinct City and Guilds Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4, which were phased out in 1995/96, following the introduction of Vocational Qualifications. Comparing the two qualifications is difficult, if not impossible as they are completely different ie. Vocational Qualifications are designed to show what someone can do, at work, on a number of different occasions, under a variety of conditions, together with the appropriate level of knowledge. Whereas, the, extinct, City and Guilds qualifications were college based and showed what someone knew.

Vocational Qualifications are open to all, no matter what level of skill, knowledge or experience. BIGGA strongly believes that all new recruits to the greenkeeping industry should be given the appropriate "on the job" training to enable them to do their job safely and correctly to a set standard. These standards have been set by Industry and reflect what a greenkeeper can do eg. switching, brushing, cutting, spreading, identifying grasses and other plants etc as well as what they know about this range of tasks and that they have a reasonable level of literacy, numeracy and IT skills.

The National Standard for basic greenkeeping skills in England and Wales are called National Vocational

Qualifications in Sportsturf Level 2 and in Scotland they are called Scottish Vocational Qualifications in Sportsturf Level 2. There are a number of ways in which new recruits may be trained. They may be given on the job training and assessment, they may be sent to college to learn their knowledge with practical skills being taught and assessed at work or they may be visited at work by travelling lecturer/assessors who teach and assess skills and knowledge at work on a number of occasions.

Once new recruits have achieved the Standards required for the award of a vocational qualification they are classed as qualified. However, training should not stop and newly qualified greenkeepers should be encouraged to continue to learn new skills and knowledge. These new skills can be taught at work, in college or on short courses such as those run by BIGGA and a range of colleges and other training providers.

The decisions on who gets trained, what training is needed and what is the appropriate training rests with the Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager, not with the College, nor with the GTC nor with BIGGA.

Devising an Education and Training Policy, arranging finance for training, selecting the most appropriate course of training and monitoring of training standards are basic management skills that must be mastered if Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers want to lead and not be led.

The options available to managers of greenkeepers are varied. Level 2 Vocational qualifications could be followed by Level 3. However, remember that vocational qualifications mean that the holder can do the job at work. This is not easy if the club do not get involved in training and allow all knowledge and skills to be taught in college and assessed by simulation

and/or a portfolio of evidence. If you decide that vocationals are the most appropriate for your staff, make sure that they are able to provide evidence of the ability to do the job, at work, on a number of occasions. Level 3 is a large step up from Level 2 and it may not be appropriate to allow staff to move up to the next Level until they have gained some experience. Level 4 is an even greater step and candidates for this qualification must be working as managers. Vocational qualifications are not the only qualifications available. Greenkeepers can attend Ordinary National Certificate and Ordinary National Diploma Courses and Higher National Certificate and Higher National Diploma Courses, which, in turn can lead to First and Higher Degree. Remember that these qualifications show what the holder knows and not necessarily what they can do.

Vocational qualifications are ideal for all new entrants to the greenkeeping industry. They show that the holder is qualified to perform a wide range of tasks and that their skills have been assessed at work. Whether all greenkeepers move on to the next Level of Vocational Qualification, on to a more academic course onto a range of short courses or continues with on the job training is a decision which must be made by managers which in greenkeeping means Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers.

You've got mail!

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

Send an email to:
education@bigga.co.uk
ken@bigga.co.uk
sami@bigga.co.uk



Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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

Golden Key Supporters



Golden Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Gem Professional	01254 356611
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Massey Ferguson (AGCO Ltd)	02476 851292
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 377777
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Stoke Park Club	01753 717171
Textron Turf Care	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01202 319987
TurfTrax Group Ltd	01722 434000

Golden Key Individual Members

Mike Eastwood, J H Fry, J H Greasley, WJ Rogers, David S Robinson, Stuart Townsend, Douglas Smith, Andrew Cornes

Silver Key Supporters



Silver Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Ernest Doe & Sons	01254 380311
General Legal Protection Ltd	01904 611600
Heath Lambert Group	0113 246 1313
Ocmis Irrigation	01460 241939
RainBird	01273 891326
Syngenta Professional Products	0041 613 233 028

Silver Key Individual Members

Clive A Archer, John Crawford, Bruce Cruickshank, Douglas G Duguid, Alan Holmes, Kenneth Jones, Iain A MacLeod, Robert Maibusch MG, Richard S Mullen, Elliott R Small, Steven Tierney, CJ Yeaman



On course with BIGGA education



Golf Course Preparation Video
£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

Golf Course Reconstruction Video
£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

Ecology Book
£3.00 to BIGGA members
£7.00 to non-members

Ecology Video
£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

Raising the Standards of Mowing Management Video
£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

Setting the Standard in Spraying Application Video
£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

Irrigation Video
£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

CONQUEROR MKII

The Allett Conqueror combines impressive work rate, total stability on banks and the ability to cut long grass cleanly, even in wet conditions



- Hydrostatic transmission
- Wide wheel base and ATV type rear tyres gives great traction and stability
- 16HP twin cylinder engine
- 7" diameter, heavy duty cutting cylinders

AZTEC

The Allett Aztec is a superb pedestrian cylinder mower ideal for maintaining golf greens. A range of fully floating hydraulic attachments are available in both 20" and 24" widths

- 6 or 10 bladed cylinders with or without Groomer
- Scarifier, Verticut or Brush units available
- Changed in seconds, no tools required
- In-built back-lapping facility



ALLETT

Allett Mowers Limited

Baden Powell Road, Kirkton Industrial Estate
Arbroath, Scotland DD11 3LS

Tel: 01241 437740 Fax 01241 431715

Email: sales@allett.co.uk www.allett.co.uk

Now for something completely NEW

Visit our website www.thejollymachine.co.uk



ONE MACHINE
40 DIFFERENT
FITTINGS
THE ARTICULATED
JOLLY
from only
£8,000

The **Jolly Machine**



"Salruck"
New Road
Dinton
Nr. Aylesbury
Bucks
HP17 8UT

Company
VAT Number: 768 3005 23

Tel: 01296 748453 Fax: 01296 747402 E-mail: newventures@gamet76.freeserve.co.uk

terrific
tees...



...fantastic
fairways...



...great greens!



multigreen

CONTROLLED RELEASE FERTILISERS

- 5-6 month OR now, new 3 month response from a single application
- Different prill sizes for fine, close mown and coarse turf
- Nutrients released by temperature alone - unaffected by increased rainfall
- Less clippings and increased root growth compared to other treatments
- Sulphur free, high potassium formulations for stronger, harder turf
- Use as a 'Base Feed'* on fine turf to provide consistent, reliable response

Manufactured by

Haifa Chemicals

Developed & Distributed in the UK and Ireland by



headland
AMENITY PRODUCTS

For more information on base feed fertiliser programs, or for a copy of the Multigreen Brochure, contact Headland on 01799 530146 or e-mail: amenitysales@headlandgroup.com Website: www.headlandamenity.com

This month, Tracey and Susannah from BIGGA's Membership Services Department, would like welcome almost 60 new members to the Association and update you on the new Membership Card

It's never too late to renew!

If your membership expired in December 2001 or January 2002, it is still not too late to renew. Just return your form with confirmation from your Golf Club that you are still a Greenkeeper, payment and a photograph of yourself and we will process your renewal as soon as possible. If you have not yet got a photograph just send us your old membership card already containing your photograph and we can use that.

If you have retired from greenkeeping or are about to retire, your membership doesn't have to retire with you. Why not apply for retired membership and keep in touch with your friends and the industry and carry on receiving your valuable copy of Greenkeeper International. Just ring Tracey at BIGGA HOUSE.



Good News ...

After last month's successful BTME show in Harrogate, BIGGA joined over 60 new members to the Association, and renewed over 130 at the show. It was a pleasure to meet so many new and existing members face to face. At this very busy time of the year for Membership we endeavour to process your requests as quickly and efficiently as possible, however, should you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sad News ...

On Friday 15th February, BIGGA's Membership Department will be saying a sad goodbye to Susannah Sweeney, Membership Services Assistant. Susannah is leaving the Association to join her husband RAF Sgt Mark Sweeney, who has been posted to Kinloss. I would personally like to thank Susannah for all her hard

work and on behalf of all the Staff and Members, would like to wish Susannah and Mark all the very best in their new posting. News of Susannah's replacement will be printed in a future issue of Greenkeeper International.

Membership Photocard update

The new Membership Photocards are now in circulation. We would appreciate any feedback on the new type of card, please send your comments to tracey@bigga.co.uk

Today, almost all ID cards or Membership cards carry a photograph of the member, your Association is no different. For many years each greenkeeper member has had to place their own photograph on their card, to save each member from repeatedly doing this each year, we are now producing plastic cards with your photograph pre-scanned. You only have to supply us with one photograph and this will be re-printed each year on to a new card. The new cards will continue to promote the professional image that the Association has achieved.

February's Monthly Membership Draw Winner



Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA Clock/calculator/calendar and alarm. Our congratulations go to February's winner, Michael Frappell of Lamerwood Golf Club.

International welcome

BIGGA has almost 300 international members situated throughout the world in as many as 31 different countries. This month we would like to welcome our members from the bordering countries of Austria and Switzerland.

Austria

Jovan Antunovic, Golf Club Linz
 David Baker, Ernegg
 Sean Baxter, Colony Club Gutenhof
 Wayne Beasley, Golf Club Adamstal
 Simon Cooper, Colony Club Gutenhof
 Martin Dumbrell, Golf Und Freizeitpark
 Julian Farrimond, Golf Club Linz
 Tryggvi Gunnarsson, Oddfellow
 John Jackson, Colony Club Gutenhof
 Nicholas Lush, Colony Club Gutenhof
 Paul Marsden, Gut Altentann
 Jason Mitchell, Colony Club Gutenhof
 David Shaw, Golf Club Ottenstein
 Adam Turner, Colony Club Gutenhof

Switzerland

Robert Beeby, Gstaad Saanenland
 Kevin Caples, Niederburen Golf Club
 Steve Elms, Golf Club Blumisberg
 Viviane Lalande, Syngenta Crop Protection AG
 Richard McGlynn, Golf Club Ybrig
 Jose Milan, Syngenta Crop Protection AG
 Jean-Bernard Mittaz, Lausanne Golf Club
 Nicolas Morlet, Delavaux
 Austen Sutton, Syngenta Crop Protection AG
 Steven Tierney, Golfpark Nuolen AG
 Arne Van Amerongen, Harrodine Golf
 Rolf Von Avx, Golf Club Nuolen AG
 Mark Zajac, Syngenta Crop Protection AG

A BIGGA welcome...

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members ...

Scottish Region

Mark Cummine, West
 Graeme Latto, West
 Martin Smith, East
 John Thorburn, West
 Wallace Wilson, West

Northern Region

Robert Drake, N West
 Jonathan Gable, N Wales
 Mark Heald, N West
 Max Hedingham, N West
 John Lea, N West
 David McCormack, N West
 James O'Neill, N West
 Gary Parker, N Wales
 Mark Shuttleworth, N West

Jamie Swallow, N West
 Graham Swarbrick, N West

Midland Region

Justin Bygrave, Mid Anglia
 Kevin Mills, Mid Anglia
 Richard Padbury, E of England
 Wayne Smith, Midland
 Gary White, Midland
 Gary White, Midland
 Barry Wright, Midland

South East Region

Chris Dawson, London
 Jon Goodman, Essex
 Christopher Gurton, Essex
 Richard Linnen, Essex
 Gavin Mason, Surrey
 Trevor Ockenden, Kent
 Trevor Ockenden, Kent

S West & S Wales Region

Mark Fowler, S West
 Peter Havard, S West
 Paul Long, S Wales
 James Mason, S Coast
 Roger Roberts, S West

Northern Ireland

Steven Henry
 Brian McConway
 Allister McEwen
 Chris McIlroy
 Robert Patterson

International Members

Jason Mitchell, Austria
 Bajarni Hannesson, Iceland

Associate Members

Vincent Gregory, Sheffield
 Robin Snow, Sheffield
 Jean Jegard, Mid Anglia
 John Murray, BB&O
 Lawrence Dennis-Smith, Sussex
 James Edwards, Essex
 Matthew Fowler, Surrey
 Andrew Creed, S Coast
 Henrik Hansen, Denmark

Student Members

Stephen Blackwell
 Dean Talbot

**YOU'VE
 GOT
 MAIL!**

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

Send an email to:
membership@bigga.co.uk
tracey@bigga.co.uk

Take a time-honoured look back through the pages of Greenkeeper International from a decade ago



FEBRUARY 1992

'Greenkeeper International' reported that if ever proof was needed that the greenkeeping profession is in a very healthy state - along with the industry it services - the undeniable evidence was to be found in Harrogate at the fourth and best ever BTME. From the opening ceremony, when a relaxed and smiling Viscount Whitelaw announced the launching of the new Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund, offered congratulations to Laurence Pitthie on his Master Greenkeeper achievement and praised all members of the greenkeeping profession for having "arrived and come of age" in no uncertain measure, the feeling throughout was one of upbeat optimism. The show refused to lie down in the so-called doom and gloom of current business fashion, whilst one informed wag likened the letters BTME to Brilliant Times, Magnificent Enthusiasm!

The magazine reported that at the launch ceremony at the BTME, there were three worthy recipients of somewhat special awards. In 1987, when the former greenkeeping associations amalgamated to form BIGGA, the British Golf Greenkeepers Association placed its funds in trust for the very purpose of promoting greenkeeper training. Now those trustees, Alan Gamble, Alan Kite and Ivor Scoones had begun to wind-up the trust and to transfer monies held to the new Education and Development Fund. It was for their selfless service as trustees that Viscount Whitelaw made the awards.

It was announced from Somerset's Cannington College that a Higher National Diploma in Golf Greenkeeping with European Studies had been developed and would commence in September 1992, coupled with the revelation that a new resource, a full length nine hole golf course, was to be built with stunning views overlooking the Quantock Hills and within sight of the Bristol Channel.

We test where others guess



Don't gamble with your top dressing

Is your top dressing compatible with your rootzone? We can take the guesswork out of choosing the right top dressing by taking core samples from your existing profile and analysing them at our laboratory. Using our custom designed software we can then identify the most suitable top dressing for your green.

To find out more call us on 01477 572462 or visit our website at www.rufford.com



SOIL TECHNOLOGY
RUFFORD

Don't use guess work - use Rufford

GRADE A Quality

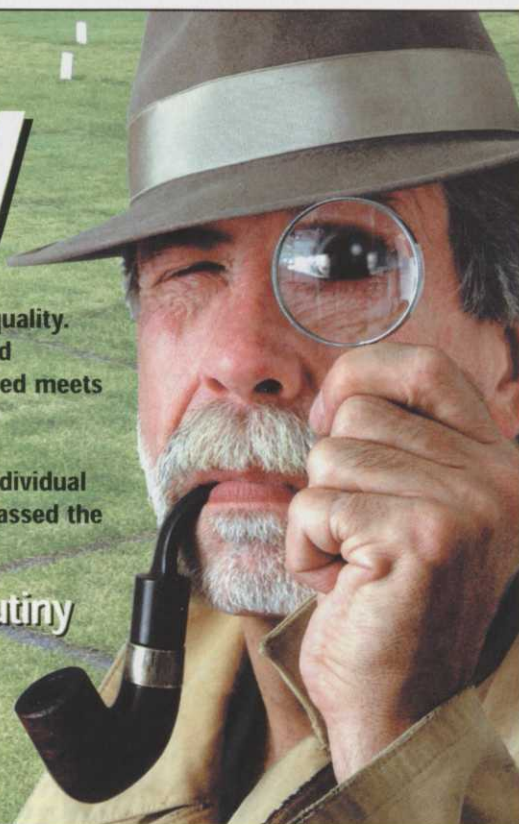
British Seed Houses is setting the standard for amenity turfgrass seed quality. For amenity perennial ryegrass we're 80% self-sufficient in UK seed production - more than any other competitor - so more of our turfgrass seed meets the strenuous UK higher voluntary seed certification standards.

From specialist sportsground, golf and landscaping mixtures to proven individual turfgrass cultivars from IGER, you just know that your Grade A seed has passed the most stringent quality parameters in the industry.

Grade A seed mixtures will stand the **closest** scrutiny



SEEDS • SERVICE • SOLUTIONS



Lincoln
01522 868714

Bristol
0117 982 3691



www.britishseedhouses.com

Emma Beggs, STRI Turfgrass Agronomist for the North West Region, gives some handy tips on how you can encourage Barn Owls to your golf course

BIRDS OF PREY

Barn Owls are fantastic, mystical creatures and their behaviour and appearance has intrigued humans for centuries. Most people do not necessarily link the activity of barn owls with local authority amenity areas or, for that matter, golf courses. The fact is that this species, protected under European law, can be intimately associated with both, particularly when

grassland management favours their hunting activities.

Populations have declined dramatically over the last century with most recent figures putting numbers at 3750 pairs in England and Wales and 650 pairs in Scotland, a drop of approximately 90% since the 1830's. Barn owls are under serious threat and as a consequence they are protected by The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

These are such fascinating creatures that I am certain many people would wish to do something to help reverse this trend. How can you help? Well, if you are involved in a local authority or a golf course then you can do something.

Barn owls are mainly nocturnal and if you are out at dusk and are fortunate you may see one hunting, flying slowly and silently only one to two metres above the grassland. They have hearing only slightly more sensitive than our own, however the facial disc of loose feathers that gives barn owls their distinctive appearance acts to collect and amplify the faint sound of their prey. Cleverly their ears are offset, allowing them

to accurately pinpoint the source of the noise and make highly effective strikes on unsuspecting mammals. Their main food source is the short-tailed vole although mice and shrews are also favoured food. These mammals live in unmown or ungrazed tussocky grassland and this is where the barn owls hunt.

If we are going to increase barn owl numbers then suitable grass habitats need to be developed to increase the food supply. As custodians of large areas of grassland, local authorities and golf courses can change the way they mow areas to develop suitable grassland habitats. This work will also have additional environmental benefits, encouraging a wider variety of plants and animals. An extra bonus may be a reduction in your mowing bill!

Whether looking at cutting existing grassland areas or developing areas from scratch, we need to develop the field margins or alternatively dedicate whole fields to this practice. On recreational areas it will probably be most practical to develop wide grass margins, ideally five to six metres, along woodland edges, streams and perimeters, although in some circumstances it may be feasible to set aside whole fields to substantially increase the available ground for hunting.

For those of you who wish to try this, the target is the equivalent of 4 hectares of suitable tussocky grassland within a 1 kilometre circle around a nest. Observations indicate that barn owls need this amount of grassland to provide sufficient food to support successful breeding.

Grass margins can be developed

from existing grass areas by reducing mowing frequency to once every three years or so. Even better if you can sow a native grass seed mix, these are becoming more widely available through the main seed companies. Choose a grass mix which most accurately resembles original grassland in your local area and try to include grasses such as false-brome (*Brachipodium* spp.), field brome (*Bromus* spp.), and tall or false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum* spp.). Newly seeded areas would probably need to be mown annually during the first two years to keep down weed populations, however after this initial establishment phase one cut every three years or so should be appropriate. A suitable height of cut for these areas would be approximately 100 mm.

If you are planning a mowing regime based on these principles, avoid cutting all of the grassland strips in the same year - cutting needs to be staggered to maintain the food supply.





Some thought also needs to be given to connecting your grassland corridors with those on adjacent land. This has a dual purpose, both in joining suitable feeding habitats across wider areas as well as reconnecting isolated pockets of barn owl communities. Intensive farming methods, the increasing spread of urban areas and development of road networks continue to chop up the country into smaller pieces across which barn owls and other wildlife find it increasingly difficult to travel. Unless young birds can explore further afield to find new territories and mate, the population will suffer further decline. Indeed, only about one in four young barn owls survive to become breeding adults and at best will reach their fifth birthday, hence the need to help them becomes that much more apparent.

When you have developed the grassland, all that remains is to pro-

vide the owls with somewhere to live and some hunting posts.

Barn owl numbers have declined in part due to the loss of nesting sites as agricultural buildings have been converted or demolished and old trees have been removed. The good news is that barn owls happily use man-made nest boxes if these are placed in the right spots, adjacent to their favoured habitat. Wooden, waterproof boxes on poles situated in pairs along woodland margins prove successful, as do nest boxes sited within suitable buildings. When constructing new buildings adjacent to grassland areas you could consider including a barn owl nest box within the design.

Barn Owls also need the occasional post along the grass margins to provide places for post hunting on wet and windy days. Although the cleverly designed feathers allow for silent flight, the minus is that they are not waterproof!

If you are able to provide favourable habitats it is likely that you will be successful in attracting barn owls, fortunately they are capable of rapid population expansion once the conditions are right.

If you are interested in these initiatives there are many local groups across the UK who will be happy to advise local authorities, golf courses and other landowners on appropriate habitat development, including the design and siting of nest boxes. Here on the Wirral we are fortunate to have the Wirral & Ellesmere Port Barn Owl Group who can be contacted through PO Box 114, Hoylake, Wirral CH48 8BX or via email WEPBarnOwlGroup@aol.com. The Barn Owl Trust, Waterleat, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7HU, www.barnowltrust.org.uk or Chris Green, Barn Owl Project Officer at Cheshire Wildlife Trust, email: cgreen@cheshirewt.cix.co.uk are also worth contacting for further infor-

mation. In addition, there are grants available to assist in this work, contact the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group; telephone 01203 696699 and The Wildlife Trust; telephone 01636 677711 for up-to-date information.

You can make a difference and what could be more worthwhile than assisting one of our most impressive native species. It will take some thought, planning and a little effort yet users of these recreational areas, be they footballers, golfers or families out enjoying a late afternoon walk, could then be lucky enough to see one of these superb creatures.

Emma Beggs is an STRI Turfgrass Agronomist covering the North West. Emma and the rest of the STRI team can be contacted on 01274 565131, email info@stri.co.uk or visit their website at www.stri.co.uk

Colin Denny, Assistant Greenkeeper at Prestbury GC, in conjunction with Anthony Davies MG, Course Manager, describes the work that went into the new 17th hole

HEAVEN 17



Above: The 17th collapses due to adverse weather conditions

Below right: The dumpers begin their task of rebuilding

Far left, top: Working out the new gradient

Far left, middle: Showing work well underway

Far left, bottom: Nearly 2000 tonnes of soil was excavated from the 13th fairway

The weather in the year 2000 had taken its toll at Prestbury Golf Club as at many golf courses. The constant rain, which seemed not to subside, had forced the land to slip in front of the 17th green at Prestbury. In its wake it left behind a huge cavity big enough for a new style bunker.

After much deliberation the club decided not to reinstate the collapse but to take the chance of creating a more subtle, lesser gradient face with a banking which would offer the greenstaff the opportunity to maintain it to a higher standard than before.

Ken Moodie, of Hawtree Ltd, who had worked on redesigns at Royal Birkdale in 1991, was asked to draw up plans, taking on board the club's views regarding the gradient. Once plans were agreed, a contractor was sought and a fixed price obtained. The hole was closed for play so that work could commence and be open in time for the first competition of 2001.

Griesley Ltd, was contracted to reconstruct the bank and on March 13, 2001 heavy machinery consisting of a hi-mac and two large dumper trucks moved in. The job of excavating and transporting the soil from the site on the side of the 13th fairway commenced and resulted in moving nearly 2000 tonnes of soil.

Before the grading of the soil start-

ed, the greenstaff dug trenches along the lower half of the hollow, to intercept any water which ran down the bank.

Original drains were found and connected to the main drain. Also a 100mm drain was dug to a depth of 1.5 metres along the front of the green. Small laterals were also dug connecting into the newly installed main-drain. Soil was now graded layer-by-layer using the tracks of the

dumper. While the dumpers were in action, work started at the top of the bank in front of the green. First the turf was lifted and placed close by. Three by one metre boards were placed side by side creating a makeshift road for the hi-mac to run along. In doing so it allowed the digger to excavate soil to a depth of 1.5 metres.

With the trench dug 5-10mm gravel was used as a base to which a 75 metre length of 150mm plastic pipe could be laid and back filled. When the last of the pipe was laid and back

filled, 1-2mm grit was used as a blinding layer then topped off with top-dressing, consisting of 70/30 sand soil mixture. Meanwhile the dumpers carried on with the job of transporting the soil tonne by tonne from the pit site and at the same time consolidating the soil in layers. After a few days, the bank face began to change shape. Within two short weeks of constant activity the dumpers finished their task. All that remained was for the hi-mac to grade the top soil at the 13th fairway from which all the soil had been taken. The greenstaff then started work on the final touches.

Large stones and debris were removed from the area and then the entire surface raked creating a fine tilth, still removing any stones which were disturbed. As soon as the area was raked, a pre-seeding fertiliser was applied, the area left until the fertiliser had broken down and was repeated on the excavation site. The top section of the 17th bank was partly turfed to present a sense of maturity to the new hollow.

A drop zone-area was provided which did not incur a penalty. In the interim period the hollow was once again raked in readiness for seeding, and this was repeated on the 13th fairway. Once the seed had germi-





nated it was clear to see any thin patches and these were promptly reseeded and also both areas were given a further application of fertiliser. The new hollow was classed as play "prohibited" and a no entry zone in order to protect it from players walking onto the newly seeded area.

