



October 2002 – £3.50

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



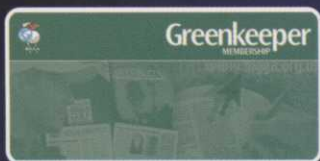
Best of the West



B I G G A M E M B E R S H I P

HOW CAN YOU benefit?

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



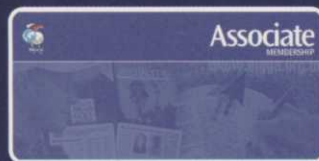
Greenkeeper Membership
(any person employed in the 'keeping of the green at a golfing establishment') offers:

Education opportunities for professional greenkeepers

Exclusive discounts and benefits for Greenkeeper Members

Exclusive access to our Greenkeeper Members Area

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



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BIGGA MEMBERSHIP IS ABOUT MAXIMISING RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS AND ENSURING THAT GOLF CLUBS RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE AND BENEFITS OF EDUCATION WITHIN THE PROFESSION



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

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CI 10.02



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Subscription includes magazine

Corporate
Membership

Subscription includes 4 magazines

Student
Membership

Subscription includes magazine

Name

Mailing address

Postcode

Work Tel:

Email:

Golf Club/Company/College

Position at Club/Company/College

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE

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2



Membership
BIGGA HOUSE
Aldwark
Alne
York
YO61 1UF



A guide to who's who at BIGGA

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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October 2002

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by November 7, 2002

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36 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

WIN
AN AUTUMN WARMER
DUCK-DOWN JACKET

This is your chance to win a superb, duck-down quilted, waterproof jacket worth over £50 in our Buyers' Guide competition in association with GreenLink International & Green-Release

GreenLINK
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'THE TURFTIME TEASER'
DETAILS ON PAGE 50



JOHN DEERE



Green Environment Competition



Welcome

DIRECT THAT PASSION CONSTRUCTIVELY

In recent years there has been the explosion of what can only be described as a modern day phenomenon - the internet chat room or bulletin board. They have become an accepted part of everyday life and there can't be an organisation, in any walk of life you care to mention, that doesn't give its members the opportunity to communicate with like minded colleagues. We have had one on the BIGGA website for the last few years and a number of members link up with each other on it to share problems and uncover solutions.

For every website and bulletin board set up by a recognised organisation there are others administered independently, and very good many of them are to.

It does mean that there has never been a greater anonymity to be heard or, to be more accurate, read.

That's great because what could possibly be wrong with frank exchanges of views between like minded people and, as I have already mentioned, sharing problems and finding solutions.

Well, in the main not a great deal... if it is done responsibly. The problem is that some of the people who air their views do so beneath a cloak of anonymity, using pseudonyms or no name at all. I would imagine that it gives them the confidence to air their views in whatever directions they wish. Again, in itself, that's not a problem.

Except, and here comes the rub, much of what can be said by these people is inaccurate. Indeed it would be fair to say that much of what is said is downright wrong, based on patchy information, hearsay, or, more often than not, no accurate facts whatsoever.

Some of this is of little consequence and, occasionally, the "author" is corrected in a follow-up message, but quite often the misinformation can be potentially very damaging, not to say libellous.

As a journalist no-one is more in favour of the power of free speech than me, but I also know that with that power comes a responsibility. In conversation, a little piece of gossip is often good for the soul but as soon as something is written down, whether it be in a book, magazine, newspaper, or website bulletin board, and can be read by others, it takes on added significance.

The people who take the time to post messages on bulletin boards are obviously extremely passionate about their chosen topics and it is obvious that what they are saying means a great deal to them.

However, that time and passion could be more usefully spent becoming better acquainted with their subject so that when they do go on-line what they say has the benefit of being based on accurate information. Then perhaps it might offer up some constructive ideas from which everyone can benefit.

And if that were the case there would be no need to hide behind a pseudonym.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

EGU COURSE PROGRAMME

The Golf Services Committee of the English Golf Union has once again put together an excellent programme of seminars on Golf Course Management this autumn.

Six Seminars/Workshops have been organised at clubs around the country for Club Secretaries, Managers, Owners and Chair of Green. The programme at each venue will cover Agronomy, Ecology, Course Design, Health & Safety and Greenkeeper Education & Training. Venues have also been selected this year to allow a focus on selected subjects.

15 Oct Sandiway Golf Club, Cheshire, Agronomy & Woodland Management; 17 Oct Drayton Park Golf Club, Staffs, New Green Construction & Management; 22 Oct Gillingham Golf Club, Kent, Agronomy & Course Design; 29 Oct Minchinhampton Golf Club, Gloucs. Agronomy & Course Design; 11 Nov Porters Park Golf Club, Herts Agronomy & Ecology; 12 Nov Broadstone Golf Club, Dorset, Ecology

GREENKEEPING MASTERCLASS

The National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa 4 & 5 December

Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers have the opportunity to visit the National Golf Centre for an intensive programme, which will take an in-depth look at certain aspects of Agronomy, Ecology and General Management.

Invitations are being sent to Clubs for the Seminars and Masterclass and full details of the programmes, speakers and an application form will also be available on the Golf Services pages of the EGU website at www.englishgolfunion.org.

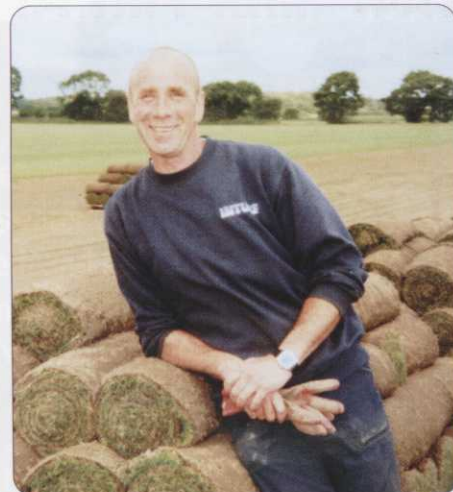
INTURF

Inturf, the specialist growers of cultivated turf, have promoted Simon King to the position of Regional Coordinator for Lincolnshire, East Anglia and Cambridgeshire. He previously worked at Inturf's nursery in York, and his appointment reflects the ongoing strong growth in the company's business.

Simon has worked at Inturf for several years, interspersed by a spell working on a turf farm in the USA. He headed back east to the UK and Inturf three years ago, and hasn't looked back since.

In his new role, Simon will be visiting Inturf's customers on a regular basis, and so it was perhaps appropriate that he spent most of his first week in the job at Saltex.

Inturf have also promoted Ian Collett to the position of Sales Manager.



JOHN DEERE SUPPORTS BIGGA

Following the outstanding success of the inaugural John Deere Team Championship in Great Britain and Ireland during 2002, John Deere and BIGGA have announced that the National Education Conference and workshop programmes to be held during the 2003 BTME and CLUBHOUSE Exhibitions will be officially supported by the John Deere Team Championship.

"BIGGA is very pleased to receive this support at our major national event. Both the Conference and Workshops are long established and eagerly anticipated each year by our members. Support from the John Deere Team Championship will enable the Association to continue to deliver excellent speakers and experts on the respective programmes," said BIGGA Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

NORFOLK TURF MACHINERY

Norfolk Turf Machinery have been awarded the franchise for Toro Commercial Products in Norfolk.

Larry Pearman, the Toro Area Sales Manager, said, 'We chose NTM because they are the up and coming turf machinery specialists in Norfolk with a strong sales record under Richard Fulford. They have come a long way in the past three years and can provide excellent sales and after sales service through their three Depots at Attleborough, North Walsham and Sculthorpe near Fakenham. We are looking forward to having a good partnership with NTM.'

NFM Managing Director Steve Kittle said 'We feel very honoured to be entrusted with such a major international franchise as Toro. This range of machinery complements our existing portfolio which includes Kubota, Etesia, Scag, Charterhouse and Dennis.'

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

WALL WALKERS

Sponsorship from Kubota UK has played a valuable part in helping two intrepid lady walkers raise more than £6,000 for The Children's Society.

The walk, which covered 62 miles of the Great Wall of China, was undertaken by Della Ormston and Sophie Wharton, Creative Director and office manager at Sage and Sequoia, the Buckinghamshire marketing agency used by Kubota.

Della and Sophie walked for five consecutive days as part of a team comprising 40 other sponsored walkers from the UK plus six Chinese and four British guides.

Della said that she and Sophie had chosen to walk the Great Wall because it presented an unusual challenge and helped support an excellent charity working in a particularly difficult area.

"The whole experience was fantastic and thanks are due to everyone who sponsored the walk, especially Kubota, whose donation was a huge help, taking us well past our original target of £5,000."



OTTERBINE CHOOSE LELY

Lely UK, distributor for Toro Commercial and Irrigation products, has been appointed as the exclusive distributor for Otterbine water aeration systems, fountains and other associated products. The appointment is with immediate effect and covers the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Otterbine-Barebo, from Emmaus, Pennsylvania, USA, is the worldwide leader in lake and pond water quality management systems, with 300 distributors and 90 service centres around the globe.

"Otterbine products complement our irrigation business very well, and there is also a strong cross-over in some cases with our Toro commercial products' markets," said Graeme Francis, Toro Irrigation Products'

Sales Manager, at Lely UK's St Neots, Cambs., headquarters.

"Water is being used more and more in landscape design, and this brings with it a requirement for maintaining and managing water quality. We see a huge UK potential market."

Golf courses, airports, hotels, commercial developments and business parks are all good examples of the types of location that are increasingly using water in their landscapes to beautify their settings.

There are three core Otterbine product lines that sell in the UK marketplace – industrial aerators, aerating fountains and pure fountains.

PLAN IT OUT

The GTC is helping golf club employers to command an even tighter grip on health and safety matters relating to their greenstaff.

A colour wallchart is being sent to all golf clubs in the UK and Ireland – and it even comes complete with marker pen and coloured dots, courtesy of the GTC.

The chart, developed in consultation with health and safety consultants Jon Allbutt Associates, will be used to record greenkeepers' competence in using a wide range of equipment. It will be an at-a-glance guide to who is qualified to use which pieces of machinery, such as mowers and tractors.

The wallchart was officially launched on the GTC's stand at Saltex.

Accurate recording of staff training and competencies cannot be overstated. This chart will be a vital tool for course managers and because it is so easy to use, we think it will prove extremely popular," said GTC Education Director, David Golding.

Jon Allbutt added, "This wallchart is essential for managers to track greenkeepers' skills. It is also good for the greenkeepers themselves because they will know their limitations and can aim to be competent in more areas."

LAND DRAINAGE CONTRACTORS

Following last year's successful event at BIGGA HOUSE, the next Land Drainage Contractors Association Seminar on Sportsturf Drainage and Turfcare will be held at Aldwark Manor on November 7, with a similar event being held at The Oxfordshire Golf Club on November 14.

The seminars will review the latest techniques and current developments in drainage construction, establishment and aftercare for sportsturf surfaces and will also be applicable to other types of leisure and amenity areas.

For further information contact Bruce Brockway
Tel: 01327 263264.

EUROPEAN SOLHEIM CUP

European Solheim Cup Captain Dale Reid, commenting on the slow play during last month's match: "I've always said. If I wanted to spend six hours on a golf course I'd have become a greenkeeper."

DOUG BELL TRIBUTE

I first met Doug Bell at West Lancashire Golf Club, where he was the Secretary. When Doug became the Administrator for the Greenkeepers Association for the Northern Region, he took the role on in a quiet and unassuming manner and everyone who came into contact with him held him in the highest regard. They say that when you meet people they have some influence in your life and leave lasting impressions, Doug was one of these people. A lot of greenkeepers owe him a debt of gratitude to him for his help when required on grievance and disciplinary issues at their golf club. The Association will sadly miss him; I for one enjoyed his sense of humour and his very quick wit. In this day and age with the demands on all industries, people like Doug had time for everyone.

I feel that most of the people that knew Doug are richer for knowing him. I for one was privileged to work with Doug for a number of years and class myself as one of the lucky ones.

Ian Holoran

Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



A NEW HOME FOR RIGBY TAYLOR

Rigby Taylor has relocated to new premises at Horwich in Bolton.

The move allows the company to combine all of its Bolton based operations on one site as the new head office premises, which includes 40,000 square feet of warehousing space. It will replace its existing sites at Garside Street, Bolton and Locomotion Estate, Horwich.

"Our first criterion in looking for new premises was to find something suitable in Bolton as we were very keen to remain in the town. We have been at Garside Street for nearly a hundred years but we have long ago outgrown the site and have been operating from two sites in the town for several years," said Chairman, Bernard Hedley.

"Our new premises will enable us to continue the expansion of our business and to make further improvements to the levels of service we give to our customers."

Rigby Taylor also has distribution depots in Guildford and Newbridge Midlothian. The new Bolton address is:- Rigby Taylor House, Crown Lane, Horwich, Bolton, BL6 5HP. Tel: 01204 677777. Fax 01204 677715
www.rigbytaylor.com



SISIS

Kevin Leese has joined Sisis as Territory Manager for NW England.

Married to Sheila for 19 years, Kevin has worked in the trade turfcare for 26 years so has a lot of experience for Sisis customers to draw on.



A PLEA FOR HELP TO GTC

An independent training council has asked for help from the GTC in finding new assessors.

The National Proficiency Tests Council, an awarding body overseeing competence tests for people working in land-based industries, has a newly revised suite of horticultural certificates of competence. It has turned to the GTC because of its expertise in assessor training.

NPTC Senior Technical Officer Steve Hewitt said, "Organisations such as the GTC play a pivotal role in bringing these qualifications to the attention of trainers and also employers with potential candidates working for them."

GTC Education Director David Golding added: "The GTC is proud to be asked for help in providing the NPTC with names of assessors. The role of the assessor is vital in training."

The NPTC certificates of competence cover areas such as pesticide use, tractor driving and machine maintenance. For greenkeepers, these certificates are awarded as part of a trainee's pursuit of National or Scottish Vocational Qualifications in Sportsturf.

SWAN PLANT SERVICES

Swan Plant Services has just bought 10 new Roberine 900 cylinder mowers from John Deere, making a total of 50 triple mowers ordered from Deere since the beginning of the year.

Eight of the machines were recently collected from the John Deere Limited headquarters at Langar, Nottingham by Swan's own new Ford Iveco transporter, which can carry six mowers on the main body and two on an additional trailer.

Swan has regularly doubled its annual turnover since entering the amenity equipment hire market in 1993. The introduction of Best Value has seen an increasing number of local authorities developing partnership packages with Swan for periods of three to five years.

In 2001 the company established four such long term contract hire arrangements with local authority customers; this year 10 more have been agreed, the latest with councils in East Lothian, Hounslow, Trafford and Thameside. The hire fleet has now expanded to offer over 5800 machines, including John Deere's latest cylinder and rotary mowers, compact tractors and Gator utility vehicles.

The new Roberines have been supplied by Swan's local John Deere dealer Turner Groundscare of Tarvin, Chester.



Available October this year

NOW!

Tillers Rootzone Turf

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

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

Tillers Rootzone Turf will be available this October. It's grown on three commonly specified rootzones:

1. USGA spec rootzone from Prestige, using sand from Messingham, plus peat.
2. USGA spec rootzone from Banks, using sand from Leighton Buzzard, plus Fensoil.
3. 1742 Grade rootzone from Rufford, using sand from Messingham, plus soil.

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

Custom-grown Rootzone Turf

In addition we can grow any mixture of grasses on any rootzone to match your individual specification. But you do have to

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

Trouble-free establishment

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

Main agent Rigby Taylor

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

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

 **Tillers Turf**
g r o w e r s o f f i n e t u r f

Tel: 01652 678000 www.tillersturf.co.uk

POMME ON TOUR

Martin Gunn, Course Manager at Temple Golf Club represented BIGGA at the recent Australian Conference

Unusually for me (and much more like Duncan McGilvray!), I was sitting in the office when the phone rang one wet winter afternoon.

"Martin it's Neil Thomas how are you?"

"Yeah, very well thanks. (thinks this is unusual) What can I do for you?" "Martin, I'm going to make you an offer you can't refuse"

At this point I prepare myself for some mind numbingly menial task that the association is struggling to get anyone else to do!

"Oh yes," I said, (trying to sound as interested as possible).

"How do you fancy representing the Association at the it Australian Turfgrass Conference, in Brisbane next June... Martin are you there?"

Well as you can imagine, I was dumbfounded and spent the next few minutes bouncing off the walls of my office. When I finally calmed down, I think I agreed to go before even finding out what I had to do when I got there. Anyway, agree I did (of course after seeking employer endorsement) and on rationalising decided that the prospect for vocational development was one which couldn't be refused.

I've been told that I then spent the next few weeks annoying fellow workmates, local greenkeepers, relatives and friends by repeating: "Oh... did; tell you that I'm off to Brisbane next June?" Personally, I find that hard to believe. Anyhow, time marched ever on and before I knew it I had completed my preparations, had notification of travel and hotel arrangements, liased with fellow "keepers" from "Oz", arrived and was ready to begin.

For those of you who have visited the Brisbane Convention Centre I'm sure you would agree that it is a pretty impressive building. Similar in stature to Birmingham's NEC, its outstanding architecture and wall-to-wall power point suites set an expectation of excellence. The accompanying programme gave general information on all lectures and workshops, splitting delegates into two main groups, greenkeepers and groundsman. Even with 600 expectant "turfies" it was easy to find your way round and locate which workshop you wanted to attend.

As for singing for my supper. I had to present one paper on golf course ecology "British style" and to take part in two one hour open forums. The first of these forums was on golf course preparation and the other on construction. What I didn't realise was that these forums were interactive sessions and as part of a distinguished panel of scientists and greenkeepers, I would take part in answering questions from the floor, for the entire session! As you can imagine, this proved both enlightening and challenging. After all, there is little you can prepare if you don't know what you're going to be asked. However, I believe this was one of the most important sessions of the entire conference and with the clever and accomplished chairmanship of John Neylan (AGCSA tech dept) this session more than met its objectives of providing a "World of Ideas".

Of course what the Aussies do very well (apart from winning the Ashes) is socialise. After arriving at 01:30hrs and with jet lag still trying to get the better of me, I spent my first day in Brisbane acclimatising and getting my bearings. Towards the end of the day I wandered over to the Convention Centre and literally bumped into Euan Laird, Chief Executive Officer for the Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association. Euan made me very welcome and pointed me in the direction of his team who were already in place and busy preparing for the show. He also very kindly asked me if I would like to take part in the AGCSA National Golfing Tournament, which was due to leave the hotel at 06:00hrs next morning. I humbly declined, as



Martin Gunn

at that point my body clock had not quite realigned itself. However, I did manage to make the welcome cocktail patty (Hawaiian style) that evening. With hindsight, an invaluable experience as I managed to meet many of the ACCSA staff and delegates. The ice was quickly broken with stories of great cricketing and rugby prowess all of which, quite rightly, were bias. On reflection this had been an excellent start to my trip, I was settled in and reassured that 'these guys were no different from us'.

Next day and still slightly bleary eyed it was time to start the conference proper.

Looking through the conference programme gave you an idea of the calibre of

information to be disseminated over the next few days. The list of speakers included: Dr Joe Vargas, Michigan State University; Dr Richard Gibbs, New Zealand Sports Turf Institute; Dr Earl Elsner, Georgia Seed Development Commission; Dr David Huff, Penn State University, and Professor Peter Martin, University of Sydney, to name but a few.

Further augmenting this heavy weight list of speakers were representatives of the AGCSA including: John Neylan, AGCSA Tech. Dept; Mark Couchman, President AGCSA; David Warwick, Avondale GC; John Well, Royal Sydney CC; Jim Porter, Royal Melbourne GC, and several others of Australia's leading golf course superintendents.

Papers presented at the conference included, new and emerging turf diseases; new hybrid couch grasses; pests; negotiating skills; maximising performance; quotes and tenders; data and information collection; irrigation; seed evaluation; root zone composition and topdressing; and black layer development. There were also several representatives from industry, speaking on issues such as sustainability, quality and performance standards, all in all a thoroughly diverse and very interesting agenda.

So what did I learn? Obviously there was an enormous amount of information to assimilate throughout the conference, but what struck me most was how alike our industries are, even if they are on opposing sides of the globe. Of course the issues are different, such as temperatures, pests, diseases and disorders. However, the core problems faced by Superintendents are very similar, namely realistic expectations, committee interference and political uncertainty. This was adequately demonstrated in a conversation with Martin "Blacky" Black, one of the leading lights of their Association. He told me that during one high profile nationally televised tournament that he was running, a golfer commented that the greens had been over watered. I can't actually print Martin's rather typical Aussie reply, but I will tell you that all this happened during temperatures reaching 42 degrees C!

