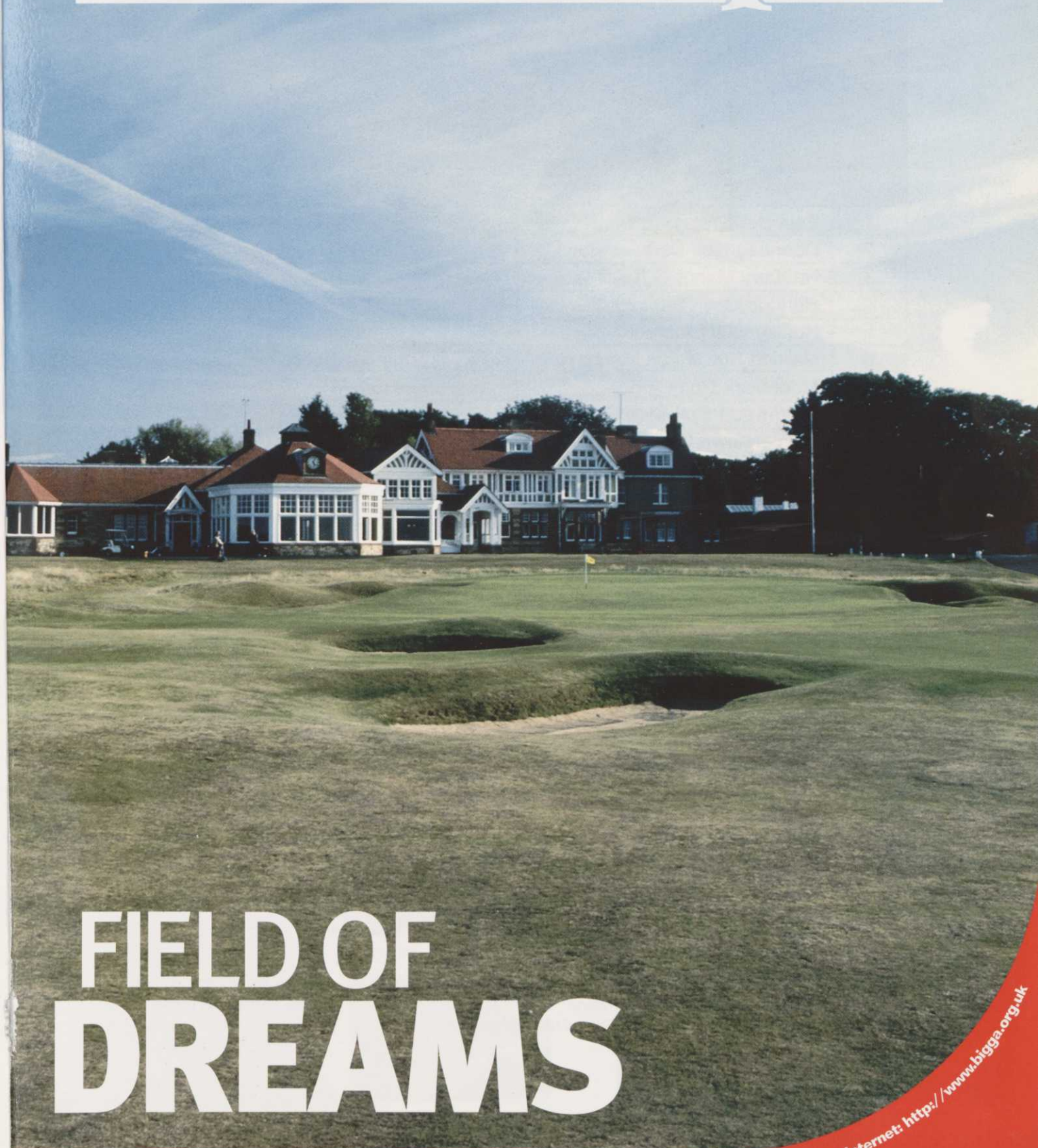




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A guide to who's who at BIGGA

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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DETAILS ON PAGE 40



The Muirfield Champion? Let me guess!

We are halfway through the "Major" season and, what do you know, Tiger Woods is halfway to the Grand Slam. It used to be considered all but an impossibility. The original Grand Slam, as completed by Bobby Jones, in 1930, comprised the US Amateur, US Open, British Amateur and Open Championship, but only Ben Hogan had previously got close to the modern day slam of Masters, US Open, The Open Championship and USPGA Championship winning three and, in those days, not being able to get back to the States in time to play in the USPGA. Tiger has made the impossible, seem possible, even probable.

He became the only man to hold all four at the same time when he won the 2000 US Open, Open Championship and USPGA then won the Masters in 2001 but some, not me I hasten to add, considered this to be an "imperfect" Slam as they hadn't been won in the same calendar year.

This year, having perhaps suffered a mental reaction to that imperfect Slam and gone a few Majors without winning, he is back on form and has already clinched the Masters and the US Open and he will tee up at Muirfield as overwhelming favourite.

That is not just because of his phenomenal ability but the fact that, even those who would consider themselves to be closest to him in terms of talent - Duval, Mickelson, Garcia and Els - seem to capitulate when they go head to head against the Tiger in a Major.

So is he a guaranteed winner at Muirfield, a course where the cream has invariably risen to the top? Well no, golf is probably the only sport where the top player in the world loses far more tournaments than he wins - a wonderful season, even for the likes of Jack Nicklaus, would always have been regarded as five wins out of probably around 22 events - although Tiger's strike rate is significantly higher than that.

It only takes one hole to dent severely an Major Championship challenge - do you recall Tiger's bunker problems at Royal Birkdale in '98 and gorse problems at Carnoustie in '99 which cost him probable victories. Even then he came within a couple of shots of Mark O'Meara and Paul Lawrie. Since then, however, Tiger has developed the knack of keeping the ball in play and not having to play outrageous shots to make a score. He can have an off week when the ball doesn't run for him and the putts don't disappear, as at Royal Lytham last year, but his "average" is better than most rivals' "brilliant" and if he is within striking range by Sunday he doesn't often fail... if he's atop the leaderboard at any stage of the week, forget it, he's already home and dry.

So a win at Muirfield would complete three legs of the 'perfect' Slam and who would then bet against him at the USPGA?

**Scott
MacCallum**
Editor

A unique treble for Kingsdown GC

Members, staff, family and friends gathered recently at Kingsdown Golf Club to celebrate a unique treble. The Club, which was founded in 1881 and is the second oldest club in the West of England, was celebrating yet another ground breaking record.

Two of the Green staff have already served over 25 years, and Mark Ford, appointed Head Greenkeeper in 1989, was celebrating the completion of his 25 years service. Led by Club Captain, David Rawstrone, tributes were paid to Mark and his staff and it was clear that such collective loyalty has played a major part in ensuring the reputation of Kingsdown as one of the premier courses in Wiltshire.

Mark, who joined Kingsdown when he left school in Corsham,



Head Greenkeeper Mark Ford (centre) with his staff, Phil Jones (26 years service) and Dave Seabright who has completed 27 years service at Kingsdown

trained at Lackham and Cannington Colleges and is a fully Qualified Greenkeeper and NVQ Assessor for the Institute

of Greenkeeping.

He was runner-up in the national Greenkeeper of the Year competition in 1997.

BIGGA looks to the Future

The first meeting of BIGGA's Futures Sub-Committee took place at BIGGA HOUSE in May. As its name suggests the future for both the individual greenkeeper and the profession will be the theme for the Sub-Committee.

In setting it up, BIGGA's Board of Management is looking to generate fresh ideas and proposals on the way forward for both the Association and the profession and to secure greater member input. The Sub-Committee is set to meet twice a year under the chairmanship of Elliott Small and its members will embrace modern technology to work as groups between meetings on agreed topics. The first topics being considered are the Development of the



Profession, Education and Training and Communication with the Industry and the Game. Recommendations from the Sub-Committee will be subject to Board of Management consideration and approval.

Members are welcome to convey their individual views to members of the Sub-Committee on the above or any other relevant topics. Members of the Sub-Committee are Elliott Small, Chairman - Tulliallan Golf Club, Richard Andrews -

Highgate Golf Club, James Braithwaite - Long Ashton Golf Club, Andy Campbell MG CGCS- De Vere Carden Park, Jonathan Cleland - Helensburgh Golf Club, Euan Grant - St Andrews, Duncan McGilvray - Potters Bar Golf Club, Billy McMillan - Mannings Heath Golf Club, Huw Morgan MG- Wildernesse Golf Club, Andrew Pledger - The Hertfordshire Golf Club, John Ross - Laleham Golf Club, Peter Wisbey - Woodhall Spa Golf Club.

Charterhouse maps out its future in detail

Philip Threadgold, a founding Director of Charterhouse Turf Machinery, has announced plans for the company's future development and expansion.

Philip, who for the last five years has been working for the company's parent, Redexim Charterhouse, setting up the North American operation, took over at the helm of Charterhouse this January.

Speaking at a press lunch in The Reform Club, London Philip said, "Charterhouse Turf Machinery should be seen as a group of four mini-companies operating within the grounds

care and landscaping sphere. As with any diverse operation, some people only know us for one of our ranges or products. We are strongly associated with the Verti-Drain, which has become a generic term for deep aeration, but in fact we have no less than 60 other products in the Professional Turf Machinery Division! We aim to project an image that better reflects our breadth and depth, which means significant, positive changes. That's why we feel as if we're looking far ahead to the 22nd Century."

He has already implemented plans to move Charterhouse forward, while maintaining operational control of Redexim Charterhouse USA.

"My job, aided by my dedicated staff, is to integrate and maximise our resources, and exceed customer expectations. I



Above: Philip Threadgold

have modified our field staff operation, so that sales people are now responsible for all products within their regions, rather than covering the whole country with just one line, as before. This means dealers see only one representative instead of three, and maximises efficiency. Our staff also relish their additional responsibilities."

Golf's Environmental role gets boost from Minister

Scottish Golf took another step forward as the European leader in the field of environmental management of golf courses at Gleneagles Hotel recently.

The event was organised by the Scottish Golf Environment Group, where the Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development, Allan Wilson announced a new strategy for Golf and the Environment. The Group is funded by Scottish Natural Heritage, the SGU, the R&A and the Scottish Greenbelt Foundation.

"Scotland is endowed with over 530 golf courses - areas of permanent green space within cities, in greenbelts, along our coastlines, buffering nature reserves. These golf courses provide a very important function in the conservation of Scotland's rich natural heritage. In many cases they do this by their very presence, protecting areas from other forms of harder development. However, we are increasingly in need of golf courses to find ways to assist in the conservation of wildlife and habitats. We need Clubs to consider the needs of wildlife in their management and where possible to provide new habitats. I am pleased to say that many golf courses are taking this forward," said the Minister.

He went on to say that on the evidence of previous work, and the content of the new strategy, the golfing sector in Scotland was a leader in the field of environmental management.

During the day the Minister, along with representatives from the main golfing and environmental organisations



in Scotland, reinforced this message - that golf courses can be developed and managed in harmony with nature - for the benefit of golfers.

Duncan Weir of the R&A also gave a presentation which recognised the ongoing support of the R&A.

Following the launch of the Strategy, Environmental Excellence Awards were presented to four courses: Mortonhall Golf Club, Edinburgh; The Duke's Course, St Andrews, Fife; Pumpherston Golf Club, West Lothian and Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club, Inverness-shire

They followed on from Elmwood, Gleneagles, Kilmacollm and Linlithgow who were among the first 12 in Europe to receive the Award in 2001.

The Environmental Awards are both a national and international award through the links between the Scottish Golf Environment Group and Committed to Green. It means that when awards are made in Scotland they are to a standard that is matched across Europe.

Many other courses across Scotland and throughout Europe are now working towards this standard. Cochrane Castle, Peebles and Ratho Park Golf Clubs received Environmental Certificates in recognition of their progress.

Details of the criteria to be met and further information on the Scottish Golf Environment Group can be obtained from Jonathan Smith on 0131 660 9480 or e-mail: scot-golf.wildlife@virgin.net

SW/Wales Course Management Trophies

These are being held at Cumberwell Park on August 7, Salisbury & South Wilks on August 31 and Tredegar Park on August 28. Entry is by invitation and if you have not received one and would like to enter please contact Paula Humphries on 01288 352194

Hayter's new MD

Derek N. Boulton is the new Managing Director at Hayter, taking over from the recently retired Tony Bourke. The appointment was announced by James C. Pelletier, CEO of Murray Inc.

The new MD has had wide experience of engineering, particularly in the automotive and diesel engine industries. He has held various senior positions with Cummins and Komatsu Cummins Engine Co. and has managed operations in the US, Africa and Japan among others. He served his mechanical engineering apprenticeship with British Leyland and holds Diplomas in Management Studies and Mechanical Engineering from Teeside Polytechnic and Bromsgrove College. In addition he received his MBA from INSEAD, Fontainebleau, one of Europe's leading business schools.

He is married with four sons and intends to relocate from the US to Bishop's Stortford at an early date.

"Mr. Boulton's wide business experience should give ample impetus to the next phase of Hayter's development. He is joining a company with a fine pedigree and is looking forward to building on the achievements of the past 55 years" said Kim Macfie, Sales & Marketing Director of Hayter.

Myerscough Foundation Degree in Sportsturf Science

Continuing its tradition of innovation in the development and delivery of education and training in sportsturf, Myerscough College, near Preston in Lancashire, has successfully validated a new two year foundation degree in Sportsturf Science and Golf Course Management.

Building on the success of its well established Higher National Diploma, the Sportsturf Department at Myerscough will offer the Foundation Degree from this

September. Underpinned by a sandwich placement period, the qualification is targeted at those individuals seeking to develop operational, technical and management careers in sportsturf.

Crucially, the course will allow successful candidates to "top up" to Myerscough's full Degree award - (already firmly established as the only specific sportsturf degree in the UK) - with an additional year of study and two "new bridging modules" aimed at supporting those

"Honours" year students undertaking sportsturf research.

Colin Stanfield, Sportsturf Programme Leader at Myerscough said, "We are extremely proud of our provision for Sportsturf here at Myerscough, and our students are provided with wonderful facilities. A new 2 hectare sportsturf trial site is currently under development here, which will allow our students to benefit from hands on experimental and research work in close collaboration with the industry".

John Deere awarded official supplier status

John Deere has been given official supplier status for the 2002 British Open at Muirfield. This means Deere is supplying course maintenance equipment for three of this year's major international golf tournaments in the UK - in addition to the Open, the Brabazon Course at The De Vere Belfry is being maintained by John Deere machines for both the Benson & Hedges International and the Ryder Cup.

John Deere's first Open as preferred machinery supplier was at last year's championship at Royal Lytham & St Annes. As part of a large fleet of course maintenance equipment, three of John Deere's new 3235B fairway mowers fitted with fairway tender conditioners (FTCs) were used without grass boxes, due to the efficiency of the FTC reels in cutting and recutting the fairway grass in one pass.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

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

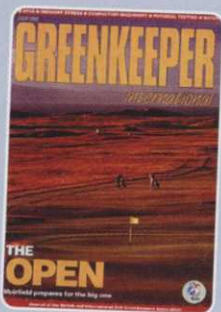


A LOOK BACK TO A DECADE AGO

Back Lapping

FROM GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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



JULY 1992

Key findings of the BIGGA/Golf Research Group maintenance survey were published in 'Golf Course Maintenance in the UK'. The survey showed the UK greenkeeping business to be of a considerable size, worth £187 million annually and employing over 10,000 people. Labour was the largest single component of this expenditure, accounting for £92 million annually. Capital spending was the second largest item accounting for £36 million. Two thirds of this spending goes on new machinery, one third on course projects such as extending tee boxes and re-laying greens. Golf came out of the survey looking very 'green'. On average a golf course spends £16 per acre per year on chemicals (pesticides and fertilisers) whereas arable agriculture spends £75. The survey suggested this as a very important area indeed, one where golf could say that it is environmentally friendly – all the more important in the current climate when new golf development is increasingly under attack as being evil incarnate.

With the Open Championship upon us, it is interesting to recall Chris Whittle's preparations for the 1992 Championship when Muirfield was previously host to the great event. Asked about his plans for the Open, Chris ventured that it was really business as usual, but more of it with more intensive maintenance.

"Obviously we are protecting the greens and not cutting them quite so low – normally at this time we would cut at 3/16 on an inch, mowing six days a week with three handcuts and three by machine, but at the moment we are cutting at 1/4", though obviously we shall gradually lower to 1/8 of an inch when the Championship approaches – it will all be very gradual, ending up with a twice daily cut using both hand machines and the Jacobsen Triplex, which we stipulated should have extra blades in the verticuts from 3/4 of an inch to 1/2 inch spacing."

Drought had been of particular concern. "We have a lot of browning-off and moss is a recurring problem. It's been difficult to eradicate as we've had no growth to speak of until a few weeks ago – just a typical East Lothian cold, dry spring – so we just get on with it. During the season we don't fertilise much, maybe two light feeds of an 8-0-0 on greens and tees, and this year we've dressed the fairways with a farmyard type slurry dressing, followed perhaps next year with a seaweed formula".

Today Chris Whittle is Head Greenkeeper at Royal Birkdale

Old Tom watches over Textron delivery

The Grand Old Man of Golf, responsible for the modern look and design of the Old Course at St Andrews, watched over the delivery of the new batch of mowers to the Home of Golf, today.

In a move designed to support the highest level of on course presentation, the St Andrews Links Trust, which is responsible for the six public links courses at St Andrews, has awarded a fairways equipment contract to Scottish Grass Machinery (SGM). The delivery of the new equipment was overseen by Old Tom Morris, played by actor David Joy, who was custodian of the Links at St Andrews for over 40 years until 1902.

The 50 St Andrews Links Trust greenkeepers still base their working practices and methods on the principles of Tom Morris. Morris was influential in developing the present shape and form of the Old and New Courses, and is remembered for using sand to encourage the fine indigenous grasses that characterise the world famous Links. It is this same turf that the SGM supported equipment has been brought in to maintain, with the machines being used to cut around 250 acres of fairways twice a week, with the grass ranging in height from 9mm to 14 mm.

SGM will supply the Trust with Jacobsen mowers and equipment for the next five years on a three-year replacement cycle. The equipment will



be used exclusively by the Trust's greenkeepers to maintain and improve the high quality fairway environment at St Andrews Links. This is the latest in a series of investments in the Home of Golf by St Andrews Links Trust, which has also recently installed a £2.5 million irrigation system on the Links and has a programme in place to tackle coastal erosion from the North Sea.

The Trust's order with SGM has seen it take delivery of a range of equipment, including: Jacobsen LF3400 Fairway Mowers; Jacobsen AR250 Semi-Rough Finishing Mowers; Ransomes rotary mowers and trailed gang mowers; Ryan green and fairway aerators; Cushman general purpose trucksters and top

dressers for greens and fairways.

Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent at St Andrews Links Trust, said, "Through this agreement the Trust has secured the use of what we believe to be the best fairway mowers for our courses, the Jacobsen LF series, supported in the field by Scottish Grass Machinery personnel. We believe that the Trust has secured a deal which will benefit all golfers at St Andrews."

David McInroy, managing director, Scottish Grass Machinery, added, "It is a real feather in the Scottish Grass Machinery cap that our customer-focused approach in providing the right equipment, finance and maintenance packages has been rewarded with a significant new contract at the home of golf."

New National Turfgrass Conference

Cranfield University at Silsoe and the National Turfgrass Foundation, a newly formed charitable trust with the aim of funding research projects and raising awareness of turfgrass research, have joined forces to stage a major conference.

Entitled 'In Pursuit of Excellence' the conference will be held at the Southport Theatre and Floral Hall Complex, and the Prince of Wales Hotel in Southport from November 18-21.

Martyn Jones, originator of the NTF and organiser of the Conference, announced that, "The Conference has been designed to augment the education programmes provided by BIGGA and the IOG by focusing on the results of recent and current research into a wide range of turfgrass topics. Delegates from all backgrounds who wish to keep abreast of the latest developments will receive up-to-date information from internationally renowned researchers, agronomists and educators from all over the world. This is the largest programme to date and will feature 25 speakers, sharing their vast knowledge on 36 topics."

Among the line up of speakers are Dr Stephen Baker, Professor Joseph Vargas, Jr., Dr Alan Gange, Professor Al Turgeon, Dr Kate Entwistle, Professor Karl Danneberger, Stanley Zontek, Professor Bill Adams and Professor Peter Dernoeden.

