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A guide to who's who at BIGGA

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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'THE TURFTIME TEASER'

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Meeting 2002 Head On

With a new year comes renewed enthusiasm. My personal resolution is to take life by the scruff of the neck and make the most of 2002.

I've decided that after 30 years of playing at it I'm going to make a special effort to become a better golfer. I've already decided to take the first lessons I'll ever have had and seek professional help to turn my Heath Robinson swing into a thing of beauty. This should allow me to give full rein to my natural talent!

I started jogging a couple of years ago but in the last few months I've become a little less frequent so I'm going to rededicate myself to pounding the pavements. Health and fitness, that's what it's all about.

I started writing a book about 10 years ago and it's currently lying dormant on the computer somewhere. I tell myself that I write so many words each month for the magazine that I don't have any left for my own personal masterpiece, but that's just looking for excuses. In two year's time, whether it turns out good or bad - a Rowling or an Archer - I want it finished.

With the magazine, I want to give you, the readers, every opportunity of ensuring that what we produce each month is what you want. There is always room for a piece inspired by one of you and if you have an idea for an article please talk with me and between us we'll make sure it happens. You can either write it yourself and I tidy it up, recommend an expert you know who I can then approach to write it for us or I can interview you and do it that way. Whatever way, we'll get it done and you will get articles on the specific topics you want covered in the magazine. There shouldn't be barriers to achieving what we want, we just need the will to make it happen.

Sure, the downturn in the economy has affected the magazine. Fewer adverts have meant we have had fewer pages to devote to editorial features, but, with the power of positive thinking, we can ensure that we make best use of those pages. I also believe that the positive signs are there that companies will soon be looking to Greenkeeper International to publicise their wares once again.

Even writing this makes me feel uplifted and I'm sure that 2002 is going to be a year we look back on as being special.

So if all things go according to plan in the next 12 months I shall be a single figure, fitter, best selling, Editor of a magazine which is catering for every desire of its readership.

It's a goal I'm unlikely to achieve on all fronts, but in making special effort I'm sure I will move things forward a bit in each area.

Have a successful 2002.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

A First for Andy Campbell MG

Master Greenkeeper Andy Campbell, Course Manager at De Vere Carden Park, near Chester has become the first UK based greenkeeper to achieve GCSAA certification.

Andy achieved his Master Greenkeeper status in 1998 and decided to attempt the GCSAA certification route as his next educational challenge.

"I was looking for something which wouldn't tie me into the formal structure of university, as time away from work would have been difficult. The GCSAA route allowed me to work at my own pace in my own time... There was also a feeling that 10 or 11 American Superintendents had 'done it to us' by becoming Master Greenkeepers so I wanted to 'do it to them'," smiled Andy, who added that he got a lot of support from the American Master Greenkeepers.

The initial step proved to be one of the trickiest and that was having UK qualifications recognised by the GCSAA for education points and Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, was able to assist in this area.

He still needed to gain continuing educational points from the GCSAA and it meant him undertaking five correspondence courses, including the University of Guelph Turf Certificate programme before he was eligible to sit the six part exam but only after he successfully completed an inspection of his golf course operation.

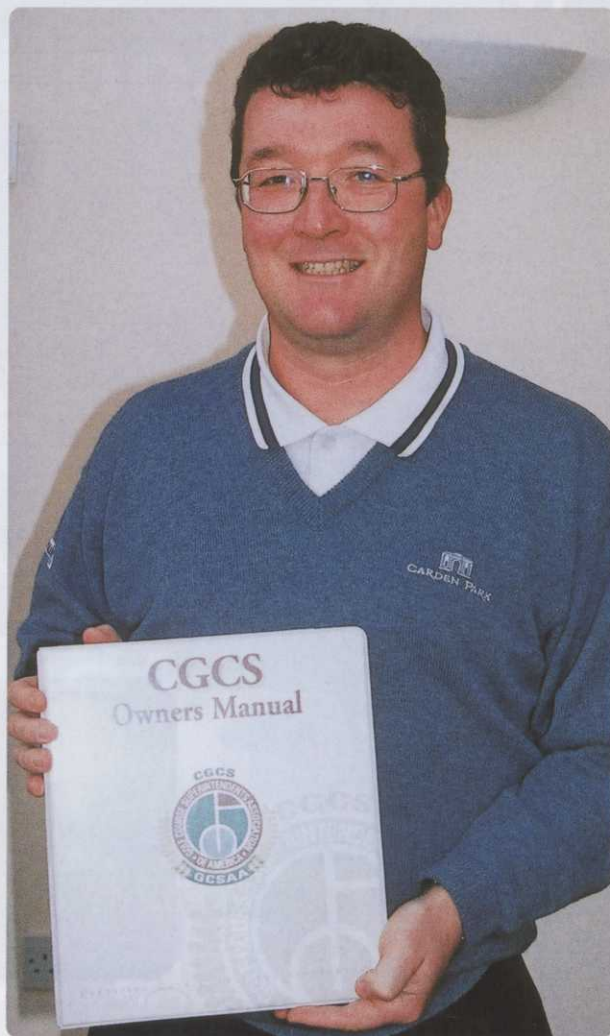
"Like MGC the exam is six hours long but unlike MGC it is open book and multiple choice. There are 300 questions which works out at an average of one minute and 15 seconds per question," explained Andy.

The difficulty for Andy, is similar to that faced by Americans facing the MGC exam, in that much of the content is alien.

"Obviously a lot of it was American and talked about warm season grasses, and American health and safety legislation which is totally different to what we face here. Also they use US Standard measures - the same as imperial - while we are metric. They also round up and round down and, although you are allowed a calculator, you must remember to do it otherwise your answers would be different."

Andy passed five of the six sections at the first attempt - no mean feat as 80% is required for each section - and actually got 92% on the Health and Safety section.

"I failed on the Turf Management, which was the broadest section of the lot. I got 69% the first time and 73% the second and it was on my third



attempt that I got 82% although I averaged 86% over the whole paper."

He is firmly of the belief that taking the certification has made him a better greenkeeper as it has helped to broaden his outlook.

"I'm a fairly confirmed Jim Arthur fan and I do think that's the way to go but there are situations where others have got answers which we haven't or another way of working."

"John Scott, the US Tour's agronomist who has become a great friend of mine, told me that I should be looking and questioning things more. Before I may have been a little bit narrow minded and focussed on one way, so in terms of thinking outside the box I think I'm a better greenkeeper," he explained.

"One thing it hasn't done is diminished his admiration for British greenkeepers."

"We're probably as good, if not better, than most when it comes to coping with a variety of conditions and dealing with the high expectations of golfers."

Like anyone who is a "first" the determination and commitment shown by Andy is quite remarkable.

"For the last six months, five

or six nights a week I studied from 9pm to 2am and when I was doing the correspondence course it was every night for nine weeks. The financial cost, in terms of books and seminars etc was considerable, shall we say," said Andy, who is now considering learning Spanish and also starting a BSc.

"I do have a high sense of achievement, in a pioneering sort of way, but that will be

wasted if others don't follow.

"However, I'd definitely recommend people going for the Master Greenkeeper first because you've got to acquaint yourself to the sort of exam pressures MG exposes you to without doing it all with another country's methods."

Andy will be presented with his certificate at the CGSAA Conference and Exhibition in Orlando by Walter Woods, who will be awarded the GCSAA's Old Tom Morris Award at the Conference.

"There was real pressure to retake the exam quickly as I knew Walter was going to be presenting the certificates this year. I admire Walter greatly and his receiving the Old Tom Morris Award is fantastic for British greenkeeping."

Recognition for Kenwick Park GC

Winners of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition Northern Region in 2000 and one of only two English clubs granted Committed to Green recognition, Kenwick Park Golf Club, which is near Louth in Lincolnshire, hosted an Environmental Seminar last month, to spread the word on how good environmental management can enhance the golfing experience.

Kenwick Park, which opened in 1992, formed an environmental panel in 1999, comprising the Head Greenkeeper, the Club Secretary and four members.

The Panel produced an environmental management policy document in January 2000 which led to the Club registering for the Committed to Green programme in February 2000.

Ian Shepard, Chairman of the Environmental Panel, said that the aim of the seminar was to encourage other golf clubs to participate in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, to register for the Committed to Green programme and to use sound environmental management policies.

Ian also stressed that golf clubs were there for people to play golf and were not nature reserves. Moreover, with good management, strong commitment and effective communications, many more clubs could help to show that golf courses have a positive impact on the environment.

Plaudits for Broadstone

The Presentation of awards for the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition 2001 took place at Broadstone Golf Club, in November.

More than 50 Broadstone members, past Captains, Chairman of Green, Lady Captain, Club Captain, Course Manager Adrian Archer and the Greenkeeping Team, joined Neil Sherman, Norman Fenwick, Mike Dickens from Ipswich Golf Club, Graham Lang from Cardigan Golf Club, Dr Keith Duff, Bob Taylor, Ken Richardson and David Ansell from the Dyke, last year's winners, to hear how Broadstone had been working for many years to improve the maintenance of their course as a traditional heathland while still giving golfers a memorable golfing experience.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the R&A, this competition has con-

tinued to encourage golf clubs to think about their course management policies and see how good environmental practice can run alongside the need to have a good course for golf.

Ipswich Golf Club, winners of the first competition, in 1995, were the winners in the South of England, Cardigan Golf Club were the winners in Wales, Wilmslow Golf Club were the winners in the North and Kilmacolm Golf Club were the winners in Scotland. Each regional winner was presented with a cheque for £500 and a plaque to display in the Clubhouse.

Broadstone, the National Winners, were presented with a cheque for £4000, a Glass Bowl and a plaque to display in the Clubhouse by Dr Keith Duff, Chief Scientist of English Nature and National Chairman Clive Osgood.



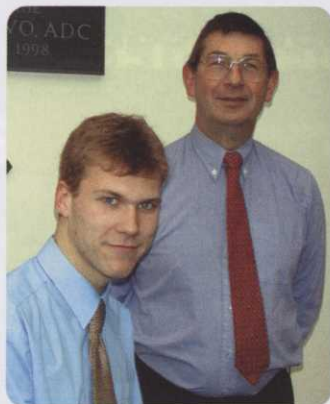
Role model for young trainees

BIGGA's Clerical Assistant, Brad Anderson, has been featured in a Learning Skills magazine as a prime example of what can be achieved by a young person through work based training.

Brad has attained his NVQ Level 2 in Business Administration and his Key Skills since joining the BIGGA HOUSE staff in September 2000 and the article highlighted his success and the work BIGGA, as an Association has done, in supporting him.

"I've been discussing what to do next with John Pemberton and I'd really like to do an IT qualification and I'm planning to do the European Computer Driving Licence as well," said Brad, 18.

John Pemberton is delighted that the



Association has been able to assist in Brad's progress.

"Brad has quickly become a valuable member of the BIGGAHOUSE staff and he has deserved his success," said John.

Toro deal renewed by Elmwood College

Elmwood College, in Scotland, has renewed its five-year exclusive partnership agreement with Toro for golf course maintenance equipment, in a deal valued at £350,000.

"We renewed the deal because the reliability of the whole range of Toro products, plus the back-up we receive, ensures that we can maintain our own high standards and offer the best in the industry," said John Quinn MG, Director of Elmwood Golf Developments, who oversees the management of the college's 18-hole course, restaurant/clubhouse and consultancy/contracting operations.

The college is serviced by local Toro dealer Henderson Grass Machinery.

How do you spend yours?

Did you know that the average cost for a solicitor's advice is £140 per hour. Those members with the BIGGA Legal Expenses package have unlimited access to legal advice 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and therefore could spend that money on other things. Here's a list of what you could get for £140!

- You could escape the dreary winter weather with a week in Spain
- Live up your evenings with a DVD player or PlayStation 2
- Support your team with a season ticket for a premier football club
- Work off those Christmas pounds with annual gym membership
- Instantly increase your sex appeal by hiring a Ferrari for the day

In the last quarter, BIGGA members made 148 calls to the GLP Helpline. These have been broken down into the following categories:

- 21 Queries regarding potential claim information
- 99 calls regarding employee disputes
- Seven calls regarding family or matrimonial matters
- Eight consumer dispute enquiries (including property disputes)
- Four calls about potential personal injury claims
- One Road traffic accident query
- Five calls about criminal legal advice
- Three calls asking for financial legal advice

The average length of a legal advice call is 11 minutes, therefore in legal advice calls alone, these BIGGA members have saved £3,800 between them.

What would you rather spend your money on?

Further details can be obtained from the Membership Department on 01347 833800 or via membership@bigga.co.uk

Testing times for European Turfgrass Laboratories

European Turfgrass Laboratories have once again been accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation to undertake putting green materials testing.

"We are pleased that once again we have met the standards of the A2LA, being now accredited to ISO/IEG 17025 until July 2003," said Ann Murray, Laboratory Director.

ETL continues to be the only accredited laboratory in Europe that tests to USGA standards.

"In addition to being accredited we also take part in the USGA proficiency testing programme. Care should be taken to note that the USGA proficiency testing programme does not accredit any laboratory, it is merely a way of the USGA gaining an insight into testing variability in the laboratories which participate," explained Ann.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



Section Event?

www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

Prestigious events require volunteers

Volvo PGA Championship, The Wentworth Club, May 23-26, 2002

The Association will again be providing a support team for this prestigious event on each of the four competition days. Each member will be allocated a match and will walk the course with the game, raking any bunkers found by the players.

In addition, should adverse weather conditions prevail, you may be required to assist the Wentworth greenkeeping staff in keeping the course playable.

You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course and there is no provision for overnight accommodation.

You may apply to help on any or all days and usually all those who apply are given the chance to participate on at least one day.

When applying please give details of your polo shirt size as this may be provided together with daily meal vouchers.

Helping at this event will not prejudice your chance of a place on The Open Championship Support Team.

Applications to Derek Farrington, BIGGA Regional Administrator, 35 Cleveland Road, Worthing, Sussex BN13 2ES Tel: 01903 260956

The Open Championship, Muirfield, July 18-21, 2002

The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open Championship will be involved in early morning course preparation, bunker raking while matches are in play and evening course repair. You must be available from Wednesday evening July 17, through to the close of play on Sunday July 21.

While all transport, accommodation and meals will be provided between these dates it is the team member's responsibility for travel from home to the venue and return.

Full BIGGA members only may apply to be considered for the Team, and must apply to:

John Pemberton, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF. Should you require any further information then John can be contacted on 01347 833800 or via e-mail: john@bigga.co.uk

The closing date for applications for the Open is Friday, February 22, 2002.

Latest news?

www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

Employment tribunal payout

Neil Whitaker, a member of the Mid-Anglia Section, has recently won substantial damages at an employment tribunal against Arkley Golf Club, North London, for unfair dismissal.

Line adds to Gaunt & Marnoch team

Line Mortensen is the latest addition to Gaunt and Marnoch's team of golf course architects. Aged 30 and from Copenhagen, Denmark, Line will strengthen further G&M's push to expand its activities in Continental Europe. But Line will not work solely abroad and in her first three months in G&M's Bakewell office has immersed herself in a range of remodelling work at Prestatyn, Trentham Park and Aston Wood.

"We have travelled far and wide across Europe to find somebody like Line. Her profile is perfect and we're delighted how quickly she has fitted in

as a key member of our team, alongside our other recent golf course architect recruits Dimitri Van Hauwaert and our trainee, Steve Pope," said Co-director, Jonathan Gaunt.

Line brings a wealth of experience to her new role. Like Jonathan and Steve Marnoch, Line is a landscape architect. Unlike them she is an exceptional golfer, having played for the Danish National women's team from 1987-1992. She was top graduate of the EIGCA's Professional Diploma course in 1998 – the first woman and only Dane so far to graduate to the EIGCA.



UK Irrigation Association 2002 Spring Seminar

Losing the right to irrigate? Wednesday, February 13, 2002 London Golf Club.

The south east of England may suffer from devastating floods in the winter but is there sufficient water to go around in a dry summer? Will there be enough for irrigators of fruit and vegetables and for those in the sports turf and leisure industries who have come to rely on irrigation to provide quality? How will trickle irrigators fare under the new abstraction licensing arrangements? How much water can you reasonably expect to have? How can you make the most efficient use of it? Never has there been a time when

the industry has had such change and uncertainty. You need to know the facts and how the changes will affect your business so you can plan for the future.

Presentations will look at: How do Changes in Water Resources Management affect Irrigators? Implications and experiences of introducing the new southern region water resources strategy for irrigators; Abstraction Licences - how are they dealt with? What is a Reasonable Irrigation Need? What is the optimum use of water for irrigation from which the guidelines for future licencing will be drawn. How can Irrigation Efficiency be improved? The technical

and management options available to irrigators for improving water use efficiency in the light of the Environment Agency's new water use efficiency requirements for licensing approval and a look at the future of irrigation.

Cost: £60 (plus VAT) for UKIA members, £80 (plus VAT) for non-members. This includes seminar registration, buffet lunch, refreshments, and a summary of Seminar Proceedings.