In conclusion, taking part in the Brisbane conference was an experience that I would recommend anyone. I found it invaluable and will benefit from what I learned for many years to come. Personally, I would like to see the two Associations working even more closely together and perhaps developing initiatives such as exchange programmes. This could benefit particularly younger greenkeepers who, after all, are the future of this industry.

Towards the end of the convention there was the usual flurry of socialising and farewells. An excellent post conference banquet wrapped up proceedings during which I was especially privileged to witness Dr Joe Vargas as Elvis. Time for a reality check and to head home!

Finally, I can't finish without thanking both BIGGA and AGCSA for their time and effort in helping me achieve this ambition. For the cynics among us, it just shows how far we have come as an Association and I hope aptly demonstrates the professional capabilities and passion that the majority of greenkeepers world over, have for their chosen vocation.

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Regional Training

This month sees the start of the BIGGA 2002/2003 Regional Training Courses. You should have received a copy of the brochure in your September Edition of Greenkeeper International but if not give myself or Sami a call and we will send one in the post. The range of courses has increased for this year and we have been able to keep costs to a minimum thanks to the contributors to our Education and Development Fund. All Golden Key Companies have been issued with Training Vouchers to hand to their customers. Each voucher has a face value of £30 plus VAT and can be used to pay for Regional Training or for the Continue to Learn Programme at Harrogate in January 2003.

Please note that the following courses are now full.

- Pesticide Training at Trentham Golf Club on October 14-16
- Reel Sharpening at De Vere Carden Park on November 28
- Health and Safety at Work at Mere Golf and Country Club, October 30 & 31

An additional Reel Sharpening Course has been arranged at De Vere Carden Park on November 27.

An additional Health and Safety at Work course is available at Ham Manor Golf Club, West Sussex, on November 20 & 21.

Phone Sami Collins to check availability.

Places on all courses are selling fast. Apply NOW to ensure that you get the training that you want.



In addition to their sponsorship of the Student of the Year Competition and Golden Key membership of the BIGGA Education and

Development Fund, TORO have agreed to sponsor Continue to Learn articles in Greenkeeper International and to sponsor the Careers Fair at BTME. This sponsorship shows that TORO is committed to the ongoing education and training of greenkeepers and to helping them find 'the job of their dreams'. Watch out for further details of the Careers Fair in future Editions of Greenkeeper International and in the enclosed Continue to Learn brochure.

The National Education Conference and Workshop Programme, at Harrogate, will be supported by a donation from the John Deere Team Championship.

This will allow us to continue to provide high quality training at minimum cost to our members.



The Key Note speaker, Debra Veal, will be sponsored by Textron, as part of their ongoing sponsorship of BIGGA Education and Training projects.

You will see that Continue to Learn, again, offers a wide range of Education and Training opportunities

for everyone, Golf Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers, Greenkeepers, Golf Club Secretaries, Chairmen of Green and other club officials. Please send your application form back to BIGGA as soon as possible to ensure your place.

Bookings for the STRI, Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century Course should be sent direct to STRI.



The Final of this year's TORO Student of the Year Competition took place at BIGGA House on September 23. Full details will appear in the next edition of Greenkeeper International.

Salaries and Conditions of Service

The Standing Committee Recommendations on Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Employment 2003 are included in this magazine. Further copies are available from BIGGA House or from the Association of Golf Club Secretaries. The Committee has recommended a salary increase of 3.8%, the Average Earnings Index for June 2002.

The Standing Committee is currently reviewing Contracts of Employment, Job Specifications and Employee Handbooks, which should be available in December 2002.



Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Service

The 2003 Recommendations of the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Service (CGS) are enclosed in this publication. Further copies may be obtained from the Association of Golf Club Secretaries Tel: 01934 641166 or from the Administration Department CGS Tel: 01347 833800.

The 2003 Recommendations show an increase on the 2002 figures of 3.8%. This is the Annual Earnings Index for June 2002.

The Standing Committee, which is an independent organisation, has once again, produced a substantial guide for golf clubs to base their greenkeeper's salaries. Readers should remember, however, that the Recommendations are only a guide and golf clubs need to interpret the figures to suit local conditions. For example, splitting the country into three

areas was done following a survey of actual salaries conducted in 1999/2000. The areas are based on counties and distance from London which can lead to some problems of interpretation as there are high cost areas in the All Remaining UK locations. It is not possible to give a recommended salary for every greenkeeper at every golf club and some local bargaining needs to take place to ensure that greenkeepers are paid a fair salary.

The Standing Committee is continuing its work on contracts of employment and terms of service and on job specifications. Future projects will include a detailed survey of greenkeeper salaries which will be used to refine the geographical split of the UK.



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Membership UPDATE

This month Rachael Palmer from BIGGA's membership department would like to welcome 72 new members to the Association and invites you to take a look at the BIGGA Library.

Become a Bookworm!

Now that the nights are drawing in there is no better time to curl up with a good book. Why not take a look at BIGGA's library to provide you with your winter reading material. The library has over 800 titles for you to enjoy and also stocks videos, BTME transcripts, audio tapes and slides. Popular titles include Turf Management for Golf Courses by James Beard and Golf Course Architecture, Design, Construction and Restoration by Dr M J Hurdzan. There is also a multitude



of books to help brush up your IT skills. You can borrow up to two titles from the library at any one time for a period of six weeks. The service is free to members, however members are responsible for returning any borrowed items to BIGGA Headquarters.

For further details or a copy of the library list detailing all the titles available please call Brad Anderson on 01347 833800.

Scotsturf

Gemma Lee from Membership Services is attending Scotsturf on the 6th and 7th of November. Gemma will be available to answer any questions you may have with regard to your membership and the benefits you receive, issue and collect renewal forms, take photographs and hand out membership application forms as well as a free copy of the BIGGA field guides on production of your membership card. The BIGGA Stand is located at B16.

SALTEX

May I take this opportunity to say a big hello to everybody that visited our stand at Saltex. It was great to finally have the chance to meet you all and to be able to put faces to names. I look forward to meeting even more of our members at BTME and Clubhouse in January.

Photograph Reminder

If getting a passport photo taken is causing difficulties remember we can use any clear photograph of yourself on your new membership card. Why not use one of your holiday snapshots! If you would like your photo returned, write your name and address on the back and

we will return it with your renewal letter. If you still do not have any photos you wish to send in return your renewal form anyway so you don't miss out on any benefits and we will sort out your picture at a later date.

OCTOBER'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 September's winner, Marc Read, of Headingley Golf Club. Don't forget until November not only will you be entered into the draw to win this clock you will also have the chance to win a day out rally driving!

WIN A DAY RALLY DRIVING!

How do you fancy a day behind the wheel of a race prepared rally car?

To enter just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA. Make sure you write your name on their application form as the person who referred them and we will enter you into the prize draw. Not only do you get the chance of winning the Rally Driving experience but the new member you refer is also in with a chance of winning a RED LETTER DAY VOUCHER to be used on an experience of their choice.

Call either Rachael or Gemma in Membership Services today on 01347 833800 to request a new member application form and for further details. Closing Date for applications is the 5th November 2002.

BIGGA welcomes...

Scottish Region

Kenneth Andersen, North
Christopher Brown, Central
Colin Sutherland, Ayrshire

Northern Region

Roy Applegarth, Cleveland
David Bailey, N West
David Braid, N Wales
David Callaghan, Northern
Michael Feeney, Sheffield
Adrian Glossop, Sheffield
Kieran Graham, N Wales
Peter Hanlon, N Wales
Daniel Hirst, N West
Thomas Jones, N Wales
Darren Kitching, Northern
Ross McCarthy, Northern
Liam McNulty, N West
Stephen Midgley, Northern

Midland Region

Randolph Billingham, Midland
Duncan Dingle, BB&O
Ian George, Midland
Gavin Merrison, E of England
James Moverley, Midland
Dennis Reed, BB&O
Paul Smith, Mid Anglia
Adrian Wood, Midland

South East Region

Wayne Dodd, Kent
Stephen Hopper, Kent
Paul Kennedy, Kent
Allan Levine, Surrey
David Rourke, Surrey
Ben Sheeran, Surrey
Craig Sheeran, Surrey
Jamie Sheeran, Surrey
Adam Watts, Surrey
Liam Webb, Surrey

S West/S Wales Region

David Beynon, S Wales
Peter Boyne, Devon & Cornwall
Paul Bradley, S Coast
David Brame, S Coast
Rodney Byng, S Coast

Jonathon Davis, Devon & Cornwall
Christopher Griffiths, S Coast
Kevin Hampton, S Coast
Richard Hansell, S Coast
Kevin Hills, S Coast
Daniel Hughes, S Wales
Ross Macdonald, S Coast
Nigel Ruck, S Wales
Robert Smith, Devon & Cornwall
Douglas Spencer, S Coast
Steve Townley, S Coast

Northern Ireland

Gary Crawford
Christopher Larmour
Robert White

Student Member

Chris Mukohn, Canada

Corporate Members

Leigh Casling, Mid Anglia
Andy Collie, Mid Anglia
Ian Pitkin, Mid Anglia
Paul Wood, Mid Anglia

Associate Members

Scott Higgins, Sheffield
Marcus White, E of England

Golden Key Member

Roger Barker, 44

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



Pauline Thompson

Position:
Exhibition Officer.

What does your role involve?
Organising the BTME and ClubHouse Shows.

How long have you worked for the Association?
Nine Years.

Where were you born and brought up?
Born in Nocton Hall, Lincolnshire, and brought up in UK, Cyprus and Bahrain.

Where did you work before you joined BIGGA?
Barclay's Bank

What are your hobbies?
Travel, drawing, painting, creative writing, reading and gardening.

What is your favourite food?
Seafood.

What is your favourite film?
Too many to mention. I like thrillers like JFK and films with Alan Rickman in them like Truly Madly Deeply. I also liked Lord of the Rings.

What was the last book you read?
A Painted House by John Grisham.

Who is your all time hero?
Shelly West.

What was the best event you've ever attended?
CSE Show in the Desert with many stars including Ivor Novello.

What is your claim to fame? (None not acceptable)
Wrote a short story that was published and then picked up by the Australian Film Commission and made into a film. Also had acting lesson with Kenneth Moore.

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The Multi-Brush instantly transforms into a 6' wide zig-zag brush for greens



Brushing the dew off your turf not only reduces the risk of fusarium and fungal disease, it also saves you leaving clumps of grass everywhere when mowing.

The hydraulic folding Multi-Brush's 18' width can cover all the fairways and rough on an 18 hole golf course in less than 2 hours. Then when you mow, you will leave a

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Sustainable use of Pesticides

Your chance to influence the future

The has been a lot of speculation as to when "they" will ban pesticides. Now "they" in the form of the EC is starting to take action. Unusually a public consultation letter invites all interested parties to contribute their views which will be noted by the UK government's representatives at the negotiating table.

So now is your chance to influence the decision makers and get your views on the future of pesticides (plant protection products) in the turf management industry counted.

In the working document the sports turf industry is not mentioned but landscape gardening, forestry, and domestic gardening are included. The income generated and employment created by the sports turf and affiliated industries is certainly equal to that generated by some of those included.

So you can see that it is important that the members of the turf industry make their views known.

EC policy on agriculture and water resource management calls for the development of "further measures in the area of agricultural and non agricultural pesticides with a view to ensuring their sustainable use" and a decrease in "the input of chemicals to the point that none of the basic natural processes is effected".

It is almost certain that measures effecting agricultural pesticides will also be applied to the sports turf industry because, notwithstanding the economics of pesticide research, registration and production the new rules will also take ground water quality into consideration.

The main objective of the EU strategy is

* Minimising the hazards and risks to health and the environment from the use of pesticides

* Improved controls in the use and distribution of pesticides

* Reducing the levels of harmful active substances including through substituting the most dangerous with safer, including non chemical alternatives

* Encouragement of the use of low input or pesticide free cultivation

* A transparent system for the reporting and monitoring progress made in fulfilling the objectives of the strategy...

About 320,000 tonnes of pesticides are sold in the EC of which fungicides account for 43% followed by herbicides 36% insecticides 12% and others 9%

My company, Symbio, is dedicated to the development of healthy plant growth with minimal recourse to pesticides but we do recognise that the demands placed upon the turf professional in terms of quality and the constant use of playing surfaces means that some pesticides, particularly herbicides and insecticides, will be needed for many years to come.

If you want your views on the future use of pesticides in the turf industry to be submitted for inclusion in the decision making process please send your comments to me by email at martin@symbio.co.uk including your name and address to arrive no later than October 16, 2002.

Your comments will be sent, as written, to the Pesticide Safety Directorate, they will then be acknowledged by the PSD and sent to DEFRA and used to prepare the UK stance to be taken at the negotiations in Brussels.

It will be particularly helpful to get your views on areas where you believe pesticide use could be reduced and those areas where you believe pesticides as they stand to be absolutely essential to the management of sports turf.

The EC intends to make firm proposals for action at the beginning of 2004 so your response will possibly effect the tools you have available to do your job in the near future. Action is required.

If you would like a full copy of the EC document entitled "Towards a thematic strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides" email martin@symbio.co.uk Further information can be obtained from <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ppps/home/htm>

For further information contact

Martin Ward

Symbio

**38 Bookham Industrial Park, Church Road,
Great Bookham, Surrey KT23 3EU**

Tel: 44 (0) 1372 456101

Fax: 44 (0) 1372 456099

Email: martin@symbio.co.uk Website: www.symbio.co.uk



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

Visually appealing...

With the August magazine now under our belt I feel praise and indeed thanks is due to all those in BIGGA HQ who contribute to setting up our monthly magazine. The changes in this recent edition are clear for all to see and it is testament to the desire for better quality by the staff that this award winning magazine should move forward with such impact. With no prompt from me my own staff commented on how visually appealing this edition is so keep up the good work. The use of colour throughout the various sections does add great effect with the photos now looking sharp in their chosen shapes. Keep this up and more industry awards will beckon.

Secondly I would like to congratulate the board for having the foresight to attain the rights to the Clubhouse Exhibition so it could be brought to Harrogate and join the BTME. I have spoken with some secretary / managers who have attended this show at the NEC and they have never been impressed. I feel sure that with the expertise gathered over the past 14 years through running the BTME, the BIGGA staff will ensure this comes over in a far better, effective way that will make it the industry success it deserves.

David Haskell-Craig MG

Course Manager, Maidenhead Golf Club

A BIG thank you...

I have to say that as far as I am concerned that the Muirfield Open was an excellent method of putting the Greenkeepers' Association as the forefront of the golfing industry.

While doing my duties on the first tee, it was a real pleasure to know that, in the fellow members of the BIGGA Support Team, I was dealing with professional people who didn't complain and got on with the job in hand. Their turning up on time to go out with their game, made my job a real pleasure, even on the Saturday, when the British summer took hold. The team was a great credit to the Association and it was a privilege and honour to work with such dedicated people.

On a personal note, I think that the time and effort that the Headquarters' staff put into the running of the Support Team should not go unnoticed and was the main reason why it ran so smoothly. Other people who should be mentioned are Bert Cross and Peter Boyd, whose dedication during the week was a credit to them.

Once again, a big thank you to the Support Team who did an exceptional job on the biggest golf stage in the world.

Ian Holoran

Board of Management

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**.

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SALTEX REVIEW



Saltex proved to be a very lucrative show for BIGGA with the on-site team taking every opportunity to speak with new and existing members as well as promote the BTME & ClubHouse Shows in Harrogate next January to prospective exhibitors.

The BIGGA stand was again the ideal meeting place for a host of BIGGA members and guests. Steve Jones MG, of Golf Course Solutions, Jim McKenzie, of Celtic Manor and Billy McMillan, Mannings Heath, were just three members who took advantage of the facilities, and the sun, to have a chat.

Three members of the Sisis Production Department found an unusual, if a little slow way, of getting themselves to the Show.

Andy Brown, Ben Lloyd and Craig Perry decided to drive the 161 miles to Windsor from the Sisis factory in Macclesfield in a Sisis 321, a versatile tractor with an average speed of 10mph.

They arrived at Windsor Racecourse after a journey lasting two days having raised approximately £1500 for the East Cheshire Hospice.

The return journey was completed in more conventional means.

Two lucky BIGGA Head Greenkeepers won for their clubs a Farmura F25 walk-behind sprayer in the annual Blazon promotion sponsored by Farmura & GreenLink International. From a large number of entries, the names of Effingham and Morpeth Golf Clubs were the first to be drawn and Peter Broadbent, Effingham's Course Manager, was personally presented with his prize by BIGGA's Executive Director Neil Thomas (see below).

Morpeth Golf Club's Head Greenkeeper, Jerry Cramer, was unable to attend the presentation and a prize sprayer was received on his behalf by Richard Aitken Jnr. Both greenkeepers also received a Palm Computer for their personal use.

Left to right: Richard Aitken Jnr, Aitken's Sportsturf Ltd; Neil Thomas; Peter Broadbent, and Gary Ogilvie, Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd.

Saltex was the venue for the presentation of a superb Gambetti Barre tractor mounted sprayer to the winner of the Blazon-LoDrift national promotion and, from a large number of entrants throughout the UK, the name of Yelverton Golf Club, Devon was the first to be drawn. The presentation was made on the Avoncrop Amenity Products stand and the club's Head Greenkeeper, Steve Evans, received the prize on behalf of his club from BIGGA's Chairman Richard Barker.



Blazon-LoDrift is a three-in-one formulation that has an anti-drift agent incorporated into the original Blazon formulation. Now spray operators can not only see where the spray has been applied but also allows them to reduce the level of spray drift and concentrate the spray more effectively to its target.

Left to right:

Rod Feltham and John Palfrey, Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd; Steve Evans; Richard Barker; Patrick Dixon and Vincenzo Gaspri, Gambetti Barre.



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PRODUCT LAUNCHES

JOHN DEERE

Featuring a 56hp turbocharged Yanmar engine, John Deere's new 1600 Turbo multi-purpose implement carrier was launched at Saltext.

It is fitted with a 3.25m wide triple rotary mower deck, suitable for large scale commercial mowing. The base unit can also be fitted with front blades and brushes to provide a versatile, high capacity machine for all year round turf and highway maintenance operations.

The engine generates an extra 7hp compared with the standard unit fitted to the model 1600 wide area mower. Despite its light weight, it has a high torque reserve and can produce plenty of power for the toughest conditions.

Combined with an 83.2 litre fuel tank and a transport speed of up to 14.5mph, it offers increased productivity on golf courses and in sports grounds, parks and public areas, especially on slopes.

The 1600 Turbo front rotary mower unit has three rear discharge mower decks fabricated from 7-gauge steel, the thickest in the industry. These include a 1.57m centre deck and two 1.06m wings, giving a total width of cut of 3.25m; cutting width with one wing raised is 2.39m.

In mower form, the machine is capable of covering up to 3.4ha an hour, at speeds of up to 9mph, with a cutting height of between 25 and 140mm. The wing mowers automatically stop working when raised above 45 degrees, and overall transport width with the wings locked is 2.13m.

Each wing has a breakaway feature that allows the mower deck to move back and away from any obstacle, then automatically reset to the normal working position. Gauge wheels on all four corners of the wings mean they follow ground contours for a better quality cut.

Price of the new John Deere 1600 Turbo multi-purpose implement carrier fitted with the triple rotary mower deck and a four post ROPS with canopy is £30,303. A mulch kit is also available, suitable for use with both grass and leaves, costing £256.

For further information Tel: 01949 860491



TALIWIN SERVICES LTD

Taliwin Services Ltd have an answer for contractors and small sports complexes that would like to have their own vertidrainer. In the past, the initial cost of a machine has for most small operations been prohibitive, with an entry level of £7000, it is now within the reach of more potential users.

Compaction, continues to be a major problem of turfed sports areas, but increasingly other grassed venues, such as the lawns of gardens open to the public, are also experiencing problems. To break up the underlying compaction requires deep aeration using a 'lifting' or 'heaving' action and Tallwin's Aerokings do just that.

There is a choice of hollow, solid or pencil tines. Special attention has been paid to the system for removing and mounting the tines on the carrier, as a result this operation is fast and extremely easy.

The Aerokings are designed to work behind compact tractors. The 1.2 metre model requires a minimum of 18 hp while the 2.1 metre needs about 55hp.