Golf balls were provided by the club inscribed with the "17th hole" and these were presented to the members playing on his hole. The reason was for safety towards players: If players landed short the ball was left and a free shot from the drop zone allowed, thus protecting the seeded area and adding to the golfers safety. The first duty for the groundstaff each morning was to collect the balls which had landed in this area, wash and return them to the professional ready for the day's play. A further improvement to

the 17th was that trees were pruned back to the existing wood line on the left hand side of the hole.

Broom which had grown tall and woody was taken away and brash, consisting mostly of brambles etc were cut using a strimmer with a blade attached and the entire area cleared, opening up the whole area and creating the illusion of a longer more strategic hole.

The 17th hole is now fully open and was ready for the first competition in April 2001.

Golfers, greenstaff and Ken Moodie are pleased with the results. And so we should be. A lot of planning and hard work went into the project with the club boasting a hole that has much improved.

The 17th hole at "Prestbury Golf Club" has certainly changed.

Kawasaki



ENVY OF THE GREENS

Mule Diesel 2510

The Mule Diesel 2510 gives you more power, performance, load capacity, fuel efficiency and, with its low-ground pressure qualities, you won't leave any divots.

- 23 hp, 3 cylinder, 4-stroke, liquid cooled, diesel engine
- Automatic variable speed transmission
- Dual mode differential for rear axle
- Dual range gear box with selectable 4-wheel drive
- 12-months warranty

Power Products

Kawasaki's power products range offers some of the finest working equipment available to the professional market.

- Powered by world-class Kawasaki engine technology for reliability
- Latest ergonomic design for operator comfort and safety
- Reduced noise, vibration and emissions

Engineered for professionals

FOR A BROCHURE AND YOUR NEAREST DEALER CALL

FREE ON 0800 3 163 063

(Outside the UK, call +44 1235 824351) www.kawasaki.co.uk

RECYCLE

The modern Christmas is the time of the year when one realises just how much we have become a packaging society. It is little wonder that local authorities are faced with an increasing problem of what to do with waste. Landfill sites are quickly disappearing and yet there seems little sign of any diminishing use of cardboard, paper, polystyrene and a host of other materials all designed to make an item attractive. What has this got to do with course management? Nothing directly, but it does highlight an important issue that addresses every one - recycling. If a recycling programme is to work effectively every department within the club has to be involved and inspired.

For many clubs modern demands have increased the need to collect grass on areas such as fairways that in the past have simply had the clippings left where they fell. Golf courses have in fact been recycling grass since their inception - rabbits and sometimes sheep were often used as mowers. These naturally converted the grass into nutrients. With the introduction of gang mowers the clippings were left in the turf. What is this, if it is not recycling?

Research has shown that over 80% of grass plants consist of water plus a percentage of nutrients, especially nitrogen. By returning this to the soil, moisture retention is increased, some plant food is also provided. The secret of recycling is to produce a turf where thatch build-up is contained so that the clippings can reach the soil, and decompose there.

During the last few years there have been a number of rotary machines introduced onto the market under the recycling banner. While these are new models, the recycling concept has been around for well over 25 years. One of the main incentives for this present higher profile has come from the USA where a number of States have closed their landfill site's gates to organic waste, so the pressure has been on to recycle as much as possible.

For the recycling rotary mowing system to be successful it requires a specially designed cutting deck. The housing has to retain the cut material long enough for it to be chopped into small enough pieces that will pass down into the sward where they can then decompose. Another major factor of this form of mowing is that the height of the grass needs to be left longer than is generally considered

usual in this country. Each cut should only remove one third of the growth, so in some cases the grass will have to be mown on a more regular cycle.

Where collection is being carried out disposal can become a big problem. The clippings do not decompose well in a compost heap, and the end result is usually a stinking heap of gunge.

On a small scale the answer is to mix other matter such as leaves with the grass; this produces more satisfactory compost.

The rotary blade units consist of a disc with small replaceable knives. This system is found mainly on domestic machines and has slight disadvantage compared with the others. Because the chopping chamber is fairly small it can easily become congested with material, especially when there is high moisture content. While access to clearing it is usually relatively easy it can become tedious this operation has to be carried out too frequently. The noise this shred-

that the blades are sharp and balanced. Damaged ones should be replaced immediately. If they are not then the machines will become highly dangerous.

Most shredders will tackle saplings but for larger diameter branches a chipper is required. These, generally consisting of a large disc with replaceable blades that do exactly as the name implies - convert the wood into chips. The size of these can be controlled within most chippers to match the area where they are going to be used. Shredded material can be used as mulch on ornamental areas such as flowerbeds or under shrubs. When well composted the result is an ideal soil conditioner. Chips are ideal for making natural paths.

Whilst not exactly recycling the use of biodegradable oil in hydraulic systems and two-stroke engine mixtures reduces the risk of damage through spillage to turf and also benefits the environment by reducing pollution.

Most machinery manufacturers recognise the importance of recycling and many components they now use are recyclable, a point worth taking into account when considering buying a particular piece of equipment.

There are numerous other things that can be done and no doubt readers have their own schemes. Here are a few others worth considering. Persuade players to place any empty drink cans into special containers out on the course. The clubhouse generates a lot of glass bottles; these can be disposed of in bottle banks. Paper and cardboard are easily dealt with in the same manner.

One scenario, which might happen one day, is using vegetable oil from the kitchens as fuel in a converted diesel engine. Some road vehicles in the USA are already running on this substitute. But be warned, any greenkeepers who decide to go down this route will leave a trail of fumes around the course similar to the smell from a fish and chip shop.

For any recycling schemes to be successful it will require all the people working in or visiting the complex to be receptive to the schemes.

A recent piece on a local radio station illustrated the problems the country is facing regarding the disposal of unwanted rubbish. Cambridgeshire is a flat county and two of the only hills in it are the result of waste material. Perhaps your course needs some new bunkers?



When it comes to heavier material such as brushwood, a shredder is the best solution. These reduce the volume of material by a ratio of up to 10 to 1 which means that the space required for dumping is drastically reduced, as are the number of trips to a disposal site. There is another advantage; the action of the cutting or chopping mechanism exposes larger fibre areas that enable the decomposing micro-organisms to gain easier and faster access to carry out their work.

There are three cutting systems now available; horizontal rotary blades, cylindrical blades cutting against a static knife or a drum unit with hammers or flails.

The first system is the simplest, but the cutting process creates may also be a problem. A far quieter method is the second system. The material passes between a cylinder with a series of knives that chop the material against a static blade. On the electric versions of this type of unit reversing the rotation of the blades will easily unblock the cutting mechanism.

The third system is commonly found in commercial units. It is made up of a blade carrier such as a drum to which are attached a number of either hammers or flails. Some large models have a conveyor that automatically feeds the material in to the shredder where it is pulverised.

Whatever type of shredder is used it is important in the interests of safety

With our variable climate one of the greatest challenges facing every golf club is efficient and environmentally-sound water management. Good drainage on a course is vital during wetter periods and sound irrigation systems make their mark during drier spells. Can more be done to create harmony and greater stability between the two? Nigel Wyatt suggests how.

DECENT DRAINAGE



Collecting water from your golf course in the rainy times, for use in the drier times, is an extremely sound proposition for most clubs. If a drought does set in serious and expensive damage can occur very quickly. Grass roots are unable to obtain sufficient water to make up for transpiration losses and the grass becomes stressed.

Circulating water which you have collected provides an insurance policy - it is there when you need to protect the fine playing surface of your course. It is by collecting water and transporting this vital liquid in sufficient quantities from A to B around the course, plus the timing of when this happens, that will ensure the sward will flourish. There is no doubt today's members are highly critical of playing conditions and expect them to be as good as, if not better, than those next door. Clubs cannot afford to neglect this.

Basically the scheme involves collecting ground water and surface water run-off, channelling this into a piped drainage system and feeding that into a storage reservoir in the ground - which need or need not be lined.

Tightening water controls by the Environment Agency and new regulations which examine borehole extraction help to make an on-course water storage system a highly viable proposition. Water licences, issued on a five year basis, will mean those applying will have to show they are making responsible use of this valuable resource - otherwise their abstraction licence could be revoked. New water laws, currently going through parliament, will make water recycling even more beneficial. The Environment Agency recommends greenkeepers water efficiently by:

Developing a water system maintenance programme. A routine inspection should be organised for all plumbing fixtures, appliances, pressure regulators, water lines, valves and pumps for leaks. Arrange replacement immediately when leaks are detected.

Training staff to work on increasing levels of awareness of water efficiency.

Eliminating irrigation on areas such as the rough.

Watering at night or early in the morning to reduce evaporation losses.

Utilising drought-resistant turfgrasses that require less irrigation and maintenance.

Inspecting sprinkler nozzles to ensure they are not clogging, are operating properly and distributing the water uniformly.

Employing mulches wherever possible.

Recycling water for other purposes wherever possible.

Upgrading, replacing or computerising your irrigation system.





Any ground water abstraction will require consultation with, and ultimately licensing from, the Environment Agency.

For general information and technical advice contact the Environment Agency, National Water Demand Management Centre on 01903 832073.

It is not inconceivable that ground water/surface water collection systems could provide an adequate amount of water to operate an irrigation system throughout the summer. If not, it could provide an economic supplement to the existing supply.

The benefit of this approach is twofold - an economic supply of water for irrigation and, of course, the benefit of drier fairways in the winter months.

Primary drainage

Planning is the first all important stage of any drainage scheme.

Use a reputable contractor to assist with planning design and costing of the works. Obtain a number of quotations, normally three. Contact the Land Drainage Contractors Association Sports Turf Division.

Their members are individually vetted on their ability to carry out such works. Ask the chosen contractor for references of a similar project and take them up.

Alternatively engage the services of a Consultant. You will be given unbiased advice and design, at a cost. Charges are generally between 5% and 15% of the contract cost.

The level of drainage required is dependent on the course structure. Courses built on naturally free-draining soils are likely to require only a basic drainage system. Heavier soils

will require much more work and expenditure to give satisfactory drainage.

For best results, systems should be installed when the ground and weather conditions are reasonably dry and firm.

A piped drainage system forms the basis of the construction and consists of a main drain installed at a depth of 600-900mm at the edge of a fairway within the semi-rough. Pipes are typically 100-200mm diameter and are laid within trenches on a formed trench bed.

The pipe is then surrounded and the trench filled to within 150mm of the surface with an approved, clean stone which is generally blinded with grit.

The trench is then filled level with an approved coarse sand. It is important to ensure no migration of fines through the gravel. A capping mix of rootzone is then commonly used to dress the trenchlines. This provides a medium in which grass seed can grow, helping to ensure quick establishment.

Golf clubs are keen to ensure works are completed as quickly as feasible to protect their revenue streams.

Lateral drains typically 60-100mm diameter connect into the main at 5-10m spacings in a grid formation. They should be laid within trenches excavated cleanly to a minimum depth of 450-750mm and backfilled in the same manner as the main drains.

Lateral drains should always cross the natural slope of the land so they can intercept ground water moving naturally through the soil profile. If ground levels demand it, the main drain may be installed within a fairway with lateral drains connecting

into the main in a herringbone formation.

Natural settlement is likely to occur over the trenchlines and continued work may be necessary in order to maintain the correct surface levels.

There is no doubt that installing a piped drainage system for the transportation of soil water can dramatically improve conditions - either on very wet sites with heavy soils or where there is a high water table in more permeable soils.

Timing of works

Drainage works are likely to affect at least one fairway - which will need to be closed during the installation of the system. For this reason it is common for a Golf Club's calendar of events to dictate when works can be carried out.

Clubs need to be fully aware installing drainage systems in the winter months is a risky business and works may have to be delayed. This could result in the benefits of the works being lost for a further year.

Installing land drainage systems within a new or established golf course requires a combination of the correct experience coupled with the correct installation equipment. Much of the machinery is specialised and developed specifically for its purpose by the contractor and machinery manufacturer over a number of years.

Working in fine turf situations means trenching machinery, whether tracked continuous chain or tractor mounted continuous wheel should be fit for excavating on the course.

To prevent contamination of the playing surface, trenchers often include soil loading conveyors so excavated soil is put directly onto dumpers. All wheeled equipment,

including soil removing dumpers and gravel fill discharge trailers, should be fitted with low ground pressure tyres fit to use on turf.

Secondary drainage

Another important issue is the quick removal of surface water. This often causes puddling because of the impermeability of the subsoil or topsoil. Secondary operations include:

Gravel/sand slitting

Narrow trenches, typically 50-65mm wide are excavated to an average depth of 250mm.

Slits are installed at 1-2m spacings, perpendicular to the primary lateral drains. Trenches are filled with gravel to within 50mm of the surface, and topped off with coarse sand.

Gravel banding

Narrow bands of grit are installed, typically 20mm wide to an average depth of 200mm, at 0.4m spacings, perpendicular to the primary lateral drains.

These secondary systems intercept surface water, conveying it and discharging to the permeable fill within the lateral drains.

Top dressing should form part of an ongoing maintenance programme, especially on very wet sites. This will ensure the continuing effectiveness of the drainage systems.

Water storage

Having designed and installed your land drainage system, it will be necessary to direct all water into a reservoir.

Gravity pipework alone is unlikely to be sufficient to take the water to the right place so it is not inconceivable water will go through pumping systems into a series of reservoirs. The Belfry is a good example of this.

During improvements made to the Brabazon Course, in preparation for the Ryder Cup, water management was a prime concern. There is a requirement to irrigate three golf courses, including greens, green surrounds, approaches, fairways, carry areas and tees. No summer abstraction of water is allowed, so a large quantity of water is required to be stored over the winter.

The irrigation storage reservoir at The Belfry, already one of the largest of its kind in this country, was extended to accommodate the storage of 15 million gallons of water. In addition each feature lake within the Brabazon and PGA National Courses was extended to accommodate more storage.

Low level discharge pipe work was installed within each lake, together with pre-cast concrete pumping chambers and submersible pumps. A network of underground pipes was installed throughout the courses, to enable the movement of water around the site as required.

Designing and planning water storage facilities can be carried out by experienced contractors such as MJ Abbott, who will take into account ecological and aesthetic issues. This makes a dramatic difference. It ensures the functional requirement is met, and that the project enhances the environment.

It is critical to understand the viability of the proposal.

Feature lakes within the golf course need to retain their water levels to be aesthetically pleasing. Therefore the usable amount of water stored within feature lakes should only be the top 200-400mm in depth.

If more is used, when the water level goes down the side of the banks will turn into mud making them unattractive.

Often a preferred option is the construction of a reservoir within an area out of play. Generally therefore there would be a requirement for a pumping system, in accordance with the example given in the Belfry.

Any new lake or reservoir construction is conditional on planning from the local authority. Generally

the most economic solution is the method of cutting and filling. The first operation is the removal of the topsoil over the area of the site. Excavation of the subsoil would then be carried out, either by the use of conventional tracked hydraulic excavators loading into dump trucks, or by the use of a D8 bulldozer and trail box. On a level site it is possible to excavate the centre and place the fill to form banks and surrounds. Ensuring compaction of the fill material within the bank is a key to its success.

Lining lakes

There are two possible options for lining lakes and reservoirs. If the indigenous subsoil is clay, it may be possible to puddle the clay to form an impermeable layer. If the subsoil itself is permeable it will be necessary to install a man-made lining system.

Typically a geotextile underlay is used over the subsoil surface, followed by a polyethylene lining system. The lining system is sandwiched by another layer of geotextile and secured around the perimeter of the reservoir by a key trench. The final operation is to spread a protective layer of topsoil at a minimum depth of 150mm over the geotextile. This acts to protect it and enables growth of indigenous plant species.

We generally allow three million gallons of water storage for a typical 18 hole greens, tees and approaches system. To accommodate full fairway watering systems five to ten million gallons is required.

Water-wise

With increased legislation, it is likely borehole extraction licences will become more difficult to secure. Trying to save water by installing a water storage facility on site is likely to be looked on more favourably by the Environment Agency. Clubs benefit by saving water - and having drier fairways.

Nigel Wyatt is Contracts Director at MJ Abbott who can be contacted on 01722 716361, email: nigel.wyatt@mjabott.co.uk website: www.mjabott.co.uk



The Ecosol Aero-fil System

Providing state-of-the-art aeration and drainage



The Deep Drill 60/18 and Drill 'n' Fill aerators bring dramatic improvements to turfgrass quality, with unrivalled performance:

- Drill, extract and backfill all in one action!
- Improve infiltration, percolation and gas exchange up to 18" deep.
- Inject fresh rootzone, sand, amendment or a customised blend.
- Create permanent drainage ducts through water-holding thatch and black layers.
- Bypass wet, spongy upper areas into freer draining, more structured soil beneath greens, tees and fairways.

All this with NO DISRUPTION TO PLAY! Just ask Flackwell Heath, Glen Gorse, The K-Club, Liphook, Portmarnock, Slaley Hall, St. Andrews, Sunningdale and Wildernesse.



For contract work, sales or a no obligation chat, call the UK & Europe's sole importers today.

31 Castle Road Hythe Kent CT21 5HB Tel: 01303 267636 or Oxford 01367 870165
www.ecosolve.co.uk email: king@ecosolve.freeserve.co.uk

MJ ABBOTT LIMITED



SPECIALISTS IN:

- Golf course construction and renovation
- Supply and installation of irrigation systems
- Design and installation of land drainage schemes
- Sports ground construction and maintenance
- Design and installation of water supply and distribution systems

Bratch Lane • Dinton • Salisbury • Wiltshire SP3 5EB
Tel: 01722 716361 • Fax: 01722 716828
www.mjabott.co.uk



The BIGGA Golf Expo
to be the most successful

Castlerock is yet another example of what the Irish do very well - golf courses and in Charlie Edgar it has a Head man who knows how to keep it looking its finest

KING OF THE CASTLE

Castlerock is a member of the fine stable of courses on the northerly coast of Ireland and as a result welcomes travelling golfers from all corners of the world.

And those who ensure an itinerary, which inevitably will include Royal Portrush and Portstewart, is also bolstered by Castlerock Golf Club, in County Londonderry, will invariably pat each other on the back and congratulate themselves for not having that extra Guinness the night before and booking a tee time instead.

When they arrive on the 1st tee of Castlerock, with their heads only slightly fuzzy, the challenge that faces them is more than enough to ensure that their senses are at their sharpest for the next four hours or so.

Charlie Edgar is Head man and a man who thoroughly enjoys the chal-

lenges which the 18 hole and nine hole courses throw up to him and his team.

The club enjoyed its centenary last year but having 100 years on the clock has not stopped amendments and refinements being carried out to the Castlerock courses.

The club decided that the main course needed some extra length if it were to be able to host professional events and Charlie was heavily involved in this work.

"We put in some new tees and reshaped three holes so there was different angles. On the 13th we actually moved the tee up and the new line has improved the hole no end. The new tee had originally been built 25 years ago but because the carry required from the tee was too difficult it hadn't been used for many years and had become overgrown.

"In this case the new technology has actually improved the hole rather than the reverse because the carry is makeable and becomes a real challenge," explained Charlie, who was previously Bernard Findlay's Deputy at Portstewart.

The bunkers now really stare you in the face," he added.

Those bunkers themselves have also come in for some attention at Castlerock having suffered for many years from erosion.

"When I started here a lot of erosion had taken place in the bunkers. The sides had begun to come in and they were just cut back and back until we had big wide open bunkers which were no good for keeping our dune sand in - the wind would just whip it out."

To remedy the situation the team has redone all the bunkers over the last six years retvetting them and making them into smaller pot bunkers.



Above: The estuary divides Castlerock from Portstewart where Charlie used to work

"We did the same job when I was working at Portstewart. They had big, wide open bunkers and Bernard (Findlay) instituted a rolling programme of reshaping and retvetting so that the bunkers would hold in the sand."

It was always the club's aim to do something with the bunkers but the basic design and shape was left to Charlie.

"Where we had one big bunker we'd maybe split it into three wee pot bunkers while some of them may have been very close to the aprons of the green with all the problems of sand splash so we'd bring them back. It helped us to give a little more definition around the greens," explained Charlie, who can now look with pride on 70 fine bunkers.

Some members want coarser grittier sand which had been brought in. "Thankfully I had enough members on my side who listened to me when I said that it's been that way for a hundred years and we would be mess-

ing with the ecosystem if we were to change it.

"That's the way it was when these courses were built - if they had a blow out they'd say that's a good place for a bunker - that's basically where the bunkers came from and at the present time most of the committee agree," explained Charlie.

"The men enjoy bunker restoration. It's different. You're never short of work on a links course because you can get on the greens 365 days a year."

Having carried out the work Charlie and his team can see the longer lasting benefits of the work they have done.

"Obviously with golfers hitting out of the sand we are always going back to the bunkers but we are more or less clearing back to the original soil face again so we have something to go back to rather than just being edged up and edged up."

While much of the work that Charlie has done since arriving at the

Below: Charlie outside one of the unusual shelters built on the course



KING OF THE CASTLE

THE
3
3

Right: Attractive golfing country, to be sure!

Below: The Castlerock team has spent a lot of time on bunker renovation



club has been on the Championship Course he is also keen to make inroads into the nine holes as well.

"There is a world of work needing done to the nine which I'm really looking forward to doing. There are no bunkers on the nine but it doesn't really need them, it is lovely ground and very tight," he explained.

Ironically it is the highest point on the course which causes the Castlerock team the most problems.

"Our highest point is the 16th and for some reason the good Lord decided he would drop clay and stones on this hump and it affects five holes in total. The biggest problem it causes is in the bunkers in winter time which

can get very hard and don't have drainage."

Speaking with Charlie you very much get the impression that here is a man who knows what he is doing, and what's more, is good at it. He has an upbeat personality and you can easily tell why he is a former Irish Young Greenkeeper of the Year.

"Links courses are a kind of day-to-day thing. I walk around the course at least twice a week just checking things and I can see if it looks hungry and needs a feed. If it looks fine I just leave it alone ... get away from this green image.

"It is all about the simple things like fertilising, bunker maintenance, aer-

ation and spiking. I enjoy watching The Open now as that's the way they should be. As far as links courses are concerned you have to be natural. If they are green it is because it has happened naturally," he said.

Charlie was 19 before he got into greenkeeping. When he left school he started at the local council bowling green before a job came up as a trainee greenkeeper at Portstewart.

"I actually took a pay cut to go to Portstewart but it was well worth it - training and education was not a problem.

"I learned a lot about fertiliser regimes and what grasses needed at Portstewart and came to learn that the simplest one was the best. You can't go too far wrong when you are using the likes of sulphate of ammonia, potash and iron. You can get caught up in a lot of new fangled nonsense as far as these slow release fertilisers which claim to be a solution in a bag," said Charlie who has also worked hard on improving the definition on the golf courses.

Charlie showed himself to be a man of potential at Portstewart and was quickly promoted to Deputy.

"I showed I was willing to learn and they showed that they were willing to put me on

courses. I learned so much from the older guys by watching how they did things," he explained.

He also picked up many management skills from Bernard Findlay which have stood him in good stead since his move to Castlerock, which although it is a few miles by car from Portstewart is only a short distance by boat.

"Bernard had a particular style of management. Nothing was left to chance. He was always well prepared and he'd always done his homework. When you did a job everything was there when you needed it to be there and if there was a possibility that something might happen a contingency plan was there to cover it.

"Budgeting was another thing I learned and putting jobs out to tender. It used to be you'd go with who you had the best relationship with but now committees are putting more pressure on to find the best price and you may have to get three prices for every job," said Charlie, who honed many of his management skills on BIGGA's Supervisory Management Courses at Aldwark Manor.

"I did the first week when I was still at Portstewart and when I came for this job I said I wanted to carry on and do the other weeks as well. It was very beneficial and I really enjoyed it."

It is that word "enjoy" which seems to come to the fore at Castlerock. Charlie Edgar and his team enjoy preparing the course for its members and guests while those who play it certainly enjoy the challenge.



The BIGGA Golf Experience scaled new heights in 2002 with what proved to be the most successful week in the history of the Harrogate week

What a week!



**THE
GOLF
CLUB
SHOW
2002**

With a new three day format and a new show - the Golf Club Show - visitors flocked to the town in record numbers and exhibitors were rewarded with busy stands and good business. The three day attendance figure was 8,629, which is 10.1% up on last year's two and a half day show thus vindicating the decision, taken jointly between the trade and the Association, to amend the format. Every day was busy with Wednesday being singled out as one of the busiest days in the history of the Show.

In addition there were record numbers attending the Education Conference and workshops on the Monday and Tuesday showing that there is a real thirst for knowledge among the BIGGA membership. One of the biggest draws was legendary American agronomist Dr James Beard, who gave two lectures during the week, while Olympic medalist Roger Black MBE delivered an inspirational key note speech on the Wednesday. Those who attended the Thursday night banquet will never forget Brahms and Liszt, who brought stage diving to BTME for the first time!

It really does whet your appetite for Harrogate 2003.



Plaque for Walton Heath

Clive Osgood presented Findlay Picken, Chairman of Green at Walton Heath Golf Club, with a plaque as thanks for the support given to him by the club during his year as Chairman.