Contact: Melvyn Kay, Executive Secretary, UK Irrigation Association, 5 Lea Road Amptill, Bedford, MK45 2PR UK Tel: 01525 635127. Fax: 01525 754537 Email: m.kay@ukia.org

Textron seal new deal



Textron has been appointed as the distributor for Iseki compact and mid range tractors for the Middle East and South Africa. Before this extension to their territory, they held the franchise for the UK only.

Glynn Patrick, Sales Director at the international turf maintenance equipment manufacturer and distributor said,

"This extension to our territory is a direct result of the success of our sales and marketing strategy for the brand here in the UK. We were awarded the franchise over three years and in the intervening period

have brought some welcome stability to the brand.

"We have a significant distribution chain, both in the Middle East and South Africa, which will be able to offer the same level of customer service and support to Iseki as they have achieved with the Jacobsen, Ransomes, Cushman and Ryan brands. We are looking for further penetration in the turf maintenance market with this territory extension."

Textron has been appointed distributor for Iseki's compact and mid range tractors in the Middle East and South Africa.

Kawasaki awards New European role to Jack Ford

The growth of Kawasaki Commercial Products in the UK over the past decade has earned the man behind the scenes of this success a key post in Europe with the Japanese manufacturer.

UK Sales and Marketing Manager Jack Ford takes 30 years of knowledge and experience in the commercial

products industry to his new role as European Sales and Marketing Manager as part of a broader restructuring within Kawasaki on a Europe-wide scale. Speaking on the appointment, Jack described it as a wonderful opportunity, but at the same time he is fully aware of the



Ford: Opportunity

magnitude of the challenge.

"I'm naturally very pleased and flattered to have been selected for such a position and am looking forward to being able to make a difference on a European scale, but this is not just a mammoth opportunity, it's a mammoth task and will take a great deal of careful consideration and thorough planning," he said.



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Viva Las Vegas!

Bude and North Cornwall GC Assistant, Jason Chidley, made his local paper with his marriage to Bridgette recently.

The couple had headed off on holiday to Las Vegas having assured their parents that there was no way they were going to get married only for Bridgette to phone home at 2.15am one morning to announce that they had indeed got themselves spliced... which, in fact, had been the plan for the previous nine months.

Having wed in the glitz capital of the world the newly weds then spent their honeymoon in Hawaii.

Congratulations to you both.



Chidley—Brooks, Las Vegas.
THIS marriage of Jason Chidley and Bridgette Ann Brooks took place at the Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, on November 20, the groom being the only son of Pat and late David Chidley, of Bude, and the bride being the youngest daughter of Gordon and Valerie Brooks, of Holford, Bude. The honeymoon is being spent in Hawaii.

US trip goes with a surprise hitch

A BUDE couple feared bad news when their daughter

Gleneagles Conference "a success"

Jimmy Kidd, Gleneagles Hotel Golf Courses and Estates Director, declared the inaugural Gleneagles Turf Care Conference, sponsored by Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products, "a resounding success".

Speaking to over 135 delegates at the conclusion of the three day conference he said, "The conference has surpassed all my expectations and, without fear of contradiction, I can say that it achieved all of its aims...and more. We had a diverse range of delegates from all parts of globe and it provided the ideal forum for them to expand their knowledge and understanding of the golf industry. The speakers, many of whom had travelled from across the world, were first rate and question time at the end of each session provided the opportunity for a lively debate on the various issues raised."

Keynote speaker, Fred Green, the renowned golf course developer whose projects include Nantucket Golf Club, Eagle Springs in Colorado and, more recently, the new Queenwood Golf Club in London, expounded his philosophy on golf club development and the impact of modern technology on course design. He was particularly concerned with the advances in club and ball design, suggesting that a review would be necessary to ensure that all the major courses remain challenging to the top professionals.

This theme was continued later with course designer, David McLay Kidd, providing a fascinating insight into designing courses that are challenging for the professional, while remaining playable for the majority of golfing enthusiasts.

Further topics relating to other aspects of the design and management of a course were discussed including grass types, the use of seed or turf, the future of turf maintenance equipment, water sourcing and usage, tournament preparation which included an interesting case study from Paul Latshaw on his regime for the 2001 Walker Cup.

Melvin Thomas, of Barrelfield Golf, looked at project finance and management structures, and George Shiels, consultant agronomist with PGA European Tour, spoke on the use of fertilisers and maintenance procedures. Various environmental issues including site planning, bio-diversity and wildlife management were discussed, before the final session on marketing, promoting the business and working with the media completed the conference.

"Jimmy Kidd has been nurturing



At the podium: Jimmy Kidd

this idea for the past three years and it didn't take us long to accept his request to support what has proved to be an absolutely superb event. As principal sponsor we are delighted with its success. Through Jimmy's vision and the efforts of everyone involved, this inaugural conference has achieved its goal by providing an international perspective on golf course management and providing a forum where best practice can be explored to the benefit of all the participants," said Glynn Patrick, Sales Director at Textron.



When a greenkeeper of Duncan's (McGilvray) experience and status expresses concerns about the state of our profession it must be noted (See Greenkeeper International November issue page 9). Clearly from the tone of Duncan's letter he wishes to stimulate a debate, on that I wholly endorse him, I too feel that stagnancy has crept over us recently, and that the stature of our profession is diminishing.

I do not believe that our profession has become complacent. However I do think that our profession is struggling to cope with the golfers expectations of year round perfection, that changing work patterns due to climatic change is exacerbating the problem and that a lack of support mechanisms for the Course Manager can leave him feeling isolated.

I believe that what our profession is suffering from is a crisis of confidence. A lack of confidence deriving from that feeling of isolation. At a time when the demands made of our golf courses are increasing. The Course Manager is too often left slogging it out with Committees, Boards, Golfers, and Secretaries in the pursuit of best practice.

The source of the demands is quite simply the constant drive for higher standards, and the need for clubs to

Response to Duncan McGilvray

generate revenue. Now that is a good thing, as professionals we should welcome it, yet realism demands that higher standards require resourcing, and nature insists that golf courses have limitations. To balance those certainties with the demands of golfers requires an employer who is sympathetic to the situation. Sadly in too many golf clubs that is not the case. When that occurs the Course Manager's options are limited, and his job is often on the line. Let's not avoid this fact. We are talking about careers and livelihoods here.

If I have a concern with Duncan's letter it is that it ignores the elements of our industry that can make greenkeeping a tenuous hold on a career. Unfortunately this is one thing that despite all attempts, has not changed, and it is this that must be at the core of any debate about the state of our profession.

Duncan's suggestion that some Course Managers are lacking in proactiveness may well be valid, but the fact that he knows potentially pro-active managers who have abandoned the industry really does demand scrutiny. What is it about our industry that demoralises young enthusiasts, to the point that they will walk away? What is it about our industry that results in short-term reactive management?

Our profession is golf course management, our industry is Golf. We need

to look at all the elements within the industry, the structures (the golfing authorities) the employers (the golf clubs), the decision-making processes (committees, boards of management), Golfers (our customers) the education system and finally support mechanisms for the Course Manager. That means BIGGA. We have to analyse the extent to which these various elements impact our capacity to deliver a product. We have to consider whether the nett sum of these elements means that golf courses suffer, and golf Course Managers are hindered.

"The Way Forward" the R&A, for a period managed to pull these elements together. But it is inherent within our industry that change occurs. The constant turnover of club committee members guarantees that last year's decisions are next year's debates. The inevitable consequence of this is that even as valid a document as "The Way Forward" annually becomes diluted, and eventually ineffective.

If the Golf Club is not always an ideal environment for golf Course Managers to work, how can we change it?

I believe that all the elements need pulling together and refocusing, and that the condition of golf courses needs to be moved to the very top of the industry agenda. To do this we have to start at the top. The Golf Authorities are respected enough throughout the

industry to have influence within individual clubs. They could impart this influence by issuing a code of conduct to clubs, or even club officials, controversial yes, but if it was dependant on affiliation it would be effective.

The golf clubs have to reconsider priorities, and accept that pro-active management commences in the committee room or boardroom. A return to the principles of "The Way Forward" in those clubs where it has lapsed, or an adoption of those principles where they never existed would be a positive step.

Golfers need educating, and every avenue has to be pursued in this goal. The Course Manager has to be active within his club, Golfing magazines should be persuaded to take up our cause, and TV commentators must be told to refrain from filling in time by commenting upon a subject that they know nothing about. For golfers take their word as gospel.

The education system needs an urgent review. I believe that the worst thing that has happened to our profession in my time has been the introduction of NVQ's. (I speak from experience here because I have taken NVQ3 and C&G3) If knowledge is power, and power breeds confidence, then NVQs are eroding the confidence of the greenkeeper. To make the step from greenkeeper to Course Manager you need to be furnished with more

Industry stalwart retires



From left to right: Mrs Heather Brown, Mr George Brown, Ian Bridges (Area Sales Manager), David McInroy (Managing Director), Steven McInroy (General Manager)

One of the biggest supporters of the Scottish golf industry has retired after 50 years career servicing, repairing and selling equipment to golf courses throughout Scotland.

At a special celebration at the headquarters of Scottish Grass Machinery George Brown received £200 golf vouchers.

Since 1951, George has become one of the leading UK authorities on the Ransomes brand of grass cutting equipment experiencing the high manpower requirements of horse-drawn

and pedestrian machines to the latest high output equipment.

Over the years George has become one of the most knowledgeable and best known characters on golf courses across Scotland. Professionally, he will be missed by us all, but given the number of invitations that he has had to play golf from all of his hundreds of customers, I am sure that we will constantly be bumping into him as he plays the country's finest courses!" said David McInroy, Managing Director, of Scottish Grass Machinery.

Are we stagnating?

than group assessments of simple tasks, and the barest of essentials on soil science and amenity horticulture. The lack of theory and scientific background in NVQ's is simply disgraceful. We as a profession should not be accepting these as industry standards, and should be encouraging the educationalists to produce a qualification that is viable.

And finally BIGGA, we may well look back with pride, where it all started, how far we have come, but we must continue to strive forward. We must question whether the goals set up at creation have been attained, and whether those goals are still what the membership requires? Does the Association interact with clubs enough? Is the Association offering the support mechanisms the Course Manager needs? What input does the Association pursue in the items discussed above? I believe that BIGGA has a huge input to make in the representation of our profession, and that it must do so forcefully and with confidence.

Finally, having had my tuppence worth let me say that I am not pessimistic about our future. I see around me hungry young men, articulate, dedicated and keen to take up the baton. If the industry, and all those in it behaves responsibly then the future for them is bright and prosperous. However if the industry is irresponsibly,

then it is to those young men that they will eventually turn to for a solution. Ultimately, they cannot get by without us.

John Ross, Course Manager,
Laleham GC, Chertsey

Thanks!

I would like to thank the Golden & Silver Key sponsors for supporting the Regional Training Programme. I attended the Risk Assessment and COSHH Awareness Course on 29 November at West Hill Golf Club. They offer excellent value for money and I would urge other greenkeepers to attend the training provided by BIGGA.

Stuart Hogg,
Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club

Editor: For further information on the latest Regional Training Courses on offer, see the Education and Training article overleaf on page 10

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

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This month, Ken and Sami from BIGGA'S Education and Training Department would like to wish all readers a very happy New Year, and outline details of forthcoming Regional Training Courses...

Education and Training update

Regional Training

Following some very successful Regional Training Courses, which took place during November and December, we are planning a series of courses for February/March. Several sections have requested courses ranging from Basic Computing to Chain Saw Competence and these will run alongside the very popular Essential Management Skills and a, new, Next Steps in Management Course. Details will be sent to members during January so make sure that you book early to ensure your place.

Remember, each one day course costs members an extremely low £30 thanks to a £60 per delegate subsidy from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund. Golden Key Members of the Fund (see opposite) are also issuing £30 training vouchers to their Greenkeeper customers making one day courses completely free.

The National Education Conference, Workshops, Seminars, all BIGGA courses, Section and Regional Education and Training all count towards BIGGA CPD credits.

Continue to Learn at Harrogate

The popularity of the Continue to Learn Week is increasing with many delegates booking early. Workshop 1 is now full and only a few places remain on Workshops 2 and 3.

There are still places available on all Seminars, which may be booked 'on the day'. Remember, that bone fide students and all lecturers can gain free entry to all Seminars.

The weeks events are rounded off on Thursday 24 January by the BTME/Golf Club Show Banquet,

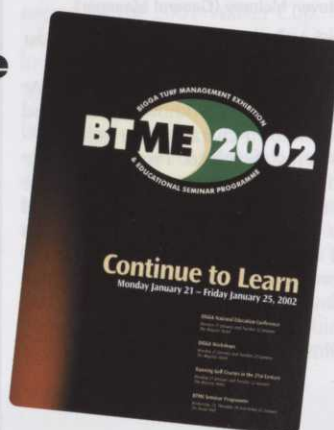
which is open to delegates of both shows. Returning to the Majestic Hotel, the Banquet stars the comedy duo Brahms and Liszt supported by the Nightjars. Banquet tickets are still available but please ensure to book your place before 9 January.

BIGGA has sold all of its reserved accommodation and all those wishing to stay in Harrogate during Continue to Learn/BTME/Golf Club Show should contact Reservations Highway on 01423 525577.

You've got mail!

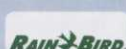
If you've got an email account why not send an email to the education department, where we can place you into our exclusive education email address book. We can then keep you up-to-date with education news and events as they happen.

Send an email to:
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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

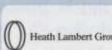


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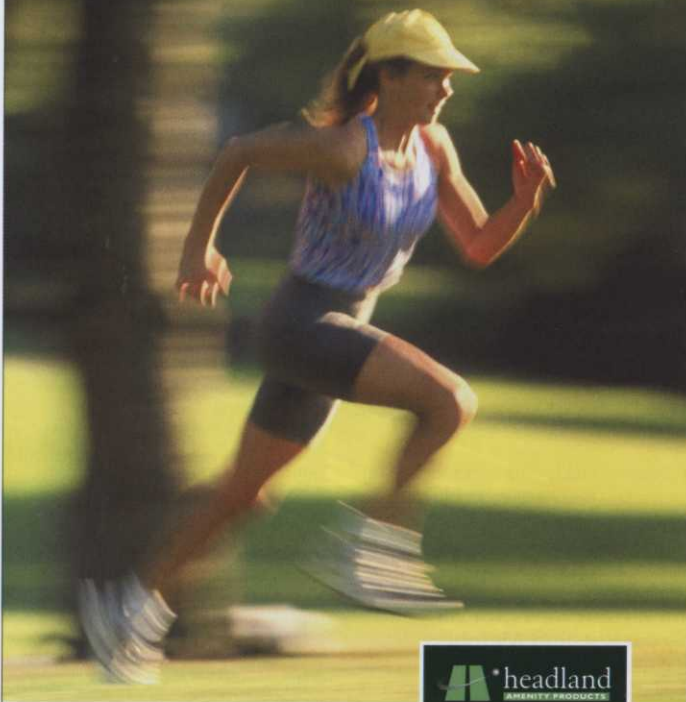
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Tracey and Susannah from BIGGA's Membership Services Department, would like to wish all existing members and prospective new members a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Make your New Year's resolution...

... to bring your passport size photograph to Membership Services on the BIGGA Stand at the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) on Tuesday, January 22; Wednesday, January 23 or Thursday, January 24!



Tracey (above)



Susannah (right)

Tracey and Susannah will be on hand to deal with all your Membership Services queries, should you wish to :-

- Renew your existing membership
- Join BIGGA
- Bring a passport size photograph of yourself
- Obtain information on the different categories of Membership
- Change your personal details i.e. home address, Employer details etc
- Check your membership status
- Obtain replacement renewal forms
- Collect Tax Forms
- Ask questions regarding General Legal Protection
- Ask questions regarding Personal Accident Insurance cover
- Obtain information on the Direct Debit Scheme



Whatever your query call onto the BIGGA stand and visit Membership Services.

Also on the BIGGA stand you will have the opportunity to purchase quality clothing from the popular BIGGA leisurewear range, made by Cutter and Buck, Peter Scott and Sun and Rain, all branded with the BIGGA logo.

The BIGGA stand will also have for sale, copies of all the educational/training videos BIGGA has produced, plus the following three popular books, Practical Greenkeeping by Jim Arthur, Golf Course Presentation by John Hacker and George Shiels and A Practical Guide to Ecological Management of the Golf Course, written by STRI Ecologist R. A. Taylor. Not to mention the very useful BIGGA Field

Guides (FREE to members on production of your membership card).

There will be something for everyone so why not visit the BIGGA Stand in Hall Q Stand Q69.

Important news for all Greenkeeping Members

As from January 1, 2002, the following changes to the Personal Accident Insurance Scheme apply to all Greenkeeping Members, regardless of their membership expiry date.

The Scheme will be insured by the Royal SunAlliance Group and excludes the first 28 days of any period of incapacity. Claims arising from war and terrorism are excluded. For full details contact Membership Services.

