

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