Presentations cover a range of subjects, including recent research from Newcastle upon Tyne University into enhancing drainage rates by the use of electrokinetic geosynthetics, and details of a UK golf green construction specification. The effectiveness of plant growth regulators and the emergence of new diseases are other highly topical subjects.

Environmental management of links courses, and turfgrass stress management will be of particular interest to some greenkeepers. Turf managers who wish to undertake a programme of advanced education or who would like to learn how they might contribute to turfgrass research will also benefit enormously.

"Those who have attended similar programmes will be aware of the tremendous knowledge that can be gained, not only directly from the presentations but also from socialising with the speakers and fellow delegates during out-of-conference hours. Greenkeepers will also have an opportunity to discuss 'The Vintage Years' with Walter Woods, OBE and Jack McMillan, MBE. In addition to the comprehensive learning programme, entertainment has been organised for each evening to help delegates and speakers relax in preparation for the following day," said Martyn.

For further details contact Martyn Jones on Tel. 01995 670675 or email: NTFoundation@aol.com

Promotion for Textron's Glynn

Glynn Patrick, who recently rejoined the Textron group as Sales Director for Europe, Middle East and Africa, has been appointed Executive Director, Sales and Marketing.

As part of this co-ordinated drive to achieve market domination of these sectors, his new post includes responsibility for Product Management and Communications & Promotions. He will also deputise for Managing Director, Steve Chicken when business commitments result in his absence from the Ipswich head office.

"I am relishing the challenge of taking the business forward and building on the success of our corporate branding initiative where we have successfully positioned our orange Jacobsen equipment exclusively in the golf sector, while our green Ransomes brand provides a full range of specialised products for our municipal clients," said Glynn



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

Available October this year

Tillers Rootzone Turf

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

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

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

Custom-grown Rootzone Turf

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

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

Main agent Rigby Taylor

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

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

 **Tillers Turf**
growers of fine turf

Tel: 01652 678000 www.tillersturf.co.uk

St Andrews Bay Agreement

Yamaha Motor (UK) Ltd have signed an exclusive three year contract to supply the St Andrews Bay Golf Resort and Spa, St Andrews Scotland with over 40 Yamaha Golf Cars.

St Andrews Bay will take delivery of their fleet of Yamaha Ultima 48-volt electric golf cars and petrol service vehicles in June and July this year.

World Congress

The four World Scientific Congress of Golf will take place at St Andrews in the week immediately following The Open Championship at Muirfield.

Among the topics which will be discussed are golf course construction, turf grass breeding, pests, biotechnology and golf environment while the week will also include golf at Kingsbarns, as well as an alternative Ryder Cup, a three club tournament and a range of other social activities.

Further information, including a booking form can be obtained on the World Scientific Congress of Golf Trust website: www.golfacts.org

John Deere Championship tees off

Twenty-six golf clubs will be taking on the challenging Brabazon course at The Belfry in August, having won their regional qualifier in the inaugural 2002 John Deere Team Championship golf tournament.

The competition is being well supported by BIGGA regional administrators, and is likely to raise over £9000 to support the Association's educational activities - John Deere will be donating £25 for every British team entered at the qualifying stage.

Each winning team from the regional qualifiers - consisting of two members of the club's board or committee, plus the club professional and greenkeeper - goes through to the Great Britain and Ireland national final at The Belfry on August 19, a month ahead of the Ryder Cup, to play for a place in the world final at Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona, USA in November. Teams will be joined at The Belfry by a representative of their local John Deere dealer. By the end of May, 15 regional qualifying tournaments had been completed, involving 207 British and 55 Irish teams - with the host club's team winning in four. Another 11 of



The photograph shows a team member teeing off at the 2002 Team Championship regional qualifying golf tournament organised by John Deere Midlands dealer Henton & Chattell at Cotgrave Place Golf Club in Stragglethorpe, Nottingham, in May, which attracted 23 teams - the biggest entry to date - and started with breakfast at John Deere Limited's headquarters in Langar.

these dealer organised competitions are due to take place in June and July, with over 190 more teams planning to take part.

Winning golf clubs so far include Currawest from Loughrea in Co Galway and Thurles from Co Tipperary in Ireland; Ardglass from Co Down in Northern Ireland; and in England, Boothferry in East Yorkshire; Bowood Park from

Camelford in Cornwall; Carden Park in Cheshire; Chipping Norton in Oxfordshire; Felixstowe Ferry in Suffolk; Glen Lodge, Bawburgh in Norwich; Pryors Hayes from Osmcroft, Chester; Ramsdale Park from Calvaton, Nottingham; Rodway Hill from Highnam, Gloucester; Sherborne in Dorset; Wheatley in Doncaster; and Windmill Village in Coventry.



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

That Old Chestnut

When Duncan McGilvray wrote his original letter late last year, he hoped for a response and he's had some. However he also knows the vast majority of the membership never even read it, as witnessed at a recent seminar at Carden Park.

It's that old chestnut apathy again. Look at the job section and throw the magazine to one side. Well at least we have a mag and that's because we have an Association, one that was formed by determined men for the betterment of us all. Look how far we've come in such a short time. BIGGA was formed at exactly the right time as the laws were starting to get more stringent and some would say restrictive, but in reality they are being put in place to safe guard us in what is becoming a litigious society.

Look at the amount of maintenance facilities there are now compared to five years ago - a bit different to sheds I would say. Why? Legislation and the BIGGA informing us of it that's why and that's just one example.

It's also good to see BIGGA and GTC together about time!

Education will always be the key to professionalism but nowadays it's as much to do with legality as it is to do with practicality and when it comes to the law apathy and ignorance are not an option.

Dave Goodridge, Denbigh GC, Clwyd, Wales

A need for Ken's Key Skills Corner

After reading the responses to Ken Richardson's article on grammar basics, I feel that I must respond in Ken's defence. I simply fail to understand why Ken has been attacked.

Those attackers are obviously unaware of the fact that one in four adults in the UK have some kind of literacy problem (Government figures). For representatives of the industry to state that none of its members need this kind of support is simply blinkered and ill informed.

I work with many young (and often older) Greenkeepers who require extensive support in Literacy and Numeracy. Some of these students do not know how to form a sentence or produce a simple letter using standard layouts.

I often spend several lessons at the start of each academic year teaching students the basics of the metric sys-

tem so I can cover areas such as calibration later in the course.

Many students do not know how many millilitres are in a litre or how many square metres are in a hectare.

Those of you who are now thinking that this is because they have learned the imperial system can forget it, as most students have no concept of the imperial system at all.

I have extensive contacts within Further Education Colleges and they all report similar problems.

One of the fastest growing areas of provision in F.E. Colleges is for basic skills and must serve to indicate the scale of the problem in all sectors of UK industry. The government has invested heavily to raise standards of I.T., Application of number and Communication skills.

Indeed you may have noted the recent television advertisements

encouraging people to seek help in improving these key areas.

For Greenkeepers to accuse Ken of dumbing down is outrageous, how are we expected to encourage people to seek help if they perceive that they are stupid and should have learnt these skills when at school.

Those with high levels of literacy who find such articles condescending should simply ignore them and get on with their own lives and not interfere with those who try to offer some small degree of help to others.

I would like to end by saying, "Well done Ken", I hope you continue to offer support to those in our industry who are academically less able and in doing so raise the standard of education for all.

Andrew Wight, Lecturer in Greenkeeping Studies, Oaklands College, St. Albans Herts

Controversial bunker issue receives response

Andy Law's article "Shifting Sands" in May's Greenkeeper International raises some controversial issues.

Firstly, why must bunkers be visible? There are bunkers all over the world with blind bunkers: does this mean that they are architecturally flawed? And what of pot bunkers on our links courses that are basically holes with sand in the bottom?

Secondly, I cannot agree that bunker sand should "be light in colour". May I suggest that the current desire for light sand was sparked by the high profile television coverage of American venues such as Augusta National. (Incidentally, this also increased the pressure on greenkeepers for faster and faster greens.)

Up until about 20 years ago, there

were very few inland golf courses in this country with light coloured sand. Personally, I would like to see a return to tan coloured sands which are not only less obtrusive, but conceal contamination better than light sands, and at the same time remaining perfectly visible to the golfer.

Richard Andrews, Highgate Golf Club, London

It never rains – it pours!

Last year, the Greenkeeping Support Team at the PGA Volvo Championship really earned their free shirt and cap in 2001 by slog-ging it out in 80 degrees plus. This year they were warm enough but mainly because they carried out their duties (as well as a rake and a squeegee) wearing waterproofs. It precipitated down!

Saturday wasn't too bad, pretty wet but interspersed with sunny spells, but Sunday. Let me tell you about Sunday. The first ominous sign was when Craig Small, from Chris Kennedy's Greenkeeping Team, delivered 30 squeegees to our tent.

At first it seemed that Chris had been over cautious, early matches were returning with the squeegee being reported as "something extra to be carried and never to be used".

Wishful thinking if ever I heard it! Sure enough it rained steadily for a while and then came the first down-pour. Not too bad, just a hailstorm turning nicely to torrential rain. The greens however were up to it and only minimal work with the squeegees was needed. Play continued without a problem for about half an hour or so and then came the second tremen-

dous downpour. Greens started to be awash, bunkers started to flood. Chris Kennedy and his Staff were magnificent. And so were the Support Team, no panic, just hard work at a speed. All available Members (those who had finished their matches) and anyone else available in our tent was armed with a squeegee and dispatched to distant parts of the course to drain bunkers and to keep the greens playable. I would add at this point that there wasn't one single moan, even though wives and girlfriends were abandoned and everyone got on with it and helped.

The results stand for themselves, despite such rain the Championship finished more or less on time and the viewing public were hardly aware that there had been such problems. A brilliant achievement all round and I know that the PGA European Tour Tournament Director, David Garland, as well as Course Manager, Chris Kennedy, would like to use these columns to pass on their appreciation to the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team. Well Done!

Derek Farrington, South East RA

In agreement with Ronnie

Having read Ronnie Bunting's article on environmental management in the April issue of Greenkeeper International I felt compelled to put pen to paper. I was particularly interested in Ronnie's comments about fusarium and that "leaving it alone" may be an option. I would like to say that leaving it alone is indeed a very good option. I have not sprayed fungicide on my greens for five years on the basis that it is a very expensive, harmful to the essential and beneficial micro organisms and labour intensive.

Ronnie is spot on in pointing these aspects out.

Once the decision to spray no fungicide had been made my club committee were informed and since then support has come from the club's agronomy advisor. What I have observed is that when fusarium attacks come they have become less damaging with every passing year. I believe a sensible maintenance programme has had a strong impact, however, I also believe that the turf on my greens is fighting back and its natural immune system is getting stronger each year. What I do know is that, yes, my greens are left scarred but no more scarred than had I sprayed fungicide upon noticing the first disease patch. Because, as most of us know, if you haven't sprayed before you see the first few patches

you're only going to spray a curative treatment on your attack and this will not prevent scarring.

You can argue that your scarring will not be so widespread, but maybe, if you leave the disease alone and let the green's natural defences work it may become strong enough not to need chemical support. It is an important point to remember, you can only prevent scarring if you apply preventative treatments and this means spraying well before any sign of disease.

Don't be frightened of fusarium, leave it alone and be assured, greens do recover on their own and a sound maintenance programme does ensure as quick a return as possible to full grass coverage.

Andrew Phillips, Head Greenkeeper,
Glynhir GC

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BIGGA Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, highlights the latest education and training available to BIGGA members

Continue to Learn 2003

Plans for Continue to Learn 2003 are progressing well. The programme will again allow delegates to 'pick and mix' various learning options to ensure that all delegates gain the maximum benefit from their time in Harrogate.

The Continue to Learn Programme includes:

Monday 20 January and Tuesday 21 January

Two day Workshops

Golf Course Design 2 with Howard Swan and Simon Gidman. Continue to discover the secrets of golf course design, presented in this 'hands on' workshop. Note, delegates should, previously, have attended a Golf Course Design 1 Workshop.

I gained a tremendous amount from this workshop.

Howard and Simon are very enthusiastic and I gained a lot of knowledge.

An excellent sequel to Golf course Design 1.

An extended version of last year's Workshop, Golf Course Environmental Management, with Bob Taylor, Jonathan Smith and Fiona MacIntyre. Learn how to survey your course, how to produce an environmental management plan and how to manage your course with an environmentally sympathetic regime by attending this extended workshop.

Very useful, it made me think.

Had to absorb a lot of information in one day

One Day Workshop

Soil Science with Dennis Mortram. Introduced at Harrogate, following

its success around the Regions, this Workshop introduces delegates to the mysteries of soil science. An ideal first course in soil science or as revision for those who have not studied for some time.

Very good course, easy to follow, straight to the point.

I gained a lot of knowledge from this course.

A good day. Very good value.

National Education Conference

Attend the Conference on both Monday 20 January and Tuesday 21 January or attend either Monday or Tuesday, the choice is yours.

The theme for the 2003 Conference is Golf Course Management.

Monday 20 January 2003

Monday continues in the theme of Management with Master Greenkeeper, Kerran Daly, describing his Management Style at Gog Magog Golf Club, followed by Tony Mears looking at the Course Manager's responsibilities for Training and Development. Frank Newberry completes this session by looking at the link between a Business Plan and a Management Plan.

Tuesday 21 January 2003

The theme of Management continues in this session but looks more closely at Managing the Golf Course. John Nicholson, from John Nicholson Associates, start the proceedings by describing the Course Manager's role in Tree and Woodland Management. Simon Barnaby, from Scotts UK, considers how Course Managers will cope when less and less chemicals are available for Fine Turf.

Following the break, Chris Byrd, from Milliken Chemicals, concen-

trates on the benefits of an integrated foliar feed programme closely followed by Keith Happ, from the USGA, who considers what to do about Pesticide Runoff.

Dr Richard Earl and Justin Smith, both from Turftrax Ground Management, start the afternoon session with a look at Aspects of Soil Science and Soil Water Movement followed by Master Greenkeeper, Steve Cook, describing his technical preparations for holding the Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills in 2004.

The final paper of the Conference is presented by Ken Siems, Course Manager at Loch Lomond Golf Club. Ken will describe the Research on Grass Species, recently completed at Loch Lomond.

Watch out for more details in the next edition of Greenkeeper International.

Regional Training

The deadline for the Autumn and Spring series of Region and Section Training Courses is approaching.

If you would like to see a training course in your Section then speak to your Section Secretary, Regional Administrator or contact me direct at BIGGA House. We are planning a range of courses, already, including Essential Management Skills, Tractor Driving, Health and Safety, Pesticide Application, Basic Computer Skills etc.

NPTC Assessors

The National Proficiency Test Council are looking for volunteers to fill a number of vacancies for assessors. NPTC assessors can be used to assess greenkeepers in a range of skills eg. Forestry, Machinery Operation and Pesticide Application.

Anyone interested in taking on this challenging role should send their CV to David Golding at the GTC, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York. YO61 1UF.



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This month, Rachael Palmer from BIGGA's Membership Services would like to welcome 47 new members to the Association and also welcomes Gemma Lee to the department

Remember your benefits!

Now that summer is well and truly here we are all more likely to be out enjoying the sunshine, playing sport or even indulging in a spot of DIY or gardening.

Whatever you get up to this summer it's worth remembering that all Greenkeeper members are covered by the personal accident insurance that is provided as a benefit of membership.

The personal accident package provides cover for any accident you may have at home, work or even on holiday subject to certain

exclusions. The schedule of benefits include payments for total disablement through to loss of fingers or toes and temporary disablement. You can also increase your own personal protection with a one off annual payment which could secure you up to £50,000 in increased benefits.

In the event of an accident likely to give rise to a claim you should immediately call 0161 935 2935 remembering to have your BIGGA membership number ready.

A warm welcome

With Rachael having taking over from Tracey Maddison as Membership Services Officer her role of Membership Services Assistant has been taken by Gemma Lee (below).

Gemma (19) was born in Bradford but moved to the York area eight years ago, and now lives in Easingwold, just a few miles from BIGGA HOUSE. In fact she was at Easingwold School at the same time as another BIGGA staff member, Brad Anderson.

Prior to joining the Association she worked in the Customer Services Department of Norwich Union, based in York, having previously achieved her NVQ in Advanced Health and Social Care at York College. Her interests include socialising with friends, going



out for meals, cinema and swimming. "I'm delighted to have joined the Association and am looking forward to getting to know many of the members over the next few months and years," said Gemma.



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

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



Rachael Foster

Name: Rachael Foster

Position: Receptionist/Administrator

What does your role involve?

Organisation of the reception area; booking Key Room hire; the magazine database; merchandise and BIGGA blazers

How long have you worked for the Association? One year and five months

Where were you born and brought up? Marlborough, Wiltshire but spent 17 years living in Jersey before moving here two years ago

Where did you work before you joined BIGGA? Kleinwort Benson (Jersey) Ltd

What are your hobbies? Teaching aerobics/step/boxercise and personal training. Also swimming, touch rugby and cooking

What is your favourite food? Seafood/Spanish

What is your favourite film? Dances with Wolves

What was the last book you read? How to be Good by Nick Hornby

Who is your all time hero? Jimmy Connors

What was the best event you've ever attended? 1. The birth of my daughter, Stephanie. 2. Seeing Robbie Williams in concert

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

1. Taking an aerobics/boxercise class for 100 people to raise £5000 for Cancer Research. 2. Meeting Ian Woosnam at a party in Jersey

Personal Accident Insurance

If during the period of insurance a member sustains accidental bodily injury resulting solely and independently of any other cause within two years in Death or Disablement the Company will pay the amount of benefits specified.

Claims arising from the following causes are excluded - being under the influence of drugs; having a blood alcohol/drugs level in excess of the legal limit whilst driving a motor vehicle; war & terrorism; pregnancy; sickness or bodily injury resulting from a gradually operating cause; intentional self injury, suicide or any attempt thereof; engaging in any form of aerial flight other than as a passenger; Active service in any of the Armed Forces of any nation. Own criminal act, deliberate exposure to needless peril (except in an attempt to save human life).

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To avoid delays please quote your membership number and give brief details of the claim. You will be advised of any further action to take. Medical Certificates will be required, at your own cost, to substantiate your claim.

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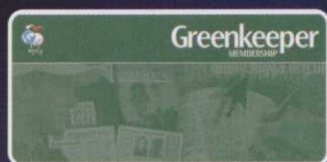
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Loss of use of vagina	£2,500



BIGGA MEMBERSHIP

HOW CAN YOU benefit?

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



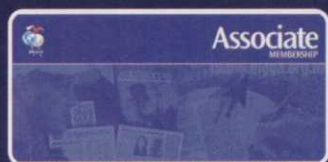
Greenkeeper Membership
(any person employed in the 'keeping of the green at a golfing establishment') offers:

Education opportunities for professional greenkeepers

Exclusive discounts and benefits for Greenkeeper Members

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



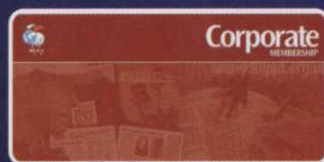
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(any person who is not a working greenkeeper, but wants to be part of a growing Association, i.e. Chairman of Green, Secretary, Company Sales Representative etc.) offers:

Engaging media products which educate and entertain

Networking with members, clients, suppliers and potential customers

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

Harrogate 2003 is six months away but already much of the preparation required to make it a week to remember for all who attend has been put in place

THE COUNTDOWN'S UNDER



For those visiting BTME they can expect to find all their favourite companies in one of five main halls of Harrogate International Centre while exhibitors can expect last year's record attendance figures to be at least matched if not exceeded.

At the time of going to press 140 exhibitors have already confirmed their attendance, well up on the figure at the same time last year, and although there is still some space available in each of the halls it is going quickly and any company who is considering becoming an exhibitor at the biggest indoor fine turf show in Europe should contact BIGGA HOUSE quickly to avoid disappointment.

Among those companies making their debut at BTME 2003 is Glendale while Rigby Taylor return to the Show, after a break of one year, alongside its sister company, Grass Science. In addition other companies have significantly increased their stand space. They include Allett Mowers, Lastec UK, Kubota (UK) Ltd, Earthquake Turfcare Ltd and Same Deutz-Fahr.