January's Monthly Membership Draw Winner

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch. Our congratulations go to January's winner, Joseph Findlay of Royal Portrush Golf Club



BIGGA welcomes ...

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

Scottish Region

Stewart Addison, North
David Ball, East
Raymond Leach, East
Barry Nichol, West
Brian Williams, Central
Michael Wilson, Ayrshire

Northern Region

Matthew Corfield, N West
Barrie Crolla, N West
Mark Dingle, N West
Gary McGowan, N West
Christopher Robinson, N East
David Scott, N West
Peter White, N West
Paul Worsencroft, N West

Midland Region

Luke Brimfield-Smith, BB&O
Martin Burbanks, BB&O
Martin Downend, BB&O
Stevan Grass, Mid Anglia
Daniel Haynes, E Midland
Marc Kelly, BB&O
David Lawton, Midland
David McGregor, BB&O
Daniel Newman, BB&O
Andrew Ryder, E Midland
Kevin Steppings, BB&O
Andrew Turnbull, Midland
Michael Walker, Midland

South East Region

James Cole, Kent
Rhys Evans, Surrey
Richard Johnson, Surrey
Neil Simpson, London
Peter Thurlow, Essex

S West & S Wales Region

Adam Bridgewater, Dev & C'wall
Sarah Hack, S Coast
Sean Jarvis, S West
Andrew Marsh, S Coast
Paul Nicklen, Dev & C'wall
Nicholas Offer, S Coast
John Pettifer, S Wales

Associate Members

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Marshall Muirhead, Central
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Robert De Martin, Northern
George Attwood-Harris, Midland
David Bush, Sussex
Michael Shields, Kent
Norman Smith, Surrey
Christopher White, Essex

Corporate Members

Lee Flynn, E Midland
Keith Harrison, E Midland
Jim McGlinghey, E Midland
James Robson, E Midland
John Allen, Surrey
Alan Abel, S Wales
Richard Minton, S West
Roger Turner, S West

Student Members

Andrew Brandie, North
Stephen Dunlop, Northern
Graham Steele, N West
R Steele, Midland
Edward Edwards, E Midland
Robert Coughlan, Essex
Paul Garman, Sussex
Jaey Goodchild, London
Brian Plume, Essex
Mark Grace, Central

Neil J Reid, Central
Philip Fazackerley, N West
Terence J Tibbert, London

International Members

Ian Ouwerkerk, Holland
Hans Favre, Sweden
Magnus Olofsson, Sweden
Dean Piller, Canada

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:
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tracey@bigga.co.uk
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Take a time-honoured look back through the pages of Greenkeeper International from a decade ago



JANUARY 1992

Sand Green Construction

In an article on Sand Green Constructions in Great Britain, Tim Colclough of the STRI asked is there a place for them and is there a need for them? Conclusions were based on research following a three year trial on the fertiliser nutrition of sand greens carried out at the STRI and sponsored by the R&A. Tim concluded that the combination of research work and site experience leads us to believe that generally there is no place or need for pure sand greens in this country. The only mitigating circumstances which could contradict this conclusion may arise due to a complete lack of suitable local materials and a tight construction budget.

In the news

Tom O'Brien, Head Greenkeeper at Royal Birkdale Golf Club for the past 14 years would be retiring in 1992.

Howard Swan had been admitted to the regulating body for golf architecture, the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, as a full member. He had founded the British Association of Golf Course Constructors in 1980 and for five years, until 1990, was Chairman of the National Turfgrass Council.

Phil Baldock was moving from Hankley Common to take up the prestigious position of Head Greenkeeper at Royal Portrush. Today Phil is Course Manager at another top course - Ganton Golf Club.

David Wood, Head Greenkeeper at Holtye Golf Club, then a Phase 3 student at Plumpton College, had gained the rare distinction of being the first greenkeeper to gain the prestigious Top Student of the Year Award - The City and Guilds Silver Medal - awarded by none other than the governing body itself, The City and Guilds of London Institute Examination Board. Today, David is Head Greenkeeper at Hever Golf Club.



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Top dressing, bunker renovation and material handling are physically intensive tasks involving the movement of bulky and heavy materials. Kevin Marks visited Kings Hill Golf Club in West Malling, Kent, to see how Course Manager Duncan Kelso approaches these important disciplines.



THE BRAND NEW HEAVIES



Right: The modern and stylish clubhouse at Kings Hill is situated close to one of the major housing developments

Below: Duncan Kelso, Course Manager



The Kings Hill development at the former West Malling airfield in Kent is a mixed commercial and residential project based around the concept of combining work (offices), rest (homes) and play (golf course) to provide a high quality of life in a single location.

The golf course was constructed in 1995 and was opened in October 1996. It is a proprietary club, privately owned, and managed by Kings Hill Golf Ltd, with a management team that consists of three people:

the Club Manager, Margaret Gilbert, the Golf Professional, David Hudspith, and the Golf Course Manager, Duncan Kelso. It is run on a membership basis, but is not directed by the members.

Duncan, a BIGGA member, has complete control of the premises and the course. He sets his own budget, subject to the approval of the American owners, and signs his own cheques and has a huge degree of autonomy, probably more than most Course Managers in the UK.

The course was designed by a UK architect, David Williams, and construction took just over a year with seeding commencing in autumn '95 followed by a growing-in period during the spring and summer of 1996.

Tees and greens have been constructed to USGA standards and the course has been sown with fescue and bent grasses. It is over 6,700 yards long, a par 72 and includes 60 acres of woodlands and some heath land.

The entire 200-acre course is situated around a central area of

THE BRAND NEW HEAVIES



Top: The hand held remote control unit enables the operator to monitor the operation at the working end of the machine

Above: Large volumes of material can be accommodated in the 4 cubic yard capacity hopper

Top right: Low ground pressure is achieved utilising a four-wheel axle and 31 x 15.5-15 turf tyres

woodland, with the startlingly modern clubhouse located close to one of the housing developments on the north side of the course.

The Greenkeeping Centre was built two years ago and is located in the central woodland. Being in this central position it offers five access points onto the course, which alleviates heavy wear on any particular route. It also results in fast access to the farthest points on the course.

The 6,000 square feet facility comprises a large storage shed, engineering workshop, chemical/fertiliser store, greens' staff rest room and changing facilities, refreshment area and Course Manager's office. As you would expect from a modern, forward thinking manager there is a host of IT equipment and Duncan's office houses the computer controlled irrigation system along with PCs and

software that provides a host of personnel and management information. Facilities have much improved as prior to the opening of this new centre, the greenkeeping team of nine were based in the airfield's former Control Tower.

Duncan runs a variety of equipment from three major manufacturers - Textron for top dressing and aeration, Toro (ride-on fairway and rough mowers) and John Deere (Gator utility vehicles, pedestrian mowers and compact tractors).

However, the main reason for my visit was to obtain Duncan's views on topdressing and bunker renovation and take a detailed look at how he is using one of his latest items of capital expenditure - the Turfco CR-10, a combined loader, top dresser and material handler.

Duncan is a great believer in the

need for top dressing and throughout the season will top dress the greens with a light dressing every three to four weeks. He also cores twice a year on greens and twice a year on tees - in March and in August - but will increase this if necessary.

As any greenkeeper will appreciate, top dressing is a time consuming task, requiring the material to be loaded at the storage site, then transported to the relevant part of the course, then shovelled into a top dressing machine, then applied to the tee or green. And this is exactly how Duncan's team undertook this task, using a 2-tonne trailer to transport the material to the dressing area. It was a three-man operation and took the team 12 hours to core and top dress all 18 greens. This involved four hours of overtime per man and proved to be not only a physically



intensive operation, but an expensive one as well. The physical aspect of the work ensured that the task was looked upon as a chore; it did nothing for staff morale and the team suffered from the fatigue aspect the following day.

An alternative was to look at a larger capacity, high-lift trailer that could deposit straight into a top dresser, eliminating the need to shovel the material by hand.

However, at a demonstration of this type of trailer, the equipment did not work well with wet materials and still needed manhandling. So there was no advantage, as three men were still needed for the operation.

It was obvious that some form of specialist material handling equipment would be necessary and Duncan sourced a possible solution and took the opportunity to view it

at Saltex last year. Although it appeared that it would do the job, it wasn't versatile enough. Then, as he was passing the Textron stand, he happened to see the Turfco CR-10 and stopped to speak with Scott Kinkead, one of the directors of the family-owned company.

"It was by chance that I noticed the CR-10 at Saltex. It's a versatile, combined loader, materials handler and top dresser and appeared to be exactly what I required. A demonstration was arranged and the CR-10 joined the fleet here at Kings Hill," said Duncan.

"The 4 cubic yard capacity is excellent and the self-cleaning hopper design means that a wide variety of materials can be handled. The 4-wheel axle results in low ground pressure and because of its versatility and speed, top dressing can now

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THE BRAND NEW HEAVIES

Right: Old bunker sand can be broadcast onto adjacent fairways, saving a journey back to the storage facility

Below: The cross conveyor with swivel action deposits materials exactly where they are needed



be done in 6 hours with just two men. A major saving in both time and expense. Hand shovelling has now ceased, which is good from a health and safety point of view and the reduction in sheer physical effort has had a positive impact on staff morale.

Duncan's philosophy is that you can never do enough on a golf course, so with the labour and time savings made there's more time to tackle numerous other tasks. One of those tasks is bunker renovation and again the CR-10 has proved invaluable.

No matter how efficient a bunker drainage system is, over time debris will build up and drainage will deteriorate. The main cause is the deluge-type rainfall that now appears to be more common in the UK. More run-off from surrounding areas is generated by this type of rainfall resulting

in silt, leaves, grass and other debris collecting at the lowest point of the bunker, which over a five-year period results in standing water in the bunker and the need for a renovation programme.

As most of you reading this will appreciate, there are around 2000 tonnes of sand in the bunkers of a typical golf course and the normal renovation process will be to pile the sand into the centre of the bunker, either by hand or mechanically, backhoe it into a trailer, then transport it to a storage/recycling area somewhere within the boundaries of the course.

New drainage pipe work is then installed, new sand is transported to the bunker and deposited directly into the centre if access is possible, or deposited at the side, close at hand. This is then spread, again either mechanically or manually. It takes 2

days per bunker using this traditional approach.

Disposing of the old sand always presents a problem, but with the CR10 the old sand can be used as top dressing on the adjacent fairway using the twin spinners that are an integral part of the machine. This saves a journey back to the storage site and speeds up the operation.

The real benefit becomes apparent when the bunkers are refilled. Sand is loaded into the hopper, and is then transported directly to the bunker edge. Using the swivel action conveyor system, the sand can be deposited in various positions around the bunker and then spread with a mechanical bunker rake or by hand. The time saving and reduction in physical effort is enormous – two of the largest bunkers at Kings Hill were refilled in one afternoon!

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This picture: August 2001. How the greens have developed, now showing 5-10cm of new rootzone development

Below: Ian Tomlinson



Ian Tomlinson describes some of the problems he has faced since beginning work as Course Manager at Rungsted Golf Club in Denmark.

Having worked in Switzerland for 14 years I returned to work in the UK for three years before my family and I decided to spread our wings once again and this time head for Denmark.

I became Course Manager of Rungsted Golf Club in July, 2000, and had just 24 days to prepare the course for the SAS Invitational Tournament!

Taking on such a challenge in the middle of the playing season and not understanding the course, the climate, or how the Danish Green Staff worked, pushed me to the limits of my greenkeeping abilities but thankfully the competition was a success.

So why Rungsted? The previous year the club held the final of the SAS Invitational with Scandinavia v The Rest of the World with stars such as Tiger

Woods, but after the competition the Poa greens failed due to stress and the members ended up playing temporary greens.

Before discussing the greens let us look at some worrying facts and imagine that in 2003 all greenkeepers in the UK were faced with the same prospect as Danish Greenkeepers. Today the only legal fungicide labelled for golf course use is Sportak, a systemic fungicide that has been used so much you may as well throw orange juice on the greens.

Imagine that in 2003 the only fungicide that you can use will be banned for use on golf courses along with all weedkillers. In fact all chemicals. Quite a daunting prospect for any greenkeeper but how long before UK greenkeepers are faced with the same situation?

In the Talking Heads feature in August some Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers were stating that they accepted having Poa greens and that you could not get rid of it and that standards would fall if they tried to eradicate the Poa. It is all too easy to say we manage the Poa when you know that you have an arsenal of fungicides available to you in your chemical storage room at the first sign of any disease.

The way forward is going back to traditional greenkeeping methods and trying to encourage fescue and bent grass to establish on the course, major aeration programmes and limit the use of water and fertiliser.

So let us go back to understand why the greens failed in 1999. The greens were 100% poa with 5cm of thatch. NPK had been applied on a regular

basis, greens were receiving 20 to 25 minutes of water every night but what is quite incredible is that six years ago a consultant had told Danish greenkeepers that aeration was bad for greens and so everyone stopped aerating. The result was at Rungsted we had 1cm of root growth and serious compaction problems.

Obviously trying to cut greens low for a major championship with no root growth the resulting failure was inevitable.

It would appear that many a golf course has been set back by poor agronomic advice in this country and with the prospect of all chemicals being withdrawn in two years time a rethink on greenkeeping practices is urgent. There is no quick fix solution here only a lot of very hard work ahead for most greenkeepers.

One man who has taken on the crusade is Chris Haspell. Chris has been in Denmark six years and has done an incredible job of turning 100% poa greens into high percentage fescue/bent greens at Falster where he worked. His traditional methods have not gone unnoticed, as he has now become Greenkeeping Consultant for the Danish Golf Union, offering advice to clubs who have found themselves in the same situation as Rungsted.

Just after the SAS last year the serious work on to the greens began. Soil tests showed we had huge excesses of fertiliser in the soil. The greens suffered with dry patch and Anthracnose disease. The irrigation water taken from a bore hole was of poor quality and turned the poa yellow if used on a regular basis (the course is only 500 m from the sea) and the irrigation system required major work to it.

The old greens still drain but the thatch holds the water on the surface. In August 2000 I hollow tined with 16mm hollow tines with a new Toro Procure aerator at

3cm spacings to remove as much thatch as possible, overseeded with 200 kgs of Bar 2 fescue/bent seed applied with a proseeder and applied 60 tonnes of top dressing. Solid tining was done with 8mm tines every two weeks followed by a light top dressing. In September we hollow tined again the same as above but did not top dress and applied 300 kg of seed. In October I verti-drained the greens with 12mm tines down to 30cm depth some six times in six weeks. I will not tell you what the members were saying.



Now, unlike the weather that you experienced in the UK from the autumn in 2000 through to the spring of 2001, we missed all the rain. Winter was perfect with cold dry weather and some snow. The temperature was down to -15 at times and I had some greens that had frost in them for three months. This was perfect for the greens as natural decompaction had taken place under the greens and fusarium was the last thing I was worried about. We also verti-drained the fairways in the autumn for the first time in the club's history. We had a very dry spring and summer and the fairways were in great shape without any fertiliser being applied. In the past four tonnes of fertiliser had been used on the fairways each season. The programme for the fairways in the future is deep aeration with the vertidrain and verticutting as required.

As mentioned previously the irrigation system left a lot to be desired. The first thing that I did was to have Bill Hawthorn come out to evaluate the performance

of the present system. I have worked with Bill for over 20 years and value his experience as a true professional. We had no isolation valves out on the course at all so if I had a burst on a green the whole system had to be drained down just to do one repair. To quote Bill, "The tees irrigation sys-

tem is a complete mess and we need to start all over again".

As we had so many other problem areas out on the course and needed major finance for new machinery it was decided to tackle the upgrade on the greens system in-house during the winter of 2000/2001 and the tee system in the winter of 2001/2002. Not only did we have seven different types of green sprinklers but also their spacings were out and then we discovered that the pipe loop around some of the greens was of different sizes. On the 15th green we discovered that the pipe down the left side of the green was a 50mm and the section round the back was 40mm and the right side of the green was laid with 32mm. It was imperative that we had each green irrigated with the same pressure and we installed new Logic impact sprinklers spaced out by Bill. The concern that each green was watered equally is because we have just installed an acid injector system, a Phairway 6,8 controller to correct the water quality problem and bring the water's pH down as the water from the bore hole is nearly pH 8 and the soil pH of the greens is 7.6 plus. I am pleased to say that the greens irrigation upgrade went very well and the difference in the greens with using water that I have regulated at pH 6.5 is incredible. Dry patch is less in evidence and disease also. We have reduced the amount of

irrigation being used to water the greens and tees by 75% compared to previous years.

It is not just one thing that will make the transition of poa greens into fescue/bent greens but at least by creating the right growing environment to encourage the finer grasses to succeed and sensible management I believe we have a good chance. One of Rungsted's members has been working every winter for seven years cleaning out the woodlands and allowing sunlight and air to enter the green and tees areas. One of my new French workers is a qualified tree surgeon so guaranteeing future good management of the woodlands.

