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# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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**Board Members**  
Ian Semple  
Paul Jenkins  
Ian Holoran  
David Walden  
Iain Macleod

**Executive Director**  
Neil Thomas  
Email: neil@bigga.co.uk

**Administration Manager**  
John Pemberton  
Email: john@bigga.co.uk

**Editorial/Media**  
Scott MacCallum  
Email: scott@bigga.co.uk

**Education & Training Manager**  
Ken Richardson  
Email: ken@bigga.co.uk

**Membership Services Officer**  
Rachael Palmer  
Email: rachael\_p@bigga.co.uk

## Contact us

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

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

**Email:** reception@bigga.co.uk

**Internet:** www.bigga.org.uk

**Tel:** 01347 833800

**Fax:** 01347 833801

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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

### Editorial

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

### Advertising

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

### Design

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

### Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings,  
Manor Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH  
Tel: 01778 391000 Fax: 01778 394269

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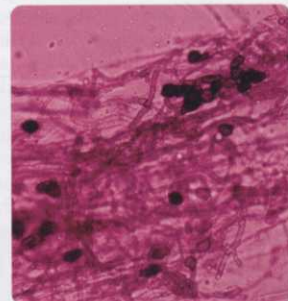
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**WIN A UNIQUE 'DESIGNER' GOLFING UMBRELLA**

This is your chance to win a superb, ProBella, 'soft feel' Designer golfing umbrella in our exciting new Buyers' Guide competition in association with GreenLink International & Blazon

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**'THE TURFTIME TEASER'**

**PLUS** The first 10 lucky entrants will receive this fantastic electronic data bank calculator

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FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS

**TIME TO TALK**  
[www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

# Free the Titleist One?

Last month saw a great deal of news print devoted to one John Collinson. Does the name ring a bell? Well he is the guy who was jailed for three months for gathering thousands of golf balls from golf club lakes up and down the country.

His case was highlighted as one of these situations where this country gets things so wrong. How could a guy who collects lost golf balls be sent to prison while so many more heinous crimes go unpunished? The fact that he declared his earnings to the Tax Man was also made to reinforce the point that here was a legitimate business and that Mr Collinson was a legitimate businessman.

There were radio phone-ins devoted to the case while a website ran a poll which found 90% of those who registered wanting him to be released. From memory even the Prime Minister got involved.

By the end he was being seen as a sort of Robin Hood figure providing lake balls for the poor impoverished golfers at the expense of the wealthy ball manufacturers.

Well, in the end such as the weight of opinion the Titleist one was released and justice was seen to be done.

But what did you think?

I must admit, without seeing all the facts, I did feel the sentence was a bit steep but that he did deserve punishment. He was going into golf clubs in the dead of night without permission from the clubs and taking balls that may have been declared lost, but were certainly not his property.

Trespass is just one of the crimes he committed and the fact that he was seen to be making such a decent living from his chosen career might well encourage others to take the same action and our golf courses could end up busier in the middle of the night than they are during the day. Where would that leave us?

With so many ecology and environmental projects being carried out on our courses the last thing we want is rubber clad, flipper wearing ball collectors damaging our flora and scaring our fauna, never mind our greens and bunkers.

And another thing...

What would you think if you arrived at the course early one morning to find a submerged body tangled up in weeds at the bottom of one of your lakes? I'd say that would be quite traumatic, and with the diving going on in the middle of the night together with the levels of stealth required it is not outwith the realms of possibility.

Yes, perhaps Mr Collinson didn't deserve his prison sentence but he certainly isn't an innocent party in the whole affair.

This is the final magazine to be designed by David Emery who is leaving the Association to further his design career with another company. David has worked on every magazine since February '98 and done much to ensure a professional look to the rest of the Association's literature. I would like to wish him well for the future and thank him for his outstanding work over the last four years.

**Scott MacCallum**  
Editor

## Continuing to set high standards

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) is smoothing the path to the introduction of revised Sports Turf vocational qualifications in July. National Vocational Qualifications and Scottish Vocational Qualifications in golf greenkeeping and ground maintenance are being updated to take in the latest advances in technology in the amenity horticulture world. The GTC has taken a lead role in this in collaboration with the two Awarding Bodies, City and Guilds

and the Scottish Qualifications Authority. A network of training providers guide students to the qualifications and it is essential that these providers all work to the same standards. The GTC has therefore been encouraging the Awarding Bodies to develop standard documentation covering the learning programme.

The GTC's Education Director David Golding said: "The GTC is committed to setting high and common standards in the UK and Ireland. This is why we have

been at the forefront in setting out the knowledge and practical standards for the revised NVQs and SVQs "

The GTC is golf's independent advisory service for both employers and employees with regard to greenkeeper education, training, and qualifications. It aims to persuade employers of the necessity for learning and acquiring new skills throughout life and encourage more people to get the qualifications they need for working.

## Chipping Norton GC wins first Deere qualifier

A four man team from Chipping Norton Golf Club is heading for the famous Brabazon course at The Belfry, having won the first British regional qualifier in the inaugural 2002 John Deere Team Championship golf tournament.

The team - consisting of Club Secretary Simon Chislett, Club Captain/Chairman, Keith Willis, Greenkeeper, Steve Doyle, and Club Professional, Neil Rowlands - beat off the challenge of 14 other teams in the competition, which was organised by Peter Helps, Sales Manager at John Deere dealer Turner Groundscare of Bledlow, Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire.

He was assisted on the day by John Deere representative Henry Bredin and BIGGA's Midland Regional Administrator Peter Larter. The winners finished on 20 under, two shots clear of the field. The competition is based on a modified scramble, with the professional playing his own ball throughout the 18 holes, and the other three players forming the scramble. The team then takes the lowest score at each hole of either the professional or the net scramble team. Chipping Norton GC made the most of a little local knowledge - the qualifier was held at the club's own course in Southcombe, Oxfordshire on April 25. The team now goes through to the Great Britain and Ireland national final at The Belfry



From left to right: Henry Bredin, John Deere Limited; Simon Chislett, secretary of Chipping Norton Golf Club; Peter Larter, BIGGA Midland regional administrator; Peter Helps, sales manager of John Deere dealer Turner Groundscare (Aylesbury branch)

on August 19, to play for a place in the world final at Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona, USA in November.

"We've run a great many tournaments here, but never one quite like this, or with teams made up in this way," said Club Secretary Simon Chislett. "It was a long and nervous wait to see who won, as we teed off first, but it was worth it - and I have to say, we'd happily host the competition again! We're all looking forward to playing at The Belfry, but there won't be any advantage for us this time as none of the amateurs have played it before."

Now in its 16th year, the John Deere Team Championship has traditionally been open only to

teams from the USA and Canada. Last year invitations were extended to Germany and Australia, and this year teams from Great Britain and Ireland are also included. After the national final at The Belfry, two winning teams - one from Great Britain and one from Ireland - will travel to the USA with the chance to be crowned John Deere World Team Champions 2002.

John Deere Limited is also making a donation of £25 for every British and Irish team entered, to support the educational activities of BIGGA (British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association) and GCSAI (Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland).

## Twenty years of success for Charterhouse

Charterhouse Turf Machinery recently celebrated 20 years of supplying equipment for greenkeeping and grounds maintenance tasks. The company is best known for the Verti-Drain range of deep aerators, manufactured by Redexim of Holland. This product revolutionised turf management when it was introduced to the UK in the early 1980s.

Charterhouse subsequently expanded into emergent niche markets, with ranges such as overseeders, scarifiers, corers, core collectors and pedestrian turf aer-

ators. The company also diversified into consumer-orientated products, including DR wheeled trimmers and brushcutters. In 1999, Charterhouse bought the Michael Richmond Ltd business, specialising in the supply of arboricultural and forestry equipment, broadening its market reach still further.

Most recently, Charterhouse added the Antonio Carraro 'supercompact' tractors and the Rogers Windfoil shrouded boom sprayers. To mark their 20th anniversary, Charterhouse recently held a special dinner attended

by past and present employees. A special feature was a commemorative cake baked by Secretary Barbara Jarman.

"Having identified the turf equipment market as a specialist sector, and sourcing high-quality products, Charterhouse quickly became recognised as experts in our field," says Philip Threadgold, a founder of the company. "Our ongoing flexibility has enabled us to develop the business to meet trends in new and existing markets, and we can look forward with confidence and excitement to the next 20 - and beyond."

# English Golf on course with Nature

Golf clubs across England stand to benefit from free environmental management advice thanks to an innovative scheme to be launched this summer.

The English Golf Union and the government's wildlife advisers, English Nature, have provided joint funding for this new scheme, to be delivered by STRI, the golf industry's independent advisory and research specialists.

An additional ecologist will be employed to work under the guidance of Bob Taylor, STRI's Senior Ecologist, now well established in golf course ecology circles. Over the next two months details of the scheme with an application form will be sent to all English Golf Union affiliated clubs. In July STRI will begin visiting up to 70 golf clubs assigned by representatives from EGU and English Nature from applications received by 28 June. This service is specifically designed for golf clubs who have had little or no ecological or environmental input, to raise awareness of ecological issues relating to their golf courses. An STRI ecologist will spend a day walking each course with green-keeping staff and club officials before preparing a detailed report offering professional environmental management advice.

Participating clubs will benefit from ongoing support from STRI for an 18 month period. At the end of which they will receive a free follow-up visit to assess progress and, hopefully, a certificate to acknowledge their envi-



Dr Gordon McKillop, Dr Keith Duff and Colin Spurr announce the launch of the new scheme

ronmental commitment and showcase wildlife gain.

Applications unsuccessful in the first year of the project will automatically be carried over to the following year for consideration, alongside opportunities for new applicants. A series of joint newsletters will be published and circulated by STRI to follow the progress of clubs taking part in the scheme.

The joint funding for this free service will also extend to offering

support to all EGU affiliated clubs through telephone and written advice from STRI. A series of advisory leaflets providing conservation advice on issues ranging from pesticides to management of the rough will be made available free of charge.

This three-year project heralds a new era of co-operation between golf clubs and conservationists, and is the culmination of a series of meetings between the EGU, English Nature and the STRI over the last two years.

English Nature's Chief Scientist, Dr Keith Duff, himself a keen golfer, said: "Golf courses, contrary to popular belief, can provide vital green corridors and oases for wildlife amongst an ever encroaching tide of developed land and monocultured farmland. Often relatively minor changes to course management can deliver huge benefits to wildlife and we're delighted to co-fund this ground breaking scheme to provide free tailored expert environmental advice to golf clubs throughout England."

Golf Services Committee Chairman, Colin Spurr, added, "The EGU welcomes the opportunity to join with English Nature and the STRI on this project which will ultimately be to the benefit of both our member clubs and the wonderful habitats that exist on their courses. This can only be good news for golf and conservation."

This free initiative is not intended to replace more comprehensive ecology and environmental services from STRI or other providers.

## Roger receives STRI honour

STRI's former Chairman, Roger Robinson, has accepted a position of Life Vice-President of the STRI, offered in recognition of his valuable contributions both as a member and as Chairman of STRI's Executive Committee.

Roger became a member of the committee in 1986, then known as the STRI Board of Management and Executive Committee, as a representative of the R&A. In 1992 he was elected as Vice Chairman, becoming Chairman in 1995, working closely with Dr Mike Canaway who had been appointed to the new position of Chief Executive. Roger retired as Chairman in September 2001, having supported for over 12 months Dr Gordon McKillop, STRI's current Chief Executive, whose appointment he oversaw in June 2000. Roger's experience and connections with the golfing world extend far beyond the STRI including both the R&A and BIGGA.

As a member of the R&A, Roger was asked to serve on The Championship Rules of Golf Committee, The Council of National Golf Unions and currently The Membership Committee. It was as an R&A representative that he became actively involved in the formation of BIGGA in 1987 and sat on the BIGGA Board as a Trustee until 1996. Not all of Roger's activities have been connected with the "political" world of golf. His personal love of the game is evident at his club, The Royal Liverpool Golf Club where he was Captain in 1982. In 1952/53 he was an Oxford Blue and later played many times for Cheshire becoming President of the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs in 1987. Acceptance of this position will enable Roger to stay in touch with developments at STRI even though he has officially retired.



## Irritech launched

Roger Davey, Senior Design Engineer and Area Manager for Ocmis Irrigation, has left after 13 years to become Managing Director of Irritech Limited - Independent Irrigation Consultants.

Roger has amassed a vast experience of golf course irrigation design and management projects, both within the UK and in Europe. This helps in understanding each individual client's needs and the ability of different irrigation equipment to meet these needs, concentrating irrigation designs on efficiency, economy and environmental impact.

Irritech will offer independent analysis of existing irrigation systems, provide specifications for new systems and system upgrades, and provide tender evaluation and project management.

Roger can be contacted on Tel: 01823 690216 Web: [www.irritechlimited.co.uk](http://www.irritechlimited.co.uk)

## Boughton expands

To keep pace with expansion, Boughton Loam Ltd. have added a further two new machines to its growing contract fleet. A Kubota 4200 series tractor and a Charterhouse 7526-2.5 metre Outfield Verti-drain will be brought immediately into use.

These machines will compliment the existing fleet, increasing capacity in the forthcoming end of season renovation on winter sports pitches. They will also be used in the ongoing maintenance of golf courses and cricket pitches.

All machines are operated by Boughton Loam's own highly trained staff who have extensive greenkeeping and landscaping experience.



Members of the East of Scotland Section paid a recent visit to Kingsbarns Golf Club. The trip was in association with local Toro dealer, Henderson Grass Machinery (Haddington)

## Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



## New appointments at John Deere

Three senior appointments have been announced at John Deere.

Graham Williams has left Langar to replace Joe Weegenaar as International Marketing & Sales Director for the commercial & consumer equipment (C&CE) division, based in Mannheim, Germany. Graham will be responsible for continuing to drive the growth and profitability of Deere's international business.



From left: Graham Williams and Pieter Nel

As C&CE Division Sales Manager of the UK & Ireland branch at Langar, Nottingham since 1993, Graham oversaw a fivefold growth in the grounds care business, making this the largest C&CE branch outside North America.

Graham attended both Lackham and the West of Scotland agricultural colleges, obtaining an NDAgE. He joined John Deere Limited as a territory manager in 1979, and became sales promotion manager in 1987.

Pieter Nel succeeds Graham Williams as C&CE Division Sales Manager for the UK and Ireland, based at Langar. Pieter originally joined the branch last year as Business Development Manager from John Deere (PTY) Limited in Nigel, South Africa, where he served as Manager, Product Support. Pieter joined John Deere in South Africa in 1989 as a Territory Manager and was appointed Manager, Product Support in 1993.

Keith Clayphan succeeds Pieter Nel as Business Development Manager for John Deere Limited. In this position Keith will supervise the company's complete goods department, and will be the branch expert in process management, working with all departments.

He will also lead the development and implementation of quality initiatives such as ISO certification, and will be responsible for managing and co-ordinating the branch's internet activities. Keith returns to Langar from Deere & Company's corporate headquarters in Moline, where he was a Project Manager on the order fulfilment team.

## New amenity grass seed group formed

The major breeders and suppliers of amenity grass seed have formed the Amenity Grass Crop Group (AGCG). Members include Advanta Seeds, Barenbrug UK, British Seed Houses, Cebecco Seed Innovations, DLF Perryfields, Nickerson and Semundo. Paul Johnson, Managing Director of Barenbrug UK, has been appointed as the Chairman and representatives will meet regularly with staff of STRI, at Bingley, which currently undertakes the independent evaluation of newly developed grass cultivars.

The Group will review with the STRI, the existing varieties available and fine-tune testing procedures. Its members will also liaise with end-users to ensure that the needs of industry professionals are being met in terms of amenity grass cultivar performance and will meet under the auspices of the respected British Society of Plant Breeders.

"Developing new grass varieties takes typically 15 years, and it requires a long-term view to ensure they meet the user's requirements," said Paul.

"The AGCG's role is to monitor industry issues and listen to the views of amenity turf professionals, so that we can effectively set the standards that tomorrow's varieties, and appropriate evaluation procedures, should meet. The Group has already held fruitful meetings with several influential trade groups, and we look forward to gaining the views of others so that breeders and testers fully understand their exact requirements."

## Toro dealer celebrates anniversary in style



Toro north of England dealer Cheshire Turf Machinery, in Stockport, has celebrated its fifth anniversary as an independent concern, with the sale of its 1000th machine - to the golf club to which it made its first sale, a Reelmaster 2300-D mower.

The club in question is Birchwood Golf Club, an 18-hole parkland course in Warrington.

Steve Halley, of Cheshire Turf Machinery, said: "The company was established to focus on the grounds care

professional, with the belief that if we did our job properly the customer would remain loyal. It's therefore especially satisfying to reach this milestone by supplying our original customer."

Head Greenkeeper, Adey Holt, who has built up his Toro fleet over the years, said, "I've always been a Toro fan, they make the most reliable machines on the market. Our Reelmaster 2300-D has done over 2,000 hours since we bought it and it's still going strong."

## Alan appointed Area Sales Manager

Dennis has appointed Alan Ronaldson to their sales and marketing team.

As Northern Area Sales Manager, Alan will offer product advice and service back-up to Dennis' customers and dealers throughout the North of England, Scotland and Ireland. They will benefit considerably from Alan's extensive knowledge and experience. This year, Alan celebrates 30 years of working in the grounds care industry, many of which have been undertaken at the highest level. Most recently,



he established a complete Northern dealer network for a New Zealand-based grounds care equipment manufacturer.

He is a founding member of the IOG's Scotsturf exhibition committee, and has worked closely with the IOG and BIGGA.

Commenting on the appointment, Dennis' Managing Director, Ian Howard, said, "Alan is dedicated to sharing his knowledge with others, and he is ideally suited to Dennis' commitment to supplying premium products and service to our customers. In the same spirit, he has also promised to give his new colleagues a practical demonstration of his bagpipe-playing skills!"

## Tee 2 Green in link with ETT

Tee 2 Green and European Turf Technology have announced a collaborative partnership to market several grass seed varieties in the United Kingdom and Middle East.

"We have conducted extensive market research over the past two years through our UK subsidiary and have established that we certainly produce a range of varieties ideally suited to these markets. We need to involve ourselves with a company with direct links to the country's leading golf clubs. ETT fit the bill with their outstanding contacts and highly technical approach they are the ideal partner," said Agostino Gaude, Tee 2 Green, Corp. Sales Manager for Europe.

The agreement covers a complete range with several specially designed mixes as well as a custom mixing service and the popular A4 creeping bent. Richard Lawrence Managing Director of European Turf Technology said, "Our philosophy has always been to bring to the market products that have a distinct technical advantage, we have achieved this through our associations with Floratine Products and Norsk-Hydro the world's largest fertiliser company. The Turf-Seed and Tee 2 Green ranges are an ideal addition to our range."

## SGM investment

Scottish Grass Machinery has invested £250,000 in two new workshops in Inverness and Aberdeen to support contracts recently won with Highland and Aberdeenshire Councils.

The new facilities will provide equipment and a full customer service, delivered by two dedicated engineers in each depot, supporting both the two council contracts as well as providing on-site support to SGM's golf customers across the North of Scotland.

# Tillers Rootzone Turf

(est. Apr.'02 - rdy. Oct.'02)

This autumn you can buy greens turf grown on three different rootzones, two of which are to USGA spec. In addition, our custom-grown service allows you to order any mixture of grasses on any rootzone. For details call Tillers Turf on 01652 678000.



**Tillers Turf** growers of fine turf

# John Deere launches Turf Tech scheme

A major new training scheme for the UK groundcare machinery industry is being launched by John Deere Limited, in conjunction with Brooksby Melton College in Leicestershire, with the approval of BAGMA and the City & Guilds of London Institute, and the support of the Learning & Skills Council.

The only scheme of its kind in the groundcare industry, the John Deere Turf Tech apprentice engineering training programme has been developed to assist dealers and their service departments in the recruitment and training of suitably skilled technicians. It is based on a similar John Deere scheme that has already been operat-

ing successfully in agriculture since 1992, and which won a National Training Award at the end of 1997.