The new improved Education area in Hall Q includes representation so far from the colleges of Askham Bryan, Elmwood, Hadlow, Berkshire, Warwicks and Myerscough. The pop-

ular Careers Clinic will be relocated to this area together with interview rooms so golf clubs, or indeed any of the exhibiting companies, can speak with prospective employees.

Another innovation for BTME 2003 will be the Internet Cafe, to be located in Hall B which will enable visitors to stay in touch with work or home. This will be particularly beneficial to the large overseas contingent the Show always attracts. "We are delighted with the progress



Confirmed exhibitors to date

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION
BTME 2003
& EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME

THE GOLF CLUB SHOW '03

MJ Abbott Ltd
Advanta Seeds UK
AFT Trenchers
AGCO Ltd (Massey Ferguson)
Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd
Allen Power Equipment Ltd
Allett Mowers
Amenity Technology
Angus Horticulture Ltd
Arden Lea Irrigation Ltd
Askham Bryan College
Association of Golf Club Secretaries
Aventis Environmental Science
Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd
Barcham Trees
Barenbrug UK Ltd
Barrelfield Golf Ltd
Bathgate Leisure
Berkshire College of Agriculture
Bernhard & Co Ltd
Bioseed Probiotics Ltd
Blec Landscaping Equipment Co. Ltd
Boughton Loam Ltd
Bowcom Limited
Boyd Golf
British Seed Houses Ltd
Campey Turfcare Systems
Cebeco Seeds
Charterhouse Turf Machinery

Club Car - Ingersoll-Rand
CNH UK LTD
Complete Weed Control Ltd
Cooper Clarke Group Ltd
Course Care
DENNIS
Eagle Promotions Ltd
Earthquake Turfcare Ltd
Ecosolve Limited
Elmwood College
Etesia UK Ltd
European Institute of Golf Course Architects
European Turf Technology Ltd
Evenproducts Ltd
Farm & Garden Machinery
Farmura Ltd
Floratine Products
FMW & Distinct
Gambetti Barre UK Ltd
Garden Innovation Products UK
Garfitts International Ltd
Gem Professional
Glendale
Golf Management Europe
The Golf Sign Company
Grass Science
John Greasley Ltd
The Greenkeepers Training Committee

The Greenkeeping Supply Company
Greenlink International Ltd
Groundsman Industries
Hadlow College
Hardi Limited
Hayter Ltd
Haztek International
Headland Amenity
Hunter Grinders Ltd
The Institute of Groundsmanship
Inturf
Irrigation Control Ltd
John Deere Limited
Johnsons Sport & Amenity
Kawasaki Motors (UK) Ltd
Kestrel Golf & Sports Ltd
KSM Safer Surfaces
Kubota (UK) Ltd
Lastec UK
Lewis Equipment Ltd
Lincmaster 'Thiefstoppers'
Lindum Seeded Turf Ltd
Links Leisure
Lloyds & Co Letchworth Ltd
Logic Irrigation
Major Equipment Ltd
Maxwell Hart Group
Maxxis International UK
Mitchell Hire

WAY

being made towards making BTME 2003 the best ever Harrogate and I am sure exhibitors and visitors alike will be delighted with the Show come next January 21, 22 and 23," said BIGGA Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

Anyone wishing to book a stand at BTME 2003 should contact Pauline Thompson at BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833830 or via pauline@bigga.co.uk



Myerscough College
North Staffs Irrigation
Ocmis (UK) Ltd
Pentagon Amenity Marketing Ltd
Prestige Sports Surfaces Ltd
PSD Agronomy
Rain Bird Europe
Rigby Taylor Ltd
Riko UK Ltd
Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd
Rousseau Equipment Ltd
Rufford Soil Technology
Same Deutz-Fahr UK Ltd
Saxon Industries
The Scotts Company (UK) Ltd
Sheltons Sportsturf Drainage Solutions
Sheppy Fertilisers Ltd
Silesia Grill Systems
Simon Tullett Machinery Co Ltd
Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd
Spaldings UK Ltd
Speedcut Contractors
STRI
Supaturf Products Ltd
Swan Golf Designs Ltd
Swan Plant Services Ltd
Tactic

Talbot Farm Landscapes
TEG Environmental (Envigro)
Tenax UK Limited
Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products
Tildenet Ltd
DW Tomlin
Tonick Watering Ltd
Toro Commercial and Irrigation Products
Tower Chemicals Ltd
Trelleborg Wheel Systems Ltd
Trimax Mowing Systems Ltd
True Surface Rollers
TT Proturf Ltd
Turf Masters
Turf Seed UK Ltd
Turfmech Machinery Ltd
Turtrax Ground Management
Tyreline Original Equipment Ltd
Verde Sports Ltd
Vitax Ltd
Warwickshire College
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Whitewoss Amenities Ltd
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WHAT'S UP DOC?

Steve Isaacs, STRI Turgrass Agronomist for Scotland, provides some help in the difficult task of explaining agronomic matters to golf club members

A little understanding

One of the major frustrations faced by turf managers worldwide is the lack of understanding from the end users of their efforts, i.e. the players out on the golf course. The fact that, in many instances, laymen have control of maintenance budgets increases this sense of frustration. Most greenkeepers in the UK would sell their soul for the autonomy over turf management given to superintendents in the USA. The few in this country who control their own budgets, either at professionally run clubs or where they are directly responsible to a proprietor, shudder at the prospect of going back to the days of being accountable to a committee of plumbers, lawyers and a myriad of other professions with little or no connection to the turf industry.

Right, now that I've got that out of my system, the reality is that the majority of greenkeepers working in this country have invariably to function in a management framework where decisions on turf maintenance issues are, at best, influenced by the thoughts of laymen. We have to accept this situation and make the most of it, in many instances it can work well given compromise and diplomacy. Unfortunately, not all greenkeepers have these skills in abundance. One of the basic tasks facing the turf manager is explaining his needs when it comes to resource provision and a works programme that will, from time to time, disrupt play. This is where some form of analogy can come in useful, using some area of experience that is common to everyone likely to sit on a committee which can be related to turf man-

agement. Unfortunately, most office-based occupations are wholly divorced from the turf experience. The office is a controlled environment, the antithesis of the golf course, sports pitch or bowling green. If the carpet in the office needs cleaning then you can vacuum whatever the weather! So, is there an area of common knowledge that can help bridge the communication gap?

The surgery is now open

Ever thought that your turf goes through the same life changes as your own body? Don't laugh. Most aspects of managing turf can be related to the workings of our own bodies, something that everyone has some experience of—though a few greenkeepers might question this of their committee men! I was once in discussion with a well respected member of the trade and he suggested that an agronomist is the equivalent of a doctor to the grass, the supplier taking the role of the pharmacist. I liked the idea and thought it could be expanded as a means of enlightening laymen to the basic principles behind turf management.

Let's try therefore and develop this train of thought with a few examples to show how using this analogy may help when attempting to get over a turf-related idea.

Nutrition

If you eat too much, you get fat. You become unhealthy; short of breath, susceptible to other diseases such as heart problems. If you starve yourself, you become weak and emaciated. Turf reacts in a very similar fashion. Over-fed turf becomes lush and sappy with soft tissues more prone to damage and disease. Under-fed turf is weak and anaemic.

When it comes to supplying adequate nutrition, a similar scenario can be seen. The human body will assimilate enough protein, vitamins and other nutritional needs from a bal-

anced diet. The same is true of turf. If turf is managed properly, there should be no need for supplements.

Irrigation

You will be relieved to hear that I haven't developed this idea far enough to find a turf management technique that equates to colonic irrigation, but watering is fairly straightforward.

Living tissue is predominantly made up of water. Humans need to keep drinking, particularly in hot weather, to avoid dehydrating. Turf suffers in a similar way, wilting is the grasses equivalent of collapsing in a heap; a thirst-driven heap that is, not an alcohol-induced one! The corollary is also true. If you drink too much, you will drown. Aeration is the life-belt thrown to waterlogged turf.

Aeration

A simple fact; if we don't breathe we die. So does grass. Fortunately for us, we live with the air all around us. Grasses' breathing apparatus, the roots, are underground so air in the soil is vital to its survival. Any traffic over the turf, from participants in the sport or maintenance equipment, squeezes air out of the soil. It is, therefore, necessary to open up the soil structure with aeration practices from time to time to help the grass breathe easier. If you like, aeration is the turf's ventilator!

Thatch

Thatch is the turf equivalent of cholesterol. Too much thatch clogs the turf's arteries, making it more prone to disease and damage.

I always remember a visit to a golf club whose greens had a thatch problem. The visit was carried out in the early spring and the meadow-grass dominated greens were looking their usual sickly yellow colour. I was asked why this was. The spongy thatch was obviously saturated so my response was to respectfully suggest to the committee member that his legs

might not look too clever if he sat all winter with his feet in a bucket of cold water. I don't think he tried out this experiment. Hey, I'm really getting into this. Step behind the screen and get undressed while I expand this analogy.

The holistic approach to turf management

"Holistic" medicine is a term we have got used to in recent years. It describes a form of practice whereby the whole body and mind is considered a single entity in the treatment of any specific disease or illness. Good greenkeeping takes a similar approach. Considering the benefit of individual maintenance practices in isolation can be misleading, and can even focus attention on a minor ailment while ignoring more serious, underlying problems. This is where a visit from your friendly agronomist can pay dividends, particularly if you go for one with a good bedside manner. An annual, or more frequent, visit should consider the turf environment and the management of it as a whole, certainly discussing the need to adjust specific practices but relating this to the balance necessary in the management programme to achieve the desired end result.

This holistic approach should do away with the feed and water merchants who ruin turf and, indeed, any zealot who preaches a single, inflexible way of managing all turfgrass situations.

"It's a virus"

There is a rather cynical train of thought that when you visit your doctor with an ailment but he can't find anything wrong, the "it's a virus" fall-back comes into play. The same situation happens, from time to time, with turf. Although diagnosis is important, provided the doctor prescribes a programme of treatment which brings about an improvement in the condition, we are generally happy with the "it's a virus" syndrome. Turf management is, in this respect, very similar to the management of our own body. Although we would like to believe it is a pure science, there is a lot we do not know and the greenkeeper's art is still very much an essential part of turf maintenance.

Long-term illness

There is a tendency to blame any deterioration in turf quality on something that has, or has not, been done over the days or weeks prior to the appearance of the condition. This is not always true and one only has

to refer to human health issues to understand this.

The physical symptoms of human diseases do not always appear at the outset of the condition. I suppose cancer is the classic where tissue damage and the growth of abnormal cells can go unnoticed for years before physical symptoms bring about a call to the doctor and a diagnosis. This can happen to turf where inferior growing conditions, e.g. thatch accumulation or compaction, may not cause a deterioration in the appearance of the turf until the condition has developed for a number of years. Even then it may take some extreme weather to trigger turf damage. So, it is important when making a diagnosis not to jump to hasty conclusions.

The turf doctor's role: house calls

Most of us will be familiar with the "well-man" and "well-woman" policy being followed by the NHS, whereby routine check-ups are made to monitor our health and prevent problems from developing. In many respects, the annual visit by an agronomist could be considered a "well-course" policy. It is insurance against major disasters and the monitoring of thatch and compaction during an annual visit is just like having your blood pressure or pulse taken at the doctors. It is also true, as any doctor will tell you, that more frequent check-ups will mean a greater degree of control over potential dangers to your, or your turf's, health.

Just as you would visit a doctor when illness strikes suddenly, an occasional

one-off emergency call may be necessary for unexpected problems with your turf. Fortunately for me though, STRI agronomists are not expected to work the same hours as junior doctors! Treat the agronomist as you would your family doctor, he is there to help. But don't forget that there are a few Quacks out there!

You may think this approach is just a bit of fun. However, I am sure we all accept that communication is a vital part of the greenkeeper's role these days and what value are you getting out of this facet of the job

if the technical detail you are imparting sounds like an alien tongue to your committee? In searching for a common language, terms of reference that we can all follow, we will gain a better understanding and, hopefully, be given the level of support we are looking for and which is, mostly, deserved.

So, next time you see a stranger walking the golf course, talking to the greens - it's either someone who's escaped from the nearest asylum or an agronomist undertaking a psychological assessment of the greens!



Scott MacCallum meets Colin Irvine, the man charged with ensuring Muirfield is at its best for The Open later this month

FIELD OF DREAMS



Above: Colin Irvine

This year The Open Championship sees the golfing elite descend on the East Lothian town of Gullane. There can be few, if any, towns in the world so totally immersed in the game of golf. Everywhere you look there are superb golf holes, with tees and greens coming right up to the edge of the main road, and golfers of all ages and nationalities concentrating on their own games, totally oblivious to the passing traffic and shoppers.

It is the perfect illustration of golf as part of the community but it is on one of the world's most prestigious golf clubs that the 156 players will be focussing come the week of July 15.

Home to The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, widely recognised as being the oldest golf club in the world with records

recognising its existence going back to 1744, Muirfield is also regarded as one of the finest golf courses anywhere in the world.

The entrance to Muirfield is east of the village's three other wonderful courses Gullane No 1, No 2 and No 3 courses, and the magnificent iron gates at the end of a long driveway are a clue to the exalted position the club holds.

When they do they will discover a links which is widely regarded as one of the fairest to be found anywhere – all the trouble is visible from the tee which doesn't necessarily mean you will avoid it! – and 18 holes which have propelled the club to the top of the British rankings – as carried out by Golf World magazine.

A regular on the Open rota, Muirfield has a list of Champions that reads like a Who's Who of golf as it demonstrates an unfailing ability to identify and crown the best players in the world.

Previous winners have included Harry Vardon, James Braid (twice), Walter Hagen, Henry Cotton, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino, Tom Watson and Nick Faldo, the winner of the last two Muirfield Opens. Each would have a claim on being the best player in the world at the time of his victory while perhaps the greatest of them all, Nicklaus, named his own club in Ohio after the course. It



may be a good form guide to know that the winner of the Amateur Championship when it was played at Muirfield in 1998 was Sergio Garcia.

The man who carries the responsibility for ensuring that the quality of the Muirfield layout is matched by the condition of the course is 37 year-old Course Manager, Colin Irvine.

While a traditional club in so many ways it is perhaps surprising that Muirfield has a Course Manager and not a Head Greenkeeper, and the more modern approach is extended still further.

"We don't have a Green Committee at Muirfield. I meet with the Secretary, Group Captain John Prideaux, three days a week to discuss the job and any queries we may have and I attend five committee meetings a year. Then I report on the work we are currently undertaking or about to do, machinery purchases, staffing etc and then answer any



Below: Colin with his team



Photography: Brian Morgan; 0141 2216236

questions the committee members may have," explained Colin.

Having praised the modern approach adopted by the club with its structure Muirfield's traditional philosophy, when it comes to the management of the links themselves, is equally laudable.

This can be seen in the club's approach to irrigation. While most clubs install a greens and tees system if they are not in a position to install a wall-to-wall system, Muirfield has a system which starts at the front of the tees and finishes at the start of the greens.

"We are the only club I know which has this approach but the club don't want artificial irrigation on the greens. The reasons we installed the fairway system, after the drought in '95, was as an insurance against another drought and because of the large areas that needed to be hand watered. Also under the old system when the villagers of Gullane woke

in the morning the water pressure available to the club would drop off.

"In '95 we went six weeks without a drop of rain but the greens and tees didn't prove a problem at all. The boys would go out and hand hose them and we'd give them a drink on a Friday so we wouldn't have to irrigate over the weekend. It didn't seem to have had any bad effects on the greens.

"It is easy to sit here with this mouse and just turn on the system if we haven't had any rain in a little while, but if you've got to haul a hose out and take guys off other jobs just to water a green quite often you err on the 'Might rain tomorrow' mentality. In the last two years I think we've only irrigated the greens five times."

It is an approach which has reaped dividends as Colin and his team haven't sprayed a fungicide for seven years.

"In the last couple of years we've had some wet summers and people

have said to me that the course hasn't been looking as linksy but while we can add water we can't take it away."

A fly on the Muirfield wall would see a lot of top dressing, very little fertiliser and a lot of aeration during the winter months.

"We don't aerate at all in the summer so that the surfaces are as smooth as possible for the members," said Colin, who explained that the two high points of the year are the Club's two medals – the spring in May and the autumn in October.

"October is a busy month as we also give the course over to a charity day that month and it means that we never do any verti draining until November, while most clubs are well into their winter programmes."

Colin has been head man at Muirfield since 1994 and but for a two year gap – during which time he was Course Manager of a course in Dusseldorf, Germany – he has been

at the club since he was a 16 year old apprentice in 1981.

"I used to do a bit of caddying in the summer holidays and the old Head Greenkeeper, Dave Kirkaldy, used to do the Caddie Master's job to give him a day off on a Thursday. He asked me if I fancied a job on the greens in the summer. I said I wouldn't mind and he told me to come down the following day and he'd give me a go at cutting a green," recalled Colin.

"The next day I went out with one of the greenkeepers. He cut a couple of lines on the 8th green then I had a shot. That was the sort of interview you had in those days," laughed Colin.

It was supposed to be a summer job but at the end of the holidays Colin was asked if he'd like to stay on and he jumped at the chance.

He missed the 1980 Muirfield Open but was an assistant when Nick Faldo won his first Open in '87 and

FIELD OF DREAMS



Right: The 13th - Tom Watson's favourite par-3

Below: The distinctive bunker which graces the 18th hole

Deputy - to Chris Whittle, who is now at Royal Birkdale - when Faldo repeated the feat in '92.

Shortly after that Open he left to take up the position of Course Manager at the Dusseldorfer Golf Club.

"I enjoyed my time in Germany and it taught me a great deal. It was an inland course and I had to take on

board the different way of managing the course, the different laws that were in place, how different people would do things, as well as, of course, learn the language."

When Colin learned that Chris Whittle was moving back to his home area to become Head Greenkeeper at Royal Birkdale the lure of his own home patch was just too strong and

he applied for the job.

He is quick to admit that it was his experiences while working abroad which created the opportunity to return to Muirfield two years later.

"I don't think I would have got this job if I hadn't gone off and done the job somewhere else first. We have moved on from the traditional way of the job going to the longest serv-

ing greenkeeper when the Head Greenkeeper retired."

The arrival of The Open this July hasn't caused Colin and his team to make many alterations to their normal regime.

"People do say that you could probably have an Open here any year so we don't really need to make many changes to the way we do things when The Open comes along."

There are two holes which have been lengthened for the Championship, the par-3 4th and 13th holes, the latter being hailed by Tom Watson as the best par-3 in world golf while the bunker renovation has been carried out over the last couple of years.

"We do them on a two year cycle. We looked at those which the pros wouldn't see so much and did them last year and the ones where they are more likely to find, particularly on the par-3s, we did them this year.

"We don't want them to look too brand new or surgical looking when we reface them and the members can play them throughout the winter. I think people would feel cheated if they had to lift balls out of bunkers in the run up to an Open. Having said that, there is nothing worse than finishing a bunker then someone coming along and taking a big divot out of the face, but it's a golf course and we prepare it for golfers. It's the same with divoting fairways, someone is going to come along and take a divot. We are here to prepare a golf course for golfers."

One element which has seen a





change from normal years is the treatment of the rough, which has not been cut as much as usual. One of the unique elements of Muirfield is the walk offs from the tee, a small strip of cut grass, often over 100 yards long, through rough to enable golfers to walk to the start of the fairway.

"Some of the older members struggle to make the carry, particularly into the wind, or top a shot and it can be tough for them when the rough is left to grow.

"You have to think long term when planning to cut the rough. People said to me three weeks ago that you could hit the ball anywhere in the rough and still get out of it. They won't be saying that now. When you get the rain and the heat how fast it grows so the same people will be saying in a few weeks time that it needs to be cut."

But other than that the course will not change much from its norm, a point illustrated when Colin points to an old aerial photograph pinned to his office wall.

"A picture taken now would be very similar to this one," he said.

Over the last few years he has visited the Open venue and compared it to his own course at the same time of year.

"You do work different management programmes in the lead up to Open time to select the best but you've got to remember we have a different climate to other Open venues.

"Last year we were a lot greener than Lytham which was amazingly



dry. When I got back over the border on the Saturday you could see even that the road verges were still green and that we were probably a little behind Lytham," he said, before revealing that they had 29 mil of rain in May and that in the first two weeks of June they have had a staggering 54 mil.

He expects the greens to be more than quick enough for the Championship.

"I can get them to run at 10 feet for no special occasion and I have been asked for 11.5."