Knowing the intense work programme that is required on the greens obviously needs the support of the Board and membership and to help the members to understand what was required in the coming five years I held a members' evening with slides and they had the chance to ask questions and understand the problems. I have 100% backing from the Board and when I was asked if I wanted to take the SAS Invitational the next three years I explained that you cannot embark on the major aeration programme to remove the thatch and also expect to have firm fast greens for the world's top golfers.

The result was that the club have turned down the competition and I

have hollow tined four times in four months so far this year once again with 16mm tines at 3cm spacings and am aiming at five times, weather permitting. I am looking to apply 750kg of Bar2 seed to the greens and 300 tonnes of top dressing this season. Is there any evidence that in the 18 months since I took on the challenge we have made any progress with the greens? The winter certainly helped, as did the dry spring. We now have between five and 10cm of root depth on most greens and a 10 to 15% increase in Bent and Fescue in the sward. The only way the new seed will survive is to keep the thatch dry and open hence the aggressive aeration programme. The members have been very supportive and can see the difference in the greens already and as we get more top dressing into the thatch layer so the greens will become firmer. Following a recent meeting with the Board members there appears to be no opposition to continuing with the aggressive aeration and top dressing programme in 2002. Fertiliser is 8.0.0 with supplemented liquids, trace elements and seaweed & Humic acid supplied by Tim Le Mesurier, of GreenBest, with whom I have worked closely for many years.

Jim Arthur states in his "Practical Greenkeeping" book that it is a very brave man who embarks on a 8.0.0



Left: The condition of the greens in 1999 after the S.A.S

Above: The greens at the start of 2000. Note the 5-6cm of thatch on the core sample and the absence of rootzone

Bottom: The Rungsted Greenkeeping Team in their uniforms supplied by the Kansas Clothing Company. Our members now comment on how professional our team looks as we look after the course.

seeding these greens with a creeping bent grass in Denmark is doomed to failure with no chemical control and the Nitrogen tax. What I didn't realise is that Denmark is one of the largest fescue seed producers in Europe which gives you hope that if it will grow naturally like that in this climate we should be able to make it grow on the golf course.

I am extremely fortunate to have a staff who have accepted me and taken up the challenge with me to make Rungsted not only the best course in Scandinavia but one of the best in Europe. Proof that we are heading in the right direction is that Golf World has just rated the course in 54th position in its Top 100 courses in Continental Europe when it was in 87th position in 1999.

I have four Danish greenkeepers, two French greenkeepers and an excellent Danish right hand man called Johnny Mortenson. The staff are really wanting to learn and there is a greenkeeping school at the top of Denmark but the courses are spread out over 11 weeks each year right throughout the playing season which

is a major problem. After some serious thought and talking with David Golding at the GTC and Huw Parry at Elmwood we have come up with a way to educate my staff to NVQ Level 2. I have my D32/33 Assessor qualification. Five of my staff have enrolled with Elmwood College and we have bought the training logbooks from the GTC. We are following the theory notes that go with the Level 2 course that the STRI helped produce. I shall assess my staff and sign them off on the practical work for each of the tasks and when I feel that one of them is fully competent he shall go to Elmwood for a few weeks to be assessed on all the underpinning knowledge and also reassessed on some practical tasks to make sure that the college is confident that I am myself assessing to the industry standards. The staff are very excited about having the chance to obtain an NVQ in greenkeeping and believe that it will not only make them special in Denmark but will allow them more opportunity to advance their career within Europe having a recognised qualification behind them.

Although fluent in French with a working knowledge of German nothing quite prepared me for the Danish language. I am trying hard to master it but when nearly every Dane speaks perfect English it is all too easy to carry on daily life in English.

We work out of a first class maintenance facility. We have a fully fitted workshop and I am fortunate to have three qualified mechanics on the staff and breakdowns are very quickly put right. The staff quarters and canteen are cleaned and washed every day by outside contractors (now that is something that you should ask your committee to implement at your next meeting, I would probably hear their

reply from here!) We have a full range of equipment from all the major suppliers.

There was talk before I joined the club about bringing in an Architect to see about lengthening some of the holes and assessing the bunkers which are in a terrible condition and need major renovation work to them. I am fortunate in that Ron Kirby who has designed Jack Nicklaus' courses in Europe for the last 16 years and has worked with Trent Jones Snr and Gary Player is a family friend and Ron came out in May of this year for two days and has given us some invaluable help on the way forward for the course. Ron was somewhat surprised that six of the holes are growing on pure peat which goes down some 18 metres before reaching solid ground. This as you can imagine creates a special maintenance practice. The grass on these fairways grows 2 cm every night! It is worth noting that Alistair MacKenzie's brother designed the course back in 1937.

Following a recent meeting of the Board, finance has been made available to start the bunker reconstruction programme. The first investment will be a 3.5 tonne 360 degrees excavator on tracks. I have sourced the materials required from sand to fill and turf and will start in October 2001. We are going to push ahead with as many bunkers as possible through out the autumn and winter and will fit in the tees irrigation upgrade as well when ground conditions means that construction of the bunkers is not possible.

The coming years look like being very interesting and exciting and I look forward to giving the members the course they deserve after all the disruption that they are facing today.

programme when greens have been used to a high NPK diet and that a softly softly approach is required which is very good advice. I am aiming at 100 to 120kg/Ha of Nitrogen this year on the greens but it is a fine line between letting the poa struggle and still having some sort of playing surface for the 1100 members. As we manage to get more fine grass to establish so I hope to reduce the Nitrogen levels each year so making the poa struggle even more.

Another reason why Nitrogen is being limited is the fact that the Danish Government has levied a tax on every Kilo of Nitrogen used. I think it is quite obvious that building greens to USGA specification and



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BREATHITAK

This month sees BIGGA's major Education and Training week, Continue to Learn, starting on the 21st of this month. Designed to give delegates greater choice of subjects and speakers, the first two days include the National Education Conference and the Workshop Programme.

Start your week by listening to Dr James Beard, the world renowned Turf Grass expert or by attending a one day Workshop on Emergency First Aid or Environmental Management.

Unfortunately, the two day, Golf Course Design Workshop is full.

Dr Beard is followed by three speakers, Keith Weatherhead from Cranfield University, John Bradwell and Agostino Gaude from Turf Seed UK and Ruth Mann from STRI looking at the effects

of Global Warming on the Golf Course.

Tuesday morning's lecture looks at Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features with Donald Steel, Tom Mackenzie and Martin Ebert covering the design and redesign of golf courses, Brian Pierson covering construction techniques and Jim Moore looking at the needs of greenkeepers.

Tuesday afternoon gives the information needed to prepare your course for winter play with Ed McCabe, Arthur King and George Shiels giving you the knowledge to answer those difficult questions.

Both one day workshops run again on Tuesday, January 22.

Wednesday, January 23 sees Continue to Learn move to the Royal Hall, alongside BTME, with Roger

Black giving the Keynote Speech. A range of seminars follows starting with Jim Moore from the USGA talking about the Design and Construction of Bunkers. Dr James Beard appears for the second time on Thursday afternoon, talking about Turfgrass Management. Come along and see if you agree or disagree with the speakers on this varied programme.

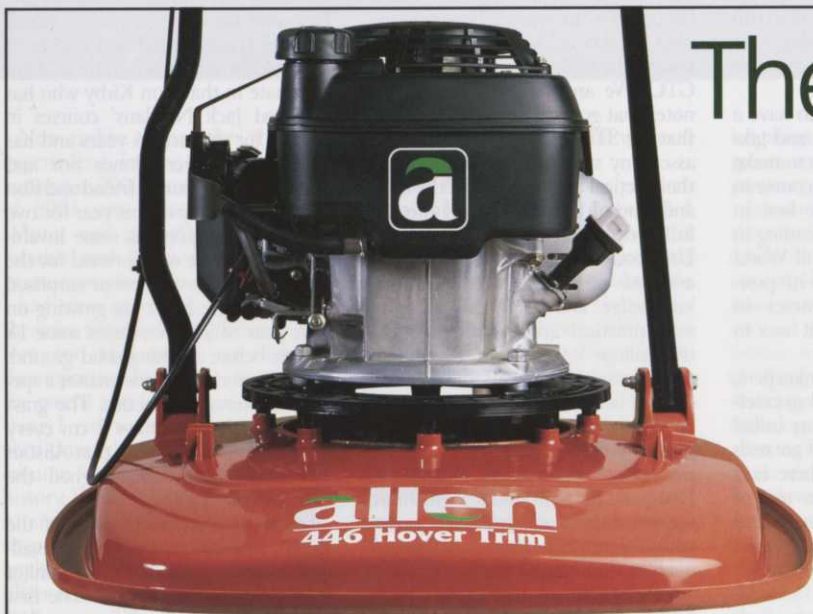
Friday morning sees the final seminar session for those remaining in Harrogate with Dr Mike Canaway leading the way with a talk on the link between training and professionalism. BIGGA Chairman, Clive Osgood, follows to tell you about his year as Chairman with Master Greenkeeper and Certified Golf Course Superintendent, Andy Campbell talk-

ing about Changing Times and Changing Jobs.

The Careers Advice Clinic returns for its third year with Brin Bendon and Frank Newberry looking to treat your career problems. Find out how to apply for jobs, write a CV and cope with interviews by attending the clinic in the HALL Q of the Harrogate Exhibition Centre.

Discuss your education and training problems with Ken or Sami at the Education and Training Stand which will be situated alongside the Royal Hall. The Royal Hall is approached through Hall M.

The Golf Club Show has its own education programme. Aimed, mainly, at Golf Club Secretaries, Chairmen of Green and other Golf Club Committee



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KING!

members, the programme begins, on Monday, January 21, with Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century, presented by experts from STRI.

Golf Club Show delegates can then attend the free Keynote Session given by Roger Black and then attend the Golf Club Show Seminars chaired by the National Secretary of the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, Ray Burniston. Thursday 23 January sees some excellent seminars

for Golf Club Show delegates with speakers looking at how to keep irrigation water sweet by using Sulphur Burning Technology, Preparing for the 2006 Ryder Cup, Strategic Planning and finally, the chance to see the World renowned expert, Dr Jim Beard, talking about Turfgrass Management.

There is something for everyone, Greenkeeper, Superintendent, Groundsman, Golf Club Secretary, Chairman of Green, Golfer and Committee member, at Harrogate this month. BIGGA has provided the largest, flexible, education and training programme in Europe. Make sure that you gain the most benefit by coming to Harrogate where it all takes place from Monday, January 21.

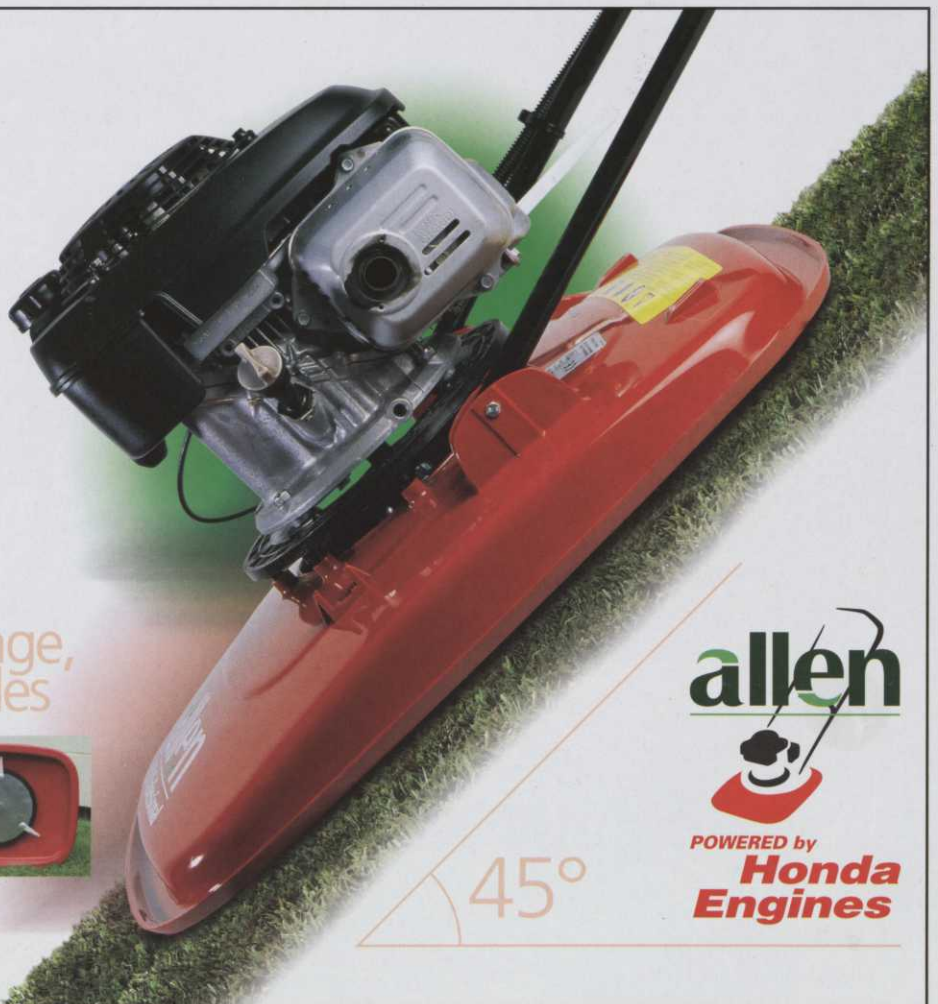


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Greenkeeper Exhibitors

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Clive Osgood looks after the two magnificent Walton Heath courses and, as he explained to Scott MacCallum, you've got to work extremely hard to retain their heathland characteristics.



BACK TO THE FUTURE

Walk out into the middle of Walton Heath and immediately you can smell golfing history. Half close your eyes, and you can almost picture James Braid's giant frame striding down the fairway. Listen carefully and you'll swear you can catch the swish of hickory as another ball flies off towards its intended target.

Walton Heath Golf Club doesn't celebrate its centenary until next year but in the 99 years golf has been played on the famous piece of common land it has witnessed more significant moments in the game's development than the combined histories of a dozen clubs each with 200 years on the clock.

Just as a taster. In addition to the '81 Ryder Cup, which featured what is widely regarded to be the finest team ever to represent the United States, and numerous top professional and amateur Championships, Walton Heath is the home of the Parliamentary Golf Society.

Pleasingly the test of golf set by architect, Herbert Fowler, and over which the aforementioned Scottish representative of the Great Triumvirate played as long time Club Professional, has changed only minimally, and efforts to regain the 1903 look involves a great deal of on-going effort now and in the future.

Continuity is a quality

Walton Heath has in spades and something many other clubs would do well to emulate. James Braid was the forerunner of a very small band of Club Professionals, while BIGGA National Chairman Clive Osgood, is one of only six Head Greenkeepers in the club's entire history. In fact one of the old photographs on display in the clubhouse is of Thomas McNiece, the club's first Head Greenkeeper.

That's not to say that Clive is the greenkeeping equivalent of a museum custodian, as keeping things the way they are intended is a full time and demanding job.

"Heathland is a semi permanent state and it is true to say that it is always trying to revert back to woodland," explained Clive, as we sat in his 4x4 in the middle of the course.

"Heathland originally came from tree felling and sheep grazing and there certainly hasn't been any sheep here for a few years," said Clive, whose office wall carries a poster which declares, "Heathland: Surrey's Last Wilderness".

It prompted the question of how long would it take for the course to recolonise.

"If we sat back for 10 years and did no clearance work at all you probably wouldn't be able to see from one fairway to another for trees. In fact within a year the growth would be noticeable," said Clive, who has enjoyed a considerable number of years at the Club.

It was, he contends, the war years

contributed to the decline in Surrey heathland.

"The men were not around and the commons and heaths were neglected and became woodland. When that happens it takes a lot to get them back."

While Walton Heath Golf Club is well aware of the quality of the golfing heathland it has in its care and has policy documents ensuring the two wonderful courses retain their character, Clive has had to face criticism when trees have been felled and removed, not necessarily from members of the golf club.

"If we stand in the middle of Walton Heath we are surrounded by trees on all sides and a lot of the people who would criticise us for taking trees down are the same people who would, in 15 years time, say we'd been remiss and lost the heathland. It's a point about which I feel quite strongly," he said.

Clive has some old postcards of the course which show James Braid playing shots on some of the holes and one thing that does strike you is that, although anything but heavily wooded, the modern day Walton Heath does have a few more trees than when Herbert Fowler designed it.

"We don't rely on trees on the course. It was designed by Herbert Fowler to be an inland links course, not with trees in mind. In our circumstances there are still too many trees on the course," he said, adding that another feature noticeable from the postcards is that Walton





Left: Thomas McNeice was the first Head Greenkeeper at the club and a man who served on the Board of Management of the greenkeeping Association of the time. He died in the Great War in 1916.

Heath's greens which are considered large were even larger in Braid's day.

Walton Heath is found in an area covered by several blanket Tree Preservation Orders but by making a case through English Nature, the Surrey Heathland Project, other relevant bodies and local councillors that they would be replacing the trees with a much richer habitat they were able to remove the Order.

As you look around you'll see examples of some large scale tree clearance which has subsequently been carried out and Clive sees this as an on-going project.