Turf Tech is a four-year block release course at Brooksby Melton College, leading to the BAGMA/ City & Guilds of London Institute 4024 Agricultural / Groundcare Service Engineers NVQ Level 2 & 3 Certificates, and the John Deere Turf Tech Certificate. The standard three year apprenticeship will cover all the normal engineering principles and systems, and include regular sessions at the John Deere Training Centre in Langar. During the additional fourth year, the trainee works at the sponsoring John Deere dealership, and attends at least

three service schools at the John Deere Training Centre.

Successful completion of the fourth year of the scheme also qualifies technicians for Associate Membership of the Institution of Agricultural Engineers, and registration as Eng Tech with The Engineering Council.

The first intake of students, who need to be resident in the UK, sponsored by a John Deere dealer and aged 16 or over, is planned for September 2002. Anyone interested in applying will be able to obtain a brochure outlining the scheme from Brooksby Melton College, area careers officers, John Deere Limited at Langar, Nottingham, and John Deere dealers nationwide.

## Trilo buys Long Equipment range

MJT Contracts Ltd and Trilo have added the Long Equip range to their own range of Trilo Vacuum Sweepers. All production has been moved to the factory in Holland with MJT continuing the supply of parts and machines to the UK. The range has been "thinned down" to the successful collectors and sand spreaders, other machines may be made on request as



all drawings are held by Trilo. The company is hoping that the reputation of both TRILOs and Long machines will go hand in hand for a stable future and ask customers to bear with them while we gear production of machines and parts up to the standard expected by existing TRILO customers. They are holding some parts in stock and hope to have things back in operation within six to eight weeks with full production being resumed by Saltext at the latest.



## Sportsworld seminar a great success

David Bates (left) gets up to his elbows in a demonstration of hydraulic conductivity at the Sportsworld Amenity-sponsored North Wales Section Seminar at Carden Park. Chaired by Bill Lawson and with speakers including Peter Wisbey, of the EGU; Duncan McGilvary, of Potters Bar GC, Ken Richardson, of BIGGA, several speakers from Sportsworld Amenity as well as Colin Hood, from Turftrax, the audience was treated to a wide ranging array of topics.

## Great news for Woodlands

The Forestry Commission has changed its Woodland Improvement Grant giving more opportunity to golf courses to access grant aid for the management of their woodland.

The grant is split into 3 units: - WIG1 for Public Access, WIG2 for Undermanaged Woodland and WIG3 for Biodiversity. It is WIG 2 and WIG3 that are generally of interest to golf clubs, previously uneconomic thinning was not applicable for grant aid under WIG2. This has now changed and therefore golf courses with woodland should now be eligible for 50% of the agreed costs to bring their woodland back to environmentally acceptable levels. This

grant has a ceiling limit of £10,000 in grant assistance.

WIG3 has also been restructured with a new ceiling limit of £50,000 in grant aid. This is available to clients wishing to improve the biodiversity of their woodlands providing it is in accordance with either, the National or Local Biodiversity Action Plan, a Habitat Action Plan or a Species Action Plan. The grant gives a 50% contribution towards agreed costs. For further information please contact John Nicholson Associates at:-

John Nicholson, John Nicholson Associates, 18 Douglas Gardens, Durham, DH1 3PT Tel: 0191 3842556

## South Wales Seminar well supported



Pictured at the South Wales Seminar are Professor Bill Adams, David Ward, Head Greenkeeper at Royal Porthcawl GC, Simon Barnaby, Scott's Technical Manager and Martin Townsend, Scott's Sales Manager. The event was very well supported and the South Wales Section would like to thank Scotts for their very generous sponsorship of the event.



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



### JUNE 1992

Greenkeeper International reported that golfers at Aldwark Manor, built in 1876 and headquarters of BIGGA, had to give way to a giant crane recently as a 30 tonne 60 metre span bridge was eased into place between the fairways. Engineers used a 500 tonne mobile crane to lift the steel frame timber decked bridge, which now stands as a splendid course feature and access for golfers and maintenance machinery over the River Ure, running through the picturesque 6,171 yard par 71 parkland course. This operation brings to an end a two-year project to extend the original nine holes (opened in 1978) to eighteen, and is the first new bridge to span the Ure since 1887, when Aldwark Toll Bridge was reconstructed.

In an article on 'Vandalism', David White asked, Why do vandals especially target golf courses? Is it that they mistakenly perceive golfers as some kind of rich kids on the block: hurt the rich and you hurt ordered society? I have a theory that vandalism stems from the attitudes of couldn't-care-less parents, giving vent to violence, anger and frustration from their unloved offspring. Theories apart, if you are victim to vandalism and all else fails, consider the course of action taken by one club, that of vigilante patrols over the peak hours of 10pm to midnight. Even the most persistent vandal jobs at being caught and a posse on the war-path will often prove the ultimate deterrent.

Neil Baldwin described some of the more common sources of injury to golf greens and ways of minimising the danger should a problem occur. Under the heading 'Chemical Scorch', he pointed out that perhaps the most important consideration when using pesticides is to read the label and follow the instructions carefully. Under normal use chemical scorch due to over application of pesticides is rare. However, over application due perhaps to incorrect sprayer calibration may cause severe problems. Certain turf treatments such as wetting agents are widely known to scorch fine turf if not watered in after application. Thus the correct use of pesticides and other chemical treatments must be emphasised. Extreme care must be taken in the use of total herbicides as these chemicals will kill any turf in which they come into contact. For example, heavy rain shortly after application may wash the total herbicide off the path or other area to which it has been applied, especially if the treated area is on sloping ground.

## NOT BAD VALUE FOR A POUND



## What a whopper!

Mark Cox, an assistant of 23 years standing at Long Ashton GC, in Bristol, became an overnight star in the angling world when he hooked this 10lb 2oz rainbow trout near the club. The catch came as Mark was giving a lesson in the art of fly fishing to a friend. His story was recounted in the fishing column of the Bristol Evening Post.

## Key Skills corner

### Reply to Daniel Lightfoot's letter in May's magazine

I am sorry that the Key Skills Corner has caused you embarrassment. Key Skills are an essential part of N/SVQ Level 2 for people under 25 years of age and include Communications, Calculations and IT. Greenkeeper International is meant to be informative and educational for all members at all levels and information on written English may or may not be of use some of our members. Finally, the English Language continues to develop and rules that may have been extant 10 or 20 years ago may have changed eg. all abbreviations used to have full stops between each letter eg. B.I.G.G.A. whereas it is now acceptable to write BIGGA.

### Reply to Colin Mumford's letter in May's magazine

As Vocational Qualifications are worked based and show what the holder can do under work conditions, they tend to be the preferred qualification in most industries. Greenkeeping is no exception and, out of a total of 2817 greenkeepers currently in training, 2157 are working towards N/SVQ qualifications. I agree that NC,ND, HNC, HND and degree qualifications have a relevance to greenkeepers and I also agree that they may be equivalent to Vocational Qualifications if they are coupled with relevant experience. You may have formed the opinion that my article placed less importance on NC, HNC, HND and degree qualifications but that was not my intention. Greenkeepers and the greenkeeping industry are well served by a wide range of relevant qualifications, but, as my article tried to make clear, it is up to head greenkeepers and course managers to decide which course or courses is most relevant for themselves and their staff. Finally, I was a little baffled about your comment about attending courses on a part time basis as all VQ courses are attended part time as assessment must be 'at work on a number of occasions'.

**Ken Richardson, Education and Training Manager, BIGGA**

Note: Due to problems outwith BIGGA's control the email system hasn't been working properly intermittently over the last month. Apologies if your letter hasn't appeared as we may not have received it at this end. I would be delighted if you would resend any letters which you had expected to appear this month and apologies for the inconvenience. **Editor**

## In defence of the Higher National Diploma

With reference to the April issue of the magazine, I was pleased to read the letter written by Ian Chenery. I fully endorse Ian's comments and wish to portray my experience in trying to fulfil an ambition of making my passion of golf into a career.

At the age of 18 and on completion of my A-levels I attended a full-time Higher National Diploma course in Golf Course Management at Cannington College. The three-year course consisted of six monthly study periods followed by six months working on a Golf course to gain valuable practical experience. In reading Ian's letter it is disappointing to learn that BIGGA were not aware that HNC/HND courses also provide those, like myself who wish eventually to aspire to managing golf courses, the opportunity of gaining practical experience. Perhaps this lack of recognition is a contributory factor to

## Vandalism – What can you do?

The day after Easter Monday Jon Selwood, Course Manager at Abridge Golf Club in Essex, returned to work after his Easter break. It started off as a normal day but during the afternoon Jon walking past the 13th green, the nearest to his sheds, noticed a zigzag strip of discoloured grass right through the heart of the green and from one end to the other. A closer inspection made it obvious that the green had been sprayed with an unknown chemical which turned out to be paraquat. Jon hoped that as the green was quite close to a country lane with easy access to the course that the 13th was the sole victim of the attack.

Jon and his Deputy, Geoff Smith, did a tour of the course and the full extent of the attack was slowly revealed - 11 greens, seven tees and three approaches plus various other areas of fine turf on the golf course had been attacked by a person or persons unknown using a knapsack sprayer full of paraquat. Generally all of the spraying had been done in a zigzag although some across tees were in a broad straight line.

Who was responsible for this attack? The fact that whoever did it was well equipped and not without some knowledge of the equipment and the chemical he was using probably rules out "spur of the moment" vandals finishing up a good night out on the beer. But, of course, the deeper that you look the more sinister it becomes.

Abridge Golf Club is a Jewish Club just outside Epping Forest set in very attractive countryside. They have hosted BIGGA events and are great supporters of the Association. With all of the troubles in the world at present the fact that the club has strong Jewish connections might be relevant.

But there is more! The Club is about to undergo considerable changes which have been widely reported in the local press. A deal has been struck with

Tottenham Hotspur Football Club whereby Spurs will be entitled to 55 Corporate Members. Spurs have bought land adjoining the Golf Club and are planning to build new training grounds, soccer academy and other facilities there. The name of the Golf Club is to be changed to Tottenham and Abridge Golf Club and the Club will receive a substantial amount of money. These changes alone provide a motive for another several thousand rival football fans!

There are also other possibilities. The list goes on and on. Not knowing the source of this attack on his course is one of the most worrying to the Course Manager. Will they strike again? When will they strike again? Where will they strike next time? It is impossible to know the answers and almost impossible to guard against any future attack. As all connected with golf realise a golf course in a rural area is an extremely vulnerable target in the dead of night.

Jon has been Course Manager at Abridge for five years. Each year the standard of the golf course has improved and it would be fair to say that it was following a Tottenham Hotspurs FC Golf Day at the club a year or so ago that the Football Club including the Manager, Glen Hoddle, were so impressed with the course that negotiations were started culminating in the current deal between the two clubs.

Technically Jon is qualified and experienced enough to get his course back in to pristine condition as quickly as possible. If he doesn't know the answers he knows how to get them and I am sure that any forum started within these pages would provide a mountain of sound advice. He has done his "cress tests" to indicate when the soil has recovered sufficiently to work on but his main problem is allowing the new seed to establish while cutting heights are reduced for summer play. With zigzag lines through the centre of the green it

is almost impossible to protect these very vulnerable seedlings.

As nearly all Greenkeepers have to work within their budgeted resources the time spent by Jon and his staff on this calamity has meant that his normal spring programme of work has been even more frantic. The Club, of course, is sympathetic to his problems, but I am reminded of the story told by a Surrey greenkeeper last July when he went to his Club Managers to report that the fairways were growing at three inches per week and his rough at inches and inches a week and due to an epidemic of staff sickness, staff on holiday, a 'Work Experience' lad who took up a lot of his time, he was down to himself only and couldn't cope. The Club replied that they understood, he was doing his best and as long as everything was all right for the Captain's Day on Saturday don't worry about it!

I'm sure that Abridge will be more supportive than that but Club golfers can be a funny lot and I am sure that they will soon start to notice if things fall behind in his spring work programme. Club golfers will cope with the tees and approaches looking unsightly but they can be very unforgiving if they can't putt! Perhaps the introduction of a local rule similar to standing water on a green would help.

The one hope of Jon and his staff is that the sad person who was responsible for this criminal act has wreaked sufficient vengeance from the Golf Club and does not strike again. Even better would be that he is apprehended and punished by the justice system. In the meantime let us all hope that the weather conditions that have been so extreme and unpredictable in recent years relent and give a perfect spring and early summer to get everything back to normal as quickly as possible.

Derek Farrington

the fact that only 20% of those, who completed their HND in my year, are still in the Industry. BIGGA should be encouraging Greenkeepers and Course Managers to improve their knowledge and experience. I have been very fortunate as I received continued support from all the staff on the courses I have worked on during my training period and, more recently, from the respective managers at Minchinhampton and Cirencester Golf Clubs. I have also had the opportunity to obtain my spraying certificates and participated in NVQ2 qualifications 10 supplement my HND.

This leads me to the next point of NVQ versus HND/HNC/Degree qualifications. I have been a member of BIGGA for five years and enjoy reading the magazine and, like most ambitious people, keep an eye on the job page!

I have noted that NVQ 2 is used in most adverts as the "desired qualification" even for Supervisory/ Management posts. Ian mentioned in his letter that NVQs are "the flavour of the month". NVQs are a competence based assessment and, provided

people are assessed and Approved by qualified Trainers (e.g. D32), I have no problem with this approach as an Industry competence based qualification.

I have recently compared BIGGA job adverts with other professional/technical magazines and noted that for Supervisory/ Management posts the norm is to request the highest appropriate Industry recognised qualification followed by a lower level qualification plus practical experience as an alternative. Why does this not happen within the Greenkeeping Industry? I believe that, until those in responsible positions within the UK Golf Industry stop looking to pay the minimum wage for "grass cutters" the Greenkeeping profession will not attract the young people who could help it flourish and receive its due recognition.

A casing point was in the same edition of the magazine where one of the UK's most prestigious courses advertised for Greenkeeping staff, "with no experience necessary"!

If the prestigious courses do not ask for qualified staff / qualifications what direction is the profession going?

This sort of statement also totally disillusioned those of us who would love to work at such a golf course and apply their theoretical knowledge and training to ensure an environment where presentation and quality of work is a primary objective.

My final point concerns the UK Greenkeeping Industry as a whole. Generally, Greenkeepers have little status or receive any recognition for the work they do from the users of their product, ie. the Club Members. I believe it's time we took a leaf out of, dare I say it, the Golf Industry in the USA and Canada where the efforts are more rewarding and recognition forthcoming.

I feel strongly about the present and future of the UK Greenkeeping Industry as I wish to return to the industry when I complete my degree course at Plymouth University. I hope my letter if published as I believe if Greenkeeping continues to be seen as unattractive to the young generation, the industry is in for a rude awakening in the not so distant future.

Graeme Percival, Plymouth University



Arne Van Amerongen reports from his latest port of call – Calabria in Italy

# CALABRIA

## A NEW GOLFING FRONTIER

Photo 1: Hole 1



Photo 2: Installation of the lake shores



Photo 3: Works on the lake are completed



I did not know this region of Italy when I arrived to oversee the construction of the nine hole course in Southern Calabria so it was a real challenge and a very gratifying experience for me.

The population of Calabria is approximately two million and the project is being built in a region with a precarious economy. The city of Reggio Calabria boasts a national airport with daily flights from Rome and Milan and a population of 180,000.

The Montechiarello golf course which brought me to the area is being built in a small village called Orti in the hinterland of Reggio and mainly due to the initiative of nine local investors.

The project is at an altitude of 750 metres with a magnificent view over Sicily. Furthermore the Straits of Messina, the Etna and the Eolie islands can all be seen from the clubhouse from where you can also see the magnificent view which

embraces the 1st hole with its artificial lake, the Calabrian coastline and the Straits of Messina (photo no.1).

One of the first problems I encountered was the recruitment of experienced personnel and related machinery. Some of the work was executed manually, as big stones were transported with wheelbarrows to the shores of one of the three artificial lakes (photo no. 2).

One of the three artificial lakes was completed after 2 weeks work and has a total surface of 5000 m<sup>2</sup> with a total volume of 25,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

Water is extremely important in this type of climate in order to maintain the turf to a high standard.

The two photographs show the 6th hole before (photo no. 4) and during construction (photo no. 5). The 6th is a Par 3 of 121 yards. Each hole was designed and integrated into the existing landscape in order to preserve a complete harmony with the surrounding environment.

It took just five months to construct the driving range, six holes and the irrigation system. As is usual in Calabria, and especially after such a lot of hard work, a break with good wine and excellent food is organised by the construction personnel

(photo no. 6). The golf resort of Montechiarello will also include tennis courts, a swimming pool, horse paddocks and a hotel which still have to be constructed.

It is just the first of a number of similar developments intends to build six new 18 hole courses in Calabria over the next few years.

The Calabrian climate allows golf to be played for 12 months in the year. Calabria could really become a new promised land for golf.

On the left, we can see Peter Harradine the Golf Course Architect who designed this course, on the right



Above: Photos 4 and 5



Architect Filippo Barbaro the Promoter of the project and in the middle Arne Van Amerongen the Project Supervisor and author of this article (photo no. 7).



Above: Photo 6 and photo 7 below



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

# Education and Training Feedback

Sami and I are very busy putting together the Education and Training Programme, Continue to Learn 2003, which will be held, in Harrogate from 20 to 23 January 2003.

Following the success of Continue to Learn 2002, the education and training programme for BIGGA's week in Harrogate, in January 2003 will continue to offer delegates plenty of choice.

The week commences on Monday, January 20, with the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme. Planned Workshops include two 2 day Workshops: Golf Course Design and Construction 2 and Environmental Management. There will also be a one day Soil Science workshop held on both Monday 20 and Tuesday, January 21. A further option for all greenkeepers involved in or contemplating joining the Master Greenkeeper Scheme, will be a one day Master Greenkeeper seminar.

The Programme has, again, been designed to give delegates plenty of choice to make the most from their

time in Harrogate with speakers from the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and Australia.

Remember that BTME opens on Tuesday, January 21. BTME Seminars will be held on Wednesday, January 22 and Thursday, January 23. Seminars will be concentrated around the middle of each day, giving delegates the chance to visit the Exhibition and take in some or all Seminars.

The National Education Conference includes four sessions over two days covering Management Skills for the Golf Course Manager and Practical On -Course Management

Watch out in further editions of this magazine and on the BIGGA Web Site for more details of speakers and how to book your place.

This month sees the start of the journey to select the TORO Student of the Year 2003, when the judges will visit Scotland, the North, the South East, the South West and the Midlands to interview 33 Students. Up to eight Regional Finalists will be selected to progress to the National Final, which will be held at BIGGA

House on Monday, September 23. The judging tour begins in Edinburgh on Monday, June 24.

We are still waiting for your requests for training in the Sections and Regions to come pouring in. We have had a good response from some sections and from one Region. However, if you want training at a very low price, thanks to subsidies from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund then contact your Section Secretary, Regional Administrator or us here at BIGGA HOUSE to make sure that your course is provided. Remember that all Golden Key companies will have £30 training vouchers to give away to their customers from September. These vouchers can be used to pay for BIGGA Training Courses or be used towards the cost of Workshops, the National Education Conference or Seminars at Harrogate next January.

Due to popular demand, I have decided to end the Key Skills Corner. Anyone wishing to obtain the answer to last month's poser should contact me at BIGGA HOUSE.



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

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This month, Rachael Palmer, BIGGA's Membership Services Officer would like to welcome 79 new members to the Association and asks if getting a photo taken for the new membership cards is causing problems.

# Renewals: No photo – no problem!

British and International  
 Golf Greenkeepers Association

**RICHARD BARKER**  
 Beedles Lake Golf Club

**GREENKEEPER**  
 Membership number XXXXX

Valid until 31 Dec 2002



Are you delaying returning your renewal form as you have still to get your photo taken?

By putting off the return of your form you could risk missing out on all the benefits of membership including receiving your monthly copy of Greenkeeper International, use of the Legal Help Line not to mention access to the members exclusive section of the website. If getting to a photo

booth is really impossible for you then you can send in your old membership card and we can reuse your photograph. Alternatively as long as you provide us with a clear picture of yourself which is approximately passport photo sized there should be no reason why we can't use it.