He revealed that when Sergio Garcia won the Amateur in '98 they had been cutting morning and night but were asked just to cut in the morning as they were getting too fast.

In addition to all the on-course

work, Colin has been placed in charge of all the ancillary work as well.

"Some clubs designate a member to look after these sorts of things but with me being the Course Manager and knowing the course best they decided that I should take on the role of keeping an eye on everything and you do want to protect your course as best you can."

To assist in this they have marked all the sensitive areas which include water pipes and drains and told contractors not to go near those areas.

A genuinely laid back character Colin is looking forward to the week and, with six weeks to go, is happy to boast that he hasn't suffered any sleepless nights worrying about it.

"Yes, you know the eyes of the world are on you and that it's your

course and good or bad it's going to come on you in the end so there is pressure but if you are confident in what you are doing on your course you should be fine. It is also reassuring to know that I have such a fine team behind me. They have done a superb job in the preparations for the Championship and I know that will be the same during the week itself," said Colin.

"The weather is the only thing you have no control over but it would be nice to see an Open with the sun blazing, a fiery burnt up course and the wind blowing. That would be my ideal."

He's right but whatever weather is served up during the third week of July you know that Muirfield itself will be the star.



SELECTING

Robert Laycock takes a look at the development of turf and gives some advice as to what to look for when purchasing turf

Turf has been used to create new grassed areas on the golf course for as long as there have been golf courses and it has been sold in rolls for centuries.

For many years seed was seen as being a more reliable way of making a new turf surface. Late in the 20th century plant breeders began to develop new strains of grasses created specially for turf, which could be truly called turfgrasses. This advance helped in the development of the turf industry as the new cultivated or seeded turf grown from mixtures con-

taining these was demonstrably better than that composed of agricultural or wild grasses, which is all that had been available before.

For many years it was difficult to find turf of reliable quality, but gradually, about 25 years ago, a cultivated turf industry began to develop in the UK. The use of specialist harvesting machinery, developed in North America, made harvesting easier. Later, big rolls made a further improvement to the laying of turf on larger areas. Other specialist forms of turf later became available for sports turf and other landscaping uses.

The problem has always been how to pick the best turf. Every turf company claims to grow excellent turf, so adverts are not very helpful in choosing the best. Objective tests of quality were needed and the Turfgrass Growers Association (TGA) commissioned the production of a quality

assessment scheme to make selection easier for customers. The TGA standards provided these tests, with participating growers using the same techniques to assess their turf. This is not to criticise other growers outside the scheme, who often do produce good quality material. However, direct comparisons are difficult if different assessment techniques are being used.

All participating TGA members have exactly the same equipment for assessing their product and all have been trained in its use. In the event that there is a complaint about the quality of turf supplied under the scheme, it is possible for a properly equipped and trained independent person to repeat all the tests and verify whether or not they have been measured correctly.

The TGA standards have brought a discipline to the monitoring of qual-



TURF

ity that was not there before. It is now possible for a grower to compare his records of assessments on this year's crop with those from previous years, and see whether or not his turf has improved. Similarly, by using these parameters, customers can compare the products of different suppliers.

Just because a turf company has supplied good turf one year, it does not follow that it will be identical the next. Turf quality varies from grower to grower but all turfgrowers accept that it also varies from year to year.

There are many reasons for this variation but it is mainly due to the effects of weather conditions during the crop's production and the management it receives while it is growing. Cultivar choice is also very important and the best ones for the grower's conditions should always be used.

The best quality modern turf is

grown from top quality turfgrass cultivars and thus should produce a turf area of equivalent quality to one grown from seed. One of the great advantages of turf is that you can inspect its quality and see the grasses it contains, whereas inspecting a bag of seed may tell you which grasses should be in the turf produced from it but not their proportions and not whether weed grasses will be present in the finished sward.

The TGA standards were originally aimed at turf supplied to landscapers, the turf suppliers' largest market, rather than for sports turf users. Nevertheless many of its contents are also relevant to the latter. I find that greenkeepers are not very familiar with the scheme and what it covers so I have provided a brief list of items that greenkeepers should be looking for when buying turf, whether or not it is covered by the TGA scheme.

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TURF GROWERS AND INNOVATORS OF TURFGRASS SYSTEMS

SELECTING TURF

Just because a turf company has supplied good turf one year, it does not follow that it will be identical the next. Turf quality varies from grower to grower but all turfgrowers accept that it also varies from year to year.

Robert Laycock (right)



Assessments

Any assessments of turf suitability should include the following:

Dimensions

Some sizes and shapes of turf are easier to handle.

Health

Shows the turf is free from pests and diseases.

Soil type

Some soil types are unsuitable for some situations (usually sports turf).

Grasses

It is good to know that good quality seed using top cultivars has been used to sow the turf. Also it is important to know the proportions of the different species of grass that are present in the turf when it leaves the field.

Cutting height

Relatively short turf looks tidier and is easier to bring under control after laying.

Thatch thickness

If this is too thick it has a detrimental effect on turf performance and can slow down establishment time.

Soil thickness

Thickly cut turf tends to be heavier, more difficult to handle and slower to establish after laying.

Netting

The customer can decide whether they want to have netting in their turf.

Strength

Reassures the customer that the turf is strong enough for its purpose.

Weight

The customer can decide whether turf will be easily handled, what type of vehicle will be needed for transport.

The TGA Quality Assessments cover all the above, with objective measurements made of each criterion, but they are not the only way of assessing turf quality. All growers have their own methods, which are more or less formalised within the company. The advantage to the customer of the TGA scheme is that it

provides up to date and easily comparable information on the actual turf being offered for sale.

The standards also show details of the field and the farm where the turf was grown so that any problems that may arise can be traced back to source. A certificate is produced which identifies the staff member who assessed the turf and the date on which it was done.

The important things are that the tests are done on the turf the customer actually receives and that they are done shortly before or soon after harvest.

If turf in a particular field does not meet the standards it will not be certificated. Because of this, there are times when growers may not be able to supply turf meeting the TGA standards. Growers who do not tell the truth on their declaration of quality will be disciplined by the TGA. So far, to my knowledge, there have been no instances of sub-standard turf being supplied under the scheme, which is a credit to the TGA members and their staff.

Using turf on the golf course

Additional information needs to be supplied by the grower for turf to be used on the critical playing surfaces, especially golf greens, but including any created on a USGA or similar high specification rootzone, because most natural soils are incompatible with new constructions. If a different soil layer is introduced into the profile of the green with the turf, it will take much work to remove it, a process that may take years.

For new greens of this type, the best turf to use is either washed free of soil or grown on a soil or rootzone compatible with that the greenkeeper is going to lay it on. Only a limited number of growers produce turf in these ways and because of the extra

work and materials involved it tends to be more expensive than conventional turf.

The grasses the turf contains are also important, especially for use on greens. In an ideal world all the greens on the course would be identical, and this is possible with a new course, at least for a while. However, most old golf greens contain a high annual meadow grass content and turf of this type is not available commercially, so a mismatch is inevitable when new greens are built. Shopping around will provide the type of turf least dissimilar to that on the existing greens. Get samples of turf from different suppliers and make a choice on the grounds of soil and grass content. Make sure any samples you obtain are from the field your turf is going to come from.

Elsewhere on the golf course, away from areas created on rootzone, it is less important that natural soil is avoided, and many believe that better results are obtained if the soil the turf has been grown on and the soil it is laid on are similar.

This means that using local turf-growers can often provide material grown on a soil type more compatible with the soil on the course. Many of the best local and national growers are members of the TGA, which has members growing turf on all types of soil from clay loam through sandy soils to peaty soil.

**The website address of the TGA is www.turfgrass.co.uk
Robert Laycock's website is www.robertlaycock.co.uk**

Robert is a founder member of the Register of Independent Professional Turfgrass Agronomists (RIPTA)

Learning

Education & Training for Professional Greenkeepers



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

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards, beginning by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC.

There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and if you think that training is expensive then try ignorance.

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

Tel: 01347 833800
Email: education@bigga.co.uk
Website: www.bigga.org.uk



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

The Government endorsed awards range

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

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

the GTC. The quality of the delivery of these awards by the network of GTC Approved Training Providers is also constantly monitored by the GTC.

For up to date independent advice on qualifications, education and training courses contact the GTC on:-

Tel: 01347 838640
Email: golf@the-gtc.co.uk
Website: www.the-gtc.co.uk

www.bigga.org.uk

GREENKEEPER TRAINING

abingdon.witney college

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



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

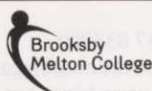


Berkshire College of Agriculture

Berkshire College Of Agriculture Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 6QR **Contact:** Laurie Brown **Tel:** 01628 824444 **Fax:** 01628 824695 **Email:** enquiries@bca.ac.uk **Web:** www.bca.ac.uk **Information:** Full-time programmes - BTEC First and National Diploma and Higher National Diploma. Part-time programmes - NVQ 2 & 3 Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf (day and block release) and HNC Sports Turf Technology. Short courses - Greenkeeping for golfers, NPCT Chainsaw Competence Certificates, Spray Operators Training Courses.



Brinsbury College Pulborough, West Sussex, Sussex, RH20 1DL **Tel:** 01798 877400 **Fax:** 01798 875222 **Email:** Student-services@brinsbury.ac.uk **Web:** www.brinsbury.ac.uk **Information:** FULL-TIME: National Diploma Horticulture (Greenkeeping option), BTEC First Diploma New Entrant Horticulture (Greenkeeping option), First Diploma New Entrant Horticulture (Greenkeeping option), National Certificate Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sportsground option), PART-TIME: NVQ3 Sports Turf Maintenance (Day release or work based), NVQ2 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sports Turf options), plus varied short courses including Chainsaw, Brushcutter/Strimmer, PA1/PA2A/PA6A/PA9 etc.



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



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



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



Hadlow College Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL **Contact:** Norman Croasdale **Tel:** 01732 852152 **Fax:** 01732 853207 **Email:** normancroasdale@hadlowcollege.ac.uk **Web:** www.hadlow.ac.uk **Information:** First Diploma Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Horticulture (Sports Turf Option), NVQ Level II, III and IV. Part-time Day Release or evenings. NVQ Level II in Groundsmanship evenings. NVQ III Golf Greenkeeping, National Award. Centres at Hadlow and Canterbury.



Hartpury College Hartpury House, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL19 3BE **Contact:** Lucy Cable **Tel:** 01452 702132 **Fax:** 01452 700629 **Email:** enquire@hartpury.ac.uk **Web:** www.hartpury.ac.uk **Information:** Courses available: First Diploma Horticulture, National Certificate Horticulture, National Diploma Landscaping, National Award in Amenity Landscape Horticulture, also in Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship, First Diploma Greenkeeping, Certificate in Greenkeeping, National Diploma Greenkeeping, National Diploma Golf Studies, Modern Apprenticeships, Route 2 Work, NVQs available in Amenity Horticulture, Commercial Horticulture, Amenity/Turf, Amenity/ Sportsturf, Decorative Horticulture, plus RHS General Examination, City & Guilds Certificate in Gardening, TDLB Assessor Awards and a full programme of amateur, leisure and day release courses.



Merrist Wood College Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey, GU3 3PE **Contact:** David Rhodes **Tel:** 01483 884003 **Fax:** 01483 884001 **Email:** info@merristwood.ac.uk **Web:** www.merristwood.ac.uk **Information:** Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visits/assessments, Level 2 Edexcel first Diploma college day release for those without qualified workplace accessories, NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visits/assessments, Level 3 Edexcel National Award college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors, Edexcel HNC Turfgrass Science and Management college day release over 2 years plus various short courses throughout the year. To be introduced in the near future - Edexcel HND Turfgrass Science and Management college day release. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice. Career Evenings held monthly at the college.



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



NESCOT - North East Surrey College Of Technology Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 3DS **Contact:** Mr C Smith **Tel:** 020 8394 3220 **Email:** info@nescot.ac.uk **Web:** www.nescot.ac.uk **Information:** NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options), Pesticides Application - Certificate of Competence. Part time Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses. Also available - RHS General and Advanced Certificates in Horticulture.



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



Plumpton College Lewes East Sussex, BN7 3AE **Contact:** David Blackmur **Tel:** 01273 892044 **Fax:** 01273 890071 **Email:** enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk **Web:** www.plumpton.ac.uk **Information:** National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture (options in Amenity/Garden Design and Sportsturf); National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture and National Award; First Diploma in Horticulture. Part-time courses: NVQ Level 1, Level 2 in Landscaping and Sportsturf, Nursery, NVQ Level 3, NVQ Level 4. Also available are RHS General and Advanced and IOG National Technical and Int. National Diploma. Short courses are also available for FEPA spraying and chainsaw courses.



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

Training providers guide

Available courses guide

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

ENGLAND



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



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



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



Writtle College Chelmsford Essex, CM1 3RR **Contact:** David Campbell **Tel:** 01245 424200 **Fax:** 01245 420456 **Web:** www.writtle.ac.uk **Information:** SPORTSTURF PROGRAMMES NVQ Level 2 - Sportsturf; NVQ Level 3 - Sportsturf Maintenance. NVQ Levels 1, 2 & 3 - Amenity Horticulture. HNC - Sportsturf Science. HND - Sportsturf and Golf Course Management. Other Programmes; National Certificate. National Diploma (with Sportsturf Option). BSc (Hons) Sportsturf Science and Management. BSc (Hons) Horticulture. BSc (Hons) Landscape and Amenity Management. MSc Landscape and Amenity Management. NVQ 2 and 3 Service Engineering. First Diploma Agriculture (Mechanisation), C & G Agricultural Mechanics Certificate. FEPA. Chainsaw. Tractor Driving.

IRELAND



Greenmount College Antrim County Antrim, BT41 4PU **Contact:** Declan Gallagher **Tel:** 028 94 426794 **Email:** declan.gallagher@dardni.gov.uk **Web:** www.greenmount.ac.uk **Information:** Day release courses to (a) NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf, (b) NVQ Level III Golf Course Supervision National Diploma in Horticulture with Turf options FEPA, Health & Safety and a range of short courses.



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

SCOTLAND



Elmwood College Cupar Fife, KY15 4JB **Contact:** Ann Bain **Tel:** 01334 658842 **Fax:** 01334 658888 **Email:** abain@elmwood.ac.uk **Information:** Full time National Certificate Greenkeeping; Block Release SVQ Level II, SVQ Level III Sportsturf block release and Outreach available, and SVQ Level IV. HNC/D Golf Course Management available as full time, block release and distance learning. HNC Golf Facility Management, (HND Golf Facility Management subject to validation for 2002). PDA for football and cricket available both block release and Outreach. FEPA and COSHH, chainsaws, tree climbing and rescue techniques and Health and Safety short courses also available.



Gosta Training Ltd 5E Clydeaway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow, G3 8JU **Contact:** Iain Forbes **Tel:** 0141 248 2772 **Fax:** 0141 248 2453 **Email:** learn@gostatraining.co.uk **Information:** SVQ II, III and IV also Modern Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture for all options including Sportsturf and GTC Training Manual. Attendance Day/Block release from November-March. Short courses with certification include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Risk Assessment, Abrasive Wheels, Back Actor and Small Machinery. Consultancy service for Site Risk Audits, Machinery Risk Assessments, Machinery Permit to use system, COSHH and Noise Assessment, Health & Safety, Policy development.



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



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

WALES



Pencoed College Pencoed, Bridgend, Cardiff, CF35 5LG **Contact:** Paul Discombe or John Sullivan **Tel:** 01656 302672 **Fax:** 01656 302601 **Email:** pfdiscombe@bridgend.ac.uk **Web:** www.bridgend.ac.uk **Information:** Courses: NVQ Sportsturf Level 2-3, HND/HNC in Turf Management. Short courses: Pesticide application, Chainsaw Operation and many others. TDLB Assessor Courses



Welsh College Of Horticulture Northop Mold, Flintshire CH7 6AA **Contact:** Graham Wright **Tel:** 01352 841034 **Fax:** 01352 841031 **Email:** graham.wright@wcoh.ac.uk **Web:** www.wcoh.ac.uk **Information:** Full-time - Higher National Diploma in Turf Management. Part-time - Day release Higher National Certificate in Turf Management. Block Week - NVQ Amenity Sportsturf Levels 2-3. Briefing Days - NVQ Level 4, TDLB Assessor Courses D32, 33, 34. Day Courses - FEPA, Chainsaw Certification, First Aid, C.I.E.H.

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- Saturday 7th September 2002 10.00am - 12.30pm
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GREENKEEPING PROVISION

Oatridge has an excellent reputation for the quality of teaching in greenkeeping and sportsturf management. The College maintains strong links with local golf clubs, local councils and national bodies such as BIGGA (British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association) and IOG (Institute of Groundsmanship). Oatridge is ideally suited to meet training needs of students and employers from throughout the UK.

The facilities

At the College there are extensive practical facilities and resources including a nine-hole "pay and play" parkland course. A four hole par three practice golf layout, a practical putting green and a bowling green. The College is well equipped to meet the requirements of greenkeeping and sportsturf management courses.

The courses

HNC in GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT
This advanced level course is offered on a part-time basis. It is suited to applicants who have completed their craft level training and wish to attain technical, financial and managerial skills necessary to perform effectively as modern head greenkeepers and course managers.

SVQ LEVEL 2 SPORTS TURF

The course normally lasts two years and consists of a planned programme of SQA units. The programme is designed for people entering or at an early part of their career in the industry and offers practical instruction supported by technical knowledge in a range of skills.

SVQ LEVEL 3 SPORTS TURF MAINTENANCE

The course normally lasts two years and is appropriate for people who have completed their Level 2 or have been involved in the industry for some time. The programme is based on organisational and supervisory skills with the emphasis placed on the creation and maintenance of sports turf including maintenance, repair, renovation and setting out.

CERTIFICATE in GREENKEEPING and SPORTSTURF MANAGEMENT

The course is designed for persons wishing to gain entry into the Greenkeeping and sportsturf management industry for the first time, or as a change in direction for their careers.

The content is based on a range of SQA modules devised to meet industrial needs by providing students with sound, hands-on practical experience, maintaining, renovating and developing sportsturf and amenity facilities both on and off the College site. A wide range of opportunities are available in this diverse and expanding industry with the potential to progress for those people with commitment, qualification and appropriate experience.

Oatridge Agricultural College, Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn, West Lothian, Edinburgh EH52 6NH
Tel: 01506 854387 Fax: 01506 853373 Email: info@oatridge.ac.uk Website: www.oatridge.ac.uk

IT'S A GAS

Roland Taylor takes a look at pollutants and how emission control is now such an important issue

No one would place a child in a room full of toxic gases, yet every day we subject them, along with the rest of planet's population, to high levels of pollutants in the air that we breathe.

In this article we are looking at the smaller engines found on all golf course equipment, although what is written, equally applies to all equipment and road vehicles that use combustion as a source of power.

It is a fact of life that there are a

number of conditions and pollutants around which can cause serious health problems, not all, are the result of the internal combustion engines.

One of these is the 'greenhouse effect', there seems to some confusion as to what creates this phenomenon. If the earth's surface is to sustain a rich variety of growth it requires an average temperature to be maintained. Global warming occurs due to a cocktail of certain gases including, water vapour, carbon dioxide and methane, raising the temperature levels. The cause is largely due to man's intervention in nature, which results in excessive amounts these gases, being produced and released into in the atmosphere.

Damage to the ozone layer is another cause for concern. This is like a skin around the planet that protects the surface from the sun's harmful ultra violet radiation. Here the culprit are CFCs (Chlorofluorocarbons) which are commonly found in aerosol solvents and in the past refrigerators. These break down the layer so the earth and its population is exposed to the sun's rays. A very good reason to protect the skin on bright sunny days.

Combustion engine emissions play only a minor part in these two phenomena, their

role is closer to home. Engine exhaust and fuel evaporation are two sources of pollution involved.

Petrol and diesel fuels are made up of hydrogen and carbon atoms. In a perfect combustion the fuel (hydrocarbons) is mixed with air (oxygen and nitrogen). When burnt this produces carbon dioxide, water and nitrogen, all three relatively harmless.