The Aerokings, C1204J and C1656J, go down to a maximum depth of 30cm and the three other models have working widths of 1.85metres, 2.1metres and 2.5 metres will operate to a maximum depth of 40cm. As well as vertidrainning all the units can also be used for light aeration.

For further details. Tel: 01799 500316



RANSOMES

The Ransomes Hydraulic 5/7 tractor-mounted, wide area gang mower has been enhanced by Ransomes Jacobsen's design engineers with the introduction of in-cab electric controls.

A control box with electrical switchgear replaces the previous levers that operate the hydraulic drive to the cutting reels and lift and lower mechanisms. Seven cutting units provide a maximum working width of 4.65 metres and the new controls allow the centre three units to be lifted, while providing individual control over the four outer units enabling working widths to be varied to suit the ground conditions.

Other enhancements include repositioning the hydraulic pumps within the frame of the rear five units. The result is that it is now possible for one man to demount the rear in under 10 minutes. New CE-certified belly frame kits enable the Hydraulic 5/7 to be mounted easily to a selection of 65-70hp tractors including Massey Ferguson, New Holland, Renault and McCormick.

The Hydraulic 5/7 is usually specified with Magna 6-knife fixed head cutting units but other cylinder types are available. The Hydraulic 5/7 is capable of cutting 3.5 hectares per hour at a speed of 8km/h, making it one of the highest capacity cylinder mowers on the market.

Another debutant on the Ransomes Jacobsen stand was the Iseki TSG 23 Junior compact tractor. This new machine, which will commence production in Japan this September, is powered by an Iseki 21.5hp, clean burn three cylinder diesel engine with a displacement of 1123cc.

Another new product was the Ransomes ZT220, a manoeuvrable, zero turn, out front rotary mower.

Powered by a 22hp Yanmar diesel engine, the ZT220 is capable of cutting up to 1.4 hectares an hour and with hydrostatic drive it has the ability to manoeuvre around trees, shrubs and other hard or soft landscaping features.

A wide wheelbase and large turf tyres deliver stability, traction and a light footprint, even on hills and sloping terrain.

Combining the durability of a mid-weight, the footprint of a lightweight and with seven cutting units, the Jacobsen LF-4677 fairway mower is the latest offering from Ransomes Jacobsen.

Power comes from a 44hp turbocharged Kubota diesel engine and four-wheel drive ensures excellent traction. Seven 56cm wide units provide a cutting width of 3.56 metres, which is 40% wider than conventional five-reel mowers. There's a choice of 9- or 11-blade, 17.8cm diameter reels, which can also be found on, and are interchangeable with, the units on the Jacobsen LF-3800.



LLOYDS

Lloyds award winning Paladin fine turf mower saw the launch at Saltext of the new groomer models, the Paladin TG.

The addition of the groomer, which is fitted closely between the cutting cylinder and front grooved roller, has made very little difference in the roller to roller distance thus making it one of the most compact on the market.

The groomer has hardened blades with 9mm spacing with optional kits available to change number of blades used and it can be engaged or disengaged via a simple clutch arrangement. The design has kept parts to a minimum therefore the quality, robustness and ease of use is as on all Lloyds equipment.

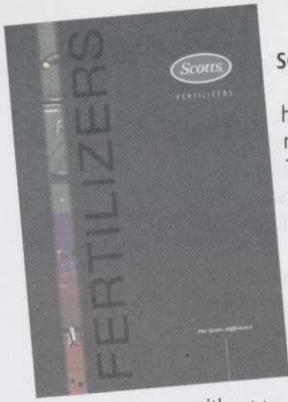
The new range of Summerpark and Multipark tractors, with cylinder, rotary and flail mowers will give a more versatile machine than is currently available, and an end to dedicated equipment which stands idle for much of the year. By utilising an advanced articulated tractor power unit, manufactured by Holder, the Lloyds Cylinder mowers along with rotary and flail mowers can be quickly exchanged to suit the day-to-day requirements of the machine.

All machines have articulated steering and four equally sized wheels ensuring the tractor and equipment always steers on track and coupled with a stabilising system that ensures constant traction and stability in extreme situations.

The compactness and manoeuvrability and a four option drive system, allowing low and high range transportation with speeds up to 40kph and 2 optional ranges for working both normal and high which are programmable according to working conditions make these machines extremely versatile.

Both machines are available as tractor units only or as outfits mounted with 3 & 5 cylinder mowers, 1.5m & 1.8m rotary decks with either manual or hydraulic height adjustment, flail mowers and sweepers in various widths.

For further details Tel: 01462-683031



SCOTTS

A new publication from Scotts, designed to help Turf Managers select the best nutrient regime for their sites, was introduced at Saltext. The 44 page booklet, entitled "Fertilizers", is packed with explanatory information on how different fertilisers work, and illustrates the benefits and advantages of particular formulations.

"Turf managers are faced with an enormous choice of fertilisers these days. Slow release, rapid release, controlled release, liquid, granular, organic, with and without trace elements etc. Navigating your way through to the right selections is not easy. We recognise this as an issue and have invested a great deal of time and expertise in developing this guide to help our customers get the best from their turf," said Scotts Technical Manager, Simon Barnaby

Copies of "Fertilizers" are available free — Tel: 01473 830492.

Scotts also launched a new outfield turf fertiliser- Scotts Sportsmaster Organic High N (13+5+1 O+TE).. Designed for all turf areas with a mowing height of over 12mm, Sportsmaster Organic provides an analysis appropriate for use throughout the growing season.

SISIS

Offering the clean, vertical action of larger tractor mounted machines, the Sisis Dart is easy to use and highly manoeuvrable. It has a working width of 42cm and is powered by 6.5hp Briggs & Stratton engine. A wide range of interchangeable tines is available: hollow coring; jumbo hollow; microcore; slitting; solid; pencil; fluted, all penetrating to a depth of 10cm. All controls including the balanced depth control is adjustable from the operating position.

The Dart has been designed to require minimal maintenance with sealed bearings and one-piece easily removed cover.

For further information Tel 01625 503030



MCCORMICK TRACTORS INTERNATIONAL

McCormick Tractors International confirmed its commitment to the amenity and sports ground sector at the show by launching nine new models, with many more variations, to create one of the most comprehensive ranges of tractors for grounds care use.

From the 21hp McCormick G25 mini compact to the 102hp McCormick CX full-size model, the grounds care line-up from Britain's newest tractor maker covers a host of applications from mowing formal lawns and sports fields to tackling scrub clearance and green waste shredding.

"Although our roots are in the agricultural industry, our tractors are eminently suitable for highways, golf course, parks, sports field and road side maintenance work," said McCormick Sales Director, Ray Spinks.

The CX range of 53hp to 102hp two-and four-wheel full size tractors are produced for sale worldwide on modern assembly lines at McCormick's factory in Doncaster, South Yorkshire. The C Series, GX/GXH Series and F Series tractors are produced to McCormick requirements by sister companies within the ARGO Group.

The scale and scope of the McCormick operation, which has attracted a network of 80 dealer outlets across the UK and Republic of Ireland, ensures it has the resources to provide full parts and service support for the tractors it sells into the grounds care sector.

The launch of nine new models, to add to tractors that have already been well received in the grounds care sector, together with the planned appointment of specialist grounds care equipment staff, emphasises the serious intent of McCormick and its dealers in this important market.

For further information Tel: 01302 733393



TORO

Toro launched the new Groundsmaster 4700-D, an innovative mower designed to be at home in a wide range of different sports turf, landscaping and golf applications.

The unit's precision cut makes it ideal for cutting sports fields, and due to its wide height-of-cut range – 3/4inches to 4inches in 1/4inch increments – the

Groundsmaster 4700-D is also the perfect choice for both rough and trim golf applications. It is fitted with seven

Contour Plus rotary cutting units, which deliver a superb quality of cut over a width of 121/2ft.

These cutting units are relatively small, which means they are able to closely follow undulating ground contours and deliver a consistent, accurate height of cut. Rear rollers behind each deck provide an attractive striping effect for sports field applications.

Power is provided by a robust 60hp turbo-charged, four-cylinder diesel engine, producing ample power for hill-climbing and mowing in the most difficult conditions.

The new Groundsmaster is also fitted with full-time, bi-directional, four-wheel drive, which ensures excellent traction on hills and wet terrain.

Toro also unveiled what it says is the most economical diesel trim mower on the market – the Reelmaster 2300-D. This new version of the highly popular triplex unit has been specially developed and improved to provide an affordably-priced mower that delivers a superior quality cut on both sports fields and golf courses.

The new Reelmaster 2300-D has been given more power than its predecessor, via a 19hp Briggs & Stratton/Daihatsu engine. This delivers the necessary muscle for excellent traction and mowing on slopes, trim and surround areas on the golf course, as well as sports fields.

The mower has a 6ft width of cut, with a choice of five-, eight- or 11-blade reels. With manually variable reel speed and height-of-cut range from 1/4in up to 13/4in, the mower can meet the cutting requirements of any application. There is also a choice of 21/2in or 3in front rollers.

For further information Tel: 01480 226800



DENNIS

Dennis are building on their strong penetration of the grounds care market by offering a wider range of hand tools for professional users.

"Dennis has established an extensive client base throughout the UK and the rest of Europe, with a list of customers representing facilities at all levels of sport and leisure, and the Bray hand tools range has obvious synergies," says Managing Director, Ian Howard.

Dennis already offer the Bray Hand Seed Slotter, which allows

optimum overseeding or turf repairs to be carried out. Its efficient operating method gives a reduction of up to 50% in the amount of grass seed used. Developed by Dave Bracey, Head Bowling

Greenkeeper at the Metropolitan Police Sports Club at Hayes, Kent. The slotter creates a flat-bottomed niche in the soil at an optimum depth of half an inch, encouraging the deposited seed to 'turn' during germination.

Dennis are also expanding the range with purpose-built golf hole cutters, dew rollers, soil samplers, level lutes and corers. These are essential items for those responsible for maintaining bowling greens, cricket grounds, golf greens, tennis courts, winter games pitches and other fine turf areas.

For further information Tel 01332 824777



ETESIA

Making their debut on Etesia's stand were two new pedestrian rotary mowers.

The company has re-named the Viva 46 models. For 2002/3, all 46cm mowers in the company's range of professional wheeled rotaries will come under the group banner of Pro 46. Built to the highest standards, these lightweight yet rugged machines are used extensively in commercial sectors. This new branding brings them into line with Etesia's existing Pro 51 and Pro 56 ranges.

The latest addition to the Pro 46 models — the PHB — is powered by a Honda 5.5hp GCV 160 4-stroke engine. The machine has a sturdy, lightweight Xenoy deck and is easily transported, making it ideal for mobile grass cutting units. Cutting height adjustment on each wheel provides a range of settings to suit most applications.

The Pro51B is a rugged 51cm wide rotary which is ergonomically designed for ease-of-use and outstanding performance in commercial applications.

A 6hp Briggs & Stratton Intek engine produces ample power to deal with tough grass cutting, yet still have some in reserve. Three-speed control enables the operator to adjust the machine's travel to suit prevailing conditions.

Etesia's ProSi B has a die cast aluminium deck and a front rubber bumper to prevent damage to the casting in the event of it coming into contact with an obstacle.

For further information Tel: 01926 403319



CHARTERHOUSE TURF MACHINERY

Charterhouse Turf Machinery's new tractor-driven Easy Spread top-dresser removes all the backbreaking effort from an essential task and maximises efficiency. The Easy Spread can be loaded with material, driven to site and put to work immediately, all without the operator having to leave his seat.

Eighty tonnes of material can be applied in one day, and some users claim over 100, with coverage varying from a light dusting to levels of over 15mm (5/8 in) thick. The Easy Spread requires a tractor of 25hp or higher, and operates via single-acting hydraulics. A hand lever, activated from the tractor cab, engages the hydraulic powered distribution drum and a variable control valve sets the rotational speed of the drum, which gives the variable thickness of spread independent of the tractor working speed.

The Charterhouse Easy Spread has a working width of 1300mm (Sun) and has a maximum load capacity of 0.6m³ (21W). It weighs only 250kg (5501bs), and, unlike many competitive machines, has no wheels to mark sensitive turf surfaces.

"Groundsmen, contractors and other turf professionals will be amazed at the high work-rate and simple operation of the Easy Spread," says Charterhouse Turf Machinery Director, Philip Threadgold.

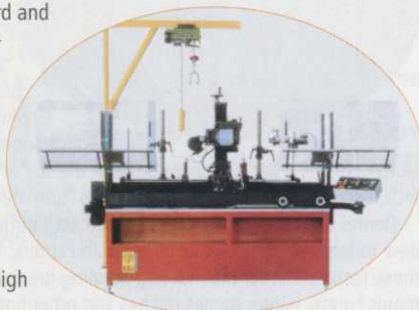
For further information Tel: 01428 661222

BERNHARD AND COMPANY

Grinding specialists Bernhard and Company introduced the high-tech MAX, which can bottom blade, cylinder and relief grind, without removal of the blades from the mower.

Combining excellent performance within a cost-effective package, means professionals will soon reap the benefits of MAX - a high specification machine.

The Cylinder and bottom blade grinding can be carried out in situ - with no disassembly of the mower units required.



This leads to a short set-up time for all grinding operations with no lapping required.

MAX has been designed to provide a comfortable, ergonomic working position for operators when adjusting mower units.

Incorporating many automatic functions, cutting gap and cutting height adjustment of the mower unit is a straightforward procedure.

Operating elements are easily accessible on this latest machine and there is a clearly arranged control panel.

The standard package includes numerous accessories together with a comprehensive manual - and training is provided by Bernhard - to ensure operators can make optimum use of the grinder's capabilities.

For further information Tel: 01788 811600

BARENBRUG UK

How do turf-type perennial ryegrasses differ from their agricultural counterparts? Why is strong fescue unsuitable for fine turf? And how can a good variety of hard fescue lessen the maintenance workload at local authority parks? The answers to these and many other questions will be found in Barenbrug UK's new Grass Seed Specifiers Handbook for 2002/2003, launched at the show.

This reference for specifiers and maintenance professionals contains essential information on grass species and cultivars for sports and amenity turf, and outlines the criteria for selection. It also highlights the unique qualities of key Barenbrug varieties.

The Guide contains an at-a-glance guide to species characteristics and recommended applications, and summarises Barenbrug's principal mixtures. The publication gives an overview of individual grasses, including perennial ryegrass, slender and strong creeping red fescues, chewings fescue, hard fescue, bents and smooth stalked meadow grass, amongst others. Advice is given on sowing rates, establishment and maintenance.

Details are included on exciting cultivars exclusive to Barenbrug. Barcampia tufted hair grass shows exceptional tolerance of shade and wear, and the ability of Barkoel crested hair grass to withstand drought and low fertility, combined with a short growth characteristic, makes it unrivalled for low maintenance sites.

For further information Tel: 01359 272000



CAMPEY TURF CARE SYSTEMS

Campey Turf Care Systems have increased their line-up of versatile and cost-effective grounds maintenance machinery with the introduction of the Undulator rotary mulching mower, launched in prototype form at the show.

The front-mounted, hydraulically driven Undulator can be used with compact tractors of 30hp - common workhorses that are to be found in many grounds care professionals' machinery sheds. This means that the tractors' versatility can be extended further, and does away with the need for sports clubs and other facilities to buy a separate, and typically more expensive, ride-on mower.

The Undulator follows ground contours closely to avoid scalping and to give a uniform quality of cut. The mower can be attached and detached by one person in less than three minutes without tools.

"In trials, the Undulator has proved a simple but effective high work-rate mower," says Richard Campey, Managing Director of Campey Turf Care Systems. "We expect the machine will appeal strongly to local authorities, golf courses, sports clubs and other professional users."

For further information Tel: 01260 224568



Note: More Saltex New Products will be featured in next month's Greenkeeper International



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Team Championship



BROKENHURST MANOR HEADS TO ARIZONA

The first UK qualifier for the John Deere Team Championship was won by Brokenhurst Manor and the New Forest Club will now represent the UK at the world final in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Four members of Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club in the New Forest are flying off to America after winning the Great Britain national final of the inaugural 2002 John Deere Team Championship golf tournament, held in August over the Brabazon course at The De Vere Belfry.

The team, joined by a fifth player from their local John Deere dealership, beat off stiff competition from clubs across Great Britain to take home the trophy, and the chance to travel to Scottsdale, Arizona, to play in the world final at Grayhawk Golf Club, in November, against teams from North America, Canada, Australia, Germany and Ireland.

The team, represented by Charles Letchworth, Club Captain; Paul Clifford, Secretary/Manager; Ed McCabe, Course Manager; Bruce Parker, Club Professional, and David Harrison, New Forest Farm Machinery, finished three shots clear of the field with a remarkable nett team score of 55.

In order to qualify for the national final, Brokenhurst Manor beat 16 other teams in their regional qualifier, organised by Nick Clarke, of New Forest Farm Machinery, and held at Moors Valley Golf Club last July.

A total of 27 dealerships took part in this year's tournament with a total of 450 clubs competing, meaning that 1800 players competed in the first John Deere Team Championship event.

The qualifying tournaments ran from April to July at host golf clubs throughout Great Britain and Ireland, with each winning team going through to play at The Belfry.

Now in its 16th year, the John Deere Team Championship has traditionally been open only to teams from the USA and Canada. Last

year invitations were extended to Germany and Australia. This year teams from Great Britain and Ireland were also included.

At the presentation dinner John Deere Limited also made donations, based on the number of participating teams, to BIGGA and the GCSAI to support the educational activities of the two Associations. A cheque for £9,300 was presented by John Deere Managing Director, Clay Sherrill, to BIGGA National Chairman Richard Barker.

It was subsequently agreed that the donation to BIGGA would be used to support the educational programme at Harrogate next year.

"We are absolutely delighted to receive such a generous cheque from John Deere and the funding will support the National Education Conference and workshops in January," said Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA.

The 27 teams who played at The Belfry were joined by two additional teams comprising members of BIGGA and the GCSAI, who had their own private battle which was eventually won, by a single shot, by the Irish.

Ed McCabe, was not surprised that the team did well when they got to The Belfry.

"We were 18 under par in winning the qualifier and combined very well as a team. We repeated that form in the final and finished 17 under par," explained Ed, who plays off 5.

The team's secret was to use up all the allocated drives - two per player - in the first 12 holes and give themselves a free run over the closing holes, and the tactic worked a treat.

"We were seven under par for the final seven holes with two eagles





and three birdies. It was great and everyone contributed to the win," said Ed, adding that in the 36 holes the team had yet to pick up a bogey.

With the final looming Ed is looking forward to the trip to the desert and he will certainly not be under prepared.

"We're not going out there to make up the numbers. I've practised more in the last three months than I have in the last three years. My wife thinks I've gone mad. I'll be particularly interested to see how the ball flies in the desert and how we cope in the heat."



He is particularly pleased that the success has come with a team comprising the Club Secretary and the Captain.

"The Captain is a great guy and he has had a super year as Captain. Hopefully this will be another highlight."

Although a long way from home, Brokenhurst will not lack for support in Arizona as some members will be making the trip to watch. Several other Brokenhurst members who live in the States will also be making the shorter journey to swell the galleries.



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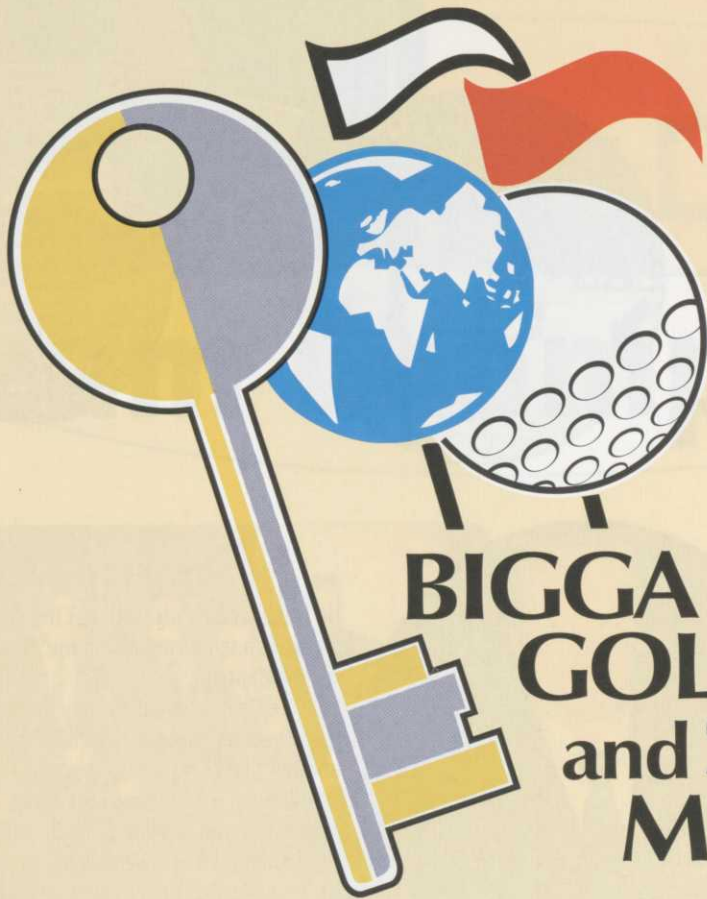
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Bringing quality to play



BIGGA GOLDEN KEY and SILVER KEY MEMBERSHIP



JOHN DEERE



MASSEY FERGUSON



'Strengthening the Partnership' - Neil Thomas reflects on the invaluable contributions of Golden and Silver Key supporters since 1992...