Top. Me and my Shadow. Howard Swan during the Design workshop
Above: A thoughtful class.
Left: Bill Paterson, of Beaconsfield GC, displays his technique on the First Aid Course
Right: Dr James Beard drew huge numbers to his two talks
Far Right: Dr Kevin Jones was a real hit at the Education Conference Dinner



A TOTAL GOLF EXPERIENCE

Neil Thomas reports on a fantastic week in Harrogate, picking out some of the selected highlights from a very hectic schedule indeed

Sunday, January 20th

Earlier start this year with the change of opening dates. Sunday is now a build-up day. Down to the halls and the early arrivals are already busy. Slow start indicates many companies have delayed arriving until the 'morrow. Prepare for a hectic Monday. Up to the Majestic for Conference/ Workshop registration and delegates are already booking into the hotel. Catastrophe, the hotel in its wisdom has removed Sky Sports coverage. Mass exodus occurs to find a screen elsewhere to watch the football. Relaxed evening as delegates and speakers meet for an informal dinner.

Monday, January 21st

Our numbers for the Conference and Workshops are our best ever and this is reflected when Clive opens the Conference with the room packed to hear the first session with Dr James Beard. We are indebted to Jim for undertaking a strenuous schedule at the BTME bearing in mind that he has not been well recently. With the workshops and STRI course also underway there is a buoyant atmosphere in the hotel and all are looking forward to the week ahead. Back down to the halls which are now a hive of activity. On to the Exhibitor's Reception now traditional on the eve of the show opening. Back at

the hotel I complete preparations for the Conference Dinner which proves to be the best attended of all time. An excellent evening proceeds. Did we ever have a better after-dinner speaker than Dr Kevin Jones, Consultant Chest Physician at the Royal Bolton Hospital. His tales of the NHS and insight into a Consultant's mind were hilarious. His subject was one to which we all can relate. Best summed up - if you are going into hospital, make sure you're dead first!

Part-time
enrolment
until Jan. 2002

Cranfield
UNIVERSITY
Silsoe

Qualify while you work in Sports Surface Technology

Today, the sports industry is one of the fastest growing industries. It is essential that surfaces on which sports are played remain in outstanding condition. Our flexible training programme addresses the business and technical skills required to achieve the high quality sports facilities of tomorrow:

- Our ten, two week short courses are available individually and provide training in specific areas such as "Sports Surface Playability," "Mechanisation for Sports Surfaces" or "Irrigation and Drainage".
- Successfully complete all ten, together with a research project which can be carried out at your own sports venue and you will be awarded an MSc in Sports Surface Technology. You can take up to five years to complete the course.
- Our MSc in Sports Surface Technology is also available as a one-year full-time course. Apply now for entry in October 2001.

Endorsed by The Institute of Groundsmanship and supported by top national and international sporting organisations, this qualification will enhance your future career and salary prospects.

Bursaries available

For further details please contact Kathy Graves, Student Enquiries, Cranfield University, Silsoe, Bedford MK45 4DT.
Tel: 01525 863319 Fax: 01525 863399
Email: StudentEnquiries.silsoe@cranfield.ac.uk
www.silsoe.cranfield.ac.uk

LIVE LIFE ON THE EDGE



When it comes to staying the course, you can bank on the Allen National range keeping you on the straight and narrow. The Allen National range of triple mowers – 68, 68DL & 84 – are the only real choice for the professional on the tees and surrounds. And as for bunkers, they're no longer a hazard. The 68DL has transport speed, electric start and full width rollers. Banking has never been so easy.

FOR A FREE BROCHURE CALL
0845 60 10 815

Telephone: 01235 515400 for details of your nearest dealer for a FREE, no obligation, demonstration on the amazing ability of the National.

allen

Allen Power Equipment Ltd.
The Broadway, Didcot, Oxon OX11 8ES
Tel: (01235) 515400 Fax: (01235) 515401
Website: www.allenpower.com
Email: sales@allenpower.com

"My
customers
rely on me,
I rely
on **ING**"

Peter Broadbent,
Head Greenkeeper
Effingham Golf Club,
Effingham, Surrey.

If you're planning improvements to your business, you should talk to ING.

As one of the world's major financial organisations, we have a major presence in the groundscare market enabling us to bring a flexible approach to funding new developments and equipment.

ING offer agreements with a range of flexible and innovative features:

- Cash flow matched repayments including VAT
- Contract hire to match contracts
- Credit lines to support financial budgeting

Call: 01932 359290

For one of our national finance specialists to call on you.

ING LEASE
Committed to your business



Clive Osgood performed one of his final acts as BIGGA National Chairman when at 10.30am precisely he pronounced BTME 2002 open with an expertly wielded pair of sheers



Whatever the weather...

Well known former BBC Weather man, Bill Giles, (below) was one of the visitors to the show on the opening day. Bill, with his colleague Simon Strong, have formed a new company, The Weather Index which will provide bespoke weather forecasts for golf clubs accurate enough to enable Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers to plan ahead with confidence. "We have looked at the market and expect to be able to offer a daily emailed or faxed forecast for around £500 per annum," said Bill.



Nostalgic exhibition prompts poet to take up his pen!

Heritage!

Don't put our heritage in a skip Mr Greenkeeper
Don't put our heritage in a skip.
The machine's a dog and very old
It's obsolete so you've been told,
It stops when hot and won't start cold
And you're now due for your watch of gold -
Don't put our heritage in a skip.

Don't put our heritage in a skip Mr Greenkeeper
Don't put our heritage in a skip.
You've followed it for years and years
Through all the highs and all those tears,
So now retire it to pastures new
For all your friends to admire and view -
Don't put our heritage in a skip.

Don't put our heritage in a skip Mr Greenkeeper
Don't put our heritage in a skip.
It's given all it's life to you
So please now take the longer view,
People are here that think it's great
To fix it up and show your mates -
Don't put our heritage in a skip.

I beg you Please Mr Greenkeeper,
"Don't put our heritage in a skip"

Peter Hampton, UK Territory Manager,
Bernhard and Company Ltd

Brand new for this year's show was a dedicated exhibition of items which captured the history of turfcare in years gone by.

Well received by the thousands of visitors who were interested in the display, one contributor to the exhibition, Peter Hampton, put some of his thoughts together in a poem about the exhibition.



A TOTAL GOLF EXPERIENCE

Neil Thomas reports on a fantastic week in Harrogate, picking out some of the selected highlights from a very hectic schedule indeed

Tuesday, January 22nd

Early morning visit to the halls prior to the 10.30am 'cutting of the ribbon ceremony'. Preparation has gone well for both the BTME and the new Golf Club Show. We are pleased with a steady build-up on this new

opening day. Various meetings to attend. Board of Management meets to elect new Chairman and Vice Chairman. In the evening, the Past Chairmen gather for their annual dinner while the Chairman is pleased to welcome our President, Sir Michael Bonallack. I attend

the Hayter Dinner for the ninth successive year in the St George Hotel. Kim Macfie is again the welcoming host and it's good to meet up with Hayter's recently retired Managing Director, Tony Bourke. We take our leave sensing that tomorrow's going to be a busy day.

Irrigation companies gain Merit Certificates

The BTLIA announced that five contracting members have attained the prestigious BTLIA Certificate of Merit.

"The award of a Certificate of Merit should be the goal of all contracting members of the BTLIA. It represents the pinnacle of customer service and professionalism. As Chairman, I am particularly pleased that five members have attained the Award this year. It is indicative of the greater awareness that the

BTLIA has gained in recent years and demonstrates the commitment of the Association and the Award winners to the raising the standards of irrigation provision in the UK," said Graeme Francis, BTLIA Chairman.

The companies that have been awarded the Certificate of Merit for 2001 are: Irrigation Control Limited; Irriturf; M J Abbott Limited; Par 4 (Irrigation) Limited and SJS Irrigation



Happy Birthday

Mike Lincoln Smith, of Hayter, must have suspected something was up when Kim Macfie, cut short his normal eloquent address at the annual Hayter Dinner to give the floor to some of his colleagues. With his 60th birthday looming Mike was about to become the star of the show. His understanding colleagues presented him with a state-of-the-art walking stick, some sprays and ointments to make his advancing years comfortable... and a little bit more exciting and a blown up portrait of himself while still in his prime.



Deere's Team Championship goes global

John Deere announced that its established Team Championship golf tournament is to become a worldwide event for the first time in 2002.

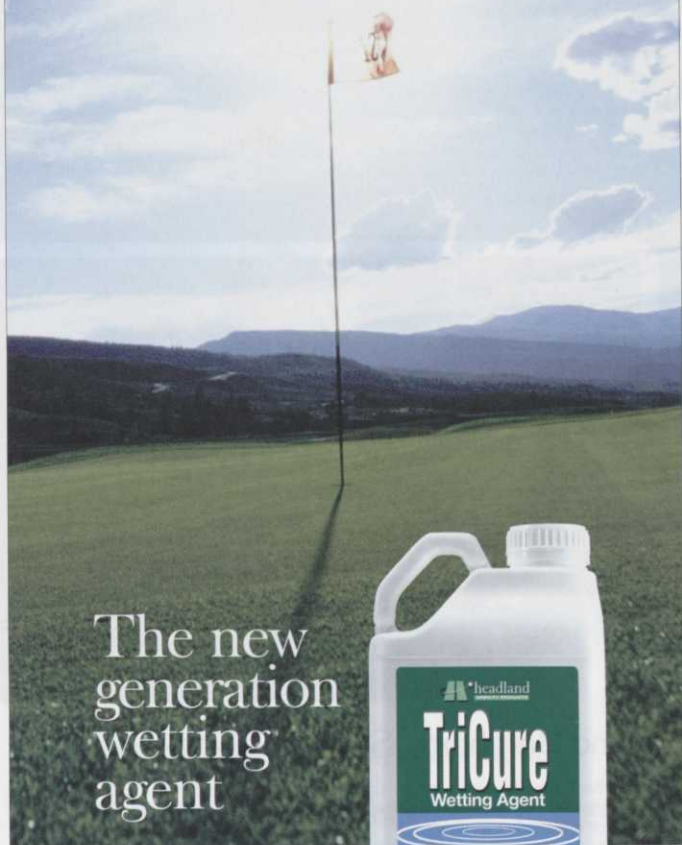
Now in its 16th year, the Team Championship has previously been open only to teams from the USA and Canada. This year, invitations have been extended to Great Britain, Ireland, Germany and Australia to send teams to the world final taking place at the Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona, in November. John Deere dealers in each participating country organise their own qualifying tournament with each team of four entered including a greenkeeper, two club officials, and the club's professional. The winning teams from these regional qualifiers go through to the National Championship. "Extending the Team Championship to include Great Britain and Ireland, as well as the other countries taking part, is a major

undertaking and underlines John Deere's programme of continued support for our dealers," says Graham Williams, Commercial & Consumer Equipment Division Manager. "Teams in the Great Britain and Ireland regional qualifiers will compete for a place in the national final on the Brabazon course at The De Vere Belfry in August, just ahead of the Ryder Cup.

"Two teams, one from Great Britain and one from Ireland, will qualify to travel to the USA in November to take part in the world final." John Deere will also be making a donation of £25 for every British and Irish team entered, to support the educational activities of BIGGA and GCSA.

Above: Clive Osgood; John Deere UK Managing Director, Clay Sherrill; Worldwide Golf & Turf market Development Manager, Chuck Greif; Neil Thomas; Graham Williams and Richard Barker.

Patchless perfection



The new generation wetting agent

- Helps prevent and cure Dry Patch
- Works on **all** types of rootzone particles
- Lasts for up to 3 months
- Safe to use – no risk of scorch
- Directly enhances root development
- Also available in granular form



www.headlandamenity.com

Email: amenitysales@headlandgroup.com

Find out more by contacting us on 01799 530146.

Roger wows the audience at Harrogate

Key Note Speaker Roger Black delivered a superb motivational talk which inspired the full house in the Royal Hall.

Roger took us through his career from his days as a young soon to be world beater who relied on talent rather than hard work, through the injuries he endured, to the latter half of his career by which time he had rededicated himself to his sport and learned how to get the most from himself. He talked how, like most top sportsmen and women he had learned to reach for success and to minimise the fear of failure. He also talked about his relationship with Kris Akibusi with whom he said one and one added up to four or five and not two.

"Without Kris I wouldn't have achieved half of what I did, and without me Kris wouldn't have achieved anything," he joked.

At the end of the talk he walked down to the front of the stage, signed autographs, posed for pictures and let people hold and wear the two silver medals he won at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996. "You might see a silver medal," he said when holding up the individual medal he won in the 400 metres behind Michael Johnston. "But to me it will always be gold because I ran my perfect race that day," he explained.



Continue to Learn



Second Bernhards Scholarship takes off

The Second Bernhards Scholarship - to the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando this month - got off to a superb start with a reception in the Majestic Hotel at which nine of the 10 BIGGA delegates were presented with their tickets and had a chance to meet the delegates who had traveled on the inaugural trip to Canada last year.

Stephen Bernhard, Managing Director, promised the nine that they would have a wonderful time but warned that they would have to do homework and prepare if they were to make the absolute most they could from the trip.

Tommy Witt, President of the GCSAA told the delegates that they would be welcome at a number of events being organised for the Orlando Show and ensured that GCSAA officials would be furnished with contact details for the 10.

The delegates are: Phil Gates, David Winterton, Tony Smith, Patrick McAteer, Ronnie Bunting, Jim Paton, Ivor Scones, Jeff Mills, and Tony Dunstan. Ian Willett, who will also be part of the BIGGA delegation was unable to attend the reception.

Agronomists sign up for new register

The Register of Independent, Professional Turfgrass Agronomists was launched at the Show. The Register which is open to consultants who hold a recognised plant or earth science degree; have at least four years acting as an independent consultant in the turfgrass industry; no association or understanding, however informal, with any commercial organisation that could influence his or her independence; must have and maintain insurance including Professional Indemnity insurance that satisfies the requirements of the Register Administrator;

have not other business activities which might conflict with their ability to provide advice and all those on the Register must abide by a written code of ethics. The Keeper of the Register is Jeff Perris, of the STRI, and it was launched with 17 agronomists on it, some of whom are pictured below.

Members: Alistair Beggs, Emma Beggs, Andy Cole, Eddie Connaughton, John Hacker, Mike Harbridge, Steve Isaac, Gordon Jaaback, Robert Laycock, Tim Lodge, Ian McClements, Stuart Ormondroyd, Jeff Perris, George Shiels, David Stansfield, Neil Squires and Peter Winter.



A TOTAL GOLF EXPERIENCE

Wednesday, January 23rd

Quick tour of the halls and then to the Royal Hall to check on final preparations for the Awards Ceremony and the Keynote Speaker Session. At 9.30am we are underway. Having recognised our major achievers, including four new Master Greenkeepers, the Chairman introduces Roger Black. What an inspiring session this turns out to be as we learn of his motivation and dedication in winning an Olympic Silver Medal as well as World Championship Gold with the 400 metres relay team. He had brought his medals with him and many of the audience took the opportunity for photographs with Roger and to adorn themselves with the medals which he was happy to pass around. All in all, he left a quite excellent impression.

The halls are now exceptionally busy and this year the registration system is working well with an even split of

visitors around the various entrances. Up at the Majestic, I prepare for the Chairman's Luncheon. Speeches from our President and Chairman are followed by presentations in recognition of their services to greenkeeping and the industry to Ray Burniston, Roger Robinson and David Smith. Clive presents a plaque to Findlay Picken, Chairman of Green at Walton Heath Golf Club, to recognise the club's support to him during his year of office. Then follows the recognition of our Golden and Silver Key companies for 2002 whose support of the Education and Development Fund is so vital. Back at the halls, the numbers are excellent before I leave to prepare for the AGM.

Well this AGM certainly turned out to be different from any I have attended since 1987. The Board of Management had proposed some changes to the

Constitution and Rules to enable the introduction of a minimum qualification for greenkeeper membership to proceed as of February 1. After an invigorating debate the proposals, in each case after an amendment was proposed and seconded, were referred back for further consideration. So this matter will now be reconsidered and, however one views the proposed introduction of the minimum qualification, I was left to reflect that the outcome of this particular AGM was conclusive proof, not that it were needed, that the democratic processes most certainly prevail within BIGGA.

My final official function that evening was to attend the BIGGA/Bernhards reception for our ten delegates to the forthcoming GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando. There was a mood of eager anticipation with Bernhards' initiative, for a second year running, much applauded.

Neil Thomas reports on a fantastic week in Harrogate, picking out some of the selected highlights from a very hectic schedule indeed



Above: The Association's Golden and Silver Key Supporters were presented with their momentos at the Chairman's Lunch by Sir Michael Bonallack and Clive Osgood.



BIGGA Master Greenkeepers receive their awards at Harrogate

BIGGA President Sir Michael Bonallack presented three of the four attending new Master Greenkeepers with their plaques and blazers.



MASTER GREENKEEPER CERTIFICATE

Lee Strutt, of Richmond Golf Club; Philip Helmn, of Overstone Park GC, and David Leach, of Lancaster Golf and Country Club. Steven Cook, of Oakland Hills Country Club, in Michigan, will receive his plaque and blazer in Orlando at the GCSAA Conference and Show.



The write stuff

Stefan Antolik, of Cooden Beach Golf Club, was also presented with his cheque as winner of the Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager and Deputies



BIGGA ESSAY COMPETITION

category in the BIGGA Essay Competition; Richard Clarke, Royal Eastbourne GC, was the winner of the Assistants Over 25 category and David Gillon, Tulliallan GC, was the winner of the Assistant Under 25 category - His boss, Elliott Small, (not pictured) collected the prize on David's behalf.



Do you want healthier, faster and truer greens?

NEW
Mk2 Model



TRUE-SURFACE® PATENTED
...makes true greens



Use the **NEW True-Surface Mk2** roller for:

- Smoother, faster playing surfaces
- Consistent speeds from green to green
- Restoring the surface after aeration
- Vibrating-in topdressing
- Raising height of cut to save stress

And now they fit:

TORO JOHN DEERE
JACOBSEN RANSOMES

using the same set of rollers and just changing the mounting brackets!

GreenTek

INNOVATIVE TURF CARE MACHINERY
DESIGNED TO SAVE YOUR TIME!

0113 267 7000



This superb and unusual aerial picture of the exhibition shows just how busy the three-day marathon has become. With a head for heights, the BIGGA Sales Team, ably led by Sherpa Whichello, captured the action from the gantry 40 feet above Hall M!



Banquet which leaves us all Brahms and Liszt!

Brahms and Liszt provided the unique, not to say, off the wall, cabaret on the Thursday night. An occasion when can have 50 Scots highland dancing during a dinner; Welshmen, including your Executive Director, jumping over candles; a Rest of the World Riverdance troupe; a brass band comprising many well known greenkeepers and the first recorded instance of stage diving at a BTME Banquet will be remembered for many years to come.

Vitax winner

The annual Vitax prize draw was conducted by Richard Barker ably assisted Clive Williams. The lucky winner was Nigel Weller, of North Downs GC, Surrey, who won a BTME voucher which he was presented with in the week following the Show.



The worm has turned for Sportsworld Amenity

Sportsworld Amenity used the show to launch Wormaway, a totally organic worm repellent. Developed over several seasons in an effort to fine a naturally occurring substance that will help reduce worm casts it reduces casting on the surface but does not affect the benefits of naturally occurring aeration. It is available in liquid form and can be applied through an conventional sprayer. Wormaway boasts a long lasting formula, non irritant formula; a blend of 40 active organic compounds and includes wetting agent. The Sportsworld team is pictured on their stand.

A TOTAL GOLF EXPERIENCE

Thursday, January 24th

Down to the halls. Slow start to the day in the first hour. Too many late nights I surmise. Make mental note to consider readjusting the opening times on the Thursday next year. Steady build up follows and my guess is that Thursday's attendance will match Tuesday's with Wednesday being the busiest day. Press briefing is followed by a well-attended FEGGA AGM. Busy afternoon - unless I take a secret short-cut, it can take a long time indeed for me to progress from Hall A to Q and return! Response to the Golf Club Show seems favourable. Back at the Majestic I check on final preparations for the Exhibition Banquet, quick change and then onto the VIP Reception.

The Banquet was certainly going to be different this year. Our new Chairman and myself speak for a couple of minutes and I am delighted to announce an all time record attendance of 8,629 visitors. Then we are underway. The entertainment commences immediately and continues through the meal. Did we ever have a better night than the one we enjoyed with Brahms and Liszt? These two guys were excellent musicians with a wide repertoire and masters of ensuring audience participation. They built up to a grand climax in a performance which was hugely enjoyed by all. Then followed the popular local group, The Nightjars, and Fun Time Music disco. Great to see everyone enjoying themselves after a busy week. This was indeed a night to remember.

Friday, January 25th

There's a hint of snow in the air and goodbyes are said for another year. No Friday morning session this time. Breakdown has gone well at the halls. Brief meeting with a group of bleary eyed but happy staff who can reflect on a job well done. Away at 11am with a host of thoughts circulating in my mind for next year. How quickly that will come around!





PILT LAND
TECHNOLOGY LIMITED

**MOLE & RABBIT CONTROL
&
ENVIRONMENT - FRIENDLY
TURF CARE PRODUCTS**

WEBSITE: www.piltland.co.uk

Email address: mail@piltland.co.uk

Tel: 01780 783758 Fax: 01780 783818



**NATIONAL PROFICIENCY
TESTS COUNCIL**

The Horticultural and allied industries' professional independent assessment service, delivering accredited Qualifications in:

- ♦ AMENITY HORTICULTURE
- ♦ SPORTS TURF
- ♦ LANDSCAPE
- ♦ PESTICIDES & MANY MORE



For more information contact NPTC on
Tel: 024 7669 6553 Fax: 024 7669 6128
Email: sally@nptc.org.uk
Website: www.nptc.org.uk

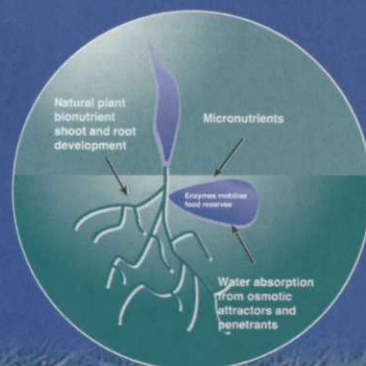
Get ahead



Headstart® is a revolutionary biological seed treatment that can speed up germination by 20%.

Headstart® helps greenkeepers and groundsmen establish new turf or repair key playing areas when under pressure against time or weather conditions.

It also helps prevent disease and is used on the highly successful MM range of grass mixtures from Advanta.



ADVANTA

Tel: 01529 304511 Fax: 01529 413179
email: amenity@advantaseeds.co.uk web: www.advantaseeds.co.uk

get a HEADSTART®
Amenity Grass Seed

New Golf Club Show smashes all expectations



The inaugural Golf Club Show enjoyed an extremely successful first year with a variety of exhibitors ranging from legal protection, golf course photography, health and safety to the English Golf Union and the Association of Golf Club Owners.

Indeed a new Association was formed during the Show - the European Golf Course Owners Association (EGCOA) - by the national Associations in Great Britain, Holland, Germany and Ireland.

The aims of the new Association include lobbying for tax and VAT changes for golf course owners across Europe, inter country communication, the development of increased revenues through travel packages and inter club communications for owners. The handicapping system across Europe will also be looked at in depth.

The European Association will be operated initially from Great Britain, but with 300 proprietary golf courses across Europe represented by the new European Association the influence will be great in the market place across the continent.

BIGGA's Golf Club Show – The safe bet

"Being represented at BIGGA's Golf Club Show 2002 helped our company. Safety Measures, promote our Safety Club initiative and help make golf clubs safer places to work and play."

Sandy Geddes, Safety Measures

"GCS is set to go from strength to strength"

"Like any first time it was a memorable experience. I made superb contacts and spread the word about the International Pairs Golf Tournament. The Exhibition can only go on from strength to strength."

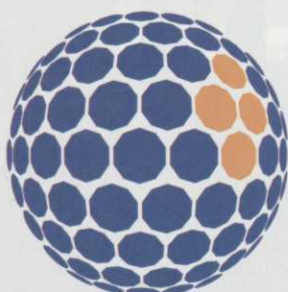
Peter Richardson, WLM Public Relations



"Anyone in the golf industry, should make time and funds available for BTME 2003"

"Golf Course News International have been exhibiting at BTME since 1995 with just one break, in 2001. On all levels BTME 2002 worked for us; from the point of view of meeting our readers and advertisers 'face to face' Harrogate is an ideal showcase. From our standpoint BTME 2002 was an essential marketplace that has, no doubt, gone a long way to strengthening our position in the golf industry publications market. Anyone in the golf industry, particularly in the service sector, should make time and funds available for BTME 2003; we have and are already planning for yet another successful show."