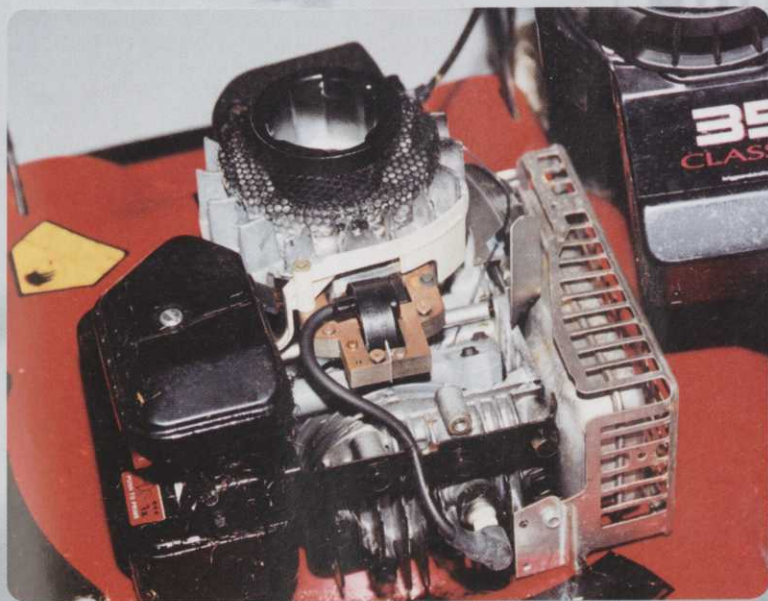
In an engine the results are different. A mixture of fuel and air creates unburnt fuel (hydrocarbons), nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide - a real witches brew.

Hydrocarbons

Basically this is unburnt fuel. This mixes with the nitrogen oxide and when exposed to sunlight produces ground level ozone - a major component of the smog, hence the reason for the continual shroud now over a number of large cities throughout the world. From a health point of view it can cause irritation to the eyes, damage the lungs and aggravate respiratory problems such as asthma. Exhaust hydrocarbons also have the potential to cause cancer.

Nitrogen Oxides

These are formed from the nitrogen and oxygen in the air being subjected to a high temperature plus pressure. Their role has already been mentioned in the formation of ozone, they also contribute to the production of acid rain.



Carbon Monoxide

This is a real nasty. As the result of incomplete combustion the carbon in the fuel is only partially oxidised. As far as humans are concerned, oxygen levels in the bloodstream are greatly reduced and those with a heart condition are most at risk.

Carbon Dioxide

This is the stuff we exhale. In the normal ecosystem plants and trees take this in and convert it into oxygen. With the changes that man has brought about to the environment this natural cleaning system no longer works at a 100% – the greenhouse effect is one of the results. Some environmental agencies now consider carbon dioxide is becoming a pollutant.

There are slight differences in emissions from diesel engines.

Particulates

These are made up of suspended carbon particles and the amount of these released will depend on the quality of fuel.

Soot (Carbon)

Most exhaust contaminates are carried in soot. Petrol units produce less soot, but more carbon monoxide.

Apart from exhaust emissions there is also another area associated with the engine that create atmospheric problems – evaporation.

This is one of the major factors for hydrocarbon pollution, especially on hot days and it can occur in a number of ways:-

- If a fuel tank becomes hot then fumes escapes through the vent in the cap.
- Engine and exhaust heat will vaporise fuel, this continues for relatively long period after the unit has been switched off.
- Vapour is always present in fuel tanks and this is forced out during refuelling – the shimmering haze that can be seen on all garage forecourts.
- There are other indicators that signal a power unit is producing excess fumes or something sinister might be going on inside.

White smoke

Mainly evident when an engine is started up, it usually disappears when the unit warms up. Water droplets (condensation) plus unburnt fuel in the cylinder cause this. In the worst scenario it could indicate that water from the cooling system has gained access to the combustion chamber.

Blue Smoke

Burning oil plus unburnt fuel generally causes this. May be the result of excessive wear, broken oil ring or more likely a poorly tuned and maintained engine.

Black smoke

A combination of soot, oil and unburnt fuel, this could also herald a mechanical failure. In the case of the last two, some action to rectify symptoms is needed fairly quickly, if a major problem is to be avoided.

As has already been shown, the combustion process, although now highly refined, is still relatively inefficient and this can be escalated by other contributory factors:-

- The quality of the fuel used
- Type of engine, whether it is a standard model, turbo charged or has fuel injector.
- Incorrectly tuned engine
- Fuel pump or carburettor settings
- The workload it is subjected too.
- Engine running temperature
- Lack of maintenance.

Stringent legislation in some countries has meant that that engine manufacturers have made considerable strides in reducing emission levels with models now on the market 70% cleaner than a decade ago.

This is the result of changes in the cylinder and valve configurations, finer tolerance throughout, and more sophisticated fuel/air supply systems. Power units are more compact having greater fuel and oil economy and less vibration, plus the lowering of another emission – noise.

On some models the catalytic converter has been introduced. These use very high temperatures to burn off the unused fuel before it is emitted from the exhaust, but they are a highly sensitive components that are likely to be damaged if an engine is not properly maintained.

Another reason why problems can occur is that some of the contaminates from an incomplete combustion remain inside the engine. These eventually find their way into the sump where they mix with the oil to form lacquer and a thick sludge. This then passes into oil ways and adheres to components causing a reduction in an engine's efficiency as the power output drops and fuel consumption and emissions increase.



Out of all this there is a clear message regard controlling the level of emissions. While, engine manufacturers now produce power units that comply with present and future legislation once these are out in the field, it is the responsibility of the users to maintain these standards. The fact is modern engines require very little maintenance, so by look after them regularly and correctly this can be achieved.

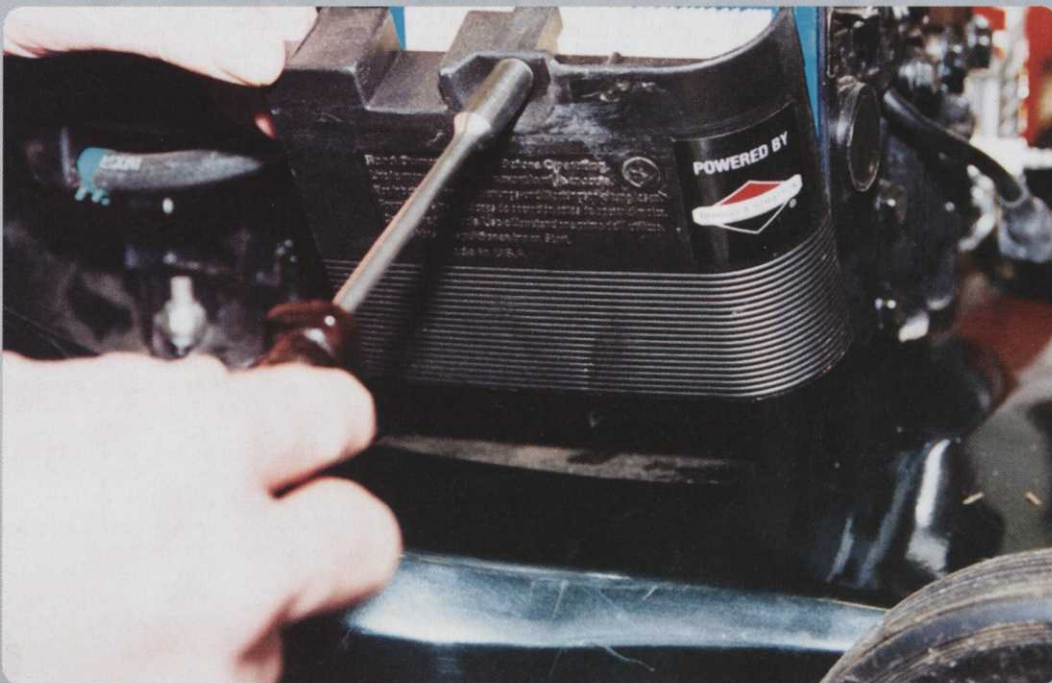
Oil

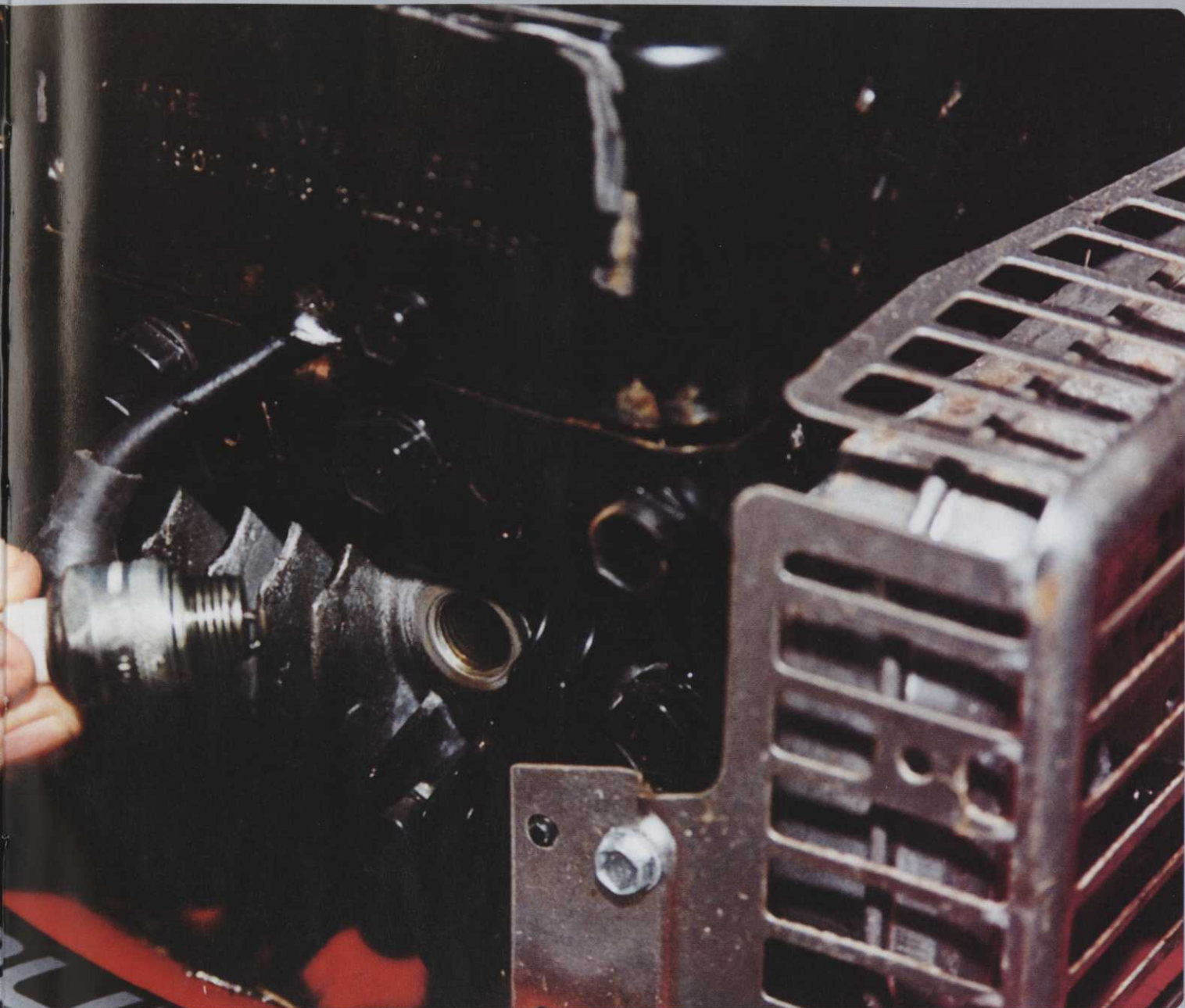
This has two main jobs, to reduce friction and to help dissipate heat. If it is in short supply or contaminated, serious damage to the engine can occur. The message is, check the levels are correct every time the equipment is used. This not only applies to the engine, but also to any other components that uses oil, such as hydrostatic drives and gearboxes.

Change the oil as outlined in the instruction manual using top quality recommended lubricants.

Airfilters

If these are dirty they alter the





fuel/air ratio entering the combustion chamber and as already explained this has an effect on the amount of pollutants the engine emits. It will also increase fuel consumption as well as effect the performance. Starting may also become a problem. In extreme case dirt can enter the engine and cause a great deal of damage.

Regularly clean the air filter, more often in dry dusty conditions. If a filter is badly contaminated or damaged it will require replacing.

Cooling systems

These are designed to ensure the engine constantly runs at the right temperature.

Where the airflow becomes blocked or restricted, heat builds up very fast, and in some cases the unit catches fire. It is time to start running because a bomb in the form of an exploding fuel tank can make a nasty mess.

Clean dried grass and dirt out of the fins of air-cooled areas such as around the engine cylinder blocks and hydrostatic drives also from radiator grills on water-cooled systems.

Ignition

In the case of the petrol engines, make sure the spark plug is the correct one with the right size gap, if it is badly contaminated fit a new one. Fuel injectors will require specialist attention.

There are other parts of the machinery that will effect emissions and performance

- Blunt blade or poorly adjusted cutting cylinder requires more power so an engine has to work harder with all the already mentioned results.
- Badly adjusted drives such as belts and chains have the same effect.
- The unit should also be operated at the correct speed and to meet the prevailing conditions.

Not only will all these benefit the environment they also increase the life of equipment and reduce the risk of a breakdown.

It is also necessary to have a fuel management programme in place that ensures the minimum of evaporation.

Petrol or diesel should be stored in a cool place in an approved contain-

er. If a spillage occurs it will need to be cleaned up immediately.

Gas power

Over recent months there has been a lot of media coverage regard using liquid propane gas (LPG) or natural gas (NG). Some engines are now being manufactured specifically designed to operate on these alternative fuels, but as far as is known no one at present is fitting these in the UK. There are companies' here, now offering conversion kits. Apart from reducing emissions these units also show considerable savings in fuel costs, as the example below illustrates.

A 16hp Briggs & Stratton Vanguard engine was used for the purposes of this study.
 Fuel consumption: 3.5litres per hour
 Fuel costs: Petrol 75p per litre
 LPG 25p per litre
 Operating period: 6 hours per day
 5 days a week
 30 weeks per year
 Fuel costs for this cutting period
 Petrol: 3150 litres at .75p litre = £2362.50

3780 litres at 25p litre = £945.00
 Other items: One-off cost of conversion approximately £650.00
 Bulk fuel storage tank £150
 Rental of tank and pump approximately £96 per year
 The total costs in first year including fuel is £1841.00
 This is a saving of £521.50

In the second and subsequent years the savings are higher, in the region of £1300 per annum based on these fuel costs.

This example is more in line with contract grass cutting, the savings on a golf course could be pro rata.

Regarding diesel, because there is doubt that red fuel will continue to be available to the turf machinery sector, a comparison is not given.

Pollution of our planet is not going to go away and the damage already inflicted cannot be redressed. The only course of action left is to ensure wherever possible we minimise some of the effects we have on the atmosphere, by maintaining the equipment in a tip-top condition and good running order.

Maureen Keepin reports on the dramatic developments in engineering have resulted in the production of highly durable rotary mowers with an improved cutting finish. Taking over rough and semi rough areas how can clubs strive to sharpen up their rotary act?

MAKING THE MOST OF ROTARY

Rotary mowers are proving their worth as part of today's greenkeepers' armoury. You will not find them on the tees or greens - as they cannot cut the sward tightly enough, but rotaries are certainly delving ever deeper into the rough of the golf industry.

Easy to adjust and less expensive to maintain than cylinder mowers, regular sharpening of rotary blades is still critical and should form a vital part of any maintenance programme.

First developed in 1934, early rotary mowers had power driven, horizontally spinning blades. They were introduced on to the golf course because of their capability of dealing with longer grass than the cylinder cutter.

A rotary is not as competitive as a cylinder mower in terms of cutting cost per hectare - as the grass grows faster when cut with a rotary - but it can be cut more easily at higher cut rates.

Neither do they produce as good a cut as a cylinder mower, as the blade hits and destroys the grass leaf tissue which can lead to yellowing at the tips - this is why it is crucial to sharpen the blades at least twice a week for optimum performance. This leads to slower grass growth and less yellowing.

Generally a rotary can stand grass up, even when wet, enabling it to cover

wheel marks left in the turf. Increasing steadily over the last five years, rotary sales have grown from 600 to 850 (figures from OPE).

"This is a very good increase," said Pieter Nel, John Deere's Division Sales Manager for Commercial and Consumer Equipment.

"In the past people used cylinder

mowers, but rotary mowers have advanced to such an extent they can produce an almost similar quality of cut at a height of between one to six inches.

"They are cheaper to maintain, as sharpening their blades is easier," he added. They are safer than cylinders, as you are running rotaries below the deck. "The mulching issue is also important," he said.

"Disposal of clippings can be very expensive but with a mulching deck on a rotary this problem is removed."

What to look for in a rotary mower

"Operator comfort is certainly a key area and quality of cut is vitally important," said Peter. "Vibration is always an issue and our 1445 and 1565 machines have been redesigned for greater operator comfort."

Durability and reliability of the machine are also important - and customers expect a good back up package from manufacturers and dealers. These issues can be crucial in the purchasing decision.

Mowing in semi rough and rough

"A dramatic shift has taken place over the last five to six years with a tremendous increase in flexible rotaries with multiple decks," said Alan Prickett, UK Branch Manager of Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products.

"These are more accurate at a lower cutting height. Ten years ago, the bulk of semi rough mowing was carried out using trailed gang mowers or self-propelled hydraulic gang mowers."

Starting off initially with the use of rotaries with fixed 60 inch and 72 inch machines, giving a reasonable cut to a height of 2 inches, the golf market started asking for greater productivity.

While this could be achieved with

a wider cut, there was a considerable downside. By increasing the cutting width there was far more unsightly scalping on undulations.

This was not acceptable. The only way of squaring the circle - combining increased productivity with a decent finish - was by using multiple cutting decks. Textron developed an 11ft cutting width bat-wing machine, with triple deck rotaries - one at the front and two at the sides.

Productivity increase was sorted, and a finer finish was developed at a lower cutting height, which greenkeepers wanted on semi rough areas.

On the Jacobsen AR250 there are five standard blades, and a secondary blade above those which has a mulching effect. This chops the grass a multiple number of times before discharging.

"This gives a really clean finish behind the machine," and avoids clumping and removes long strands of grass often just flattened by cylinder mowers," said Alan.

Rough areas are increasingly cut with rotaries, generally bat-wing or wide single unit machines fitted with three blades. Here again, the desire for higher productivity and lower maintenance costs rule the day. Certainly rotaries lift longer grass during mowing and cut these tougher blades and this is a distinct advantage over the cylinder.

"We have seen an increase in the sale of our 16 feet bat-wing with nine blades and 90hp," said Alan.