One of the cornerstones of BIGGA's Education and Training programmes is the Education and Development Fund. It is the Fund which provides the means to produce Field Guides, Books, Posters, Videos, Careers Advice Packages, assist with Region and Section Conferences, Seminars and Courses and enable the purchase of Training Aids e.g. computers, video cameras, digital camera, OHP, LCD Projector, 34mm Slide Library and Lending Library. For BIGGA's members it is therefore vital in their education and training advancement. Yet how much is known about the Fund, its origins and those who contribute to it? Time to dig a little deeper.

First, and perhaps a surprise to some, it is a long standing Fund. It was established in January 1992 and has certainly stood the test of time. Traditionally greenkeepers had always enjoyed the support of companies within the industry and for many years this was at a local level and was reflected particularly in backing for Section seminar programmes and prizes for golf tournaments. With the advent of BIGGA, it was inevitable that the nature of this support would change. In just a few years, companies found that they were now working with a large, professionally run Association which operated nationally and regionally as well as on a Section basis. Companies continued to wish to support greenkeepers and the development of their profession but found there were now conflicting pressures at the respective levels of BIGGA. The Association for its part had no wish to see companies pressurised in this way and saw a need for consistency and fairness in relations with companies working in the industry. To meet this need, the Education and Development Fund was established.



The Fund enables those companies so wishing to join as either Golden or Silver Key members, thereby enabling the development of BIGGA's education and training programmes at a national level as indicated earlier in this article. While 17 companies are currently taking this route, the Association is mindful of those companies who wish to continue many years of support at regional and section level. This support continues to be much valued. The benefit of the Fund to companies is that it provides equal recognition to all and they can clearly identify the projects on which their contributions are being spent.

Meetings are held with the Golden and Silver Key company supporters in the spring and autumn each year. Recommendations for spending priorities from the Education Sub-Committee are considered at these meetings and company representatives can themselves put forward projects for consideration. Companies are acknowledged for each and every spending programme. While wishing their contributions to be acknowledged and their companies profiled, those attending the meetings are anxious to avoid overt commercialism. The participating companies also enjoy a number of practical benefits related to BIGGA membership and formal recognition each year at the BTME.

The Fund has achieved much over the years. As far back as 1993 'Setting the Standard - In Spray Application' established a trend for first class videos which continued through to 2001 with the excellent 'Irrigation' video. Field Guides, starting with 'Weeds, Pests and Diseases' and through to 'Grasses in the Rough', have proved of great benefit to greenkeepers. Particularly high profile was the 'Wildside of Golf' booklet last year which has been excellently received both within the game of golf and wider afield. This year the Fund will be continuing with the Training Voucher Scheme which enables companies to provide BIGGA members with vouchers to be used to offset the costs of BIGGA training programmes.

A highlight for 2002 has been the decision to bring careers advice for greenkeepers up to date in a jointly funded project with the GTC as the 1994 video 'Keeper of the Green - A Career in Golf Course Management' had become dated. The package will be available on DVD and CD with the voice over once again being provided by Peter Alliss. It will be available very shortly and will be sent to careers offices, schools and colleges as well as being available to golf clubs and greenkeepers upon request.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the individual Golden and Silver Key BIGGA members who support the Fund as part of their annual membership subscriptions. They are acknowledged each month within 'Greenkeeper International' and their contributions are greatly appreciated. It is important to note, therefore, that the Fund is not purely for companies. Individuals who wish to support greenkeeper education and training have a means to do so through the Fund and many have contributed over a considerable period.

Finally, in acknowledging the first class support that the Fund has received from companies over the years, there remains a need for greater recognition of these companies by greenkeepers in general. Considerable numbers of them have received substantial enhancement of their education and training programmes through the resources of the Fund. Indeed a number of companies have now supported the Fund for eleven successive years. It does not take much for a 'thank you' now and again or perhaps an invitation to a Region or Section event where the support can be acknowledged. Partnerships with companies in the industry have always been important. I am sure that they will remain so and BIGGA members can do much to strengthen existing partnerships and forge new ones for mutual benefit in the years ahead.



Heath Lambert Group



MACHINERY Maintenance

MAKING AN OLD DOG, MAN'S BEST FRIEND

Scott Nisbet looks at your old faithful friend the two stroke engine.

The two-cycle (two-stroke) engine is like an old dog. It's been around for 100 years. It can stink. It will snarl and snap. It can be an ill-tempered beast that won't obey your desires. Or, like a good hound, it can be a trusty companion and helper as you roam the golf course taking care of chores. Its behaviour depends on whether you feed it well, keep it clean and give it a good home.

Two-cycle engines are found on hand-held equipment – string trimmers, power blowers and chain saws. Occasionally you'll find a two-cycle walk-behind lawn mower or on a specialised piece of equipment like a post-hole auger. Your golf course may have two-cycle engines in golf carts. If you like to have vehicular fun off the golf course, you'll find two-cycles powering snowmobiles, smaller boats and "personal watercraft" such as jet skis, some motorcycles and even aircraft – ranging from radio-controlled model planes to ultra-lights.

Many landscape professionals assume two-cycles are dodgy things that can't be trusted to start easily, idle smoothly, or keep running. But the fact that people trust their lives to a two-cycle engine when they take off in an ultra-light demonstrates that these quirky little engines can be tamed and trusted.

There are no special secrets to handling two-cycle, but there are a few common practices that are worth adopting as habits of operation and maintenance. These good practices will become more important in the years ahead, because two-cycle design changes being forced by pollution-control laws are likely to further emphasize them. The little engines are changing in ways that will make care and feeding even more critical to their value as helpers on the course.

UPS AND DOWNS

The two-cycle is called that because to produce power, the piston needs only two journeys through the cylinder bore – one up, one down. The engines used in cars and trucks need twice as many trips to produce one power stroke, and is called a four-cycle. Despite making twice as many power strokes at a given rotating

speed, the two-cycle doesn't produce twice the power of a four-cycle. But, it does produce twice as many exhaust pulses, so it sounds as if it is running twice as fast.

The two-cycle is suited for high-speed operation because it needs only 3 major moving parts – the piston, connecting rod and crankshaft. The piston, as it moves up and down, serves to control the flow of air-fuel mix into the cylinder and the release of exhaust. A tiny bit of oil is mixed into the fuel, so all the internal pieces are bathed in a lubricating mist. The oil is burned along with the fuel and helps produce the characteristic gray exhaust plume that marks a two-cycle. By contrast, a four-cycle needs a bewildering array of valves, levers, camshafts and more to control intake and exhaust, and a complex pumping and plumbing system for lubrication.

Design simplicity and high operating speed give small air-cooled two-cycle engines a superb power-to-weight ratio that suits them well for hand-carried tools and light vehicles.

However, simplicity has a dark side – pollution – that threatens the two-cycle's future. The problem lies in the fact that during the piston down-stroke, two incompatible things happen in the cylinder: The hot exhaust gas is moved out at the same time a cool supply of fresh air moves in. These two incompatible 'blobs' of gas can't be separated by a solid wall. Some exhaust gas remains behind to weaken the potential power from the fresh fuel charge. Worse, some unburned fuel and oil leaves with the exhaust. This discharge of raw hydrocarbon vapour and particles is amongst the most reviled mobile-source air pollutants on the planet.

A United States Environmental Protection Agency action in October 2001 set up new standards that raise the emissions bar extremely high. Major technical changes will be needed to permit

continued US use of two-cycle motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles. Comparable rules are popping up all over the developed world. A World Bank report in July 2001 said a leading cause of premature deaths in South Asian cities is the air pollution from the inexpensive two-stroke motor vehicles that are commonly used in developing countries. Legislation to follow? The annoying exhaust bark and intake growl of two-cycles has also spawned laws in various US cities, based on noise pollution.

The hand-held equipment currently sold incorporates technical changes adopted to meet the regulations and more changes are in the pipeline. While some manufacturers, notably Honda and Ryobi, have developed four-cycle engines for string trimmers and power blowers, the bulk of manufacturers are building modified two-cycles that meet current regulations. In development are many different designs aimed at meeting future standards. It is likely that these future products will need special care and feeding. It's worthwhile to start adopting today the operating and maintenance habits they will call for.

CARE AND FEEDING

"Barking" and "growling" were traditionally ignored in two-cycle design. Minimalist mufflers and air intakes noise control saved a lot of weight. New designs increase the size and weight of these external parts. To keep total engine weight about the same, designers have reduced the weight of core components like cylinders, crankshafts, starters, etc. This shift has serious impacts on operation and maintenance.

Newer engine designs typically squeeze more power from each cubic centimeter. This is done with a leaner fuel mixture and higher engine speed; both result in higher engine heat loads. This means some new practices for operators and technicians. Carburetor



passages are physically smaller, with higher precision needles. They are less tolerant of particles coming in with the fuel, so the filters are much better. Partial blockage of a fuel passage can 'over-lean' an already lean-burning engine, causing destruction through under-lubrication and excess heat. Change the fuel filter often. Fuel can't be allowed to linger for months in the tank and evaporate into solids that will load up the filters. Get in the habit of emptying two-cycle hand-held fuel tanks when a unit will be in storage more than a week.

The cooling system has a higher load. So attention must be paid to keeping air intake screens free of debris. Cooling fins, on both the fan and cylinder, should be cleaned more often.

MACHINERY Maintenance



That means opening up the shrouds more often to blow away chaff. The higher heat and speed demand better spark plugs. The electrodes are more likely to burn away, opening up the spark gap. This can lead to harder starting. It can also alter the ignition timing because it may take longer for an electron charge to build enough to jump a larger gap. Altered timing can change power output and increase engine heat production. So check, re-gap and replace spark plugs frequently. On daily-use machines, this may mean monthly plug checks. When you do this, make sure the engine is cool to avoid stripping out the plug threads in the cylinder head.

It may be worth considering switching to synthetic lubricants for two-cycle engines? Many users have experienced extended engine life with these products. A significant advantage is that a single batch of synthetic fuel-oil blend can serve a wide range of different two cycle engines which may call for fuel-oil blends ranging from 16:1 up to 100:1.

Beside simplifying inventory, the synthetics seem to leave fewer deposits in the critical piston ring area. A seized piston ring is often fatal to a two-cycle engine, so preventing that is usually worth the higher price of the synthetic lube.

KEEP IT FAST

Newer engines get more power per cubic centimeter, but they often have less "flywheel effect" than old designs. Equipment operators need to learn to keep engine speed up. When using a brush blade, for example, it's best to take many small high-speed bites rather than trying to "lug through" with a steady cut. It's imperative to frequently sharpen chain saw chains and brush blades, to reduce the engine load and allow higher operating speeds.

The mechanisms downstream from the engine, items like the gear heads in string trimmers and clutches on chain saws, should be checked for proper operation. Any binding or maladjustment should be cured in the interest of safety, reducing engine load and permitting full-speed operation.

Throttle cables and linkages should be checked frequently to verify that they are pulling the carburetor fully open. Air filter elements should be checked and changed more often to allow the free flow of air into the engine. And the muffler system should be frequently checked for blockage.

Carburetor fuel-mixture adjustment is one of the more critical elements to two-cycle operation, since it controls both the leanness of fuel and the quantity of lubricant. Each machine will have a specific system for adjustment. Some will permit no adjustment, while others will. Read the operating manual and follow it strictly.

STORE IT RIGHT

Storage is an important issue for two-cycles. Some are showing up with catalytic converters. These platinum-bearing, ceramic honeycomb exhaust filters have been used on cars for decades. They make unburned fuel molecules combine with oxygen, to eliminate troublesome emissions. But the converter, which looks like a regular muffler, is more fragile because of the internal ceramic honeycomb. It retains its heat longer after the engine is shut down. The extra heat may be enough to start a fire by inadvertently storing a hand-held power tool in a position where the converter contacts flammable materials.

Assess the storage setting for your two-cycle equipment to eliminate wood, grass clippings or any other potentially flammable materials. Train operators to store the equipment so fuel left in the tank can't inadvertently dribble onto the muffler or converter. Also, be careful of wildlife, particularly insects. For some reason, spiders seem to take a special liking to two-cycle engines. Some species like to build nests in the exhaust outlets, causing a clog. Operators have received painful stings. Whatever the reason, take some extra time to verify there's no fauna cluttering up the storage area.

Goodness knows the little pups with two-cycle engines are enough responsibility for anyone.

This article first appearing in the Australian Turfgrass Management magazine.

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Weather



Bill Giles

WEIRD OR WHAT?

Bill Giles reviews the weather experienced over Britain's latest version of summer and predicts that we may not have seen the last of it.

It has been a rather disappointing summer as far as golf is concerned, and it was certainly one in which the weather forecast played a very important part.

The forecasts for the summer months of June, July and August, which I issued in early May, went for a summer which would be remembered for the bad parts rather than the prolonged warm sunshine.

Ideal weather for sports is very similar to ideal farming weather in that everyone wants something different depending on what activity they are taking part in. The golfer, obviously, wants fine, if not sunny weather, though obviously not too hot, to play in. There should be a cooling breeze, but not too strong, unless you happen to play links golf in which case you are probably used to the conditions and have a distinct advantage over those who don't.

On the other hand, those administering the game, and especially those greenkeepers who make the game possible, want something different. In prolonged drought you can always irrigate, but it is so much better if nature does it for you - especially at night so as not to interfere with playing the game during the day. But if the rain comes down in short very heavy bursts, as it did this year, then all you end up with is run-off and flooding which can force the course to be closed with the consequent loss in player enjoyment and revenue.

So what about this summer for the United Kingdom? Well, as I have already said, very much a mixed bag. In many respects Scotland fared worst with some very heavy and damaging downpours, which played havoc, shutting some courses for days on end.

June in Scotland brought a lot of southwesterly winds in from the Atlantic, which gave copious amounts of rain in the south where many places had up to twice the normal June rainfall. At Eskdalemuir, in the central lowlands, the wet May was followed by a wet June making it the wettest May/June for 64 years since 1938.

During the month the southwesterly winds predominated, giving a lot of heavy showers to the south and west of Scotland. In fact, parts of southwest Scotland, including Glasgow, only had four days in June when it didn't rain. The north and East of Scotland were much better off and, in the shelter of the Highlands, only had the normal amount of rainfall for June. Because of the cloud and rain, June was a very dull month in the south, in

fact the dullest since 1966. In contrast, Lerwick in Shetland, was drier than normal with 130% of the monthly sunshine average.

July continued in the same vein, with the showery weather lasting into the middle of the month, but then drier and more settled weather spread across the west and south of Scotland, although there was still a lot of cloud. The last week of July saw a battle between the hot, humid weather over England and the cooler regime in Scotland. This produced some torrential rain over northeast Scotland with the Moray Firth having their wettest July day on record on the 30th, giving widespread flooding. Fife Ness reported nearly two and a half inches of rain (60 millimetres).

August was a better month across Scotland but there was a legacy of dull wet weather at the beginning, which caused great concern to many clubs.

For England and Wales, June was really nothing out of the ordinary. There was a good deal of dry weather and with the average of 57 millimetres, just over two inches, the month was, if anything, drier than average. But there were some exceptions. These came in the form of thunderstorms, which to the golfer are no use whatsoever, and to the greenkeeper a frustrating waste of water.

On the 4th and 5th of June, heavy thunderstorms brought nearly two inches of rain to parts of southeast England and East Anglia, and these heavy showers lasted through to the 11th. In the storms it was very windy with a gust of wind of over 60 miles per hour reported near Swansea on the 10 June.

The third week of June saw further thundery rain, this time starting in the north of England, but which also broke out in the southeast too, as temperatures soared to 29 degrees Celsius or 84 Fahrenheit. The fourth week of the month wasn't too bad from the rainfall point of view, though there were some heavy downpours over Snowdonia and the Lake District.

It was the month of July that caused chaos on some courses with the





overall average over England and Wales up to 92 millimetres - nearly four inches - or some 50% above normal. The first twelve days of July were terrible especially in central and southern parts of England. Heavy thundery showers were a daily occurrence. These are notoriously difficult to forecast for any one spot as they are very hit or miss, and made for a very wet period, flooding out some courses but missing others altogether.

The third week in July brought a respite from the downpours although it still wasn't wonderful golfing weather and on the 19th and 20th a small depression brought an inch of rain to parts of the Midlands. Following this there was a severe hailstorm at Santon Downham on the 20th and further thundery showers in the east of England. Down in the far southwest of England, on the 25th, there was a lot of hill and coastal fog making play very difficult or impossible on some courses near the sea.

It became very hot in the last week of June, setting off a few thunderstorms and west London reached 33 degrees Celsius - that's over 90 degrees Fahrenheit - on the 29th. And remember that is in the shade.

Northern Ireland had a thoroughly miserable summer with a dull wet June followed by much the same in July. August wasn't quite so bad.

The first couple of weeks of June saw some pleasantly sunny days but the general rule was for cool and, at times, very showery weather. On 13th June, many places across the Province had at least one inch of rain.

The third week was generally unsettled with thunderstorms.

Much of July continued in the same vein with sunny spells and showers dominating the weather on most days with little in the way of prolonged dry warmer weather.

The past year's weather is a reflection of the likelihood of things to come, in that although we do expect more rainfall in wintertime and less in summer, the summer rains will become increasingly thundery with heavy downpours and consequent flooding.

MANAGING WEATHER FOR GOLF

Increasingly, at all levels of business, the decision making process needs to have access to the latest information. The overriding proposition is to produce the best product at the most cost effective price.

Managing golf clubs requires a delicate balance of producing the best possible playing conditions, whilst allowing members and visitors to play at times when it would be better for the course if it were closed.

Greenkeepers have to make decisions involving substantial amounts of money, and which are dependant to a large extent on the weather. It is only right that they have access to the most up to date and accurate information available to them.

In collaboration with BIGGA, Weather Index Ltd has developed a number of weather packages that are specifically designed to aid club Secretaries and Greenkeepers, and priced so as to be affordable to all. Forecasts at the clubs latitude and longitude are delivered daily by email, together with planning indices and vital information such as frost warnings.

Many clubs keep weather records throughout the year, especially for rainfall and temperature. Included in the packages, Weather Index will produce a written report on the previous months conditions and compare them with past records. Your club can submit its data and be included in the monthly summaries, to enable you to build up an invaluable reference library of weather statistics.

The company will also issue regular articles on what to look for in weather patterns and how to interpret the skies.

The aim of the weather packages is to provide a complete weather service, the aim being to enable those responsible for course management to have the best available information on which to make planning decisions.

For further information contact: Bill Giles, Weather Index Ltd,
Bucklersbury House, 83 Cannon Street London EC4N 8ST
Tel: 020 7653 3232; Fax 020 7653 3239
Email: bill@wpindex.com



Course Feature

THE BEST OF THE WEST

Scott MacCallum visits West Hill Golf Club and learns about the plan to restore the course to classic golfing heathland



A newly built fairway bunker with the heather face

Five years ago West Hill Golf Club, deep in the heart of the stockbroker belt of Surrey, came to a decision. Always known, by those in the know, to have one of the finest heathland layouts in the country, the club felt that it didn't always get the credit it deserved and wanted to do what needed to be done to change that fact. To that end the club, led by its Board of Directors, set itself the goal of getting back to being an outstanding members' club.

Having made this conscious decision, a master plan was put in place with a series of recommendations designed to propel the club back into its rightful place, bracketed alongside the very top heathland courses.