However if sorting out a photo is still going to take several weeks, return your green renewal to us without one and we will still be able to process your membership so that you can continue to enjoy the benefits of membership. You can then send in your photograph at a later date remembering to write your name and date of birth clearly on the back. Upon receipt of your photo we will despatch your new style plastic membership card.

Remember you only have to supply us with this one photograph and we will reprint the image onto a new card each year.

## June's Membership Draw Winner



Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA Clock/calculator/calendar and alarm. Our

congratulations go to June's winner, Ross Wilson, of Parasampia Golf Club.

## It's never too late to renew!

If your membership expired in December, January, February or March it's still not too late to renew. Just complete your renewal form and return it to the Membership Services office and we will update your membership with a new expiry date. If you have mislaid your renewal form or would like details on paying by direct debit then call Rachael Palmer on 01347 833800

## BIGGA welcomes...

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Rory Campbell, East  
 John Hamill, North  
 Keith Law, North  
 John MacBeth, Ayrshire  
 Christopher Scott, West

### Northern Region

Peter Anderson, N East  
 Steven Anderson, N East  
 Wayne Birks, N East  
 John Edmond, Northern  
 Jason Edmond, Northern  
 Jordan Gibson, N East  
 Michael Gumeniuk, Northern  
 Mark Hastry, N East  
 Michael Hodgkin, N West  
 Jacob Kay, Northern  
 Andrew Laird, N West  
 Jason Lee, N West

Ronald Martin, N East  
 Reamonn O'Neill, N Wales  
 Robert Wiles, Northern  
 Barry Wood, N West

### Midland Region

Tony Bates, BB&O  
 Sean Bilyard, Mid Anglia  
 Nathan Bond, BB&O  
 Mark Burniston, Mid Anglia  
 Michael Farmer, BB&O  
 Graham Gardner, BB&O  
 Peter Goodwin, BB&O  
 Stuart Harding, Mid Anglia  
 Daniel James, E of England  
 Danny Jones, BB&O  
 Gregg O'Brien, Mid Anglia  
 Simon Pigott, E of England  
 Matthew Read, Mid Anglia  
 Andrew Richardson, E of England  
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 Dale Hubbard, Essex  
 Patrick Laws, Essex  
 Richard Norton, E Anglia  
 Stephen Parsons, Essex  
 Mick Payne, Surrey  
 James Rattenbury, Essex  
 Peter Read, E Anglia

Neal Tregasties, Kent  
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 Robert Williams, Essex  
 Alex Wilson, Surrey  
 James Winner, Essex

### S West/S Wales Region

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 Richard Carter, S West  
 Michael Craddock, S Wales  
 Paul Ferragut, S West  
 Derek Thomson, S West  
 Bobby Vining, S West

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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



## Sami Collins

**Name:** Samantha (Sami) Collins

**Position:** Education and Training Administrator

**What does your role involve?** Organising delegates attendance at Continue to Learn and BTME; Regional Training; Golf Environment Competition; Toro Student of the Year Award; running CPD scheme and Master Greenkeeper Certificate

**How long have you worked for the Association?** Nine years

**Where were you born and brought up?** Born in Edinburgh, brought up in Harrogate, with a year living in the USA when I was 17.

**Where did you work before you joined BIGGA?** I can't remember it was so long ago! (a computer company).

**What are your hobbies?** Going to concerts, the movies, travelling and reading trashy novels.

**What is your favourite food?** Mexican. It's spicy and you get tequila

**What is your favourite film?** Can I have a top five in no particular order? 1. Some Kind of Wonderful; 2. All the President's Men; 3. JFK; 4. Almost Famous; 5. High Fidelity.

**What was the last book you read?** I don't know the title, but it was trashy!

**Who is your all time hero?** John Lennon

**What was the best event you've ever attended?** Journey (my favourite band) at Red Rock Amphitheater, Colorado (my favourite venue)

**What is your claim to fame? (None not acceptable)** Was good friends with Hugo Speer (the Lunchbox from The Full Monty) at college

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Paul Eddlestone of Fishwick Hall Golf Club has been using the new Multi-Brush for a month now and says: "Being situated besides the River Ribble, we tend to get heavy dew in the mornings so its mid afternoon before we could get a good quality cut on the fairways.

Now we brush all the fairways and rough each morning. It only

takes us an hour and a half to two hours and then we can start mowing 10 minutes later. I've been doing it for a month now and I can honesty say I don't think we've left any clumps of clippings anywhere on the course".

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**Scott MacCallum visited Greetham Valley and met Adrian Porter, who together with his team, makes an army of ants look slovenly**

# THE CLUB WHICH NEVER SLEEPS

There can be few greenkeeping teams which operates quite as efficiently as Adrian Porter's at Greetham Valley Golf Club, near Oakham, in England's smallest county, Rutland.

A bold statement one might think, and I am more than happy to be proved wrong, but when you consider that Adi's team of nine manage two 18 hole courses, a par-3 course, a driving range, a bowling green, help at the club's newly built 4x4 course, oh and, operate a contracting division which manages fine turf for anything from other golf clubs, state-ly homes to private dwellings as well as maintaining local bowling greens and football pitches you might get my drift.

"We are a young team and there is a real go-getting atmosphere around the place. There is as much work out there for them if they want it and if they work the hours they'll get good money," said Adi.

The average hours the guys put in in the summer is around 50-55 a week and Adi himself doesn't leave until the jobs are done and regularly works 6.30am to 6.30pm.

It is an up and at 'em approach which is epitomised by a club which only celebrated its 10th birthday in April. To mark the occasion they held a competition for members, friends and supporters over both the Lake and Valley courses which acted as more than just a thank you to everyone who had helped make the club

successful but a true marker as to just how far Greetham Valley has come over the past decade.

Amid all the tributes to the Hinch family, without whose vision and drive the complex would still be a sheep and arable farm, was a very public and heartfelt thanks to Adi and his team for making dreams a reality.

"They are great that way. I am always invited to competitions which the club holds and they never fail to credit the staff for the work they do while the members often go up to staff while out on the course and

complimenting them on the condition of the course," said Adi.

Adi joined the club from Crocketts Manor G&CC, in Henley-in-Arden, in 1995 after the Hinch family led by Frank but with superb support from his wife, Hazel, son Robert and his wife, Dee, decided that the introduction of a professional Course Manager was vital if the club was to fulfil its potential.

"For the first three years they tried to run it by themselves with some farming friends but before I came they had begun to lose members to neighbouring clubs," explained Adi.

"It didn't look like a golf course. Every fairway was cut from tee to green with no definition. They knew something wasn't quite right and Robert - who is now the Club's Managing Director - was getting ear-ache whenever he went into the clubhouse."

An advert soon went into Greenkeeper International and Adi was appointed.

"It was a bigger development, closer to my home, and as soon as I walked round the course I knew it was a job I wanted. I felt I could really make a name for myself at Greetham Valley."

At that stage they had just finished the construction of the nine holes to turn it into a 27 hole complex, plus the par-3 course, and were at the stage where they were still seeding greens and turfing areas.

There was no mention in specific



Adrian Porter: Head Greenkeeper at Greetham Valley Golf Club

# THE CLUB WHICH NEVER SLEEPS



## Machinery Inventory

- 1 Jacobsen Mk IV
- 1 Jacobsen Mk V
- 2 Toro Sidewinders
- 1 Toro 580D
- 5 Toro 1000
- 3 Toro Workmen
- 1 Ransomes 30S
- 1 Articulator 425D
- 2 Kubota ST30
- 1 T.Y.M Tractor
- 1 New Holland 65T
- 1 Antonio Carraro
- 1 Toro Sand Pro
- 1 Greens Iron
- 1 Groundsman Aerator
- 1 Verti Drain 1.45m
- 1 Verti Drain 2.5m
- 1 Sisis Fairway Slitter
- 1 Risboro Turf Slitter
- 1 Sisis Auto Rotorake
- 1 Sisis Tru Level Brush
- 1 Gambetti Sprayer 600 lt
- 1 Wilmot Sprayer 1000 lt
- 1 Sanderson Loader
- 2 Toro Topdressers
- 1 Amazone Groundkeeper
- 2 Vicon Spreaders
- 1 Kilworth Burryvator (stoneburrier)
- 1 Kubota 3 Tonne Mini Digger
- 1 Man Lorry
- 2 Ifor Williams Trailers
- 1 Kawasaki Mule

terms of what Greatham Valley would eventually become but Adi was given an inkling at his interview.

"Even then they said they didn't like to sit back and always wanted to make changes and improvements."

From that moment Adi has enjoyed a superb relationship with the Hinch family, who have always accommodated his requests for new machinery and additional staff.

After Adi's arrival Greatham Valley ran as a 27 hole complex for around two years before the decision was made to add a further nine holes and create two distinct 18 hole courses.

"We bought more land adjacent to

the existing course which gave us room for another four holes but we had to find additional space for the other five holes. This involved moving the par-3 course across the road," he explained.

"We seeded the greens on the new par-3 course while the old one was still open and got them in play before building the new five holes. There was no disruption to the members and there was always a course for them to play while the work was going on."

That's not to say the entire job went seamlessly as turning 27 holes into two 18s can be a logistical nightmare.

"All the holes had changed and it was absolute bedlam for a while. It was also confusing for my staff as well as the members because what was the 3rd on the Valley course became the 3rd on the Lakes. Even now I'll tell someone to go and cut the 27th green when I really mean the 17th," he revealed, while adding that it also meant all the course literature and stroke indexes had to be amended to cope.

The story behind who designed the new holes is also one worth telling.

The initial 18 holes were designed by Dave Wishart, of the STRI, who'd been brought in at the start to assist the Hinch family in the transition from farm to golf but the remainder of the holes have been designed by Ben Stephens.



You know... Ben Stephens.

Surely you must have heard of Ben Stephens.

Well don't go thumbing through the Institute of Golf Course Architects' Directory for Ben's name because you won't find it.

Ben was a junior member at Greatham Valley and a single figure golfer, who is now studying to be an architect - not the golf sort - at university.

"He sat down one day and off his own bat drew an extension to the original 18 holes. He showed it to Frank, who thought it was fantastic and we all sat down together, did a few modifications and went with it," said Adi.

"Ben combines his drawing skills as an architect with his golf knowledge and works from that. He can look at a piece of land, design a hole, draw it within a very short space of time, then go to his computer and draw it properly. As an example our 13th hole on the Lakes course was a bland par-5 but we got Ben in and he redesigned the hole with a meandering ditch and some banking on the left and it looks fantastic.

"I sit down with him when he's done his initial drawings and discuss







it from a maintenance or health and safety perspective and he takes these on board and comes back the next day with the revised drawings."

Ben, who also happens to have hearing and speech difficulties, studies the work of the great architects like Robert Trent Jones and Alistair McKenzie, and has already designed another nine hole pitch and putt course Manton, on Rutland Water for another client.

"To achieve what he has done is amazing, it really is, particularly with his disability, and I admire him so much for it. I also admire the fact that someone was prepared to take a chance on him."

It is indeed an example of the unusual way things are done, and done successfully, at Greetham Valley.

Another is the entrepreneurial spirit in which the club seeks out other work to augment the budget.

"Frank and Robert's idea was that I would go around local bowling clubs telling them who I was and what we could do for their bowling green. Frank was a keen bowler and felt that the quality of greens could be a lot higher," explained Adi.

"So one day Robert and I made

appointments with a series of local clubs, explained the services we could do for them together with a price list and since then we have looked after between six and eight on a regular basis and they have seen great improvement in the quality of their surfaces."

That service then grew beyond purely bowling greens to anyone who wishes to construct or maintain a fine turf area. A few years ago they even built and looked after the indoor turf green that was laid for a Jimmy Tarbuck, golf inspired, quiz show.

"We don't do landscaping but anything to do with fine turf and we've worked at stately homes and built a sunken lawn to greens quality. We also do a great many football pitches and contract work for other golf clubs," he explained, before adding that he'd already done a job that morning before my arrival.

To make it all possible they ensure that they have the machinery to do the task and double up on some so that they can still do work on their own patch when a piece of kit is on the road.

"We've got a seven and a half tonne flatbed lorry, all logged up, to trans-

port the kit around and have two verti drains as well as more than one top dresser.

"The money we make offsets my expenses and makes my figures look good at the end of the day," said Adi, who explained that the work was done under the name of another company, Greetham Valley Turf Care.

Now you would think that with so much going on, and with a staff of only nine, labour saving methods would be employed on the two courses, and par-3 course, to make it all possible. But you'd be wrong.

Greens are always hand mown - a total walking distance for the 45 holes of 22 miles - and are cut six days a week while they do not have the luxury of a fully automated irrigation system.

"We use travelling irrigators on the fairways. Since I've been here we've put in irrigation points at the sides of fairways but we didn't bother with pop-ups because we were continually tweaking fairways and they would be in the wrong place.

"It is very labour intensive and we spend a lot of time with hose pipes in the summer especially as with only four inches of topsoil over limestone,

which is very free draining, the fairways and even the rough dries out quickly," said Adi, adding that he has to cope with the high alkalinity of the course.

So what next for Greetham Valley?

Well, other than the recently opened 4x4 course, there are plans afoot to build a 35 room hotel on site to provide more facilities for visiting company and society guests while Adi is hopefully of attracting a mini professional tour event which he hopes would be televised.

"The Hinch's know of my desire to attract a televised event to the course and are happy to pay the fee for that to happen and the course is pretty close to being ready for such an event," he said, adding that it would probably be on a composite course to stretch over 7,000 yards.

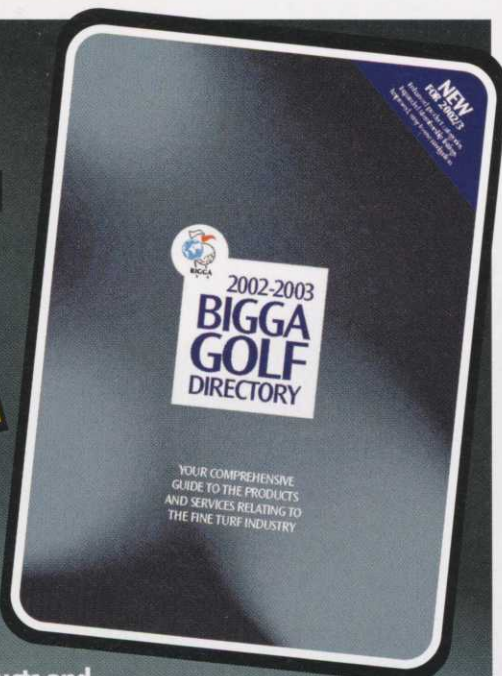
Speaking to Adi, you get the impression of a young man who is well in control of the fast moving, dynamic job which he now holds.

"I couldn't imagine doing what I am doing now when I started. I knew Greetham Valley would go to 27 holes and that would be a big step for me but even now, being in charge at such a big complex, I still can't believe how quickly it has happened."

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When diseases develop on turfgrasses, it is almost invariably fungi that are the cause of the problem. Under the right conditions, the symptoms of disease can develop and spread rapidly and in some cases, cause extensive and lasting damage. But when conditions are not conducive for disease development, what happens to the fungi? Dr Kate Entwistle, from the Turf Disease Centre investigates ...

# FINDING FUNGI

In the vast majority of cases, the fungi that are responsible for turfgrass diseases are permanently present on the sward or in the rootzone. The most obvious exception to this is in newly constructed areas where the microbial populations will naturally be very low. However, these areas will not remain free of microbial presence (or sterile) for very long and within a short period of time, both beneficial and pathogenic microbes will begin to colonise them. Once present, these microbial populations will fluctuate over time increasing and decreasing in response to the local conditions. But as far as the pathogens are concerned, once they have become established in an area, they are likely to remain. So why is disease not an everyday occurrence?

To answer this fully we need to take a closer look at the agents of disease; the fungi. The mere presence of a fungus that has the propensity to cause disease on turfgrasses, doesn't necessarily mean that disease will develop, nor indeed that it is the cause of any symptoms expressed! Although the fungi are an extremely diverse group of organisms, they share similar characteristics and life cycles. However, there will always be exceptions that may vary widely from the general

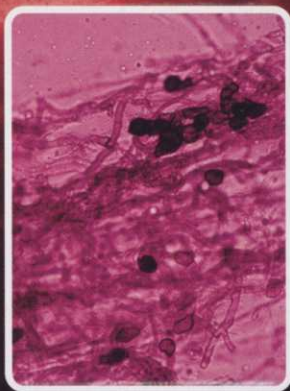
model, but on the whole, the fungal life cycle can be described as shown in Figure 1. By appreciating and working through the fungal life cycle, we can understand why disease is not an everyday occurrence, even if the fungi that cause the disease are always present.

Let's choose the spore as an arbitrary starting point for the fungal life cycle. The spore is the reproductive unit of the fungus (resulting from sexual or asexual reproduction) and it is extremely important for accurate fungal identification. Spores are liberated in vast numbers and dispersed locally or disseminated over large distances to enable the fungus to find a new host.

Spores may be present on the leaf surface, in the rootzone and in the air above the turf area but for any fungus to have a chance of causing disease, these spores must 'land' on a susceptible plant. Spores are, however, moved about at random and the vast majority will be deposited on areas or plants that they are not able to colonise. Thus, inoculation (or the arrival of a fungus on to an area) does not necessarily mean that disease will develop. Only a relatively low number of the released spores will end up on a suitable turfgrass host.

Inoculation of susceptible turf with a potential pathogen will still not result in disease if the fungus can't enter the plant. Firstly, the fungal spore must germinate to produce a germ tube and ultimately, mycelium that can be considered as the 'body' of the fungus. If the environmental conditions are not right for the fungal spore to germinate, or the conditions change soon after germination, the spore will not germinate or the germ tube will die. In either case, disease will not occur. If the spore does germinate, the germ tube will start to grow across the plant tissues trying to gain access to the plant.

In order to penetrate the plants defences, the fungus will either take advantage of natural openings (eg stomata) or wounds (eg caused by mowing), or it will directly penetrate the plant by force. Once the fungus has infected the plant and gained access to its internal cells, you might imagine that disease development will be inevitable. Not so. In plants that are able to recognise the initial presence of the fungus, the fungus may be restricted to only one or two cells. In these cases, the resistance shown by the plant means that the recognisable symptoms of disease will never develop. The effort made by



This month's front cover shows mycelium and appressoria of *Colletotrichum graminicola* (the fungus that causes anthracnose basal rot of *Poa annua*)

This slide shows the magnified spores of *Microdochium nivale*, the fungus that causes Fusarium patch disease

# FINDING FUNGI

recognisable symptoms of disease will never develop. The effort made by the fungi to get this far has come to nothing. However, this situation does not always occur. In many cases, the fungus can progress further in to the plant causing damage to the plant tissues as it removes nutrients from them. This part of the life cycle can be regarded as disease development and symptom expression. The extent and severity of the disease is directly related to the relative susceptibility

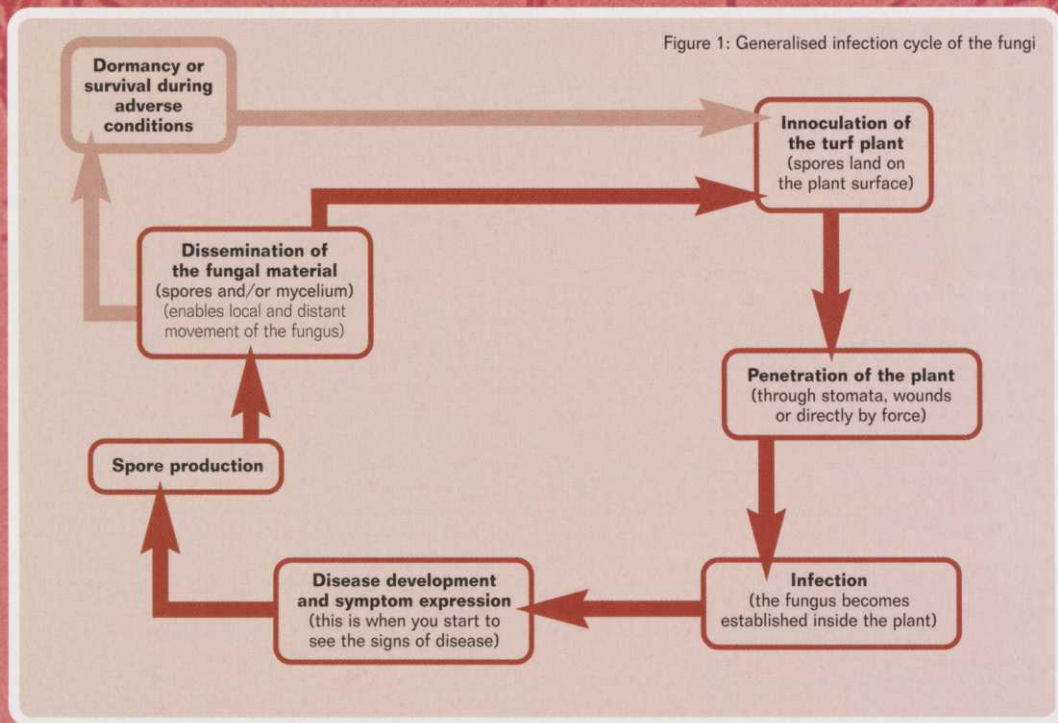
of the host plant and the virulence of the pathogen. Once the fungus has colonised the plant tissues and removed the available nutrients, the fungus will need to move on to find a new host to colonise. In the majority of cases, it does this by producing spores which are disseminated either in the water film on the surface of the sward or within the rootzone, or alternatively through the air.