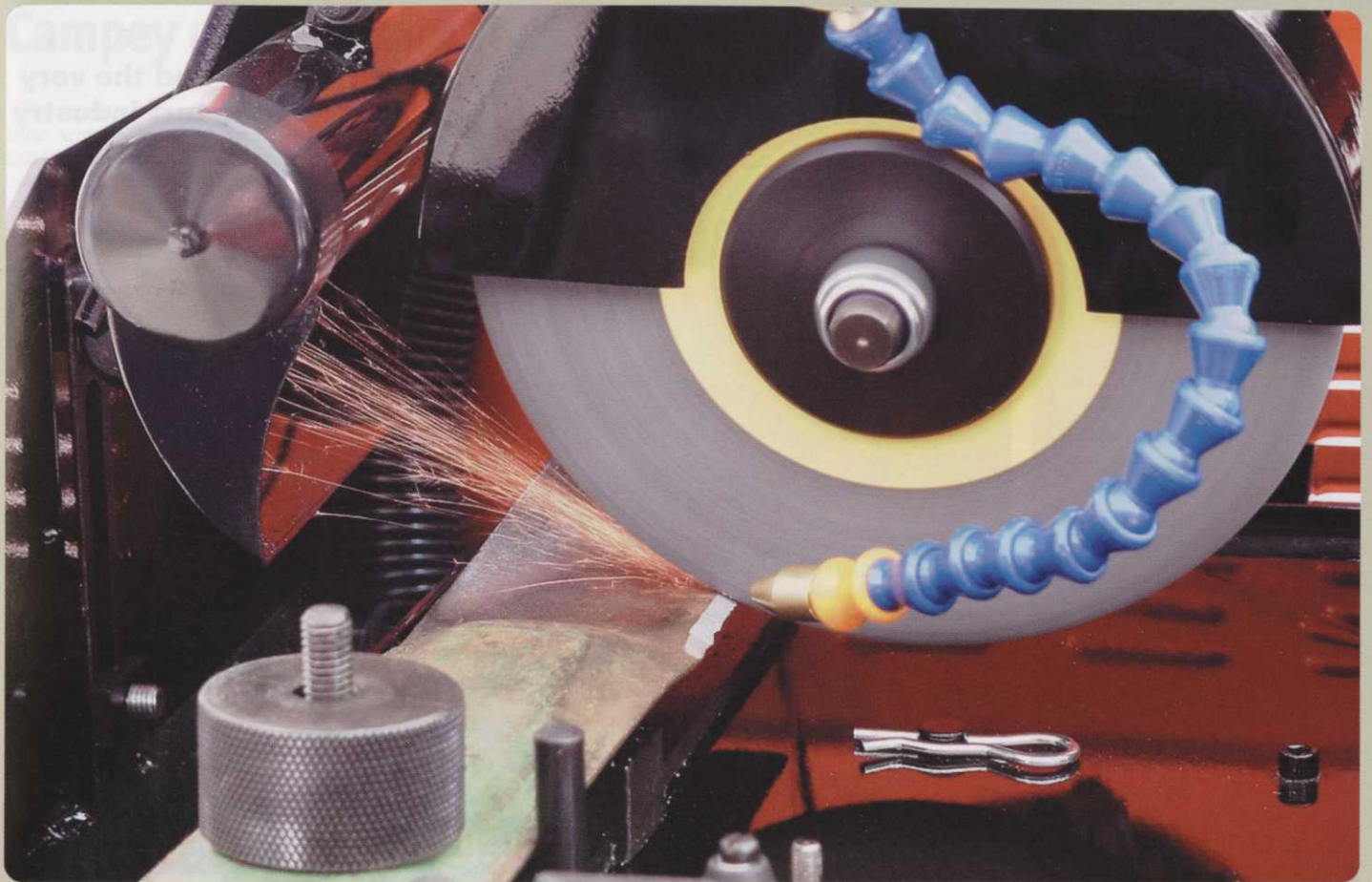
"These can cut 16 acres an hour and machines have just been delivered to Worthing Golf Club and Woodbury Park."

Increased productivity, with a respectable finish, has secured the rotary's future in the rough.

Sharpening up the act

Normally sharpened with a hand-held angle grinder, there are serious problems arising from sharpening





rotary blades using this method.

You need professional balancing equipment, as it is almost impossible to balance blades ground by hand. If a rotary machine is run with unbalanced blades you massively increase bearing wear and shaft wear - which can substantially add to the running costs. This is due to the fact the average rotary blade is travelling in excess of 100mph.

"Textron are using Bernhard's rotary grinder Rota Master at their dealerships and have been very pleased with results," said Alan Prickett.

"Quick, efficient and accurate it gives a very fine finish on the ground edge. We ensure perfect balance before the blades are refitted to the machines," said Alan.

"That in turn ensures excellent bearing life and a smooth ride for the operator."

Generating a huge amount of vibration if blades are not balanced, this comes back through the machine. One of the biggest problems arises when chunks are missing from the blade.

Low vibration and noise levels are achieved with rotaries by using larger engines at lower revs, together with improved insulation. Reductions in noise and vibrations were driven downwards by CE legislation. These are major health and safety issues - reinforcing the need for golf clubs to make sure rotaries are well balanced.

New power technology is difficult to harness with rotaries, as they are generally power hungry and have therefore to be run on petrol or diesel - electric does not measure up.

As the mower is delving into

extremely rough areas of grass, stones and wood can cause considerable damage to the blade.

"Often it is not a matter of just fine tuning the blade on a rotary mower, but eliminating damage by taking chips out of it," said Stephen Bernhard, Managing Director of Bernhard and Company.

Rota Master has been developed by Bernhard to avoid the need to completely discard a rotary blade. The machine grinds efficiently and with greater precision, reducing the amount of time needed to sharpen blades.

"Greenkeepers used to find it a real chore, either when sharpening blades themselves using angle grinders or bench grinders, or out sourcing their sharpening," he added Stephen.

"Our purpose-built machine can efficiently and cost-effectively grind them while agronomy factors should not be overlooked. Rotary mowers may have enough engine power to keep cutting when they are blunt, but damage is inflicted on the sward."

Around the courses

At Wildernesse Golf Club, in Kent, Course Manager, Huw Morgan, said: "We are starting to use rotaries on the rough and semi rough, where we previously used cylinder mowers."

Huw has managing Wildernesse for more than eight years and is the 2002 Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award winner

"When it is dry, cylinder mowers provide a better cut, but taking it over a 12 month period rotaries are best. They are more flexible and can mow when damp, which is pretty essential at the moment.



Machines have improved significantly and they now give a good quality of cut."

With a large rotary machine and a few hand held rotary mowers the club also hire in other pieces of equipment, as required. Rotary blades are currently sent out to a local dealer, as the club does not have the facilities for grinding them, although cylinder grinding is carried out in-house.

Royal Lytham and St Annes has been using rotaries on the rough and semi rough since 2001 - when they bought a set of mowers with five cutting decks.

"This gives a more clinical cut in

the spring time," said Paul Smith, Head Greenkeeper.

"We found with grass like rye it is extremely difficult to cut when it is coming into flower. Cylinders often just push the stalk over but rotaries can tackle this," he said

"Cylinder mowers are still used, so we get the best of both worlds."

Paul has a special jig to fit to his Hunter grinder for cylinder mowers, which specifically grinds rotary blades.

"The downside is we have to put an edge on the blade quite frequently but this is not a big undertaking," said Paul.

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

New spray nozzle from Lurmark



Spray nozzle manufacturer, Lurmark, has developed a range of nozzles which can be used in place of traditional spray booms, enabling chemicals to be applied to targets which cannot be reached by a conventional boom sprayer due to natural or man-made obstacles. Known as MaXThro, Lurmark's new long-throw nozzle is available in seven sizes capable of applying chemicals at swath widths from 5.18m to 9.45m and at flow rates ranging from 7.9 litres/min at 3 bar pressure to 150.4 litres/min at 4 bar. An even spray pattern of at least 125 deg is produced by MaXThro, depending on the selected nozzle size, with consistently large droplets across the range reducing the potential for drift. Typical situations where MaXThro is expected to improve the effectiveness and ease of chemical treatments include golf courses and stadia, sportsgrounds, amenity areas and field boundaries, orchards and specialist crops, the spraying of de-icing agents onto roads, pavements and runways, the application of suspension fertilisers and the distribution of waste products to encourage rapid biological breakdown.

Manufactured in durable Polyacetal with a stainless steel body, each MaXThro nozzle comes with standard male pipe fittings, quick-fit couplers and a mounting bracket enabling fast, simple attachment to any suitable point on the sprayer frame or folded boom. Suitable for use as a single unit or mounted back-to-back in pairs, it has been designed to achieve the required swath width with the spray delivery orifice positioned horizontally. To better target the spray, the nozzle can be rotated towards the vertical or angled up or down, although this will affect swath width and the spray pattern. Comprehensive information on MaXThro is available from Lurmark together with charts of typical application rates and the even spray distribution patterns achieved in replicated patterning trials by the company.

For further information
 Tel: 01954 260097

Shifting Sands

Cherrington "sandsifting" technology is now available in a line of compact sandsifting equipment which provides a solution to small sand areas which are dirty, polluted, or compacted. Offered in both walk-along and pull-type models, they screen out encroaching grass, garbage, rocks, cigarette butts, glass, and rotting seaweed, while putting the cleaned, sifted sand back on the beach or sand area.

For further information e-mail:
 sales@glenmac.com or visit the
 web sites at www.chemngton.net

Medium weight flail mower from Rytec

Rytec has announced the introduction of a medium weight flail mower suitable for front and rear mounting on tractors from 20 to 75hp. The new Professional SS models are based on a well proven and robust design but incorporate a new SIDE SHIFT linkage, allowing on the move, lateral travel of the mower around obstacles.

Available in 3 cutting widths 1.2, 1.6 and 1.8 metres, the new Professional SS machines are ideal for front mounting on a range of bank/reverse drive tractors with limited lift capacity and allow excellent manoeuvrability around trees, sign posts and other obstructions as the operator can side shift the mower hydraulically. As a rear mounted unit the machine is ideal for working under trees and hedges where it is important to cut grass but often difficult to reach because of access with the tractor and conventional in line rear mounted units.

The SS Professionals allow offsetting to both left and right hand side of the tractor and can therefore reach in under overhanging branches and hedgerows.



A range of flails allows the Professional SS machines to be used for a variety of

work from rough cutting with heavy cast grass flails, to fine mowing with paddle type flails, the machines can also be fitted with scarifying blades to further increase adaptability. With

the front castor wheels and full width rear roller the cutting height control and ground following characteristics of the machines are a major feature.

For further information
 Tel: 01944 768232
 E-mail: info@rytec.co.uk

Vermeer launch new brush chipper

The Vermeer BC625AI brush chipper continues the Vermeer tradition of rugged reliability, safety, and helpful features to enhance productivity. Like its predecessor – the BC625I – the BC625AI is a disc-style chipper, geared to meet the needs of all who use it.

The Vermeer exclusive patented AutoFeed system means fewer jams and reduced engine stress because it automatically monitors and controls feed roller rotation by sensing engine load. Feeding is easy and convenient with the feed control bar located in front of the operator position and a wide chute opening to cut down on trimming and chain saw work. Safety is optimised by a discharge chute which rotates 240 degrees to direct chips away from the operator.

The BC 625AI is built for maximum cutting performance to handle brush and debris up to 15 cm in diameter. It features a four-sided bed knife and a thick cutter disc for more cutting inertia, and an improved variable speed hydraulic system that delivers 20 percent more torque to the feed roller. Two engine options are available, including a 25 HP (19 kW) air cooled Kohler Command, and a 23.5 HP (17.5 kW) water-cooled Perkins diesel.

In addition to safety, reliability and performance, the BC 625AI's has been redesigned for easier transport-



ing and better stability. A wide axle with wheels mounted outside the chassis, enables the infeed table to be mounted 10 cm lower than its predecessor. This new stable, low design, not only makes it easy to get the

machine where it's needed, it's also easier to feed.

For further information
 Tel: 01933 274400

Campey unveil latest Hi Lift trailer

The application of top-dressing after aeration work to rejuvenate heavily used sports turf is an essential grounds maintenance operation, but it can also be one of the most time-consuming. Normally, if substantial areas are treated, work has to be interrupted frequently to refill by hand, with the substantial quantities of sand required. However, with a Raycam Hi-Lift Trailer from Campey Turf Care Systems, the task is made quicker, simpler and much more efficient.

The Hi-Lift, which can carry over 3 tonnes, is powered by a tractor of 30hp or more, and is driven by the motive unit's auxiliary hydraulic services. The articulated rear axle is raised quickly to discharge material from a maximum height of 1.4m (4ft 7in) into the user's top-dressing unit, allowing work to continue immediately.

Hydraulic controls are conveniently situated at the rear nearside of the Hi-Lift, allowing the operator an unrestricted view of the entire discharge operation. The unit features



low ground pressure tyres to eliminate the risk of turf damage, even when fully loaded.

For operational flexibility, the tailgate and controls detach quickly and, by fitting the standard tailgate assembly supplied with the Hi-Lift, the machine can be used as a standard

tipping trailer for general maintenance duties. A road-going lighting kit can be added as an option.

**For further information
Tel 01260 224568**

Email press releases
about new products to:
scott@bigga.co.uk

Toro deal renewed

One of Surrey's most exclusive leisure establishments, the RAC Country Club, has renewed its long relationship with Toro through a five-year preferred supplier agreement for golf turf maintenance equipment.



As part of the new £380,000 deal, the RAC Club's two 18-hole championship courses are being maintained by Toro greens, tees and fairway mowers, utility vehicles and aerators.

The deal has been put together with close collaboration between Lely and its Toro dealer, John Shaw Machinery. "We have always been very happy with the service they give us," said Course manager Bob Wiles. "They are extremely reliable and give us all the back-up we need."

New lightweight from Kawasaki



The KLF250-A has entered the market as Kawasaki's new working market entry model and has been brought in to do a job at the lighter end of an ever increasing and impressive application range including farms, equestrian, parks, sports and recreational establishments.

In an exciting model re-shuffle, Kawasaki has retained the turning capability that make the KLF220-A popular for its agility within confined areas, while providing a noticeable increase in power from the new 250's 16.8 hp, air-cooled, single cylinder four-stroke engine.

The end result for the working mar-

ket is a similarly compact and lightweight 2x4 machine with all the same features, but with a greater appetite for hard work and all the inherent characteristics of performance, durability and reliability that have become associated with Kawasaki over the years.

One of the big advantages for the customer is the availability of a machine with a track record when it comes to the working environment at Kawasaki's model entry level with a competitive price tag at £2,900.

**For further information
Tel: 01285 654777**

New improved range from Symbio

Following a four year research and product development programme Symbio has launched a new improved range of products and substantially reduced the price for biological turf management programmes.

It will be selling these new products directly to its customers in the South of England and Wales and has appointed two new regional managers. Neil Carter who is based in Portishead will look after customers from Wiltshire to West Wales and provide technical support to Don Hunt of Roffey Ltd who looks after Symbio's customers in Devon and Cornwall. Neil ran his own landscaping company for many years before taking his HND in turf grass management at Cannington. This was followed by spells at The Paris International Golf Club and The London Club where Neil got lots of experience in presenting courses for tournament play.

Richard Stringer used Symbio's products for four years as a Head Greenkeeper and liked the results so much he joined the company. Richard has 30 years experience of landscaping and turf management and is based in Tilbury from where he will cover the area from Kent to Northamptonshire. Richard said "I'm delighted to be able to help greenkeepers and landscapers use the latest technology to help improve their greens and course presentation"

New storage system



New rotationally moulded polyethylene storage units, designed to ensure the safe and secure storage of drums containing pesticides, chemicals, oils and other corrosive or hazardous liquids, have been added to it's range by drum storage, spill control and waste handling specialist Empteezy Limited.

Tough and durable, the polyethylene gives broad band compatibility and makes the units ideal for use in most agricultural and horticultural environments.

Model CP1 allows storage and dispensing from drums up to 205ltr in size, CP1S has shelves which provide storage for up to eight 25ltr drums [both have a 250ltr sump] The CP3 is a smaller unit with a 100ltr sump. All models have lockable doors and are available in either Green or Blue.

**For further information
Tel: 01494 442703**

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

North

As I write this report the heavens are opening again, and this is turning out to be the wettest spell of weather since the winter. Although, talking to some greenkeepers from the east coast, it has been a very dry spell and in some cases it's making life awkward, I hope you get some rain soon.

Two new members to report this month, these are Ben Brookes, from Newmachar Golf Club, and Marc Gray, from Strathpeffer Golf Club. Ben has been a member for a while now, so my apologies for omitting you from past reports. Anyway, welcome to the Section, lads.

The outing at Elgin Golf Club went very well and, with a really good turnout of 80 plus playing, combined with pleasant weather and a superb golf course, it turned out to be a really successful day. Alistair Angus and his staff deserve high praise indeed for the condition of the course. It was first class. Thanks also go to the catering and bar staff of Elgin Golf Club who kept us all fed and watered, and also a big thanks to all the patrons who supplied the raffle prizes and supported the event.

The prize winners for the day were as follows:

Scratch 1. and Bowen trophy Mark Ross, Elgin GC, 65; 2. Neil Sadler, Inchmarlo GC, 70. Class 1 and Frews Cup 1. Richard Roy, Garmouth GC, 71-3-68; 2. Robert Paterson, Royal Aberdeen GC, 73-3-70 BIH; 3. Brian Cruickshank, Garmouth GC, 75-5-70. Class 2. Trophy 1. Maxi Grant, Garmouth GC, 76-6-70 BIH; 2. Iain Gunn, Royal Strathpeffer GC, 76-6-70; 3. P. Wood, Newmachar GC, 82-10-72. Maxi Grant is now suspended from the next outing, unless he apologises, for holing that lucky putt on the last green.

Class 3 Trophy 1. A. Leslie, Forres GC, 81-13-68; 2. Brian Hunter, McDonald GC, 89-20-69; 3. M. Wood, Moray GC, 87-17-70.

Veterans and Trophy 1. John Geddes, McDonald GC, 82-13-69; 2. R. Donald, Oldmeldrum GC. Apprentice Trophy 1. E. Cameron, Elgin GC; 2. N. Whyte, Elgin GC. Committee Trophy, John Geddes, McDonald GC. Trade. Pat Allan (just for once) 75-5-70. Guest M. Anderson, Elgin GC, 73-8-65. Longest Drive Class 1 Robert Paterson, Royal Aberdeen GC; Class 2 B. Macdonald, Forres GC;

Class 3 M. Reid, Peterculter GC. Nearest the Pin K. Thomson, Moray GC.

Sweep Winners 1. Mark Ross, Elgin GC; 2. Richard Roy, Garmouth GC; 3. A. Leslie, Forres GC; 4. John Geddes BIH, McDonald GC.

The first section of 200 Club Hundred Club draws also took place and the winners were as follows; Jan. A. Wood, Auchmill GC. £30; Feb. I. Macleod, Tain GC £30; C. Pearson, Craibstone GC. £30; April, J. Whyte

£100.

Congratulations to all the winners and I hope to see you all at the Autumn outing at McDonald GC Ellon in September.

Congratulations are also due to Fortrose Golf Club, who received the Committed to Green Award for there substantial efforts on the the environmental front. They received this award at Gleneagles Golf Club, among several other clubs, from other areas of the country. The green staff, led by Stuart Hogg, and the committee of the club deserve a lot of credit for this.

And also to be congratulated, as I was reminded by Hamish Stephen, Cruden Bay GC, are Michael Clark, Kingussie GC; James Hutchison, Boat-of-Garten GC, and Craig Dawson, Newtonmore GC, for their part in Kingussie winning the Cammanached Cup, shinty's showpiece trophy, for the 20th time. To have three greenkeepers from the North Section playing in the team is tremendous, and well done lads.

Finally, the suggested golf match between the Aberdeen area of our Section and the north area was discussed and several very chirpy Aberdonians were offering challenges, convinced they just have to turn up. The proposed date for this has still to be set, but around the second weekend in October is being touted. We have four or five interested from our area but we need more, so anyone interested by all means phone me on 01997 420155. The course suggested was Strathpeffer GC.

Iain Gunn

Central

I must begin this month's news by making an apology to Jeff Ryce and Mark Roberts, both from West Lothian Golf Club, for omitting to welcome them to the Section in last month's report Sony Lads, but somehow your application forms got mislaid in my filing system, at this time of the years it's that pile of papers lying in the corner waiting to be attended to. Another new member joining us this month is Grant Davidson from Stirling Golf Club. I can hear you all saying "Aye, he didna' forget that one", but seriously a warm welcome to you all from everyone in the Section.

In last month's news I gave you the date of this years Autumn Tournament, have you all got it in your diary? Well hears another date, this year's Grand Football Tournament will be held on Sunday October 13, again at Forthbank Stadium in Stirling. Hopefully the weather will be a bit drier than last year! You've all had plenty of warning so you had better get in training now as some of the teams take this event very seriously. Forms for both events will be with you in the near future so, as before, please return them in plenty of time.

Winners of Club 2000 in April were A. O'Hara with ticket number 183 and S. Connah with number 251, May winners were K. Brunton with ticket number 131 and K. Mitchell

with number 036. Guess what's going to be dropping through your letter-box shortly. Yes! you've guessed it, your allocation of club 2000 tickets for next years draw. It may seem a bit early but it's just to give you time to buy/sell/return or as most of you do "mislay" them.

The draw for this years Inter Club Tournament has been made and circulated, with ten teams competing two league of five have been formed, with the winners of each league meeting in the final, hopefully ALL ties will be played on time in order that the event doesn't over run again.

I've had a suggestion that there should be a Reunion Dinner of the founding committee of the Section, first meeting November 20th 1980 at Stirling Golf Club. The committee elected on that night were: J. Oliver, J. Lees, R. Fleming, J. McAtamny, M. Batchelor, C. Stewart, S. Brown, B. Finlayson. W. Steele, A. Robertson, K. Vertigan, J. Armstrong, E. Small and auditors J. Souter and F. McNeill. I know that Jimmy Lees and Jock Armstrong are now in the big golf course in the sky and that Sandy Brown and Craig Stewart are working abroad but if anyone is interested in attending this event (even if they are no longer members) please get in touch and we will get it organised.

