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A guide to who's who at BIGGA

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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This is your chance to beat the winter chills by winning a quality, water proof jacket featuring a duck quilted filling in our exciting Buyers' Guide competition, in association with GreenLink International & Rigby Taylor



'THE TURFTIME TEASER'
DETAILS ON PAGE 44

November 2002

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by December 5, 2002

REGULARS

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Murray Long, the 2002 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, explains to Scott MacCallum what it means to win.

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Mike Saull looks at a new drainage scheme which was inspired by the January issue of this magazine.

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Ian Semple produced some wonderful golf to become BIGGA Champion Golfer for 2002.

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Steve Isaac looks at the conditions many greenkeepers have had to suffer over the last year and examines coping mechanisms.



Welcome

YOU'VE ALL DONE VERY WELL!

It's a month for congratulations.

Top of the list must be Bevan Tattersall, Courses Manager at the De Vere Belfry, and his team for preparing the Brabazon course for what must rank as one of the best Ryder Cup matches, not to say sporting occasions full stop, in quite some time. Bevan set up the course exactly how home team Captain, Sam Torrance, wanted it, and to that end can take some credit for the magnificent European victory. And the icing on the cake was that I didn't hear any criticism of the conditions from Curtis Strange's American team, which is even more of a tribute to Bevan.

Second on the list is Murray Long, Head Greenkeeper, at Coombe Hill GC, and the 2002 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner. Murray, whose smiling face you see on the front of this issue, is a deserving winner of the Award. It is very refreshing to see someone so open in his desire to do well. He set his mind on winning the competition and made every effort to ensure he gave himself the best possible chance.

He was the 14th winner of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award and each year the competition demonstrates why it is the longest standing competition on the BIGGA calendar. The quality of young people coming through the ranks is growing all the time and the bar, for any potential winner, is being raised every year. That can only be good for the profession and the industry.

Next in line for a fanfare is Ian Semple, Course Manager of Old Folds Manor GC, and BIGGA's new National Golf Champion.

Ian, who also represents the South East Region on the Association's Board of Management, clinched the title at Hillside and Hesketh Golf Clubs. It was a particularly fine achievement bearing in mind that Ian won the Gross prize last year at Royal Birkdale and Southport and Ainsdale. To win any Nett prize off a handicap of 1, playing golf courses for the first time is some going. He is now looking forward to defending his title at Hollinwell and Coxmoor Golf Clubs next year.

Finally I'd like to congratulate Neil Ballingall, Golf Course Superintendent, at the new St Andrews Bay resort, on cliffs overlooking the Home of Golf, which is featured in this issue. Neil has had to set up his greenkeeping team of 25 from scratch to look after the two excellent golf courses and employ course management practices which are alien to someone who has learned the job on traditional links courses. Having been shown round the resort by Neil, he seems to have taken to it all like a duck to water - he has even done a bit of modelling, having been featured in the Resort's glossy brochure, supping a pint in hotel bar!

So to Bevan, Murray, Ian and Neil. Well done, and keep up the good work!

Scott MacCallum, Editor

MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

To coincide with the launch of the new look BIGGA Bulletin Board we are announcing a brand new competition. To celebrate the new board which, has been redesigned in an easily used format, we are sending one of these fantastic desktop FM scan radios to the member who has written the best message on the board each month. The Bulletin Board enables greenkeeper members quick and direct communication amongst themselves and with the Association. It can be found in the greenkeeper members area of the BIGGA website at www.bigga.org.uk. Why not log in, see what's topical and make your contribution. Message of the Month winners will be announced on the Membership page of Greenkeeper International magazine each month.



SHEFFIELD SECTION



The Sheffield Section pictured at Hickleton Golf Club where the recent Annual Competition, sponsored by Mansfield Sand, was held.

TWO NEW FACES

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has made two new appointments.

Paul Gregory, 23, becomes Southern Area Sales Manager with responsibility for sales of all Charterhouse turf equipment and Antonio Carraro tractors in the south of England. Paul, who holds a degree in Landscape Architecture from Birmingham University, was previously a sales demonstrator for Charterhouse, and has been with the company two years.

The second new appointment is Ashleigh Harpur, who has joined as Marketing Assistant and will work closely with Charterhouse Director, Philip Threadgold. Ashleigh, 24, hails from Zimbabwe and has lived in the UK for three years. She is a graduate in Office Practice from Cambridge Tutorial College, and has strong computer skills.

"At Charterhouse Turf Machinery we pride ourselves on our enthusiastic approach, and Paul and Ashleigh have already blended extremely well with our pro-active team," said Philip.



TED WEST



Ted West, of Broadstone GC received his retirement gifts from National Chairman, Richard Barker after 44 years in greenkeeping.

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

SURREY SECTION

The Surrey Section Bioseed Final Day played at Foxhills GC. The photo features J. Partridge and D. Goddard (runners up) K. Humphreys and O. Gates (winners). I. Sellers (Surrey Secretary), D. Murdoch (Surrey Committee/Tournament organiser), A. Freeman (Surrey Chairman) and David and John Smart from Bioseed Probiotics the Tournament sponsors.

As part of their prize K. Humphreys and O. Gates gained free entry and expenses to the National Championship. O. Gates could not make it so D. Goddard (runner up) took his place. Both D. Goddard and K. Humphreys were part of the winning South east team and also won individual prizes over the two days.



HONoured VISITOR

The STRI recently played host to the Rt. Hon Richard Caborn, Minister of Sport and MP for Sheffield Central and Jon Bauer, retired Director of Landscape Services, Sheffield City Council and a member of the STRI's Scientific Advisory Committee.



The Minister is strongly focussed on supporting sports at grass roots level and is pursuing policies which will improve sports facilities throughout schools and local communities in the UK.

The day consisted of a number of presentations from senior staff within the STRI in which they described the work they did in: Agronomy, Ecology, Sports Facility Construction, Soil Physics and Chemistry, Cultivar Testing and Pesticides and Pathology.

The Minister was very complimentary about the depth and breadth of knowledge and experience, saying that he got from us answers to questions that he had been unable to get elsewhere so far during his term of office. His only disappointment was that he had not known of the STRI's existence-earlier!

He was particularly interested in STRI's work with Sport England. Over the last few months STRI has assisted in the development of performance quality standards and a structured technical approach for the Playing Fields & Community Green Spaces Programme. The Programme is worth £31.5 million and Sport England is delivering it on behalf of the New Opportunities Fund.

Following these discussions, the Minister was taken on a tour of STRI's trial grounds.

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES SEMINAR

The South West and South Wales Regional Seminar, on November 20 and 21 comprises two themes - Back to Basics on Day 1 and Getting a Good Job, on Day 2.

Day 1 features papers from, Martin Ward, Simon Barnaby, Dennis Mottram, Ivor Scoones, Peter Winter and Mark Wiltshire with the second day featuring Frank Newbury giving advice on a number of topics, including, giving your CV a competitive edge; applying of the job you really want; how to do well at interview, and how to negotiate with your employer.

Cost of Day 1 is £17.50 including lunch with the second day costing a mere £5 (lunch not included).

For further information contact Paula Humphries, Regional Administrator, Tel: 01288 352194.

ARCHERFIELD DEVELOPMENT PROGRESSES

Toro Irrigation is nearing completion of one of its most significant new UK projects - the £650,000 installation of a complete irrigation system for two traditional links courses at the ambitious new Archerfield development, near Muirfield.

Archerfield is a luxury complex comprising two championship-standard 18-hole golf courses, a 150-suite six-star hotel, 100 residential properties, 50 golf cottages and a spa.

The new Archerfield Links and Fidra Links are both 7,000 yards long, and are designed to offer hard running courses through both trees and open land, with subtle undulations.

The irrigation installation comprises 400 in number of Toro 2001 Series sprinklers for tees, 280, 760 780 Series sprinklers for greens and approaches and 800, 730 Series sprinklers for fairways. When the course is grown in, approximately 300 in number VISSO Series sprinklers will be installed on the walkways.

Ian Everard, Project Manager for development owners Caledonian Heritable, commented: "Toro offered the most cost-effective package, which on a project of this size is an important consideration.

"High quality installation is paramount, however, and Turf Irrigation Services Scotland is providing this as well as full on-site training, support and parts. I am happy with how the installation is proceeding, everything is going very smoothly."

Managing director of Turf Irrigation Services Scotland, Quentin Allardice, described some of the system's features: "All the sprinklers are controlled by Toro's PC-based Trident control system, which incorporates a number of innovative features such as VIP mapping. This is software that enables greenkeepers to view their irrigation system on screen - either the entire course or hole-by-hole."



Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



MAKING TRAX



TurfTrax, has appointed Paul Chadwick as Sales Executive for Northern England.

He will be responsible for an area stretching from the Wash to the Scottish Border and joins the company from Rufford Soil Technology

where he was technical sales manager for the last five years.

The move comes at a time when TurfTrax - which has offices in Bedford and Salisbury - has seen the number of new contracts double over the last two years.

The new work includes a wide range of projects working in partnership with local authorities, sports and golf clubs as well as government and private funding schemes. In addition, the company's soil scanning service - which provides an accurate status of the 'going' on racecourses - is now to be featured regularly by Channel 4 Racing.

"Turf managers and local authorities are increasingly recognising the need for better base-line data before rushing in with management programmes," said TurfTrax Sales and Marketing Director, Colin Hood.

MOORE MOWERS LINKS WITH DJ TURFCARE

DJ Turfcare Equipment Ltd has been appointed as the sole distributor for Moore Mowers.

The appointment follows an extensive exercise in market evaluation which has taken place throughout this year. The Moore Mower is a unique ride-on cylinder mower with a high tipping action operated from the driver's seat. The Mower provides a comfortable drive, reducing operator fatigue and improving mowing time by as much as 50%. It is also equipped with a front mounted quick disconnect kit which can accommodate many optional extras.

Frank Moore said that he had been looking for a Company to undertake the marketing of his product for some time and was pleased to have found an aggressive and forward thinking Company in the shape of DJ Turfcare Equipment Ltd.

David Jenkins said that he was delighted to have been appointed to market and sell a product which was so well engineered and gaining wide acceptance in the UK market. He felt sure that the Moore Mower would become a benchmark of excellence for future purchasers of ride-on cylinder mowers.



IS THIS A FIRST?

Recently the marriage took place of Vera Quintas and Pedro Rebelo both of whom are Golf Course Superintendents. Vera is Superintendent of the highly acclaimed Oitavos Golf Course at Quinta da Marinha, near Lisbon while Pedro is the Superintendent of Praia Del Rei, a links course on the coast between Lisbon and Porto.

Are they the first Superintendents or Course Managers to wed, or do you know differently?

Information supplied by Peter Wisbey, Course Consultant to Oitavos Golfe



NEW MAN AT CEBECO



Cebeco Seeds has appointed Keith Berners to the company's national sales and technical support team.

Keith joins Cebeco after ten years with Maxicrop, most recently as National Sales Manager for the retail side of the business.

From his home in Hertfordshire, Keith will assume responsibility for customers throughout the South East from Suffolk, through Hampshire and into Cambridgeshire. He will report into Cebeco's head office in Lincoln.

"We have seen continued expansion into all segments of the amenity market this year," says Cebeco Seeds Product Manager, Roger Peacock, "and Keith's significant experience in the horticultural market and in customer sales and support will prove invaluable in sustaining this growth into the next phase of our development strategy."

TREADING GENTLY

The combination of a Charterhouse Carraro TTR6400 tractor and a 2.1 metre verti-drain, has been used, for the first time, on golf greens.

Employed by Seward Turf Maintenance over the last two winters, for mid season use on winter sports pitches, the combo treated all 19 greens, plus the putting green at Harrogate golf course, to no ill effect. Mike Seward, Managing Director for the company, explained that although this machinery has been used on the approaches and tees at Ripon City Golf Club, under normal circumstances he wouldn't bring machinery of this size onto greens.

"The client wanted us to go down to a depth of 14 to 16 inches, and to do that we needed the 2.1 verti-drain with three quarter of an inch tines," he said.

"The Carraro has the power to pull this particular piece of kit, but is about one and a half tonnes lighter than the tractor which we would usually use. It also

has a wheel width of over 20 inches, giving an overall ground pressure of 4.5 lbs per square inch."

Tony Baxby, Head Greenkeeper at Harrogate for over 24 years, explained why he instructed aeration at such an unusual depth.

"We're on clay and we're trying to break it up further down. The course is over 100 years old and 90 per cent of our greens are built on clay basins. This means that water is suspended in the greens keeping the soil temperature down in the spring, when you want it to rise quickly. The sward is shallow rooted and slow to take up feed."

"Seward did a very good job. They completed the work in under two days and upheaval on the greens was minimal. The verti-drain had rollers back and front, and 10 days later you couldn't see that they'd done it."



When presentation counts Jacobsen delivers



With Jacobsen's legendary superior quality of cut from a choice of three reels, on demand 4-wheel drive for increased traction and the patented **FlashAttach reel mounting system**, it's no wonder that Jacobsen LF mowers are the greenkeeper's preferred choice for highly manicured presentation fairways.

Add a working platform that's designed to accommodate every operator, including **fingertip controls**, a tilt adjustable steering wheel and a sliding seat with graduated height adjustment, plus easily accessible service points and an onboard electronics monitoring and diagnostic system and you have highly productive machines that perform day in, day out.

Links courses will prefer the LF-3400 with its five 7-blade, 127mm diameter reels that hug ground contours (just ask Gordon Moir at St Andrews), while courses with wider fairways will choose the 9 or 11-blade, 178mm diameter reels that turn prolific growth into a manicured finish, (ask the greenkeeping team at Gleneagles).

Call today for a demonstration: **+44 (0)1473 270000**.

RANSOMES
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YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD

Pilot schemes giving the more mature greenkeeper a chance to pursue a Modern Apprenticeship have been welcomed by the GTC.

Until now, no funding was available for greenkeepers over 25 to achieve the Modern Apprenticeship, except where it came directly from an employer. Now pilot schemes in Scotland, England and Wales are giving employees who may have missed out on training another chance.

"We at the GTC will be lobbying for this to be applied nationwide. Just because someone reaches the age of 25 does not mean they should be deprived of the opportunities offered to younger people," said David Golding.

When GOSTA Training, an independent training provider based in Scotland, made the Scottish Vocational Qualification Level 3 in Sportsturf Maintenance available to older greenkeepers, the response was overwhelming.

One person to benefit was Mark Chandler from Cowglen Golf Club in Glasgow. Mark had been working in the industry for about nine years, but then took a short break. Having returned, he felt he would like to increase his own skills and knowledge now that he was a little older.

"The opportunity to return to study was given by my Course Manager, Scott Ballantyne, and although initially I was a bit apprehensive about going back to study, I agreed," said Mark.

Asked how he felt now that he had become a qualified Modern Apprentice, Mark said, "I thoroughly enjoyed my training with GOSTA and am now more confident in my daily work. I also feel that I have a more in-depth knowledge of greenkeeping.

"Appraisals had just taken place with the staff and we had already identified that the way forward for Mark would be to undertake the SVQ Level 3 in Sportsturf Maintenance. The opportunity of funding

being made available to pay for this was a great bonus and an offer not to be missed," he added.

Two greenkeepers from Ralston Golf Club in Glasgow also used the opportunity to further their own development. Gary Divers is the Head Greenkeeper at the club and had wanted to undertake his SVQ Level 3 for the past four years.

"This had been prevented due to the Club's limited training budget and both the Club and myself were delighted when Scottish Enterprise agreed to fund the training," said Gary.

Gary also enrolled Stephen Boyle, an assistant greenkeeper at the Club. Stephen completed his SVQ Level 2 three years ago and had started to think he would not progress any further.

"At first I was worried that I might not have the ability to complete the qualification. However, support and guidance was provided throughout the entire course and this made it a lot easier," said Stephen.

WASTE2WATER SAVES THE DAY AT LILLEY BROOK GOLF CLUB

I was stuck by a potential disaster recently. Thieves attempted to steal the red diesel from the 2,500 litre tank. The tank has wire security fencing around it and a concrete bund to retain the diesel in the event of the tank failing. However, no-one envisaged that the tap at the bottom of the tank would be ripped off, which is what happened. To make matters worse our maintenance facilities are situated at the top of the sloping golf club car park and only 100 metres from a stream that feeds Lilleybrook.

Fortunately, we had recently installed a Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off System.

The system is installed with a specially designed concrete wash area which slopes into a central collection sump and is 100% recycling which means that once something is on the wash pad it stays there, avoiding any risk of contamination of the surroundings.

The system has been superb to date doing everything claimed of it. However, I never dreamt we were going to test it with a massive contamination overload so quickly, if ever!

We arrived on the Monday to find the diesel tank empty. The thieves had clearly used the tap on the diesel tank as a leverage point to attempt to open the

security caging and gain access to the diesel stored in the tank. What they had not bargained for though was the tap shearing off allowing the contents to spew out uncontrolled. In theory the concrete bund should have retained the diesel, but, in practise, due to the pressure of the volume of diesel in the tank a percentage of the diesel overshot the bunding. Fortunately, we had sited the diesel tank on the edge of the new wash pad, as recommended, and the escaping diesel collected in the central sump, which was then pumped into the treatment system.

We immediately called the suppliers for advice and they soon arrived to check the system. The results were encouraging. There was very little sign of diesel in the system – the microbes were working well converting it to Carbon Dioxide and Water. Very impressive!

We had escaped a major incident without any pollution and avoided the massive costs and disruption that would have been inevitable. We are delighted with the system and strongly recommend that all golf clubs plan to install this type of system as part of their Health & Safety policy. Some people are luckier than others, but I believe you make your own luck.

Paul Jenkins, Course Manager.

WAYNE'S NEW WORLD



The Sportsturf team at Myerscough College near Preston welcomed a new addition to teaching staff last month.

Wayne Roberts, a practising Greenkeeper for the past 17 years, joined the College after directly making an impression on the Principal

of Myerscough College, Professor John Moverley, who was well aware of his expertise in the field of Sportsturf.

After gaining experience of Greenkeeping in Australia and Europe, Wayne studied HND Sportsturf and Golf Course Management at Myerscough (now the new Foundation Degree). Shortly after graduating, Wayne embarked on his teaching career at Warwickshire College, where he was instrumental in developing Sportsturf training provision for the past three years.

Wayne, who sits on the Training and Education Committee of the Institute of Groundsmanship, will be involved in the delivery of subjects across the Sportsturf curriculum, as well as taking a lead role in developing new initiatives in Myerscough's Sportsturf portfolio.

"Throughout my experience as a Greenkeeper I've always had the end goal of teaching in sight. I find it very rewarding to be able to use my experience in the industry to help the careers of my students," said Wayne.

ALL TOOLED UP

Longhirst Hall Golf Course has recently taken delivery of new turf maintenance equipment from Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd.