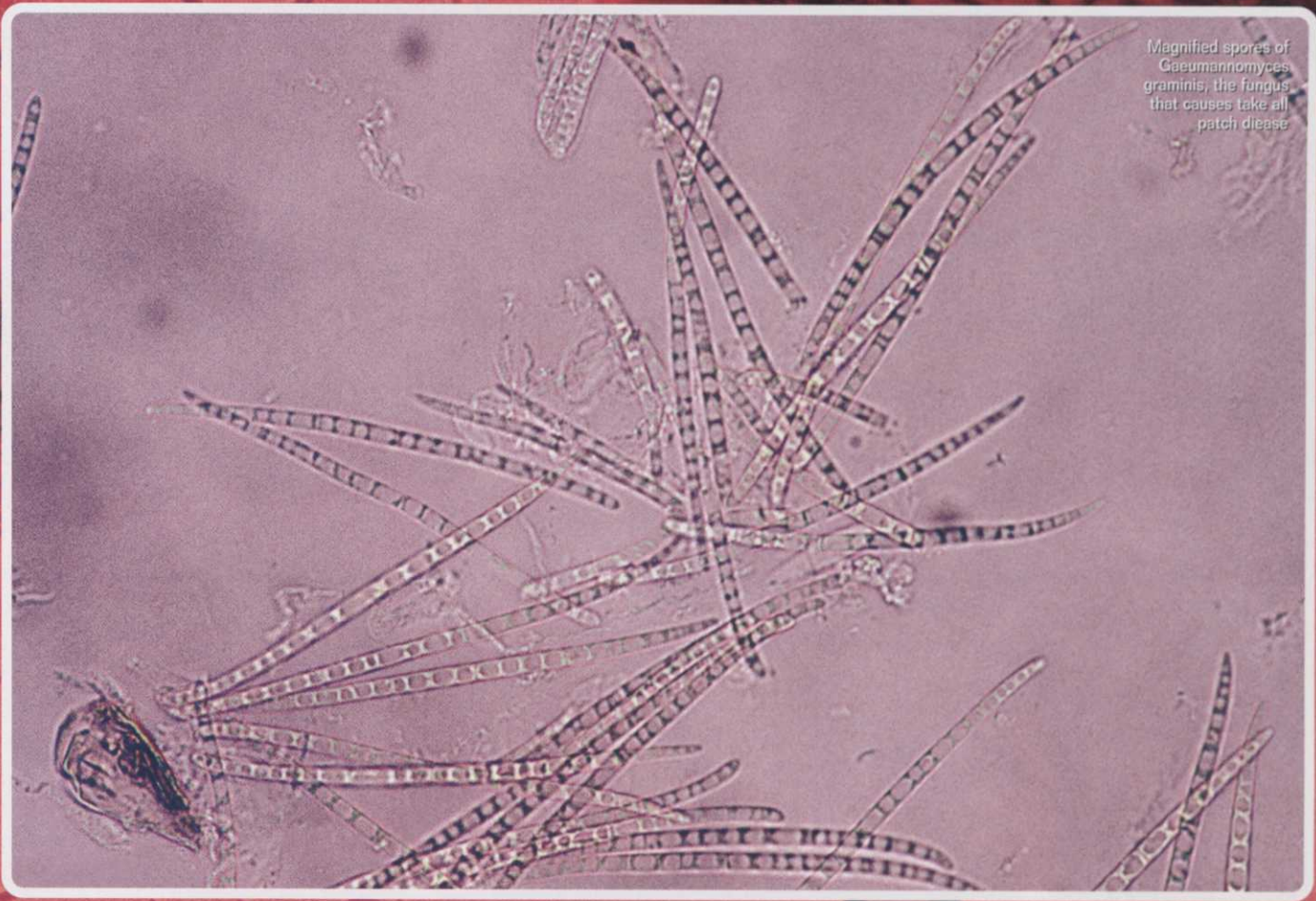
Parts of the fungal mycelium may also be disseminated across the turf

to allow colonisation of new areas of the same sward. And so we return to the start of the life cycle. But there is one additional part of the life cycle that is of importance to many fungi and that is the development of structures that will allow the fungus to survive adverse conditions. When they are not able to cause disease, some fungi can live on dead and decaying organic material and will do so for as long as is necessary until the conditions are right for them to actively cause disease. Other fungi cannot and they rely on some alternative method of survival. The means by which fungi do this are diverse and include the production of specialised spores or accumulations of mycelium, but ultimately these structures may allow fungi to survive in a dormant state for many years or decades until they become active again.

So what do we now know about the fungi that cause disease? Firstly that they are extremely diverse in their modes of action, their life cycles and their ability to attack plants. Secondly, their mere presence in a sward does not necessarily mean that disease will occur. Thirdly and arguably of most importance, there are many stages during the lead-up to symptom expression, during which disease development will fail. Therefore, disease must be regarded as the ultimate expression of a series of events in the development of the pathogen and its effect on the turf-grass plant. This 'relationship' between the fungus and the plant is significantly affected by the local environmental conditions and they directly control the severity of any

Figure 1: Generalised infection cycle of the fungi



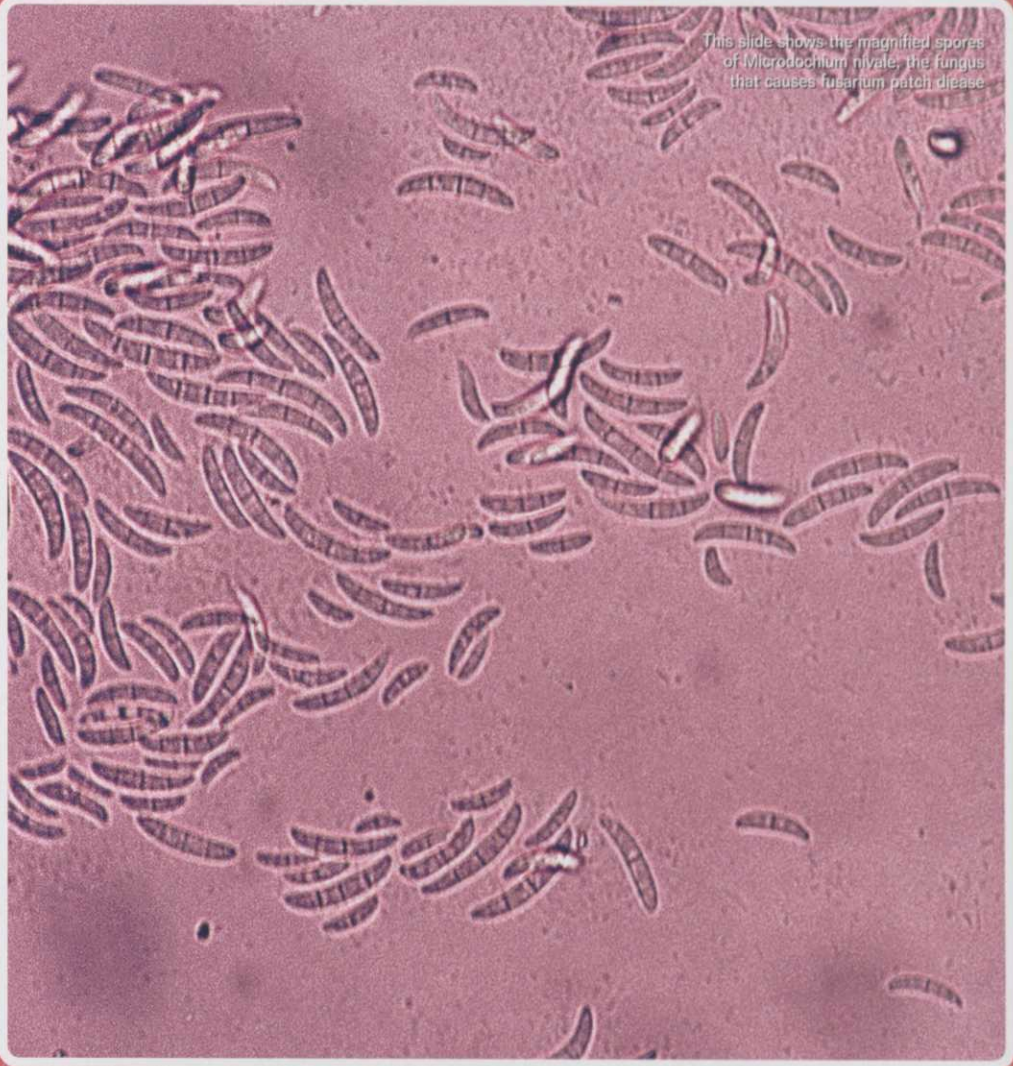


Magnified spores of *Gaeumannomyces graminis*, the fungus that causes take all patch disease

may be so minor or so restricted as to cause little or no concern to the turf manager. Conversely, they may develop into devastating outbreaks that could claim large areas of a sward in only a few hours. The extremes are uncommon, as extremes generally are in all aspects of life, but they are a real possibility. The ability of these fungal pathogens to cause disease should not be underestimated. At the end of the day, these fungi need to obtain nutrients from the turfgrass plant in order to survive. Some pathogens have evolved along with their hosts and their relationships are extremely complex. Many are less choosy and will cause disease on any susceptible sward.

There is one last but very important thing to remember. There are many physiological conditions and invertebrate problems that can develop on a sward and resemble the symptoms of turfgrass diseases, but which are not caused by the activity of a pathogen and will therefore not respond to fungicide application. Before you waste time and money in applying fungicides unnecessarily, get the problem checked and not just for fungal presence. Choose carefully where you get the analysis done because being told what fungi are present on your turf does not necessarily mean that you have found the cause of the symptoms that you see!

The author, Dr Kate Entwistle can be contacted at The Turf Disease Centre, Waverley Cottage, Sherfield Road, Bramley, Hants. RG26 5AG. UK  
 Tel: 01256 880246  
 Email: [kate@theturf-disease-centre.co.uk](mailto:kate@theturf-disease-centre.co.uk)  
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This slide shows the magnified spores of *Microdochium nivale*, the fungus that causes fusarium patch disease

**Roland Taylor looks at the development of the tyre and how that has enabled the ATV to become a valuable greenkeeping tool**

# INFLATED IDEAS



While sitting in a traffic jam recently, I was pondering that we must spend a considerable amount of our lives sitting on air and rubber - tyres. This prompted the next question, do we really know a lot about this important transportation component or simply do not really care until it causes us aggravation by deflating? Unless you are one of those diligent people, how many times this year have you checked your car's tyre pressures? I cannot remember. My resolution is to do it more often.

Prior to the 1840's a vehicle's tyres were made from either wood or steel. It was thanks to two Scotsmen, that riding any type of vehicle was to become less painful to the rear end.

In 1845 R. W. Thompson, launched the first solid rubber tyre. Apart from being quieter it had no other benefits over its steel counterpart.

Grass played a significant part in Scottish vet, John Boyd Dunlop's invention. He was fed up with the



deep grooves his son's tricycle made in his lawn. His solution to this was to fit lengths of hose filled with water to the wheels. An acquaintance suggested that using air instead of water might be better. This he did, and the resulting tyre was patented in 1888.

But Dunlop's invention proved to be impractical and never made him a rich man. However, the die was cast and over the next few years many names, that were to become well known in the future, introduced various forms of the pneumatic tyres.

From the beginning, rubber was seen to be the answer, but its properties posed some major problems. In hot weather the tyres melted and in the cold they froze and cracked. In addition, they stuck to everything. It was a man called Charles Goodyear



who eventually came up with the answer - a heat process, which he named vulcanisation. In 1937 signs of a natural rubber shortage were becoming evident. To counteract this, the Goodyear Tyre Company launched a man made substitute called 'Cherigum'. Today, it is estimated that over 60% of all tyres sold are synthetic.

Tyres come in a vast range of sizes and specification, and depending on the vehicles they are to be fitted on determines the method of construction and the materials used.

#### **The recipe for tyres**

Natural rubber is latex (sap), tapped from a tree's outer bark, it then coagulates to form solid slabs. Its synthetic counterpart is produced by the interaction of chemicals and

processes. Another important compound is 'carbon black' - a substance for increasing the strength of the synthetic rubber. Burning crude oil in specially designed furnaces produces this product.

Fibreglass, nylon and polyester in the form of sheets of parallel textile cords are used in the construction of tyre casings. High tensile bronze or brass-coated steel wire is also used.

All the ingredients are weighed and mixed in a 'Banbury Mixer' to form a pliable material that is then rolled into sheets. One of three processes then takes place depending on the tyre's properties.

#### **Extruding**

The compound is heated and then forced under pressure into a die cre-

ating the tread, side wall and apex of the tyre.

#### **Caldering**

This involves the textile and steel cores being laid flat, both sides are given a thin coating of the mixture. These layers are cut and reassembled to form reinforced sheets that are used to create the casing ply and breaker belts, which give the final result, added strength, shock resistance and durability.

#### **Coating**

High tensile steel wire is given a rubber coating and wrapped into hoops to form the beads of the tyre. Having carried out one or more of these preliminaries it is time to build the tyre.

The first stage consists of an inner liner, that will retain the air, plus the components to form the basic structure being wrapped round a drum. The side walls are then placed in position. On another drum the tread and breaker belts are assembled. These moulded forms are brought together and the tyre is inflated. At this stage special attention is paid to ensure all the air is expelled from between the layers. The bald tyre casing is loaded into a mould where high-pressure steam is used to produce the tread and side wall markings. The heat generated also results in a chemical action that bonds everything together. Once the tyre has cooled down it is given a thorough inspection and is ready to be used.

In recent years it has become clear-

# INFLATED IDEAS

In recent years it has become clearly evident that reducing compaction is of paramount importance in producing a quality-playing surface. Some tyre manufacturers have recognised this and are using their knowledge from other applications, such as agriculture, to produce a specifically designed range for the grasscare markets.

ly evident that reducing compaction is of paramount importance in producing a quality-playing surface.

Some tyre manufacturers have recognised this and are using their knowledge from other applications, such as agriculture, to produce a specifically designed range for the grasscare markets. The features of these introductions help towards maintaining an open soil structure and avoiding damage to the turf. By using a tyre with a wide surface contact area, plus low inflation, the equipment's weight is more evenly distributed, but this is only part of the picture. The tread pattern is also important in reducing slippage and increasing the machine's efficiency. Stability is another factor, especially on uneven or sloping terrain. With the right tyres fitted it is possible to work on soft, wet areas, with minimal marking or damage to the grass.



There are other spin-offs, these include; lower fuel consumption, longer life and more cost-effective operation.

To achieve all this requires buying the right tyres - this can be a minefield. Low ground pressures tyres are readily available, but the question that needs to be asked is - are they designed specially for your equipment? Unfortunately, this is not always the case and what looks like a bargain can become a liability. To get it right from the onset, it is best to contact companies who offer tyres specifically for working on grass. While the initial outlay might be slightly higher the benefits and technical support will save money and hassle in the end.

When it comes to tyre maintenance there is very little to do. Regular checking of pressures being the main one. For some applications changes

in air pressure may be recommended by the equipment's manufacturer. In these cases if there are any doubts then a tyre specialist will be able to advise on the best course of action. Other things to watch out for are missing dust caps and any signs of damage, chaffing or excessive wear.

By looking after your tyres you will get a smoother ride all round.

Saving or making time is a problem most of us are faced with in the modern workplace, as a result we are constantly having to be seeking ways of achieving this.

One aspect that can be overlooked is the time taken to travel around a course. With any large operating area, minutes and hours are guzzled up over a week, month and year. The shortest route between two points is a straight line, but unless the area is flat and devoid of any obstacles this is rarely possible. The type of machinery, and the on site work that is to be carried out, is generally the governing factor on which is the best possible route from A to B.

A range of equipment that can speed up travelling times are the "go anywhere" vehicles - the ATVs or Utilities.

When ATVs first appeared on the market they were predominately sold





to the leisure sector so, quickly established a reputation as fun machines. Some of the early models had a three-wheel configuration, but these could, if abused be unstable and dangerous. Four-wheels were found to be safer.

At first this form of transport was shunned by the commercial sector, but farmers, especially, in mountainous areas soon discovered the benefits of this means of transporting foodstuffs, fodder and sheep over difficult terrain. The crop growers also found they could use an ATV, with its low ground pressure properties, for fertilising or spraying when conditions were soft and wet. Using a conventional tractor in this situation was asking for trouble as considerable damage could be caused to both the soil's structure and the growing plants.

In the early days usually a trailer was towed behind but, recognising this as not being always ideal, manufacturers introduced integral transport boxes. They also launched purpose built units, which were given the name 'utilities'. These have the same low ground pressure and traction qualities of the ATVs. Most of today's models have the advantages of pto and hydraulic systems for operating a wide range of turfcare

attachments, as well as transporting materials

Both these types of vehicles are now recognised in the grass maintenance sectors and are used throughout the world in a wide range of applications.

For golf course an ATV in the fleet can certainly cut down travelling times, especially for light work such as greens or tees maintenance. It is also a fast way of getting to a breakdown or puncture out on the course. The machine's ability to cover rough ground, soft wet areas without virtually any markings and handle steep slopes means they are able to travel across areas where other units cannot.

The utilities are for many, a substitute for the conventional tractor and trailer and there are some large carrying capacity units now available for transporting materials such as top dressing and sand.

Whilst these 'go-anywhere' vehicles are not everyone's cup-of-tea, for others they are ideally suited to the geographical location of the course.

If you were looking for ways of saving time getting round your course the possibilities of using an ATV or Utility vehicle are worth investigating.

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# IN AT THE DEEP END

**Mike Spencer takes you to the murky depths of the lake and pond and gives some excellent advice on maintenance**

Lakes and ponds, both man made and natural, have a life cycle. They start balanced, clean, fresh and clear. Eventually, with increasing levels of nutrient that overwhelm the natural clean up mechanisms, algae and weed growth appear, and without the correct supervision they pass into 'old age' as shallow bogs or marsh land.

This process used to take hundreds of years, but now can take only decades. Why? Because until recently, water was one of our least understood resources. This lack of understanding has led to some significant problems eg Algae blooms, aquatic vegetation growth, foul smelling odours, clogged sprinklers, valves and pumps. A better understanding of the causes of these problems leads to a clear long-term solution, which addresses the causes and is preventative in nature.

A pond in balance is a healthy, dynamic ecosystem that is ageing at a very slow rate. Fish and other aquatic life are present. There is an absence of odours, foul smell and algae blooms. As nutrients enter the ecosystem they are either absorbed by the plant life or metabolised by aerobic bacteria. There are safe levels of oxygen in the lake - at least 2-3 PPM or mg/l. Oxygen is added to the lake from wave and wind action, the light side of the photosynthesis process and rain. It's a healthy, balanced ecosystem. Mother Nature has provided the necessary clean up tools to deal with the problems.