Trevor Ledger, Editor, GCNI



**THE
GOLF
CLUB
SHOW
2002**



GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL TAKES A LOOK AT THE VERY LATEST PRODUCTS AND SERVICES LAUNCHED AT THIS YEAR'S PREMIER TURFCARE EXHIBITION IN HARROGATE

Quality finish from new Deere

John Deere's new B Series family of durable greens mowers have been developed through the successful customer feedback initiative, which helps frame Deere's product development and improvement programmes.

The 46cm 180B, 56cm 220B and 66cm 260B walk-behind greens mowers are designed to provide a quality finish on golf courses, tennis courts, bowling greens and other fine turf areas, giving greenkeepers and groundsman a true choice of machines for all applications.

All three mowers feature a 4hp air cooled Honda engine, cutting height up to 22mm, and an 11 blade, 127mm (5in) diameter reel as standard (seven blade optional on the 260B), delivering a high quality cut at up to 5.2mph.

The smaller 180B reduces the overall weight of the mower and allows the operator to follow cut lines and overlap more easily and with more accuracy. The larger 260B provides a higher capacity machine for all sports turf applications, and incorporates a dimpled drum for increased traction.



New features include lower noise levels, a redesigned height adjustable handlebar, an improved grassbox and easier bedknife-to-reel adjustment. The grassbox design improves the operator's vision of the mowing path, as well as the cut line marker, which increases productivity by reducing overlaps and misses.

Key options include detachable

transport wheels, to make it easier to move the mower from trailer to green, a Greens Tender™ conditioner and a pull-back clutch that allows the mower to be reversed while the reels are engaged.

The new John Deere 180B and 260B walk-behind greens mowers will be available from April 2002, with the 220B following in June.

Product range Xtended

Sports pitches, outfields and other course turf areas stand to benefit from a new range of granular fertilisers from Headland Amenity Products. Headland Xtend features a slow release form of soluble nitrogen, which is safe to apply, and lasts for up to 12 weeks. Utilising UMAXX and UFLEX stabilised nitrogen technology, each urea prill is treated with two soluble chemical coatings which prevent loss of nitrogen to the atmosphere, while slowing down its conversion in the soil. The product is less prone to leaching and will respond even under cool conditions. Available in three formulations, 46+0+0, 25+5+10+2MgO and 15+5+20+2MgO, Headland Xtend can be applied as a granule directly after cutting to allow maximum time for the product to penetrate the turf between cuts. Pickup is minimal as Xtend is fully soluble, and breaks down rapidly in the soil. "In addition, the 46+0+0 formulation can be dissolved and applied as a liquid spray. When tank mixed with Headland's Relay Turf Herbicide, this provides a labour saving, cost effective "weed and feed" application," said Headland's Andy Russell.

New Sisis Javelin gets straight to the point



The new SISIS Javelin 1500 has been developed following eight successful years with the SISIS Technicore. The new machine retains all the popular features of the Technicore including full 5" operating depth, but offers a wider working width, faster forward speed, quick, single lever depth setting and minimal maintenance. Nine different interchangeable tines are available including Microcore, Multiline, Needle, and Jumbo Hollow. Turf retainers are available and a wide range of hole patterns can be selected as desired.

Best of both worlds with Express Dual 1000

The Express Dual from Bernhard and Company, now comes in a most cost-effective format. The Show saw the launch of new Express Dual 1000 - a compact, but robust spin grinder for cylinder mowers with heavy duty chassis in mild steel plate. This allows greenkeepers and groundsman with more modest budgets to create a highly profitable in-house grinding facility. Giving excellent results, ED 1000 has many key components common to the higher specification models in the Express Dual range, and is supplied with a 10 year warranty.

The machine can spin grind blades in-frame up to 36" long and is launched with three optional configurations; bench mounted with manual traverse; manual traverse supplied with a stable support frame; machine with automatic traverse and support frame; Overload protected, the mainshaft drive motor rotates at 3400rpm and is fan cooled and brushless. Mower support systems have fully adjustable front roller mounting brackets with quick adjustment in one plane - without the necessity of tools.

Barenbrug take grass species to a higher level with Bargold

Perennial ryegrass, the most important grass species for sport and amenity applications in the UK, has been taken to an unprecedented level of performance in the shape of Bargold, the aptly named new variety bred by Barenbrug UK. This exciting cultivar is unique because it can be used as a key component in swards for fine turf, such as golf greens, as well as for heavy wear situations like soccer pitches. Recognised as having superb wear tolerance characteristics combined with rapid establishment and persistence, perennial ryegrass is invariably chosen for winter games pitches and other heavily used grassed areas. But the species typically has broad, coarse leaves, a factor previously making it unsuitable for fine turf applications. Barenbrug UK, however, has led the drive to develop a fine-leaved variety. Bargold is the latest in a series of cultivars bred by the seed specialists to offer what was once thought impossible: a perennial ryegrass with the characteristics of finer species, like fescues and bents, but without their vulnerability to wear and disease. It has a fineness of leaf similar to that of red fescues, and has outstanding tolerance of close mowing, down to 5-6mm. This makes Bargold suitable for use across the turf management spectrum, including golf greens, tees, fairways and surrounds, bowling greens, cricket wickets and tennis courts, as well as the traditional applications of soccer and rugby pitches.

Further advances for Blazon

Adding an effective drift control agent to the Blazon formulation as a single, ready to use product, has made a further advance.

Blazon LoDrift offers spray operators the best of both worlds. Maximum application accuracy, uniformity and target coverage, with minimum off-target application, reduced environmental contamination and wasted chemical.

In addition to the visual spray pattern providing the spray operator with a visual guide so that the spray swath can easily be seen and matched up on each return pass, Blazon LoDrift, ensures more of the very small spray droplets ('fines'), are contained and a greater proportion of the spray reaches its intended target ensuring increased product coverage, reduced off-target application and improved product performance.

Blazon-LoDrift has been developed to reduce the environmental impact of chemical and other spray treatments. Each product also features the Multiple Release Format™ technology.

Nutri-Rational Foliars are specifically formulated to bypass the root system and provide an efficient and reliable intake of nutrients through the leaf tissue. Over 95% of the nutrient intake is directly through the leaf. In addition, as the plant is obtaining its nutrition through the leaf, it is not wasting its energy reserves and therefore more able



Marketing Link's MD, Richard Fry, who markets the blazon range of products and Dr David Drahos at BTME

to tolerate stress more effectively.

The Nutri-Rational range includes N, P & K formulations (19.1.6, 6.12.6 & 2.0.16) combined with turf micronutrients and two more specialised products (6.0.4 plus 6% Ca, 0.2% B & 3.0.10 plus 1% Si) offering calcium and silica.

Also on the Green Relief stand was Dr David Drahos, of Novozymes Biologicals, the group research leader in the development of Green Reliefs range of microbial products, who in addition spoke on the BTME Seminar programme.

Please send your latest product release notes or press releases to; The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF

The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association. No responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information which may appear

Allen Power shows its latest range of hovers

On the Allen stand could be seen the new generation of hover mowers powered by the Honda four stroke petrol engine. These new power units provide easier starting, quieter, smoother running and reliable cutting without the need for mixing two stroke fuel. They will cut slopes up to 45 degrees and three variations are available with engine capacities ranging from 50cc to 160cc with nylon or traditional metal cutting blades depending on the model.



The three models are:

440 Hover trim featuring 16in cutting width with swinging nylon blades and 2.5 hp, 50cc four stroke Honda engine.

446 Hover Trim with 18in cutting width with nylon blades and a 4.8hp 135cc four stroke engine. Designed for steep banks and undulating ground.

450 Hover Professional. A 21in cutting blade is powered by a 5.8hp, 160cc four stroke Honda engine. Designed for more heavy duty hover mowing.

The grass is always greener. Always ...?

The grass that stays green all year round was formally unveiled at BTME 2002, giving turfgrass professionals across the amenity industry the opportunity to sow a hard-wearing seed mixture based on a newly-bred ryegrass that never goes yellow. According to ex-IGER1 scientist and British Seed Houses' Technical Consultant Dai Hides, the new Grade A26 SO-GREEN mixture represents a quantum leap in plant breeding. Speaking at the Show he said that the new seed offers unparalleled opportunities to keep lawns and other amenity grassed areas looking good, even under summer drought and other stress conditions. "Grade A26 SO-GREEN2 is the result of many years development, starting in 1969 after scientists at IGER noticed that leaves on one grass plant in a population failed to turn yellow over winter or during drought," he pointed out. "Now thanks to the IGER1 turfgrass programme - funded by British Seed Houses since 1987 and already credited with the development of AberElf and AberImp - a new 'stay green' perennial ryegrass called AberNile has been produced. AberNile is unique because it combines the 'stay green' benefit with all the other desirable characteristics required in an amenity ryegrass, such as high shoot density and an ability to withstand high levels of wear," explained Dai.

Toro's Groundmaster receives an added punch

Toro unveiled the latest addition to its range of Groundmaster rotary mowers. The GM 4500-D has been specially developed for operators seeking a better quality of cut from a rotary mower.

The mower is fitted with five rotary cutting decks, which produce a consistent height of cut by accurately following undulating ground contours over a cutting width of 2.8 metres. Efficient operator manoeuvring and excellent visibility results from the balanced placement of three cutting decks out-front and two underneath.

Another feature of the new Groundmaster is its superb traction and hill-climbing ability, provided by full-time, bi-directional four-wheel drive that operates while the unit is mowing.

Toro also unveiled its revolutionary Greensmaster Flex 21 - which shaves greens closer than anything before.

The Flex 21, which has a 21 in cutting unit that not only flexes from side to side, but backwards and forwards too. It means the unit can hug the contours of the most undulating greens,



shaving the turf right down to one-sixteenth of an inch, with virtually no scalping.

The new greens mower has been developed in collaboration with greenkeepers and follows the move by the golf industry towards designing more-undulating, faster greens that take

advantage of new plant cultivars that can be clipped right down.

The Flex 21 is simple and easy to operate, with all controls easily reached via two handle-mounted levers. For quick and easy maintenance, removing just two bolts separates the cutting unit from the traction unit.

Is Lindum's latest ryegrass, a turf for all seasons?

Lindum launched Ryegreen, their first fine-leaved ryegrass turf for golf greens, available to the industry from spring this year. Seeded in May 2001, and cultivated at the company's specialist turf nursery near York, this new sward containing 30% exceptionally fine ryegrass, 50% creeping red and 20% chewing fescue, is hardwearing, with a good recovery rate and the capacity to with-

stand mowing down to 7mm. Lindum's Managing Director Stephen Fell, who has been following STRI trials of the latest fine-leaved ryegrasses closely, says the Ryegreen is a welcome addition to the company's range.

"As growers, we are always willing to experiment, and following the successfully established cultivation of Ryegreen, we will be closely monitoring the emergence

of new ryegrasses with a view to subsequent sowings. Judging by the amount of enquiries we have received from course managers, these new varieties are already creating a great deal of interest."

Ryegreen, which is suitable for all fine turf areas and particularly applicable to pay and play courses, can also, due to its robust nature, be laid on tees, cricket wickets and tennis courts.

Lastec unveil new addition



A new version of the world's only practical articulator rotary mowers will be launched in the Spring, revealed inventor and manufacturer, Lastec, at the BTME show. The company also announced that it will unveil a new flat pan mower around the same time. The new articulating mower will have a cutting width of 77 inches and will feature a deck that folds for ease of transport. It will be powered by a Kubota 33hp turbo charged engine which has Lastec's patent-pending automatic radiator cleaning system. The new flat pan mower will include several new features such as cast iron spindles, Marbain steel blades and an updated hinge design between its decks for long life.

High-power helps to achieve low-costs

The use of higher horsepower tractors of 50hp plus can help cut golf course operating costs by up to 20%, according to Renault, but also enable valuable staff to have the time to complete more jobs around the course.

"The output benefits that a higher powered tractor provides is considerable," comments Ian Thomson, Renault's Groundcare Product Manager.

"With the even distribution of weight and the correct choice of tyres, course managers are finding that with larger tractors such as the Renault PALES and CERES ranges can do up to 80% of the jobs previously done with a smaller tractor, but far quicker and more efficiently."

Consistently courses have been reporting that this has helped them trim their operating costs by between 15% and 20%. Just as importantly, by getting more mundane jobs done faster, greens staff have additional time to pay more attention to detail and fine tune course presentation. In addition to helping cut costs, there are also Health and Safety benefits. Many courses have found that one of the biggest benefits of operating a larger tractor fitted with a loader, is the materials handling capability it provides, so enabling one person to quickly and safely off load materials on pallets, that previously might have required three people to off-load by hand.

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL TAKES A LOOK AT THE VERY LATEST PRODUCTS AND SERVICES LAUNCHED AT THIS YEAR'S PREMIER TURFCARE EXHIBITION IN HARROGATE

Textron had something for everyone at show

Making its UK debut at BTME was the Iseki TK538 compact tractor complete with hydrostatic transmission, the latest addition to the TK range of compact tractors that combines power, strength and top performance to provide machines that are ideal for a variety of professional groundscape operations.

Powered by a water-cooled 3-cylinder turbo diesel engine developing 38hp, the TK538 hydrostatic offers smooth-changing, infinitely variable speed within three gear ranges.

With a lifting capacity of 1,300 kgs there's enough muscle to handle heavy, trailed or mounted implements with ease and the independent electro-hydraulic PTO system offers engagement and disengagement at the flick of a switch.

Also appearing for the first time at BTME, the Workhorse ST480 is the most powerful turf utility vehicle in the E-Z-GO Workhorse range.

With its 16hp Vanguard V-twin air cooled petrol engine and payload of 363.2kg, including operator, it has the power and performance required for a host of applications on golf courses, parks, leisure complexes, smallholdings, farms, woodland and amenity areas.

Robustly constructed to meet every eventuality, the front axle is articulated to ensure that the front wheels stay in contact with the ground, especially in steep approach and exit conditions.

Following the success of last year's No Pay 'Til May finance plan, Textron Total Care Finance has launched an innovative finance package for their complete range of golf and turf products - Pay-as-you-Play.

"This is a three year plan, tailored



to the income stream of any particular golf club. When a club purchases any item or package of equipment from our golf and turf range, the repayments are tailored for their maximum periods of income," explained Sales Director, Glynn Patrick.

"In reality this means that payments are made from May to October in the first season, followed by a six-month repayment holiday, then further payments begin in May the following season with this pattern repeated in year three to complete the purchase.

"We believe that this new package



offers excellent value and enables golf course owners and managers to procure quality equipment at an affordable price with a repayment structure tailored to their income stream."

Waste2Water smash expectations with latest product launch

Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off System created a tremendous amount of interest at BTME. Orders were received from a number of golf courses for installation as soon as possible, including; Woburn Golf & Country Club, The Forest of Arden, Sunningdale Golf Club, and Lilley Brooke Golf Club. Most interesting was that more than one of the clubs chose to defer other expenditure to provide for this expenditure, which they viewed as essential. We are delighted as this confirms the increasing importance of environmental awareness, and recognition that it is within our reach to do something positive to assist nature.

Richard Campey launch recycling attachment at show



Everyone appreciates the benefits of recycling, and now the same principle can be applied to sports turf, thanks to the latest attachment introduced at BTME 2002 by Campey Turf Care Systems. The new, heavy-duty Koro Recycling Dresser features two sets of different blades. These break up compacted soil to depths of up to 20cm and then recycle material from below the surface as a fine top-dressing. Two models were launched. The RD1650 has a working width of 165cm and can be powered by a tractor of 70hp or more. The RD2000 has a 200cm working width and requires a tractor of 85hp. Both machines are seen as ideal for the speedy renovation of heavily used, larger sports turf areas, such as soccer grounds, multi-pitch complexes and golf fairways. A major plus-point is that, as the machines 'recycle' the existing soil, less material has to be imported to site for turf renovation projects, saving time, effort and money.

New image: New services

BTME 2002 was a significant show for seed company Cebece Seeds, as it unveiled a new image and range of services to its customers that will combine technical support, new varieties and mixtures. Cebece Seeds - previously known as Cebece Oliver Seeds - supplies amenity seeds to the golf, sport and landscape industries and its new brand and name reinforces the integrated approach of the Cebece group. "The changes unveiled at BTME extend beyond the new brand image to include a change of strategy in our customer service and support," said the company's Amenity Product Manager, Roger Peacock. "In particular, we are expanding the technical support available to customers, agronomists and specifiers, which will enable them to take full advantage of our superior technical knowledge and experience in grass seed varieties and mixtures."

Aiming to make worm casts a thing of the past

Worm management is an increasing problem in the turf grass industry. Legislation is removing effective chemicals from use, leaving the turf grass manager with only mild alternatives with which to seek short-term solutions. The seaweed people introduced a new product that is the solution to worm cast problems.

Devised as a means of water purification, the Greensaver successfully treats algae, Escherichia coli, coliform germs and Clostridium. Knowing that numerous golf courses are irrigated from their own ponds and lakes, field trials were carried out and it was discovered that the solution produced by the Greensaver, known as Biodyozon, demonstrated an excellent expellant effect on earthworms.

Biodyozon is the liquid product processed by the Greensaver. Needing only a power supply, a water supply and salt tablets the electrolytic process of the Greensaver converts the water to Biodyozon. The solution being a short lived chlorine/oxygen combina-

tion is in a metastable state eventually returning back to water.

The Seaweed People stand at Harrogate had a constant stream of curious visitors eager to see a demonstration of Biodyozon in action.

Vino Pankhania, Managing director of Seaweed People says, "We have been looking for an environmentally friendly means of treating worms for some time, the results of Biodyozon have been outstanding, and interest from golf clubs is exceptional. We look forward to providing golf clubs with a real solution to what has become an annual problem."

The Seaweed People supplies over 600 golf clubs throughout the UK with Sea Nymph liquid fertilisers, in numerous formulations, seaweed meal products and compound fertilisers.



A FAMILIAR FACE

**Scott MacCallum
meets a National
Chairman who
needs little or
no introduction**



Above. Leicestershire County Second Team Captain meets the 1999 European Ryder Cup Team Captain, Mark James

Below. Richard gets some last minute pointers from outgoing Chairman Clive Osgood, just before taking over the reins



Richard Barker is one of BIGGA's best known members. Since the Association was formed in 1987 he has rarely missed a national event while he has been a regular at most Midland Regional functions and a stalwart of the East Midland Section having served continuously on the Committee for the past 15 years. He perhaps shouldn't shout about it but he was also on the interview panel which appointed the current Editor!

It would be fair to say that he will have met many of the people reading this piece during that time, but if you haven't had the pleasure of meeting the 2002 BIGGA National Chairman yet the chances are that by the end of his year in office that situation will have been rectified.

"If anybody would like me to attend an event at Region or Section level

they should contact me or Head office - my clubs are always in the back of the car and I'm more than willing to come along to present prizes and say a few words," said Richard, as we sat in the Majestic Hotel foyer, a couple of days before he donned the famous red blazer.

"I want to be seen and I want to be approachable. It is my aim to visit as many Sections as I can and really make the most of my year," said Richard, who could never be accused of being anything other than "approachable".

Although a youthful 37 - he is the youngest BIGGA National Chairman beating Dean Cleaver's record by around five months - he has the distinction of being the longest serving National Board of Management member having sat continuously on the Board since 1994. When it comes to the business of the Association, he has a wealth of experience.

"I do believe that BIGGA has done a tremendous amount of good within the industry and I'm sure the trade also realises what the Association has achieved and through donating into the Education and Development Fund they have assisted us in producing better trained greenkeepers and Course Managers," he said.

There can be no doubt that Richard was destined to become involved in golf.

"My father is an Past Captain of Longcliffe Golf Club, in Loughborough, and they rang a bell in the club when I was born," said Richard, whose general love of the game turned to a love of greenkeeping when he was in his early teens. "When I was 13 or 14 I used to work part-time in the summer holidays for Walter Cole at Longcliffe in the summer, fly mowing ditch banks, edging bunkers and divoting tees for three to four days a week.

His skill as a player - he has reached 2 and currently plays off 3 - offered up the opportunity of becoming an assistant pro when he was 18, when

he was playing off 5, but the poor wages and long hours put him off. Instead he was taken on as an assistant greenkeeper as part of the Youth Opportunities Scheme. When the year was up he was taken on full time and embarked on the first stages of his formal greenkeeping education at Brooksby College. He did Phase 1 the first year and Phase 2 City and Guilds the following year.

"I do feel that as a profession, we aren't really recognised for the work that we do - that's where I'd like to see BIGGA doing more."

I want BIGGA to become more of a force within the golf club and for clubs to come to BIGGA if they have a problem they wished solved."

Richard Barker
2002 BIGGA Chairman

"From hating school I found myself getting distinctions and credits in my greenkeeping studies. I'd found my niche. I wasn't interested in school and didn't apply myself but in greenkeeping I was getting grades I wouldn't have believed were possible," he revealed.

"A year after that I was one of the guinea pigs who did Phase 3," he recalled.

The next quantum leap in his career came when he left Longcliffe to become Head Greenkeeper at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club at the age of 24, a position he held for 13 years. He continued his formal education through a Supervisory Management distance learning course at Elmwood College.

In addition to the formal education Richard has taken much from the opportunities BIGGA has afforded him.



"I've travelled to many different places, including going on the GCSAA Conference and Show with the Association on four or five occasions and I've played golf courses in National Championships and other events I'd never have had the chance to play otherwise.

"I've even done a public speaking course and when I started out in greenkeeping I would never have dreamt that I'd end up doing a public speaking course. The marvellous thing about BIGGA is that the Association can put on any course you want to do - Ken will organise it for you. There can't be any other profession which organises a course around your needs in such a way," said Richard.

The realisation that he would be BIGGA Chairman for 2002 came when Clive Osgood, then Vice Chairman to Elliott Small, asked him at the 2000 Open Championship at St Andrews.

"I was honoured, believe you me I was honoured. I certainly didn't think I would be asked just because I'd been on the Board and I was honoured that I was considered suitable to be Chairman.

"Many of my friends have said they always knew I would be Chairman

one day but I don't consider myself to be any different from anyone else.

"I remember, once, when a group of students visited my club and I took them round and showed them what we were doing. To be frank some of them were looking less than enthusiastic so I told them that they probably thought I'd never been one of them and that I'd always been destined to be a Head Greenkeeper. In fact, I'd been just the same as them at their age and had just the same opportunities that they would have and that it was just a case of taking those and they too would end up as Head Greenkeepers."

He is not unused to leadership having spent three years as Captain of the Leicestershire County Second team - he has also amassed almost 50 Caps including a number for the First team as well.

Richard has a clear idea of how the Association should progress during his 12 months at the helm.

"I do feel that as a profession, we aren't really recognised for the work that we do - that's where I'd like to see BIGGA doing more. I want BIGGA to become more of a force within the golf club and for clubs to come to BIGGA if they have a problem they wished solved.

He sees the new Golf Club Show, run for the first time alongside BTME this year, as a superb vehicle for this endeavour as it brings more Chairs of Green, Golf Club Captains and Secretaries to Harrogate.

"Unfortunately Chairs of Green and Captains who have found out and appreciate what BIGGA does are often lost off committees and we find ourselves back to square one

"BIGGA is down at the bottom when it comes to body recognition within golf clubs but in many ways with the practical help it gives and the courses it puts on BIGGA does as much as anyone for golf clubs," he said

"I want us to become better known within the golf clubs and know what BIGGA is all about. I don't think that's happening yet.

"I have not become Chairman with any hidden agendas. I see my role this year as that of Publicity Officer spreading the name of BIGGA around the country and to golfers and the other golfing bodies," he explained.

Richard is currently working alongside one of his long-time friends, Ian Needham, Head Greenkeeper at Beedles Lake, in Leicester, and Ian and the club itself, have been

extremely supportive to him in what will be a demanding year.

"The club owner has been tremendous and will give me all the time off I require to carry out my duties as Chairman."

One of his first duties was to choose his Vice Chairman and if the astute nature of his appointment is any indication of the quality of his decision making over the next year the Association will be in more than capable hands.

"I'm extremely happy that George Brown, from Turnberry, has taken on the Vice Chairmanship. He has one of the best jobs in the country and to have him on board is a great honour."

Richard is an affable character. He accepts the good nature ribbing about the number of times his picture has appeared in the magazine with a shrug and a laugh and is delighted that his record will be extended over the next 12 months.

"I basically look upon BIGGA as a big family. It could be corny but I come to Harrogate and see so many people that I know and can sit down and have a pint with and I don't intend changing anything other than to make more people aware of what we are doing."



The methods introduced by TurfTrax could make major impact on greenkeeping over the next few years. Scott MacCallum met the people who will make that happen

MAKING TURFTRAX



TurfTrax

There is a saying "Information is King". Boiled down to its simplest form the moral is that the more you know, the better the chances you have of success, particularly if you are better informed than your rivals.

With that in mind, you can see nothing but success for BIGGA's latest Golden Key Supporter, TurfTrax, a recently-formed company which specialises in conducting non-destructive scans of soil to provide indications of how soil properties vary spatially across a playing surface. This information is crucial in providing a basis for advice on how to achieve the best

possible results with what grows above the ground.

The company uses an adaptation of the same technology used in seismic surveying, where it is generally used to look at areas 10s of metres below the ground, but have fine tuned it to provide detailed information of the top 1.2 metres of the soil profile.