The delivery has resulted in a turf maintenance fleet that is the envy of many clubs in the north east of England.

Course Manager Graham Chambers now boasts a fleet that includes three Ransomes Super Certes pedestrian mowers, an electric Jacobsen E-Plex and two Jacobsen G-Plex II's for greens mowing, four T-Plex tees mowers, a Fairway 305 and 405, a Ransomes Frontline 938 and two Jacobsen AR250 rotary mowers for the semi-rough, as well as seven E-Z-GO Workhorse golf utility vehicles and a fleet of 11 electric golf cars.





Education and Development Opportunities for Golf Club Managers and their Staff

MONDAY 20 & TUESDAY 21 JANUARY WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

- Soil Science
- Golf Course Design
- Environmental Management

MONDAY 20 & TUESDAY 21 JANUARY NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

- Managing People
- Management Planning
 - Recruitment & Selection
 - Workplace Politics
 - Grievance & Discipline
- Golf Course Management
- Woodlands
 - Foliar Feeds
 - Water Run-off
 - Drainage

MONDAY 20 & TUESDAY 21 JANUARY RUNNING GOLF COURSES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

- Rootzones
- Grasses
- Pests
- Diseases



Kerran Daly

WEDNESDAY 22 & THURSDAY 23 JANUARY SEMINAR PROGRAMME

- Including:
- Keynote Speaker - Debra Veal MBE
 - Trees, Grants and the Law
 - Pest Management
 - Eliminating Hazards
 - Championship Preparation
 - Professional Links
 - Rules of Golf



Debra Veal MBE



Bob Taylor



Simon Barnaby

CONTINUE TO LEARN
20 - 21 - 22 - 23 JANUARY 2003
HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE



Jonathan Smith

Quality training planned to give delegates a range of development options and time to visit both the BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions

For further information, availability or a booking form contact Sami Collins on 01347 833833 or e-mail sami@bigga.co.uk

www.bigga.org.uk

The Education and Training Department is entering its busiest time of the year as we are in the middle of the regional training winter programme and Continue to Learn approaches ever faster.



Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

Unlock the doors to progress through BIGGA's Education and Development Fund - the key to a great future for greenkeepers, golf clubs and the game of golf.

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For details, please contact Neil Thomas on 01347 833800 or via neil@bigga.co.uk

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Regional Training

There are still places left on the following Regional Training Courses.

Regional Training 2002

COURSE	LOCATION	DATE
Essential Management Skills	Luton Airport	18 and 19 November
Ride on Mower Maintenance	Gosforth Golf Club	20 November
Health & Safety at Work	Ham Manor Golf Club	20 and 21 November
Soil Science	De Vere Carden Park	26 November
Manual Handling & Risk Assess	Stirling	27 and 28 November
Risk Assessment	Brookmans Park GC	4 December
Ride on Mower Maintenance	Southerndown Golf Club	5 December
Essential Management Skills	Manchester Airport	12 and 13 December

Regional Training 2003

Chainsaw Maintenance	Aucherterder GC	11 and 12 February
The New Supervisor	Newark Golf Club	12 and 13 February
Further Management Skills	Manchester Airport	19 and 20 February
Basic Computer Skills	Old Fold Manor Golf Club	19 and 20 February
Abrasive Wheels	De Vere Carden Park	26 February
Further Management Skills	Luton Airport	26 and 27 February
Further Computer Skills	Berkhamsted Golf Club	4 and 5 March
Project Management	Ross on Wye Golf Club	5 and 6 March
Coaching Skills	Potters Bar Golf Club	6 and 7 March
Management Skills for Head		
Greenkeepers and Course Mgrs	De Vere Carden Park	18 and 19 March
Basic Computer Skills	Southerndown Golf Club	18 and 19 March
Presenting a Professional Image	De Vere Carden Park	20 March
Budgets & Finance	De Vere Carden Park	16 and 17 April

Each one day course, for BIGGA members, costs £30 and each two day course costs £60, thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund. However, all Golden Key Company members have been issued with £30 training vouchers for issue to their customers, which could give you a day of training at no cost.

If you want further information on any of the above or courses or want to check if there still places available then contact Ken or Sami at BIGGA HOUSE.

Continue to learn

Application forms have been arriving at BIGGA House, since early October, and some Education Sessions are filling up fast. There is, also, a heavy demand for places at the Exhibitions Banquet, where the numbers are limited. Make sure that you do not miss out by completing your application form and sending it to BIGGA House today.

Remember that BTME Seminar Session costs only £5 per session and that BIGGA Training Vouchers may be used to pay or help to pay for all Continue to Learn Education and Training sessions.

There are two additions to the programme for Continue to Learn 2003. These are the Careers Fair and a Master Greenkeeper Seminar.

The Master Greenkeeper Seminar takes place on Tuesday 20 January, in the Majestic Hotel. If you have considered trying to become a Master Greenkeeper or are in the

Scheme and want to get more information on how to progress then this seminar is for you. Presented by Master Greenkeeper, Examiners and the BIGGA Education and Training Manager, this free session is bound to be popular.

The Careers Fair has been introduced for 2003 to expand on the very popular Careers Clinic, which has been held at BTME, for the last three years. Brin and Frank will, again, be there to answer your questions on CVs, Letters of Application and Negotiation, both in group session and individual sessions. Additionally, you will be able to find out about careers in all parts of the Industry including Greenkeeping and Golf Course Management, becoming a Professional Golfer, careers in Agronomy, careers in Further and Higher Education, and careers in the Fine Turf Industry. The Careers Fair will be situated in Hall Q. There will also be a job vacancies section where you may find the job that you are looking for.

Refund of Fees Scheme

Remember, that in addition to the BIGGA Scholarships, supported by Ransomes/Jacobsen, BIGGA members may apply for an 80% refund of education and training fees up to a maximum of £250. Members must have paid for the course ie. not golf clubs and refunds are paid on completion of the course. For full details and an application form contact Sami at BIGGA House.

Greenkeeper Training Committee Health and Safety Wall Chart

The GTC has sent copies of their Health and Safety Wall Chart to all Golf Clubs in the UK and Ireland. The Wall Charts, which were sent to Golf Club Secretaries, have been designed for Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers to record the training of their staff and when they become competent in operating machinery and other equipment on the golf course. The Wall Charts were sent to Golf Club Secretaries to raise their awareness and that of the employer to the importance of staff training and the recording of competence.

Each pack contains a wall chart, pens and coloured dots plus guidance on how the chart should be used. Any Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper who has not received a copy of the Wall Chart should contact their Club Secretary. If the Secretary cannot help then contact the GTC on 01347 838640.

Watch out for the introduction of individual records of training and competence which will complement the GTC Wall Chart. They will be issued by BIGGA in early 2003.

BIGGA Education and Training Scholarships supported by Ransomes/Jacobsen

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JACOBSEN** LTD

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Thanks to generous support from Ransomes/Jacobsen, BIGGA has been able to award its first Higher Education Scholarships.

Designed to help greenkeeper members of BIGGA move into higher education, scholarships are awarded for those studying for the award of S/NVQ Level 4, Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma, Bachelors Degree and Masters Degree. Scholarships are available to those members starting their course in 2002.

Scholarships awarded so far are:
Master of Science in Sports Surface Technology at Cranfield University.
Peter Jones, Allan Blizzard, Ian Somerville and Barry Dore.
Higher National Certificate at Elmwood College, Lee Bridge and Laurence McCrory, and at Pencoed College, Peter Lacey.
NVQ Level 4 at Reaseheath College, Darryl Smethurst.

The amount of scholarship depends on the course being followed and on individual circumstances but, so far, a total of £7200 has been awarded.

Future editions of Greenkeeper International will look at the progress being made by each scholar.



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

Thanks for the Backing

Now that my recent wrongful redundancy case has almost come to an end, I would just like to thank Peter Boyd for his backing throughout the last 20 months, which was a great help to me. If I can be of any assistance to you or any other member regarding this type of situation do not hesitate to contact me.

Derek Green
Inverurie, Aberdeenshire

Great Idea in Theory

After recently reading a couple of articles, one by Richard Windows of the STRI in September's edition of Greenkeeper International, and the other by Gordon Child, in September's edition of the GTC's On Course, I feel I must take issue with the subject matter.

Both articles were championing the benefits of early aeration work, such as vertidrainage, hollow coring, overseeding, top dressing etc, suggesting that this work could take place for a couple of weeks in August as opposed to October. Great idea in theory, but how are small golf clubs with a small staff, tight budget and a lack of machinery supposed to achieve this?

At my club there is a greenstaff of four and if we attempted this type of maintenance programme in August it would be all hands to the pump. Does the grass stop growing and divot holes fill in by themselves during these two weeks, or however long it takes? As for Mr Child's suggestion that we make more use of the long daylight hours, a tight overtime budget

and a lack of finance to hire in extra staff wouldn't allow this. It is a big enough problem trying to get finance for decent wages, modern machinery, and renovation and construction projects, unless your club has a membership in excess of 800, which ours doesn't.

I noticed that Mr Windows writing about minimal disruption to the playing surface and of higher temperatures and intense sunlight aiding a quick recovery. There could be a drought shortly after the completion of the work and if, like our club, you don't have an irrigation system, you would be in real bother.

Also, what about the golfers? Golfers in this part of the country don't want their season disrupted in August and extended into October. Having discussed this subject with our members they made it clear they don't want disruption to the playing surface in August and, being a keen golfer myself, I agree with them. I have always carried out deep aeration work in early October and we have never had a problem with it as we have always had successful results.

Disregarding the wishes of members - your employers - is a risky game as it is they who pay the wages. Then again, maybe this isn't a proactive enough attitude for some people, but that's another story.

As I mentioned earlier, it's a great idea in theory, but Gordon Child doesn't speak on behalf of all Greenkeepers/Course Managers. He speaks on behalf of the ones employed by wealthy golf clubs, where staffing and financial resources are not a problem. He certainly doesn't speak on behalf of me.

Sidney Mercer
Head Greenkeeper, Skelmorlie GC, Ayrshire

Membership UPDATE

Rachael Palmer, from BIGGA's membership department would like to welcome 50 new members to the Association and introduces two new benefits.

BIGGA welcomes...

Scottish Region

Alan Anderson, North
Ryan Beck, East
Paul Britt, Central
James Cowper, North
Fraser Crichton, North
Andrew Cruickshanks, Central
Finlay Forbes, Central
John Jardine, Central
Stuart Smith, Central
Scott Winton, Central

Northern Region

Mark Ashelby, N West
Christopher Benton, N West
Mark Crossley, N West
Gareth Houston, N West
Peter Philipson, N Wales
John Scurfield, N East
David Stoyles, Northern

Midland Region

Wayne Bown, Midland
Daniel Crofts, E of England
Anthony Goodlad, BB&O
Ted Green, E Midland
Kevin Lewis, M Anglia
Christopher Murphy, M Anglia
Michael Parsons, Midland
Martin Pitt, Midland
Ian Roberts, E of England
Clive Robinson, BB&O

South East Region

Jay Clark, Essex
Andrew Cracknell, Essex
Jamie French, Essex
Stuart Griffiths, Surrey
Andrew McCreadie, Essex

S West/S Wales Region

Grant Burnell, S Wales
Dominic Carter, S Coast
Mathew Clements, S West
Jeff Hooper, S Wales
Timothy Needham, S West
Luke Powley, S Coast
Luke Rippon, Devon & Cornwall
Andrew Saunders, S West
Neil Sellick, S West
Josh Webber, Devon & Cornwall

Student Member

Oliver Webster, N West

Corporate Members

Richard Bannon, Essex
Jim Brown, Sussex
Stewart Clayton, Northern
John Wilson, Devon & Cornwall
Kevin Wise, E Midland

Associate Members

Graham Parker, Essex
Jonathan Knowles, E Midland

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

20-21st November 2002
South West and Wales
Regional Seminar,
Cannington College

27th November 2002
Midlands Regional Seminar,
Hinckley Golf Club

We are always looking at ways to improve your membership package and this month we have negotiated two new benefits which I hope you agree add to the value of your membership.

SilverKnight Rescue is a fully inclusive vehicle breakdown and assistance package which boasts an extensive range of breakdown cover including punctures and running out of fuel. SilverKnight Repair is a unique home breakdown and assistance package that provides a complete quality repair service. We have negotiated on your behalf a special rate of £49.50 for each package, however if both packages are purchased at the same time then they will only cost you £89.00 which is a further saving of £10.00.

Both of these packages are bought to you in association with General Legal Protection who have provided further details below.

SilverKnight RESCUE
Breakdown & Vehicle Assistance

FREEPHONE 0800 068 1893

The Breakdown and Vehicle Assistance package that gives you the service you have always wanted – without fuss or additional expense for that extra cover.

Motoring is expensive enough already without paying over the odds for breakdown assistance. Whether you drive to your local shops or you regularly drive long distances, you want the peace of mind that comes with all inclusive breakdown cover, along with the knowledge that, thanks to BIGGA, it hasn't cost you an arm and a leg.

We cover you for home rescue as well as trips abroad. You just pay one price – a fully inclusive breakdown and assistance package which offers incredible value.

One call and we're there! Our customers are covered for the following benefits:

- Roadside assistance 24 hours a day, 365 days a year anywhere in the UK.
- Recovery to a garage, your home or your original destination
- Home rescue if you breakdown at home
- Cover extends to Europe subject to validation
- Passengers and luggage included
- Puncture and running out of fuel also covered
- SilverKnight Rescue will also provide up to £100 overnight accommodation for the driver and passengers in the event that they cannot get home

Great value, great service – every time!

A SPECIALLY NEGOTIATED RATE OF £49.50
OR £89.00 FOR BOTH VEHICLE AND HOME BREAKDOWN
Non-members £79.50 for each breakdown package

The promise of
SilverKnight RESCUE

SILVERKNIGHT RESCUE

The Breakdown and Vehicle Assistance package that gives you the service you have always wanted – without fuss or additional expense for that extra cover.

Motoring is expensive enough already without paying over the odds for breakdown assistance. Whether you drive to your local shops or you regularly drive long distances, you want the peace of mind that comes with all inclusive breakdown cover, along with the knowledge that, thanks to BIGGA, it hasn't cost you an arm and a leg.

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Great value, great service – every time!

A SPECIALLY NEGOTIATED RATE OF

£49.50

OR £89.00 FOR BOTH VEHICLE AND HOME BREAKDOWN

Non-members £79.50 for each breakdown package

It was a bitterly cold, wet weekday morning when Mr Bob Clarke of Swindon, Wiltshire, experienced problems with his car. He was on his way to work when the engine began to continually cut out. Bob hoped it was just cold morning jitters but when he tried to leave for a meeting one hour later, his engine wouldn't start.

After a quick call to SilverKnight Rescue, a mechanic arrived at his work 30 minutes later. He managed to fix the problem at the scene of the breakdown and showed Bob what to do if the problem ever happened again.

'I'm always impressed' said Bob, 'This is the second time I've had to call for breakdown assistance and on both occasions they managed to fix my car instead of taking it away.' He continued, 'I would not hesitate in recommending SilverKnight Rescue as I am confident they would be as delighted as I am.'

SilverKnight rescued Mr Clarke – let it rescue you!



FREEPHONE 0800 068 1893

SilverKnight REPAIR
Home Breakdown & Assistance

The only Home Breakdown and Assistance package that offers you a complete quality repair service under one roof! Just one telephone number for all your repair problems - and one policy to cover all your important appliances and utilities.

Your home is your castle! What's more, many hours of time and effort go into making your castle a home - so let SilverKnight protect it for you where your normal household insurance does not!

Here's what you would be covered for:

The cost of repairs, up to £200, on the following appliances in your home:

- Washing machine, tumble dryer and dishwasher
- Cooker (gas, electric & solid fuel are all covered)

- Fridge and freezer
- Fridge and freezer contents up to £50
- Televisions, videos and HI-FI systems

Your home will also be covered for the cost of repairs, up to £200, on the breakdown of:

- Internal and external plumbing & drainage system
- Central heating system including the boiler
- Electricity supply system
- Security system (locks, windows, doors & lost keys all covered)

SilverKnight Repair covers all your important utilities and those appliances that make it a home. You pay just one price for a fully inclusive breakdown and assistance package. For this you get 24 hours a day access to our professionally qualified, specialist SilverKnight Repairers, who will come out to your home and carry out those essential repairs, completely free of charge!

A SPECIALLY NEGOTIATED RATE OF £49.50
OR £89.00 FOR BOTH VEHICLE AND HOME BREAKDOWN
Non-members £79.50 for each breakdown package

The promise of
SilverKnight REPAIR

SILVERKNIGHT REPAIR

The only Home Breakdown and Assistance package that offers you a complete quality repair service under one roof! Just one telephone number for all your repair problems - and one policy to cover all your important appliances and utilities.

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- Electricity supply system
- Security system (locks, windows, doors & lost keys all covered)

NOVEMBER'S MEMBERSHIP DRAW WINNER



Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA Clock/calculator/calendar and alarm. Our congratulations go to November's winner, Carl Crocher, of Orsett Golf Club.

SilverKnight Repair covers all your important utilities and appliances. You pay just one price for a fully inclusive breakdown and assistance package. For this you get 24 hours a day access to our professionally qualified, specialist SilverKnight Repairers, who will come out to your home and carry out those essential repairs, completely free of charge!

A SPECIALLY NEGOTIATED RATE OF £49.50
OR £89.00 FOR BOTH VEHICLE AND HOME BREAKDOWN
Non-members £79.50 for each breakdown package

On 28th August, Mrs Shona McKay of Westhill, Aberdeen, found herself in the middle of a domestic dilemma when she heard ominous rumblings from within her washer dryer and she noticed a pool of water leaking from beneath it. Suspecting that there might be problems with her drum, she immediately contacted SilverKnight Repair.

'It's a nightmare when your washer breaks,' explained Shona, 'especially when you have a family, unfortunately washing is a necessary part of my everyday routine!'

After explaining that Mrs McKay worked during the day, an appointment was arranged for an agreeable time for the repairer to come out and fix the problem. The repairer assessed the fault, establishing that several new parts were required including a condenser kit and door seals. Shona continued, 'I was relieved when the engineer said it was easily reparable and within no time at all, my washer was ready for use and as good as new!'

SilverKnight rescued Mrs McKay - let it rescue you!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE BENEFITS PLEASE CALL 0800 068 1893

People

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

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



Cheryl Broomhead

Position:
Advertising Sales Executive.

What does your role involve?
Selling of advertising space in Greenkeeper International and the BIGGA Golf Directory. Also involved in other promotional/sponsorship activities.

How long have you worked for the Association?
Nearly four and half years.

Where were you born and brought up?
Sherburn-in-Elmet, West Yorkshire and brought up in various places in Yorkshire - my parents moved around a bit!