The first was the installation of a state-of-the-art irrigation system; the second, the appointment of a quality Course Manager; the third, the total refurbishment of all the bunkers; the fourth, the implementation of a tree clearing programme designed to assist with the regeneration of heather, and finally, an improvement to the course's drainage system.

Relatively quickly the first element was completed and the club boasted a superb new Toro Sitepro irrigation system. Next, Terry Huntley, previously of Ashford Manor Golf Club, was appointed Course Manager and almost immediately he was heavily involved in the bunker renovation programme.

"As I arrived the irrigation system was being handed over and one of the main things I had to contend with was to become familiar with the system. It's a wall to wall system, all valve in head, and is as good a watering system as there is out there," said Terry.

"Within a month a meeting had been set up with architect Jonathan Gaunt, who'd already been into the club and set out his plan for the bunkers," recalled Terry.

The bunkers had long been a bone of contention for the West Hill members.

"The faces had deteriorated, they didn't drain, so that every time it rained they filled with water and stayed filled for two or three days. The playing characteristics had also been lost and the shaping was wrong."

Under the watchful eye of Alistair Lawson, the then Chairman of

Green, Jonathan's brief was to look at improving the challenge of the golf courses and create more consistency with the bunkers and he achieved this by pulling some bunkers in, pushing others back and basically tightening up the entire course.

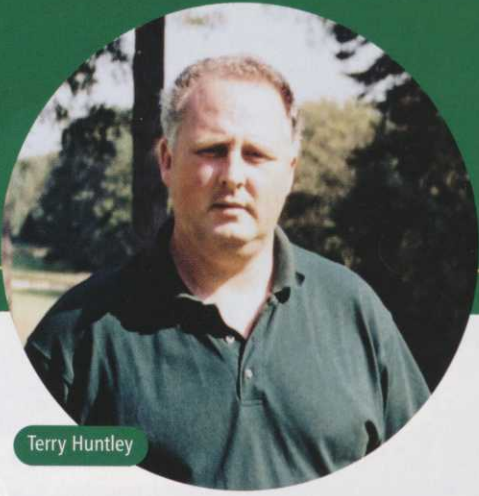
"Everyone was concerned that he didn't change the heathland characteristics of the course and it was paramount that we didn't Americanise West Hill. That was the big concern for the members and the traditionalists. It was an exceptionally difficult brief given that Jonathan is a modern golf course architect but he has done an excellent job."

The plan, covering some 80 plus bunkers, all individually designed, or redesigned, and rebuilt, was carried out in three phases, the first in the winter of '99-2000.

"It was decided that for the first phase we would go out to tender, which was won by Kestrel Golf, but that we would lay all the turf and heather in-house. It was a cost related decision but I felt it would be good for the staff to have an input into the project.

"That was a big decision for me, being new to the job, and knowing that I had other important jobs to tackle at the same time," admitted Terry.

As it turned out the team, or at least five of them, laid 4000 turfs in an intensive four week period. Although we got there it was extremely arduous and it meant that we got nothing else done in that period so we decided that for the last two phases Kestrel would take over completely."



Terry Huntley



Terry and his team

That said, the first phase went extremely well, starting in the last week in September with 31 bunkers done by December 1, drained and ready to go.

They were kept out of play for the rest of the winter with the sand being added in the first week in March, four weeks before the club's famous Father and Sons' Tournament which is played in the first week in April.

"It was always the goal to have the bunkers in play for the Father and Sons," explained Terry.

If they thought having got phase one out of the way it could only get easier they were to be sadly mistaken, and those who can remember the winter of 2000-2001 will not have been surprised to learn that fact.

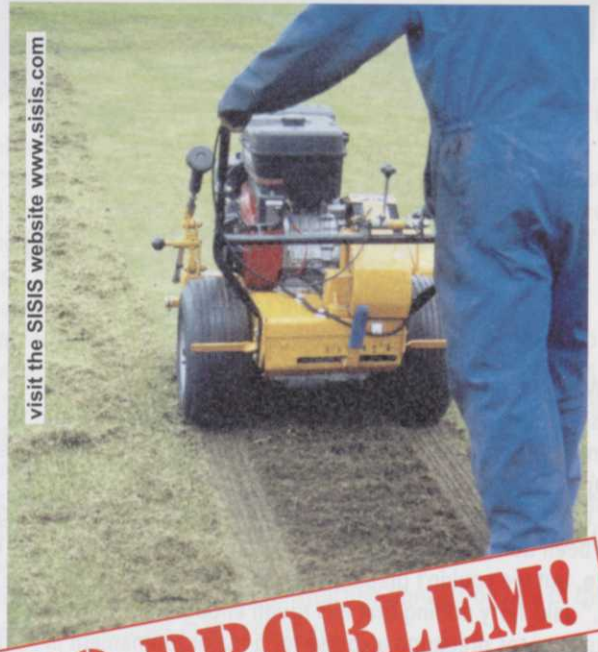
"Because of the weather we only completed 17 bunkers in phase two when the intention was to do 29 and the remaining three holes, the 7th, 8th and 10th had to be moved to the third phase making it the biggest phase of them all."

Ironically phase two has started very well but within two weeks the skies had opened and in Terry's own words "it didn't stop raining until the end of March".

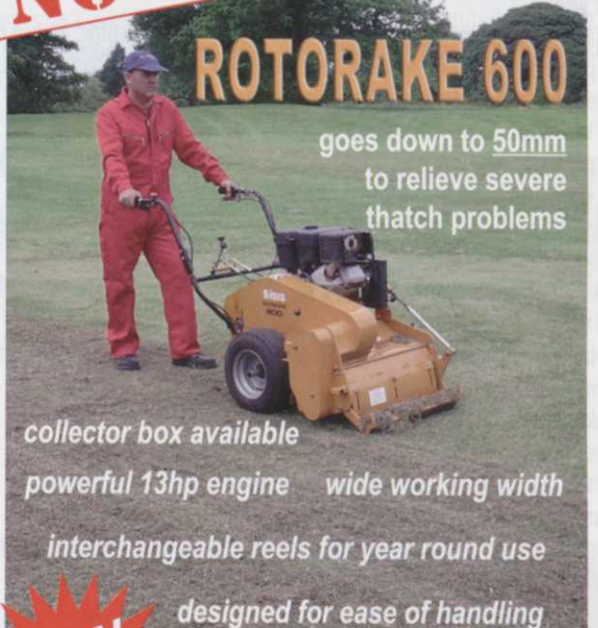
It was also the only occasion in the history of the Father and Sons Tournament - which draws entrants from far and wide- that it nearly got cancelled.

"If it had rained that week it certainly would have been," revealed Terry.

THATCH PROBLEM?



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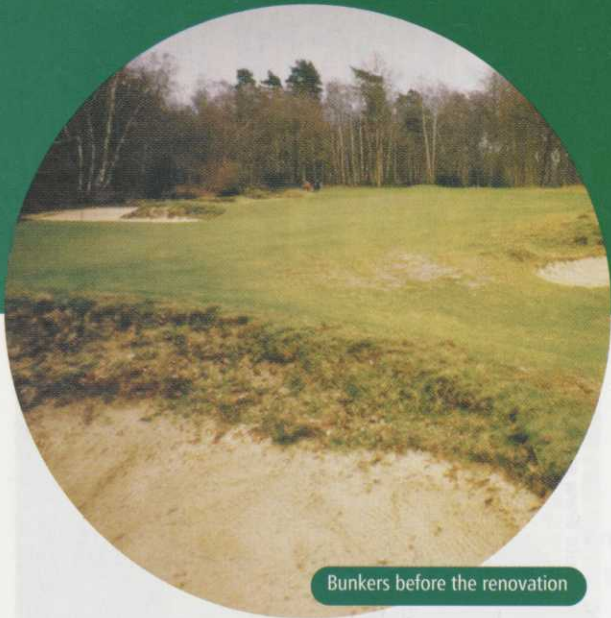
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Bunkers before the renovation



The work underway

With the phase two bunkers not ready the club took the conscious, and difficult, decision two weeks before the event to deem the bunkers out of play rather than try to rush through their completion and perhaps inflict long term damage.

"We'd completed two of the holes but on the rest, the turfing had been done, the heather was planted and the drainage was in place, but we couldn't prepare them properly as the bases were too wet," said Terry adding that it is tough enough under normal circumstances preparing a course for a major tournament in April.

However, he was full of praise for the competitors who played that year.

"They never complained and took it in the right spirit. Many of the players said there would have been no way their courses would have been playable in similar conditions.

"We were hand cutting at four mil and we were leaving footprints on the greens... and our greens aren't particularly thatchy. The ground was just sodden. At the end of the first day the 7th green was black. It was soul destroying, but you accept that is part of the ticket."

As it turned out the rain stayed away for the tournament itself and the course got better as the week wore on."

Having survived their biggest week of the year Terry, his six man team, and the club faced up to the prospect of completing bunkering of the final eight holes in one, larger than expected, phase.

"We'd already decided that if we were faced with similar weather conditions we'd pull the contractor off the site but as it happened we started the work in the last week in October and the major part of the construction was finished by the last week in January.

"Kestrel did the lot including the laying of 3000 metres of heather around the bunkers," said Terry, adding that the heather acts as a superb feature of the fairway bunkers on the course.

What it meant was that everything was completed for this April's Father and Sons tournament.

"It was absolutely magnificent this year," said Terry, with understandable pride.

"The comment we kept hearing was that 'We'd forgotten how beautiful West Hill was'. We were helped by dry conditions and the greens putted really well and we cut the greens daily at three mil."

With the bunker work completed Terry can look forward to

progressing the course in other areas and in particular points four and five of the original master plan.

"The tree work has been on-going and we are looking at clearing more this winter. We've found that everywhere we've cleared trees we are getting heather regeneration. I've never seen the heather so good as it has been this year and members say it's as good as they've seen in 30 years."

The drainage work is also on-going with much of it being carried out in conjunction with the bunker renovation.

"We're picking off broken drains winter by winter and every time we fix one another one pops up. It's a sad fact we'll be doing that for the next three or four years."

Terry has worked to the Acid Theory with regard to his management practice and since arriving three and a half years ago has seen a 60-40 poa bent ratio reverse to 40-60, without resorting to blanket overseeding.

"I have to be a little careful because if the ph comes down too low the moss starts out competing with the poa so it's a balancing act. So the down side of getting the poa back to bent is that from time to time we get this moss invasion. I'm working closely with David Stansfield on this," said Terry adding that his Chairman of Green, David Hargreaves is also very supportive and proactive.

Fulham-born Terry began his greenkeeping career at Fulwell before moving to Foxhills where, at 21, became Deputy Course Manager and worked on six European Tour Qualifying Schools, two British Ladies' Opens and two Tournament Players' Championships.

"Working under someone like John Campbell, who'd come down from St Andrews, was incredible. I learned so much from him about traditional Scottish greenkeeping techniques, revetting bunkers, mixing up fertiliser and top dressing and weighing up dried blood.

"He'd done everything you could in greenkeeping and was the first superstar greenkeeper, without a shadow of a doubt."

From there Terry moved to Laleham to his first Course Manager's job, then Ashford Manor before the chance to come to West Hill came along.

"I remember playing here a few years ago thinking that I'd love to work on a place like this."

Terry has some strong, interesting and common sense opinions on the greenkeeping industry.

"In the past we were cocooned in our golf clubs and they were like safe havens but as clubs have become more business like it has

Course Feature



Jonathan Gaunt

become much more competitive and we've got to be prepared and be able to take criticism," he said.

"I think we worry about stupid things. At my last club we didn't have a watering system and the course was built on a gravel bed which was fantastic in winter but a nightmare in the summer. I used to pace around the bedroom at 2am, keeping my wife awake, praying for rain which was just plain silly.

"With the modern day pressures all we can do is look at ourselves in the mirror and say we are doing our best.

"For example, today I'm three staff down, we've had a hydraulic oil leak, I've got a ladies' medal and we have three temporary greens. But it's not the end of the world. The golf course will still be here next year and the year after that," he said.

He also has some thoughts on greenkeeper accommodation.

"I believe that, wherever possible, every greenkeeper should own his own house. I know that years ago one of the big incentives was tied accommodation but you should be the master of your own destiny and take control of your life. Don't be dependent on someone else whether you have a roof over your head," said Terry, who does have his own home, despite living in one of the most expensive areas in the country.

"I had a choice. I could have gone out and bought a new car or taken out a mortgage," he said.

Although the clubs has completed the vast majority of the club's five point plan they are still aware that there much work still to be done.

"Ultimately it is going to depend upon the quality of the course we are providing and I'm heartened by letters I get from people who have played the course and from positive feedback in magazine articles. One recently said we were a candidate for the most improved course in Surrey, which is nice."

THE ARCHITECT'S VIEW

Jonathan Gaunt's brief was to improve the challenge of the golf course and try to create some consistency in the bunkers.

"Some bunkers were waterlogged while others drained ok; some had sand and others sand mixed with soil so were contaminated. Some had heather round them when they should have had turf and others turf when they should have had heather," explained Jonathan, as he looked back at the project.

Jonathan worked on the strategy of the course tightening up holes around the landing area and on the approaches to greens.

"It's an old established golf course and a bit of a collector's item so it was a real risk for the club to take such a drastic step. However, they were very fair with me and took me at my word. The first phase was very much the testing block but it went very well and by the third phase it was going even better from my point of view."

So how did he go about reconstructing bunkers on one of the most historic courses in the country?

"I view the original architect's work as an influence and then read up about the course and visit it and surrounding similar courses. It's a history lesson and also an opportunity to make a great golf course even greater... or make it worse. That's the risk involved."

How do the West Hill bunkers differ from Jonathan Gaunt bunkers?

"That is difficult to describe. If you go to three or four of the courses I've designed you will see something different at each as I'd like to say I'm influenced by the site itself. I suppose my bunkers are longer shape and set higher so you see more of the sand. They are probably a little bolder."

Jonathan Gaunt is a member of the IEGCA.



Building the face



ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2002



Wilmslow Golf Club's recent pond development. Winner of the prize for the best project.

Andrew Wood, of the STRI Environment team, reports on this year's competition and unveils the 2002 winning Club.

R&A SPONSORED BIGGA GOLF ENVIRONMENT COMPETITION 2002.

It is that time of year again when the sealed green envelopes are opened and the results of the R&A sponsored BIGGA Environmental competition are announced. This is the seventh annual competition and although it is somewhat of a cliché it is fair to say that the standard has got stronger year on year throughout this period. Indeed it is likely that the application sent in by Ipswich Golf Club when they won the award in its original guise of Amazone Golf Environment Competition in 1995 would have struggled to progress to the second round of this year's competition. The sheer scale of ecological management going on at the majority of clubs in this year's competition is staggering. Environmental credentials are becoming increasingly polished and important habitats are being conserved, enhanced and created all over the country. What is most encouraging is that not only wildlife is benefiting from this work as the results are being enjoyed and appreciated by the golfer, the greenstaff and the general public are too. There is however just one major negative of all this progress, the competition just keeps getting increasingly difficult to judge!

All of this year's applications were studied by the Ecology team at STRI and scored out of a total of 40 points. Of these 17 clubs achieved a score of 25 or greater and were selected to progress to the regional finals. Those that didn't quite make the grade were given constructive feedback to encourage a stronger entry in future years. The next task was to carry out site visits to the selected clubs with a view to choosing regional finalists, the best individual project and a successor to Broadstone Golf Club who won the overall competition last year.

A summary of the findings from each region is provided below. A review of the criteria that clubs had to meet to be successful will be included in the next edition of the STRI International Turfgrass Bulletin.

SCOTLAND

Organisation is the key word at **St. Andrews Links Trust** where all the five courses were taken into account. The most progressive of these in terms of ecological management was the Eden Course. The former Head Greenkeeper of this course, Gordon Moir, is now Links Superintendent and his strong ecological credentials are prompting action throughout the Trust's courses. With the assistance of Jonathon Smith, of Scottish Wildlife Trust, environmental management plans are being drawn up for all five courses. An environmental working party has been assembled with at least one representative from each course.

Both St. Andrews and **Loch Lomond Golf Club** have spared no expense in terms of waste management and systems to accurately monitor chemical and water usage. Loch Lomond's commitment to conserving and enhancing the valuable habitats on the course is well demonstrated by the employment of two conservation officers who manage the woodlands, wetlands, and waterway areas in a way sympathetic to the golfer and the wildlife. The contribution that the Loch Lomond Invitational competition makes towards promoting golf in a good environmental light should not be underestimated.

Although not as large or illustrious as the three other entries in the Scottish region **Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club** punches well above its weight in terms of environmental credentials and is very much proof that in this competition at least, size doesn't matter. Stuart Hogg, the Course Manager has developed an outstanding management plan that is realistic in terms of the work that can be done. This includes some splendid initiatives to reduce the use of chemicals and water on the course. There is also a rough grassland and gorse management strategy in place that is producing impressive results.

Owen Brown, Course Superintendent at the **Duke's Course**, must be golf's equivalent of Steve Irwin 'crocodile hunter' and not just because of his Australian accent. His knowledge of the wildlife on the course is impressive and his enthusiasm for all that is environmentally sound is infectious. Out on the course, on-going management schemes such as the filtering of drainage



One of two information boards at Bradley Park Golf Club visible to golfers and members of the public

water using newly created wetlands is appreciated by the golfer and ecologist alike. The grassland roughs and woodland plantations have been managed such that the holes have great definition and ecologically valuable corridors are created throughout the course. In an excellent communication initiative a two page hole by hole guide to the ecology of the course has recently been included in the club's course planner.

NORTHERN ENGLAND

The organisation of ecological management at **Kenwick Park Golf Club** sets this club apart from others. The 'Environment Panel' is a committee held in high regard by the club which demonstrates sustainability by raising its own funds for projects through events such as quiz nights, club competitions and night golf. An example of the Environment Panel's input into on-course matters is the way it influenced a change in the design of the Club's new irrigation reservoir from a rectilinear layout to a much less formal looking style. As a result of this input a far greater wildlife habitat will now develop. The reservoir now ensures that in future years the club will be completely self-sufficient for water.

Only 25 years ago, the site at **Bradley Park Golf Club** (a small municipal course) was agricultural land and quite sterile in terms of wildlife. Today, largely through the commitment of Head Greenkeeper, David Brierley, the course has a very natural feel and pockets of great ecological value. One such area is the pond on the second hole that is split into two sections of different depths. This suits a large range of vegetation, which encourages an increased diversity of animal species. The most impressive recent initiative is the creation of two information boards which describe the wildlife present on the course. These are positioned in view of golfers and members of the general public who use a footpath on the course.

Of all the clubs visited during the course of the competition, **Wirral Ladies' Golf Club** is the most progressive in terms of composting. Several grass clippings bays have been constructed in secluded areas around the course. When full, clippings are transported to a central location, mixed with organic material and composted. A tarpaulin is used to keep the heap at the optimum moisture content and prevent any run off occurring.

In terms of habitat management, the club is achieving great success in restoring areas of heather and maintaining woodland and gorse as part of a phased programme. A splendid portfolio of this work is being created that will be of great value as a means of communication with members when displayed in the Clubhouse.

Steve Oultram, Course Manager of **Wilmslow Golf Club** should be highly commended for his sheer dedication and enthusiasm. The management of the rough grasslands is part of a long term improvement programme which is

producing impressive results. The rough is cut annually and a local farmer is engaged to remove haylage from the course, over 50 big bales this year. The major change in the landscape of the course over the past year has been the creation of a pond on the 16th hole. From the design stage through to the marginal planting after construction, everything has been done to a superb standard and the pond is a valuable addition to the other outstanding habitats on the course.

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

Aldeburgh, Thorpeness Hotel and **Ipswich** were three golf clubs within close proximity to each other that all made it through to the South East regional final. All three are situated upon the Suffolk Sandlings and have large areas of land well out of play. All are responsible custodians of ecologically important, acidic lowland heath. At Aldeburgh, management is carried out that enhances and restores grassland, woodland, gorse and a small amount of heather on the course. The Course Manager and his team have a good understanding of how to manage these areas and control invading vegetation such as bracken, brambles and rank grass species on an impressively large scale.

At Thorpeness Hotel and Golf Course, Course Manager, Ian Willett, has created a solid environmental management plan, with assistance from several ecology-based organisations and a keen member, Ray Hardinge. Ray has produced extensive species lists for the course which includes the red data species Woodlark and Nightjar. The club has shown the commitment to enter into a Countryside Stewardship Award that funds much of the ecological management work. As the club has only six greenkeeping staff, it has sought the services of the Suffolk Sandlings Project to carry out certain schemes including some large scale and highly successful bracken clearance.