"We operate two forms of scanning," said Sales Director and former greenkeeper, Colin Hood.

"One which is hand-held and the other which is towed behind a specially adapted quad bike which is designed to collect as much data as quickly as possible to cut down on the inconvenience and cost," he explained.

"By using the quad bike on the fairways and rough we can collect five readings per second - which is the equivalent to taking five soil samples at a depth of 1.2 metres which represents 300 litres of soil. On a typical fairway we take approximately

10,000 readings - the equivalent of 10,000 cores but it's a non-destructive reading and therefore doesn't affect the ground in any way."

Those readings are then emailed back to the TurfTrax headquarters where the raw data can be turned around in about half an hour. The next stage is to build up a layered map of the ground which will identify potential trouble spots and allow the TurfTrax experts to specify what the soil requires to make it the best possible medium for its usage.

The man who developed the TurfTrax idea is Technical Director, Justin Smith, who until three years ago had spent his entire career in research as a soil scientist.

"I spent the last three years looking at how the new technology which was coming into the agriculture market could influence the decision making processes on farms in terms of achieving better productivity," explained Justin.

The exercise confirmed to Justin the importance of working with the medium in which everything grows rather than concentrating on what to put on the living organism to keep it going.

It was while working in the agricultural field that a chance remark on the radio opened Justin's thinking to the possibility of using the technology they had developed in the sporting arena as well.

"We were driving back from an agricultural job when we heard Cornelius Lycett (the BBC's horse racing correspondent) discussing the going conditions at a race course and how no-one ever told him why conditions varied. My colleague and I just looked at each other as the light bulb lit up in our heads."

They approached a race course and met the Clerk of the Course to show her how the scanning technology worked and she was impressed by what she saw.

"She said we should do it for the Grand National in three months time

and get it in front of the BBC. We wanted to rise to the challenge and were literally writing the software the night before the National but the BBC used it to explain what the "going" was going to be and it snowballed from there," explained Justin.

Now the technology, which also involves weather stations and sensors planted in the ground is used on all Britain's Super 12 race courses and The Jockey Club are particularly keen on it.

Having convinced the horse racing fraternity, they moved on to football, cricket and then golf.

"In some ways golf was the most obvious market because of the variability. On 200 acres of golf course not too many of those acres are going to be identical and it is going to require different levels of management to produce the best results," said Justin.

The company was given a major boost when it caught the attention of Adam Mills, a businessman with an impeccable City pedigree, who was looking for a company with investment potential.

"I was extremely impressed with the data collection element but the really clever bit is the analysis and what the information will mean to the greenkeeper. It is the totality of the service we can provide which impressed me," said Adam, TurfTrax Chairman.

That point is reiterated by Colin. "Yes, the technology is very clever but it is the data, its interpretation of that result and the diagnostics which lead to a solution which is the most important element."

"We use very high-tech technology to get there but as far as the greenkeeper and the greenkeeping world is concerned we are offering scientifically proven solutions, coupled with what we term on-going ground management. It means the soil and the conditions are measurable, so that a more measured approach can be taken all round."

The benefits of that do not take long



Above: Adam Mills, Chairman; Colin Hood, Sales Director; Justin Smith, Technical Director; and Tim Bonfield, Field Operations Manager.
Below: An accurate survey of a golf course can take the supposition out of decision making





The surveys can be done by hand held equipment or, as above, with a quad bike trailing the sensors

to appreciate. Imagine attending a Green Committee armed with information which highlights why the 8th has always suffered from waterlogging.

"We also have the TurfTrax Ground Management Systems where we install a weather monitor, coupled with sensors in the soil so that we can cross reference everything in real time. We are monitoring the weather as well as the soil conditions and cross referencing the two for presentation in a data recording system.

"We are taking the subjectivity away from the greenkeeper so that when he's asked why the course was closed last Sunday when the one down the road was open he can say well we had 10mm less rain over 24 hours and here are the data to prove it," explained Colin.

TurfTrax is also working closely with architects because of the obvious benefit to the architect of knowing what is below the surface before he maps out the route of the proposed golf course.

"People often go ahead with the construction of sports facilities, based on an assumption of what is required and unfortunately the wrong decisions are made which costs a lot not only in financial terms but also in cultural terms with people not having access to facilities," said Justin.

"In almost all the cases in which we've been called in it has been because problems have arisen, problems we could have predicted and

solved before they became an issue," he added.

A full survey can take from as little as three days to up to two weeks if it is to cover a detailed survey of everything including the provision of topographic maps which are accurate to around four to five centimetres.

"We spend a long time working on offering different service levels tailored to what the greenkeeper is going to value and offering some straight forward packages at affordable prices so that everyone is catered for," said Adam.

Asked if, in five years time, the dream was that a quarter of the clubs in the country would be using the service, Adam's hand moves in a fashion more often seen on Bruce's Play Your Cards Right when someone is considering what to predict after a 4 has been revealed.

"Realistically, experience will teach us how readily it will be taken up but in other industries we've had our arms bitten off."

However, he does admit that golf might be more difficult to break into than agriculture.

"In some ways agriculture is an easier sell because it comes down to a straight forward economic argument



Above and left. The information is emailed back to headquarters and can be analysed within half an hour

whereas in golf, although there is an economic argument, it comes down to quality which is not as easy to quantify in financial terms.

"The key is that we offer a holistic service and offer a huge range of skills - analytical agronomy, nutrition, soil physics and engineering. It is close to becoming a one-stop shop," said Adam.

In addition they have a close tie-in with Cranfield University.

"We are cross referring to Cranfield so it gives us independent status. We would not get Cranfield's support if we were not along the right lines," said Justin.

TurfTrax's decision to become a Golden Key Supporter of BIGGA is borne from a desire to become known in the industry and to assist in the education and development of BIGGA members.

"We are very pleased to be part of the Golden Key Circle as it encour-

ages education of not only the young greenkeepers but the more mature as well. We want to move forward with BIGGA, who itself has come on leaps and bounds, and see the industry become more electronic and scientific in handling information and making management decisions based on information supplied," explained Colin.

The company has grown quickly in the last 12 months going from a staff of three to 22 with five sets of quad bikes and scanning equipment and they will be moving to a state-of-the-art headquarters in Bedford shortly.

"We are looking at substantial growth over the next two to three years and we have put resources, in terms of management and money, into the company to make sure that this business doesn't want for either with a view to being one of the major players in this industry for the next 100 years. It will be quite fun doing it," said Adam.



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Northern

We have a new member this month in William Craig, who is a greenkeeper at Kirriemuir Golf Club. Welcome to the Section, William.

Well, the weather this year has certainly started with a bang, if anything the snow and frost has been worse than it was at this time last year and that was bad enough. I hope everyone's course looks well rested when the good weather finally returns and your greens come out unscathed.

One stalwart member of the section who will miss out on all the cold weather is Allan Grant, formerly of Fraserburgh Golf Club. Allan and his wife, Margaret, are heading for the States, Australia, New Zealand and a couple of other countries on a mini world tour. Allan, a die hard Celtic supporter, will unfortunately miss out on Celtic winning the league in March but he will be back to play in the Section golf outing in Elgin on May 16 this year. Allan maintains that the flights are paid for by his winnings from the Senior Section at the outings. His middle name begins with M and it stands for Modesty. Seriously though, I hope your holiday goes well and you and Margaret have a safe trip. It's thoroughly well deserved.

Application forms for the Scottish conference at Lauder College, Dunfermline, will be in the post shortly and if last year's conference is anything to go by it will be worth going down to attend. There are excellent speakers set up and I am sure it will be a very interesting day. The weather can have an effect on the attendance, from the North in particular, so I hope it has improved by then.

As was mentioned in a previous report, the system for awarding the points for the Patrons' Awards is to be looked at but at the time of writing it has not yet been decided. If any member has any particular views on this please feel free to contact me on 01997420155 as your thoughts would be very welcome. It is due to

be discussed at a Board of Management meeting this month and I will report on this in a future magazine.

200 Club renewals will be going out shortly and as it is the Section's only real way of making money and therefore keeping section outing costs down, it will be as well supported as usual.

Iain Gunn

Ayrshire

A good New Year to everyone and I hope you all had an enjoyable time over the festive period and 2002 is already treating you well.

After a blank couple of months I will bring this column up to date firstly with our AGM. A healthier than average turnout saw four members co-opted on to the committee with three members retiring from the committee. There was a good discussion on how to best take the Section forward and create more interest for the members. Some ideas are to be taken forward to the next committee meeting. The following committee was elected to serve for 2002.

Chairman - Iain Barr, Largs Kelburn; Vice Chairman, To Be Confirmed; Past Chairman, Duncan Gray, The Pines; Secretary, Derek Wilson, Irvine Bogside; Committee, Jim Paton, West Kilbride; Dennis Tweddle and Brian Aitken, both Turnberry; Robert Bruce, Stewart. Newly elected, Martin Lothian, Turnberry; Marshall Sloss, Beith; George Morrison, Largs Kelburn, and Barry Crawford, Old Prestwick.

Retiring from the committee are George Brown and Jimmy Johnstone, both Turnberry, and Brian Finlayson, Barassie. A big thank you to all three for all your work and help over the past years.

Congratulations to Paul Tulloch, West Kilbride, and Wallace Mercer, Skermerlie, on winning the Patrons' Award for Ayrshire. They received their award at the Patrons' lunch in Stirling along with the other Section winners. Part of the prize is a trip to BTME 2002 at Harrogate, and by the time this is printed it will all be over, so I hope you enjoyed your trip lads.

Any news or views please call me on 01505 683278, see you next month.

Iain Barr

Central

We are up and running again with new applications for membership of the Section and this month we extend a warm welcome to Jody Wilson, Colin McKay, John Henderson, Nicholas J-Torsfield, John Watson and Michael Petrie who are all from Crail Golfing Society, in Fife.

Six new members from the one club can't be bad although I don't know what Allan will do if they all want to attend the Spring Tournament!

The date for the Spring Tournament, which is being held courtesy of Kingsbarns Golf Club, is Wednesday, May 1, and this is sure to be a very popular venue. Please return your entry forms in plenty of time. The date for the Autumn Tournament, courtesy of Duluth Golf Club, has yet to be confirmed but it will be in late September.

I know I keep going on about "Club 2000" and the number of members who do not buy their allocation of tickets (1 or 2 maximum), but this fund raising venture is the only means of income for the Section. As we do not get any funding from HQ it is vitally important that we generate our own sources of income so please try and give us some support by buying your allocation of tickets. To this end I will wait until next month before asking you individually to return your unsold tickets. I'm all heart really!

Remember all trophy holders please arrange to return them to me as soon as possible.

That's all for the moment, not much I know but I am sure there will be a much longer column next month.

John Crawford



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North East

A recent seminar for the Northern Region was held at Longhirst Hall GC and a good day was had by all who attended though only a small percentage of members were there. This was a bit disappointing considering it was on the doorstep.

Still it was their loss as we had excellent speakers and I was assured that everyone enjoyed the day.

It was good to see Graham Chambers, Course Manager of the host club, make his debut as a speaker giving us the short history of Longhirst and its development over the last three years. Well done Graham, perhaps we will see you standing up at a future BTME at Harrogate.

Plenty of news from Slaley Hall just come in. Firstly, education is happening there. Brian Clark and Ian Millar are both going for NVQ Level 3 and Pete Geddes is finally going for NVQ Level 2. Good luck lads.

Brian Clark has also been promoted to First Assistant and M. McKenna recently moved from Matfen Hall up to Slaley Hall.

Ian Hutton, Head Greenkeeper at Garesfield GC, tells me he has a wild boar roaming around the course. Apparently it's dug up one of the greens and is causing havoc elsewhere. He assures me it's definitely one of them and he is looking for help in trying to catch it.

Jimmy Richardson

Northern

Coming up later this month is a seminar at Howley Hall GC on Wednesday, February 27. You should have already got the details about the day in the mail shot. If not, then get in touch with me and let me know if there is any subject you want covering either as part of a seminar or as an intensive one day course.

Other dates for your diary include:- Spring Tournament, Wednesday, April 24, Bedale GC; President's Day, Wednesday, June 19, Otley GC; Invitation Day, Tuesday, September 10, Bingley St. Ives GC; Autumn Tournament, Thursday, October 17, Thirsk & Northallerton GC; Winter Golf, Tuesday, December 3, Crosland Heath GC.

That's all for now, if anybody has any news or ideas then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188; mobile 07790 678572, Email: andy@northernsection.co.uk

Andy Smith

Quality Rotary Mowers -

The 721XR articulator features seven individual 21" (53.3cm) cutting decks which deliver a cut-path eleven feet wide.

Lastec's revolutionary patented belt-drive system allows all seven cutting decks to articulate independently, but without messy, power-robbing hydraulic drives.

The 721XR articulator brings you the best of three worlds:

1 The unmatched cut quality of small push mowers

2 The high productivity benefits of a wide area mower

3 A better price than any mower with its quality and capacity

721XR
132" (335cm)
cutting width



North Wales

A big thanks to Dave Goodridge for the last 2 years of writing the Section notes. Dave is taking a well earned break and we wish him well.

Hope all those of you who took the trip up to the BTME 2002 show had a good time, both on the educational side and, all the new products on display around the stands. Also not forgetting Harrogate's vast range of local hostilities where many of you were spotted enjoying the cups of tea in Betty's tea shop?

On to business. The AGM was held after the Christmas Golf Tournament at Conwy (Caernarfonshire) GC and thanks once again to David Lewis and his team for preparing the Links course to a high standard. The newly elected Committee is as follows;

Stuart McCall, Chairman; Andy Campbell, Secretary; Trevor Johnston, Treasurer; Terry Adamson, Education; Andrew Acorn, Press; Jez Hughes, Match Sec; Steve Roberts & Don Pemberton, Members.

Our golf venues for this year, spring at Andy Campbell's Carden Park Golf Complex (Soft Spikes Only) autumn is at Steve Jones's Pwllheli GC and the Christmas Tournament is at Ian Farrell's Caldys GC.

We are also pleased to have Bill Lawson as our official starter for the competitions. This may be scrutinised at our first event by official Carden starter, Mal Edwards. However, we look forward to the 'crack' anyway.

The delegation of Section members visiting the GCSAA show in Florida this month 3-10 will be Pat MacAteer, Nefyn GC, Andy Campbell, Terry Adamson & myself and if we do see any of you there we will buy you a waffle.

Next month we will focus on the trials and tribulations Allen Lewis, at Llanynymech GC, went through when 'sodium chloride' was poured on his greens.

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

E-mail: acorn@golf@supanet.com. Job's a good'n.

Andrew Acorn

North West

December 6 was the date we had the AGM and the President's Cup Tournament at Wilmslow Golf Club. Once again we must thank Steve Oultram and his staff for preparing the course. The day started with a hard frost, and when we arrived at Wilmslow at 10am the whole of the course was solid white with frost, and the greens staff were standing by with warmed up hand mowers ready to cut the greens by hand as soon as the frost abated. Well, the frost did melt shortly after 10am and true to form the staff cut the greens before we commenced play. The rest of the day was very favourable, with a warm winter sun all day, and the last of the 56 players finishing just before the sun dipped and the night enveloped the course. The golf was followed by the AGM which was short and sweet, and that was followed by the Christmas dinner. The Presidents Cup was won by Paul Walker, and was presented by the new N/W President, Peter Jefford, and of course everybody took away a bottle of something. I would like to thank Wilmslow Golf Club for once again allowing us the courtesy of the course, Steve Oultram and his staff for arriving for work in the dark and having to hang about in freezing conditions until the frost melted. Also many thanks to Gwen and David Chason for a lovely Christmas dinner and keeping the bar open all day & night. Gwen and David retire in early spring and we all wish them a long and happy retirement.

John Wright, from Southport Municipal Golf Course, has just retired and tells me he has worked for the council for 44 years. He told me he does not know what he will do to fill his time. I must have a talk with him as I have been retired eight years and I am busier now than I have ever been.

The fixture list for the year's events is now completed so you will receive your copy soon, anybody not receiving a copy contact me on 0151 7245412 and I will send you one immediately. Also you will receive an application form for the Mere Seminar in March. Please support the section and attend if possible. Any news, contact me.

Bert Cross

Cleveland

The Section AGM was held at Darlington Golf Club recently. The meeting was reasonably well attended but could have been better. Minutes of the meeting will be sent to all members in the near future. Thanks to Darlington Golf Club for use of the clubhouse and providing the supper.

The annual quiz against the groundsmen was held at Mount Oswald Golf Club before Christmas. We were beaten by just one point this year and a great night was had by everyone. Thanks to Mount Oswald for allowing us to use their facilities and a special thanks to our President, Terry Charlton, and all at Turf Care for organising and running the event. Speaking of quizzes section secretary, Barry Walker, has organised a general knowledge quiz at Darlington Golf Club on February 21 at 7.30pm. The quiz was great fun last year and was won convincingly by a team of three very intelligent people and Ian Pemberton, Kiss the Pope's ring, came second and will be looking to go one better this year. There will be prizes and a Pie and Pea supper so get yourself along. Barry has also provisionally booked Darlington Golf Club for the spring tournament on the 24th April, and anyone interested in playing should contact Barry on 0191 5650691 or 07968 308892.

A news letter will be sent out shortly with more details. Anyone not attending any of the social events can expect a visit from Chairman Tony Smith and his brothers!

A bit of staff movement in the Section recently. Chris Powley has left Dinsdale Spa Golf Club to become First Assistant at Stress Holme Golf Centre and has been replaced by Ian Dunable, from Blackwell Grange Golf Club, who is now First Assistant under Tony Mears. Sean Corroll, Deputy Head at Eaglescliffe Golf Club, has left to demonstrate grinding equipment. Liam McGough has become Greenkeeper/Mechanic at Eaglescliffe. Liam has moved from Richmond Golf Club. Good luck to everyone in their new positions.

Any news contact me on 0771 9193381

Steven Jaques



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

Midland

Welcome to the New Year everybody, I trust you all had a great festive period.

Looking back to last year's winter tournament which was held at Brocton Golf Club on December 13 the format of the day was Texas Scramble with 12 teams of four competing for the honours. Winners on the day were M. Gilkes, H. Grant, N. Tyler, M. Sanders with a net score of 58.9, closely followed by R. Hayhurst, R. Thomas, C. Lanchbury and Tony Cheese with a net score of 60.4. Our thanks go to Ray Hayhurst and his team for producing an excellent golf course (and blessing us with the weather) and much gratitude to the Captain, and Brocton Hall Golf Club, for allowing us to play their course and the excellent hospitality shown to us throughout the day.

Following the golf, the AGM was held and Alan Kite, our President and Committee Member for the past 35 years, was presented with a gift for his dedication to the Section and industry throughout this time.

Shortly you will all be receiving a fixture card for 2002 detailing the golf and education days. We hope you will continue to support and enjoy the section as in the past I hope you managed to attend BTME and enjoy the opportunities available. I look forward to seeing you all at Gay Hill for the Spring Tournament. Regards.

Phil Gates

Mid Anglia

Our final golf event of the year took place at Dunstable Downs GC in early December. The usual four-man Texas Scramble team format was used and weather conditions were favourable for some low scores. A total of 25 teams entered and the results were as follows:

1. G. Knight, G. Blum, M. Towler, M. Stidwell. 56.5; 2. G. Bruce, A. Grew, S. Proudfoot, N. Reece. 56.6; 3. T. Booth, S. Wooley, C. Sharp, C. Marsh. 56.6. Longest Drive was won by Darren Charlton, of Tilsworth

for a World that isn't Flat



421D
82" (208cm)
cutting width

The 421D represents a completely new price-point for an articulating, zero-turning radius, wide-area mower.

It features four articulating 21" (53cm) cutting decks combined with the proven hydrostatic drive system on our 425HD.

Industry-leading power and endurance comes from a 38hp Kubota water-cooled diesel.



LASTEC® UK, LTD.

a Division of Wood-Mizer Products, Inc.

Court Lodge Farm, Kenward Road, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent ME18 6JP

Tel: 01622 812103 Fax: 01622 815534

www.lastec.com

GC, and Nearest the Pin by Gerald Bruce, of Berkhamsted GC. Mark Ellis was presented with the Lodgeway Four Ball prize and Adrian Dancer won "Golfer of the Year".

Our thanks to Frank and his team for an excellent course; to Dunstable Downs for allowing us courtesy and to the catering staff for an excellent meal. Our thanks also to Avoncrop, represented by Barry McCloskey, for donating the prizes and to all other trade members for their support. Finally, on a personal note, I would like to wish Dick Coogan, who was due to play in the Christmas tournament, a speedy recovery from a recent mild stroke.

Paul Lockett

East of England

2001 golf season finished off with a Texas Scramble at Boston West Golf Club. A good turn out of members played over a excellently presented course, maintained by Head Greenkeeper Richard Owen and his staff. Thanks to all at Boston West for an enjoyable day.

The day was sponsored by Lawn Mower Services and we were delighted to have Chris Overton, from LMS, to present the prizes. Other trade companies donated many other presents to the prize table.

Richard Owen's team consisting of Peter Fell and S. Boy faired well in the windy conditions to take first prize. Second was Tim Jones, Russ Moody, Adi Kitchener and John

Scotney.

After the presentation of prizes the AGM took place with a new committee being voted in for 2002.

The resignation of John Scotney will be a hard act to follow, as John has been treasurer of the Section since BIGGA was formed. We wish John all the best in his new venture.

The winter seminar took place at Newark GC with John Nicholson and Ken Moodie talking on golf landscaping and architecture.

The Section would like to thank the Golden and Silver Key education fund for allowing us to put on such a good education day. Without the fund we would not have been able to afford the calibre of speaker such as John and Ken.

The fixture cards and seminars are being put together and should be with you soon. Happy New Year to you all.

Graeme Macdonald

East Midlands

This year's Christmas Tournament held at Wollaton Park GC was played on 4th December on a fine dry day. 27 members turned out for the competition, which was a Singles Stb 3/4 H/cap format. Several good scores were returned with the winners in each category as follows:

Category 1. 1 Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 35pts; 2 Guy Boyd, Greetham Valley, 32pts; 3 Jeff Dickinson, Leen Valley, 32pts

Category 2. 1 Mark Bindley, Kirby

Muxloe, 36pts; 2 Gavin Robson, Lingdale, 27pts; 3 David James, Luffenham Heath, 27pts

Trade & Associate. 1 Russell Latham, Mansfield Sand, 36pts; 2 Simon Hedley, Boughton Loam, 32pts

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Wollaton Park for hosting our event. The course was closed for several months due to Foot & Mouth, but it was still presented in excellent condition by Roger Buchanan and his staff. I would also like to thank the Steward & Stewardess for a great meal and to our very generous sponsors, Rigby Taylor. May I once again remind members that if you wish to attend any Section event your entry

slip and payment must be returned to the Secretary before the closing date.

Antony Bindley



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

Devon & Cornwall

The P. J. Flegg Christmas meeting was held at Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 12. Members arriving were delighted to find the course frost-free as many had driven through heavy frost before reaching the club. As last year, two

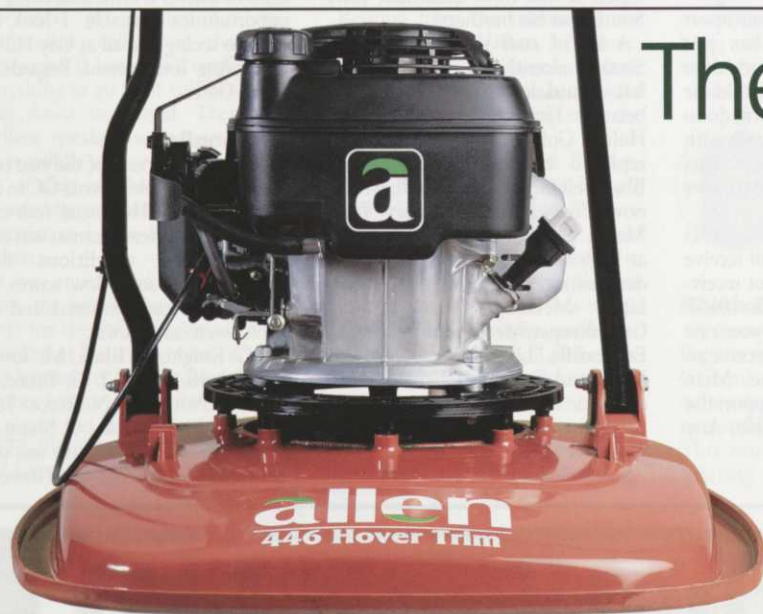
starting points were used for the P. J. Flegg greensome format competition. Our non golfing members were treated, as usual, to the guided course walk by Richard Wisdom. Both golfing and non golfing members were once again delighted to see the now traditional P. J. Flegg refreshment tent by the 6th green, where inside Patrick and his staff treated members to snacks and drinks which set the Christmas atmosphere for the day.