Where did you work before you joined BIGGA?

I had a year out travelling in Australia and Hong Kong before joining BIGGA. Prior to this, I managed the family business which was an art and craft gallery in North Yorkshire.

What are your hobbies?
Tennis, running, gym classes, a bit of golf now and again, cinema, cooking and eating. Now I've bought a house I'm trying to be a DIY Queen - decorating, sanding wooden floors etc.

What is your favourite food?
Vegetarian dishes, seafood, Mexican and Italian.

What is your favourite film?
I don't have 'one' favourite, just a few:- The Green Mile, Moulin Rouge, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Liar Liar, Castaway.

What was the last book you read?
I can't remember - been too busy to read on a regular basis. However, my best read is The Beach by Alex Garland.

Who is your all time hero?
My Dad.

What was the best event you've ever attended?
My mum and dad's Silver wedding party - it was brilliant. So was the Prince concert I attended in 1987.

What is your claim to fame?
(None not acceptable)
Sharing a hotel lift with Chris Rea - I didn't realise who it was until we walked into the hotel foyer where he was suddenly surrounded by eager fans requesting autographs. I also remember working out in a gym in Cairns - I had done some ab crunches stepped up off the mat to do some stretches only to realise Sean Penn had been toning his abs on the mat next to me! Apparently he had been filming in Port Douglas.

Course Feature

BAY WATCH

Scott MacCallum met up with Neil Ballingall, Course Superintendent at the magnificent new St Andrews Bay development.



If you haven't yet heard much about St Andrews Bay. I can promise you that before very much longer you will.

It's not much of a prediction. A 36 hole golf complex, with 209 room five star hotel, with views overlooking the Home of Golf, is unlikely to remain much of a secret for long.

Part of a stable of resorts owned by Dr Don Panoz, who made his fortune by, among other things, developing the nicotine patch, St Andrews Bay sits well in a portfolio which also includes the Chateau Elan Resort, in Georgia, home of the Gene Sarazen-designed Legends Course.

Each of the two St Andrews Bay courses has a famous golfing name attached. The Torrance Course opened last October and the Devlin Course, opened just this August, and the two designers Ryder Cup Captain, Sam, and Australian Senior Tour player, Bruce, can be might proud of what they have achieved. In each case they worked in conjunction with the respected Denis Griffiths Associates, of Georgia. The responsibility of designing any course associated with St Andrews is enormous but everyone involved has risen to the challenge.

The person with the responsibility of managing the two courses is local man, Neil Ballingall, who took up the post of Golf Course Superintendent in May of last year, when the majority of the

Torrance Course had been grown-in and the closing stages of the Devlin was still being constructed by Southern Golf.

"When I arrive I had three or four months to build my own team from scratch. I was given a budget and although I did bring some guys in from clubs round about I mainly took from Southern Golf, as the guys had built the courses and knew the construction back to front. I also took from Elmwood College, with whom I worked very closely," said Neil, as we chatted in his superb, albeit temporary, base in a farm complex on the edge of the development. A state-of-the-art maintenance complex is one of the next projects.

The two courses sit high above the sea, between 80 and 120 feet above the coast bed, on a marine plateau about two miles out of St Andrews, on the Crail road. On first glance they appear to be typical examples of Scottish links but appearances can be deceptive and St Andrews Bay is very much a fusion of Scottish golfing heritage and high tech American-style grasses and maintenance regimes.



Neil (centre) with Fraiser Wright and Paul Britt



The team

"This was particularly apparent in the grow-in which was far more aggressive than the Links maintenance I'd done before. Where I'd maybe use an 8-0-0 once a year they were using a 16-16-16 every ten days just to get the grass establishment," explained Neil, whose family home is in nearby Lower Largo.

The greens are built to USGA Guidelines with traditional Bents and Fescues - Barcrown, Helena, Bargreen and Centre - but the tees and fairways are primarily rye grass.

"The decision was made because of the hardiness because we are on quite an exposed site. Also we are a conference hotel and want to cater for every golfer not just the low handicapper so we wanted a sward where the ball would sit up," said Neil.

"The new Dwarf rytes can be cut to the same height or lower than fescue."

The Devlin Course also boasts a strain of Dwarf Rye that has been named after the St Andrews Bay parent company.

"Elan Grass is coming out for general release this year and is in the new STRI listings. It was developed at Limograin's research base in France. This sits alongside the Merci and Belview which is used on the tees and fairways.

Rather than go to one company for their seed requirements the decision was taken to go with what was considered the best for each area of the golf course regardless of which seed house would be involved.

"We went to Brian Robinson, of Grass Science, and rather than stick with one supplier he selected the cultivars from different seed houses and put our grasses together for us. I suppose in doing so we went against the grain," joked Neil.



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Course Feature



Neil has 25 staff to maintain the two courses and the hotel grounds but knows that what would be considered a large number is the minimum requirement for such a high maintenance site.

"The pros and cons of rye grass are exactly the same - you have to cut it more often but we also have to use probably 75% more fertiliser and water on rye than on fescue and bent. It is very different to what I've been used to," explained Neil, who has traditional links such as Muirfield, where he was Assistant Course Manager, and Lossiemouth, where he was Course Manager, on his CV.

"With rye grass you do need more and bigger machinery and, added to that, we have a considerable area of land to look after - 520 acres which includes the Hotel grounds as well."

Neil uses predominately Toro kit with backing from Hendersons of Haddington and Lely UK and is delighted that it copes well with the demanding conditions it operates under. The full range from pedestrian greensmowers, to fairway mowers and aerators cost the club almost £650,000.

"We're still very much in the process of finding out what's best for the courses and what's the best amounts of everything. We've already changed our fertiliser regime from quick release to slow release and back to quick release again while we've also tried liquids.

"We are the first golf course to put rye grass on a site like this and we have to find everything out. We don't want to pollute the environment and we don't want to waste money," he said.

Another local man, Fraser Wright, is the Head Greenkeeper on the Torrance Course and Neil's Deputy, while Head man on the Devlin Course is Paul Britt, who came over from Chateau Elan to work at St Andrews Bay.

"We joke that Paul is now well on his way to thinking like a Scottish greenkeeper."

Neil is aware that there are some people who might feel that a St Andrews course should be maintained in the style of traditional St Andrews golf courses and stresses that there is room for both methods.

"We're not a traditional links as such. We have got the traditional links look but the definition of a links golf course is the link between the sea and arable land and here the two courses are built primarily on clay having been potato, broccoli and sugar beet fields before becoming golf courses. We're not on the link between the two so by definition we're not a links.

In the main Neil is left to manage the golf course as he sees fit and has been gratified that his spending requirements have been met in full, despite the fact that Foot and Mouth; September 11th; the threat of impending war, not to mention the World Cup has meant, like the rest of the world visitor numbers being down on expectations. However, there is one request which comes from Dr Panoz that he is expected to carry out.

"We have to maintain the golf courses with stripes and make them green. That's our remit from the States. The other golf courses in their portfolio are traditional American designs and Dr Panoz wants all of his courses maintained dark green with stripes," explained Neil.

Asked what the aspirations are for St Andrews Bay, Neil is quite candid.

"Primarily we want to make money and we want people to come and play the golf courses and that's why we have tees which means that the courses can be played from anything from just over 5,000 yards to over 7,000 yards on both courses.

"But we want to be recognised as having some of the best golf courses not only in St Andrews, but in Scotland, Britain and the world as well. Dr Panoz says that's what he wants from his golf courses and that's what we've got to deliver."



A close look at the two courses endorses Neil's boasts about his team. The quality of the workmanship is second to none and the attention to detail absolute. That extends to the gardening squad who, last year, planted 30,000 trees

Neil is aware of the responsibility of being a new development in the Home of Golf and his comments on the matter are very pragmatic and sensible.

"We're not in the market to go against the Old Course. No-one in their right mind would compete for business with the Old Course while, on the other hand, we are not in the business of competing against Kingsbarns, which is four miles round the coast from us. Feel that we can work hand-in-hand with Kingsbarns with Kingsbarns visitors staying in our hotel and our visitors playing Kingsbarns as well," explained Neil.

He is also aware of the difference in managing a golf club and a golf resort and he says that he has learned a lot from listening to the likes of George Brown at Turnberry and Jimmy Kidd, at Gleneagles.



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Course Feature



"If the hotel says it's got 150 golfers each paying £45 who want to play but I know the course is three inches thick in ice, what are you going to do? You've got no choice and it is just a case of using greenkeeping skills to repair any damage."

Asked if he feels pride in managing two golf courses in the Home of Golf, Neil is quick to put a bit of distance between St Andrews Bay and the St Andrews Links.

"I feel pride in the job I do at St Andrews Bay. I wouldn't like to say that I've got pride because it is St Andrews because that really belongs to the links themselves, and the accolade of being a Superintendent at St Andrews belongs to the guys who work on the links.

"I do feel very privileged to be Superintendent at St Andrews Bay and firmly believe it will soon be known the world over."

MACHINERY LIST

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- 4 X GROUNDMASTER 3000D CONTOUR - SEMI AND ROUGH
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- 8 X WORKMAN 2100
- 4 X WORKMAN 3300D
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- 1 X PRO CORE 880 - FAIRWAY AERATOR
- 2 X PEDESTRIAN GREENS AERATOR
- 1 X TOPDRESSER 1800
- 1 X SANDPRO WITH RAKE, BLADE, DRAGMAT & BLOWER

OTHERS

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- 1 X MCCONNELL SLIT TINER
- 1 X JACOBSEN HYD TRAIL 5 GANGS
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In the firing line



'In the firing line' first appeared in the October issue of 'Golf Club Management' magazine. Neil Thomas reports...

The game of golf has many facets and employs many professionals, not withstanding the professionals to be found within the ranks of the Tour or the PGA. Not least among them, and arguably the most important, is the course manager or head greenkeeper. He or she provides the playing surface upon which the golfer, be it club member or professional, plays to the best of his or her ability.

As such he has to be highly skilled and in this day and age a well-educated individual, environmentally aware, able to interpret and implement current legislation as well as meet the most exacting demands from club members whose expectations are fuelled by TV golf, often portrayed as the 'Augusta Syndrome'.

Yet it is a proven fact that these key individuals generally enjoy very little employment security and are often sacked on the whim of a club captain or chairman of green. Not all greenkeepers are blameless and cases must be examined on merit, but there is undoubtedly an alarming trend within many golf clubs to react to situations which are not of the greenkeeper's making and often of a temporary nature. Golf clubs often demand ideal playing conditions with little regard to the resources necessary or indeed to our intemperate climate. A bad round of golf by a club official can often lead to unwarranted recriminations in the light of the alleged condition of the course.

It never ceases to amaze that professionals from all walks of life take up positions on golf club committees and then proceed to run wild when confronted with problems on the golf course. They then take decisions clearly contrary to working practices within their own professions. The perceived culprit is the course manager or head greenkeeper and, irrespective of employment law, dismissal can quickly follow. Surprise, surprise, the individual takes legal advice and golf clubs often face meeting large compensation sums.

Derek Green, a former course manager at a club in Aberdeenshire, was made redundant by a chairman of green who announced on his arrival that he would dictate policy while Derek would manage the team. "He even told me that he saw no need for qualified greenkeepers to be working on the course," said Derek.

Derek was initially asked to take a 17.5 per cent pay cut, then five months after the arrival of the new chairman of green, he was made redundant.

He took the club to an industrial tribunal and as it was demonstrated that there had been no attempt to restructure other areas of the golf club and that Derek's redundancy had not resulted in a reduction of the wage bill, he was awarded £18,000 in compensation.

"When I was there the three man greenkeeping team had a combined 37 years of experience. This was replaced by a team with seven years of experience, but for the same overall wage bill," revealed Derek.

"I'd like to see the role of the chairman of green properly defined by the governing bodies of the game. The ideal is someone who works well with the greenkeeping team and acts as a link between them and the club membership, but you can also get some who just try to take over. That can't be right."

Derek's tale is not unusual. In recent months greenkeepers have been awarded sums of £19,000, £15,000 and £13,000 all of which have to be funded by the golf club member in one way or another. For example, one golf club member was surprised to discover 50 new lady members being welcomed into the club just a short time after a substantial compensation pay out had been made to one greenkeeper.

"Despite a greater awareness of employment rights and the obligations of employers, we are still seeing an increasing number of disputes being referred to our legal advisors and ultimately to employment tribunals. Clearly, there is a very large number of golf clubs who fail to either act in accordance with good employment practice or are simply unaware of it. Either way the cost implications to these organisations can be huge," said Debbie Emmerson, of General Legal Protection.

In the final analysis it is a no-win situation. The golf club normally loses a skilled head worker who in turn is out of a job and may be lost to the profession, while the club – and at members' clubs the vast majority of regular members have been no part of the decision to remove the greenkeeper – is likely to be faced with not inconsequential costs including recruiting a successor.

Many golf club members, including those on committees, simply do not understand or appreciate the world of the greenkeeper, who ultimately is the custodian of the club's most important asset, its golf course.

Today, greenkeeping is a skilled occupation, often stressful and demanding high standards of technical expertise. It is incumbent on a golf club to provide resources for its course commensurate with its expectations of playing standards. It is also essential that green committees work with and heed advice given by its expert on the golf course, rather than listen to committee members whose knowledge is invariably limited and whose time in office likely short-lived. It is in a club's best interests to ensure a harmonious working relationship between its green committee and its greenkeeping staff.

Standards demanded today and the resulting pressures will soon identify the inadequate manager and the club can act accordingly in line with employment legislation. The vast majority of course managers and head greenkeepers are hard-working, conscientious, trained and skilled individuals devoted to their profession and seeking career fulfilment. As such they deserve much better than dismissal on inadequate grounds and without cognisance of employment law.

The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) provides the opportunity for club officials to improve their understanding of some of the intricacies of greenkeeping while enabling them to give more informed consideration to the allocation of proper resources to the golf course. There has to be a better way forward and BIGGA is intent on working with its members and their employers to promote understanding and a joint approach to meeting golfers' demands for increasingly high standards of golf course preparation and maintenance.

The Long Road to Success...

TORO
STUDENT
GREENKEEPER
of the year
AWARD

Scott MacCallum meets the 2002 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, Murray Long

The greenkeeping career of one young Buckinghamshire school leaver started in a manner that you would not necessarily find in any Career Handbook. He arrived at the nine hole course on his first day knowing that the only other member of staff, the Head Greenkeeper, was away for the week and he was on his own. He had been briefed that his first task was to cut the greens so out he went with the hand mower and began work. It started to rain, and then it rained some more. Before long it was absolutely pouring but the young novice kept going.

"I thought I'd better stick with the job and get it finished as I thought it would be terrible to come in on my first day just because of a bit of rain, but the Bar Steward came out and dragged me back inside. I was absolutely drenched," recalled Murray Long, Head Greenkeeper at Coombe Hill Golf Club, and the 2002 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

What it does illustrate, as well as perhaps an example of how not best to induct a new member of staff, is the determination of Murray to succeed, no matter the circumstances, as well as his rare enthusiasm for the job.

Despite the rather damp introduction, Murray has nothing but fond memories of that first job, at Chesham & Ley Hill GC and the Head Greenkeeper, Geoff Puddefat.

"I was there for six months and it was a great experience. Everything was hands on and it was a great way to learn all the basics of the job.

"I recall Geoff telling me to reverse the tractor and trailer into the shed but to remember to move the roll bar down as it was too high for the shed. I only made that mistake once ... The shed rocked," said Murray, smiling at the memory.

Some 17 years on from that Murray is the Head Greenkeeper at one of the country's best and most respected golf clubs and is delighted to don the mantle Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

"I really, really wanted to win it. I was so pleased to come up here and meet all the other finalists. It was obvious they were all quality greenkeepers so I knew I would have to buckle down and try really hard to win. I'm pleased because I know that I gave my best and if my best hadn't been good enough I would have wished good luck to the person who did because the standard was so high they would have deserved it," said Murray, as he spoke the morning after the win and not with the woolly head normally associated with the winner after a long night of celebrating but in the glow of an early morning workout in the gym.

One new element, introduced for the 2002 final was a course report which the finalists had to produce on the front nine of the Aldwark Manor course, which they didn't get a chance to see before they arrived the day before the final.

"I really enjoyed the report and put an awful lot of preparation work into it. I did as much as I could before I got here, thinking about the format. I wanted to go into as much detail as I could and still be able to type it up."

Already being at Head Greenkeeper at a respected club, Murray felt additional pressure being up against fellow finalists who generally were

Deputies or Assistants.

"When my College Lecturer, Keith Harrison, of Merrist Wood, spoke to me about it and asked if I wanted to be put forward, at first I said, I wasn't sure as I was in charge of a course and didn't think it was right but he said I'd completed the NVQ course and done so to a high standard so was just as entitled to enter as anyone else.

"But I did feel under more pressure because of it. I had to produce the best and, in my mind at least, I had to be better, by a degree or so, to justify winning.

"I wanted to prove that I had the ability as a Head Greenkeeper but also that I had the ability to show what I've achieved and got out of the course."

It is another example of the desire Murray has displayed throughout his career.

After his initial six month spell at Chesham & Ley Hill he moved to an 18 hole course, Ellesborough, near Aylesbury, which coincidentally sits below a hill called Coombe Hill. Who says there is no such thing as fate?

"Seve Schmitz was the Course Manager initially and he was great to work for. He was very progressive, using computers before they were commonplace in the industry, and knew the job very well," said Murray, of the man who went on to move to Germany and become a Master Greenkeeper. "He gave me a good grounding and it was disappointing when he left to go to Germany as I'd caught his enthusiasm from him."

After Seve moved on Murray worked under David Childs and his Deputy, David Goodchild, who is now the Head Greenkeeper there, and he acknowledges what he learned from them as well.

It was at this stage where he recognised a career path and set himself a target.

"I wanted to be a Head by the time I was 25. It might have been ambitious at that time but I felt you had to have these things to aim for," he admitted.

With that long term goal in mind he made his next career change moving to Berkhamsted Golf Club.

"It is a very good golf course under Gerald Bruce, who is a good golfer and a very nice guy. It was another good experience and I learn how to work with different soils."

If you have the feeling by now that Murray had a blinkered approach to his career which wouldn't be swayed by anything think again as his next move wasn't exactly initiated by purely professional reasoning, but it did result in him arriving at his current club.





Murray Long

"I was only at Berkhamsted a short time because I met a young lady who lived in Kingston and a job at Coombe Hill came up, with accommodation. I knew Coombe Hill was a good course and was close to Kingston," he smiled.

Buoyed by young love but also with the knowledge that it also represented a good career move he gave it a go and, at the age of 21, was lucky enough to be appointed an assistant under then Head Greenkeeper, Sandy McKechnie.

