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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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WIN WIN WIN!

THIS EXCLUSIVE SQUALL JACKET

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

'THE TURFTIME TEASER'

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Stefan Antolik, Course Manager of Cooden Beach Golf Club won the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper and Deputies Category in the BIGGA Essay Writing Competition with this fine entry

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

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TIME TO TALK
www.bigga.org.uk

Why, oh why, oh why?

There are occasions in the middle of the night when questions pop into my head and refuse to budge until I've given them due consideration. Granted, not all of them have a definitive answer, and some of them don't deserve an answer at all, but they are there nonetheless, nagging away at me and preventing me from returning to the land of nod.

I've decided that the best thing to do is to open them up to you, the readership, so you can share my torment.

Unfortunately there is no prize, but if you do come up with an answer to any of them I'm sure you'll be viewed upon with increased respect by your friends and colleagues while you could set yourself up as an amateur physiologist.

Why does your putting always go when you're nailing your irons?

Why do all BIGGA members work at clubs where the club down the road has the better greens?

Why are there more Championship golf courses than there have been Championships?

Why do so many people assume that other people's job are much easier than they actual are?

Why does someone always call up to enquire if you'd every considered a new conservatory just as the What Happens Next? round in Question of Sport is about to start?

Why do supermarkets have these stupid revolving doors which never work?

Why do people who scream up the outside lane of dual carriageways before turning left at the roundabout, always get away with it?

Why is it only those people involved in football who ever say "To be fair..." and then proceed to slag someone off as in "To be fair, he's always been a bit of a donkey", or the variation, "He's always been a bit of a donkey, to be fair."?

Why did someone put Sod's Law on the statute book?

Why do so many people assume they can go first while the rest of us waste time complying by the conventional art of queuing?

Why are politicians the only people who ever use the phrase, "To be perfectly clear on the matter ..." and then proceed to throw a dark veil over whatever they're supposed to be talking about?

Why does time always go faster when you're running late?

As I said I don't expect a stream on answers landing on my desk just the knowledge that you might well be wrestling with the same thoughts as I am now make me feel a little bit better.

Why, in the Winter Olympics, do they give fancy names to things like Luge, Skeleton and Bob when we all know that they are just sledging?

If any of you have questions which cause you similar angst perhaps we should get together and start a Self Help Group.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

Textron renew agreement with Gleneagles

Textron and their distributor, Scottish Grass Machinery, have signed a new four year agreement with The Gleneagles Hotel to provide a range of turf maintenance equipment to keep the internationally renowned courses in immaculate condition.

As a result of this new agreement Textron/SGM will provide a full range of turf maintenance equipment, light utility vehicles and E-Z-GO golf cars for use on the three championship courses – the King's, the Queen's and, the Jack Nicklaus-designed, PGA Centenary course.

Additional support for major tournaments also forms part of the package together with technical and operator training at Textron's Ipswich head office, SGM's Inverkeithing premises or on-site at Gleneagles. Reciprocal arrangements will see the green-keeping team at Gleneagles trialing and evaluating new products, including the Jacobsen E-Plex II, the all-electric ride-on greens mower.

"I am delighted with this new agreement between Textron, their distributor, Scottish Grass Machinery and ourselves. It provides our Golf Course Superintendent, Scott Fenwick and his team with a raft of top quality equipment to ensure that the golf courses will continue to remain in superb condition all year long," said Jimmy Kidd, Golf Courses and Estate Director at The Gleneagles Hotel.

"I am equally delighted that Textron and SGM will be actively supporting our greenkeeper training initiative, sponsoring a greenkeeper exchange with a golf club in the USA. Also they will



(l-r) David McInroy, Scottish Grass Machinery, Scott Fenwick, Jimmy Kidd, Graeme Marchbanks, Director of Golf, Gleneagles and Glynn Patrick, Sales Director, Textron at the handover of a fleet of E-Z-GO golf cars following the signing of the new agreement.

be initiating a 'Greenkeeper of the Year' award open to all greenkeepers that are employed at Textron's exclusive partnership golf clubs in Scotland and continuing their support for GEGAS, the Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award Scheme, the international training scheme for young greenkeepers from around the globe."

Glynn Patrick, Textron's Sales Director added, "This prestigious contract involves a whole host of equipment from our Cushman, Jacobsen, Ransomes,

and Ryan brands including greens mowers, fairway mowers, rotary mowers for semi-rough, aerators, top dresser and turf utility vehicles and the very latest Cushman Diabline, all electric, mid-range utility vehicle.

"It also reconfirms our long-held commitment to training and the subsequent raising of standards in this industry, not just here in the UK, but across the world. It's an ethos that Jimmy Kidd continues to espouse and one that we fully endorse," he added.



Annual Patrons' Lunch a huge success

The Scottish Region held its annual Patrons' Award Dinner in Stirling just before Christmas. A great day was had by all Patron Members and Award winners as well as Section representatives and guests.

The Scottish Region would like to thank all Patrons for everything they do for the Region because if it wasn't for them we wouldn't have our Scottish Conference, have superb prize tables at Section events or the

numerous other ways they assist the Region and the Sections in Scotland.

The Patrons' Scheme awards two winners from each Section with a trip to BTME for three days, including accommodation and travel, and a greenkeeping book.

The Patrons' Award winners from 2002 who have already benefited from their prize were Alan Campbell and Ian Aitchison, East; Martin Carey and Colin

Black, West; Wallace Mercer and Paul Tulloch, Ayrshire; Kenneth Kinnaird and Robert Hardie, North, and Gordon Mitchell and Stuart Cruickshank, Central.

The dinner was a huge success and the after dinner speaker, Ex-Scottish referee, Brian McGinlay, went down a storm. The speakers who Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, tracks down just seem to get better and better each year.

Chris Yeaman

St Andrews Links sign up with Toro

St Andrews Links has chosen Toro greens and tees mowers to maintain its six historic courses at the world's most famous golf complex.

Toro irrigation products have been in use at St Andrews since 1998, with each course now using the fully automated Toro SitePro Central Control System.

Now St Andrews Links Trust has strengthened its relationship with Toro by entering into a five-year preferred supplier agreement for a range of greens and tees mowers.

Links Superintendent Gordon Moir heads a team of 51 staff who maintain Europe's largest golfing site and the home of golf.

"We put the Toro mowers through an exhaustive evaluation programme alongside other manufacturers during the spring and summer of 2001. The feedback from a large majority of the greens staff was that Toro tees and greens mowers were the best overall, for equality of cut and ease of operation."

During the early part of this year, St Andrews has taken delivery of 20



Greensmaster 1000 and 14 Greensmaster 1500 pedestrian mowers, 15 Greensmaster 3250-D ride-on machines and three Reelmaster 3100-D Sidewinders.

As part of the deal, St Andrews Links Trust will receive comprehensive back-up, service and parts

supplied by Toro local dealer George Henderson, plus full training for its operators and maintenance staff.

"The greens staff are really looking forward to the arrival of the new mowers and I am confident that working closely with Toro will bring success for both parties," added Gordon.

Breeding & Evaluation of Turf grasses Technical Conference, May 1-2, Craiglunds Hotel, Ilkley, West Yorkshire.

A two day conference providing an opportunity to review current research on amenity grasses and discuss related topics affecting the performance of grasses in the UK and Europe.

Organised by the STRI the conference programme includes a Conference Dinner on the first day with a visit on the second day to STRI in Bingley for a tour of the cultivar trials which are part of the Grass Testing Programme at STRI.

The conference will interest all Turfgrass Breeders and Evaluators, Turf Scientists and other Turf Professionals. A panel of eight speakers will present 10 conference sessions including contributions from Dr Daniel Thorogood and Sheena Hughes, Duller Turfgrass Breeders from IGER; Arthur Wolleswinkel, Principal Turfgrass Researcher from ISA Papendal in the Netherlands and Mogens Toft Jensen, Head of Marketing & Product Management for the DLF Trifolium Group.

The Full Package including accommodation is £205 per delegate. Further details can be obtained from Anne Wilson Tel: 01274 565131



The Canadian Golf Superintendents Association has appointed Ken Cousineau, CAE, to succeed the Vince Gillis CAE, who retired in January. Ken brings to the CGSA strong association management experience, both in managing internal administrative functions and external relationships with government and stakeholders.



Russell Mellor joins the Swan team

Russell Mellor (centre) has moved to Swan, after 25 years with Kubota. "After 25 years seeing the Kubota business grow and prosper I am now looking forward to a new challenge at Swan," said Russell. "Ted Mitchell has given me the opportunity to join the Swan team and I am delighted that I will be working with a company that has shown continued growth and service to the market they serve."

Training aids supplied

BIGGA and the STRI have joined forces to further the cause of greenkeeper training.

Nigel Weller, winner of the Vitax prize draw conducted at BTME, dearly wanted to spend his BIGGA voucher on the NVQ level 2 theory notes, which are available on CD at £90. As Head Greenkeeper of North Downs Golf Club in Surrey, and a D.32-33 assessor, he has already taken one member of his staff, Paul Varley through the course, and has two more assistant greenkeepers ready to start.

"A new lad joined us last week, which gives us a staff of six, who are all relatively young," he says. "Our policy is to wait a year, see how they do, and then start training them. I've got one lad, Ian Cardy who was due to begin last September but has been in hospital. He will start the course this year. My other lad, Stuart White will start in 2003."

Unfortunately, BIGGA do not produce the disc, but Ken Richardson, the Association's Education and Training Manager has agreed to buy it from the STRI and give it to Nigel as part of his winnings.

"Anything to encourage Greenkeeper Education and Training", he says. "We've got to make it as easy for people as we can."

As Nigel and his deputy, Phillip Waterman hold NVQ 3, success for Ian and Stuart will be a further step in the club's progress towards a fully qualified staff.

The Scottish National Tournament will be held at West Linton Golf Club on June 27. If you wish to find out more about the club, check out the club's website at www.wlgc.co.uk where you will find various photographs and a number of other articles for you to browse through.

Awards success for Irrigation Control Ltd

If awards give an indication of a company's success then Irrigation Control Limited of Winsford must be the most successful irrigation contracting company in the world just now. Not only did they receive the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Associations Certificate of Merit award (formally The Contractor of the Year Award) at this year's BTME at Harrogate, but they went on to be awarded the Rain Bird International Contractor of the year award at the GCSAA Orlando USA earlier this month.

"Obviously this is a great start to the year for us but it hasn't been an instant success. We've won several awards over the last few years including a specialist sub contractor award from BALI for work we undertook for J Mallinson (Ormskirk) Limited, a Government backed award for an innovative customer care program that we developed and previous BTLIA Certificate of Merit success," said Phil Breakey, Managing Director of Irrigation Control.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



Communications Director for Wardle

Wardle Consultant Engineers Ltd has expanded its management team with the appointment of Stephen Baker as a director of the company.

Steve, 42, joins the team as Communications Director and brings with him over 20 years of marketing experience.

"As we continue to expand I knew there would come a point when we would need to really address some of the fundamentals in this industry and that requires a fresh marketing approach," said Giles Wardle, Managing Director.

"Our client list has tended to reflect the premium end of the market in the UK and abroad, with clients such as The Gleneagles Hotel, Carnoustie Links, The Turnberry Hotel, Royal Lytham & St. Annes Golf Club and Cherokee Plantation Links, South Carolina.

"This has always given the industry two major misconceptions about Wardle; firstly, that only the top clubs can 'afford' to work with consultants and secondly that irrigation consultancy represents an additional cost. We aim to inform the industry at large that most clients of ours actually save money by using us because we ensure true competition between bidding contractors who are all tendering for the same design and specification, drafted by us to meet the unique needs of the site and the client consulting Engineers Ltd," said Giles.

Phone a friend?

www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html

Ocmis joins the Mansell team

Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club, the 27 hole golfing complex owned by former Formula 1 World Champion, Nigel Mansell, is to undergo a complete irrigation refit during the first half of 2002.

Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Ltd have designed and will install the new greens and twin row fairway irrigation system for the 18 hole championship course and 9 hole access course.

Using Rain Bird Eagle Series electric valve in head sprinklers on the green and fairway areas and the Rain Bird Nimbus II map based PC control system with both Freedom radio remote control and Freedom-pad remote control (based on a handheld Compag ipaq).

The heart of the system comprises a variable speed pumping station, which will deliver over 22000 gallons of water per hour through 25 kilometres of medium density polyethylene pipeline, which ranges from 315mm to 50mm in size. A majority of the pipe installation will be undertaken by one of a number of large vibratory moleplough machines owned and operated by Ocmis, minimising disruption and scarring.

Expansion set to continue for ETC

ETC has recently moved its location to Tilstone Fearnall in Cheshire to facilitate a further expansion programme. The new location includes a modern workshop and extensive storage facilities for the wide variety of reconditioned and new grass maintenance machines supplied by ETC.

"The improved facilities will mean better levels of stocking of a wide range of second hand equipment," said Managing Director, Andy Smith.

He added that ETC is now in its seventh year and has grown steadily year on year.



Wonderful things, handbrakes ... if you use them. Paul Copsey, Head Greenkeeper, Burnham-on-Crouch GC in Essex sent in this reminder of what can happen if you neglect the simple 'rules of the road'.

Matt swaps pucks and whistles for balls and pins

Matt Folka, a golf enthusiast with an added passion for ice hockey, has become Mere Golf & Country Club's newest greenkeeper.

Canadian, Matt was a professional International Ice Hockey referee and has continued his passion for the sport in this country where he is a professional referee for the Ice Hockey Superleague.

Matt will use his 12 years experience in greenkeeping to help maintain Mere Golf & Country Club and will report to Mere's Course Manager, Paul Hyde, and Course Superintendent, Stuart Boyce.

Previously, Matt spent seven years as a fire fighter with Maple Ridge fire department before taking up a greenkeeping position at the prestigious Swan-e-set Bay Golf Club in Vancouver.

He then moved to England 1996 and worked at Huyton and Prescott Golf Course in Merseyside until he was appointed by Mere Golf & Country Club in Cheshire. Continuing his career development, Matt is currently studying for a NVQ Level II qualification in amenities sports turf.





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Up to

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months Pause Payment

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

R&A look for equipment restrictions

The R&A has written to golf equipment manufacturers seeking their comments on proposed changes to golf ball testing procedures, and possible rules on clubhead size and club length for clubs other than putters.

The R&A is proposing to update the current golf ball test for overall distance by combining the use of an indoor test range and computer technology.

"The underlying principle of the proposal is to test balls efficiently, with modern equipment and in a way which accurately reflects how Tour professionals are hitting the ball today," said David Rickman, Rules Secretary of the R&A.

"As for clubhead size, we are concerned that recent submissions of driver heads for conformance rulings show a significant increase in clubhead size. While these large headed clubs may be 'substantially different from the traditional and customary form and make', there is also the possibility that such clubs may offer undesirable performance benefits," said David.

The R&A is also concerned that increases in club lengths might lead to increases in driving distances. It therefore feels it may be appropriate to introduce a maximum length for clubs other than putters.

At present the R&A is not proposing numerical limits on clubhead size or club length. Instead, it is conducting independent research in these areas and seeking the views of manufacturers on the introduction of finite limits.

Elland Road visit for D&C members



A group of Devon and Cornwall Section members took the opportunity of visiting Elland Road, home of Leeds United on the eve of BTME. They took in the Leeds-Arsenal match on the Sunday and followed it up with a tour round the stadium.

The young ones ...

Last month we said that Richard Barker was the youngest ever National Chairman at 37.

Unfortunately we were mistaken. That honour is still held by Roy Kates, the 1992 National Chairman, who was elected to the office at the tender age of 34.

Textron host Dealer Awards at Harrogate

Svenningsens Turfcare-Scandinavia, of Kastrup, Denmark and Lindkoping, Sweden, has won the Textron Distributor of the Year Award for 2001.

Managing Director Niels Svenningsen and Golf Sales Manager, Niels Brems, accepted the silver trophy and commemorative plaque from Glynn Patrick, Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products' Sales Director, and former Olympic silver medalist, Roger Black, at an evening awards ceremony held at The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate at BTME.

Textron dealers from the UK, Eire and Europe attended the ceremony, which recognised business excellence in all areas. Scottish Grass Machinery of Inverkeithing, scooped three awards for UK Service Dealer, UK Parts Dealer and UK Sweeper Dealer, while Araz Ltd, of Israel, won two categories, those of Specialty Products Sales and International Industrial Vehicle Distributor.

"This prestigious award recognises outstanding performance in all sectors of the business, including service, parts, sales and marketing. In a year when we have seen major business development across all our UK and



Svenningsens Turfcare pick up the top award

continental European distributors, Svenningsens have demonstrated exceptional performance across all areas of their business and tremendous commitment to the Textron franchise. They thoroughly deserve the title of Textron Distributor of the Year," said Peter Bell, Marketing Director.

Niels Svenningsen returned to the

podium to receive a special award for Outstanding Service to the Grounds Maintenance Industry recognising his company's 140 years of service in the industry sector, followed soon after by Keith Sutton, from Burrows (GM) Ltd of Preston, Lancs, who collected a similar award as his company celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2001.

Fishwick Hall Golf Club lives up to its name

Fishwick Hall Golf Club, on the River Ribble lived up to its name recently when the greens were more likely to see fish than birdies. Course Manager of the Preston club Paul Eddlestone, had no complaints when he put up the Course Closed signs as the course disappeared under feet of water bringing back nasty memories for many who had suffered in a similar fashion last year.



A student's perspective of Harrogate

Phil Sharples, of Cannington College, took 12 students to Harrogate and reports back on what they found.