After an excellent Christmas lunch, the day continued with the morning's golf prizes for the P. J. Flegg trophy being presented by Paul Watson to

1 G. Tambllyn, Mullion,
& D. Manley, Mullion. 36pts
2 S. Getson, Tavistock,
& R. Shapland, China Fleet. 35pts
3 R. Parker, Ilfracombe,
& T. Clark, Crediton. 35pts

A special prize, donated by Laurence Davis, Deputy Head at Okehampton, for the best effort went to T. Martin & G. Calvert; the President's Prize for Longest Drive on 18th was won by Richard Parker, and the Nearest the Pin on 12th went to Steve Worrall.

The one and only Tank Sherman, back by popular demand, had us all laughing during his after dinner cabaret aided by Des, from P. J. Flegg, who spilled a pint of beer over Alan Dommett. After the afternoon entertainment, our raffles concluded one of the best ever Christmas meetings. The first raffle was for the Avoncrop



The **NEW** Allen Hover Powered by Honda

New for 2002...
...come a new range of petrol driven hover
mowers powered by 4-stroke HONDA engines.

Three models are in the range each benefitting from the easy starting smooth and quiet running of the Honda power packs, which can be used on slopes up to 45 degrees.

The usual features of Allen hovers are retained, strong duty



- 1** Special 4-stroke engine development for the demands of continuous inclined used.
- Pumped fuel ensures smooth fuel delivery on toughest inclined jobs.
 - The Honda "Dual Lube" dipper and cam belt oil transport system maintains lubrication for the most demanding slopes.
- 2** Power to cut and hover provided by stable high torque for capable cutting in dense growth.
- 3** Excellent power to weight ratio compared

ble to 2-stroke but with the advantages of 4-stroke.

- No messy mixing of fuel and oil
- No cloud and smell from wasteful 2-stroke oil.

4 Low mechanical engine noise due to the innovative use of overhead cam belt in oil and "uniblock" combined bore and head design.

5 Easy start provided by a reliable automatic cylinder decompression starting mechanism.

hamper presented by Brian Stevens to Bill Mitchell, while the final raffle of the day consisted of more than 40 prizes donated by members and trade.

The Section would like to thank Okehampton Golf Club and all their staff who made our day so special, with a special mention for Richard Wisdom and his staff who, as always, had the course in great shape.

A big thanks to Patrick Flegg and P. J. Flegg Ltd for sponsoring the day and providing the wonderful snacks and drinks on the course. Also thanks to our President, John Palfrey, who supplied the wine at lunch. Also to all of you who donated prizes for the day.

News Flash: Irrigation workshop, sponsored by Ocmis, will be held at Fingle Glen Golf Club on Tuesday, March 5 for more information please contact me on 01288 353438.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

As I write these notes many of us are finalising our plans for our annual trip to Harrogate and BTME. Those of you who have not made the journey will no doubt have missed a good week and I will report in depth in next month's issue. This month has been fairly quiet with many of us in the south experiencing an unusually very dry and cold spell which has lasted for some time now. Let's hope we don't suffer by having a wet spring.

The section AGM which was held at our Turkey Trot meeting at Barton-on-Sea ran very smoothly and was over in record time. Our Chairman, Tony Gadd, reported to those present that the Section had a very successful year in terms of support for our golf meetings and more importantly we also had a successful financial year. The only area of concern was the disappointing response for educational functions. As greenkeepers we are always busy but we should allow time to continue our professional development by attending lectures and seminars. Next year's AGM will be held at the autumn meeting to fall into BIGGA recommendations, which states that all AGM meetings should be held by the end of October. Your committee for this year is as follows:

Chairman, Tony Gadd; Vice Chairman, Phil Wentworth; Hon Secretary, Fred Deamen; Competition Organiser, Chris Sturges; Regional Representative, Ian Noble; Around the Green, Alex McCombie; Trade Representative, Trevor Simmonds; Committee Member, Harvey Tribe.

As ever your committee will work hard to make this year as successful as last year. Wednesday, February 13 will see our Section Seminar held at Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club, which you should all have received details of through the post. As ever there will be a good range of speakers and we hope you will all

take the time and effort to come along to what should be an excellent day.

This year will see the introduction of a new knock-out competition in our Section. The planned pairs event is currently being organised by Phil Wentworth and hopefully will be a great success. Other Sections run similar competitions and have proven to be hugely popular so watch this space for further details.

Lastly, I would just like to say a big thank you to our sponsors who helped make our Section such a success last year. Your continued support is much appreciated!

Until next month.

Alex McCombie

South Wales

The Winter Tournament held at the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club was a great day out for all. Over 50 took to the links and enjoyed the summer-like conditions which the Secretary had arranged (he arranged everything else). The course was in excellent condition and I'm sure will be enjoyed by those competing over it for the British Amateur Championship 1st round, which is to be played there in June of this year.

Our thanks to Ray Hunt and his staff and our sincere good wishes for the Amateur Championships.

The AGM was a quiet affair for a change and main points arising were:

President, Colin Murphy, to stand down at next year's AGM after serving for over 30 years. Julian Bartlett-Jones elected Chairman and Angus Macleod elected Vice Chairman. Dismay at the cancellation/loss of Westurf. Change of golf competition format to Stableford for all competitions. Fixtures agreed and fixture cards have been ordered.

Members, remember to send your passport size photos to HQ with membership renewals.

Evening lectures finalised and are: Jan 16 - David Bates of Sportsworld;

Feb 13 - Stuart Ashworth of Amtec; Mar 13 - John Lindup, of Saama International; Apr 10 - BIGGA versus IOG Quiz/Social evening.

Our sincere thanks to all at the Pyle & Kenfig for making us so welcome. To Captain David Wooding, for his hospitality, and to WGU Vice President, Brian Andrews, for joining us for the day. The Christmas dinner was, as always, excellent and Jan and her staff feed us heartily year after year. The day was, as is traditional, sponsored by Vitax Ltd and their local distributor Celtic Mowers and we are indebted to Adrian Masters and Kim Davies for their continued support and sponsorship. Long may it continue.

Results of the day are: 1. winning the Vitax Shield - Emyr Nickels, of Inco GC; 2. Herbie Probert, of Pontardawe GC; 3. Daryl Bray, of Morriston GC.

Longest Drive went to Ian Marx,

over Mowers nda Engines

handlebar fixing to the deck, engine mounting frame giving less vibration and less damage to engine/deck in heavy duty conditions.

Tapered cone fixing of impeller to crankshaft means this item can be removed easily and without the use of pullers with resulting damage.

New pram style handlebars give more comfortable and hence less tiring grip, and are easier for side to side mowing.



Clean cut,
quick change,
safety blades

- Safer than a bar blade
- Clean cut - minimises bruising
- Safe for use with a rope
- Quick & easy to change



allen

POWERED by
**Honda
Engines**

45°

of Carmarthen GC, and Nearest the Pins went to Adrian Panks, of Llanwrn GC, and Russell Anderson, of Cardiff GC.
Peter Lacey

South West

Here is a list of the Section committee members and their phone numbers, don't be afraid to call on any subject.

Chairman: C. Sealey, 01249 462027
Vice Chair: J. Braithwaite 01275 874002
Fixtures Secretary: K. James, 01934 627413, D. Bougen 01285 720112
Team Captain: A. Knight, 01225 760684
Handicaps Sec: J. Keenaghan, 01454 616837
Education: G. Woods, 01225 333928;
National Board: P. Jenkins, 01242 674328

The Section is holding an informal evening talk, on February 12, at Sham Castle Golf Club.

The talk will be on Organic Fertilisers and The Illegal Use of Pesticides, and it will be given by Simon Barnaby, of the Scotts Company. Simon is an agronomist with the Scotts Company. Martin Townsend will also be present. It should be an interesting evening, so please come along.

Our next golf event is at North Wiltshire Golf Club on February 27. It's our winter tournament. Our events need your support.

If you are going to Harrogate have a great time and make sure you know where the hotel is.

Kevin James



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Kent

A fair bit to report on this month with the turkey trot and the AGM in December and the election of new committee members. I'll start with the golf news and a big thank you to all who made the effort to play at Royal Darenth Valley on December 6. I think it was one of the best turnouts for ages with 43 taking part. So someone must be reading this column and taking notice. The weather was superb with some people even playing in short sleeved shirts, it was that warm. It was a little wet under foot but Nigel and his team had made an effort for us and shaved the greens and the temps for some tricky putts and chips, which were best carried all the way to the pins.

A nice touch was the ball washing facility in each hole cup, a little more cleaning fluid maybe, Nigel. I think everyone had a good time even if their scores didn't reflect the smiles on their faces and laughs from around the course. It was nice to see a woman Greenkeeper playing in the form of Sarah Mardon. Hope we will see you next time and haven't put you off coming. Also a big thank you to our Prince Harry look alike Jamie Wright, from The London Club, for the roy-

al seal of approval - hence Royal Darenth Valley.

Onto the prize winners and yet again Duncan Kelso won with a great score of 41 pts off a 6 Handicap which I think should be lowered. Duncan won the Scott's Shield and a big thank you for their continued support. The runner up was Gary Debeham with 40 points, another dodgy handicap there. Trade winner was Derek Keen who has now left his job at John Shaws to get back into the golf industry. Best of luck Derek in your new job. Your visits around the region will be missed.

Thanks to all the staff at Darenth Valley for looking after us for the day and clearing up the mess made by some people after dinner. Enough said about that. Onto the AGM which was, mercifully, brief. Gary Debenham has stepped down from Section Secretary and massive thanks for all his efforts on behalf of the Section. In his place Duncan Kelso has stepped into the breach and best of luck to you Duncan for your years in office. Also a welcome to Jason Moody, from Canterbury GC, who takes up a position on the committee.

Thank you to Chris Sharpe, of Rigby Taylor, who brought up a point I made a couple of months ago about reps not making appointments with Head

Greenkeepers. Chris pointed out that, like himself, many reps do make appointments only for the

Greenkeeper not to keep it. So it works both ways so please keep to your appointments or make a call if you can.

I did hear from our Chairman Barry Jackson, from Broke Hill, where they had their water fountain stolen at the end of last year. So, if anyone has been offered a fountain for about £4000 let me know, it will be too big for your ponds. Congratulations to Tim Maynard on his engagement to his long time love, Donna Young. Best of luck, Donna, you will need it. Any other news please let me know your views and feelings on any matter. Contact details as always jbatkhgolf@aol.com or 01732 875020. Look forward to hearing from you.

Jason Bean.

East Anglia

At last I hear you cry!

Communications were not what they should have been last year. Someone kept shooting the pigeon!

In the deep midwinter, December 18 to be precise, our motley mob descended on Thorpeness for the annual bun fight and AGM. All went like clockwork as per... thanks to Ian and Steve. The golf wasn't bad either - teams of three in a Texas scramble. Results: Mike Virley, S. Bartram and W. King, 61; Mike Moss, I Wright and P Swain, 62.8 and Roger Plummer, S Plummer (uncle) and R. Whiting, 63.2. Nearest the Pin 2nd. Nick Ashman; 7th, Alan Elliott; 10th R. Whiting and 16th

Your greens' quality is riding on it.



TORO distributed by: Lely (UK) Ltd., St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 1QH. Tel: 01480 226800 Email: toro.info@lely.co.uk

Mike Virley. Longest Drive. 4th A. Sutcliffe, 18th I. Wright.

It was great to see Toddy Huddleston again and sad not to see Ernie Hart who we understand has not been too sharp but is on the mend. Get well soon mate.

Our thanks as usual must go to Thorpeness Golf Club, especially Robin Baker (he's my mate after that speech), the Club Captain. We must never forget our trade members who support us so generously over the years. They are Bartram Mowers; C.M.W; Rigby Taylor; Rushbrooks; Sisis; Aventis; Ben Burgess; Consultant Clarkson Nicholsons; Toro; Prime Irrigation; Collier Turfcare; Tacit; Greenkeeping Supply Company and Turf Care. Anyone else who has supported us, who is not listed, let me know I'll include you in the next list.

As we missed several reports last year this is where we went. April, Felixstowe Ferry with the rain, George worked hard but could not stop it, otherwise a good day and thanks to Mr Scuser for presenting the prizes.

Then there was Purdis Heath in October. A lovely course well presented by Norman and his staff.

All prizes were presented by Allan Busser, the Captain.

Our thanks once again to all the clubs that put up with us last year and I'm sorry that reports did not reach print. Hope to see you all in the spring.

Mick Lathrope

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland

Our AGM was held at Rockmount Golf Club, Carry Duff on November 29. Before commencing the meeting, Secretary Allison Sloan had organised a quiz. Many of the questions, especially those on Roman Numerals proved too difficult for the majority of us.

The team of Terry Crawford, Michael O'Neill and Emmett Curran came out on top with a three point winning margin.

The following committee will represent the section in 2002. Chairman, Jonathan McCabe; Secretary, Allison Sloan; Treasurer, Michael O'Neill; Magazine Officer, Kenneth Henderson; Education Officer, Andrew Kerr, and Match & Handicap Secretary, Terry Crawford.

Many thanks to Rockmount Golf Club for letting the Section hold our AGM in their clubhouse.

I would like to remind members that the Section is organising another autumn seminar in 2002 which will be held on November 6, the venue being Massereene Golf Club, Antrim. An interesting list of speakers is presently being formulated so I will keep everyone informed on fur-

ther developments in the months ahead. At present our golf days are being finalised for the year, The Secretary will be sending out a letter soon confirming dates and venues.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Chairman, Jonathan McCabe on being appointed Head Greenkeeper at Carnalea Golf Club, Bangor. Jonathan is moving from Malone Golf Club to take up his new position at Carnalea in February. Our best wishes go to him.

Well, that's about all my news for this month. I wish everyone a belated Happy New Year and wish you all good Greenkeeping in 2002.

Ken Henderson

WIN!

Don't miss your chance to win this fantastic jacket worth £60 in our exciting new Buyers' Guide competition in association with Allen Power

'THE TURFTIME TEASER'



DETAILS ON PAGE 51

You've got m@il!

If you've got an email account, and want to keep up to date with the latest news and events from the turfcare industry, drop us an email, and we'll add you to our ever increasing list of online subscribers. We'll then inform you of any forth-coming features and events via email.

Simply send an email to:
updates@bigga.co.uk

quoting your name and Membership number, and we'll do the rest!



For a quality, precision cut, take a ride on one of our quality, precision-engineered machines. Toro's Greensmaster® ride-on greens mowers are renowned for their superb finish, reliability, productivity and ease-of-use. And it's quality that lasts, for they also have a reputation for durability and a high residual value. Now, a new improved Greensmaster® is available - the 3250 with a larger, more powerful engine to give even higher productivity. And if it's a pedestrian mower you require, our classic Greensmaster 1000 greens mower is just one of a superb range guaranteed to build your reputation for quality greens.

Simply telephone on 01480 226800 and we'll arrange for a local dealer to contact you.

TORO

www.toro.com

Trees and woodland often form an important component of the golf course landscape, and here consultant Antony Strawson outlines their benefits and management implications

PLAN for success

Trees can improve the playing aspects of the game, providing three-dimensional obstacles, back drops to greens and show direction of holes and generally create an attractive playing environment. They provide shelter and security for members and visitors (not to mention the grounds staff themselves) and also provide important habitats for a wide range of plant and animal species often within very urbanised areas. If managed correctly, trees can enhance the visual appeal and the aesthetics of the course while providing a multitude of different benefits.

But while extolling the virtues of the humble tree, one must also consider some of their less attractive qualities. With their prolific rooting, trees are often the culprits of blocked drains. They can cast shade onto tees and greens, stealing important moisture and nutrients, leaving only fallen branches and dense carpets of leaves in return. They can encroach onto the fairway, reducing the playing area to the detriment of all. Trees are in effect seen by many as three-dimensional liabilities.

Below: New tree planting showing the weed free spot around each tree



But through careful management, trees and woodlands can provide these multi benefits with minimum disruption to the game itself. The cornerstone of successful management is the formulation of a comprehensive and detailed management plan which is practical and guides the course managers on how to manage their tree resource over a long period of time. This is very important as managers and committees change.

The Plan

The plan should be produced with the help of specialist advice. There is always temptation, especially when finances are limited, to avoid what is often seen as unnecessary expenditure. However the investment in expert advice from the outset can prevent costly mistakes and ensure the club's objectives are met.

A consultant can help lead the club through the minefield of grant applications and timber sales, securing additional income wherever possible. The provision of unbiased advice can often help the management committee make important and often difficult decisions regarding the long-term management of the trees. Consultants can also add weight to planning applications and help smooth the ruffled feathers of unhappy neighbours.

The formulation of a management plan primarily involves a thorough examination of all the trees and woodland on the course. Each individual tree and woodland block should be examined and information on species, age, condition and location recorded. The tree resource should then be evaluated in terms of its capacity to meet the long-term objectives of the club. It should seek to provide overall management advice and pre-

scriptions, for all trees and woodland areas, both existing and proposed.

In summary, management plans should:

Involve a degree of professional input

Set out the long term vision for the tree resource, both existing and proposed

Contain guidance for the design of new planting

Involve both the long term management aims and short term work programme

Be comprehensive, practical and achievable

Prioritise management

Seek to maximise potential income from grants and timber sales

Manage expenditure, utilising existing resources

Existing Trees

However where resources and funds are limited, the plan should seek to prioritise projects. The treatment of dead, dying or dangerous trees, where people are at risk, should be seen as of paramount importance. In the increasingly litigious world, a proactive approach to risk management and reduction can never be overstated.

Management prescriptions should seek the avoidance of large scale, high impact operations. The temptation to instantly 'fix' areas of concern should be avoided, and replaced with a desire for gradual improvement through evolution, maintaining the continuity of the golf course environment essential for the enjoyment of the members.

Attention should be focussed on key features within the playing landscape. Trees and copses of strategic value to the hole, as well as those of general aesthetic importance should be identified. A detailed assessment of their health and condition will often provide the necessary impetus

to begin thinking of ways in which the lives of such trees can be extended and replaced over time. As this process takes time, replacements have to be considered well in advance.

Under certain circumstances, the removal of unsuitable species, dangerous or badly damaged trees or trees encroaching into the field of play may be necessary. As the felling of trees is often a very emotive issue with members and committees, the opinions of those who will be affected need to be canvassed. A detailed plan provides an independent way forward.

New Planting

Where areas have been identified as suitable for the planting of new trees and shrubs, either to maintain important features, extend woodland or make better use of dead ground, careful attention should be paid to design and layout of the scheme. Tree planting designs should always seek to improve the natural beauty of the landscape, linking in-





Above: The beauty of trees especially in the autumn

Below: A dogwood with its lovely red twigs provides welcome colour on the course in winter

gle trees and scattered areas of existing planting with natural curves and lines. Designs should mimic nature, forming the landscape into a more natural appearance.

The choice of species should reflect not just the objectives of the club. Species chosen should be suited to the site itself: the soil, climate, and aspect. Choice should also reflect resilience to damage both from players and golf ball damage and suitability within the landscape and the playing environment. Where nature conservation is important, trees which have been grown from locally produced seeds should be sourced. The use of mixtures of indigenous species will improve the naturalness of any planting scheme and if planted at a density of 1100 stems/ha or greater, will provide an immediate 'wooded effect', and could qualify for the payment of grant aid. However, individually planted specimen trees are required to replace those lovely single parkland trees often found on parkland and

designed landscape courses.

The size of plants chosen will be crucial. Experience has shown small bare rooted transplants between 60-90cm in height are more suitable to planting than large standards over 2m. Not only are these trees significantly cheaper to buy, plant and protect, but they also tend to suffer less mortality than their more expensive cousins. In addition, as the proportion of roots to shoots are more balanced, are more suitable to planting and offer significantly higher growth rates, often exceeding the height of the standard within a few years.

Each tree will require protection from mechanical, mammal and herbicide damage and often individual tree guards are appropriate on the golf course. The choice of shelter type is extremely varied with a multitude of different types and prices. The choice of guard should reflect the type of damage anticipated. As a general rule of thumb, tubes provide a better growing environment, are stronger

but more expensive and intrusive than spirals. A low level wooden frame is an excellent method of protecting specimen trees from lawn mower damage and we have used these to great effect at Dalmahoy.

Care and Attention

Of equal, if not greater importance is the aftercare of the newly planted trees. Within the plan, allowance should be made for their care for at least the first ten years after planting. Chemical weeding to remove weed competition from the base of each tree will be essential for at least the first three seasons, improving growth and reducing mortality considerably. However the benefit of a weed-free spot around each tree helps to keep both lawnmowers and golfers away from the trees and damage reduction. The control of weeds may need to be extended to where thistles, ragwort or other noxious weeds may begin to develop. This can be achieved through annual mowing or the application of a suitable herbi-





Above: In larger woodlands timber production provides some income

Left: Trees do grow old and, if not a risk, deadwood provides good roosting perches and is of high conservation value

Below: A recently thinned stand of beech



young trees receive damage from golf balls and natural pests causing their leading shoots to fork. The removal of

these forks encourages trees to grow straight, because if left unchecked, could create mechanical weaknesses leading trees to split apart when they get older. Side branch pruning allows easy access into woodlands but you have to be careful not to turn every tree on the course into an unsightly 'lollypop' shaped tree.

Woodland Areas

Many courses are often bordered by or possess areas of existing woodland and mature trees. As they are often

located away from the fairways and if not directly affecting play, often receive little direct management, save for the periodic trimming of their edges and removal of fallen limbs from the fairway. These trees have often been around for centuries but such woods are often of key importance to the wider landscape, sheltering the course from the outside world, creating that essential feeling of escapism for the golfer.

By not managing your woodlands, you not only reduce the range of benefits which the trees can provide, but also run the risk of not ensuring landscape continuity. One only has to look back to the great storm of 1987 and Dutch Elm Disease in the 1970's to realise the risks of having stands of mature and single species trees, while we are unable to predict or avoid such devastating occurrences, their effects can be reduced by careful planning.

The creation of an uneven aged woodland, containing a diverse mix of species will be the key to longevity and resilience to factors outside the control of the course manager. Such a woodland will also be more beneficial to wildlife.

To create such a stand of trees, there is a range of management tools available to the manager. Thinning is the removal of the smaller, weaker, suppressed trees or unwanted species within a stand, leaving those of better form and greater stability to grow on to maturity. While removing around 20% of the trees, the actual

area of woodland is never reduced, as the remaining trees will eventually fill the spaces. What was once dense scrub can be transformed into an attractive managed woodland, for the benefit of the retained stand of trees. Selective felling is the removal of single trees or small groups, creating areas for replanting, natural regeneration or to allow existing, younger trees to develop.

The management of existing woodland does not necessarily involve large scale expensive remedial operations. Often the most appropriate method of management involves small scale, but regular work to achieve the objectives over a long period of time thus minimising disruption to both players and wildlife.

The management of trees is often secondary to the management of the greens, tees and fairways, as indeed it should be. After all, how often have you heard it said that: 'A game of golf spoils a nice walk in the woods!' But that said, trees usually play a crucial role on the course, and need to be maintained accordingly. A management plan will form the basis for the long-term maintenance and enhancement the golf course landscape. In an increasingly competitive industry, the beauty and quality of the course will become ever more important in retaining and attracting new members. Are your trees up to the task?

Antony Strawson is a Consultant with Eamonn Wall & Co the specialist golf course, tree planting and woodland management firm and is based at their English office in Retford. He can be contacted on 01777 7029390. www.eamonnwall.co.uk

Pruning Young Trees – this new leaflet just published by Eamonn Wall & Co is available free of charge by calling 01259 743212



Aeration

HYDROJECT AERATION
AND CHEMICAL
INJECTION SERVICE
(WITH NO SURFACE DISTURBANCE)

KEITH DRIVER
(SPORTSTURF CONTRACTOR)

Tel: 01273 564015 Mobile: 07958 532008
8 Morecambe Rd, Brighton, Sussex BN1 8TL



Agromony

B Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd

Bruce Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd, is an established company offering expert advice on;

- Golf Course maintenance
- Tournament preparation & presentation
- Machinery selection
- Budgeting
- Staff recruitment
- Soil & turf analysis
- Establishment of new golf courses

Contact: **Bruce Jamieson**

Browtop, 17 Haywarden Place, Hartley Wintney, Hants, RG27 8UA Telephone: 01252 844847 www.bigolf.co.uk

Amenity Spraying

If your weeds look bad, and it don't look good,
who you gonna call...



WEEDBUSTERS UK LTD

SPECIALIST WEED CONTROL CONTRACTORS

TEL/FAX: 01752 336060

MOBILE: 07970 894616

WWW.WEEDBUSTERS.CO.UK

Artificial Grass

VERDE SPORTS LIMITED
Tel: 01254 831666 Fax: 01254 831066

- VERDE TEE FRAME
Steel platform, woven grass top
- VERDE WINTER TEE
Generous size, self-install kit
- VERDE DRIVING MATS
Top Quality - Long Life - Best Prices
- ARTIFICIAL GRASSES
Comprehensive range for pathways, winter tees and putting
- DRIVING BAYS & NETS
For club and home use

Gabbotts Farm Barn, Bury Lane,
Withnell, Chorley, Lancashire PR6 8SW
www.verdesports.com email: niki@verdesports.com

Please call for samples & information

Bio-Technology

Our 10th year supplying biotech solutions

Thinking about a
biological programme?