As ever Murray threw himself into the job carrying out a lot of construction work on the course picking up valuable experience in that field.

"I was under Sandy from five years working my way up to Deputy then, a year after becoming Deputy, Sandy left to go to Woking GC and the club asked me to take over the running of the course until they found another Head man."

Murray was 26 at the time and had only just missed his target of being a Head man by the time he was 25. Although, had he factored a club of Coombe Hill's stature into the equation he might have added another ten years to that original target.

"I thought to myself, 'This is it. I've got to go for it and make the most of a wonderful opportunity'."

Six months later what might have been considered a probationary period by the club ended with him being confirmed in post on a permanent basis and, five years on, he hasn't looked back.

Murray is in charge of a 12 strong team on what he describes as a "high presentation, high maintenance course".

"Being a guy of 26 and managing the staff which included some people considerably older was a little difficult at first but the guys were fantastic and I knew what they could do and where they fitted in, as individuals, into the team."



All eight finalists

The club has recently undertaken a significant change to the structure of the club which has seen Murray much more involved in the management.

"We have moved away from the traditional committee structure and I now sit on the Course Management Committee with Brian Salisbury, who is the Chairman, and a man who is very supportive and progressive in his thinking; Craig Defoy, the Club Professional and a regular on the Senior Tour, and the Club Captain of the Day, Ronnie Goldstein.

"It is just the four of us and I'm involved in every decision from the budget all the way down. Any changes I propose are taken by the Chairman of the Committee to the General Committee and it has meant that we have made so much progress this year."

Murray is keen to make sure he maximises the benefits of the main Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year prize - six weeks of study at the University of Massachusetts, a trip to the TORO factories in Minneapolis and in California and a trip to the GCSAA Exhibition in Atlanta in February 2003.

"I'm sure it is going to be a phenomenal experience. I've already spoken to last year's winner, Andy Pledger, about it. As well as taking the opportunity to meet so many new people,

I want to go and take as much as I can out of it technically and bring what I've learned back to my team at Coombe Hill. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity," enthused Murray, who admitted that it would be difficult to spend time away from his wife, Penny, and year-old daughter, Sophia.

"I will miss them incredibly, but we talked about the possibility of my winning and agreed that it was a short period of time out of our lives together and that it would be superb for my career. And Penny knows that I'd do the same for her if the positions were reversed," he said.

In the manner of an Oscar winner Murray also took time to thank those who had made it possible.

"I'd like to thank Toro, BIGGA and everyone on the judging panel for making it such a great experience. I'd recommend the competition to anybody. I'd also like to thank the club, the greenkeeping staff for supporting me, not to mention the brilliant support of my wife. Finally I'd like to thank the other finalists. I've made some good friends and, although it was a bit stressful, we all had a really good time."

The two runners-up who each received an all expenses paid trip to Continue to Learn and BTME at Harrogate next year were John Gubb who is the Deputy Course Manager at the Bedfordshire Golf Club and Graham Winter, who works at Kingsbarns Golf Links and attends Elmwood College.



John Gubb



Graham Winter



The complete cast

DRAINAGE

APPLIANCE OF SCIENCE PINPOINTS UPTON BY CHESTER GC DRAINAGE NEEDS

Mike Saull looks at a new drainage scheme which was inspired by the January issue of this magazine

Upton by Chester Golf Club in Cheshire is a tight 5850-yard, Par 69 course, on just 68 acres of heavy soil.

So, while the summer sees it lush, with the verdant greens and tees nestling under the mature parkland trees, in a wet winter, things can be quite different.



Justin Cheung

The combined weight of 700 plus members, trafficking certain narrow fairway areas, often renders the going tough and course closure is an occasional nightmare.

Not surprisingly, the club has a rolling programme of drainage activity, and last January they were just about to commence some new work when they opened their copy of Greenkeeper International.

"We were all set to drain a number of areas bounding some soggy tees and greens," recalls Club

Manager/Secretary, Fred Hopley.

"Then Justin Cheung pictured above, our Head Greenkeeper, threw a copy of an article in your magazine on my desk."

As a result, eight months later the Club now has a much more accurate handle on its soil problems and has installed tailored schemes based on sound scientific investigation to meet a specific drainage need.

The new service, provided by TurfTrax Ground Management Systems, started with a complete site survey coupled with electromagnetic induction scanning of the top 200mm and then the complete soil profile to 1.2m depth.

This process, using a sophisticated scanner towed by a quad bike sends pulses down into the soil and measures differences in conductivity. The exact position of the scan result is pinpointed on a map using global positioning satellite technology, accurate to within a couple of cm.

In the hands of soil and water engineers, this data helped to highlight perched or deep water tables and target priority areas for attention. Subsequent soil sampling provided information on soil texture, moisture content and density as well as P, K, Mg and pH status.

Next step, recalled the company's Technical Director, Dr Richard Earl, was three days in the pouring rain in soil pits to confirm where existing drains were using tracer dyes to assess their condition.

"What we identified were three areas for immediate priority where surface water infiltration was the main problem on soils that had a large proportion of silt with a propensity to migrate down through the soil and block the macro pores needed for good natural drainage.

At one stage, Richard looked at the possibility of a drainage scheme that would drill holes down through the silt topsoil and into underlying sand, but this became a non-starter when the sand was discovered to be shifting quick sand containing a number of springs.

In the end the schemes adopted and installed at the Club used a revolutionary slit design, which turns current thinking on its head.

Instead of using relatively coarse material to within 100 mm of the surface topped off with a fine rootzone material above that, the slits were predominantly filled with fine material which was designed to create 'draw' to improve drainage efficiency. This ensured water was able to flow into underlying 50mm gravel without being held by capillary action or needing a head of water to create the flow.

Top-dressing with a 6mm layer of the same material as that within the slits was critical in order to connect the water into the slit and remove it from the profile. Richard recommends that the greenkeeping team will need to build this layer up to 24mm over two years in order to maintain a good infiltration rate with rain being sucked sideways.

In order to ensure the materials would not silt up and continue to provide a good flow of drainage water, each of the three contractors who submitted tenders for the job also provided samples for testing in the laboratory.

"In the end, two were prepared to work with TurfTrax, the other gave us the impression that they thought the company were white-coated boffins who didn't know what they were talking about," said Fred.

"Appley Bridge, Wigan based, Duncan Ross Land Drainage won the contract based on price and their refreshingly open attitude to the project."

So what does the Club think of the TurfTrax approach?

"While we have paid more for the job, we now have an accurate picture of our soils across the whole course and a greater confidence that the drainage we put in will work," said Fred.

"For example, we now know where old drains are and which ones are working, and have detailed records of cables and utilities pipes that cross the course. And, because the scanning techniques are accurately plotted using global positioning systems, we can locate them much more easily.

"When Justin and I came to the club we found that records of previous drainage schemes were either non-existent or had been lost," he said.

"The information will also be important in the next phase of development at the club to bring all greens up to USGA standards. With so much information we'll be able to ensure what we do is compatible with the surrounding soils.



TurfTrax Agronomist, Allan Colbourn guided by GPS knows exactly where to mark out the new drainage scheme



Cutting the 18th at Upton By Chester

"As far as the immediate drainage problem is concerned, it became obvious that the problem was not due to water tables rising in the winter, but an inability of our soils to get rid of surface water.

"What we are now installing are six different schemes for six different areas on soils which were not clay as we had previously thought. We are also taking direct control of how our surface water passes through the soil and into tailored drainage material," says Fred.

Justin has also found that the accurate maps provided on CD have helped ensure better accuracy of chemical and fertiliser application.

His approach at Upton by Chester is to adopt traditional principles using fertilisers on a little and often basis to encourage bents and fescues and uses plenty of aeration to improve structure.

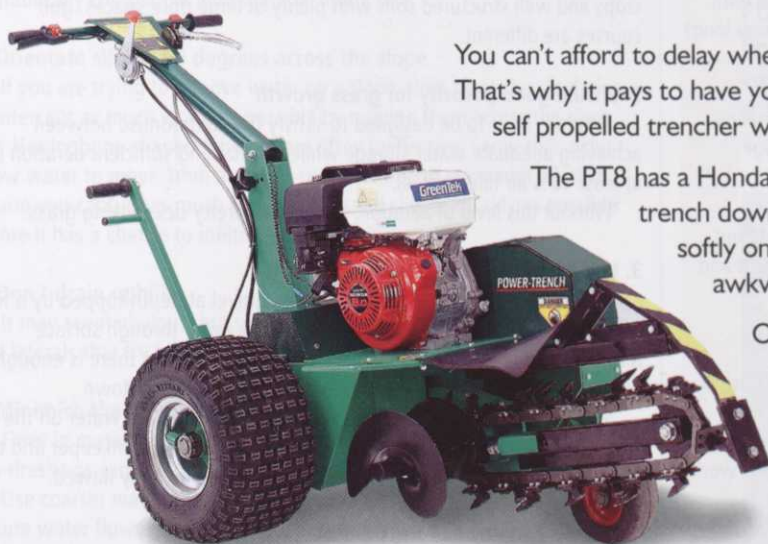
He adopts an 8-0-0 programme using iron where necessary and a mix of humic acids, seaweed extract and seaweed meal to build natural fertility and minimise thatch. Fungicides and herbicides are used sparingly.

With the seasons getting earlier, he recognised that his greens – being on cold soils – are slower to wake up. While they do last longer towards the winter, this does cause problems in the spring.

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DRAINAGE



Duncan Ross Land Drainage laying a new main drain at Upton By Chester

As a result he regularly aerates the greens using a 70:30 medium coarse Whitemoss Amenity Mix, which is compatible with the sand now being used in new bunkers.

He admits that while the members are pretty good, the greenkeeper is the normal scapegoat when it comes to bad drainage. In the four years he has been at the club, he has drained the 2nd and 5th fairways using a standard system of 100mm diameter pipes at 5m spacings covered with 10mm gravel. These appear to have worked pretty well, but for how long?

"The approach we adopted is much more scientific with specific materials designed to do a specific job," he said.

"In much the same way we are putting in USGA specification greens, then why shouldn't we be as accurate with our selection of drainage systems."

Duncan Ross is also keen to monitor the scheme.

"Although the piped drainage system remains a similar design to our normal specification, the slitting that was advocated is quite different and we'll be keen to see how it performs," says Duncan.

DESIGNER DRAINAGE

Dr Richard Earl reckons that many golf course drainage schemes are ill conceived and badly designed.

In his view, not enough preliminary spadework is carried out before pen is put to paper. Then, too many schemes are based on principles that work on agricultural land but fail on the golf course.

In addition, too little attention is still being paid to the physics of water movement through soil with the result that some scheme designers are using the wrong materials in the wrong place with no hope of success.

Basing his comments on 15 years of drainage and soil mechanics research at Cranfield University – Silsoe, he reckons that the industry needs to rethink how it approaches land drainage design.

So, what steps should be taken to ensure greenkeepers get the scheme they need to keep waterlogging at bay and courses open? Richard's advice is to:-

1. Establish the cause

Proper examination and confirmation of the cause of any problem is fundamental. Scheme design will be very different if you are dealing with a groundwater or a surface water problem.

Common practice is to adopt an off the shelf scheme based on agricultural practices. While this works well where you have deep-rooted crops and well structured soils with plenty of large pore spaces, golf courses are different.

2. Ensure good porosity for grass growth

Schemes have to be designed to satisfy the compromise between achieving adequate water storage while maintaining sufficient aeration (ie at least 10% air filled pores).

Without this level of aeration, you'll have pretty sick looking grass.

3. Use coarser materials in the root zone

Many slit drainage schemes use coarse gravel at depth topped by a fine root zone medium. However, fine pores retain water through surface tension and will only release this water into gravel when there is enough pressure from a surface head of water above it to force it down.

Slit drains installed in such a traditional manner require water on the surface before they will drain. This is exactly what the greenkeeper and the golfer don't want. Designs of this nature are fundamentally flawed.

4. Use deeper slits and the right fill materials

Use slits that are a lot deeper than those commonly employed and which are filled with materials that have hydraulic properties which are capable of creating "draw" to physically suck water towards the slit from up to one metre away.

To achieve this, the optimal dimensions of slits used in TurfTrax schemes are determined by the hydraulic properties of the materials intended for use within them. This can only be derived by conducting a suite of laboratory analyses.



Fred Hopley and Justin Cheung on the recently constructed USGA Spec 2nd Green

The deeper the sand slit, the wider the potential spacing of the laterals – but you need to take care that the domed water-table you create doesn't break the surface at the mid-point between laterals. Intensity of rainfall and catchment area on the course are critical in this respect.

It is a case of using materials that balance the need for quick drainage after intense rainfall with the need for water retention during the summer and which are not going to silt up.

The ultimate aim is to ensure there is sufficient available soil moisture, and at least 10% aeration, at 5cm depth throughout most of the year. While this may not always be possible, it is far easier to add water through irrigation than it is to get rid of it due to a poorly designed drainage scheme.

In trials on a number of UK golf courses, using the right material in slits has provided 500% increases in drainflow after controlled irrigation, compared to adjoining schemes using traditional slit designs.

5. Aim to space slits 1m apart

One metre spacing of sand slits works pretty well as long as the material specifications selected are correct and topdressings are hydraulically compatible with material in the slits.

6. Orientate slits at 90 degrees across the slope

If you are trying to remove water on a slope, then place the slit drains to intercept as much water as possible by running them across the slope.

Herringbone shaped schemes are often ineffective. Some soils only allow water to move 1mm a day, so use the slope to maximum effect to ensure you capture as much water in the sand slits as quickly as possible before it has a chance to infiltrate the soil.

7. Don't drain uphill

It may seem obvious, but we commonly find schemes that have mains and laterals that try to push water uphill. Check the levels.

8. Minimise the risks of capping by using coarse top dressings

Fines in materials used at the top of sand slits, as well as badly selected top-dressings can cap slits over creating a barrier to water flow.

Use coarser materials as top dressings and at the top layer of slits to ensure water flows quickly and effectively.

You have to be careful as grass growth could be affected by using too coarse and too uniform a grain size that won't retain sufficient moisture. However, it is easier to irrigate than it is to remove water and roots soon get down into slits and spread out into the surrounding original soil.

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Autumn EQUIPMENT

Roland Taylor looks at the perennial problem brought about by the autumn

It is that time of the year again, when Mother Nature has the last laugh and lets us know that she is still in charge. This time it is leaves. Without them we would not exist and they greatly contribute to the landscape at this colourful, time of year. They are a nuisance, especially if they are wet, plus very time consuming to deal with, at a period of the year when there are plenty of other clearing up, rejuvenating and renovating, jobs to be carried out. The biggest problem with leaves is predicting when they will fall.

This year the trees in my garden began shedding their foliage from the end of August, while in other years it has been well into October. One hard frost can change all this. The best solution, in this situation, is preparation and having the right equipment readily available. This generally means an assortment of machinery, each one for dealing with a specific area.

Some existing machinery such as rotary and flail mowers that have a collection facility, can be used for a leaf clearing operation. These machines are generally only suitable for picking up leaves and other debris, off grass. With the smaller models the collecting capacity can be irritatingly limited, resulting in continually having to empty bag, box or collector. Larger machines with a high lift emptying facility are more suited to this task, as the leaves can easily be emptied either onto a heap or into a receptacle such as a skip. While, these types of units do perform relatively well, a better proposition is to have purpose built tractor-mounted or towed leaf and litter



collectors, especially on the fairways and other wide-open areas. One of the reasons is their hopper capacity and easy emptying systems and work output. At the heart of most systems designed for collecting debris, is an impeller that creates an airflow, which in turn creates a vacuum. These and the housing they are in, have to be aerodynamically designed for the system to work efficiently. The material is sucked in and then blown out. In the process it has to pass through the impeller, were in most cases it is finely chopped, thus reducing its volume. There is however a disadvantage with this type of system. Often, foreign matter such as stone, sand and in the case of litter; bottles and cans could unbalance or damage the impeller. For this reason it is important, when considering a machine, to check out the construction and materials used for this vital component. One good indicator is the length of warranty a manufacturer offers. Some give three years on certain models in their range. Tractor-mounted and pedestrian, engine



powered blowers are also available, these blow the leaves into windrows ready for collections. This then means that large amounts of material is accumulated in one place so some form of loader will be required. This can be in the form of a towed unit or one that fits to the tail board of a trailer, skip or vehicle buck. They are basically a vacuum unit with a large diameter inlet hose and adjustable outlet chute.

PEDESTRIAN MACHINES

Like the tractor-powered machines these come as vacuum collector units or blowers. In most cases the collected material has to pass through the impeller that creates the airflow so, the material it is constructed from is important regarding its longevity. These units can be either push or self-propelled, depending on the make. The main specifications to look out for on the collecting versions, are the size of engine and collecting bag capacity.

HAND HELD BLOWERS AND VACS

There are plenty of these to choose from and the specifications to look for are power-to-weight ratio, the airflow produced and whether a blower can be converted into a collector. If the latter is available, then the material will, in most cases, pass through the impeller, so its construction is paramount to its life expectancy. Bearing in mind that a larger number of these units are designed with the domestic user in mind, it is worth checking out if a manufacturer has commercial versions within their range. When it comes to collecting, a major disadvantage of this type of unit is the capacity bag, this is very often small, so it can be a nuisance and time consuming to have to be continually emptying it.

As most of these types of units are very similar, it is a question of comparing specifications and matching them to value for money.



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wide. Thirty years on, Trilo is still leading the way with a wide range of machines that will not only vacuum, but also scarify, cut and collect.

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Autumn EQUIPMENT



Another piece of equipment that is beginning to be seen more is the rotary broom. These engine-powered units have been sold to courses for use in their bunkers and for clearing up heavy debris such as beechnuts. They are now available together with a range of other attachment such as, a long reach hedge cutter, pole prune and brush cutter. All are interchangeable and use only one power source.

AT THE END OF THE DAY

When considering leaf collecting equipment it should be borne in mind that this operation spans only a short period of time, so to get the most out of an investment. A wider application range needs to be considered. Will the machinery perform other tasks throughout year so that the capital outlay is justified? In most cases this will be yes.

SHREDDERS

To speed up the decomposing process leaves could be passed through a shredder. This also has another advantage in that it reduces the volume, so less space is required. This type of machine will also process brushwood and small diameter branches.

There are plenty of commercial and semi-commercial shredders now on the market. The size of unit to go for will depend on the largest amount of vegetation that is likely to be encountered during the year.

When deciding on a suitable model there are a number of points that should be taken into account.





SHREDDING MECHANISMS

On most commercial machines this consists of a drum with either a series of flails or hammers. These need to be kept sharp and balanced, so an important factor to take into consideration is how easy it is to access them to replace any worn or damaged ones.