Because this is a finely balanced situation it does not take much to throw it out of balance. Typically there is an influx of nutrients. The aerobic bacteria consume oxygen as they metabolise nutrient. Everything is fine until the first hot cloudy day when the planktonic algae doesn't photosynthesise and create oxygen or the first long hot night when oxygen demand soars.

It is in these scenarios when there are no oxygen producers and the demand for oxygen cannot be met. The result of this lack of oxygen appears in the form of algae, foul smells, insect infestation and eventually fish kills.

As any manager of water will tell you, the three most important factors that impact the balance of a lake or pond are temperature, nutrients and oxygen.

#### **Thermal stratification or layers of temperature**

The summer sun will warm the surface water. This water becomes less dense than the cooler waters that are trapped at the pond's bottom. As the summer progresses the surface water gets warmer and warmer in comparison with the cooler water at the bottom and the water eventually becomes stratified or separated into layers. The warmer water, which has a diminished capacity to hold oxygen - water at 40 degrees Fahrenheit can hold 40% more oxygen than water at 72 degrees Fahrenheit - encourages algae growth.

#### **Nutrients**

In pond ecology we talk specifically of those compounds that contain phosphorous and nitrogen. In fact, phosphorous has been identified as the single greatest contributor to aquatic plant growth. As the nutrient level in the pond increases, so does the plant and weed growth, which leads to severe problems from an environmental and aesthetic viewpoint.

The most common sources of nutrient are bottom silt; plant life and run off water from surrounding turf areas and inlet water.

Vegetative life in the pond and sediment are the number one source of nutrient. Blue green algae can divide as often as every 20 minutes with a two-week life cycle. At the end of the cycle the plants simply die and fall to the bottom adding to the biological material in the pond. This dead plant material acts as nutrient for future growths which in turn adds more demands on the little available oxygen.

'Run-off' is the second most common source of nutrient. Research shows that up to 4% of the fertilisers applied to areas adjacent to the ponds and lakes will eventually leach off into the water, placing additional burden on the lake's natural clean-up process.

Nutrient loading tends to be very high in waters adjacent to green areas or turf grass. Sludge build up can accumulate at 1-5 inches per year. This build up can rob your lake, or irriga-



# IN AT THE DEEP END

tion basin of its capacity to store water. The pond will work to break down and get rid of this nutrient load. This is a process called organic digestion. There are 2 types of digestion, aerobic and anaerobic. Aerobic bacteria are the most effective. They metabolise or break down the nutrients, respiring or consuming oxygen, much like we do. They are efficient, breaking down organic nutrients into elemental form, creating no noxious by-products.

The second type is anaerobic bacteria. They exist in water that is oxygen deficient. They are not as efficient and allow soluble organic nutrients to recycle into the water column. By products such as methane, ammonia and hydrogen sulphide are created by anaerobic decomposition. Aerobic bacteria work roughly 7 times faster than anaerobic bacteria.

## Oxygen

The third role is oxygen. Oxygen is important to both the life in the pond and is used by the pond itself to clean itself of excess nutrient. Oxygen supports the food chain. A healthy ecosystem in a pond is not just a nice thing to have. It provides for a natural way to consume organic nutrients.

The bottom of the food chain are the microscopic algae which are consumed by the slightly larger zooplankton. Each level of consumers transfers only a small fraction of the energy it receives up the chain to the next level. This means that a few sports fish depend on a much larger base of plants and algae. Therefore a healthy food chain can pull a tremendous amount of nutrient out of the water. Oxygen supports this entire system.

## Putting it all together

As a pond gets older the level of nutrient rises. This is due to an increase in run off, organic bottom sediment or fertiliser use in the surrounding area, and in the amount of algae and aquatic weed growth. As these weeds die they sink to the bottom. This will result in a sudden increase of aerobic bacteria due to the large food supply. This bacteria will use large amounts of oxygen as they digest organic waste. Due to thermal stratification, the top and bottom layers of the pond will not mix which means that the oxygen cannot get to the bottom to support the aerobic digestion.

Balance is critical to the aquatic ecosystem. A healthy lake contains balanced amounts of oxygen, nutrients and temperature.

## Solutions

Several methods are available to help solve the problems.

**Mechanical control** - This is the oldest method of management. Dredges, weed harvesters, rakes, are used to remove algae and aquatic plants. These methods can be an effective short to medium term solution - treating the symptoms of poor water quality rather than treating the causes. Disposal of aquatic plant material and dredged materials is quickly becoming more regulated and expensive.

**Chemical control** - This is probably the most popular method. Herbicides are applied to the pond to kill the algae and plants. They are fairly quick, however since herbicides kill the plants and algae which then sink to the bottom, oxygen depletion, odours and fish kills can be a by product. Chemical control does not improve water quality, but the symptom of poor water quality, algae and aquatic weed blooms.

**Biological control** - The most popular of these is the introduction of weed eating fish or grass carp. These fish can be quite effective in keeping excessive weed growth under control, are inexpensive and require no labour, however they are indiscriminate feeders with their preferred food being aquatic plants and they will only eat algae if their preferred plants are not available.

**Aeration** - This is the addition of oxygen to the water. It is still used today as a vital part of the treatment of industrial and domestic waste. By putting large amounts of oxygen into the water, an aerator encourages aerobic bacteria which, in turn, work to clean the pond of organic nutrients and waste. The high pumping rate of an aerator also prevents thermal stratification, distributing oxygen to all parts.

Aeration helps to keep the three contributing factors, temperature, nutrients and oxygen in balance.

For more information on 'Aeration' and Otterbine aeration units please contact Mike Spencer, of Aquatic Control Ltd, Tel: 01342 325389, H/o 01477 500406, or email mike.spencer@ukf.net

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# TALKING

Six of the country's top men give their views on Trees

## Trees

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE



Name: Stuart Cruickshank  
Course: Deere Park G&CC, Livingston  
Region: Scotland  
Course Type: Parkland (18 holes)  
Staff: Course Manager, plus six, plus gardeners



Name: David Leach MG  
Course: Lancaster GC  
Region: Northern  
Course Type: Parkland (18 holes)  
Staff: Course Manager, plus seven



Name: Mark Ellis  
Course: Stocks Hotel and Golf, Albury, near Tring  
Region: Midland  
Course Type: Downland  
Staff: Course Manager, plus five



Name: Ian McMillan  
Course: Queenwood GC, Ottenshaw, Surrey  
Region: South East  
Course Type: Heathland (18 holes)  
Staff: Course Manager, plus 10, plus mechanic



Name: Rob Challacombe  
Course: Morteheo and Woolacombe GC  
Region: North West and South Wales  
Course Type: Coastal Parkland (9 holes)  
Staff: Course Manager, plus two



Name: Simon Briers  
Course: Whitehead GC, McCreaf Bray, Whitehead  
Region: Northern Ireland  
Course Type: Parkland (18 holes)  
Staff: Course Manager, plus four, plus three seasonal

# 1

1. What do you consider to be good golf course trees and why?

1. In our case, pine and small leaf trees such as hornbeam, whitebeam and silver birch because they are native to the area. Large leaf trees cause more problems.

1. Anything indigenous to the area, in our case oak, beech and ash with a few cherry, apple and rowan. Deer play havoc with our trees particularly the ash.

1. We need trees which are indigenous to the area such as oak, beech, ash, field maple and copper beech. They make a pleasant backdrop and re-inforce golfing strategy.

1. The simple rule to remember where trees are concerned is always to use the indigenous species. For instance, on seaside links you would use no trees, heathland - no trees, parkland - majestic oaks.

1. Good trees on golf courses are those native to your area and preferably don't cause you problems - large leaf etc. We have ash, sycamore, oak and beech and a few Scots pine which provide shelter for young trees and will benefit those here in two generations time.

1. We are on an exposed headland on high ground. Eleven years ago the Forestry Commission provided oak, ash sycamore and beech trees but they haven't grown because of the conditions so now we have planted a mixture of pines.

# HEADS

## 2

2. Conversely what do you consider to be poor golf course trees and why?

2. Hawthorn, in particular, as you can get badly scratched and it hasn't got a good appearance in any case. Leylandii is an unnatural tree on a golf course and has no aesthetic appeal.

2. Leylandii, poplar, sycamore, which don't support any life, willow and anything which looks out of place.

2. Leylandii and any tree which bears fruit or has large leaves which need a lot of manpower to remove them.

2. Following the above rule I would be dismayed to see the likes of Leylandii, cypress, lombardy, poplar being planted on any golf course.

2. Anything ornamental such as leylandii, cherry, Japanese pine and which look as though they should be in someone's garden rather than on a golf course.

2. While I don't think any tree is a bad tree, broad leafed trees are no good for our course and any tree not native to the area such as leylandii would look out of place.

## 3

3. What is your management policy with regard to trees?

3. We have our own woodland management five year plan which is ongoing with three acres of planted woodland. There is some housing development round the course so we sometimes move trees to provide a shelter or barrier.

3. We began a woodland management scheme 18 months ago, felling trees in a big square in the middle of woodland, replanting and thus creating new woodland in the middle of an old one.

3. We have to make sure they fit into the landscape and are easy to maintain. We have a problem with herds of fallow deer so we have mesh guards round the base of the trees and put total weedkiller round the base as well.

3. A management policy would work towards having healthy trees varying in age and species. This could entail a programme of thinning and dead wooding.

3. Annual clearance and pruning where necessary. We have only had a course here for 12 years so there is not too many really well established trees.

3. We have an annual tree budget for replacements and we have planted a lot in recent years in a bid to establish some after the initial disappointment outlined earlier.

## 4

4. What do you know of the grant aid which is or was available for tree planting?

4. I am aware of several schemes which are excellent. However, we prefer to fund a plan ourselves as we then have more control and can be more flexible, rather than working under certain conditions.

4. I arranged a grant and we were the first in the Lancashire area to be awarded one I believe. The scheme has gone well since then on our course.

4. Personally, not a great deal. We employed a company to do all our planting and we let them deal with all the details.

4. This is a strange question to ask me as anyone who knows me would know. I have much more experience in obtaining felling licences to clear unwanted trees. That said I am aware of grants for tree planting.

4. The Heritage Trust provided 4,000 trees at no expense to use and these were planted by volunteer labour. We have also had a package from the Tree Foundation at no cost, putting a plaque up to mark the generous gesture. So we have had no need for grant aid as you can imagine.

4. We had a grant from the Forestry Commission 11 years ago and since then they have come back to inspect. We lost a lot of them and so the decision was taken after talks with the FC to plant Corsican pines, Monterey pines, sitka spruce and lodge pole pines.

## 5

5. What methods do you employ for leaf removal?

5. We use an Amazone Groundkeeper and blow as many leaves as possible back into the woodland. Greens are cleared of leaves on a daily basis and the rest of the course on a weekly basis. We also make good use of a Sisis Litamisa.

5. We are in a very windy area on an estuary near the River Lune, so most leaves blow away naturally. We also have an Amazone Groundkeeper which sucks the leaves up into a hopper.

5. A Tornado Leaf Blower for the fairways which we use on the back of a tractor. We have a steel knapsack leaf blower to push leaves to the edge of greens were they are raked up by hand or collected with an Amazone machine.

5. We use all methods, from mulching, hand removal, backpack blowers and various tractor mounted blowing and collection equipment.

5. Trees are not big enough to give any problems with leaves. Those that do fall are taken care of by Mother Nature as we are on a windy site.

5. We have no problem whatsoever with leaf removal as the very strong winds of Mother Nature take care of them. We have a Litamisa should any problems arise.

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

## Storage made eezzy



A versatile, polyethylene container store, designed to provide safe, secure storage for small quantities of pesticides, chemicals, oils and other hazardous liquids, has been introduced by Empteezy Limited, the UK's leading manufacturer of drum storage, spill control and waste handling products. The lockable PAS1 container store is made from tough, durable polyethylene and can be used in any type of agricultural or horticultural environment. In the event of a leak or spill, the cabinet's 30ltr sump reduces the risk of workplace and environmental contamination while the easy to remove shelves ensure a flexible range of storage options.

Empteezy's range of polyethylene and steel drum storage and spill control products are designed to help companies comply with the Oil Storage Regulations, meet Health and Safety and Environmental regulations and audit standards such as ISO14001.

**For further information**  
 Tel: 01506 430309

## Rapturous Racocon launched by Claymore

The Stella Racocon is a 20hp ride-on flail mower launched for the 2002 season by Claymore Grass Machinery.

Having undertaken a programme of demonstrations to users and dealers throughout the winter with impressive results in terms of both interest and orders, the Racocons are now being supplied in time for the main grass cutting season.

Contractors in particular are impressed by the high work rate and performance of the Racocon especially on banks.

Now add to this the features of big agricultural tread tyres, 48 unbreakable swinging Y blades giving a wide 38in (95cm) width of cut with rear discharge, the power of a 20hp Briggs & Stratton Vanguard OHV engine and high manoeuvrability. Height of cut is adjustable by central adjustment from 30-80mm.

All in all a tough no nonsense mower for the professional user at a RRP £7,995 plus VAT.

**For further information**  
 Tel: 01865 820731



## Multi-Brush mops up dew

GreenTek have launched a new 18 feet wide tractor mounted brush called the Multi-Brush which is made up of three separate 6' sections, allowing it to float over contours and undulations. Hydraulic rams are used to fold it out to its full width for large areas such as golf fairways. When folded in to its 6' width, it has five rows of straight and zig-zag brush sections in line for brushing-in topdressings on greens and tees. Golf Clubs are already finding the benefit of using the Multi-Brush for dispersing dew before they mow their fairways to avoid leaving clumps of grass behind.



**For further information**  
 Tel: 0113 267 6000

## Earthquake offers an affordable answer to compaction

With the addition of the RotoKnife slit aerator to its product range, EarthQuake Turfcare Ltd now offers a complete system capable of dealing with turf compaction, soil aeration requirements and drainage problems from the surface down to a depth of 380mm.

Offering a fast and cost-effective solution to rootzone management, the standard 1.52m EarthQuake RotoKnife has six 4mm thick discs mounted 305mm apart. The discs can be set to slit the turf to a depth of approximately 175mm, adjustable in 25mm increments. A consistent working depth is maintained by a pair of 250mm diameter rollers which also smooth the turf, leaving the surface level and ready for play.

Used on its own, the RotoKnife is

a high-speed slit aerator which encourages the movement of air, water and nutrients to prevent and eliminate thatch, soil pans, hard spots, waterlogging and poor grass growth. Designed to be mounted on or trailed behind a 35hp to 40hp tractor or suitable turf utility vehicle equipped with hydraulic drawbar, the RotoKnife is available with a choice of three interchangeable roll and disc combinations.

Offered with an optional full-width rear brush, the RotoKnife can be equipped also with additional weights to aid surface penetration in tough conditions. Price of the machine with standard discs and flat rolls is £4,700.

**For further information**  
 Tel: 01952 641949





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quoting your name and Membership number, and we'll do the rest - it's that easy!

## Komatsu launch world's lightest brushcutter



2001 saw the introduction by Komatsu Zenoah of several new and innovative hand held power equipment products. The new Strato Charged 26cc engine now fitted to many of their products provides benefits of 30% fuel saving and 30% less pollution. This new engine has CARB approval and was a major breakthrough in small engine technology.

Now Komatsu Zenoah introduce the lightest brushcutter in the world the BC2000. Weighing just 3.7kg this 21.7cc ergonomically designed well balanced unit has the e-START easy starting system featuring decompression port, timing-advance Magneto and recoil handle fitted with spring. This system combined with the exceptional lightness makes the brushcutter a great attraction for women or the older user. Introduced as the entry level unit for their range of brushcutters Alien foresee a great demand for this new brushcutter in 2002. RRP £272.30

**For further information**  
Tel: 01865 820731

## Chip off the block for Vermeer



Powered by a 122 HP Caterpillar engine, the new Vermeer BC1400 comes standard with the patent-pending SmartFeed system. Similar to the Vermeer patented Autofeed U control system, the distinct difference with SmartFeed system is the predictability capabilities.

Predictability is the act by which the controller actually monitors how quickly the engine loses RPM rather than reacting based on a predetermined setting. The SmartFeed computer controller automatically stops or reverses the feed rollers if the

engine loses RPM. An all-new feed roller control bar and integrated bottom feed stop bar are also standard on the BC1400. The feed roller control bar features two "stop" positions, and forward and reverse, to aid the operator in actively controlling the feed rollers. Also standard on the BC1400 is a manually operated hand crank for 270° rotation of the chip chute. An optional electric motor-driven rotating chute is also available on the BC1400.

**For further information**  
Tel: 01933 274400

## Flymo chooses Inturf for advert

Flymo makes a return to TV this spring with an innovative new advert thanks to help from Inturf.

Inturf, based in York, was asked by the producers of Flymo's new TV advert to provide 90 square metres of grass to feature in the campaign that launches Flymo's new Turbo Compact Vision mower. To meet the unusual brief, Inturf chose its innovative Integrated Turf Module system - the most durable natural grass and sports turf product available - to highlight the bright orange mower.

Inturf is experienced in providing turf for use in high profile areas, with a portfolio of clients that includes Newcastle United, Bolton Wanderers, Middlesbrough football clubs and the Cardiff Millennium stadium, which uses the ITM system. The commercial, shot indoors in Manchester in February, promotes Flymo's revolutionary new Turbo Compact Vision, which squashes grass clippings down into a "built in" central grassbox, and allows the user to see inside the mower to know exactly when to empty it.



**For more information on Flymo**  
Tel: 01325 300303

**For more information on Inturf**  
Tel: 01759 321000

## Biostimulant gets activated by RT



RT has launched Activate F, for use on amenity turf, is a microbial biostimulant that boosts microbial populations. It contains simple plant sugars providing carbohydrates, enzymatically extracted plant growth hormones and betaines, as well as a soil penetrant to ensure the ingredients are moved into the rootzone. The product helps improve rooting, seed germination and establishment and the general health of the turf plant. Available in a 5 litre pack, coverage 5,000 square metres. Activate R improves plant health, containing plant growth regulating hormones, chelated trace elements and a soil penetrant, as well as humic acid sourced from Leonardite (potassium humate) which assists in nutrient retention. Available in a 5 litre pack, coverage 5,000 square metres.

**For further information**  
Tel: Freephone 0800 424919

**Email press releases about new products to:**  
[scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

## Tonick's new product gets set to make (radio) waves

The new Vi-Aqua water treatment system from Tonick Watering continuously injects medium frequency radio power directly into irrigation water flow. This modifies the molecular structure of the water by imparting electronegative charge enhancement which greatly benefits the growth characteristics of turfgrass. The Vi-Aqua system consists of a wall-mounting control box and an antenna which is submerged in the water inlet flow or sump. The system does not require chemicals, is quick and simple to install, cheap to run and operates without supervision. It is totally safe for plants and man and has full CE compliance. The treatment process is entirely natural and therefore environmentally safe. The electromagnetic field is harmless and the treatment does not cause chemical reactions or DNA modification. Basically, the process reduces the surface tension of hard and soft water which increases the solubility of nutrients and enhances their uptake. Fertilisers and Nitrogen are absorbed more effectively so the amounts needed are reduced. The applied water percolates more quickly through the soil which reduces water run-off. Root depth is stimulated and silica absorption is increased; Silica is converted to Silicene at the plant surface, the natural defence mechanism of plants against insects and disease. Additionally, the treatment produces Hydrogen Peroxide which strengthens roots and also stimulates root growth, thus helping to eliminate thatch and black layer.

**For further information**  
Tel: 01269 832325

**Jim Arthur hands out some advice to those who feel living with poa is the only answer**

# CONTROLLING POA

I can hear at once a chorus of "Oh! No it can't"... "Oh! Yes it can"... "Who says so?" The answer to the last question is easy - literally hundreds of experienced Course Managers of all ages and with a wide range of courses to prove it, varying from the best of our links courses to large and small members' clubs, ranging from around a century old to a few years. They are backed by a small band of truly qualified and widely experienced agronomists who have seen the results of years of treating courses by time honoured and proven austere methods of greenkeeping. It will be noted that I limited my approbation to a few because far too many of our so called advisers are really thinly disguised salesmen or merely tell their clients what they think the client wants to hear.