A visit to Harrogate proves to be a very important part of any students' education while at Cannington College whether they be studying at NVQ level or Higher National Diploma. For many this trip proves to be a valuable and worthwhile insight into our industry that, of course, cannot be simulated in the college environment.

With the depth and breadth of equipment, manufacturers, seminars and ancillary products available for viewing and discussion the experience cannot be beaten, and it's all under one roof!

After a six hour journey a group of 12 students from Cannington College in Somerset arrived at the Imperial Hotel, Harrogate. Travelling up in a coach sponsored by Amenity Technology along with members of BIGGA's South West Region.

With the depth and breadth of equipment, manufacturers, seminars and ancillary products available for viewing and discussion the experience cannot be beaten, and it's all under one roof!

For many students this is the first real chance they have to meet and chat with industry professionals, whether they be greenkeepers, Course Managers, agronomists or sales representatives. It also proves to be an ideal and neutral ground for meeting Course Managers wishing to interview or chat to students about their particular golf course, the possibility of work placements with them and allows all to gain a deeper insight before taking the, what seems at the time, big step.

Students are also encouraged to pick up literature, brochures and flyers that can be used to reinforce future assignments and projects.

This year the hospitality of the

South West Region, the size and scope of the exhibition, in fact the whole experience, generated some excellent comments from students such as:

"Thoroughly enjoyable and a great atmosphere," Martin Slater, First Year

HND student, while Alan Pyne, a HNC student, said "I am amazed at how large the industry actually is."

From further afield Jose Manuel Barbancho Ruiz, a HNC student from Madrid, said, "I found Harrogate 2002 was a very good opportunity for me to understand the trends of the turf industry and I had the chance to meet very experienced professionals," while James Hallett, a HNC student from South Africa said, "Overall, a great experience and very educational. It was a good trip."

Of course, comments about the night life around Harrogate remain a memory that is best left unprinted, although amazingly, all managed to make breakfast every morning!

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

A need for continuity calls for a plan

I have recently read the comments of Duncan McGilvary, and agree entirely with his comments. Many greenkeepers I know have become disillusioned with the industry including myself, having moved abroad in 1995 after starting in fine turf in 1983. I have tackled things in the same way as Duncan, with education of the members. The root of the problem starts with most Greens Convenors (Chairman of Green) or change of this post. You have to basically start again, this can happen in some clubs every year.

As a Course Manager, it's your duty to try and formulate a Course Handling Plan and submit this to the committee. This should encompass all aspects of the course; Greens, Tees,

Fairways, Bunkers, Woodland etc. Everybody has one don't they?

I have found that this is the only way in which you can hold continuity on the course in all areas. This way you combat the next power crazy Green Chairman who incidentally hates you because you ran over his new pro VI Titleist when you were cutting semi rough four years earlier. Seriously, it begins to bring much more ease to decision making on changes on the course, machinery investment and more manpower etc, in fact everything which makes our job more difficult. It also eliminates greatly personal clashes which inevitably leads to the greenkeeper being dismissed and rarely the Green Chairman.

There are those who say a little

knowledge is dangerous, however, we have been so successful with this method that in association with the Danish Golf Union we operate courses in all aspects of greenkeeping, so our employers better understand how complex our job can be. We also try to teach them that it's fine to expect a certain standard but this must be realistically related to our budget. You can't expect to pay for Sludgecombe Pay and Play and expect Augusta.

Have you done your plan yet? And not just for in the morning, or even the next two years but for the long term future of the course if not it's fair to ask Should we lead or Should we be led? Inspiration starts here!

Chris Haspell, DGU Denmark

Bernhard and BIGGA Thanks 1

I write primarily to thank you for enabling our organisation to produce an educational vista through which, several greenkeepers were given the chance of a lifetime to visit another country to compare and exchange views within our chosen field.

It proved to be a sensational experience, one that will be with me for many years to come. Our group met so many interesting fellow greenkeepers it kept the mind occupied at all times.

Already my own golf course team have enjoyed hearing and reading the literature on a world quite different from ours. I am sure in the coming months there will be many interesting discussions held up & down the country, inspired by the group, on the elements involved in greenkeeping American style.

I was pleased to see the BIGGA stand busy whenever I viewed it, so Tracey must have been asleep on her feet by

the end of the day. We certainly do have a very special relationship with the GCSAA that I feel will continue to grow in the oncoming years. The President of GCSAA, his board members and the President of the local Florida Chapter, Geoff Coggan, deserve a special mention for all their help in making us so welcome in their country.

I now understand why you forged close ties with Bernhard & Co to allow some of our members out to America. Sam and Stephen are certainly dynamic, charismatic fellows with strong beliefs on what greenkeepers should be doing to enhance themselves and this industry. They are great trade ambassadors for our Association and I will be thanking them for all their time and effort to ensure our stay was educational, with never a spare moment to rest!

David Winterton, MG, DM
 Course Manager, Maidenhead GC

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'THE TURFTIME TEASER'



DETAILS ON PAGE 42

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Simply send an email to: updates@bigga.co.uk quoting your name and Membership number, and we'll do the rest!

Bernhard and BIGGA Thanks 2

I would like to thank Bernhards and BIGGA for the opportunity of attending the GCSAA Show in Orlando. The visit was most beneficial and I was privileged to be part of the visiting delegation representing the Association. I appreciate the time and effort involved in organising such a visit from all concerned.

I will be feeding back to my membership at Mill Hill Golf Club on what I learnt during the trip while I have distributed floppy discs to my contacts in the States and have asked them to complete my survey with regards to the comparison of golf course maintenance techniques between the USA and the UK. Over the coming months I hope to collate my findings in order to make a presentation to the members of the London Section.

During my visit I took over 200 photographs which have been put on to a CD for distribution to the delegation members.

Technical information recorded will also be shared with the delegation group in order to maintain the available data for us all.

Once again I would like to thank everyone for allowing me to be part of the visiting delegation.

Tony Dunstan,
 Course Manager, Mill Hill GC

Managers are not getting the respect they deserve

I had been in greenkeeping for 16 years and did enjoy the work very much. I decided at the end of 2001 to leave greenkeeping due to some overwhelming factors.

As the years went by I gained a fairly good insight of the running of a golf club, as far as the committee and senior club officials are concerned. I had been a First Assistant since 1987 and felt that I had played a fairly key part in the upkeep of the course. I did not consider myself to be just an ordinary First Assistant as a lot of the roles I played over the years where certainly more than that! But I shall not go into details. I did everything that was asked of me and that includes getting as well qualified as I possibly could. This includes: phase 2 & 4 City and Guilds with a double distinction, NVQ level

3, pa 1,2 & 6, first aid and a few other related qualifications.

One would think that this plus years of experience would equate to an equally respectful wage packet. Well this was not the case for me at least. I am sure there are others out there in the same position. All one hears as an excuse is "You should move on to get better money and more responsibilities". Well I say phooey to this.

There are only so many jobs out there for Course and Deputy Managers. Golf clubs very rarely promote from within, quite why I really don't understand. Who else is better qualified than a person who has all the qualifications and knows the club inside out. Surely it is the way forward to promote your own staff. When the time comes they will move on having gained real experience

as a manager, and if all were in the same boat then it stands to reason that when a manager moves on, selection would be far simpler for clubs when appointing a new one. I don't think I have to spell out why this is the case.

But this apart, I honestly believe that managers are not getting the respect they deserve or are financially rewarded enough. Golf clubs, in the most part, do not appreciate the stress and difficulties involved in the day to day running of a course. Committees always seem to know best it seems, well at least they think they do! How on earth can a club keep any sort of continuity when on an annual basis the committee and captaincy changes. Every year the poor old Course Manager gets barraged with the latest "opinions and great new ideas" from a

body people who all have their own ideals of which 99% is purely because they feel they have to "contribute", and now they are in a position of authority, feel they must be right.

The Course Manager has a policy and that is to maintain the course and manage the staff to his or her best ability. To do this they must be left to their own devices as much as is practical.

There are a lot of excellent greenkeepers out there and if clubs want to have great courses then there needs to be a realisation that the course maintenance crew are essential and must be treated so.

On a final note, I believe that the way things seem to be going, more people will be leaving the trade.

Barney Wright

This month Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, highlights the Spring range of BIGGA Training Courses and launches Key Skills Corner

Education and Training update

The spring range of BIGGA Training Courses is underway with several courses already completed. I am writing this article in my hotel room after the first day of a Basic Computer Skills Course being held at John O' Gaunt Golf Club (yes we do work overtime), which will be followed by similar courses at Berkhamstead and in Aberdeen. We are also running courses on Health and Safety, Chain Saw Operating Skills, Abrasive Wheels Safe Use, Budgets and Finance, Essential Management Skills, Further Management Skills and Communication Skills. All courses are offered at a, minimal, cost of £30 for one day of training and £60 for two days thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund. If the course that you want is not being presented in your Region or Section then ask your Section Secretary to contact either Sami or myself with your ideas. We can run courses with a maximum of 4 delegates for Chainsaw Operator

and a minimum of 6 delegates for all other courses.

One of the favorite subjects on the Basic Computer Skills courses is how to use the spell and grammar checkers in word processing and the lack of such help on e-mail, Internet and bulletin boards.

If you want to ensure that your e-mail message is spelt correctly and written grammatically, then use your word processor package to help.

For example, in Microsoft Word, Open a blank document and compose your e-mail. When you have completed your e-mail, carry out a spelling and a grammar check. Select the complete text and use Cut to remove text to paste board. Open e-mail and paste document into New mail.

Alternatively, just write 'please see attachment' in e-mail and Attach file containing text.

The Cut and Paste procedure can be used in the BIGGA member's bulletin Board.

Key Skills Corner

A major part of NVQs, especially for under 25-year-olds, are Key Skills in: Information Technology (IT); Numeracy (Counting) and Literacy (Reading and Writing). Therefore, I thought that it would be useful to highlight some of the rules to be used in written English.

Capital Letters

Use capital letters at the beginning of a sentence, eg. The cat sat on the mat. In abbreviations, eg. BIGGA. As the first letter in 'Proper Nouns' eg. York, Richardson, Ken, the word I, countries eg. England and days and months eg. March, Monday.

Here is a test for you to try. Answer next month.

welcome to Bigga house. today is tuesday, the 3rd of march. the next public Holiday, in england, will be easter.

Hint. Using Microsoft Word with AutoCorrect selected through the Tools menu can help with capital letters.



Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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

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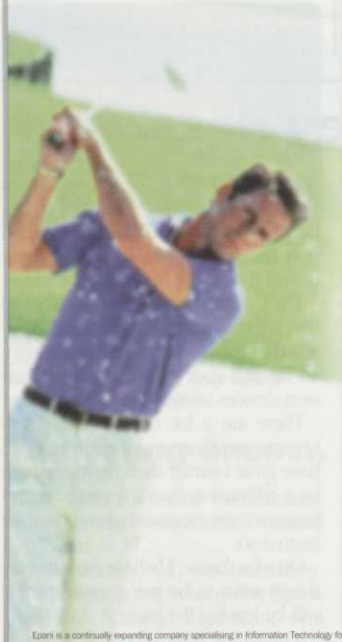
YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

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

Send an email to either:
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This month, Tracey Maddison from BIGGA's Membership Services Department, would like welcome almost 140 new members to the Association and update you on the new Greenkeeper Membership Application Form ...

The future's bright, the future's Orange

The new orange coloured Greenkeeper Membership form is now in circulation. It includes the 2002 membership subscription prices plus details regarding sending in a passport photograph of yourself.

If you need a form, please contact BIGGA reception on 01347 833800 or via reception@bigga.co.uk, and they will be happy to send you some forms out.

Any current greenkeeper member who is due to renew their membership from 30 March 2002 will automatically receive a copy of the new membership application in their renewal pack. Don't throw it away, pass it on to a colleague and encourage them to join BIGGA, don't forget to put your name and membership number on the reverse - Section 6 Membership Introduction. You could win one of our 'all-in-one' clock/calculator/calendar and alarm.

Help increase membership of your Association by introducing a colleague. They could soon be benefiting from the many section, regional and national educational courses available and at subsidised prices, the legal helpline, personal accident insurance, naming but a few of the many benefits and services available to greenkeeping members of BIGGA.

You've got m@il!

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

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

International welcome

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

France

David Abercrombie, Alsace Golf Club
 Richard Barnes, Kikuoka Country Club
 Peter Bird, Saint Junien GC
 Guillaume Cadic, Golf National
 Yves Kerambrun, Rain Bird France
 Daniel Lederlin, Rain Bird Europe S.A.R.L.
 Stephen Okula, Golf De Joynval
 Katrin Pelanchon, Rain Bird Europe S.A.R.L.
 Leslie Pillier, Golf De Pessac
 Francais Pujo, Golf De Saint-Cloud
 John Stevenson, Golf De Joynval
 Robert Wood, Golf Du Coiroux

Spain

Jose Manuel Barbancho Ruiz, Student Member
 Gary Blyth, Melia Sancti Petri Golf
 Vicente Coll Pons, Golf Son Saura S.A.
 Enrique, Diaz Cortes, Real Sociedad Hipica De Golf
 Roy Machray, Marriott Son Antem
 Stephen McMahon, Club De Campo Jaview Nunez, Marriott Son Antem
 Jaime Ortiz Patino, Valderrama Golf Club
 Jaime Rivera, Rain Bird Uk/Ireland
 Peter Standen, Golf De Andraxt S A

March's Monthly Membership Draw Winner



Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA Clock/calculator/calendar and alarm. Our congratulations go to March's winner, Bruce Cruickshank of Roxburghe Hotel & GC.

A BIGGA welcome...

Scottish Region

Shaun Anderson, Central
 Neil Banner, Central
 Phil Barclay, West
 Craig Bayne, East
 Matthew Brereton, Central
 Duncan Cairnie, East
 Alistair Connell, Ayrshire
 William Craig, North
 David Eardley, West
 John Henderson, Central
 Gilbert Hepburn, Central
 Nicholas Horsfield, Central
 Keith MacKinnon, Central
 David Manson, Central
 Gordon Maxwell, West
 Colin McKay, Central
 Robbie Murdoch, Central
 Michael Petrie, Central
 Robert Phillips, West
 Andrew Pickard, Central
 Peter Robertson, West
 Brian Sharp, Central
 Alastair Storey, Ayrshire
 John Watson, Central
 Jody Wilson, Central
 Gordon Wood, East
 Gareth Wright, East

Northern Region

John Astles, N Wales
 Jamie Bayne, N Wales
 John Dales, Cleveland
 Roger Douglas, Cleveland
 Andrew Drummond, N West

Midland Region

Edward Brown, BB&O
 Terry Cheese, Midland
 Stanley Cleaver, Midland
 Benjamin Darlison, E Midland
 Darren Evans, Midland
 Sarah Gray, Mid Anglia
 Mark Holman, Mid Anglia
 Martin Hopkins, E Midland
 Matthew Huddleston, Mid Anglia
 Neil Lawrence, Midland
 Clifford Lee, Midland
 Michael Luff, Midland
 Craig Makut, BB&O
 Alan Neale, Midland
 Philip Nixon, Midland
 Peter Sherman, Midland
 Arthur Sproson, Midland
 Leigh Swann, Midland
 Mark Sweeney, BB&O
 Steven Thompson, Midland
 Craig Watt, E Midland
 Neil White, E of England

South East Region

William Backshall, Surrey
 David Bain, Surrey
 Mark Careford, London
 Paul Enfield, Essex
 Timothy Howard, Surrey
 Robert Mills, London
 Richard Robinson, Surrey
 Bradley Sim, London
 Gary Smith, Surrey
 Andrew Taylor, Surrey
 David Theyre, Surrey
 Steven Vaughan, Surrey

S West & S Wales Region

Ben Baker, S Coast
 Matthew Coburn, Dev & C'Wall
 Craig Dunbar, S West
 Mark Gray, S Coast
 John Griffiths, S Wales
 Steven Hall, Dev & C'Wall
 David Harding, Dev & C'Wall
 Peter King, S Coast
 Anthony Moore, Dev & C'Wall
 George Pitts, S Coast
 John Powell, S West
 Simon Pratt, Dev & C'Wall
 Alan Pyne, Dev & C'Wall
 Colin Roose, Dev & C'Wall
 John Scott, Dev & C'Wall
 Andrew Steele, S Coast
 Andrew Taylor, S West

Northern Ireland

Frank Ainsworth
 Greg Ferson

International Members

Andreasen Flemmings, Denmark
 Svend Knudsen, Denmark
 Robert Holdtorsson, Iceland
 Gunnar Johannsson, Iceland
 Paolo Luongo, Italy
 Jon Wiggett, Switzerland
 Matthew Bourne, USA
 Scott Williams, USA

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 Jose Milan
 Austen Sutton
 Mark Zajac

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 Edward Ainsworth, N West
 Fraser Hallingwell, Northern
 Peter Longson, N West
 Andrew Mair, N East
 Declan Kearney, N West
 Paul Taylor, Northern
 Alan White, Northern
 Eddie Bullock, BB&O
 Glenn Butcher, Midland

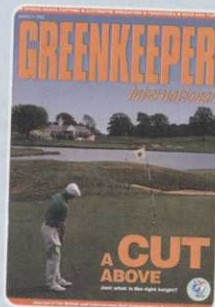
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 Matthew Tutt, E Midland
 Philip Wilkinson, E of England
 Paul Grigg, London
 Graham Kingsland, E Anglia
 Christopher Mardon, Kent
 Stephen Wilson, E Anglia
 Bernard Wall, S Coast

Student Members

Nicholas Casson, N West
 Dale Frith, N West
 Edward Green, Northern
 Stephen Adams, Midland
 Jonathan Taylor, Midland
 Paul Coffill, Kent
 Paul Davy, London
 Matthew Salmon, E Anglia
 Adrian Curtis, S Coast
 Elizabeth Crowley, Rep of Ireland
 Jose Manuel Barbancho Ruiz, Spain

Don't miss the April edition of
Greenkeeper
for all the new members from February 2002

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



MARCH 1992

The column this month is given over to an infamous trip to the BTME in Harrogate and the obstacles to be overcome to get there. Gordon Child takes up the story...