Although Ipswich Golf Club has limited resources the club fully supports the Course Manager's appointment of two conservation officers. This manpower has enabled the club to make huge strides in terms of environmental enhancement of a diverse range of habitats. The publicising of past successful management means that the team are not afraid of removing large areas of vegetation such as woodland, gorse and bracken in order to re-instate areas of grassland heath or heather. The flagship area of ecological management at present is a heather stand within the carry of the 13th hole. This was turf stripped in March 2001 following a severe heather beetle infestation. After only 17 months, the area now is almost 100% covered with healthy young heather plants.

Rookwood Golf Club is a five year old municipal club that has outstanding environmental credentials. The development of the golf course was an issue of great contention as it was effectively built on land originally



The reflection of a screen at Warren Golf Club has reduced the disturbance of resting and feeding birds.



ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2002

designated as a nature reserve. Sceptics are now being forced to look at golf courses in a new light, as the increase in ecological value of the site has been outstanding. The club has planted approximately 80,000 mainly native trees and shrubs and developed wild flower areas in roughs which give the course a very natural feel. It has an interactive website:

www.rookwoodgolfcourse.co.uk with a section devoted to nature conservation where golfers can register any wildlife they have identified on the course in a "Nature Log".

A strong emphasis on staff training and the development of a comprehensive environmental management plan has been the foundation for some excellent work carried out at **Gerrards Cross Golf Club**. Recent management includes pond development, the clearing of rides through woodlands and general woodland edge management. All this work has had benefits to the course from both a golf and a wildlife viewpoint. In terms of risk assessment and waste management, the club is now at an excellent standard after recent improvements in its chemical and diesel storage facilities.

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND AND WALES

Bath Golf Club was one of a number in this year's competition that has entered into a Countryside Stewardship Agreement with DEFRA which largely dictates the club's ecological management. This involves the protection and management of many features of historical importance including Iron age field systems and a Roman fort. The club is also committed to the enhancement of the Cotswold grasslands and the protection of its resident populations of Greater and Lesser Horseshoe Bats. The club has initiated grazing out of play which is quickly improving the grassland habitat. The cow dung attracts insects which provide a food source for the bats.

The club has excellent waste management credentials and Course Manager, Guy Woods, has initiated an impressive recycling programme.

The large turnout of members and staff for the visit to **Warren Golf Club** in Dawlish clearly indicated the enthusiasm for environmental issues at this club. The club lies on a sand spit that is one of only two UK sites for the Warren Crocus. Warren has many ecological designations and a large number of organisations have contributed to the club's Site Management Statement. This suits the golf club despite ensuring it abides by strict management policies including minimal use of chemicals on the course.

The 14th tee is adjacent to an important foreshore roosting and nesting site. To reduce disturbance levels, a screen has been placed around one side of the tee and the retrieval of golf balls from this area is prohibited.

The most striking thing about **Parkstone Golf Club** in Poole is the scale of the ecological management that has taken place over the past few years. This has been concentrated on the removal of woodland and scrub areas with the

intention of reinstating grassland heath and especially areas of heather. Opening up such areas has had benefits for golf as well as the wildlife of the course. Increased light and air movement has improved playing surfaces and vastly increased areas of heather where Adders and Sand lizards often bask on the south facing slopes.

A stream and several springs feed two well managed lakes on the course which make the club self sufficient for irrigation water and provide an excellent wildlife habitat.

A diverse range of important habitats were found at **Cardigan Golf Club** including grassland, hedgerows, water bodies and areas of gorse and scrub. All of these habitats are subjected to continual improvement through the following of a comprehensive management plan. A 60m hedge planted last February will eventually provide food, shelter and a nesting site for birds as well as screening the maintenance sheds. A photographic record of the improvements made is a valuable tool for promoting future ecological initiatives. The club is highly committed to composting of grass clippings, hollow tine cores and other organic waste. This is a major part in the Club's push towards sustainability as it is hoped to eventually use the end product as top dressing.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

In Scotland the size, course type and management structure of the four finalists was unbelievably different for each entrant and this made judging all the more difficult. After much deliberation, Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club were just pipped to the post by the Duke's Course. In Northern England there was almost a four way tie with only one point between all the regional finalists. However, Bradley Park just came out on top. In The South East, Ipswich just edged out Thorpeness Hotel and Golf Course for the second year running. These two competition stalwarts will need to continue improving if they are to keep ahead of first time entrants, Aldeborough, Rookwood and Gerrards Cross in future years. Parkstone took the honours in a hard fought South West and Wales Region though again this club, Warren and Cardigan must be aware of new entrant Bath making impressive progress.

After much deliberation it was decided that Wilmslow would receive the prize for the best individual project during the past year. This was for the pond the club created on its 16th hole which is already proving a resounding success from an ecological viewpoint.

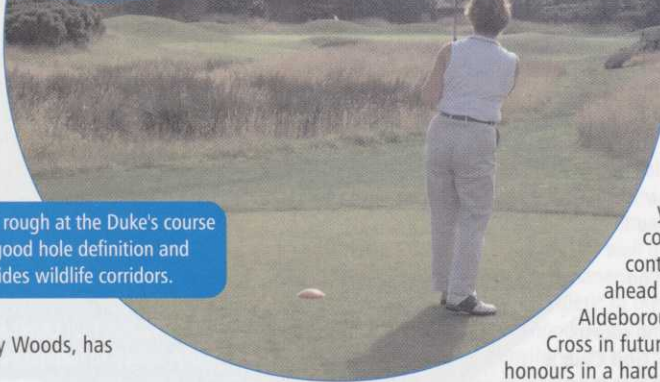
Ironically, it was **Ipswich** who won the overall competition, some seven years after taking the title for the first time. Many congratulations should go to all involved at the Club for their hard work that has had to be put in to become the first two-time winner of the competition. I'm certain that they will be the first to agree that this second success hasn't been easily achieved and that they, like a great many clubs, have come a long way in terms of ecological management in the last seven years.



The Flagship area of regenerated heather on Ipswich Golf Club



The purchase of a self contained washing system has improved Loch Lomond Golf Club's Environmental credentials.



Grassland rough at the Duke's course gives good hole definition and provides wildlife corridors.

EXHIBITOR OR VISITOR ALL ROADS LEAD TO HARROGATE



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TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT - GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT

Martyn Jones 1st Class Training

Turfgrass managers are caught in a dilemma between the constraints that nature sets on the growth and development of turfgrass plants and the unnatural demands set by sportsmen and sportswomen in their quest for perfect playing surfaces. A turf manager's role is to:

- provide playing characteristics appropriate to the sport
- maintain healthy turfgrass
- preserve the integrity of the rootzone material

Evolution has not anticipated that turfgrass plants may be continuously defoliated to 5mm or less, as is the case with golf and bowling greens; or the abrasive wear at Centre Court during Wimbledon fortnight. Nor has Mother Nature prepared herself for the upsurge in golf courses or enclosed soccer stadiums. Instead, Mother Nature has, for millions of years, adequately catered for infrequent grazing of animals during the growing season when soils are relatively dry and well aerated. She has provided earthworms to structure our soils; she has allowed grasses to recover from grazing before being subjected to further attack. She has even allowed death from starvation to reduce the grazing population and lessen the demands placed on the grasses.

Our sportsmen and sportswomen are not as considerate as Mother Nature and continue to place greater and greater demands on our turfgrass areas. We may plead for the grasses to be given a chance but our requests will generally fall on deaf ears. Consequently, science has had to come to our rescue. We now accelerate evolution by breeding new grass strains; we have an array of chemical formulae to protect the grasses; we design and create new soil components; we engineer irrigation, drainage, and heating systems to manipulate the climate; and we formulate chemical concoctions to feed our grasses.

But we are still governed by many of Nature's rules and are still at the mercy of our climate. We have created an unnatural environment within the general domain of nature.

The vast array of products nowadays at our disposal sometimes appears to have overshadowed the importance of the essential components for healthy turfgrass growth and development. The products of science, formidably marketed by talented sales staff, receive an enormous amount of media attention. I feel that, under such pressure, turf managers are often distracted from thinking about the ESSENTIAL requirements of growth - water, air and sunlight. Without water, air and sunlight (none of which are the products of scientists or engineers), neither photosynthesis nor respiration can occur and, without these processes, we have no grass plants. These are the basics of life and cannot be taken for granted.

Yes, we can fine tune our surfaces by means of manufactured products but the essential components must first be in adequate supply. It matters not a jot how much any of the manufactured products are used if there is a substantial lack of any of the essential ingredients.

Currently, the lack of sunlight in our northerly location is a restriction that we must accept, although management practices can reduce the detrimental effects of low light intensities. Achieving a balance of the other essential elements can, to some extent, compensate for the natural low light intensities that we experience.

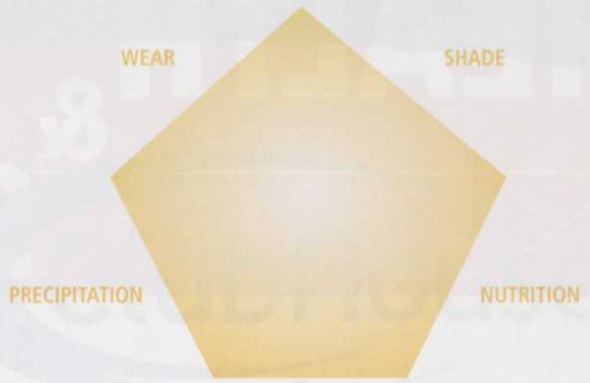
THE AGRONOMY TRIANGLE



Precipitation, whether from natural rainfall or artificially applied irrigation, has a profound effect on rootzone aeration. Water fills soil pores to the exclusion of air, resulting in a decrease in soil aeration. Excessive use of fertilisers, particularly nitrogenous fertilisers, results in the production of organic matter that will clog pore spaces, again to the exclusion of air.



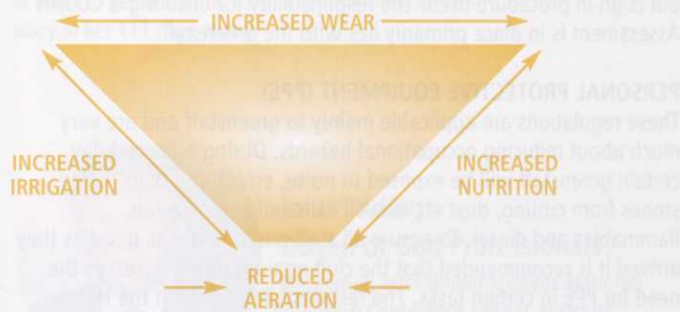
Without adequate soil aeration, the system becomes unstable and turfgrass quality declines. Many turfgrass managers hold the fallacious belief that turfgrasses are maintained in a healthier state by severely restricting water and nutrient input. This is because, in the majority of cases, soil aeration is already restricted. By concentrating on maintaining adequate soil aeration, detrimental effects of judicious irrigation and fertilisation do not occur and the turfgrass plant is kept in a healthier state. Good soil aeration is at the crux of good turfgrass management. However, it is one of the most difficult things to achieve, particularly when a rootzone material is inferior.



THE GAME SQUARE



Adding 'WEAR' to the equation aggravates the situation still further. Now, soil compaction decreases the number and volume of soil pores and can reduce soil aeration significantly. Often, in an attempt to compensate for wear, turfgrass managers will increase irrigation and fertilisation applications to stimulate growth. As in the 'Agronomy Triangle' soil pores become filled with water and organic residues, further depleting oxygen reserves in the soil. Collapse of the system is even more certain.



When 'SHADE' is also added to the configuration, as in the case of many of our new soccer stadia, the problems are further increased. Soil will not dry as readily in shaded environments and will, therefore, have water-filled soil pores for a longer period. Photosynthesis is not as efficient, resulting in lower carbohydrate reserves within the plant, and subsequent shallow rooting. This results in greater organic residue accumulation in the surface layers of the soil and subsequent reduction in soil aeration. Turfgrass diseases are more severe in shaded situations and premature death of leaves, shoots and roots adds greater quantities of organic residues to the soil, again reducing the aeration porosity and drainage characteristics of the rootzone material. It is a vicious circle that will inevitably result in collapse of the system.

A thorough understanding of the elements that constitute a well-aerated soil is vital to the management of turfgrasses for sport.

Soil aeration is a 'CONDITION' - not a maintenance operation. An adequate supply of oxygen must be uniformly distributed throughout the rooting zone. The presentation discusses various aspects of mechanical aeration and their effectiveness in different soils.

A soil in which the air-filled porosity exceeds 10% of the soil volume will produce an 'Aerobic Rootzone'. But, a soil with an air-filled porosity less than 10% of the soil volume will produce an 'Anaerobic Rootzone' within 24 hours.

SIZE CLASSIFICATION OF SOIL PORES AND SOME FUNCTIONS OF EACH SIZE CLASS (FROM BREWER, 1964)

SIMPLIFIED CLASS	CLASS	DIAMETER RANGE (µm)	CHARACTERISTICS AND FUNCTIONS
Macropores	Macropores	> 75	Water drains by gravity, accommodates roots, habitat for certain soil animals
Micropores	Mesopores	30 - 75	Retain water after drainage, transmit water by capillarity, accommodate fungi and root hairs
	Micropores	5 - 30	Retain available water, accommodate most bacteria
	Ultramicropores	0.1 - 5	Retain unavailable water, exclude most micro-organisms
	Cryptopores	< 0.1	Exclude all micro-organisms, too small for large molecules

The presentation discusses ways and means of achieving adequate soil aeration and the restrictions that occur in a variety of soils and situations.

Martyn T. Jones
 Director 1st Class Training & Founder Trustee
 Of The National Turfgrass Foundation.

HEALTH & SAFETY



HAZTEK INTERNATIONAL

So whose responsibility is it?

Jerrard Winter explains where the responsibilities lie when it comes to Health and Safety on your golf course

Modern golf club management is rapidly changing and the present day Secretary/Manager has a much wider role than previously. He now is the organiser and planner, involved in finances, involved in building and maintenance etc as well as now having to ensure the golf club is fully complying with the current health and safety legislation, equal opportunities and racial equality as well as providing for the disabled and under 18's.

In years gone by the Secretary/Manager was not as aware or as well versed in the Health and Safety requirements and quite often did the minimum to stay within the law. In 1992 the law changed and tightened up producing a new set of regulations called The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992 that basically made risk assessment mandatory and introduced several other key regulations applicable to golf clubs.

Not bored yet? Well things get better.

The first job the Secretary/Manager has to do is to work out the clear responsibilities as laid down in the club Health and Safety Policy and endorsed by the club committee or board of directors/management. From this point it is then absolutely essential that all other operating areas of the club fully understand both the legislation and regulations in place and what it means to their day to day jobs. I am concentrating here on the greenstaff but all others shouldn't feel unwanted.

For the Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager it means complying with almost all regulations applicable to golf clubs without exception; I don't intend to list the regulations but have produced a hit list of the main requirements;

GENERAL HAZARDS RISK ASSESSMENTS

All maintenance facility and machinery activity must be supported by a current suitable and sufficient risk assessment. In short, this really means the greenstaff must fully understand all of the hazards associated with their work and these be fully documented for inspection at any time. It is important that these are kept up to date if any changes occur in greenshed activities. The responsibility primarily lies with the club secretary/manager to ensure these are in place but the Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager should assist in this process.

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

All maintenance facility locations must have undergone a formal Fire Risk Assessment, which should identify each and every fire source and ensure all possible measures have been put in place to remove the fire hazard or minimise its consequences. The Fire Risk Assessment may be inspected by insurance companies or the Fire Officer if visiting the club so is mandatory. The responsibility for ensuring this is completed lies with the club secretary/manager.

MANUAL HANDLING ASSESSMENTS

Any handling of objects which could lead to back injury or injury to body parts require a Manual Handling Assessment. This assessment

basically looks at the nature of the activity in terms of weight, height, difficulty and assesses whether the lift could be achieved with less or no risk to individuals. The responsibility for ensuring this is in place lies with the Club Secretary/manager but the greenstaff should be aware and encourage this assessment to be completed for their own health and welfare. Training in manual handling is readily available.

COSHH ASSESSMENT

most golf clubs are now well aware of the COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) Regulations 1985 and operate within the law. For those unfamiliar these regulations are in place to protect persons or the public from being harmed by hazardous chemicals. The COSHH assessment should identify all of the chemicals used by the greenstaff and ensure a formal record is kept of each chemical and the harm it can cause if spilled or incorrectly mixed. The assessment should then recommend the safeguards for use (ie PPE, Chemical suits, neutralisers) and ensure these are always available. Chemicals should be stored safely in locked containers such as Chem-Stores and a sign out/sign in procedure used. The responsibility for ensuring a COSHH Assessment is in place primarily lies with the greenstaff.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

These regulations are applicable mainly to greenstaff and are very much about reducing occupational hazards. During a normal day certain greenstaff will be exposed to noise, errant golf balls, flying stones from cutting, dust etc as well as handling chemicals, flammables and diesel. To ensure all staff return home as good as they arrived it is recommended that the club again formally assesses the need for PPE in certain tasks. The responsibility lies with the Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager. There are some other applicable requirements to ensure the health and hygiene of employees is protected as well as the use of computers and transporting flammables.

Golf club management should now jointly address Health and Safety issues as a total club as the requirements do not stop at the greenstaff but apply to the catering and professional in many respects. The knowledge within the club in all departments should be shared to make the club a safer place in all respects and something to be proud of.

It's all our responsibilities.

Jerrard Winter is Senior Health and Safety Advisor with Haztek International 0208 905 7552 info@safegolf.co.uk



The BIGGA Golf Experience is not to be missed and this month 'Greenkeeper International' begins its preview with profiles of some of the top names who will be in town for this major event in the greenkeeping, golf club and turf industry calendar.

The 2003 Keynote Speaker will be Debra Veal MBE

Debra was recently heralded as 'Britain's latest sporting heroine' when the media world reported the story of a young lady who carried on rowing alone when her husband, an international oarsman, left the boat after developing an uncontrollable fear of the ocean.

Debra saw no reason to stop and rowed on to become unofficially the fourth woman in the world to have rowed an ocean solo.

The 3000 mile journey from Tenerife to Barbados that was initially supposed to take six weeks took Debra three and a half months and saw her battling with 30 foot waves, force 8 squalls and sharks, while having to dodge tankers that came too close for comfort on more than a few occasions.

Debra will speak on achieving the best with the support of a team and the need for first class preparation in order to be successful, as well as recounting an epic story of her 111 days at sea.



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6 & 7 November 2002
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**Scotsturf, Scotland's premier exhibition for the
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A virtual sell-out, the exhibition continues to change to reflect the need of exhibitor and visitors alike. Over the last five years the event has grown by over 100% and despite problems with available exhibition space at the Royal Highland Centre the organisers have worked to ensure the success of the event.

Further expansion has not been possible during the last two years but the promise of a new purpose built exhibition hall for 2003 has meant that change had to be made in the exhibition layout for 2002. Perhaps a blessing in disguise, the organisers hope that the heating problems which has been a feature of the past exhibitions will now be a thing of the past and an under one roof show for next year spells the beginning of enhanced visitor and exhibitor facilities.

This year the show will remain spread over three exhibition halls at Ingliston. The old Hall C has now been removed and has been replaced by a large nearly complete single span exhibition hall, which although nearing completion will not be in use by Scotsturf this year.

To accommodate the displaced exhibitors for Hall C the exhibition now will include the adjacent Car Auction building on the south side of the original Hall A.

The majority of the 120 plus exhibitors have been coming to the show for many years, proving the importance of Scotsturf in the Scottish calendar. Visitors also come from all over Scotland and further field as communication links to Edinburgh improve. Visitors from the north of England continue to make their way north to Scotland capital and the introduction of cheap and frequent budget airline flights makes it accessible from both Belfast and Dublin.

BIGGA's stand - B16 - will be manned by Peter Boyd, the Scottish Regional Administrator, along with Pauline Thompson and Gemma Lee, from Headquarters, as well as members of the Scottish Board.

**For further information please contact Nicky McGarry
on: 028 9042 2274 or email: nicky@nicky McGarry.com**

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PREVIEW



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Stand Number A21



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Stand Number A20

British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

BIGGA will be giving visitors the chance to find out more about all aspects of the Association and its activities. Our team will be on hand to answer all your questions and provide literature highlighting the benefits of membership. If you are already a member, you can get information about the prestigious Master Greenkeeper scheme in addition to education and training opportunities.