In 55 years of golf course advisory work I have seen it all before and the remarkable thing is that despite all the commercial hype against our traditional standards and the ceaseless media support for the nice and green feed-and-water school, so many of our good courses still show excellent fine firm turf derived from our native bents and fescues.

Few of even our very best Course Managers would claim to have absolutely Poa-free greens but they control it, hit any invasion hard and avoid encouraging it so that even in flush growth periods their greens never suffer from the disfigurement of seeding Poa and in winter they play to full greens when Poa dominated turf is virtually unplayable or disease ridden. Who has not seen good

bent/fescue greens invaded by soup plate sized patches of pure Poa contrasting so horribly with the residue of the fine turf.

Recently reported surveys imply that greenkeepers must learn to live with Poa: that it is impossible to control; and that without it we would have nothing but bare ground. This is totally untrue. Nature in any case abhors a vacuum and if you kill off the Poa by management not herbicides, by encouraging finer grasses, then they will fill in behind the penalised Poa. Admittedly in severe cases which are always the results of misguided management, though perhaps several decades earlier, there can be a very uncomfortable time unless you are lucky with the weather and skilled in fine tuning when the sickly Poa is going faster than the *Agrostis* is coming in. A term for this was coined 30 odd years ago - *Arthiritis*, but once over, one never looks back. It does demand conviction and support from all levels (management and members alike) as well as a thick skin and deaf ears.

The first thing is to look dispassionately at the main causes of Poa annua invasion and dominance. It is beyond debate that the first and foremost cause of Poa invasion is the application of even very low levels of phosphatic fertilisers. Many fertiliser manufacturers admit this and sell nil phosphate mixes (of which more anon) but they do not understand that above very low levels potassic fertilisers are just as encouraging, as a moments contemplation of the graph showing the effect of rising lev-

els of P & K on turf composition (1981 research).

Yet articles are published all the time by fertiliser firms advocating really high levels of potash e.g 15-0-12 applied as frequently as every two to three weeks and then they wonder why Poa takes over.

This link between P & K and Poa has been researched and proven for over 90 years, on both sides of the Atlantic but has been studiously ignored by fertiliser salesmen and their bosses. It was before the First World War that Dr Murray working in South Africa postulated that (in his own words)... "his research proved that a system of management designed to provide an adequate supply of nitrogen in an acid medium, with a very limited amount of phosphate and potash - the only source of the latter being such as is contained in the usual compost (top-dressing) will best produce fine turf."

This research was repeated with the same results time and time again, both in the States and in the United Kingdom. In the 1920's, the Acid Theory was based on this research and was highly successful initially in converting lush wormy alkaline seedy turf into fine *Agrostis* (bent) swards. However, without adequate irrigation (or none at all), a series of droughts in the mid thirties coupled with the reduced drought resistance of the acid turf caused problems.

Some pundits, including the then Director of the Board of Greenkeeping research, R. B. Dawson, stupidly went back to NPK - perhaps unsurprising in view of his



background, at the Rothamsted Agricultural Research Station, while others modified the system and increased aeration, with excellent results.

I served under Dawson for six years, when I joined Bingley in 1940. I was extremely fortunate to have been trained by Richard Libbey, the senior adviser and a botanist of international repute. He taught me to take a botanical not a chemical approach to fine turf management. He pointed out that the basic principle on which all fine turf management depended was that if one created or copied those conditions in which the fine grasses grew naturally, they would dominate all other species, as they did in nature.

He emphasised that fine turf grew best on the poorest soils — land too infertile to farm, which is why it was still fine turf and not ploughed for cropping.

His advice which I have followed for 55 years and taught to literally thousands of greenkeepers and not just beginners either was to apply nitrogen only sparingly, using a balanced mix of organic and inorganic, (ammonia, blood hoof and horn and iron in equal-parts) in late spring, repeated once or if twice, at reduced rates, with nothing after the end of July. This mix has been available from Supaturf as SS/D for nearly 40 years and is still their best selling brand though not the biggest tonnage. Cheaper copies using urea based nitrogen are not as long lasting. Always ask for a written declaration of the sources of nitrogen from the supplier - the empirical percentage is not enough.

A short word about the critics of sulphate of iron - which has been the greenkeepers friend for a century! It imparts colour without encouraging lush grass. It is an effective fungicide, a good moss filler, hardens the turf and acidifies the soil to discourage worms and weeds. Yet some - chemists to a man - condemn its use, and you can be sure that to a man they are Poa annua fans!

An interesting point arises regarding statutory declarations of analyses. If a firm declares nil phosphate and in fact the mix contains say 3% - because this allows them to use cheaper phosphate-contaminated ingredients, it cannot be prosecuted as the law defines only that the

declared levels are supplied but does not complain if the levels are exceeded. Only where we can persuade Inspectors that phosphates in these circumstances are harmful could action be taken. I suggest informing suppliers that their mix will be analysed independently to see if it really is phosphate free!

Fertiliser manufacturers on the whole seem to accept that greenkeeping really wants nil phosphate mixes, but have no understanding that potash over very low levels is just as harmful. Advice to apply potash at high levels every four to six weeks is definitely wrong unless you really want Poa annua green. So also is advice to apply potash in the autumn - it goes straight to the drains.

with phosphates we can find excellent greens whose root zones show as low as 3 ppm - and need no phosphate additions. Do not believe that P & K will induce disease resistance! I know very many courses where neither have been applied for years and which never suffer from disease because their traditional austere management does not encourage "Fus".

I would bet a pound to a brass farthing that all greenkeepers who say that Poa annua is inevitable so lie back and enjoy it have two things in common. First they are not supported by their management or have made no effort to inform their members - or lack the conviction and strength to go against the current.

speeded up then roll them - a tip as old as greenkeeping! If you deep aerate afterwards there are no ill effects. Do not chase colour and rely on frequent grooming to pick up seed heads

A word on over-seeding! A case can be made with dominantly bent-fescue greens to thicken up fine turf by over-seeding in early autumn, though establishment is at best 10%, often nil. Over-seeding in spring or into dominantly Poa annua greens is a predictable waste of time and money. I well remember the Superintendent of a famous Californian course denying that his greens were 100% Poa annua because they spent so much money every year in overseeding them through the whole season with Penncross. Management will swing the grass type not over-seeding which benefits only the seeds firms.

Austere traditional greenkeeping is guaranteed to reduce though not totally eradicate Poa annua but where the cause has been persisted in for many years it takes longer and in the process unless steps are taken to keep them informed members may revolt. Success depends on bringing them with you but from an early stage they will get better winter playing conditions with less disease. This is something that the feed and water brigade should take on board, especially as the coming recession starts to bite, especially as such methods cost less both directly in reduced "input" and indirectly in minimising disease and thus expensive controls.

Until we can educate golfers, especially the new entry into understanding that the correct colour for a golf course is not lush television green but the natural browner shades of our natural courses it is going to be an uphill battle and those in the front line deserve the support of all the golfing authorities and the golfing media in the fight to retain our traditional standards and all weather golf. I am more than willing to enter into debate with any informed people or bodies. We can always disagree without being disagreeable. Over some 55 years of advisory work I have seen hundreds of over-fed Poa courses come back to fine grass dominance and gratifyingly erstwhile culprits advising or selling excessive NPK fertilisers, reverse their views. I wish more would follow their example.

**Few of even our very best Course Managers would claim to have absolutely Poa-free greens but they control it, hit any invasion hard and avoid encouraging it so that even in flush growth periods their greens never suffer from the disfigurement of seeding Poa**

In fact if you do not want Poa then never apply any autumn fertiliser. If any course is not at its best in autumn then it never will be and applying fertiliser is counter-productive. The same applies to "micro-nutrients" or trace elements for which on normal greens there is no evidence of need whatever. We are told that sand based greens need this help. If the advisers mean pure sand greens then they may have a case but they clearly do not!

In any case how many pure sand greens still survive? Do not confuse them with standard perched water table sandy green.

My advice regarding potash is to apply a light dressing in spring perhaps every two to three years, or subject to analysis showing levels below 10 - 15 ppm. Remember that

Secondly, all use complete NPK fertilisers or heavily use potash as well as nitrogen even if they do not use phosphatic fertilisers, while they will often apply fertilisers in autumn. I cannot see any justification for applying fertilisers (sulphate of iron is not a fertiliser) in autumn, because if any course is not looking at its best then it never will and all that fertilisers do then is to encourage disease and Poa annua.

Of course the battle against Poa annua is not confined to banning P & K, though that is the first essential. Aeration must be intensive and above all avoid that common error of hollow tining in spring, allowing seeds of Poa easy entrance into the tightest of swards, excessively close mowing at any time of the year will bring in Poa and if greens need to be



**Scottish Region**  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

### North

Three new members to report this month, and they are: Keith Law, from Letham Grange Golf Club; John Hamill, from Nairn Golf Club, and Derek Chisholm, from Kingussie Golf Club. Welcome to the Section lads.

A young greenkeeper on the move is Muir Ross, from Dingwall. Muir served his apprenticeship at Castle Heather Golf Course in Inverness and is now on his way to the Isle of Man to work as an assistant greenkeeper. Good luck in your new position, Muir.

Also good to see Donnie Dingwall back playing golf again at Strathpeffer. Donnie, who retired in 1990 from being the Head Greenkeeper at Strathpeffer, is keeping much better and is enjoying life. Long may it continue, Donnie.

As I write this report the Elgin outing has not yet taken place so I will report on it in the next magazine.

The Scottish Championship is at West Linton Golf Club this month and I am sure it will be well worth the visit if anyone can make it down.

If anyone has any ideas on short courses for education then you can contact me on 01997 420155 as there are courses available this autumn/winter run by BIGGA.

Well, not much else to really report this month, so I hope the weather remains decent and your greens run true.

Iain Gunn

### East

Welcome to this month's column. Well spring is well and truly here I am glad to say and it's the first decent start to a season we've had for a number of years, so hopefully this is going to be a good season right through 'til the autumn with the right growing conditions for everyone. I hope everyone completed their winter programmes and their courses are coming on nicely with this good weather we're having.

The Section's season is well under way with the first tournament of the year having been played in late April, and what a good day was had by everyone who was there. We were limited to 56 people at Gullane which was strange as we usually have a big turnout for the spring tournament.

If there was a reason for this let us know as we are willing to hear from anyone as to why the small turnout. It was good to see some new faces along for the day and we hope you enjoyed yourself and look forward to seeing you at future Section events. Thanks must go to the Captain and Council of Gullane Golf Club for the courtesy of the course and the use of their facilities. As normal the course (No 3) was in superb condition so a big thanks to Course Manager, Paul Seago, Head Greenkeeper, Paul, and

all the other greenstaff for a fine course. The clubhouse staff, Club Steward, waitresses etc, for looking after us superbly. The food was excellent! Also not forgetting the trade members thanks for bringing along raffle prizes etc; the handicap committee for keeping things running smoothly.

Don't forget tournaments are now 11am soup & rolls, 12 noon first tee off. This is just a reminder from the committee as there were people turning up after 12 noon. With the draw being made the day before tee times were set for each group and with people not being on time names had to be juggled around to fit everyone in. So it is just a reminder for Uphall on July 30. Here is a list of the final leaderboard for the Gullane tournament on April 23. Best scratch (Boyd Trophy) K. Mail, 66 bih. 1st Class 1. (Souters' Cup) S. Nicol, 66-0-66; 2. I. Elliot, 76-8-68; 3. K. Mail, 66-+3-69. 2nd Class 1. (Lothian Tractors Trophy) A. Russell, 75 -10 -65 ; 2. C. Yeaman 79 -11-68 bih; 3. I. Watson, 80-12-68. 3rd Class 1. (Turf Care Cup) R. Thomson, 92-17-75; 2. S. Muir, 102-26-76; 3. F. Forrest 106-25-81. Best nett of the day (Ocmis Cup) A. Russell 75-10-65. Veteran prize (New Holland Trophy) J. Manuel 78-3-75. Trade prize (Patrons' Cup) Ian Henderson 76-10-66. New Members' prize R. Campbell 80-10-70. Highest score of the day, J. Dalrymple, 121.

Well done to all the prize winners who took home one of the fabulous trophies which were on offer. I must say the match committee excelled themselves on the choice of the trophies as I would say they have to be the best trophies we've given out to date. The old claret jugs that were for each of the classes look superb on my dining room unit. We are able to buy these trophies with the help of a donation from the executive in conjunction with the Scottish Region Patron Members so a big thank you to you all because, if it wasn't for your help, we wouldn't be able to do it.

Next on the fixture list is the trip in association with Stewart & Co to look around their premises, turf farm then a visit to see the final preparations for The Open Championship at Muirfield Golf Club on May 29. Then the next golf event is the Scottish National Tournament at West Linton Golf Club on June 27. We hope to see a big turnout of East Section members at this one. Coming up next month is a report and picture from the visit to Muirfield, news about the Section team and how they got on in this year's Dispatch Trophy from May 24 'til June 1. Can they go one better this year than last when they were narrowly beaten in the final. Here's hoping! Well that's it all 'til next month with more news and views. If you have anything of interest to the Section drop me a line, e mail, a fax, a text message or just give me a call and we'll get it into print in a future edition of greenkeeper international, all the usual numbers apply so come on let's hear from you.

Chris Yeaman.

### Central

At last! We are up and running again in welcoming new members to the Section and this month we extend a warm welcome to Thomas Aitchison, who is a greenkeeper at Kinghorn Golf Club in Fife. As usual it is hoped that we will get the opportunity to meet him at some of our events in the very near future.

The first golf tournament of the new season was held on May 1 at Kingsbarns Golf Links in Fife, when, on a beautiful sunny day, over 80 members enjoyed a day to remember, as everyone was treated like a King (there were even a couple of Queens in attendance and I mean that in the proper context!) by the staff at Kingsbarns and with the course in superb condition everyone could forget the long haul through the wettest winter and savour the courtesy and pampering extended to every visitor to this beautiful links course. Our sincere thanks go to General Manager Stuart McEwan, Course Manager, Stuart McComb and his staff; the catering staff and the starter who set everyone on their way at the 1st tee with a smile, (that was before they hit the ball).

Prize winners on the day were; Best Scratch. K. Stirling, Kingsbarns, 70. Best Nett. P. Conway, Drumoig, 68. 1st Class 1. K. Mitchell, St Andrews, 70; 2. D. Simpson, Crieff, 71 (bih). 2nd Class 1. D. Scott, Scoonie, 74 (bih); 2. S. Lawrie, Elie, 74. 3rd Class 1. M. White, Elmwood, 75 2. G. McRae, Ratho Park, 82. Stewart's Quaich, K. Mitchell, St Andrews, 144. Patrons' Prize, S. Darling, Aitkens, 77; Guests. S. McEwan, Kingsbarns, 74. Longest Drive. C. McKay, Craig. Nearest The Pin I. Hunter, Tulliallan.

Thanks to everyone who helped on the day and especially our Patrons for their continued support - it is very much appreciated.

The 1999 (yes 1999!) Inter Club Tournament final was eventually won by Batman and Robin, from Leven, who beat Grangemouth in the longest running tournament in the Section's history. This year's tournament has an entry of ten teams and will be run on a two league basis with the home games being played this year and the away games and the final taking place next year. That's the plan at the moment anyway.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the suggested Educational Courses forms at the Spring Tournament. Hopefully we will be able to organise a number of course for your benefit later in the year.

The date for this year's Autumn Tournament is Thursday, September 26 at Dullatur Golf Club, Cumbernauld.

John Crawford

### West

Welcome to this month's newsletter. On April 4 the Aitken/SGM, greenkeeper/convenors' match was hosted at Lenzie GC. Gavin and his team had the course well presented for a competition so early in the sea-

son. Mr Miles, from Helensburgh GC, must thrive on the challenge as Ronnie's team won the competition for the second time in three years presenting him with the opportunity to host the event there next year. Runners-up on the day were Millport GC and the wooden spoon went to the club up the hill from Kirkhill GC. The committee would like to thank Aitkens and SCM for their continued support in hosting this event and the members and council of Lenzie GC for the use of their facilities and course.

On April 8 the greenkeepers v secretaries match was held at Haddington GC with the greenkeepers winning by a narrow margin 5.5 to 4.5. An enjoyable day was had by all and my personal thanks should be passed on to my playing partner Cecil and our opponents David Montgomery and John Taylor for a most enjoyable and competitive round of golf. If Cecil can give me ten years to practise I reckon we could beat them next time.

On April 25 the Section's Spring outing was held at Millport GC. Joe and his team are to be congratulated on the condition of the course. The members and council of the club are to be thanked for the courtesy of the course and for making us feel so welcome on the day. It was the first time I had played the course but I hope it won't be the last. All who made the effort to play had a most enjoyable day. The winners on the day were Scratch S. Taylor, Killermont GC, 70. Category 1. I. G. Jarvis, Lenzie GC, 78-10-68; 2. B. Hillen, Drumpellier GC, 81-10-71; 3. E. Wood, Killermont GC, 73-1-72. Category 2. 1. J. Kinder, Fereneze GC, 81-15-66; 2. S. Brawley, East Kilbride GC, 82-14-68, 3. T. Hindmarch, Cathcart GC, 83-14-69. Category 3. 1. K. Collins, East Kilbride GC, 87-22-65; 2. J. Bell, Millport GC, 90-20-70; 3. S. Frame, Drumpellier GC, 94-20-74. Trade prize went to A. Taylor, of Rigby Taylor, with a 67-3-64. Visitors prize went to Peter Boyd, our Regional Administrator, and nearest the pin went to Sandy Bulloch. Well done to you all.

The 100 Club draw which was supposed to have been drawn at this event has been postponed until the autumn meeting when a double draw will be made. If anyone has still got club money to pay could they please forward it to Sandy Bulloch ASAP.

One date for the calendar June 27 sees the Scottish greenkeepers' tournament being held at West Linton this year, application forms are available from P. Boyd and the cost of the day is £20.

One new member to be welcomed to the Section this month and he is Stephen Brogan who joins the staff at Hayston GC. We look forward to meeting you at up and coming Section events.

Well, that's all for this month folks. If you have anything you would like added to the column don't hesitate call me on 01355266862.

Brian Bolland

## Ayrshire

The Section spring outing was played at Prestwick St Cuthbert's on Thursday April 25. The weather was good so breaking our recent trend of bad weather. Unfortunately it couldn't tempt many skeletons out the cupboard and we had our usual turnout of the same faces. The course was in a good spring condition, prepared by Stephen Fraser and his staff, the beer was in good condition too and the catering staff didn't let the side down either.

All in all an excellent day was enjoyed and our sincere thanks go to Captain, Tom McAllindon, Secretary, John Rutherford, and the committee of Prestwick St Cuthberts for granting us courtesy of the course and the associated assistance in organising our day.

The prize winners on the day were as follows. Scratch - Brian Aitken, Turnberry. Category 1. 1. Duncan Gray, The Pines, 36pts; 2. Wallace Mercer, Skelmorlie, 35pts; 3. Alastair Stone, Largs Kelburn, 34pts; 4. Greg Paterson, Girvan, 33pts; 5. George Morrison, Largs Kelburn, 32pts

Category 2 1. Iain Barr, Largs Kelburn, 35pts; 2. Syd Mercer, Skelmorlie, 32pts (bih); 3. Paul Tulloch, West Kilbride, 32pts; 4. Gordon Laughin, Southernness, 31pts; 5. Paul Dick, West Kilbride, 30pts; Trade. Derek Duthie, Aitkens.

Daval Industrial Products have kindly donated a trophy to be named in memory of Harry Diamond. This will be competed for over our both Section outings to determine our champion for the year on a Stableford points system. The committee would like to thank Alex, Sam, Brenda and all at Daval for this trophy and their continued support of our Section.

Finally, this will be my last section notes as, after five years, I am handing it back to Jim Paton who needs no introduction. Best wishes to you Jim and I'll look forward to your notes next month.

Any news call me on 01505-683278 and I'll pass it on.

Iain Barr



**Northern Region**  
Douglas Bell  
Tel: 0151 431 0433

## North East

On April 18 we had our Spring Comp. at Dunstanburgh Castle GC. It's been a long time since we played there and what a delight it was playing a true links course. On behalf of the players we would like to thank the Head Greenkeeper and his staff for the fine condition it was in and also to the committee for giving us courtesy.