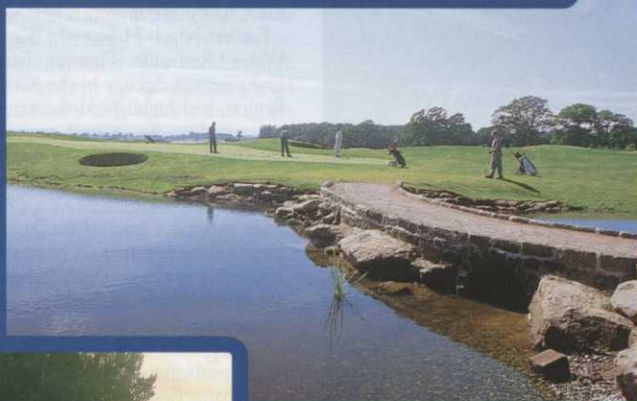
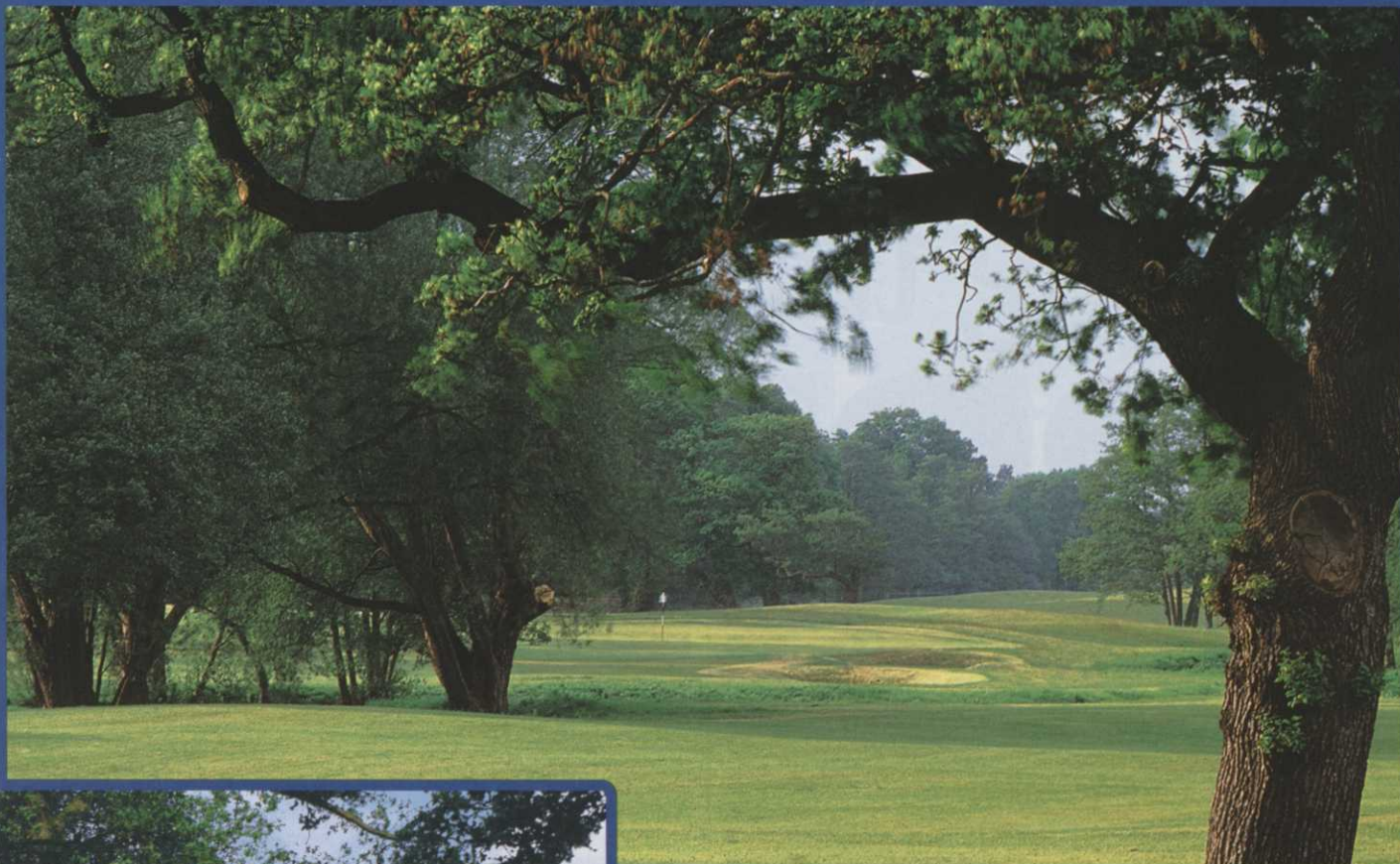
'Arctic Expedition'

On the clear frosty morning of January 21st, our coach arrived promptly at 9.00am to begin our 'journey into the unknown'. All seemed well at the first pick-up point - Exeter Golf and Country Club - and with half our party on board we proceeded to the M5.

Flashing lights soon revealed that our boot door had flown open and a few miles and a few more flashing lights later we also discovered the loss of an excessive amount of water. It was decided to proceed to junction 24 for our lone-ranger (waiting in a lay-by) and we just made it! Then the coach stubbornly refused to move and after some pondering it was decided to withdraw to the nearest pub and communicate the problem to those waiting 'up the line'.

After a 150 minute delay a second coach was commissioned and we continued our great adventure. A few miles further and it became painfully obvious that no heating was included in the package deal. Temperatures were falling and there was danger of hypothermia, so no-one was allowed to sleep. Great initiative was shown by the Board of Management member who turned his cap inside out and proceeded to keep the windscreen clear for the driver. Finally arriving at our destination - some three hours later - those able-bodied members of the group still capable unloaded the coach, while others tried to free themselves from the refrigerator container.

The final day proved no less exciting with a warmer journey home anticipated. Saying our farewells we prepared to leave at 12.30pm. Once again it was not to be, for our coach seemed to prefer Harrogate and after two hours delay a new coach was boarded - leaving the first vehicle to rest in peace. This proved to be the best decision made all week and a warm and comfortable journey was achieved at last - even prompting an outburst of song. Despite the trials and tribulations, everyone wished to take up the challenge next year.



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Here's your chance to win a superb break at one of the finest hotel chains in the country. It is a Golf Break for two at one of the De Vere Golf Hotels and consists of two nights bed, breakfast and table d'hôte dinner for two adults sharing a standard twin/double room, plus one round of golf for two persons. It may be taken any time before June 30, 2002, subject to availability and excluding Bank Holiday periods and The Brabazon Course at The De Vere Belfry.

To whom did Jack Nicklaus lose in the famous head-to-head Open Championship at Turnberry in 1977?

- a. Gary Player
- b. Tom Watson
- c. Bob Charles

Tony Jacklin won The Open Championship in which year? Was it ...

- a. 1971
- b. 1967
- c. 1969

Which year did Bobby Jones complete the Grand Slam of US Open Championship, US Amateur, Open Championship and British Amateur?

- a. 1930
- b. 1927
- c. 1933

The closing date for entries to this competition will be Friday, March 22, 2002. You can send your answers on a postcard to De Vere Competition, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne York YO61 1UF; or by fax on 01347 833801 and by email to reception@bigga.co.uk. Remember to put your name and address on your entry.

The winner will be selected by draw from those correct entries received by the above date and notified thereafter. BIGGA staff and non-members are not eligible to enter, and the successful entrant must be a fully paid up member.

DE VERE  HOTELS

Hotels of character, run with pride

Government legislation, likely to become law in the near future, will see the end of unlimited abstraction licences. How will this affect you?

Losing the right to IRRIGATE

Abstraction licenses for all bore holes are soon likely to be issued on a renewable basis rather than indefinitely while those applying for licences or licence renewals will be required to present a case justifying their need for such a licence.

This was one of the main topics which came out of a recent UK Irrigation Association Seminar held in The London Club, under the title "Losing the right to irrigate".

Information on the proposed new Government legislation was given to the assembled irrigators, by Gwyn Williams, Water Resources

Regulation Policy Manager for the Environment Agency.

Gwyn explained that following the droughts of the 1990s the Government had reviewed the arrangements for controlling abstraction of water and the publication of "Taking Water Responsibly" in March '99.

Changes for the licensing system including the introduction of regional Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) where local officers will assess the water needs of the area together with the availability of water and produce

a plan to ensure that the two are not too far apart.

"We wish to move away from the rights of abstractors to the responsibilities of abstractors," said Gwyn, who urged delegates to become involved in the CAMS process wherever possible.

While explaining that abstraction licences would become renewable he did stress that it was not something about which to be overly concerned.

"The normal renewable period will be 12 years but six years notice will be given should a licence not be renewed for environmental reasons while there will be a reasonable assumption that licences would be renewed provided certain conditions are satisfied," he explained.

He urged irrigators to examine their abstraction needs carefully so that a strong case could be built to take to the CAMS officer.

Earlier Nigel Hepworth, Regional Water Resource Planner for the Environment Agency in the Southern Region, had highlighted the extent of the problem in general terms and specifically in his area, and he admitted that there was over licensing of water at the moment.

He showed a map which, in simple terms, identified that there was available water in the north of the country all year round; that some areas had problems in the summer and that some including the Kent area, had year round problems, with over licensing or over abstraction.

An action plan has been put in place to improve this situation over the next 15 years using CAMS.

Later Dr Jerry Knox, a Research Scientist at the Institute of Water and Environment at Cranfield University, described the work he was doing to develop a framework for assessing reasonable need.

The methodology developed involves taking into account spatial variations in soil type, land use, typical irrigation practices and local agroclimate. The result produces a relatively simple yet scientific based and rational approach for allocating water between irrigators.





"Because the methodology is transparent to applicants as well as the Environment Agency staff the needs can be assessed and agreed at an early stage in any application," said Jerry, who explained that the framework had been drawn up with agriculture in mind but that it would also be introduced to the sports turf, and golf, industries as well.

He was to begin discussions with the golf industry so that the necessary criteria could be put in place for any calculations.

The bulk of the audience comprised those involved in agriculture but there were also several delegates representing golf, including Paul Todd, Superintendent of The London Club, as well as others from irrigation companies, consultancies and colleges.

The general feeling during the Seminar and among the delegates was that golf was fairly advanced in its use of irrigation water - The London Club itself was held up as an example of somewhere which collects and stores rain water in the winter to use as an irrigation supply in the summer.

Earlier in the day David Winn, Training and Education Manager for the IOG, described how the sports turf industry had progressed in its use of irrigation in recent years.

He explained that the IOG had been working with the Football Association for the last 18 months and the Lawn Tennis Association for the past 12 and that more consideration was being given to the reason stadia are built in the first place - the pitch. In the past the pitch was the last thing to be considered when a new stadium was built.

He also recalled how groundsmen were sometimes told by the football team manager to flood the pitch to negate a visiting team's strengths or force a postponement to allow injured players additional time to recover.

He admitted that often amounts of irrigation were decided by how much had been given in the past rather than any more objective approach.

He told delegates that technology was now available to map sports pitches and race tracks to show the

different make ups of the soil structure which could be within them so that different regimes may be undertaken of specific areas to ultimately provide better continuity of surface.

"With so many different types of soil on some race courses the 'going' is going to be different depending upon the area inspected," said David, who also made a pertinent point when it came to the public's desire to look after the environment.

"A bottle bank or a car wash. Where's the queue?" he quizzed.

Michael Martin, of York and Martin, highlighted the need for appropriate sprinkler selection, spacing and positioning together with the need for good pipe systems, pumping plants and control systems.

He also cautioned against the use of weather stations other than their ability to record data.

Summing up the day Keith Weatherhead, Senior Lecturer, at the Institute of Water and Environment at Cranfield University, said that water was a valuable resource for serious irrigators and that it was going to become more valuable.

"Water is scarce and is going to become scarcer as the climate continues to change and irrigation needs increase but we know that water could be used more effectively."

He said that we would have to take every opportunity to get more water through winter collection; filling up the reservoirs in times of flood using powerful pumps and, as The London Club does, rain water harvesting.

He also said we had to guard against "wet year apathy", accept that water shortage would continue to be a problem and urged people to work in groups and participate in the consultation programmes to ensure the best possible use of the available water.

The Seminar was organised by the UKIA. Anyone seeking more information about the Association should contact Melvyn Kay, UKIA Executive Secretary, 5 Lea Road, Ampthill, Bedford, MK45 2PR Tel: 01525 635127 Email: m.kay@ukia.org

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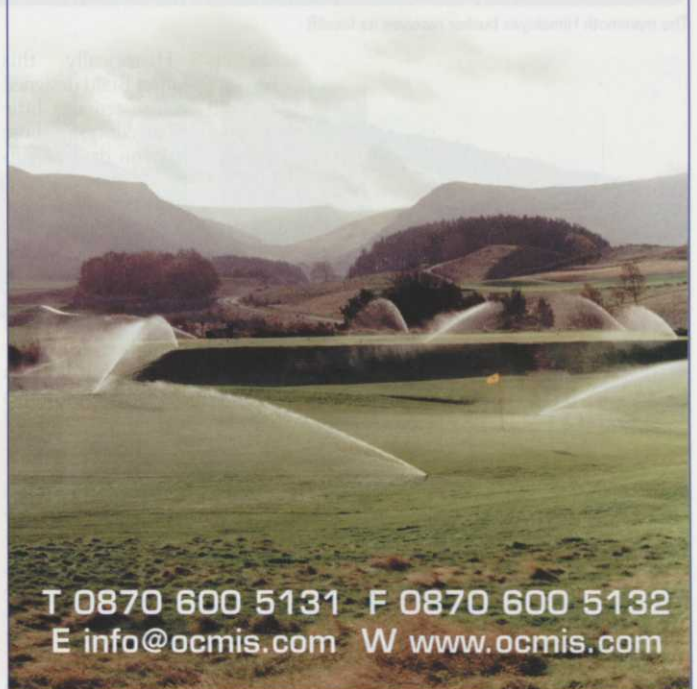
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Mention Cornish Golf and St Enodoc will be at the top of the list - well Stuart Dymond, the Head Greenkeeper, thinks so, and probably so do the members of this most scenic of links courses

HIGH MOUNTAIN



The mammoth Himalayas bunker receives its facelift



Historically this James Braid designed course remains little changed from those halcyon days of gutty balls, hickory shafts and plus-fours. A game in those days that was played by the gentlefolk of Rock. How proud James Braid would have been to know that his 6th hole on the beautiful Church Course would become its most renowned. The towering 90 foot bunker fondly known as the Himalayas has thwarted many a golfer who has tried in vain and at huge cost to pride and their golf score, to take liberties with this colossus. A hole to be attacked by the very best and the strongest who only use their head.

Over many years golfers have been

seen tramping up its face to retrieve their ball in resignation and despair. Sadly however over the last few years the ravages of golfers and many heavy feet, along with the our 'lazy' winds that whip up a sand storm at the drop of a baseball hat!, have eventually changed the face of this wonderful hazard. To such an extent that without drastic action St Enodoc was in danger of losing their treasured landmark.

It was decided that it had now gone beyond temporary measures already carried out and something more permanent had to be done.

Structural engineers were appointed to look at the project and their plans came back at huge costs and a daunting plan. Stuart Dymond had other ideas which would involve a swing shovel, railway sleepers and a huge amount of muscle and hard graft. Stuart never have anything to put him off preserving his precious golf course went to the committee with his ideas finally with the back-

ing of the Greens Chairman and Club Captain his ideas and plans were set in motion.

Firstly something had to give a foundation to work from up under the high banks to hold in the turf and soil that would eventually give back the shape to the hazard. This major task was achieved by placing and staking railway sleepers under the bank to form a platform to build the banks. This is were the muscle power and hard work came

in. Stuart and his team of hardy greenkeepers toiled painstakingly to heave by hand these sleepers in place creating the shape that was desired. Then another artist in the

form of John Oliver Plant Hire, with John himself performing almost balletic skills with this huge piece of machinery, sometimes in the most precarious of positions which were enough to send shivers down the back of the most hardened greenkeepers. John managed miraculously and skilfully to place the earth and turf above these sleepers burying them out of sight. The whole surrounding area was laid by hand with indigenous turf cut from the course. Here again Stuart's Team came to the fore with hard back breaking work to lay and net it all down with 400 square metres of turf.

How long did this take one month two weeks not on your life when Stuart's gang get going there's no stopping them. One week saw the job pretty complete!

The proof of the pudding they say is in the eating or viewing as the case may be. With just one very large proviso to ALL that it is, ONLY looking for the time being because - NO GOLFERS ALLOWED - just for a little while anyway.