John Crawford.



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Northern

Let me start this month's report by welcoming our new members to the Northern Section. They are Frank Stewart, from Leeds Golf Centre; Stuart Earnshaw, from Clayton Golf Club; Ben Grayson, from Huddersfield Golf Club; Daniel Grainger and Robin Cornforth, from Easingwold Golf Club.

Allan Lofthouse called me a few days ago to tell me he was taking early retirement from Fixby Golf Club. No doubt most of you saw the advertisement for his job in last month's magazine. Allan has supported the Section for many years and was also Secretary of the old BGGGA. So from all your friends in the Northern Section may we wish you a long and happy retirement.

A little bird tells me that Telford (Scarcroft Golf Club) and his better half are expecting their first child. Congratulations to you both.

I am also sorry to report that Simon Heppenstall has left greenkeeping and gone into the landscaping industry. As you will all know Simon was Secretary and served on the committee for a number of years. May we wish him every success in his new venture.

I am writing these notes a couple of weeks prior to President's Day so results and report will be in the next around the green.

A couple of dates for your diaries, Thursday, August 15, Stand Golf Club. This is a yearly match against

our friends who were unfortunately born on the wrong side of the Pennines. A team will be picked by the committee based not on golfing ability alone, but on regular attendance at Section golf days over the last year. Invitation day at Bingley St Ives takes place on Tuesday 10th September. Bring a club representative and let them enjoy Joe Baxter's beautiful course, and share in the camaraderie of a section event. This event will be the usual format and cost £15 per person by cheque payable to BIGGA NORTHERN SECTION. Any committee member will accept your cheque.

Any gossip or tittle-tattle you want me to share with the section can be forwarded to me by any of the mediums at the end of the notes.

Enjoy the rest of the summer,
Dave Thackray 16 Westwood Ave. Eccleshill, Bradford, West York's, BD2 2NJ

Tel: 01274 640739
Mobile: 07976876264
E-mail: Dthackray@aol.com
Dave Thackray

North West

The beginning of June and no real signs of summer yet, but at least the finer grasses are beginning to take off. On Wednesday, May 15 we played our spring tournament at Hurlston Hall Golf Club, and we could not have picked a nicer course or better weather for the first of our golf tournaments. The course was in beautiful condition thanks to Tony Smith and his staff considering the fact that this course was only opened in October 1994. The greens and fairways looked as though they had been long established, and the vast amount of trees planted had taken off nicely, probably because they are planted on the finest arable land in the country. The caterers did us proud with ample amounts of sandwiches and soup prior to the afternoon golf and an excellent meal in the evening. I would like to thank Hurlston Hall for allowing us the courtesy of the course, and their warm welcome, the caterers for a lovely meal, and Tony Smith and his staff for presenting a great course. There was one sad note on the otherwise perfect day, and that was the poor attendance. We have in the N/W section almost 600 members including trade members, and although the spring meeting was almost in the middle of the section, we had only 24 greenkeepers, and five trade members present. The golf is arranged to commence at 1.30pm on each occasion, which gives you the chance to go into work early, and conic along in the afternoon and enjoy a good day. If there is a problem other than work please let me know either by phone or letter, and if necessary we will try to make other arrangements.

Now I have that off my chest I will announce the winners;

Best Gross. Steve Johnson; Best Nett. Paul Smith; Vets. Bert Cross Guests Prize Peter Jefford (President NIW Section) Longest Drive Andrew Sommerset Nearest the Pin. Andrew

Somerset.

The prices down to seventh nett were sponsored by Tacit, Bathgate, and the N/W Patrons.

The qualifiers for the Northern Region Final to be played at Whitefield GC, on Friday, August 9 are: 0-9. Steve Johnson and Mike Davie; 10-18. Paul Walker and Paul Smith; 19-28. Mike Hogg and Mark Hillarby.

On Thursday August 15 we have the "Roses Match" at Stand GC and I will require a team of 12 to try to win the Pattersons Cup back to where it belongs. If you are available give me a ring on 0151 724 5412 or Mobile 07761583387. Any news or views especially over golf tournaments give me a ring.

Bert Cross.

North Wales

North Wales lost their match against North West, the final score was 3.5 - 2.5 but an enjoyable day was had by all. Thanks go to Simon, Head Greenkeeper at Pryor's Hayes GC for the preparation of the course and the catering staff for the food. Also thanks once again for their kind sponsorship of the day. Next year the match will be in the North West Section area and then back to North Wales in 2004. We would like to hold this somewhere on the west coast.

Apart from this team event the Section holds just three tournaments over the year, Spring, Autumn and Christmas, these has been talk about holding a further event in the summer which could take place either in June or July and we would like to hear from you if it would be something of interest and also if there is anyone willing to put their course forward for such an event. Please get in touch with any of the committee to register your "yes" or "no" and we will assess the numbers at our next committee meeting.

As Guy Cannings, of Heswall GC, and Richard Littler, of Bromborough GC, take a pat on the back for successfully hosting the 'English Seniors Championships' at their respective courses, it wasn't all plain sailing in the lead up to the event explains Richard.

The Bromborough GC famous for the Cheshire stroke and match play tournaments was, in recent years, becoming unable to deal with the even moderate levels of rainfall, in particular there were five holes that were almost out of play through the winter months and became soft in the summer. At a general meeting in September of 1998 the Greens committee backed by council persuaded the members that money needed to be spent on reconstructing these greens to USGA specification and a representative from the STRI spoke on the matter that this work was to be essential if they wished any winter play.

Work took place in the construction the USGA spec greens, (Phase 1) with the significant feature of putting back original turf. The five greens were completed by May 1999 and back in play.

They liked the results so much that

a decision was then made to do the other 13 greens and the putting green (Phase 2) This was done during September - December 2000 in the worst period of weather in history but these were back in play in May 2001 and in August hosted the Cheshire county matches, Richard and his team had to treat the new greens gently by hand mowing and also purchasing extra fertiliser and feed along with further investment in fairway and bunker drainage. Twelve months on and the course has seen a new lease of life for all year round play anyone wishing to hear and see the results first hand should give Richard a call.

On a lighter note Life begins next month for David Lewis of Conwy (Caernarfonshire GC) he doesn't want anyone to know but he's the big 'four - oh' I said that I wouldn't tell anyone.

The three Day PGA Pro-Am at Nefyn, Measdu & Bull Bay was again a classic event now in it's 20th year so I am told.

Congratulations go to Hugh Roberts, of Vale of Llangollen, and his wife, Janet, on the birth of their baby daughter, Emily Jane. Hugh is former assistant professional at Llan and is now into his 16th month in the realms of greenkeeping. Thanks to Tracy for the info.

Any news, views or information you have, please contact me on:

Home 01925 263394 - Fax 01925 269622 - Mob 07778 162162 e-mail acorn@golf@supanet.com
Mesen Cymru
Andrew Acorn



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

B, B & O

The summer tournament will be held at Temple Golf Club on Thursday, August 1. Please note there will not be invitations sent out for this event as all the information required will be covered in this article. You are required to bring along the Secretary, Manager or Greens Chairman as your partner for this Invitational event. The format will be Fourball Better ball played over 18 holes. The first tee is booked from 2.15pm so please arrive in good time to assist with the smooth running of the event. As normal pairings will be decided on the day as and when people arrive. The cost of the day is £50 per team this will include an evening meal.

If you wish to play please contact David Winterton on 07778 765021. The closing date for entries will be 26th July.

The Rigby Taylor Knockout is in full swing with several matches already completed to date. Peter & Gordon Critchley disposed of Dean Thatcher & Wayne Nott, home advantage proved decisive in this match. Ross Wilson and Colin Hutt beat Richard Rosser and Brian Payne. Jason Brooks and Lee Bishop ran out

winners against Charles Taylor and Matt Newton. The local derby between Lindsay Anderson and Simon Austin, Badgemore, and Mitch Stewart and Michael Johnston, Henley, proved to be a thriller with Birdies flying all over the place. Despite the fact that Michael played off 18 he still managed to hit our par-5 2nd in two (nett one). Eventually they ran out of steam and we polished them off on the 17th. The Quarterfinal draw looks lively with some big guns going head to head, a full report will be included next month.

I would like to welcome several new members to the Section; Ian Upton, Peter Carter, Robert Siggers & Michael Johnston. I hope to see all of you at the forthcoming events this season.

Finally happy retirement to Raymond Tapper who has completed his life sentence at Studley Wood and has been released for good behaviour. Happy golfing!

Lindsay T Anderson

East of England

The second of our golf days out was held at Blankney Golf Club. It was nice to see Head Greenkeeper, Steve Peters, back at work and at the evening meal after his recent illness.

The course played really well and everybody enjoyed it. Thanks to Steve and the club management for allowing us courtesy of the course.

Graham Greenwood from Amenity technology, the main sponsor, brought along some great prizes as usual. The Amtec Salver was won by G. A. Macdonald, 35 pts; 2. T Jones, 33 pts; 3. (On countback) L. Hunt, 33 pts. The trade prize went to Dave Smith with 38 pts, from Mansfield Sand. Nearest the pin was won by L. Purdy and the Longest Drive for the Purdy's Cup went to Luke Hunt.

The order of merit for the BIGGA Blazer stands after two competitions 1. Ian Batty, 15 pts; 2. J Hewson, 11 pts; 3. G. A. Macdonald and A. Kitchinson, 10 pts; 5. T. Jones, 9 pts.

G A Macdonald



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Essex

The Essex Golf & Country Club was this year's venue for our Spring Tournament. Martin Forrester and his team did a great job preparing a course in difficult conditions for the well-attended event, which was sponsored by Banks Amenity Products, a big thank you to Simon Banks for that.

The Essex as always proved to be a good test of golf, requiring straight drives to shoot a good score, or as Mark Stopps found, a dodgy handicap. Mark managed to shoot a great score of 42 stableford points, winning him the overall prize, which he picked up without the slightest hint of embarrassment. Well done Mark.

There were two categories, 0 - 15

and 16 - 28.

Category 1. 1. J. Selwood, Abridge GC, 35pts; 2. R. Hare, Crowlands Heath GC, 33pts; 3. A. Kirwin, Colchester GC, 33pts.

Category 2. 1. M. Dillaway, Three Rivers GC, 42pts; 2. M. Guy, Trent Park GC, 35pts; 3. M. Smith, Channels GC, 30pts.

Nearest the pin and Longest Drive were once a gain sponsored by Greenkeeping Supply Company, thanks for that. The winners were; C. Gurton and R. Hare respectively.

Winner of the guest prize was R. Whitlock with 40 pts and A. Turbin, of E. Doe fame, won the trade prize with 37pts.

Well done to all who took away prizes and also to everybody else for supporting our section so well especially, Sherrifs, Rigby Taylor, Tuckwells, Ernest Doe & Son, Tacit, Driving Force Leisure and Gem Professional who donated raffle prizes. We must also not forget Headland Amenity who sponsored the mail out for this event.

A huge thank you must go out to The Essex Golf & Country Club for allowing us to visit their fine establishment and for looking after us so well during our stay.

New members this month are both from Crowlands Heath Golf Club; they are James Winner and Patrick Laws, welcome to our section fellas hope to see you at all the golf days.

Our next event will be the National Qualifier; it is to be held at Frinton GC on June 5. The qualifier is usually very well attended so make sure you get your slips in quickly.

Steve Crosdale

Sussex

So with the winter behind us, and a glorious summer to look forward to we should all start reap the benefits of our hard work carried out over the last few months, and get the dust of those golf clubs.

Saying that, they're certain members among us whom have the ability, keenness, or just need to get out of the house that they even play the game in the bleakest months.

Well for the rest of us fair weather golfers the Sussex Section golf days our upon us. Starting off with Seaford Head.

If you have never played Seaford Head, you are missing out because for a course which is placed on top of the Downs right on the cliffs it is presented in exceptional condition, due to the hard work of Dustin Houghton and his team, it also has to be said that there cannot be many courses around with views which Seaford Head can lay claim to!

The morning 11 holes which were Texas scramble was won by Mike Gould, Steve Vogels, and Brian Wilmot.

The afternoon round results in the 0-16 handicap were Ray Day in first and in 2nd Steve Blake. Both these winners qualified for the National Tournament.

The 17-28 handicaps were 1. Darren Mitchell and 2. Lee Amos.

We also had two nearest the pin and a longest drive, which were

snapped up by Rose Gould, Steve Blake, and the longest drive went to Lee Amos.

A special thanks to John Shaw Machinery for sponsoring the day.

As you can see another great day had by all.

So back to the regular bunch of us who always seem to be there at all events supporting the section. The committee put a lot of effort into organizing these days, which are for the benefit of every member of BIGGA in the Sussex section.

Believe it or not there are 220 members in Sussex, and yet at the AGM, which is held at Hayward's Heath, each year, which all the members are, informed about by post, we are still only seeing about 10% turning up.

I do appreciate that not everyone plays golf, and that not everyone is all that interested in BIGGA, other than a magazine (and then only for the job page), but if we continue with the lack of support we will not be able to function successfully, and it will be the members who will suffer.

As your Chairman I feel that it is every member's responsibility to put at least some in put into their Section whether it be attending a golf day or the AGM, or even a two day seminar, or may be dropping me a line on any interesting event which is happening to you or your club.

If you feel strongly about something concerned with Greenkeeping you can put pen to paper (or e-mail) the Editor or me and there is a fair chance it will be printed in the magazine.

I am sorry to have a moan but it is in all are interest to be more involved in the section it is only with your support that we can keep going.

So if you can make any of the golf days which only cost on average £25 a day, and more importantly are a lot of fun, or are interested in a workshop day please get in touch with me on 07876233253 or e-mail jonboy69@ukoline.co.uk.

Hope to hear from you soon and wishing you all a great season.

Jon Budd

Kent

The wettest May for sometime and now everything is growing like mad. Added to the long bank holiday and every one of us are up against it. Well, that's how I like it anyway. Because of the long hours you are all putting in, I assume that you have been too busy to drop me a line with any news from your clubs or indeed anything that might help fill a few more lines. It is nice to hear that so many of you look forward to reading this column every month, straight after you scan the job pages that is.

News and results from the spring meeting at Kings Hill will be in next months issue.

At last I received my certificate for passing my D32/33 which I took back

in November. So now I can sign off my staffs work - if it is good enough that is. If anyone else has passed exams or has achieved anything of note give me a call and I will give you or your colleagues a mention.

Once again I am left with nothing much to say, which is quite unusual for me, so get e-mailing and calling with your news and views of anything you want to get off your chest to JRBATKHGOLF@AOL.COM or 01732 875020.

Jason Bean

Surrey

Monday, June 27 was the date and Foxhills Golf Club the venue. Surrey Section's Spring meeting had arrived and 69 hopeful members were attempting to qualify for the National Tournament. The weather conditions were kind it was a dry, warm day with sunny spells and the course was presented in truly excellent condition by David Wybourn and David Langheim. The greens were very fast and very true and the consensus of opinion amongst the players was that the course was an absolute credit to all the greenkeeping team at Foxhills.

The result: - 1st (best net score) Adrian Locke, 70 - Qualifier National; 2. Mack McLaren, 71; 3. Gareth Roberts - Qualifier National Best gross score 72. Nearest Pin: Harry Wright. Longest Drive: Dave Murdoch.

The congratulation paragraph this month belongs to Simon and Yvett Osbourne who on May 8 this year became the proud parents of Luke Allen, a bouncing baby boy who weighed in at 10lbs, 7oz. Simon is the Course Manager at Wildwood Golf Club and is at this very moment still trying to convince his staff that, as he is awake at 3 am, maybe they should all make an early start together. The replies, I understand, are not encouraging.

Brian Willmott.



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

Devon & Cornwall

The Section's first match play competition sponsored by Vitax has reached the last sixteen, after over forty members entered the club qualifying round. The section would like to thank Adrian Masters and Vitax for their support. We are delighted to announce that Phoenix Irrigation will be sponsoring the fixture cards for the second year, hopefully the new fixture cards will be with you during late August. Dates and venues will be announced next month.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

After a dry start to the year, the inevitable rain has come in the last month. Coupled with the warm weather many greenkeepers are struggling to keep on top of the growth spurt. We have certainly had some stormy weather, which seems to be the pattern at the moment; still it makes life as a greenkeeper interesting (I think).

On the Section front it has been a quiet month. The committee are busy preparing next year's section seminar. We will be using a different venue next year and if you wish to hear a particular speaker then please contact one of the committee members as we are now about to approach possible speakers. This month sees the retirement of one of our sections great supporters. Ted West is to retire from Broadstone Golf Club after 40 years of service. I will report on his retirement in full next month but as a Section we wish him a long and happy retirement. Our next section golf day is on Thursday, August 8, at Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club. The day, which is sponsored by Huxley's and Rigby Taylor, is an invitation meeting. Ideally your guest will be a member of your golf club. The cost for the day is £18 per person and please forward all monies to Tournament Organiser Chris Sturgess. Entries are limited so I would suggest you contact him quickly. I am sure Ed McCabe and his team will have the course in its usual superb condition and it will be a great day out for us. If anyone has news that they wish to have published in next month's section then please contact me

Until next month,
Alex McCombie

South West

Summer's really here now, after a very slow start everybody has lots and lots of grass! On May 15 we held our Greenkeeper amateur tournament at Yeovil GC. Our thanks go to the club and to Neil Turner, the Course Manager, and his staff. The course was universally praised for it's tremendous condition and presentation.

Thanks also to David Smart of BioSeed who provided such good prizes for the members & their guests. The winners were K Oleremohows & B Davenport with 42 pts, 2. J. Bachelor & M. Chapman 39pts; 3. J. Jarvis & M. Jarvis 39 points, lost on the back nine. 4. W. Dunster & L. Townsend with 37 points, longest drive was won by C. Tozer, M Hawker won the scratch for nearest the pin, I understand Matt is saving the scotch for a special occasion! Our next event is at Bath on July 3 you may have just got your magazine in time, please come along. Finally you will all be interested to

know that Kevin Green, a past Section Secretary and long time member and supporter of BIGGA has become a landlord. Kevin is now the publican at the Carpenters Arms in Wick near Bristol. I think we all wish him, all the best in his career pulling pints.

R Greaves



Northern Ireland

Our first golf event of the year took place at Downpatrick GC on May 3rd. Fortunately we were blessed with super weather throughout the afternoon it was very easy to be distracted with the views across the County Down countryside. Course manager Emmet Curran and his staff had the course in outstanding condition with the greens running fast and true.

Congratulations go to new member George Fitzpatrick from Grosscar GC who took first prize with 39 points.

The results were as follows -
1. G. Fitzpatrick, Grosscar GC, 39 pts; 2. N. Crawford, Royal Co. Down GC, 36 pts; 3. M. King, Royal Co. Down GC, 34 pts; 4. P. Lappin, Kirkstown GC, 33 pts; 5. B. Boyle, Royal Co. Down GC, 31 points.

Our thanks to Downpatrick GC for allowing us courtesy of the course, I would like to remind members our next competition will be held at Carnalea GC on July 5 at 3pm. So why not come along and enjoy the craik.

The completed list of speakers has now been confirmed for the Section conference at Masserene GC on November 6. Our thanks go to Emmet Curran for all his hard work as Chairman of the organising committee.

List of Speakers: - Howard Swan, Topic, Being a golf course Architect, Renovation and Restoration, Case study in N.J. Dr Paul Miller - Topic, Sand, is Just Sand.Right? Martyn Jones - Topic, Striking a Balance for Healthy Turf. Dr Kate Entwistle - Topic, Current Disease & Pest Problems. David Ryan - Topic, Communication. Douglas Shearer - Topic, Health & Safety on the Golf Course. Gerald Byrne - Topic, The Construction of the South Course at the K Club.

Details regarding ticket prices and booking will be sent out to members and golf clubs in the coming weeks, well that's about all my news for this month, I hope to see our golfing members again at Carnalea on July 5.

Ken Henderson

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A PUBLIC disgrace

In a special US Open report, Sandy McDivot reveals a cunning plan to make the Championship more exciting

I write this while watching Mr Wood's engaged in his usual demolition of both course and fellow competitor at the US Open and I am being regaled with a steady stream of dialogue about how the venue is a public course – the Bethpage State Park Black Course.