ENGINES

There is a choice of petrol, diesel or LPG and it is generally a matter of preference which is chosen, however, output is important if the unit is to work efficiently - plenty of power needs to be readily available.

FEEDER CAPACITY

The size of opening for material to enter the shredding chamber must comply with laid down regulations, but this can sometimes make feeding the unit slow, so it is worth looking at a few models to see which one has the best system for your use. Some of the larger machines have an automatic feeder.

TRANSPORTING

While ideally, the shredder is kept in one location, there may be times when it is required by others, so the ease with which it can be transported may be a factor.



CONQUEROR MK II

The Allett Conqueror combines impressive work rate, total stability on banks and the ability to cut long grass cleanly, even in wet conditions



- Hydrostatic transmission
- Wide wheel base and ATV type rear tyres gives great traction and stability
- 16HP twin cylinder engine
- 7" diameter, heavy duty cutting cylinders

AZTEC

The Allett Aztec is a superb pedestrian cylinder mower ideal for maintaining golf greens. A range of fully floating hydraulic attachments are available in both 20" and 24" widths

- 6 or 10 bladed cylinders with or without Groomer
- Scarifier, Verticut or Brush units available
- Changed in seconds, no tools required
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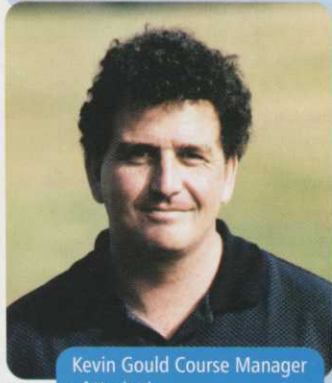
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Kevin Gould Course Manager of Hesketh



Hesketh Greenkeeping Team



Hillside Greenkeeping Team



Martin Twist Course Manager of Hillside

National Championship

So Simple for Mr Semple

Ian Semple came close to winning the BIGGA National Championship last year. This year he made sure.

Shirtsleeve weather in October! That's what the competitors in the 2002 BIGGA National Championship were treated to at the wonderful Hillside and Hesketh courses in the north west of the country.

And the quality of golf played more than lived up to the conditions up above and the condition of the two famous golf courses.

Inspired by Sam Torrance and his 12 heroes who clinched the Ryder Cup on the eve of the Championship the entrants in the Championship could not fail to raise their games, especially given the quality of the venues selected for this year's event.

Hillside has long been regarded as one of the finest links never to have hosted an Open Championship while the history at Hesketh, where the English Golf Union was formed, is the equal of any in the land.

It was BIGGA National Board member, Ian Semple, Course Manager at Old Folds Manor who lifted the major spoils and was acclaimed BIGGA's Champion Golfer - an exceptional feat given that he is a 2 handicapper. Indeed he went one better than he did the previous year when he won the Best Gross prize. Ian had endured a slow start, taking three to get out of a bunker on Hillside's 5th, he bounced back on the back nine with birdies at the 14th and two of the last three holes to post a score of 75. He followed that up with a round of 77 at Hesketh for a nett score of 148 over the two days.

"I'm absolutely delighted to win, especially after coming so close last year at Royal Birkdale and Southport and Ainsdale," said the man who won the South of Scotland Championship in 1986 and who was a regular county player for Kirkcudbrightshire before moving south.

A talented long hitter Ian's other golfing claim to fame is a tied fourth finish in the Scottish Champion of Champions at Leven in 1987, on the most prestigious events on the Scottish amateur golfing calendar.

"I don't play as much as I used to now and certainly don't win much in handicap competitions so winning this is fantastic," said Ian, who was playing in the event for the fourth consecutive year.

"I'll certainly be back next year to defend," he said.

Last year's winner, Chris Ball, was on home soil this year. As an assistant at Hillside he used his local knowledge to good effect to put himself in with a chance of defending his title but a poor second day's performance put paid to his chances.

Winner of the Gross prize was Noel Crawford, of Royal County Down GC, a +1 golfer.

He was delighted to pick up the prize but a little embarrassed to do so as Ian's score, as well as being the best Nett score, was also the best gross. As it was a nett competition the nett prize took the top slot and Noel's score of 157 was promoted to best gross.

Martin Twist at Hillside and Kevin Gould at Hesketh and their respective teams worked hard to produce wonderful tests of golf for the two days and they must be congratulated on their efforts.

The team prize went to the South East Region to prove that their policy of investing the prize money in sponsoring members to attend the Championship, and thus strengthen the Region's team, had paid off yet again.

BIGGA National Chairman, Richard Barker, a 1 handicapper, was one over after the first round. Not bad you might think but in fact it was one over fives! His round started ignominiously with a trudge back to the 1st tee when his drive drifted into the right rough never to be seen again. Perhaps it was the fact that he was partnered by the Editor, invited to turn a twoball into a threeball, who brought him down to his more moderate level. That looked a more likely possibility when without Mr MacCallum to drag him down he improved by 12 shots the following day at Hesketh.

THANKS

Alan Birch was again the official photographer at the event. The quality of his photographs is first rate and all at BIGGA thank him for the excellent work he does.

NEXT YEAR

Next year's National Championship will be played at Coxmoor GC, on October 6 and Hollinwell (Notts GC) on October 7, 2003. Keeping up the tradition of only playing the BIGGA National Championship on the finest courses.



The full cast of winners



Hesketh Captain, Malcolm Cruickshank, presents Noel Crawford with the Best Gross Trophy



Malcolm presents Ian with his prize



The victorious South East team with non-playing Captain Derek Farrington (on left)



Some of the Championship Sponsors enjoying the dinner



The top table



The Irish Contingent



Past Chairman Barry Heaney



Sid Arrowsmith drives off



The start of a successful round

BIGGA National Champion Best Nett Score/BIGGA Challenge Trophy
 Ian Semple, The Old Fold Manor GC, 148

BIGGA Scratch Champion / BIGGA Challenge Cup
 Noel Crawford Royal County Down, 157

Gross/36 holes
 2. Dave Goddard, Sunningdale, 157 (B. 2nd round)
 3. Gareth Roberts, Hankley Common, 157

Handicap/36 holes
 2. Kevin Humphreys, Croham Hurst, 149
 3. George Brown, Turnberry, 150

Hillside
 Scr to 7
 Chris Ball, Hillside, 73

8 to 15
 Tony Bremer, Dorking, 69

16 to 28
 Charles Tadge, International Member, (retired), 76

Hesketh
 Scr to 7
 David Murdoch, Liphook, 74

8 to 15
 Dan Wheeler, Roehampton, 72

16 to 28
 Gary Crawford, Royal Co Down, 71

Nearest the Pin
 Sid Arrowsmith, Frilford Heath

Longest Drive
 Dave Blank, Newcastle Under Lyme

Regional Trophy
 Winners South East Region, 601
 Tony Bremer
 Ian Semple
 Gareth Roberts
 Kevin Humphreys
 Raymond Day
 Dave Goddard
 Adrian Locke
 Chris Wells

Runners-Up Midland Region Total 619
 Mark Whittle
 Jamie Bedford
 Ian Needham
 Barry Holt
 Sid Arrowsmith
 Antony Bindley
 Mike Hughes
 Mark Ellis

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 Evenproducts
 Textron
 Gem Professional
 Roger Barker
 VIPs - George Charnock, Captain of Hillside & John Graham, Secretary of Hillside

Scotts UK Professional
 Hunter Grinders
 Rufford Soil Technology
 Toro/Lely
 Jim Fry



Defending champion, Chris Ball, started well



Vice Chairman, George Brown, launches one



Chairman Richard Barker booms one down the 1st at Hesketh

NEW PRODUCTS

SISIS

Following requests from customers who wish to core more frequently with tines that cause minimal surface disruption and need less top dressing, Sisis have developed a new 100mm (4ins) hollow tine with a 12mm (1 / 2 inch) diameter.

The new tine is for use with all Sisis vertical action and drum aerators, including the Auto-Turfman, Technicore and the new Dart and Javelin 1500.

For further information Tel: 01625 503030

RYETEC

Anyone who needs to cut heavy grass and scrub can now do so with the latest Contractor range of heavy duty flail mowers from Ryetec. The Contractor range is available as standard with front and rear mounting options and cutting widths of 1.6/1.8/2.2/2.5 and 2.8 metres to allow maximum choice and flexibility.

With double skin frame thickness of 14mm and a heavy duty rotor shaft with a wall up to 16mm thick, the Contractors are able to tackle almost any grass cutting work. Helical mounted hammer flails optimise tractor power even in the thickest material and an opening adjustable rear hood not only allows for easy access when changing flails or removing foreign objects but ensures quick and easy ejection of the cut material over the large diameter height adjustable rear roller.

Hydraulic side shift is standard, as are front skids, internally mounted rotor and roller bearings, hinged belt guard with protection plate and a quick and simple belt tensioning system. All these features make the new Contractor a straightforward mower capable of reliable and constant service in any application. Prices start from £3868 + VAT.

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



CGCS (MIDLANDS) LTD

CGCS (Midlands) Ltd have been appointed distributors in the UK and Europe for The Screen Machine (USA).

The MIGHT Mini Trommel Screen is targeted at the golf and landscape markets. It is unique in its size, it is fully mobile weighing 2360kg, and is powered by a 20hp John Deere diesel engine. It can produce up to 35 tonnes of screened material per hour and is fitted with a high speed shredder that pulverises the material before being screened through a trommel drum. The size of the screened material can be anything from 6mm - 30mm. It is fitted with a self cleaning brush that will enable wet materials to be processed.

It is priced at £24,950 plus VAT.

For further information Tel: 01522 869100



RENAULT

Renault displayed a CERGOS 355 tractor fitted with an Envirosafe exhaust emission filtration system capable of reducing harmful pollutants by up to 95%, making this the first tractor in the UK to be fitted with such a system.

Working with Pyroban Envirosafe Ltd, Renault has combined a catalytic converter with a diesel particulate filter.

To achieve this, the existing silencer has been replaced by a Diesel Oxidation Catalyst which can remove up to 95% of CO and HC elements in the exhaust fumes by converting these gasses to carbon dioxide and water.

For maximum efficiency, the Catalyst is close coupled to the exhaust turbo under the bonnet of the tractor. The Catalyst is sized to ensure there is a free flow of exhaust gasses through the unit, so avoiding any back-pressure that might affect engine performance.

The system is mounted on the right hand side of the engine and does not intrude on the drivers existing range of vision.

Total Particulate Matter is trapped by the filter, which will provide up to eight hours continuous use before it needs to be cleaned using a regeneration base unit.

Conversion time is about two days and the catalyst and filtration system is suitable for use on any tractor in the Renault range or can be retro-fitted to tractors already in use.

"We have made this conversion available in response to concerns from local authority contractors who in the tendering process are keen to show that they do meet emission regulations and are making efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions," said Robert Merrall, of Renault.

For further information Tel: 01608 665154

TERRAIN AERATION SERVICES

Power and speed are the hallmarks of Terrain Aeration Services' New Hydraulic Terralift, developed from last year's prototype.

The new 4-wheeled machine is driven by a 40hp Kubota diesel engine supplying 2 Siamese hydraulic pumps and a 300-psi compressor. The hydraulic system takes care of the drive to the wheels, the rams that raise and lower the probe and the JCB hydraulic hammer that drives the probe into the ground. Over one tonne of down force back be applied to the probe, which means that even the hardest compaction pans can be penetrated, without disrupting the surface.

Capable of speeds up to 7mph, giving an increased work rate of up to 2,000 square metres per day, the new machine uses the original German designed Terralift injection and blast system, which relieves compaction by injecting compressed air through the probe to a depth of one metre on a 2 metre staggered grid pattern. Dry nutrients, fungal spores, seaweed and beneficial bacteria are then blown into the newly created underground fissures during the final stage of air injection.

For further information Tel: 01449 673783.



KAWASAKI

In a significant departure from what has become almost an industry standard, Kawasaki has introduced a gleaming red option to its line-up of impressive green machines.

The Japanese manufacturers newest model arrivals, the KLF250-A, the KVF360-A and the KVF650-A, the flagship within the ATV range, will all be available in either the new Aztec Red livery or the existing Hunter Green with which Kawasaki has become firmly associated over the years.

"Beneath the new-look the machines offer the same high level performance, reliability and rider comfort, but we wanted to give our customers more choice in terms of colour," explained Robert Rees, UK Field Sales Manager for Kawasaki.

"Although the existing Hunter Green has been extremely popular over the years, we think the red is a classy addition and is going to prove particularly suitable for some of our market sectors. Those that have seen it already have been very impressed and the comments have been complimentary," he added.

The new model colour was unveiled on the opening day of Saltex and was available from the UK dealer network from last month.



EARTHQUAKE TURFCARE LTD.

An inexpensive instrument capable of saving greenkeepers and other sports turf managers thousands of pounds in wasted energy, lost time and costly soil damage is now available direct from turf decompaction equipment specialist, EarthQuake Turfcare Ltd.

Known as the QuakeMeter, the instrument is art hydraulic soil penetrometer designed to reveal soil compaction problems before they become visually apparent, enabling remedial action to be taken in good time and, most importantly, at the correct place and depth.

The QuakeMeter comprises a slim, stainless-steel probe with a pair of handles and a dial-type pressure gauge at one end. The other end is pointed, enabling the 610mm probe to be pushed easily into the turf at appropriate places on sports grounds, golf courses, stadia and other high-use playing surfaces. As the probe moves down through the soil, the resistance to movement is transmitted hydraulically from the probe to be displayed instantly on the dial of the calibrated pressure gauge.

In addition to accurately displaying the level of soil resistance in lbs/sq in and bar, the gauge is divided into green, amber and red bands, enabling zones of low, medium and high soil compaction to be pinpointed instantly as the probe moves downwards. By noting the places and the depths at which compaction is most severe, turf managers, ground staff and contractors are able to set and operate their

decompaction equipment with great accuracy, eliminating costly, unnecessary and inappropriate remedial treatments.

"The QuakeMeter is an essential instrument for anyone involved in the management, care or maintenance of quality sportsturf," points out EarthQuake Managing Director, John Reynolds.

"It takes the guesswork out of a vital operation, enabling regular decompaction treatments and remedial work to be carried out at the most appropriate depth and place. By pricing the QuakeMeter at a realistic level, we hope that it will soon become part of the essential equipment of all turf professionals, both in the UK and overseas."

Cost of the QuakeMeter is £199 (plus VAT) delivered to any address on the UK mainland.

For further information Tel: 01889 271509
or e-mail: johnreynoldseq@aol.com



DENNIS

Dennis, the specialist manufacturers of mowing machinery and grounds care equipment, have expanded their range of tools and accessories, resulting from their appointment as exclusive European distributors of products made by Better Methods (Australia) Pty Ltd.

This means Dennis can now offer their professional turf care customers a full range of products for specific groundsmanship and greenkeeping tasks. Tools offered include samplers, lutes, lawn levellers up to 3.5m wide, corers and golf hole cutters, amongst others. This expands the existing Dennis tools offering, which includes the popular Bray Seed Slotters range, acquired in 2001, which allow optimum overseeding and turf repairs to be undertaken.

"The Better Methods line-up means we have even more to offer our existing customers, who look after surfaces for soccer, bowls, cricket, tennis, golf and other fine turf facilities at all levels," says Dennis' Managing Director, Ian Howard.



Hell is a WET PLACE

By Steve Isaac, STRI

Summer 2002 has been a nightmare for many Greenkeepers and golfers in certain parts of the country. The extremes of rain over such a prolonged period have severely disrupted course maintenance, often making it impossible. Many appreciate the problems such extreme wet weather poses and many Greenkeepers are grateful to committees for sterling support in times of stress. However, it is always disappointing to hear of campaigns against Course Managers, the management programme for the golf course and the Club's Agronomist when presentation and course condition suffer in times such as these. It is usually a vocal minority of Members that conduct such campaigns, but they should address the facts of the situation before trying to incite dissatisfaction within the Club.

I can understand their frustration at the standard of playing surfaces and presentation this summer. However, the negative criticism, and sometimes abuse, aimed at the Course Manager helps nobody, especially as it obviously stems from ignorance of the facts, or a lack of acceptance of the realities of the situation. Let us present some of the facts behind the poor performance this summer, with particular emphasis on Scotland, and then with a greater understanding we can all, perhaps, go forward with some positive ideas.



GOOD WEATHER FOR DUCKS

1) In Scotland, from April to the end of July, there was a staggering 63% above average rainfall. The months of May, June and July saw 423 mm of rain, compared to the average of 260 mm. These are Met. Office figures and locally there may have been even more. I was at a Club recently and was informed that the rainfall measurements they keep showed that by mid-June 2002 they had seen as much rain as had fallen through the whole of 2001!

2) The number of rain days over this period was 59. That's 59 days out of 91, with little drying weather or sunlight in between.

3) Figure 1 (shown on the opposite page) shows the monthly rainfall figures for 2002 up to July, compared to average figures. Every month has been wetter than the average, quite a few show considerably more rain per month.

All of this has a cumulative effect. Also bear in mind that over the winter months there is usually significant drainage through soils. Over the spring and summer months there is usually less drainage, with surface water moving up into the atmosphere through the forces of evaporation and plant transpiration. In a year such as this, moisture can get trapped at the turf/air interface. This results in boggy surfaces, humid conditions above the turf that can promote disease, yet reasonably dry soils from an inch or two under the surface. I have lost count of the looks of amazement on the faces of Committeemen during visits when plugs from bogs have revealed dry soils underneath.

4) The sheer quantity and frequency of rain has had a direct impact on turf quality. Turf needs to breathe and waterlogging over a period of time "drowns" the grass. Try sticking your feet in a bucket of cold water for a few days and see how healthy they look afterwards.

5) On courses that are prone to flooding as a result of the rising level of nearby rivers, drains alone cannot stop the river level from rising, but good drainage systems can get water away in hours of the river water receding rather than days or weeks as might be the case pre-drainage. This more rapid evacuation can significantly reduce damage.

6) The amount of rain and rain days has limited time when machinery could safely be taken out on the course without causing damage. This means there is more grass to cut when machinery can be taken out.

7) There have been very few opportunities to take a clean dry cut, resulting in piles of wet clippings left on the course. This can be dealt with if you have the right machines and staff level, though bear in mind the potential damage from taking more equipment onto the golf course.

8) Because greens have been soft, due to the large volume of rain, hand cutting has been necessary to prevent the risk of damage from use of the triple mower. This has reduced the man hours available for other work on the golf course.

This year has seen a catalogue of horror stories:

- Fairways being mown with pedestrian rotary mowers because the ground could not take machines.
- Courses having to close for weeks on end (one in Glasgow reportedly closed for 56 days this summer).
- Temporary greens being used more than the main surfaces.
- Complaints about untidy courses with clippings left lying and tyre ruts to fairways and semi-rough.
- Most ridiculous of all, Greenkeepers being blamed for all of this!