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition has been held in Harrogate each year since 1989 and every January it becomes a focal point for turf industry professionals. Next year sees the exciting introduction of ClubHouse, previously owned and staged by the NEC, Birmingham. This exhibition will run alongside BTME and have its own separate identity within Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre. Full details of both exhibitions will be available on the stand or by calling 01347 833800.

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Stand Number B16



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STAND A37



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Scottish Grass Machinery

Top dealer Scottish Grass Machinery, part of the SGM Group, will fly the flag for Ransomes and Jacobsen at Scotsturf.

Representatives from Scottish Grass Machinery and the Group's other 3 divisions, SGM Finance, SGM Industrial and the Golf Division will also be on hand.

SGM Industrial will be showing the Ransomes range of industrial sweepers, together with information on the latest innovations from Renault, Spearhead, Vermeer and Amazone.

Customers will have the opportunity to talk to finance experts about spreading the cost of hiring and servicing quality ground maintenance equipment with the Group's Bank of Scotland backed finance division, SGM Finance.

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East

Welcome to another month's column. Yes it's October so we know what's around the corner. Yes, winter! Try not to think about it because summer is still to arrive.

The Section held its annual Willie Woods Invitational Tournament at West Linton GC on September 5 with a good turnout of 18 teams. With thanks to Captain, Bill Blackwood, and the Council for courtesy of the course; Paul and Louise for looking after us superbly as usual in the bar and restaurant; also the restaurant and bar staff.. Thanks. A big thanks, also, to my Deputy Shaun and the rest of my team for having the course in fine condition considering the weather we've had this year and also the weather on the day which was dreadful. At one point I thought we might not get round but for the last few holes the sun came out and it turned out to be a wonderful evening. We hope you all enjoyed your visit to WLGc and we hope to see you all back again in the near future.

There were some great scores on the day so here are the results:- 1. A. Campbell/P. A. Craig, Eyemouth GC, 78 - 8 2/3 = 69 1/3; 2. C. Yeaman/B. Blackwood, West Linton GC, 78 - 7 1/3 = 70 2/3; 3. S. Nicol/R. Martin, Winterfield GC, 67 - +5 1/3 = 72 1/3 .

So as you can see some very good scoring on a very unpleasant day. Next year the tour will travel to Eyemouth GC to contest the tournament once again. We hope to see you all there. Now, last but not least, a big thanks to our tournament Sponsor, Ian Henderson, of Golf Finance fame. Thank you for the continued sponsorship of this tournament it's much appreciated by all who play in this event. We hope we can continue this sponsorship deal over the next few years, Ian, so we'll be in contact over the next few months to see what we can sort out. Ian sent his apologies as he had work obligations he was unable to get away from.

People on the move lately were Andy Forrest, Head Greenkeeper at Oatridge College Golf Course who has joined Stewart & Company as Head Groundsman at Heart Of Midlothian FC. Stewart's have just taken on the maintenance contract for Tynecastle Stadium, so all the best to Ian in his new position. PS. Don't forget the tickets for matches against the mighty Rangers, or if you need somebody to fork the pitch at half time I'm yer man.

Dance tickets are now on sale, Saturday November 30, at Kilsplindie House Hotel Aberlady. Tickets are priced at £21pp and b&b £13 pppn. Contact Steve Dixon asap to make a booking for a great night. Dinner 7pm for 7.30 with the disco starting at approx 9pm. See you there.

I am running a charity golf event at WLGc on September 21. BIGGA Scottish Region are entering a team and I am entering a team with some of our Section members along with 40 other teams of four. I will let you know next month how both of these teams get on.

Next events on the calendar are the Autumn tournament at Liberton GC on October 10 and we are looking for a big turnout, so get those forms back asap and we'll see you there.

The Section AGM, in conjunction with Richard Aitken and company, will be on October 30 at West Linton Golf Club with various speakers etc, lunch, then a golf clinic. It's something different this year so we hope to bring out the members this time around.

The Section AGM from this year will go on the road around the Section to different Golf clubs instead of staying at one club each year. It's a different format so we hope the members support us in this venture.

Well that's it all this time around.. Next month I will report on any Section members playing in the National Championship and any other news I can pick up when I'm out and about.

Chris Yeaman

Central

This year's AGM will be held at the end of this month, at the time of writing the date has not been finalised, but hopefully everyone should have received notice of the date and venue by now. If not, just phone me, or get in touch with any committee member and they will give you all the details, as I am sure you are all dying to attend this very important meeting.

Seriously though, if you are unhappy in any way with the manner the Section, or the Association for that matter, is being run please come to the AGM and give us your views, as the Association belongs to you, the members. The only way Section committees and Regional Boards can function properly is if they know the views of the members.

At last! I have had one result from this year's Inter Club Tournament returned so far. Alloa "B" beat Tulliallan so at least two teams are making an attempt to get their games played.

Everyone should have their allocation of "Club 2000" tickets by now, Alex Robertson and Grant Donaldson have actually requested additional tickets, thanks to both of them for their support. Only one person (so far) has returned their allocation unsold, I won't disclose his identity, but an American singer namesake had a big hit with Rhinestone Cowboy!

Winners in the August draw were Neil Mitchell with ticket number 493 (£30) and Ian Jarvis with ticket number 062 (£20). September winners were G. Holland with ticket number 106 (£30) and D. Sword with ticket number 264 (£20).

Remember! You have to have your ticket/s sold and the money returned to me by December 2nd (This year!).

Quick response! Thanks to Scott Fenwick and Alex Robertson, who phoned regarding my plea in last month's magazine for a stockist of roofing shingles, thanks to them I have been able to purchase them and can add re-roofing the shelter to this year's winter programme. Thanks again! It just proves, if you need help of any kind, don't be frightened to ask, even use your own magazine.

John Crawford.

West

Welcome to this month's newsletter. September 2 saw the Norrie Wytock Trophy being held at Auchterarder GC. I have been told the course was in great condition and the sun was shining as well quite an achievement this year. Congratulations are to be passed on to Archie, his team and the Sun God he prayed to for having the course so well presented and bathed in sunshine. Our thanks once again should go to the Captain, Council and membership of Auchterarder GC for the use of their course and facilities. I here our team from the West came in a commendable fifth, better luck next year. Congratulations to the boys from Central who were the event winners.

A date for your diary next. The Section AGM will be held on October 24. Nairn & Brown have kindly offered to host the event at their premises in Busby. A letter will be sent to inform you of the details nearer the date. We are trying to arrange for a couple of speakers from the trade to come along and make a short presentation prior to the AGM. We hope to see a large turnout as possible on the day. Get their early if you want a seat.

On October 14 our annual match against the club stewards will be held at Cathcart GC our thanks is again to be extended to the council and membership for the kind use of their facilities. At time of writing the greenkeeping team was still to be confirmed.

Our annual dinner is once again to be held in Victoria's night spot. This popular event has always been well attended in the past and always proves a most enjoyable evening. The proposed date for the event is Friday, November 29 and tickets will go on sale shortly. Please try and get your payment for ordered tickets in as early as possible as this will guarantee you a seat at this not to be missed event and will greatly help in the administration of the event.

The committee would like to wish John Scott Jnr the

best of luck in his new post. John is leaving Kirkhill GC and is to be congratulated on his promotion.

Hope I spelt the name right! We would also like to thank John for all the work he has done on our Section committee over the years.

Well, that is all I have this month, next month results from our Autumn outing staged at Drumpellier GC on September 26. Again if you would like any news added to the column please do not hesitate to call me on 013552 66862

Brian Bolland

North

No new members to report this month, the first month for a while that this has been the case.

The Autumn outing took place at McDonald GC, Ellon, on September 12, and a good day out was had by those who attended. The weather held up well, and it stayed dry, which has not happened too much lately. Our thanks go too the bar and catering staff of McDonald GC who looked after us well, and the committee who make sure the event runs smoothly. Also great credit goes to John Geddes and his staff for the immaculate presentation of the course. Being a Parkland course there is a lot of cutting to be done, and the workload is very high, particularly this season, and there was hardly a blade of grass out of place. Lastly, a thank you to all the trade members who continually support this event, and donate prizes for the raffle etc and to the patrons whose support is greatly appreciated.

On to the results and departing committee member Robert Hardie took more than his fair share of the spoils - several firsts in different sections, including £3 from myself which was hard to take because he was exceptionally lucky.

Nearest the Pin. Robert Hardie (bounced of a tree), Craibstone GC.

Longest Drive. Class 1. Gary Tough, Letham Grange GC; Class 2. James Swanson, Spey Bay; Class 3. Stuart Hogg, Fortrose GC.

Sweep 1. Robert "Turpin" Hardie; 2. N. Bruce; 3. Philip Don; 4. S. Sullivan

Committee Trophy. Robert Hardie; Guest Winner. C. Grant, Ellon GC;

Trade Winner. Robert Bruce, Stewarts, (Pat Allan prodigy) Veterans' 1. R. Donald, Oldmeldrum GC; 2. H. Mclatchie, Peterhead GC.

Apprentice Winner, Ben Brooks Newmachar GC. Class 3 1. Neil Bruce, Montrose GC; 2. Steven Simpson, Cullen GC. (First prize ever); Duncan Adams, Nemachar GC.

Class 2. 1. Robert Hardie; 2. Arthur Williamson, Craigie Hill; 3. Dale Robertson, Newmachar GC.

Class 1 Mclean Trophy 1. Philip Don, Kemnay GC; 2. Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC; 3. Jim McCormack, Kirriemuir GC; Best Nett 36 Hole winner Philip Don Kemnay GC; Best 36 Hole Head Greenkeeper Winner, Philip Don;

Best 36 Hole Veteran Winner, R. Donald Scratch Hampton Trophy Winner Gary Tough Letham Grange GC; 2. Graham Lornie, Royal Aberdeen GC.

Congratulations to all the winners and I hope to see you all at the Spring outing next year. There were also other prizes to be won. Blazer. James Swanson, Spey Bay GC. Patrons' Winners; Donald Patience, Tarbat GC; Brian Hunter, Ellon GC. 200 Club winners: £30 A. Thomson; £30 A. Angus; £30 M. Fullerton; £100 Hazelhead Golf pros.

The raffle prizes went well, with Spey Bay GC taking their fair share, at least they went to a good home. My thanks go out to Dougal Duguid and Steve Sullivan for saving the signed poster of the Aberdeen football team for myself in the raffle. My dartboard was needing recovered anyway.

As I write this report the AGM has still not been set, but as soon as it has been, the members will be notified.

Finally, David Duggan, of Fortrose GC, gets married at the end of this month in Fife, so good luck David. David's stag weekend was in Ireland, where he indeed is from. This may explain why his journey took two days from

Fortrose. Apparently he loves the A9 that much he thought he would drive up and down it a couple of times before he went over.

Iain Gunn

NORTHERN REGION

North West

September and the nights are drawing in, I wonder were the summer went. The weather all around the world seems to be changing, with rivers breaking their banks and causing heavy flooding not only here but all over Europe. The flooding is bad enough, but trying to put things right after must seem like an impossible task. It would be interesting if any of you have been in this position, to take some pictures and write a few words about how you coped with it all. I am sure Scott, the Editor, would help you with your story.

I have been out of action for some time due to illness, but before I went into hospital for a short stay, I turned up to Whitefield GC on Friday, August 9 to organise the regional final, and what a day it was. The rain never stopped from early morning, and although Mark, the Head Greenkeeper, kept his options open, saying that if it stopped, the course would be playable within the hour, in the end we had to admit defeat. I would like to thank all the lads who turned up on the day, some with long journeys like the N/East Section and the N/Wales Section, and although we can't run the competition this year I will do my best for next year.

Due to my stay in hospital I was also unable to attend the funeral of Doug Bell which upset me because we had become good friends, he being the Northern Region Administrator and me, the Chairman. He was a good man and had your interests at heart, but I believe there was a good attendance at the funeral. He will sadly miss.

I also missed the "Roses" match which was played at Stand GC, and I am told the course was in great condition although it did not help to retrieve the Patisson Trophy from the Northern Section. The match was halved three games each so the Northern Section retain the Patisson Shield. The match was once again sponsored by Patissons who have sponsored the match for many years, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them once again for their interest and hope this will continue for many years to come.

That seems to be it for now but you can contact me with any news and problems on 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross

Northern

"Ey up" and how are you all keeping in greenkeeping land? I hope the on course construction is taking shape and the mowing is slowing down and we are all disease free?

Well done to the Northern Section team who competed for the Patisson's Roses Trophy against the North West Section on their patch and retained it. Stand golf course was in excellent condition and was enjoyed by all of the Northern boys on the day. A big thank you to the North West Section for organising this year's event and to Patissons for sponsoring it. It turned out to be a thriller with a 3-3 draw being the outcome. Those Lancs Lads certainly have been practising. Better luck next year.

I have a number of new members to introduce this time as I missed out last time (misplaced them. Sorry) Welcome to Stephen Midgley, Heworth GC; Ross McCarthy, David Callaghan and Darren Kitching, Headingly GC; John Whiteley, Normanton GC; David Stoyles, Ryburn GC; Steven Fletcher, Elland GC and last, but not least, Michael Tattersall, from Cleckheaton GC.

Our next golf event of the year is The Autumn tournament at Northallerton Golf club on October 17. Tee off from 11am. Numbers again are on a first come first served bases. The usual price of £15 by cheque, one week before the event please, as this aids administration. There will be the usual bacon sandwich and meal on the day. At 6pm after this event will be our AGM. So if you are unhappy with anything to do with the Section this is your opportunity to air your views. Or maybe you fancy a stint on the committee to help with the planning and administration of all our events. It would be great to see as many of you as possible at the AGM.

I was so sorry to hear of the death of Doug Bell in early August. He will be missed by all of the Northern section and committee alike.

I will report on the Invitation day in the next around the greens.

See you all at the AGM. You can contact me via: 16 Westwood Ave. Eccleshill Bradford West York's BD2 2NJ
Tel No: 01274 640739 Mob No: 07976876264
E mail: Dthackray@aol.com
Dave Thackray

North Wales

Pwllheli Golf Club was the venue for the Section's Autumn Tournament and once again we were blessed with good weather. The course as always was presented in a fine standard thanks to the greenkeeping team headed by Steve Jones, and the crew of Alwyn, Dylan, and Tomos.

Bacon butties were the order of the day upon our arrival and a roast beef dinner was served prior to the presentation. Our thanks go to the catering staff at the club. A total of 48 entrants teed off to challenge the part parkland and part links course the results were as follows:

Best nett 1. Darryl Davis, Northop GC, 37pts; 2. Andy Peel, Bull Bay GC, 36pts; 3. John Humphreys, Oswestry GC, 35pts. Best Gross went to Jeremy Hughes, Vale of Llangollen, with a 72. Best Guest was Kirt Hutcheon, Stowrs-Wen GC, who also won the Guest Nearest the Pin. Best trade was myself with 33pts and longest walk went to Danny Tomkins along with the straightest slice. There was a Nearest the Pin for the members and this was won by Dylan Hughes, fittingly, of Pwllheli GC. We won't say anything about local knowledge but Dylan is the son of the former head greenkeeper, Dewi Hughes, who has now retired after many years at the club and is enjoying a life we all look forward to, being out of the rat race. Thanks also goes to the trade for the prize table, ALS, Acorn(UK), Bathgate, Amenity Technology, Walker Engineering and Sportsworld Amenity.

Moving on those of you wishing to go and stay over at the BTME 2003 show in Harrogate next January 22, 23, 24, now is the time to book your accommodation as many hotels do get booked up early. We will once again be organising a coach and if there are any members interested please contact me.

The GCSAA Show in the States will be hosted in Atlanta, Georgia, next February and this is also the time to book yourself a good deal and maybe try and blagg a look around the Augusta National course. The results of the National Championship played over two days at Hesketh GC and Hillside GC will be in next month's issue, following the progress of our playing members. And finally many thanks to all of you that attended the IOG Groundex show at Aintree last month these trade shows would not succeed without your support.

Any views, news or information, please contact me on: Home: 01925 263394 Fax: 01925 269622
Mob: 07778 162162 e-mail: acorn@golf@supanet.com
Mesen Cymru
Andrew Acorn



MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter

Tel: 01476 550115

The Midland Region Educational Seminar will be held at Hinckley Golf Club on Wednesday, November 27. Open to all - Non Members welcome. Cost: £25 including lunch etc. Speakers include: Peter McEvoy - Walker Cup Captain; Daniel Binns BSc STR1 - 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.

Pete Larter

BB&O

I have not long returned from a jaunt around Saltex that had quite glorious weather for an event of this type. All seemed very busy to me as I often had to wait to see the people I needed to talk to. I came away with the impression there is lots of movement within the industry but not always for reasons of choice. I hope this is a minor blip in the shape of the industry generally. Just keep in mind all those educational seminars on offer from Sami for this Winter that do help us all to keep abreast of things in the industry and can offer a more secure foundation to our future prospects.

Peter Larter has set up a Midland Region Seminar. This will be at Hinckley Golf Club on Wednesday, 27th November. Cost of attendance is £25 which includes coffee/lunch. If you wish to hear an account of my trip to Florida with Bernhards you just may need to be there!

The next event will be the Turkey Trot at Southfields Golf Club on Wednesday, November 6. This will be a team threeball Stableford with the best of two scores. This match will be limited to 42 players. The first tee off time is 9am. Please ring me on 07778 765021 for any further information. The cost is £25 and includes coffee on arrival with a meal after the match. Please send your cheques to my home address as follows: Holly Lodge, Pond Lane, Hermitage, Thatcham, Berks, RG18, 9RN. This event is sponsored by Avoncrop who will be in attendance to ensure you have a great day and hand out prizes to the lucky winners. Avoncrop have graciously let us run a Christmas raffle that will comprise of any items that have been offered by various trade members throughout the year. If anyone has any item they would like to put forward for the raffle, please contact me. They will be much appreciated in helping to raise funds for future events.

I would like to welcome the following new members into the BB&O Section and wish you all well in the year to come: Duncan Dingle, of Studley Wood GC, and Dennis Reed, of Drayton Park GC.

This next report is from Lindsay Anderson on the final stages of the Rigby Taylor Competition; Peter Critchley and Gordon Critchley beat Steve Putt and Martin Birdbank 4 & 3 in the first semi-final. Lee Bishop and Jason Brooks beat Lindsay Anderson and Simon Austin 3 & 1 in the other semi-final.

The final was a tight affair with Lee and Jason, from Burnham Beeches, winning on the last green. The standard of golf by these two worthy winners was excellent - well done lads! Thanks to Mark and Gary from Rigby Taylor for organising the event once again. It has been a great success. Thanks to Alex Miller, and all his staff at Stoke Park Golf Club, for providing a superb test of golf.

Finally, Mark Stigwell, from Rigby Taylor, is emigrating to New Zealand in the next few weeks. We wish him well!

That is it for another month so I wish you all good recovery from any autumn work undertaken on your putting greens so they may enter the winter in fine fettle.

Secretary – David Haskell-Craig

East Midlands

The annual East Midlands v East of England Golf match was held on 22nd August at the wonderful venue of Newark GC and generously sponsored once more by Barenbrug. The weather was fine and bright and the course was presented in pristine condition by Graeme Macdonald and his staff. Unfortunately the result was not very kind for our Section, losing four of the five games, although by narrow margins. However Adi Porter and Steve Goode did at least save us from a complete whitewash by winning their match. Congratulations should also be extended to Adi Porter for winning the Longest Drive and Graeme Macdonald Nearest the Pin. I would also like to thank Graeme Macdonald for organising the day.

The Section was represented by the following members, Jeff Dickinson, Ian Needham, Steve Goode, Adi Porter, Antony Bindley, David James, Martin Hopkins, Lee Mitchell, Mark Bindley. Unfortunately Gavin Robson was unable to attend the day.

In the Kirby Muxloe Invitation on August 17, John Bumham and myself finished 5th with a nett score of 65.

In the Cosby Am-Am on August 26, Alan Roberts, Ian Needham, Richard Barker and myself finished with a 10 under par score 142 to finish again in 5th place.

Antony Bindley

Mid Anglia

Our Summer Golf Day took place in late August, at John O'Gaunt Golf Club, over 18 holes. Twenty-two members enjoyed an excellent course, with greens as near perfect as you will ever see. Thanks to Course Manager, Colin Robinson, and his staff for their efforts and to the club for hosting the tournament at fairly short notice, after a change of venue. The results were as follows: 1. Stephen Hesk, Aldwickbury Park, 36 pts; 2. John Chapman, John O'Gaunt, 34 pts; 3. Geoff James, John O'Gaunt, 34 pts.