Yes, hard to believe, but the US Open is being played on a "muni". Now as you know I am not one for cynical expression, but if that's a municipal then Tiger Woods is my illegitimate son. For starters they say it is subjected to 35,000 rounds of

fee, will be subjected to a huge hike. Then there is the huge problem that faces the game in that young Tiger is turning golf into a dull and predictable exhibition. So how can both problems be overcome?

Well, seeing as you ask, I would now like to reveal to you all, how I would promote golf as a game for the masses, while at the same time insure against future domination by the young genius.

Firstly I would select a true municipal course, one that is subjected to the annual onslaught of at least 70,000 rounds of golf, and only by qualified hackers, all of whom would be carefully vetted for complete golfing incompetence and ignorance of all matters pertaining to golfing etiquette.

Now I would like to examine the question of Tiger's prodigious length off the tee. How can we negate that as an advantage? Well, in the past they appear to have come up with the brilliant stratagem of extending the length of the courses in the hope that it will result in even Tiger being unable to reach holes in a couple of smacks. Well far be it from me to point out the bleeding obvious, but is that not being plain stupid?

What we must do is select a course that is no more than 6,000 yards from the back tees. And, as the back tees on a municipal are for ornamental purposes only, it would mean a course of no more than 5,500 yards, which should take away all his length advantage.

Secondly, how can we combat his physical advantage? Well I have thought long and hard about this one and I think I have come up with the answer.

Remember that this tournament, will be played strictly to true municipal tradition, so Tiger must turn up at the club on the Saturday and Sunday morning at about 4am, ready

to put his ball in the chute in anticipation of the twilight kick off.

So what about Tiger's famous preparations? Well, we must insist that only genuine council range balls are used. These have a random built in bias that will turn a hook into a slice and a slice into a hook, thereby insuring total confusion.

The Head Greenkeeper will have a critical role to play. It is essential that Tiger's ability to impart backspin is removed so all the fairways should remain uncut for at least a month before the big event.

The Head Man must also take full responsibility for creating as much of a luck factor as is realistically feasible. He can do this by insuring that the fairways are composed of at least 50% unreplaced divots, that the bunkers are officially classified as a disgrace and that the greens are riddled with pitchmarks. They must never exceed 3 on the stimpmeter and the holes will be changed two months prior to the big event and not again until the day after it finishes.

Now let us study how we may remove Tiger's exceptional powers of concentration. I think we should partner Tiger with Old Sid, who has played off a 24 handicap for the last 30 years, but has not actually played to it since 1975. He has never ever lost a golf ball, not because he is exceptionally accurate, far from it, it is just that he carries on looking for all lost balls until they are found, regardless of the time factor and he will expect Tiger to help him.

Bring all that into force and I reckon Tiger would be reduced to second favourite behind John Daly, who would be quite at home at such a place. And if after all that, he still manages to win, they should not only give him the trophy to keep.

Sandy McDivot, Head Greenkeeper, Sludgecombe Pay & Play

You can just imagine the success rate of a Head Greenkeeper going to the local council and asking for three million so as he can tart things up a bit for a big tournament. Seeing as a request for a new rake normally brings a requisite filling in of a 20 page form in triplicate, I think his chances are somewhat limited

golf annually, which on a true public golf course would be officially defined as empty. Then we are told that they have spent three million on getting the thing up to standard. You can just imagine the success rate of a Head Greenkeeper going to the local council and asking for three million so as he can tart things up a bit for a big tournament. Well seeing as a request for a new rake normally brings with it the requisite filling in of a 20 page form in triplicate, then I think his chances are somewhat limited.

But the more I think of it the more I believe the USGA has missed a golden opportunity. Presumably their rationale for visiting a public course, was to make the statement that the game of golf is open to all. But this was not your normal "muni" as at the end of this year's US Open, the green

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This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members. The solution to the June Turftime Teaser was Track Work Ltd. This was correctly answered by: Colin Denny of Prestbury Golf Club, Cheshire.

Our congratulations, a superb 'soft feel' Designer golf umbrella and a data bank calculator are on their way to you!

In addition to Colin, the other nine lucky entrants, listed below each receive a fantastic data bank calculator:

JD Fullagar, Craig Pennyquick, L.J.L. Hebdon, Jeremy Smith, Mr G Evans, Chris Tozer, Mr G Whalley, Ian Baudains and Tony Moore. Well Done!

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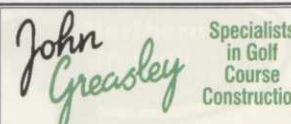
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Please apply in writing to:

John Holton, Secretary/Manager, Betchworth Park Golf Club,
Reigate Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1NZ


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Robert joins the hotel having been recommended to us by Richard Stillwell, Director of Greenkeeping for the PGA European Tour and will be commencing in his new position on the 19th August 2002 following his return from Nigeria at the end of July where he has been working for the past three years.

Robert will be responsible for maintaining and developing the hotel's 6,751 yard, par 72 "Lakes" championship course designed by Neil Coles MBE which is used annually by the PGA European Tour Qualifying School and was recently voted one of the best courses in Essex by the Essex PGA. He will also have responsibility for the more established 6,250 yard par 71 "Links" course built in 1975 as well as the facilities included within our golf Academy and the hotel's extensive grounds.

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GREENKEEPER

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Applications in writing with full CV to:

Alan Dickens, Manager, Old Fold Manor Golf Club,
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GUILDFORD GOLF CLUB

REQUIRES A

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Guildford Golf Club has a vacancy for a First Assistant and an Assistant Greenkeeper. To continue and progress with course improvements and development, we are seeking enthusiastic and hard working individuals to join our existing team.

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Please apply in writing with full CV to:

Mr B J Green, Secretary, Guildford Golf Club, High Path Road,
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Applicants in writing along with CV in the strictest confidence to:-

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COCKERMOUTH GOLF CLUB

Requires an

HEAD GREENKEEPER

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Applications in writing enclosing a copy of your CV to:

The Secretary/Manager, The Clubhouse,
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The Secretary, Royal Winchester Golf Club,
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The Golf Course & Estates Manager, Marriott Hanbury Manor
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- Report to the Managing Secretary
- Be able to demonstrate a sound knowledge of both traditional and modern greenkeeping techniques.
- Have a thorough knowledge of Health & Safety requirements and the ability to implement them.
- Have the ability to train, motivate, appraise and manage staff.
- Be able to efficiently manage resources and exercise budgetary control.

Whilst previous links experience would be a distinct advantage this is not essential. An attractive remuneration package, including a company pension scheme is available. No accommodation is provided.

Applications in writing with full C/V. to

The Managing Secretary, Burnham & Berrow Golf Club Ltd,
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- Management, Leadership and Communication skills
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- Full range of relevant qualifications and skills.

The role is demanding and an ideal opportunity for a progressive course manager. An attractive salary package is offered including accommodation.

Please apply by 31st July 2002, in writing with full CV and the names of two suitable referees to:

The General Manager, Langley Park Golf Club,
Barnfield Wood Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 6SZ.

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SHIRLEY PARK GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of COURSE MANAGER

Shirley Park is situated one mile east of Croydon, within twelve miles of the City of London and we are seeking an ambitious Greenkeeper who can develop every aspect of the 6,210 yard course.

The applicant must have at least five years experience as a Greenkeeper and be qualified to S/NVQ level II (HNC or S/NVQ level III would be an advantage). A driving licence, tractor mounted spraying certificate and chainsaw proficiency certificate would be of additional value.

The successful applicant will be responsible for five Greenstaff hence knowledge of training requirements is essential and in this respect, the D32/33 qualification would be desirable. We are seeking someone with initiative and enthusiasm to make significant improvements to the presentation and playing conditions of our parkland course.

Accommodation is available and the starting salary will be £22,000.

Closing date for applications is Friday 19th July.

Please send your CV and a report on your course management philosophy to:

The General Manager, Shirley Park Golf Club,
194 Addiscombe Road, Croydon, CR0 7LB



EAST HERTS GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

East Herts Golf Club is a private members Club with some 700 members. Founded in 1899 it has been on the present site of Hamels Park, in the beautiful rolling parkland of Hertfordshire, since 1974.

The successful applicant will possess the following attributes:

- NVQ level 3 or equivalent qualification
- Sound knowledge of modern golf course management techniques
- Ability to lead and motivate the green keeping team
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Apply in writing with a full CV to:

The Secretary, East Herts Golf Club Ltd,
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ENOUGH IS enough

I seem to recollect a couple of years ago receiving a call from Old Archibald, my counterpart at Sleepwell on the Weald GC, the club that time forgot. "Sandy" he said with more than a hint of desperation in his voice, "I've got some horrible disease all over my greens, it's all green and furry, you must come over and help me". "Do not panic Archie," I said, "I'm on my way". As I drove over, it did occur to me that the unseasonably wet and mild weather could have been the catalyst to all sorts of mysterious new pathogens, many of which poor Archie would not be overly familiar with. But as I had over the years got to know his greens almost as well as my own, I felt confident that I could come up with something approaching the correct diagnosis.

I met him on his 18th green as he was bent over looking at this horrible affliction. "What on earth is it?" he asked me, with the look of a man

I wonder how many of you have ever actually appreciated the true delights of Old Archibald's traditional bent/fescue dominated sward. Have you ever played on a green with the texture of tarmac, the look of rusty brillo and the wear resistance of kevlar?

in the final throws of a nervous breakdown. I too peered at his turf and did indeed notice something that I had never seen on his immaculate surfaces before. "Archie" I said, "what you have, is grass!"

Now, you have probably deduced from the above, that Old Archibald's approach to turf management leans towards the traditional. You may also conclude that he is a species of green-keeping dinosaur that cannot attain the status of extinction rapidly enough.

Well yes in certain respects you are probably correct. After all, ask him what a risk assessment is and he would probably describe it as an extremely useful decision making tool to be utilised when faced with the dilemma of staying for another pint, weighed up against the possible long term physical damage inflicted to his ear drums during the wife's welcome home speech.

But despite this, I wonder how many of you have ever actually appreciated the true delights of Old Archibald's traditional bent/fescue dominated sward. Have you ever played on a green with the texture of tarmac, the look of rusty brillo and the wear resistance of kevlar? Have you ever experienced the sheer exhilaration of observing one of your members delicately tap a putt only to see it actually accelerate past the hole and into an adjacent pond?

Anyway, to get back to his greens, after some discussion, both Archie and myself decided that this severe outbreak of extraneous leaf material was the result of the aforementioned weather conditions together with a misguided application of organic nitrogenous fertiliser he put down in 1985. "I won't be doing that again in a hurry" he said, before explaining that it was the result of some especially fiendish sales techniques deployed by an unscrupulously attractive female rep.

He then went on to elucidate on how this unfortunate moment of weakness was in direct conflict with his usual feeding programme which consisted of walking around the course on a windy day while waving a piece of partially decomposed seaweed in the air.

But before we dismiss poor Archie and his turf management techniques to the annals of antiquity, should we not examine the potential benefits that could be accrued with the utilisation of his type of feeding regime.

For starters, can you imagine the situation of never having to go home on an October Friday afternoon with the fear that if the mood takes it,

microdochium navale will come in over the weekend and remove both your greens and your career in one fell swoop? Can you also imagine the scenario of learning that your irrigation system has in the middle of July experienced a catastrophic failure without the slightest worry for the long or short-term health of your greens?

Do you in reality fear that without a miraculous repair to the system, your greens would reach their expiry date the following afternoon?

Had you placed a figure of £1000 in the budget column marked fungicide with the absolute certainty that this will give you a grand to spend on more important commodities such as top dressing? Are you able, on a day when the grass is covered in a heavy white frost, to allow play on all of your greens without the least fear that leaf damage will occur.

Have you regular need for such expensive and time-consuming operations as verticutting, scarifying, rolling, hollow tining, overseeding or even switching. Well if you have, perhaps you should consider the option of using a modified version of Old Archibald's methods.

But apart from some of the more obvious benefits, there are the other less obvious advantages to this system. For example, you do not have to concern yourself with the disposal of grass clippings; there won't be any. Then fear not the appalling look of a poorly adjusted mower on your greens. When you aren't cutting any grass, mowing faults are all but invisible. And remember, Archibald's approach is the "green" approach.

Of course it is not all sunshine and roses. Take this type of nutritional policy on board and you will end up with the following problems.

1. For starters the general greens texture can take on an alarming degree of firmness. This does then necessitate the need for your golfers to learn the art of the pitch and run shot on occasion. It also brings with it the requirement that they think

before they aimlessly muller their drives in the rough vicinity of the fairway. Failure to do so could result in them leaving a bunker betwixt ball and green, which on Archibald's surfaces would mean they are all but stuffed.

2. Then there is the problem that the normally innocuous disease known as fairy ring will blend into your greens about as well as Osama Bin Laden at a George Bush tea party.

3. Pitch marks that have not been repaired or improperly repaired can take anything up to a year to fully recover, thereby necessitating the use of fortnightly top dressings.

4. Then there is moss and sometimes clover, which in the absence of competition from grasses can run riot if you let it.

5. It only takes a couple of incontinent ducks to walk over your greens and you end up with unsightly green patches all over them.

6. No dew to help guide you when mowing? Then you had better use greenkeepers intuition, as that's the only way you're going to see your last line.

7. Also, you had better review your verticutting policy. Carry on doing that once a week and by June you'd have nothing left.

By and large though, in my own opinion, these are problems of mere nuisance value when compared to all the benefits one can enjoy. I should of course point out that I am not for one minute suggesting that we all regress to the days of Old Tom Morris. It is just that the traditional approach allied to more modern day techniques should be considered as a potential option and by traditional I do not mean just stepping up the aeration programme and easing back on the phosphate a bit.

Not long ago I took the Sludgecombe team on a pilgrimage to an old links course that I remembered had managed to maintain greens the way I like them. To me they were ideal. Somewhat sparse with the odd bit of clover in them perhaps, decidedly off colour certainly, but always incredibly firm, lightening fast and as true to putt on as any in the world. Yet when we played them, they were not as I had remembered. They were still good but somehow the poa annua had become dominant and they were a bit softer than I recalled and they were greener and the grass appeared to be not so fine.

They simply were not the same. So I contacted the greenkeeper in question, who had only been there for a few years and asked of his management policies. The answer when it came was as I had feared. They were hollow tining a couple of times a year

and they fed them around 120 Kg of nitrogen and they did this and that to them and somehow they had lost what they had. I am not saying he had done things incorrectly because at the end of the day I don't know what his circumstances were. Maybe he had been directed by his committee to change the character of the greens, but they were just not as I remembered and I think that that is a great pity.

So if I have by some miracle persuaded you that there could be something in old Archibald's turf management philosophies, how best can they be put into practice?

Well I believe it all comes down to getting your head around the fundamental principle that the least thing one wants is for the grass to actually grow. A tough one that I know but let me try to convince you. To help, let me list the common pitfalls associated with excessive applications of nitrogen and therefore grass growth. They are according to Dr Beard, poor surface quality, thatch accumulation, poor root growth, reduced tolerance to environmental stresses, decreased wear tolerance, higher evapotranspiration rates and greater susceptibility to disease.

In short if you over do it, your greens will be knackered. One then has to ask the question, why do we lob on loads of fertiliser to create all this grass and then spend the rest of the time trying to groom, brush, verticut, hollow core and scarify it all away again. It just doesn't make sense. You could argue that all these operations are carried out so as to avoid the pitfalls, but why not just stop applying nitrogen. That way you will automatically avoid thatch build up, achieve good root growth, create higher tolerance to environmental stresses, improve the wear resistance, have less need for irrigation and have little disease to worry about.

So what do I perceive to be the correct annual levels of applied nitrogen. Well I would say about 20 to 30 Kg per hectare, or to put it another way about 10% of what the fertiliser companies

recommend. In my humble opinion, that should be more than sufficient on most established greens. If you are getting too much moss and turf thinning, add a bit more, while if you are not getting any, cut the nitrogen down. Now I know what you are all saying and the word begins with "B" and I don't mean balderdash, but it has been done many times before and on all types of greens. Of course I do recognise that I am in no way aware of your own political situation with your members, but it does disappoint me when people simply dismiss the true traditional greenkeeping alternative as not being an option. I am telling you, it can work if the communication channels are in place and it is done properly.

To finish my argument, let me relay an account of a conversation I had with a fellow greenkeeper many moons ago who had two courses to look after. One of them, for one reason or another, was subject to prohibitive laws and regulations that meant he could do nothing

ing to these greens without a visit to the planning department and a lengthy and degrading bout of gaveling. The other course was basically a bog standard parkland layout owned and run by the members. He explained that his greens on the first course were in excellent condition and a pleasure to putt on and that they basically looked after themselves. However, his greens on the parkland course were showing all sorts of problems to the point where he had to constantly hollow core, overseed, topdress, scarify, vertidrain and most importantly of all, feed them on a regular basis. On the first course he had a bent fescue sward while on the other, despite all his work he had a predominance of poa annua and a heap of problems.

I leave the conclusions to yourselves.

Sandy McDivot, Head Greenkeeper, Sludgecombe Pay and Play.



Feature listing from July 2000

July 2000; Open Championship Preview; Dougal Duguid Court Case Report; Pest Control; Aventis profile; Course Conditioning

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

February 2002; Harrogate 2002 Review; Drainage; Casterlock GC; Trees; Recycling; TurfTrix profile; Barn Owl special report

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

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

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

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



Events ROUNDUP!

BIGGA Chairman, Richard Barker reports on Golf Days and Opens... oh and the World Cup

At the time of reading, all the fuss will be over but I am sure you, like everyone else, will have been watching the World Cup, or, even if you are not interested, will know most of the results.

Fortunately I was given a deadline extension to make a last minute amendment and England have just defeated the Danes 3-0 but I am certainly not going to make any predictions for their continued success because by the time you read this it will be old news. Let's hope though that England's good run continues.

A little closer to home we have not experienced the temperatures that Mr Beckham and his team have had to cope with and have had a lot more rain. Despite the problems this may cause I hope that, at least, it has kept your course nice and green.

On the BIGGA front, it has been a relatively quiet time for me, but things are hotting up. I've just enjoyed the annual BIGGA Golf Day and hotting up is an appropriate phrase as it was the hottest day of the year to date. Touching wood frantically, this event always seems to be blessed with good weather and hopefully that will continue for years to come. It was also pretty windy which says all the more for the winning score from the Lincsgreen team of 14 under par gross. Even given the Texas Scramble format, that is a superb achievement and could only be achieved by some incredible golf. As ever it was a fun day and a great chance to get together with the trade in an informal atmosphere. I'd like to thank everyone at BIGGA HOUSE who worked so hard to make the day such a success and an sure it will continue to be a highlight of the BIGGA calendar.

The following day was the quarterly Board of Management meeting and another opportunity to discuss the news and views coming in from around the Regions.

In the last month you should have received a letter from Headquarters with regard to the minimum qualification.

Providing you will all the relevant information with regard to this was a promise we made at the last AGM, the other element is your consultation so please let Ken Richardson or Neil Thomas know your views as soon as possible so that they can be included in the decision making process. Perhaps, then, we can move forward positively at next year's AGM.

You should also have received an entry form for this year's BIGGA National Golf Championship at Hillside and Hesketh Golf Clubs in late September early October. This was a tremendous success last year so please be sure to return your forms to guarantee your place this year. At present we are also short of a couple of sponsors so if you know of any willing companies please put them in touch with headquarters.

The week following the Board Meeting I am attending the opening of a new golf course in Scotland then going on to the Scottish National Golf Championship at West Linton Golf Club. I have heard many a good comment about this course so I am looking forward to playing it while I am also looking forward to catching up with many old acquaintances, as well as making new ones.

Shortly after this it's the big one.



Yes, The Open Championship at Muirfield. For those of you who applied to join the BIGGA Support Team and were successful I am sure you will be in for an unforgettable experience as the chance to walk the fairways with the greatest players in the world is not one which can be bought. For those who were unsuccessful in making the team this year, sorry but we do hope to see you in the BIGGA marquee anyway where there will be a warm welcome for you and your friends.

I would like to wish Muirfield Course Manager, Colin Irvine, and his team all the best in the run up to the Championship and, of course, for the week itself. I am sure that even with the wet weather we have been experiencing in June the players will find links golf at its finest when they arrive in Gullane.

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