As if this were not enough to cope with, things could get a lot worse before the year-end. To the end of July, we had seen 72% of the average annual rainfall. That is getting on for three quarters of the year's rain in the first seven months of the year, which includes all of the spring and half the summer months. Figure 2 (shown opposite) shows how the average amount of rain recorded each month has fluctuated over the past decade compared to the previous 30-year period.

The important thing to note is that the amount of rain falling through the August to January period has increased by around 25% in the last 10 years in comparison to the 30 years before, i.e. our autumn and winter months are getting much wetter!

Such patterns obviously impacts winter play on golf courses considerably but it also affects the conventional approach to undertaking drainage and the main aeration operations. September and October have been the months for coring, Verti-Draining etc. The data, and our own experience, suggests that this cannot remain the case – it may simply be too wet to get machinery onto courses or to produce a positive result from such work should these rainfall patterns continue.

Having set such a gloomy scenario, what general advice can we give to Clubs suffering under such high volumes of rainfall?

FIGHTING THE TIDE

I would offer the following advice but note that recommendations should be considered in relation to the specific situation of each site.

- Members must be aware and accept the limitations of the site on which their golf course stands. If you are a Member of a parkland course based on clay then you cannot expect it to drain anything like as well as a links. Some inland courses may have coped better than others but this is more likely down to location and site conditions, e.g. elevated greens and freer-draining soils, than anything else.
- Turn to hand cutting greens, collars and tees if you have the staff. If you don't, the time spent hand cutting greens may be worth it if it reduces damage to these vital areas of the golf course, even if it means neglecting other areas. Miss out perimeter cuts with the triple to avoid tyre tracking, or worse. Bring greens in if softer areas can be incorporated into the surround satisfactorily for a time.
- Implement sound thatch and compaction management programmes throughout the golf course. Look at the alternative approach of deep scarification and sanding to thatch management. I can see another situation for potential conflict at Clubs this autumn, where the Greenkeeper wants to get in and undertaken some intensive renovation work and the Members want him to leave the greens well alone so they can enjoy any "Indian Summer" we may see. With thatch density likely to have increased through a wet summer and soil structure impaired by saturated conditions, we would strongly support the Course Manager in this matter.
- Carefully consider the best time for aeration programmes. Late summer or spring may well be a better option than the conventional September-October. With modern equipment very little disturbance is created so there is no real reason why this adjustment should not be accepted.

Figure 1. Rainfall for 2002 to July compared to average values

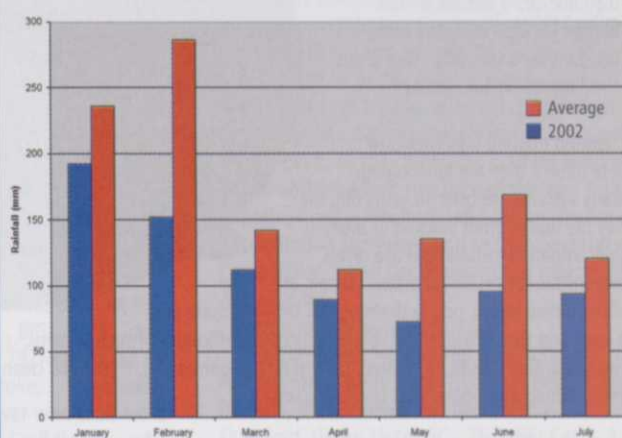
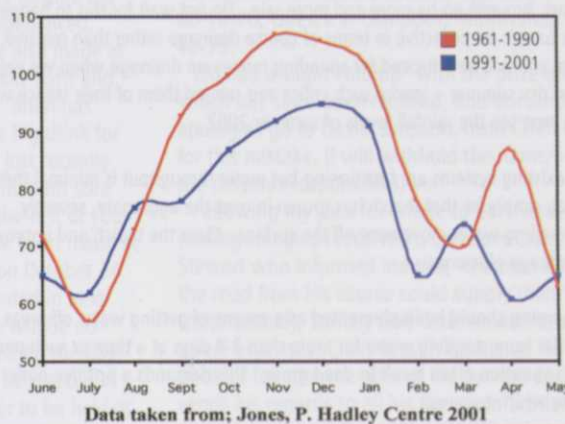


Figure 2. The difference in monthly rainfall during the periods 1991-2001 compared to the data from 1961-1990.



- Consider turning to straight sand top dressing of greens. Such a move must be site specific, as it should not be contemplated unless a decent irrigation system is available and it is complemented by regular slit/solid tine aeration.
- On greens, some of the best results with feeding this summer have been with liquid fertiliser. The reason? The liquid is absorbed into the plant more rapidly, with less chance of it being washed away or leached out. That is not to say that liquids are the best choice for spring or autumn feeds.
- The greens often tend to be the firmest areas on most golf courses. Why is this? Sometimes it is down to their construction but for most well established courses it is due to decades of aeration and top dressing programmes. Extend these programmes to aprons, collars, tees and landing zones and you will gradually see these firming up as well.
- Green reconstruction may have to be considered if poor drainage is the result of poor underlying soil condition, e.g. greens developed on clay or silt soils. For inland courses we would advise reconstruction to the USGA guidelines. Those who attended the joint SGU/STRI workshops on green construction in 2001 will realize that this is perfectly feasible, even on a fairly tight budget. Most of the courses we visit might be looking to rebuild up to half a dozen greens, the others responding well enough to timely aeration, thatch management and top dressing programmes.



9) Ensure that there are adequate outlets for drainage. Consider opening up and cleaning out old ditches or creating new ones.

10) Address fairway drainage. If wet fairways cause the course to close then allocate a decent annual budget for pipe drainage and aeration/sand dressing. Under this heading we would include:

a) Checking existing pipe drains to determine if they are functioning. Many systems are over 50 years old, the clay tile drains often blocked or broken. Later irrigation installations are often responsible for smashing drains. Often, the return of the native heavy, poorly draining soil over the drain pipe is seen and this, obviously, severely reduces the efficiency of such systems. Blocked drains should be cleared, broken ones repaired and, if feasible, clean free-draining aggregate used to replace soil.

b) Install new systems where necessary on a priority basis.

c) Initiating heavy sanding of wet areas in conjunction with aeration and plastic pipe drainage.

d) Learn a lesson from the deterioration in course drainage seen over recent years, brought on by more and more rain. Do not wait for this to happen in the future: be proactive in terms of course drainage rather than reactive. I am sure you will be criticized for spending money on drainage when we enjoy the next dry summer – ignore such critics and remind them of their stance when we next see the rainfall levels of summer 2002.

11) If existing systems are functioning but water throughput is minimal then it may simply be that thatch has grown in over the aggregate, severely impeding water movement off the surface. Clear the thatch and improve drainage efficiency.

12) Pumping should be implemented as a means of getting water off areas that suffer from standing water for more than 3-4 days at a time as such periods of saturation often result in dead grass. This demands a positive outlet into which to pump.

13) If low-lying areas are prone to almost permanent flooding then consider the option of developing additional water features. The input of a golf course architect, hydrologist and ecologist might all be required to assess the feasibility/desirability of such a scheme. I know that many of the site visits that Jonathan Smith and Fiona McIntyre, the Golf Course Advisors from the Scottish Golf Environment Group (0131 660 9480), have undertaken this year have been to discuss this option for drainage water management. The services of SGEG come free to Scottish Golf Clubs, this body being part-funded by the Scottish Golf Union and the R & A.

14) This year, in particular, has been a nightmare for mowing fairways and rough. High levels of rain over the summer create far more problems than through the winter period, simply because there has to be more machinery traffic over the course through the growing season to cut grass.

What do you do in such a situation? Ignore the growth because you know the damage you will do taking machinery onto the course, or mow on regardless? In either case, you are damned if you do, damned if you don't. It is all well and good saying wait until conditions improve so you can safely take machines out onto the course. If you said that in May, you would still be saying it at the end of July this year! Improving drainage and surface firmness through some of the ideas above would be our advice for the medium to long-term but those facing this situation might also consider using growth regulators to slow down growth, thus reducing the need for mowing.



Damage done by taking machinery over wet ground

15) In wet years, heavy worm casting creates muddy surfaces and directly impedes drainage. Steve Baker, Head of STRI's Soils and Sports Surfaces Science Division, has done extensive research on the control of casting worms. With ever decreasing chemical options, aeration/sanding is the most promising option with careful use of acidifying materials such as aluminium sulphate or sulphur for heavy soil sites a possibility. This latter approach has to be site specific in terms of application rates, which have to be evaluated through use of trial plots before implementation on the golf course, as severe turf burning can result from too high a rate of treatment. Boxing off clippings has been shown to reduce casting by up to 60%, though this may be impractical on many courses beyond greens, collars and tees.

You could already be implementing much of the above, but may need to expand current programmes to address the changes in the climate. If this is the case and you are still having a nightmare year then question how bad the course might have been without the investment in such procedures over the years. I can guarantee that it would have been a lot worse, though the "experts" in the Clubhouse would probably not agree.

DRY DREAMS

None of this comes without a cost and some of the approaches can be very expensive. However, I do feel that if golfers want better year-round playing conditions then they are going to have to be prepared to pay for them, particularly if they happen to be Members at Clubs whose courses are based on heavy soils or in flood plains. The weather data suggests that if you have not started these programmes already, where appropriate, then you had better start soon! This does pose something of a "Catch 22" situation. Wet courses mean less golf, so Members expect to pay less. Take this negative approach and you will get a decreasing return on play year on year, invest properly in the course and you should see improvements. Many Clubs think they are investing heavily in the golf course but, in reality, they are not. This really strikes home when a major refurbishment is need to the Clubhouse and the money for this is found quite readily, often amounting to many multiples of the sums put aside for on-course investment. Golf in Scotland, at least, is generally not that expensive. Indeed, the cost is low enough for many to be Members of more than one Club! No golfer will gladly reach into his or her pocket, but a £40 levy on 500 Members should bring in enough to more than adequately drain one or two fairways.

I would reiterate the point about the need for site-specific advice very strongly. We cannot give sound advice without some experience of the course. We are always delighted to hear from Course Managers and Committeemen but our first advice would be, "take a site visit".

For many Greenkeepers and golfers 2002 will be a summer to forget, particularly across the Central Belt and the West of Scotland. With general rainfall levels of 60-70% above average and some local figures well above that, May to September was a period fraught with problems. It has been gratifying to visit clients where the Greenstaff have received support and understanding from within the Club. Unfortunately, we have also seen instances of Greenkeepers being blamed for the soggy and sometimes unplayable condition of their golf course. Nobody feels the pain of poor conditions on the golf course more than the Head Greenkeeper. Course condition is a reflection of his professionalism. You will not meet a more dedicated profession than Greenkeepers. Few Members would put in the hours or work in conditions that have faced many Greenkeepers this year. Criticism of any Head Greenkeeper, based on a lack of information or thought, has to be disheartening. In a year such as this, the Greenkeeping staff needs as much encouragement as you can give them. Provide them with more resources and a lot more could be done. Investment in drainage, machinery and staff will have to be revised (upwards!) to cope with a wetter and milder climate. Let us hope that 2003 sees no more than average rain, which the majority of Greenkeepers will be able to cope with and produce the general high standard of surface and presentation that golfers have come to, sometimes complacently, expect.

Steve Isaac is STRI's Area Manager for Scotland and Ireland



Don't wait for ditches to clean themselves!



SCOTTISH REGION
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

As in previous years the Scottish Region offers members a subsidised package deal for BTME/ClubHouse 2003.

The package includes: coach to Harrogate; entry to all Seminars and Exhibitions and three nights bed and breakfast in en suite twin rooms in the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate, on January 21, 22, 23 2003.

Package costs £160.

Partners are welcome at a cost of £135 for travel and accommodation.

For booking forms call or fax Peter J. Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6TA. Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Peter Boyd

North

Two new members to report this month. They are Neil Young, from Kenmay GC, and Alan Anderson, from Hazelhead GC.

Scotsturf Exhibition is upon us again this month, and if the weather last year is anything to go by, then winter is not far away. The dates are November 6 and 7 and I hope the roads are a lot safer than they were last year. The show is a well established part of our working year and is a good chance to meet the companies involved with our industry all under the one roof. So hopefully it will be well attended.

The AGM has been and gone at Stonehaven GC but too late to include in this report. I will include it in my next report.

The proposed golf match which I had mentioned in a previous report is still planned for sometime in November, the layter part I think, and basically it involves the Aberdeen side of the North Section playing the North side. Anyone interested in playing for the Aberdeen side please phone Robert Hardie on 01224 783201 and anyone interested in playing for the North phone myself on 01997 420155. It is a bit late in the year and maybe short notice, but if it does not come off this year then maybe next year. There will be good hotel accommodation available and at a very good rate for those who want to stay over and make a full day of it.

The Northern Counties Cup was recently played over Tain golf course and was won by Fortrose GC. It is a well supported event and the course at Tain was in excellent condition, and was well praised by the golfers, who are among the best players the North and North East has to offer. The talented team from Strathpeffer were put out by last year's winners, Inverness. A major shock there!

Well, nothing to report this month. I hope the weather holds up and allows everyone to get all their autumn maintenance work finished. The last month or so has been a lot better so I hope it lasts

Iain Gunn

West

Welcome to this month's newsletter. First a report on our Autumn outing held at Drumpellier GC on September 26. The winners on the day were Scratch. Dougie McIntosh, Cathkin Braes CC. 74. First Class. 1. Brian Hillen, Drumpellier GC, 66; 2. Sandy Bulloch, Fereneze GC, 72; 3. Stuart Taylor, Killermont GC, 75. Second Class. 1. Drew McKechnie, Douglas Park GC, 66; 2. Sandy Brawley, East Kilbride GC, 68 (BIH); 3. Ian Wilson, Hamilton CC, 68. Third Class. 1. Kevin Bell, Balmore GC, 66; 2. Colin Kearney, Drumpellier GC, 76; 3. Chris Scott, Balmore GC, 77. Visitors Prize. Peter Boyd, BIGGA, 76. Trade Prize. Derek Duthie, Aitkens, 73. Nearest the Pin, Sandy Brawley; Straightest Drive, J. Steadward, Douglas Park CC and the player who took more divots than any other player, Cecil George, who received some practice balls. Well done to you all. Thanks must again be passed on to the Council and membership of Drumpellier GC for the use of their facilities. A special thanks must also go to Brian and his team who had the course in fine condition on the day despite the awful summer we have all just experienced.

Two draws of the 100 club were also made at Drumpellier the winners being Cohn Scott and, would you believe it, Brian Hillen. Brian has promised to buy all the bar staff a big drink for drawing his ticket. Brian has also just recently got married, so congratulations and I am sure the wife will find a good use for the rest of your winnings. The final draw will have been made at our AGM held at Nairn & Brown on October 24.

A report on the AGM will be printed in next month's letter but I am sure there will be no need, as you will all have attended on the day!

After the AGM the next date to be marked in your calendar is the Annual Dinner to be held at Victoria's night spot on Friday November 29. If you do not already have your ticket then you are running out of time as these tickets sell like hot cakes. As always early payment for tickets would be much appreciated.

Well, that's all I have to write about this month. As always if there is anything you would like added to the column please do not hesitate to call me on 013552 66862.

Brian Bolland

Central

This month we extend a warm welcome from everyone in the Section to Stuart Smith, Paul Wilt, John Jardine, Andrew Cruickshanks, Findlay Forbes and Scott Winton, all from St. Andrews Bay Golf Resort and Spa. Hopefully it won't be too long before we get the opportunity to meet them at some of our events.

The final golf tournament of the season was held at Dullatur Golf Club, Cumbernauld, in September, when some 35 members enjoyed golfing on one of the very few days we have had this year when there wasn't any rain! A welcome return to the tournament scene was made by Joe Oliver, from Pitreavie GC. Joe was a founder member of the Central Section and was in fact our very first Chairman. Perhaps Joe's return will encourage some more of our "older" members

to make a return to the golfing scene and we could start a Seniors' category.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Dullatur for the courtesy and hospitality which was extended to us on the day, especially Lachlan, Bobby and staff for the excellent condition of the course despite the atrocious summer we have experienced, to the clubhouse staff for keeping us fed and refreshed throughout the day. Club Captain, Charlie Flochart, who did us the honour of presenting the prizes and to Club Secretary, Carol Miller, for all her assistance in making the day possible.

Prize winners were as follows:

Best Combined Nett Spring and Autumn. A. Crawford, Green Hotel GC, 142; Best Scratch. D. Leith, St. Andrews, 69; Best Nett. A. Crawford, Green Hotel GC, 75-9-66; Cat 1. 1. C. MacDonald, Crieff GC, 73-4-69; 2. K. Mitchell, St. Andrews, 78-5-73; Cat 2. 1. T. Harris, Cupar GC, 84-11-73; 2. S. Pearson, Aberdour GC, 85-11-74 (BIH); Cat 3. 1. J. Oliver, Pitreavie GC, 95-20-75; 2. A. Arnott, The Meadows GC, 102-19-83; Patrons. G. Howat, Souters, Sportsturf, 86-10-76; Guests. J. Campbell, Murrayshall, 85-10-75.

We had a slight "hiccup" with the prize giving, which has since been rectified, and our sincere apologies go to David Simpson, from Crieff GC, for this mistake. (I will withhold the name/s of the person/s responsible!)

Following my plea for where to purchase roofing shingles I received a call from Craig Stewart who informed me that "the man down the road from his course could supply them". Unfortunately, Stirling Golf Club wouldn't pay my travel expenses. Craig lives in Germany! He is another founder member of the Section and sends his regards to all his friends in Scotland.

I hate to go on about "Club 2000" tickets but why send them back anonymously? I have the names and number of every member who received tickets. So E. Grant thanks for returning your tickets!

The proposed football tournament planned for Forthbank Stadium last month had to be cancelled led due to the lack of support, so what happened to all you budding football stars? Even the holders of the trophy failed to enter a team to defend their title, still thanks to Carnoustie and Dullatur for entering teams.

News of last month's AGM will be in next month's report, you'll either have a new committee or will be stuck with the same 'old' faces!

John Crawford.

Sheffield

On September 23 the Sheffield Section held their Autumn golf competition at Doncaster GC. Although I was unable to attend myself I believe that there was some very good golf played from all those who competed.

The results were as follows :- 1. S. Pigott, 36 pts; 2. G. Wells, 36 pts (BIH); 3. R. Needham, 33 pts; 4. A. Lomas 31 pts; 5. S. Brown 29 pts; 6. S. Currie, 28 pts; 7. T. Simpson, 28 pts; 8. A. Whittington, 27 pts; 9. T. White 27 pts; 10. A. Bunting, 27 pts.

Nearest the Pin G. Wells. Best trade score I. Gravel 35 pts.