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Stuart Dymond with John Oliver

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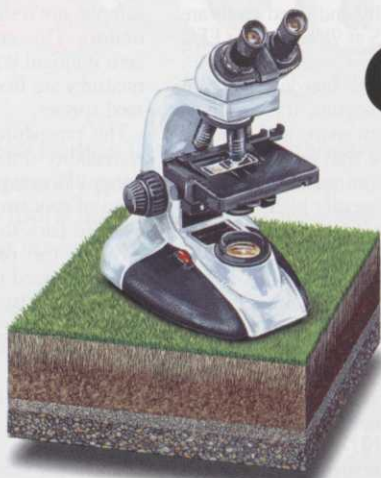
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SOIL TECHNOLOGY
RUFFORD

Don't use guess work - use Rufford

Andy Sadler describes the stringent procedures that should be implemented to ensure greenkeepers receive the best quality seed mixtures possible

SEEDS OF SUCCESS

This article is based on a paper presented by the author, Andy Sadler, Production Manager & Crop Inspector with Barenbrug UK, at the Turf Management Conference, organised by Barenbrug UK in Portadown, Northern Ireland, in February, to update turf professionals on breakthroughs arising out of the company's ongoing research programme

A turf manager might have all the skilled labour, specialist equipment and modern turf chemicals imaginable, but if the sward he starts off with is not of high enough quality he could well be fighting a losing battle. The grass seed used is the component, and the importance of choosing a product with the highest quality cannot be overestimated.

suitable fields, and must implement controls throughout all aspects of the production process, such as monitoring the growing crop, checking the harvesting, drying and cleaning of seed, and determining its purity and germination level. Only if the required standards are met can a Certificate of Purity and Germination be issued.

maintained at two key stages of the production process: the production and cleaning of the original seed, and the formulation of the final mixtures. In the first stage, grass is grown for seed production by approved growers, who are carefully chosen for their ability to produce yields of high quality and quantity. Samples are taken of the cleaned seed and are tested at a laboratory licensed by DEFRA. If the sample passes these analyses, then the seed is certified and stored carefully at our warehouses at Bury St Edmunds.

The minimum criteria governing the issue of a Test Certificate have been laid down by the EEC, but in the UK there is a higher standard called the Higher Voluntary Standard (HVS). Both the EEC and HVS standards require a minimum germination level of 80% in a seed sample of perennial rye grass, but minimum purity and weed levels are higher for HVS at 98% than for EEC at 96%.

The second stage of the zero zero process begins when seed is mixed at our specialised mixing plant, in strictly regulated proportions. Again, samples are tested by a licensed laboratory. This ensures that the zero zero standard is maintained and that mixtures are free of any undesirable seed species.

However, some breeders go even further and recognise the demands made of modern sports and amenity turf, and realise that grounds professionals require an assured supply of seed of a consistently high standard. For example, we have for several years operated a policy standard that is higher than the HVS. This is appreciated in particular by managers responsible for high quality turf, such as golf greens, bowling greens and turf nurseries, who need the assurance of higher quality if the risk of problems – and subsequent loss of revenue – is to be minimised.

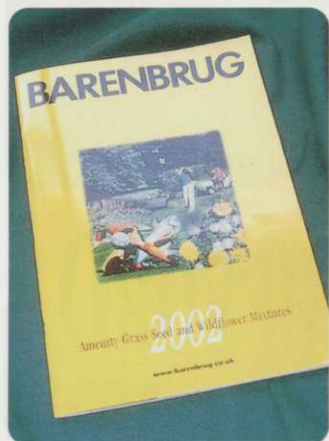
This procedure also gives complete traceability throughout all stages of the production process, so that if any areas of concern arose, they could be checked back to source.

We have incorporated Product Quality into our overall quality management system (QMS), so that procedures and results can be rigorously implemented and checked in a thoroughly consistent manner. Our quality control policy aims to achieve a germination level of at least 90%, and a purity level considerably in excess of the minimum standards: indeed, 90% of the seed we produce has a purity level in excess of 99%.

Under the rules and regulations governing seed production and marketing, all mixtures offered for sale have to carry a green, official mixture label from DEFRA, describing the varieties and mixture details. The information printed on the label is mandatory, and refers to the identity of the seed species used in the mixture, the variety names, their percentage by weight, the month and year of production and other basic details.

So how is this achieved? We operate a policy of 'zero zero' testing, designed to ensure that quality is

In summary, all those involved in the challenging task of creating a top-quality playing surface need as much information as possible, and they appreciate the need for the highest quality standards throughout. If greenkeepers and groundsmen can confidently select seed that meets or exceeds these criteria, then they will have the best chance of success. And so will the players who perform on the results of their efforts!



A dedicated seed house will recognise this, and will have introduced stringent quality controls to ensure that the seed the turf manager sows is trustworthy and reliable.

But first, let's look at the rules and regulations governing this vital area.

The production, certification and marketing of seed are governed by The Fodder Plant Seeds Regulations 1993. Basically, this places the seed producer under an obligation to ensure varietal purity, freedom from noxious weeds, the satisfaction of a minimum quality standard, and uniformity of marketing. Obviously, a quality-conscious company has to select competent growers who use

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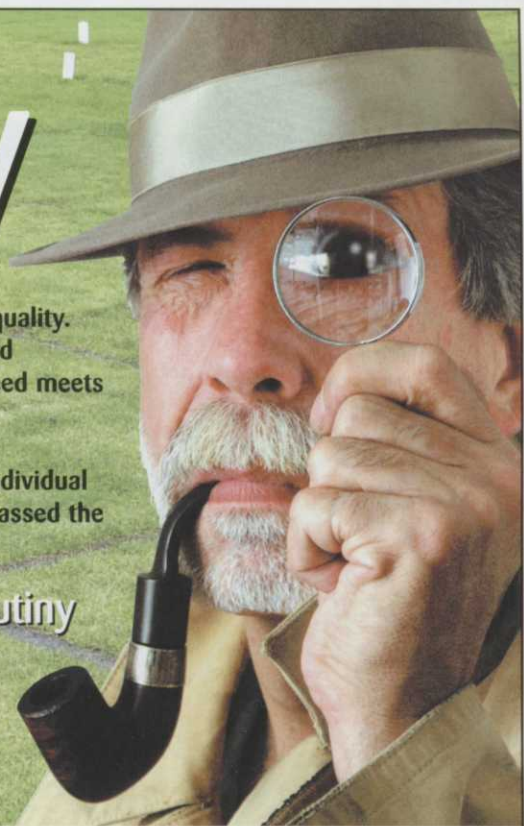
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FOR ALL SEASONS



A dictionary defines the word "utility" as - something useful or designed for use. The vehicles that fall into this category certainly come under this description as many readers have already discovered. The modern offerings have come a long way since those early days, when some manufacturers and greenkeepers had the foresight to recognise the benefits such an animal had to offer. Roland Taylor reports ...

A VAN FOR ALL SEASONS



The early models were primarily a platform on wheels, with a couple of seats, powered by an engine. Some early ones had three wheel configurations that were found in use to be unstable. Once this became evident, a fourth wheel was added. Initially, their main role was to transport materials and people, but gradually attachments were added that increased the vehicle's versatility. With the addition of power takeoffs and linkage systems, it has become an easy-to-connect source for a host

of turf-care equipment and in many cases the transport side is now secondary.

Another benefit that is claimed, is that this type of unit has an even weight distribution and low ground pressure, important factors in the fight to control compaction. Some manufacturers' literature reflects this with claims that their utility vehicles can be used on sensitive areas, such as greens.

So, where does the utility vehicle fit into the scheme of things as far as a

golf course is concerned? Does it replace the tractor and trailer? On paper the answer is probably yes, but in practice it is not so cut and dried.

Certainly, they are said to be able to go on fine turf and in places where it would be imprudent to take a tractor, especially if the ground conditions are soft. They may also provide a power source for most of the regular jobs a conventional tractor would undertake. Obviously for heavy operations, such as a vert-draining they are not in the running.

While a utility vehicle might look an attractive proposition, the sticking point could be that there is not only the investment in a vehicle, but also the possibility of extra costs for attachments to fit on it. A solution in this case would be to start with the basic transport unit, then add the extras when funds become available.

Trawling through the utility vehicle literature it becomes clear that there are plenty of choices, so when considering this type of machinery the areas and the tasks it is going to be used for need to be fully taken into account.

Weight and carrying capacity are key factors. Another feature to be on the look out for is the ground pressure rating when fully loaded and with an operator on board. This does not appear in all the literature, so some detective work may be needed.

When it comes to power sources there is a choice of petrol, diesel, LPG or electric. The transmission is either a continuous variable or synchromesh system and there are two and four wheel drives versions depending on the particular make. A differential lock is fitted as standard on a major-





ity of models. Power steering is a not always a feature so this could have a bearing on the units handling, turning circle and its manoeuvrability. It is something worth checking out.

As the vehicle is likely to be used for long periods, operator comfort is another aspect that requires looking at in detail. Even if only travelling from A to B the ride wants to be comfortable, especially over rough ground. While manufacturers might expound the virtues of their particular suspension system, it can only be gauged from experience. The answer is to arrange a demonstration, climb aboard and test it for yourself.

Noise levels are now increasingly under the spotlight both from an operator's point of view and the public. These are generally shown in leaflets, so a comparison of different makes and models is easy to make. Another specification to look out for is the ground clearances, especially if a course has a lot of undulating terrain.

At some stage there is the likelihood that a unit will be required to tow a piece of equipment, so its towing capabilities and capacity and is relevant. Depending on what the utility is being initially bought for will largely govern the importance of its overall versatility. Where a vehicle is to be used mainly for transporting smallish items such as pedestrian mowers, top dressing, fertiliser and hand tools, then the dimensions and carrying capacity of the cargo box are a priority. Cargo beds are in all shapes and sizes with the options of full, two thirds and one third, with side or without configurations.

On some models the list of optional attachments is long, plus there are

now a number of companies offering trailed and specially designed attachments. These include sprayers spreaders, top dressers and other turf care equipment.

Apart from using a utility vehicle for course work, it could also be converted to a mobile repair unit by the addition of a portable generator, compressor, welder and toolbox. Should a breakdown occur out on the course, the service technician, plus all his kit, would be on site in a few minutes. One of the smaller models would be ideal for this purpose.

Utility plus

Another piece of equipment that comes under the "utility" heading is the loader or skidster. A number of these types of machine are now available in the UK. There are four-wheeled units, which have a platform at the rear for the operator to stand. Because of their compactness they are said to be ideal for working in very confined areas and the drive system to the wheels allows you to spin turn, which makes them highly manoeuvrable. Also available are slightly larger loaders that have a driving seat. Some models in this category articulate in the middle, a feature it is claimed that provides tight turning without leaving tracks or damaging the turf.

The basic power units generally have 4-wheel hydrostatic drive as standard. On some makes there is a 2 pump hydraulic system, one for wheels and the other to drive or lift the attachments. Other companies offer an auxiliary circuit as an option. This is in the form of a flow divider valve, which enables the operator to

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A VAN FOR ALL SEASONS

increase or decrease the oil flow to the attachment, or the wheel drives. Petrol or diesel engine versions are available.

A big feature of all these multi-purpose machines is the speed at which one person can fit or remove an attachment. It usually means connecting or disconnecting hydraulic hoses and fitting or removing two locking pins, and the unit is ready, some manufacturers claim this takes less than a minute.

A look at some of the operations that a loader or skidster could be used for on a course illustrates the versatility of these units.

Ditches, ponds or bunkers

A backhoe is ideal for clearing out ditches and ponds, or even digging new bunkers. They are compact enough to get in the tightest of spots and are said to be capable of moving a lot of soil in a short period of time. Various bucket widths are available.



Landscaping

For making new seedbeds there are soil cultivators. These will, it is claimed, in one pass grade bury stones and any other debris. Other attachments for landscape work

include, grading rakes, scraper blades and levellers. An earth auger takes all the hard work out and speeds up creating the holes for tree planting.

Fencing

By using a loader or skidster with minimal labour, fencing becomes a highly efficient and cost effective operation. Most companies offer a choice of earth auger drills for producing various depths and diameters of holes. In addition, some manufacturers have a cement mixer attachment. This means fence posts can be erected and set in concrete immediately without the necessity of having to bring in additional plant.

Drainage and irrigation

Providing trenches for irrigation insulation, electrical cable or small drainage pipes, is said to be fast and easy with a trenching attachment. At least one manufacturer offers a bore-driving head with a rod and reamer kit for going under paths without dis-

turbing the surface. Once the installation has been carried out the trench can be back filled using a blade and leveller.

The list of other attachments is extensive and includes, tree forks, rotary brooms and a wide range of buckets. Some companies also have wood chippers and rotary or flail mowers.

A skidster or loader could be a considerable asset to the fleet, but unless there is sufficient all-year-round work for this type of machine, a better proposition would be to hire one as and when required.

One suspects, that like a lot of machinery, once a utility vehicle, skidster or loader is on the fleet, it is soon discovered how many other applications it can be used for, that were not originally considered. For those courses that do not already have one, it is a piece of equipment worth checking out with a view to including it in future machinery replacement planning.



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MISSION IMPOSSIBLE



Scott MacCallum met up with Mike Smith, who accepted an assignment which would have scared off many, but what he and the Donnington Valley team have since done shows just what can be achieved with hard work and ingenuity.

Imagine a situation where your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to design and build a golf course on the site of an existing course; where you undertake the job in-house; oh yes, and the existing golf course remains open while the new course is being built. Sound a tall order? Well that's exactly what Mike Smith and his team at Donnington Valley, in Newbury, have recently accomplished.



Previous Page. One of the huge reservoirs under construction

Right: Andy Burnham installs a new sprinkler head

Above right. The magnificent double 9th and 18th green

Below: Mike Smith and Andy Burnham

Bottom. The Donnington Valley Clubhouse



Mike, who had already designed several golf courses, took on the assignment in 1997 when it was decided that the original 18 hole course did not match the standard of the four star Donnington Valley Hotel and sister five star Vineyard at Stockcross Hotel, which also boasts a Michelin Star Restaurant. The two hotels and course are owned by Sir Peter Michael, a successful entrepreneur, who is the Chairman of Classic FM and who owns a renowned vineyard in California which produces some of the finest wine in the world.

"He is not a golfer and was more interested in buying the hotels than the fact that they also came with a golf course but was keen that the

course should be up to the standard of everything else he is involved with," explained Mike.

The original lay-out was basic. Aimed at, and popular with, the new golfer. It had greens cut out of the hill, straight fairway and few bunkers.

Acting Head Greenkeeper at this time was Andy Burnham, who had worked at the course since the day after his 16th birthday, and who had been promoted to the acting role when he was 19. When Mike arrived one of his first decisions was to confirm Andy, then 21, as Head Greenkeeper.

"Andy had the responsibility for the day to day running of the golf course while I spent from April to July designing the new course over the existing ground and some adjoining parcels of land which had been purchased with the new improved course in mind," explained Mike, although both were heavily involved in the actual construction of the course.

Throughout the construction stage Mike and Andy tried to keep as many holes open as they possibly could to give the members something to play while at the same time constructing the course.

"We managed to give them 18 holes for the vast majority of the time, although we did drop to 15 for a while, and 11 for about a week, when we put in the last three holes - the new 12th, 13th and 14th."

This plan, while placating members during a difficult time, caused innumerable complications while building the new course.



Although it was not how he would have done the job in the ideal world Mike had actually been instrumental in the decision to keep the course open.

"I was asked what the best way of doing it was and I said that if we kept it open we could still generate half a million in revenue each year by giving members a course to play as well as keeping up their interest. Had we shut for two years they might have found somewhere else to play and not come back," he explained.

What it meant was that while the course was under construction they still had to access established greens so they could be cut.

"We would have to put boards out for members so they could walk over the mud," recalled Andy.

They had hosted a members' meeting at which they explained what was going to be happening and how it would effect their golf.

"About 120 members turned up and Andy was thrown in at the deep end as I gave him grasses to talk about. I wanted the members to realise how big a part he was playing in the project. It was an excellent meeting, we cut cores and put them behind glass to show how the greens were to be



constructed and told them that the expected time frame for the job would be two years," said Mike.

"For the first 18 months I attended every committee meeting, gave them a progress report and told them what course they would have for the next few months. As we brought new holes into play and removed the old the par was steadily going up from 61 to 63 to 65 etc"

However, after the first 18 months it became obvious that the two year deadline would not be met and patience, among the membership, began to wear a little thin. Mike explained to Sir Peter that you couldn't be three months or six months behind when you build a golf course, you were either a season behind or you weren't.

"We accepted the fact that the job would take three years to complete and not two. We were facing many problems for the first time and trying to keep one course going as we built another on the same site caused more problems than we perhaps envisaged," said Mike, who added that the weather was not helping either.

Andy chipped in.

"We took on three or four extra guys but occasionally we'd have to take

everyone off construction because the grass on the course was getting so high while we'd have to put extra people on course preparation when there was a competition coming up."

Oh yes. Another little complication. Right behind the course is Snelesmore Common, home of the infamous Newbury By-Pass protesters, Swampy et al, who did their bit to slow down proceedings.

"They took tarpaulins and rope, dug up the 4th green and put top dressing in our fuel tanks," said Andy, who also recalls an amusing scene when a water cannon was used to try to remove a naked man from a tree.

"He was hanging on for dear life," he said, smiling at the memory.

Carrying out construction work while golfers plied their trade just a few yards away also had another downside.

"It meant we couldn't hide our mistakes. When we did everyone could see it, and we were not in a position to close the door and say that they wouldn't see anything until it was finished."

Mike and Andy freely admit that they made mistakes but are equally free in admitting that they learned from each and every one.



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

Right. The final green laid which burnt up under a strong sun initially was to come back strong later



Mike Smith

Mike Smith has a unique set of talents. He is a former draftsman, who worked in the North Sea Gas fields producing cartography and seismic maps but was also a talented golfer playing off 1 and representing Perthshire Boys.