To highlight the point of how this will return the course to its original look

Clive drove out to the 12th tee on the Old Course and told a story about a Henry Cotton feat in 1938.

"Henry Cotton was involved in a Grand Match involving, among others, Bobby Locke and he performed the previously unheard of feat of taking out the dogleg and driving the green," explained Clive, as I attempted to peer through the trees even to see the green.

When Cotton did it he had a clear view of the green and had to clear an expanse of heather and gorse, no mean achievement in itself, but it was a possibility not open to anyone who walked off the 11th green with a point to prove nowadays.

"In the Ryder Cup in 1981 we played the tee off the front, a distance of 341 yards, to invite players to cut the corner but not too many tried. That was 20 years ago and trees will have come and gone in that time but I'd very much like to get the hole back to how it was when Cotton played it in 1938."

When tree clearing is undertaken Clive and the team often use a JCB to push the tree over and remove the roots as well.

Bracken is another unwanted visitor to Walton Heath and this year Clive and his team have sprayed it with an eco-friendly chemical, Asulox, in a bid to seize the initiative from the virulent plant.

"We've invested a lot of money in bracken control but, being a systemic herbicide, we won't know until next spring how successful we've been. Hopefully it won't come up again and we can then budget to go round the bits we may have missed and it becomes just an occasional job thereafter."

While the bracken which is good to see the back of, heather is the opposite and there are on-going procedures in place to ensure the heather is positively encouraged.

"It is something which we've struggled to get on top of but in recent years the resources have been there and thankfully I think we've turned



the corner," said Clive, who has a dedicated team of three within the team devoted to the conservation work.

"Over the last few years we have carried out work on several fairways where we have stripped down to the seed bed on five metre wide strips down each side of the fairway.

"Some might consider it unsightly but after a year or 18 months the heather never lets us down and it comes through to the extent that the membership would like us to do a lot more. Heather needs to be kept young for best results.

"The important thing is not to carry away the heather seed when you lift the turf with a turf cutter. This can be used for returfing bunkers or restoring pathways or general repair work. The large scale areas are stripped with a JCB and we store it for composting," said Clive.

Labour intensive though the work is the rewards are there for everyone

to see with the ever changing colours which identify the seasons throughout the year.

"For a few weeks in March there is the beauty of the yellow gorse in flower, then there is the broom, which, if you're not careful, can get away from you, but it then comes into flower. Then we have summer before the end of August through to September when we have the beauty of the heather. There is also a certain bleakness in the winter which to me is another side of the character of the course," said Clive, spoken like a man who has never lost enthusiasm for his place of work.

It is a beauty which the Club shares with the many other people who enjoy the heathland.

"The course is on common land and I'm pleased to say that everyone who uses the heath complements each others' pursuits. We have dog walkers and horse riders and everyone enjoys and

respects the heathland. Long may it continue.

Another striking element of Walton Heath is the magnificent heather faced bunkers, many of which are fine examples of Fowler's, and subsequently Braid's, distinctive cross variety, which have helped to preserve the length of the course - although both courses can now be stretched to over 7000 yards.

"The best examples of the heather faces are on the obsolete bunkers because heather doesn't really cope well with sand blast but where we can encourage it we will. In fact you can see on some of the bunkers which side has most play because one side of the face can have better heather coverage than the other."

Clive also took the opportunity to correct the popular misconception that the courses' excellent drainage comes as a result of a sandy top soil.

"We have very heavy clay, 30 foot

of it above chalk. It is also extremely acidic which is where we get our heathland characteristics but there is not a hint of any good soil of any real consequence anywhere. Our quality drainage comes from surface run off. Any problems are always self inflicted," he revealed.

Talking with Clive you discover that he knows every nook and cranny of his golf courses. He even has an area named after him, Osgood's Corner, after he highlighted the location to a local archaeological group but those who know Clive will not be surprised that he is more embarrassed than proud of this accolade. When his year in office as BIGGA's National Chairman ends at BTME this year he will happily return to his full time role of ensuring that the Walton Heath members have a course to be proud of and that they stay ahead of the game in the battle to retain one of the finest true heathlands in the country.

Greenkeeper International takes a look at the very latest products and services available from the fine turf industry

Etesia launch new mulching mower

Etesia has launched its answer to the ever-increasing demand to recycle organic matter - the Biocut, a rotary mulching mower. The 53cm pedestrian machine has an aerodynamically designed cutting deck with specially profiled cutterbar, which lifts the grass before cutting it. The clippings are retained within the deck where they are chopped into fine particles. These are then deposited into the turf where they can quickly decompose. As the grass leaves consist of a high percentage of water plus nutrients, especially nitrogen, moisture and fertiliser are returned to the sward. The Biocut has a working width of 53cm and is powered by the latest 6hp Briggs & Stratton Intek Edge 60 engine. There are three forward speeds - 2.7kph, 4.5 kph and 8.5 kph. A central adjustment gives variable cutting height positions from 25mm to 95mm and the handlebars are fully adjustable and can be folded down for transportation or storage. The die-cast aluminium cutting deck is designed to withstand commercial use and will not rust or distort. If the grass is long and wet, the mulching cover can be removed, thus turning the Biocut into a highly efficient rear-ejection mower.

For further information
 Tel: 01926 403323

Vibratory rollers

A new version of the True-Surface Lightweight Vibratory Roller attachments has been launched. The new "Universal" design of roller unit fits all popular makes of greens triple mower. The one same set of units can be simply converted to fit from one brand to another by changing only the fitting kit (shown here on a John Deere



machine). This has the potential to save clubs a vast amount of money when they next change their model of greensmower. True-Surface rollers are used by golf courses world wide for a vast range of greens maintenance operations including helping to produce faster, truer greens without lowering heights of cut, restoring surfaces after aeration and topdressing, and rolling instead of mowing on the day after spraying greens.

For further information call
GreenTek, European distributors
 of the products on: 0113 267 7000

New trials claim greener grass

This month sees the commercial launch of what scientists are calling 'a quantum leap in turfgrass breeding'. British Seed Houses' turfgrass breeding programme at the Institute of Grassland & Environmental Research has developed a new ryegrass-based seed mixture proven to stay green all year round.

According to IGER plant breeders, the new Grade A26 So-Green mixture - based on the first ever 'stay green' perennial ryegrass - will offer opportunities to keep turfgrass looking good, even under summer drought and other stress conditions.

The new mixture is a product of over 12 years of development and like many of the most significant scientific breakthroughs, has its origins in a chance natural discovery.

"In 1969, one of the IGER scientists noticed that leaves on a single grass plant in a field trial in Aberystwyth kept their green colour during autumn and winter, instead of turning the expected yellow colour like leaves on surrounding plants," explained IGER turfgrass breeder Danny Thorogood.

"Later it was found that leaves on plants bred from the original 'stay green' plant also retained their green colour during drought," he said.

The green colour in grass leaves is chlorophyll that intercepts light and converts it to sugars - the process of photosynthesis. Normal ageing or severely stressed leaves switch on a series of genes that trigger the production of enzymes that break down the chlorophyll. This process removes any greenness and the grass leaves turn yellow.

But, as Danny pointed out, 'stay green' grass is different.

"In 'stay green' grass, a gene controlling an enzyme involved in one of the earlier stages of chlorophyll breakdown is not active. This means the normal process of green pigment breakdown is prevented, even though photosynthesis is inactivated. This



Above: The trial site at IGER provided the latest find

Right: Danny Thorogood

results in the retention of a photosynthetically inactive green pigment in the leaves," he explained.

"Over 12 years of conventional plant breeding and backcrossing has now produced a distinct, uniform and stable 'stay green' perennial ryegrass called AberNile. AberNile combines the 'stay green' benefit with all the other characteristics required in an amenity perennial ryegrass, such as high shoot density and an ability to withstand high levels of wear," said Danny.

Trials at IGER and the STRI have now demonstrated that mixing 60% AberNile with 35% slender creeping red fescue and 5% Avalon velvet bent can deliver the best all season, greener grass.

According to Andy Newell from STRI, the 'stay green' is certainly a significant turfgrass development:

"Our trials have shown that 'stay green' grasses differ from traditional grasses in respect of increased greenness and reduced yellowness. There's



no doubt that they can increase the perceived visual quality of grass mixtures," said Andy.

The trial findings have resulted in the BTME 2002 commercial launch of Grade A26 So-Green a proven, innovative new seed mixture offering any turfgrass professional seeking to improve the year-round visual appeal of amenity grassed areas beautiful turf that literally stays green, all year round. Seed is available now for spring 2002 sowing.

Further details from British Seed Houses Tel: 01522 868714

Scotts launch new organic based fertilisers

Scotts are launching a new range of organic based turf fertilisers formulated to give turf managers the benefits of both organic and inorganic fertiliser. New Greenmaster Organic fertilisers combine inorganic and organic nutrient sources with natural bio-stimulants, ensuring accurate, reliable provision of essential nutrients while also enhancing the soil micro-flora.

The organic fraction of Greenmaster Organics is derived from chicken manure and, in addition to providing a proportion of the nutrient charge in slow release form, will help improve soil

structure, stimulate soil organisms, encourage thatch breakdown and enhance micro flora responsible for fighting turf diseases. By combining this material with a mineral-based fertiliser, NPK and trace elements the product formulation can be tailored for today's needs. Greenmaster Organics are also designed for ease of application, comprising a dust free, homogeneous granule giving a fast, accurate spread and a uniform turf growth and colour response. The product is low in odour and guaranteed free of weeds and other contaminants.

"Greenmaster Organic is designed for the environmentally aware turf manager looking for good performance and value for money. It is efficient to use, effective, based on solid science and it works. Essentially, Greenmaster Organic combines the reliability of mineral feeds with the benefits of organics - and none of the drawbacks," said Scotts Technical Manager, Simon Barnaby.

For further information
 Tel: 01473 830492

Improve your irrigation water

For the greenkeepers whose courses are built on alkaline soil and who have to irrigate turf with water which has a measurable alkaline content, the yearly battle to keep outbreak of poa annua, broad leaved weeds and fungal diseased - not to mention surface earthworm castings in check, is inevitable.

According to Peter Roberts, Managing Director of the Hydroscape Group, who is launching the Sweetwater Solution Generator, at this year's BTME, this is not necessarily the case.

The SSG, an 'add-on' to existing water resources - storage tanks, ponds, lakes or reservoirs - negates problems caused by alkalinity and related high pH levels, by the addition of soluble sulphur into water used for irrigation purposes, and subsequently absorbed into the soil.

The SSG achieves this by burning sulphur granules in the generator's oxidising chamber. As combustion takes place, sulphur dioxide gas is produced and mixed with water forming a diluted sulphurous acid.

"The process is completely safe. Unlike acid injection, which involves health and safety issues, the SSG is simple to operate. Once sulphur granules are fed into the hopper, the process takes place automatically," said Peter.

Pumped back into the holding source - storage tank, lakes or reservoir, the treated water is applied to

the turf and soil through the irrigation system during normal watering cycles. Depending on the type of system use, application can be made on a selective basis or right across the golf course.

Water treated in this manner offers many benefits: it destroys surface algae on ponds, lakes and reservoirs, reduces alkaline content - in the water - and when absorbed into the soil, breaks down calcium carbonates, salts and other growth impairing elements.

In addition to controlling pH levels in water and soil, the sulphurous acid also prevents the build up of algae in irrigation pump filters, valves and sprinklers heads which, if you have ever been unlucky enough to experience blocked filters and the like, you will know that clearing them can be frustrating, time consuming and expensive exercise.

Full season field tests, carried out on the golf course in the United States, have shown that water treated by an SSG not only controls soil pH at favorable levels, it helps to break down soil structured into porous aggregates.

By opening up the soil, improving water penetration, consumption through irrigation systems has been reduced by 15%. Furthermore, because treated water has improved ground condition to a degree where grasses use nutrients and micronutrients more effectively - and the fact that sulphur



provides a fourth major nutrient - the need to apply fertilisers was reduced by 33%.

Other benefits identified by the use of treated water produced by the SSG included the relief of top soil compaction and notable reduction in the need to use wetting agents.

Available in manual or automatic versions, the SSG - Sweetwater Solution Generator - is easy to install and can be added to existing irrigation system water sources simply and quickly.

For further information
Tel: 01425 476261

Articulated Rotary Mowers from Lastec

Lastec will be showing the world's only practical articulator rotary mowers at BTME 2002

The articulator technique offers a cost effective answer to a worldwide need for a fine finish to turf, cut from 25mm to 150mm over flat, undulating or even steeply banking terrain.

Lastec's market researches led to the articulator's development. Also seen as a solution to many practical lawn maintenance problems, it avoids the need to pick up or vacuum leaves by mulching them away. The system works in long or short, wet or dry grass.

The range includes front, rear mounted and self-propelled articulators with a width cut of from 1.80 to 3.35 metres. A patented belt drive allows decks to articulate independently, without messy power detracting from hydraulic deck drives. This permits a smaller, less expensive tractor. Self-propelled, zero turn models powered by 38hp Kubota diesel engines are available with 208cm or 244cm cutting width decks.

For further information
Tel: 01622 812103

Netlon pave the way with plastic paving

A recently introduced clip-together plastic paving system, designed for installation on top of existing grass surfaces, has been launched by Netlon Turf Systems. Netpave 25 provides a solution for pathways and access routes over existing grassed surfaces and for the creation of overspill car parks on turfed areas.



Fast and easy to lay, the 500 x 500 mm pavers require no substructure or excavation prior to installation and, at only 25 mm deep, virtually disappear into the grass within a two to three month period to provide an aesthetically pleasant but very durable surface. The rapid-fastening system reduces installation time to a minimum and the inherent flexibility of the design means that Netpave 25 can be installed on uneven and sloping ground. Although designed for permanent use, the Netpave can also be used in temporary situations.

At golf courses, Netpave 25 can be used on walkways between tees, as buggy access routes and for general pathways. Where overspill parking may be required for tournament visitors, it can be used to protect verges and other turfed areas. It joins a stable of Netlon turf protection products which, between them, provide the total solution to managing traffic on turf. All products will be on show at BTME.

For further information
Tel: 01254 262431

Powerful backpack blower from Kawasaki

With air velocity of up to 180 mph, the forced air-cooled 2-stroke engine in the Kawasaki's powerful KRB400-B backpack blower, ensures the job of dealing with the perennial problem of scattered leaves is done efficiently and reliably.

"This has been our most successful year so far with the blower. The fact that it has been a long autumn has made customers realise how much they need a product like the KRB400-B to help them," said Robert Rees, National Field Sales Manager, Kawasaki Commercial Products Division.

The powerful engine ensures that the Japanese manufacturer's blower has high air volume at the blower outlet, reaching up to a maximum 180 mph. A joystick has been added to the blower arm enabling the fully adjustable throttle lock control to be operated at the push of a button.

As with all of Kawasaki's power products, the KRB400-B has been designed with user comfort in mind. A large volume air cleaner and sound deadening material has been applied to the fan rotor to reduce noise levels.



For further information
Tel: 01285 654777

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



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

**Annual Conference,
Business Learning Centre,
Lauder College,
Dunfermline.**

On March 5, 2002 BIGGA Scottish Region will be once again present their Annual Conference at the Business Learning Centre, Lauder College, Dunfermline. In previous years we have had an interesting and varied group of speakers, this year is no exception. We are delighted that they have offered their services to us. A good representation from across the industry.

The speakers include Jimmy Kidd, Golf Courses & Estates Director, Gleneagles Hotel; Dr Ruth Mann, Department of Turfgrass Protection, STRI; from Elmwood College we have Dr Paul Millar; the 'Director of Golf from Meldrum House, John Caven; Phil Langdon, Projects Director, Wardle Consulting Engineers Ltd; Agronomist, Richard Millar, from Biotal Industrial Products Ltd, and finally a joint presentation from David Withers Textron and Brian Goudie Scottish Grass Machinery.

All of these speakers will present a talk that is both relevant and of interest to all in the greenkeeping industry.

The Conference has always been well supported, with first class facilities on offer and easy access from all parts of Scotland this is a first class venue and hopefully will attract greenkeepers, greens convenors and secretaries and indeed everyone associated with the golf industry to attend.

Application forms will be available in the early part of January 2002 and will be posted to all members in the Scottish Region.

Peter Boyd

East

First of all welcome to 2002 so a Happy New Year to you all. I hope this year is an improvement on the last one? Here's hoping. Well the Section held its annual dinner dance at the Kilspindie House Hotel in Aberlady on the December 1 and a great night was had by all. After having to cancel the event the year before at short notice it was good to get back to business and the atmosphere was superb. If you weren't there you missed a good night, because the 64 of us that were there did ... I think! So come on if you want a good night out and a weekend away join us this year. Details will be out in the next few months. PS. The Full Monty cabaret was good as well, and if anybody knows who they were, answers on a postcard please.

I attended the Patrons' Award last month to represent the Section along

with Jimmy Neilson and an enjoyable day it was. The East Section winners were Ian Aitchison, Duns GC, and Alan Campbell, Eyemouth GC. Well done to them and we look forward to seeing them at BTME at Harrogate, any of you making the annual pilgrimage at the end of this month.