Thank you to our main sponsor for the day S. Chapman, of Ransomes Textron, for donating the prizes for our prize table and to all other trade members for their support.

The next competition will be our Christmas comp held at Rotherham GC on Monday, November 25.

See you all soon.

Chris Astle.

North Wales

Dave Goodridge wishes to thank John Osman on behalf of all those who attended the practice days of the Ryder Cup at The Belfry, courtesy of John Deere. A good time was enjoyed and an unmissable chance to see the top 24 golfers in the world on matchplay knockout. It just doesn't get any better than that.

On one occasion on the Tuesday someone in the crowd shouted to Colin Montgomerie, as he had missed the green on the par-3 12th, that he could play better than that. Colin turned round and said "Come on then. What club do you want?" "A sand wedge," he replied and proceeded to chip the ball within two foot of the hole. Colin then dropped another ball and made the same shot, sailing it about eight foot past the hole. These are some of the great moments if you were there on practice days, the relaxed atmosphere of the pros and the banter they have with the crowd.

Members of the North Wales Section were also involved among the 75 strong maintenance crew that helped keep the course in its fine presentation - Phil l'Anson, Matt Young and John Evans, of Carden Park, and Danny O'Neil and Dan Hayes, of Northop.

Moving on. Larry Marsden has retired after 15 years at the Wallasey GC and we wish him well. He has been replaced by Chris Cole, from Wirral Ladies.

Stuart Yarwood, of Lymm GC, appeared on TV's The Weakest Link Show with Ann Robinson (Ann. A real favourite in Wales ? Not) Stuart got to the last four but was ousted by a woman for commenting that he only lets ladies play on a Thursday morning (which I think is more than

generous). Well done, Stuart.

The IOG Show at Aintree was yet again a huge success and our thanks go to the organisers for their marketing and advertising campaign? We will just have to find more security persons to deal with the 'crowd control' if this show is to go ahead again next year.

Gareth Williams, of Porthmadog GC, has been invited by Toro out to the Guadalmina Golf Hotel in Spain from Sunday 24 to Wednesday 27 to try out the new cylinders and machinery for 2003 - Toro have been experimenting previously at Porthmadog.

A warm welcome back to Jamie Williams, at The Vale of Llangollen GC, who is rejoining the team. Wendy O'Brien is also home from her Augusta learning experience.

Our North Wales columnist reaches the half way stage in his life next month and has been told that Philisan has been replaced by, vodka and Red Bull? Anyone wishing to send either will be truly appreciated.

A shortlist of candidates for the USGA Atlanta show will be confirmed shortly this again is donated in conjunction with Bernhards.

Regional training courses start on November 25 at BIGGA HOUSE. These include soil science and sharpening. Please contact BIGGA HOUSE if you wish to book in.

As mentioned in last month's notes, the Christmas tournament will be at Caldy GC on Dec 5. Your entries will be out shortly and this one is sold out very quickly, so don't delay. This also is our Section's AGM and your chance to air any topics (questions on paper beforehand please) a great day's golf and everyone goes home with a prize.

Any views, news or information, please contact me on: Home: 01925 263394

Fax: 01925 269622 Mobile: 07778 162162

e-mail: acorn@golf@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn

North East

September 19, was the date for our autumn comp. This year it was played for the first time at Longhirst Hall GC and what a pleasure it was to be there, water hazards all over the place from small ponds to large lakes. A true test of golf. Thank goodness we were not off the back tees as I think everyone would have struggled to get around.

Thanks should be given to Graham Chambers and his staff for the excellent condition of the course especially as it's only been open four to five years.

The committee would like to thank Dave Cryan, from Rolawn, for sponsoring most of the prizes. It was a nice change to see some golf gear for prizes and

also to Scotts who also kindly donated several prizes. Turf Care again come up trumps with a good prize of a portable TV, and not forgetting the rest of the sponsors either. They were Border Turf Services, Shorts, Aitkens and Greenlay.

Just a word to all you sponsors. Thanks for everything, the spring and autumn competitions

could not go on without your help.

Also to the following golf clubs Bellingham, Gosforth, Hexham, Stocksfield, South Shields, Tyneside and Warkworth, who mostly donated courtesy golf for four persons.

Next year we may play the Spring competition inland instead of travelling up the coast.

Autumn Comp. Best Nett. K. Dinsdale, Northumberland GC, 95-28=67; Best Gross. S. Quince, Parklands GC, 75; Best Nett for 9 and under. J. Richardson, Hexham GC, 80-7=73; Fewsters Shield. 1. Johnson, Stocksfield GC, 88-16=72; 2. R.Black, Westerhope GC, 80-7=73; 3. M. Lathan, Hexham GC, 78-2=76

At a recent Section meeting it was decided from this year's Autumn competition to change the prize allocation. The best nett of the day has a choice of any prize, then next its the best gross who has the next pick followed by who ever has the lowest nett between the 9 and under and the Fewster's Shield. The same will apply to the Spring competition.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

What a month September has been weather wise, certainly in England, although when I met the members from Scotland at the National Championship they wondered where the brown grass had come from. September has mostly been dry and sunny here but Scotland have had a considerable amount of rain making their courses lush green. It is just as well the weather has been good because we had plenty of section golf to be played. The first was the Whitelaw Bowl on September 4 at Penrith Golf Club, and the weather was superb. This annual tournament is sponsored by Course Care and we had a good turnout of 35 members. Once again we were made very welcome by the club and the course was as good as I have ever seen it. The Whitelaw Bowl was won by David Forsyth, the Head Greenkeeper, with a score of 43 points. The match against the golf club stewards was played on September 9 and unfortunately during the afternoon the heavens opened and the match could not be completed. We agreed to call it a half and as we had won last year we retained the trophy.

The Autumn Tournament was played at Didsbury Golf Club on Thursday, September 12 and the weather was fantastic. It was an eventful day for Alex Davies, the Head Greenkeeper, as this was to be his last greenkeepers' tournament, at least in this part of the world. In October he and his family will be emigrating to start a new life in New Zealand (at last). Alex has been threatening to go to New Zealand almost as long as I have known him and at last he has taken the plunge. We all wish Alex and his family good luck in their venture.

Back to the golf day, and that course which can flood as quickly as any I know, was in beautiful condition thanks to Alex & his staff. We had 40 members playing and everybody enjoyed the day. I would like to thank Didsbury Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course, the caterers for a nice lunch and a magnificent meal

in the evening, and Andy Cornes for providing refreshments at the 10th tee. Many thanks also to the North West Patrons and other companies for their support in helping to swell the prize table.

The next get together will be the presidents cup & AGM at Wilmslow on December 5th. Get your entries in early, including a cheque for £20, to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool, L4 9RB. Bill's telephone number – 01512 844416. All competitors to bring a bottle so everybody wins a prize.

That's it for now, but any news or queries contact me on 01517 245412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross

Northern

What a fantastic day we had at Bingley St Ives for our Invitational Golf Day, sponsored by Rigby Taylor. Sixty competitors played for some fantastic prizes on a well set up course. The weather on the day was just perfect for golf. Joe Baxter and his team must be praised for the condition of the course as the day before we had had a deluge. Another big thanks must go to the caterers, as the food was some of the best I have had at a golf event. Thanks to everyone at Bingley for the good time had by all. The results were as follows:- 1. I. Pullan & A. Slingsby, Hollins Hall, 43 pts; 2. M. Gumeniuk & J. Whalley, Bingley, 42 pts. 3. A. Baxter & A. Taylor, Bingley, 41pts (BIH); 4. J. Baxter & A. Scarborough, Bingley, 41pts. Nearest the pin A. Taylor 18' 7". Nearest the Line S. Wild. As you can see Bingley had a great day as we all did!

A week or so after the golf event the section was challenged to a football match by Rigby Taylor at Syngenta sports fields in Huddersfield. A total of 12 greenkeepers turned up with thoughts of glory on the field of battle. Well, what can I say in our defence, except I don't think we had one! We were soundly beaten 12-0! Thanks to all the lads who came as we all had a good time though my legs ached for a week after. Thanks to Mike, from RT, for organising the event - we will try harder next year.

As I write these notes we are about a week away from the Autumn Tournament and AGM at Thirsk and Northallerton, sponsored by Glen Farrow, the irrigation and total water company. A full report of golfing and AGM matters will be in my next report.

Congratulations to Simon Heppenstall in his new job as area representative with Rigby Taylor.

Our last golfing event of the year is the Christmas tournament taking place at Crosland Heath Golf Club on Tuesday, December 3. The cost of this event is the usual £15 with the normal format on the day.

I am at present trying to arrange a factory visit to Textron in Ipswich in late Feb or early March of 2003. It will be open to any Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager interested. It

will involve a tour of the factory and an in-depth look at the full Textron range of machinery. If you are interested please get in touch with either Theo Wilson or myself.

I hope your autumn has been kind to you so far.

David Thackray, 16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West York's, BD2 2NJ, Tel No ; 01274 640739, Mob No; 07976876264 E mai.

Dthackray@aol.com

David Thackray



MIDLAND REGION
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

The Midland Region Educational Seminar will be held at Hinckley Golf Club on Wednesday 27 November 2002. Open to all - Non Members welcome. Cost: £25 including lunch etc. Speakers include: Peter McEvoy - Walker Cup Captain; Daniel Binns BSc STRI - Green Reconstruction; Richard Minton - Spraying Legally; Toby Morel - Grass Seed Production; Peter McCrainor - Lubricants Made Easy plus BIGGA HQ staff and others. Invitations have already been posted to all BIGGA members. If you haven't had yours contact Peter Larter, Midland Region Administrator on 01476 550115.

Peter Larter

BB&O

What an incredible month September has turned out for us all. My course, like most in this area, has the colour of the Kalahari Desert with about as much moisture as an oven baked cheesecake! It certainly leads to firm putting greens but any slight problem with the watering system becomes a blight on the course very quickly.

We have just played our autumn competition at Ellesborough Golf Club. This proved a very challenging course, set in the Chilterns with superb views to look at when trekking the hills and downs of the terrain. A good hike for strengthening the leg muscles. No wonder Bill Clinton chooses to play here when staying at Chequers - it works off the calories and worries of life all in one sweep. Thanks to Dave Goodchild and his team for presenting a fiery test for our day. The greens were very fast indeed, which had a few of us putting beyond the three mark. Also thanks to Bob Weed, the Cub Manager, for helping to organise the set-up for the day. The competition was sponsored by Headland with Ian Richardson ensuring we got off to a good start. Later we had beverages at the 6th hole, kindly provided by Johnny Beck. How good does bacon taste out in the open air?

The results for the day were as follows: 1. Simon Austin, Badgemore Park GC, 42 pts; 2. John Ryan, Browns Ltd, 40 pts; 3. Brian Benzie,

Harleyford GC, 35 pts. Nearest Pin. Dean Thatcher, Badgemore Park GC. Longest Drive. Simon Austin, Badgemore Park GC.

All in all a great day with superb weather ending with a sumptuous meal that would have thrown a weight watcher's diet completely off the scale. Before the meal we had the AGM. This covered the financial position for the Section, which I am pleased to report continues to remain in good health. The venues organised for next year were released and were well received by those present. These will be published on a fixture card to be sent to each member in February 2003 and I will list the venues in next month's magazine. T.H.White has kindly sponsored the fixture card for the second year. We had considered having After Dinner Speakers but after some discussion it was decided that our golf days are long enough. This has been happily accepted by the committee. In addition to the usual four competitions held by the BBO Section, Peter Larter is organising a very special competition to be held in October next year so watch this space for details in the near future.

The committee now stands as follows;
Chairman/Treasurer. Lindsay Anderson;
Secretary. David Haskell-Craig;

Committee Helpers. John Scoones, Ray Clark, Adrian Cooper; Trade Member Mark Day, Tacit.

As I said in last month's Section News, I will be giving a presentation at the Regional Seminar held at Hinckley GC, on Wednesday, November 27. It will be good to meet up for a discussion on any items you may have at the venue so I hope to meet some of you there. If you have any items you wish the committee to consider, please send them to me at my home address and I assure you they will get the attention they deserve. Have a good lead in to the Christmas period with Michrodocium free putting greens!

David Haskell-Craig

Midland

I have the task of somewhat belatedly announcing the death of two members of the Midland Section. Roger Pullen from Blackwell Golf Club and Robert Coxall of Stafford Castle Golf Club. Our condolences go out to the respective families at this sad time. Both will be sadly missed.

The Autumn Tournament was held at The Forest of Arden. It was great having the opportunity to play this championship course on a pleasant sunny day, and as would be expected it was in great nick. Our thanks to the prize sponsors Avoncrop, who were represented on the day by Mark Raynor and Chris Briggs, and John Hammond of Bathgate for the most welcome array of liquid refreshment at the halfway house. We should also like to thank Scotts, in the guise of Nick Martin, for their sponsorship of this year's doubles knockout Tournament and their proposal to repeat the operation next year.

This year's final was held at Celtic Manor, with Rob Shaw and Mike Gash running out worthy winners, against Mike Hughes and Mark Cutler.

Don't forget AGM Stratford-on-Avon Golf Club 4.15pm Tuesday, December 10.

Peter J Richmond

East Midlands

This year's Autumn tournament was held at the delightful Horsley Lodge Golf Club on September 17, although the turnout was poor (30 members) those that did attend enjoyed a first class day. Thanks to Russell Allen and his staff for presenting an excellent golf course for us to play and also to everyone else at the club for making our day so enjoyable. Even though the sun did not shine it was still a pleasant autumn day. The scores were as follows:

Best Gross: Ian Marshall, Wellingborough, 77. Best Nett: Ian Needham, Beedles Lake, 79-9-70. Cat 1. 1. D. Leatherland, Kedleston, 79-9-70; 2. C. Brown, Horsley Lodge, 79-6-73. Cat 2. 1. S. Goode, Kilworth Springs, 85-10-75; 2. D. James, Luffenham Heath, 92-16-76. Cat 3. 1. P. Roe, Kedleston, 98-28-70. 2. M. Hopkins, Kirby Muxloe, 93-19-74. Trade & Associate: 1. P. Larter, BIGGA RA, 76-8-68; 2. S. Hedley, Boughton Loam, 88-12-76.

Finally, I would like to, on behalf of all members, thank Simon Banks, of Banks Amenity Products, for sponsoring the day.

Next year's Autumn tournament will be held at Overstone Park on September 5. The winning numbers for the 100 draw were as follows: 1. £60 No. 46. Sandra James. 2. £25 No. 14. Andy McGreal. 3. No. 26. £15 Danny Brown.

In the Market Harborough Am-Am Simon Banks, Adie Porter, Ian Needham and I finished fifth with a medal score of 129 (11 under par), playing for the Banks Amenity Products team.

Finally I would like to wish all members a Merry Christmas and New Year and on behalf of all Section members thank all those trade and Greenkeeper Members for their valuable support throughout the year.

Antony Bindleye call Duncan on the same number.

Jason Bean



SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352 194

The South West/South Wales Region trip to Harrogate will again have coach travel sponsored by Amenity Technology. There are 60 places available only this year and will be issued on a first come/first served basis. Packages are available at £130 and £200 p.p. Details and booking forms available from either Paula Humphries 01288 352194 or from your Section Secretaries. Dates are 20 - 23 Jan, 2003.

Paula Humphries

Devon & Cornwall

I start my report this month with the news that our Regional Administrator Paula Humphries has had to return to hospital for treatment. I am sure all members wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to meeting her again very soon.

The Devon Garden Machinery Section meeting and AGM will be held at Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club on Wednesday, November 13. The morning's golf will be of foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lely. As usual the non-golfers' course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. The Section's AGM will conclude the day.

Once again Christmas is fast approaching, so what better way to start the festive season than by attending our PJ Flegg-sponsored Christmas meeting which will be held at Okehampton Golf Club on Tuesday, December 10. Please note that the meeting will this year take place on Tuesday and not Wednesday. As in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members, so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible and before the closing date.

The day will start as usual with golfing members playing for the PJ Flegg Trophy with the format being greensomes. For those of you not wishing to play golf, the Course walk will start from the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. Following lunch our afternoon cabaret and raffles will conclude the day.

The Regional Seminar to be held at Cannington College will this year take place over two days from Wednesday 20th November to Thursday, November 21. The theme for day one will be back to basics with day two being taken by Frank Newbury. For more details contact Paula Humphries 01288 352194.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

After enjoying a superb weekend of Ryder Cup magic, where Irishman Paul McGinley holed the winning putt, our Section arrived at Hayling Golf Club, a club with an Irish connection in Course Manager, Ronan McKeown. The superb links were the venue for our autumn tournament sponsored by Tacit. Our tournament organiser, Chris Sturgess, has given us a superb fixture list this year and Hayling was playing at its best, even the wind stayed away although the course was tough enough without it! The standard of golf was excellent as we all tried to master the art of links 'bump and run' and overall winners on the day were:- Tacit Trophy Winner. Sid Cutler, 40 pts (BIH); 2. Alan Magee, 40 pts; 3. Kevin Hills, 38 pts; 4. Kevin Glass, 38 pts; Trade Prize. Trevor Simmonds; Longest Drive, Shane Hodgkins; Nearest the Pin, Lauchlan Millar.

Many thanks to Hayling Golf Club for their superb hospitality and, in particular, the Captain who was a superb host during the day and rightly very proud of the very impressive new

clubhouse; to Ronan and his hard working team for presenting the course in such magnificent condition and to the catering staff for a superb meal. As ever, a huge vote of thanks go to our sponsor, Tacit, without whom the day would not be possible. We were all saddened to hear that our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, has been taken ill again. We certainly missed Paula's company on the day and as a Section our thoughts are with her and her family and we wish her a speedy recovery. Take care Paula!

The Section AGM was held before the dinner, which ran smoothly. The committee remains the same as last year although Chairman, Tony Gadd, reported to the floor that two more committee members were needed. Any interested parties please contact Tony or any of the committee members. We only meet four times a year, so a high level of commitment is not required, but we are looking for people to put something back into our Association and industry.

The main theme that kept repeating itself during the AGM was the apathy among our very large Section, particularly regarding educational events. Providing quality training is one of BIGGA's priorities as the 'Continue to Learn' programme continues. We all have a duty to continue our personal professional development if we are to change our image and people's perception about our industry. We can all make excuses about not attending seminars and other educational events but we need you all to make the effort! As a committee we endeavour to make these events as interesting as possible and it is soul destroying that so few of you can be bothered to turn up. So let's see some more faces next time. If you want particular speakers or courses run then let me know and we will try to arrange it.

Our next port of call will be the High Post Golf Club on Thursday, December 5 for the Turkey Trot. Please forward your cheques for £18 to Chris Sturgess. High Post is the home club of Don Friend who has recently retired after 15 years service. We hope you have a long and happy retirement Don!