Bored with life in London, and seeing his golfing ability diminishing he returned home and a job at Dunblane Golf Club.

"The Captain sent me to Elmwood where I was in the same class as Laurence Pitthie."

When the previous Head Greenkeeper/Pro left, Mike became Head Greenkeeper at Dunblane and he remained there until Lord Morton asked him to take over at the 36 hole country club at Dalmahoy.

"We'd already agreed to take the European Matchplay Championship the following year but the thatch of the greens would have sucked your golf shoes off. In 1977 I believe I bought the first Cushman in the country for £5,500, put a Greensaver on the back of it and piled sand into the greens until the greens were firm, fast and good to putt on and I got some lovely comments from Tommy Horton and Bernard Gallacher among others." He left Dalmahoy shortly afterwards and moved to Littlestone GC and then Bush Hill Park when he got the chance to design three golf courses in Southend which, due to a downturn in the climate, ultimately didn't get built. The first course he designed to be actually built was Lydd on Romney Marshes and his name is listed as architect in the R&A Golfers Handbook on the same page as the likes of James Braid, Henry Cotton, Donald Steel, Alistair Mackenzie and Jack Nicklaus.

Since then he has designed courses on Wincanton Racecourse, Newbury Racecourse, the Strand Leisure Centre, in Gillingham, as well as Donnington Valley while he has another six hole academy currently under construction.

"To have had one 18 hole course actually built is a wonderful feeling but to have done six courses is great."

"When the first load of root zone arrived for the double 9th and 18th green, one of two double greens on the course, we thought there was something wrong with it and we should have stopped but we carried on and when it was all in and levelled off it looked great," explained Mike.

"But after a while it started to back off as the root zone had gone like concrete. It was totally the wrong spec. We tried to punch holes in it but to no avail so we ended up ripping up the green and doing it again having sought advice from Tim Banks, of Banks Amenity.

Another problem emerged when Mike and on site digger operator, Malcolm Cox, laid some irrigation piping.

"It was a lovely sunny day, Malcolm had trenched it all and we had laid out the four inch piping and put in the cables. We then left it open to fill the following day but the heat had expanded the piping and when we returned it had contracted leaving a four inch gap. We took it out and made sure the second time."

Andy also found himself "fire fighting" after they had turfed their final green, right in the middle of summer '99.

"We hadn't got the irrigation connected up to the green and when I came in on the Sunday morning the turfs were all curling up at the edges. I spent four hours hand hosing the green but it was just baking it," he explained.

"We decided to leave that green for a while and concentrate on areas which we wanted in play quicker but all the members could see the tram lines. They were telling us that we'd have to relay the green but Andy told them he would seed and irrigate, and together with picking the meadow grass out by hand on the bare patches, the green has come back well just as he said," said Mike.

The construction work involved everyone at the hotel as well as the golf club.



"We were digging our two reservoirs at the same time as building the course and used the earth from the holes to shape the course. We had one contractor digging and we had hotel kitchen porters, chefs and chamber maids driving diggers to move the earth around the site when Malcolm would do the shaping. It would never happen nowadays but they all loved it. They were out in the sun getting a sun tan," recalled Mike.

The reservoirs - one with a surface area of 2000 square metres of surface area four and a half metres deep and the other 1200 square metres also to a depth of four and a half metres.

One is two metres above the other with a waterfall connecting the two.

Slowly the course came together and the completed lay-out was played for the first time in May 2000 with the official opening - with the PGA South Region Donnington Valley Classic with ex Ryder Cup star Paul Way in the field - played last June.

Having safely emerged at the other side of a huge project both men can reflect on things they would do differently next time round.

"We turfed some of the greens before we did the aprons because we had to get the greens in play but then we had to marry the greens to the aprons which was difficult," said Andy.

"Another thing we would have done is built a concrete turning bay for lorries as access was extremely difficult. I remember having six lorries lined up a 6pm one day all desperate to unload so they could get home but they couldn't get onto the site."

Mike can reflect on how a more conventional design/build/grow-in would have made their lives so much easier.

"It would have been nice to have had unrestricted access to the entire site and to have done the job in one go. We could have ploughed the field, stone buried, harrowed, prepared for seeding, installed the irrigation, seeded, fertilised and waited to see it all come through," he said wistfully, while he is also well aware of the



inherent problems of turfing, rather than seeding, greens.

Asked if he was now bored having returned to pure greenkeeping rather than the exciting life of greenkeeper/constructor Andy is refreshingly honest.

"I was glad to get my golf course back. The old course wasn't the best in the world but I looked after it and it was my little baby. Then Mike came along and ripped it up. I was 19 and wondered what on earth he was doing. Then I realised what we were trying to achieve and it has turned out better than I'd hoped," said Andy.

I've learned so much during the last four years it's unbelievable."

Mike has now taken on the role of Director of Golf and is involved in all aspects of the golf related business but he is immensely proud of what he and his team of seven greenkeepers have achieved.

"It is a tough little lay-out - 6,354 yards off the back tees - with a tight back nine and the toughest closing four holes in the county," said Mike.

Donnington Valley is also unusual in that it has some magnificent sculpture displayed around the course.

"Sir Peter loves sculptures and pieces are often shipped from California

for display here. It adds a nice unique touch to the course," said Mike.

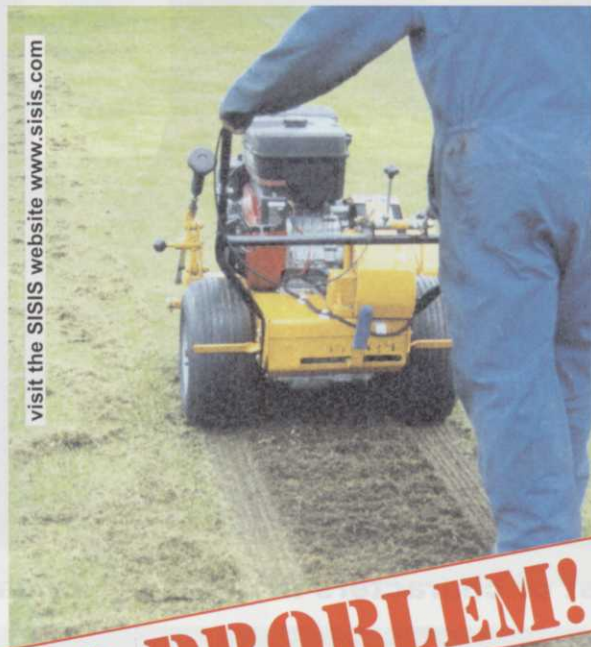
It has come a long way since he first set eyes on a site with genuine potential "It was a field with a bit of formal garden and I got such a buzz from doing it. Once I'd drawn the layout we painted out the course on the land and then went to the hill across the road to see how it looked. We still go there occasionally and we get a real buzz seeing what it has become.

"From a distance it looks quite good," he added, with a self-deprecating laugh.



THATCH PROBLEM?

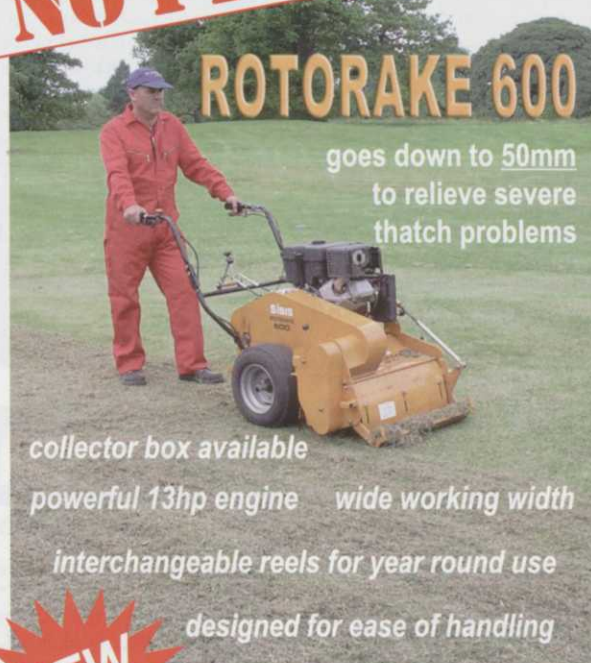
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BIGGA
ESSAY
COMPETITION

Stefan Antolik, Course Manager of Cooden Beach Golf Club was the winner of the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper and Deputies Category in this year's BIGGA Essay Competition. Read on as he re-enacts his winning entry ...

POA: FRIEND OR

List of characters in order of appearance : Poa, Rich, Bent, Young Poa

For generations I have lived around here. My great-grandfather lived down there in that low spot where the water always runs off. Of course, they did not live very long in those days, but now we have adapted to the conditions here we can live for years. And that's all thanks to those kind greenkeepers who are forced to over-feed and water us even when we don't need it. But who can blame them - they just want an easy life.

As for the people who walk all over us in those studded shoes, the other day I heard one of them say he was wearing soft spikes. Well I will tell you, they are not very soft when they are on your tender nodes and ligules. Still, they do make it easy for us whenever they complain that we are getting too dry and they cannot stop their balls on us. We know that we can get a good drink then without even having to wilt for it.

Hey Rich, you're new around here. So let me tell you about this place, I think they call it a golf course, and this is a green.

What! We're the green? Well that will be something to tell our offspring.

Hold on! You mustn't spread your wild seeds too quickly or the greenkeeper will come down hard on us with all sorts of equipment, I have heard stories that some greenkeepers even try to poison us if they see too much of our seed.

Well that can't be fair.

I know, but that is the way it is. Yeah, the greenkeeper here uses machines which come across the surface taking some of us away in metal tubes.

What, like the Underground?

If you are lucky and it misses, you just about have time to say goodbye to your old friends before they are taken away forever. I have no idea what happens to them. Someone once said they thought it was heaven, but I think that is a lot of old compost!

What happens next?

It's horrible! They come at us again this time with spinning metal blades which rip your sheath and seed-heads off.

Why?

I'm not sure but there is more to come. They bring in foreigners - lots of them?

What are they?

I don't know.

A few weeks later ...

Hey Rich, can you hear something? Yeah! It's beginning! Keep your head down.

Well, I survived that. Are you alright?

I think so, but I can't feel part of my roots. CORE! Look at all those poor swards. Goodbye and good luck!

It's not over yet. Here come the spinning blades. Keep your head down! Well I only lost a few seeds that time. Here come the foreigners now. There seems to be thousands of them this time and some have landed next to me. Well, it's not very big is it? This is new! Close your eyes, they are covering us up.

Help! I can't see the sun! Aah... there it is. That feels good - nice and cosy and water as well. What could be better?

Two weeks later ...

Good morning sir.

Who said that?

It's me, down here.

Who are you?

I am Bent.

Bent? we don't want any of your sort around here. Hey Rich, there is a newcomer here and he is Bent.

Yeah. I have some more over here. I can't remember anything like this happening before. We will just have to wait and see. Hey, keep your stolons to yourself. You're getting a bit fresh for someone so immature.

I can't help it. It's the way I am. We grow up fast you know. My friends and I have been put here to sort you out. Nothing personal old pal.

Well, I think we might have something to say about that you young upstart! Rich! Did you hear any of that?

Yes I did. What are we going to do about it?

Poa puts his thinking cap on and tries to remember an old wartime story his dad once told him, about survival and the battle they had against something called fescue.

There seem to be differences in strategy. This time the greenkeeper has given us all a good watering and a much needed feed. Dad told me that in his battle he had to survive without food and water for weeks on end and the starvation only stopped when golfers complained that they could not play any more and gave the greenkeeper and his mate, Jim, the big E. Well, I don't think this is going to be as easy as

that this time because the greenkeeper and the golfers have come out to inspect us all. Ouch!

What does he think he is doing, pulling my leaves off and saying that this is what he wants to get rid of? Thank you Chairman - I agree the golfers do still have to play upon us and how dare he call me a weed to be eradicated! What have I done to upset so many people? Naturally I am only trying to do my best - and spread a few wild seeds. Well I don't know, it's all a bit over my head really ...

Time goes by ...

Bent is getting a bit big for his boots hey Rich!

Yeah, and so are his mates! They are trying to squeeze me to death over here.

Then along comes some help ...

Listen! I can hear the spinning blades - wow! Did you see that? Bent got it right between the nodes and cut off some of his stolons. That must have been painful.

That will slow him down for a while and it's getting warmer so he'll feel a bit sick for a while.

Well we got that wrong didn't we Rich? He must be some sort of masochist! He loves all this rough stuff and he said that it is good for him as he can multiply without having to seed.

Not a lot of fun. This could be the beginning of the end for our kind.

Don't give up that easily Rich - we still have a few tricks we can use. We mustn't let them see that they

Scotts launch new range of organic based fertilisers

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

The organic fraction of Greenmaster Organics is derived from chicken manure and, in addition to providing a proportion of the nutrient charge in slow release form, will help improve soil structure, stimulate soil organisms, encourage thatch breakdown and enhance micro flora responsible for fighting turf diseases.

By combining this material with a mineral based fertiliser, reliable provision of NPK and trace elements is assured and the product formulation can be tailored more appropriately for today's needs.

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

There are two formulations available so far. Greenmaster Organic Spring and Summer (12-5-11 + TE) is designed as a high nitrogen seasonal treatment with 19% of the N derived from organic sources. Greenmaster Organic Pre-Winter (7-3-17 + TE) is an autumn treatment with 37% of the N derived from organic sources.

For further information
 Tel: 01473 830492

Latest addition from SCH will sweep you away

The new SCH (SUPPLIES) LTD. PR0120 Brush Sweeper is designed for use on large level surfaces. The addition to the range has twin land wheel drive and a 390 litres capacity polypropylene hopper. When full, the hopper can be discharged from your compact tractor seat by means of the draw cord. This feature reduces the time needed to empty the unit, as well as an aid to those customers who have difficulty lifting. The brush adjusting handle has five positions. Other features include a free wheel transport mode, three speed brush settings and a stop parking position. The PR0120 has a 1200 mm working width and weighs 85 kg.

For further information
 Tel: 01473 328272

Spray boom safety from Charterhouse

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has introduced to the UK the Rogers Windfoil Lite Spray Boom, whose unique features allow spraying to be done with maximum safety, efficiency and effectiveness.

Spraying needs to be done with the strictest accuracy to avoid accidentally treating non-target areas and to prevent over-application, which can lead to problems such as grass scorching or run-off into waterways.

Perhaps the most impressive of all the Windfoil Lite's attributes is the clever design of the shrouded boom, which ensures that the chemical is always applied in an enclosed environment, so that droplets cannot be picked up and distributed by strong winds. Unlike other shrouded systems, the Rogers unit has specially designed aerofoils on top of the booms, which avoid the creation of eddies of turbulence behind the enclosure. Research has shown that sprayer enclosures without an aerofoil actually push air upwards, creating an eddy that throws the applied.

The Windfoil Lite's aerofoils, developed after extensive wind tunnel trials, redirect the air downwards so that the spray is targeted towards the ground. A drift-stop curtain at the rear also helps to seal the enclosure and eliminate drift. Tests have shown that the



Windfall's enclosed booms give less drift in a 24 mph wind than a conventional open boom in a 6 mph wind, allowing grounds professionals to maintain work schedules in less than ideal conditions. The aerofoils have front and back mounts to secure them even during high speed transport.

The Windfoil Lite is available in two versions, the WL5000 and WL6000, with working widths of 5m and 6m respectively. Electric folding of the booms is available as an option.

For further information
 Tel: 01428 661222



C-Dax Europe has introduced a new three-point linkage mounted sprayer suitable for use with any compact tractor with sufficient lift capacity. The 400 litre unit is supplied with a 4.0m boom, and is designed to offer ease of operation and high accuracy combined with rugged build. Standard features include a clean water tank plus remote hose reel for spot spraying. As with all C-Dax equipment, the sprayer is purpose made for professional use and can be specified to suit a range of applications. Prices are from £1300.

For further information Tel: 01953 609999

New and improved Allman

The new HD16 16 litre backpack sprayer is set to replace the Allman mid range A16 sprayer which has proved popular for many years. The HD16 offers many improvements to its predecessor.

1. High output piston pump offers a greater pump displacement of liquid on each hand stroke of the pump, thus making it more efficient and needing less pumping strokes to maintain pump pressure.
2. A large screw filling lid incorporating a deep strainer to aid easy filling.
3. Ability to switch the pump handle from left to right hand pump operation.
4. Shoulder straps with quick release strap adjustment to enable easy adjustment of the straps when the knapsack is on the operators back.

The HD16 shares many components that have been used in the high specification Allman XI 5, which has a long track record of being a robust and reliable workhorse used by many knapsack fleet users.

At the same time many of the accessories/attachments such as spray shields, lance extensions, 2/3 nozzle cross booms, together with the Allman UPC constant pressure valve for operations at 1 or 2 bar, are easily attached to both the new HD16 and the XI5 knapsacks, making them very versatile and user friendly backpack sprayers.

Recommended retail price - £59.00 plus VAT.

**For further information
Tel: 01243-512511**



Latest product innovations to be jointly marketed

Richard Aitken Seedsmen Ltd, Aitken's Sports Turf and Avoncrop Amenity Products have developed a new national brand of amenity products under the name AWARD and will be jointly marketing this range throughout Scotland England and Wales. Launched at BTME 2002 were AWARD Green Lite and Sport Lite Fertilisers, a unique range of high performance fertilisers. Green Lite combining organic and vermiculite technology for fine turf and Sport Lite with organic and conventional nutrients for outfield turf. Award fertilisers are designed to give extended performance to the grass sward. The nutrients are retained in the root zone longer than conventional fertilisers, reducing the number of applications needed over the season and also making them more environmentally friendly, due to reduced leaching.