Ian and Alan on your return could you please put pen to paper and give us a brief view into your Patrons' Award trip to BTME 2002 which will be in a future copy of Greenkeeper International.

Remember the Patrons' Awards 2002, it could be you so come on let's see you at all Section events this year.

I've had a few moans and groans about handicaps so this year as I said at the AGM last November, if you can get a handicap certificate from your club or the club you play at and you have got an official handicap your handicaps will be adjusted accordingly. It has to be an official handicap certificate not verbally or you will play off your present BIGGA handicap and this is a committee decision. Send them to me at Westwyn, West Linton Golf Club, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EH46 7HN or fax, 01968 661721 asap. The usual nos are: Home 01968 661313 Work/fax 01968 661721, Mobile 07719 580449 or you can e-mail me on chrisjcj26@aol.com. Come on let's hear from you.

Chris Yeaman

North

Well, fellow North members, this is my first attempt at the magazine report, so please forgive any errors.

I would like to start off by thanking Iain Macleod, from Tain Golf Club, for all his efforts in writing for the North Section in the magazine, and also for all his considerable efforts in helping the North Section develop in the way it has, by way of his committee work. I am sure all members appreciate the work Iain has done and wish him all the very best. I hope to see him at future outings as he still owes me a fiver for that tremendous score at Keith.

There are no new members to report this month, but no doubt this will pick in the coming months of 2002.

As Iain said in his last report I will name the committee members who were elected to represent the North at the last AGM.

They are as follows: Chairman, Stuart McBain, 01224 733347; Vice Chairman & Raffles, John Geddes, 01358 723034; Secretary, Dougal Duguid, 01224740329; Treasurer, Steve Sullivan, 07760 191208; Education, Dave Marnoch; Trophies & Prizes, Hugh Maclatchie, 01779 470173 Outings, Handicaps and Magazine report, Iain Gunn, 01997 420155 Outings, Handicaps & 200 Club, Robert Hardie, 01224 783201.

Please feel free to phone any of the named people at any time, if

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Please quote reference GKI/2

there is a point that you would like raised at committee or you have any ideas to further develop the section.

The Patrons' Award this year, where Robert Hardie & Kenny Kinnaird will be representing the Section, will be reported on in next month's report.

Ingliston has come and gone again for another year, and seemed to be busy when I visited on the Thursday, it is good to see an event which has been going for many years now still thriving. Anyone travelling on the Thursday would have experienced the terrible driving conditions, caused by the snow, and I hope everyone who made the journey to Ingliston, got home safely.

Well Harrogate is coming up again this month, and I hope to be visiting for the first time this year. I must be one of the few who have not actually been, and judging by some of the stories I have heard, it is an event not to be missed. I will give a report on the event in a later magazine.

As I write this report the winter weather is beginning to kick in, and the temperatures at night are dropping well below zero, and if last winter is anything to go by, then a lot of patience is going to be required to get through the winter. I hope the weather is kind to everyone this time round and the New Year brings a successful season to all our members.

Iain Gunn

Central Section

Well. That's another year come and gone, hopefully everyone has recovered from the festive period and are easing back into work, with a bit of luck 2002 will start a bit drier than 2001 ended. We can live in hope!

Congratulations go to the Section's Past Chairman, Archie Dunn, on his election as Scottish Chairman no doubt Archie will carry out the business of the Scottish Board in the same professional manner in which he conducted Section matters. Enjoy your term of office, Archie!

The Turkey Trot, scheduled for December 1 last year, proved to be a huge success ... for the turkeys that is, as no one returned a form to play in it, so the turkeys are still trotting away happily. Can we deduce from your reaction to this competition that no one is interested in golf in December? Don't say that we don't try! As a matter of interest where does the Turkey Trot competition originate from and how did it get its name? Answers on a postcard please!

The December winners in "Club 2000" were D. Sutherland and D. Scott, both winning £50 each. I hate to keep on about it (honestly!) but if you still have not bought your tickets for the next 12 draws you will get personal reminder in next month's magazine.

The first golf competition of this year will be the Spring Tournament at Kingsbarns in Fife, details have yet to be finalised, as this is sure to be a

very popular venue, if you intend to participate please return your entry forms ASAP!

Your committee are in the process of coming up with a revised format for the now famous "Inter - Club Tournament", so if you have any ideas how it should be run, please get in touch with any committee member (Keep them clean please!).

Would all holders of Section trophies please arrange to have them returned to me by the end of March (this year) in order that I can have the engraving brought up to date and have them valued for insurance purposes.

Things are a bit quiet on the news front at the moment, so if you have anything you think other members might be interested in, just drop me a line and I will try to include it in future Section news.

John Crawford.

West

Well, let me start this newsletter by wishing you all a happy new year. Where did the last one go?

Football news first. Congratulations are to be extended to Brian Hillan and his team from Drumpellier GC who took part in the Central Section's football tourney. Brian's team were narrowly beaten into second place but playing away from home this was a very respectable finish. On November 19 a seven-a-side match was organised between a team from our Section and the grounds

staff at Ibrox. The team comprised myself, A. Taylor, S. Taylor, G. Bruen, K. Collins, B. Hillen & L. Smith. Some good team work and slick passing movements resulted in the greenkeepers coming out on top winning by nine goals to one. Our thanks to A. Taylor of Rigby Taylor for organising the event. Isn't it strange that the winning team all come from the East end of the town!

On November 30 our annual dinner was held in Victoria's nightclub. The event was very well attended this year and everyone seemed to enjoy the night if my memory which was somewhat dulled on the evening serves me right. I have certainly not heard any rumours to the contrary, yet! Once again young Gary caught the eye of Billy Porter. He's such a flirt! Hopefully we can have even more greenkeepers attend next year.

On a more serious note our AGM was held in Lenzie GC on November 15. Once again the attendance was abysmal for a Section of our size. The committee will be looking into alternative types of venue to try and encourage more of you to attend in the future however we do still require a little effort from our members to make such meetings a success. On the night Kenny Hunter was the only new member to come onto committee as a trade representative and we the committee would like to welcome him on board and look forward to seeing him at future meetings. Our thanks must also be extended to the



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committee and members of Lenzie GC for the use of their facilities.

The committee would also like to congratulate Ronnie Bunting on winning a trip to the Golf Superintendents Show in Canada. I am sure BIGGA will be promoted in the best possible light by Ronnie as he has a great pride in everything the Association has achieved and is a great advocate of our CPD and further education programmes.

The committee would also like to wish John Scott Snr a long and enjoyable retirement. John has been a great supporter of our section and the Association for many years and we hope he will still come along to some of our section events to say hello and lend a hand if he so feels.

A couple of dates for your diary: The 22-24 January BTME Harrogate and March 5 Scottish Conference at Lauder College, Dunfermline.

Well that's all folks, again if you would like anything added to the column please do not hesitate to call on 01355266862.

Brian Bolland

Gleneagles Chapter

Here are the names, nationalities and a brief intro to the Second BIGGA Gleneagles Chapter, sponsored by Textron.

Ingmar Wolbert, Netherlands, worked on the t'Zelle Golf Course, Holland for six years; Koert Donkers, Netherlands, worked at the Prize

d'eau Tilbury Course Holland for two years; Agust Jenson, Iceland, Nine years as greenkeeper, five of which were at the Reykjavik Golf Club; Rosalia (Rosa) Garcia, Spain, worked the last two summers at the Atalaya Golf Course and the Almenara Golf Course; Pablo Morain, Spain, six months at the Almenara Golf Course; Thomas B. Corrigan and Fearghal Carolan, both from Southern Ireland, and both industrial year students studying HND Sports Turf and Golf Course Management at Writtle College; Jesse Kaan, Finland, eight years greenkeeping experience, five at Pictala Golf Club, Helsinki.

The Students are intending to take turns in keeping you up to date with their progress.

You can contact Fearghal Carolan e-mail fearghalcarolan@hotmail.com for any further information.

Keith Walton



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

Once again not much information coming in so I will waffle on as usual. As you have probably noticed in the magazine Steve Oultram Head Greenkeeper at Wilmslow GC won the Regional final of the Environment

competition, but unfortunately lost out on the grand final. Well done Steve, I am sure it will come your way soon.

Andrew Bennett has moved from Wilmslow GC to Styal GC as Head Greenkeeper. Knowing Andy I am sure he will cope well with the position, and we wish him well. The N/Wales Section is running two coaches to the BTME in January, and they have kindly offered to pick up anybody from the N/West Section en-route for a small fee. If you are interested contact Trevor Johnston on 0151 336 6675 or Mobile 07866 126723. Arrangements can also be made, if you are staying overnight to get a return coach the following day.

Can I remind you once again that one and two day seminars can be arranged in the Region, and these are regularly advertised in the education pages of the magazine. There has been suggestions from other Sections for Spring courses and these cover many subjects but if you feel the need for any courses please let me know as soon as possible. All education is subsidised by gold and silver key sponsors which helps to keep the costs down. Finally, congratulations to David Leach on receiving his certificate for Master Greenkeeper.

That's it for now, but any news or requests contact me on 0151 724 5412 or 0776 1583387. Happy New Year.

Bert Cross

Northern

The Seminar at Howley Hall GC was again well attended with 39 greenkeepers making an appearance. The speakers were Jim Croxton, PGA; Bob Taylor, STRI; Sam McLean Bernhard's and Martyn Jones, Myerscough College.

Many thanks to the speakers and the following sponsors who made it all possible; Amenity Technology; Bob Wild Machinery; Scotts UK. There will be another seminar once again at Howley Hall GC on Wednesday, February 27 which will once again be free and include food.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Annual Dinner Dance at Bradford GC, although I understand an excellent time was had by all.

The winter golf as just taken place at Headingley GC despite the horrendous weather as winter hit us in style. Many thanks to Head Greenkeeper, Andy Fowler, and his team for getting 12 holes open for us, when many courses were closed. The format was teams of four with the results as follows:-

1. Paul Wood, Clayton GC; Richard Harris, Elland GC; Mel Guy, Farmura; Ed Carter, Alpha Amenity, 49pts;
2. Ken Christie, Northcliffe GC; Alan Baxter, Bingley St. Ives; Bob Turner, Halifax GC; Mike Brear, Rigby Taylor, 48pts;
3. Tony Gerrard, Halifax GC; Joe Baxter, Bingley St. Ives; Robin Smith, Leeds City Council, 47pts

Longest Drive on the 18th Richard

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Experienc



The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition has been held in Harrogate, each year, since 1989 and is the biggest indoor show of its kind in Europe. More than 7,800 visitors were present at the Show in 2001 and this figure is set to increase in 2002, due to extended exhibition space in Hall B accommodating an even greater number of exhibitors, and the addition of the Golf Club Show running alongside BTME.



The Golf Club Show, will take place for the first time in 2002. Whilst BTME will continue as an exhibition with the whole range of products and services for the Golf Course on display, The Golf Club Show will aim to succeed as an exhibition wherein Secretaries, Managers and Club Owners will find that all their additional equipment, furnishing and service needs for their golf clubs can be fulfilled.

the most comprehensive Golf Club exhibition in Europe

Continue to Learn

Continue to Learn with BIGGA at Harrogate, in January 2002, when the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme runs alongside the extended BTME Exhibition. The formal conference is presented in a new format to allow delegates maximum flexibility to gain the most from their visit. The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition Seminars provide an opportunity to mix the Exhibition with a range of Seminars allowing all delegates the opportunity to Continue to Learn. New for 2002 will be the Golf Club Show Education and Training programme which is aimed primarily at Golf Club Owners, Golf Club Secretaries and Chairmen of Green. This programme incorporates the very successful Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century, run jointly with STRI, with a range of seminars. Both programmes are open to all delegates, although members of BIGGA receive preferential rates. The Key Note speaker is Roger Black and this Session is free to all delegates. Finally, the very successful Careers Clinic will run alongside BTME.

Harris, Elland GC. Nearest the Pin on 13th Dave Collins, Temple Newsome GC. Trade Prize (for the year) Mike Brear, Rigby Taylor.

Thanks to Graham Greenwood and Liam Galway, from Amenity Technology and Greenkeeping Supply respectively, for supplying the excellent prizes and ensuring everybody had a good day. Many thanks also to Andy Fowler and his team for the course and also to all the staff at Headingley GC for their hospitality and food.

That's all for now, if anybody as 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

North Wales

Welcome to new members Jonathan Gamble, Welshpool Golf Club and Gary Parker, Prenton Golf Club. A belated congratulations to Ethan Moses, Maesdu Golf Club, whose wife Krissy had a baby boy named, Eligh, on October 16, weighing in at 8lb 4oz.

Best wishes to Allen Lewis and everyone at Llanymynech Golf Club after the mindless vandalism that occurred there, it's your worst professional nightmare, all the years of care and attention wiped out by an idiot, I believe two greens have been rebuilt already. What a waste of valuable time.

The seminar given by Hardi at the college was attended by 26 delegates, we all learnt about LERAP and watched demonstrations a very good afternoon. Thanks go to the college for having us.

Our Christmas competition and AGM was held at Conwy Golf Club, 74 played and an excellent day was had. Our thanks go to the club for having us. The course was superb and was made for one of the most enjoyable rounds of golf I have had in years (I was still rubbish). Thanks to Dave and the team for the preparation and you said the greens were soft?

It was good to see Bert Cross playing from the North West Section as a guest, I think that we will see more of him in the future because he only went and holed-in-one on the 2nd and pushed up half the balls in the sweep. Nice one Bert.

Results 1. Andy Peel, 35pts; 2. Ian Buckley, 34pts; 3. Steve Roberts, 31pts Bill Lawson Shield went to Mark Brute, 32pts. Aggregate Cup for year went to Shaun Pritchard.

Guests:- 1. Berwyn Lewis, 37pts, 2. Peter Jones, 34pts, 3. Mike Brute, 30pts Trade Cup, Malcolm Mitchell, Osmans, 26pts. Nearest the Pin member, Tom Fowles, Guest - Bert Cross (Hole-in-one) Thanks go to the sponsor, ALS, Acorn Golf, John Osman, Sportsworld and Walkers.

Eight people didn't turn up and six hadn't paid, come on lads you can seriously mess up the day if you don't let the committee know, all entry

sheets must be accompanied with a cheque or postal order, no cash. No pay no play. It's hard enough to organise as it is without being let down, it's called etiquette.

We are always after venues to play so if any of you fancy holding one of our Golf Days, please contact your committee.

This will be my final column for the magazine. I am handing over the pen to Andy Cornes or Andy Acorn as we all know him, I feel this will be a far better arrangement as he gets to see most of us so can pick up information on his travels, you will all have his phone number as well so it shouldn't be hard to give him a ring. Here's to 2002 when the sun shines, it rains at night and the golfers never moan about anything, see I told you I needed a rest.

Dave Goodridge



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

Mid Anglia

As the new Chairman of the Mid-Anglia Section I would like to wish all members a Happy New Year and hope that your courses are coping with the vagaries of the British weather. January is a turning point of the year with the daylight getting a little bit longer each day and many green-

keepers looking forward to renewing old friendships and learning at BTME.

To take your minds off the winter your committee has arranged a series of events to continue your thirst for knowledge.

January 17 - Course visit to Queenwood Golf Club, Surrey.

Queenwood is a David Mclay Kidd designed course in a superb setting, only recently opened and managed by Ian McMillan. I'm sure those lucky enough to visit will find it a very special golf course. Numbers are limited to 25

Early in February, date to be advised - Soil science study. Venue: Ashridge Golf Club Max. 15 delegates. Cost: £30

February 19 & 20 - Computer training. Venue: John O'Gaunt golf club. Max. six delegates. Cost: £30

February 26 & 27 - Computer training. Venue: Berkhamsted Golf Club. Max. six delegates. Cost: £30

February March - Chainsaw course (Five day). Venue: Ashridge Golf Club. Only four places available. Cost: £250 (half price)

The above events have been heavily subsidised by Headquarters and I do hope you will give your support, all places can be reserved through me by telephone on 01442 842627 Fax 01442 843770 or E-mail jim.cassidy@ashridgegolfclub.ltd.uk

Remember, the more you learn the luckier you become.

Jim Cassidy

ARENAS | CELEBRITY SPEAKERS | PRODUCT DEMONSTRATIONS | COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES | SEMINARS | WORKSHOPS | CONFERENCES | MASTERCLASSES

National Education Conference

Monday 21 January and Tuesday 22 January, The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Causes and Prevention of Turfgrass Stresses
Dr James Beard, President and Chief Scientist, International Turfgrass Institute

Global Warming and the Golf Course
Keith Weatherhead, Cranfield University, John Bradwell, Turf Seed UK and Augustino Gaude, Turf Seed UK Ltd, Ruth Mann, Turfgrass and Plant Pathologist, STRI

Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features
Jim Moore, USGA Green Section; Brian Pierson, Golf Course Constructor; Donald Steel Group, Golf Course Designers

Preparation for Winter Play
Ed McCabe, Course Manager, Brokenhurst Manor GC; Arthur King, Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club; George Shiels, Consulting Agronomist

Workshops

Monday 21 January and Tuesday 22 January, The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Golf Course Design 1; Environmental Management; Emergency First Aid; Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century. All workshops run concurrently with Conference Sessions

BTME Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Spa Royal Hall, Harrogate International Centre



Keynote speaker: Roger Black M.B.E. represented Great Britain at the highest level in the world of athletics, both as an individual 400 metres runner and as a member of 4 x 400 metres relay team.