Nearest the Pin was won by Steve Mason, from Mount Pleasant. Longest Drive was won by Craig Spooner, from Collier Turf Care.

Many thanks once again to Boughton Loam for their continued sponsorship of the summer event, and of course to all our other trade members, who never fail to support our golf events.

A reminder of our final golf event of the year - our annual Texas Scramble event will take place at South Beds GC on Thursday, December 5.

Finally, Stephen Hesk is moving out of the Section, to take up a position at a golf club in the Blackpool area. We wish him well in his new appointment.

Paul Lockett

East of England

The East of England Section were victorious over the East Midland section in their annual match. (for a change). The home team won 4-1 at Newark Golf Club. The course was in excellent condition and I would like to thank my staff for their continued hard work.

The match sponsors were Barenbrug Seeds and Ben Petitjean, UK Amenity Sales Manager, was present to hand out the prizes on the day.

Nearest the Pin went to G. A. Macdonald (E.O.E) and Longest Drive was won by A. Porter (EM).

The raffle prizes were excellent and everybody who played went home with some sort of prize.

Next year's fixture is on East Midlands soil, at Beedles Lake Golf Club, where we will hopefully retain the Barenbrug Shield.

G. A. Macdonald



SOUTH EAST
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260 956

Kent

Welcome, one and all, to the latest around the green. I few things to get through this month which makes a nice change. Firstly, the guest golf day at the Wildenese Club on August 19. A good day was had by all with many thanks to Huw Morgan and all the staff at the club for looking after us all.

The buffet was superb and I had to go back for seconds. On to the results 1. Steve Vogels and Andy Page; 2. Barry Jackson and Terry Morrow; 3. George Brown and Roger Watts. Longest Drive went to Tony Julian and Nearest the Pin was Trevor Nicholas. A big thanks to all our sponsors on the day Ernest Doe, DFL, Sherriff, Tacit and John Shaws. I was very close to getting a prize but my partner Barry Bradshaw let me down on the last two holes. But I don't hold it against him... too much. The next golf day will be on November 27, at North Foreland GC, down in Broadstairs. I'm sure Steve Suttle will have the course looking its very best for us.

Just got back from Saltex and it was nice to see so many old faces. One of those faces was Graham Royden, from Royal St George's, who pointed out to me that Vic Maynard had a very large stand. And I think Textron were on it too.

Quick apology to Jo Silcock for the comments last month on his tee shot at the last golf day. In fact, it was not a 3 wood but a driver that he nailed 145 yards on the par 3, 6th for a par. Sorry for upsetting you Jo.

Any other news or views please drop me a line or call 01732 875020 or E-mail me on jrbatkhgolf@aol.com

If there are any clubs who would like to host a golf day next year please call Duncan on the same number. Jason Bean

Surrey

Surrey Section has lost, for various reasons a number of Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers over the past months. Some, like Dougie Fernie, have moved to new courses in different Sections, but many more have made, or have been forced to make, a decision to leave greenkeeping completely.

The culprit in most cases is that golf clubs and members on being able to play golf 365 days a year and for some reason do not have ability to understand that our very changeable weather conditions in Autumn, Winter and Spring rarely allow this to happen.

The pressure and stress put onto the greenkeeping teams to have their courses in tip top condition all year round is now getting to plague proportions and consequently experienced and qualified staff are leaving and seeking employment elsewhere. Andrew Hall, Lee West and Doug Brand have or will be shortly leaving greenkeeping in Surrey. Good Luck and hopefully a more enjoyable future to them all.

On a happier note the congratulations paragraph this month tells us that Kevin Day is no longer Deputy at Woking but is now the Head Greenkeeper at Hersham Village Golf Club; Martin Smith has left Burhill and is now Course Manager at Happy Valley Golf Club, and Nigel Morris is leaving Cuddington to join our old friend Dougie Fernie at Upminster as deputy.

Andrew Hall should, by the time this gets to print, be sunning himself, his wife, Mo, and their two children in their new home in Spain. From me, all his friends at St George's Hill Golf Club and all the members of Surrey Section have a wonderful future in the sun.

Shirley Park Golf Club was the host for our Summer Tournament on July 23 and we thank them most sincerely for allowing us the courtesy of their course. The greenkeeping team had worked hard and the presentation was excellent throughout. The result. 1. Geof Woodward, 38pts, Wimbledon Common GC; 2.

Kevin Humphreys, 38pts, Croham Hurst GC; 3. Bobby Rogers, 37pts, Laleham GC. The sponsors were Barreffield Golf Ltd and we thank them for the prizes.

Congratulations paragraph to Richard Evans, Deputy at Addington Palace Golf Club, for many years has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Shirley Park Golf Club. Richard has been offered many promotions outside Surrey Section but has preferred to wait for an opportunity in this area. His position at Addington Palace will be filled from within by Chris Varrow. Congratulations to them both. Ron Christie is anxious to replace Chris asap as it is many years since Ron has had to enter a bunker with a rake so early in the morning.

Our annual visit to Sunningdale Golf Club for the McMillan Tankard took place on August 15 and in excellent summer weather, on the magnificent New Course, 45 Surrey members sweated for the honours. Our warmest thanks as always to Brian Turner and his team for the superb playing condition of the course and to the artisans for the delicious Barbie that we all enjoyed afterwards. Home knowledge may have helped James Partridge to first place and the Tankard, as it did Dave Goddard who came second. The third spot was filled by Greg Richardson, from Hankley Common, who kept Sunningdale from getting the 1,2,3, by beating Darren Lee who came fourth. Longest Drive was Dave Goddard, and Ted Holland, from Gatton Manor, was Nearest the Pin.

Another annual event was fought at Hankley Common GC on August 23. Scotland and England teams were once again locked in battle on this beautiful and heather covered heathland course. The result was not due to Scotland having to substitute Brian McWillmott for Alan McDougall, as many from over the border suggested, but to the fine play from a finely honed English team. Scotland won one England five. Many thanks to Gareth for the venue and the caterers for the food.

The final annual event took place at Wimbledon Common/London Scottish Golf Club on August 30 when a Surrey greenkeepers team played against members from the aforementioned clubs. Last year ended in a draw so this year the teams played a four ball better ball Stableford competition to achieve an overall winner. All the points from all the matches were added up so that it would be virtually impossible to draw the match. The result was a draw! Thanks to Geoff for the course, the caterers for the dinner and the members of London Scottish/Wimbledon Common Golf Club for the friendly reception.

Brian Willmott



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

Devon & Cornwall

It is with great sadness that I have to inform members that John Breyley passed away on August 19. John was a ever present member of the Section during his working days at Churston Golf Club, John will be remembered for his ever cheerful presence even after a poor round of golf. Our thoughts go to Lesley at this sad time.

It's arrived once again the Section's first meeting of the autumn and winter programme sponsored by Roffeys. The meeting this year will be held at Portmore G.C, Barnstaple, and will include for the first time the Vitax match play final. The final will tee off at 8.30am before the D.O. Hunt Trophy. As in the past our non-golfers course walk will leave the clubhouse at 10.30am with lunch from 1pm. The afternoon educational talk will follow lunch with the prize presentation concluding the day.

Members attending the afternoon talk will be able to claim their CPD points. Just bring your form along for me to sign.

The Section's Devon Garden Machinery AGM meeting will be held at Bude & North Cornwall GC on Wednesday, November 13 tee times for the Toro Trophy will be between 9.30 – 10.30.

Richard Whyman

South Wales

The Celtic Manor Resort once again hosted a successful "Wales Open" despite, as per last year, a valiant attempt from the weather to spoil things. Congratulations to Director of Golf, Jim McKenzie and his team who once again had their work cut out in dealing with the elements. Nevertheless a fantastic event and one that you may have a chance to be involved with next year if you would like to.

A support team to assist the greenstaff at the "Wales Open" may be organised for next year's event. If you would like to participate, please contact your Section Secretary for further details.

Henry Stead, Head Greenkeeper of the Grove Golf Club, near Porthcawl collapsed while attending the "Wales Open" and had to be admitted to hospital in nearby Newport, where he spent the weekend. Henry who was attended to by paramedics has made a full recovery and returned to work early the following week. He would like to thank all of those who sent cards and messages of goodwill.

The Section would like to offer a vote of thanks to Dennis Archer, who has recently retired his position of Head Greenkeeper at the Whitchurch Golf Club in Cardiff. Dennis served on many BIGGA committees over the years and has been a stalwart of BIGGA.

We wish you well in retirement and look forward to seeing you at the Christmas meeting.

A successful Scotts sponsored "Golf Management Trophy" was recently held at the new Tredegar Park Golf Club in Newport. A total of 19 teams gathered at the course, which was presented in excellent condition by Dave Williams and his team. It was the first visit to the new Tredegar Park for many of the visitors and many compliments were made in relation to the course and the excellent facilities on offer at the club.

A grand day was had by all, the sun shone, the course was good and the catering was excellent. Everyone at the club was extremely hospitable and we were made to feel very welcome. A sincere thanks to the golf club for allowing us the use of the course, to Scotts and Martin Townsend for the continued sponsorship of the event; to Paula Humphries, our Regional Administrator, for organising the event, and to Gordon Child (It's always a pleasure to see you in Wales, Gordon) for making the trip and effort to be with us on the day.

Just for the record Carmarthen pipped Pennard by a point. Very questionable, I would say, after that performance by Dave Gladwin. He was spotted in the Hedgerows, lakes, streams, woods, roughs, you get the message.

An excellent event and summed up by Martin Townsend, those that weren't there were the losers. You should have by now all received notification of the forthcoming Regional Seminar. To be held at Cannington College, Somerset on 20 & 21 of November. The seminar is to be held over two days, Day 1 is "Back to basics" seminar and Day 2 is a "Getting a good Job" clinic. Not to be missed.

If you require any additional information or booking forms, please contact your Section Secretary.

Peter Lacey

South Coast

It seems incredible as I sit down and write this how this year has flown past. It also doesn't seem a year ago that we witnessed the horrific events of September 11th and as we mark its anniversary our thoughts are with all of those who lost loved ones.

On a lighter note the Section must congratulate the Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club team who triumphed at the British John Deere Team Championship final at The Belfry. The team of Course Manager, Ed McCabe; Professional, Bruce Parker; Captain, Charles Letchworth,

and Secretary, Paul Clifford, won with an impressive 17 under par score and can now look forward to the World Team Finals in Arizona, in November. Well done Ed! Let's hope you can go one step further and win in Arizona.

August saw our Section team take on the South West in the annual fixture. The venue this year was Long Ashton GC and after some excellent golf the match was tied in a honourable draw so we retain the trophy for another year. Many thanks to Ivor Scoones and his team for all their hard work in preparing the course in such excellent condition and for the south west for their superb hospitality.

August 21 saw Moors Valley Golf Club hold its second event of the year as the Scotts Management Trophy was played for. The course as ever was in superb condition and the scoring reflected this with eventual winners being Weybrook Park. Many thanks to Ian Noble, Shane Hodgkins and the team at Moors Valley for all their hard work in preparing the course so well; to Moors Valley Golf Club for their superb hospitality and, of course, a huge vote of thanks to the invaluable sponsorship from Scotts.

Much is happening at committee level as we are busy currently organising next year's Section seminar, which will be held at Canford Magna Golf Club on February 26. I have received details of a number of BIGGA training courses, which range from tractor driving to higher management skills. If you wish to receive any details then please contact me.

Date for your diaries this month is the Regional seminar at Cannington College on November 13 and 14. Day one has an impressive line up of speakers giving a broad range of presentations while on day two the superb Frank Newberry will present a day long seminar on everything from maximising the impact of your CV to interviewing techniques and getting the package you deserve. Let's make sure we attend what will be an excellent couple of days.

Lastly, I would just like to wish Carl Horrax the best of luck as he leaves us to move back North. Our loss will be the North's gain. All of your friends in the Section wish you and your family well and lets hope our paths meet soon Carl!

If you have any news you wish to include in next months around the green then please contact me on 01202 661106 or 07813 841714

Until next month, Alex McCombie

South West

Hi ya Men! Summer now over and we are about to enjoy another lovely south west winter, lots of rain and some grey days no doubt!

Hope you attend the regional seminar at Cannington in September. It's always good to hear new ideas.

Our next event is at Tracey Park now renamed, the Gloucestershire, on October 17. After the golf we will be holding our Section's AGM, we are going to have a visit from the Chairman of BIGGA, Richard Barker. So if you have any questions etc about the Association at national level, you will get the answer right from the top.

A date for your diaries beyond that is the Christmas Tournament, and I know that the Head Greenkeeper at Cirencester is looking forward to your visit on December 11.

Robin Greaves

NORTHERN IRELAND

I would like to begin this month's news with a report on the charity golf day on August 2 organised by Terry Crawford, Course Manager at Clondeboye GC. The competition this year was again a great success with over 130 competitors, competing over the Dufferin course. Terry and his greenkeeping team had the course in outstanding condition, even with the unsettled weather conditions leading up to the competition the course presentation and detail was of the highest standard, great credit must go to Terry and his staff. Terry would like to thank all the greenkeepers, club managers, trade members, and club members who came and played from throughout Ireland North and South. The grand sum of £2,200 was raised which will be presented to the Children's Hospital within the Royal Hospital in Belfast. The money will be used to buy specialist equipment that is needed to treat children with heart problems.

Many thanks to Clive Richardson, of Horta Soils, who sponsored all the prizes again this year.

Tour professional Darren Clarke's father, Godfrey presented Terry with a golf shirt and glove signed by Darren to be auctioned at the prize giving and the proceeds added to the charity fund. The shirt and glove reached the magnificent sum of £200, and was purchased by agronomist, John O'Sullivan. The results of the competition were as follows: 1. David Gallagher, 41pts; 2. Ian McMahon, 40pts; 3. Stephen McMurty, 40 pts; 4. Peter Coral, 37pts; 5. Warren Burnside, 37pts; 6. Bobby Crookes, 37pts; 7. Brian Mills, 36pts.

The team prize winners were: Stephen McMurty, Stephen Norwood, John McAdams, Shane McNulty.

Our national championships qualifying competition went ahead at Ballycastle GC on September 6. We combined a strokeplay competition to the championship sponsored by Coburns of Banbridge with a Stableford competition sponsored by Boyd's Golf Course Equipment.

Head Greenkeeper, Godfrey Clarke, and his staff had the course in great shape with the greens running fast and true. The two successful qualifiers were a father and son from Royal Co Down GC. Deputy Course Manager at R.C.D, Eamonn Crawford, had an impressive three under par round of gross 65 nett 64 and son, Gary Crawford, playing off 24, had a nett 67. Well done lads, we hope you enjoy the trip over to the National Championship. Thanks must go to Coburns of Banbridge who have kindly sponsored the air fares over to Liverpool on September 30 for Eamonn and Gary. Company representative, William Cartmill, attended the day and also kindly provided the visitors prizes. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The Stableford competition winners were.

1. R. McCloone, Castlerock GC, 39pts; 2. Andrew Wray, Castlerock GC, 38pts; 3. Michel Feeney, City of Derry GC, 34pts.

Visitors' Prize winner D. McFaul, 40 pts. Two's Eamonn Crawford, Andrew Wray.

Thanks to Boyd's Golf Course Equipment Company for sponsoring the Stableford competition and also Godfrey Clarke and Micheal O'Neill for sponsoring the two's competition.

Finally the competition wouldn't have been such a success without the generosity of Bally Castle GC in giving us courtesy of the course.

I would like to remind members that they should have received the brochure on the conference on Nov 6 in mid-September. The entry form with payment should be returned to Emmett Curran by the second week of October as places are filling up very quickly. So please do not leave it to the last minute as you will probably miss out. Well that's about all for this month if anyone has any news please contact me on 028 94429001 during working hours.

Ken Henderson

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This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members. The solution to the September Turftime Teaser was 'Cameron Irrigation'. This was correctly answered by: Mr Sean Baxter, Colony Club, Austria.

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An application form and further details are available from The Personnel Section, Directorate of Education and Personal Development, PO Box 35, Hewson House, Station Road, Brigg DN20 8XJ, telephone 01724 297002 (24 hour answer service), email catherine.shillito@northlincs.gov.uk, where it should be returned by Friday 25 October 2002.

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Application form & further details are available via telephone and returnable to:-

The Secretary
Morecambe Golf Club
Marine Road
Morecambe
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Tel (01524) 412841

Closing date for applications - 25th October 2002



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Emily Davies, Human Resources Department, Royal Automobile Club,
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Applications should be addressed to:

Mr. D. Hargreaves, Greens Chairman, Cleckheaton & District Golf Club -
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Please apply in writing with current CV to:

Mr John Duncan, The Manager, Royal Dornoch Golf Club,
Golf Road, Dornoch IV25 3LW



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requires a

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Mr R Myatt, Course Manager, Knighton Heath Golf Club,
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David Goldstone, Managing Director, Tower Chemicals, First Avenue, Grangefield Industrial Estate, Pudsey, Leeds, Yorkshire, LS28 6QN
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For an application form please contact:

Louise on 01737 839090, e-mail louise@surreydownsgc.co.uk
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October 2000; Toro Awards Preview; Ronald Fream; Irrigation; Saltex Review; Pest Control; Woburn GC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

October 2001; Major Award for Walter Woods; Royal Portrush GC; Portstewart GC; Irrigation; Soil biodiversity; Leaf collection systems; Scottsturf 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; Caldy GC profile; Multi-tasking machinery; Bunker Sand; Essay competition; Fijian GC profile; BIGGA Minimum qualification

June 2002; Finding Fungi; Greatham Valley GC profile; Tyres; Calabria GC profile; Lakes and Ponds; Poa Annuua - 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; Bunker Dr Kate Entwistle; Pwllheli GC; Weather; Compact Tractors; Saltex preview

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



It's Raining Again

Not for the first time this year I am sitting writing this article while there is a torrential downpour outside. I don't know if it's my imagination but nowadays it doesn't just rain it pours and everywhere is flooded in a matter of minutes but at least it's giving me chance to reflect on the last month and two great occasions.



Back in the middle of August I attended the British Finals of the John Deere Team Classic at the Belfry. This day was eagerly awaited by the 20+ teams that had already qualified because, not only was this a chance to play the Brabazon course so near to the Ryder Cup but, a trip to the world finals in Scottsdale, Arizona was also at stake. So after a light lunch and a rules briefing battle commenced, but it was not until after the evening meal the result was announced.

While feeling a lot of disappointment for the runners up I was delighted that Ed McCabe and Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club will represent BIGGA in the World Finals. I know they will be great ambassadors.

I was also delighted to receive a cheque for £9,300, which John Deere presented to the Association as a result of £25 being donated to the Association for each team which entered. I hope this tournament will be run again next year as I can only see it growing in stature.

Well, after a few days back at work the bags were packed again and I was off to Saltex. As with an outdoor event the weather plays a major part and the three days which followed have been three of the best all year! The sun was out and the temperatures high.

It was great to meet up with many of you who I only see once or twice a year. As for our stand, well we had a good position just inside the entrance and throughout the week it was "buzzing" with enquiries regarding stand space at BTME and Clubhouse, membership renewals and many new members joining. It was also a great opportunity to visit many people and bring myself up to date with the new product launches. The highlight of the week being invited to be a stand judge and attend the Groundsman of the Year awards sponsored by the Football Association.

As for the staff who attended I would like to thank each and every one. They all worked extremely hard for us and were a credit to our Association.

With Saltex now well and truly in the past I am only too aware that our season is rapidly coming to an end and our attention must turn towards planning and finalising our budgets and winter programmes. Please remember to put some aside for your training needs.

Last month you received the Regional Training Courses brochure and in this issue is the programme for BTME. If there aren't any courses to suit you or your staff, speak to Ken or Sami and they will arrange one to suit. Education at all levels is most important especially if you are wanting to progress or just wanting a bigger salary.

As for the future, well one lucky student will soon be crowned Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and ten days later we will also have a National Golf Champion, following the National Championship at Hillside and Hesketh Golf Clubs. If you are participating get out the clubs and start practising because there's plenty of bandits attending. On a serious note, I look forward to meeting you all in Southport on what promises to be a super two days where hopefully, we can share a pint and all those golfing stories on what could have been!

Richard Barker
National Chairman

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