Green Lite's fine turf unique vermiculite organic technology results in lightweight compound granules to ensure perfect distribution at low rates, the particle size is up to 1.2 mm. With low scorch risk for greater peace of mind, giving an even release to reduce excessive early growth after application over an extended period compared, with traditional formulations. There are four analyses to meet fine turf requirements

Sport Lite outfield fertilisers come in two formulations, autumn/winter and spring/summer, designed to give extended release on outfield turf. This true compound granule gives accurate low rate application and is suitable for all sports pitches, fairways, aprons and surrounds. The organic content stimulates healthy grass and encourages beneficial root zone microbes.

The Soil Improver fermented seaweed rich in trace elements, carbohydrates and plant growth stimulants, providing sustained nutrition for plants and beneficial microbes. Soil Improver also releases alginate gel once moist, which helps tilth and crumb structure in all soil types, aiding aeration, moisture and nutrient retention. The added potassium helps to produce tougher harder wearing turf. Ideal for use on turf, seeding, turf laying or shrub bed enriching.

**For further information
Tel: 01934 820868**

Maxi-interest in Micro-granulars

Gem's new range of granular fertilisers attracted interest from new and existing customers alike at BTME earlier this year.

The micro-granular range allows for accuracy of application that is perfect for fine turf surfaces. Visitors to the show were especially delighted to see Gem's original Organic Golf Green 8-0-0 in a micro-granular form.

To promote the new products Gem had a competition to guess the number of 8-0-0 granules in a jar. The lucky winner of a colour television was Stuart Bertram, of Moor Park Golf, Hertfordshire was closest to the massive 342,000 actually in there.

**For further information
Tel: 01254 356611**

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

Increased versatility and range from Oleo Mac

Oleo Mac has increased the versatility of its brushcutters with the addition of hedgetrimmer and pruner attachments which will fit most brushcutters in the range.

The EP 100 pruner is designed for most plant pruning and trimming jobs and is quick and easy to fit, without the need for tools. The 30 degree angle of the bevel gear allow precise control on the ground, cutting undergrowth or clearing ditches and affords protection in an overhead cutting position where

branches fall away from the operator.

The bar and chain is constantly lubricated by an oil pump and a hook on the accessory grips the branch being cut making cutting easy and reducing vibration.

The Oleo Mac hedgetrimmer transforms the brushcutter into an efficient 48 cm bladed trimmer with a number of fixed position throughout the 270 degree blade rotation making overhead, ground or side-wall operation effortless. A 23 cm blade is also available for tidy-

ing flower beds and a runner fitted to the attachment allows the machine to glide easily over the ground.

**For further information
Tel: 01488 689400**



Indoor putting green from Huxley

An indoor putting green from Huxley Golf has been installed within the impressive new Golf Science laboratory located at the PGA National Training Academy, The Belfry.

Measuring 15ft x 15ft the putting green is being used to help train budding professional golfers as part of a three year sandwich course leading to the PGA Diploma in Golf. The majority of graduates will go on to become professionals at golf clubs throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland, as well as overseas.

The Huxley Golf putting green will be used also for practice by and coaching of elite national player squads and for continuing development programmes undertaken by experienced touring and club professionals. "There is a growing awareness and understanding of the close relationship between science and sport," explained Dr Kyle Phillpots, head of training and education at the PGA National Training Academy. "Our new laboratory is designed to demonstrate how golf science can be applied to golf performance and contains a range of equipment which will help recreate the physical and mental stresses encountered on a golf course. The aim is to help golfers maintain control over the mind and the body, for example, when faced with a three foot putt to win a tournament having walked 120 yards up hill to the green."



Ecosolve return to St Andrews with Deep Drill

St. Andrews Links Trust saw the return of Ecosolve's Deep Drill 60/18 for further aeration work on the historic greens of The Old Course. Initially work had been carried out on the 1st Green in November 2000, and twelve months later the second stage of the aeration programme was conducted and also broadened to include an area on the 2nd Green.

After a demonstration of the Drill and Fill aerator shortly before the 2000 Open, The Links Trust booked the sister machine, the Deep Drill 60/18 for later in the year.

"We needed aeration and extraction of rootzone, and the drilling concept met that requirement. However, it had to be deeper than twelve inches," commented Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent. "Ecosolve were able to meet the criteria of exceptional operating depth and extraction with the Deep Drill 60/18 aerator."

Ecosolve's operation in 2000 had been a great success. "The work done in stage one gave exactly the results we had hoped for - significant levels of rootzone extraction coupled with compaction relief. The consequent improvement in the green's performance gave us the confidence to proceed with stage two," said Gordon.

Eddie Adams, Head Greenkeeper on The Old Course, added.

"The increase in root extension was incredible. Whenever we changed the pin position during 2000, we could clearly see that the roots were going deeper, and this has increased the plant's health and natural resilience to wear and tear."

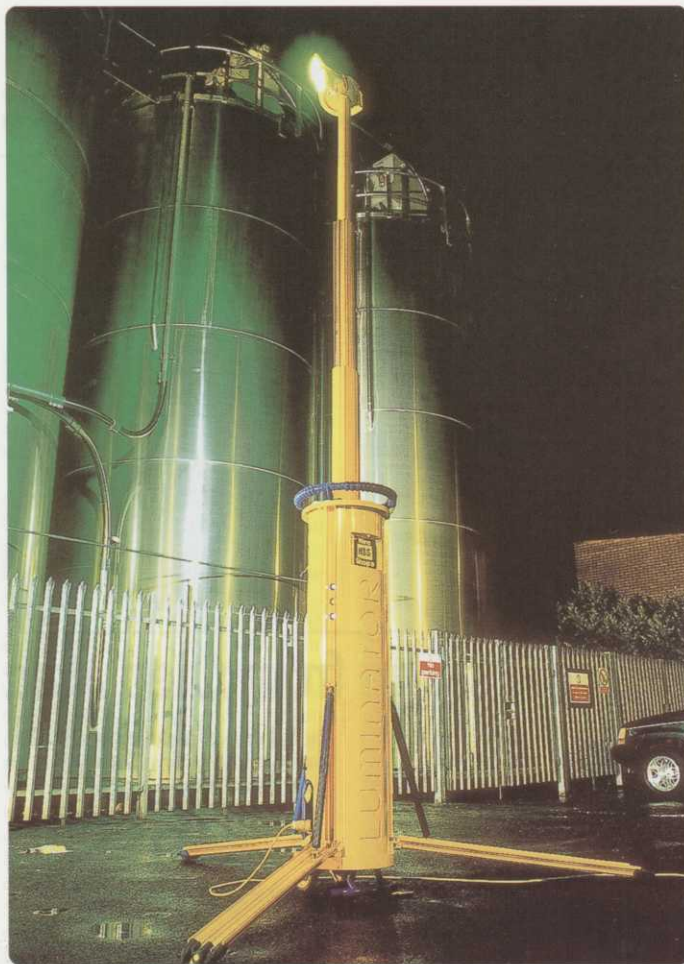
A significant factor in determining the level of success of the operation was just how easy it might be to reinstate play on those Old Course green that thousands of golfing pilgrims from around the world flock to. Much to everyone's satisfaction, the greens were open for play again within hours. Eddie explained "Such deep work might ordinarily cause disruption to the trueness of the putting surface, but we have found that not to be the case. After luting in a light top-dressing and a mow/roll, the green was reopened, and we experienced no adverse impact on play."

Bretton King, Ecosolve Limited's Technical Director, was delighted to receive the St. Andrews enquiry.

"When St. Andrews Links first contact is and explained what the requirements were, we naturally hoped we could provide what was needed. The factory became involved and a specially designed head was produced. We were delighted to have been able to satisfy The Links Trust's special needs and hope that we can continue to be of service to St. Andrews with machine sales or contract work."

Ecosolve Limited is the exclusive importer and distributor of the revolutionary Deep Drill 60/18 and Drill and Fill aerators.

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



HSS is delivering cost-effective and pioneering solutions to extend daylight working hours and enable grounds maintenance and landscaping to continue long after the sun sets, thanks to its space age lighting tower - the Luminator. Capable of lighting an area the size of half a football pitch, the five-metre powered mast and self-locking stabiliser legs fold into a compact tube measuring 1600mm x 400mm diameter, which fits into the back of an estate car or small van. The Luminator is ideal for sites where maximum light is

needed for the minimum amount of power. The powerful 100,000 lumens light head emits white light for perfect colour rendition using four 250W metal halide bulbs, which are five times more efficient than traditional halogen. The adjustable lens can be directed at 360°, 180° or as an uplighter. With a power rating of 1,000 Watts the Luminator self-selects 230V or 110V and runs from the smallest of generators.

For further information
Tel: 0845 766 7777

Howardson launch Mowersafe

BTME saw the launch of a totally new and innovative device designed to combat the theft of mowers from sports clubs.

British manufacturer, Howardson Ltd, following research carried out by an insurance company has introduced Mowersafe, which highlighted the alarming increase in theft of valuable equipment from clubs' storage sheds. Their recommendations were for some form of protection for this type of vulnerable machinery, which is often stored in an isolated wooden building with inadequate security or alarm systems.

Mowersafe will securely store any make of cylinder mower with up to a 24" cut - it is designed to be simple to use and effective. The 10mm heavy-duty steel structure takes up little more space than the mower itself. The unit can be secured to the concrete, earth or steel floor of the shed for added protection.

High specification hardened steels are used for the main lock pin making grinding, sawing and cutting extremely difficult. The heavy-duty locking system incorporates a barrel lock, which cannot be hammered off or bolt cropped. Weighing in at 160 kg, Mowersafe represents a formidable challenge to any intruder.

"While many mowers are now fitted with Datatags, this is only a trace method and does not prevent a theft happening in the first place. Mowersafe offers clubs a cost effective security device designed to protect their equipment and fight crime," said Howardson's Managing Director, Ian Howard.

The unit is priced at £395 plus VAT and installation can be arranged.

For further information
Tel: 01332 824777

Verti-core line-up introduced by Charterhouse

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has introduced a range of tractor-powered turf corers. The verti-core line-up comprises three machines. The 1300, 1700 and 2100 have working widths of 1.3m, 1.7m and 2.1m and require tractors of 22 hp, 28 hp and 35 hp. All three have more moving elements within a given width than comparable machines, giving more thorough treatment of the turf. Each can penetrate to a maximum depth of 125 mm.

The machines feature positive drive, being powered via a gearbox and crankshaft, rather than relying on belt drive, which is prone to slippage and loss of performance. This also ensures a constant hole pattern is maintained across the work area. The corers can be fitted with multi-tine heads, giving hole spacings across their widths of 17 mm, 32.5mm and 52 mm, and a comprehensive range of tine options are available.

For further information
Tel: 01428 661222





Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

East

Sorry there was no column last month but as there was no news or views going around there was no point writing one. But we do have some news this month so here goes. I attended BTME at Harrogate last month and yet again the show, seminars and everything else to do with the week just seem to get better and better.

Well done to everyone at HQ for another enjoyable week. Roll on next year. (PS the company was superb as well because when greenkeepers get together it just shows we're all equals). If you haven't been before try and get along next year. It was good to see an even bigger attendance of Scots this year so let's hope this continues in the year's to come. The Patrons' Award winners enjoyed their week at the premier turfgrass show in Europe and articles about their experiences will be in this magazine shortly. Won't it lads?

The spring outing is coming up next month - April - the date is Tuesday 23rd at Gullane No 3 with a limit of 48 people, so when you receive your entry form get it back as soon as possible as it is first come first served. Don't be late, act now. As there is a limit there will be no guests allowed on the day.

The summer Texas Scramble is now in a new time slot so as to get more people to attend. It is Tuesday, July 30, at Uphall Golf Club. Let's see a big turnout for this one. The autumn tournament date and venue to be confirmed very soon while the entry forms for all these tournaments will come together this year to cut down on postage. Look after them as these will be the only entry forms you get and no entry form = no place in the tournaments.

Also, don't forget your handicap certificates or you will have to play off the handicap that the Section gives you. Get these to me as soon as possible for changes to be made.

The Scottish National Tournament will be held at West Linton Golf Club on Thursday, June 27. Let's have a good turnout on the day.

By the time you read this the Scottish Conference will have been and gone so I hope to see you there and its as good as last year.

Well that's it for this month. Speak to you all next time.

Chris Yeaman

Ayrshire

News in brief as our committee meeting is going to be after the magazine deadline for March. Date for the Diary as the spring outing has been scheduled for Thursday, April 25 at Prestwick St Cuthberts Golf Club, full details in next month's magazine.

Jim Paton's been busy recently he has just been elected Vice Chairman of the Scottish Region and also been selected as a Scottish delegate on the

Bernhard's trip to GCSAA show in Orlando. Well done Jim, we'll hear how you got on stateside.

Also moving into officialdom in Ayrshire is George Brown who is the new National Vice Chairman. Congratulations George.

Any news or views please call me on 01 505-683278, see you next month

Iain Barr

West

Welcome to this month's newsletter. First off a few dates for your diary. On March 5 the Scottish Educational Conference will be held at Lauder College in Dunfermline. This has always proved an excellent venue as it has easy road access as well as an excellent conference facility. The speakers who attend these programmes are also of the highest calibre and I am sure anyone who attends on the day will find something of interest which can be utilised to improve their course.

On April 4 the Aitkens — SGM Greensomes competition will be held at Lenzie CC this competition was originally set up to give greenkeepers and their convenors an opportunity to get to know one another in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere away from their work environment. The days are always popular and very enjoyable, although the golf is not all that brilliant so early in the season, so do try and come along. The West would again like to thank Aitkens — SCM for their continued support in staging this event. The committee would also like to thank the committee and membership of Lenzie GC for the use of their facilities. I am sure Gavin is also relishing the prospect of preparing the course for his fellow greenkeepers so early in the year but that's the price you pay for being last year's winners.

On April 25 the Spring outing will be held at Millport GC again our thanks go to the membership and the committee for giving us courtesy of the course and the use of their facilities. I personally look forward to this trip across the water as I have never played the course or visited the island. I am sure Joe and his team will have the course in great condition for an event that comes so early in the season. Please try and return your entry forms on time as catering has to be arranged at the venue.

Congratulations have to be passed on somewhat belatedly to Mark Healy who was awarded a trip to BTME 2002 for his educational achievements during 2001. Mark currently works at Cameron House and I am sure will have enjoyed the show, conferences and social side to BTME. The opportunity to talk to other greenkeepers at the show always proves enlightening and is probably the best source of education around. Thanks must also be passed on to Mike Dooner, of Thortree Amenity, for putting up the award. Mike was keen to give the award to a young person or trainee who might not ordinarily get the opportunity to visit the show and wanted the prize to be based on educational achievement. I am sure Mark will be very grateful for the opportunity offered to him by Mike and again

the section committee would also like to thank him for making the award possible.

Next month a report on the visit to Stewarts Turf Nursery held on February 26.

Well that's it for this month again if you have anything you would like added to the column please do not hesitate to call me on 01355266862.

Brian Bolland

Central

We begin this month by welcoming Gilbert Hepburn, from Muckhart GC, to the Section. Gilbert is Assistant Head Greenkeeper to Alistair Touch at Muckhart, hopefully we will meet him at some of our forthcoming events and he might even encourage Alistair to come along to them again!

Belated congratulations go to a number of Section members this month, namely Derek (Deek) Scott and his staff from Scoone Golf Course in Fife, who were presented with personal achievement awards for their tireless efforts in maintaining their course and Albert Arnott, from Lochore Meadows Golf Course, who was also presented with a personal achievement award for all his work in training fellow greenkeepers, all are employed by Fife Council.

A man who must have more honours! awards/presentations etc. than Caroline has time to dust is Walter Woods, Walter was in America recently to pick up yet another one, The Old Tom Morris Award, which was presented to him by the GCSAA for his services to greenkeeping. Our sincere congratulations go to everyone of them on their achievements. The Central Section must be full of talent! It's full of something but I'm not quite sure what, no doubt someone won't be long in letting me know!

Entry forms for this year's Inter Club Tournament will be with you shortly and you will notice that we have altered the format yet again, this is to try and allow everyone to play their matches within the allotted time, then perhaps we can complete the tournament in the same year as we start it. The last attempt went from one century to the next! Please don't take so long the next time!

With BTME over for another year it must be getting near to the start of another golfing season. Let's hope the next few weeks are a wee touch drier than January and February have been. While at Harrogate it was great to see so many Central Section members there and it was pleasing to meet up with a number of former Section members who are now working away from home, David Murdoch, Ross Wilson, Cohn Hutt, Ian Ross and Ian Ritchie send their regards to all their friends in the Section.

The name of the winners for the January, February and March draws in "Club 2000" will all be in next month's magazine. It's not that we forgot to make the draws it was to give all of you who had "forgotten" to send the money, time to rectify your mistake and be included in the draw.

John Crawford

North

No new members to report this month, hopefully maybe have a few new recruits before the season starts properly.

I would like to wish get well soon to three of our members on behalf of our Section - to Stuart Hogg, Dougal Duguid and, last but not least, Hugh Mclatchie. We hope to see you all at the outing at Elgin on May 16 this year.

Robert Hardie, from Craibstone GC, and Kenny Kinnaird, from Grantown GC, were at the Patrons' Award Dinner in Stirling and had a very enjoyable trip. They would like to convey there thanks to Peter Boyd for all his hard efforts in the organising of the event.