Although the weather was not too good at first it turned out a beautiful day later. However the scores were not that good any ways who cares it was good to be playing a tough links course.

We would also like to thank the companies who kindly donated prizes. These are as follows: Rite

Feed, Turf Care, Shorts, Aitkens, Greenlay, Border Turf Services, Rigby Taylor and Swarland Hall GC.

It was good to see Rigby Taylor represented by John Holt. We hope you enjoyed the day and thanks for the binoculars which were given as a prize.

Best Gross J. Storey, 75, Alnmouth GC; Nett B. Hughes, 71, Whickham GC. Ass Cup. J. Hood, 72, Linden Hall GC; J. Richardson, 72 nett, Hexham GC. R. Reid, 74, Prudhoe GC; A. Bowes, 74, Prudhoe GC; A. Harrison, 75, Garesfield GC; B. Wilson, 76, Stocksfield GC.

Qualifiers for the Northern Regional Final.

9@ under. J. Storey, J. Hood. Reserves. J. Richardson, R. Reid, B. Wilson

10 to 18. A. Bowes, A. Harrison. Reserves. G. Wright, S. Pope, G. Batson

19 to 28. B. Hughes, M. Lowdon. Reserves. A. Parkin, R. White

All the above will be notified in due course and the final will be played at Whitefield GC, Whitefield, Manchester, on Friday, August 9.

More movement in the Section, Steve Quince has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Parklands; M. Lowdon moved from City of Newcastle to Bedlington; A. Morrison has gone back to Stocksfield, C. Elmsie went from Stocksfield to Slaley Hall as a casual for the summer period, and David Thompson moved back to Matfen Hall.

Jimmy Richardson

## North Wales

Best wishes goes to Elfyn Owen, of Royal St David's GC, on his retirement this month. Elfyn, formerly Head greenkeeper at Dolgellau GC, is one of the profession's great characters, a keen golfer and a passionate songster with the Welsh Male Voice Choir, a pursuit that has taken him all over the world representing and promoting Wales. Elfyn will return in July to assist in the European Seniors Event at Harlech.

Anyone wishing to go and watch the Seniors the admission is free and the event boasts over a million pounds prize money.

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

Job's a good'n.

Andrew Acorn

## Sheffield

On April 22 the Sheffield Section held their first golf competition (Regional Qualifier) at Worksop Golf Club. The course was in fantastic condition, well done Barry and your team for your hard work in presenting such a top class course.

I would like to thank our main sponsor for the day, Gem Professional for donating some excellent prizes. I would also like to thank all other trade members (Rigby Taylor, Aitkens, Mid Lube, Mansfield Sand and Farmura) for their support.

The results are as follows :- I. D.

Chappell, 34pts; 2. T. White, 32pts; 3. A. Lomas, 30pts; 4. M. Lake, 27pts; 5. R. Tyson, 27pts; 6. B. Cooke, 26pts; 7. P. Neve, 26pts; 8. M. Knowles, 26pts; 9. S. Pickering, 26pts; 10. M. Crawshaw 25pts. Guest prize S Clayton, 36pts.

The following people who qualified for the regional competition at Whitefield GC (Manchester) on Friday, August 9 are:- Handicap 1-9

D. Chappell & A. Lomas. Reserve M. Knowles. Handicap 10-18. T. White & M. Lake. Reserve R. Tyson. Handicap 19-28 B. Cooke & P. Neve. Reserve M. Crawshaw.

Could all of the above please contact me to make arrangements if they can make it or not as details need to be sent to the organiser.

If anyone has any news please don't hesitate to contact me on 01709 548759 or by e-mail on chris.astle1@btopenworld.com

P.S entries for the next golf competition for Hickleton G/C will be sent out 3-4 weeks prior to the competition.

Chris Astle

## North West

The annual match N/W v N/Wales was played at Pryors Hayes GC, on April 30 and although I could not be present, I am informed that the competitors had a great day. I am delighted to say the N/W won the match 3.5 to 2.5. Thanks must go to Pryors Hayes for allowing us the courtesy of their course, the N/Wales Section for organising the venue and, of course, Gem Professional for once again sponsoring the match as they have done for many years.

The next golf is the summer tournament at Ulverston Golf Club, on Thursday June 20. I know this is quite a distance for the majority of the N/W members, but the N/W covers all of Cumbria also, and this will give the members in the upper reaches of the Section the opportunity to play without travelling too far. I understand this is a magnificent course and well worth a visit. All applications to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool, 14 9R8. Tel. 0151 284 4416, including a cheque for £20 made payable to BIGGA N/W. Lunch will be 12:30pm and tee time 1-45pm.

That seems to be it for now, but any enquiries you can contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross.

## Northern

What an absolutely fantastic time all the competitors had at our spring golf meeting sponsored by Scotts at Bedale Golf Club. The weather was shirtsleeves and the course in great shape for mid April and a real credit to Ian Pemberton and his greens team. We were all helped off the 1st tee by the cheerful Wilf, the club's resident starter. After some rusty golf we all got back to the clubhouse and sat down to some great tucker. The prize table was overflowing and many thanks for that to Scotts UK and to Dave Truby and Richard Walton who represented Scotts on the day. We all thank the staff and officials at Bedale

golf club for making us all so welcome.

We did manage to have one loser, with Alvin Fawcett going to Bedale the day after the tournament. Better luck next time. Here is the list of winners, Scratch cup Andy Clark. 1st Div. Robin Smith, Alan Baxter and Peter Thompson. 2nd Div. Andy Slingsby, Adam Speight and Nigel Wild. 3rd Div. Alan Gamble, Joe Baxter and Steve Heaton. The two trade prizes were won by Mel Guy and Alan Dyson with nearest the pin and longest drive won by Peter Thompson and Alan Baxter respectively.

After the prize presentation we honoured Alan Gamble with our first presentation on behalf of the Northern Section, in respect of services to the Section. Basically the committee have decided we will sporadically present a memento to people who serve the section or continually support it. Well done and thank you to Alan.

We have had six new members to the Northern Section. They are Jason and John Edmond, Robert Wiles, Michael Gumenuik, Mick Doxy and Jacob Kay. It will be great to see you guys at some of the Section events in the future.

Our next Section event is at Steve Heaton's Golf course at Otley. This will be President's Day with sponsorship by Rufford Soil Science. The date is June 19 with bacon sandwiches and coffee from 12.30pm. You can pay any member of the committee £15 up to a week before. Cheques only please. So why not come along, all golfing abilities welcome.

One bit of sad news. I received a letter from Ruth Bailes informing me of her husband Sam's death. Sam worked on golf courses since 1946. He was assistant at Northcliffe and later worked at Halifax (Ogden) as Head Greenkeeper, then Keighley GC for 22 years until retirement in 1982. For the past eight years he has battled with Motor Neurone Disease. Sam died peacefully on April 11.

I hear Dave Hannam has now returned to God's own county to take up the helm at Wetherby Golf Club. It's great to have him back and hope to see him real soon.

If anyone has any news and information they want to share with the section please forward it onto me at the address at the bottom of these notes. See you at Otley!

Happy Greenkeeping.

Please contact me on 16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West Yorks BD2 2NJ Tel No : 01274 640739 Mob No; 07976876264 E mail; Dthackray@aol.com

Dave Thackray

## Cleveland

The spring tournament took place last month at Darlington Golf Club. The weather was superb red hot with just a slight breeze and a full field of 30 took part and everyone enjoyed the day. The golf course was in fantastic condition on that everyone agreed. A huge thank you and well done to Paul Moore, Head Greenkeeper and his staff for their

hard work preparing the course and presenting it so well, and also a big thanks to Darlington Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course and for the meals afterwards, they were excellent.

The results:- 1-9. 1. Steven Agar, Crook Golf Club, 72pts; 2. Jim Thompson, Darlington Golf Club, 73pts; 3. Ian Rowe, Seaton Carew Golf Club, 75pts.

10-18. 1. Tony Burgg, Richmond Golf Club, 66pts; 2. Gary Shaw, Ramside Golf Club, 68pts; 3. Allen Reid, Saltburn Golf Club, 71pts. 19-28. 1. Steven Jacques, Ramside Golf Club, 67pts; 2. Liam McGough, Eaglescliffe Golf Club, 73pts; 3. Eddie Coulthard, Crook Golf Club, 78pts.

Trade. Allen Cordingley, Rite Feed; 2. Neil Thompson, Border Sports; 3. Liam Galaway, Greenkeeping Supplies.

The spring tournament was organised by Barry Walker and Martin Woods, well done lads on another great success. Thanks for your hard work and thanks to the trade for their support also. The Autumn Tournament will be at Bedale Golf Club. Look out for details.

Any News contact me on 07719 193381

Steven Jacques



Midland Region  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115

### Midland Region

The first John Deere Championship Regional Qualifier in the UK was held at the Chipping Norton Golf Club on April 25, when Turner Grounds care hosted the day for 15 golf clubs. The day was a great success blessed with superb weather, and the scoring reflected the conditions. The home club won the day with an excellent net score of 51, 20 shots under par and 3 shots clear of the next best scores. Chipping Norton Golf Club now progress to The De Vere Belfry for the National Final on August 9.

The Midland Region Golf Management Competitions, which were a great success last year, are being held this year at the

Hartsbourne Country Club, Bushey Heath on August 7 and Beeston Fields Golf Club, Nottingham on August 14.

Invitations have been sent to many golf clubs in the Midland Region. If you are interested in entering a team and have not yet received an invitation please contact Peter Larter, the Regional Administrator, and he will send you one.

Peter Larter

### BB&O

Please Section readers - don't faint when you see we have an entry this month! May I introduce myself, David Winterton MG, as the new Secretary for this Section. I hope to be able to do justice to the position, compared to my predecessor, Lindsay Anderson, who has been excellent in this role over the past 10 years. Lindsay has now become Chairman of our committee. Lindsay and I will be bringing you monthly news items to ensure this column comes alive.

The committee also have on board Adrian Cooper who has served wise council for 10 years, John Scoones and Robert Woodward. We finally have a printed fixture card which arrived too late to be included in the letter you received recently, giving details of this year's fixtures. This will be sent to all at the end of May. Many thanks go to Alan Wright, at T.H. White, for organising this card and thanks to T.H. White for sponsoring this handy reminder. May I give condolences on behalf of the section to Alan for the loss recently of his father and wish he and his family great strength to recover.

May I welcome some new members to the fold who are about to receive benefits one can only dream of outside our Association. Tony Bates, Three Locks GC; Nathan Bond, Chiltern Forest GC; Michael Farmer, Reading GC; Graham Gardner, Tadmerton GC; Peter Goodwin, Billingbear Park GC; Danny Jones, Birds Hill GC; Roger Tustain, Chipping Norton GC; Matthew Weatherstone, Lambourne GC.

We had our first fixture for this year - The Spring Tournament - held at Stoke Park Golf Club. On site is the erection of a new health & fitness centre. What I did not realise was the extension of the Roman baths & spa

pool around the Colt/Alison 18 holes we played on Tuesday, April 30. Most of the 36 field kinda swam the course and to say that a hot shower at the end in its correct enclosure was heaven itself is an understatement. The course in these conditions is hard to judge but I know I'm correct in saying that Alex Millar and his crew had done us proud and turned out an excellent course for play for which we owe a huge vote of thanks. Alex promises a next time and I for one will make sure I return to play in exquisite surroundings. The day was sponsored by Tacit and Tim was there in person to play and later hand out the prizes. On such a tough day the scores were more than acceptable with first prize going to Alan Wright of Richings Park with 35 points. The rest of the results are as follows: 2. Ian Robbins, Ellesborough GC; 3. Brian Benzie, Harleyford GC; 4. Andy Law - Stoke Park GC

The team prize went to the Larter team. Yes, you've guessed it, Peter graced us with his presence on the day though he might have thought he was sailing! Mark Stigwell, from Rigby Taylor, won the Trade prize, with nearest the pin won by Peter Helps, of Turner Groundcare, and the longest drive won by Ross Wilson, of Parasampia G&CC Hotel. Can I thank all those who participated and were not deterred by the weather? A final note of gratitude to Tacit for their superb prizes and commitment to making it a great day. Let's hope our next fixture in August is a great improvement from the skies above. It leaves me to wish all our Section members a great start to the summer, one that will be remembered for all the right reasons of course!

David Winterton

### Mid Anglia

Our first golf event of the year took place at Ashridge Golf Club in April, over 36 holes. The obvious appeal of the venue generated a good interest, with forty people entering; our best spring tournament turnout for many years. Our thanks to Jim Cassidy and his team at Ashridge for an excellent course, so early in the year. The greens were certainly quick! Our thanks also to Ashridge for their hospitality, bearing in mind the changes afoot with the new clubhouse being

built and temporary changing areas in use. Our thanks also to our main sponsors for the day, Rigby Taylor, represented by Mark Stidwell.

The results were as follows:

AM. 1. D. Thompson, Buckingham, 43pts; 2. S. Mason, Mount Pleasant, 39pts; 3. K. Bunting, Ashridge, 39pts.

PM. 1. M. Whittle, Woburn, 37pts; 2. J. Bygrave, Lammerwood, 37pts; 3. A. Grew, Berkhamsted, 37pts.

Longest Drive: AM, R. Howson, Woburn. PM., D. Thompson, Buckingham.

Nearest Pin: AM., A. Grew, Berkhamsted. PM., S. Mason, Mount Pleasant.

Clive Parnell was the winner of the trade prize.

Our two representatives at the National Tournament (should they wish to enter) will be Mark Whittle and David Thompson.

There is a change of date and venue for the Summer Meeting; John O'Gaunt is the new venue, on Tuesday August 27. It will be over eighteen holes, with a 2pm start. Further details will follow nearer the time.

Paul Lockett

### East Midlands

Not a lot to report on this month. In The Blankey Open on April 22 Alan Roberts and I finished sixth in a Better-Ball Bogey competition, and Steve Levers and I finished with 35pts in The Ramsdale Park Captain's invitation on April 14. Thanks for the invite, Steve.

Congratulations should go to Jeff Dickinson and Gavin Robson for making The Greenkeeping Support team at this year's Open.

This year's East Midlands v East of England golf match will be hosted by Newark GC on August 22. Tee-Off 3.45pm. Any member who wishes to play in this match should contact me as soon as possible as we only require 10 players, Greenkeeper members only.

This year's Spring Tournament will be reported on next month, but may I once again remind all members that if you wish to attend any Section event, your entry form and payment must be received before the closing dates.

Antony Bindley

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## East Of England

The first golf fixture of the season got under way at Louth Golf Club. The course was in good condition considering the lack of rain for this time of year.

The competition was sponsored by Rigby Taylor and Brian Booth and Stuart Jeffs were on hand to present the superb prizes.

First prize went to the New Chairman of our Section, Adrian Kitchinson, Torksey, with 35pts. Robert Welford, Cleethorpes, was runner-up with 34pts, and Ian Batty, Sleaford, lost out on count-back also with 34pts. The trade prize was won by Stuart Clayton, Mid-Lube, with 32pts. Longest drive went to Russ Moody, Torksey. The Lambs Cup for Nearest the pin went to Russell Latham, Mansfield Sands. Thanks to Mike Covey for allowing us courtesy of the course and we wish him a speedy recovery from his injury.

Other trade sponsors were, Lincsgreen, Boughton Loams, Aitkens, Mansfield Sands, Midlube, Symbio and Alpha Amenities.

People on the move: David Hornsey has left Woodhall Spa to join Cannons Turf; Jim North is to become the new Head Greenkeeper at Tattershall Park; Henry Fletcher joins Woodhall from Bainlands Park and Daniel Barnes has joined Gedney Hill Golf Club.

Graeme Macdonald



South East  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

## Kent

Did you miss me? Sorry about last month's report but with Easter and everything I totally forgot to write until it was too late to get it in.

What I would have reported on was what a great day out the Gentlemen's Dinner was this year. Yes, I did win a prize, well three in fact. I came second in the 10-18 categories and got nearest the pin on 17 with a glorious 6-iron that nearly went in. Just to make my day I also picked up a bottle of vodka in the raffle. It was great to see some other guys from Kent there too and, of course, Duncan

Kelso won a prize for 3rd in his category 0-6. It is always a pleasure playing Walton Heath and it was nice to see how much work they had been doing throughout the winter with tree removal and heather management. The BBQ at the 11th tee was most appreciated with thanks going to Neil Pullen and his colleagues at Sheriff Crop Care. The bacon roll and beer must have helped me get 18 points on the back 9. The highlight of the day was when the after dinner speaker was late and Derek Farrington stood in for him. I think Derek was much funnier and probably much cheaper too. Once again a well organised day. Derek, thanks.

The golf days for the coming year are now in place with the first being at the fantastic Kings Hill Golf Club on June 18. So I had better pull my finger out and get the place looking good for you lot. Other dates are set after the committee meeting and will be announced next month by which time you should have had your fixture card. I hope all the events are well supported this year and we will see some new faces. There have been some great donations from the trade for prizes, etc. so I expect there will be some great golf to win them. And don't worry Duncan Kelso has been cut to 5 so there might be a chance someone else can win a prize this year.

Jason Bean.

## East Anglia

Tour BIGGA found its way to Thetford GC and what a lovely day it was. Birds singing, sun shining, Oh to be in England. It's rained ever since. There was a good turnout, 63 in all and the course was in excellent condition thanks to Paul Gould and his men.

The golf went as follows: 0-10 Category. 1. Alan Elliott, 71 (nett); 2. Mark Keysell, 74; 3. Peter Howard, 74. 11-16 Cat. 1. Ian Willett, 76; 2. Stevie Millard, 76; 3. David Childs, 81. 17-28 Cat. 1. Stephen Crabb, 78; 2. Derek Farrington, 78; 3. Kevin Hodges, 80. Guest and Trade. 1. Joe Payne, 72; 2. Max Ayres, 73; 3. There wasn't one.

The prizes were presented by Max Ayres, Thetford Captain. The sponsors were Tomlinsons, Ground Care

and Ben Burgess.

There was an interesting speech about two nuns but we won't go into that. There was also a very moving one minute silence for Ernie Hart who is very sadly missed.

Nearly forgot. Alan Elliott got the best gross 76 and Nearest the Pin, while Mark Keysell got Longest Drive and best nett 74.

We must welcome some new members - Kevin Hodges, James Barton, Bob Barnes and Eddie Jacks.

Our very loyal trade members who are Sheriff, Rushbrooks, Sisis, Aventus, Clarkson Consults, Tacit, Driving Force Leisure, Toro, Rigby Taylor, Bartrams, Turf Care and Atterton and Ellis.

There is also the Toro Masters programme which involves 18 months in the States which consists of two weeks at Minnesota University, six months on construction and grasses, four months University Diploma, six to eight months on Florida courses. You must be over 16 and single and you need £1000 for dental treatment (don't ask me). Further info contact Ian.

That's all folks, next meeting June 11 Tournament Greenkeepers and Captains.

PS Steve Millard got the loo seat. Landed in shrubbery at the 18th. Thetford will how change the rules just for him.

Mick Lathrope

## Surrey

Surrey Section's committee had a meeting on April 10 and the agenda was (1) Bioseed Bowl (2) South East Regional Board Meeting 21/02/02 (3) Regional Seminar 2002 (4) Any other Business.

(1) We thank David Smart, of Bioseed, for sponsoring our Pairs Knockout competition, the final of which will be played over 36 holes at a neutral course with lunch and an evening meal followed by the prize giving. Queries concerning handicaps should be addressed to Tony Bremer Tel: 01306 889071 and Tony will contact all members if their handicap changes after an event.

(2) Geoff Woodward our regional representative will be reporting to the South East Regional Board of the committee's preference that the

BTME Exhibition be changed back to the original Wednesday to Friday.

(3) The original venue for the regional seminar was Merrist Wood College but this has now had to be changed and it is hoped that it can take place at Roehampton Golf Club. We have approached a number of speakers and you will be informed as soon as we have confirmation. The provisional date for the seminar is November 27.

Please note that the Golf Day at Liphook and Shirley Park have had to be changed. Liphook Golf Club will now be on June 26 and Shirley Park on July 23.