First ask a biologist

Thatch Reduction
Disease Prevention
Fine Grass Growth

Tel: 01372 456101

www.symbio.co.uk

Bunker Rakes

BUNKER RAKES

MEMBERS STRONG TRADITIONAL SHAPE
1 to 24 - £2.95 EACH 25 to 49 - £2.75 EACH
50 to 100 - £2.50 EACH (15" WIDE COMPLETE)

Flags 95p Hole cups £2.90 Flag pins from 98p etc.

Greenkeepers/Distributors - FREE SAMPLE

FAIRWAY PRODUCTS

Unit 8, Peel Industrial Estate, Bury, Lancs. BL9 0LU

Tel/Fax: 0161 763 7060

BUNKER RAKES

from **ALLEN POWER EQUIPMENT LTD**

- £6.00 14" Lightweight Rake Packed in 10s
Complete with wooden shaft & black polyprop head
- £7.00 14" Deluxe Rake Packed in 10s
With white flexi-shaft, white polyprop head & grip
- £7.50 21" Deluxe Rake Packed in 10s
With white flexi-shaft, white polyprop head & grip

All prices + VAT Carriage at extra cost, FREE for orders of £250 plus

ALLEN POWER EQUIPMENT LTD, The Broadway, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0ES

Tel: 01235 515400 Fax: 01235 515401

Email: sales@allenpower.com

MEMBERS BUNKER RAKES FROM ONLY £2.54 EACH

Strong construction complete with
replaceable threaded handle

- 12 for £2.99 each
- 50 for £2.69 each
- 100 for £2.54 each

HEAD GREENKEEPER/
CHAIRMAN OF GREEN?
Send for a FREE SAMPLE

Prices are for complete rakes, delivered free.
Rake support pegs - 70p each.

Made in the UK by **MW Dyason Ltd**,
6/10 Hitchmead Road,
Biggleswade, SG18 0NH

Tel: 01767 317011

Fax: 01767 317186

Construction

**CONTOUR
GOLF LIMITED**

Construction of new golf developments
and upgrading of existing courses

UK OFFICE: DAVENTRY, NORTHANTS

Tel: 01327 879464

IRISH OFFICE

Tel: 064 39965

Email: enquiries@contour-golf.com

**Delta
Golf**
2000 Limited

- Construction ● Remodelling
- Reservoir Works

Tel: 01604 468908

Fax: 01604 474853

www.deltagolf2000.co.uk

180 Ruskin Road, Kingsthorpe,
Northampton NN2 7TA

J & E ELY

GOLF COURSE
CONSTRUCTION

Reading, Berks

Tel/Fax: 0118 9722257

E-mail: ely@btinternet.com



40th Anniversary
1961 - 2001

www.elygolfconstruction.com

Latest news?

www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

John Greasley
Specialists in
Golf Course
Construction

JOHN GREASLEY LIMITED

"Ashfield House" • 1154 Melton Road
Syston • Leicester • LE7 2HB



Tel: 0116 269 6766

Mobile: 0836 553899

Fax: 0116 269 6866

**MJ ABBOTT
LIMITED**

SPECIALISTS IN:

- GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION
- REMODELLING & RENOVATION
- SPORTSGROUNDS
- MAINTENANCE

Dinton • Salisbury • Wiltshire SP3 5EB
Tel: 01722 716361 • Fax: 01722 716828
www.mjabbott.co.uk

Drainage

COTTON & DOWNES CONTRACTORS

Sportsturf Trenching Machines
Gravel Banding
Full Drainage System Design

01986 798888

www.cottonanddowndes.co.uk

Duncan Ross
Land Drainage Limited

SPORTSTURF DRAINAGE SPECIALISTS

- ★ Latest Sportsturf trenching machinery
- ★ Verti Draining ★ Sand Slitting ★ Overseeding
- ★ Gravel Banding ★ Top dressing

Design, installation and maintenance service

Tel: 01257 255321 Fax: 01257 255327

Appley Bridge, Wigan, Lancs

Keep your greens
**OPEN ALL
YEAR!**

Revolutionary new
reconstruction of greens
Fraction of the cost of traditional drainage
Recent contracts include: Market Drayton, Trentham,
Chase and Sandfield Golf & Driving Range

DESIGN - INSTALLATION - SERVICE
NORTH STAFFS IRRIGATION LTD
Consulting Watering/Drainage Specialists
E-mail: NorthStaffs.Irrig@btinternet.com
01785 812706

allen

Powerful solutions for your growing needs
www.allenpower.com

Drainage.
Sand Slitting.
Vertidrainage.

Established 45 years

ONGAR, ESSEX
01277 890274

PEARL

BUYERS' GUIDE BUYERS' GUIDE
Buyers' Guide
BUYERS' GUIDE BUYERS' GUIDE

The most cost effective way
of reaching over 9,000
readers of Greenkeeper
International every month.

Just call Jennifer Whichello
or Cheryl Broomhead on
01347 833800 and ask about
an alphabetical category
listing. The cost starts from
as little as £29.50 per month

WIN!

THIS EXCLUSIVE JACKET

Don't miss your chance to win
this fantastic jacket worth £60
in our exciting new Buyers'
Guide competition in
association with Allen Power -
'THE TURFTIME TEASER'



Entry could not
be simpler! Listed
below are a series
of clues relating
to ONE company
featured in the ever popular Buyers'
Guide. Take care to look through all
the products and services shown and
write down the name of the company
which you think the following clues
refer to:

allen
Powerful solutions for your growing needs
www.allenpower.com

WHO ARE WE?

1. We offer free delivery in the UK
2. We have a large selection of new
and second hand turf maintenance
equipment in stock
3. Our name could be an abbreviation
from a word meaning 'and the rest'

Write down your answer and jacket
measurement on a postcard and send
your entries to:

Turftime Teaser, Greenkeeper International,
BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York
YO61 1UF

Entries to reach us no later than Monday
25th February 2002. The first correct
entry drawn will receive an exclusive
squal jacket.

This competition is not open to BIGGA
Staff or non-members.

Last month, Euan Scott, from Ballingry
GC in Fife, correctly answered the
Turftime Teaser. Our congratulations and
a fantastic squal jacket from Allen Power
are on their way to you!

TurfDri

Golf Course Drainage Specialist

For fast and friendly UK service call:

Melvyn Taylor
on 01283 551417
or 07836 259133

White Horse Contractors Limited



SPECIALIST SPORTS TURF CONTRACTORS

- DRAINAGE
- CONSTRUCTION
- RENOVATION
- LAKES & RESERVOIRS
- DESIGN & BUILD
- CONSULTANCY

Tel: 01865 736 272
Fax: 01865 326 176

www.whitehorsecontractors.co.uk

Lodge Hill, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2JD

SPEEDCUT CONTRACTORS

SPORTSTURF

Construction Drainage
Sandslitting Renovation

KEVIN SMITH
Oxford 01865 331479

Finance & Leasing

GOLF FINANCE LTD

DEDICATED FINANCE
FOR THE
GOLF COURSE &
LANDSCAPE
INDUSTRY

TEL: 01620 890200

FAX: 01620 895895

sales@golffinance.co.uk

Golf Course Supplies



M.C. & M.A.
STEWART
(HAULAGE) LTD

A family business established 1969
BS EN ISO 9002: 1992 Registered Company

GRAVEL, SAND, SOIL,
ROOT ZONE, TOP DRESSING,
WOOD BARK, TRACK MATERIAL

Contact Rachel Stewart

Tel: 01257 792536/792692
Mobile: 07973 426890

Woodlands, 31 Preston Road, Coppell, Chorley, Lancashire PR7 5HS

allen

Powerful solutions for your growing needs
www.allenpower.com

Golf Mats



EL
Exclusive Leisure Ltd,
28 Cannon Street, Leicester, LE4 9HR
Tel: 0116 233 2255
Fax: 0116 246 1561
'TIGER T GOLF MATS'
Quality artificial grass mats for winter
tees, practice areas and driving ranges.
Any size up to 3m x 3m.
Web: www.exclusiveleisure.co.uk
Email: info@exclusiveleisure.co.uk

Irrigation

AutoFlow Systems Ltd

CALL NOW FOR ALL YOUR
WATER REQUIREMENTS ON

SPORTS GROUNDS, GOLF COURSES,
BOWLING GREENS, COMMERCIAL
LANDSCAPING, PRIVATE GARDENS

TEL: 01603 759701 FAX: 01603 758200

AUTO HOUSE, ASHTRIE WORKS, MILL ROAD,
BARNHAM BROOM, NORFOLK NR9 4DE

YOUR COMPLETE INDEPENDANT IRRIGATION SPECIALIST

British Turf & Landscape Irrigation Association

"Quality by Association"



Our aim is to ensure
you have the best possible
irrigation system so we constantly
monitor, maintain and
raise the standards of
our members.

For a full list of members
contact David Halford

Tel/Fax: 07041 363130
Website: www.btlia.org.uk

Cameron IRRIGATION

Suppliers of Irrigation Equipment to Golf Courses
Bowling Greens, Landscapes, Horticulture.
Manufacturers of Irrigation Equipment
Existing systems renovated and upgraded
DESIGN • INSTALLATION • SERVICE

Telephone: +44 (0) 1425 474614
Fax: +44 (0) 1425 471296
http://www.misc.irrig.co.uk
e mail: enquiries@misc.irrig.co.uk



RAIN-BIRD

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS
Designed, Supplied and installed
throughout the UK and Europe



"THE PROFESSIONALS CHOICE"

Tel: 01606 558 927
Fax: 01606 862 882

E-mail: mail@irrigationcontrol.co.uk
Website: www.irrigationcontrol.co.uk

BTLIA Year 2000 Certificate of merit award

Irrigation Technical Services

Design • Supply • Installation • Service

Pumps and tanks supplied
Moleplough & trencher hire
All leading manufacturers equipment serviced

Tel: 01202 87.42.16 Mobile: 07831 24.22.05



MJ ABBOTT LIMITED

IRRIGATION SPECIALISTS

- DESIGN ■ SUPPLY
- INSTALLATION ■ MAINTENANCE



Dinton • Salisbury • Wiltshire SP3 5EB
Tel: 01722 716361 • Fax: 01722 716828
www.mjabbott.co.uk

Irrigation Systems



For
Golf Courses
Sports
Grounds
Bowling
Greens
etc

- Cost effective solutions
to your irrigation problems
 - Independent professional advice
- DESIGN - INSTALLATION - SERVICE
NORTH STAFFS IRRIGATION LTD
Consulting Watering/Drainage Specialists
E-mail: NorthStaffs.Irrig@btinternet.com
01785 812706



DESIGN
MANUFACTURE
SUPPLY
INSTALLATION

Irrigation Systems
for
Golf Courses
Sportsgrounds
Recreational &
Landscape Areas

Head Office 01460 241939
Scottish Office 0131 2202102
http://www.Ocmis.com

allen

Powerful solutions for your growing needs
www.allenpower.com



IRRIGATION PRODUCTS

Design. Supply.
Installation.
Service.

Established 45 years

ONGAR, ESSEX
01277 890274



Independent Professional Irrigation

Golf Courses, Bowling Greens, Sports, Racecourses, Gardens +++

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Design/Advice | Servicing |
| New Installations | Service Contracts |
| Contracting | System Upgrades |
| Supply & Sales | PC Systems |



Telephone
01765 602175
01765 690598
Fax 01765 603488
Email: admin@par4.co.uk
www.par4.co.uk



T & G IRRIGATION

Golf Course and Sports Turf
Irrigation since 1984

oakdale.uk.com
info@oakdale.uk.com
Phone: 01427 874200
Fax: 01427 875333

Design, Installation and maintenance

York & Martin

GOLF IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS

Speak to Europe's most experienced,
independent consultants for objective,
unbiased advice, before deciding

YORK & MARTIN
PO BOX 1192 FORDINGBRIDGE
HANTS, SP6 1YD, U.K.

Tel. 01425 652087 Fax. 01425 652476

Lake Construction/Liners



Liners for lakes, ponds and
storage lagoons from the
UK's leading contractor

Comprehensive advice
regarding design and
construction of water areas

Tel: 01206 262676 Fax: 01206 262998

E-mail: sales@geosynthetic.co.uk
www.geosynthetic.co.uk

WATERPROOFING SERVICES

POND & LAKE
LINING SPECIALISTS

CONTACT US ON

TEL/FAX: 01249 655539
MOBILE: 07768 836316

EMAIL: info@waterproofingservices.com

Machinery

QUALITY AASSURED

Used groundcare equipment
Wide selection available

DOUBLE A

Prestonhall Industrial Estate, Cupar, Fife

Tel: 01334 657602
www.doublea.co.uk



GRASS MACHINERY

Large selection of new and second hand Turf Maintenance Machinery in stock.

FREE DELIVERY IN UK. Warranty given. Also interested in purchasing surplus machines.

Tel/Fax: 01829 733432
Mobile: 07778 063418

Machinery for Hire

HIRE THE BEST

Tractors, Trailers, Power Harrows, Discs, Shakerators, Stone Buriers FOR TURF, LANDSCAPING & GOLF CONSTRUCTION

ANDREW DEPTFORD
TEL: 01529 421000

Fax: 01529 421111 www.aadhire.co.uk

Mole Control

MOLE CONTROL

TRADITIONAL METHODS USED
North of England covered
Call Arrest-A-Pest
Tel: 01484 684844

pH Control



STRANCO PRODUCTS

pH control and dosing systems for your irrigation water, for improved turf quality.

For nationwide installation, commissioning, service or advice, please contact us at:-

STRANCO PRODUCTS

Priority Works, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0QL
Tel: 01732 354888
Fax: 01732 354222

Railway Sleepers

LANDSCAPING GRADE SLEEPERS

SELECTED HARDWOOD
BEST QUALITY PRICES

ALSO
COCKLESHELL PATH MEDIA
BULK LOADS - DISCOUNTED PRICES

FINETURF PRODUCTS
Tel: 01375 361606

RAILWAY SLEEPERS

FULL RANGE OF NEW, USED, TREATED UNTREATED, HARDWOOD OR SOFTWOOD SLEEPERS AND CROSSING TIMBERS
TELEGRAPH POLES ALSO AVAILABLE
DELIVERY ANY AREA

BEST PRICES ON ALL GRADES & SIZES

Tel: 01302 888676 Fax: 01302 880547

Website: WWW.sleeper-supplies.co.uk
Email: sales@sleeper-supplies.co.uk

allen

Powerful solutions for your growing needs
www.allenpower.com

RAILWAY SLEEPERS

- WOODEN AND CONCRETE SLEEPERS
- BEST PRICES ON ALL GRADES AND SIZES
- CROSSING TIMBERS, TELEGRAPH POLES
- NEW AND SECONDHAND
- A QUALITY ASSURED COMPANY
- NATIONWIDE DELIVERY



THOUSANDS IN STOCK

Tel: 01302 365222
Fax: 01302 341691

TRACKWORK LTD

www.trackwork.co.uk & www.railwaysleepers.co.uk
Email: sales@trackwork.co.uk

Root Zone

BANKS AMENITY PRODUCTS LTD

SUPPLIERS OF
FENDRESS™ ROOTZONE TO USGA
ECONOMY ROOTZONE
DIVOT MIXES

FOR A COMPETITIVE QUOTATION CALL
01858 464346 / 433003

Sports Netting

TILDENET

THE PROFESSIONAL'S CHOICE

- TARGET GREENS
- ANTI-BALL PLUGGING NETS
- PADDED & NET BAY DIVIDERS
- BUNKER MEMBRANE
- PERIMETER FENCING
- BALL-STOP NET
- ANTI-DAZZLE NETTING
- PRONET
- TEACHING GOLF NET & FRAME
- GROW SHEET
- GRASS GERMINATION

For further information please contact

+44 (0)117 966 9684

Top Dressings

BANKS AMENITY PRODUCTS LTD

EXCLUSIVE MANUFACTURERS OF
FENDRESS GREENTOP™ &
FENDRESS™ TOP DRESSINGS AT
SUPERIOR, CONSISTENT TOP DRESSINGS AT
AFFORDABLE PRICES
TEL: 01858 464346 / 433003

BOURNE

AMENITY

Manufacturers of quality dressings, including green organic, fen soil & loams, for fairways, greens & tees, in loads of all sizes

Serving the South of England.

Tel: (01797) 252298 Fax: (01797) 253115



Producers of all types of quality specialist sands and top dressing for Golf Courses, Playing Fields and Sports Pitches

Cowbog, New Pittslo, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, AB43 6PR

Tel: 01771 653777
Fax: 01771 653527

RUFFORD

Leading The Field In Soil Technology

Top Dressings • Rootzones
Sands • Gravels • Divot Mixes
Soils • Pathway Materials

Tel: 01477 572462
www.rufford.com

Dingle Bank Quarry, Lower Wittington, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 6DR

Shirley Aldred & Co. Ltd

Suppliers of high quality granular charcoal for over 200 years

- Use one of the oldest products known to man to treat black layer
- Totally organic product
- Large stock levels of all grades
- Prevent thatch build up
- Delivery anywhere in mainland UK within 3-4 days
- Improve drainage and rootzone

Tel: 01433 620003
Fax: 01433 620388



Trees

FAST-GROWING TREES

Growth of 6-8 feet per year

For rapid improvement to new and developing Golf Courses

Hybrid Poplars used for specimen and group plantings to make handsome trees and perimeter windbreaks.
Hybrid Willows used for screens, hedges, wind-breaks, and dense cover on course.

Both are tolerant of poor soils and sites and require little post-planting care.
All sizes available from 12 inch slips to 8 foot well-rooted trees.

Prices including delivery from £42 per 100, or £380 per 1000

Free information pack and advice without obligation Phone Gordon Hill on 01404 812229 or Fax on 01404 815800
Bowhayes Farm, Venn Ottery, Devon, EX11 1RX
or visit www.bowhayesfarm.co.uk



GROWERS OF TREES

THE TREE CARRIAGE COMPANY

Court Gate Nursery, Eddington, Pershore, Worcs WR10 3BB

Tel: 01386 750585 Fax: 01386 750197

Email: willpoweruk@gmail.com Web: www.willpowers.co.uk

Turf

INTURF

Turf Growers and Innovators of Turfgrass Systems

The Chestnuts • Wilberfoss
York • YO41 5NT

Telephone: 01759 321000
Facsimile: 01759 380130
e-mail: info@inturf.co.uk
website: www.inturf.com

TT ProTurf

GROWERS AND SUPPLIERS OF QUALITY CULTIVATED TEES, GREENS AND AMENITY TURF COUNTRYWIDE

Tel: 01427 890797
FAX: 01427 891785
Email: info@proturf.co.uk

TT ProTurf Ltd

NORTH CARR FARM, WEST STOCKWITH, NR DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE DN10 4BD

Vertidrain Hire

CH GROUNDS MAINTENANCE LTD

CONSTRUCTION • SEEDING
RENOVATION • SPRAYING
VERTI-DRAINING • SANDING

CHESHAM

TEL: 01494 758208

WEB: www.chgrounds.com
EMAIL: mike@chgrounds.com

NATIONWIDE VERTIDRAIN HIRE

SELF OPERATED
OR WITH OPERATOR

TRACTOR WITH 1.6m
£500 PER WEEK

TRACTOR WITH 2m
£700 PER WEEK

TEL: 01522 869100

www.countygrass.co.uk

PETER MANNINGTON



Specialist Verti-Drain Contractor for the South
For greens, tees, fairways and sportsgrounds
Experienced operator, competitive prices and reliable service

Tel/Fax Peter on 01580 861211
or Mobile 07850 612061

1 White Horse Cottages, Silverhill, Hurst Green,
Etchingam, East Sussex TN19 7QA

CONTACT THE PROFESSIONALS

FOR ALL TYPES OF AERATION,
CULTIVATION AND SEEDING

CHOICE OF 5 VERTI DRAINS, SHATTERMASTER,
MULTICORE ROOTZONE INJECTOR <HYDROJECT>
SEWARD TURF MAINTENANCE
RING MICHAEL SEWARD NOW ON 24 HOUR FREEPHONE

0500 432120

Email: sewardturf@btconnect.com
Web: www.sewardturf.co.uk

WORTH DRAINING

VERTIDRAINING and
HOLLOW CORING HIRE

Distance no object

Contact Peter Bloodworth
Cornbecks Farm, Imham, Grantham, Lincs.
Tel/Fax: 01476 550266 Mobile: 07855 431119
or Paul Simpson, Manager
Tel: 01476 585 549 Mobile: 07855 431120

Wildlife Management



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

The specialists in all aspects of UK wildlife

RABBIT PROBLEMS?
0870 757 2844

RABBITS FOXES DEER GEES BADGERS
SQUIRRELS MINK MOLES BIRDS etc

www.wildlifemanagement.co.uk

Machinery For Sale



Due to a change in our policy St Andrews Links Trust have a number of Used Mowers and Cushman Trucksters available for sale including:

Ransomes 160D's complete with units. 1997, 98 & 99 models. Prices from £2000 to £10000.

Diesel Cushman's 1996-98 from £2500

Petrol Junior Cushman's 1997 & 99 from £2000

For further details call

**01334 466680
or 01334 466676**

WIN!

Don't miss your chance to win this fantastic jacket worth £60 in our exciting new Buyers' Guide competition in association with Allen Power

'THE TURFTIME TEASER'



DETAILS ON PAGE 54

**EX-DEMO MACHINES
FOR SALE**

Machine	Hours	Price
Ransomes CT333 c/w 60 Deck	208	£9,500
LF3800	499	£19,000
Fairway 305	195	£21,000
G-Plex Petrol	932	£5,500
G-Plex Groom	-	£9,000
E-Plex II	295	£5,000
E-Plex II	261	£5,000
Greensking V plain	143	£10,000
Marquis 61 AIR	-	£1,500
Rotary 951	235	£14,000
Walker Diesel coll	-	£4,500
Walker Diesel coll	200	£4,500
Iseki SGR19	15	£8,500
AR250 Mulch deck	832	£12,000
Highway 2130	68	£14,000
Commander 3520 floating	52	£26,500
Cushman 4 wheel	-	£10,000

For further information and enquires please contact Andy Turbin on 01245 380311

Job Shop

27 year old British greenkeeper seeks position on Swedish or Danish course.

9 years in the job, educated to SVQ 2, good references available.

Any position except Head Greenkeeper considered.

133/02

23 year old Greenkeeper seeks employment on golf course in South West Scotland, North Wales or Cumbria. 4 years experience.

Capable of working on my own or with a team.

Qualifications include HND in Golf Course Management PA1, PA2 and PA6.

JS/134/02

FREE online Job Shop Ads!

If you didn't already know, BIGGA upload all recruitment advertising from the pages of Greenkeeper International to coincide with the launch of each issue. Many Greenkeeper members have found the online recruitment section to be of great benefit, particularly if they have left their magazine at work! They can simply log on at home, to the BIGGA website, and access all of the latest jobs available in the fine turf industry. Also, if a member is looking for employment, their advert will appear in this database for prospective employers to read.

Any member who has found themselves out of work as a direct result of the Foot and Mouth Outbreak may wish to take advantage of the BIGGA website to help find another club. As a special service to members the Association will allow you to post a Job Shop advert on the website, listing your experience and qualifications, offering your services free of charge. Further information can be obtained from the Sales & Marketing Department at BIGGA HOUSE Tel: 01347 833800 email: sales@bigga.co.uk

Please note: This offer only applies to website adverts and not those which you wish to appear in Greenkeeper International.

Please print clearly, and keep your entry to under 500 words.

OFFICE USE ONLY
JSW

Name.....

Club/Company

Address

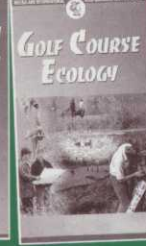
.....

Tel:Fax:

Email:

Send your completed order form to: Jennifer Whichello, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or fax the form to us on 01347 833802. Alternatively, you can also email your copy to jennifer@bigga.co.uk

BIGGA education puts you right on course



Golf Course Preparation Video
£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

Golf Course Reconstruction Video
£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

Ecology Book
£3.00 to BIGGA members
£7.00 to non-members

Ecology Video
£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

Raising the Standards of Mowing Management Video
£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

Setting the Standard in Spraying Application Video
£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

Irrigation Video
£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

Education Dept, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801 Email: education@bigga.co.uk



Require a

QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

To join existing team on this 27 hole private member's Parkland Course. Applicants should have a minimum of NVQ 2 and PA1 and PA2 spraying certificates. The successful candidate will work 40-hour week plus additional hours as required. Salary negotiable according to experience.

Accommodation available.

Please apply in writing with full C.V. to:

General Manager, Hartsbourne Country Club,
Hartsbourne Avenue, Bushy Heath, Herts WD23 1JW.

Email: gm@hartsbournegolfclub.co.uk



MOUNT MURRAY HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB

MOUNT MURRAY HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB, THE ISLE OF MAN'S FINEST FOUR STAR HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL FOR THEIR 18 HOLE CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF COURSE

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have at least 3 years experience. Qualifications to NVQ level 3 with spraying certificate PA1, PA2 and PA6 are essential.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Must be qualified up to NVQ 2 or equivalent spraying certificate an advantage.