On the subject of thanking Peter, I would like to thank him on behalf of the members of the Scottish Region who went down to Harrogate on the bus, and for setting everything up with the accommodation etc. It was an enjoyable trip.

This was my first visit to Harrogate, and contrary to stories I heard beforehand was very quiet! Seriously it was great to see so many members of our Section make the effort to go, and it was definitely worth the visit. There is something there for everyone. The exhibition halls are massive and takes a good while to go round while the seminars, workshops, and National Education Conference are there for Greenkeepers, secretaries etc. There were a vast array of speakers at the seminars and the conference and they were all well attended and very informative. Anyone with an interest in golf would have enjoyed the week.

Aforementioned Robert and Kenny were down as patrons of our Section and thoroughly enjoyed themselves despite losing unmentionable amounts of money on the pool table. It was great to meet old friends and also get the chance to meet greenkeepers from all over the country, and indeed from other countries. There were a few characters to come out of the week, none more so than the three amigos, who shall remain nameless, but are instantly recognisable even minus their sombreros. Also the rep who lost his voice, just when it was his shout as well. He shall remain nameless also.

The Scottish Conference is on this month very early on, March 5 to be exact. The speakers cover a wide variety of topics and it should be a good day for anyone who can make it.

The 200 Club will be up and running again soon and I will say more in the next magazine report.

Well as I write this report the winter is shaping up to be the wettest I have known for many a year, it is the opposite of last winter, at least at my club it is, and is holding up the finishing of any construction work undertaken. I hope it dries up soon. Anyway I hope the weather is kinder to the rest of the Section members and you have a successful start to your season

Iain Gunn



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North East

Well another successful BTME this year. Over 8500 people passed through the

doors which just goes to show you how popular it has become. It was good to see many of my colleagues from the Section down there, all thanks once again to Terry Charlton for providing transport for both NE and Cleveland Sections.

Another plus for the Section was to see James Storey and Steve Quince, both from Alnmouth Golf Club, attending the workshops. Well done to their golf club.

Bumped into two former members of the Section, Ed McCabe and Paul McDowall, who were at Seaham GC a few years back. Both were there for the week also attending all the courses. Confirmation for the Autumn Competition is September 19 at Longhirst Hall, the Spring Comp is TBA.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

I have just returned from the BTME and once again it was a brilliant show, with tractors and mowers sparkling like new cars, and so many companies with everything needed for the golf course, from fertilisers, grass seed, and every gadget imaginable. One thing I did not see was a wheelbarrow, but then all the equipment on golf courses seems to be ride on, how things have changed.

One section of the show was set out with machinery from bygone times, and there was the mowing machine that gave me my first taste of grass cutting. It was designed to be drawn by a pony, but on my first day of work I was the pony. Two straps on my shoulders and a hook to the machine with the gardener guiding the machine while we mowed the grass verges in the park, thank goodness for change.

I must emphasise the Show is well worth a visit, so if you could not manage this year. Make a note in your diary for 2003.

By now you will all have received your fixture lists for the year, plus your application forms for the Mere Seminar, I must thank Rufford Soil Technology, and our President, Peter Jefford, for sponsoring the fixture lists and making such a professional job of them. There is one small mistake (my fault) summer tournament at Ulverston Golf Club should read Thursday, June 20. The Stewards' match is at Ashton in Makerfield on Monday, September 9. I hope as many as possible will support the Mere Seminar, and bring along your Secretary and or Green Chairman, I am sure they will find it interesting.

That appears to be all for now but I will welcome any news or views and you can contact me on 0151 724 5412 or mobile 07761583387

Bert Cross

Northern

I start off with an apology about the spring tournament. The date is April 16, at Bedale GC. Sorry about the mix up. Remember the closing date is for the Spring tournament is April 9 with full payment of £15 to any committee member.

By the time you read this we will have had hopefully another successful seminar at Howley Hall GC. Many thanks to the speakers and sponsors on the day. More info. next month.

Congratulations and good luck to Graham Greenwood on getting married recently. We have one new member this month:- Barry Mars, Hornsea GC.

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

Andy Smith

North Wales

Congratulations goes to James Cope of Carden Park GC for successfully attaining his BTCIA Irrigation Diploma. This comes just weeks after MG Andy Campbell passed his GCSAA exam (being the only one in the country to hold this stateside recognition) placing Carden at the forefront of education.

Moving on to this month's tales of

a day in the life of a greenkeeper, Allen Lewis, of Llanynymech GC, came in to work on Sept 18 to be met by the Green Chairman who had been out early walking his dog, alerting Allen of his observations of a powdered substance that had been scattered on the greens? Upon inspection Allen found that five greens had the same residual on them 3,4,5,8 and 15. Taking samples off for early analysis by taking a hole cut sod, this was detected as powdered weed killer, a rush then was on to douse with water to rid the greens of any scorch etc unfortunately all came too late as the damage had been done and within 5 days the greens turned into yellow/brown mud, Allen got total support from the committee who were very disappointed that this act of vandalism had been thrust upon them.

New turf was placed on to patch the damaged area's but also became contaminated and had to be removed along with 8 - 9" of sub soil. finally after 220 tonnes of rootzone and 550sq metres of new turf was laid Allen and the team look forward to presenting Llanynymech too its former glory for the start of the season.

On a lighter note, did you spot Allen on lan Woosnam's, 'This is your Life'. Well parts of his body anyway! Well done, Al.

Terry Adamson. recently visited Bangkok and assures us it's all it's cracked up to be and is thinking of making it an annual trip! Any Section members wishing to go should see Terry.

We wish Adrian Kinsey, Deputy Head of Mile End GC, well after a spell in hospital for a leg operation.

I would also on behalf of the Section like to thank 'Field Irrigation' for their seminar talk at the college and to Danny Tomkins, Amenity Technology, for organising and paying for the coach to take members and guests up to the BTME show. A full coach of 56 people went up and after Am-Tech's hospitality night in the Old Swan Hotel the number was a lot less coming back (allegedly).

Our Spring Tournament at Carden Park (Cheshire Course) is on April 10, your forms will be in the post shortly and entries close on April 1.

We have had to become more strict on entry rules, so no payment before closing date, no golf, no excuses. The Section is also advised Carden is a "soft spike" course and players will be charged £5 on the day if they need these spikes changing

Any news, views or information you have, please contact me on: Home 01925 263394 Fax 01925 269622 - Mobile 07778 162162 or e-mail acorgolf@supanet..corn

Job's a good'en
Andrew Acorn



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

East Midlands

Once again the BTME week at Harrogate was a great success. The new formula of combining the National Education Conference, the Workshops and the first day of the show seemed to be a great success. On behalf of the Section, I would like to congratulate Richard Barker, of Beedles Lake GC, on his appointment as BIGGA National Chairman, and also to Philip Helmn, of Overstone Park GC, on receiving his Master Greenkeepers award.

It was also encouraging to see more Section members there than usual, but we would still like to see a bigger turnout from the Section. On behalf of the Section I would like to thank the following members who attended the show for two or more days, Scott Purdy, Ashbourne GC; Donald Donaldson, Farthingstone GC; Dave Leatherland, Kedleston Park GC; Gavin Robson, Lingdale GC; Adi Porter, Greetham Valley GC, and Mark and Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe GC. If I have missed anybody's name out of this list I can only apologise, and we all wish to see you at the same venue next year.

All members should now have received their entry form for the Spring Tournament at The Leicestershire GC on May 2. If you have not received your form please ring or Email me and I will gladly forward you a form.

Antony Bindley

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South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Kent

Not a lot to report on this month due to problems with my e-mail account picking up a virus. So I am unable to pick up all your e-mails of news and

views this month... and I'm sure there were loads.

So I have no stories of wild nights in Harrogate at BTME or any of the Christmas parties some of you promised me. I did get a text message from an old friend by the name of Jo Silcock, from Royal St Georges, on seeing my picture in January's edition of Greenkeeper International, hard at work, as usual, loading up our top dresser on page 16. I've lost loads of weight since then though. Jo pointed out how nice it was to see I still have the enthusiasm for hard work after all these years, just like when we worked together at North Foreland Golf Club.

No news yet of any golf days or events but if there are any golf courses who would like to entertain us then feel free to contact Duncan Kelso on 01732 875020 with news I'm sure he will greet with open arms.

I would like to apologise to the Head Greenkeeper I mentioned in the January issue with my comments being ill advised. He has since found employment and wish him well in his new position.

So once again if you have any information or news please e-mail me on my new address: jrbatkhgolf@aol.com or call on 01732 875020.

A small bit of advice: Don't open e-mails if you don't know who they're from or you may end up with a virus on your computer.

Jason Bean

Mid Anglia

By now, members should have received a fixture card, listing golf events for the year, as well as entry forms for the relevant competitions. Please photocopy the main entry form, should you wish to play in more than one competition this year. If you haven't received the relevant forms,

please contact Gerald Bruce, Secretary.

Our first golf event of the season takes place at Ashridge GC, on April 19, over 36 holes. If you wish to play, please make sure that your entries are sent to Richard in good time.

The other golf events are as follows: Summer. St Neots GC, August 28; Autumn. Stocks GC, October 10; Christmas Scramble. South Beds GC, December 5

The Lodgeway Four Ball has been changed to a singles event this year; entries to Steve Mason, should you wish to take part. To ensure the smooth running of the competition, please be sure that you can commit to playing the matches. We don't want to see last year's problems recurring, with people not completing their matches on time.

New silverware purchased by the Section will be awarded to the winners of the Spring, Summer and Autumn tournaments.

BTME at Harrogate in January this year was once again a great success. It was disappointing, however, to see members at the AGM veto the Board of Management's proposals for restructuring full greenkeeper membership.

Paul Lockett

London

Can I start by wishing all our members a very happy new year. Let's hope the weather's a bit kinder to us all. I should say as I write this we're being battered by gale force winds and driving rain. Oh well, some things never change! Some confirmed dates for your diaries: Spring Meeting at Wyke Green GC, on Tues, April 30; Autumn Meeting at Porter's Park GC, on Wed, August 21; Turkey Trot at Denham GC, on Wednesday, November 20

I'm still awaiting confirmation on a June date for the Summer Meeting but hope to have that soon.

More details on that and the other dates in my next report.

Short and sweet this month I'm afraid but without any juicy gossip from you guys I haven't got much choice. Please phone me with any news from around the Section on 01923 835549.

Robert Phillips

Surrey

Surrey Section Committee had a meeting on the January 29. It was decided that any main committee decisions would be placed in the following edition of Around the Green. Lee Strutt has decided to stand down from the committee and we all thank him for his hard work over the past years. Tony Bremer from Dorking Golf Club is taking his place and Dan Lightfoot from Gattin Manor has been co-opted onto the committee to help organise the Regional Seminar, which this year is hosted by Surrey Section. Details of this to follow.

It was decided that our Secretary Ian Sellars needs a computer to fulfil his tasks without taking up so much of his personal and business time. We have been fortunate to purchase a second-hand machine from Anthony Freeman. His list of other general merchandise including low mileage, good quality cars can be obtained from the telephone booth in Roehampton High Street.

Tony Bremer will be the golf handicap secretary and will in future notify all changes by post. Geoff Woodward, from Wimbledon Common GC, takes over Lee's job as Regional Representative and will be assisted by Dave Murdoch from Liphook GC. All other Committee posts remain as before.

The fixture list for 2002 will be follows: Walton Heath, Gentleman's Dinner, March 8; Foxhills, May 27 - Sponsor Rigby Taylor; Shirley Park, June 27 - Sponsor Barrowfields; Liphook, July 19 - Sponsor Avoncrop; Sunningdale, TBA - Sponsor Grass Roots; Effingham, Oct 18 - Sponsor Kestral Golf; Banstead, Nov 21 - Sponsor Tacit; Wimbledon Common, Surrey Greenkeepers vs Members Wimbledon Common and London Scottish Golf Club, Hankley Common, TBA - England vs Scotland; Regional Seminar, Possibly November 27. Confirmation will follow

The Huxley/Sisis Bowl is now the Bioseed Bowl. Details will be available shortly. £10 per pair and the final will be at a neutral venue.

Finally our congratulations to Gary and Claire Stewan, Banstead GC whose son Thomas, 6lb 8ozs, and from Reigate Heath GC, Grant

Dooley and his wife, Lisa, have a second child, Freya Lilley.

Please remember to let me have all your news for the next and subsequent editions of Around the Green. Brian Willmott

Essex

This, as you may know is the first report since God knows how long. That's not because the author has not written anything but more to do with a mix up with names, the reports I write for this magazine as you know go to a Mr S. MacCallum whereas the reports I write for my local newspapers go to a Mr S. MacEnnis and yes you guessed it that is were our report ended up and by the time I had found out it was too late to even get it in the February magazine.

Therefore this small entry is just a list of dates for upcoming events. Our first golf day of the year is our Spring Trophy, which is to be held at the Essex Golf & Country Club on April 17. (not April 15 as advertised on your fixture list).

On the education front we have an evening lecture on March 26 at Writtle College, contact John Sinclair on 01702 589063. There is also a one day Risk and COSSH Assessment course being held at The Burstead Golf Club on March 20 at the very small cost of £10, contact Martin Forrester on 01245 603131.

That just leaves me to wish you all a successful and enjoyable years golf with our Section and hope to see you all at each of them in turn.

Steve Crosdale

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**South West
and South Wales**
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

South Coast

Another month has passed by quickly and as ever we as greenkeepers are being severely challenged by the weather. I quote a much respected agronomist 'nature always pays itself back'. We all anticipated some rain after a very dry November and December, and at the end of January and beginning of February it was no surprise when the heavens opened and the wind blew. Maybe it would be nice if the weather would be kind to us for a whole winter! Maybe next year.

The Section has been fairly quiet this month with the committee concentrating their efforts on the Section seminar, which will have passed when you read this. Let's hope we had a good turn out!

Many of our Section travelled up to Harrogate for the education conference and BTME in January. This year the whole week had a fresh new look as the Association looked to build on previous successes. (As with greenkeeping, the moment you stand still you end up going backwards). I attended an excellent environmental workshop on the Monday run by Senior STRI Ecologist Bob Taylor with Jonathan Smith and Fiona McIntyre, from the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife

Group. Ecological management doesn't mean you have to grow a beard and wear sandals! It probably already is an integral part of your course management programme. We learnt a great deal on maximising the ecological potential of our courses as well as sustaining its diverse habitats. Tuesday I attended the National Education Conference and was treated to some excellent presentations. Donald Steel was excellent as he spoke passionately about his concerns that the modern day golf ball and club were having on our ageing courses. Both professionals and members are now hitting the ball further than ever and he felt that some action was urgently required to protect our ever-shrinking courses. In the afternoon it was a pleasure to see Brockenhurst Manor's Course Manager, Ed McCabe, and ex Green Chairman, Arthur King, take the stand and give excellent presentations. Ed spoke of how he and his team coped with the atrocious weather of last winter and Arthur, as ever, spoke of how members should support greenkeepers and their maintenance programme more. I'm sure that there would be a queue of greenkeepers who would love to have Arthur as their Green Chairman!

Wednesday saw Roger Black MBE give us an excellent insight into the motivational techniques and team building approach, which helped him win two Olympic medals. The presentation was both entertaining and

inspirational. This was the start of the BTME seminar programme, which finished on Thursday and covered a wide variety of subjects. The show as ever seemed to get bigger and better and there were a number of new products and machines to look at. As ever I learnt a great deal as I shared experiences and ideas with other greenkeepers from around the world. We all have the same problems; it's how we deal with them that is sometimes vastly different! The banquet finished the week off where most of us had met old friends and made new ones too.

For those that have never visited BTME then I can strongly recommend it! Remember to include it in your budget next year. It doesn't have to cost the earth, as the Section coach is excellent value. It certainly would be good to see new faces from our Section there next year!

Back to the Section. It has been suggested to the committee that we could possibly introduce course walks at our Section golf days to those members who don't play golf. Looking around different courses is always informative and we are hoping to arrange these if possible. You should have all received your fixture cards along with an entry form for the inaugural Jim Fry Pairs' competition. Jim has long been a respected and valued supporter of our Section so I am sure the Pairs' competition will be well supported. Numbers are strictly limited so please

return your completed forms as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. The first round draw will be held at our spring meeting at Blackmoor Golf Club on May 1. If you have not received your fixture card then please contact Fred Deamen.

Until next month
Alex McCombie

Devon and Cornwall

Fifty-eight members attended the Barenbrug Seeds meeting, which was the Section's first meeting of the year and held at Perranporth Golf Club on Wednesday, January 16. The day started with our golfing members competing over the Club's links course for prizes kindly donated by Barenbrug UK. Head Greenkeeper, Bill Mitchell, treated over 20 non-golfing members to a guided tour of the sheds and course before returning for lunch.

After an excellent lunch David Singleton, of Barenbrug UK, presented the mornings golf prizes as follows: 1. Chris Bland, Dainton, 42pts; 2. John Scott, St Mellion, 39pts; 3. Tony James, Kellow, 38pts.

Dave Brewster on Golf Course Construction presented our afternoon educational forum.

The Section would like to thank our meeting sponsor, Barenbrug and David Singleton, for their continued sponsorship. Also, our thanks must go to Bill Mitchell, John, Fred & Nick for having the course in excellent condi-

Your greens' quality is riding on it.



tion, Last but not least our thanks must go to Perranporth Golf Club for allowing the Section use of their facilities and all their staff who made our day run so smoothly.