As I said before, if you have any news for next month's column or a course you would like to see run in the Section then give me a ring.

01202 661106. I'm waiting for that first call

Until next month

Alex McCombie



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Kent

At last someone has replied to my begging for some news. Mark Smith from St Augustines GC where I started playing golf as a junior back in 1983. He e-mailed me with news about his eye. Those who know Mark will know how he

injured himself while striking at work about eight years ago. A piece of metal from the striker blade shot up under his eye protector and seriously damaged his eye. Mark has had 11 operations over the years and now I'm afraid he has lost his eye and will have a false one fitted soon. Those of you who know Mark know what he has been through but we all hope he can now get his career and life back on track. Some good news from Mark is that his wife, Jo, is expecting their fourth child soon. It is good to hear Mark that your third eye is working well though! I wish you and your family all the best for the future.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Turkey Trot at North Foreland on the November 27. I'm sure Steve and Graham will have a fine course set up for us and hope there is not a cold north east wind blowing over the cliff tops.

Any news or views please drop me a line at JRBATKHGOLF@AOL.COM or call my office on 01732 875020.

Jason Bean

London

I know, I know, it's been a while since I wrote a report but it appears to have been a very quiet period here in the London Section, so I decided to save up any news I had and report it in one big hit!

Going back to our Spring Meeting at Wyke Green, in April, it produced the sort of weather, which we could probably do with a drop of now. Torrential rain meant that we had to abandon our round at the Halfway House (good timing or what), the sausage rolls and coffee softening the blow somewhat. The Spring Meeting Trophy and all the prizes, kindly supplied and sponsored by Mark Day, of Tacit, were carried over to our next meeting. Our sincere thanks go to Tony Dyke and his staff for producing a course of very high quality and to Wyke Green golf club for their hospitality.

So on to our Summer Meeting held at Hendon Golf Club. We were blessed with good weather and Phil Garrod from Aldenham Golf Club took a belated Spring Meeting trophy and also qualified for the National Championship with the best Gross score of the day. Ben Knowles-Jackson also qualified with the best Nett score. Well done to both. Once again thanks to Mark Day for all the hard work, not only with the prizes carried over from Wyke Green but also for organising the nearest the pin, longest drive and all the flags for the day. Our raffle was sponsored by Barry McCloskey, of Avoncrop, with some fabulous prizes. Thanks Barry. The course was in fine condition and provided a very good test of golf and our appreciation goes to new Course Manager Bobby McMillan and his staff and also to Gavin Kyle, who has moved onto pastures new as Course Manager at Knowle Park, for all his hard work leading up to the event, not only on the course but in helping me to set it up in the first place. We welcome Bobby to the Section and wish both he and Gavin the very best in their new posts.

The Autumn meeting was held at Porter's Park

Golf Club on August 21. Much to my disappointment I was unable to attend but I know a good day was had by all. Overall winner was Dave Fosh, from Stockley Park Golf Club, with Hadley Wood's, James Lomas, runner-up, My thanks go to Rob Washbrook for stepping into the breach and organising everything on the day and also to Alan Percival and Turner Groundcare for their kind sponsorship. Course Manager, Martin Smith, and his staff once again presented the course in superb condition although I did hear a rumour going round that it's never been quite the same since I left! Thanks Martin and Porter's Park Golf Club for a successful day.

News from around the Section over the past few months has seen John Merriman leaving Batchworth Park to take up the Course Manager's position at Mid-Herts Golf Club and Roy Hadler returning to Wyke Green Golf Club to work with Tony Dyke and his team after a two year absence. Good Luck to both.

Paul Clark

Essex

Firstly, we would like to wish Dominic Rodgers a speedy recovery after being taken into hospital two days before our golf day at Upminster GC (hurry up Dom, the scorecards are a nightmare).

Secondly, congratulations to Jon Selwood and Nicky on the birth of a baby boy, Frankie 7lbs 6oz. The staff from Abridge say he is a changed man now and always smiling. What do they mean?

Thirdly, no luck at this year's National Championship for the Section's two qualifiers. Our Chairman Carl and Anthony Kirwin found both courses very tough but were complimentary, particularly regarding Hillside, which they rated along with some of the best in the world.

Our last golf competition was held at Upminster Golf Club on 2nd October. Our main sponsors were Gem Professional and our thanks go to Richard Haynes. The day started off on a damp note but despite the dark clouds hovering the rain kept at bay for the competitors. A big thank you to Upminster Golf Club and John Collintine, the Club Secretary, for providing the venue; to Josie and all the staff for their friendly hospitality and a superb meal. Lastly thank you to the new Headman, Doug Fernie, and his green staff on producing an excellent track despite the recent long dry spell (Hope to see you all at the next golf day).

Now on to the prize winners. There were two main categories 0-14 and 15-28. 0-14. 1. and overall winner N. Morris, 40pts; 2. R. Dunmow, 35pts; 3. R. Clark, 34pts. 15-28. 1. R. Linnen, 34pts; 2. P. Bannock, 32pts; 3. D. Clark, 29pts. Guest prize. 1. L. Downset, 35pts 2. J. Hawkins, 32pts (19 Pts on the back 9). Trade 1.S. Banks, 34pts; Longest Drive. Thank you to sponsors Greenkeeper Supply Company. R. Hare; Nearest the Pin. Thank you to sponsors Greenkeeper Supply Company. J. Dilliway.

Finally, thank you to the following Rigby Taylor (guest prize), Sherriff Amenity, D.F.L, Tacit, Banks

Amenity and Avoncrop for providing the raffle.

Our next event is an evening lecture at Writtle College on November 26. We need your support, bring a member of your club and they may learn something too. On the last two occasions the numbers have been very poor. John Sinclair puts a lot of hard work into getting guest speakers so please support him. Further details will follow soon and if you have any problems please call John 01702 589063.

Please put a note in your diary for our AGM/Christmas Golf Competition and the Golfer of the Year award, to be held at Stock Brook Manor on Thursday, November 28. Please would all overall winners for 2002 make a big effort to attend, not only to collect their trophy or cup but Arnold, from Stock Brook, has kindly offered to take a group photograph to be published in the magazine.

It was nice to see some new faces at Upminster, hope you enjoyed yourselves. Let's finish the year with a good turn out for the last two events. Finally if you are not receiving the flyers or have any problems or comments, please contact me on 01245 603131 or on my new mobile 07984 867939.

Martin Forrester.

Sussex

Wednesday, September 25 turned out to be a beautiful warm and sunny day.

How am I so sure you say, because it was the Autumn meeting. This was held at Mannings Heath which is always a popular venue with us.

The day was sponsored by Rigby Taylor who were represented by Mike Ring, who amazed us with his new golf swing, (one day soon he is going to win a prize).

So on this beautiful day 35 Greenkeepers and guests turned up to take full advantage of Mannings Heath's hospitality and we started off with a 9 hole Texas Scramble held on the Kingfisher Course. With my team leading the way. Then 10 minutes later Billy picking us up as I'd managed to miss the 2nd tee but found the 18th. Yet again thanks for the lift Billy.

After lunch an 18 hole Stableford on the water full course, which I found just a little too hard.

As always the course was in excellent condition due to the hard work of Billy McMillan and his team. I would also like to pass our thanks on to the Clubhouse staff who made the day run very smooth.

So onto the results: The morning round winners were R. Short, C. Whybourne, G. Ogilvie & N. Beadle. In the afternoon - Nearest the pin:- M. Sommerfield. Longest Drive - R. Short. Guest prize was picked up by C. Allen. 1. R. Day, 39pts; 2. R. Kanel, 37pts; 3. M. Sommerfield, 36pts.

Well onto the Turkey Trot which will be on Friday, December 20 at you know where.

Remember, any information you have which may be of interest to us you can contact me on 07876 233253.

Jon Budd

Buyers GUIDE

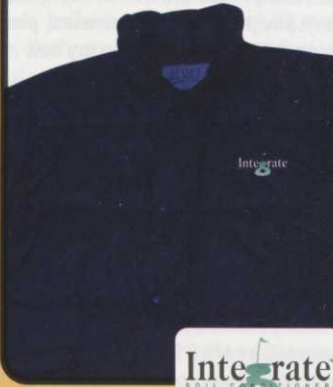
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require

2 ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

The successful applicants will hold NVQ level 2 or equivalent, PA1, PA2 and PA6.

Have a minimum of 3 years experience and be expected to work along with a progressive team to high standards.

Input into course will be encouraged, together with continued Professional Development.

This is an ideal opportunity to experience a wide range of course management techniques at a high level.

Salary in accordance with CGS recommendation

Applications in writing with a full CV to:

Murray Long, Head Greenkeeper, Coombe Hill Golf Club,
Golf Club Drive, Off Coombe Lane West,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT2 7DF



CALDY GOLF CLUB LIMITED

require a

COURSE MANAGER

Caldy is an 18-hole championship course beautifully situated on the banks of the Dee Estuary and celebrates its centenary in 2007.

This is a new Senior Position and the successful applicant will be a very experienced, appropriately qualified, highly motivated team leader with a proven track record.

This important appointment is required to sustain and build upon the recent significant investment in the golf course.

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Written applications with C.V. to:

Secretary, Caldy Golf Club,
Links Hey Road, Caldy, Wirral CH48 1NB



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applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Minimum qualifications required include NVQ to at least level 3. PA1, PA2 & PA6 Spraying certificates.

The successful applicant will be an enthusiastic "hands on" individual possessing strong motivational skills and the ability to lead from the front.

An ability to work within a defined and agreed budget is an essential attribute.

As is a comprehensive knowledge of all types of course maintenance machinery and Health and Safety at work legislation.

The Leek Golf Course is well established and acknowledged to be one of the best in Staffordshire and the surrounding areas.

Remuneration is negotiable, but will recognise the importance attached to the position.

Written applications, in the strictest confidence, should be forwarded to:

The Hon Secretary, Leek Golf Club Ltd,
Cheddleton Road, Leek, Staffs ST13 5RE.

BRAMLEY GOLF CLUB

Invite applications for the position of
MECHANIC

Successful candidates will have experience of modern professional grass machinery.

Good communication skills and the ability to work alone are essential.

Apply in writing to:-

Mr P Smith, Course Manager, Bramley Golf Club,
Bramley, Nr Guildford, Surrey GU5 0AL

BRIGGENS HOUSE HOTEL GOLF CLUB

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ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

To join our team looking after the 9 hole golf course which is set in 88 acres of parkland with an abundance of rare trees.

Experience and qualified to NVQ Level 2 standard would be an advantage.

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To arrange for an interview with Alan Battle.

Please contact Fraser Carroll on 01279 829955

Alan Battle Golf Manager, Briggens House Hotel Golf Club,
Briggens Park, Stanstead Abbots, Ware, Hert, SG12 8LD

Lincoln Golf Club



We currently require for our prestigious 18 hole golf course in Lincolnshire a
JUNIOR GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will possess NVQ2 or equivalent, preferably 3 years experience in a similar position, and any other relevant experience would be an advantage.

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Apply in writing, with a full CV to:

Mr Derek B Linton, Manager, Lincoln Golf Club, Torksey, Lincoln, LN1 2EG Tel: 01427 718721

STOCKPORT GOLF CLUB

Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant must be committed, enthusiastic and expected to carry out a variety of greenkeeping tasks.

Applicants must be qualified to minimum NVQ 2.

STUDENT GREENKEEPER

We are looking for a reliable student for the 2003 season.

Applications in writing with C.V. to:

Warren Bevan, Course Manager, Stockport Golf Club,
Offerton Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire SK2 5HL Tel: 0161 427 8369



TENTERDEN GOLF CLUB

require a

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Apply in writing only to:-

The Secretary/Manager, Tenterden Golf Club,
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MOOR PARK GOLF CLUB

Require

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We are currently seeking enthusiastic greenkeepers to join our existing team to help maintain and develop our two parkland courses to the highest of standards for National Championships, members and visitors.

The successful applicants will be self motivated, reliable and have the ability to work well with an established team.

Applications in writing enclosing a C.V. to:

Stuart Bertram, Course Manager,
Moor Park Golf Club, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 1QN

TAVISTOCK GOLF CLUB

Require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

for our 18 Hole Moorland course situated on Whitchurch Common within the Dartmoor National Park.

Candidates must:-

Be suitably qualified to at least NVQ2/3.

Be able to organise and lead a small enthusiastic team.

Have budgetary skills and a good knowledge of health & safety issues.

Applications in writing by 1st December with full CV and current salary to:

The Secretary, Tavistock Golf Club, Down Road, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 9AQ

RECRUITMENT CONTINUED ON INSIDE BACK COVER...

Feature listing from November 2000

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; Scotsturf preview/ Saltex review

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

July 2002; Open preview; Turf; Steve Isacss; Emissions; Grinding; Rotary Mowers; BTME preview; Sandy McDivot

August 2002; BIGGA Golf Day; Open review; Talking Heads - Education & training; Trees; Dr Kate Entwistle; Pwllheli GC; Weather; Compact Tractors; Saltex preview

September 2002; National Championship Preview; Irrigation; Non Grass Cutters; Hawkstone Park; Careers in Greenkeeping

October 2002; Saltex Review; Golden and Silver Key Supporters; Environment Awards; Health & Safety; Sustainable Use of Pesticides



Where has all the rain gone?



Since writing my October article and commenting on the dreadful weather, I haven't seen a drop of rain for nearly six weeks now and the golf course is beginning to look quite dry. But after our experience this time last year I am not complaining and the course will at least go into winter fairly dry. I think you will agree with me that this makes planning extremely difficult. Last year it was too wet and now we are too dry for some jobs, but then that is the challenge of greenkeeping.

The past four weeks have been a busy time for me and the Association. Back in September I was a guest of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association and presented a paper at their education conference in Vasterås, just north of Stockholm. Fortunately for me the vast majority of them could understand and speak English so, not unlike Harrogate, I could socialise with them after the conference. Unfortunately though, not being able to understand or speak Swedish I relied on them to explain the other presentations later! Again like Harrogate it was nice to meet with people who put your problems into perspective. I thought golfers started to play early over here but can you imagine people playing 24 hours a day certainly in the north of the country where greens had to be cut twice a day due to the light and amount of growth, and also not being able to see your course for several months due to a covering of snow or indeed total darkness! This was in total contrast to that of Bruce Williams, their principal speaker, who presented two superb papers. Bruce works at the Los Angeles Country Club and has a reasonably nice climate year round although still encounters many problems.

Regrettably while I was away it was the Toro Student Of The Year awards at Headquarters which my Vice-Chairman, George Brown attended. I understand all finalists were of an extremely high standard and congratulations must go to you all, in particular Murray Long who came out on top. I know he is in for a super prize and one that can only benefit his future. Thanks again to Toro for their continued support of this event.

On my return from Sweden I picked up a quick change of clothes and headed off up to the National Championship. I am sure most of you will have heard or read in other reports I did not have one of my better days on the course. Hillside was truly magnificent and it was a good walk spoiled for me as I could only manage one over (level fives that is not level par) but

like a true professional I bettered that score by 12 at Hesketh the following day, but had to take some ribbing in between times.

Congratulations to Ian Semple the overall winner and all other prize winners and a big thank you to both greenkeeping teams and sponsors for helping to make our championships such a success. It was much appreciated by all who took part.

And finally, to conclude this busy period, we have had a board meeting and I have attended a golf day and AGM of the Mid Anglia Section. This was held at Stocks Hotel & Golf Club in Aldbury. Thanks must go to that familiar face and BIGGA supporter, Mark Ellis, and his team for a super golf course and the Section committee for all their hard work. This section like many others spoke of what they had accomplished within the year with regards to tournaments and education but weren't supported as well as they would have liked! Come on guys. Let your Section committees know what you want.

With regard to the rest of the month I have a couple of Sections to visit and an invitation to speak in Denmark at their annual conference and on my return I will be at Scotsturf for two days where I look forward to seeing you on the BIGGA stand. I will be reporting on these in my next article.

And finally, you should have received your forms for BTME/Clubhouse. Get them back to Headquarters early to secure the course you want.

It's going to be a busy week!

Richard Barker
National Chairman

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Recruitment



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HEAD GREENKEEPER

Following the appointment of Richard Whyman as Head Greenkeeper at Burnham and Berrow after 18 years service at Bude.

The successful candidate will be responsible for all aspects of the course and must be able to demonstrate knowledge and experience in all aspects of modern golf course maintenance and management; expertise relating to the traditions of links courses particularly important.

Excellent terms and conditions. The club is informal and friendly and the Greenkeeper a key member of the management team. Bude is a delightful and flourishing seaside town offering excellent schools and quality of life.

Closing date 30 November 2002

Apply in writing, enclosing cv to:

Pauline Ralph, Secretary, Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club,
Burn View, BUDE, N Cornwall, EX23 8DA
Tel: 01288 352006 Email: secretary@budegolf.co.uk.



PRESTON GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of HEAD GREENKEEPER

Preston Golf Club is a private member's club founded in 1892. It is one of the finest inland courses in North West England, based on a traditional layout by James Braid in a mature parkland setting and incorporating the best of modern developments, including established USGA greens.

The successful applicant must possess the appropriate qualifications and have a proven track record in all aspects of modern golf course management. Experience in the care and management of established USGA greens would be advantageous. A sound knowledge of the practical application of current Health & Safety legislation is a requirement.

The position demands an enthusiastic and self-motivated individual with the personal skills necessary to lead and motivate an established team of greenkeepers to further develop the natural potential of the course.

We will be offering an excellent remuneration package to the successful candidate, including a generous pension scheme. Where appropriate, assistance in meeting relocation expenses may be available.

Closing Date 2 December 2002

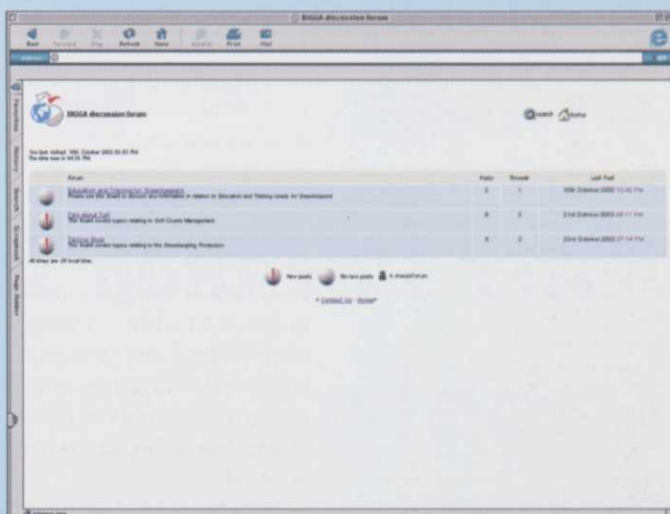
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