In return the successful applicants will benefit from a competitive remuneration, low taxation benefits and free use of the Island's Premier Health Club.

Please forward all CVs in writing to:

Maureen Lambert, Personnel Manager, Mount Murray Hotel and Country Club, Santon, Isle of Man, IM4 2H

Tel 01624 661111 Fax 01624 611116



Invites applications for the following position:

HEAD GREENKEEPER OF THE NEW COURSE

Laid out by Old Tom Morris in 1895, this prestigious course is rated in the top 50 British Courses and one of five managed by the St Andrews Links Trust.

The position requires an enthusiastic, conscientious and self-motivated professional, who will be responsible for the maintenance and continued improvement of this Links Course.

Reporting to the Links Superintendent, the successful applicant will lead a team of seven full time staff plus seasonal workers, as well as being involved in other operations. We would expect the candidate to have the appropriate NVQ/SVQ level 3 or HNC as well as being technically qualified in all aspects of greenkeeping.

The job is largely hands on, although budget preparation and monitoring along with work scheduling and a sound knowledge of current Health and Safety regulations are equally important. In return we offer a competitive salary, contributory pension scheme, BUPA and other benefits associated with the Home of Golf.

Those interested should send a letter with accompanying CV by March 1st to:

Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent,
St Andrews Links Trust, Pilmour House,
St Andrews, Fife KY16 9SF



Regional Sales Manager

South and south-west

Lely (UK) Limited is the distributor of Toro Commercial Products for the UK and Ireland.

Located at St Neots, Cambridgeshire, Lely distributes turf maintenance equipment to a wide range of users who include golf courses, local authorities, contractors and sports and leisure facilities.

We are seeking to recruit a Sales Manager to be responsible for the management and development of our dealer distribution network throughout the south and south-west of England.

Candidates should be highly motivated, self-driven sales professionals with a history of sales management of customer accounts.

The ability to communicate at senior level with key account customers and business channel partners is essential.

Experience in fine turf equipment and use of Microsoft computer software programmes would be an advantage.



If you think you have all the qualities we are looking for, apply in the first instance to: Christine Wilson, Lely (UK) Limited, Turf Division, Station Road, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 1QH. Tel: 01480 226800 or email christine.wilson@lely.co.uk

CHILTERN FOREST GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We require an Assistant greenkeeper to join our existing team on this 18 hole course. The successful applicant will have a minimum of 3 years experience in all aspects of greenkeeping and will be qualified to NVQ Level 2.

Salary negotiable according to experience.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:-

Mr S Horwood, Head Greenkeeper, Chiltern Forest Golf Club,
Aston Hill, Halton, Aylesbury HP22 5NQ

TRENTHAM GOLF CLUB STOKE-ON-TRENT

GREENKEEPER

Greenkeeper required to assist in the maintenance of this established private member's club, now host to the Open Championship Regional Qualifying Competition.

The successful applicant must be positive, forward thinking and with a minimum qualification of NVQ Level II and PA1 and PA2 spraying certification.

Applications to be received by March 4th 2002 to;

Philip Gates, Course Manger, Trentham Golf Club,
14 Barlaston Old Road, Trentham, Stoke on Trent ST4 8HB.

THE LAMBOURNE CLUB

WORK AT ONE OF THE MOST PROGRESSIVE
GOLF COURSES IN THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND

GREENKEEPERS

Enthusiastic, conscientious, and team orientated.

Greenkeepers with a minimum 2 years experience,
are now being sought for THE LAMBOURNE CLUB,
owned by the world renowned Cliveden Group.

Applications containing CV to

Mr Keith Allen, Course Manager, The Lambourne Club,
Dropmore Road, Burnham, Bucks SL1 8NF.

kallen58@lycos.co.uk

THE KIDDERMINSTER GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant should possess the appropriate qualifications and have experience in all aspects of Golf Course Management, plus the necessary skills to lead and motivate a small Greenkeeping team.

The successful applicant will need to be enthusiastic, self motivated, conscientious and be responsible for the maintenance and continued improvement of our Parkland Course.

Salary negotiable. No Accommodation

Apply in writing with CV to;

The Secretary, The Kidderminster Golf Club,
Russell Road, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY10 3HT



NORTHWOOD GOLF CLUB LTD

Invites applications for the positions of

Greenkeeper/Mechanic & Assistant Greenkeeper

Founded in 1891, this very challenging, well-established Parkland course has gone through a number of positive changes recently. In order to continue with tis progress, we find our selves in a position to offer two dedicated professionals, placements within our club in the in the positions of;

Greenkeeper/Mechanic

who needs to be competent in all aspects of modern day Greenkeeping techniques. The applicants must be qualified to NVQ Level II and have no less than 3 years experience as a competent Greenkeeper. He/She will also be competent in all aspects of machine repairs and maintenance.

The applicant must have sound knowledge in keeping records and managing all types of stocks associated with a well-equipped and self-reliant facility. Knowledge in the maintenance of modern irrigation systems would be advantageous.

Assistant Greenkeeper

who needs to be qualified to a minimum of NVQ Level II and holds their Pa1, Pa2 & Pa6 spraying certificates. The successful applicant must also have no less than 3 years experience as a competent Greenkeeper.

These positions come with an excellent remuneration packages and the possibility of accommodation. Please send your C.V. and covering letter to reach us no later than the 4th March 2002 to;

The Secretary, Northwood Golf Club Ltd, Rickmansworth Road, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 2QW

FERNDOWN GOLF CLUB

Requires

QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

to join an enthusiastic team to work on our prestigious heathland courses.

Suitably qualified applicants (NVQ2 and PA 1,2 & 6) should send full CV to:

The General Manager, Ferndown Golf Club,
119 Golf Links Road, Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 8BU

Golfclub Gifhorn e.V

Requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Gifhorn Golf Club's 18 hole parkland course lies in an area of natural beauty and is situated approximately 50 miles from Hanover and 110 miles south of Hamburg in North Germany.

The successful applicant should have a minimum of 5 years experience and have as well as all necessary greenkeeping skills a wide experience of machinery and irrigation systems. Preference will be given to applicants who possess a working knowledge of the German language.

Applications in writing with full CV to: Mr Julian Eller, Vice President, Golfclub Gifhorn e.V., Wilscher Weg 69, 38518 Gifhorn, Germany.

E-mail: golfclub-gifhorn@t-online.de Tel +49 5371 16737

WOODBURY PARK HOTEL GOLF COUNTRY CLUB

Assistant Qualified Greenkeeper

Woodbury Park Hotel Golf Country Club have a vacancy for an Assistant Qualified Greenkeeper. Applicants must have a minimum NVQII or equivalent, with a minimum of 4 years experience, they must also have spraying certificates PA1, PA2, PA6A and NPTC chainsaw certification.

The successful candidate must be conversant with the use of all modern turf equipment and have a sound knowledge of turf maintenance.

He/she must be hard working, diligent, a good team player and not afraid of working long hours at times. Woodbury Park is the most prestigious golfing resort in the south west and is owned by former formula 1 world motor racing champion Nigel Mansell. We are a progressive business and regard the golf course as a major asset, particularly as we have just invested significantly in new turf equipment and a complete new wall to wall irrigation system for our golf courses and Premier league standard football pitch.

If you would like to be considered for the position, please send your applications with current CV to:

Martin Hucklesby, Course Manager, Woodbury Park Hotel Golf Country Club,
Woodbury, Exeter, Devon, EX5 1JJ

BRAMLEY GOLF CLUB

Assistant Greenkeeper

We are looking for an enthusiastic and hard working greenkeeper to join our existing team. NVQ level 2 along with PA1, PA2 & PA6 qualifications preferred.

Apply in writing with full CV to;

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

WORTHING GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of

COURSE MANAGER

Worthing Golf Club founded in 1905, is a well established private members club with two downland courses, that enjoys an excellent reputation and hosts many top Sussex events.

The successful applicant must possess the appropriate qualifications and have experience in all aspects of Golf Management, together with the skills to lead and motivate a large team.

Accommodation is provided and is a prerequisite for the position.

Salary negotiable according to experience.

Application in writing with full CV and current salary to;

Ian Evans, Secretary, Worthing Golf Club,
Links Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 9QZ

Closing date for applications 28th February 2002

UPMINSTER GOLF & BOWLS CLUB

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The Head Greenkeeper will be responsible for, Maintenance and presentation of Golf Course and Bowling Green to the highest standards.

Supervision, appraisals, training and development of all Greenkeeping staff. The successful candidate will have strong working knowledge of all modern Golf course management practises, and have held a position of Head or Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

Salary and conditions of service negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

Accommodation is available.

Please send curriculum vitae by 8 March 2002.

THE SECRETARY, UPMINSTER GOLF & BOWLS CLUB,
114 HALL LANE, UPMINSTER, ESSEX RM14 1AU

WORPLESDON GOLF CLUB

Has a vacancy for an

Assistant Greenkeeper

We currently have a vacancy for an Assistant Greenkeeper to join our enthusiastic and friendly team. Applicants should be hardworking and enjoy all aspects of greenkeeping.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Please apply in writing with C.V. to:

Ken Harding, Head Greenkeeper, Worplesdon Golf Club,
Heath House Road, Woking, Surrey, GU22 0RA

SAUNTON GOLF CLUB

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

A vacancy exists for the position of Assistant Greenkeeper at Saunton Golf Club. Applicants should, preferably, be qualified to minimum NVQ2. Spraying Certificates PA 1,2 and 6 would be advantageous. The successful applicant should be prepared to work early shifts and have the ability to work as part of a team.

Salary negotiable according to experience.

An application form can be obtained from:

The Secretary, Saunton Golf Club,
Saunton, Nr Braunton, EX33 1LQ
or by telephoning 01271 812436

THORPE HALL GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

FIRST ASSISTANT

Candidates should have a minimum of three years experience, be qualified to NVQ Level 2 and hold spraying certificates PA1, PA2 and PA6.

This position would suit someone looking to further their career, with the possibility of promotion in the future.

All applications in writing together with full CV to:

Mr R O'Hara, Thorpe Hall Golf Club,
Thorpe Hall Avenue, Thorpe Bay, Essex SS1 3AT

LETCHWORTH GOLF CLUB

REQUIRE AN

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will be self motivated, hard working with a sound knowledge of turf maintenance practices.

NVQ qualifications will be an advantage.

Apply in writing by 22 February 2002 to:-

Course Manager, Letchworth Golf Club,
Letchworth Lane, Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 3NQ

COURSE MANAGER

EXCELLENT REMUNERATION PACKAGE

Malone Golf Club was founded in 1895 and is one of Ireland's finest parkland courses. The 27 hole layout is situated 5 miles from Belfast City Centre, in 300 acres of rolling parkland dominated by a 28 acre lake. The Club has hosted Irish amateur championships as well as professional tournaments, including the Irish Senior Masters. In order to develop and maintain this highly attractive and challenging course we are seeking a top rate individual with both technical and managerial abilities.

The role

- In conjunction with the Greens' committee develop and agree a strategic course plan
- Prepare and monitor work programmes
- Prepare and control budgets for both revenue and capital spends
- Manage staff and physical resources in an effective and efficient manner
- Comply with all statutory requirements

The person

- Have a minimum of five years experience gained on a mature parkland course
- Hold a recognised qualification in agronomy with specialisation in course management
- Proven man management and financial skills
- Well versed in modern methods and techniques of course maintenance and presentation

If you are excited by golf course management and have the determination to make things happen, please send your CV to Dr Forde May at Forde May Consulting Ltd, Balmoral House, 77 Upper Lisburn Road, Belfast BT10 0GY, quoting reference number 631/CM before the closing date of 11th March 2002.

Phone: (028) 9062 8877, Fax: (028) 9062 3399, E-mail: fordemayconsulting@fmc.dnet.co.uk

Our client is an equal opportunities employer



MALONE GOLF CLUB

FM Forde May
Consulting

Details on our internet recruitment site www.JobMarketNI.com



SEASONAL GREENKEEPERS

Set in 850 acres of beautiful Perthshire countryside, The Gleneagles Hotel is a truly unique and spectacular hotel with over 200 luxury bedrooms plus a superb array of leisure facilities including golf, shooting, riding and leisure centre.

Are you a student – looking for seasonal work which incorporates your favourite hobby, and the opportunity to play three championship courses – then why not join us as a Greenkeeper for the 2002 season?

During the summer season we recruit a number of seasonal greenkeepers, starting March, April and May with the contract ending at end of September or October. Shifts are varied but include a 5.30am–3.00pm shift, working 5 days out of 7 days.

The duties include course set-up, raking bunkers, lifting and filling divots, de-dewing greens and tees and any other tasks required with the routine maintenance of the golf course.

The ideal candidate will have an interest in golf, a desire to work outdoors and a current driving licence.

If you are interested in spending the summer season working on three of the world's finest golf courses then please send your CV to:

Personnel and Training Department, The Gleneagles Hotel,
Auchterarder, Perthshire, PH3 1NF



RADYR GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of

COURSE MANAGER

Radyr Golf Club celebrates its centenary in 2002 and wishes to employ a replacement for the present Head Greenkeeper who will retire during the year. Employment is likely to commence in August or September, and the successful candidate will have the opportunity to work alongside the present Head Greenkeeper for a short while.

Suitably qualified and experienced applicants should apply in writing with full C.V. to:-

Alan M. Edwards, Club Manager, Radyr Golf Club,
Drysgol Road, Radyr, Cardiff CF15 8BS

Tel: 029 2084 2408 Email: manager@radyrgolf.co.uk



COURSE MANAGER

HAMPSHIRE/ SURREY BORDER

£ COMPETITIVE

Hartley Wintney Golf Club was established in 1891 and extended from 9 to 18 holes two years ago. An experienced Course Manager is required to further develop the facility and capability of the club.

THE ROLE

Manage all aspects of the course
(Preparation, presentation, maintenance and improvement)

Line manage an experienced team of Greenkeepers

Planning and implementing course work in conjunction with the Club Board

THE PERSON

Qualified to N/SVQ levels 3/4 or the equivalent in sports turf management

A track record of delivering a high quality 18 hole golf course

Open, flexible, team based management style

An influential communicator

A golf player

An attractive package is offered, dependent on experience and qualifications.

Apply in writing with a full CV and current salary details to:

The Chairman, Hartley Wintney Golf Club Ltd,
London Road, Hartley Wintney, Hants. RG27 8PT.

Closing date 6th March 2002



Applications are invited for the position of

Deputy Course Manager

The successful applicant must possess the appropriate qualifications and have experience in all golf course management. The applicant must also have at least 5 years relevant experience and will be expected to assist in the maintenance, man management and continued improvement of this Parkland Course.

Salary and conditions negotiable.

No accommodation available.

Applications in writing with full C.V. to;

Mr A Bowey, Course Manager, Oake Manor Golf Club,
Oake, Taunton, Somerset TA4 1BA.

Applications to be received no later than 28th February 2002

WATERLOOVILLE GOLF CLUB QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

NVQ level 2 or equivalent.
Spraying certificates an advantage.
Must be enthusiastic and hard working.

Applications in writing with CV to;

The Secretary, Waterloooville Golf Club,
Cherry Tree Avenue, Cowplain, Hants PO8 8AP
Closing date 21st February 2002

WIN!

Don't miss your chance
to win this fantastic
jacket worth £60 in our
exciting new Buyers'
Guide competition in
association with
Allen Power
**'THE TURFTIME
TEASER'**



DETAILS ON PAGE 51

SPALDING GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of

Head Greenkeeper

Founded in 1907, a well established private members club
with 750+ members with the reputation of one of the
finest courses in Lincolnshire.

The successful applicant must possess the appropriate quali-
fications and have experience in all aspects of Golf Course
Management, with the skills to lead and motivate a small
team. The applicant will be familiar with modern practices
and have experience of machinery and irrigation systems.
Computer literate he will have the ability to prepare and
monitor budgets together with sound knowledge of Health
and Safety and COSHH regulations.

The position requires a enthusiastic and self motivated
individual who will be responsible for the maintenance
and ongoing improvement of this parkland course.

Salary negotiable.

Hand-written applications together with
full C.V. by 15th March 2002 to:

The Secretary, Spalding Golf Club,
Surfleet, Spalding, Lincs PE11 4EA



Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Ealing Golf Club is an 18 hole, 6216 yard par 70 course situ-
ated on the outskirts of West London alongside the A40.

The position requires an enthusiastic, fit candidate, who is
hardworking and self motivated to join a friendly team at a
leading Middlesex golf club.

Please apply in writing, including a full CV to;

The Secretary/General Manager, Ealing Golf Club,
Perivale Lane, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 8SS
Telephone: 020 8997 0937

Closing date for applications 21 February 2002

Is your Career is stuck in a 'Bunker' ?

Look no further than this exciting opportunity at our
newly remodelled and extended 18 hole Golf Course here
at Culcrieff (par 66).

Culcrieff Golf Course Manager

The ideal candidate must be:

- Experienced in all aspects of modern geenkeeping.
- Able to demonstrate sound financial management & budget control.
- Highly self motivated & a dynamic team player.
- Detail conscious with excellent organisational ability.
- An effective communicator with strong motivational skills.
- Able to deliver positive results against demanding targets.
- Qualified to HNC level (or equivalent) with PA 1 and P A 6 Certificates or prepared to work towards the same.

If you believe you are able to 'score a birdie' with us, then tee
off your application by applying in writing, with full CV and
salary details, to:



Andrew Leaver, Training & Recruitment Manager
Crieff Hydro Ltd, Ferntower Road, Crieff,
Perthshire, PH7 3LQ.



NEBS Management
Accredited Centre
2001 - 2005

www.crieffhydro.com

Email: Andrew.leaver@crieffhydro.com





Be in at the beginning!

With its 18th century style landscapes being revived and the original manor house under restoration, The Grove will be offering the highest standard Five Star accommodation, boasting 230 luxury bedrooms, conference & banqueting facilities and health spa. We are now concentrating on the preparation of our 7200 yard Kyle Phillips 18 hole championship golf course within the 350 acre estate for its opening in 2003 and require the following personnel:

FIRST ASSISTANT

This important position will require a professional and enthusiastic greenkeeper with at least 5 years hands-on experience. Reporting to the Head Greenkeeper you will have a practical knowledge of modern golf course maintenance equipment and have an understanding of the workings of a computerised irrigation system, together with a PA1,2 & 6 certificate in spraying.

The ideal candidate will also possess an NVQ 3 and have the ability to train, lead and motivate staff.

GREENKEEPERS

These positions require outstanding candidates who are NVQ 1 and 2 qualified. Self motivation, dedication, vision and the ability to learn new ideas are all essential requirements for these essential roles. Working out of a modern, state-of-the-art greenkeeping facility, you will be playing an important role in the setting up and maintenance of this superb golf course.

IRRIGATION TECHNICIAN

Your main responsibilities will be for the programming, operation and maintenance of the Rainbird Nimbus 2 irrigation system. You will have a minimum of five years experience and be fully versed with maintenance and operation of automatic irrigation systems. Knowledge of pumps and pumping systems would be a distinct advantage.

This position would ideally suit a hardworking individual who is flexible, hands on and has a love of the outdoors.

As a new and, as yet, unfinished course, these positions offer superb opportunities for successful candidates to establish themselves and their role in the long term future at The Grove. Although no accommodation is available, we offer excellent rates of pay, together with a real opportunity for promotion and progression within the company.

*There is also an excellent service related benefits package which includes:
Pension scheme, dental insurance and health care.*

Please apply in writing to Phillip Chiverton, Golf Course Manager
enclosing your CV to:

The Grove

Hempstead Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD17 3TP

Alternatively, e-mail the Golf Course Manager on phillip.chiverton@thegrovehotel.com



Feature listing from February 2000

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

October 2001: Major Award for Walter Woods; Royal Portrush GC; Portstewart GC; Irrigation; Soil biodiversity; Leaf collection systems; Sootsturf 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



New National Chairman, Richard Barker, enjoys his first engagements and looks forward to an enjoyable year in office

Starter's orders



Wow! What a week – Having just returned from Harrogate I am now reflecting on what was another excellent BTME. With the workshop and conference delegates arriving on Sunday afternoon there was a real buzz in the Majestic Hotel as old friendships were renewed and new acquaintances made over the customary couple of pints.

Monday morning arrived all too quickly and our week was underway. The format has changed somewhat from previous years with the chance to mix and match. Some delegates opted for one day at the conference and one day at a workshop while others opted for a two day workshop on Golf Course Design or a day at the Show which ran for three days instead of two and a half.

Monday evening saw the conference dinner with after dinner speaker Kevin Jones, a chest consultant, giving us an entertaining evening with stories about his past experiences in the health service. Fortunately for me, not being from Wales, I was excused from being picked upon, but Neil took it all in good spirit! As I mentioned earlier the show ran

from Tuesday to Thursday for three days this year. Each year the show continues to attract more exhibitors and this year saw the introduction of the Golf Club Show. It was well received by club officials and this is something we hope to develop in future years.

With attendance figures exceeding expectations, the buzz in Harrogate continued and I was off to the Hayter Dinner. I had been warned that it was a good evening, but that was an understatement, and to be asked to present the Dealer of the year award really put the icing on the cake.

With Wednesday now upon us, the Seminar Programme got underway alongside the show and another great day was had coming to a close with our AGM. Unfortunately this went on a little longer than anticipated with a lot of discussion on the proposed introduction of a minimum qualification. This was referred back for further consideration and will be reviewed by the Board of Management at its March meeting. Please read the magazine for further updates.

At the end of the meeting I was elected Chairman and I thank you all for my acceptance. I am very aware of my responsibilities and will endeavour to do my best for you. If any Section or Region would like me to visit during the next 12 months please don't hesitate to contact me or HQ. May I also take this opportunity to thank Elliott Small and Jim Paton for their hard work on the Board over the past years and introduce to you Ian McLeod, the Scottish representative, and George Brown, who will be my Vice Chairman. I look forward to working with you both.

But a big big thank you must go to Clive Osgood. Clive has put a tremendous amount of hard work into the Association at the expense of his golf club and also his family life. I hope you enjoy your "Semi Retirement" but I will be asking your advice, Clive, over the next year.

So to Thursday, and the last day of the show. Well it was a little bit quieter but overall attendance figures were well up on previous years and Dr James Beard was bringing the seminar programme to an end. There was still more to come – yes the Banquet. This year the Banquet moved back to the Majestic with entertainment provided primarily by Brahms and Liszt. I was a little unsure just what to expect but by the end of the meal I was witnessing a superb act which was totally different from anything I had seen before. The evening continued to the early hours with music from the Nightjars and FunTime Music Disco.

To conclude, I was pleased to see so many old friends and meet plenty of new ones including Tommy Witt and Jay Leach, respective Chairmen of the American and Canadian Associations, it was also nice to see many more overseas visitors with certainly an increase from Denmark. It's great to think we play a major part in overseas education as well.

On the downside there were a couple of notable absentees, Jim Fry and Gordon Child, the latter having had an operation. I have spoken to both and we look forward to seeing them both back in action soon.

Wishing you both a speedy recovery!

Richard Barker

Get fired up with
the speed, simplicity and accuracy of
EXPRESS DUAL
15 minutes floor to floor!

SHARPER SOLUTIONS with **BERNHARD**

A sharper cutting cylinder produces healthier,
stronger and more attractive grass.



Find out how Express Dual and Anglemaster, the world's fastest mower grinders,
can dramatically improve your golf course, cut costs and save time...

Call **01788 811600** today!



BERNHARD AND COMPANY LTD

Bilton Road · Rugby · England · CV22 7DT · email: info@bernhard.co.uk

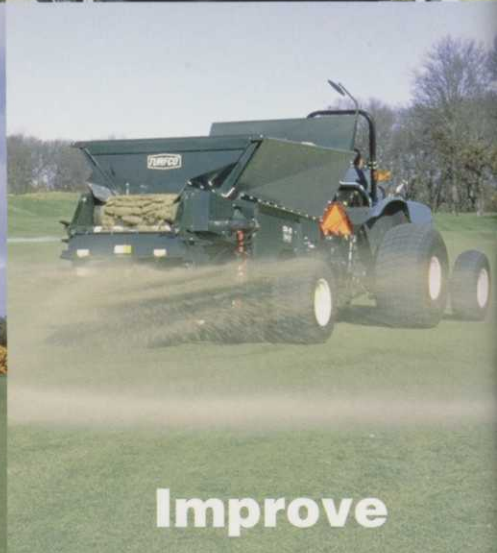
www.bernhard.co.uk



Maintain



Stimulate



Improve



Construct



Turfco CR-10 is the ultimate in multi-tasking efficiency.

Whether it's relocating material, loading top dressers, filling bunkers or top dressing to the highest standards, the CR-10 covers your needs as efficiently as it covers its costs.

Forty years of leadership in powered top dressing are apparent in the performance of the CR-10 and throughout the Turfco range.

For more information, including case histories, call 01473 270000

www.textronsolutions.com

Central Avenue, Ransomes Europark, Ipswich IP3 9QG England. Tel: +44 (0)1473 270000 Fax: +44 (0)1473 276300

TURFCO

TEXTRON
GOLF AND TURF PRODUCTS