As usual January brought an exodus of greenkeepers from our counties to attend the BTME show held in the lovely town of Harrogate. With the BTME show seminars and conference offering so much in education many members decided to travel independently. The Region's coach departed from Fingle Glen on the Monday with videos on board to keep members amused on the long trip North. Most of the Region's members were able to stay in the same hotel, which created an excellent atmosphere.

The show it self just seems to get better each year and is now one that you can't afford to miss. Many members attended the Amenity Technology evening which was just buzzing with greenkeepers from all over the world.

Congratulations must go to our Regional Administrator, Paula, and Stuart Ashworth, of Amenity Technology, who had organised the superb trip. Also, I would like to congratulate all the staff at head office for organising a superb BTME.

Our last meeting of the winter programme will be the Aventis and Supaturf meeting, which will be held at Taunton & Pickering Golf Club on Wednesday, March 20.

Richard Whyman

Scotland

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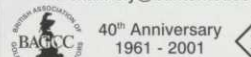
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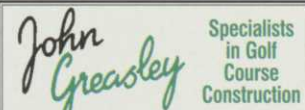
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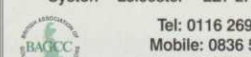
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FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have a minimum of 3 years experience and be currently working towards or have NVQ Level 3. Also must have spraying certificates PA1, 2, & 6.

Must be hard working and a good team member.

No Accommodation.

Salary negotiable.

Applications in writing with full C.V. to:

Mr Perry Harvey, Course Manager,
Oakland Park Golf Club,
Threehouseholds, Chalfont,
St Giles, Bucks, HP8 4LW

READING GOLF CLUB

Invite applications for the post of ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

We are looking for two staff to join the team in maintaining this established, well equipped 18 hole private members golf course. Experience and qualifications to NVQ Level 2 would be an advantage. Consideration would be given to a part qualified applicant and further training would then be given.

Salary negotiable, depending on experience (pay review pending on Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Employment recommendations).

Accommodation may be available for the right candidate.

Please apply in writing, including full CV to:

The Head Greenkeeper, Jim Sutherland, Reading Golf Club,
17 Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, Reading, RG4 8SG.

HEATON MOOR GOLF CLUB LTD STOCKPORT

ASSISTANT COURSE MANAGER

Must have minimum 5 years experience. Qualified to NVQ Level 2/3 along with PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates. Applicants must be enthusiastic and hard working. Salary negotiable according to experience.

TRAINEE GREENKEEPER

Full training will be given to NVQ Level 1, 2 etc.
Salary negotiable according to age and experience.

For both these posts apply in writing with full CV to:

Ian Somerville, Course Manager, Heaton Moor Golf Club,
Mauldeth Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport. SK4 3NX

Hastings Golf & Country Club

Invite applications for the posts of

HEAD GREENKEEPER & FIRST ASSISTANT

Candidates should have a minimum of 3 years experience, be qualified to NVQ Level 2 and hold spraying certificates, PA1, PA2, PA6, in addition a sound awareness of Health & Safety and COSHH regulations is required. Both positions of a unique opportunity to build a team and new machinery base. Possible relocation assistance to Hastings for the right candidates.

All applications in writing together with current CV to:

Mr S. Lally, Hastings Golf & Country Club, Beauport Park,
Battle Road, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex, TN37 7BP

THE NORTHWOOD GOLF CLUB LTD

Invites applications for the post of FIRST ASSISTANT

The successful candidate must have a proven track record in Golf Course Management with a minimum of 5 years experience. You must have a high level of self-motivation with the ability to lead a varied but committed team in absence of the Course Manager.

Minimum qualification of NVQ Level 3 or working towards the equivalent, with experience in the use of all sports turf machinery. PA1, PA2 & 6 Spraying Certificate is essential.

Experience in the use of modern computerised Irrigation Systems would be advantageous.

This private 18 hole parkland course which is over 100 years old, offer a good, challenging working environment with the possibility of accommodation and a good remuneration package.

Applications in writing, including full CV and salary expectation to:

The Secretary, Northwood Golf Club, Rickmansworth Road, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 2QW.
(Closing date 31st March 2002)

Swindon Services

GREENKEEPER - Highworth Golf Course

Rate of pay: £5.47 per hour plus 33% Bonus Ref: SS143
37 hours per week to include weekend working

The successful applicant will require experience in all aspects of greens maintenance and operation of grounds machinery associated with greenkeeping.

Knowledge of Golf Course etiquette is preferred however, not essential. A full driving licence will be required for this post.

Closing date: 21.3.02.

For an application form and further details please contact Swindon Services Personnel on (01793) 464517 (24 hour answering service). Minicom for deaf users (01793) 436659. Please note that we cannot accept CVs.

We are actively working towards equality of opportunity and welcome applications from any individual.



STOKE BY NAYLAND GOLF & LEISURE

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Stoke by Nayland Golf club is a 36 hole complex situated on the Essex Suffolk borders between Colchester and Sudbury. Built in 1972, the club has over 1200 members plus a busy Hotel and Society green fee usage.

A vacancy exists for a head greenkeeper to have full responsibility for the maintenance of one of the two courses. Whilst experience and at least NVQ Level 3 is expected an aspiring first assistant who is looking for promotion could well be considered. Candidates would also require the following skills.

- Have experience in all aspects of course management
- Have a practical knowledge of the latest equipment
- Experience in the construction of Tees and Greens
- The ability to prepare and control a course budget
- Possess good man management skills

Salary will be negotiable and limited accommodation is available.
Applicants should apply in writing with full CV to:

Derek Howe M Inst. GCM, Stoke by Nayland Golf & Leisure,
Keepers Lane, Leavenheath, Colchester, Essex CO6 4PZ
Tel: 01206-262836 Fax: 01206-263356

E-mail: info@golf-club.co.uk Web site: www.stokebynaylandclub.co.uk

Sandy McDivot takes puts his own inimitable slant on the Golf Club Committee

Committee'd FOR LIFE

Intelligence is a hard commodity to measure. They say that Einstein for all his wisdom did not possess the mental faculties necessary to boil an egg, or change his clothes. This is quite understandable when you come to think of it. How often have we come across people with an abundance of brainpower but no actual ability to think? Why only today I was listening to our venerable Home Secretary on the radio comment on the nations latest crime figures. "They are lower" he stated, "but not low enough". Brilliant, and at what stage are the crime figures deemed to be "low enough". Then there was that unfortunate contestant on Mastermind who could cope with Magnus Magnusson's first question as to what his name was but when asked to divulge his occupation, was totally stumped.

The measurement of intelligence, it is said, can be used to categorise the hierarchy of life forms, while intelligence itself, can be described as degrees of consciousness. Let me explain. The more conscious one is, the more intelligent one becomes. So at the lower end of the scale of life, we have single celled organisms and

surroundings but are unable to experience the process of thought and simply utilise the limited information gathered about their environment, as a survival means. Some of those old golf club secretaries, would be the equivalent in our particular world. Then we come to the slightly higher forms of life to be found in the animal kingdom. These have all the senses intact and are able to gather information on their surroundings and carry out a degree of conscious thought, although often lack the faculties for emotional response. They are also remarkably adept at learning patterns of behaviour and of coming to intelligent conclusions based on incoming information. Therefore a cow will sit in the shade on a hot day, or a cat will hide itself in the undergrowth ready to pounce on its unsuspecting prey.

Unfortunately, experience has taught me that the average golf club committee does not always attain such levels of consciousness. Correct conclusion based on gathered data, is not something that is automatically arrived at. Now I know this is a horribly condescending statement to make and I do recognise that some

reason for crowned holes is that when the turf is wet and soft in the winter, golfers will all step approximately six inches away from the hole to retrieve their ball and the subsequent compression of several such golfers, causes the hole to stand proud above the adjacent area. We can reach this conclusion by using such things as our eyes. I have on many occasions explained the correct cause of the crowned hole malady but each winter the complaint goes up that we never use a board to change the holes.

I even remember one committee man, congratulating me on finally learning how to change the holes properly, when he followed me around straight after I had moved them. Even after explaining it to him yet again, he appeared not to grasp the fact that the cause of the holes being flat on that occasion, was that he was the first person to play on them. I have now resolved the issue in true traditional greenkeeping fashion, by the deployment of many years of near zero fertiliser input. This has had the effect of eliminating all thatch from the soil surface and firming up the greens considerably. I now get a flood of complaints each sum-

Another classic that committees have managed to wind me up with on several occasions, is that of holding important events on a Monday. Is it just myself, or have we all looked in the club fixture list only to find a pro-am, or a Ladies' Invitational, or a Seniors' Open starting on a Monday morning?

such like, that have no actual consciousness or awareness but are simply programmed to search for food and engage in reproduction. Replace food with alcohol and it's a bit like myself as an apprentice greenkeeper. Of course the consumption of alcohol was necessary because of its ability to make unwelcome sights considerably more pleasing to the eye and thus aid the fruitless search for the reproductive division of my mental programming.

Moving up the scale, we have other simple creatures such as insects. These have a vague awareness of their

committees are highly proficient, but I will endeavour to back this statement with some of my own evidence gathered in a lifetime of working among them.

Take the crowned hole syndrome so popular among committee men as an excuse for their missed three foot putts, even though their putting strokes often involve a twitch of such horrific violence that divot replacement is required. The crowned hole phenomenon is, they assure us, due to our inability to use a board to change the holes.

Now we all know that the real rea-

son that the greens are like "bleedin' concrete" but rarely about our inability to change the holes correctly.

"You're following us around on purpose aren't you?" is another cry that goes up when we unfortunately meet up with the same group of golfers, on more than one occasion, when engaged in the execution of our duties. Now the logic behind this accusation is somewhat bewildering to us, but a colleague of mine once enlightened me on how his lady golfers became convinced that all greenkeepers were guilty of making this their sole objective in life.



Amazingly they passed a resolution at their AGM that on ladies' days, the greenkeepers had to mow the greens by starting at the 18th hole and then work their way back to the 1st. This, they concluded, would result in ground staff never interrupting their game. With the full backing of the secretary, I am delighted to say that my colleague did indeed carry out the ladies' wishes to the letter of their law. Predictably enough, the result was utter chaos and apparently the embarrassment of the ladies was something to be treasured. Needless to say the lessons in communication have been well and truly learnt.

Actually the aforementioned colleague of mine, told me of another classic example of golfing lack of consciousness. He was one morning checking the irrigation system, by putting the full greens pop-ups on a two-minute cycle and then racing around the course, taking note of any faults in the system. He got to one green just before the sprinklers were due up, only to find that a two ball was putting out. He rushed onto the green and politely informed them that they needed to vacate the area immediately, or they would get very wet indeed. They completely and utterly ignored him. He repeated the warning but one particular golfer simply looked up at him with a look of contempt and then proceeded to stand back over his putt. At this point the sprinklers came on with one of them aimed directly at the golfer. With true British stiff upper lip, he stood up, stared at my colleague and slowly walked over to him, only for the sprinkler to follow his every move. He eventually arrived at his destination in a condition of complete saturation at which point the sprinkler shut down. "What's your name?" asked

the sodden golfer through clenched teeth. My friend found it difficult to reply due to the fact that he was focusing all of his attention in the avoidance of wetting his own underpants, albeit via uncontrolled laughter.

Another classic that committees have managed to wind me up with on several occasions, is that of holding important events on a Monday. Is it just myself, or have we all looked in the club fixture list only to find a pro-am, or a Ladies' Invitational, or a Seniors' Open starting on a Monday morning. Have they stopped for one second and asked themselves how we are supposed to get everything double cut, raked and changed in the couple of hours of daylight available. I have even come across them making the brilliant decision of bringing onboard the full shotgun start, just to make things doubly impossible for us.

Finally, let me relay to you, a story that came from a Course Manager friend of mine, who has plied his trade in a particular coastal resort that will remain nameless for reasons of possible litigation. Now several of the golf clubs in this place, let me tell you, have the absolute worst committees and members the world has ever known. If they had been working for the Spanish inquisition, half of them would have been thrown out for unreasonable behaviour. In fact if you accused them of being a bunch of Hitlers, they would take it as a complement. One of these clubs - and this is entirely true - once placed an advert for a club secretary/manager that stated that the applicant "must have the ability to manage 800 members, all of whom are experts in golf club management".

This

particular Course Manager, was working away with the rest of his team on a hole, when he noticed someone observing them from up in the woods. He thought nothing of it but the next day, the same person was once more gazing down upon them. This continued for a week or so, before curiosity finally got the better of the Course Manager and he made his way up the hill to confront this strange human being.

"Can I help you" he asked. The reply, when it came was somewhat disconcerting.

"I'm the new Green Chairman. I've been watching you and there are going to be a few changes around here". With this thought in his mind, my friend made his way back down to the rest of his staff to inform them of the distressing news. The Green Chairman continued to observe them for quite a few days after this, until finally the day

arrived when he made his way down the hill to make his pronouncement to the Course Manager.

What awful observations had he made, thought my friend, as he saw him marching towards him. Would this be cards on the table time, had he made a fiendish discovery that would prove incompetence, would there be some impossible demand made, would he harass them all with the results of this despicable time and motion study. No, instead the Green Chairman asked, "How do you cut the greens?" "What do you mean?" asked the Course Manager. "Well, when you cut them, do you go up and down, or around and around?"

Sandy McDivot.
Head Greenkeeper:
Sludgecombe Pay and Play.



Feature listing from March 2000

March 2000; Clebury Mortimer GC; Course Furniture; R&A Conference Report; Cutting heights; Avoncrop profile; Valderrama report; Westurf preview

April 2000; Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC; Utility Vehicles; Irrigation; Seed breeding; Gem Professional profile.

May 2000; Ross-on-Wye GC; Top Dressing; Course Mapping; Compact Tractors

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

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

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

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

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

November 2000; Grass Cutting Machinery; 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; Saltex Preview; Dr Alan Gange - environmental research; Hayter Profile; Ponds; Open Championship review; Toro Student of the Year profile;

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

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

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

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

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

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



Richard Barker enjoys a roller coaster experience at the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando

Stateside experiences



Having just unpacked my bags after BTME it was time to pack them again and off to the States for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America show in Orlando.

Early on Sunday morning (February 3rd) I met with Neil and Tracey, as well as Andy White from Oatlands College - Andy was on the trip as lecturer of Andrew Pledger, winner of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award; Huw Morgan, winner of the Toro Greenkeeper of the Year Award, and Graham Taylor, top student at Elmwood College. I also met the 10 lucky delegates on the Bernhards Scholarship, but more on that later.

Some 11 hours later we had arrived and how nice it was to see and feel some warm sunshine and also meet up with many other Brits who had made the journey under their own steam.

Each year BIGGA have a reciprocal arrangement with the GCSAA on stand space and I was quite surprised at the number of American Superintendents who we have as members. Throughout the show there were plenty of membership renewals as well as signing up new members, plus a great deal of interest in the magazine for American Companies wishing to advertise. What was extremely pleasing was the interest in our Master Greenkeeper Scheme. The Americans rate this very highly in pursuing their education and next year

many have said they will visit BTME. In fact, someone tried to book 15 people into the Majestic Hotel there and then!

For those of you who have not been to the States, everything is vast and their show is no different. The majority of products that you view are pretty similar to what you will see at BTME but you can also pick up plenty of new ideas.

I personally enjoyed meeting and talking to Superintendents and listening to their stories. On talking to one he told me he had 54 staff of which five worked on clubhouse surrounds. He also had staff dedicated to machinery maintenance and irrigation. Although he had 36 holes 14 staff worked on the short course and 30 on the main course. This was helped along with a budget well in excess of \$3 million. Another Superintendent, who had a similar amount of staff, told me he hand raked bunkers twice a day. Now that I think is a bit over the top. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear that these guys despite the staff and large budgets (not in all cases) are under tremendous pressure.

Now earlier I mentioned the Bernhards delegation. This is the second trip that Stephen has sponsored and it is fair to say this is no holiday as the guys were kept extremely busy attending seminars, organised trips to golf courses, the show and also social functions. On speaking to them each and every one had a marvellous time, learning plenty and making new acquaintances. But their work is not over as they will be making presentations back home. Please try and support these if there is one in your area, I can assure you of a good evening!

On behalf of all the delegates I would like to thank Bernhards for their continued support and encourage you all to apply next year. It is open to everyone - young, old, experienced or inexperienced as the lottery says - It could be you!

Throughout our stay we did have two

free days to do as we pleased and a few of us took the opportunity to visit two of the theme parks. Firstly, we visited Islands of Adventure the new Universal park. This is a must if you like roller coasters and having your insides turned upside down, and secondly, Universal Studios which was equally good. If anyone tells you these parks are for kids they're right... but for BIG Kids. If you ever have a chance - GO!

But the highlight of our week had to be at the banquet on the Friday evening to see our former Chairman, Walter Woods, being presented with the old Tom Morris award by Tommy Witt, the GCSAA's President.

This is the most prestigious award that an Association can make, and in Walter's case was presented for a lifetime of dedicated service and enthusiasm to the industry. It was made all the more special for Walter with his family being present and also his fellow Scotsman that made the trip wearing their national uniforms - Quite a sight!

Congratulations Walter you should be very proud - we certainly are. So with the week nearly over we could reflect on what was a successful week for BIGGA and all that attended and start to prepare ourselves for the long trip home, while Andrew Pledger and Huw Morgan continued their adventures in the States.

Upon reaching our own shores there were no surprises, it was still cold and damp. My golf course is certainly very wet as I am sure yours are, but looking ahead Spring is not a million miles away so we all have a few more weeks to complete those winter programmes and look forward to some better weather and a good season.

Richard Barker



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