Congratulation Paragraph in this edition goes to Dan Wheeler from the Roehampton Club for competing in and completing this year's London marathon in three hours 34 minutes. Dan has so far raised £1200 for the Spinal Injuries Association and would be grateful for any further donations.

Unhappily Epsom Golf Club is about to lose one of the best Head Greenkeepers in Surrey and, as Dougie Fernie has told me this on many occasions, it must be true. Royal Epsom's loss is Upminster's gain and so this Surrey downland course says goodbye and an Essex parklands course opens its arms in warm welcome. Fortunately Mark Harvey, Epsom's Deputy Head Greenkeeper, is taking over. So we wish him all the rain and sunshine when and where he wants it.

Surrey Section's member Gavin Kyle is leaving Hendon Golf Club to take up a new position at Knole Park Golf Club in Sevenoaks. We wish Gavin every success as he takes over this excellent parkland course and ask him to remember that the Surrey Section does not mind playing golf away from home.

Unfortunately Andy Davey has decided to leave greenkeeping and his position as Course Manager at Chipstead Golf Club. This cannot be good for the profession to lose experienced and qualified personnel, but we hope Andy enjoys his new career. Mike Boreham, who has been at Chipstead for many years, takes charge and as with Mark Harvey, may the force be with you both.

Brian Wilmott

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### Devon & Cornwall

The Section's Rigby Taylor Summer Meeting will be held at Trethorne Golf Club on Tuesday, June 18. The meeting will start as usual with golfing members playing a singles Stableford from 1.37pm; the non-golfers course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 2.30pm. Entry fee for the day will be £10, which includes bacon roll & coffee on arrival with a two-course meal before the prize presentation.

Richard Whyman

### South Coast

First of all let me apologise for the lack of Section notes last month. There really was nothing to report on so I have made up for it this month. Once again we have been severely tested as greenkeepers these last couple of months. We have had to cope with a long dry cold spell followed by a dry warm spell. As we eagerly watched the weather forecasts in hope of some natural rainfall many of us were in a dilemma regarding switching on our irrigation systems. Our courses were drying out fast in front of our eyes; surely it couldn't go on forever. Well, prayer mats and rain dances were a common sight in Dorset. With the spring meeting fast approaching I'm sure Blackmoor's Head Greenkeeper, Harry Davis, was praying for some rain. Well, prayers were answered the day before we arrived and rain it certainly did! It poured down all day and all of us hoped we wouldn't have to postpone our spring meeting for the second year in a row. As the sun rose on May 1 there was never any doubt it was going to be a great day at our spring meeting, a 27-hole Stableford event which was kindly sponsored by Avoncrop and Vitax. They say the sun shines on the righteous and my how it did that day. The course, which had taken so much rain the day before, had dried out and Harry Davis and his hardworking team had prepared the course beautifully. Vitax's Joe Crawley was on hand to ensure that we all started on time. Never an easy job particularly on a rather chilly morning but many thanks Joe! We played 18 holes in the morning followed by an excellent

lunch. Then it was back to the course for another 9 holes in the afternoon. On such a lovely day it was no surprise that the standard of golf was so high and the scoring reflected this, except on my card! An excellent meal and prize giving rounded off a superb day. Winners on the day were: 1. Matt Blake, 57pts; 2. Chris Sturgess, 49pts; Mark Hancock, 49pts; Darren Miller, 49pts, Repts' Prize- Brian Willmott. Nearest the pin, Carl Horrax. Longest Drive, Mark Gray.

It was very nice to see our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, looking so well and in attendance. Paula seems an ever-present figure at our golf events although she seems slightly wary of me when I have a golf club in my hand, can't think why?

Many thanks to Blackmoor Golf Club for their hospitality; to Harry Davis and his team for all their hard work in preparing the course for us and the catering staff for providing us with two excellent meals. A huge vote of thanks to our sponsors Avoncrop and Vitax, the prize table was excellent and was much appreciated by all. Avoncrop's Colin White and myself have managed to persuade Vitax's Joe Crawley to bring his clubs next time. Joe was a little wary that his golf isn't quite up to scratch but after watching me hit a ball he has had a change of heart!

It would also be remiss of me not to pass on a huge vote of thanks to our Tournament organiser, Chris Sturgess. It really is a thankless task organising our golfing days but we do appreciate it Chris! Let's all make Chris' job easier this year by making sure he has his money a week before each event Chris has to give caterers final numbers one week before the event. The draw for the inaugural Jim Fry pairs' tournament was held at Blackmoor. Please play all of your matches by the deadlines set and please phone all of your results through to Phil Wentworth to ensure smooth running of this competition. Good luck to you all!

Our next golf event will be the summer tournament at Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club on August 8. The event is an invitation event and numbers are limited, more details to follow.

The committee has received details of a number of training courses that could be run within our Section from Ken Richardson. One of BIGGA's main roles to its members is to provide training and encouraging professional development within our

profession. We only need eight people to run any training course so in a Section of 300 plus members this should not be a problem. If you are interested please contact me on either 01202 661106, 07813 841714 or email me at alex@mccombie.fsbusi-ness.co.uk. Also contact me if you have any news you wish me to include in the around the greens.

Until next month  
Alex McCombie

### South West

With the new season really kicking off to a good start, things can only get better. We went from North Wilts GC in the hills, sponsored kindly by Avoncrop and Terralift - apologies to you both for not recognising your generous sponsorship earlier. Rex gave a very informative talk, which went really well before the meal. With both companies sponsoring this event we were able to award some fantastic prizes such as a television, microwave and a portable cd/radio and cassette player to the winners. Just goes to show you don't know what to expect at our meetings.

Our spring tournament on April 16 was held at Burnham & Berrow GC on the fantastic links course. There was a course walk before the golf began where our education officer, Guy Woods, and Head Greenkeeper, Paul McDowell, took a dozen or so members out and showed them around the sheds and the excellent course. Being a busier than usual time for the year the numbers for the golf was slightly lower than previous events with only 25 members wishing to participate in the golf or, in my case, taking a good look at all aspects and corners of this wonderful course while looking for my ball. With no wind and a clear blue sky ideal for golf everybody had a great day. The results were 1. G. Cook, 37pts; 2. D. Reeves, 36pts; 3. P. Godwin, 35pts. With nearest the pin going to D. Reeves and the longest drive going to P. Godwin. Sheriff Amenity, with Martin Samuel, donating the prizes kindly sponsored the event. Thanks, Martin. These were presented by the Captain of Burnham & Berrow GC, Trevor Hicks, who attended the meal. A big thank you to him, and also thank you to Burnham & Berrow for the catering and hospitality while we were there. Last but not least a very big thanks to Paul McDowell and his team for having the course in tip top condition. We wish you all the best for the rest of the season.

The next event will be the greenkeeper/amateur held at Yeovil GC on May 15. Details will be sent to those who replied to the newsletter at the beginning of the year. Anyone else wishing to attend please contact me for an application form on 01934 627 143 or 07799 388 572. This is an event where you can bring a friend or member of your club, so please support your Section and come along. If you require any information on educational courses or future course walks please contact Guy Woods on 01225 333 928.

So will we or won't we see you at Yeovil GC? Go on be a devil, have some fun, come and see what you have been missing out on.

Kevin James

### South Wales

The final winter lecture took place in April at Pencoed with a talk on turf science by Noel McKenzie. Noel showed us a selection of slides gathered over many years of work in his advisory roll with STRI and Grass Science. It was then off to Royal Porthcawl GC for our Section seminar, this was sponsored by the Scotts company. Talks were given by Simon Barnaby, Martin Townsend and Professor Bill Adams. The Section would like to thank Scotts, Avoncrop, Pencoed, Royal Porthcawl and everybody who helped in making the education evenings a success. By the way, if you are CPD registered all our education events carry credits towards your certificate.

With the golfing season just around the corner, a few dates for your diary; May 15, Pennard GC; June 5 match v Secs at Fairwood Park; June 29, Pencoed College Open Day.

Talking of Pencoed. They may be running a HNC in golf course management this year so if you're interested contact Paul Disscombe at the college for further info. Neil Baker, formerly of Royal Porthcawl GC, has been appointed Dept Links Superintendent at Pyle & Kenfig GC and we all wish him well in the future. At sunny Llanwern we are about to have our irrigation system updated so if anybody needs some second hand parts, give me a ring and I'll let you know what we have.

If anybody has any news that they would like to share with the Section please ring me on 07765 080152 and I'll see if we can get it in the next issue of the magazine.

Adrian Panks

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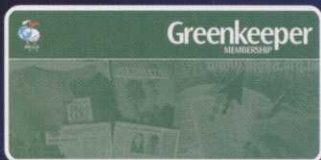




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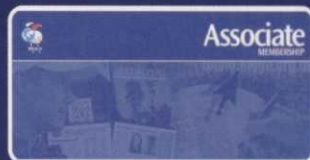
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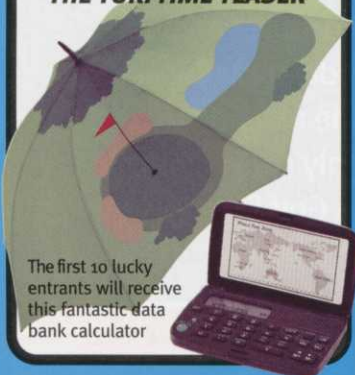
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The role is exciting & challenging- the package is all you would expect

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

Peter Smith, HR Director, Donnington Valley Golf Club, Snelmore House, Snelmore Common, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 3BG

E-mail: [petersmith@donningtonvalley.co.uk](mailto:petersmith@donningtonvalley.co.uk)  
Tel: 01635 568 155 Web: [www.donningtonvalley.co.uk](http://www.donningtonvalley.co.uk)



## LEE PARK GOLF CLUB LTD

Applications are invited for the following position

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Founded in 1954, this is a well-established parkland course with 600+ private members.

Applicants should have a proven track record in all aspects of greenkeeping along with the appropriate qualifications and preferably experience in course improvements. The ability to lead, motivate and train our enthusiastic greenstaff team on a hands-on basis is essential. Must also have a sound knowledge of Health and Safety Regulations.

Salary commensurate with age and experience.

Accommodation available.

Written applications with a full CV to:

The Greens Chairman, Lee Park Golf Club Ltd,  
Childwall Valley Road, Gateacre, Liverpool L27 3YA

*Closing date for applications - 26/6/02*

## SOUTHFIELD GOLF CLUB

Require a

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Southfield Golf Club, which is situated in the centre of the prestigious University City Oxford, requires an experienced Head Greenkeeper.

The ideal candidate will be a motivated, enthusiastic team player who is prepared to take the club forward bringing in new ideas and working practices.

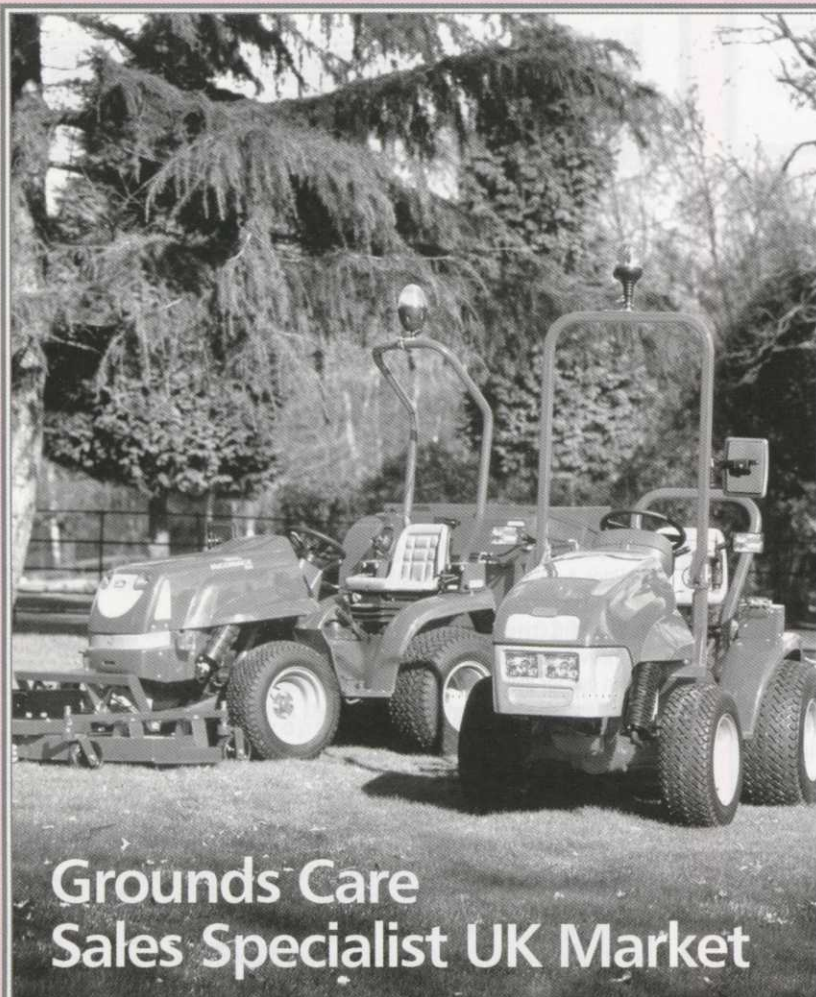
The successful applicant must have the following skills.

- At least 3 years experience in a similar position
- Have the ability to prepare and control a course budget
- Possess strong management skills with proven track record
- Have the necessary qualifications for position (Documentation required)
- Have an understanding of all the latest agronomy techniques
- Have strong leadership/communication skills

Accommodation may be available to the right candidate.

Salary will be by negotiation. Please apply in writing to:

Nigel Stone, General Manager, Southfield Golf Club,  
Hill Top Road, Oxford OX4 1PF



## Grounds Care Sales Specialist UK Market

McCormick Tractors International Limited is one of the world's leading manufacturers of agricultural machinery, and in little over a year we have had a major impact on the agricultural industry in the UK. As well as sharing in our growth and success we can, as an Investor in People, offer you the training and career opportunities you need to establish yourself at the leading edge of the agricultural machinery market.

As we continue to expand our product portfolio and strengthen our dealer and customer base throughout the UK, we are looking to recruit a specialist, dedicated to supporting our range of grounds care products.

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

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

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

Email: hazel.cameron@mccormick-intl.com

McCORMICK





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## HUDDERSFIELD GOLF CLUB LTD

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# COURSE MANAGER

Huddersfield Golf Club is one of Yorkshire's oldest and most prestigious clubs and boasts a championship layout. It currently hosts the Lawrence Batley PGA Seniors Tournament annually and is a regular venue for the Yorkshire Championships and County matches. The Club has decided to further enhance the quality of the course by reconstructing the greens to a modern specification. This work is scheduled to begin later this year and will take several years to complete.

The successful candidate must possess the following qualifications

- NVQ3 ( or equivalent)
- A proven ability to prepare and monitor budgets, inventories, expenditure and work schedules. A sound knowledge of Health & Safety regulations
- A strong hands on approach and working knowledge of all modern golf course management practices, with the ability to motivate and train staff

Please apply in writing stating expectations, enclosing a full CV and the names of two suitable referees to :

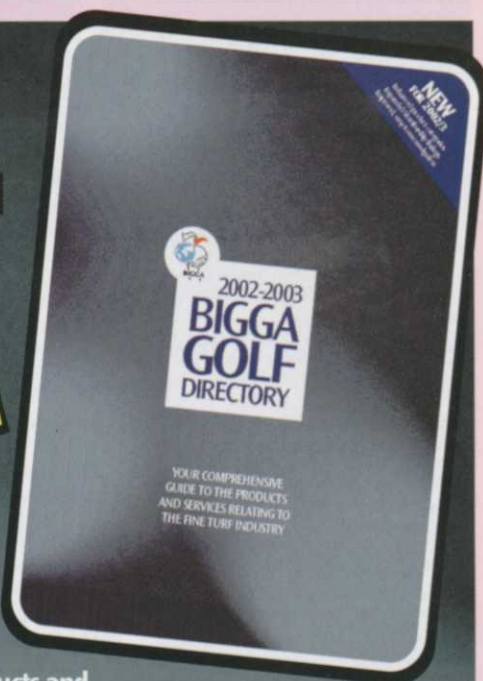
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The General Manager, Huddersfield Golf Club Ltd,  
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Published annually, the Directory is a stand-alone publication which provides the industry's buyers with an unrivalled database of contacts from which to make their buying decisions. Easy to use, with over 125 individual product categories, the Directory is proving to be a major resource for buyers as they search for industry contacts. **Can you afford NOT to be included?**

Entry into the 2002/3 edition starts from just £150 for 4 category listings, with your contact details automatically included in our searchable Online Directory, absolutely FREE of charge! To find out more about the various advertising opportunities available to you and your company, call Cheryl Broomhead on 01347 833800 or send an email to [cheryl@bigga.co.uk](mailto:cheryl@bigga.co.uk)

DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY LISTINGS	FREE WEB LISTING	ONLY
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Full page	INCLUDES 10	✓	£995
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## Feature listing from June 2000

**June 2000:** National Championship preview; Spraying; World Education Conference review; Environmental Management; Mowers

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

**August 2000:** Open Championship review; Water Features; Saltext 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; Saltext Review; Pest Control; Woburn GC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**August 2001:** Aeration Survey; Machrie GC profile; Rough Mowers; Saltext 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; Scootsturf preview; Saltext review

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Looking to the Future

**National Chairman, Richard Barker, had a quiet month by his standards but still took in a series of events up and down the country**



If you will excuse the pun I have come back down to earth with a bump after flying back from Augusta and my feet have been well and truly on the ground in this country for the last few weeks.

The day following from my return I attended the Agricultural Engineers Association Annual Conference and Luncheon. This was held at the Savoy Hotel in London with the conference theme on Rural Business and Leisure as influenced by Government thinking with speakers ranging from Sir Donald Curry to Ben Gill, President of the NFU in England and Wales. This was a most informative day and included a magnificent lunch!!

The following week saw the first East Midlands Section Golf Day of 2002 held at the Leicestershire Golf Club. As National Chairman I was very proud to attend my own Section event especially with a turn out of 46 people including 12 trade members, but had to take some ribbing from my close colleagues about the colour of my blazer. I don't know why!!

This was a tremendous day and thanks must go to Chris Lewis and his staff as well as E. T. Breakwells for sponsoring the day plus other trade members who provided the raffle prizes. A big thank you must also go to the Section Committee for agreeing to pay the entry fees for the three Section winners into this year's National Championship.

Six days later I was golfing again with a team from my club in the John Deere Team Championships in Nottingham. Prior

to this we had a brief tour after a coffee and bacon butties around John Deere's premises in Langar. Not being a John Deere customer this was a good opportunity to see the range of equipment and spares department and was much appreciated by all those that attended. As for the golf, well our score was 59 and it wasn't good enough. Three teams were tied on 57 and congratulations must go to Steve Levers and his team from Ramsdale Park for coming out top. I wish you all the best at the Belfry and hope to see you in Arizona.

Moving up to another level I went to watch the third day of the Benson and Hedges International Open at the Belfry and from outside the ropes the course looked superb for so early in the season and I believe the scores reflected this with Barry Lane setting a new course record 65. They've obviously got off to a cracking start and I hope it continues for Bevan Tattersall and his staff right through to the Ryder Cup.

Now hopefully you all read Neil's article in last month's magazine where he made reference to the Futures Sub-Committee. This Committee met at Aldwark shortly after the article. Neil informs me that those attending considered the discussions over the two days to have been extremely productive and there was a high level of informed debate. There is an enthusiasm within the Sub-Committee to contribute towards shaping the Association's future. The Sub-

Committee is likely to meet twice yearly but intends to be active between meetings. To this end three working groups have been set up to consider and report on specific topics. These groups will embrace modern technology particularly through an e-mail list which will enable them to communicate both individually and as a group. I feel certain looking ahead that this Sub-Committee will be of considerable assistance to the Board of Management in taking BIGGA progressively forward in the years ahead.

Finally, I would like to say cheerio and a big thank you to David Emery who is leaving after four years with the Association as Design and Production Editor. He is moving on to another local company in a more senior role so hopefully the Association will be able to continue to benefit from his knowledge. All the best David.

**Richard Barker**

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