Seminar topics are as follows:

Bunker Renovation, Biological Disease Control, Higher Education in Sportsturf - MSc, 24 Staff, 18 Holes and a 6 Month Season, A Career in Greenkeeping, Gizmos, Gadgets and Inventions, Sulphur Burner Technology, Is It Right for You?, Preparing for the Ryder Cup in 2005, Designing the Future with Strategic Planning, Turfgrass Management, Training and Professionalism go Hand in Hand.

Golf Club Show Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Majestic Hotel

Programme includes: Health and Safety, Working Time Regulations, Minimum Pay, the Rules of Golf and Financial Aspects of Golf Course Management.

Two Exhibitions

Running the Golf Club Show alongside the well established BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition is an exciting new concept which will enable golf club industry personnel of all disciplines to research and meet their product and service needs under one roof at the Harrogate International Centre. As such, visitors will be well rewarded for attending an event which enjoys a unique atmosphere and continues to be eagerly anticipated by exhibitors, delegates and visitors alike.

Banquet

The weeks events are rounded off on Thursday 24 January by the BTME/Golf Club Show Banquet, which is open to delegates of both shows. Returning to the Majestic Hotel, the Banquet stars the comedy duo Brahms and Liszt supported by the Nightjars.

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East Midland

This year's AGM and golf tournament was held at Mapperley GC, on November 8. The day was extremely cold with sleet showers, which was a stark contrast to our previous visit there in 1989 when we suffered sunstroke. Unfortunately some members failed to arrive on the day, which resulted in letting their playing partners down, and some teams had to play with only two players. However after some great golf the eventual winners were, Jamie Bedford, Birstall; Andy McGreal, Lingdale, and Steve Coyne, Mapperley, with a nett score of 65.2. was Kevin Kinzer, E.T.Breakwells; Pete Fell, Aitkens, & Chris Weir, Scraftoft, Nett 68. 3. Steve Levers, Ramsdale Park; Richard Barker, & Geoff Little, Rigby Taylor.

Moving on to the serious business of the day. The AGM ran very smoothly, lasting only 23 minutes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our retiring Chairman, Gavin Robson, for all his valuable work while in office, and welcome our new Chairman, Adi Porter. The rest of the committee is as follows Vice-Chairman, Ian Needham; Secretary, Antony Bindley; Treasurer, Richard Barker. Seven members were proposed for the remaining places on the committee, and the following were duly elected. Gavin Robson. Derek McJannet, Jamie Bedford, David James, Jeff Dickinson & Andy McGreal. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Chris Weir who as now retired from the committee for all his hard work.

I would like to thank Mapperley GC for courtesy of their fine course which was presented in pristine condition by John Goddard and his staff. Also thanks should go to the Stewardship for an excellent meal. Finally I would like to thank are very generous sponsors Vitax Ltd. for the great prizes which were awarded to the winners. Also could I please remind all members, if you wish to attend any section event please return your entry slip and payment, before the closing date.

Last but not least I would like to wish on behalf of the Section a very happy retirement to John Goddard of Mapperley GC and it is hoped that we will see him as a regular at Section events.

This year's fixture list is almost complete, Go-kart evening, The Wymeswold Id Est. 20-2-02; Spring Tournament, The Leicestershire GC.; 2-5-02; Autumn Tournament

17-9-02 at Horsley Lodge; AGM Tournament, Sherwood Forest GC 14-11-02. Christmas Tournament, 10-12-02 at Greetham Valley GC Please try to support your Section as often as possible by attending these days.

Antony Bindley

Midland

Hello again and a very Happy New Year to all members. It's that time of year once more where we can start the countdown to Spring, and BTME is just around the corner.

As ever this year's event promises to be as prosperous as ever with the new format for the trade show in place, and the continued educational opportunities available. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Other news from the Region sees our President, Alan Kite, stepping down. As I am sure you are aware, Alan has served the Midland Section for some 35 years at Committee level, a contribution for which we are all extremely grateful - thank you Alan.

A couple of dates to pen in your diaries are the Spring and Summer Tournaments to be held at Gay Hill on 22nd May and Bloxwich GC on 11th July respectively. See you there.

Phil Gates



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Kent

Welcome to another year and yes I'm still writing this column. I hope you all had a great Christmas and a great New Year so far. I'm please to say I have actually got a response from my months of pleading with you for some feed back. One in particular grabbed my attention from Nick Knight down at Chestfield GC who sent a rather interesting picture of a youngish lady on their 7th tee. If you would like to see the picture I will e-mail to anyone who is feel-

ing rather desperate or lonely. Still it must keep the rabbit damage to a minimum.

No reports of any Christmas booze ups yet but I hope to report on any interesting items you might like to send me next month along with the news from the Turkey Trot at Darenth Valley and the AGM.

I did get some feed back from a couple of guys on why they were not coming to the golf days. It seems from their point of views anyway that it was the Head Greenkeeper stopping them from going and getting no good reason for their exclusion, but the Head Greenkeeper was going anyway without his staff. There might be more to these stories than I have heard but I hope this year more people will be able to attend our meetings and golf days or get given a reason why they can't support our Section.

I'm sorry for any delay in passing on any news but I do have to send articles in before the 5th of every month so this article is being writing on the 3rd December for the January issue. So please bear with me and I will get all the news to you as soon as possible. Once you start sending me loads of it that is.

I did hear a very disturbing piece of news at the end of November that a certain Head Greenkeeper has been writing to golf clubs offering his services as a Head Greenkeeper when the golf clubs concerned already have and are quite happy with their Head Greenkeepers. I think this is very unprofessional and down right out of order. So if the culprit would like to have his say on the matter or indeed make an apology to anyone affected by his actions then feel free to drop me a line and I will print it next month.

So if you have any news, good or bad, that you would like to share with the rest of the county let me know on the usual lines of communication-e-mail jbatkhgolf@aol.com or my office number on 01732 875020.

Once again I hope and look forward to a great year for everyone in the Kent Section and hope for a better response to my pleas for news and your views. I can't rely on the reps for my news and gossip, now can I?

Jason Bean

London

Our Annual Turkey Trot was held on Wednesday, November 21 - at Hampstead Golf Club. Mercifully we enjoyed clement weather on the day and also an excellent Golf Course and after match hospitality. Our thanks go to the Club for looking after us so well and especially Course Manager, Alan Lewis, for his presentation of the course and his help in getting the event off the ground. For next season if there are any Course Managers out there who are prepared to put their club forward to host an event please let me know as soon as possible.

The competition was won on the day by Mark Stidwell, from Rigby Taylor, with 37 points. The Christmas Turkey, once again generously supplied by Rigby Taylor, was won by the highest scoring greenkeeper on the day, this being James "the raffle" Lomas, from Mill Hill Golf Club, with 36 points. James has been a consistent performer all season on the London Section circuit, so he'll be the man to beat next year. No pressure James!

Our AGM followed the pleasantries and after many years of unstinting service Ian Semple has decided to step down as Secretary of the London Section. I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say thanks for all your hard work over the past few years. Certainly our Section would never have moved forward without you. Stepping into the chasm left by Ian is Paul Clark, from Mill Hill Golf Club. Our thanks to Paul for making himself available for what can sometimes be a thankless task, though I'm sure we'll all give him our full support in the coming year. Craig Handyside was re-elected as Treasurer with Tony Dunstan, Ian Semple and myself making up the rest and better looking side of the committee.

Keep an eye out for confirmation of venues for next season. We already have a provisional date of August 21 at Porter's Park Golf Club for our Autumn Meeting.

Slow off the mark as I am this report will probably not make it into the December issue, but if it does then can I wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If it doesn't then I hope you had a merry one and a happy one!

Robert Phillips

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Surrey

On November 30 Surrey Section held its annual Turkey Trot and AGM at Malden Golf Club. Alec Bradshaw and his greenkeepers must have really worked hard this year, for to get their course in a condition able to take the amount of rain we have received over the past weeks and still be able to present Malden in such a playable way they deserve all our heartfelt congratulations. We also thank Malden Golf Club for the courtesy of their course and the catering staff for an excellent Christmas feast.

The Stableford competition ended with the following results:

1. Billy McMillan, sponsored by Nike and Mannings Heath Spornan Repairers, 38pts; 2. James Partridge, Footjoy and Sunningdale Knitting Circle, 37pts; 3. Ted Holland, Boots and Ockley Nude Ornithologists, 37pts; 4. Peter Craig, Stringfellows and Sunningdale Mormons, 36pts. Guest Prize. Jon Hill, Birch Grove Members and Artisans, Gary and Chris.

Front 9 Andy Gatland, River Mole Angling and Line Dancing Society, Back 9 Darren Lee, Sunningdale All Male Lap Dancers and his Auntie Mable.

Nearest Pin Peter Craig, See above. Longest Drive Dave Goddard, No reported information available.

The AGM was conducted in a concise and correct manner and minutes will be available soon. David Murdoch was elected to replace John Mathis as Handicap Secretary.

Rob George, from Silvermere Golf Club, and his wife Jill have recently celebrated the birth of their daughter Libby and we all wish them a happy and prosperous future.

Jack Street, after 34 years at Tyrells Wood Golf Club, is retiring shortly and is to be presented with a 12' sailing dingy by the club. I am also informed that Jack is taking driving lessons and this I assume will enable him to get the aforementioned boat to the water. The camper van he intends to buy, on passing his test, will be the haven he will return to after the sun sets over the yardarm.

I hope you all have had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Brian Willmott



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

Devon and Cornwall

A happy new year to you all, I hope you have had an enjoyable festive season.

Congratulations to Mark Evans who has become the Captain of Devon County Golf Union.

The Section's first meeting of the new year will be held at Perranporth Golf Club on Wednesday, January 16, the day will once again be sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds and start with a Singles Stableford golf competition with start times from 8.30am. For non golfers the course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. After lunch our educational talk will be presented by Dave Brewster on golf course construction.

The Devon Garden Machinery-sponsored November meeting was held at Tavistock Golf Club on Wednesday, November 7. This meeting was also the Section's AGM.

The day started with Rob Guntrip, of DGM, starting our golfing members for the Toro Trophy, which was played in a foursome format. After an excellent lunch Rob Guntrip from Devon Garden Machinery presented the prizes on behalf of Toro and DGM to treated our non-golfing members to an excellent tour of the course.

1. Alan Gawman & Simon Clark, St Mellion, 37pts; 2. Tony Gooch, Torrington, & D. Hunt, 34pts; 3. Terry Clark & Richard Daly, Crediton, 33pts.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsor, Devon Garden Machinery, for their support, and to Tavistock Golf Club for allowing the Section use of their excellent facilities and to all of Tavistock GC staff for making the Section so welcome. Special thanks must go Shaun Getson and his crew who had the course in excellent condition.

The Section's AGM followed the golf presentation and was opened by the Chairman Cary Rawlings

The Administrator started his report with the balance sheet for the year ending September 30, 2001.

The balance for the year end was £1642.44 showing a profit of £179.42 compared with last year. As with last year this does not included the sum of £289 outstanding to be paid on the fixture cards, so in real terms the Section made a loss of around £110 for the year.

This amount is the identical amount paid out extra this year to cover the travelling costs of our Chairman to attend the Aldwark Manor meeting. The Section committee have decided only to send a representative if all the expenses are covered by Head Office in future.

Once again the Section remains indebted to all the trade companies who have sponsored our section meetings over the last year.

The Administrator went on to thank all the companies who have generously sponsored our Section meetings namely: Aventis, Avoncrop, Barenbrug, Devon Garden Machinery, PJ Flegg, Roffeys and Supaturf.

The Administrator thanked Rigby Taylor for their sponsorship of the fixture cards over the last two years and was please to announce that Rigby Taylor would be sponsoring the new summer meeting at Trethorne GC.

The Administrator continued by thanking Phoenix Irrigation for kindly taking over the sponsorship of the fixture cards for the next two years.

The Administrator informed members that over the last ten months the Region had proposed that each Section within the Region should join the patronage scheme they wished to set up. This would have meant that all the present sponsorship deals would have to end. After talks with our current sponsors your Section committee have decided not to join the Regional patronage scheme and continue as present. This can only continue with the active support the Section's members.

On closing the Administrator thanked all the active members of the Section for their support over the last year, he also thanked the Committee for all their efforts over the year, especially to Shaun Getson for organising the educational talks and Bill

Mitchell and the Chairman, Cary Rawlings, for their help during meetings.

The Chairman started his report on a sad note as he informed members present that Jack Moore who was formally Head Greenkeeper at Teignmouth GC had passed away. The Chairman moved on to the difficult year many clubs had faced with Foot & Mouth and record rain levels which as usual we all have just got to grin and bare it. Also the year saw the cancellation of Westurf.

On a brighter note the Chairman congratulated Jeff Mills on reaching the English final of the Toro Award and for also being selected to represent the Association on the USA trip sponsored by Bernhard & Co.

The Chairman thanked Richard Wisdom for all his time and effort put into representing the Section on the regional board for the last four years, Richard has decided to step down this year. The Chairman thanked Shaun Getson on the excellent way he had to cancel the February meeting at short notice due to Foot & Mouth, also for his efforts in finding speakers for our meetings.

The Chairman continued by thanking all the trade for their help and support of the Section and he welcomed the new summer meeting, which he feels, will become a good annual fixture and with the proposal of a new match play competition he felt that there is something for all members to participate in.

On closing the Chairman thanked Richard Whyman for his continued hard work in administrating the Section.

Terry Farkins open his report regional report by thanking Richard Wisdom for his excellent contribution over the last four years as our representative on the regional board.

The Region started the year with a change in Chairman as Robin Greaves stood down due to a change in his career. He was replaced with Chris Sealey from the South West Section. He reported on the difficult year the Region has had financially due to the cancellation of Westurf show because of Foot & Mouth. Westurf could be a thing of the past with the Region looking at other events to raise money to fund the

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Region. During the Foot & Mouth Outbreak the Region put on a two day Health & Safety Course at Bude. This was to provide greenkeepers whose courses were closed to meet up with other members. The National Chairman, Clive Osgood, attended the course.

Terry informed members that from February 1, 2002 the new two-tiered membership scheme would come into effect, this will not affect any current member but any new member will be put into one of two categories. Terry also informed members that Bill Pile has been nominated for life membership, which will be approved at the AGM.

On closing Terry outlined the main aims of the Association is to educate its members and hoped all present would attend the regional seminar and BTME.

Election of officers: C. Rawlings, Chairman; S. Getson, Vice Chairman, R. Wisdom; J. Mills, Regional Board, B. Mitchell, R. Shapland, T. Farkins, Regional Board; R. Whyman, Section Administrator; J. Palfrey, President; C. Ralph, Trade, D. Hunt.

Richard Whyman.

South Coast

As we start a new year only time will tell what the elements will challenge us with this year. Last year will be a year many will wish to forget as it severely tested our skills and patience as greenkeepers. To start with we had to endure record rainfalls followed by long dry spells that then lead to an unusually long warm autumn with its associated disease problems. Who'd be a greenekeeper? Lets hope for an easier year then.

Firstly we have several results to catch up with.

June saw our annual match against the Secretaries take place at Upaven Golf Club kindly sponsored by Course Care. The course was beautifully prepared for the matches, which were keenly contested. After some excellent golf we managed to edge out the secretaries beating them 3-2. Many thanks to Upaven GC for making us all so welcome; to Bob Burkin and his team for all their hard work in preparing the course and a huge thanks for Course Care for their support. Next year's match will be played at Romsey

Golf Club.

August saw our annual match against the South West take place at Andover Golf Club, sponsored by T.H. White and Weedfree. Again the course was beautifully prepared by Chris Sturgess and his team. There was some excellent golf played on the day and we managed to win 3-2. Our thanks go to Andover GC for their excellent hospitality; to Chris and his team for all their hard work in preparing the course and of course to T.H. White and Weedfree for their valued support. Petersfield Golf Club was the venue for our Autumn tournament in October sponsored by Gem. It was a glorious day and a joy to play the course, which had been prepared so well for us. Paula Humpheries was present to start us and was treated to a variety of opening tee shots. The overall winners were:

1. Phil Wentworth, The Army Golf Club, 39 points (on count back);
2. Alan Magee Parkstone Golf Club, 39 points;
3. Tony Gadd, Barton-on-Sea Golf Club, 38 points

Once again many thanks to Phillip Bennett and his team for their hard work in preparing the course for us, to Petersfield for their excellent hospitality and to Gem who produced an excellent prize table.

December saw our Turkey Trot played at Barton-on-Sea, sponsored by New Forest Farm Machinery and Sheerwater. They say the sun shines on the righteous, and how right they were on this day. The weather was glorious and we were able to enjoy the spectacular views across to the needles and beyond. Bees were buzzing around the course and there was not a breath of wind. The course as ever was in superb condition and was a credit to Tony Gadd and his team. Under such good conditions it was no surprise that the standard of golf was excellent and the scoring reflected this.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the longest drive, which was won by Matt Smith. I recall standing on the tee and being told this was the longest drive hole only to reach for my binoculars to see where his ball had finished. At 320 yards it truly was a great golf shot. Let's hope he made birdie! Following an excellent meal we held our Section AGM which ran

smoothly. I will report about that next month. Many thanks to Barton-on-Sea for their superb hospitality, to Tony Gadd and his team for their hard work in preparing the course and to our valuable sponsorship from New Forest Farm Machinery and Sheerwater. Winners on the day were

- Div 1. Phil Mason 41pts; Div 2. Chris Bitton 40 pts; Div 3. Paul Cooper 40 pts

The South Coast Seminar, sponsored by Banks Amenity Products, will be held at Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club on Wednesday, February 13. Our excellent line up of speakers is yet to be confirmed but will include Dave Roberts, Head Groundsman from Southampton Football Club. Adrian Archer will also talk about the continuing work that enabled Broadstone Golf Club to win this year's environment competition. Full details will be in next month's issue and will also be posted to you all. To those of you venturing to Harrogate I look forward to seeing you at what I'm sure will be a great week.

Alex McCombie

South West

This year's AGM was held at Cumberwell Park GC. After a very good day's golf which was played on an outstanding course. Many thanks must go to Marc Haring and his team for preparing the course and the clubhouse staff for their hospitality and fantastic meal.

There was no change in the committee apart from Dave Bougen standing down as Section reporter. Until we can persuade someone else to do it I will carry on doing the reports.

As some of you know I am no longer working at Weston GC I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the past four and a half years I have been in this Section. I will still continue as Secretary for the foreseeable future and look forward to seeing most of you at our events. The next one by the way is at Cotswald Hills GC on December 12 so I will see you there. If I don't see you there have a good Christmas and I will be in touch in the New Year

Kevin James

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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 100 words.

OFFICE USE ONLY
JSW

Name

Club/Company

Address

Tel: Fax:

Email:

Send your completed order form to: Jennifer Whichello, Cheryl Broomhead or Meredith Foster, 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



WORLD OF GOLF

World of Golf operate the UK's most successful Golf Centres.
We are looking to recruit to the following position
for our busy Sidcup centre in Kent

GREENKEEPER

An excellent career development opportunity for a self motivated greenkeeper wishing to put into practice all greenkeeping skills on our range, fairways, course and practice areas. Supervising a small team of grounds staff this position is a natural stepping stone to a head greenkeeper role.

The ideal candidate will be qualified to a minimum of NVQ Level 2, with full clean driving license, and relevant experience in supervision, use and maintenance of modern machinery, turf, drainage/irrigation and USGA spec greens. You will also hold spraying certificates PA1, 2 and 6. The successful applicant will work a 40 hour week on a 5 days in any 7 rota.

In return we offer a competitive remuneration and benefits package.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

Liz Williams, World of Golf, Beverley Way, Mew Malden, KT3 4PH,
or by email to: lizwilliams@ashtour.freeserve.co.uk



Tehidy Park Golf Club

(founded 1922)

Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 0HH Tel: 01209 842208

This prestigious Cornish Golf Club Invites applications for the post of

Head Greenkeeper

We would expect the successful candidate to

- ✓ Possess a minimum qualification of NVQ Level 3
- ✓ Have experience in all aspects of course management
- ✓ Have a practical knowledge of modern machinery
- ✓ Have experience of a parkland golf course
- ✓ Have the ability to lead, organise and motivate staff

Salary and optional Pension Scheme negotiable.
Assistance with accommodation if required.

Completed application forms and full CV should be received as soon as possible but not later than: Friday 1st February 2002

Further details and application form available from Mr Ray Parker, The Secretary /Manager at the address shown above.

ELSHAM GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of

Head Greenkeeper

Founded in 1900, a well established private members club with 600+ members. This 6402 yards, par 71 parkland course has an excellent reputation and is one of Lincolnshire's premier courses.

Applicants should be technically qualified in all aspects of greenkeeping and have the necessary Management skills to train, motivate and direct staff.

A proven ability to prepare and monitor budgets, inventories and work schedules is required, together with a sound knowledge of Health & Safety regulations.

Remuneration package negotiable.

Accommodation may be available.

Applications in writing enclosing full C.V. to

The Manager, Elsham Golf Club,
Barton Road, Elsham, Brigg, N Lincolnshire, DN20 0LS

www.elshamgolfclub.co.uk

TYRRELLS WOOD GOLF CLUB LTD

REQUIRES A

QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

Requires a greenkeeper, to work on this splendid parkland course. Must be educated to NVQ 2 and hold a Spray Certificates PA2-PA6.

Good Conditions of work and pay for the right person.

Apply in writing with C.V. to:

Mr A E Watson, Course Manager, Tyrrells Wood Golf Club, The Drive, Tyrrells Wood, Leatherhead, Surrey. KT22 8QP

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Apply in writing to:

Graham Mulcock, P.A. Turney Limited, Middleton Stoney, Bicester, Oxon, OX25 4AB



CARMARTHEN GOLF CLUB

A MOOR/PARKLAND COURSE

Requires a

SUPERVISOR GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will possess the relevant experience and qualifications necessary for the position as well as a positive approach and the ability to motivate staff.

Salary negotiable and commensurate with the position

Full CV including current salary and hand written letter of application in the first instance to:

The Secretary/Manager Carmarthen Golf Club, Blaenycloed Road, Carmarthen, West Wales SA33 6EH

RETHMAR GOLF LINKS

requires an

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Rethmar golf Links require a Deputy Head Greenkeeper for an Arnold Palmer Designed Golf Course in Hannover, Germany. Applicants should have appropriate qualifications. Enthusiasm, motivation, communication skills essential.

Please apply by writing or faxing CV to:-

Peter Casbolt, Course Manager, Rethmar Golf Links, Seufzerallee 10, 31319 Sehnde Hannover, Germany. Telephone No: 0049 5138702606/ 0049 1732146234. Fax No: 0049 5138613840

HAWKHURST GOLF CLUB

9 HOLE PARKLAND COURSE

Require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

To commence as soon as possible.

Applications are invited from persons of proven ability with the appropriate qualifications and experience, plus management and supervisory skills to organise the work programmes, and maintain Health and Safety & COSHH standards.

Written applications with full CV and current salary by 31 January 2002 to:

The General Manager, Hawhurst Golf Club Ltd, High Street, Hawhurst, Kent TN18 4JS

TACIT

NATIONAL AUTHORITY OF GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT

Van Sales/Area Manager

Tacit the largest and most innovative manufacturer of Golf Course Equipment in the UK, are seeking a turf care professional to expand their van sales team in North of England. Applications are invited from candidates with good experience in an amenity sales role and be willing to learn about new products and technical ideas. Tacit has a range of exclusive products, which offer real benefits to its customers and are fun to sell. For the right professional, we can offer an excellent remuneration, together with the opportunity to develop your career in a friendly, expanding and forward thinking company. Please write enclosing C.V. to:

Tim Webb, Tacit, 57 Moat Farm Drive, Hillmorton, Rugby CV21 4HQ

TRAIGH GOLF COURSE

GREENKEEPER

Greenkeeper required to take sole charge of Traigh Golf Course, Arisaig. Nine hole seaside course, recently improved and rebuilt in a beautiful part of the West Highlands.

The course is described on <http://www.traighgolf.co.uk>

Candidates should be thoroughly trained and experienced, with good mechanical knowledge, also general handyman abilities.

Please apply in writing to:

J Shaw-Stewart, Traigh, Arisaig, Invernesshire PH39 4NT



Knole Park Golf Club

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will possess an HNC level of qualification and be able to demonstrate an excellent level of greenkeeping. He will be familiar with modern practices and technologies and have wide experience of machinery and irrigation systems. He will need to demonstrate an ability to lead, organise and motivate staff in working to agreed budgets.

Remuneration package and conditions of service by negotiation depending upon qualifications and experience.

Applications in writing by 1st February 2002, together with full CV to:

The Secretary, Knole Park Golf Club, Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0HJ
secretary@knolepark.fsnet.co.uk

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**Quality trainee greenkeepers for work/
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Must be 19-28 years old, have at least one year of formal Turfgrass education or NVQ level 2 and be able to spend one Year in the USA.

Help with visas, travel plans and insurance.

Optional turf classes available.

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E-mail: mokeeffe@pop.service.ohio-state.edu

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stand at
BTME 2002

STOCKPORT GOLF CLUB

Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We require an assistant greenkeeper to join our existing team on this 18 hole Parkland Course. The successful applicant will be hard working, enthusiastic and expected to carry out a variety of Greenkeeping tasks.

Applicants should be qualified to minimum NVQ 2 with spraying certificates PA1, 6.

Salary negotiable according to experience.

Applicants in writing with C.V. to:

Warren Bevan, Course Manager, Stockport Golf Club,
Offerton Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 5HL

ROMFORD GOLF CLUB

Has a vacancy for an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We currently have a vacancy for a greenkeeper with a minimum of NVQ Level 2 qualifications to join our existing team on our established 18 hole parkland course.

Salary and conditions negotiable.

Please apply in writing to:-

The Secretary/Manager, Romford Golf Club,
Heath Drive, Gidea Park, RM2 5QB.

MANCHESTER GOLF CLUB

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for the position of Deputy Head Greenkeeper at this prestigious moorland course.

The Suitable applicant must have at least 5 years relevant experience and have good man management skills.

Qualifications to NVQ level 3 and spraying certificates PA1, PA2 and PA6 are essential.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

The Course Manager, Manchester Golf Club, Hopwood Cottage,
Rochdale Road, Middleton, Manchester, N24 2QP

WESTON SUPER MARE GOLF CLUB

Invite applications for the following positions

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant must possess the appropriate qualifications and have experience in all aspects of Golf Course Management, together with the necessary skills to lead and motivate a small team.

The position requires an enthusiastic, conscientious and self motivated Professional, who will be responsible for the maintenance and continued improvement of this Links Course.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Re-location expenses, if required.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have a minimum of NVQ2 and PA1 and PA2 spraying certificates. The successful candidate must be hard working and capable of working within a small team.

Salary negotiable. No Accommodation.

All applications in writing together with full C.V. by January 30, 2002 to:

The Secretary, Weston Super Mare Golf Club,
Uphill Road North, Weston Super Mare,
North Somerset, BS23 4NQ

Ernest Doe, a large multi franchised agricultural, grass machinery and construction dealership covering East Anglia and the South East, have the following vacancies at their Esher Branch.

Experienced professional grass machinery technician
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Apprentice grass machinery technician

The professional grass machinery and domestic mower technicians will need to have proven records of several years experience working with professional or domestic grass machinery. Successful applicants will have the ability to work on a wide range of turf care or domestic machinery and be able to work alone and as part of a team.

A young person who is interested in a career working with professional turf care equipment is also being sought. The selected trainee will be given full work based training and will be expected to attend college to study for relevant NVQ certification.

Please apply in writing with full C.V. to:

Mr Phil Bush, Branch Manager,
Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd,
Portsmouth Road,
Esher, Surrey
KT10 9AD



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Feature listing from January 2000

- January 2000;** Greens Construction; Awkward Jobs; Sandy McDivot; Agronomy; Toro Award review
- February 2000;** BTME2000 review; Committed to Green interview; Rookery Park GC; Engines; Chairman's profile; Environmental Management
- March 2000;** Cleobury Mortimer GC; Course Furniture; R&A Conference Report; Cutting heights; Avoncrop profile; Valderrama report; Westurf preview
- April 2000;** Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC; Utility Vehicles; Irrigation; Seed breeding; Gem Professional profile.
- May 2000;** Ross-on-Wyfe 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; Aventus profile; Course Conditioning
- August 2000;** Open Championship review; Water Features; Saltex preview; Charcoal; Malone GC; Royal County Down; Grand Tour Scholarship
- September 2000;** Blowers and Sweepers; Berkshire College Academy; National Championship roundup; Gordon McKillop interview; Winter health checks
- October 2000;** Toro Awards Preview; Ronald Fream; Irrigation; Saltex Review; Pest Control; Woburn GC
- November 2000;** Grass Cutting Machinery; Clandeboye GC; Drainage; National Championship review; Leatherjacket management
- December 2000;** Toro Awards; Making the most of your Dealer; Budget Boosters; BTME2001 preview; BIGGA/Bernhards CGSA delegation preview
- January 2001;** Communication; Tyres; Turf diseases; Kingsbarns Golf Links; Environment Competition Winner - Dyke GC; Talking Heads - Pest Control
- February 2001;** BTME2001 review; Winter Mowing; Irrigation; Broadstone GC; Hedges; Security
- March 2001;** York GC; Greens Maintenance; Meland GC, Norway; Greens Mowers; BIGGA Essay Winner; Grass Science profile
- April 2001;** Lighting 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; PainBird 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; Chafar 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



A fantastic year!



I just can't believe that this is my last column. The past year has gone incredibly quickly that it seems like only yesterday that Elliott Small helped me into the Red Blazer at the AGM, during BTME 2001.

One of the reasons it has gone quickly is that I've packed so much into the 12 months and this last month has been no exception.

I visited Dublin for the GCSAI Exhibition where I met Joe Bedford and Terence O'Shea and was treated to some good old Irish hospitality. The Irish qualified for the World Cup while we were there so everyone was in particularly good cheer.

From there I was off to Gleneagles as a guest at the Textron Turfcare Conference. I also chaired one of the sessions. It was my first visit to Gleneagles and it was a real privilege to be there even for such a short time. The scenery is breathtaking although I didn't get a chance to see the golf courses.

The whole event was superbly organised by Jimmy Kidd and his team, and he was right when he said that there were some legends on the platform during the three days.

The session I chaired included Paul R. Latshaw, a retired superintendent, who is now a consultant; Bill Byrnes, a respected advisor and George Shiels, who we all know.

Elliott also chaired a session and like me enjoyed a delightful couple of days. I really had an education-filled month

as from Gleneagles I headed to Cannington College for the South West and South Wales Seminar. Among the speakers were Jim McKenzie, who stepped in at the last minute, who talked about Celtic Manor's evolution and future plans including the Ryder Cup in 2010; Steven Bernhard, Managing Director of Bernhard and Co, and Richard Whyman, who gave his first Power Point presentation, and did so extremely well, on the Bernhard's Scholarship to Vancouver last year. There

was also a question time with the speakers plus, Gordon Child, Neil Thomas and myself.

From there it was to Mill Hill GC - an interesting place to find - and the well attended South East Seminar which was organised by Tony Dunstan, Secretary of the London Section. The theme was Information Technology and looked at Microsoft Programmes, Satellite Mapping, and On-Course Software. The day went very quickly which is always a good sign.

After that it was down to Broadstone GC - I told you it was a busy month - for the presentation of the BIGGA Environment Competition prizes. I went on the course walk after lunch and was extremely impressed by the work of Adrian Archer and his team, particularly on heather renovation and tree clearance.

I'd like to thank the R&A for their continued support of this prestigious event, and the STRI, through Bob Taylor and Lee Penrose, and Dr Keith Duff, of English Nature, for their expert judging.

As I write I'm just about to leave for Longhirst Hall, Morpeth and another seminar.

One event I was unable to attend last month was the FEGGA Conference in France and Vice Chairman, Richard Barker, went in my place. Among the issues discussed were pesticide usage, education and greenkeeping in Finland.

On the magazine front I was pleased

to see so much response to Duncan McGilvray's article from a few months back. It seems to have struck a cord and prompted people to write in. Long may that continue.

As it is my last column I'd like to take this opportunity to say a few thank yous.

During my travels I've met so many people who give up so much valuable time to the Association as Section Secretaries or Committee members. Without them the Association would be a much less valuable body and they are much appreciated. I'd like to thank all the BIGGA HOUSE staff and the Regional Administrators for the hard work that they put in on our behalf and for all the support they have been to me over the last 12 months.

I'd also like to thank the Board of Management for being so supportive over the same period.

Also Walton Heath Golf Club, the Captain, the Board and all the members, have been unerringly supportive of me over the past year, while my Deputy, Mick Haynes, and the team have done such a superb job and received so many compliments on the state of the courses I wonder if my presence is really necessary!

Finally to my family and particularly Sue, who has kept me supplied with white shirts, and catered for my many quick turnarounds. She, like me, is looking forward to getting back to a more normal existence.

I'd like to wish Richard well for next year. The Association keeps moving forward and in the 35 years I've been greenkeeping I've seen amazing strides, particularly in the last 10 years.

This last year has been difficult with flooding and Foot & Mouth but when you consider events in other parts of the world greenkeeping isn't so bad.

Clive Osgood

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